

# WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st December 2023





## **Christmas Listings**

### **Saturday 16th**

10.30am for 11: Christmas Service at Wesley's Chapel

### **Sunday 17th**

6pm: Service of Lessons and Carols at St Thomas's

### **Tuesday 19th**

7.30pm: In Dulci Jubilo: A German Christmas  
St Thomas's - Winchelsea Arts

### **Thursday 21st**

Carols Round the Town starting from St Thomas's at 6.30pm

### **Friday 22nd**

FOAM Carols in the Court Hall - 6.30pm for 7

### **Christmas Eve**

4.30pm: Crib Service at St Thomas's  
11.30pm: Midnight Mass at St Thomas's

### **Christmas Day**

11am: Christmas Eucharist at St Thomas's



## Reflections from the Rectory

We have been programmed to think that Advent starts at the beginning of December. Childhood Advent calendars would start on that date and the excitement of opening each window continued throughout the month until Christmas Eve, when the last window traditionally revealed an image of the crib with the Christ child and Mary and Joseph. Advent Sunday this year falls on the 3rd of December. The last Sunday of Advent happens to be Christmas Eve, although if Christmas Day falls on a Saturday, the last Sunday of Advent would be the 19th of December and Advent would begin on 28th November. It is by no means a fixed period.

Whatever the date of Advent we tend to start to think of Christmas from the beginning of December and in many cases well before that. Certainly schools will be beginning to have Christmas events and services. There are Christmas fairs designed to sell Christmas presents, Carol Services start to appear from the beginning of the month and often by the time we get to Christmas we are exhausted by the season of parties and celebrations.

In fact in the life of the church, Advent is a time of reflection. The liturgical colour is blue or purple, which is used as a symbol of penitence. It is also used during Lent when we prepare for the other great Christian celebration, the resurrection of our Lord. It is the colour used for a funeral

service too. While Lent is a time of personal reflection, Advent is sometimes seen as a time of reflection for the community as a whole. Although not many people are aware of it, Advent is a time when we reflect upon the promised second coming of Jesus. In that sense it is a time to consider how our community, society as a whole, the nation and the world are ready to accept a rule of peace and harmony. Are we prepared for such a wonder?

Many of you will think that such a vision is a hopelessly idealistic and, dare I say, a mythological conception. But however we think of it, surely it is not out of the question to imagine and pray for a world where things are in harmony, where our relationship with one another and with God is in balance. As the Psalmist so often calls us to do we are charged to “wait upon the Lord.”

However appropriate it might seem in a religious or liturgical sense to maintain a spirit of complete abstinence during Advent, it is not really practical to do so in the modern world. As a church we have to embrace society around us and it is a great thrill to share and participate in the preparations for the birth of Christ.

However, as we enter Advent, I call upon all of us to give some time to reflect on the world. There will be three sessions of Evening Prayer for Advent in the side chapel on Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th December at 5.30pm. They will last no more than 30 minutes and all are welcome.

*Jonathan*

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## **Mothers' Prayers**

Mothers' Prayers in December will be on Tuesday 5th at 10am at Solstice, Sea Road. No Fellowship Lunch because there are too many things going on at the end of December but on behalf of the team I would like to wish all our regular diners a very happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing them all again on 26th January.

*Mary Parker*

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## **Winchelsea welcomes Bishop Ruth**

Winchelsea was delighted to welcome the first female bishop ever to preside at St Thomas's. The bishop of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager presided at the confirmation service on 13th November. Twelve candidates from churches in Rye deanery were confirmed, including Hetty Rankin from Winchelsea Beach (in the photo) and Henry Wade from Pett - both pupils at Winchelsea School when they were younger.

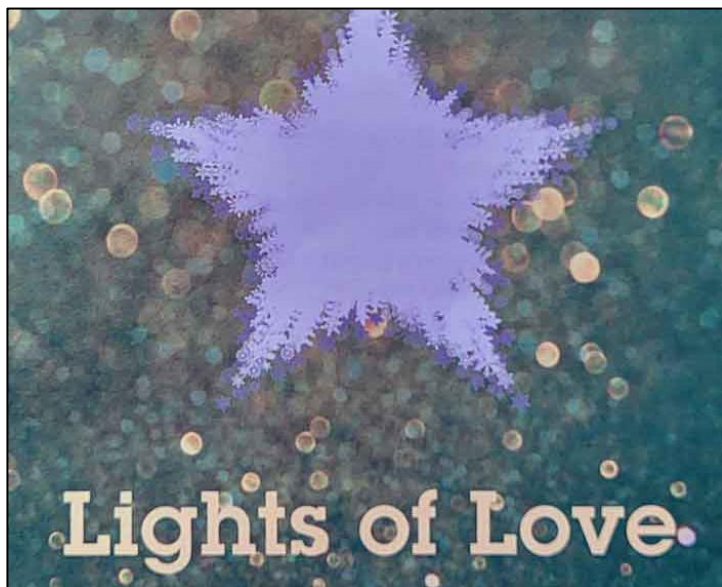
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## **Advent Evening Prayer at 5.30pm at St Thomas's**

Wednesday 6th December  
Wednesday 13th December  
Wednesday 20th December

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## **St Michael's Hospice Lights of Love**

There will be a Lights of Love celebration at St Thomas's on Sunday 3rd December at 3.15pm, one of several that will take place in the local area on 3rd and 10th.

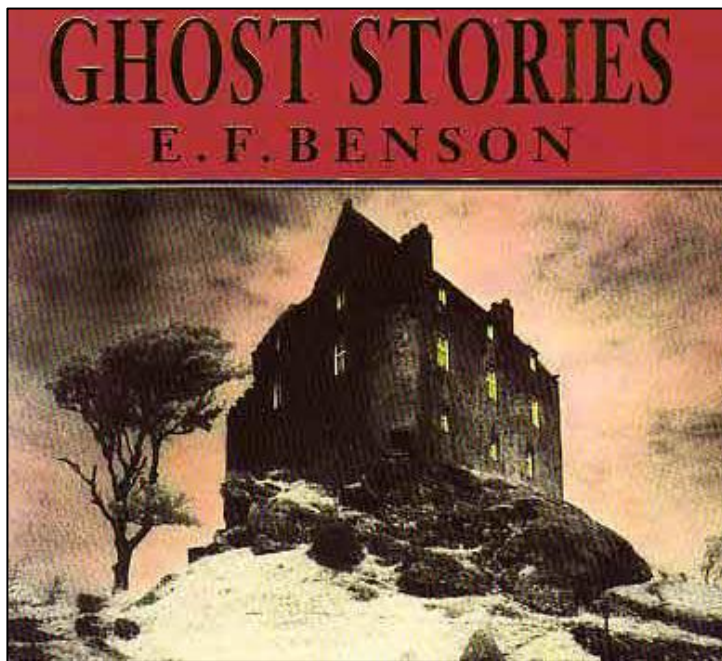
The celebrations offer a time to come together to make a tangible act of remembrance for loved ones in the form of dedicating a star on a Lights of Love tree. Whether your loved one received the care of St Michael's Hospice or not, young or old, local or further afield, all can be remembered at Lights of Love.

Using one of our stars, write your personal dedication. You can choose to take your dedication along with you to one of the celebrations to hang on the trees located there, hang it on your own tree at home or you can send to the Hospice for us to hang on one of our trees.

To find out more about Lights of Love, please contact the Hospice fundraising team on 01424 456396 or email [fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com](mailto:fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com)

[stmichaelshospice.com/event/lightsoflove](http://stmichaelshospice.com/event/lightsoflove)

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## **Ghost Stories and Carols**

This month FOAM will be staging two seasonal events. On three evenings, 8th, 9th and 10th December, our team of talented readers, will read a selection of spooky stories written by EF Benson. This unique event will be held in the medieval cellar, at *Lines End*, which will be lavishly decorated by Nigel Ashton. Tickets can be purchased online at [ticketsource.co.uk/foam](http://ticketsource.co.uk/foam), but hurry there are only a few tickets left.

On the evening of Friday 22nd December we will be hosting Carols in the Court Hall. For anyone who has not been before, singing carols with your neighbours in the beautifully decorated Lower Court Hall is a lovely experience. The event is a thankyou from FOAM, for your support during the year, in helping us maintain the town gates, well, Court Hall and museum.

There is no charge, everyone is welcome, and a glass of wine and something to nibble will be on offer. Doors open at 6.30pm. We do hope you can start the festive season with

us, if you can – please let us know by email, so that we can manage numbers.

*Chris Chappell on behalf of the FOAM Committee*

[chriswinchelsea@icloud.com](mailto:chriswinchelsea@icloud.com)



**FOAM** ■

Come and join us

**Carols**  
in the  
**Court Hall**

**Friday Dec. 22nd**

**6.30 for 7pm**

**Everyone welcome!**

**Friends of the Ancient Monuments & Museum**

[winchelsea-foam.org.uk](http://winchelsea-foam.org.uk)





## Winchelsea Archaeological Society

Our next talk is *Understanding Features of the Corporation Seal* by Andrew Scott. This will take place on Saturday 9th December in the New Hall at 11.15am. Refreshments will be provided from 11am.

Pedrick (1904) p 128 speaks highly of the seal: “..a striking contribution to medieval art. The ship is well drawn, vigorously presented and studiously detailed, while the scene aboard is one of life and activity. The seal as a whole is almost perfect in its artistry.”

This talk will try and explain all the intricate detail on both sides of the seal and finally will come up with an unexpected potential site for a tower, perhaps linked with Old Winchelsea.

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## Second Wednesday Christmas Meeting

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the AGM in the cosy New Hall at 2.30pm on 13th December with a warming glass of mulled wine. The talk follows at 3pm and is entitled *The Sixties: Decade of Change* by Delia Taylor, which promises to be fun (of course) as well as informative.

The festive raffle and tea (£2) will be at around 4pm. We also intend to present our exciting new programme for 2024. So it should be a lovely afternoon and a great chance to see friends old and new. See you there, and do bring a guest to try the Society before the new programme starts in January.

*Natasha Robinson writes:* If an Austrian woman named Klara, who had already buried five children, hadn't eventually been able to raise a son, Adolf, would I be here today? If a young half British, half American newspaper correspondent named Winston, hadn't narrowly avoided the bullet that killed his horse while on assignment in Cuba, I'd

probably be writing this in German. And if his distant cousin, Diana hadn't decided, on the spur of the moment, to go to Paris for the weekend... You get my drift; the paths, decisions and twists of fate that lead us in one direction, as opposed to another and the consequences of those actions, not just for ourselves, but for the world, these are the sliding doors of history.

Our November Speaker, Chris Viner, returned to Winchelsea to share his vast knowledge of Napoleon Bonaparte with us. Chris is a renowned expert on the Napoleonic era and this particular talk focused on Napoleon and the Jews.

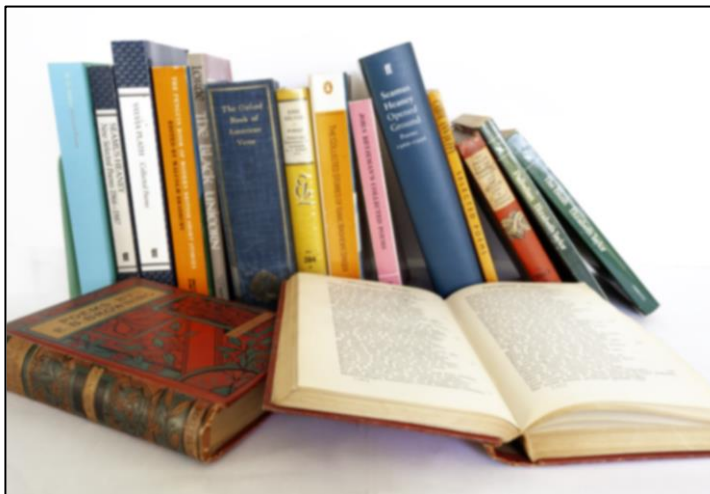
Whatever your personal views of the Emperor and this is mainly dictated by which side of a narrow strip of channel you were born on, he was a visionary leader, whose radically different ideas shaped modern Europe. Eighteenth century France abolished the feudal system, had a centralised government and banking system, modern roads and sewage systems, medical schools and a legal system, the foundation of which is still in use today in many countries.

His attitude to the Jews singled him out amongst many world leaders, past and present. As a believer of total freedom of religion, not only did he allow open worship, but made Judaism the third official religion of the Empire. The single most extraordinary thing that we learned, was that as early as 1798, he was thinking of creating a State of Israel in Palestine. This document was even taken to the United Nations by David Ben-Gurion, along with a map drawn up by my grandfather Theodore Zissu, in 1947.

And then in 1815, the sliding doors of history, led him, us, the Jews, Israel and the world, down another path, which continues to dominate the international agenda to this day...

With a screeching gear change, December is AGM month for the Second Wednesday Society, traditionally washed down with Mulled Wine. This will be followed by Delia Taylor's happy, nostalgic, emersive, fun talk, 'The Sixties - Decade of Change' and our Christmas Tea. So bring your memories, your recollections, your friends and neighbours and let's end 2023 on a happy high...no 60s pun intended! See you on the 13th for the final Second Wednesday Society of this year.

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## **With Great Pleasure**

Charlotte Praeger, one of the founding members of Literary Society will introduce readings from books which have been important during her life

Friday 15th December at 7pm for 7.30 in the Lower Court Hall. Free to members. £5 for non-members.

[literarysoc.winchelsea.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:literarysoc.winchelsea.secretary@gmail.com)

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## **Church Christmas Cards**

Deborah Rodley has a few packets of church Christmas cards from a previous year. Please contact her if you would like some. 01797 223458

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# In dulci jubilo



**A German Christmas by Candlelight**

**Ensemble OrQuesta**  
**directed by Marcio da Silva**

**Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm**



**St Thomas' Church**  
**Winchelsea**  
TN36 4EB

**Winchelsea Arts**

Tickets online at [winchelsea-arts.org.uk](http://winchelsea-arts.org.uk)

**£22**  
free for under 18s



[winchelsea-arts.org.uk](http://winchelsea-arts.org.uk)





## Poppy Appeal results

Although subject to audit, a whisker under £2,500 was raised during this year's appeal. Although this is some £250 down on last year, there are good reasons for this. Beyond the raw impact of inflation, the weather has caused a much reduced footfall in some of our locations. That said, some locations have had their best year ever. In addition, the above figure does not include Gift Aid, nor do we have any sight of how the push towards electronic donations has fared in our area, so the final total will be higher.

The fact is that this represents an excellent effort in Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach and the RBL will be immensely grateful to all those who supported and helped out with this year's appeal. This appreciation extends to all those who donated, to those who hosted a collection box and to those who took part in the Acts of Remembrance and wreath laying at the War Memorial, as well as the Service of Remembrance. Thank you all very much.

*John Rodley, Local Appeal Organiser*

*The ceramic poppies used in church at Remembrance time were made by Julia Cooper for the centenary of the First World War.*

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## Changing Robes

Residents joined the Corporation at St Thomas's on 4th November to witness Jennifer Sutherland taking the oath as town clerk to the Corporation. Mike Melvin outlined the duties of office and retiring clerk, Lorna Challand, helped Jennifer into the gown, tabs and wig that go with the role. Fulsome thanks was offered to Lorna for her five year tenure and a presentation was made.

The major Corporation conservation project for 2024 will involve the west end gable and chimney stack of the Court Hall. Final preparations are being made to send out the specification for tender. FOAM are closely involved and, given the potential scale of what we are seeking to do, once tenders are in, grant funding will also be sought.

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*kt Bruce*

## **Corporation Italian Evening**

On Saturday 25th November the Mayor and Mayoress hosted an Italian Evening. The event was completely sold out and was attended by approximately 80 residents, mayors, former mayors, our MP and others.

The New Hall was decked out in Italian bunting for the occasion enhanced by Christmas decorations and floral table centrepieces with a musical theme. Guests were welcomed on arrival with a glass of prosecco. The entertainment was provided by Thomasin Trezise and Paul Hopwood, both of whom had previously sung at Glyndebourne. They performed a selection of operatic arias and other pieces between the courses of an excellent Italian themed meal. We also enjoyed an accordion accompaniment to Thomasin as she serenaded the audience.

David and Sandra would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly to help make the evening an outstanding success. There are too many names to mention but our grateful thanks go to you all. We are pleased to announce that the evening raised a clear profit of £3,000, including donations and sponsorship, which will be shared between our respective charities: the Corporation of Winchelsea and Demelza House Children's Hospice.

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## *DATES FOR THE DIARY*

### *3rd December*

*Completely Scuppered performing Sea Shanties  
7pm start*



### *22nd December - Festive Night*

*Have any 3 courses from the Festive Menu and enjoy  
a free bottle of house red or white per couple*

### *24th December*

*Christmas Songs from the Rye Bay Crew 6pm-8pm  
(Food served until 6pm on Christmas Eve)*

### *29th December*

*Pub Quiz 7pm for 7.30 start*

[newinnpubwinchelsea.co.uk](http://newinnpubwinchelsea.co.uk)



## **News from the New Hall**

'Keep Carmen and Carry On' at the New Hall on Saturday 26th November (Italian Evening courtesy of the Mayor and Mayoress), rounded off an outstanding month for the New Hall committee.

We have secured over £9,800 in grants towards the Ladies toilet refurbishment to compliment the generous funding raised in our community. Shortly, new windows will be arriving and the existing interior will be stripped out in February so that the renewed facility will be ready for late spring. Thanks for your continuing support, and thanks to the Little Cheyne Court Windfarm (£5,000), Rother Community Fund (£3,802) and The Rye Fund (£1,000) in this autumn's grant round.

Earlier in the month, on Saturday 11th November, we held our annual Christmas Fair. A massive thankyou to everyone who attended and supported the event by starting their Christmas shopping early and yet again we raised a substantial amount - £3,074 after costs - for the New Hall and for the Rye Food Bank. This will significantly help the New Hall towards the upgrading of the ladies and men's toilets (together with our grants)

The Grand Raffle and Tombola together raised an impressive £1,895. We are so grateful to all those who donated raffle and tombola prizes including Rye Harbour Nature Reserve,



Rye Chocolates, Rye Retreat and The Little Shop (and many many more). And of course, a big thank you to everyone who supported us by buying tickets. Well done to Saskia O'Donohue who won our top raffle prize of the spring tour of the Rye Nature Reserve for twelve people.

A further thank you needs to go to the wonderful array of different stall holders who make the event such a success, many were new participants in 2023. Before the Mayor drew the Grand Raffle, Hilary Roome was presented with a bouquet of flowers and thanked for her amazing organisation of the event over the last four years. Next year she will be standing down from overseeing the whole fair. She will be a tough act to follow. We are very grateful that Hilary will however continue to book the stallholders next year.

If there is anyone who would like to help organise the 2024 Christmas Fair (it is a lot of fun.) please contact Ali or Rosemarie. Thank you to the Christmas Fair subcommittee, Heidi, Diana, Jerry, Jo, Rosemarie, Ali and of course Hilary, for once again putting on a fantastic event.

After we cleared everything away from the Christmas Fair it was time for Film Night. As usual we held the 100 Club draw. The lucky winner of £100 in November was number 87. Well done to the winner!

Thank you, Winchelsea, for supporting us yet again in such an amazing fashion. *Rosemarie, Rob, Graham, Sergio and Ali – the New Hall Committee.*

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## **Knitting for the Food Bank**

Judith and Rachel would like to thank all those people who supported our stall at the New Hall Christmas Fair. We were absolutely delighted with the amount raised, which enabled us to donate the sum of £350 to the Rye Food Bank.

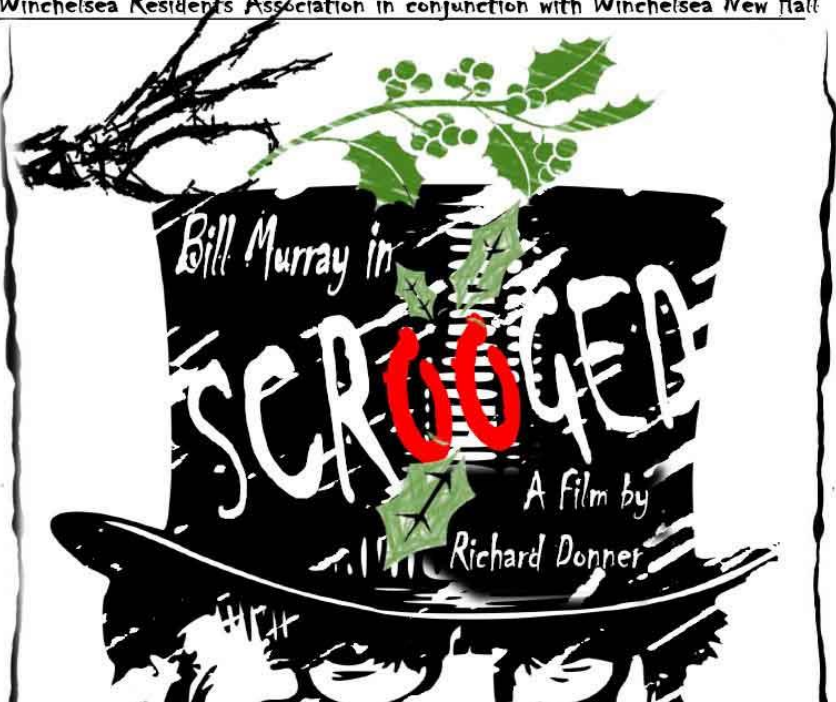
*Judith Payne*

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# WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

Winchelsea Residents Association in conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall



SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING

Admission Free

Refreshments, Pay Bar.

Come early, enjoy a drink or two.



## **Traffic and pavements**

*Extracts from the latest Winchelsea Residents Association report to members:*

Thank you to everyone who gave comments on possible next steps on traffic calming. While the numbers were modest, 37 individuals/households, their feedback was positive and helpful. The majority want us to continue looking for a solution to the traffic problem. Views were split between pursuing Strand Hill closure and investigating new options.

Whilst we retain all our information on road closure, the committee has agreed to re-establish the traffic working group to research alternative options that may offer a suitable compromise.

Several responses raised possible examples including chicanes, 20mph zones and the use of APNR cameras. Some, but not all, have been researched previously and found to be unacceptable to ESCC and National Highways, and/or unaffordable and with limited impact. We know also that any local measure will have to be self-enforcing.

The main recent development has been in the receipt of a response from the Department for Transport to the letter which Sally-Ann Hart MP wrote at the group's request to the Minister for Roads putting the case for improvements to the

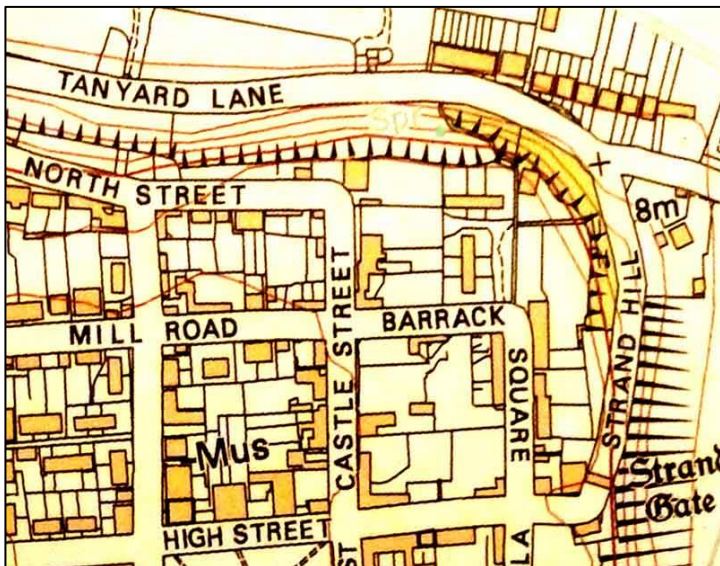
A259, especially at Tanyard Lane, Ferry Hill/Pipewell Gate, Rectory Lane and Crutches Farm. This long-awaited response is complicated by the new national Road Investment Strategy for 2025-30 being currently still in draft but it disappointingly provides no commitment to carry out the necessary improvement works.

The minister does mention that our section of the A259 has been chosen as part of an "Integrated Network Solutions Assessment" but what that will mean for our concerns, if anything, is not yet clear. The letter also states that, in recognition of the problem of speeding along Rectory Lane, Sussex Police will be carrying out a speed review in the area in the near future.

On 11th October we had confirmation from East Sussex Highways that the budget for our nine requested dropped kerbs has been approved and the contractors should start soon. We are one of twelve projects in East Sussex being completed between November and February 2024. The new dropped kerbs will make getting to the New Hall, the pub, the shop and the church much more accessible for everyone.

[info@winchelseaRA.com](mailto:info@winchelseaRA.com)

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





Some of the replacement stonework in the Church transepts. While the scaffolding is up a whole range of jobs have been done, not least the removal of weeds whose roots were getting between the stones and risked weakening the fabric.

*Photo by Gavin McFadyean*





## Garden Society

A big thankyou to all the Garden Society committee for a very Christmasy plant table at the Christmas Fair. After costs, we raised just over £100 from the sale of pots of bulbs, which will go towards future Garden trips.

Looking further ahead, we have the Winter Lecture to look forward to. This will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 24th February. The speaker is new to us: Graham Spencer. His talk will be on hardy perennials. Graham will give an overview of personal favourites, latest introductions, include cultural advice, planting combinations, hints and tips as well as a few anecdotes and a little controversy.

We hope this wets your appetite. *Sally Rhodda*

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# **Carol Singing around Winchelsea**



**Thursday 21st December**  
**Meet at the church 6.30pm.**  
**Come and have a fun evening**

Raising money for local homelessness charities

*Contact Shirley Meyer for details*  
[shirleymeyer@btinternet.com](mailto:shirleymeyer@btinternet.com)



## **The Story of the Barrack Houses**

Melvyn Pett, who lived in Barrack Square and was curator of Winchelsea Museum, has written and published a history of the houses, covering the period from 1760 to modern times.

The book will be on sale at the Museum when it re-opens in the spring and in the meantime, if you'd like a copy - £10 (cash only please) - contact Jo Turner  
[courthallmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:courthallmuseum@hotmail.com)

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## **Dog Show Donation**

Crick Hooper passes on the thanks of the Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare for the £150 donation sent to them from the proceeds of the fun dog show held at the Summer Fete.

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## **Rye Harbour Nature Reserve in December**

### **Sunday 3rd (11am – 1pm) Winter Wreath Workshop**

Katie Underwood of 'Flower Show Presents' will guide you through the process of making your own unique winter door wreath, using seasonal foliage, dried flowers and foraged treasures to reflect nature's winter colours. All materials and equipment provided. Meet at Rye Harbour Discovery Centre, TN31 7FW. Booking essential.

### **Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th (9.45am – 11.15am) - Weekly Wellbeing Walk**

Enjoy the outdoors with a gentle, sociable, morning walk across the reserve. Meet at the public toilets in Rye Harbour village, TN31 7TT. Booking not required, but suitable footwear and clothing is essential.

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

Meet the Friends of Rye Harbour, starting with a guided walk from the car park at 8:30. Stalls and craft items in the Discovery Centre from 10am – 4pm, 833 Lottery draw and a chance to meet other Friends and committee members. All welcome. Meet at Rye Harbour village car park, TN31 7TY. No booking necessary.

**Saturday 9th (1.30pm – 3pm)****Friends' Open Day & Christmas Quiz**

A general knowledge quiz with teams of up to 6 people. Why not make up a team and register with the captain! Limited places. Booking is essential.

**Sunday 17th (9am – 12pm)****Friends' Walk: Festive Findings**

Join the Friends of Rye Harbour for a longer guided walk of approx. 6km from the car park at 9am. Take in Flat Beach and the Barn Pools to observe birds such as ducks, waders, gulls, finches and raptors in the winter months. Meet at Rye Harbour village car park, TN31 7TY. Free to members of the Friends, non-members welcome but donations appreciated. No booking necessary.

**Sunday 17th and Friday 29th (10am – 3pm)****Guide in a Hide**

Drop into the Gooders hide between the car park and the sea, where there will be guides stationed throughout the day to show you the birds. Binoculars, telescopes and spotter sheets available for you to use. Suitable for all. 400m walk south towards the sea from Rye Harbour car park, TN31 7TY. No booking necessary.

[rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)







## **Ann Rachlin 1933-2023**

Ann died on 20th November at the Icklesham home she shared with Iain Kerr. She was the remarkable mastermind behind last year's *Ukraine Reborn* concert at St Thomas's, calling on her wide contacts in the worlds of music and theatre to create an amazing event that raised £20,000 for the Saint Nicholas Hospital for Children in Lviv.

In a long and always active life, Ann was the subject of an episode of *This Is Your Life* and was awarded an MBE for her services to music and the welfare of deaf children.

A compelling story-teller, she combined classical music with stories for children, establishing *Fun With Music* in 1965. Among the many young people entranced by those classes were Princes William and Harry.

Ann founded the Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children and was an authority on Ellen Terry and her daughter Edith Craig. Her collection of Terry memorabilia included the reminiscences of Edith Craig, which Ann published in her book *Edy was a Lady* in 2011. A member of the West London Synagogue, Ann marked her second Bat Mitzvah in 2018 and friends from Winchelsea celebrated with her.

Our hearts go out to Trisha and Max, and to Iain.  
Ann wonderfully enhanced the lives of all who knew her.



## CAMEO CHRISTMAS CAPERS

*Get into the spirit of Christmas with Cameo Opera as they perform their festive, merry programme of operetta, carols and seasonal songs in aid of the Hospital at Rye*

**SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER**  
**7pm at The Hub on Rye Hill**

Tickets £45 including two course meal (please bring your own wine)

Call 01797 228842 or email [fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk) to book or for more information

[www.ryehospital.org.uk/events](http://www.ryehospital.org.uk/events)

Charity no. 1014232 Company no. 02740665

[ryehospital.org.uk/events](http://ryehospital.org.uk/events)



Friends of Pett  
Churches

# Christmas Fair

- Crafts
- Christmas Goodies
- Stalls
- Refreshments
- Raffles
- The Village Choir
- Games
- & More!

In Pett Village Hall

**2**  
**DECEMBER**  
**10-1**



## Rye Food Bank

You can find out more about Rye Food Bank and ways you can offer support, here: [ryefoodbank.com](http://ryefoodbank.com)

*Cam writes:* I will be making the December Food Bank doorstep collection the morning of Tuesday 19th December. If you are donating, can you email me, so I can draw up a collection schedule..

If you could also include an item of Christmas fayre with your donation, I would be most grateful, as these, along with additional Rotary Christmas goody purchases, will form the basis of our Christmas Family Hamper Scheme to provide a hamper for each Food Bank Family over Christmas.

If you wish to talk to me please use my 01797 226414 number. As ever, thank you for your continued support this year.

*Donald Cameron-Clarke*  
[dcc.omh@gmail.com](mailto:dcc.omh@gmail.com)

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## **THE ICKLESHAM TUESDAY CLUB**

**every Tuesday  
from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
(except 26<sup>th</sup> December)**

**from 1 pm to 3 pm  
at Icklesham Memorial Hall**

**Come and meet old and make new friends in the  
warmth of our village hall.**

**There will be free tea/coffee/soup/cake/biscuits.**

**We will have art and craft activities.**

**Free use of the Hall's Wifi and you can recharge  
phones/tablets/laptops**

**A weekly book swap (bring one or two books that you  
can recommend to others to read).**

**Board games and cards to play.**

**Newspapers to read.**

**Advice on claiming benefits, debt management and form  
filling.**

**or just come for a chat or to sit quietly and read.**

## **AND IT IS ALL FREE**

**Children welcome with a responsible adult.**

**Recommend to bring a cushion to sit on.**



Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar  
**December 2023**

- Saturday 2nd Church Market at St Thomas' - 10.30am till 12  
Christmas Fair - Pett Village Hall - 10am to 1pm
- Sunday 3rd** **8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea**  
*Advent Sunday* **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**  
**3.15pm: Lights of Love Service at Winchelsea**
- Tuesday 5th Mothers' Prayers - Solstice, Sea Road - 10am
- Wednesday 6th Advent Evening Prayer at St Thomas's - 5.30pm
- Saturday 9th Archaeological Society talk - New Hall - 11am  
Film Night - New Hall - 6.30pm for 7.30 screening
- 8th, 9th, 10th FOAM Ghost Stories
- Sunday 10th** **8.30am: BCP Holy Communion at Pett Level**  
**9.30am: 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Wednesday 13th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm  
Advent Evening Prayer at St Thomas's - 5.30pm
- Friday 15th Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 16th Christmas Celebration at Wesley's Chapel - 10.30am for 11
- Sunday 17th** **11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**  
**4pm: Carol Service at Pett**  
**6pm: Carol Service at Winchelsea**
- Tuesday 19th Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas' - 7.30pm
- Wednesday 20th Advent Evening Prayer at St Thomas's - 5.30pm
- Thursday 21st Carol Singing round the Town - starting 6.30pm from St Thomas'
- Friday 22nd FOAM Carols in the Court Hall - 6.30pm for 7
- Sunday 24th** **11am: Benefice Communion Service at Winchelsea**  
*Christmas Eve* **4.30pm: Crib Service at Winchelsea**  
**11.30pm: Midnight Mass at Winchelsea**
- Monday 25th** **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**  
*Christmas Day* **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Sunday 31st** **11am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea**
- Sat 6th Jan Church Market at St Thomas' - 10.30am till 12
- Sun 7th Jan** **8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea**  
*Epiphany* **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**  
**11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**



**Please send copy for the January Magazine to  
*[ryeview@gmail.com](mailto:ryeview@gmail.com)*  
before New Year's Eve**

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**

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The Rector's day off is Monday

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## **St Thomas' Primary School**

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## **Parish Magazine**

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