

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st May 2023





YOU ARE INVITED TO

**THE WINCHELSEA
CORONATION PARTY
IN
ST THOMAS' STREET
ON**

**SUNDAY 7TH MAY
13.00-16.00**

**PLEASE BRING
YOUR OWN FOOD
& DRINK**

ENTERTAINMENT

Winchelsea Coronation Street Party

Final call!

We are close to full capacity so please RSVP to info@winchelseara.com no later than Sunday 30th April to reserve your seat if you haven't already done so. If you've already replied but can no longer come, please let us know.

Due to a number of large groups attending we are now reserving places for any groups over 4 people. On the day there will be a seating plan so you can easily find your tables and members of our working group will be there to help you. Sorry but we can only accept reservations from residents of Winchelsea (or their families who are staying with them).

We will be decorating the street, providing tables and chairs and putting on entertainment. Please bring your own picnics. The pub will be putting on a barbecue in St Thomas' Street and selling beer, wine and soft drinks.

The New Hall will be selling Coronation cocktails and mocktails (to raise funds) and there will be free Coronation cupcakes for all.

1pm:

Street Party begins (please do not turn up before 1pm)

2pm:

Jonathan and Anna Murphy will be playing and singing a range of uplifting songs

3pm:

Mayor's toast to the new King (Prosecco and Cake for all!)

3.15pm:

Scottish Dancing Display

Let's hope we have a lovely sunny day! If it is raining will be hold the event in the New Hall - first come first served.

Help required before the Street Party

We will be putting up decorations in the street from 3pm on Saturday 6th May and the morning of Sunday 7th. If anyone can help us please contact Cathy or Ali at info@winchelseara.com

Also we are short of a couple of bottles of Prosecco so any donations would be amazing!

Thank you! *Coronation Street Party Working Group*

WINCHELSEA BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 278165

CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III



WITH A COMMUNITY PICNIC TO INCLUDE CREAM TEAS



MONDAY 8th MAY 1pm - 4 pm

IN THE GROUNDS OF THE COMMUNITY HALL

(INDOORS IF WET)

**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
INCLUDING BOUNCY CASTLE & ICE CREAMS**

FREE TO ALL

BRING A BOTTLE, A GARDEN CHAIR OR A RUG





Winchelsea at the Coronation

The Mayor of Winchelsea, Jurat David Merrifield, will represent the town at Westminster Abbey on 6th May.

Representatives, 'barons', of the Cinque Ports have been present at coronations since medieval times. Until 200 years ago it was their privilege to hold the ceremonial canopy over the monarch. In 1821, an anxious George IV noticed that the barons at his coronation didn't seem to be totally in control of the canopy. He was convinced they were going to drop it on his head. Strong drink is alleged to have played a part.

After that, the barons, though always present, ceased to have any formal role. Mayor, Anthony Mallows Freeman (below) attended in 1953, wearing the coronation waistcoat now on display in the museum.





ST THOMAS'S CHURCH
WINCHELSEA

CELEBRATING CREATION

A FLOWER FESTIVAL

MAY 19th - MAY 21st

**Hastings Philharmonic
Talks**

Church Market with plants & crafts

Refreshments & Lunches

Celebrating Creation

Ascension Day Thursday 18th May to Sunday 21st May

A Flower Festival at St Thomas's, with other events to celebrate the richness of God's Creation, to promote biodiversity and interest in our wildflower meadow circles and the swift population.

Thursday 18th May Ascension Day

6pm: Sung Deanery Evensong at St Thomas' with preacher Bishop Will Hazlewood followed by drinks. Martin Bruce will lead a scratch choir.

Friday 19th May

10 to 11am: Churchyard walk and talk (weather permitting) Winchelsea and Icklesham Primary Schools will be invited to visit the Churchyard.

11.30am: Talk on swifts by Cliff Dean RHNR

2.30pm: Talk by Mark Betson (Rural Officer for the Diocese of Chichester) *Life in all its Fullness*.

Saturday 20th May

10.30am to 12: Church Market with homemade produce, plants, jewellery, cards and prints.

7.30pm: Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra. A Winchelsea Arts Concert at St Thomas' including Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, the Pastoral.

At 2:15pm local families and children are invited to attend the rehearsal and the conductor, Marcio da Silva will welcome them and speak for about 15 minutes on conducting and running an orchestra.

Sunday 21st May

11am: Parish Communion

3pm: Pet Service

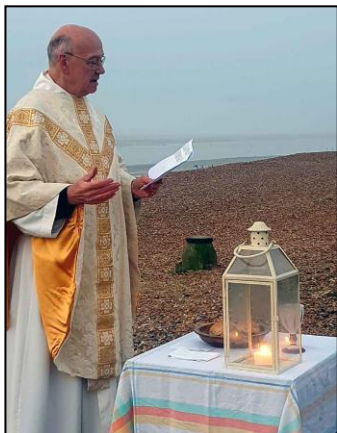
Teas, coffee and lunches will be available at most times throughout the festival.

Reflections from the Rectory

I write this in the days following the Easter celebrations. For me Easter is a busy time, perhaps busier than Christmas. There is a long period of reflection in Lent followed by the events of Holy Week and a series of services that require changes of mood and emphasis.

Liturgically Maundy Thursday is a celebration with white or gold vestments and yet it is a deeply solemn moment when during the washing of the feet we reflect on service and at the end of the communion the altar is stripped bare in preparation for Good Friday. Good Friday and Saturday are days of reflection and emptiness in anticipation of the potential for God's power to burst from the tomb.

This year the Saturday evening service of light was particularly appreciated as we lit the new Paschal candle and brought it into church hearing the words of the *Exultet* and vigil readings telling of God's saving power.



Again we gathered on Winchelsea Beach at dawn for the first Eucharist of Easter. This year we were not graced by a glorious sunrise; however it was misty and peaceful. The sun did reveal itself strangely just at the moment, following the service, as I prayed with someone who had lost their daughter. Easter is the time for new starts and optimism in a troubled world; a reminder of Christ's risen presence.

This year we turn to look forward to a new reign for a new monarch as we reflect on the forthcoming coronation of His Majesty Charles III. While not everyone is a supporter of the monarchy, as an Anglican clergyman I take an oath to the bishop and to the monarch.

The new king is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. I believe it is a role he takes seriously and has often talked of how important it is to represent all faiths, which is perhaps one of the great assets in having a national church. It can be seen to encompass the importance of a sense of God in all citizens regardless of how they approach God in their own lives.

There is no requirement in law for the king to be crowned, as he becomes king at the moment the previous ruler dies. However the coronation is of profound importance for its Christian roots. It is an ancient rite reminding us that we are in the hands of God. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II certainly saw monarchy in this light and her long life of service testifies to this. We will pray that Charles III follows her example.

I have always felt that one of the great advantages of our constitutional monarchy is that the head of state remains above political considerations and can be an important symbol of national unity as we saw so many times during the reign of the late Queen. In the Benefice we will be gathering on the Friday evening before the coronation to say Evening Prayer, at 6pm on 5th May and pray for the King. On Sunday 7th May at 11am we will hold a special Eucharist in Winchelsea to mark the Coronation.

Later in May on the 18th there will be a Deanery Evensong in Winchelsea to celebrate Ascension Day. It will be the start of a flower festival and the Right Reverend Will Hazlewood, Bishop of Lewes, will be preaching. We hope there will be a deanery choir and it should be a worthwhile and uplifting service.

God save the King!



Taizé Service on Sunday 30th April

For a special fifth Sunday of the month benefice service we will gather at the Chapel of St Nicholas, Pett Level at 4pm for some quiet prayer in the Taizé style. All are welcome. The service will last about 45 minutes and is followed by refreshments.

Please let Jonathan know if you would like more information
revdjonathan@btinternet.com
01797 226254

Coronation Services at St Thomas'

Friday 5th May at 6pm Evening Prayer

A short said service to pray for the King, the Royal Family and the Nation on the eve of the Coronation.

Sunday 7th May at 11am Special Parish Eucharist to give thanks and pray for the new reign. Please note that there won't be an 8am Communion on 7th.



Bible Study

at 6pm on Thursday 4th May at the New Inn.

For this session we will look at the Book of Amos.

Amos is a relatively short work with quite a lot of fire and brimstone and strong message on social justice. The sessions are very informal and last about an hour, all are welcome.

Contact Jonathan revdjonathan@btinternet.com for more information.

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers prayers will be on Tuesday 2nd May at 10 am at Cynthia Martin's House, El Indalo, Old Harbour Farm Lane (opposite the Co-op).

Fellowship Lunch

Fellowship lunch in May will be on Friday 26th at 12.30 for 1pm. Please ring Mary Parker on 07927 107678 to book or for more information.



Easter Monday Mayoring

On bank holiday Monday, 10th April, David Merrifield was sworn in for his second term as mayor for 2023-24. After the swearing in ceremony in the Court Hall in front of the jurats and freemen, the mayor and his entourage walked in the rain to the church where there were over one hundred and fifty people waiting for the public part of the ceremony to begin, including the deputy lieutenant of East Sussex, the high sheriff of East Sussex, our member of Parliament and mayors from eight neighbouring towns along the coast.

The mayor's address to the public began with the exciting announcement that each of the Cinque Ports mayors have been invited to the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla and will attend as Barons of the Cinque Ports.

This year the mayor was pleased to announce that a new mayor's cadet for Winchelsea would be appointed and Theo Burton's installation took place during the mayoring ceremony. Theo is fourteen and is a member of Rye Sea Cadets. He said after the ceremony: "It is a great honour to be chosen as the mayor's cadet for Winchelsea. I look forward to representing Winchelsea as David Merrifield's cadet."

Four new freemen were created: Ali Casey, Chris Chappell, Phil Mack and Jonathan Murphy. In addition Angela Hill was created honorary freeman. Retiring jurats Tony Moore

and Robert Holland were thanked for their many years of loyal service to the Corporation and new jurat Ian Kingham was duly sworn in.



Following the mayoring a reception for the invited guests was held in the New Hall and in the evening a second reception took place for residents of the town. The mayor would like to thank all those who helped to make the day a resounding success.

Photos by KT Bruce



Winchelsea Cricket Club May Matches

7th - away - Tenterden - 2pm start

14th - away - Beckley Park - 2pm start

21st - Home - Ashburnham - 2pm start

28th - Home - Lydd - 2pm start

(All matches are subject to cancellation or change)

New players are always welcome. We are a mixed ability, mixed age team (male and female) playing friendly Sunday cricket. If you're interested in playing please contact our club secretary Jo Turner, turners.win@hotmail.com or club captain James Jury, jamesjury@tiscali.com or simply speak to us at one of the games.

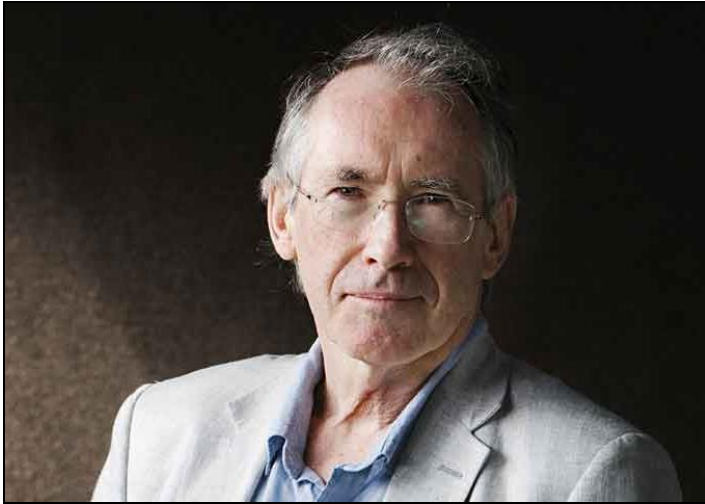


Hastings Philharmonic at Winchelsea Arts

Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra return to Winchelsea on Saturday 20th May. They will be performing Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony (No. 6), Fauré's suite, *Pelleas et Melisande* and Vaughan-Williams' *Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus*. The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are available online at winchelsea-arts.org.uk £20 for adults, free for under-18s

As part of the 'Celebrating Creation' festival at St Thomas's, local families and children are invited to attend the rehearsal at 2.15pm when conductor, Marcio da Silva will speak for about 15 minutes on conducting and running an orchestra.

The 2023-24 season of Winchelsea Arts concerts will be launched this month. Full details will be posted on the Arts website and in the next magazine.



Ian McEwan at Literary Society

Novelist, Ian McEwan will be in conversation with Prof Jon Gook of UEA on Friday 19th May on Friday 19th May.

The start time is earlier than usual - 6.30pm for 7 and, anticipating a large audience, the event will take place in the New Hall.

Admission is free to members and the charge for visitors and guests will be £10.

literarysoc.winchelsea.secretary@gmail.com



New Hall chairs and fundraising

Recent users of the New Hall will have noticed two glittering sample chairs parked at the back. At the April Second Wednesday meeting Marion Lovell tried out the new chair with arms and Angela Hill tested the ample upholstery of the matching new chair without arms. Both reported much improved levels of comfort.

The New Hall committee has been aware that a number of Winchelsea residents are effectively excluded from events due to their discomfort in our aging polypropylene seating. In addition, chairs with arms are much better for people with impaired mobility.

After months of research we have ordered the new stacking chairs for delivery in June. We have chosen three shades of turquoise, a third with arms. A number of our prospective wedding hirers have got visibly excited about the improvement the new chairs give to the look of the hall. The old chairs are being donated to two local village halls and to St George's in Ivychurch.

To help us cover the cost of the new chairs (and to help fund future New Hall projects) we have decided to set up a New Hall '100 Club'. A '100 Club' is a local lottery to raise funds

for good causes. Half the money will go to the New Hall and the other half will be offered in cash prizes.

We plan to offer monthly tickets at £2 each or £24 for one ticket for 12 months. We think this is a great way to raise up to £1,200 per year for the New Hall and allow us to offer up to £120 every month in cash prizes to residents.

We plan to launch the new '100 Club' at the Film Night on 17th June. Please come along, sit in the new chairs, enjoy the film and find out more about the '100 Club'. If you are not able to attend June film night please look out for more details in forthcoming Parish Magazines.

The New Hall Committee

More trains from 21st May

The new hourly train timetable for Winchelsea and Three Oaks will start early morning on May 21st . This significant improvement to the current schedule, which has been restricted to a two hourly service at Winchelsea for much of the day, will greatly help residents and visitors who make journeys between Eastbourne and Hastings and Ashford and London.

Seventeen years of effort has gone into delivering this with many people having been involved amongst whom John Spencer has been a constant energising force. The hope is that there will be celebratory events at both stations to mark the start of this more frequent service.



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

WINCHELSEA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW HALL

PRESENTS; **PHANTOM THREAD**

STARRING DANIEL DAY-LEWIS,
AND LESLEY MANVILLE.

IT'S 1950S LONDON.....

SATURDAY 27TH MAY
WINCHELSEA NEW HALL
6.30PM FOR 7.30PM



ADMISSION FREE
REFRESHMENTS, PAY BAR.

COME EARLY, ENJOY A DRINK OR TWO.

SCREENING STARTS AT 7.30PM

(PLEASE NOTE: LATER START TIME)



Green Blues

Natasha Robinson writes: Last month I got the 'Green Blues'. In a bid to understand better, the green car revolution, I was eager to hear Richard Feast explain 'Why I'll never buy an electric car'. Richard's talk, logical, clear and persuasive, left me with more questions than answers.

What I assumed I knew, made me realise exactly how little I did actually know; a rookie error which I normally try to avoid. To quote Donald Rumsfeld, or was it Shakespeare, "the unknown unknowns-the ones we don't know we don't know". Nope, right the first time, definitely Donald Rumsfeld.

It has become a strange fashion, hopefully fleeting, to decry experts. To quote another American, this time Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*, "Big mistake. Big. Huge". Experts have not only knowledge, but experience and can therefore apply critical thinking, which is crucial to understanding and explaining a topic.

Richard's thesis was not the principle, but the numbers. Electric car batteries contain an average of 10kgs of lithium; the world has finite reserves of lithium. The battery will start to decline after seven years and currently won't last much longer than ten. By 2030 - that's just seven years away - the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars will be banned.

That means we need to be installing 100 new charging points every day to meet demand; at the moment we are at 25. And so it went.

That's how this proud Guardian-reading, tofu-eating member of the wokerati, to which you can add, litter collecting, recycling, waste hating, organic gardener and fair trade shopper, got the 'Green Blues'.

Which brings us to May's Second Wednesday Society talk and Shirley Meyer's blue, green wildflower circle. Colloquially known as 'Tom', this entirely pesticide free flower circle, is brother to 'Dick' and 'Harriet'.

Shirley, and Paul Youtlen, an experienced Second Wednesday speaker, will talk to us about the origins of *Winchelsea Wildlife*. They will share its development from the initial swift boxes, to the churchyard wildflower project, moth trapping and bee monitoring. They will introduce their latest project, 'The Green Garden Awards' and may touch on the Flower Festival planned in May, 'Celebrating Creation'. This is a series of events and services revolving around St Thomas' Church.

There's not much new on this earth, even the electric car. Thomas Edison invented one 111 years ago. Similarly, organic farming and chemical free land management is literally as old as the hills. In Winchelsea we have no village green, but we have so much more.

Thanks to *Winchelsea Wildlife*, at the centre of our town is a glorious buzzing and beating heart, that's showing the way, by taking us back to the future. These are the true and fundamental traditions and values of this green and pleasant land, aptly set around a church.

Winchelsea Wildlife will give their talk on Wednesday 10th May at 2.30pm in the New Hall, followed by afternoon tea.

@winchelsea_wildlife @winchelseachurchyard



What's going on in the Churchyard?

Shirley Meyer writes: I know quite a lot of you are keeping an eye on the churchyard flower circles because you tell me so, and it is very heartening to know so many people have embraced this local project with interest and enthusiasm. Those of us working on the project are very grateful.

I hope we have seen the back of a wet and dreary start to 2023. The slow warming of the soil is starting a real growth spurt within the circles. There are all the old favourites: yellow rattle, ox eye daisy, knapweed, fritillaries, grape hyacinths, achillea and plantain etc. but we now also have our first orchids which were propagated and planted by Jim Kay last year.

The lovely spotted leaves are showing, but it will be some time until they flower. Still, it's very exciting. Last week a group of us took photographs of the various species that were identifiable and mapped them.

What we are waiting for now is evidence of the new flowers that we sowed last autumn. This is not so easy, as when seeds germinate they all tend to look very similar and, to be honest, we don't really know what we're looking for. So we're playing a waiting game to see how things develop.

In the meantime 'No Mow May' is upon us again. That time in which we try to leave the mower in the shed for at least 31 days. During Summer why not...

- cut every 3 or 4 weeks

- leave areas of long grass

- mow selectively: selective mowing can be incorporated into the lawn by creating paths and patterns.

These actions really do help pollinators and insects and it is such an easy and labour-saving action to take.

Also, on Sunday 7th May this year we have International Dawn Chorus Day. This is celebrated across the world as the sun creeps above the horizon. Last year a small group of us gathered in the churchyard to listen to the birdsong.

It doesn't matter if you can't identify the different calls because the whole experience is magical.

This year dawn on 7th is at 4.45am. I can't promise to be there quite that early but 5 to 5.30am is more realistic. I hope some bird lovers will be there too.

Occasional Consort

The Occasional Consort will be at St Thomas's on Saturday 10th June at 7pm.

Led by Anne Whiteman and accompanied by Shirley Carey and Duncan Reid, they will give a performance of Handel's *Alexander's Feast* - an ode in honour of St Cecelia.

Tickets cost £12.50 and will be available at the door. The price includes a complimentary glass of wine

Winchelsea Garden Society

Rose Show

Saturday 3 June in
St Thomas' Church
alongside the
Church Market

4 classes, entries free

Class 1 Roses

Class 2 Sweet Peas

Class 3 Clematis

Class 4 Iris

All exhibits to be displayed
between 9:30 and 10:30.
Presentation of cups at 11:30

Maximum vase size 15 cm



Winchelsea Garden Society

Sally Rhodda writes: On Saturday 1st April, over 50 members and friends came to Chris O'Donoghue's talk on garden design. Chris is a medal-winning designer who has exhibited at Chelsea, but his talk to us focussed on illustrating how creative design ideas could transform much smaller gardens.

He showed a series of different gardens around our area and described how he had used design to overcome problems and to make the most of opportunities with improved layouts and planting. The audience enjoyed the talk and asked lots of questions at the end. After the talk we all enjoyed the refreshments provided by Jo Sidders and her team.

On Monday 17th April we held the first garden social of the year at *Cleveland Place*. Having moved the event from the previous Friday to avoid bad weather, we were caught out again as the sunny afternoon was overtaken by clouds and a chilly breeze from 5 o'clock onwards. Despite this, over 30 members braved the weather to see the tulips in our garden and to enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles provided by Cynthia and Cheryl.

Our next social will be on Tuesday 2nd May thanks to Julia Doherty, who has kindly invited us to see her garden and enjoy refreshments at 1 White Close, German Street, from 5 pm to 7. We hope that the weather will be kinder to us on the day and allow us to enjoy her 'secret' garden to the full.

Looking further ahead, we are finalising plans for a coach outing on Thursday 1st June to visit three destinations in Sussex. These are Marchant's Hardy Plants at Laughton, Hilliers Garden Centre at Stone Cross and Hurstmonceaux Elizabethan Gardens. Details of times, costs and bookings will be emailed shortly to members.

Immediately after this visit, on Saturday 3rd June we will hold our annual Rose Show. This year we are holding it alongside the Church Market in St Thomas' Church. As usual, Roses will be the focus of the show but there are three other classes to enter: Sweet Peas, Clematis and Iris. Please display your entries from 9:30 to 10:30. Teas and Coffees will be provided by the Church Market team.



Three Garden Openings in June

There will be three openings of Winchelsea gardens for charity next month.

On Saturday 10th June, five gardens will open between 10.30am and 4pm in aid of St Michael's Hospice.

Admission to the group costs £7.50.

The gardens involved are *South Mariteau*, *King's Leap*, *Cleveland Place*, *Tower Cottage* and *The Strand Plat*.

On Saturday 17th June, ten gardens will open for the National Garden Scheme. They will be open from 11am to 5pm and admission costs £7. The gardens are *King's Leap*, *Periteau House*, *Cleveland Place*, *Giles Point*, *The Well House*, *South Mariteau*, *The Orchards* and *Magazine House*. Opening for the first time are *Burrin House* and *The Rectory*.

The same team will open on the afternoon of Sunday 18th June in aid of the Friends of the Memorial Hospital, Rye. Opening times are 2pm to 5pm. Admission price will be the same as Saturday



To the life

A larger, more secular congregation than usual was shepherded into St. Thomas's Church to hear the distinguished journalist, editor and author Charles Moore discuss his experiences in the writing of his acclaimed, prize-winning, three-volume authorised biography of Margaret Thatcher. The event was organised by Winchelsea Literary Society.

A religious setting may have been particularly apposite for a subject who had been styled "The Blessed Margaret Thatcher, the Leaderene", by the playfully camp, intellectually adroit, if arguably tactless Norman St John-Stevas. Given the political alignment of the publications with which our speaker has been associated, audience members attuned to the season's Scriptural offerings might have speculated on whether they would be hearing "a disciple's tongue".

In 1997, while editing the *Daily Telegraph*, Moore was invited to write the authorised biography of the former Prime Minister, an unsought, if attractive, offer for which he had to set aside his verdict on political biographies as being generally "stodgy". He did express an admiration for Boswell's "Life of Johnson", particularly from the point where the Great Lexicographer first encounters his amanuensis.

The plethora of source material was an early problem. Mrs. T. herself was still alive and Charles felt that knowing and being able to meet with his subject was on balance an advantage. In 1990 she had “written her own memoirs” in conversation with a series of ghost writers, which were unhelpful and were worryingly indicative of a disorganised mind. The subject’s personal and Government papers were also available for study and the most useful insights into the workings of the former Premier’s mind came from her own notes and underlinings on the official documents.

Lady Thatcher did not seem to understand the fact-gathering nature of the historical interview, seeing it more in terms of a continuation of political combat. In addition, she was latterly in evident cognitive decline and could not be considered an altogether reliable witness.

There were numerous media interviews, newspaper articles and a host of living oral sources to be scrutinised. Civil servants proved most useful among this group in that they had minds trained to remember detail while politicians, notably Michael Heseltine, were rather cavalier in handling facts. An exception was John Major whom this biographer felt demonstrated a “natural” civil servant’s mind-set.

So numerous were the oral sources that the interviews with over 500 of them in North America had to be contracted out to an assistant.

This wealth of material created a challenge when it came to building a narrative “architecture” but our speaker laid down some useful ground rules; hold a firm chronological line and avoid the distraction of “flashbacks”, eschew partisanship and antagonism, try to understand the subject’s motivation and to move as close as you can to the well springs of their thought and action.

Baron Moore detected a discernible difference between the public and private Margaret Thatchers. While the relative contributions of Marxism and Methodism to the genealogy of the Labour Party remain a steady staple of political debate, our visitor felt that Margaret Roberts’ father’s auxiliary vocation as a Methodist lay preacher was crucial in engendering a “work hard, make money and donate some of it” mentality in his offspring.

Margaret emerged from the local grammar school with a place at Oxford studying Science, both unusual destinations for a woman at that time.

The only instance when the interviewee's veracity came into question was on the topic of boyfriends: the party line was that the far-from-handsome Denis was the only one but our intrepid representative of what Denis, in his "Private Eye" incarnation as the author of the "dear Bill" letters, would have termed "the reptiles of the press" unearthed the detail that his subject was managing to entertain three swains concurrently before Denis swam into her ken.

The congregation filed out, uplifted by an inspiring sermon and fortified by the Final Blessing, but possibly divided into true votaries with heads bowed in silent prayer for the canonisation of Blessed Margaret and perennial sceptics wondering whatever happened to that famous Downing St. Mission Statement from the prayer of St. Francis: 'Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is despair, may we bring hope'.

Bill Doherty



Song of St Matthias, Apostle

Richard Ormrod

I was urged to apply for the position
Having been there, as it were, from the beginning,
Knowing the whole history, as I said on my CV;
And that was the main qualification
When it came down to it, you see,
That and an absence of obvious sinning -
There was, I remember, little opposition.

My predecessor was, let's say, unpopular;
Distrusted, always in a corner, plotting a coup;
Never one of the inner circle, like Peter or John,
And all that kissing never went down well;
But you could see he wanted to get on,
Was desperate for something special to do—
Later, they bought the Lamas Field with his silver.

So really, it was no hard act to follow
For a fellow so clearly moved by the spirit,
Then confirmed and anointed on the day of the doves
(The sound and light show they called Pentecost)
The gift of the love of all loves,
- It was nothing to do with personal merit -
Was a manifesto to banish all sorrow.

For thirty full years I preached manfully
In Judea, Cappadocia, Egypt and Ethiopia
Against greed, simony, and the snares of sensuality,
Baptising, chastising, advising wherever I went.
I always knew what had to be, by sword, scourge or tree:
When I heard His voice say, "Come to me, be free,"
The stones did their work at Colchis in 80 AD.

Martyred 14th May, 80 AD.



Local Elections Thursday 4th May

Icklesham Parish Council and Rother District Council elections take place on Thursday 4th May.

Please note, you will need valid photo ID in order to vote in the elections. Accepted forms of ID include:
Passport, Diving licence, Blue badge, Freedom bus pass

The first Full IPC Council meeting following the election is on the 15th May and will be held at Rye Harbour Village Hall at 7.15 pm. The agenda will be published on our website on 9th May. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Icklesham Memorial Hall on Friday 26th May at 7 pm.

Jenner Sands, Clerk, Icklesham Parish Council

ickleshampc.org rother.gov.uk electoralcommission.org.uk



Beginning Birdwatching

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

May's here, with spring giving way to summer across the beach and saltmarsh habitats of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Walks for wellbeing are a real focus, as well as plenty of family activities for half-term at the end of the month.

Our free Wellbeing Walks take place each Wednesday from 9.45am - 11.15am. Meet our friendly volunteer walk leaders at the Rye Harbour Village public conveniences, by the turning circle.

Saturday 6th May - Wildlife Rangers, 10am - 2.30pm, for 12 to 16 year olds, parents do not accompany but booking essential.

Friday 12th May - Beginning Birdwatching with James Duncan, 10am - 1pm. This is a free activity but booking via the website is essential please.

Saturday 13th May - Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Open Day. Events start from 8.30am with a 1½ hour guided walk from the car park, followed by activities in the Discovery Centre until 4pm. All welcome.

Saturday 13th May - Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Talk on the Bees of Sussex, 2pm – 3.30pm. Booking essential via the website.

Saturday 20th May - Guide in a Hide, drop in to the Gooders Hide from 10am – 4pm to learn more about the birds on the saltmarsh and overhead.

Sunday 21st May - Castle Water Birds, 9am – 1pm, walk with Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve to discover Castle Water's nesting birds.

Saturday 27th May - Wildlife Watch, 10am – 12:30pm, monthly club for accompanied children age 5-11 years, booking essential.

Saturday 27th May - Lost Words for Rye Harbour Writing Workshop, 1pm – 4pm, booking essential.

Monday 29th May - Microscope Monday, 11am – 2pm, drop into the Discovery Centre for a closer look at local wildlife, no booking needed.

Please also note that the Discovery Centre and Lime Kiln Café are open 10am to 4pm as usual throughout May's bank holiday weekends. To book or to find out more about any of these activities, visit our web page:

<https://rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discovery-centre/events>

Stay in touch for news and updates to our busy schedule by following us on social media: Facebook - @RyeHarbourNR; Instagram - @ryeharbournr or Twitter @ryeharbour_NR

rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

*Katherine Crowther
Communications Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust*



Pett Level Rescue Boat

Our AGM will take place on Sunday 14th May at 10am at the PLIRB Boathouse. The AGM will appoint the Committee for the upcoming year and review the annual reports. All are welcome to attend.

Our annual Open Day will take place on Sunday 20th August. August seems far away but we try to start our planning early! If you are interested in having a stall, donating a prize for the Grand Raffle or being involved, please email plirbrescue@gmail.com.

The Charity Shed opened on Easter Sunday and will be open 10am-4pm every Sunday (weather permitting) through the summer. Full of quirky treats and bargains, with everything from paintings and homewares to toys and quality clothing, something for everyone. Good quality donations always welcome.

We have successfully secured planning permission to extend the Tornado boat garage to provide much needed enhanced storage facilities for our equipment. Plans were supported by the local community and have been designed to complement our boathouse and crew room and respect the existing garages. Now the fundraising begins to secure the funds to

not only replace the Tornado boat, but also for this exciting new project.

Wishing you all a wonderful May and enjoy the additional Bank Holiday weekend. Do come and visit us on Sundays, and remember that we always welcome new volunteers. Please continue to be vigilant about weather warnings, seasonal tides and currents and stay mindful of the dangers at both the top and bottom of local cliffs.

To keep in touch, please check out our website <https://plrb.com> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlevelindyrescueboat



Rye Food Bank

You can find out more about Rye Food Bank, and how the Trussell Trust works, and ways you can offer support, here:
rye.foodbank.org.uk trusselltrust.org/what-we-do

Cam makes monthly doorstep collections of food.
If you are donating, could you email him so that he can draw up a collection schedule.

Donald Cameron-Clarke
01797 226414 dcc.omh@gmail.com

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar May 2023

Sun 30th April	11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea 4pm: Benefice Taizé Service at Pett Level
Tuesday 2nd May	Mothers' Prayers - 10am
Thursday 4th	Rother DC and Icklesham PC elections Bible Study - New Inn - 6pm
Friday 5th	Evening Prayer - St Thomas' Church - 6pm
Saturday 6th	Coronation
Sunday 7th	Dawn Chorus Day <i>no 8am Communion at Winchelsea</i> 9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Coronation Street Party - St Thomas Street - 1pm to 4pm
Monday 8th	FOAM event: Winchelsea, Fact and Fiction Winchelsea Beach Coronation Picnic - Community Hall - 1pm to 4
Wednesday 10th	Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
Saturday 13th	Winchelsea Arts Launch event
Sunday 14th	8.30am: BCP Holy Communion at Pett Level 9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Thursday 18th	Ascension Day Service - St Thomas' - 6pm
Thurs 18th to Sun 21st	Celebrating Creation Flower Festival - St Thomas' Church
Friday 19th	Churchyard wildlife talks in the morning Literary Society - New Hall - 6.30pm for 7
Saturday 20th	Church Market - 10.30am to 12 Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas' - 7.30pm
Sunday 21st	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea 3pm: Pet Service at Winchelsea Winchelsea Cricket Club home match - 2pm
Friday 26th	Fellowship Lunch - W B Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm Icklesham Parish Council Annual Meeting - Icklesham Hall
Saturday 27th	Winchelsea Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm
Sunday 28th <i>Whit Sunday - Pentecost</i>	9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Winchelsea Cricket Club home match - 2pm
Sat 3rd June	Church Market and Garden Society Rose Show at St Thomas' - 10.30am till 12
Sun 4th June <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea 9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea

Further ahead

Sat 10th June	St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens
Sat 17th June	NGS Winchelsea Open Gardens
Sun 18th June	Gardens open for Memorial Hospital, Rye



Gossiping Pigeons Sandra Mackenzie Smith

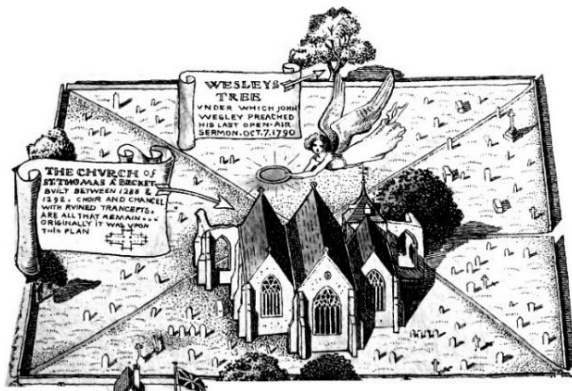
**Please send copy for the May Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
before Wednesday 31st May**

For Winchelsea Beach information go to
winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

For Winchelsea information go to
winchelsea.com

For more information about the Church go to
winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk

For weekly news from the local area go to
ryenews.org.uk



Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham and Priest in Charge of Pett

The Revd Jonathan Meyer
The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB
01797 226254 revdjonathan@btinternet.com
The Rector's day off is Monday

Winchelsea Churchwardens

Charlotte Beecroft
Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX
01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com
Celia King
Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
01797 227858 kingcelia54@gmail.com

PCC Secretary

Angela Hill
Friars Halt, Friars Road TN36 4ED
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Parish Treasurer

David Harris
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Gift Aid

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Electoral Roll Officer

Jeremy Naylor
White Cottage, Friars Road TN36 4ED
07985 734936 jrnaylor@gmail.com

Organist

David Birchenough
07840 595338 daviddaorganist@icloud.com

St Thomas' Choir

Marion Lovell
7 Oast House Field, Icklesham TN36 4BP
01424 815247 marion@abingworth.plus.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Carol Gardiner
Friars Road TN36 4ED
01797 226479
office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk

St Richard's Chapel Warden

Mary Parker
Solstice, Sea Road TN36 4LH
01797 229798 parkermary848@gmail.com

Friends of Winchelsea Church

Chairman Ben Chishick
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Parish Magazine

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