

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

September 2024





Art Exhibition

Millennium Artefacts Society mounted another very successful exhibition over the Bank Holiday weekend under the careful supervision of Geraldine I'Anson who received enthusiastic thanks at the launch reception.



Geraldine writes: The lack of our summer sunshine was not reflected in this year's artist exhibits which the many visitors to this exhibition felt were full of life, colour, interest and variety, successfully giving us a 25% increase in sales.

We received enquiries for commissions from four artists whose work had been sold together with requests for prints of two photographers' work.

This year we added eight new visitor artists from further afield who together outnumbered the regular group of Winchelsea artist who support our fund raising efforts each year. We had five talented artists from St Thomas's School whose work was exceptional for children aged from five years to ten years old. All the exhibits, from mixed media collage, charcoal, pastel and oil were sold to very proud parents.

The chairman and the committee would like to thank all the artists for submitting their paintings, photography, and pottery which was a wonderful eclectic mix and this year included some sculpture. Our horizons are broadening so scope for further creativity. Our thanks also go to the donors of the very generous raffle prizes. There were twelve in all, which raised over £700.

This year has been a busy year for the Millennium Artefacts Society which began with the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landing. We start next year with a Beacon lighting once again in May to celebrate V E Day.



Elgan Llŷr Thomas *tenor*
Edmund Whitehead *piano*



A recital of songs by Finzi, Quilter, Donizetti
Fauré and Vaughan Williams

Sunday 1st September at 4pm

Winchelsea Arts

St Thomas' Church Winchelsea
TN36 4EB



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

£24
free for under 18s



winchelsea-arts.org.uk

[Click here to see the programme for this concert](#)

[Click here to see the full programme for the 24-25 Season](#)



For the Sussex Historic Churches Trust

On Saturday 14th September, St Thomas's Church will be participating in Ride and Stride, to raise funds for Sussex Historic Churches Trust. In the morning, there will be a sponsored five-mile walk from St Nicholas at Pett Level (above) back to Winchelsea and in the afternoon an Attic Sale will be held in St Thomas's Church.

If you would like to join the walk, there are sponsorship forms at the back of the Church or email David Harris, St Thomas' Treasurer, for a form and further information. [*harrismanuell@outlook.com*](mailto:harrismanuell@outlook.com).

The Attic Sale will begin at 2.30pm. There is an entrance fee of £5 which includes, tea and homemade cake and a guided tour of St Thomas's. If you have any household items or objects of interest that you are able to donate and which you think will achieve a minimum price of £5, St Thomas's Churchwarden, Nigel Ashton, will be pleased to receive them at Winchelsea Cottage. [*nashton364@gmail.com*](mailto:nashton364@gmail.com).

Throughout the day, St Thomas's will also be welcoming visitors from other Sussex churches that are participating in Ride and Stride.

In addition to sponsored walkers, volunteers are needed to prepare the church for the sale in the morning; to staff the stalls and to record visitors from other churches. Please contact David or Nigel at the email addresses above if you are able to assist.

If you can bake a cake or are able to serve teas during the sale, please contact Shirley Meyer, who is organising a rota. shirleymeyer@btinternet.com. Half the funds raised for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust will be given to St Thomas's Church.

sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk



John Wesley's Chapel

On Saturday 14th September the Chapel will be open from 10am to 5pm during the national Heritage Open Days programme period. The Chapel, as well as St Thomas's, will also be open to welcome those cycling, walking or running in the Sussex Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride sponsorship event.

But the highlight of the day should be the 'Take the Floor' concert which starts at 2pm, when there will be an opportunity for everyone, young and not so, from the local Methodist churches and Winchelsea town, to come and show off your abilities in spoken word, music or even mime.

The programme will be coordinated by Ken Hatch and Stephen Page. Each performance may only be for a minute

or two or up to a maximum of 10 minutes and we will welcome you whether you feel talented or not to share something with us. We look forward to welcoming both novices and virtuosos to our lovely, intimate space and sharing in some beautiful performances.

So if you are thinking that you might like to take part, please contact Ken Hatch to book your slot with details of both performer and performance on 07935 902657 or email familyhatch2@gmail.com

Then on Saturday 5th October are the Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations, meeting from 10.30 for teas and coffees followed by the service at 11am led by Wendy Hatch and Keith Miller.

Do join us or pop in for any of the Chapel events. We will be delighted to see you.





Flowers and Harvest at Pett

Angela Hawksley writes, When our parish of Pett entered into what will be a united benefice with Winchelsea and Icklesham, it was very reassuring to be welcomed so warmly by the Winchelsea congregation. I love coming to services in Winchelsea and the organ and the choir certainly help with worship. The church always looks lovely and the flower arrangements are superb.

So, I feel a bit diffident in asking you to consider visiting our Pett Church Flower Festival on the weekend of 5th/6th October (10am till 4pm). It has a Keatsian theme this year: 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. The Festival is sponsored by about twenty people who donate in memory of a loved one and we have a list of those who are remembered and the sponsors in large print at the back and at the front of the church.

Reading those names and gazing at the beautiful flower arrangements brings on a need for tea or coffee and savouries and cakes, and this need is amply satisfied by the refreshment stall. There are a few other stalls including produce. And there is a generous raffle. This year the Flower Festival will be combined with our Harvest Thanksgiving which will take the form of a short service on the Sunday at 9.30am. So do think of coming to the Pett Church Flower Festival.

WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

CHARIOTS of FIRE

The poster features a central silhouette of a runner with arms raised in triumph, surrounded by other runners in various stages of motion. They are running on a track that is a stylized Union Jack flag. The background is a blurred Union Jack.

1981 Hugh Hudson Drama ... Starring Ben Cross,
Ian Charleson, Ian Holm, Nigel Havers, John Gielgud,
Lindsay Anderson, Written by Colin Welland.

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING
Admission Free
Refreshments, Pay Bar.
Come early, enjoy a drink or two.



Last Call for the Winchelsea 2025 Book

Have you returned your questionnaire for the Winchelsea 2025 Book? The deadline is drawing close; we need responses to be with us by the end of this month.

We realise that not everyone wants to take part in the project but we very much hope that as many people as possible will choose to be included. The response at this point is very encouraging indeed.

Quite a few of you have already had your photos taken for the book and Jonathan Murphy will be taking the rest between the middle of September and late October.

As well as including residents street-by-street the book will also have sections on Winchelsea societies, on the school and shops (not forgetting the chip van) and will try to give a snapshot of the town 25 years after the millennium.

If you didn't get a questionnaire and need one, or have any other queries please email rakaposhi123@hotmail.com or chriswinchelsea@icloud.com

The editorial team are Gillian Alexander, Chris Chappell, David Merrifield, Jerry Moss, Jonathan Murphy, David Page and Jennifer Sutherland.



Winchelsea Summer Fete

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2024 Fete. The weather smiled, and a good time was had by all. Some changes this year included free admission, a move criticised by some around the town, but it was felt that we couldn't go on being the only local fete that charged an entrance fee, especially with us having to compete with other (bigger events) happening on the same day. It was hoped that a pound not spent at the gate might well be a pound spent in the fete itself. We believe this to be case and we're happy we made the change.

Different, too this year was the introduction of entertainment. The popular Pett Slip Buoys delighted everyone with their shanties, and later on Rheda's Dream, a recently formed Morris team from St Leonards, provided a splendid prequel to the ever-popular dog show. As usual, Crick Hooper and her team put on a fantastic event.

Ellie Bourn cast her expert, judge's eye over the various classes and Hector the Beagle (quite understandably) won best in show. We estimate that, including monies taken by societies, the event raised over £3,000 for good causes. We are indebted to Crick and everyone who gave up their valuable time to help out on the day, to all the societies and stallholders who attended, mayor Peter Cosstick and all the unsung heroes such as the car-park gang, It couldn't have happened without you - thank you!



Second Wednesday

And just like that, we're back. Summer's coming to an end. We've had the Fête, the Art Exhibition and the Jazz Festival. Autumn beckons in the shape of the Rye Wine and Food Harvest Fair and the Arts Festival, so plenty left to look forward to. And of course many of us chose to go away in September, no longer tied to school holidays, or just waiting for cooler weather in the Mediterranean.

The first Second Wednesday gathering following our August break, is on 11th September at 2.30. We are joined by Isabel Ryan, prior to her Arts Festival workshop, a couple of days later in Rye.

Though her father John is more commonly known as the creator of Captain Pugwash and Mary, Mungo and Midge, he was simultaneously the in-house cartoonist of the Catholic Herald for over 40 years.

Like all successful cartoonists, he knew his subject matter inside out. He was an alumnus of Ampleforth, a friend of Basil Hume and had a brother who was a Dominican priest-philosopher. He was also a skilled draughtsman, with a gentle, colloquial sense of humour. He teased his audience with benevolence and wit, not politics or admonition. And remember, he started in the sixties, a time of huge cultural and doctrinal change, both nationally and globally.

Religion, like humour, is a deeply personal thing, but satirised with skill or sensitivity, one can get on just fine with the other. Laughter is often the way in to a complex subject matter or situation. If I say: "Dave Allen" at this point, you'll know what I mean. More latterly, one of my favourite lines in a TV series is when the archdeacon in 'Rev.' turns to Tom Hollander's character, Reverend Adam, and says: "Make this quick, I have a reservation at The Ivy at 1.00"...

So join us to discover an entirely different side to someone you thought you already knew. Back in the New Hall, back with friends and neighbours, back for tea and back for another enlightening talk. *Natasha Robinson*





Garden Society Summer Show

On Saturday 24th August, Winchelsea Garden Society held its annual Summer Show in the New Hall. Despite Storm Lilian bringing winds and heavy rain, our members made 225 entries to the show. We were very pleased to see that a number of these entries were from new members or members who had not previously entered shows. In total 37 people entered: our best total for several years.

Although the weather outside was grim, the show looked lovely and lots of people came and enjoyed looking at the flowers, fruit, vegetables and handicrafts. The raffle was also successful and helps to fund our activities during the year.

Our thanks go to Debbie Costick, our Mayoress, for handing out the rosettes and trophies to the prize winners at the end of the afternoon.

We could not have held the show without the help that many members gave to setting it up and running it. I would like to thank David, Jennifer, Barrie, John, Jeremy, Caroline, Graham Large, Hilary and Rob.

Our thanks also go to Jo, Crick and Angela for once again providing refreshments and to the raffle team of Cheryl, Judith, Cynthia and Mary.



It was particularly good to have Cynthia Martin back with us at the show. She was given a special Royal Horticultural Society award for her contribution to the Society. We also had good news from Roger Tidyman about Mary's recovery. He entered the show on her behalf and she came first with one of her entries.

Sally Rhodda



Cup winners:

Challenge Bowl for Vegetables and Fruit - Geoff Foot

Challenge Cup for Flowers - Sally Rhodda

David & Margaret Bowen Memorial Cup - Sally Rhodda

John Dunk Cup for Dahlias - John Dunk

Challenge Cup for Floral Art - Celia King

Challenge Cup for Handicrafts - Shirley Meyer



Winchelsea New Hall

The New Hall raised over £1,100 on the day of the Summer Fete on 10th August with our lunches and cream teas.

Thanks so very much to everyone who supported us and to all our wonderful helpers on the day. As we had some left-over scones (and they freeze so well) we are running a one-off pop-up Cream Tea afternoon on Saturday 31st August in the Court Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Please come and support us again (and bring any visitors that might be staying with you). Hopefully we can boost our total even further which will help so much with the refurbishment of the gents' toilets.

The winner of the 100 Club prize in August is number 78, Congratulations! The £100 should be in your bank account by now.

Christmas Fair

It's hard to start planning for Christmas when we are having such glorious late August weather, but plan we must.

Please put Saturday 16th November in your diaries. We are currently securing stall holders and we have lots of new faces wishing to attend (and we will have some very creative produce on sale this year, perfect for Christmas gifts).

More on this to follow over the next few months.

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



Rother District Council Community Fund

Winchelsea New Hall's most recent project was for the refurbishment of the Ladies Toilets, completed in the first quarter of 2024. The New Hall was the recipient of a £3,802 grant from Rother's Community Fund Scheme to make up the award of other grants to total 50% of the project cost.

To mark the completion, the Chair of Winchelsea New Hall Management Committee, Ali Casey was pleased to shake the hand of local parish councillor Chris Chappell, representing Rother District on this occasion.

The New Hall Committee wish to record their gratitude to the District Council and to Cheryl Creaser as our local district councillor for supporting the refurbishment so generously.



Reflections from the Rectory

August draws to a close. The final Garden Society show of the year has taken place. The allotments are still full of growth but the first hints of autumn are in the air.

The curling dry and whitened leaves of the sweet peas, the leafy courgette plants begin to shrivel. The cabbage white butterflies and caterpillars have been very busy on our kale. The sunflowers start to dip and shed their seeds. The crab apples lie heavy on the tree by the allotment gate in beautiful hues of red and yellow and orange.

When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl:
‘Tu-who; Tu-whit, To-who’ a merry note.

The ‘roasted crabs’ in the beautiful epilogue to Shakespeare’s, *Love’s Labour’s Lost* are crab apples, not as I thought for a long time the marine variety. The epilogue speaks of the winter. We still have autumn to come and yet the chill in the evening signals the turning of the year. I have heard the tawny owls calling just as Shakespeare did.

I have always found this a beautiful time of year especially for the September sun which although less intense somehow seems to warm beneath the skin as if recharging our hearts for the coming winter. The cycle of the seasons is reflected in church life and after a long period of ordinary time the festivals start to stack up: Harvest and All Saints, All Souls

when we commemorate those we have lost, Remembrance and Advent when the darkness of the evenings envelops us.

The winter is some way off but the early days of autumn herald the shortening days. Our musical director in Kintbury, where I started my ministry and Shirley sang in the choir, taught us a lovely Iona Community song, "Thank you for the Night". It reminds us that without the contrast of seasons, without the night and day, the light and the dark we would pass over something of the wonder of our lives and very being.

Those times of darkness and loss highlight the times of joy and thanksgiving, without them we would have nothing for which to give thanks, it is part the richness of being.

It is perhaps why I love this season when the leaves begin to fall, the mists to rise and fruit to drop. We turn to ourselves, to the hope that as the year turns we will be reborn. The rebirth that is the gift of a risen Lord. That rebirth comes to us in the shortened days, let us give thanks for the night as we give thanks for the coming of autumn and winter.

Thank you for the night,
A measure of your care.
In darkness, as in light,
You, Lord, are there.

Jonathan

Bible Reading in the New Inn Winchelsea

Our informal Bible reading will continue in September on the 5th of the month, the first Thursday, at 6pm in the New Inn Winchelsea. We will continue to look at the Gospel according to St John. We have already looked at some of the early chapters and plan to consider chapter 11, the Raising of Lazarus.

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 are welcome. Contact Jonathan for more details or with any questions, revdjonathan@btinternet.com 01797 226254



Winchelsea Cricket Club

August saw the game of the season (so far). Northiam arrived in town keen on inflicting more misery upon a Winchelsea team that has, for too long, had to play second fiddle to these arch rivals. Northiam batted well, despite some fine bowling by Tom O'Neil and Michael Broiling.

In reply, Winchelsea stuttered before a fine innings of 56 from Will Wheeler, in partnership with cousin Simon, gave the home team hope, and some lusty blows from James Bateman brought us tantalisingly close before hopes were dashed and we were all out just three runs short.

A visit to Beckley is always entertaining, but player withdrawals in the morning meant we arrived with just nine to play a strong Beckley eleven. Despite this obvious handicap, Winchelsea gave a good showing before finally losing by just 12 runs. Once again, Will Wheeler was the standout Winchelsea player with a fine innings of 68. The game against Ashburnham was cancelled due to our opponents having a chronic shortage of players - a common occurrence these days for many Sunday teams.

September Fixtures

1st Sept - away v Brookland - 1.30pm start

8th Sept - away v Rye CC Chairman's XI - 1pm start

15th Sept - TBC

22nd Sept - away v Mountfield - 1pm start



Winchelsea Archaeological Society

On Wednesday 11th September at the New Hall starting at 6pm, WAS is pleased to host a presentation and discussion led by Dr Andrew Richardson from Isle Heritage CIC. WAS members will remember the excellent talk he gave to the Society in April this year on the Lossenham Project in Newenden.

This replaces a WAS meeting originally planned for Saturday 21st September.

This meeting is about archaeology on National Trust land in Winchelsea. After carrying out geophysical surveying during August, he will present the collated geophysics results and explain his plan for a programme of investigative community fieldwork. The aim is to gather a cohort of willing volunteers for fieldwork (including excavation) likely to commence in October.

He will also provide an update on the National Trust Winchelsea Landscape Revival (WLR) Project.

All are welcome to attend.



Writing in Later Life

At September's Literary Society meeting, artist and part-time writer Peter Davey ponders the activity of writing in 'later years' with some readings from his own works.

Peter has lived in Winchelsea for forty years. His work is influenced by the landscape of East Sussex - the coast, the Downs and Romney Marsh.

Friday 20th September at 7pm for 7.30pm
Lower Court Hall, Winchelsea
Members free, non-members £5



Collecting the King's Dues

Town Chamberlain, Neil Clephane-Cameron will be carrying out his time-honoured annual duty of collecting the King's Dues at the end of this month.

When Queen Elizabeth I visited Winchelsea in the late sixteenth century she was apparently horrified by the state of the town. By then it was in serious decline due to the silting up of the harbour and the loss of its function as a port.

Accordingly, the Queen passed to the Corporation the town gates, along with the revenue from their use, as well as the right to charge ground rent on certain land and properties in the town, known now as the King's Dues. Today these are collected on a totally voluntary basis and the Corporation benefits by about £30 per annum.



Restoration at the Court Hall

On Wednesday 28th August, Winchelsea Corporation signed a contract with the specialist stonemasonry company, Traditional Stone, who are to carry out repairs to the west elevation of the Court Hall and the chimney stack. It has taken us eighteen months to get to this point, which may seem a long time, but as many of us know, carrying out maintenance work on old buildings is never straightforward.

Considering its age the building is in remarkably good condition, but like any building it does need regular maintenance. To help us identify and prioritise the work required, the Corporation commissioned the Thomas Ford Partnership, an architect's practice that specialises in the restoration of ancient buildings. They surveyed the entire building and identified that repairs to the stonework on the west elevation and chimney should be prioritised.

As a grade-one listed building, the Corporation needed to work closely with the Conservation Officer at Rother and other stakeholders. Once those necessary permissions were obtained, four companies were invited to tender, and Traditional Stone, who are based in West Sussex, were eventually chosen.

Work should begin early in September, with the cost being split between the Corporation and FOAM. If you would like to find out more about the history of the building, the work that we are planning now - and in the future, why don't you pop into the Lower Court Hall on either Saturday 14th September or Sunday 15th between 11.30am and 3.30pm. Members of the Corporation will be there to answer any questions, and there will be information boards and copies of the various architects reports available for you to examine.

Winchelsea Corporation





New Inn Charity Quiz Night

There will be a Charity Quiz at the New Inn on Sunday 22nd September at 7pm.

Maximum six per team. Entry £20 per team. Cash prize. Booking now - call 01797 226252 or pop in to the pub.

The theme is, 'Winchelsea, the surrounding area and the Cinque Ports' and proceeds will go to Winchelsea Corporation (Charity number 1192506)



FOAM keep busy

August has been a brilliant month for FOAM. It began with the legendary FOAM bottle stall at the Winchelsea Fete. Over 90 bottles of wine were donated by members and supporters in the town. The stall did brisk business all afternoon and eventually raised an incredible £1,000 topped up by a couple of generous donations.

That money will be put to good use, which brings us to our second piece of good news. On 28th August, contracts were signed for repairs to the Court Hall's west elevation and chimney. FOAM is contributing half of the costs. The next project for the Court Hall will be repairs to the doorway on the ground floor and surrounding stonework. FOAM has agreed to pay for an architect's report and detailed specification; this is required for listed building consent and to obtain tenders. Finally, FOAM have also agreed to cover the cost of removing weeds on top of all three medieval gates.

None of this would be possible without the support of our members, and those that attend our fund-raising events. If you aren't already a member, please consider joining FOAM, it costs just £10 for an individual or £15 for a household. You can join online at <https://membermojo.co.uk/foam/>

FOAM carols will be on Friday 20th December and our famous FOAM quiz on Saturday 22nd February.

FOAM Committee, Chris, Glen, Ian, Mark and Phil.



The Fall of the House of Usher

Newly formed Lines End Theatre Company are staging a unique theatrical event in a medieval cellar in the heart of the ancient town of Winchelsea. Rehearsals are well underway for the first play in the town for many years.

A cast of professional and highly experienced actors will bring this astonishing story to visceral life.

Edgar Allan Poe's masterpiece *The Fall of the House of Usher* is the company's first production, it tells the story of Roderick Usher the doomed master of the eponymous house to which his fate is inextricably linked. Director and designer Nigel Ashton thinks it's without doubt the most terrifying piece of theatre he knows. The extraordinary 13th century, intimate theatre space will immerse the audience in the full glory of this phenomenal gothic tale. With the kind of set and costumes that have become synonymous with Ashton's productions, and a tiny number of tickets available, early booking is recommended.

Friday 25th October:

5pm to 7pm - Performance One - meet at Lower Court Hall

7pm to 9pm - Performance Two - meet at Lower Court Hall

Saturday 26th October:

2pm to 4pm - Performance Three - meet at Lower Court Hall

7pm to 9pm - Performance Four - meet at Lower Court Hall

Buy tickets at ticketsource.co.uk. 50% of tickets have already been sold.



For a video preview of the company in rehearsal, [click here](#)



Cutting the Wildflower Circles

By the time you read this we will have cut down the wildflowers in the churchyard and removed all the vegetation so that, going forward into winter, the ground can be prepared for next year.

Our team worked hard but Jim Kay had been up in the early morning and scythed two meadows, leaving neat piles of clippings.

We raked and bundled moving the vegetation into bags and bins. I must thank all those people from the local community who generously lent their brown bins to aid removal of rubbish but we did not need them as Birdie had offered to remove the greater part of it to the tip. Thank you Birdie.

It can take a few years for a newly planted meadow to settle and find a balance, but careful management is also vital to that. Once the vegetation is cut and removed, the ground is

mowed and scarified to allow for new seeds to be sown and be in close contact with the earth. The plan is to add more spring bulbs for example native daffodils (*narcissus pseudonarcissus*), grape hyacinths, more alliums and crocus and choose a good wildflower seed mix for each circle.

The yellow rattle has weakened the grasses substantially and it is unlikely that we will sow anymore at the moment. Wildflower seeds should do well but, as with all such matters, the weather next year will be very important. We saw small voles and mice living in the meadows, as well as abundant insect life.

Also, I am really delighted to have been asked to visit the wildflower areas made by some Winchelsea residents (they know who they are) in their own gardens this year. What a treat! It is also great to know that the message about the value of biodiversity is reaching people and they are making a personal effort to make a small contribution.

Shirley Meyet





The Western Slopes and access for all

Winchelsea Conservation Society committee have had our second meeting with the Dover NT office staff and are pleased that this channel of communication is proving valuable for all concerned.

It is not that long ago that some residents were told to get off one of the footpaths on the western slopes, and because of this we became concerned as to what access the public was actually to be allowed.

There followed a great deal of research by members of our committee identifying Freeman's Will, and the terms under which the estate was gifted to the NT in lieu of death duties. June Grindley, a committee member, also found this very telling reference in Hansard that reads – '...the land was to be used for Public enjoyment'. In addition, if this land was not needed for a by-pass it would become 'inalienable'.

Of more recent concern was the arrival of twenty-plus padlocks on 33 mostly brand-new gates on NT land. Bearing in mind the NT aims to put livestock on the land that they are rewilding, we are aware of the safety issues that cattle may pose. However, we have begun discussions on the need for all of these gates to be locked and the necessity of having so much metal fencing as opposed to hedging.

Above all our research has established that the many unregistered footpaths across the western slopes have been used for centuries. They are historic and the NT, we believe, are understanding and open to the idea that the public can use them. This was the aim of the gift of this land to the NT in the first place.

We also continue to discuss open access to the western slopes and a number of other issues that are relevant to us all. These include access to the Beacon for national events, a problem that has only recently emerged.

We also look forward meeting planned for Wednesday 23rd October involving all residents from the town and the NT which we are delighted to note will include a plenary session.

Committee of the Winchelsea Conservation Society.



Roof Garden

Mosses, ivy, and Virginia creeper transitioning from green to autumn red, turn the roof of Sandra Mackenzie Smith's house at *Backfields End* into a garden in its own right.



Wedding celebration

As many will know, our daughter was married here in Winchelsea at the end of June. We feel incredibly blessed that Abigail and Sebastian chose to marry here. The church looked beautiful, thanks to Nigel's stunning colourful floral arrangements, and Jonathan officiated at the ceremony. Coming out of church into the warm June sunshine, it was so lovely to see friends and neighbours who came to watch.

We all walked down Friars Road to Greyfriars where we celebrated with family and friends. Drinks were served in the lovely grounds, with the friary ruins providing a stunning backdrop. We all enjoyed a wedding breakfast in the former ballroom of the house, overlooking the gardens, followed by a cocktail hour and dancing which rounded off the most wonderful day in the most beautiful location.

Caroline and Jeremy Naylor



Italian Wine Tasting

The next Winchelsea Wine Society wine tasting will take place in the New Hall at 6.30pm Friday 4th October.

We will introduce the first leg of a trilogy of Italian wine tastings, spread over three years, to gain a better understanding of what this great wine producing country has to offer from North, Central and Southern Italy. Our first tasting will focus on Northern Italy featuring three benchmark whites and three classic reds, including top notch Barolo and Amarone wines.

Simon Legge will be joined by Sergio Rebecchi to guide us through the wines and regions they come from. Sergio has also selected a superior Prosecco to get the evening off to a convivial start.

Tickets for this event are £22.50 each. Availability is limited to 45 people. To reserve your place, please contact winchelseawinesociety@gmail.com Bank details and deadline for payment will be sent out with acknowledgement

of bookings. On Friday 29th November, the Winchelsea Wine Society will celebrate the arrival of Beaujolais Nouveau, summoning the heady days of the 1970s, when folk flocked to gather the fresh fruity juice before it passed on to calm maturity. Why has this annual festive habit has all but faded away? We intend to revive it. Of course there is more to Beaujolais than Beaujolais Nouveau, so we will also taste three premium Cru Beaujolais wines to add a little gravitas to what will be a fun, retro evening. Booking for this event will open in October.

If you are not yet a WWS member, please consider joining - at no charge this year - so that we can give you early notice of these and other future events. Just email winchelseawinesociety@gmail.com



Harvest Supper Saturday 5th October

The church will host a Harvest Supper on the evening Saturday 5th October at 7pm. This isn't a fundraiser, but an opportunity for the community to come together at the New Hall for a supper and a dance, with music by the Climax Ceilidh Band. climaxceilidhband.co.uk

Tickets will cost £20 for adults and £5 for children and will be on sale at Church Market from September - or contact Nigel Ashton nigelmarkashton@gmail.com



Winchelsea Beach in September

Mothers' Prayers

on Tuesday 3rd at El Indalo, Old Harbour Farm Lane
at 10am.

First Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Starting on Wednesday 4th September and then on the first
Wednesday of every month in Winchelsea Beach Community
Hall. 10am until 12. Coffee, tea, biscuits and cake £1 per
item. Meet your friends and make new ones.
Entrance free All welcome.

Fellowship Lunch

in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall on 27th at 12.30 for
1pm. The charity we will be supporting this month is the
Rye Food Bank. All are welcome. Please contact Mary
Parker if you intend to come.



Ann Dawson 1933 - 2024

Winchelsea said farewell to Ann Dawson at a service at St Thomas's on 9th August. Until last year she lived at Rose Cottage in German Street, where the door remained always on the latch for her many friends to pop in.

Welcoming and full of humour, Ann took a full part in the life of church and town, particularly relishing anything musical. She had a rich alto voice and sang with the church choir, Winchelsea Singers and the Hastings Philharmonic choir.

[*Click here to read the tribute given at her funeral by Ann's son Gordon*](#)



Icklesham Parish Council

Future Meetings

9th September – 6.15pm – Planning Meeting followed by Full Council Meeting at Rye Harbour Village Hall.

23rd September – 6.15pm Planning Meeting followed by Open Spaces Committee Meeting.

The agendas for these meetings are published on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards the week prior to the meetings.

Village Fetes

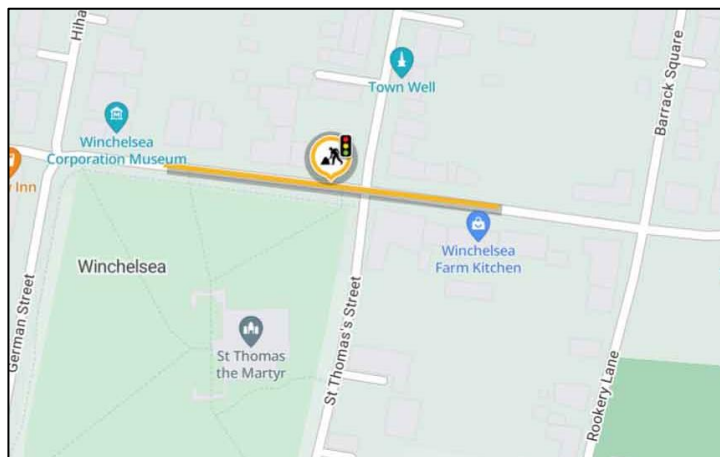
This year, the Parish Council decided to have a stall at all the village fetes within the Parish and Councillors attended the fetes at Icklesham, Winchelsea and Rye Harbour. It was lovely to see and meet lots of residents and visitors and get feedback on any problems. The Parish Council would like to thank the event organisers for organising such enjoyable events for local people and raising funds that they will benefit from.

2023/24 Audit

The 2023/24 External Audit is now complete and all associated documents may be found on the Annual Return section of our website.

Winchelsea Streetlight Upgrade

We are pleased to report that the upgrade of the Winchelsea Streetlights to LED gear trays has finally been completed. Hopefully residents haven't noticed too much of a difference but the upgrade will significantly reduce energy consumption thus saving 70% in costs.



Road Works on Winchelsea High Street

East Sussex Highways that they will be undertaking a drainage investigation on the High Street on Monday 9th September. The road will remain open, however there will be traffic lights between 8am and 4pm.

Allotments

There are some vacant plots becoming available at the Cricket Field Allotment Site (pictured here) so if you are interested in joining the waiting list please contact the Clerk who will send you an application form or this can be downloaded from our website www.icklesham-pc.gov.uk

Allotment tenant meetings have been organised for Wednesday 4th September at 7pm at Rye Harbour Village Hall and Wednesday 18th September at 7pm at Winchelsea New Hall

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 email ickleshampc@hotmail.co.uk or write to PO Box 148, Winchelsea TN31 9FP 07714 169901



Nick Chillingworth

Winchelsea Residents Association

Welcome to our September update. We have been working hard to establish new communications and keep on top of current local issues. We have increased our membership and added local experience and skills to our committee. Thank you for continuing to support us and we hope you find the update helpful.

Communications

We have set up a new email address for the Association, RA@winchelsea.com. You can contact us at this address and members will receive information and updates from the same address. We hold a secure database of members' contact details. You can email WRA if you would like to check or update your details.

We have also changed our website so that it is part of the wider Corporation website. It will hold committee members details, regular updates, committee minutes and wider information related to WRA activity. You can access the site at winchelsea.com/RA We will continue to publish updates in the Parish magazine and shop noticeboard.

New Committee members

Following changes to the Committee in March when some long standing members stood down, we have recruited three new members, Julie Gurr, Ian Menzies and David Richards.

Each have good experience that will be hugely helpful to the Association and we hope members will meet them at the AGM in October. The full list of Committee members will be on our new webpages.

Traffic

Improving road safety continues to be a priority for WRA. High volumes of through traffic, and the hazards of crossing the A259 to the New Hall and at the bottom of Strand Hill are particular concerns that have to be addressed. We are in contact with National Highways and East Sussex County Council and intend to work with them to establish a safer local environment.

We understand the Parish Council has closed the funding previously available for local traffic calming. It continues to collect data on numbers and speeds of traffic through the town which is sent for information to East Sussex police. We are not aware of any current activity by the Parish Council related to local road safety.

Toilets

We are in regular contact with Rother DC and understand yet another survey is needed because of the extent of disrepair. Only after the survey can a decision be made on whether the building can be repaired and who will be responsible for its future maintenance. In the meantime, it remains open.

Dropped kerbs

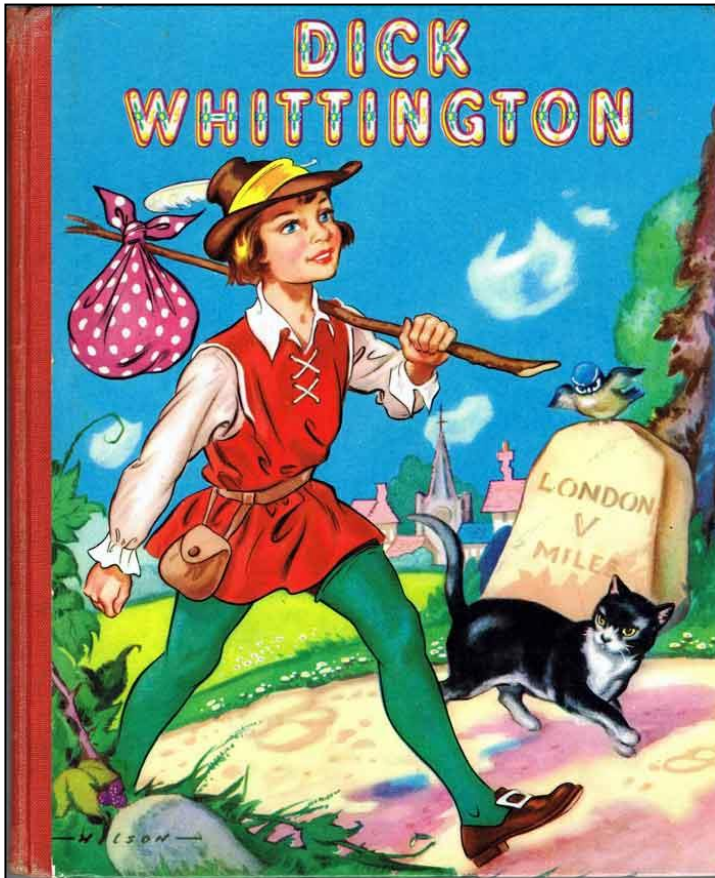
It is good to see the new dropped kerbs in place and we have chased up Rother to deal with the remaining site on the corner of Back Lane and Monks Walk. It is scheduled for August but timing depends on completion of the sink hole works in the High Street.

Annual Fete

A successful and enjoyable day thanks to the hard work of Cricket Club and New Hall volunteers. WRA had a stall and signed up 14 new members to add to our membership of over 200 residents.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be on Saturday 26th October at the New Hall. We have invited our new MP, Helena Dollimore, to speak and our local Rother councillors, and you will meet our new committee members.



Dick Whittington A Panto for Winchelsea

Friday 24th January and Saturday 25th January
in the New Hall.

Curtain rises on town scene with open shop entrance in background. Enter Dick and Timmy the Dog

Dick: At last! I've arrived in Winchelsea. What a beautiful day! What a beautiful town! People say its streets are paved with gold. I've walked all the way from Bexhill.

Townperson: (crossing stage). You must be mad. You could have got the 100 bus from Hastings station. It's very regular. And the trains stop every hour at Winchelsea now, you know. (Exit)

Dick: This dog has followed me all the way from Icklesham.

Townperson: (crossing stage the other way) I'm not surprised. There's not much to stop for in Icklesham. (Exit)

Dick: What's your name, buddy?

Timmy: (whispers in Dick's ear)

Dick: Pleased to meet you, Timmy. I'm Dick –

Dick Whittington. What you do like to eat, Timmy?

Timmy: (gruff, dog-like voice) Rrrrrrats! They're Grrrrreat!

Here is a tiny snippet from our panto script. The plot is perfect for Winchelsea; a young man comes to town with his dog, wins the heart of the shop keeper's daughter and after a tussle with King Rat becomes Mayor. So why don't you come along to our meeting, at the New Hall on Tuesday 17th September and join the fun.

Come to our audition at 7pm if you would like a starring role, a small part, or would like to join the chorus. By the way, if audition sounds a bit scary, it's really just an informal get-together where we can start to sort out who might do what. And if you can't make that date, don't worry, just let us know you are interested in a role.

And if acting is not your thing, but you would like to help out backstage or front of house, come along at 8pm, and have a chat with the production team.

And of if you don't fancy any of those tasks, you can still lend your support, by coming along to the show on Friday January 24th and Saturday January 25th and help us raise some money for good causes.

Profits are going to be split between the New Hall and the charity, *Demelza*. And of course, no Winchelsea event would be complete without a raffle, and ours will be used to raise money for the church.

Panto HQ email chriswinchelsea@icloud.com

Nigel Ashton, Ali Casey, Chris Chappell, Peter Cosstick, Glen and Jo Marks.

A panto for Winchelsea Jan 2025
DICK WHITTINGTON
and his dog



**Would you
like to take
part?**

If you
would like a
role, or help
backstage or front
of house, why don't
you come along &
join the fun!
WOOF!

Tuesday Sept. 17th
in the New Hall
7pm for parts in panto
8pm for backstage etc.

Panto HQ chriswinchelsea@icloud.com





Rye Food Bank

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

The next monthly doorstep collection from those of you who are regular donors on the morning of Tuesday 17th September.

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



Pett Level Rescue Boat

We finally welcomed some summer warmth and sunshine and saw our beaches fuller with visitors. We had a very busy few weeks, with multiple taskings and community events.. read on for our news.

After a relatively quiet start to the summer, the end of July and August saw a real spike in shouts. On one day we were tasked three times to incidents at Camber – in addition to being called upon for first aid assistance. At this time of year, our taskings are often to search for missing people on busy beaches – which involve multiple units and cross-agency collaboration.

One search took place late in the evening and 10 miles off Hastings. In pitch black and very choppy waters, this was a challenging situation for our crew who were out for over three hours. We train to be prepared, confident and competent, but these taskings are hard and we thank our amazing team for being so dedicated to our ultimate mission to preserve lives at sea.

Our new website is LIVE at plirb.org. It is still work in progress but includes lots about who we are, what we do, training, news, an events calendar, our current fundraising projects and, of course, our fabulous Pett Slip Buoys! Please

have a look and feedback any comments! We also have a new email address info@plirb.org.

Boathouse Project

We have secured planning permission to develop our boathouse to create a footprint and facilities to future proof our service. It is part of our five-year strategy which also includes the purchase of a slightly larger new rescue boat (approx. 3 years) and securing Declared Facility status in 2025. To help raise funds, we are running a campaign through which you can purchase a commemorative 'brick' which will become a display inside the new boathouse.

You can choose the amount you donate and leave a short message to include on the display. To donate, visit the campaign page donate.giveasyoulive.com or email info@plirb.org for other ways you can contribute.

Cliff falls

Visitors may have noticed the dramatic cliff falls that have recently occurred at Cliff End. We urge everyone to be extremely cautious when walking near the cliffs and to avoid sitting directly underneath – cliff slips can happen at any time. If you are welcoming visitors, please do advise them to be vigilant and take care.

Community and youth group visits

Being a valuable part of our community is hugely important to us. We often welcome local groups to our boathouse – to showcase our boat assets, describe the various roles that volunteers can get involved with and provide some general beach and sea safety advice. If you belong to a local club or group that would like to arrange a visit, please get in touch at info@plirb.org or call 01424 812 457.

PLIRB and Pett Slip Buoys fantastic summer

Our volunteers had a very busy summer. We attended as many local community events as possible – pretty much every weekend we are out and about, providing BBQ services and doing what we can to raise money. Our brilliant Pett Slip Buoys had numerous gigs – The Two Sawyers, Nearly on the Beach Concert, the RNLI 200th Big Concert, Winchelsea Fete, Pett Flower Show, Rural Past Times Festival, Fairlight Bowls Club and Rye Country Show – plus some private gigs. A huge thank you to everyone who supported us.

All proceeds from Pett Slip Buoys will go towards our future new rescue boat. Other donations will go towards our boathouse development and ongoing operational costs.



Join our team

We are always open to new volunteers joining us – there are many ways to get involved. If you're looking for a new challenge or want to be part of a friendly and talented team, do get in touch.

www.plirb.org / info@plirb.org / 01424 812457

National Trust Rye & District Association | Monthly Flyer

We offer a range of enjoyable events each month to members and non-members of our association. Our 5 mile circular walks cost £3 and begin at 10.00am. All walks end with a rewarding pub lunch and a quiz. Our talks with popular guest speakers cover a range of topics and are held from 2.00pm at Brede Village Hall, and cost £5 for members/£10 for non-members – including refreshments.



Annual Golf Day Friday 6 September

SOME PLACES STILL REMAINING



This year we return once more to **Tenterden Golf Club**, where we have previously held very successful competitions. It will be held on Friday 6th September, with bacon rolls to start, and play followed by an excellent lunch in the Club House. If you play golf, book your place and join us!

Walk & Pub Lunch Tuesday 10 September



Our September walk begins and ends in the beautiful Kentish village of Appledore at **The Black Lion** pub. The building dates from the early 1800s and was previously known as The Red Lion. It is now a family-run free house and restaurant serving traditional British fare and locally produced real ale.

Afternoon Tea Thursday 19 September

SOME PLACES STILL REMAINING



Situated in the landscaped grounds and overlooking the main lake of the popular Hawkhurst Fish Farm is the **Waterside Café**. Here we will be enjoying a luxurious early afternoon tea, and hopefully sitting outside if the weather is fair. Expect a wide variety of sandwiches, cakes and much more.

SOME FUTURE EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY: **Outing:** 10 October Churchill's Chartwell / **Talk:** 17 October Coastal Cocoa – all about chocolate / **Quiz Night** and **Supper:** 24 October

Contact: Dee Williams (membership) 07760 115413 membership@nationaltrust.org.uk / Julie Etches (bookings) 01797 225317 julie.etches054@btinternet.com



St Michael's Hospice

Lights of Love

Take time to reflect and remember those we miss at a St Michael's Hospice Lights of Love event this December. Add a star dedication in their memory to one of the Lights of Love trees and watch the tree lights shine bright. One participant shared, "It was emotional but therapeutic and there was so much understanding and love." Another said; "Lights of Love will always be a time when we can reflect on the wonderful life we shared with our loved ones."

Lights of Love services will be held across Hastings and Rother on Sunday 1st December and Sunday 8th December, visit stmichaelshospice.com/event-diary to find out where. There will also be a non-religious service taking place at the Arthur Easton Centre at St Michael's Hospice in St Leonards on Sea, on Thursday 5th December at 6.30pm.

Email fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com or call them on 01424 456396 to request a star to dedicate to your loves

ones. Alternatively, pick one up from any of the St Michael's Hospice shops, or complete an online request form at stmichaelshospice.com/event-diary

Move for St Michael's Hospice

Participating in events that get you out and about and moving, such as triathlons, marathons or sponsored challenges, is a fantastic way to support St Michael's Hospice. Whether large or small, are a great way of enjoying the outdoors whilst also supporting the Hospice's vital mission to support the community of Hastings and Rother to live well with dying, death and loss.

Freddie said "I wanted to raise as much money as possible for the Hospice, as it's a local charity to where I live and relies on fundraising. I took part in the Easter 50 Ultras Challenge in Winsor, walking the route in one day." If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please don't hesitate to email their Fundraising Team on fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com or call them on 01424 456396.

Elliot's story

20-year-old Elliot struck gold on their first draw, when they signed up to play the St Michael's Hospice Lottery. Just a week after joining, they received an exciting phone call from the Lottery Team, informing them that they'd won the top prize of £2,000. Elliot said; "Playing the Lottery is a great way to donate. I signed up because my grandad was cared for by the Hospice 20 years ago, it'll always have a special place in my family's heart."

You too can support St Michael's Hospice by joining their weekly lottery for £1 per entry, per week. Will you be a lucky winner, just like Elliot? Visit stmichaelshospice.com/lottery or call 01424 456396 to sign up today. Players must be 18+.

What's On Weekly At Winchelsea New Hall

Mondays 09.30-10.15	Pilates with Hannah	Suitable for all. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com
Mondays 15.00-15.50	Zumba Gold	Suitable for all. Contact Daisy at fitnessbythesea@outlook.com
Mondays 16.00-17.00	Pilates with Celia	Suitable for all ages and abilities. Contact Celia on kingcelia54@gmail.com
Tuesdays 10.00-11.00	Yoga with Natasha	Suitable for everyone from beginners to experienced. Contact Natasha on 07946 399211 or email nn@natashanandiniyogini.com
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 rosiero96@icloud.com
Thursdays 09.30-10.30	Scottish Dancing	A fun, friendly class, suitable for beginners. Contact Maddy at maddycoelho@hotmail.com
Thursdays 18.00-19.00	Legs, Bums and Tums New Class	Contact Rachel at Rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com
Fridays 09.30-10.15	Pilates with Hannah	All welcome. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com
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 amanda@beacroft.net

*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

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar September 2024

Sat 31st Aug	New Hall Cream Teas - 2 till 4pm
Sunday 1st	8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 4pm
Tuesday 3rd	Mothers' Prayers - 10am
Wednesday 4th	First Wednesday Coffee Morning - WB Community Hall - 10am to 12
Thursday 5th	Bible Reading - New Inn - 6pm
Saturday 7th	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12
Sunday 8th	8.30am: BCP Holy Communion at Pett Level 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Wednesday 11th	Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm Archaeological Society - New Hall - 6pm
Saturday 14th	Ride and Stride weekend Wesley's Chapel open 10am to 5pm Take the Floor - Wesley's Chapel - 2pm Attic Sale - St Thomas's - 2.30pm
Sunday 15th	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Tuesday 17th	Pantomime meeting - New Hall
Friday 20th	Literary Society - Court Hall - 7 for 7.30pm
Saturday 21st	Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm
Sunday 22nd	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Charity Quiz - New Inn - 7pm
Friday 27th	Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
Sunday 29th	11am: Benefice Eucharist at Winchelsea
Fri 4th Oct	Wine Society - New Hall - 6.30pm
Sat 5th Oct	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12 Harvest Thanksgiving - Wesley's Chapel - 11am Harvest Supper - New Hall - 7pm Pett Church Flower Festival - Saturday and Sunday

Further ahead

Sat 12th Oct	Winchelsea Arts Concert
Fri 25th & Sat 26th Oct	Fall of the House of Usher performances
Sat 26th Oct	Residents' Association AGM
Sat 16th Nov	Christmas Fair



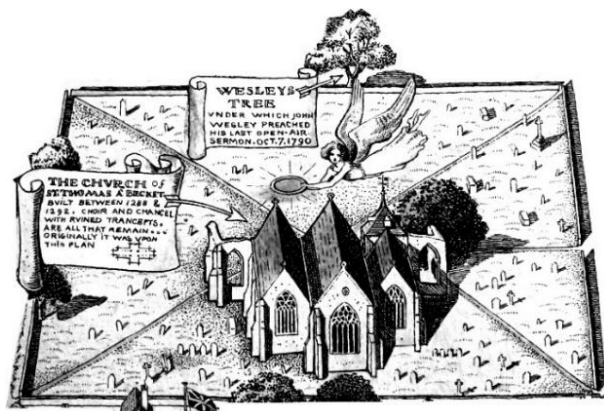
**Please send copy for the October Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
before Monday 30th September**

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

Celia King
 Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
 01797 227858 kingcelia54@gmail.com
 Nigel Ashton
 Winchelsea Cottage, High Street TN36 4EA
 01797 222023 nigelmarkashton@gmail.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Dale Saxby
 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 towercottage@btinternet.com

Parish Magazine

Editor David Page
 4 Kent Close TN36 4EX
 01797 226524 ryeview@gmail.com