# WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2024



## Mayor Making 2024

Peter and Debbie Costick took up the duties of Mayor and Mayoress of Winchelsea at the beginning of April. The ceremony started in the Court Hall and then moved to the church where the new mayor was robed, jurats and officers were sworn in and the new Deputy Mayor, Stephen King, took the required oath.

The ceremony was witnessed by the Vice Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff of East Sussex, the Speaker and several Mayors of the Cinque Ports, our MP and a large gathering of the local community. The pictures were taken by KT Bruce.





Vice Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff





Chamberlain, Mayor's Cadet, and Sergeant at Mace lead the procession from the Court Hall to the Church



The new Mayor is robed





Debbie, Peter and their family

## **Reflections from the Rectory**

It is customary for clergy to take a week off after Easter and Christmas. It is not always possible to fit in a break but this year we were lucky enough to spend a few days with each of our daughters and visit West Wales where we went to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales and the delightful Aberglasney Gardens nearby.

Although the break was possible this year the weather did not exactly shine upon us but we were lucky to dodge the showers and enjoy our break including a sunshine visit to Laugharne, where Dylan Thomas lived and wrote and now lies in the churchyard.

During our week off we noticed the hedgerows and the trees just beginning to burst into life and when we came home there was blossom on the weeping pear; the garden and all around were transformed. It is always a joy at this time of year to witness the coming of the spring and the arrival of the swifts in Winchelsea.

There is much for which to be thankful. But glancing at the Psalm recently, I noticed the lines,

"O that we might see better times", Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

The wider world certainly seems troubled. Perhaps because of this we are all the more moved by the turning of the seasons. Maybe we gain some security from the things and the beauty we cannot control. I planted my potatoes a few weeks ago and sowed carrots and beetroot, the rest I leave to nature.

The psalm reminds us not to run after false gods. Sometimes we are so caught up in the concerns and worries of life that we fail to appreciate properly what is around us. I do not to say that there are simple answers and that all the world's problems can be solved by the burgeoning blossom. But in the small way if we are moved by the beauty of this place and the good fortune to live around here maybe we can do a little to make the world a better place.

The pattern of the ancient poetry of the Hebrews is often to cry out to God acknowledging the struggles of life and then to lead to an acceptance of the presence of the Lord; and so ends the psalm. Let this thought sustain us during this Easter season.

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase. I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Jonathan



## **Rogation Walk**

It was an ancient mediaeval tradition to beat the bounds of the parish on Rogation Sunday. Rogation is primarily about prayer and in particular about praying for a good harvest and blessing the land and livestock. It was also seen as a time to drive evil spirits from the parish. There were often disturbances as rival parishioners confronted one another trying to drive evil forces into their neighbouring parish.

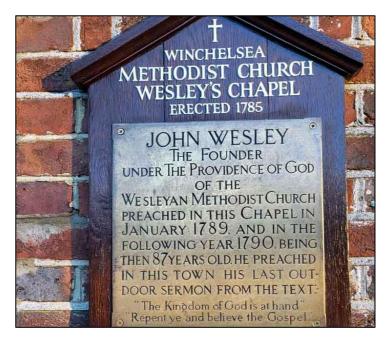
Rogation Sunday falls on 5th May this year and there will be a series of services and a Rogation Walk, although we do not plan to expel evil spirits into our neighbour's parishes.

There will be a walk between the parishes. We will start with Parish Communion in Pett at 10am. After walking to Icklesham there will be an outdoor service of thanksgiving in the churchyard and a break for lunch at 12.30pm. The plan is to have a sandwich lunch at the Queen's Head. We will then walk to Winchelsea for Evensong at 3.30pm, followed by tea. All are welcome but not all are expected to walk or attend all or any of the services. But if you would like to have to a sandwich lunch, please let Jonathan know so we have some idea of numbers. <u>revdjonathan@btinternet.com</u>



## **Bible Reading**

Our informal Bible reading will continue on the first Thursday of each month at 6pm in the New Inn. The next gathering will be on 2nd May when we will continue to look at the gospel according to St John. It is a very rich text and for this session we will consider chapters 3 to 6, but more extensive reading is always helpful. It is a very relaxed gathering and no prior knowledge is required: we always end around 7pm. There has been good attendance – look at it as Book Club with a difference. All welcome. Contact Jonathan for more details or with any questions, *revdjonathan@btinternet.com* 01797 226254



## **Open Day at Wesley's Chapel**

Winchelsea Methodist Chapel will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 11th May with an organ concert by Stephen Page between 3 and 4pm. The event is being held in support of Christian Aid. Teas and coffees will be available throughout the day.

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from 12th to 18th May.

winchelseachapel.org

christianaid.org.uk







Phil Mack

Natasha Robinson

#### Easter Eve at St Thomas's and Easter Dawn on the Beach



Easter Garden



## **New Churchwarden**

At the Annual Church Meeting on 27th April, Nigel Ashton was elected to join Celia King (left) as churchwarden at St Thomas's. He resumes the office that he held previously in the time of Fr Howard, and succeeds Charlotte Beecroft who has been such an active and effective warden for the last seven years.

#### Friends Of Winchelsea Church

The Friends AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th May in the Lower Court Hall at 7pm. If you aren't yet a member of the Friends and would like to join, contact Membership Secretary John Lusk 01797 224290. The Friends are a charity tasked with cooperating with the PCC in the preservation and improvement of the fabric, furniture, stained glass and monuments of the church and churchyard. <u>Click here</u> to find out more about the Friends.

#### **Mothers Prayers**

will be on Tuesday 7th May at 10am at Wee Five, Sea Road.

#### St Richard's Fellowship Lunch

will be held on Friday 24th May at 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall Contact Mary Parker on 07927 107678 to book.



## The Fount of all Knowledge

The Fount of all knowledge....that's seaside knowledge mainly. Our favourite historian of all things beach huts, piers, resorts and architecture, Kathryn Ferry, returns to the Second Wednesday Society on 8th May.

She's explained to us the origins of 'Orientalism on Sea', the very particular design that became synonymous with great British seaside buildings and structures. Then she regaled us with extraordinary tales of Billy Butlin, the charismatic, flamboyant and complex man who invented the resort holiday.

Now she's taken her fascination with the architecture around water and moved inland. Polluted, filthy, stinking water that spreads disease is a hot topic; and not for the first time. Kathryn will take us back to the mid-19th century and the development of the Victorian drinking fountain; the logic of the who, the why and the where, will be revealed to us in 'Pure and Free - The Surprising History of Victorian Drinking Fountains'

When speakers return regularly to SWS, it's because they have proved to be not only popular, but able to engage and inform our particularly knowledgeable audience. As was the case last month, when Richard Feast acquainted us with a neglected hero, Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding. Here was a man who should be a household name and yet was being revealed to some of us for the first time. With our collective experience of life, we are able to delve deeper and put a new perspective on history and by extension the world we live in. It's because of this, that Second Wednesday looms large in our month. It's a chance to expand our minds, meet our friends and enjoy a fabulous tea. See you all in the New Hall.

#### Natasha Robinson



'Pure and Free - The Surprising History of Victorian Drinking Fountains'. A talk by Dr Kathryn Ferry, architectural historian and author.

Winchelsea New Hall Wednesday 8th May at 2.30pm

Visitors £5. Homemade tea £2. Raffle.

<u>2ndWeds@gmail.com</u>





## Cricket

Winchelsea Cricket Club is gradually emerging from hibernation in readiness of the new season. If only the weather would play ball.

Fixtures for May: 12th - Away v Tenterden - 2pm start 19th - Home v Beckley Park - 2pm start 26th - Home v Ashburnham - 2pm start Games subject to change or cancellation

New players are always welcome. We are a mixed age, mixed ability team playing friendly, Sunday matches only. We do have some lady players, and would be delighted to welcome

If interested, please email <u>miketstoneham@gmail.com</u> or simply come along and talk to us at one of the games.

Mike Stoneham

more.



## Winchelsea Arts 9th Season

Winchelsea Arts unveiled a ninth season of concerts at a launch event at the end of April. <u>You will find the full 2024-25 programme here</u>

The season sees the return of past favourites and welcomes some stars with an international reputation, like pianist Pascal Rogé (above) and the London Handel Players. The London Handel Players' concert, which opens the season in July, has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of Heringtons Solicitors.

A Christmas concert by Candlelight is becoming a tradition, and this year it has a French theme.

Season tickets and tickets for individual concerts are available to buy at <u>winchelsea-arts.org.uk</u>. Season ticket prices stay the same as last year - £88 (or £165 for a joint subscription). This works out at six concerts for the price of less than four. Tickets for individual concerts will cost £24 and under 18s are admitted free.

But before the new season kicks off, there is one more concert in the current series. On Saturday 18th May, Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra return to play Mozart's *Serenade No.10* and Dvořák's *Serenade for Wind Instruments*. Tickets for this are on sale online for £22. Judging by previous audiences for the HPO there won't be many tickets left to sell at the door - if any.

## Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Marcio da Silva



Mozart Serenade No 10 K.361 Gran Partita Dvořák Serenade for wind instruments Op. 44

## Saturday 18th May at 7.30pm



St Thomas' Church Winchelsea TN36 4EB

### Winchelsea Arts

Tickets online at winchelsea-arts.org.uk and at the door

**£22** free for under 18s



hastingsphilharmonic.com

winchelsea-arts.org.uk



## **Little Gate Farm**

On 25th April a small group of residents from Winchelsea and Pett visited Little Gate Farm at Beckley to see the marvellous work they do with young people.

In 2013 Claire and David Cordell founded Little Gate, with the idea of increasing the opportunities available to adults with learning disabilities and autism. They used part of the farm to create the learning and training centre knowing that with the right support, people with learning disabilities and autism can be happy and valued employees in any industry.

Supported Employment is the process of helping someone find work, learn the job to a high standard and ensuring their continued success in that role. The Supported Employment model has been successfully used for decades, creating a partnership between businesses and the supported employees with long term benefits for both parties. There is an amazing team of staff and volunteers, some of whom showed us around and answered our questions.

Growing and producing cut flowers is one of their main projects and we saw the wonderful raised beds, both outside and in a polytunnel, where plants were at various stages of growth. There was a large emphasis on potting on and planting out at present. The young people grow specific varieties, as requested by local professional florists, and harvest them to specific instructions. They will be starting to sell at the Brede Farmers Market in a few weeks and also Hastings Station.

Surrounded by many acres of ancient woodland, which needs careful management, they also produce lumpwood charcoal, which is bagged up on site and sealed with their signature wooden clip. It can be bought locally at Salt's Farm, East Guldeford and is really excellent...we have been using it for years. There is also a cafe, where everything is cooked onsite and a large barn which is hired out as a venue.

There is so much to say, I could go on forever but why not go and see for yourselves. They are having a Festival Open Day on Saturday 8th June. There'll be food, flowers, animals, etc.

Look them up online or go to @*littlegatefarm* on Instagram to see what they do. You can make a donation to the project by clicking on this link: *littlegate.org.uk* 

Shirley Meyer





## **Icklesham Parish Council**

#### **Future Meetings**

13th May 6.15pm – Planning Committee followed by Annual Council Meeting at Rye Harbour Village Hall 31st May 7pm – Annual Parish Meeting to be held at Icklesham Memorial Hall

It is a very busy time of year for the Parish Council. The Clerk is very busy finalising the accounts for the upcoming internal and external audit and organising the annual council meeting and the annual parish meeting. We hope to see you all there.

We are also pleased to announce that we have launched our new website which is much more user friendly for our residents. *icklesham-pc.gov.uk* 

#### New Contact Details for the Clerk

The Clerk has a new email address. Please use <u>clerk@icklesham-pc.gov.uk</u> to contact the Clerk going forward. The Councillors also have new email addresses. Please visit our website or contact the Clerk if you need contact details for an individual Councillor.

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting. All Towns

and Civil Parishes throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June (inclusive). This technically is not a Council meeting but it is normally the Parish Council who organise this meeting each year. The purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations an opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year. The meeting is also an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider valuable to the people of the Parish.

The meeting can also be an opportunity for local groups, clubs, societies and other voluntary and statutory organisations to provide an exhibition and/or have representatives from the group address those present at the meeting about the work they do and what they are involved in. This year the Annual Parish Meeting has been organised for Friday 31st May at 7pm in Icklesham Memorial Hall.

We have organised presentations from:-

1. Rother District Council to come and give a presentation on the new Local Plan, which is open for public consultation from 12th April. They will also be able to answer questions residents may have on the new Local Plan.

2. Representatives from Winchelsea Museum

We are also relaunching our community awards scheme which is where the Council present awards to residents and organisations who go above and beyond for the local community. Those who have been selected for an award will be contacted prior to the meeting.

There will also be light refreshments at the end of the meeting. We really hope to see lots of residents attending this year as it will be a very interesting meeting. The Parish Council will be providing transport to and from Rye Harbour, Winchelsea Beach and Winchelsea. If you would like to book a seat, please contact the Clerk.

IPC are here to represent you and welcome your views on any matter. Please contact the Clerk to send your views and requests to the Council at <u>clerk@icklesham-pc.gov.uk</u> or write to PO Box 148, Winchelsea, TN31 9FP. 07714 16990.



## **Review of Traffic Calming Proposals**

The Winchelsea Residents Association Members' Meeting on 27th April discussed, amongst other issues, the outcome of the review the Committee has done on the prospects for an alternative traffic calming scheme for the town. This short written report sets out the Committee's conclusions on the review.

Summary: Until more positive policies are adopted and able to be funded by the County Council we do not think that an alternative major scheme to calm traffic passing through central Winchelsea is a realistic prospect, not least because it would require residents to raise very substantial funds. However, we think that there are some things we can press the county council to consider, with potential for some impact on the worst of the speeding and aggressive driving.

Following the loss of the options to restrict or close Strand Hill the WRA Committee has researched what could now be done. Our conclusion from this review is that it is not realistic at this point to pursue options for an alternative major scheme of the kind which the council have indicated that they might approve - such as for a 20mph limit supported by chicanes.

Currently, the council would consider funding only up to 50% of the costs of the design, management and implementation of such a project, with residents needing to fund all remaining costs. Total costs could be in the region of £150,000. or even more.

We hope that the council will, at a later stage, be able to adopt more positive policies for traffic calming across Winchelsea, and be able to find more resources to deliver these. In the meantime can continue discussing with the council the potential for introducing smaller, more innovative and realistically affordable measures to have some impact on the reduction of speeding and aggressive driving.

In addition, we think that there are several parts of the streets in the town which are inadequate and dangerous and for which the county council, as the highways authority, should take action to improve with funding from their own capital programme, irrespective of a policy to secure traffic calming. These locations are especially at the bottom of Strand Hill (pedestrian crossing point); at the Strand Gate; at the New Inn corner; and at the school access point at the end of Monks Walk.

We would welcome any comments from members via *info@winchelseaRA.com* 

winchelseaRA.com

## Sir Melford Stevenson

Several people responded to last month's article, in particular to point out that he lived in Winchelsea from the 1950s and not just in retirement. He had the house at *Truncheons* built and his children were brought up here. Local memory recounts that, during particularly sensitive trials the house had police protection, but that thieves broke in at least once in spite of the police presence, making off with his television.





## The Winchelsea 2025 Book

During early May, 'street champions' will be calling on Winchelsea neighbours to deliver the questionnaires that will form the basis of 'Winchelsea 2025', the successor to the Millennium Book which gave such an evocative snapshot of the town in 2000. That book also was also based on questionnaires sent to everyone, so the new project has good antecedents.

The working group very much hope that you will want to be included. The area covered will be the electoral ward of Winchelsea, from the railway station to the Sea Road junction, and on the top of the hill.

While the questionnaires are out, Jonathan Murphy will be taking street and house photos and, later, he'll take pictures of individual households to set against the text. As the questionnaires come back, David Page will lead a small team who will edit the text so that everything fits together.

Jennifer Sutherland and Gillian Alexander have been interviewing long-term residents of the town whose memories and reflections will form an important part of the book. The school, shop, pub and fish and chip van will not be forgotten.

Winchelsea organisations, clubs and societies have been invited to send in information about themselves which Bill Doherty will meld together to give a comprehensive view of the activity of the town. If your group hasn't responded to this invitation yet, please don't forget. Dominic Leahy and Melvyn Pett provided an introduction to the 2000 version, and David Merrifield will write the equivalent for 2025.

With a following wind, this should all be ready in time for us to take orders for the completed book by the end of this year. It will make an excellent Christmas present. Publishing and colour printing have come on by leaps and bounds since the millennium. This will be a classy hardback production we're sure you won't be able to resist.

If you haven't seen the 2000 book, parts of it are online at *winchelseabook.com*. The graphic below shows part of dummy pages created after a trial run with questionnaires in Hiham Green in March.

Winchelsea Book Team: Jennifer Sutherland, Gillian Alexander, Chris Chappell, David Merrifield, Jerry Moss, Jonathan Murphy, David Page.





## Grids get Royal Approval

Three years ago the King - then Prince of Wales - came on an informal visit to Winchelsea. His team were drawing up plans for a new housing development on Duchy of Cornwall land in Faversham. This is part of a larger area released for housing on the south side of the town, bounded by the M2.

The Duchy team were proposing a plan with streets laid out on a grid pattern and they wanted to persuade the prince that this was a good idea. So they brought him to Winchelsea in May 2021 to see the town laid out on a grid pattern by his distant forbear, Edward I.

Clearly he was persuaded, and the new Faversham development of 2,500 homes will indeed be built on a grid. In our case the grid centres on the churchyard, in Faversham's case, on a cricket field.

sefaversham.co.uk has all the details.



## The Last Dance

After decades of coming to Winchelsea, sadly the last ever performance to be made by East Surrey Morris Men will take place on Sunday 26th May. Some of the existing members of the group still remember performing in Castle Street, and taking 'refreshments' in the Castle Inn, when it was still a public house. The 2024 event will be jointly hosted by the Mayor, Mayoress and the New Inn.

As age-old tradition requires, Morris Dancing will first take place in Castle Street at 4.30 with the final performance in the car park area of the New Inn scheduled for 5.30. Each performance lasts for 30 minutes. All timings are approximate, and weather dependant.

This fantastic group has always said 'dancing in beautiful Winchelsea was their favourite venue, due to our wonderful community, fantastic hospitality and the wonderful tea, cakes, and sandwiches we kindly provide. As we all know times change and to keep the old traditions going, it's important that new and younger members become involved in any society. Sadly, this was not the case for East Surrey Morris Dancers, but I'm sure Winchelsea we will give them the warmest of farewells. We will miss them, as they have become old friends.

There will be a charity collection on the day, so feel free to part with your cash. If you would like to bake or donate a cake, please contact Debbie Cosstick on 01797 229087.



## **Greetings from Goudhurst**

"This beautiful pot of plants arrived from Winchelsea and has and is giving me an enormous amount of pleasure especially as I haven't yet been able to start planning another garden yet. So a very big thank you to all involved, it's very special.

Once I can drive again I'm looking forward to a trip to see you all. Still lots to do but the family have been terrific and it really feels like a very beautiful home. Please do pop in, everyone welcome and it's only a few minutes off the A21.

My love to everyone. Alice Kenyon"



## Small jewels of Winchelsea

While walking round the Rectory Garden recently, looking at the large amount of work to be done before opening for the NGS in June, I was reminded of a visitor last year. He was a very knowledgeable botanist who was entranced by the ferns in the walls of the town. Apparently, Winchelsea is one of the best sites for *Asplenium ceterach* (above) in the south east, along with about a dozen other varieties found in the gardens of *King's Leap* and *Rye View*.

I am lucky enough to have this little jewel in several walls at the Rectory along with *Polypodium cambricum* which is more common. One look at the website of the British Pteridological Society shows just the amazing variety to seek out. So keep your eyes peeled for different varieties and see if you can add to the database. <u>epbs.org.uk</u>

Happy hunting! Shirley



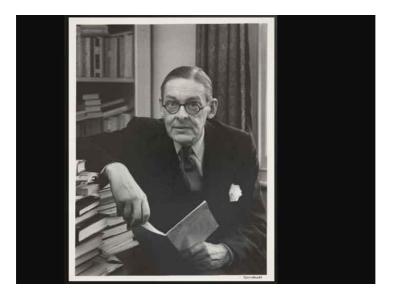
## Aspects of Travel

Winchelsea Literary Society meet for an evening of readings on Friday 17th May at 7pm for 7.30 in the New Hall.

The theme is 'Aspects of Travel'. Members and nonmembers are welcome and we invite you to bring a short reading - poetry, prose, fiction or non-fiction - on the chosen subject. Readings should be no longer than five minutes so everyone who wants to can read.

Come and join us for a stimulating and fun evening. Members free, non-members  $\pounds 5$ .

literarysoc.winchelsea.secretary@gmail.com



## A Triumph of Style and Substance

Undeterred by the unseasonal April chill dealt them by *the cruellest month*, the *hooded hordes* of the Lit. Soc. swarmed over their own evening shadows, newly risen to meet them, and packed out the sanctuary of the Court Hall in anticipation of the literary beatitude *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after the classic modernist poem; for they shall be filled*.

And the Society's speaker, Gawain Douglas, did not disappoint, delivering a forceful but sensitive rendering of T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* in conjunction with some illuminating interpretation.

In a preliminary exploration of the poet's background, Gawain climbed purposefully into the ring of contested *Eliotica* in asserting his belief that Eliot was gay and had had an affair with the French medic, Jean Jules Verdenal, who died at Gallipoli in 1915, in *the cruellest month*.

Eliot's first volume of poetry, which included *The Love Song* of *J. Alfred Prufrock*, was dedicated to Verdenal and a quotation from Dante's *Purgatorio* supplemented the epigraph in later editions describing the warmth of the American's love and how even Verdenal's shade seemed a solid thing. Douglas believes Verdenal was the *hyacinth girl* who features in the first section of *The Waste Land*.

In reciting the poem itself, the product of ruthless editing by Eliot's friend Ezra Pound, our speaker rose to the challenge of the material's structure. Set in five individually headed parts, it offers a verbal montage needing a polyphonic commentary which taxes the skills of the lone narrator.

The piece is replete with quotation and allusion requiring some editions to publish explanatory postscripts exceeding the length of the original stanzas and Gawain's linguistic versatility came to the fore as he moved through Dante's Italian, Baudelaire's French and a Wagner libretto in German before swinging into a Cockney register to reproduce the strident voices of intoxicated females being shepherded from the pub across from Eliot's Crawford Mansions flat at closing time by a tolerant but persistent landlord. The ladies were locked in animated discussion on the respective merits of dentures and natural dentition and the troublesome side effects of some illicit abortifacient potions.

Religion was not neglected in the poem's broad cultural sweep and Tiresias surfaced from Greek mythology as a warning against annoying the Gods. This unfortunate, the paradoxical *blind seer*, suffered a divinely ordained, involuntary seven-year sex change and physical blinding although he was partly compensated with the gift of prophecy, second sight; this experience made him an expert opinion in gender disputes.

Another section is inspired by the foundational Buddhist *Fire Sermon* and twice we hear the opening sentence from St. Augustine's *Confessions* where he arrives in Carthage to find *a cauldron of unholy loves* singing about his ears. Although we can drill down on particular phrases to elicit meaning, some minds are still tormented by echoes of Cilla Black's insistent enquiry – *What's it all about, Alfie?* 

We never did hear Alfie's answer but the current consensus seems to be that *The Waste Land* exceeds the sum of its parts and while agreement on a unifying theme remains elusive, we are advised to let the waves of verse break over us and savour the bits that appeal.

Bill Doherty



## New Hall update

#### Toilets

By the time we reach Film Night on 4th May, the Ladies' toilets in the New Hall will be finished, fully decorated and open again! As the hall is so short of storage space, some of our sports equipment will be stored in the foyer of the new facilities; so, don't be surprised to see a table tennis table in there! The renovation of the Gents will begin in December.

#### 100 Club

The winner of the 100 Club prize in April is number 67. Congratulations! The  $\pounds$ 100 should be in your bank account by now. Enjoy!

#### **Lost Property**

In our cloakroom, at the front of the hall we have two coats that have been left for some time now (a ladies blue Barbour and a black waterproof jacket) along with a cloche style hat and a bag of baking equipment (including a wire cooling rack) Please can you claim them before the end of the month please. After then we will take them to the charity shop as we just don't have the space to keep lost property for a long period of time. (call Ali on 07926 128737 if you think any of them belong to you).

Rob, Graham, Sergio, Rosemarie and Ali New Hall Management Committee

# What's On Weekly At Winchelsea New Hall

Mondays 09.30- <mark>1</mark> 0.15	Pilates with Hannah	Suitable for all. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email <u>hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com</u>
Mondays 16.00-17.00	Pilates with Celia	Suitable for all ages and abilities. Contact Celia on <u>kingcelia54@gmail.com</u>
Tuesdays 10.00-11.00	Yoga with Natasha	Suitable for everyone from beginners to experienced. Contact Natasha on 07946 399211 or email <u>nn@natashanandiniyogini.com</u>
Tuesdays 14.00-15.30	Tune In Winchelsea	Fun singing group run by local tenor Gary Marriot. All ages and abilities welcome. Contact Rosemarie on 07941 458628 or email <u>rosiero96@icloud.com</u>
Thursdays 09.30-10.30	Scottish Dancing	A fun, friendly class, suitable for beginners. Contact Maddy at <u>maddycoelho@hotmail.com</u>
Fridays 09.30-10.15	Pilates with Hannah	All welcome. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email <u>hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com</u>
Fridays 10.45-11.45	Strictly Fitsteps	Fun exercise class. Learn the dances on Strictly without a partner. Contact Amanda on 07768 095184 or at <u>amanda@beacroft.net</u>

\*An informal table tennis group often plays on Thursday evenings contact Jane at janearchutowska@yahoo.co.uk

\*\*The hall has table tennis and badminton equipment and can be booked on an ad hoc basis for £2 per person per hour - contact Rosemarie on 07941 458628 or at rosiero96@icloud.com for details



## Secret Gardens in April

363 visitors paid to see the Winchelsea gardens that opened for the NGS on 20th April and £1815 was raised for the nursing charities that the scheme supports.

Teas in the New Hall were run by the Friends of Conquest Hospital and they raised £900 for their projects.

The main NGS opening of the year will take place on Saturday 15th June with seven gardens open and before that, on 1st June, gardens in Winchelsea Beach will be opening for St Michael's Hospice. On the afternoon of Sunday 16th June the NGS group will do a second opening for the Friends of the Memorial Hospital, Rye.



## Spring Show 2024















#### Winchelsea Garden Society

# **Rose Show**

Saturday 1 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 in diameter



## Winchelsea Garden Society

Coach outing to

# Town Place & Clinton Lodge

#### Wednesday 19 June

Departing at 9 am from German Street & returning around 4:30 pm Subsidised travel and entries for members

## £25

Bring a picnic lunch to eat in the gardens at Town Place. Tea and coffee available at Clinton Lodge

Please book and pay Judith Payne by cash or cheque at Castle Cottage, Castle Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EL For further information please

contact Shirley Meyer on

shirleymeyer@btinternet.com



shirleymeyer@btinternet.com

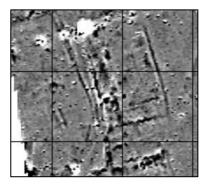


## **Archaeological Society Walk**

Andrew Scott will lead a walk to the south side of the town on Saturday 18th May.

Note that the Meeting Point is on the east side of Castle Street before the Town Well is reached and nearer the High Street. The walk will depart at 11.15am.

Our last visit in 2022 to this area near the New Gate looked mainly at the Gate and its surroundings. This time we are primarily interested in the three hospitals - St John's, St Bartholomew's and Holy Cross. The sites of the last two were not reliably known, but magnetometry data taken in 2023 by the Hastings And Area Research Group (HAARG) indicate a potential site above Pewes Marsh. North is to the top. Could this be the Hospital of the Holy Cross?





### **Rotary Walk**

Rye and Winchelsea Rotary Community Charity walk takes place on Sunday 19th May. Entry £10. The walk starts from Channons in Rye Market Car Park. Check in between 9 and 11am.

Maps and sponsorship forms for your own causes will be available at check in. The route goes through Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and past Camber Castle. Marshals will be on duty for help and to provide directions. We do hope to see you there.

For more information contact <u>stuartraine@btinternet.com</u> 01797 222772 or Martin Owen 01797 226968 <u>mnowen@hotmail.co.uk</u>

If you are in search of a charity to support, FOAM would very much welcome your sponsorship. *winchelsea-foam.org.uk* 

Demelza - the Mayoress's charity - would also be a very worthwhile choice.



### Winchelsea Wine Society

WWS next event will be another special Society visit to Charles Palmer Vineyard - on Friday 7th June from 4pm to 6pm.

We are delighted that the founder, Charles Palmer, will share his experiences as to how the vineyard came to be, the unique features of our local 'terroir' and how anticipating climate change has enabled still wines to be made from mature vines. This will be accompanied by tastings of the current wines.

Numbers for this special event will be limited so please watch out for the booking arrangements which will be circulated, or contact <u>winchelseawinesociety@gmail.com</u>.

The cost is expected to be £25 per person.





Soldiers of the Durham Light Infantry in Castle Street, August 1942

#### D-Day 80th Anniversary Reception and Beacon Lighting

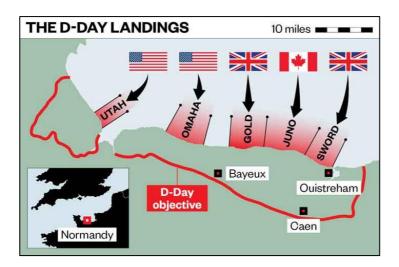
This year's Beacon lighting reception on 6th June will be hosted by Winchelsea Millennium Artefacts Society in association with Winchelsea Corporation to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

A series of storyboards and portfolios will be presented to give a brief account of the background to D-Day. The content will consist of text, maps, photographs and documents, many of which have not been seen since the war and were obtained from private sources as well as from the Winchelsea Corporation via East Sussex Record Office.

They will provide an insight into the activities of some of the military units that were stationed in the town, where they were billeted, and the contribution they made to our safety.

There will be background on 'Winchelsea at War', including the visit of Generals Montgomery and Eisenhower who stayed for a brief time in *Greyfriars*. It will record the residents who bravely gave their lives in the conflict, the houses that were bombed, the families that remained.

They will also tell of the remarkable contribution made by three of our town's residents. Their brief biographies have been compiled by Jerry Moss who will include a more detailed account of Operation Overlord. We hope as many of you as are able will come to the Beacon lighting to commemorate this historic occasion.



Geraldine l'Anson WMAS

## **Beacon Lighting Timetable**

#### 7.15pm - Reception at the New Hall

Refreshments and wine will be available at £4 per glass including canapés. The Chairman will welcome everyone and will say a brief word on health and safety and routes to the Beacon.

**7.30pm -** WMAS Chairman will give a brief introduction to the Storyboard Display of the 80th Anniversary.

**8.30pm - The National Anthem** will be played by the Piper who will then lead the gathering to the Beacon across the field to *Flowers of the Forest* and *Lord Lovatt's Lament* 

**9.05pm** - The Rector will begin the ceremony with a short prayer

**9.10pm** The Mayor will read the official poem *'The International Tribute'* 

9.15pm - The Beacon will be lit



#### **Conservation Society Visit and AGM**

On Friday 14th June Conservation Society has arranged a visit to Maison Dieu and the Grand Shaft in Dover. Maison Dieu, the earliest parts of which date back to 1203, is nearing the completion of a  $\pounds$ 4.7m restoration project.

The Grand Shaft is a unique triple helix structure, built between 1806 and 1809 as a means of communication and movement of troops between the barracks on the Western Heights and the town below. The designer, Brigadier General Twiss was also responsible for the Royal Military Canal and Martello Towers.

We have just commenced planning this visit, so are unable to indicate the cost, as yet, but expect to include a fish and chip lunch and return coach travel from Winchelsea.

At this stage, please register interest with David Merrifield on 01797 222162.

The AGM which was postponed from April will now be held on Saturday 8th June at 9.30am in the Lower Court Hall. We hope to be able to report back to members on the first meeting between the NT and our committee for a number of years.

### Winchelsea Goes to Bollywood - 8th June

Tickets for Winchelsea's colourful and tasty tribute to India go on sale on Saturday 4th May, starting at Church Market.



Our tribute evening takes curry night to the next level with an authentic vegetarian five-course tasting menu skilfully created by David Dickson under the expert direction of Delane's mum. All your senses will be transported with exotic colour, music and film to Bollywood and of course it wouldn't be Bollywood if we didn't all participate in some Bhangra dancing between courses.

Dress to impress (you may receive an award), enjoy the free Indian Cocktail on arrival (we are celebrating that 8th June is also world gin day), win one of the amazing prizes in the Indian themed grand raffle.

There'll be a mini Indian quiz (another award up for grabs), a most-superior pay-bar with excellent wine, beer, cocktails, locally brewed ginger beer, juices - it wouldn't be complete without locally brewed India Pale Ale. All proceeds are in aid of the new hall gents' renovation project (lucky gents).

Get your fabulous tickets for 3,100 Indian rupees from Hilary Roome: <u>roome12hilary@gmail.com</u> or Jane Archutowska, David Dickson or the Little Shop. (£30 sterling also acceptable.) But hurry, because tickets are limited to 60 people.

The most-superb grand raffle prizes include a Little Shop Hamper, a bottle of Birch's Sumatra Gin, a crate of Folkington's Ginger Beer, a Romney Marsh Brewery IPA gift set, New Inn curry for two, yoga class, Indian cushions, multiple boxes of Goupie chocolates, cookery book and personal takeaway by David, and many more exciting prizes.

Gaming rules dictate that we will only be selling raffle tickets at the event so if, by some very sad chance, you can't join us for this colourful feast of pleasures and happiness, you can still support the event by asking us to buy raffle tickets for you on the night. Contact David D, Jane A or Hilary <u>roome12hilary@gmail.com</u> or message through WhatsApp

(PS. We will be preparing food from Friday lunchtime onwards and throughout Saturday, so if you would like to join in the fun early by helping (and learning from David) we would love to hear from you asap. We need choppingwallahs, grinding-wallahs, setting-the-tables-wallahs, mixing-wallahs, clearing-wallahs, etc etc. We'd also welcome offers of help for on the night - serving-wallahs, clearing-wallahs, drinks-wallah, etc. The more people who help, the shorter the shifts.)



## The Rudes are coming

The very popular Rude Mechanical Theatre Company will be back again in Winchelsea this summer performing another great play for us outdoors as usual on the primary school field. The date is Thursday 1st August at 7.30pm, so get it in your diaries. You won't want to miss it.

It is called *'The Dressing Book'* and is aimed at adults although some children will enjoy it. This original play by The Rudes toured briefly in 2012 mainly to arts centres and a few village halls, so most of you will not have seen it, but it was extremely well received both in the press and by the audiences. Originally, it was written for three actors and six puppets, but it's been re-written for six actors and lots of music with some great new songs.

Tickets are available now on the company's website, *therudes.co.uk* or ring 01323 501260.

Hilary Roome



## **Rye Food Bank**

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

Martin Owen, still standing in for Cam, will be doing the next monthly doorstep collection from those of you who are regular donors on the morning of Tuesday 21st May.

If you'd like to be added to the list of donors, please let Martin know by email <u>mojowen@outlook.com</u> or phone 01797 226968.



## **Bernard Dibble**

Bernard died in March. He lived in Peasmarsh and had worked in the Housing Department of Rother District Council. Bernard served Winchelsea Corporation as Sergeant at Mace before stepping up to the role of Chamberlain in 1989. He held the post until 2016. He was made an Honorary Freeman of the town to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his appointment.

Bernard is pictured here (centre) outside Rye Town Hall, alongside his eventual successor, Neil Clephane-Cameron as they escort Mayor Steve Turner at Speaker's Day in 2013.





#### **Independent Rescue Boat May News**

A warm spring hello to all. We are embracing the return of brighter nights and an increased footfall to our beautiful coastline.

PLIRB was tasked twice in the last month – on both occasions to provide support in multi-agency incidents involving vulnerable people in the Hastings area. One of these included an early shout at 5.30am. We are on call 24/7. Our local crew base means we continue to respond to every shout, night or day.

Volunteer Ant Dixson completed the Hastings Half Marathon and raised over £1,800. Then our wonderful supporter from Fairlight, Natasha Keats, completed the Brighton Marathon and has so far raised well over £2,000 an unbelievable amount for which we are incredibly grateful. Natasha only started her running journey a couple of years ago which makes this even more of a significant achievement.

PettFest 2024, Pett's first beer festival, will be hosted by the Royal Oak and the Old Butchers. This is a weekend to celebrate the very best of beers and ciders Live music and good food on each day. The Pett Slip Buoys will be performing on Friday 24th May from 7pm. Full schedule at *royaloakpett.com* 

The PLIRB AGM 2024 will take place on Sunday 12th May at the Pett Community Hall starting at 10:15am. Open to all to

attend. The Chairman and Treasurer will provide their annual reports and officers will be elected.

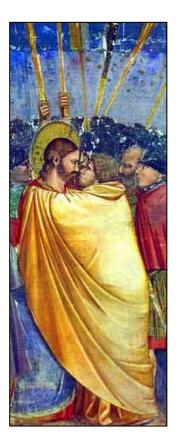
A walk on the beach and under the cliffs at Pett Level is wonderful in any weather. But the recent heavy rain and strong winds have severely impacted the vulnerable cliff faces and we advise extreme caution when walking underneath. There have been many very visible cliff slips so please take extra care and ensure you let all visitors and guests know to be careful.



Thank you to everyone who supports us. To keep in touch, please visit our website <u>https://plirb.com</u> and our social media: Facebook <u>@PettLevelRescueBoat</u> and Instagram <u>@pettlevelindyrescueboat</u>.



ryehospital.org.uk/event



## Judas

Eternal woe was promised me, The bitter dregs of that same cup He gave with such solemn ceremony To all...the very night they took him, Unresisting...I remember most Not the kiss I gave him but the look He gave me...of searing pity.

I don't know now what I wanted---Revenge, notoriety? A brief power? Some little personal recognition To single me out from the others---Those 'fishers of men' as he called them, Who left their nets, wives and children For the perilous promise of a special future...

There's a rumour rife here now That he didn't die at all, put about By Peter, James and John, set on By the two Marys...I half wish It was true, but the fact remains: There was a crucifixion and a body buried...

Some say they've seen his ghost With staff and sandals on the road, Fanciful fools...others, that hundreds Heard him in Jerusalem...mass-hysteria Of course. He's already a folk hero And I'm the arch-villain of the piece, Hardly human...almost a hired assassin.

What corner can I crawl away To hide or die in To blind the all-seeing eye? What refuge on land or sea? There'll be no forgiveness For me, no peace...I am despised Even by the Pharisees...shopkeepers Won't take my money so I starve, The silver unspent...yet I can't repent... I shall end it all, if end is possible?

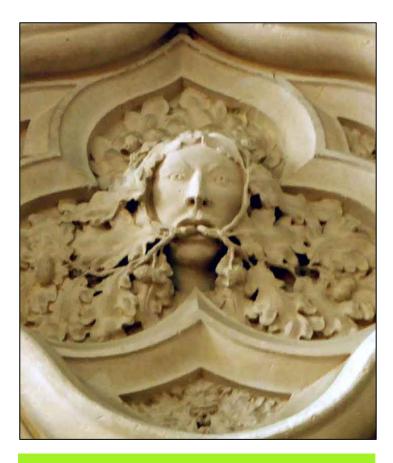
Richard Ormrod

#### Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar May 2024

Saturday 4th	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30am till 12 Winchelsea Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm
Sunday 5th	8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea Rogation Sunday Services at Pett, Icklesham and Winchelsea: 10am: Parish Eucharist at Pett 12.30: Service of Thanksgiving at Icklesham 3.30pm: Evensong at Winchelsea
Tuesday 7th	Mothers' Prayers - Wee Five, Sea Road - 10am
Wednesday 8th	Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
Thursday 9th	6pm: Holy Communion for Ascension Day at Winchelsea
Saturday 11th	FOAM Winchelsea to Compostela event Open Day at Wesley's Chapel - 10am to 4pm
Sunday 12th	
Wednesday 15th	Friends of Winchelsea Church AGM - Court Hall - 7pm
Friday 17th	
Saturday 18th	Archaeological Society Walk - from Castle St - 11.15am Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 7.30pm
Sunday 19th	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett
Pentecost Whit Sunday	11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Rotary Club Sponsored Walk Winchelsea Cricket Club home match - 2pm
Pentecost	11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Rotary Club Sponsored Walk Winchelsea Cricket Club home match - 2pm
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#### Further ahead

Fri 14th June	Conservation Society visit to Dover
Sat 15th June	Winchelsea Gardens open for NGS
Sun 16th June	Winchelsea Gardens open for Memorial Hospital, Rye



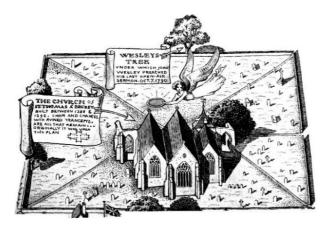
Please send copy for the June Magazine to <u>ryeview@gmail.com</u> before Thursday 30th May

For Winchelsea Beach information go to winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

> For Winchelsea information go to <u>winchelsea.com</u>

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

For weekly news from the local area go to <u>ryenews.org.uk</u>



#### **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 <u>revdjonathan@btinternet.com</u> The Rector's day off is Monday

#### Churchwardens

Celia King Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG 01797 227858 <u>kingcelia54@gmail.com</u>

Nigel Ashton Winchelsea Cottage, High Street TN36 4EA 01797 222023 <u>nigelmarkashton@gmail.com</u>

#### St Thomas' Primary School

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

#### Friends of Winchelsea Church

*Chairman* Ben Chishick Tower Cottage, Barrack Square TN36 4EA 01797 226653 <u>towercottage@btinternet.com</u>

#### **Parish Magazine**

*Editor* David Page 4 Kent Close TN36 4EX 01797 226524 <u>ryeview@gmail.com</u>