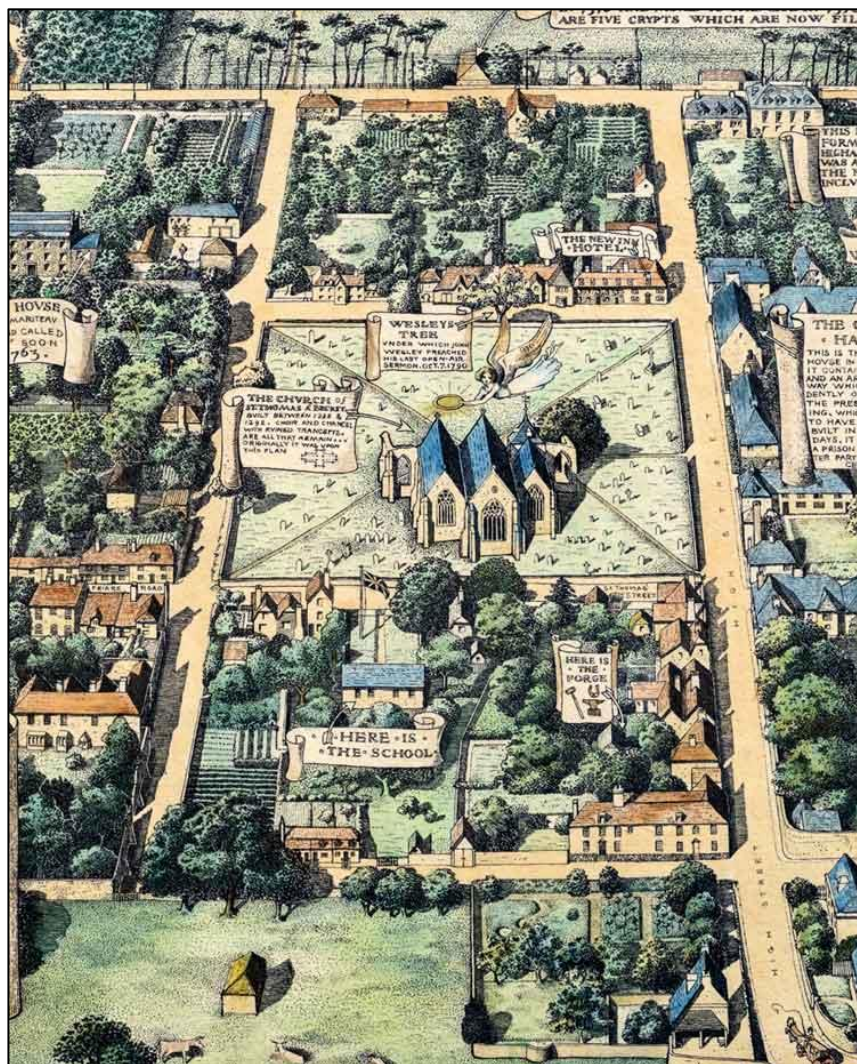


WINCHESEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st September 2023



Winchelsea 1923 *Detail from the aerial view drawn by Charles Thomas*
[Click here to see the whole map](#)



Reflections from the Rectory

As I have mentioned before, I am privileged to be the Chaplain to the High Sheriff of East Sussex. The post is only for a year and begins at his declaration in March. Essentially my duty is to support him in his duties and I have had the opportunity to meet and pray with him and his wife on a regular basis. Of obligations, events where I am essential, there are few: his Declaration and the Judge's Service which takes place in Lewes in October.

Most of the other events are occasions when I can be in attendance if I am interested. I have had some informative encounters, mostly involved with youth work within the County and I look forward to more. As it happens I will be visiting HMP Lewes early in the month. However one of the other obligatory events is to attend and support the High Sheriff for the commemoration of the ill-fated Dieppe Raid in France, which takes place every year on the anniversary of the raid, 19th August.

I must confess to not being aware of the significance of the raid which took place in 1942. Nearly 1,000 men lost their lives within a few hours on that morning, most of them Canadian and many of them from the Royal Canadian Regiment 1st Battalion which had been stationed here in Winchelsea. The raid was a disaster and the question of responsibility is still discussed today. It is of great

significance to Canadians who are well represented at the commemoration.

Apart from the most important sites there were a number of different locations in surrounding villages and French representatives followed round carrying banners which were raised and dipped at each memorial. One elderly gentleman said that since June he had covered two or three such events each week. This brought home to me how much more closely occupied France was involved in the actions of the Second War. Our solemn remembrance on 11th November is an important annual event but for these French villages there are memories of many different battles or skirmishes, commemorated on each appropriate day.



The principal ceremony took place just outside Dieppe at the Canadian Cemetery followed by one on the beach in Puits where most of the Canadians were slaughtered and a gathering beneath the castle in the Square du Canada. In the afternoon we visited small villages.

One where we assembled around the remains of a German gun emplacement destroyed by Lieutenant Colonel (Lord) Lovatt and a small band of commandos, one of the few successes of the day. I met a lady from a family that has had a house in the village since 1919 and her father had remembered every detail of that day in August.

Later we went to what is now an industrial estate at Saint-Nicolas d'Aliermont with a memorial to mark the place where between 1,000-2,000 captured Canadian soldiers were kept under guard for the night before being transported to Germany; still a living memory for some inhabitants.

That was followed by a visit to the church in Envermeu where the officers had been kept under the guard before they were transported. It was notable that the mayors and those organising these commemorations were very keen to involve young people and children to ensure that the memory should not be lost.

There is of course much more to tell but for me one of the highlights was to be asked to read from the prophet Isaiah as we gathered for a short service at the Canadian Cemetery.

The reading ended, "I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will lead them and repay them with comfort, creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips, Peace, Peace, to the far and the near says the Lord; and I will heal them."

Amen to that. *Jonathan*

Bible Study at the New Inn

Thursday 7th September at 6pm

We will meet as usual in the backroom of the pub.

The session is very informal and lasts an hour. We will be looking at the book of Ruth, which is short and deals with interesting themes. All welcome.

Fellowship Lunch

St Richard's Fellowship Lunch will take place on Friday 29th September at 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Village Hall. We look forward to welcoming back our regular diners and any new people who have not been before. Please contact Mary Parker 07927 107678 to book so that we can organise enough food for everyone and remember to bring some cash for your donation.



September and October Arts Concerts

Pianist Charles Owen will play for Winchelsea Arts on Saturday 2nd September. He enjoys an extensive international career, performing a wide-ranging repertoire to outstanding critical acclaim. This concert will present music of three giants of the Romantic era, as well as exploring the major turning point in piano composition at the turn of the twentieth century as exemplified by the Impressionists Debussy and Ravel. These composers began writing music which was no longer bound by the conventions of the nineteenth century, using tonality and harmony in strikingly new ways.

‘One of the finest British pianists of his generation’
(Gramophone Magazine).

Chopin : Berceuse, Op 57 and Barcarolle, Op. 60

Ravel : Pavane pour une infante défunte

Debussy : Ballade, Masques and L’isle joyeuse

Liszt : Deux légendes

Franck : Prélude, Chorale et Fugue

Tickets online from winchelsea-arts.org.uk
and at the door. £22 (free for under 18s)

October's concert will be given by the Rautio Piano Trio, Jane Gordon *violin*, Victoria Simonsen *cello* and Jan Rautio *piano*. Saturday 7th at 7.30pm.



The Rautio Trio have emerged as one of today's finest chamber ensembles, known for their refined and powerfully expressive performances. Performing 18th and 19th century repertoire on both modern and period instruments, they have developed a fresh and engaging approach to historical masterworks. In 2022 they launched the first volume of the complete cycle of Beethoven Piano Trios, receiving 5 stars in the BBC Music Magazine and glowing reviews in the Gramophone and Early Music Review.

Bridge : Phantasie Trio in C minor
Beethoven : Piano Trio in E flat Op.70 no.2
Dvořák : Trio No.4 in E minor (Dumky)

Tickets for this concert also are available online from winchelsea-arts.org.uk

If you haven't got it in your diary yet, note the date of this year's Christmas Concert by Candlelight: Tuesday 19th December. Last year, Marcio da Silva and the Ensemble OrQUESTA brought us a Venetian Christmas. This year they bring Christmas music from Germany.



Winchelsea Summer Fete 2023

The cricket club were delighted to host the 2023 Winchelsea Summer Fete and well over a thousand people poured onto the field for the usual fun and frolics. A sharp, mid-afternoon shower didn't put people off - over 1000 adults and children attended - or deter the record number of dogs entering Crick Hooper's wonderful, fun dog show. Full details of the charitable donations being made possible by the fete will be published next month. In the meantime, the organising committee wish to say a very big thank you to all those that attended, and express our enormous gratitude to those people who so generously gave up their time to help. From manning gates, to organising car-parking, from donating raffle prizes to gazebo wrestling (it was a bit windy!), your help is very much appreciated. Thank you!

The photo shows shows David Merrifield with the Mayor's choice of Best in Show, Brookie, an Australian Collie, and Best Reserve, Vinnie.



What's happening in Icklesham Parish

Winchelsea Traffic Calming

The Parish Council held a public meeting at Winchelsea New Hall on Saturday 22nd July to vote on the remaining options for traffic calming in Winchelsea. The results were as follows:-

Option 1 (Full Closure of Strand Hill) – 180 votes (61%)

Option 2 (One Way up Strand Hill) – 12 votes (4%)

Option 3 (No Change - do nothing) – 102 votes (35%)

The Clerk has sent the results to East Sussex Highways and we await receiving their response.

Police Enforcement in Icklesham

The black cat data collected on the A259 in Icklesham has caught the attention of Sussex Police. The Parish Council are pleased to report that Icklesham has been identified as a site for police enforcement. This means that we should soon be seeing police speed vans in the area.

Winchelsea Beach Sewerage and Flooding Issues

The Parish Council have organised a public meeting with Southern Water concerning the ongoing flooding and sewerage issues in Winchelsea Beach. The meeting will take

place at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall on Saturday 23rd September at 10.00 am. The agenda will be displayed on the Parish Council's website once this is available.

Contactless Donations

The Parish Council are currently trialling contactless donations in Rye Harbour Car Park so you can now scan a QR code on your mobile telephone to donate online. We are hopeful that this will increase the donations received for the car park as they have fallen over the last few years. All these donations defray the costs of running the car park and toilets which eases the burden for council taxpayers.

Upcoming meetings

11th September Planning and Full Council –
6.15 and 7.15pm at Icklesham Memorial Hall

25th September Planning and Open Spaces –
6.15 and 7.15 pm at Winchelsea Court Hall

Agendas for meetings are displayed on the Parish noticeboards and website a week before the meeting. If residents want to raise any issues or concerns, please contact the Clerk, Jenner Sands on ickleshampc@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07714 169901.

Conservation Society visit to Rochester

Winchelsea Conservation Society are planning to have a guided tour of Rochester Cathedral, and visits to the Castle next door built in 1127, and possibly also Rochester Guildhall which is now a Museum. The date is Tuesday 17th October. Please let Judith Payne know - 01797 224861 - if you wish to reserve a place.



Winchelsea Residents' Association

Traffic Calming

Thank you to everyone who voted as part of the wider informal consultation on local traffic calming. The vote was managed by the Parish Council and the Clerk has now published the result. It reports 297 eligible votes received: 61% in favour of Strand Hill full closure, 4% for one way closure and 35% for 'do nothing'.

This is a clear majority for taking the project forward based on closure, which is the only realistic option that East Sussex Highways have said they are prepared, in principle, to approve. The results of the informal consultation have now been sent to East Sussex Highways to consider. We know that residents are keen to see this issue settled in good time and the Residents Association has written to the Parish Council to request that the majority vote be recognised and to confirm its support for a proposal to be formally submitted to East Sussex County Council.

If the project is referred for consideration and then approved by the County Council, the next step is a formal statutory consultation which is generally done by advertising the proposal in local media. The final stage is approval of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which sets out the full details of the necessary works. These stages may take a few more months.

The WRA Committee believes that the substantial majority achieved by the recent informal consultation and previous votes for action justify continuing the process. Otherwise, all the work done in the last four years by so many people and the initiatives done prior to this, could be completely wasted.

The Parish Council is meeting on Monday 11th September at 7.15pm at Icklesham Memorial Village Hall. We understand traffic calming is on the agenda and will update members following the meeting.

A259

Following WRA's approach to her, Sally-Ann Hart MP has written to the Minister for Roads at the Department for Transport about the need for major improvements to the A259 at Winchelsea. His response is awaited. Separately, we have written to Sussex Police about the speeding on the trunk road, sending the evidence provided by the parish council's Black Cat device which showed that in one week 73% of vehicles at Rectory Lane had exceeded the 30mph limit (rising to 78% on one day) and on just one day 60 vehicles exceeded 60mph and 37 of those exceeded 65mph.

We have also met PC Demi Georghiou at Rectory Lane and are now considering a Speedwatch campaign which would likely merge with a Speedwatch proposal being prepared for the central town.

Meanwhile, consultation on the final draft of the county council's new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) should begin soon and we shall follow up our comments at the earlier stages, including on the need for action to discourage dangerous driving along Station Road and other local roads.

Toilets

WRA had persuaded Rother DC to open one part of the public toilets in Winchelsea. Rother continues to maintain it and WRA has encouraged discussion between RDC and the Parish Council to settle long term arrangements. IPC is now awaiting a detailed structural survey which will help determine ongoing costs and long-term viability.



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

Winchelsea Residents Association in conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

Kevin Kline

Timothy Hutton, Jean Reno

Meg Ryan

Francois Cluzet

A Film by

Lawerence Kasdan



Admission Free
Refreshments, Pay Bar.

Come early, enjoy a drink or two.

Screening starts at 7.30pm



Dylan Thomas: Not Going Gently

Marek Urbanowicz, poet, voice coach and acupuncturist talks to Winchelsea Literary Society on Friday 22nd September at 7 for 7.30pm the Lower Court Hall. Members free, non-members £5.

literarysoc.winchelsea.secretary@gmail.com

Corporation Italian Evening

The Mayor and Corporation of Winchelsea have pleasure to announce that they will be holding an Italian Evening on Saturday 25th November in the New Hall. The evening will feature two opera singers and a three course Italian meal will be served. The net proceeds will be for the benefit of the Mayor and Mayoress' charities, The Corporation of Winchelsea and Demelza House Children's Hospice. Save the date.



Conception

The Clair/Obscur theatre company brought their play, '*SOE*' about Vera Atkins to Winchelsea last summer to considerable acclaim. They return this October with a new production, '*Conception: Mary Shelley, The Making of a Monster*'.

October 1840. Gothic writer, Mary Shelley's first pilgrimage back to Europe in twenty years in defiance of her father-in-law's wishes. Has Mary the courage to confront the past as she returns to Lake Geneva, her birthplace as a writer and of her most famous novel *Frankenstein*? And will she find the solace she seeks among Villa Diodati's rooms, terraces and vineyards where she, Percy Shelly and Byron spent that unforgettable summer?

Read more about the play at clairobscur.co.uk
Tickets are available at wegottickets.com

Winchelsea New Hall on Friday 13th October at 7.30 pm.



Rye Arts Festival in Winchelsea

One of the concerts in the Rye Arts Festival season will take place at St Thomas's on Tuesday 19th September at 7.30pm.

Mike Hatchard is a formidable pianist with a great capacity for improvisation in all genres. He is not only a jazz pianist of note but he regularly performs classical piano recitals.

His playing credits include John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, Barbara Thompson, the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Tina May, Herbie Flowers and the Chamber Ensemble of London. He studied at the RCM with Peter Wallfisch and Philip Cannon; Norman Lebrecht once described him as 'the British Tom Lehrer' and the ghost of Victor Borge clearly lurks beneath his psyche.

Tickets cost £15 and can be booked online at box-office.ryeartsfestival.org.uk



Winchelsea Cricket Club

A cunning plan to defeat the ever-strong Northiam team was foiled by some even more cunning rain, with no play possible. The picturesque ground at Ashburnham hosted a keenly fought 20/20 game that ended (unusually for this format) in a tie. Crowhurst made their second trip of the year to Winchelsea, and for the second time they won. Normal service against Crowhurst will be restored next season. Finally in August, we entertained Clive Vale. A largely good-spirited game ended in an honourable draw.
Mike Stoneham

September fixtures:

- 3rd. - away - Peter Matthews memorial match -
to be played at The Salts, Rye. 1.30 start
 - 10th. - home - Beckley. 1pm start (venue might change)
 - 17th. - away - Mountfield. 1pm start
-

Winchelsea Beach Community Hall Presents



Barn Dance!

SEPT 2ND

Bring your own
food & drink!

Catsfield
Streamers



Tickets
£12

7-10pm!

Tickets available from:
Mary Parker
parkermmary848@gmail.com
07927107678

winchelsea beachcommunityassociation.co.uk



FOAM News

Let's start with the fete - an important fund raising event for us. Thank you to the cricket club for organising it, thank you to everyone who donated wine, thank you for to those that helped on our stall and of course thank you to those who spent money trying to win back their wine or splatting our cellar rat! With your generous help FOAM raised over £700, (a record) which will be used to maintain the town gates, Well and Court Hall.

Cellar tours are another important fundraiser, and they run until the end of October. Their popularity continues unabated, with all tours now sold out, including those that we run in September for the Rye Arts Festival. So far this year, 500 visitors (another record) have already visited the cellars.

Some dates for your diary. On three consecutive evenings, starting on Friday December 8th, FOAM will be hosting a special event in the cellar at Lines End. Our 'Spook Stories' will feature readings from some of the chilling short stories penned by Fred Benson. The cellar will be suitably decorated and there will be mulled wine to keep you warm. More details to follow in next month's magazine.

Friday 22nd December, will see FOAM's Christmas Carols in the Lower Court Hall. Free to members.

And for those who really like to plan ahead. The infamous FOAM quiz will be held on Saturday 17th February, which for romantics, could be an ideal valentine's date!

*Best wishes from the FOAM Committee
Chris, Ian, Mark and Phil*

winchelsea-foam.org.uk

Maps from the Museum

If you are looking for some unique colour reproduction prints of Winchelsea and the surrounding area, please visit Winchelsea Museum.

We have three different prints for sale, all of which give a different perspective on time gone by.

Charles Thomas Map of Winchelsea 1923 in colour

His nephew Richard Thomas has been able to supply us some further information in respect of the artist.

'Charles was born in 1899 and died in 1958. He'd been gassed and then taken prisoner, and starved, in WW1, which together meant that he wasn't all that robust. So when he got a chest infection at the age of 58 it quickly turned to pneumonia, which killed him'.

The map is a wonderful example of how the town may of looked. It is possible that the original coloured version was

the only one made. Part of it is reproduced on the front page of this magazine.

John Speede Map of Sussex 1610 in colour

A very detailed map of Sussex, around 1610, including Winchelsea, indicating where 'Old Winchelsea' may have been possibly located ('Old Winchelsea Drowned'), as shown on the front cover of our new book for sale titled 'Old Winchelsea'



A 16th Century reproduction map-drawing, in colour showing the coastline of Rye and Winchelsea.

The prints would look magnificent framed, and are illustrations of how things may have looked in the past. Many thanks to a very kind Winchelsea resident, Clive Sawyer, (Clive Sawyer Gallery Rye) and Adams of Rye, for all their support to help us to offer these reproduction maps for sale to the public to raise funds for the Museum.

The Museum is open Wednesday to Sunday, until the end of October.

winchelsea.com/museum



Reflections in a Pleasure Garden

Whilst in France recently, and following the commemoration of the Dieppe Raids, we visited two lovely gardens. One was called *Le Jardin Plume*, near Rouen, and is the French equivalent of *Great Dixter* but, I have to admit, I preferred it to Dixter. Equally beautiful with wild and bountiful planting, it had more structure which framed the different areas. The structure was always subtle and there was a feeling very of gentle control.

I realised that this is what I wish to aim for in my own garden. But the feeling went further. I also realised that this is the way I like to work artistically. In an ideal world I would produce a vibrant and expressive piece of work that looks relaxed and effortless, whilst I would be fully aware of the underlying structure and discipline that went into its making.

Curiously and by coincidence, I was reading an article in the FT this weekend by one of my favourite writers, Enuma Okoro, who had come across the writings and music of the abbess and mystic Hildegard von Bingen, one of whose CDs I have long had in my collection. She has a wonderfully pure voice and her repeated vocal motifs form a marvellous structure in her pieces.

Okoro writes of Hildegard that “in her research and interest in the connection between body, health, ecology and spirituality, she used the term Viriditas as an eco-theological idea of human flourishing”. It depended on a creative life force evident to Hildegard in the flourishing of nature flowing through all of creation. I think this is something we can all relate to regardless of our ideas of spirituality.

Sitting in a garden on a summer’s day has to be the pinnacle of pleasure for me.

Shirley Meyer

Churchyard Working Party

Friday 8th September 10am till 12

There will another working party in the churchyard. All are welcome and refreshments will be offered. Depending on the conditions we may be cutting the wildflower areas back at the same time. Let Jonathan know if you plan to attend. revdjonathan@btinternet.com

Ride & Stride

Sponsored event

Helping to preserve Sussex Churches

Saturday 9th September 2023

Walk, Run, Ride, or Cycle to raise money for
churches in Pett, Pett Level & Winchelsea
plus the Sussex Historic Churches Trust

What are the options?

15K Circular walk starting from Pett Church

There will be an organised walk starting at St Mary & St Peter Church in Pett at 10.30am, walking to St Nicholas Church at Pett Level where we will stop for lunch (bring sandwiches or buy lunch at Eaters) before heading along the Royal Military Canal up to St Thomas' Church in Winchelsea. We will break for tea in the church and then head back to Pett, via Wickham Manor and Pannel Lane. The total length of the walk is 15K but you can walk as much or as little as you want.

Do your own thing!

If the organised walk doesn't appeal, you can choose to walk, run, cycle or ride a route of your own choice and length. The important thing is to have fun, get out into the country, get some exercise and raise much needed funds for our historic church buildings

Sponsorship forms and further details are available from:

John Case, Nine Acres, Pett Road, Pett, Hastings, TN35 4HE

email: johncase@me.com or phone: 07525 032 198

sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk

johncase@me.com



Millennium Artefacts Society

This year's Art Exhibition was the 25th anniversary since the Society began its work fundraising to preserve and maintain the three artefacts of the town for which it is responsible. These are the Town Sign, the Tapestry in the Church, and the Beacon.

To celebrate the occasion a painted drawing of the three artefacts was produced on a note card with envelope that sold for £2. These were well received and allowed residents and visitors to have a memento of the occasion.

The exhibition was well attended and enjoyed by an enthusiastic and supportive group of residents and visitors who continued to be impressed by the scope and talent of the exhibits. This year we added nine new artists together with five exhibits from the children of St Thomas' School, all of whose paintings sold and not just to proud parents.

The Chairman and the committee would like to thank all those who submitted paintings, photography and pottery. Our thanks also go to the donators of the very generous raffle prizes which generated almost £700.00, and of course to all those who continue to make this special weekend an enjoyable success.

Our next event is the lighting of the Beacon in June 2024 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D Day landing.



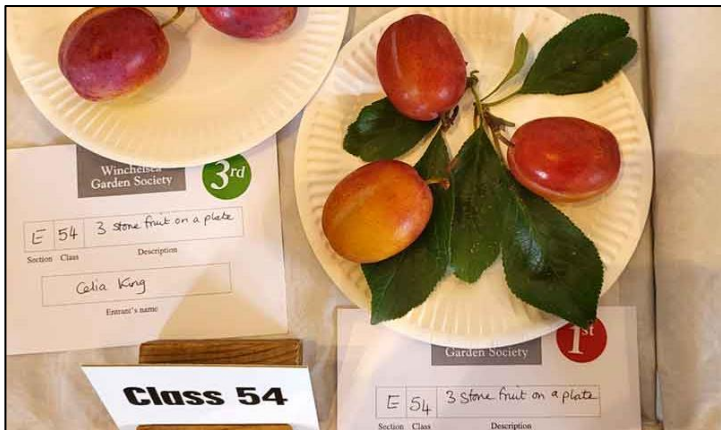
Summer Show

A changing climate is prompting Winchelsea Garden Society to re-think its schedule of shows. This year's Spring Show was brought forward from mid-April to late March and the Autumn Show has become a Summer Show, moved forward to the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The decision was fully vindicated by the 220 splendid entries on display at the New Hall on Saturday 26th. Mayoress Sandra Merrifield presented cups to the overall winners in each category: (left to right above) Sally Rhodda, Helen Macdonald, John Dunk, Celia King, Cynthia Martin and Jennifer Sutherland.

Congratulations to the gardeners and growers and to Sally and the Garden Society team who made the event so happy and successful.





**Winchelsea
Garden Society**

Coach outing to

RHS Garden

Hyde Hall

Thursday 7 September

Departing at 9 am from
German Street and
returning by 6 pm

Travel and entry **£15**

Please book and pay by cash
or cheque at The Little Shop,
High Street, Winchelsea.

For further information:-
Howard Norton on
01797 226524 or
howard@ryeview.net



howard@ryeview.net



From Russia with Love

Ian Fleming 1957

"On the walls are four large pictures in gold frames. In 1955, these were a portrait of Stalin over the door, one of Lenin between the two windows and, facing each other on the other two walls, portraits of Bulganin and, where until January 13th, 1954, a portrait of Beria had hung, a portrait of Army General Ivan Aleksandrovitch Serov, Chief of the Committee of State Security.

One of the telephones on the desk buzzed softly. The man walked with tight and precise steps to his tall chair behind the desk. He sat down and picked up the receiver of the telephone marked in white with the letters V.Ch. These letters are short for Vysokochastoty, or High Frequency. Only some fifty supreme officials are connected to the V.Ch. switchboard, and all are Ministers of State or Heads of selected Departments. It is served by a small exchange in the Kremlin operated by professional security officers. Even they cannot overhear conversations on it, but every word spoken over its lines is automatically recorded."

Clever guessing, pure imagination or intimate knowledge?
How much of Ian Fleming's writing was true and accurate

and how much artistic licence? Did he create action packed tales to disguise a real cold war narrative? Or were his technical details manufactured to give credence to his fictional stories?

Join our first 'Second Wednesday' of Autumn, when our old friend Hugh Willing returns to the New Hall, to shed some light on 'The Shady Life of Ian Fleming'.

We look forward to welcoming you back, for the final part of this year's programme. And cake...did I mention cake?...

Wednesday 13th September at 2.30pm.
Annual membership £15. Visitors £5. Homemade tea £2

2ndWeds@gmail.com

New Hall AGM

The New Hall AGM will be held on Saturday 30th September at 10.30am in the New Hall.

There will be a short presentation, including our accounts to the end of June, plus a report on plans and progress of improvements. Please make a note in your diaries to come and ask the Management Committee any questions or make suggestions. Regular or infrequent users of the Hall are welcome.

Refreshments will be available.

Christmas Fair

This year's Winchelsea Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 11th November in the New Hall.

Pett Flower Festival

16th & 17th September

St Mary & St Peter Church
11.00 - 4.00pm



Refreshments, Tombola, Local Produce,
Cakes, Bookstall, Raffle!

A Governor's Last Word

Strange, to be remembered in history
Simply for washing one's hands in public -
I gather 'Doing a Pontius Pilate' is now proverbial
But at the time it was just a ritual gesture,
Symbolic in a way the Jews understood,
With all their personal cleansing rites:
I wasn't having his blood on my conscience,
It was their decision whether he lived or died.

We had the city full of them just then
For their Passover feast, or whatever;
They slaughtered their sheep in the streets -
The stench was pervasive and stifling
With blood and guts clogging the gutters.
We doubled the guard, expecting trouble -
An attempted uprising or a mini-revolution:
The tinder of discontent was waiting for a match.

This fellow Jesus, their prophet from Nazareth,
Wasn't one of those sullen subversives -
He looked you straight in the eye and answered
--If at all—with clarity and dignity,
Yet with an edge of disdain as of one
Dealing with an inferior: it was,
I must admit, somewhat disconcerting:
His silence was strangely challenging.

I asked again, "Whom should I release?"
Their elders and cheerleaders stirred them up
So they roared their reply in one voice, "Crucify him!
Crucify him! We have no king but Caesar!"
That decided it—and me—I wasn't up
For any criticism from that direction:
I wanted to live to enjoy my pension
Not be demoted for a peasant insurrection!

My wife Calpernia, of course, had other ideas
As wives always do, and sent an urgent note
Warning me off, saying she'd had another dream -
That was nothing new, but the import was
Full of fears: "Have nothing to do
With this just man!" I shivered inwardly
When I read it, despite my resolution:
That's when I sent for bowl and ewer.

The rabble were roused, the guards restive
With their hands on their sword hilts waiting
The word; the air was thick with conspiracy,
Palpable, like the fetid air of an opium den -
But the prisoner, Jesus, seemed strangely calm
Above all the dispute, and simply said
"So be it," when I gave him my decision,
Smiling wryly as they led him away.

It's not a day I'll ever forget: something
Momentous occurred, but it's hard to say what:
Firstly, thunder rent their temple in two;
At three o'clock there was a total eclipse -
It's all there in my Governor's Report -
When all seemed normal, the spectacle over,
The earth suddenly shuddered under our feet
To somewhere mid-Richter scale, at least.

Calpernia took ill with a two-day fever;
The Jews had their Passover peacefully enough;
The prophet died; his remaining followers fled;
--His body was later stolen, apparently -
The political malcontents went away;
Public unrest died down to nearly normal
(After a few discreet anarchist arrests);
The rest, as they now say, is history.

I retired soon after, to Calpernia's relief,
Looking forward to some leisure together:
A little Bridge, golf, travel round the empire
But somehow she was never the same:
Grew pale and tense, despite the antidepressants.
I often wonder, sitting alone in my garden
Writing my memoirs, whether there isn't
Just something about it all that I missed?

Richard Ormrod

(N.B. All anachronisms are intended)



Rye Arts
Festival

Creative Writing for All

A 10 week introductory course

St. Mary's Centre

Lion Street, Rye TN31 7LB

Starting on WEDS 4TH OCTOBER 2023

FROM 9.30 - 11.30

An introductory course of 10 weeks led by Richard Ormrod,
Open University tutor in Creative Writing,
published biographer, journalist, reviewer and poet.

The course will include looking at extracts from
well-known writers as illustration for writing
practice of various kinds to encourage creativity.

Cost: £95 for all TEN sessions

From 4th October - 6th December

Tickets available online:
www.ryeartsfestival.org.uk

Rye Arts Festival CIO Registered Charity No. 1175309



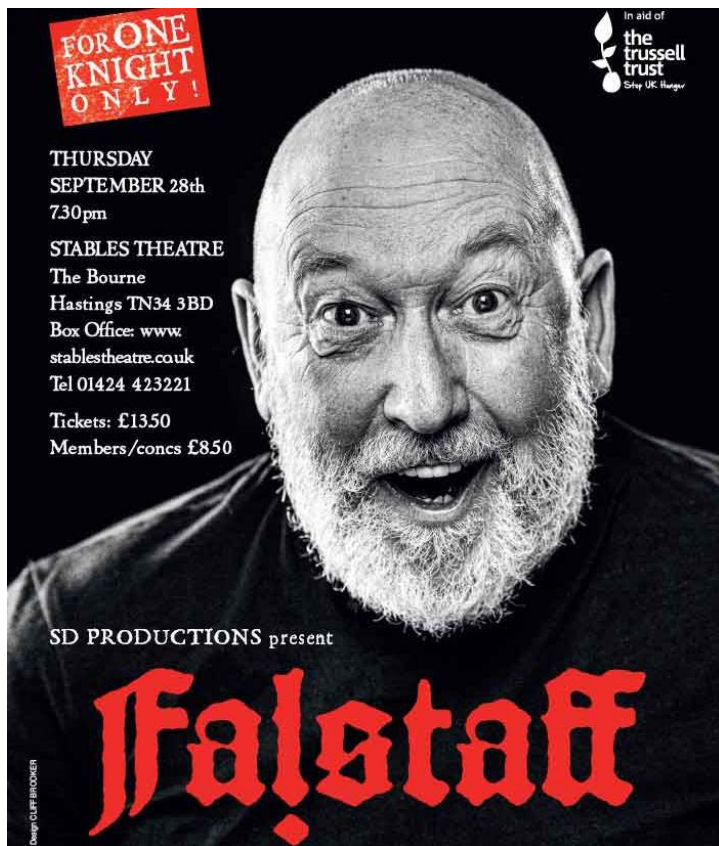
Burgundy Tasting

The next Winchelsea Wine Society tasting will take place in the New Hall at 6.30pm on Friday 6th October.

As a special venture more into premium wine territory, this tasting will focus on wines from Burgundy - three white (Chardonnay) and three red (Pinot Noir), all from the same very good 2019 vintage. Picking wines from the same grape and broadly same region will allow us to make some good, coherent comparisons within each wine flight.

This step up from our normal focus on good and interesting but reasonably priced wines will enable us to climb a quality ladder from good (£15 per bottle e.g. Cote Chalonnaise) to very good (£25 per bottle) to excellent (£50 per bottle e.g. a Single Vineyard Meursault or 1er Cru Nuits St Georges). Do the quality cues offered by each of these wines justify their prices? Is the difference in quality discernable? Hopefully we will be able to find the answers to these questions and more, whilst enjoying what promises to be some really good wines from the seminal Burgundy region which many of us would not normally buy for ourselves.

Simon Legge will 'compere' this tasting, which will cost £20 per head. All residents are welcome to attend and an wishing to do so should please contact brianleonard779@gmail.com.



Fresh from a very large lunch, Falstaff returns. The Stables Theatre Hastings is the venue for an evening of 'modest introspection' from our favourite, fat, old knight. 28th September at 7.30pm.

Adapted from Robert Nye's acclaimed novel, Falstaff merges Shakespeare's great comic creation with the real-life soldier, Sir John Fastolf. The result is a deeply moving, funny, bawdy romp through the middle-ages. Agincourt, frogs, slugs and plenty of onions all receive the Falstaff treatment in this living, breathing, warts-and-all tapestry of our favourite, larger-than-life, old knight - played, of course, by our own Mike Stoneham. This is a not-for-profit production in aid of the Trussell Trust. Come along and help stop UK hunger and poverty.

More info, and booking: stablestheatre.co.uk/falstaff



Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat

As always, our thanks to everyone who gives us such wonderful and generous support – we are incredibly grateful for every donation, visit and positive comment.

Out in the community

At the end of July, our team supported the Nearly on the Beach Concert in Hastings. Despite the dreadful weather, we erected and dismantled the barriers, and our hardy fundraisers were there to shake buckets. A big thank you to all the organisers and to our very own Elaine Anscomb, Pauline Kirk and Nigel Carter for braving the conditions to raise money.

Unfortunately, Icklesham Fete was cancelled due to the bad weather, but we were delighted to be back out at the Winchelsea Fete on 12th August.

Our fabulous Open Day took place on 20th August. This is our chief fundraiser and always a great fun event – more details to follow in the next newsletter!

Always learning

Ten of our volunteers undertook a three-day marine casualty care course – an intensive programme that teaches essential

lifesaving medical skills. Congratulations to all those who successfully completed the course. This means that almost every volunteer holds the casualty care certificate – a fantastic achievement by all.

September is recruitment month

We are all immensely proud to be PLIRB volunteers and everyone works and trains hard to ensure we continue to be an essential lifesaving service. But we are always looking for volunteers and September will focus on recruitment to encourage new team members.

There are many ways you can get involved and being part of PLIRB is great fun and hugely rewarding. Roles at PLIRB include boat crew; beach and base crew; launch and recovery vehicle driver; events, social and PR officers and fundraisers. Every role is vital to our effective running.



JOIN OUR CREW!

We are looking for volunteers to join our talented, dedicated and friendly team.

There are many ways to get involved including boat crew, beach and base crew, launch vehicle drivers, first aiders, admin support, social media, events and fundraising.

EVERY ROLE IS VITAL!

Boating experience, local coastline knowledge or a professional trade are all welcome - but experience not strictly necessary as full training given.



VISIT: SUNDAYS 9:00-12:00 AT THE PLIRB SLIP
CALL: 07546 320 558
EMAIL: PLIRBRESOLVE@GMAIL.COM

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 286891

During September we invite anyone who is interested to come and find out more. We provide a thoughtful and

thorough induction programme to ensure all new volunteers understand all roles and what might be the best fit.

Visit us on Sundays 9am-12pm at the PLIRB Boathouse, or call 07546 320 558, or email plirbrescue@gmail.com
If you have friends, family or colleagues who you think may be interested – please do ask them to get in touch.

Introducing.. The Pett Slip Buoys

We are so excited to introduce our very own Sea Shanty group – The Pett Slip Buoys. What started as one of those ‘great ideas’ has now become an impressive reality. With guidance from a singing coach, a group of PLIRB volunteers have been training their vocal cords, learning harmonies and literally singing their hearts out – and ‘buoy’ do they sound good!

So, on Sunday 24th September, from 5pm, our Pett Slip Buoys will be performing a special event at the PLIRB Boathouse for an evening of hearty sea shanty singing. Eater’s @ Pett will be open serving food and drink to enjoy.

They have devoted months to rehearsing and all fell in love with the music and lyrics – please do come and support them and watch their passion!

To keep in touch and to purchase our merchandise, please check out our website <https://plirb.com> and our social media: Twitter [@PLIRBRescue](https://twitter.com/PLIRBRescue); Facebook [@PettLevelRescueBoat](https://facebook.com/PettLevelRescueBoat) and Instagram [@pettlevelindyrescueboat](https://instagram.com/pettlevelindyrescueboat).



AHOY...

INTRODUCING The Pett Slip Buoys

PLIRB'S VERY OWN SEA SHANTY GROUP!!

**For an evening of Sea
Shanties, food and drink
Sunday 24 September, 17:00
PLIRB Boathouse**

**Join us to sing your hearts
out, eat, drink and be merry!**

Reg charity No. 286891 | www.plirb.com



Water Vole *Dennis Hunt*

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve in September

Saturday 2nd (10am – 2.30pm) - Wildlife Rangers

A free monthly group for teenagers interested in finding out more about wildlife. Booking essential by emailing ryeharbourlearning@sussexwt.org.uk

Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th (9.45am – 11.15am) Wellbeing Walk

Enjoy the outdoors with a morning of gentle walking and socialising across Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Booking is not required, but suitable footwear and outdoor clothing is essential.

Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th (10am – 12pm) Nature Tots

Bring your toddler along to our nature-based outdoor learning group. Suitable for accompanied children aged 2- 5 years. Booking essential.

Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th (1.30pm – 2.30pm) Nature Babies

Introduce your baby to the great outdoors with our nature-based baby group. Suitable for babies aged 3 months – 24 months with their carer. Booking essential.

Friday 8th September (9.30am – 1pm) An Introduction to Waders

For those new to birdwatching, Mike Russell will guide you through the identification of waders. Booking essential.

Saturday 9th (8.30am – 4pm) Friends' Open Day

Meet up with the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, starting with a guided walk alongside craft and second-hand book stalls in the Discovery Centre. All welcome, no booking necessary.

Saturday 9th (1.30pm – 3pm)**Seaside Flowers of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve**

Dr Barry Yates, formerly the site manager of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, will give an illustrated talk about some of the flowers found on the coastal half of the reserve. Booking essential.

Friday 15th (10am – 1pm)**Beginning Birdwatching in Autumn**

Join a circular walk and visit a few of the hides to get excellent views of seabirds, ducks and a whole lot more. Binoculars are highly recommended. Suitable for adults. Free event, booking essential by emailing: jamesduncan@sussexwt.org.uk

Sunday 17th (10am – 3.30pm) Guide in a Hide

Drop into the Gooders Hide where there will be guides stationed throughout the day to show you the birds. Binoculars, telescopes and spotter sheets available. Suitable for all, no booking necessary.

Sunday 17th (9am – 1pm)**Friends Walk: Castle Water Birds**

Join the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for a long walk to Castle Water to spot migrating birds. Suitable for all, no booking necessary.

Saturday 30th (10am – 12.30pm) Wildlife Watch

A monthly club for children to discover more about Rye Harbour's special wildlife – this month, it's the rare and elusive Water Vole. Booking essential.

To find out more about any of these events, or to book a place, go to: rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discovery-centre/events.



Opera for Sailability

Rye Harbour Sailability will present an evening of Opera Arias and Duets on Saturday 14th October at St Mary's Rye, starting at 6pm, with Paul, Hopwood, Thomasin Trezise and Philip Smith from Glyndebourne and The Royal Opera House.

Tickets cost £42, including a complimentary glass of English sparkling wine and canapés. Dress code is black tie or lounge suit.

Book in advance by calling 01797 223112 or email info@ryeharboursailability.org

All funds raised go to Rye Harbour Sailability - a local charity that enables people with disabilities the opportunity to experience the joy of sailing. We aim to give people of all ages, with a wide range of disabilities, the chance to experience the fun and freedom of sailing with an experienced helmsman and crew at Rye Harbour.



Patricia Strong 1919 - 2023

Winchelsea's oldest resident died on 29th July.
Patricia, who lived at *Becket* in German Street was 104.

A celebration of her life was held in Winchelsea Church attended by her son, three daughters and their families, along with those local residents who remembered her. A moving tribute was paid by her daughter, Lyndy, with readings by members of the family.

A much liked and respected long-time member of the Winchelsea community, Patricia will be sadly missed.



Sue Hargreaves 1939 - 2023

Sue - photographed in 2016 wearing her favourite purple, with Martin, Anna and granddaughter Rachel - died on 4th August.

Sue will be remembered with great affection by all those who enjoyed her hospitality at *Backfields* and admired the devoted care with which she nursed Robert, grievously afflicted with MS. She exuded warm humanity. Her happy smile, wisdom and love of children and animals will be greatly missed around the town.



Lawrence Youlten 1936 - 2023

Seen here with Felicity guarding the trophies at the 2018 Spring Show, Lawrence died on 19th August.

Distinguished by much more than his height - 6'8" - Lawrence was a leading authority on allergies and played an important role in the development of therapeutic drugs. He was founder and medical director of the London Allergy Clinic and latterly a visiting consultant at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. A full account of his remarkable medical career [can be found here](#).

Moving from Northiam to *Periteau House*, Lawrence was the last chairman of the original residents' association and is credited as the original begetter of the no left turn/no right turn proposal for solving the town's rat-running problem.

With Felicity, he worshipped at St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church at Horns Cross, Northiam, where his grandmother and aunts had been founding members of the congregation. A family requiem mass at will be held there, with a memorial service at St Thomas' in October.

In Winchelsea we will remember Lawrence for his roles in Garden Society; in Literary Society (whose blog he set up and updated almost to the end of his life); as a setter of fiendish quiz questions, but above all for his gentle humour and fund of anecdotes.



Rye Food Bank

You can find out more about Rye Food Bank and ways you can offer support, here: ryefoodbank.com

Cam will be making his September doorstep collection on the morning of Tuesday 19th. If you are donating, please contact him so that he can draw up a collection schedule.

Donald Cameron-Clarke

01797 226414 dcc.omh@gmail.com

Yoga For Everyone

at Winchelsea New Hall weekly on Tuesdays from 10 to 11am. £12 drop in, £40 for 4 classes.

A class which suits the needs of those who choose to attend, regardless of whether yoga is a lifestyle or a new endeavour. If you have been curious but find yoga daunting, I hope to change that for you. Benefits will include better sleep, mobility and digestion which all lead to a better sense of humour. Please send any queries to:

nn@natashanandiniyogini.com 07946 399 211

natashanandiniyogini.com

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

September 2023

- Saturday 2nd Church Market at St Thomas' - 10.30am till 12
Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas' - 7.30pm
Barn Dance - WB Community Hall - 7 to 10pm
- Sunday 3rd 8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea**
9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Tuesday 5th Mothers' Prayers - Dabchick Cottage, Morlais Ridge - 10am
- Thursday 7th Garden Society Outing to Hyde Hall
Bible Study - New Inn - 6pm
- Friday 8th Churchyard Working Party - 10am till 12
- Saturday 9th Ride and Stride
- Sunday 10th 8.30am: BCP Holy Communion at Pett Level**
9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Winchelsea Cricket Club home match - 1pm (tbc)
- Wednesday 13th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30
- Sunday 17th 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Tuesday 19th Rye Arts Festival Concert - St Thomas' - 7 pm
- Friday 22nd Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 23rd Film Night - New Hall - 6.30pm for 7.30
- Sunday 24th 9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Friday 29th Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
- Saturday 30th New Hall AGM - 10.30 am
- Sun 1st Oct 8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea**
9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Fri 6th Oct Wine Society tasting - New Hall - 6.30 pm
- Sat 7th Oct Church Market at St Thomas' - 10.30am till 12
Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas' - 7.30pm

Further ahead

- Fri 13th Oct ClairObscur Theatre Company
- Sat 14th Oct Residents Association AGM
- Sat 24th Oct Garden Society Talk
- Sat 11th Nov Christmas Fair



**Please send copy for the October Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
before Saturday 30th September**

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

Churchwardens

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Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX
01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com

Celia King
Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
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01797 229798 parkermary848@gmail.com

Parish Treasurer

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David Jefferies
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circa 1800

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07985 734936 jrnaylor@gmail.com

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Headteacher Carol Gardiner
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01797 226479
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