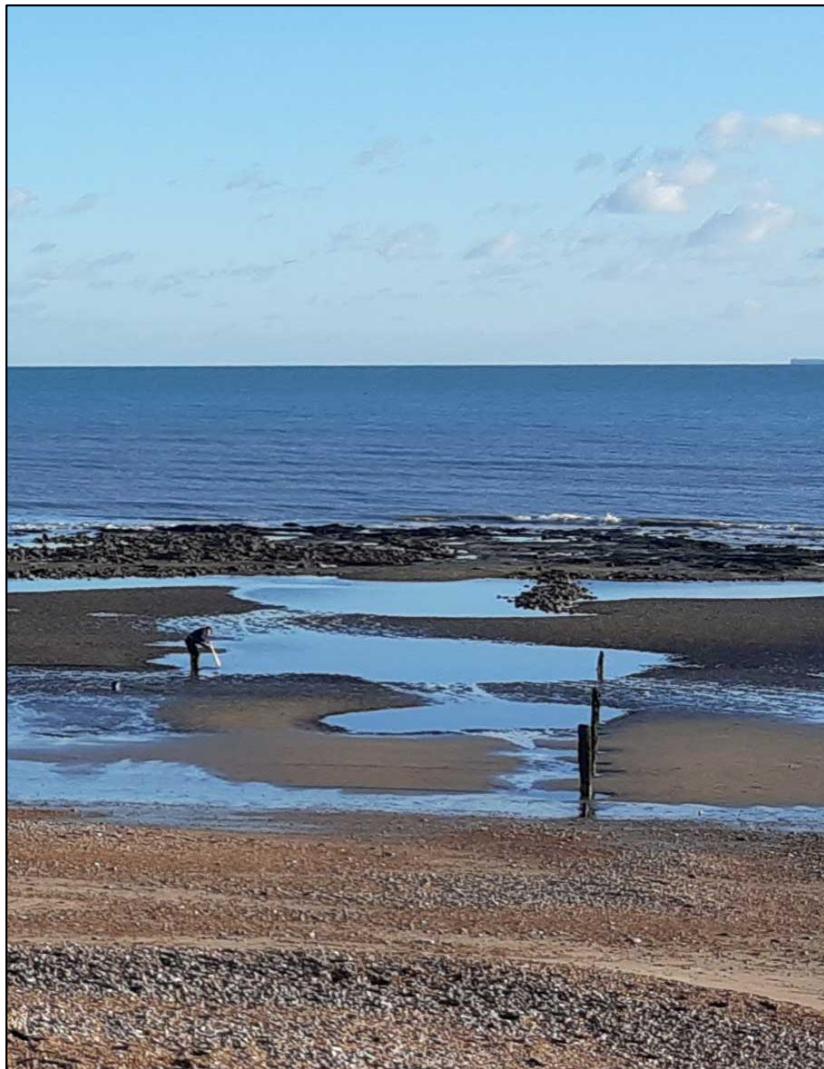


# WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2026



*Birdie Johnson*





*Robert Searle*

## **Windows and Demelza**

Once again over thirty beautiful windows lit up for Christmas at various locations in Winchelsea. At least 150 window trail maps were sold to those wishing to see the windows with friends and relatives.

During 2025, several fundraising events have taken place in Winchelsea to support the Demelza East Sussex Children Charity. Saturday 13th December saw a packed community gathering in the New Inn followed by a presentation to members of the Demelza team of funds raised on behalf of the Winchelsea Community together with a fantastic amount provided by the Belron Ronnie Lubner Charitable Foundation. The event concluded with traditional carol singing in the pub, with everyone in fine voice.

My deepest thanks to everyone in Winchelsea and beyond, who has supported this worthwhile charity in various ways. Also, to all those that opened their beautiful windows to the public, and the windows team for their support.

Funds raised to date by the community currently stands at £2,900. The foundation donation of £8750 now boosts the funds raised during 2025 to an amazing £11,650

*Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year.  
Debbie Cosstick Mayoress of Winchelsea.*



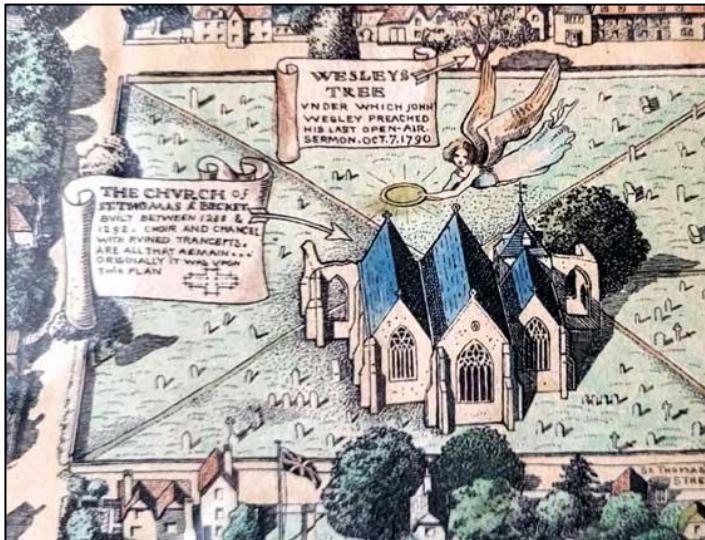
## **Taking office on 28th**

The Revd Nathanael Hayler begins his ministry here on 28th January. The legal process required formally to create the new benefice was completed in December so Nathanael will become Rector of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett.

There has been some work to do refurbishing and decorating the Winchelsea Rectory in St Thomas' Street and Nathanael expects to complete his move down from Northumberland a couple of weeks before he takes up the post.

The Church of England has a splendidly arcane set of terms for launching its clergy. Nathanael will be Collated by the Bishop of Chichester and Inducted by the Archdeacon of Hastings. The ceremony takes place in the context of a Eucharist at St Thomas's at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th January, with light refreshments afterwards.

All are welcome and it would help us get a sense of numbers if you could let us know if you plan to come. Please contact John Case - [johncase@icloud.com](mailto:johncase@icloud.com)



## Friends of Winchelsea Church

The Friends work together to preserve the Church, and, with the great generosity of our membership, contribute financially to many vital projects.

In 2025 the Friends contributed £16,339.80 towards work to the Church, some of which started in 2024 and crossed over into 2025:

- Repairs and maintenance of the flagpole.
- Repairs to the North roof, moss clearance and replacement of tiles.
- Installation of a new cast-iron downpipe, and gutter maintenance.
- Final payment for the restoration of the Transepts.
- Specialist leadwork to renew the lead on the Vestry roof and restoration of the North Chancel Window tracery by stonemasons.

Trustees: Ben Chishick, Peter Hatch, Tom Hoffman, Stephen King, David Merrifield

[friends@winchelseachurch.org.uk](mailto:friends@winchelseachurch.org.uk)

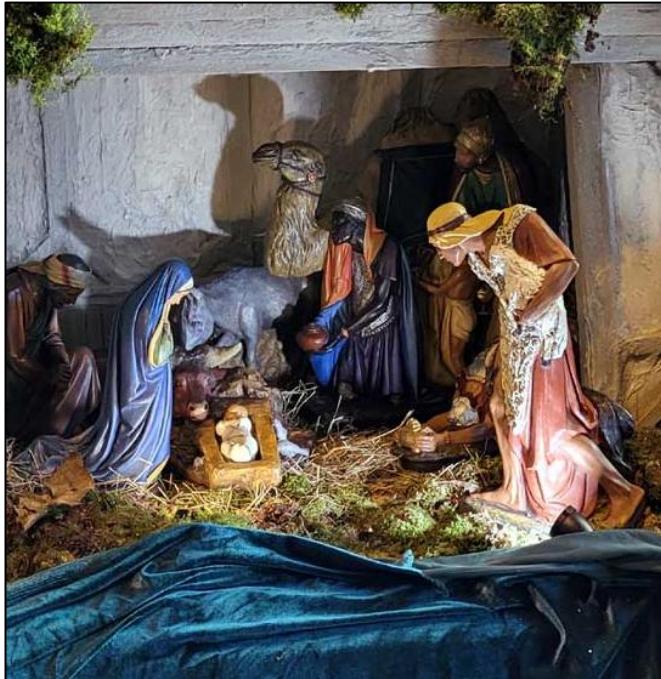
[winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk/winchelsea/friends-activities/](http://winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk/winchelsea/friends-activities/)

## Messiah by Candlelight



St Thomas's was packed for Ensemble Orquesta's sparkling performance of Handel's *Messiah*. The orchestra and singers were directed by Marcio da Silva and the church was decorated by Nigel Ashton and lit by Graham Large.

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



## **Incarnation**

This birth was like no other,  
before or since: heralded  
by angels, sought by shepherds,  
anointed by earthly kings;

This birth was like no other:  
blending God and Man in holy  
hybrid - Mary's flesh freely  
given, answering heaven;

This birth was like no other:  
prefiguring a reconciling death -  
the Absolution of Adam's sin,  
healing Man, according to God's plan.

*Richard Ormrod*



## **Winchelsea, Victoria**

On 30th November David and Sandra Merrifield visited Winchelsea, Victoria, Australia.

They were met by the Winchelsea Ward Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the Surf Coast Shire, Tony Phelps, at the old Winchelsea Shire Hall. They were shown around the historic building, which dates from 1909, replacing an earlier Shire Hall dating back to 1860.

Inside the Committee room, along with photographs of previous Councillors and Mayors, was proudly displayed a needlepoint Coat of Arms of Winchelsea. This was worked by a lady of our town to commemorate our 700th Anniversary in 1988 and was presented during the visit of a former Mayor.

In addition to the Shire Hall, Winchelsea, Victoria, has a number of other interesting buildings, including Barwon Park, the home of Pioneer Thomas Austin, Barwon Hotel, dating from 1842 and the stone bridge over the River Barwon.

The Cricket Club, although rather younger than ours, was founded in 1858 and is one of the oldest Sports Clubs in the state of Victoria.

There is also a 300 year old Red Gum tree which would be a contemporary of the Ash tree under which Wesley preached his last outdoor sermon in Winchelsea!

Although time was limited, David and Sandra thoroughly enjoyed their interesting and comprehensive visit to our sister town.





**WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT**  
In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

# **BELLEVILLE RENDEZ-VOUS**

2003 animated adventure comedy-drama film written and directed by Sylvain Chomet.



It tells the story of Madame Souza, an elderly woman who goes on a quest to rescue her grandson Champion, a Tour de France cyclist, who has been kidnapped by the French mafia for gambling purposes and taken to the city of Belleville

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**SATURDAY JANUARY 17th 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING**

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

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Mike Stoneham brings some of the tales to life     *John Josiah*

## **Tales from the Court Hall**

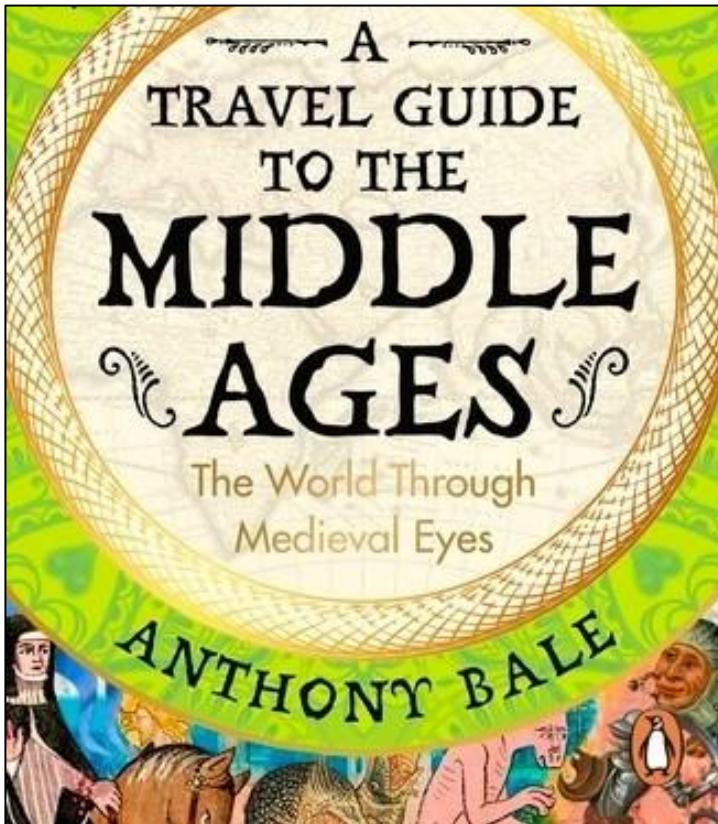
Following the sellout performances in October, the 'Tales' return to Winchelsea Court Hall on Saturday 31st January for those who missed the original event.

Not ghost stories, but true tales based on characters that have lived in Winchelsea and have been 'guests' of the atmospheric Court Hall over a 200 year period - some strange, some sinister, some moving and some amusing.

Ticket price £15 per adult (includes free drink on arrival)  
Doors open at 6.45pm. Tales commence at 7.15pm.  
Interval and licensed cash bar. Evening concludes at 9pm.

If you have not already done so, please book early to avoid disappointment. (Limited tickets still available)

For booking/enquiries contact Peter Cosstick  
01797 229087   [peterrcosstick@btinternet.com](mailto:peterrcosstick@btinternet.com)



## **Pilgrims and Travellers through Winchelsea**

On Saturday 29th November the Winchelsea and Area Archaeological and Historical Society (WAAHS) and the Winchelsea Conservation Society (WCS) jointly hosted a talk in the New Hall, Rectory Lane by Professor Anthony Bale, the current Professor of Medieval and Renaissance English Literature at the University of Cambridge. Waterstones Bookshop in Rye were also present with copies of Professor Bale's recent book, '*A Travel Guide to the Middle Ages: The World Through Medieval Eyes*' for sale.

The talk, '*The Medieval English Traveller from Winchelsea to Beyond*' derived in part from research undertaken for his critically received book. The two hosting Winchelsea societies had also provided Professor Bale with some

additional local historical but predominately pilgrimage related material to assist with his talk.

In front of a packed New Hall, there were just over a hundred people present, Professor Bale expertly navigated his way through a wide-ranging discourse, extemporising effortlessly around twenty-two beautifully illustrated colour slides. The journeys concerned were not only pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela, but also to Rome, Jerusalem, the Holy Land and points in between, as well as other journeys to places such as India, the Black Sea and the Caucasus.

The talk started with a list of elite journeys conducted through Rye and Winchelsea. For example, in December 1170 the murderers of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket entered England together at Winchelsea from Bayeaux. Professor Bale also made use of a University of Southampton dataset listing many of the medieval ships from Winchelsea, including their owners, ship's masters, known destinations, crew and approximate dates.

The *Helene*, which was licensed to take 80 pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela in 1456, was owned by Simon Farncombe, a Mayor of Winchelsea and one-time owner of the Inns at Salutation and Three Kings. Also included was a medieval sea shanty mentioning Winchelsea in the first verse, the locations of pilgrim souvenirs found nearby in Kent and first-hand accounts and itineraries of notable medieval travellers.

These included William Wey and his mnemonic verses as a memory map, Edmund Wighton's travels in the Mediterranean, Thomas Larke and Sir Richard Guylforde's journey to Jerusalem and Geoffrey Caldwell's through Venice. The latter included the helpful traveller's advice: "English men are not liked in most places, unless it's for their money or because they are in charge" (Caldwell, "A *Travel Guide to the East*" published circa 1500). Towards the conclusion of Bale's tour de force he discussed the influence of John Mandeville, as both a traveller and as a student of ethnography through his "*Book of Marvels and Travels*".

Following the talk (with the prior permission of the National Trust) Professor Bale was given a short, guided tour of the cellar at Salutation where he was able to appreciate where

Simon Farncombe's 80 pilgrims were housed awaiting passage to Spain. I believe all the copies (mostly signed) of Professor Bale's book were sold.

## 1066 And All That

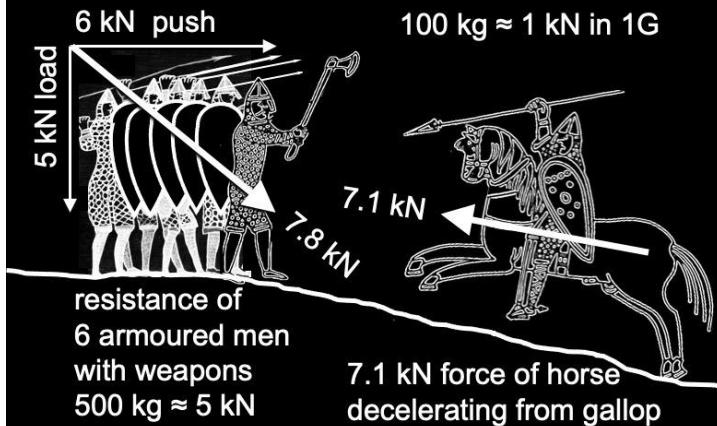
The final WAAHS talk of the year was given on 6th December by Stephen Gray, a Battle-based local historian and retired Architect (with Norman ancestry) delivered a fascinating, detailed, scientific, amusing and thoroughly ranging discourse titled, the '*Metrics of the Norman Invasion*'.

After first mentioning nine possible locations for the battle itself – Stephen cheerfully admits to imaging the Norman cavalry traversing his own back garden – the lecture, supported by nearly 50 images and drawings, ranged from the construction and organisation of the Norman amphibious fleet – in many ways a comparable undertaking to the (reverse) Invasion of Normandy (D-Day) in 1944 – to how the battle was likely fought.

During this logistical travelogue Stephen discussed the likely number of soldiers and horses able to be carried per longboat, how the Normans would have safely transported their horses (between wicker stalls), to how large and who made the sails. Also discussed was whether you would beach your longboats 'nose on' or 'under oar' considering the width of ships, length of oars and the tides. Swiftly moving on through the 'Nose to Tail Ratio' e.g., how many carpenters, clerics, clerks, courtesans, crew and cutlers (just alphabetically) were included in the overall Norman numbers, the talk progressed to the battle itself and started with an examination of the tactics used by both sides.

However, the metrics of the invasion were the theme of the talk. For example, the lethal range of a Norman arrow at Hastings was probably nearer 90 metres, although 'harassment' could be caused at up to 230 metres. This is rather less than the 300 metres (up to 250 for armour piercing) of the medieval English and Welsh longbow at the later Battle of Agincourt (1415).

## Forces in the depth of the Shield Wall



My favourite illustration though was the calculation of 'Forces in the depth of the (Saxon) Shield Wall' in kilonewtons (Kn). Apparently six men in a shield wall with weapons equals a 500 kg (5 Kn) load. By pushing forward at 6 Kn they equate to a force of 7.8 Kn against the 7.1 Kn force of a Norman cavalry horse decelerating from a gallop uphill! Mathematics was never my strong point, but I am inclined to believe an Architect. Which brings me onto Norman 'Flat Pack Castles'...

At the conclusion to the talk, and after the audience questions, Stephen - who is very much in the orthodox camp regarding where the Battle of Hastings took place, was seen engaged in a good-natured discussion with one of the prominent members of the opposing critical group. I have subsequently learnt that both historians are now in regular contact. As Stephen has said about the ongoing argument about the battle's location, "an absence of evidence is not evidence of absence". We know the battle took place. The debate as to where goes on.

*Jerry Moss*



*Ian Rowlands*



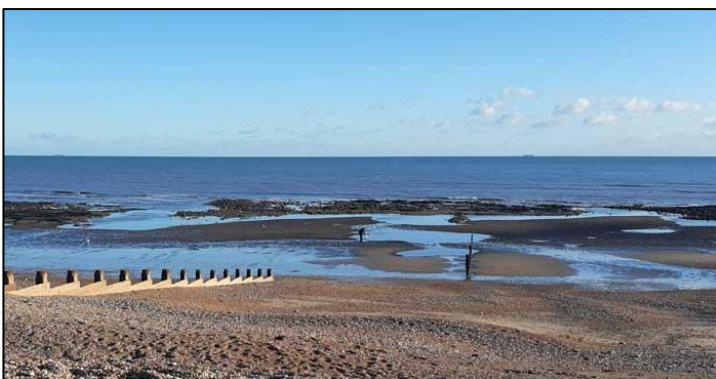
## Carols at the Hospital

Winchelsea's own community choir, *Tune In Winchelsea* sung carols for patients at Rye and Winchelsea Memorial Hospital on 9th December led by Gary Mariott.

## Carols for Parkinson's

Thank you so much to everyone who generously donated on the day and subsequently to the JustGiving page. We have now raised the amazing sum of £837 for Parkinson's UK!

*Rosemarie Roberts*



# New Hall Centenary Year

While a few gentle exercise classes continue during the twelve days of Christmas Festivities, January 2026 heralds twelve months of Centenary Celebrations at the New Hall. We are looking forward to welcoming you to a series of fun events. Thank you for your continuing support for the youngest venue in Winchelsea.

The winning number in the 100 Club Draw in December was 1, thank you Stephen Roberts for spinning the box and putting your hand in at the Film Matinee!

## 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
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

**WINCHELSEA GOES TO...**

# **HOLYROOD**

*...again!*

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016 / 6.15 for 6.30**

**Burns Night Supper & Dance**

**WINCHELSEA NEW HALL**

**The CATSFIELD STEAMERS live Ceilidh Band**

**Bring your own drinks**

All proceeds to the  
**NEW HALL**

**TICKETS**

**£20**  
Including a welcome  
drink on arrival

Contact Hilary -  
on 07923 451431

Contact Jane -  
on 07958 251742

**TICKETS on sale from SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY at the CHURCH MARKET**

## **Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh**

The Dream Team that took Winchelsea to Bollywood in 2024, and to Scotland to ABBA's Greek Island in 2025 is taking us back to Holyrood on 24th January 2026 from 6.15pm till late.

This is a Winchelsea Town community event and proceeds will go to the New Hall.

There will be plenty of dancing to the Catsfield Steamers live band with their caller. Bring your own drink. Prize for the best dressed.

Tickets cost £20 and include Haggis supper, dessert and a welcome drink. (Under 16's £5. Concessions for U/C please ask). Tickets will be on sale on 3rd January at the Church Market or you can contact Hilary Roome 07923 451431, Jane Archutowska 07958 251742 or David Dickson 07758 962824. You can pay by cash or BACS transfer.

It was a sell-out last year, so please don't delay getting your tickets. If tickets sales are slow then we may open the event up to people outside Winchelsea in the last week.



Flowers by Nigel Ashton. Snow by Al.

WINCHELSEA  
NEW HALL

W. A. MOZART

English translation by Amanda Holden,  
with additional material by the company

# COSÌ FAN TUTTE

'THEY ALL DO THAT'

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2026

7.15pm

**The New Hall**

Rectory Lane  
Winchelsea  
TN36 4AA

General Admission

**£25** (plus booking fee)

**Box Office:**

<http://www.merryopera.co.uk/>



The Merry Opera Company  
[www.merryopera.co.uk/](http://www.merryopera.co.uk/)  
Registered Charity No. 111



## Live Opera at the New Hall

We are delighted that the Merry Opera Company (touring the south east out of Tunbridge Wells) has accepted our invitation to perform their production of *Cosí Fan Tutte* in the New Hall on February 21st at 7.15pm.

Doors will open from 6.30pm for a sociable drink from the pay bar. During the interval there will be an optional package of special tasty handmade delights offered by the Winchelsea Dream Team (Hilary, David and Jane): this will only be available if pre-ordered. Details will follow in the next parish magazine and can be purchased up to one week before the event.... Proceeds from sale of drinks and food will be in aid of the New Hall.

Hilary Roome has negotiated with the Merry Opera Company to block out 48 of the 96 seats just for Winchelsea residents. If you buy through us not only will you save the online booking fee but, as seats are numbered, you can ensure you sit with your friends so long as you book together. Seats are arranged at long tables of 12.

You can see the seating plan online at [www.merryopera.co.uk](http://www.merryopera.co.uk) and of course we'll bring a reference plan along.

Opera tickets cost £25 and will be on sale at the Church Market on 3rd January. You can pay by BACS transfer (ref 'your name cosi') or cash. You can already buy online from the opera website [www.merryopera.co.uk](http://www.merryopera.co.uk) but that has a booking fee.

Further details about the production at [www.merryopera.co.uk](http://www.merryopera.co.uk)

*Hilary Roome 07923 451431  
Jane Archutowska 07958 251742  
David Dickson 07758 962824*



## **Into Antarctic Waters**

I never cease to wonder at what some people dare to do for a living. We start the 2026 Programme with what promises to be a very remarkable presentation by Sophie O'Neill who grew up in Winchelsea and is the daughter of Grace.

Together with her partner Christoffer, Sophie organises expeditions to the ends of the earth having started with a career in yachting. Sophie will also talk about meteorology, wildlife and what they did during COVID: social isolation at quite another level!

"Sailing into Antarctic waters and other remote regions". 14th January at 2.30pm starting with the brief AGM which was postponed in December. There will be mulled wine on arrival. Doors will open at 2pm.

The annual subscription of £15 is now due  
We would prefer you to pay by BACS ahead of the meeting.  
Winchelsea Second Wednesday Society business account  
(Santander). Sort code 09-01-55.  
A/c 43784800. Ref "Your name/s".  
Cash is also accepted but not cheques.

Visitors and guests £5. Teas £2. Tessa's raffle (and donations of new items for the raffle are always welcome)

*The Second Wednesday Society Committee*

## Second Wednesday talks 2026

14th January Sophie O'Neill

*Sailing into Antarctic Waters and Other Remote Regions*

11th February Evie King

*Ashes to Admin: Tales From the Caseload of  
a Council Funeral Officer*

11th March Marianne van Niekerken

*Basketry: A Contemporary Traditional Craft*

8th April David Page

*The General Strike, 1926*

(part of the New Hall's centenary celebrations)

13th May Richard Thomas

*The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe in 1989:  
An eyewitness account*

10th June Wendy A Fraser

*A Visit to Florence: off the beaten track*

8th July Brian Leonard

*A Civil Servant's View of Government  
from Wilson to Johnson*

9th September Simon Parsons

*Rye Heritage Centre: who, why, how and what*

14th October Kathryn Ferry

*Italy in Wales: 100 years of Portmeirion*

(part of New Hall's centenary celebrations)

11th November Stephen Brogan

*The Chevalier d'Eon and the tradition of women  
who passed as men*

9th December Jonathan Murphy

AGM followed by

*Crowns, Comedy and Chords: the children of 1926*

(part of the New Hall's centenary celebrations)

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





## Literary Society

The speaker at January's meeting is poet Marshall Coombs and his title is *Layered Longings: Poems Charting a Life Journey*.

Marshall Coombs lived for many years in the *Rosetti House* in Hastings Old Town, though it is doubtful whether this managed to inspire any of his poems. He taught at Hastings College, and during that period played Hamlet at The Stables Theatre. Being short-sighted, and not allowed to wear anachronistic glasses on stage, he cut Laertes's hand rather badly in the final duel - an excess of realism.

For several years he was squire of Mad Jacks Morris, and made the original frame for the Jack in the Green. He read English at Trinity College, Cambridge, and has been retired for long enough to reflect on his life, which will be the subject of some of the poems he will read.

Friday 16th January at 7pm for 7.30 in the Court Hall

# Winchelsea: Literary Society

## 2026 PROGRAMME OF TALKS

January 16th: Marshall Coombs, poet

‘Layered Longings: Poems Charting a Life Journey’

February 20th: AGM, followed by Peter Southgate  
‘Raymond Chandler & the American Anti-Hero’

March 27th: Lord Gawain Douglas (NEW HALL)  
‘In His Own Write: ‘Fortuna’ and After’

April 17th: Shirley Ormrod & John Manuell  
‘All About Henry James’

May 15th: Members’ Evening  
Topic to be decided

June 19th: Guy Fraser-Sampson (NEW HALL)  
‘The Butler Did It’: British Crime Fiction

July 17th: Summer Party  
Venue T.B.C.

August: NO MEETING

September 18th: Dr. Richard Ormrod  
‘Why Poetry? A Creative Exploration’

October 16th: Tim Bartholomew  
‘Write, Publish and Survive!’

November 20th: Alan Judd  
“The Origins of MI6 in Life & Fiction”

December 11th: “With Great Pleasure”  
Peter Cosstick, former Mayor of Winchelsea



## With Great Pleasure

A curious Lit. Soc. audience assembled to hear stalwart members, Sue and Tony Moore's, selection of great literary pleasures. Considering their perennial efforts to ensure the Society was sufficiently socially lubricated, taking up "*old Khayyam's*" invitation to share "*A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse...*" beneath the Bough seemed appropriate.

Two suitably seasonal offerings from Ted Hughes anchored the audience firmly in the bleak midwinter. "*November*" alias "*The month of the drowned dog*" saw the poet studying the barely discernible signs of life in a tramp asleep in a ditch adapting to survival mode "*like the hare with clenched teeth*" in a countryside where the corpses of slain wildlife are brazenly displayed. "*The Warm and The Cold*" had the audience shivering involuntarily in response to the description of "*Freezing dusk*" closing like "*a slow trap of steel*" but finding optimism in the series of staccato similes explaining how assorted creatures adapt to adversity in contrast to humankind "*the sweating farmers who turn in their sleep like oxen on spits*".

A swift scene change took the listener to the celestial lyricism of Canadian Air Force pilot John Gillespie Magee who slipped "*the surly bonds of Earth*" and flinging his aircraft

through “*The high untrespassed sanctity of space*” put out his hand “*and touched the face of God*”. Next, we were the mundane common-sense narrative of Kipling’s “*A Smuggler’s Song*” and the repeated injunction to “*Watch the wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by!*” Naturally, a married couple’s presentation dips into Shakespeare’s love sonnets and we heard Sonnet CXVI “*Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments*” which extolled constancy as “*...an ever-fixed mark.*”

“*London 1802*” changed the theme from love of spouse to love of country mixed with disappointment over the national trajectory. Wordsworth lamented England becoming “*a fen of stagnant waters*” and summoned Milton as Messiah to restore “*...manners, virtue, freedom, power!*” to England’s “*selfish men*”.

The mood lightened with the youthful Laurie Lee and fellow choristers in “*Cider with Rosie*” on a Cotswold Carol “*Barking*” expedition. After battling through snowdrifts and intense cold, they deliver their finest rendition at the last hilltop farmhouse on their list and depart suitably rewarded by an appreciative farmer. A reading from “*The Wind in the Willows*” found Mr. Toad congratulating himself on blagging a lift back to Toad Hall from a female bargee following his release from jail before the encounter ended prematurely in acrimony.

The Society was treated to Vera Lynn’s account of an ENSA assignment in Burma to a suitably grateful “forgotten” XIVth Army. Dangerously close to the ferocious *Stalingrad of the East* fighting with the Japanese at Imphal and Kohima, Lynn shares the soldiers’ privations without apparently commenting “*It ain’t half hot, Mum.*” Any Pavlovians in the audience wishing to give their gastric juices a trial run before their own Christmas Dinner benefitted from the meticulous description of the Cratchit family tackling their goose and Christmas pudding in “*A Christmas Carol*”.

*Bill Doherty*



The Normans are coming!

+ all the usual Winchelsea stuff

Book your team's table now!

# Saturday 28th February

Avoid a dull February and come to the famous

# FOAM Quiz

New Hall at 6.30pm

An eclectic mix of eccentric, unusual and frankly bizarre questions.



**Tables of 6 - £16 per person**  
**Includes a delicious hot meal & pudding!**

To book contact Chris Chappell - [chriswinchelsea@icloud.com](mailto:chriswinchelsea@icloud.com)  
FOAM - helping to maintain our ancient monuments & museum

[chriswinchelsea@icloud.com](mailto:chriswinchelsea@icloud.com)



## **Winchelsea Beach in January**

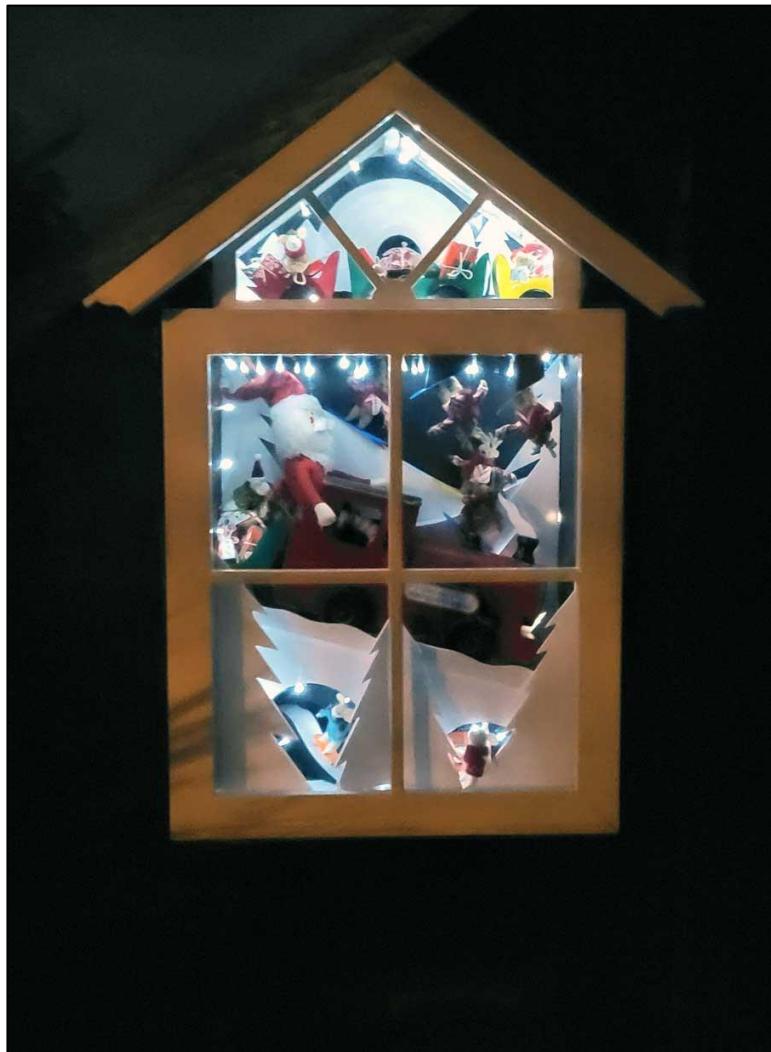
### **Mothers' Prayers**

Mothers Prayers will be on Tuesday 6th January at 10am at *Solstice*, Sea Road, Winchelsea Beach. For more information contact Mary Parker, 07927 107678.

### **Fellowship Lunch 30th January**

Fellowship Lunch will be held on Friday 30th January at 12.30 for 1 pm in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. All are welcome, but please contact Mary Parker if you have not already done so, and let us know if you have any special dietary requirements. This helps us to provide enough food for everyone. Remember there is no set charge for the meal but donations are invited and all proceeds go to charities.

If you have not been to a Fellowship Lunch before we urge you to give it a go. There is a variety of wholesome, home cooked food and wine or fruit juice if you want it, and a friendly atmosphere. You will have a chance to chat with old friends and make new ones so please join us.





## Rye Food Bank

*Cam writes:* I will be making the January Food Bank doorstep collection on Tuesday 20th January between 10am and 1pm. I have been the Town collector for the last 5 years, commencing just before COVID lockdown, collecting on the third Tuesday each month. These donations, I deliver to the Food Bank in Rye the following day, for distribution to needy local families. I am always looking for new donors and would be grateful if in the town, you would tell your neighbours.

My telephone number is 01797 226414, which has an answerphone facility. Please help the Food Bank if you can.

A Happy New Year to you and every good fortune in 2026.

*Donald Cameron 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 **January 2026**

Saturday 3rd	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12
<b>Sunday 4th</b> <i>Epiphany</i>	<b>8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Tuesday 6th	Mothers' Prayers - 10am
Thursday 8th	New Inn Bible Study - 6pm
<b>Sunday 11th</b>	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Wednesday 14th	Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
Friday 16th	Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
Saturday 17th	Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm
<b>Sunday 18th</b>	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Saturday 24th	Burns Night Supper - New Hall - 6.15 for 6.30pm
<b>Sunday 25th</b>	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Wednesday 28th	Induction of Rector - St Thomas's - 7.30pm
Friday 30th	Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
Saturday 31st	Tales from the Court Hall - 6.45 for 7.15pm
<b>Sun 1st Feb</b>	<b>8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Sat 7th Jan	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12

## Further ahead

Sat 21st Feb	Cosi fan tutte
Sat 28th Feb	FOAM Quiz

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



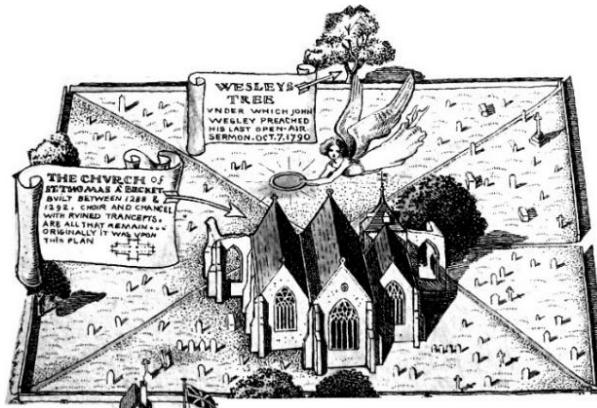
*Philip Merricks*

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-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

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



## **Benefice of Winchelsea Icklesham and Pett**

Until the Revd Nathanael Hayler is in post, 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  
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### **PCC Secretary**

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

### **St Thomas' Primary School**

*Headteacher* Dale Saxby  
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### **Parish Magazine**

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