

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

June 2025



Swift peeping out from a crevice in the Church wall

James Tomlinson



From the Churchwardens

We are now four months into the interregnum, or vacancy, or the time without a parish priest. The process of finding a new incumbent has to be initiated by the diocese and the starting gun has not yet been fired. However, things are happening. We have had a visitation by the acting archdeacon, who has set out the process that will have to be followed.

Essentially he advised on the style of Parish Profile (the job ad) that will have to be produced and confirmed the suspension of the patronage, which simply means that the Bishop of Chichester has precedence in selecting potential candidates for interview. In terms of how long it takes, there are many variables beyond our local control, but we are planning on being without a priest until early next year. Winchelsea has a good track record of bringing people in during the depths of winter!

Against that background and thanks to the efforts of a lot of people, things are going on pretty much as normal. David Page is doing a great job in arranging coverage of services, such that we are able to maintain a weekly 11am Eucharist in St Thomas's. Unfortunately, there is always a risk of congregation numbers dropping off during vacancies, which would not help the recruitment process, so please do come along and join us; there is always good music, with coffee and a chat afterwards.

In addition to this, there is a weekly prayer meeting, again in St Thomas's at 5pm every Wednesday. Uniquely, on the first Sunday of every month, there is Book of Common Prayer said Eucharist at Pett Level Chapel. There's something about an early start on the Beach.

Moving to secular matters, we have received a nice note from the diocese thanking us for our 2024 parish contribution. Various views have been taken of this over the years, but the fact is that it is the price of being an established church – in some respects the rent we are required to pay for using the church in its broadest sense. There are real advantages here, like being freed from the jurisdiction of local authority planners and, importantly, we only pay what the parochial church council (PCC) (the trustees) believe to be affordable. That said, the money comes from your donations and we are very grateful for this support; it is an important factor in encouraging a new incumbent.

Again on the money side, we are very grateful to everyone who has supported the churchyard appeal. Thus far, you have given us a little over £1,600. Icklesham Parish Council has granted us £1,800, for which we are also very grateful. The planned cost of looking after the churchyard this year is £4,800, so we do appeal for more support if you feel able. Some of you may have noticed a largish dead tree near the bus shelter, which will have to be taken down as an additional cost.

Turning to the Rectory, the building is actually the responsibility of the diocese and a certain amount of work will be necessary to prepare for a new incumbent. Some of this will fall to the PCC and Gavin McFadyean is particularly busy in this respect – the garage is proving to be an explorer's dream (or nightmare).

We fully intend that the normal range of community activities will continue in the church. We really do value all those who contribute to the monthly church market, both as suppliers and consumers. The Patronal Service is coming up on 6th July led by the Bishop of Lewes - please do come along!

Finally, John Rodley was elected as a churchwarden last month. Not so much a new one as a really rather old one, but he does bring a certain measure of experience of dealing

with interregnums. More importantly, it is hoped that this may free David Harris, our treasurer, who chairs the PCC, from administrative trivia, allowing him to concentrate on vital matters of finance.



Patronal Festival Service

The church celebrates its patron saint - Thomas Becket - on Sunday 6th July at 11am. The Bishop of Lewes, the Rt Revd Will Hazlewood will preside at the service and preach.

Winchelsea Garden Society

Rose Show

Saturday 7 June in
St Thomas' Church
alongside the
Church Market

4 classes, entries free

Class 1 Roses

Class 2 Sweet Peas

Class 3 Clematis

Class 4 Iris

All exhibits to be displayed
between 9:30 and 10:30.
Presentation of cups at 11:30

Maximum vase size 15 cm
in diameter





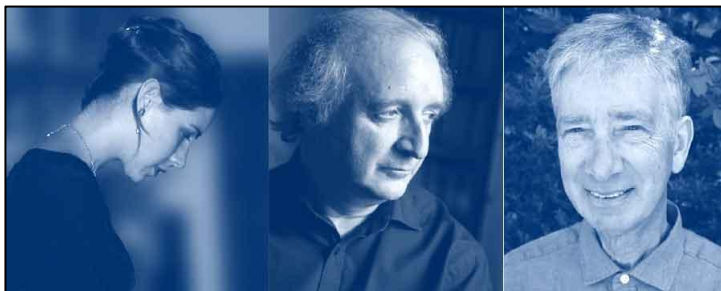
Beacon Lit for VE Day 80

Millennium Artefacts hosted a reception and Jerry Moss researched and mounted an anniversary exhibition before everyone crossed for the lighting of the Beacon.

There have been three national beacon lightings in unusually quick succession: for the Platinum Jubilee, the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and, in May, for VE Day. The fire basket will now be re-painted as it always is and may well then stand unused for quite a while.



Photos by Ann Martini



Music for Spring

A recital for Soprano and Oboe from 4pm to 5pm on Sunday 8th June at St Thomas's Church.

Anne Rebecca Højlund, soprano; Francis Rayner, piano; Simon Edge-Partington, oboe and oboe d'amore perform works by Bach, Greig, Britten and Vaughan Williams.

Entry is £10, payable at the door - free to students and children - and all proceeds will be donated to the Friends of St Thomas's Church. facebook.com/obligatory



Plastering Pett

Work is going on at Pett Church to sort out problems with damp which require renewal of some plasterwork and re-decorating. Services are expected to resume in July.



The Curious and Secret Life of the Honey Bee

Stuart Corner, Secretary of the Eastbourne Beekeepers' Association speaks to Second Wednesday Society on 11th June at 2.30pm

We all know where honey comes from, but have you ever considered how it is made? Have you ever considered where beeswax comes from, and how that is made? What is Royal Jelly and what is its purpose? Bees live their lives in the same world as we do, yet their lives are very different from ours, and they don't readily give away their secrets.

This multimedia presentation aims to answer these questions and many more, as well as providing a brief insight into the curious and fascinating life of our friends, the honey bees.

Annual membership £15 - Visitors £5 - Homemade tea £2 - BACS preferred 'Winchelsea Second Wednesday Society'
09-01-55 43784800

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Mothers' Prayers

Tuesday 3rd June at 10am at *Solstice*, Sea Road.

First Wednesday Coffee Morning

on 4th June from 10.30 until 12 at W B Community Hall.
All Welcome. Tea, Coffee and homemade cakes and scones available. Friendly atmosphere. Meet old friends and make new ones and enjoy the chat.

Summer Celebration

Saturday 21st June 1 to 5 pm. A Celebration to open the new extension at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall.
Opening ceremony will be at 1.30pm. There will be

something for everyone, including a bouncy castle, a live band, ice cream van and a hot food van plus teas and stalls.

Fellowship Lunch

Friday 27th June in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall at 12.30 for 1pm. Please contact Mary Parker to book your place: 07927 107678 or parkermmary848@gmail.com

July Barn Dance

There will be a Barn Dance with the amazing Catsfield Steamers in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall on Saturday 5th July. Contact Mary Parker.



Community Shop

It's been another busy month for the steering group and our growing pool of volunteers.

You may recall that, at the town meeting in March, we mentioned that we have been talking to the 'Winchelsea Little Shop Association', in the hope that our new community shop can utilise the funds they are currently holding. Their AGM was held at the end of April, and Ali Casey was invited to share our plans with their members. After a vote on the matter, Catherine Comotto, Chair of the Association said, "I can't tell you how pleased we all were that the vote went through (unanimously) and how delighted we are that the money is going to the shop".

The money will provide working capital for the shop, however before we can access it, we need to finalise the legal structure of the business.

To achieve this the steering group have been working with the Plunkett Trust, a national charity that provides practical advice, business support and training, to help communities establish and run innovative and inclusive community businesses.

Their experts have already helped more than 750 businesses and are now guiding us through the application process to become a 'Community Benefit Society' (CBS). As its title suggests, this is an organisation that conducts its business for the benefit of the community.

For those of you who are interested, here is a link to the Plunkett Trust website: plunkett.co.uk/

A CBS is regulated by and registered with the Financial Conduct Authority, consequently there is a fair amount of paperwork to be prepared and checked before we can submit our application. It will take time, but the steering group are hopeful that everything will be in place and approved by the end of the summer.

As the process moves forward, we will be publishing a lot more information about how our Community Benefit Society will work, and how residents can become members.

Meanwhile, our volunteers continue to manage the shop on Sundays, with rotas coordinated by Helen Morris. We are all still learning, so please be patient. To help our volunteers, we have created step-by-step guides on all the tasks involved: 'opening the shop', 'sorting the newspapers', 'cooking the sausage rolls', 'operating the till' etc. etc. And as each shift throws up something new, the answers are added to our guides.



At the moment, Nathan continues to work six days a week, but everyone needs to take a day off, and this month, Nathan did just that, to celebrate his fortieth birthday. Our volunteers marked the occasion with a card, a cake, and a bottle of his favourite tipple, as a thank you for his help, (and patience!) in training us all.

For our volunteers it was their first opportunity to learn some new weekday tasks like dealing with deliveries, the school rush and the vast quantities of takeaways consumed by the tradesmen working throughout the town.

If the business is to be viable, volunteers are going to play an essential role in keeping our overheads as low as possible. So, as a thank you we are planning a summer drinks party for our shop volunteers in July. It will be an opportunity to share experiences with the steering group and for Nathan to spend some social time with us.

Each shift we are learning more about how the shop operates, this experience will be vital when it finally becomes our own community business. But our shop doesn't just need helpers, it needs customers, so please try to use the shop as much as you can, that way we can ensure its future.

And our survey demonstrated just how important the shop is to our community. We published some of the results of the survey in last month's magazine. If you would like to see the full results, a copy will be displayed on the shop's noticeboard, if you would like a printed version, ask one of the steering group below.

Ali Casey, Glen Marks, Dave Richards, Rosemarie Roberts, Ian Rowlands

And if you have any questions about our plans, or can help in any capacity, please contact us on shopgroup@winchelsea.com



'ALL UNDER ONE ROOF'
WINCHELSEA COURT HALL
SATURDAY 14th JUNE 11am to 1pm



An opportunity to visit Winchelsea Court Hall, meet members of the various societies and organisations of the town, learn what they do, events planned, how to become involved and kept informed.

**You will be surprised how much goes on
in the smallest town in England**

Many of the town's organisations will be represented including
**Winchelsea Arts, Conservation Society, Winchelsea Corporation,
Bowls Club, Garden Society, Friends of Winchelsea Church,
Residents Association, Millennium Artefacts Society,
Literary Society, Winchelsea & Area Archaeological Society,
Christmas Windows**

ALL WELCOME

Winchelsea Court Hall, High Street, TN36 4EA



Brede Vally *June Grindley*

Conservation Society

The Winchelsea Conservation Society, whose remit is to help residents protect the historic built environment, green spaces and views for which Winchelsea is famous, held its AGM on 10th May. It was followed by a showing of the film 'Six Inches of Soil' accompanied by wine and nibbles. The formal part of the meeting began with thanks to the previous chairman John Spencer and former committee member David Merrifield for long and very active service. This was followed by treasurer Judith Payne's summary of the society's finances. Adam Hart and parish councillor Andy Rixon have now been formally co-opted to the committee . Their contributions have already proved fruitful.

Co-chair Jerry Moss summed up the committee's many interactions with the National Trust. The evidence we had prepared of historical and current footpaths helped us persuade the NT to open up much of the land around Winchelsea. However the recent escape of a cow onto the A259 because someone left a gate open has meant that that gate will now have to be padlocked.

The Society appreciate the efforts of the new NT rangers Simon and Tom to keep us informed of their activities and to do their best to cope with weeds and pests resulting from the

change in use of the land around Winchelsea. The Society expressed their thanks to the NT for organising that a poster of Blackfriars' Cellar ship graffiti, which cannot now be seen in situ due to bats roosting, be displayed in Salutation cellar and for filling the Beacon for VE day. A photographic record of the current state of part of the town wall has also been made by the NT.

Co-chair June Grindley reported that committee members have examined and commented on at least ten planning applications around the town.

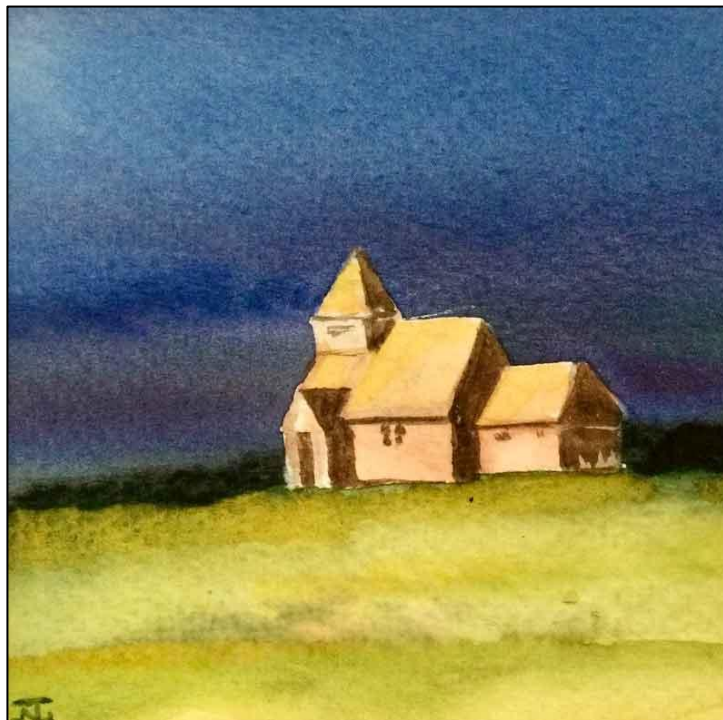
During the past year, thanks to David Merrifield's contacts with the mayor of Dover we visited the Maison Dieu and saw the impressive ongoing conservation of the building and its partial re purposing which will help it thrive in the future. Still in Dover, we visited the amazing Grand Shaft staircase of 1806, followed by excellent fish and chips!

Thanks to Philip Merricks' introduction, we were privileged that Professor Allan Buckwell, agronomist and government advisor came to give us a lecture on 'How securely and well fed are we really?' Not very ...was the conclusion.

Activities for our members in 2025 include a walk on 24th May organised jointly with the Archaeological and Historical (AHS): a visit on June 14th to Romney Marsh Churches with Nick Hodd of the Romney March Historical Churches Trust and, in another joint enterprise with the AHS, a talk on 29th November by Professor Anthony Bale on Pilgrims.

We shall of course continue to monitor planning applications and neglected buildings in Winchelsea and to build on our relations with the National Trust who own most of the land around the town. Anyone who loves Winchelsea and cares about its conservation is encouraged to join the society.

June Grindley and Jerry Moss



A Visit to Romney Marsh Churches

Winchelsea Conservation Society is organising a trip to some Romney Marsh Historic Churches (Fairfield, Lydd, Brookland and possibly Snargate) on Saturday 14th June. It will be led by Nick Hudd, a founder in 1982 of the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

There are limited spaces in the Rye Community Bus we have hired for the day, so reserve your place by paying Judith Payne in cash as soon as possible. The total is £30. This includes £5 for the bus, £15 for the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust and £10 deposit to the Woolpack Pub to reserve our places for lunch (probably a ploughman's).

If you want to come independently be aware that there is space for only two cars to park at the first church, Fairfield, so we need to know if you are driving.

June Grindley and Jerry Moss



Winchelsea Station Leaflet

An updated map and leaflet has been launched to promote businesses and attractions within walking and cycling distance of Winchelsea railway station. The brochure shows pubs, vineyards, shops and guest houses which are within a range of approximately two miles from the station.

The travel guide has been produced by Winchelsea Station Partnership Group which works to promote train travel to and from the station on the Marshlink line.

Lead volunteer John Spencer said: "The leaflet helps to popularise the businesses local to Winchelsea station so that people can walk from the station having travelled by train and enjoy the wineries, pubs and tea rooms. We hope that this leaflet will be of help in boosting tourism in the area."

Winchelsea has direct links from the station to the 1066 Country Walk and is on National Cycle Route 2.

The station's welcoming environment includes planters looked after by volunteers from the Winchelsea Station Partnership Group and artwork from pupils at St Thomas' Primary School.



Community Library Launched

St Thomas' Church of England Aided Primary School is pleased to announce the introduction of a free community library, kindly donated by one of our school parents. It is located just outside the school gates and is open to everyone in our community.

The library contains books for both adults and children, and we warmly encourage all to take a book or leave a book as they wish. We kindly ask that only books in good condition are contributed, and that the library is kept neat and tidy for the benefit of all users.

We are most grateful for this generous donation and hope the library will become a well-used and much-loved resource that promotes reading and sharing within our community.

Dale Saxby - Headteacher



The Life and Poetry of Ted Hughes

Marek Urbanowicz talks to Literary Society on Friday 20th June. He was introduced to the work of Ted Hughes while doing an English degree in 1973 and had the good fortune to see him read in the same year. This experience had a profound effect on him and since then he has collected numerous works by Hughes.

Ted Hughes (1930-1997) was a poet, short story writer, literary critic, farmer, translator and children's story writer. He is considered to be the best poet of his generation and is widely regarded as one of the twentieth century's greatest writers. Despite humble beginnings he went to Cambridge University, published numerous collections of poetry and became Poet Laureate from 1984 until his death in 1997. During the course of the talk a number of poems by Hughes will be read to illustrate the breadth of his work.

Marek is a published poet, has an MA in Voice Studies and was part of the RADA Elders for two years in the late 1990s. He has been chairman of Poetry for Pleasure for a number of years which presents weekly programmes on different poets and poetic topics.

Friday 20th June at 7pm for 7.30 in the Court Hall.

Members free, non-members £5

literarysoc.winchelsea.secretary@gmail.com



ABBA Night

Tickets (Mamma Mia! Winchelsea, Here We Go Again!) sold out in just five days but with only three weeks to go we want to remind you lucky ticket holders to get your gladrags sorted (lots of possible themes - ABBA, 70s, Midsommar, Greek) and arrange your BYO drinks.

There will be plenty of delicious food provided by the fab team. Tune up for sing-along and practice some moves to be in with a chance for the spot prizes, so dress to impress.

The New Hall will be showing off its first step along the road to a new stage lighting scheme.

Proceeds will go to the Community Shop Project. There will also be a simple prize draw with a wonderful Greek meal for two as a prize so please bring some cash or card with you.

We look forward to seeing you on 21st June.

Hilary, Jane and David and Delane



Slope of the Month

Garden Society takes a break from featuring the Front Garden of the Month in June. Instead we celebrate the work of Julian Cloke on the steep slope between *Cordwainers* in North Street and the A259 below. Julian has been layering branches to form low hedges, and the ferns are thriving.

Hiham or Higham?

Lots of people had a view on the decision of the Winchelsea 2025 Book to refer to some roads as Higham and some as Hiham. The conclusion is that there's no consistency about this. Even Malcolm Pratt in his histories of the town uses different spellings for the same streets in different parts of his books. It seems clear that the settlement on the top of the hill before New Winchelsea was built was Iham. Beyond that, who dares say?



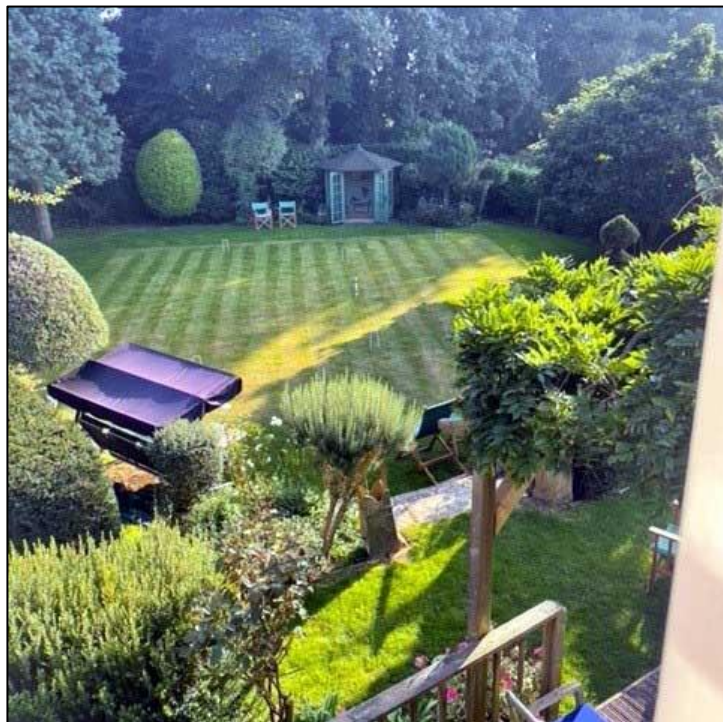
John Wesley's Chapel

Thank you to all who came to the Coffee Morning and presentation on the history of the Chapel in May.

Our next event is the Singing Workshop on Sunday 15th June. It is in the afternoon from 3pm and will be led by the irrepressible Stephen Page, starting with the instruction and practise of the hymns to be used for the service, which will start at 6pm, following the workshop and tea. All the hymns and songs will be versions of the Psalms. For those who do come for the whole event, we are asked to bring our own food – tea and coffee will be provided. Equally, if you would like to come just for the service at 6, you will be very welcome.

On Sunday 13th July, it will be the traditional Chapel Anniversary (the 240th) led by Revs Philip and Catherine Wagstaff. We shall be singing hymns under the Wesley Tree from 2.30pm before moving on to the service in the Chapel at 3. This will also be the last Chapel event for Philip and Catherine before they deservedly retire to sunny Devon.

The Chapel doors are also open for visitors on the Open Gardens Days. We were there for the St Michael's Hospice day on 31st May and will be there for the National Gardens Scheme day on 5th July (from 1 to 5pm). *Mike Lambourne*



Open Gardens in July

Nine Winchelsea gardens will open for the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 5th July from 1pm to 5pm and again on Sunday 6th from 2pm to 5pm for the Friends of the Memorial Hospital, Rye. Entry is the same on both days: £8

Four of the gardens haven't opened before: *2 Mariteau House* in German Street, *Portobello* in Hogtrough Lane (above), *White Cottage* in Friars Road, and *1 St Giles Close*. *Lookout Cottage* returns to the team with new owners. The other four are *King's Leap*, *Cleveland Place*, *Magazine House* and the communal garden at *Kent Close*.

Nationwide, NGS openings raised over £3,500,000 for charity in 2024, with our area - Mid and East Sussex - contributing £197,000 - more than any other county.

Eight Winchelsea Beach Gardens will open for St Michael's Hospice on Saturday 28th June from 10.30am until 4pm



From evening close to morning light

Jim Kay writes: Moths. I know what you are thinking, 'Aren't they the boring brown night-time versions of butterflies?' Well, sort of, but I think they've been pretty under-appreciated for a long time. Despite being far more efficient pollinators than any daytime flying insect - yes even bees - they occupy an unenviable place in mythology and folklore as creatures associated with death and the spirit world. Butterflies on the other hand, well they get to be fairies!

Take the 'Death's-Head Hawk-moth' - you aren't winning many friends with that moniker, and if you prefer to be announced at parties by your scientific name, *Acherontia atropos*, well any experts on Greek Mythology would be shuffling away from you right now, possibly muttering 'this is what happens when you raise your kids on Nightshades' - when actually these moths should be known for their fondness of honey, and their ability to sneak into beehives to get it. Nobody gave Winnie-the-Pooh this much grief. Honestly, you have one sinister skull motif on your body.....

I'm here to tell you that Winchelsea is home to some truly beautiful moths. The flamboyant Elephant Hawk-moth shown above is common in our gardens and its livery is not wasted in the dark as, unlike us, this species can see colours in the night. Hawk-moths in general are well represented,

you may have seen the daytime flying Humming-bird Hawk-moth in your gardens, which are beginning to overwinter in the UK. This ghostly Puss Moth, caught in a light-trap at Cleveland House, is a favourite of mine. We have also recorded the bizarrely metallic Burnished Brass moth at Backfields End and German St., and do keep an eye out for the splash of red colour around the Beacon as the day-flying Cinnabar Moth is having a good year so far.



Puss Moth and Privet Hawk-moth

What some lack in colour, they more than compensate for in their names. Take for example The Vapourer, The Scorched Carpet, the Dingy Footman and the Canary Shouldered Thorn. There are Quakers and Daggers, Wainscots, Pebbles, Prominents, Lutestrings and Pugs, and the cryptically named trio of The Uncertain, The Suspected, and The Nonconformist.

Last month we focussed on the arms race between cuckoos and warblers. A similar battle has been raging for 60 million years between moths and their nocturnal nemesis, the bats. We all know that bats use sonar to echo-locate their prey, but you might not know that some moths are able to 'squeak' back; sometimes to jam the bat sonar, sometimes to shout 'I taste bad!', and sometimes to cheekily shout 'I taste bad!', even when they don't (known as Batesian Mimicry).

Those that don't squeak use another technique called acoustic camouflage. The tiny scales on their wings resonate at precisely the same frequency as the sonar used by bats, thus cancelling out the sound signal, making them acoustically 'invisible'. A bat detector can be purchased for

around £20 and makes audible the astonishing blast of sound bats scream into the night. It's difficult to express just how well adapted bats are to nocturnal flight; the Brown Long-Eared Bats that frequent Winchelsea can hear the footsteps of a beetle walking on a leaf.

For those of us who prefer to fly by day, do have a look at the wildflower circles in the churchyard as they are particularly beautiful right now and, more importantly, they have resulted in an uptick in insect numbers within the church walls. A variety of Bees, Damselflies, Soldier and Swollen-Thigh Beetles are present, and I was particularly pleased to see Common Blue butterflies, hopefully they will lay eggs on the Bird's-Foot Trefoil. The circle nearest to German Street has a Common Spotted Orchid in flower, and I am confident more will appear over the coming two years. It will take a while for these small meadows to find a balance, and it requires work, but it's definitely making progress. A walk into Hollow Field reveals a carpet of Buttercups, the first of the Skippers, and Swallows shuttling in and out of the old barn at Wickham Manor.

Travel a little further and the roadside reveals several species of Vetch and Clovers in flower. My favourite photograph so far this year is the shot by James Tomlinson - on the front page of this month's magazine - of a Swift peeping from the church walls. Unrelated to swallows and martins, Swifts are actually closer cousins to Hummingbirds. I still find it incredible that a Swift carrying a tracker was recorded for eight months, and in that time it only stopped flying once, for just two hours!

Later in the year we will attempt to ascertain how many Swifts are in Winchelsea, fingers crossed their numbers hold. Nationally they have experienced a drop of over 40% since 1994. We simply need to reverse the decline in insects - and luckily that's something we can all have an impact on. On the subject of birds, at least three Cuckoos have been heard singing here, and a walk in the Brede Valley will afford you a bucolic view of cattle grazing, with accompanying soundtrack of Warblers, Thrushes, Linnets, Skylarks, Yellowhammers and the croak of an occasional Raven, among many (Steve recorded 35 species in just over an hour!). Has anyone else noticed that Blackcaps seem louder this year?

Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra

directed by **Marcio da Silva**

Emil Chakalov violin



St Thomas' Church

Winchelsea TN36 4EB

Sunday 6th July at 7 pm

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

£25 (free for under 18s)

Vivaldi

The Four Seasons

Greig

Holberg Suite

**Winchelsea
Arts**



[Click here to see the full Season programme](#)

Book tickets at winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Gentle Harry's Farm

The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company present their smash hit musical comedy *Gentle Harry's Farm* on Winchelsea School field on Sunday 20th July.

Agnes Church and her very special friend and neighbour, Minnie Heartfelt, just love their boarding school, The Gables School for Jolly Nice Girls! But domestic science college calls - and husbands after that, steady sorts with prospects (like the Hon Ernest Dartford), and children (one of each, of course), then after that the WI (to be useful).

But first under the blissful summer blue of Gentle Harry's Farm, amongst the cows and sheep and the sweet hay with magpies chattering their rhymes above - One for sorrow! Two for joy! - they were going to have such a twiffic summer!

Then of all things they find some bounders have burst into the bank in Eastbury and nicked the cash! And the place is swarming with coppers! Bliss! Bliss in abundance! What a cackle! It would be such a summer! Meanwhile the brown eyed cows and the other animals chew - and listen. And the magpies chatter.

Tickets and information are all available now from www.therudes.co.uk Book early!
'Such A Good Night' - The Times; 'A Delight' - The Independent On Sunday; 'Highly Entertaining' - Time Out.

Educating Rita

BY WILLY
RUSSELL

19-21 JUNE



Educating Rita

Rita, a spirited hairdresser hungry for knowledge, finds herself thrust into the world of academia under the reluctant guidance of Frank, a jaded university professor. As their unlikely relationship develops, barriers of class, expectation and personal demons are challenged in a dazzling blend of humour and poignancy. Will Rita's thirst for education change her life for the better, or will it leave her questioning everything she thought she wanted?

With Zo Biba-Leonard and Winchelsea's Mike Stoneham.

At the Ellen Terry Barn Theatre, Smallhythe
19th to 21st June at 7.30pm
tickets: etbarntheatre.com/educatingrita

and The Stables Theatre, Hastings
21st to 23rd August at 7.30pm
tickets: stablestheatre.co.uk/educating-rita



Cricket Field at Sunset Cheryl Fraser-Sampson

August Art Exhibition

Winchelsea Millennium Artefacts Society would like to invite our artistic neighbours to exhibit once again in this year's Art Exhibition. Also we would like to introduce new residents who are not familiar with Winchelsea's Annual Exhibition, to the WMAS.

WMAS was founded over 25 years ago to raise funds for the preservation and maintenance of the Town's artefacts.

These include the Town Sign, the Beacon and the Millennium Tapestry which is displayed in St Thomas's Church. The exhibition event is held over three days in the Court Hall during the August Bank holiday weekend. This year it will be on 23rd to 25th August.

If you are artistic and creative in any form of modern or contemporary art including mixed medium art, photography, pottery, craft work or jewellery and would welcome being added to our mailing list please send your details and email address to the WMAS email address below. Our application forms to exhibit for this year are emailed in the last two weeks of June.

Geraldine I'Anson, Winchelsea Millenium Artefacts Society
artefacts@winchelsea.com



Mr and Mrs Andrews

As the incendiaries of Putin's *New Model Army* attempted to raze the Prime Minister's property portfolio, a Winchelsea Book Club, splendidly isolated in their literary bubble, dissected that *Festschrift* of Anglophilia that is Roy Strong's *Visions of England*, fastening on Gainsborough's iconic *Mr and Mrs Andrews* (1750).

Presented by Strong as an early example of the landscape genre illustrating the exceptional glory of the English countryside, the secret harmonies of this idyllic vision surprisingly eluded some participants. Some criticised the husband's proprietorial air as, positioned at the side of the view, he appeared to be displaying his worldly wealth, which might just include Mrs Andrews who fixes her rather hostile gaze on the artist.

Doubtless inspired by Winchelsea's spirited womanhood, none of whom would accede to being part of any man's inventory, the Muse of one of the Group's members was roused and her deeper empathetic scrutiny of the masterpiece elicited these verses: -

(He thinks)

I like this vista, and the fields behind me,
 It's modish, now, to paint a couple thus.
 The artist says the trees are in the style of Watteau.
 I know nothing of the trees, though this one frames
 My young wife's features to advantage.
 Her father made the match; she just sixteen.

We wed within the month, the talk of Suffolk.
She takes my fortune quite for granted as she should,
Or wherefore are we married?
Though young she has a spirit quick and bright,
And yet I did not know this when I wed her.
I caught her with my gun once at the window,
And before I could shout 'hold! and rush to stop her,
She'd knocked a pigeon clean out of the sky.
She hit it like a marksman, her first shot.
I fixed at once a visit from the milliners and jewellers;
Found satin shoes to fix her steps at home,
And now she sits and poses, straight of face,
To all the world a lady and my wife.
A rocking cradle's what I hope for soon;
I'll like her better when a child is at her breast;
Then I will take my pleasure in the town.
Good dog, Bendigo. He'll finish now,
And we can go into the fields and shoot.

(She thinks)

If he continues smirking any longer
I'll rip the rifle from his hands and blow his head off.
I never knew a worst-matched pair than we; he thinks
I want to trill a tiresome madrigal, or worse,
Stitch chair-seats in dull garlands with bright wools.
This trifling stuff I shall not entertain;
My father let me wild; I climbed the plum trees.
Even the apricot gave foothold when I
Ran to see the kittens that the wildcat sired.
He thinks I love him, but I do contrive it.
Let Gainsborough raise his brush and say he's done,
And you'll not see me on this land again.
Beneath my dress I have a sturdy pistol;
And while he gazes at his harvest stooks
Got in by solid horses, I'll be gone.
That small carved cradle slept in by
His grandsire will stay empty; I
Will make my living on the highway
Before I get it hard upon my back.

But look – the clouds bank up on our horizon.
It rains upon his lands soon. On his blighted hopes.

Verse by Gillian Southgate
Introduction by Bill Doherty



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall



Intermission



Please note our next Film Night is

SATURDAY 12th July 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING

Admission Free

Refreshments, Pay Bar.

Come early, enjoy a drink or two.



Winchelsea batting at Beckley

Cricket season starts

Winchelsea cricket club's season started on 11th May, with the first of two successive away trips. The visit to Tenterden an exciting low-scoring match, and a one wicket win for the home side. However, a week later it was a much higher scoring game at Beckley when the Winchelsea batsmen came good and successfully chased a total of 230 for the loss of just two wickets.

The final Sunday of the month brought the first home game of the season when Ashburnham were the visitors and, batting second, Winchelsea held on for a draw with one wicket left.

June's fixtures begin on Sunday 1st with an away game at Burwash and then Catsfield at home on the 8th. There is a blank week on the 15th and the month concludes with Northiam (away) and Bodiam (home).

John Josiah



Greyfriars Open Day - 20th July

On Sunday 20th July Caroline and Aidan will be hosting an Open Day at *Greyfriars*. This is a unique opportunity to visit and learn more in respect of weddings, events and accommodation available, restoration and future plans. There will be a small tour of the grounds and Abbey ruins.

It is anticipated that demand to attend this event will be high so it will consist of two timed sessions during the afternoon to manage numbers.

There will be a maximum of 40 adults per session. Places will be limited to two adults per household. Booking is essential and places will be allocated on a 'first come first served basis.' Bookings can be made from 1st July

Full details of timings and how to book this free event will appear in the July issue of the Parish Magazine, so for now just pencil the date in, and watch this space.



Wine Society

Winchelsea Wine Society's first local vineyard visit this summer is on Friday 27th June to the Oxney Estate at Beckley. A few places remain available for this visit, which comprises the journey there and back on the Rye Community Bus, a tour of the vineyard and winery and tastings from the range of Oxney's award-winning organic wines. The bus leaves Winchelsea at 12.30 returning by 4pm at an inclusive cost of £25 per person. If you would like join the visit please email to winchelseawinesociety@gmail.com.

Oxney Estate is an organic farm on the High Weald area of outstanding natural beauty, nine miles north of Winchelsea. The vineyard dates from 2012 and was the first in England to be certified fully organic. In addition to the winery there's a shop, indoor and outdoor picnic and tasting areas, as well as the vineyard and ancient woodland to enjoy.

The Society's second vineyard visit will be our annual members' get-together at our own excellent Charles Palmer Vineyard. This will feature special tastings and insights into the history, current production and future plans for the vines and the new winery. The visit will be on 1st August and details about this and about membership of the Society are also available by emailing winchelseawinesociety@gmail.com.



St Michael's Hospice

St Michael's Hospice June Open Gardens

The Hospice's Open Gardens events are now in full swing, with spectacular gardens opening all over Hastings and Rother. In June, they'll be at 27 gardens, starting in Pett on Saturday 7th June, then Guestling on Tuesday 10th June, Cooden Beach and Little Common on Tuesday 17th June and finally, Bexhill Old Town on Tuesday 24th June.

All gardens will be open from 10.30am – 4pm
(last entry at 3pm)

£1 Fashion Sale with St Michael's Hospice Retail

Coming up on Saturday 5th July, is the next St Michael's Hospice Retail's £1 Fashion Sale. Hosted every month at the Arthur Easton Centre in the Hospice grounds in St Leonard's on Sea, this sale is perfect for those wanting to pick up some fashion bargains. The sale is on from 10am – 12pm, and they'll be plenty of clothes, shoes, accessories and kids clothing available – all for just £1 per item.

St Michael's Hospice is here to support you

The Hospice knows looking after someone with a life-limiting illness can sometimes feel overwhelming and you may have some concerns. That's why they've developed some resources for carers, to answer some of the questions they're often asked. Topics covered by the resources include; understanding the dying process, looking after the person, looking after yourself and advice for when someone has died.

stmichaelsospice.com/carers



Rye Food Bank

Cam writes, Hello again- how time flies! I am writing to advise that my next doorstep collection for the Food Bank in Winchelsea, on behalf of the Rotary Club, will be Tues 17th June between 10am and 1pm. I personally have been a collector for five years commencing just before COVID struck. I collect on the third Tuesday of every month and the donations are personally delivered to the Food Bank the following day by me for distribution to needy families.

I am always looking for new donors and would be grateful if you would spread the word in the town and tell your neighbours. Please telephone me on my 01797 226414 number to advise if you wish me to call on 17th June. I am happy so as not to disturb you, to collect from your gate, or doorway or a knock to say thank you- your choice. Please help the Food Bank if you are able to - we support and help many families in the area.

I look forward to hearing from you - the answer phone is always switched on. Kindest regards in anticipation.
Cam Clarke, Old Malt House, Winchelsea.

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

Winchelsea New Hall

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 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

New Hall Stage Lighting Work will be starting in June to install new stage lighting supports and all the associated wiring. All should be in use for Abba Night on 21st June.

100 Club The winning number for the 100 Club for May is 19. Anyone who is not a member please consider joining. Its £24 per year with half the money going to the New Hall and the other half used in prize money. There is a really good chance of winning a £100 so please consider joining this fundraising initiative. Contact John McGeown johnhmcgeown@gmail.com

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

June 2025

Sat 30th May	St Michael's Hospice Winchelsea Open Gardens - 10.30am to 4pm
Sunday 1st	8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Tuesday 3rd	Mothers' Prayers - 10am
Thursday 5th	Bible Study at the New Inn - 6pm to 7
Saturday 7th	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12 Garden Society Rose Show during Church Market
Sunday 8th <i>Pentecost - Whit Sunday</i>	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Music for Spring - St Thomas's - 4pm
Wednesday 11th	Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
Saturday 14th	Under One Roof - Court Hall - 11am to 1pm
Sunday 15th <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	<i>Services at Pett are suspended during building work</i> 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Friday 20th	Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
Saturday 21st	Summer Celebration - W B Community Hall - 1pm to 5 ABBA Night - New Hall
Sunday 22nd	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Friday 27th	Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm Wine Society Vineyard Visit
Saturday 28th	Memorial Service for Lawrence Youtlen - St Thomas's - 11am Winchelsea Beach Gardens open for St Michael's Hospice - 10.30 - 4
Sunday 29th	11am: Benefice Eucharist at Winchelsea
Sat 5th July	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12 NGS Winchelsea Garden Opening - 1pm to 5pm Barn Dance - W B Community Hall
Sun 6th July	8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level 11am: Patronal Festival Eucharist at Winchelsea Winchelsea Gardens Open for the Friends of Rye Hospital - 2pm to 5pm Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 7pm

Further ahead

Fri 11th July	School Summer Fair
Sun 20th July	Open Air Theatre on School Field
Sat 9th Aug	Winchelsea Summer Fete

Please send copy for the July Magazine
to ryeview@gmail.com
as soon as you have it to hand but, in any case,
before Saturday 28th June



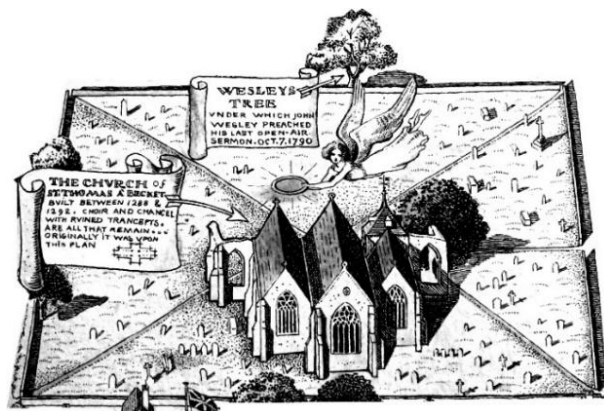
June Grindley

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



Parishes of Winchelsea Icklesham and 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

John Rodley
The Stone House, Barrack Square TN36 4EG
01797 223458 johnrodley@btinternet.com

PCC Secretary

Mary Parker
07927 107678 parkermmary848@gmail.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Dale Saxby
Friars Road TN36 4ED 01797 226479
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