

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2025



Howard's Hellebores *Linda Bass*



Gavin McFadyean

A Fond Farewell

People from the town and from Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett churches came together on 7th February to celebrate Jonathan and Shirley's seven years with us and their contribution to our community.

Churchwarden, Nigel Ashton, affirmed the way in which Jonathan had grown the church and, with Shirley, had been so involved in the life of the town. Jonathan replied, remembering someone's shock discovery when he arrived that 'he's got a dog - and a wife!'. He also paid tribute to the support he and Shirley had received from members of the community who are no longer with us: from Alan McKinna and Ann Dawson.

Churchwarden, Celia King, remembered taking Jonathan round the parish before he was interviewed for the job and also spoke about the support he had given her. She presented Shirley with two red 'St Thomas' roses for their future garden.

On behalf of Pett Church, which came under Jonathan's care a few years after he arrived, Angela Hawksley praised the enthusiasm and joy in his preaching: "We always felt he cared about us".

Mayor, Peter Cosstick, remembered support for the Guy Fawkes Society and David Merrifield spoke on behalf of the four mayors for whom Jonathan had been chaplain.

Jonathan and Shirley will be moving from the Rectory in early March. For an evocative account of their time here and lots of pictures, have a look at Natasha Robinson's article [in Rye News](#)

A message from the Rectory

Jonathan and Shirley would like to thank the community and in particular all those who so generously donated to the leaving gift of the beautiful painting by Paul Evans and generous cheque. We will be very sad to leave but I'm certain we will want to take the opportunity to visit in the future. Many people have extended invitations to us and I think once we have established ourselves we will be only too delighted to accept.

It has been a great privilege to have spent seven years in this community and to have ministered to you. We have both thoroughly enjoyed being involved in many of the numerous activities and societies and Shirley will be especially sad to leave behind the Mothing Group, the Garden Society and Winchelsea Wildlife.

We are all delighted to hear that Gavin McFadyean has offered to help look after the garden during the vacancy and we do hope that eventually it will be something to tempt a new Rector for the future.

We would also like to thank everyone who came to the garage sale and coffee morning on 22nd February. We raised £145.50 for the *Seaview Project* for the homeless in Hastings.

A message from St Thomas' School

In their latest newsletter to parents, the staff of St Thomas' Primary School wrote this.

'As Rev. Mr. Meyer embarks on his well-earned retirement, we take a moment to reflect on the profound impact he has had on our school and community. His warmth, kindness,

and unwavering dedication to St Thomas' have enriched the lives of so many children, staff, and families over the years.

'Through his inspiring Church services - Christingle, Christmas, and Easter - he brought our school and wider community together in faith, joy, and celebration. His storytelling in Collective Worship on Thursdays was something we all looked forward to, filling our halls with wisdom, laughter, and reflection.

'We will fondly remember his breadmaking sessions with the children, where he not only taught them a skill but also shared the deeper meaning of breaking bread together. During the challenges of the Covid lockdown, his online stories provided comfort and connection, reminding us all of the strength found in faith and community. His involvement in *Open the Book* brought Bible stories to life in the most engaging and memorable ways.

'Rev. Mr. Meyer's presence at St Thomas' has been truly special, and we will miss him greatly. As he steps into retirement, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for all he has done and wish him joy, rest, and many new adventures ahead. Thank you, Mr. Meyer, for your unwavering support, kindness, and dedication—you will always be part of our St Thomas' family.'



Parishes of Winchelsea and Icklesham



ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
5th March at 6pm
at St Thomas' Winchelsea

winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk



Winchelsea New Hall

Gents' Toilet and Grant Funding

Everyone will be glad to know the Gents' toilet will be open again in the hall in two weeks' time once the decorators have finished. We are delighted that we have been successful in gaining a considerable amount of grant funding for the final phase of the renovations. We have received £2,310 from Rother District Council from their Carbon Reduction Scheme, this money has been used to help pay for new double-glazed sash windows.

We have received £3,000 from the Little Cheyne Court Windfarm towards the builders' and flooring contractors' costs and £750 from the Rye Fund towards the plumbing work. Finally, we have received £4,224 from HMG's Platinum Jubilee Fund towards the total budget.

This has been supplemented by generous community fundraising at a series of events including the Auction of Promises last March, our monthly Film Club, the 100 Club, Summer Fete Refreshments, Christmas Fair, the Bollywood Night and the Burns Night Supper, Thank you all for your generous support.

Second Wednesday Society Donation

A big thank you to the Second Wednesday Society who have just donated £500 to the New Hall. This will be hugely

helpful for the projects we need to undertake in 2025 and beyond.

100 Club

The winning number for the 100 Club for February is 12. You should have already been contacted by the time you read this. Congratulations!



Chlo Street

Presentation to Danny

Danny Watkins came with his wife and daughter to Sunday lunch on 23rd February little suspecting - well, maybe suspecting a little - what lay in store.

Paul and Debbie Ramsey had coordinated an after-lunch presentation to Danny to mark his retirement after seventeen years at the Little Shop. Getting on for fifty members of the community turned out to thank him for all the ways he looked after us over those years, not least during the pandemic.



Ian Rowlands

FOAM Quiz

On Saturday 22nd February the annual FOAM Quiz was held in the New Hall, and twelve teams battled for our prestigious trophy, last awarded for pianoforte in 1971. There was the usual eclectic mix of questions, some local and some further afield. New this year was a round of theme tunes, played by our musical maestro Jonathan Murphy.

Questions were curated by Chris Chappell, presented by Ian Rowlands and scored by Maddy Coelho. Phil Mack and Mark Harris were front of house, and our magnificent team of helpers, provided a fantastic meal of lasagne and cheesecake. Thanks to Dave Richards, Anne Magee, Helen Morris and Cheryl Fraser Sampson, for their help on the night and to Crick Hooper, John McGeown, Penny West, David Dickson and Nicola Harris for cooking the lasagne. The eventual winners were 'Paprika', captained by Paul Youlten.

FOAM AGM A date for the diary. Our AGM will be held on Saturday 5th April in the Court Hall at 2pm. The agenda and any supporting documents will be distributed to members towards the end of March.



World Day of Prayer 2025

This year's service, which has been prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands, will be held in St Anthony's RC Church in Rye on Friday 7th March 2025 at 10.30am.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the service and join in a wonderful wave of prayer which encircles the globe, praying with, and for, the Cook Islands and its people.

The Choirs and Musicians of
King's College School Wimbledon
directed by Peter Hatch and George de Voil

Gloria *in excelsis!*

A Concert of Sacred and Secular Choral Music

Sunday 16th March 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



Book tickets here

winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Front Garden of the Month

Winchelsea is a town rich in splendid back gardens but they are mostly hidden from public view, but our townscape also owes a lot to residents their front gardens and verges.

Garden Society would like to celebrate their contribution by highlighting a different garden winner every month this year. The name of the chosen front garden, courtyard or verge will appear with its photograph from next month onwards.

Howard Norton

Open Gardens

There won't be a spring charity garden opening this year but Winchelsea gardens will open for St Michael's Hospice on Saturday 31st May, for the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 5th July and for the Friends of the Memorial Hospital, Rye on Sunday 6th July.



VE Day 80th Anniversary Event

Thursday 8th May is the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day), the final defeat of Axis Forces in Europe.

To commemorate this anniversary the Winchelsea Millennium Artefacts Society (WMAS) is planning an event starting at the New Hall and concluding with a piper-led procession to the Beacon and the ceremonial lighting.

The reception in the New Hall will begin at 7pm with wine and canapes and a display of background storyboards. The beacon will be lit at 9.30pm in conjunction with all other national and official beacon events.

Once the details of the programme and timetable are finalised, they will appear in the April and May editions of the Parish Magazine.

Future of the Little Shop

Town Meeting

**Sunday 23rd March at 3pm
at the New Hall**

**Please come along to hear more about how we can
all make sure we keep this vital community asset**

The Little Shop Steering Group: David Richards, Rosemarie Roberts, Ian Rowlands,
Ali Casey & Glen Marks. Email shopgroup@winchelsea.com, mobile 07926 128737.

07926 128737

shopgroup@winchelsea.com



Roger Jones

Winter turns to Spring

Following on from last month's article, here is an update of all things wildlife in and around Winchelsea.

Readers of a certain age may remember the knowledgeable little wooden toy, Professor Yaffle, who enlightened Bagpuss and his friends on children's television. 'Yaffle' is the old name for the Green Woodpecker, and perfectly describes the laughing call of this chunky green bird that can be heard around Winchelsea throughout this month and beyond.

The Green Woodpecker rarely 'drums' like its Greater Spotted cousin, instead relying upon its loud yaffle for communication. It also differs in that it forages on the ground, its diet being predominantly ants. In fact, it's something of an ant specialist, filling the niche that you may see occupied overseas by creatures such as the pangolin. Like other ant-eaters the woodpecker has an extraordinarily long tongue; it starts in the right nostril, travels over the eye-socket, wraps around the back of the skull and eventually out through the beak - around 10 centimetres in total.

I was told this week that their droppings resemble cigarettes that have been allowed to slowly burn to ash, which has solved a mystery for me as I occasionally see such little grey cylinders on anthills at *Backfields*.

Bird activity is ramping up with the increasing daylight hours, song thrushes can be heard through town, sustaining

their song from dawn till dusk now. Steve Train spotted (and filmed) a Short Eared Owl hunting behind the Beacon, followed swiftly by the Barn Owl, a very special combination for one evening and further evidence that the change to grazing seems to be having positive results. Honourable mention goes to the continued appearance of the Firecrest in the garden of Ian Rowlands.



Barry Yates

There have been some spectacular murmurations of starlings along Pett Levels and Pett Pools, one such captured here by Barry Yates. Starlings are in deep trouble, hard to believe but they are now Red Listed, and we are very lucky to have such gatherings so close at hand.

One final note on birds: now is your last chance to give bird nest boxes a clean before the breeding starts, and please, if you use flea treatment on your pet cat or dog, ensure that no pet hair is accessible to nesting birds; it is exceptionally toxic. A study by the University of Sussex this month found 100% of 103 blue-tit and great-tit nests sampled contained

pesticides associated with veterinary practices, and depressingly, their levels appear to cause fatalities in chicks and failures in eggs.

On a more positive note; this week several Wildlife Group members joined the National Trust in planting fruit trees for a new orchard at *Crutches Farm*. Close by is the impressive site of 8,000 newly-planted saplings creating diverse hedgerow to contain livestock within a 1km track. The new scrapes have been dug, and are filling with water, and have already started attracting birds. With the long-term project to create good quality meadows in the valley we should start seeing a continued improvement in terms of insect, bird and reptile numbers.



I'm always amazed that the stone walls around Winchelsea seem to explode with the juicy leaves of Navelwort around now. Although common locally we should perhaps take a moment to appreciate it, as it is usually associated with the South-West and Wales, becoming much scarcer the further east you travel, and has so far tolerated some very dry summers here of late. The fragrant Winter Heliotrope is flowering near the New Hall, and on the opposite side of the

road the Sweet Violets are appearing, mixed in with Dog Violets. The smell of violets last year was particularly good thanks to some warm Spring days, and again, we are fortunate in having an increasingly scarce plant on our doorstep.

You may have already seen queen bumblebees waking from their winter dormancy. Bumblebees are such important pollinators as they are able to fly between flowers on days too cold for other bees. They manage this by disengaging their flight muscles, which then vibrate and generate enough warmth for them to forage. It's an extremely expensive process for bees however, in terms of energy spent - it would be something like a human burning all the calories of a Mars Bar every half-minute.



Hot on the heels of bumblebees you will soon spot the charismatic 'Bee-Fly', of which several species can be found in Winchelsea, appearing in March feeding on violets and primroses. They are true flies, harmless bee-mimics, but the

females have a sinister practice of disguising their eggs in sand and grit, before hovering near solitary bee nest entrances, then 'flick' the eggs inside (known as 'bombing'). They are exceptionally rare in that their larvae go through two stages of metamorphosis; the initial very active 'toddler' grub eats the pollen inside the nest, before changing into another far more sedentary 'teenager' grub that starts working its way through the infant bees. Pretty grim!

Finally, those with ponds may have already seen the welcome arrival of smooth newts. They physically change this time of year, their rough brown skin becoming smoother and brighter ready for mating. It would be useful if we could get an idea of aquatic habitats in Winchelsea, and some sort of record of breeding populations of frogs, newts and toads - so please do let us know if you have a pond in your garden, and also what you have in it!

Here's hoping for a pleasant Spring, as we heard in Bagpuss, 'Wake up, be bright, be golden and light.....'

Jim Kay

Wildflower Meadows

Shirley Meyer writes: As we leave Winchelsea at the beginning of March, I know that we leave the wildflower meadows and biodiversity project in good hands. As a community project it has been open to churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike and has been very successful in that respect, attracting a body of lay people too and fulfilling the Church of England's vision for outreach as it is right at the centre of your community.

The PCC has given permission for the areas to be enlarged too, and if you wish to get involved please contact one of the churchwardens, Celia King kingcelia54@gmail.com or Nigel Ashton nashton364@gmail.com.

Look out for a beautiful display of bulbs in the spring, giving pollinators a nectar source for the early part of the year.

WINCHELSEA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



WINCHELSEA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Are holding a members meeting in the
WINCHELSEA NEW HALL

SATURDAY 29th MARCH 11.00am - 12.30. / tea & coffee 10.30

We shall be collecting our 2025-26 Membership fees

New members welcome / Join at the door

We hope you can join us



For more information email RA@winchelsea.com

winchelsea.com/ra



John Wesley's Chapel

It was great to see so many people joining in our Agape Meal on 15th February. We enjoyed a lovely time celebrating Christian fellowship whilst sharing in simple food and good conversation, a tradition also known as a Love Feast celebrated way back in John Wesley's time.

On Sunday 16th March at 3pm, we will be having a Songs of Praise service with Stephen Page providing the music. If you would like to come and have a hymn that you would like to be included in the service, there may be just enough time to get your favourite in. Please contact Stephen direct by email: spage999@btinternet.com by Sunday 2nd March and also say if you would like to speak briefly during the service to say what that hymn means to you. Sadly we cannot guarantee to include them all, but we will if we can.

Then, on Wednesday 16th April at 7.30pm there will be a Reflections for Holy Week service conducted by Rev Jonathan and Dr Julie Todd and this will include the celebration of Holy Communion (or Eucharist).

Moving on to Saturday 17th May, there will be Coffee Morning from 10am till 12 and will include a presentation by our history expert, David Lambourne, at around 11 o'clock.

Then we will host one of the highlights of the year with a Singing Workshop on Sunday 15th June from 3pm to 7pm. This will be led by Stephen Page with an afternoon of instruction and practise, followed by tea and the service. All are welcome at any of the Chapel events.

Mike Lambourne

Parish Electoral Roll update

Just a reminder about the new parish electoral roll. If you want to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 12th April, whether to become a Parochial Church Council (PCC) member, to be able to quiz the current leadership or just vote, you must sign up to the new roll. The deadline is 29th March - two weeks' prior to the APCM.

This is the six yearly update and it sees us having to wipe clean the parochial records of its membership and re-issue invitation to join. We all have to re-apply, right across the Anglican church. If you are wanting to find out more you can either read my piece in last month's magazine or [click here](#) to access the Church of England website.

You can pick up a form at the back of the church in a yellow folder. Please drop any completed forms into the black box.

The electoral roll is primarily for those who identify with the Church of England, if you are not Anglican, but would like to contribute to other aspects of the vitality of the church, as part of Winchelsea town life, I would direct you to the Friends of St Thomas [here](#).

Jeremy Naylor Church Electoral Roll Officer

Bible Study at the New Inn

The congregation of St Thomas's holds an informal Bible Study in the New Inn on the first Thursday of the month. The session this month will cover the first two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles and begins at 6pm on Thursday 6th March. It will last for an hour. Everyone is welcome.



Intercessory Prayer

Howard Norton writes: I am exploring the possibility of starting a group which would meet regularly to pray for the church and the world.

This would be an addition and certainly not a substitute for the Mothers' Prayers group which meets monthly in members' homes with a strong focus on family and mutual support. They would welcome new members and if you are interested phone Mary Parker 07927 107678

Why do I think we need more intercessory prayer?

Let me give you three reasons. Firstly, as Christians, we are involved in spiritual warfare, and prayer is the main weapon God has given us to combat the rampant evil which increasingly disfigures our world, and even our church.

Second, the needs of our ageing congregations demand more regular, focussed intercession. Third, the vacancy is giving us space and opportunity for creative initiatives.

Our recent away-day in Bexhill released a flood of exciting suggestions, all of which need sifting and undergirding with prayer or they will be lost.

If you are interested, please contact me and we can discuss, format, venue and timing. I have no preferred agenda, only a conviction that prayer works and that we need more of it. 01797 226524 howard@ryeview.net

**Winchelsea
Garden Society**

Spring Show

- Flowers
- Floral Art
- Vegetables
- Pot Plants
- Cookery

**The New Hall
Winchelsea
2:00 pm Saturday
22 March 2025**



garden@winchelsea.com



What makes a Superstar?

At Second Wednesday on 12th March, Simon Mott will explain.

A chartered surveyor by profession, Simon has turned his favourite pastime, that of a fascination with one of Britain's biggest entertainers, into a wonderful audio-visual presentation.

2.30pm at Winchelsea New Hall

Annual membership £15 - Visitors £5 - Homemade tea £2

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Some Winchelsea Eccentrics

Richard Thomas writes: The house on Hiham Green across the road from the pub is called *Gable*. Not The Gable. Nor even Gables. Just plain singular *Gable*. True, it has a gable, but then so do most houses. It was named by one Anne Marsham, who lived in it during the 1930s. Anne was a bit of a giddy girl, carelessly aristocratic (her brother was Lord Someone-or-Other) and deeply in love, at a distance, with the film star Clark Gable. This was her way of expressing that love. Some years later she was pretty keen on Gregory Peck, but by that time she had moved away from Winchelsea, so I do not know whether somewhere else there is a house called *Peck*.

We used sometimes to stay with the Burkes, who lived in *Firebrand*, half way down the High Street. John Burke, when he wasn't busy being the Mayor, believed in unusual forms of self-sufficiency. As a small boy I was fascinated by the various commodities hung up to be smoked in the enormous inglenook – mackerel, trout, herring, hams, cheese, home-grown tobacco, and all at once. Meals were hearty, if a bit risky, as the scullery, where his wife Dorothy ('Dolly') prepared the vegetables, doubled as the potting shed, with daffodil and tulip bulbs jumbled up with the onions. Fried daffodil is not recommended.

John and Dolly had three daughters. There are probably still quite a few Winchelsea folk who remember the middle one, Petronilla (“Pete”) Barclay, who lived, after her parents had died, in *Martens* in St Thomas Street, which had started its existence as an extension to *Firebrand*. She was a fund of good stories about the family, especially about her brother-in-law Pat de Burgh Thomas.

Pat was an Irish-Australian buccaneer who lived in a shack down on the marsh and made a living, ostensibly as a fisherman, though mainly, after the war, as a smuggler of desirable French drinks and comestibles. John used to buy fish from him, and in due course Pat and the oldest Burke girl, Anne, married. They lived in the part of *Firebrand* that is now the *Martens*, which was more comfortable than the shack on the marsh, and Pat continued with his career as a smuggler, a profession that his father-in-law John soon began to think fitted none too well with his own position as Mayor. So, could Pat try to find something to do that was a little more conventional, respectable even, instead?

And that is how Pat and Anne found themselves living, a very long way from anywhere, in the Solomon Islands, where Pat was managing a coconut plantation. They were comfortably housed in an airy colonial bungalow fronting onto a salt water lagoon, into which emptied a small river. The river was rocky, with deep pools.

One day they received a message (in a cleft stick, said Pete) that a senior executive of the London company that owned the plantation was on his way to visit them, presumably on some kind of management inspection. Pat made hasty preparations, and in due course the visitor arrived in his executive dugout and made a cursory inspection of the plantation, before settling down to dinner and a pleasant social evening. He seemed fully satisfied, and Pat and Anne sighed with relief.

The visitor said he’d like a moonlight bathe before bed. Offered a choice between the lagoon and one of the river pools, he chose the latter, and insisted that his hosts should not wait up for him. They would meet at breakfast.

But there was no sign of him at breakfast, and it soon transpired that he’d been eaten by a crocodile. And that was the end of Pat’s job.

WINCHELSEA 2025

**A Portrait of the Town
25 years after the Millennium**

**Launch date
Tuesday 3rd April
Lower Court Hall
Drop in between 3pm and 6**

**Join the Editorial Team
Come and see the Book
Have all your questions answered
and
order your copy**





A School Visit

Nigel Ashton writes: The regular visits of classes from our school continue. Last month we welcomed Reception and Year 1 and Years 2 and 3. The older children asked fascinating questions about the role of a church warden, why I agreed to do the job, what things I enjoyed or disliked about the role.

They also asked some penetrating questions about what Christians believe and did I believe the stories in the Bible were true. They wanted to discuss if I believed in heaven and what made a good Christian. It was quite unnerving to have such direct questions from 8-year-old pupils.

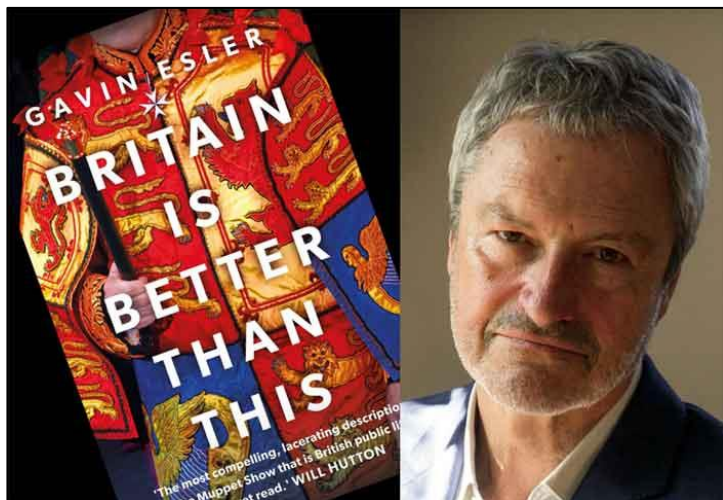
We then moved on to talk in some detail about the building, its history and how the Reformation resulted in the damage to tombs and the original glass. We recreated Millais' great painting 'The Daughter of the Regiment' much to the delight of the class.

As a retired teacher I was very impressed at the confidence shown by the students and their ability to understand some complicated aspects of church life.

Reception and year 1 have been reading Bible stories and I introduced them to the stories illustrated in our great east

windows. They loved identifying characters from the nativity story. As with many children, they were intrigued by the tombs and loved hearing about Gervase Alard.

Our relationship with our school is a vital part of our church life and I'm hoping we can develop even greater contact going forward.



Gavin Esler talks to Literary Society

Gavin is a well-known journalist and broadcaster. His talk will be based on his most recent book *Britain Is Better Than This* and in particular the chapter called *Dead Cats, Strategic Lying and Truth Decay* about the increasing falsehood and fakery in public life.

Note that this meeting will take place in the New Hall and not the Court Hall

Friday 21st March 2025 at 7 for 7.30pm

Members free, non-members £5



Dimitrios Unmasked?

As the nation compulsively scratched its head over the putative identity of the first Amazon- owned James Bond, the detached, cerebral membership of the Lit. Soc. filled the Court Hall for the return visit of Alan Judd. Alan's previous foray here had entertained us with *Writers of Romney Marsh* while this one gave our literary Darwinists the opportunity to track *The Evolution of Spy Fiction*.

Agreeing with an audience suggestion that spying was the second oldest profession, Judd anchored its literary lineage fathoms deep, citing references from the Old Testament and Ancient Egyptian texts.

In 1821 'the immortal pen' of James Fenimore Cooper gave us the first modern espionage novel *The Spy: A Tale of the Neutral Ground* set in New York State's Westchester County during the American Revolutionary War but by the end of the century the genre was very British as even Henry James entered this unfamiliar territory with *The Princess Casamassima* (1886) about political extremists planning an assassination.

Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale* (1907) mixes the ingredients of anarchism, espionage and terrorism while G K Chesterton covered similar ground the following year in *The Man Who Was Thursday: A Nightmare*.

Like a moth to the flame Kipling was drawn to Empire and *Kim* (1901) introduces *The Great Game* in which Britain and Tsarist Russia contend for mastery of Afghanistan. Erskine Childers capitalised on his participation in an R.N.V.R. exercise on the Frisian coast in *The Riddle of the Sands: A Record of Secret Service* (1903) where evocative descriptions of the endemic shifting of fog banks and sands provides a powerful metaphor for the reciprocal uncertainties of the German and British militaries over invasion by the other.

Our speaker was dismissive of the literary merit of the popular end of this market where an *Invasion Literature*, born of Prussia's decisive victory over France in 1871, mutated to an Edwardian *Spy Fever* whose leading exponents were the prodigiously prolific Edward Phillips Oppenheim (100 novels) and William Le Queux (60 works). These authors initially posited a variety of invaders before selecting Germany and the works often concluded with ritual denunciations of the Second Reich.

The world wars established the spy-themed adventure story exemplified by Buchan's *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and *Greenmantle* and later by Fleming's Bond novels. In the inter-war years Eric Ambler, possibly building on Somerset Maugham's character *William Ashenden*, introduced moral ambiguity in the seedy Balkan settings which *The Mask of Dimitrios* depicts and resonates through Graham Greene and John Le Carré.

Distrust stalks George Smiley's Circus. Turbocharged by a wildly successful film franchise, James Bond, more executioner than spy, has come to personify *homo sapiens* in the evolution of British espionage fiction.

Its appetite for tradecraft sated, the audience drifted into the Winchelsea night, unlike Bond's Martini, both *shaken* - in the cocktail mixer of Alan's comprehensive exploration of literary espionage - and *stirred* - by the reassuring cast fiction has enrolled to protect them from the depredations of SMERSH, SPECTRE and?

Bill Doherty



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

WHO IN THE NAME OF GOD IS GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER...



THE
NAME
OF THE
ROSE



SATURDAY MARCH 15th 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING

Admission Free
Refreshments, Pay Bar.
Come early, enjoy a drink or two.



What's on at the Beach

Winchelsea Beach Community Association will be holding a Craft Fair at the Community Hall on Saturday 12th April from 10.30am to 3pm. All are welcome and entry is free. Refreshments include home-made cakes.

Mothers' Prayers

Tuesday 4th March at 10am at *Wee Five*, Sea Road.

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 5th March from 10.30 - 12 in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. Tea, coffee, Homemade cakes. Warm, friendly atmosphere. All welcome.

Fellowship Lunch

Friday 28th March at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall, 12.30 for 1pm. As it is Lent the main course will be various soups. Everything else as usual. Please contact May Parker 07927 107678 to book a place.



At Winchelsea Farm Kitchen

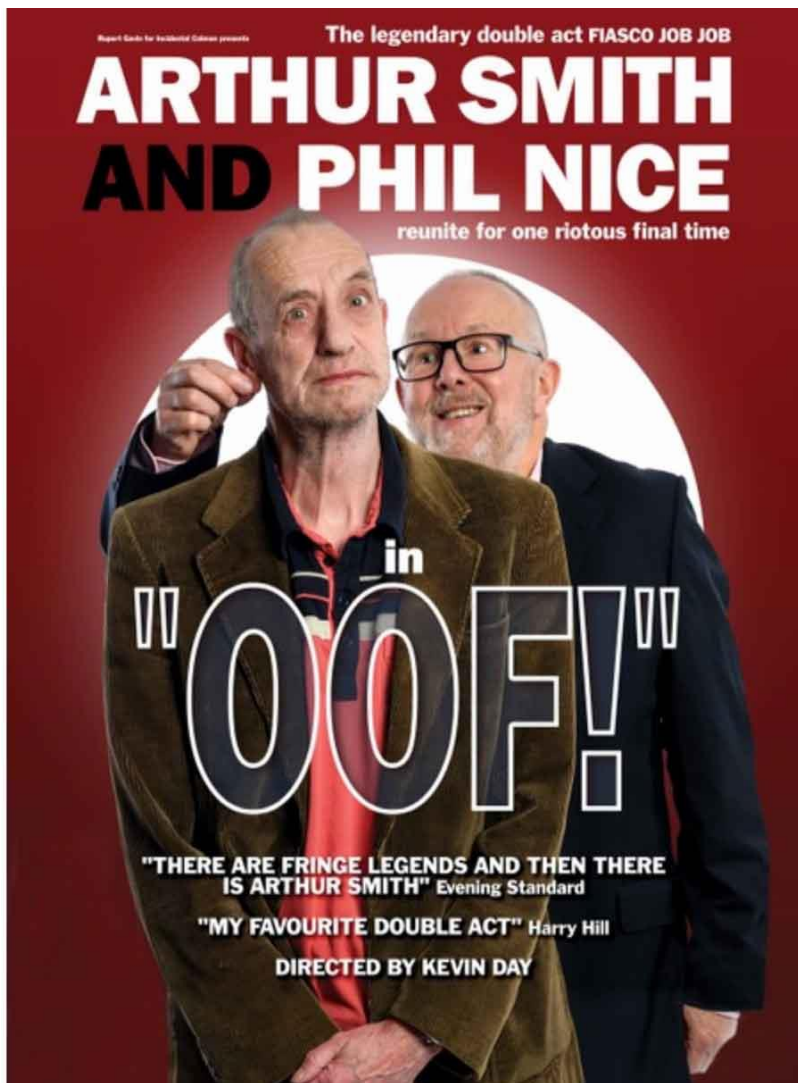
We have a Japanese Supper Club (£60 pp) on Friday 7th March, Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea on Sunday 30th and French classes starting in April (£15 per person).

[Click here for more information](#)

winchelseafarmkitchen@outlook.com

Keeping our payphone

Following on from January's piece about the possible turning off of the phone in Winchelsea's red phone box, you may have read in the national press about the campaign being waged in Sharrington, Norfolk. The campaigners' arguments for keeping their phone live are much the same as ours. You can give your views on the Winchelsea payphone by email to michael.vladeanu@rother.gov.uk and to customer.serv.payphones@bt.com as well.



Two old men on a bench reflect on religion, politics, life and happy slapping. But it transpires that there is more to their relationship than we realise. A hilarious sit down drama about age, showbiz and the cartography of friendship.

Saturday 22nd March at 8pm at Winchelsea New Hall

Tickets cost £15 (plus booking fee) [and you can buy them online here](#) All proceeds will go to local charities



Rye Food Bank

The next Winchelsea doorstep collection will be on the morning of Tuesday 18th March. Stuart Raine is deputising this month while Cam recuperates from knee surgery. You can contact Stuart on 07736 774348.

Cam writes, 'All being well, I will be cleared to drive again by my surgeon and will return to duty for the Easter doorstep collection.'

You can also take contributions directly to the food bank on any Wednesday morning before 11.30. Rye Food Bank is located at the Baptist Church in Cinque Ports Street and has its own car park to the rear of the building. Jempson's in Rye also has a collection point for donations in store.

Financial donations are also much appreciated.

For further details about Rye Food Bank and how to make a donation go to ryefoodbank.com

Donald Cameron-Clarke 01797 226414

Five Villages House Icklesham



Situated in the lovely village of Icklesham, Five Villages House provides safe and affordable housing for people aged 60 years and over. Our flats are designed for Independent Living, this allows residents to live completely self-sufficient lives with communal hubs to socialise and connect with their neighbours.

Join our waiting list for a
one or two bedroom flat today.

Five Villages Home Association Limited
01424 814608
office@fivevillages.org.uk
www.fivevillages.org.uk

fivevillages.org.uk

office@fivevillages.org.uk



QUIZ NIGHT

GATHER YOUR FRIENDS FOR A FUN NIGHT OUT!

Form a team of up to 6 and get ready to battle it out for a host of wonderful prizes!

Friday 7th March | Doors open 7:00PM
The Tudor Room at The Mermaid Inn, Rye
Quiz starts at 7:30PM

Tickets £5 (including snacks) | Sandwiches can be ordered for an additional charge | Licensed bar | Raffle

To reserve a table email fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk or call 01797 228842



In aid of Rye, Winchelsea & District Memorial Hospital Ltd

Charity no. 1014232 Company no. 02740665

fundraising@ryehospital.org



St Michael's Hospice

Do you have good quality donations? St Michael's Hospice is incredibly grateful for all the quality donations they receive from their community to sell in their seven shops across Hastings and Rother and eBay, which produce vital funds for the Hospice.

Most of the donations they receive are beautiful treasures just waiting for a new home. However, some items sadly don't meet the mark. Damaged, broken, or dirty items can't be sold and cost the Hospice a lot of money to dispose of.

The Hospice's customers love finding good quality bargains, so they're always looking for: clean kitchenware, modern household items, complete and unbroken toys, games and puzzles, and quality fashion items.

Visit stmichaelsospice.info/donate to find out how to donate your good quality items. Thank you so much for donating quality goods and supporting St Michael's Hospice. Your generosity makes such a difference!

St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens Winter might still have us wrapped up in scarves, but St Michael's Hospice are

already dreaming of long, lazy summer days, sat with tea and cake in the beautiful Open Gardens. That's right, their 2025 Open Gardens season is on the horizon, running from May to July, across Hastings and Rother.

Keep an eye out for more information at stmichaelshospice.com/event-diary, so pop the dates in your diary. Cross your fingers for sunshine, and get ready to explore some of the most glorious gardens in our community. All while supporting St Michael's Hospice.

Have you considered leaving a gifts in your Will?

This March, as part of Hospice UK's legacy campaign, St Michael's Hospice are inviting you to consider leaving a gift in your Will. One in three patients care at the Hospice is funded by gifts in Wills. These special gifts help ensure that hospice care lives on for all, for now, forever.

By pledging even just 1%, you can help secure the future of hospice care in our community. Your kindness will mean that patients receive the care and support they need, when they need it most. To find out more about leaving a legacy gift for St Michael's Hospice, visit stmichaelshospice.com/giftsinwills

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 kinqcelia54@gmail.com
Tuesdays 10.00-11.00	Yoga with Natasha	Suitable for everyone. Contact Natasha on 07946 399211 or email nn@natashanandiniyoqini.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
Tuesdays 18.00-20.00	Rother Fitness	Contact Rachel at rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com
Wednesdays 18.00-19.00	Rother Fitness	Contact Rachel at rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com
Thursdays 09.30-10.30	Scottish Dancing	A fun, friendly class, suitable for beginners. Contact maddycoelho@hotmail.com
Thursdays 18.00-19.00	Rother Fitness	Contact Rachel rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com
Fridays 09.30-10.15	Pilates with Hannah	All welcome. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com

**The hall has Table Tennis, Badminton and Pickleball equipment and can be booked on an ad hoc basis for £2 per person per hour (£1 for under 16's) – contact Rosemarie on 07941 458628 or WhatsApp

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

March 2025

- Saturday 1st Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12
- Sunday 2nd** **8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Tuesday 4th Mothers' Prayers - Wee Five, Sea Road - 10am
- Wednesday 5th** **6pm: Ash Wednesday Service at Winchelsea**
- Thursday 6th Bible Study at Winchelsea New Inn - 6pm
- Friday 7th World Day of Prayer Service - St Anthony's Rye - 10.30am
- Sunday 9th** **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Wednesday 12th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
- Friday 14th Wine Society - New Hall - 6.30pm
- Saturday 15th Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30 pm
- Sunday 16th** **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Songs of Praise - Wesley's Chapel - 3pm
Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 4pm
- Friday 21st Literary Society - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 22nd Garden Society Spring Show - New Hall - 2pm
OOF - New Hall - 8pm
- Sunday 23rd** **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Little Shop Meeting - 3pm - New Hall
- Friday 28th Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
- Saturday 29th Residents Association Meeting - 11 till 12.30 - New Hall
- Sunday 30th** **11am: Mothering Sunday Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Thurs 3rd April Winchelsea 2025 Book Launch - 3pm to 6pm - Court Hall
- Sat 5th April FOAM AGM - Court Hall - 2pm
Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12
Garden Society Tulip show during the Market
- Sun 6th April** **8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea

Further ahead

- Sun 20th April Easter Day
Mon 21st April Winchelsea Mayoring
Thurs 8th May VE Day Anniversary Beacon Lighting

Please send copy for the April Magazine
to ryeview@gmail.com
as soon as you have it to hand but, in any case,
before Tuesday 29th March

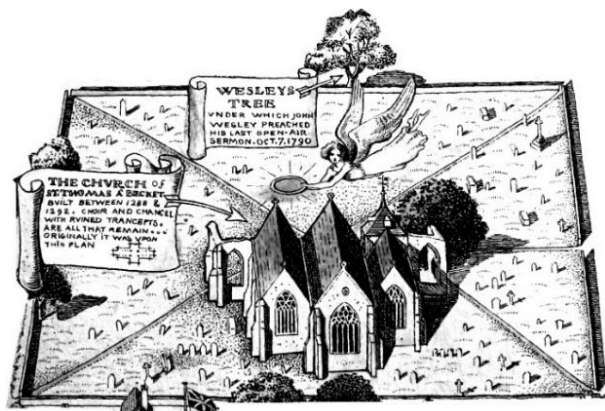


For Winchelsea Beach information go to winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

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 retired in February.
During the vacancy, please contact the PCC Secretary,
Mary Parker, with any enquiries about Baptisms,
Weddings or Funerals.
For all other matters, please contact the Churchwardens.

Churchwardens

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

Nigel Ashton
Winchelsea Cottage, High Street TN36 4EA
07786 266260 nashton364@gmail.com

PCC Secretary

Mary Parker
07927 107678 parkermary848@gmail.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Dale Saxby
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Parish Magazine

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