

# WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st June 2023



To see the rainbows full-width, [click here](#)

Delane Shingadia



## Reflections from the Rectory

It is almost a month since the coronation of His Majesty Charles III. It was time for celebration, there were several services in the Benefice and at Pett as well as a number of street parties and other events to mark the Coronation.

As the King is the supreme governor of the Church, I took time to watch and reflect upon the service, which I found most uplifting. Like many people I think the music was perhaps the highlight. However we were reminded that although it was a state occasion it was above all a Christian and religious service. At a wedding I often note that marriage is not the beginning of something, it is simply a way of consecrating and bringing before God something that already exists. The coronation is same.

There were a number of things that were very striking about the service as well as the music which I have mentioned, there was the very moving and personal moment of the anointing. One of the most notable aspects and I believe an innovation was the start of the service when the king was welcomed by a page and then responded, "I come not to be served but to serve".

The theme of service was very central to the whole of the liturgy and indeed was re-emphasised at the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle on the following day. There are very few who doubt the dedication and long service of the late Queen and we pray that Charles will follow her example in a life of service.

I have always felt it must be hugely challenging to have this kind of office thrust upon you and it is by no means easy to take up a life of service. It made me think of other aspects of service in our society that are not always noticed and remain unsung. One such role is that of High Sheriff.

It is a great privilege for me to have been asked to be the chaplain to the High Sheriff of East Sussex for this year. The High Sheriff is an annual post dating back at least a thousand years, which is onerous and completely unpaid.

The original 'Shire Reeves' were royal officials appointed to enforce the monarch's interests in a county and in particular to have responsibility for the enforcement of law and order. In the modern world there are a variety of different responsibilities but perhaps one of the most significant is supporting the judiciary, the police and the emergency services within the county.

So much of this work goes on behind the scenes; usually we hear about the failures rather than the successes of which there are many. My responsibilities are limited but I have already gained an insight into how much goes on behind the scenes as a force for good, whether it be encouraging the police, the fire services, probation officers, the judiciary or restorative justice programs.

I am looking forward to observing and learning more about an unseen and important aspect of service in the community. Let us all try to serve in the best way that we can.

*Jonathan*

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## **Barons at the Abbey**

*Mayor David Merrifield writes:* What a glorious day it was and truly a great honour for me to represent our wonderful town of Winchelsea.

I met up with my fellow Barons of the Cinque Ports on the eve of the Coronation when we enjoyed dinner together. The following morning, after a light breakfast, we set off by coach at 6.30am from our hotel in Woolwich. Despite warnings received of possible severe traffic congestion our journey to Lambeth Bridge went very smoothly and we were through the security check point in Victoria Tower Gardens before 8am.

After that our day really began. Over 2,000 guests assembled and all were seated by 9 o'clock to witness and enjoy a magnificent programme of religious and secular music before the Coronation Ceremony. This was performed by the Coronation Orchestra, the State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, the Fanfare Trumpeters of the RAF, the Coronation Brass Ensemble and the Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey.

The music accompanied the Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists, the Ascension Choir and the Byzantine Chant Ensemble, all enhanced by a number of outstanding

instrumental and vocal soloists. The music ranged from the Baroque via the essential Crown Imperial by William Walton, to recently composed pieces.

The atmosphere was electric when the processions into the Abbey began, first of the faith leaders followed by that of the Commonwealth Realms and culminating with the procession of the King and Queen and their entourage of over 140 attendants.

The Coronation Ceremony lasted for two hours and is permanently etched on my mind. I sat close to the pulpit from which Rishi Sunak delivered his reading and to Katy Perry who later performed at the evening concert in Windsor. The whole event created a magnificent spectacle, never to be forgotten.

As I said during my interview with BBC Radio Sussex after the event, one thing the English can excel at is the staging of incomparable national events which are the envy of the world. In my opinion this was clearly proved on 6th May.



The title Baron of the Cinque Ports and the granting of Honours at Court were again conferred on the representatives, usually the Mayors of the Cinque Port towns attending Coronations. This has been the case with Barons of the Cinque Ports attending every Coronation since that of Richard I in 1189. All 14 of us representing the original five Ports, the two Ancient Towns (Winchelsea and Rye) and the seven limbs felt honoured, but, in view of the 834 year old



precedent, not surprised to be recognised in this way. After the ceremony the Mayor of Hastings and I were approached by an officer of the College of Arms, the Bluemantle Pursuivant, wearing his tabard emblazoned with symbols from the Royal Coat of Arms, who enthusiastically greeted us as Barons of the Cinque Ports.

What a lovely way in which to receive confirmation of our honorary title, the icing on the cake, to a traditionalist such as myself. A truly unforgettable day.

## **Winchelsea Coronation Street Party.**



On Sunday 7th May 7th the town of Winchelsea organised a free street party for all residents to attend. The Winchelsea Residents Association (WRA) successfully joined together with a number of other organisations, including St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea Corporation, FOAM, the Conservation Society and the Second Wednesday Society in order to make this a truly collaborative event attended by 230 residents and their families and guests.

We chose to hold the party in St Thomas' Street, the site of a large shady oak tree; a tree that was planted to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. We closed the street to traffic and as it benefits from a wide grassy verge overlooking the church there was more space for last minute attendees to sit on picnic blankets. It was a truly idyllic location for the celebration.

We had no idea how many people would attend, but we knew that we wanted to make it as inclusive as possible hence approached many of the elderly residents directly, such as those that were not on email and were unlikely to see posters around the town. We estimated an attendance of 120 people but were delighted that 230 attended.



We decorated the street with home-sewn bunting and decorated the old oak tree. We borrowed tables and chairs from the New Hall, the Church and the Court Hall and decorated tables with union-jack table cloths and vases of

red white and blue flowers. We even had a life size cardboard cut-out of Charles and Camilla to greet people.

Everyone shared picnics and we provided coronation-themed cupcakes for all, as well as prosecco for the toast by the mayor. We served a range of cocktails and mocktails, delivered directly to the tables by our helpers, wearing crowns. The profits from our cocktails raised over £150 for the New Hall.



The mayor proposed a toast to King Charles and Queen Camilla and we all sang God save the King. Throughout the afternoon we entertained residents with wonderful live music played by local resident Jonathan Murphy, who accompanied his talented daughter Anna, who has a beautiful singing voice. We also enjoyed a Scottish country dancing demonstration, performed by local residents. Following a period of changeable weather, the sun shone brightly down upon us for a glorious day at the Street Party. It was a truly amazing day.

The feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive and we were fortunate that we were able to offset some of the cost with a generous grant from Rother District Council.

Thank you for enabling this tremendous event, which we will all remember with great joy.

*Ali Casey and Cathy Veys,  
Organisers, Winchelsea Residents Association.*





Alex Preston *Kt Bruce*

## Winchelsea Fact and Fiction

On Coronation Bank Holiday Monday two authors visited Winchelsea. Alex Preston author of the smuggling tale, 'Winchelsea', represented fiction, while Mathew Green author of 'Shadowlands, A Journey Through Lost Britain', provided the facts.

The event took place over five locations in the town, where the authors read from their books and talked about how their writing had been inspired by the settings.

The fiction locations included a medieval cellar, lavishly furnished as a smugglers den and the ruins of the monastery at Greyfriars. While the fact part of the tour included medieval wine tasting within yet another atmospheric cellar, accompanied by live music.

The event concluded in the Lower Court Hall, where the authors discussed each other's writing, answered questions from the audience and signed copies of their books.

Fact and Fiction was organised by FOAM - the Friends of the Ancient Monuments and Museum - and raised almost £1,000, which will be used to maintain the town's Court Hall, Medieval Gates and Town Well.



Matthew Green Kt Bruce

Many thanks to all those who helped to make it such a success, including the cellar owners, Greyfriars, our guides - who dressed for the occasion - Anna Murphy for playing the flute, Kt Bruce for documenting the event, Nigel Aston for his amazing transformation of the cellar at *Lines End* and of course our two authors.

*Chris Chappell*

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## A May Tradition

Morris dancers returned to Winchelsea on Whit Sunday in a May tradition that goes back many years. The East Surrey Morris Men and the Greensleeves Morris Men danced in front of the old Castle Inn and then, after refreshing themselves at the New Inn, continued to dance in the pub garden. Judging by their printed programme, they danced almost continuously over the bank holiday weekend: sixteen sessions, starting at Battle Abbey on Saturday and finishing at Scotney on Monday.



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







## A Month of Garden Openings

There will be three openings of Winchelsea gardens for charity this 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, nine 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*, *South Mariteau*, *The Orchards* and *Magazine House*. Opening for the first time are *Burrin House* and *The Rectory*.

Eight of these gardens, plus *Evens*, 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

Nearby, *Beauchamps*, in Float Lane will open from 2pm to 5 on Saturday 3rd June. Matty Holmes is opening in memory of Richard who died in February and to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine fund. £2.50 admission. Refreshments and parking available.

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## Look Up and See

Our long planned and awaited Celebration of Creation weekend has come and gone and so much we have to be thankful for: wonderful weather, the flower circles which were the festival's initial inspiration, coming up trumps and looking floriferous and the help and dedication of so many lovely people.

Firstly, having a fundraising event such as the flower festival is not just about the money it is about community relationships.

I find the enthusiasm of people to partake in such an event knowing that it will be lots of hard work really heart-warming. It is so important to do things together and to cement new and old friendships and relationships, to bring new and younger people on board and to be flexible enough in how we do things to enable the use of a wide range of people's talents.

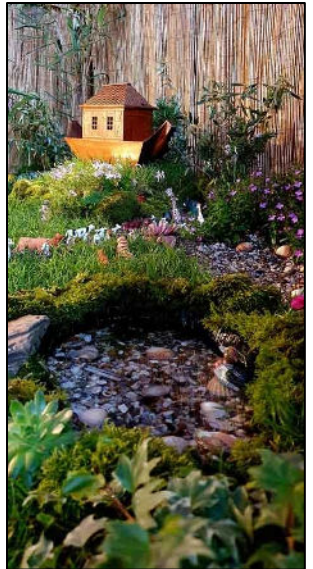
I must particularly thank Charlotte Beecroft for, at all times, having a head on her shoulders and being around to keep an eye on things; all those wonderful people who helped with the coffee, teas and lunches and those who made delicious traybakes and cakes; to all those who had any sort of role in the success of the concert on Saturday and of course to all the flower arrangers for their wonderful and varied interpretations of the theme of Creation.

I have had plenty of positive feedback from people who enjoyed the variety of events, talks, market, and especially the Pet Service on Sunday afternoon, which makes it all worthwhile.

And now, with our celebration behind us, Spring turns to high Summer, days continue to lengthen and everything continues to grow. In the words of Bishop Will Hazelwood at our Ascension Day service, "Look up" and appreciate the world around you - it was given to us for our benefit - find a moment of time to really see it.

*Shirley Meyer*

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*Flower Festival photos: Shirley Meyer, Natasha Robinson, David Page*





Pet Service 21st May *James Stewart*

## **Summer Fete and Fun Dog Show**

Saturday 12th August 2023 from 12 to 4pm.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Fete. If you can spare an hour of your time, please contact Jo Turner on 01797 226642 or e-mail [turners.win@hotmail.com](mailto:turners.win@hotmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.



## **Friends of Winchelsea Church**

The Friends will be holding their AGM at St Thomas's on Thursday 8th June at 6pm.

The Friends of Winchelsea Church is a registered charity that is independent of the Parochial Church Council and whose charitable objects are to arouse and foster interest in the parish church at Winchelsea and to co-operate with the PCC in the preservation and improvement of the fabric, furniture, stained glass and monuments of the church and churchyard, which may include contributions from time to time towards other costs.

*Chairman Ben Chishick*  
01797 226653 [towercottage@btinternet.com](mailto:towercottage@btinternet.com)

More information on the Church Website  
[winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk/winchelsea/friends-activities](http://winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk/winchelsea/friends-activities)

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Residents reported improved comfort in the new sample chairs at April's Second Wednesday meeting

## **New Hall News**

June sees the arrival of 120 custom upholstered chairs made for us by a specialist venue supplier in Hitchin. We hope you like the change, they will certainly brighten up the hall with their three shades of turquoise fabric.

The big difference though will be in comfort for those seated events where we have seen residents wriggling to get comfortable after ten minutes into an engaging entertainment and resorting to bringing their own cushions. The starting point was finding chairs with arms to assist people with reduced strength and mobility, and one third of the chairs will meet this criterion.

Bigger changes are coming later this year with the refurbishment of the old toilet facilities, where painted brick and uninsulated exteriors give trouble with mould and a generally unappealing appearance. We will start with the Ladies' In December. During the works the accessible WC in the cloakroom by the entrance will be re-designated as Ladies' for the duration.

When the modernised facility is re-opened in the Spring, we will follow with the Gents'. There will be new wall and ceiling surfaces and sash windows allowing significant

uprating of the thermal insulation. The new women's toilets will be up to date, with more comfort than the semi-detached privy-style outhouse that visitors to the New Hall have got used to.

To get us off the ground we need to raise £5,000 this year to match the £8,000 we have applied for in grants, thereby getting these two big projects on a secure footing. We hope Winchelsea will support us to achieve this. Please let a committee member know if you would like to make a donation towards chairs (from £72 each) or the toilets refurbishment (from £195 for each close coupled WC, other fixtures or fittings are available). Being a charity, gift aid applies.

To raise £1,200 of our £5,000 target, we now announce the launch of a lottery venture, as mentioned in the May Parish Magazine. We have decided to set up a '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 (to be paid for on a standing order) or £24 for one ticket for 12 months (standing order, cheque or cash). We think this is a great way to raise up to £1200 per year for the New Hall and allow us to offer up to £100 every month in a cash prize to residents.

We plan to launch the new '100 Club' at the Film Night on Saturday 17th June. Doors open at 6:30pm for drinks and socialising; the screening starts at 7:30pm. There is a pay bar, proceeds in aid of the New Hall, and the screening is free. Do come along, sit on 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 or contact Rosemarie Roberts or Ali Casey to sign up and help with our fundraising.

Rosemarie Roberts [rosiero96@icloud.com](mailto:rosiero96@icloud.com), 07941 458628  
Ali Casey [AliWinchelsea@outlook.com](mailto:AliWinchelsea@outlook.com), 07926 128737

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**WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT** : Winchelsea Residents' Association in conjunction with the New Hall

**Presents; ALAN BENNET'S**

# **THE HISTORY BOYS**

**WINCHELSEA NEW HALL**

**SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**6.30pm for  
7.30pm**

**Admission Free**

**Refreshments,**

**Pay Bar.**

**Come early,  
enjoy a drink  
or two.**

**Screening starts  
at 7.30pm**





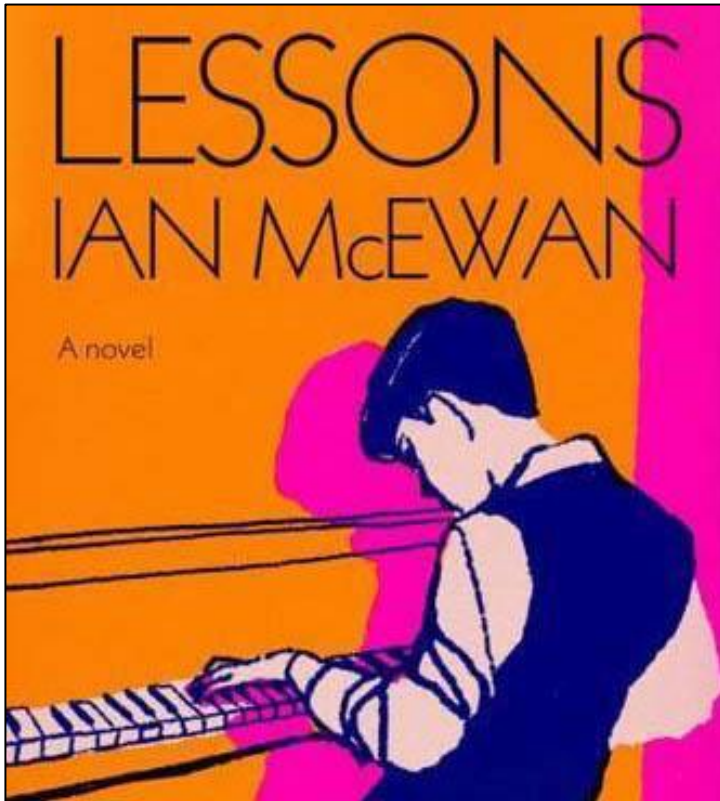
## Lucky Dip

Former Winchelsea resident and diplomat Richard Thomas will be talking to Literary Society on Friday 16th June: 'Lucky Dip - Memoir or Autobiography' at 7pm for 7.30 in the Court Hall.

After an improbable beginning, Richard Thomas's diplomatic career took him to some unlikely places, like Bhutan where his motor-scooter spawned an aid programme, or twenty thousand feet up in Robert Maxwell's private jet buying up post-communist Bulgaria, or a NATO base in the North Atlantic to await the arrival of Satan, or to tea round the fire in Downing Street with a government minister and a mounted policeman, or to a wooden hut in West Africa where he, now persona non grata, and his Australian girlfriend, Catherine, managed to get married on the fringes of a dictator's last-gasp political rally.

There were run-ins with secret policemen in communist Eastern Europe, encounters with horrific conditions in post-communist so-called orphanages where Catherine kick-started a new, humane approach to physical and cognitive disability, and the deliberate cultivation of the dissidents who would supplant a communist dictatorship.

All this, and much more, is recounted by someone who reckons that he struck lucky in the diplomatic dip.



## **A Conversation with Ian McEwan**

For the second time this Spring the Lit. Soc. had to seek out a larger venue to accommodate those attracted by the prospect of hearing the celebrated and prolific novelist, Ian McEwan, discussing his latest novel 'Lessons' with Jon Cook. They might have mentally echoed Disraeli in the Commons "We come here for fame" although in this case Fame resided in the aura enveloping McEwan.

In a relaxed exchange with his interlocutor, our guest laid out the lines of his novel's plot with any risk of "spoilers" likely outweighed by the attraction of his fluent, elegant prose and intriguing ideas.

The book incorporated some autobiographical elements as it followed the central character, Roland Baines, through a life whose span neatly mirrored the author's own with real events intruding at various junctures in the narrative.



McEwan's inversion of two topical themes commands the reader's attention. At boarding school, the teenage Roland is groomed by the attractive, dominating female piano teacher and the pair embark on a two-year long affair. As a consequence, the boy becomes sexually restless and has difficulty forming stable relationships with women. Later in life, he tracks his former lover down and confronts her with the grooming and abuse but finds he is suffering from some variant of Stockholm Syndrome and his love for her stops him making a formal accusation.

His personal sexual odyssey reaches a temporary haven in marriage to a German woman who, in another example of role inversion, abandons him and their baby to pursue a literary career in Germany. The pair briefly meet in Berlin as the Wall comes down and she presents him with a copy of her first novel which he realises is a work of genius and that she is destined to be Europe's leading novelist; an achievement that would have been impossible had she remained in South London as Roland's wife.

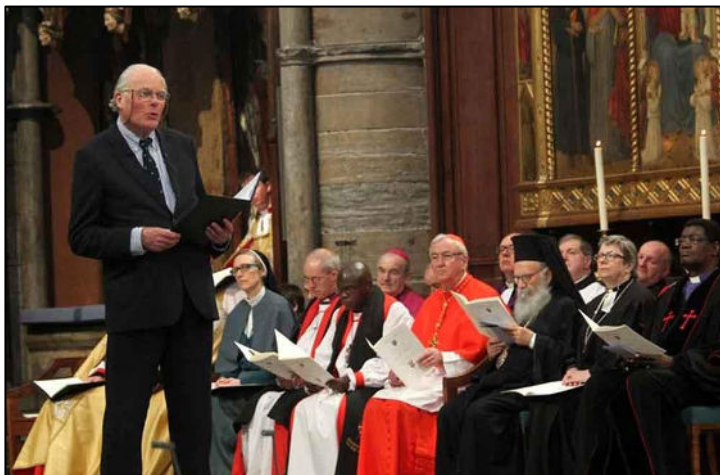
Recognising that she is ill and that her death is imminent, he ponders on the realisation that her literary legacy will outlive them both and on the mediocre level of his own attainments.

As always at literary events, there was intense interest in the technical elements of the writer's creative process. Ian told us that he did not approach his writing with a play book but allowed the plot to unfold as he wrote. He took issue with Virginia Woolf's assertion that character was dead (contradicted by her own 'Mrs Dalloway') and observed that Roland's character in part changed with time but other features remained the same throughout 'Lessons'.

Further tips on creative writing were elicited as our speaker patiently fielded a battery of questions from an engaged and enthusiastic audience. Judging from the queue for book signings at the end, few attendees would have echoed the Gryphon in 'Alice in Wonderland'; "... they're called lessons .... because they lessen from day to day."

*Bill Doherty*

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Speaking at the memorial service for Nelson Mandela at Westminster Abbey

## **Jonty Driver 1939-2023**

Jonty never lived in Winchelsea and most members of the community wouldn't have met him but he had enormous influence in widening the scope of Literary Society.

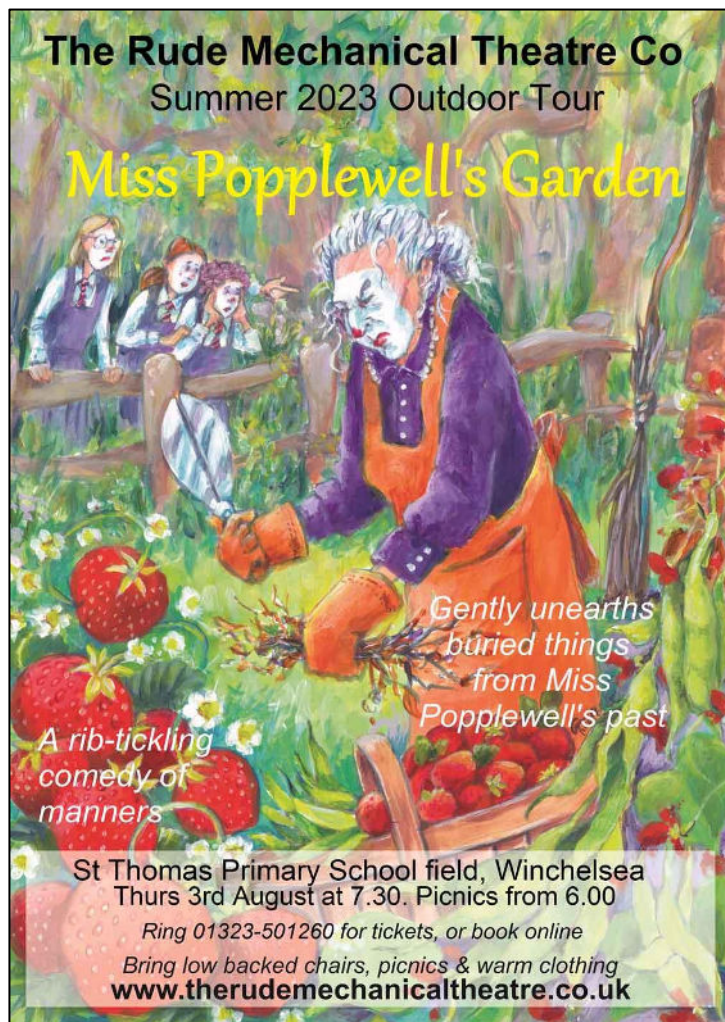
Connected to the town by friendship with Lawrence and Felicity Youlten, Jonty called upon his myriad contacts in the worlds of literature and education to bring in speakers that a small society would never have expected to host. Jonty published several volumes of poetry as well as five novels and three biographies. He gave memorable talks and poetry readings to the Society.

Born in South Africa where his father and grandfather were Anglican clergymen, Jonty was imprisoned for his anti-apartheid student activism. In Britain he had a distinguished career in education, becoming headmaster of Berkhamsted School and Master of Wellington College.

Jonty and Ann lived in Northiam and were members of the congregation at Ewhurst Green. Our condolences go to Ann and to their children.

[grocotts.ru.ac.za](http://grocotts.ru.ac.za)

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Tickets are now on sale for the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company production of 'Mrs Popplewell's Garden' on 3rd August in Winchelsea. Further details at [therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk](http://therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk)

The Rudes are a professional theatre company based in Eastbourne who perform Commedia dell'Arte and have toured the south east every year with their original productions for about 23 years. Well received in Winchelsea a few years ago, the Winchelsea Social Committee are delighted to welcome them back. Bring picnics beforehand, low chairs etc. Tickets can be bought online.



## **Farming Around Winchelsea**

On Saturday 10th June Conservation Society welcomes local farmer Frank Langrish to the Lower Court Hall, at 10.30am  
Doors open for coffee around 10am.

Frank has been farming in the area all his life and his family have farmed here for four generations. He is a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies and is a past Chairman of the British Wool Marketing Board and a Council Member of the National Farmers Union. He was involved with King Charles in setting up the Campaign for Wool to promote wool around the world and often speaks on radio and TV on farming matters.

Much of the land Frank farms is designated SSSI. He manages woodland and has planted many thousands of hedge plants over the last few years on his farms and is heavily involved in conservation work as well as livestock production.

Frank plans to speak about the importance of the present local farming systems, to the environment and wildlife, and provide a brief history of the farming around Winchelsea. And of course, will be delighted to answer your questions. Admission is free to members, or £5 to non-members - which is the cost of membership. If you aren't a member, you can join on the day.



## **Conservation Society Visit to Boxley**

On Wednesday 21st June, Winchelsea Conservation Society are visiting the Old House, in the village of Boxley near Maidstone.

This building is currently being restored by SPAB (The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings). While we are in Boxley, we will also visit the nearby site of Boxley Abbey, a 12th century Cistercian Monastery. The ruins of the Abbey can clearly be seen, including a remarkable barn, which was used as the Abbey's hospitium.

We will be departing by coach from Winchelsea at 9am, our plan is to tour the Old House, and then break for lunch in the local pub, we will then visit the Abbey, arriving back at Winchelsea around 4pm.

The price is £30, which includes the coach fare and donation to SPAB. The cost of your lunch is not included. Please note that the Old House is a building site, with uneven floors, building materials, debris and limited facilities.

Space is limited, so please let either Judith Payne or Chris Chappell know as soon as possible if you wish to come. Payment by cash to Judith.

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*Kt Bruce*

## **Winchelsea Arts New Season**

May saw the launch of a new season of concerts and a triumphant climax to the 2022-23 season.

Conducted by Marcio da Silva, Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra picked up the creation theme of the Flower Festival and played to a packed audience at St Thomas's with a programme that included Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony.

There will be six concerts in the 2023-24 season, starting on Saturday 8th July at 7.30pm when the Pegasus Choir return to Winchelsea to perform folk songs and madrigals from the British Isles and beyond. Following on from last year's Venetian Christmas, Ensemble OrQuesta will bring music for a German Christmas by Candlelight. Renowned cellist Raphael Wallfisch, who gave last autumn's fundraising concert for Ukraine, will be back next Spring with the Amici della Musica.

*[Click here to see the dates and details of all six concerts.](#)*

Subscription tickets for the full season cost £88 (six concerts for the price of four), £165 for a joint subscription or £22 for each individual concert. They are available to buy from the Arts website [winchelsea-arts.org.uk](http://winchelsea-arts.org.uk)

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## Alexander's Feast

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.



**PEASMARSH  
CHAMBER MUSIC  
FESTIVAL**

25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary | 22-25 June 2023

Anthony Marwood / Richard Lester / Stefan Cassomenos / Simone van der Giessen / Aleksandar Madžar / Samuel West / Kleio Quartet / Valo Quartet / Britten Sinfonia

Inspiring music in beautiful surroundings  
with concerts in Peasmarsh and Rye.

BOX OFFICE 01797 253178  
[peasmarshfestival.co.uk](http://peasmarshfestival.co.uk) East Sussex



## Finding Perspectives

*Natasha Robinson writes:* I'm sure I've talked to you before about our garden, or Jack's garden as we call it. We follow Jack's paths and sit on Jack's sunken terrace; Jack's highly scented Hybrid Teas perfume the garden and Sergio tends Jack's veg plot.

When we first took over Jack's garden, eleven years ago, it was very neat and delineated, as was traditional of gardens of its era, that had been tended by the same person for decades. I would spend hours pruning, shaping weeding and tidying and Sergio would mow stripes into the vast lawn.

I've always been a gardener. Both my Greek and French grandmothers had green fingers and glorious gardens, one in Kenya and one in the South of France, so it's in my DNA. As a child, I watched the progress of the Blue Peter garden and then followed Percy Thrower and Geoff Hamilton to Gardener's World. They would have recognised Jack's garden.

I can't put my finger on when things changed; possibly through floristry, another passion of mine. Kenneth Turner broke the Constance Spry mould and started creating installations of natural, wild arrangements. I followed suit, initially at work and then in the garden.

The first big change was allowing two large patches of lawn to grow wild, just cutting paths through them. There was a new global zeitgeist and as I read Marian Boswall and Isabella Tree, the importance of the natural environment and climate change became obvious and imperative, even in our little patch and the garden transformed.

Jack would barely recognise it, but Shirley and Paul approve wholeheartedly. From swift boxes, to moth traps and bee walks, they are pioneers and role models for re-wilding and biodiversity at Winchelsea's green heart. They have endorsed and encouraged my natural, organic, buzzing, precious acre of joy.

Following their talk at last Second Wednesday Society, we've even signed up to their newly launched Winchelsea Green Garden Awards (closing date 31st July) and I have my eye on a 'Golden Bee'. The next date in the diary is 5th August, when the quartet allocation, of gardeners participating in the awards, will be announced.

And so to this month. I'm very happy that my friend and colleague Kt Bruce will be giving a talk about her life as a photographer, 'How I became photographer to the stars'. When we first met, we realised that we knew many people in common. 'I know her' or 'I've met him' she'd say and I'd look on her website and so she had.

She's fun, kind, curious, deeply knowledgeable, interested in her subjects and makes the Duracell bunny look lazy. Come and find out about her and her career, take her advice and use her skill to enhance your own photos. As usual you'll come away richer than when you arrived.

As the caretakers of Jack's garden, when we hand it down to the next owners, they will no doubt call it Sergio and Natasha's garden. And the next time you take a photo after Kt's talk, you'll have her voice in your ear, telling you how to frame the best shot. Not bad ways to be remembered, sharing your passion and leaving the world a tiny bit better. See you on Wednesday 14th June.

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## **June Second Wednesday**

On 14th June at 2.30pm in the New Hall the speaker will be Kt Bruce; 'How I became photographer to the stars'

You may well have spotted Kt Bruce with a very long lens at Winchelsea special events. You may also have seen Kt's by lines in Rye News. But Kt is principally a portrait photographer of the famous - PD James, Celia Imrie, John Humphries and Edna O'Brien, Michele Obama and Queen Elizabeth, to name just a few.

Kt will also share some tips on how to take better photos with your phone.

Annual membership £15, visitors £5, homemade tea £2  
[2ndWeds@gmail.com](mailto:2ndWeds@gmail.com)

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## **Winchelsea Cricket Club**

Winchelsea suffered defeat in the opening fixture of 2023 away at Tenterden, losing by a whopping 176 runs. However, normal service was resumed in a 4 wicket victory over Beckley Park. The following week a strong Ashburnham team proved to be far too strong, inflicting a 112 run defeat against a Winchelsea XI who, frankly, were poor.

A measure of pride was restored by securing a draw against Crowhurst, to whom WCC were grateful for providing a fixture at all after original opponents, Lydd, were forced to cancel. June sees the return of the Authors XI, featuring Alex Preston. They narrowly scraped a victory last year, and enjoyed themselves so much they asked for a re-match.

### **June fixtures**

4th - away - Catsfield - 2pm start  
11th - home - Sedlescombe - 2pm start  
18th - away - Northiam - 2pm start  
23rd - home - Authors XI - 2pm start  
25th - home - Bodiam - 1.30pm start

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## Notes from a New Parish Councillor

*Chris Chappell*

When I mentioned that I was going to stand for the Parish Council, fellow residents were somewhat mystified. “Why on earth would you want to do that?” was the usual response.

But the much maligned and often misunderstood Icklesham Parish Council plays an important role in all our lives in Winchelsea, it looks after our play area, pays for our street lighting, keeps an eye on planning, manages allotments, supports the New Hall, and even contributes to grass cutting in the churchyard.

And of course, it doesn't just look after us, it covers a large and diverse area stretching from Icklesham to Rye Harbour that includes Winchelsea Beach. Balancing the needs of those four separate communities, each with their own distinct needs is always likely to be a challenge.

From an electoral point of view, the Parish is divided into three wards. Winchelsea town is the smallest ward and is represented by just two of the thirteen councillors. The Parish Council has two employees - the Parish Clerk and the Assistant Parish Clerk - and a budget of more than £200k, most of which comes from a share of our council taxes.

Councillors are elected for four years, the most recent election was on 4th May. I say election: unfortunately you didn't get a chance to vote for me, only two people stood for the two seats in Winchelsea, David Smedley, and myself, so it was uncontested and there was no requirement for a vote. It was the same in the other wards, in fact there hasn't been an election in the parish for many years.

The first meeting of the new Council was held on 15th May. Its first task was to sort out a Chairman (Jackie Stanford) and a Deputy Chairman (David Smedley), then the committees were organised. The committees do much of the background work, so for example I'm on the Open Spaces committee, which amongst other things, is responsible for traffic calming in Winchelsea. After that we rattled through the agenda, which had over 30 items on it.

Of particular interest to Winchelsea residents is a consultation meeting to be held on the morning of Saturday 22nd July. Its purpose is to discuss two options for traffic calming in the town, suggested by East Sussex Highways. More details to follow but pop the date it in your diary.

We also discussed Winchelsea's street lighting. As you can imagine the cost for this has risen, and the Clerk proposed we should replace the current bulbs with LED units, which will be more cost efficient and environmentally friendly. This was agreed; however, I have asked that the light emitted should be as close as possible to the current lighting.

While we are talking about energy, the play area is to get two adult exercise bikes. All four recreation areas in the parish will benefit from a pair of these. Ours should be installed before the Autumn. Of course, if we could link the exercise bikes to the street lighting, we could really save some money.

Public toilets were also on the agenda. Rother, who currently own the toilets in Winchelsea, wish to devolve ownership and management to Icklesham Parish Council, together with the toilets at Winchelsea Beach. Icklesham already manages those at Rye Harbour .

The Parish Council recognise the importance of the toilets to both communities, but they are currently in a very poor state of repair, so the first step is to ask Rother to carry out a full

structural survey of our toilets, and then we can decide what options are open to us.

I'll try to keep you up to date on what is happening each month, and the minutes of our meetings are posted on the Council's website and the noticeboard opposite the shop.

However, if you have any thoughts or questions regarding the work of the parish council, you can contact me on my shiny new email address, [cllr.c.chappell.ipc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.c.chappell.ipc@gmail.com)

[ickleshampc.org](http://ickleshampc.org)

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## **Poppy Appeal 2022 results**

The audited figures have now been received from the Royal British Legion, which includes Gift Aid and donations made online. A total of £3,098.46 was raised in Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach, being £528.57 more than was raised in 2021. The RBL has asked that its thanks, on behalf of the armed forces communities, be extended to all those who supported and contributed in every way to last year's appeal. Thank you very much.

*John Rodley, Local Appeal Organiser.*

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## **Mothers' Prayers**

Mothers' Prayers in June will be on Tuesday 6th at St Richard's Church.

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## **Fellowship Lunch**

will be served on Friday 30th June at 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Village Hall. Anybody who hasn't already indicated that they would like to come should let Mary Parker know by phoning 07927 107678.

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## **Traffic Calming Consultation and Vote**

Icklesham Parish Council has agreed a firm date for the resident consultation meeting. It will be held on Saturday 22nd July from 11am to 1pm in the New Hall.

The further consultation is needed after National Highways rejected the residents' choice of no left turn/no right turn - not because of the quality of the proposal but because it will not approve minor changes to any A road junction without a complete reconstruction. This is unrealistic and unaffordable and means we have to focus on changes solely to Strand Hill.

The new meeting is therefore residents' opportunity to consider and vote on the closure of Strand Hill which was residents' second preferred option, does not require reconstruction and is supported in principle by National Highways and East Sussex County Council.

The Residents Association has proposed to the Parish Council that we work with our local councillors to provide good information before and on the day and ensure all Winchelsea residents can vote. We understand voting arrangements and possible inclusion of an option previously considered by residents will be decided by the Parish Council Open Spaces Committee on 26th June. We will update residents after that meeting.



The turnout to vote will be crucial. As mentioned in earlier updates, East Sussex County Council makes the final decision. It has suggested a vote of about 80% in favour of a single option would encourage a positive decision. It is therefore important that Parish Council agrees voting arrangements that include both residents at the consultation meeting and those unable to attend on the day.

We will advise the detail of voting arrangements as soon as agreed by the Parish Council and circulate information on the options being considered well before the meeting on 22nd July. In the meantime, if residents have any questions, you can send them to the Residents Association email or ask a committee member directly and we will respond promptly.

## **A259 Working Group**

The Working Group hopes soon to begin consultation of residents living along the trunk road and also Station Road to establish priorities for action. The Group and WRA are also considering a response to the recently published National Highways 2025-30 Strategy to help gain wider recognition and support for local A259 issues.

*Winchelsea Residents Association*  
[info@winchelseaRA.com](mailto:info@winchelseaRA.com)      [winchelseaRA.com](http://winchelseaRA.com)

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*Jonathan Murphy*

## **Station Celebration**

The new train timetable from Southern for the first time in 17 years, allowed an hourly service to both Winchelsea and Three Oaks stations. It had been a slow incremental burn as volunteers, schools and Rail action groups supported a long campaign to stop closure of these stations in 2005.

So, on 21st May, the day after yet another rail strike, 40 people gathered at Winchelsea station to enjoy a quick celebratory trip to Three Oaks. Our ex-MP and vital supporter in the early days, Michael Foster was thanked by John Spencer, as also were Railfuture, Marshlink Rail Action group, the Sussex Community Rail Partnership and the Bexhill Rail Action Group.

Also thanked were the timetable programmers from Southern who several times a year sit down with the local Rail groups to plan rail improvements for passengers. This organisation is called the Hastings and Rother Rail Users Alliance.

To the surprise of the guard 35 people and dogs boarded the train for Three Oaks to be met there by 10 residents including Monika Betson who started the campaign for Three Oaks station, and her successor Chrissy Harmar Brown. More photographs were taken to record proceedings which then allowed time for a swift drink in the nearby hostelry. 35 minutes later most people returned by train to Winchelsea Station after a fun trip out.

Our volunteers who have freely given their time to look after the stations and the schools who have provided artwork to help beautify the stations have all helped our campaign. The work goes on. To all those residents and representatives of the Rail Action Groups who turned out to support us on a sunny Sunday afternoon, many thanks.



*Jonathan Murphy*

The challenge now is to ensure that our two stations are never again faced with closure. This means that the stations need increasing numbers of residents, schoolchildren, tourists, bikers and walkers visiting our part of Sussex using them. We hope that with publicity from Southern, Tourist organisations and Councils, there will be an increase in numbers using Three Oaks and Winchelsea stations over the next few years.

But this dependent on people having confidence in the service. Train cancellations and strikes have recently worked against passengers using the Railways. We can only hope that the timetable lifeline given us by Southern will in time be successful provided that the stormy waters the Railways currently face settle in the near future.

*John Spencer*

*Co-Chair of THWART, Three Oaks and Winchelsea Action for Rail Transport.*



## **Rye Food Bank Update**

The Food Bank's core purpose is to provide food to people in crisis. Each parcel is intended to last for three days. Small families, couples and single people would receive progressively less, and large and extra-large families progressively more.

We also try to provide some extra items and especially fresh fruit and vegetables when available. Regulations prevent us from providing clients with meats (unless tinned) or dairy products, and we can't handle alcohol. In general the donations we receive from you are well balanced and always helpful and much appreciated.


Though some people prefer to make food donations there are some benefits in financial donations. They enable us to buy what we need to maintain balanced stock - essential because our store is very small, and we buy at substantially discounted prices, it saves a lot of carrying of food items, and regular financial donations, even if only small, are a predictable income source. But a mix of financial and food donations works very well.

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](mailto:dcc.omh@gmail.com)

Click here to find out more about the foodbank, and details for  
making financial donations:

[ryefoodbank.com](http://ryefoodbank.com)



## Yoga

at Winchelsea New Hall

Catered for the non-yoga person

Wednesdays 10-11 am  
3rd Wednesday of month 2-3pm

£12 per class  
£40 x 4

One-to-One available on request

Contact  
Natasha 07946 399 211  
[nn@natashanandiniyogini.com](mailto:nn@natashanandiniyogini.com)



Rye Players

# An afternoon in



## Wonderland



Come along to Peasmarch Place (TN31 6XE) on Sunday 25th June  
from 1pm to enjoy an afternoon with Alice and her friends

- \* Live performances from The Rye Players \*
- \* Children's entertainment, games and treasure trail \*
- \* Tea, cake and of course ... jam tarts! \*



GATES OPEN FROM 12.45PM

Adults £5 Children over 5 years old £2.50



In aid of Rye, Winchelsea & District Memorial Hospital Ltd  
Charity no. 1016232

[ryehospital.org.uk/event/an-afternoon-in-wonderland](http://ryehospital.org.uk/event/an-afternoon-in-wonderland)

## Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

### June 2023

- Saturday 3rd Church Market and Garden Society Rose Show  
at St Thomas' - 10.30am till 12  
Open Garden for Ukraine - 'Beauchamps', Float Lane - 2pm till 5
- Sun 4th June** **8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea**  
*Trinity Sunday* **9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Tuesday 6th Mothers' Prayers - St Richard's - 10am
- Thursday 8th Friends of Winchelsea Church AGM - St Thomas' - 6pm
- Saturday 10th Conservation Society talk - Court Hall - 10.30am  
Winchelsea Gardens open for St Michael's Hospice - 10.30am to 4pm  
Occasional Consort - St Thomas' - 7pm
- Sunday 11th** **8.30am: BCP Holy Communion at Pett Level**  
**9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**  
Winchelsea Cricket Club Home match - 2pm
- Wednesday 14th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
- Friday 16th Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 17th Winchelsea NGS Garden Opening - 11am to 5pm  
Film Night and 100 Club Launch - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30
- Sunday 18th** **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**  
Winchelsea Gardens open for Memorial Hospital - 2pm to 5pm
- Wednesday 21st Conservation Society visit to Boxley
- Friday 23rd Winchelsea Cricket Club Home match - 2pm
- Sunday 25th** **9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**  
Winchelsea Cricket Club Home match - 1.30pm
- Friday 30th Fellowship Lunch - W B Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
- Sat 1st July Church Market at St Thomas' - 10.30am till 12

### Further ahead

- Sat 8th July Winchelsea Arts Concert
- Sun 9th July Patronal Festival Service at St Thomas'



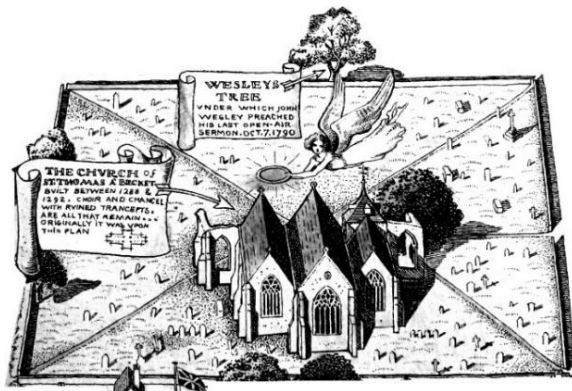
**Please send copy for the July Magazine to  
[ryeview@gmail.com](mailto:ryeview@gmail.com)  
before Friday 30th June**

For Winchelsea Beach information go to  
[winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk](http://winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk)

For Winchelsea information go to  
[winchelsea.com](http://winchelsea.com)

For more information about the Church go to  
[winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

For weekly news from the local area go to  
[ryenews.org.uk](http://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](mailto:revdjonathan@btinternet.com)  
The Rector's day off is Monday

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Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX  
01797 223159 [ccmburrin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmburrin@gmail.com)  
Celia King  
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01797 227858 [kingcelia54@gmail.com](mailto:kingcelia54@gmail.com)

## **PCC Secretary**

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David Harris  
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## **Gift Aid**

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01797 222904 [pamela.jefferies@sky.com](mailto:pamela.jefferies@sky.com)

### **Electoral Roll Officer**

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07985 734936 [jrnaylor@gmail.com](mailto:jrnaylor@gmail.com)

### **Organist**

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### **St Thomas' Choir**

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7 Oast House Field, Icklesham TN36 4BP  
01424 815247 [marion@abingworth.plus.com](mailto:marion@abingworth.plus.com)

### **St Thomas' Primary School**

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01797 229798 [parkermary848@gmail.com](mailto:parkermary848@gmail.com)

### **Friends of Winchelsea Church**

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