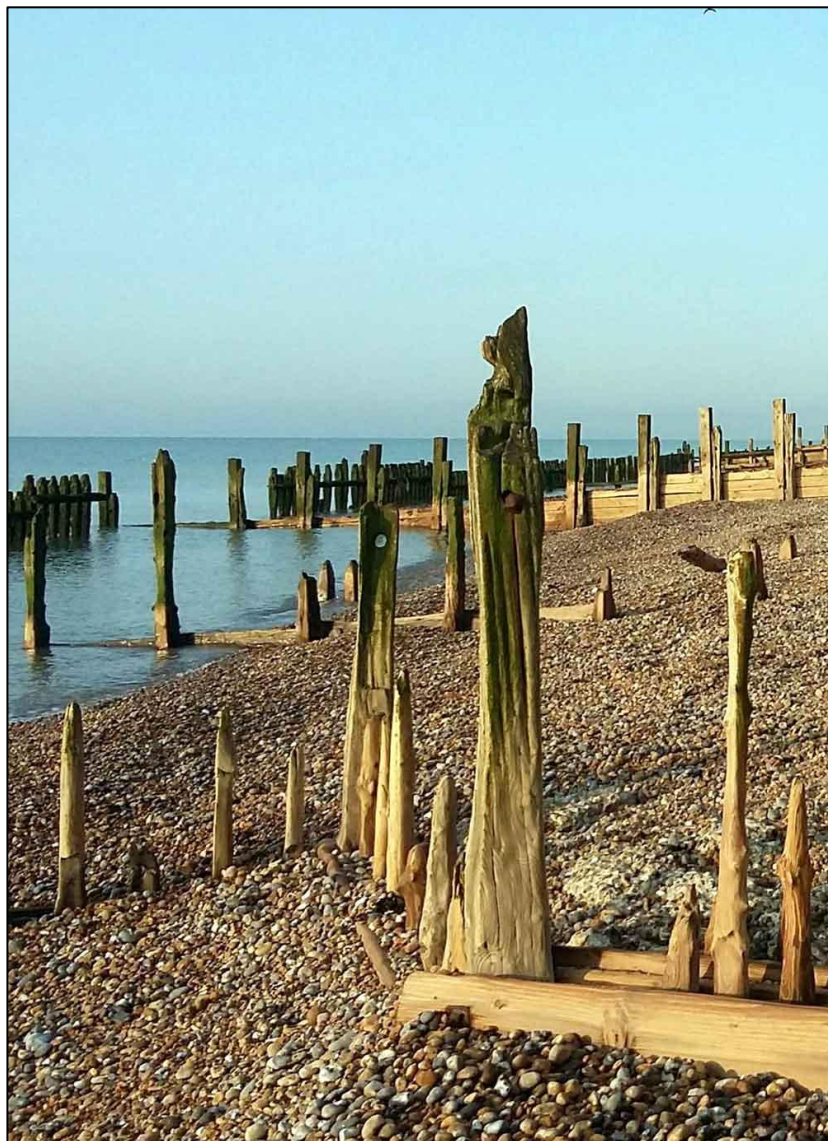


# WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

July 2025





## 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. Friary Gardeners will be on hand selling plants outside *The Armoury* on Saturday.

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*.

A big thanks you in advance to all the people who have been baking cakes and will be serving teas. Also to the team who will be helping with parking and those who will be helping greet visitors at garden gates. And, not least, to Simon Everitt of the NT who has been mowing the grass in the parking field. A real town effort.

Tickets will be available at garden gates on both days taking cash, with a card payment point at the Court Hall on Saturday and in the New Hall on Sunday.

We are delighted to report that the May Winchelsea opening for St Michael's Hospice raised £5,560.

St Thomas the Martyr

# PATRONAL FESTIVAL



**Sunday 6th July at 11.am**

**Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop of Lewes  
The Rt Revd Will Hazlewood**



## Update from the Mayor and Corporation

*Peter Cosstick writes:* It seems ages since I last wrote an article for the parish magazine. There has been a fair amount of 'behind the scenes' activity and I hope you find this update useful in respect of the Corporation's achievements and current planned activities.

### **West Gable Wall**

Restoration of the lower external wall is now complete. We are due to meet members of the Garden Society to achieve a practical solution to finish the groundwork.

### **Court Hall Toilet**

The project is now complete and we are delighted with the outcome. We have received excellent feedback from Court Hall users.

### **Town Well Signs**

You may have noticed over the years that lettering on the signs had faded and deteriorated. These have now been restored back to their former glory by a professional sign writer.

### **Town Gates**

We continue to care for these gates. A few days ago a small team of Corporation members spent several hours at the New Gate, removing a huge amount of lower ground vegetation (mainly ivy). This has made a huge difference.



We are very grateful to Simon from the National Trust for his time and support.



We are fully aware that the Pipewell Gate now needs a lot of 'tlc', relating to overgrowing vegetation on and around the gate. We are in contact with East Sussex County Council to help resolve some of the associated issues. We continue to monitor the Strand Gate

### **Anne Gun**

This project has now been taken over by the Corporation. I am delighted to report we are proceeding with its conservation. An order has been placed to build a gun carriage, and we hope this project will complete by mid-August 2025, which will be fantastic as it will coincide with the Museum's 75th Anniversary.

### **Museum and Court Hall**

Urgent repairs to stonework near the entrance of the Museum doors is complete, and our next major project for 2025 is restoration of the Victorian Court Hall doors and associated stonework. Permissions have been granted. This work is due to commence on 9th July and complete on 25th July. During this period there will be no access to the Court Hall, but the Museum will remain open.

### **Museum and promoting the Town**

The museum is open six days a week until the end of October. During April and May we saw a small increase in visitor numbers; thank you to all our volunteers.

For the fourth year running we continue to produce 'Discover Winchelsea', the free guide to help encourage visitors, support businesses, events and attractions. We continue to manage and administer our brilliant website [winchelsea.com](http://winchelsea.com)



### **Court Hall Events and Hire**

On 14th June between 11am and 1pm, we hosted a special event 'Under One Roof' (above). In total 14 Winchelsea societies and organisations were represented, 57 residents and non-residents attended. This event enabled people to find out more about all that happens in Winchelsea, providing greater awareness, with some becoming new members or expressing an interest in attending future events.

I was delighted that for the first time, St. Michaels Hospice used the Court Hall to sell tickets, serve tea and cakes for their 'open garden' event. Brilliant feedback and they are booking next year. Please remember the Court Hall is available to hire throughout the year for events and meetings. A unique and atmospheric venue. Please contact me direct if you wish to make a booking.

### **Fundraising and Demelza**

This is our final term as Mayor and Mayoress, Debbie as Mayoress has again nominated Demelza East Sussex children's charity. Many thanks to Paul and Debbie of the *New Inn* for hosting two events, a pub quiz and shanty singing, which raised £530 for this worthy cause. Other events are in the pipeline. As with last year all proceeds raised by the Winchelsea community will be presented to the Demelza team at a special event in the New Inn before Christmas. Many thanks to James Tomlinson and the Rye Harbour Herrings for supporting these events, and of course your generous donations.

Debbie has kindly agreed to take the lead on Winchelsea Christmas Windows 2025, with proceeds again going to Demelza.

In addition to raising funds for Demelza, I shall be hosting a few events between August and December to raise funds for the Corporation to help pay for some of our projects, so watch this space.

### **Greyfriars**

I have been working with Caroline, to help our community understand more about this wonderful building and grounds. As a result, I am delighted that there is now a planned 'open day' on Sunday 20th July. Limited spaces so book early.

### **Summary**

In closing, as a charity with limited income, I believe Winchelsea Corporation continue to make a lot of progress and difference on a number of fronts. We are so grateful for all the support both financial and time provided by our community. FOAM continue to provide us with much need funding to support some of our projects and achieve our charitable objectives.

Wishing you a good summer, as before we know it will be Christmas!



Medieval Seal of the Mayor of Winchelsea

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





## **From the Churchwardens**

Very good progress is being made by a small committee, comprised of representatives of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett, led by Celia King to produce material supporting the recruitment of a new incumbent. When complete, a draft will first be approved by the diocese, in the form of the archdeacon, who takes on a Ralph Fiennes-type conclave role in this matter and then by the joint PCCs. The green light to commence recruitment should be given fairly soon after that.

The encouraging thing is that we do seem to be on the diocesan map. The Patronal Festival of St Thomas's will be celebrated on 6th July, with the morning service being led by the Bishop of Lewes, with the Mayor of Winchelsea also attending. A Winchelsea Arts concert will take place in the evening and is advertised elsewhere in this issue. On 5th October our service will be led by the Bishop of Chichester and more on that later.

## **Events in the Church**

June's Church Market was a great success raising £345 for church funds. Undoubtedly the collocation of the excellent Rose Show helped towards this by bringing people in and Jonathan Murphy on the piano was another major enhancement. We are, though, extremely grateful to all those who support this monthly event by making, baking,

selling and buying and simply for just being there. There will be ways of doing things even better, so please let us know if you have any ideas that might be tried.

Building upon the example of the New Hall and thanks to the efforts of the Naylor family, the church calendar is now available to view on the Church website:

[winchelsea-ickleham-churches.org.uk](http://winchelsea-ickleham-churches.org.uk). We are keen that the church should be used as much as possible and availability can now be easily checked and bookings made via Charlotte Beecroft or the churchwardens.

### **Buildings and Works**

The aim of enhancing the lighting and sound systems in the church is progressing steadily. The diocese has approved the idea of the scheme and has authorised the application for a faculty, in other words, we can obtain planning permission via the diocesan chancellor. Gavin McFadyean is leading on this project and the advantage of obtaining an early faculty is that it shows commitment, particularly to potential grant givers. Getting some money is really quite important.

In the spring and on the recommendation of the church architect, the stone tracery on the north chancel window was renovated. At the same time, the vestry roof was repaired. We are very grateful for the grants received from the National Churches Trust. The Friends have also indicated their support, for which we are equally grateful.

To the more mundane; an attempt has been made to de-mossify the war memorial, while the porch floor and west door have been maintained, as well as the kissing gates thanks to the work of volunteers. We also have a dead willow tree in the churchyard over towards the bus shelter and Rother has approved its removal. It should be down by the end of July.



The cost of essential repairs to the north chancel window tracery and vestry roof totalled £10,800. We are very grateful to the National Churches Trust, which has approved a grant of £4,500 towards these costs.



## **At Winchelsea Beach in July**

### **Fellowship Lunch**

Fellowship Lunch will be on Friday 25th July at 12.30 for 1pm. Booking is essential in order to cater for the right number of people. Everybody is welcome. There is no charge for the meal but donations are encouraged and all proceeds will be sent to charity which is usually a local one.

So far this year we have raised money for St Michael's Hospice, Rye Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital; Rye Sailability; The Myanmar Earthquake appeal and Rye Foodbank. However, the main aim of the lunch is for fellowship. We hope that everyone who comes will have a pleasant experience and enjoy sharing a meal with others.

Please contact Mary Parker to book your place:

07927 107678 or [parkermary848@gmail.com](mailto:parkermary848@gmail.com)

### **Barn Dance**

with the amazing Catsfield Steamers. Saturday 5th July at 7pm at W B Community Hall. Tickets £10 from Mary Parker 07927 107678 or [parkermary848@gmail.com](mailto:parkermary848@gmail.com)

Accompanied school age children free. Ploughman's Supper. Bring your own drinks.

### **Mothers' Prayers**

Tuesday 8th July at 10am

at *El Indalo*, Old Harbour Farm Lane.



## **John Wesley's Chapel**

The Chapel doors will be open for anyone to pop in on the Open Gardens Day on 5th July from 1 to 5pm. If you haven't had a chance to see inside and have a look at the various artefacts on display, please feel free to give us a visit - you will be very welcome.

On Sunday 13th July, we shall be celebrating the Chapel's 240th Anniversary with singing hymns under the Wesley Tree from 2.30pm before moving on to the service in the Chapel at 3. The service will be led by Revs Philip and Catherine Wagstaff and this will be their last Chapel event before they deservedly retire to sunny Devon.

Philip is the superintendent minister of the Hastings Bexhill and Rye Circuit of the Methodist Church; Catherine is a minister in the Dover Circuit. Both have been great supporters of the little chapel here at Winchelsea and we will be very sad to see them go.

In August we have a Coffee Morning on the 16th from 10 until lunch time. It should be a great time to have a cup of tea and coffee and a jolly good chat, and another opportunity to have a nosey around the Chapel.

*Mike Lambourne*



# *Greyfriars Open Day Invitation Sunday 20th July*



*On Sunday 20th July Caroline and Aidan will be hosting  
an 'open day' at Greyfriars*

*A unique opportunity to visit and learn more in respect of  
Weddings, events, and accommodation available  
Restoration and future plans*

*A small tour of the grounds and Abbey ruins*

*There will be two timed sessions limited to a maximum of  
40 adults per session  
and two adults per household*

*'Session One' will commence at 1.30 and finish at 3pm*

*'Session Two' will commence at 4.30 and finish at 6pm*

*Booking is essential.*

*Places will be allocated on a 'first come first served basis.'*

*To reserve your place please email*

*[greyfriarswinchelsea@gmail.com](mailto:greyfriarswinchelsea@gmail.com)*

*and indicate the time you would like to attend,  
together with your names*



## **Gladstone through memorabilia**

Howard Norton will be very well-known to many as knowledgeable on the subjects of literature, travel, culture and gardening to name but a few, but he is by training an historian. In this month's Second Wednesday talk, Howard combines political history with his enthusiasm for collecting to bring the Society...

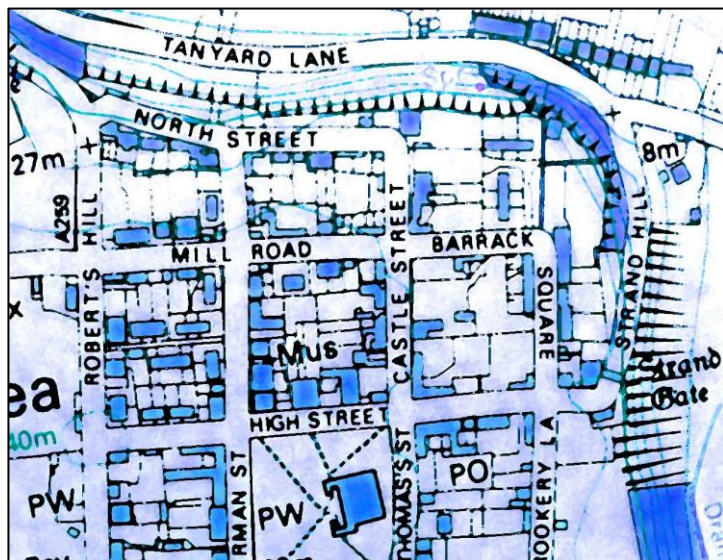
"...an encounter with the greatest British statesman of the Victorian era and an extraordinary human being, the polar opposite of Trump."

The talk will be illustrated with a wealth of pictures and historic memorabilia.

9th July at 2:30pm in the New Hall

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

[2ndWeds@gmail.com](mailto:2ndWeds@gmail.com)



## Winchelsea Residents Association

We have been working with the various agencies, councillors and council officers on your behalf to progress current priorities, as summarised below. Some of the issues need time, to build relationships and go through formal processes. It can be a slow business and we are grateful for members' patience and continuing support.

### Public toilets

Following Rother DC's (RDC) decision to offer several toilet sites for sale, including Winchelsea's only public toilet, there has been no acceptable offer to buy and retain our local toilet facilities. We understand that there is an option for Icklesham Parish Council (IPC) to purchase and manage thereafter. WRA is in contact with RDC to encourage a suitable settlement and assurance that the toilets will remain open. WRA committee members will attend a public meeting at RDC on 14th July to discuss future arrangements. It will also be on the agenda of the full Parish Council meeting on 21st July which will be held at Winchelsea Beach community hall. It is open to all to attend.

### Traffic safety

We continue to press National Highways (NH) for an early resolution following its agreement to take responsibility for improving safety at Strand Hill junction. It has confirmed it

is actively assessing the junction to adopt a no left turn/ no right turn proposal. Our MP, Helena Dollimore, is supporting us and is in direct contact with NH senior officers. We hope to meet both NH and ESCC in July and will certainly update residents on the outcome of that meeting.

### **The Little Shop**

We understand there are now 26 volunteers to cover Sunday trading and that discussions continue between the Little Shop working group and the shop owners on its sale. There will be further updates from the working group in the next few weeks.

### **Summer Fete**

A reminder that the annual fete will be held on Saturday 9th August on the Cricket Field site. It is being organised by St Thomas' Primary School and WRA will have a stall on the day.

### **WRA subscriptions 2025/26**

Thank you to everyone who has already sent their annual subscription. If you would like to be a member but haven't yet paid, you can send your subscription ( £10 per person) to the WRA bank account as shown below.

Winchelsea Residents Association

Account no: 59667362

Sort code : 60-02-07

### **Membership**

We need to keep our membership list up to date. If you have changed your contact details, moved away from Winchelsea or no longer wish to be a member, you can let us know at [ra@winchelsea.com](mailto:ra@winchelsea.com). You can of course contact us at the same address if you would like to become a member.





## **Icklesham Parish Council**

### **Annual Council Meeting – 12th May**

We held the Annual Council Meeting on 12th May at Icklesham Memorial Hall. Cllr Jacqui Stanford was elected Chair and Cllr Smedley was elected Vice-Chair for another year. The Council agreed committee and working group memberships and reviewed policies and procedures.

It was also agreed to adopt and replace the defibrillator at the Robin Hood pub as this was originally installed by Secamb and they can no longer fund replacements. The Parish Council also agreed to pay the annual grant of £1,725 to the Icklesham Trusts Committee to support the running costs of the Memorial Hall.

### **Annual Parish Meeting – 30th May**

We held the Annual Parish Meeting at Rye Harbour Village Hall on Friday 30th May. The meeting was a great success bringing together councillors and community residents to hear of the Council's past year's achievements.

Attendees also had the chance to see presentations from East Sussex County Council Leader Keith Glazier regarding the upcoming plans for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation and Philip Merricks MBE regarding the recent archaeological work he has organised in Icklesham. It was interesting to hear about the Roman connection, and the finds from the dig. An interesting Q & A session followed both. Community Awards were handed to residents who have gone above and beyond for the local community and our visitors over the last year and the meeting was followed

by light refreshments which gave Councillors the chance to meet and chat with residents. A big thank you to our speakers, Councillors and everybody who attended the meeting it was great to catch up with everyone.

### **Allotments**

We have now secured ownership of High Fords Allotment Site from Southern Housing. This is great news as it secures the site for our current and future tenants! We currently have one allotment plot available at High Fords in Icklesham and two available at our Cricket Field site in Winchelsea. If you would like to apply, please either download an Application Form from our website, or contact the Parish Clerk.

### **Adult Exercise Equipment**

We are pleased to report that the adult exercise equipment has finally been installed in Jubilee Field Playground. Jubilee Field is a scheduled ancient monument and so there are many hoops to jump through to obtain Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent from Historic England before this type of work can go ahead. We would like to say a big thank you to the Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group for their help and support throughout this project. We would also like to thank Rother District Council for the community grant which covered 50% of the costs of this project.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Monday 14th July at 6.15pm

Planning at Winchelsea Court Hall.

Monday 21st July at 7.15pm

Full Council at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall.

Monday 28th July at 6.15pm

Planning at Winchelsea Court Hall.

Please remember IPC are here to represent you and welcome your views on any matter. Please send your views and requests to [clerk@icklesham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@icklesham-pc.gov.uk) or write to  
PO Box 148 Winchelsea TN31 9FP 07714 169901



## **Front Garden of the Month**

This month's star front garden has been created by Lyn and John Davidson at 1 Barrack Square.

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## **Repairs at Pett Church**

Work on the problems with damp at Pett Church continue, which means that services are not expected to resume before September. Walls have to be given time to dry out before re-plastering and decorating can take place, and that is taking a bit longer than anticipated.



## Gentle Harry's Farm

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

Those of you who came to see the Rudes perform "Macbyrd" back in 2016 will remember when the rooks gathering at dusk in the trees bordering St Thomas' School playing field answered to the bird calls of the actors! It was magical and comical, like all the Rudes outdoor theatre productions.

This year's show promises to be very entertaining, with the professional cast of actor-musicians bringing talent and skill to a production full of clever humour, imaginative costumes and gentle satire.

The show is aimed at adults though older children will enjoy it too. Gates open from 6:30pm for picnics. Bring low-backed chair and warm clothing. The performance starts at 7:30pm with one interval.

Tickets and information are all available from [www.therudes.co.uk](http://www.therudes.co.uk)

'Such A Good Night' - The Times.

'A Delight' - The Independent On Sunday.

'Highly Entertaining' - Time Out.



# WINCHELSEA's most WUTHERING HEIGHTS day...ever!



**Celebrate**

**Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Wear Red,  
channel your inner Kate Bush,  
and re-enact the Iconic  
Wuthering Heights Dance.**

**Meet for a run through,  
11.15 in the  
NEW INN courtyard –  
Then dance at noon in  
the garden!**

**All welcome**

Details from:

**Jo Marks (07591530963)**

**Hilary Roome (07923451431)**

**or The New Inn**

Sunday, July 20th is Winchelsea's Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever...so anyone who loved that song, and used to dance in front of the TV to the ethereal Kate Bush on Top of the Pops, please head down to the New Inn at 11.45am – wearing your best diaphanous red outfit, of course – and help us to recreate those iconic dance moves.

And if you haven't a clue what we're talking about, just come along, bring the kids and the dog and join in anyway. There will be a run-through of the dance at 11.45 in the car

park (just so you'll know vaguely what you're doing, but it's not Strictly, and no-one will care if you're a bit out of step).

At 12 noon we dance in the New Inn pub garden. OK, not exactly the Wild and Windy Moors, but we hope there will be plenty of rolling and falling free as we channel our inner Kate Bush (and Cathy and Heathcliff) and do Winchelsea proud in this international event, just ten days shy of Emily Bronte's birthday. See you there!





## The Life and Work of Ted Hughes

Our June speaker, Marek Urbanowicz, revisited the Lit. Soc., following his presentation on Dylan Thomas last year, to explore the meaty fare served by the late Ted Hughes, describing the former Poet Laureate as *a force of Nature*.

His upbringing in rural West Yorkshire and involvement with gamekeepers provided familiarity with the unvarnished Nature, functional, industrious, intermittently lethal and stripped of all romantic allure, which featured in his early published collections. At Cambridge, he embraced the approach of his tutor, the famous literary critic F R Leavis, but realised that this pleasingly predatory filleting of others' literary efforts was having a perniciously corrosive effect on his own creativity and he switched to Anthropology and Archaeology; listless engagement here saw him limp to a Third-Class degree.

Deciding that Poetry was the baby that would light his fire he encountered the Fulbright Scholar, Sylvia Plath, and within four months this combustible couple had married. An inspirational dream introduced him to a hybrid creature, half man/half fox, which ushered him down a wild, untamed path liberating a creativity first blossoming in the 40-poem anthology *Hawk in the Rain* (1957). This heralded a distinctive voice with a metre dominated by early stressed

beats, evoking Middle English speech. Some detected seeds of Shaminism foreshadowing the incorporation of the spirit world into his later works. Analysing the inner man, Marek concluded that Hughes was blest (cursed?) with a Jungian libido, general psychic energy and zest for life rather than the more sexually orientated Freudian libido.

Notwithstanding these fine distinctions, 1962 saw the poet embroiled in an affair with Assia Wevill possibly contributing to Plath's suicide the following year. Her death saw Hughes's life enter a self-described *posthumous* phase, a 3-year hiatus, recalling lines from Arthur Miller's *After the Fall*;

*A suicide kills two, Maggie!  
That's what it's for.*

Wevill's suicide in 1969 did kill two as she and her toddler daughter by Hughes emulated Plath's chosen method of asphyxiation using the domestic gas supply. Plath's death energised the increasingly strident feminist movement that had targeted Hughes, exemplified by Robin Morgan's *Arraignment* and *Monster*.

When, 25 years later, a war weary poet acknowledged the futility of debating with his accusers, he did not need Morgan's extensive *oeuvre* to concede that truly *The Sisterhood is Powerful*. Urbanowicz felt that Ted's overwhelming personality attracted vulnerable women although the nurse, Carol Orchard, remained his wife for 28 years and outlived him.

The evening proceeded with Marek and Richard Ormrod operating as a lively tag team of recitative, alternating readings from their selection from Hughes's prodigious and wide-ranging body of work notably the ambitious *Crow* which offered an ideological challenge to both Christianity and Humanism. When the curtain fell on his career, Hughes had had the honour of succeeding the *Troubadour of Suburbia*, John Betjeman, as a stylistically contrasting Poet Laureate and received the Order of Merit proving that, unlike the Prophet, the Poet is honoured in his own land.

*Bill Doherty*



## Poets of two World Wars

This month sees the publication of *'In Defence of the Realm: A Critical Study of the Poetry of World Wars I and II'* Written by Literary Society chairman, Dr Richard Ormrod, it is the first book to examine both wars' poetry in the same volume.

Set against their literary and historical backgrounds, many lesser-known but excellent poets are critically assessed next to the 'known greats' (e.g. Owen and Sassoon, Douglas and Keyes) to show the range and quality of writing across the services and eras; a book for lovers of history, poetry and the esoteric.

Richard has taught for the Open University and continues to teach creative writing to adults under the auspices of Rye Arts Festival, to which he has also given a number of public lectures. He is a published biographer, journalist and poet; and now also a literary critic. His first volume of self-authored poetry appeared this year with a second one anticipated early in 2026.

Published by The Conrad Press RRP £14.99  
ISBN: 9781917673006





**ST THOMAS' PRIMARY  
SCHOOL WINCHELSEA PTA**

## **Winchelsea Summer Fair Tombola**

### **A REQUEST FOR DONATIONS OF TOMBOLA PRIZES**

#### **HERE ARE SOME IDEAS**

- Bottle of Wine, Champagne or Soft Drinks
- Chocolates or Sweets
- Small Gift Items: Candles, Books, Toys or Stationery
- Vouchers: Gift Vouchers for a local business or Experience

**PLEASE DROP OFF ANY DONATIONS  
BEFORE AUGUST 3RD TO:**

**4 Hiham Green, Winchelsea**

**If you are unable to drop off your donations we  
can collect, please contact us on 229406**



## Community Shop

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

You may recall in last month's parish magazine we explained that the first step in transitioning to a community shop is to establish the appropriate legal framework, for the business to operate within. We've been advised that, for us, that should be a 'Community Benefit Society'. This type of business is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, so over the last month, we've been working with experts from the Plunket Trust to prepare our application. That work is almost done, and we will be submitting our paperwork to the FCA within the next few days.

Meanwhile, we've been working with Stephen Rumsey's accountant on a business plan and the property valuation. [The Charity Commission will need to approve the latter].

All this paperwork is rather boring but absolutely necessary if we are to ensure the long-term future of our shop. Hopefully 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.

There are some costs involved in doing all of this, so we have begun fund raising, for example the recent Abba event raised over £500, so a big thank you to everyone who contributed.

To be viable most community businesses rely on a paid member of staff supported by volunteers. Those volunteers play an essential role in keeping the overheads as low as possible. So, as a thank you we are planning a summer drinks party for our team of over 30 volunteers on 11th July, hosted by Jo Turner. It will be an opportunity to share experiences with the steering group and for Nathan to spend some social time with us.

However, 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 if you have any questions about our plans, or can help in any capacity, please contact us on [shopgroup@winchelsea.com](mailto:shopgroup@winchelsea.com)

*The Steering Group: Ali Casey, Glen Marks, Dave Richards, Rosemarie Roberts, Ian Rowlands*

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## **Poppy Appeal 2024 final results**

The Royal British Legion has confirmed that a total of £2,863.10 was raised in Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach. This is slightly more than was raised in 2023, but it is also understood that there is still some gift aid to be credited. This should take us close to the £3,000 mark, a 7% increase on 2023 and really does represent an excellent effort.

The RBL has asked that its thanks, on behalf of the armed forces communities, be extended to all those who supported and contributed in every way to last year's appeal. Thank you very much.

*John Rodley, Local Appeal Organiser*



## Rose Show

*Sally Rhodda writes:* After a particularly wet and windy week, The Garden Society held its annual Rose Show at the June church market. I was so impressed by the entries. We had 36 arrangements, 20 more than last year last year. Our judge John Dunk found it hard to choose the winners. The cups were presented by Celia King the deputy mayoress. Rosie Ryan won the cup for Roses and Sweet Peas. Helen McDonald won for Clematis.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the morning such a success.



## **New Hall Update**

### **100 Club**

The winning number for the 100 Club for June was 12.  
Congratulations to the winners of the £100 prize!

### **Doorway Flower Displays**

For those of you who were not able to attend the Abba Night on 21st June, we thought you'd like to see the lovely entrance flowers provided by Nigel Ashton. It really did create a fantastic summer vibe! Thank you Nigel.



## 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 <a href="mailto:hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com">hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com</a>
Mondays 15.00-15.50	Zumba Gold	Suitable for all. Contact Daisy at <a href="mailto:fitnessbythesea@outlook.com">fitnessbythesea@outlook.com</a>
Mondays 16.00-17.00	Pilates with Celia	Suitable for all ages and abilities. Contact Celia on <a href="mailto:kingcelia54@gmail.com">kingcelia54@gmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com">rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com</a>
Wednesdays 18.00-19.00	Rother Fitness	Contact Rachel at <a href="mailto:rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com">rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com</a>
Thursdays 09.30-10.30	Scottish Dancing	A fun, friendly class, suitable for beginners. Contact <a href="mailto:maddycoelho@hotmail.com">maddycoelho@hotmail.com</a>
Thursdays 18.00-19.00	Rother Fitness	Contact Rachel <a href="mailto:rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com">rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com</a>
Fridays 09.30-10.15	Pilates with Hannah	All welcome. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email <a href="mailto:hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com">hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com</a>

\*\*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



## **Historic Churches of Romney Marsh**

In glorious weather, on Saturday 14th June the Winchelsea Conservation Society (WCS) undertook a visit to some of the 14 beautiful historic medieval churches of Romney Marsh.

Led by our guide and keyholder, Dr Nick Hudd of the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust (RMHCT) we were conveyed by Pat Hughes, the Operations Manager from Rye and District Community Transport.

First up, as there was a wedding in the afternoon, was the iconic and much photographed marshland church of St Thomas Becket in the hamlet of Fairfield (above). Originally built of timber around the beginnings of the 13th century, the temporary structure was used by local farmers and farm workers as a place of worship with the wooden church surviving until the 18th century, when the exterior brick walls were added. Although the church has stood the test of time, the hamlet of Fairfield has long since disappeared. Of particular personal interest were the boxed pews that were also found in some of the subsequent churches visited.

Next up was the magnificent 'Cathedral of the Marsh' and Kent's longest Parish Church, All Saints' in Lydd. Long thought to be of Saxon origin, recent research suggests that part of the church – a small basilica which had an apse, an arcade on the north side of three bays and an elaborate porch on the west side - can be dated to the latter half of the

5th Century, the Romano-British period. I could also not help but notice that the first of the listed names of the Rectors and Vicars of Lydd was a certain 'Peter of Winchelse' (1283).

After a leisurely ploughman's lunch at the *Woolpack Inn* in Brookland we then headed for the nearby St Augustine's Church, famous for its detached wooden bell tower clad in shingles. St Augustine's also contains the highest box pews in the Marsh, a double decker pulpit with a sounding board, a Norman lead font and a 'hudd', (as in our guide's surname) pictured below. This is a type of wooden shelter, similar to a sentry box, that was carried outside to protect the vicar against the elements when conducting a burial service.

Finally, we travelled to St Augustine's Church in the hamlet of Snave, a church that was declared redundant in 1983 and now entirely maintained by the RMHCT. Apparently in Spring the walk from the gate to the church is covered by a carpet of daffodils. This church is also unusual in that the east end, the Lady Chapel – now containing a fireplace and more recently used as a schoolroom – vies for importance with the Chancel.

As time seemed to have escaped us, on the return to Winchelsea we settled for a drive past St Eanswith's Church in Brenzett and St Dunstan's in Snargate. We wish to convey our thanks to the experienced and highly informative Dr Hudd and to Pat Hughes, our upbeat and gregarious minibus driver.





## **Mamma Mia, Winchelsea!**

It was Midsommar and warm enough to believe we were actually in the Taverna on the fictional Greek island of Kalokairi. Mind you, the polyester of our 1970s outfits and the energetic dancing (no handbags on the floor however) certainly contributed to the air temperature. Glitter and metallic materials adorned the windows, doorways, people and tables - did you know there is such a thing as a glitterball mushroom? In pink, mint or silver? Authentic discotheque lighting was fab-u-lous.

We were so happy dancing non-stop to the 3 hour long video of sing-along ABBA songs put together by Jane, interspersed by clips from Mamma Mia, Zorba the Greek, Demis Roussos, Nana Mouskouri and Abigail's Party. At the end we all joined in some Zorba the Greek dancing. No one cared about a few crushed toes.

It is 50 years since Mamma Mia was released - 1970s Rule! There were glitterball mushroom prizes for the best dancers (Peter and Vanessa), costumes (Lorna and Dave) and longest hair (Kelly), now taking twinkly pride of place on window sills I presume.

We, the Taverna Proprietors - Jane, David and Hilary - would like to thank everyone who helped in some way. Rob, Jenny, Maxine, Simon, Lucille, Graham, Owain Jones, Michael, Ginny, Jonathan, Nigel, Peter, Delane, Vanessa and Debbie. Apologies if we've left someone off.

Ticket prices were kept low at £15 with concessions so that most people in Winchelsea could afford to come; even so there was a small surplus of £280 from the event which will go to the Community Shop Project.

*Hilary Roome, Jane Archutowska and David Dickson*



# WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

The  
1999 Film



Staring:  
**Pierce Brosnan**  
**Rene Russo**

With,  
**Denis Leary**  
**Ben Gazzara**

Directed by  
**John Mc Tiernan**

## *The* **THOMAS** **CROWN** *Affair*

**SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> July 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING**  
**Admission Free**  
**Refreshments, Pay Bar.**  
**Come early, enjoy a drink or two.**

# The Scourge of Winchelsea

*A Poetic Poo-tale of Civic Duty  
and Canine Disgust*

In Winchelsea, where skies stretch wide,  
Where swifts and sea-winds love to glide,  
Two plucky pups set out one day—  
Ossie, white, with bullish sway,

And J'accuse, a sprightly sort,  
A Parson Russell, sharp of snort.  
Brown and white, with keen-eyed frown,  
She sniffed the paths that crisscross town.

Their tails aloft, their noses keen,  
They pranced through streets so warmly seen,  
With ageless charm and views divine,  
Where ancient ghosts and poppies twine.

But something foul disturbed the peace—  
An olfactory crime, a smear, a grease.  
Poo piles lurked in dappled light,  
A smelly siege, a dreadful sight.

Along Mill Lane their noses led,  
Where birds once sang and ramblers tread.  
But now? A trail of turds so vile,  
It stretched a quarter country mile.

"Mon dieu!" cried J'accuse with flair,  
"There's poop just lounging everywhere!"  
And Ossie, snorting, danced aside—  
A squat white tank with wounded pride.

And so, our duo take a stand,  
With wagging tails and firm command.  
"Pick up your poop!" they yapped and yelped,  
"It's simple, fair, and civic-helped!"

"No bag? Then ask! Don't skulk away—  
The bins are there, don't ruin the day.  
And if you spot a rogue at fault,  
Speak up with charm—but make them halt."

They rallied dogs from far and wide,  
With scooper bags and upright pride.  
A Beagle formed a tidy line,  
While Spaniels scooped in double time.

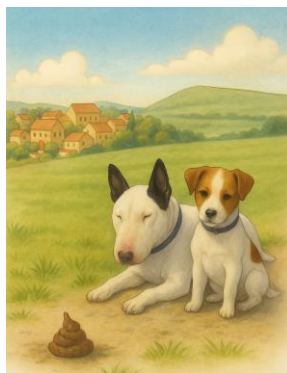
And as for those who turned away,  
Pretending not to see the display—  
J'accuse would fix them with a glare,  
That burned with shame and civic care.

Now Winchelsea, so proud and clean,  
Has shining views and fields serene.  
And every walk's a joy once more—  
No slipping, squelching, or uproar.

## **Remember this, ye dog-walked folk:**

A turd ignored is no small joke.  
So heed Oswald and J'accuse's plea—  
Keep clean our town, and proud we'll be.

Keep bags in hand, and conscience too,  
And praise those scooping after you.  
For civic pride is born in part  
From doing small things with great heart.



*Adam Hart*



## **St Michael's Hospice**

### **Remember someone special this summer**

This summer, St Michael's Hospice invites you to take part in their Remembrance Ribbons appeal as a way to celebrate and remember someone special. For Ellie, her ribbon is a tribute to her mum, Susie - who embraced life with colour and adventure. "Mum was joyous about everything—giggly, goofy, and full of beans...despite life's challenges, Mum embraced joy, even in the darkest times." After a long journey with cancer, Susie spent her final days surrounded by her family at St Michael's Hospice. "We knew it was the end, but we all felt safe, loved, understood, and at peace."

By dedicating a ribbon, you can remember your loved one, just as Ellie and her family are doing- ensuring that hospice care is there for others when they need it most. Join the Hospice in remembering, celebrating, and supporting by dedicating a ribbon today at [smhremembranceribbons.memorypage.org](http://smhremembranceribbons.memorypage.org)

### **St Michael's Hospice launches their new Carers Hub**

You may be a family member, friend, neighbour or professional carer. Whatever your relationship, looking after someone with a life-limiting illness can sometimes feel overwhelming, and you may have questions or concerns.

St Michael's Hospice have developed some short films, presented by their expert clinical team and palliative care specialists, which offers clear and practical advice on key aspects of end-of-life care. These new videos are to help and support the community of Hastings and Rother to live well

with dying, death and loss, you can access them at [stmichaelshospice.com/carers](http://stmichaelshospice.com/carers).

If you need any advice or support about anyone you're looking after, call the Hospice Telephone Support Line on 07967 724731 it's open 24 hours a day seven days a week to support whenever you need it.

### **Tickets for Moonlight Walk 2025 now on sale**

Light up the night for St Michael's Hospice Moonlight Walk on Saturday 4th October. This 7km seafront walk, celebrates life and loved ones, and help raise much-needed funds for local Hospice care in Hastings and Rother. Perfect for all the family to enjoy, this year's event will be bigger and brighter than ever, so grab your fairy lights, and join us for a memorable evening, which will include: a new shorter route, a glowing lantern installation, live entertainment and surprises along the way, a memory screen - full of photos and messages to people we miss, and an event village – with food stalls, face painting and entertainment.

Register today to get your paper lantern to decorate and your Moonlight Walk 2025 t-shirt. Plus, you'll receive seven stars to share with family, friends and colleagues. Each star can be sponsored and dedicated to someone special in their lives, which you can pin to your t-shirt and carry them with you on your walk.

Sign up at [stmichaelshospice.info/moonlightwalk2025](http://stmichaelshospice.info/moonlightwalk2025) or call 01424 896396 to find out more.



## 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 Tuesday 15th July between 10 am and 1 pm.

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. 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 local area.

I look forward to hearing from you- the answer phone is always switched on.

Kind regards.

*Cam Clarke , Old Malt House, Winchelsea.*

For further details about Rye Food Bank and how to make a donation go to [ryefoodbank.com](http://ryefoodbank.com)



## Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

### July 2025

Thursday 3rd	Bible Study at the New Inn - 6pm
Saturday 5th	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12 NGS Winchelsea Garden Opening - 1pm to 5pm Wesley's Chapel open 1pm till 5 Barn Dance - W B Community Hall
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	<b>8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level</b> <b>11am: Patronal Festival Eucharist at Winchelsea</b> Winchelsea Gardens Open for the Friends of Rye Hospital - 2pm to 5pm Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 7pm
Tuesday 8th	Mothers' Prayers - 10am
Wednesday 9th	Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
Friday 11th	Thanksgiving Service for Joyce O'Ferrall - St Thomas's - 2.30pm School Summer Fete
Saturday 12th	Winchelsea Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b> Anniversary Hymn Singing - Wesley's Tree - 2.30pm
Friday 18th	Literary Society Summer Party
Saturday 19th	Rock Choir - New Inn - 3pm
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	<i>Services at Pett are suspended during building work</i> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b> Wuthering Heights Day - New Inn Greyfriars Open Day Open Air Theatre - St Thomas's School Field - 6.30pm for 7.30
Friday 25th	Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Sat 2nd Aug	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12
<b>Sun 3rd Aug</b>	<b>8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Sat 9th Aug	Winchelsea Summer Fete

### Further ahead

Sat 23rd Aug	Garden Society Summer Show
Sat 23 to Mon 25 Aug	Millennium Artefacts Art Exhibition

Please send copy for the August Magazine  
to [ryeview@gmail.com](mailto:ryeview@gmail.com)  
as soon as you have it to hand but, in any case,  
before Tuesday 29th July

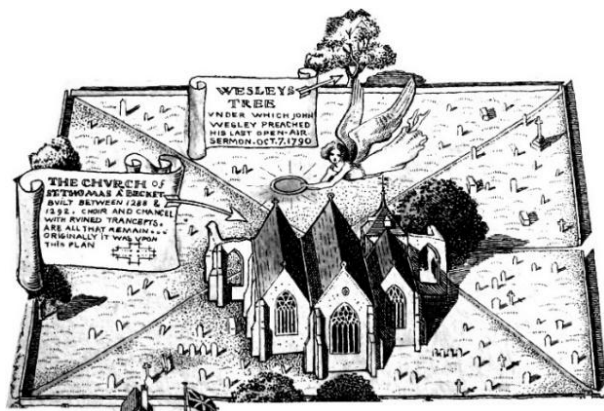


For Winchelsea Beach information go to  
[winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk](http://winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk)

For Winchelsea information go to  
[winchelsea.com](http://winchelsea.com)

For more information about the Church go to  
[winchelsea-ickleham-churches.org.uk](http://winchelsea-ickleham-churches.org.uk)

For weekly news from the local area go to  
[ryenews.org.uk](http://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](mailto:kingcelia54@gmail.com)

John Rodley  
The Stone House, Barrack Square TN36 4EG  
01797 223458 [johnrodley@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrodley@btinternet.com)

### PCC Secretary

Mary Parker  
07927 107678 [parkermary848@gmail.com](mailto:parkermary848@gmail.com)

### St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Dale Saxby  
Friars Road TN36 4ED 01797 226479  
[office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk)

### Parish Magazine

Editor David Page  
4 Kent Close TN36 4EX  
01797 226524 [ryeview@gmail.com](mailto:ryeview@gmail.com)