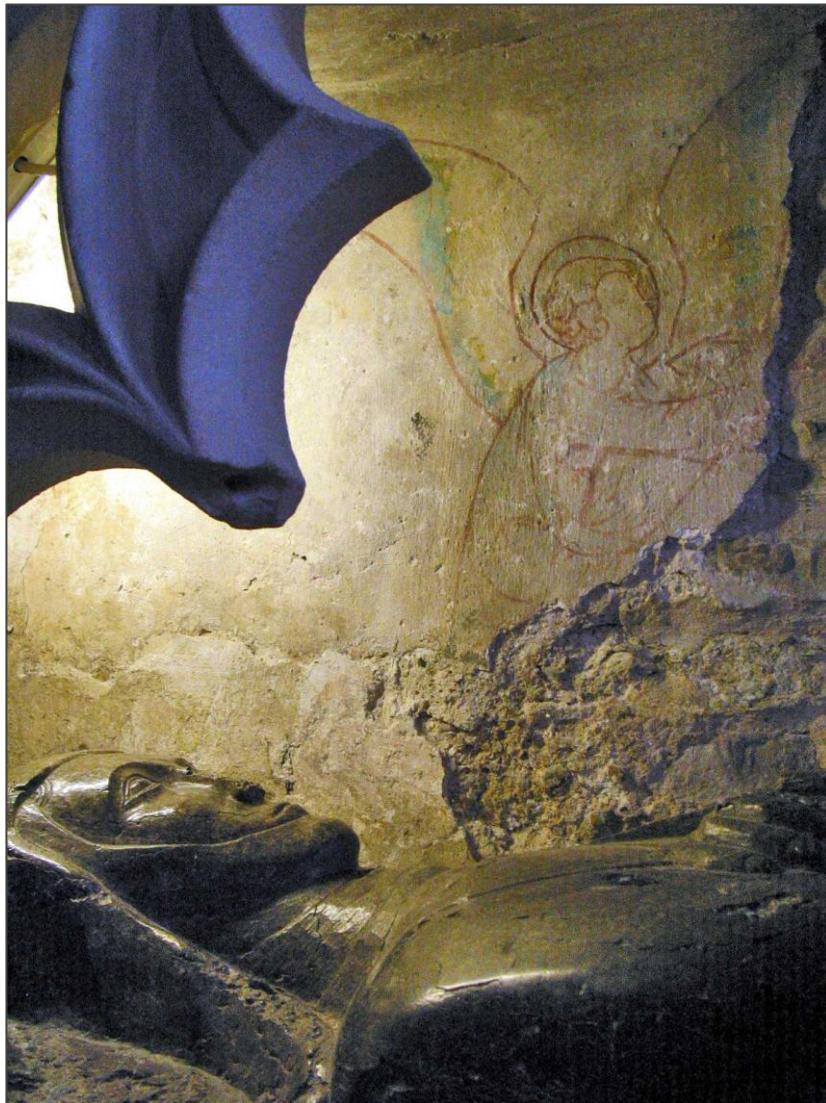


WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2026





Welcome to Nathanael

Winchelsea church was full on 28th January as friends and family, members of the church and local community came together for a service to launch the ministry of Nathanael Hayler as Rector of Winchelsea, Pett and Icklesham.

In the specialist legal terminology of the Church of England, he was collated by the Bishop of Chichester and inducted by the Archdeacon of Hastings.

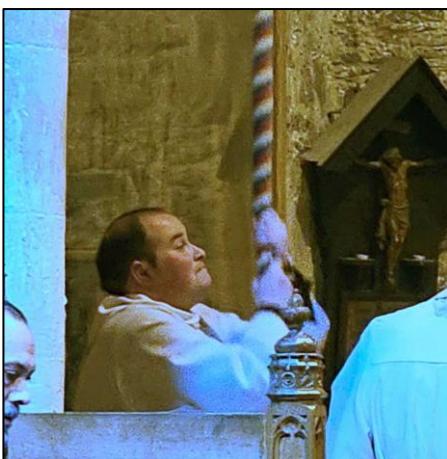
As Bishop Martin pointed out, the new Rector took up his role on the same day that the new Archbishop of Canterbury took up hers. In a sermon drawing on Jesus' Parable of the Sower, the bishop encouraged us to cultivate the gifts that we have all been given, exploring the mystery of the growth of the seed of faith and tending it in worship and prayer.



Taking the Oath of Allegiance

Having administered the necessary oaths, the archdeacon led Nathanael to the west door for the symbolic act of taking possession of the living, and then to ring the church bell.

After Communion, Nathanael gave warm thanks to all the people who had looked after the parishes during the year-long vacancy, to the team who had prepared the Rectory for him to move into, and to all those whose contribution had made the induction service such a memorable occasion.



Photos by Natasha Robinson

Lenten Listening

An Invitation from the Rector

Arriving in a new and unknown place can be daunting but I have been overwhelmed with your kindness, care and generosity in helping me to settle in the Rectory and step into ministry with you. Thank you.

Later this month the season of Lent begins - an imitation of the 40 days Christ spent in the wilderness of temptation before his passion and death. On Sundays we gather in worship to prepare our hearts for the solemnities of Holy Week and the great joy of Easter. More widely, the season of Lent invites us to consider how we might grow in faith through prayer, meditation on the scriptures, and conversation.

It seems an excellent opportunity, over the 40 days of Lent, to offer space and time for listening. I want to hear your story, to learn about your faith and your doubts, and to offer a listening ear in whatever life holds for you at the moment. I would love to hear from you if you'd like to find time for a conversation – long or short, your house or mine, in church or on a dog walk. You don't have to be a churchgoer to be in touch and it would be wonderful to hear from you whatever your thoughts on life, faith, the world, and the church.

This is the prayer I will be praying daily in Lent this year; please join me:

*Thanks be to Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly, Follow Thee more nearly. Amen.*
(Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

The Revd Nathanael Hayler
The Rectory, Winchelsea, TN36 4EB
rector.wip@gmail.com 01797 308531
WhatsApp or SMS: 07941 602349

The Benefice of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett

Ash Wednesday

18th February 2026



Holy Communion *with Imposition of Ashes*

6pm at St Thomas, Winchelsea

*A contemplative service reflecting on the frailty of our
earthly lives and the precious nature
of our life in God.*



Martin Lew-Gor

Church Lighting Appeal Challenge

Those responsible for the Lighting Appeal at St Thomas's are very grateful to everyone who responded to the gift challenge set by Eric Rowe and Nick Shiren. In early December, Nick offered to match donations received by 31st December up to £20,000.

Including Gift Aid, we raised just over £20,000 which triggered a donation of £20,000 from Nick plus a further £5,000 in Gift Aid. Many thanks to everyone who pledged or made a cash donation, including the Friends of Winchelsea Church who provided £4,025.

An excellent result. We are now only £31,000 short of our target and are making applications to the various trusts and foundations who award grants for projects such as ours.

St Thomas's Church should soon have the quality of lighting that befits a church which is described by Nikolaus Pevsner in *The Buildings of England* as "grand architecturally and rich decoratively".

There is still an opportunity to make a donation. Contact our Treasurer, David Harris harrismanuell@outlook.com)

'Falstaff comes to Winchelsea'

Before embarking on a new first leg of his tour, Falstaff returns to his roots to appear at Winchelsea New Hall on Saturday 28th March for 'One Knight' only!

Performed in its entirety by our very own Mike Stoneham.

Considered by many to be one of Shakespeare's finest comic creations,

Falstaff has been laughed at and loved by generations as the fat, vain, boastful (and rather cowardly) old knight. Based on the acclaimed novel by Robert Nye, this play has Falstaff recounting his life story; from going to sea as a boy to fight the French; surviving unscathed as plague ravished the land; his strange encounter with Joan of Arc; his friendship with the Prince of Wales (Hal), later to be Henry V of course; his first hand account of the battle of Agincourt and the reasons for his love affair with

The Humble Onion!

Told in modern language, 'Falstaff' is both funny, moving and full of pathos



Saturday 28th March 7.30pm – Winchelsea New Hall

Ticket Price £15 per adult (unsuitable for children)

Doors open at 6.45 pm – Licensed Bar

For bookings & enquiries email: peterrcosstick@btinternet.com

All profits to Winchelsea Corporation Charity no: 1192506



Talking about the Little Shop

In December we held a Christmas drinks reception in the New Hall for all our shop volunteers. Nathan and his partner Pauline were our guests of honour. A collection for a Christmas gift for Nathan raised £300. Nathan was delighted and has already spent some of his voucher on some wine and is planning a short winter break.

In January, we caught up with two of our regular volunteers (pictured above) - Angela Howitt, who moved to the town last year and Maddy Coelho, who has been here for more than 15 years. We asked them both to share their experiences of supporting the Little Shop.

Angela “We previously lived in Ticehurst. We wanted to live somewhere where we could walk to a shop, a pub and bus stop. Winchelsea ticked all our boxes! As having a shop in the town was one of the reasons that we moved here, I thought I should volunteer and play my part to save it.”

Maddy “To be honest I’m really not one of life’s volunteers, so I didn’t say yes straightaway, but it sounded a fun thing to do and great way to help the community. It’s definitely not a chore or boring!”

Angela “Nathan did my initial training covering the till and the coffee machine. I was really nervous before my first shift, but once you’ve done a shift you feel much more confident. It’s just like anything you do in life, you just need to throw yourself into it, get a bit of experience, and you soon start to feel competent.”

Maddy “I had never worked in a shop and didn’t quite know what to expect or what would be involved. However, after spending some time with Nathan I started to get the hang of it. Now that I’m reasonably competent I also help out for a few hours on Thursdays. It’s the shop’s delivery day, so Nathan can deal with all that, while I cover the till and coffees.”

Angela “For me it’s all about meeting people and dealing with the public. We always work in pairs, so getting to know my fellow volunteers on a Sunday has been great, in fact after spending three hours with someone behind the counter, you know them rather well!”

Maddy “I’m equally happy with the till and the coffee machine. I’ve opened up and closed the shop on a Sunday in equal measure; at first it seems like there is a fair bit to remember but it’s all documented in the volunteers’ folder, which is very comprehensive.”

Angela “There’s been some funny moments, as other volunteers know the measuring scales in the shop can be a bit temperamental. But customers are very understanding, they know that without us, the shop wouldn’t open on a Sunday”.

Maddy “On my first training session I spurted milk all over the shop, or at least all over the coffee machine and myself! Also, in my early days I calculated the cost of two tomatoes as over £10! I must have got the decimal point in the wrong place! I know not everyone has the time, but I recommend volunteers go into the shop as much as possible to familiarise themselves with everything. Its then less stressful and much more enjoyable.”

Angela “All of us volunteers can think of improvements we might make once it becomes a community shop? Some new scales would be top of my list. It would be good to smarten

the shop up, maybe give it a coat of paint and consider stocking some high-quality frozen meals, for both fulltime residents and those staying at the weekend.”

Maddy “It would be nice to have some locally produced ready meals or home-made cakes. Maybe we could do more with the first floor, increasing footfall would help the turnover. We could also use the town WhatsApp group, to let people know about a delivery or when seasonal products like asparagus and soft fruit have arrived.”

Angela “I would encourage more people to volunteer, it’s really a lot of fun, why not give it a go; and if it doesn’t work out for you that’s fine; but try it. I really love it!”

Maddy “Just go ahead and give it a go. It’s fun and you can learn new skills and meet lots of new people.”

Angela “I also try to use the shop as much as possible. This Christmas I bought lots! The turkey, bacon, pigs in blankets, all my veg and fruit, croissants, cream and I’m sure there was more on the list than that!”

Maddy “I brought a Turkey, Christmas veg, smoked salmon, bread and milk, we had ten people staying for five days so we used a lot of staples to keep us all going!

Thank you to Angela and Maddy and all our wonderful volunteers.

If you are interested in joining Angela and Maddy as a shop volunteer, please contact Ali Casey, shopgroup@winchelsea.com or any other member of our Steering Group.

Each shift our volunteers learn 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 all ensure its future.

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

Winchelsea
Garden Society

Edward Flint

talks about

Container Gardening

The New Hall
Winchelsea
TN36 4AA

2:30pm Saturday
7 February 2026

Admission £5





Icklesham Parish Council

2026-27 Budget

At the Full Council Meeting held on 12th January, the Parish Council formally agreed the 2026-27 budget, following careful consideration of current financial pressures and local priorities. The approved precept stands at £153,810 which represents a small 0.6% decrease compared to the 2025-26 budget. As usual, IPC remains aware that we all face financial challenges, and we continue to manage spending responsibly whilst continuing to support essential services and community assets. Thorough out the year we act quickly to maintain and improve these facilities for residents and visitors alike.

Importantly, the agreed precept also includes provision for future investment in the public toilets at Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach, once ownership is eventually transferred. Our forward planning will allow IPC to act quickly to maintain and improve these facilities for residents and visitors alike.

Pitch Fees and Allotment Fees

At the same Full Council Meeting, Councillors agreed that recreation ground pitch fees and allotment fees will remain unchanged for the time being. This decision reflects the Council's commitment to keeping outdoor recreation and allotment gardening accessible to the whole community. These facilities play an important role in supporting health,

wellbeing, and social connection, and the Council did not wish to place additional financial pressure on users at this time.

Christmas Trees

IPC was once again delighted to install Christmas trees in all four wards this festive season. These displays have become a much-loved tradition, helping to spread seasonal cheer throughout the parish. We hope that both residents and visitors enjoyed the trees and a special thank you goes to everyone who helped add extra sparkle and decorations, making the trees even more magical and truly reflective of our community spirit.

Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach Toilets

Following the submission of business cases to Rother District Council at the end of October, the Parish Council is currently awaiting a formal update on the proposed transfer of the Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach public toilets. While we are still waiting for confirmation, we anticipate receiving further information ahead of the next Full Council Meeting on 9th March. The Council will continue to keep residents informed as soon as more details become available.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday 9th February –

Planning Meeting 6.15 pm at Icklesham Pavilion

Monday 23rd February –

Planning Meeting 6.15 pm followed by Open Spaces Meeting at Winchelsea Court Hall

Monday 9th March –

Planning Meeting 6.15 pm followed by Full Council Meeting at Winchelsea Beach Community 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 or write to
PO Box 148 Winchelsea TN31 9FP 07714 169901

**Winchelsea
Garden Society**

Coach outing to
RHS Garden

Wisley

Wednesday 25 February

Departing at 9 am from
German Street and
returning by 5 pm

Travel and entry £20

Places are limited to 33
people. To guarantee your
place, please book and pay
Judith Payne by cash or
cheque at Castle Cottage,
Castle Street, Winchelsea
TN36 4EL

For further information,
please contact Howard
Norton on 01797 226524 or
howard@ryeview.net





Renewed stage lighting and floor

When you go into the New Hall sometime soon, you won't fail to notice that the floor has been refurbished. It was new in 1997 as part of the structural rescue project and has been appreciated since as a good dance floor. Unfortunately the varnish is worn through in places and the Parana pine is not very robust so it has taken some knocks since.

We are fortunate to have received two major grants to add to our fundraising in 2025 to help with both this work (by a contractor from Pett) and also the stage lighting renewal.

If you look up a bit in the Hall you may notice that the stage lighting has been renewed - with low energy fittings now controlled by a new computerised desk. Stage lighting designer Graham Large has been invaluable to the New Hall in devising an achievable scheme and putting us in touch with a specialist in Rye Harbour, EWP, who fit cruise ships

worldwide with stage lighting. This work was carried out in time for the Burns Night bash.

We would like to thank our supporters who donate to the New Hall, participate in the 100 Club (number 94 won in January) and residents who come to the various fundraising events which brought in £6,841 during 2025, plus fantastic support from the Bernard Sunley Foundation in July of £5,000 which encouraged the National Lottery Community Fund to give £12,837 later the same month.

All these contributions have allowed us to go ahead with the floor refurbishment and the stage lighting renewal. We look forward to welcoming you back in our Centenary Year for glittering stage shows and with a series of exciting events.

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
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



W. A. MOZART

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

COSÌ FAN TUTTE

'THEY ALL DO THAT'

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST 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/
Registered Charity No. 1110000



On 21st February, at 7.15pm, we welcome the Merry Opera Company to the New Hall as part of our centenary celebrations. Their production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* brings professional opera singers. The libretto is sung in English in order to fully appreciate the wit.

Tickets are just £25 and they are selling fast. At the time of writing there were just 22 tickets left online and only 11 for purchase direct from us (which saves you the booking fee). Contact Hilary Roome on 07923 451431. There will be a Bar - proceeds in aid of the New Hall.

merryopera.co.uk



More Haggis

On Saturday 24th January, Jane Archutowska and Hilary Roome hosted 'Winchelsea Goes to Holyrood....Again' with live band the Catsfield Steamers.

63 guests sat down to freshly cooked supper prepared by Jane and Hilary with help from Maxine and Simon Kemp and Mark Russell. White heather, tartan ribbon, thistles and antlers decor kindly lent by Nigel Ashton adorned tables and doorway: Rob Mortimer, Richard Plumb and his friend Anu created an elegant setting.

Our version of the traditional celebration of the poet Robert Burns and his fondness for haggis started thus: bekilted Richard Plumb with accordion accompaniment paraded the ceremonial haggis on a fir-fronds-decorated platter with Bill Doherty dramatically reciting the words by Burns addressed to the 'wee beastie', finally stabbing it with a big knife. [Click here](#) to watch the parading of the haggis.

The delicious supper (haggis, neeps, tatties and cranachan) was followed by a lively ceilidh with the eight piece Catsfield Steamers Band helping the diners work off some of the carbs until 10pm. Everyone who could joined in the dancing which was great fun.

The event, organised and cooked by Hilary Roome and Jane Archutowska, aimed at being inclusive to all residents of Winchelsea with a very modest ticket price of £20 with concessionary rates which included a welcome drink of delicious organic Prosecco. Guests brought their own drinks for the meal to ensure it was an affordable night out.

Thanks go to the team of helpers. At the close, revellers stayed behind to stack the chairs and fold the tables - there's something you wouldn't expect at a swanky club, but it was a true community event. And thanks to the wonderful Catsfield Steamers and caller for their music accompaniment to our dances.

Thank you to the organisers of a lively community event and for the surplus of £297 which was donated to the New Hall.



The Winchelsea Players are back

At the end of July, *The Winchelsea Players* will be returning to the New Hall with a much-loved comedy, bringing wit, sophistication and much-needed laughs.

For those who are relative newcomers to Winchelsea, *The Players'* previous sell-out performances were acclaimed worthy of the 'West End' and we're thrilled to be back.

We'll be announcing auditions shortly to scout for local talent, both front and back stage. Call Monica Janssens for details on 07961 341894. Watch this space!

Winchelsea & Area Archaeological & Historical Society (WAAHS)

AGM & Archaeological Talks

Speakers: Cameron Ross & Luke Barber



Excavations in Icklesham

Bronze Age, Roman Road & the Medieval Period

Winchelsea

The Pottery Found in the Cellar at Blackfriars Barn

New Hall, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea TN36 4AA

Saturday 28th February 2026. Doors Open at 10.30 for 11.00

£5 Entry or Free to WAAHS Members

winchelsea.com/the-town-story/archaeology



Winchelsea Residents Association

A look back at Christmas

Although Christmas and the New Year already feel some distance behind us, our thanks go to Icklesham Parish Council (IPC) for providing the tree, and to Peter Cossick for the baubles. This year, the WRA supplied and installed the lights, which many residents told us made the tree feel especially magical. These have now been safely stored away ready for next Christmas.

Toilets at Monks Walk

IPC continues to work with Rother District Council (RDC) to acquire the freehold of the public toilets at Monks Walk. IPC is currently reviewing legal support for the transfer and has submitted business plans to RDC outlining how the toilets would be managed and maintained in the future.

Traffic Update

We are awaiting confirmation from National Highways on the progress of the proposed no-left-turn / no-right-turn scheme. We understand that officers from both National Highways and East Sussex County Council are due to meet to discuss the matter. We will be requesting an update from both agencies shortly and will share further information as soon as it becomes available.

2026 Priorities

At the AGM in October, residents shared a range of ideas for future WRA projects. In January, the Committee met to agree which of these should form our main focus for the coming year.

Speed Limit Review and Safe Crossing

Our primary project for 2026/27 will be to revisit the possibility of reducing the speed limit in the town to 20mph, with a particular focus on Monks Walk, in the vicinity of the school. Alongside this, the same working group will explore options for creating a safe pedestrian crossing outside the New Hall.

This group will be led by Richard Plumb and David Dickson, with support from Georgia Benn. If you would like to join the working group, please contact Glen Marks at

ra@winchelsea.com.

Cycle Paths

We also discussed how the WRA might support the development of cycle paths around Winchelsea. Jane Taylor recently attended a meeting with *Greenways*, the organisation responsible for cycle safety and route planning. Their current priorities lie elsewhere, but they have been invited to contact us if opportunities arise in the future.

Footpaths and access to the Station

Another suggestion was to explore the possibility of creating a safer pedestrian route between the town and the station. While this will not be a WRA project for 2026, we will continue to consult with the National Trust about this and about maintaining local footpaths to a good standard.

WRA Subscriptions 2025/26

As we approach the new subscription year (2026/27), we would like to thank everyone who has already paid their 2025/26 subscription.

A considerable number of members have not yet paid for the current year. It is easy to overlook a small annual amount, but your subscriptions are vital in supporting our work. If you are unsure whether you have paid, please text Georgia Benn on 07771 800623, and she will confirm your status.

Annual subscription: £10 per person

Bank details:

Winchelsea Residents Association

Account no: 59667362

Sort code: 60-02-07

Membership

Keeping our membership list up to date is important. If you have changed your contact details, moved away, or no longer wish to be a member, please let us know at

ra@winchelsea.com.

The same address can be used if you would like to join. We also have a vacancy on the Committee for any resident interested in contributing to the projects mentioned above. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved.



Paul Veys



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

Shirley Valentine

Director -

Lewis Gilbert

Screenplay -

Willy Russell

Starring -

Pauline Collins
& Tom Conti

Shirley Valentine is a 1989 romantic comedy-drama film that follows a middle-aged housewife's journey of self-discovery during a trip to Greece.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14th 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING

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



Literary Society

Peter Southgate is this month's speaker at Literary Society on Friday 20th at 7 for 7.30pm in the Court Hall.

The meeting will begin with the AGM before his talk commences.

Peter last spoke to us about John Betjeman. He spent many years in the past preparing and publishing reports for the British Government on the criminal justice system, followed by similar work for the government of Tasmania. Since then he has written magazine and newspaper articles and books and given talks on literature and art.

This month he'll be talking to the Society about Raymond Chandler, the famous exponent of 'noir' detective fiction.



Poetry please

Aware Socrates had warned that the unexamined life is not worth living, the Lit. Soc. gladly welcomed local poet, Marshall Coombs, to entertain them by examining his life through the lens of his poetry.

The first port of call on this autobiographical voyage was *“Thirty”* where he concluded that his life experience permitted him *“a dexterous marshalling of resources”* to compensate for his diminishing drive. Meantime his inner man readied *“for a series of deplorable disturbances in one’s most respectable suburban areas”*. Such intrinsic, virile vitality seems preferable to Matthew Arnold’s gloomy assessment at the same milestone *“I am past thirty and 3 parts iced over.”*

Forty found our speaker in Hastings swamped in maritime influences – tides, winds.....and seagulls! Seduced by their languid flight, he is keen to share their synchronised awareness of wind and tidal patterns. In the tides, an earthly manifestation of the movement of heavenly bodies, he sees a metaphor of his own life.

A seasonal sequence of poems starts with *“A Lull in March”* in which Coombs hails *“the quiet waves”* of a neap tide registering their arrival with alliterative insistence *“slapping at the salt-scoured shingle on the empty shore”* before

Summer's "welter of days" initially stretches and then contracts leaving the poet atop Hastings' East Hill reminiscing in his evocative piece "September Sunlight":- "The light of the essential" initiating a play "of beams and shadows", "like a rich Book of Hours, not sharp as Spring". These reflections trigger the realisation that it's "Time to move on...." and leave the world of Jonathan Livingstone Seagull and ornithological spirituality.

A Memory breaks to the England of the 50s and the poem's striking layout is littered with broken lines. Continuing the homage to "The Seven Ages of Man" "At Seventy" imagines that the poet's cranium encloses memories which ricochet round its vault. Within the memories, the perception of distant, departed days is no longer as through the glass rainbow of Chartres Cathedral's celebrated "vitraux" but rather a glimpse of the vibrant, discordant colours at the bottom of a vigorously shaken kaleidoscope.

"Footprints in the sands of time" feature in other recitations. "Envoi" records the plaintive request of the poet's 99-year-old mother "I want to go home" made from her care home life of "diminishment and dissolution" - an apparent indication of her readiness to embrace death – a conjunction duly attained within the week, the "dispatching" of the title.

In "The Wizard Astronomer", the 78-year-old Marshall ruminates on ageing and that spectral stalker, dementia, that paradoxical co-existence of immediate forgetfulness and freshly minted childhood scenes conjured from remote memory. Seeking the mechanism of illness he drills down onto misfiring "constellations of synapses", where amyloid plaques and tau proteins lurk mischievously among forests of nerve cells.

In the metaphorical "Paper Boat" (of Poetry) Coombs explains that, as helmsman of this craft, he navigates a safe channel through the perils of life's sea, seeking "the current" and "the amicable shore". Buoyed by his bravura performance the audience was confident he would find them.

Bill Doherty



St Thomas' Church
Winchelsea TN36 4EB

**Saturday 14th March
at 7.30pm**

Tickets online at
winchelsea-arts.org.uk

£25 (free for under 18s)

**Winchelsea
Arts**

Poulenc and Friends
The Music of Les Six



winchelsea-arts.org.uk

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



John Wesley's Chapel

We kick off the 2026 programme at the Chapel on Saturday 14th February with a bring-and-share Coffee Morning from 10am to 12pm. It is of course St Valentine's Day, so why not pop in with someone you love for a good friendly chat and a cup of tea or coffee. It doesn't matter whether you bring something for the nibbles table or not, but do come. You will be very welcome. We are advised that there will be at least some chocolate fudge-cake on offer.

Then on Saturday 14th March at 10.30am there will be an historical presentation based around Shipbuilding in the Rother Valley. This will be an amateurish attempt to join up some of the historical dots in English history way back, primarily in medieval times. It is designed to be informative as well as interactive and fun. Teas and coffees will also be served at some point during the proceedings.

And then looking just a little further ahead, on Saturday 11th April at 10.30 for 11am there will be an Easter Songs of Praise service conducted by Rev Jonathan and Dr Julie Todd. This is the Saturday after Easter and we are looking forward to singing lots of very joyful hymns and songs. As always, you will be very welcome at any of the Chapel events.

Mike Lambourne winchelseachapel.org



Winchelsea Beach in February

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers Prayers will be on Tuesday 3rd February at 10am at *Solstice*, Sea Road, Winchelsea Beach. For more information contact Mary Parker, 07927 107678.

Fellowship Lunch 27th February

Fellowship Lunch will be held on Friday 27th January at 12.30 for 1 pm in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. All welcome. Booking essential - please contact Mary as above to book or for more information.



WINCHELSEA BEACH
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION



INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A
VALENTINE'S
QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT

SAT 14th FEBRUARY 2026 ~ 7pm for 7.30 pm

~ ALL WELCOME, TEAMS OF UP TO 6 ~
~ FIRST & LAST PRIZES ~ RAFFLE ~

TICKETS £14 EACH, BOOK IN ADVANCE:

FROM Mary: 07927 107 678

email: parkermary848@gmail.com

~ INCLUDES VEG OR CHICKEN CURRY ~
~ FREE PARKING ~

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS!

**WINCHELSEA BEACH COMMUNITY HALL,
SEA ROAD, WINCHELSEA BEACH, TN36 4NA**

REGISTERED CHARITY

278165

winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk



Winchelsea Old Station

1851

The railway line between Ashford and Hastings opened on 13th February 1851. To celebrate the occasion MPs and Mayors have been invited to come on the train from Hastings at 10.25am or to wave from station platforms as the train passes through.

It would be great if the community could support this celebration either on Winchelsea station at 10.43 or on the train where there will be free refreshments and some kind of memorabilia to purchase. The train is following the usual pattern of stops at every station.

If you would like to come on board:

- could you let me know and supply me with the following to get a travel warrant courtesy of Southern –
- The name of the station you intend to board the train from and later leave from. Presumably Winchelsea!
- Your email address.

Might be a bit of fun!

Also Southern appreciate our very own community support as does the Marshlink Community Rail Partnership. Both of these organisations are organising and financing this celebration.

John Spencer Rookery Cottage



Ashes to Admin

February's Second Wednesday talk is given by Evie King, author of *Ashes to Admin: Tales from the Caseload of a Council Funeral Officer*.

Evie is a local council worker, charged with carrying out Section 46 funerals under the Public Health Act. or, to put it in less cold, legislative language, funerals for those with nobody around who is willing or able to bury or cremate them. She will take you through her caseload, or her people as she prefers to call them, revealing the reasons individuals land on her desk, what happens when they get there and what life lessons we can all take away.

11th February at 2.30pm in the New Hall.

Members free, visitors £5, homemade tea £2

Hamlet

April 22nd-25th 2026



*Mars Sams as Hamlet in the Alard Chantry,
the setting for the play.*

Photo by Jonathan Murphy

Hamlet Prince of Denmark

by William Shakespeare

Performed in the Alard Chantry, St Thomas's Church from Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th April at 7pm with a Saturday matinee at 2pm. Tickets cost £25 and are available online here: ticketsource.co.uk/foam

Pre-show talk with the director at 6pm every evening and at 1pm on Saturday. Discover more about the play and our production. £5

All profits from the production will be donated to Winchelsea Little Shop and the Friends of the Ancient Monuments.

Rehearsals are well under way for this unique and ambitious production featuring an extraordinary cast of 23 professional and highly experienced local actors.

A bespoke stage, seating and lighting will be installed in the 800-year-old chapel, with the tomb of Winchelsea's first mayor, Gervase Alard, as a backdrop. Seventeenth century period costumes are being supplied by the Royal Shakespeare company.

We hope that the whole town will support this extraordinary production, not least because it is raising funds for our vital shop and the maintenance by FOAM of our medieval buildings.

All previous Lines End Theatre Company productions have sold out weeks before opening night. There are only 50 seats for each performance, early booking is advised if you wish to secure the best view.

FOAM would like to record their sincere thanks to the rector, churchwardens and PCC for allowing us to use the church.

Meet the cast

In the leadup to the production, a series of parish magazine articles will introduce you to the cast. Sam Woodhams (below) plays Horatio, Hamlet's friend and confidant.

Sam is a highly experienced actor who recently completed a national tour of 'Death Comes to Pemberly' playing George Wickham alongside Eastenders cast member James Bye.



In his most recent film, '*Mickey 17*', Sam played opposite Hollywood superstar Robert Pattison. Sam has appeared in numerous productions directed by Nigel Ashton.

He commented 'I'm very excited about working with Nigel again in the unique setting of Winchelsea Church, on this, perhaps the greatest play ever written'.



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
FOAM - helping to maintain our ancient monuments & museum

chriswinchelsea@icloud.com

winchelsea.com/foam

Foreword Michael Aspel
Editor Wilma van Stratum

- Meet the experts at home
- Rediscover the most memorable finds
- See how the programme is made

Editor, Wilma van Stratum, advises bespectacled old gent about value of bronze horseman



Wilma van Stratum

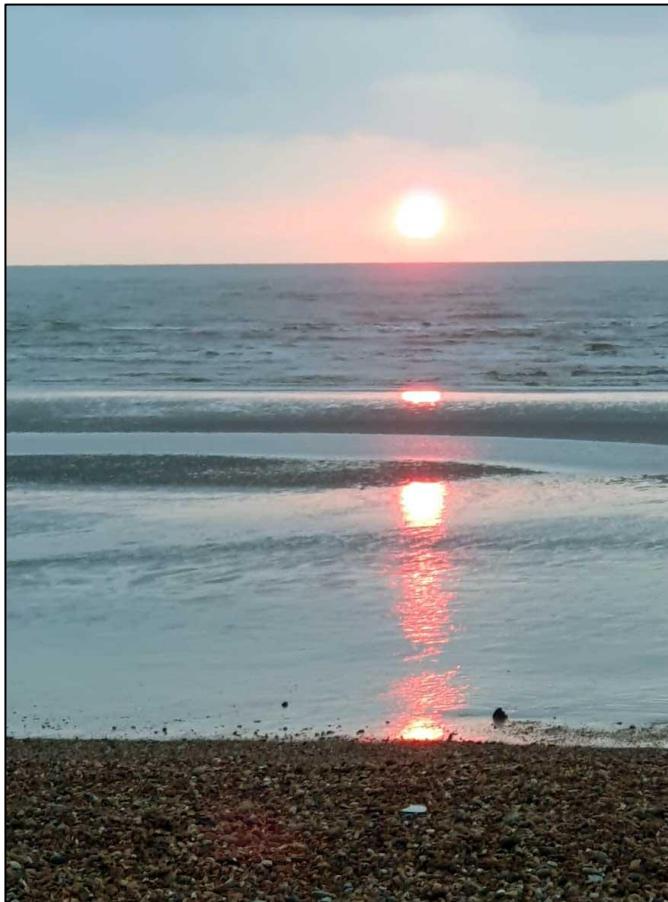
Wilma died on 12th January, the day of her 95th birthday. Resident near family in Arundel in recent years, she had lived in Castle Street since 1984 in the cottage where her mother had lived before her. Wilma's funeral will take place at St Thomas's on Saturday 21st February at 11am.

Crick Hooper

We are sad to record Crick's death on 26th January, following a stroke. Moving to Rye after several years living in the High Street she was still a regular smiling presence in Winchelsea with a great gift for friendship, known to everyone as the organiser of the always-successful fun dog show at the Summer Fete.

Bob Jeffrey

Bob's funeral took place at St Thomas's on 29th January and our condolences go to Linda in her loss.



Boxing Day Sunrise *Sarah Hassan*

St Michael's Hospice

Stay Up to Date Throughout the Year

With 2026 underway, the best way to keep track of what's coming up at St Michael's Hospice is by visiting their website, stmichaelshospice.com/event-diary regularly. New events will be added throughout the year, along with updates, ways to book, and ways to get involved.

Whether you're planning ahead or looking to support the Hospice this year, their website is your go-to hub for everything happening in 2026. All profits from the 2026 events go directly towards supporting and enabling the

community of Hastings and Rother to live well with dying, death, and loss.

Leave a gift in your Will

Thinking about your legacy? Even leaving just 1% to St Michael's Hospice while keeping 99% for your loved ones can make a huge difference. One in three patients' care is funded through gifts in Wills, making it a powerful way to leave a lasting impact.

Your support, big or small, is vital in helping St Michael's Hospice support and enable the community of Hastings and Rother live well with dying, death and loss. To find out more about how you can get involved, visit stmichaelshospice.com/support-us or call 01424 456296.

Join Our Thursday Coffee Stop and Saturday Social

At a time where it's easy to feel disconnected, a simple chat over a warm drink can make a difference. That's exactly why St Michael's Hospice runs Thursday Coffee Stop and Saturday Social exist aim to bring people together, spark conversation, and create a welcoming space for anyone who could use a friendly moment in their week.

These gatherings aren't just for people with a connection to the hospice. They're open to everyone. Whether you come alone or with a friend, you'll find a space to chat and connect with plenty of tea, coffee, and cake. Thursday Coffee Stop happens every Thursday in the Hospice reception at 10am to 12pm. Saturday Social happens on the last Saturday of every month in the Arthur Easton Centre at the Hospice at 10am to 12pm. Email commvolunteering@stmichaelshospice.com to find out more

Hospice Garden Opening in Winchelsea

Several Winchelsea gardens will be opening for the Hospice on Saturday 20th June.



Rye Food Bank

Cam writes: I will be making the January Food Bank doorstep collection on Tuesday 17th February between 10am and 1pm. I have been the Town collector for the last 5 years, commencing just before COVID lockdown, collecting on the third or fourth Tuesday each month. These donations, I deliver to the Food Bank in Rye 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.

*Donald Cameron Clarke
Old Malt House
Winchelsea*

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

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar
February 2026

Sunday 1st	8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Tuesday 3rd	Mothers' Prayers - 10am
Thursday 5th	New Inn Bible Study - 6pm
Saturday 7th	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12 Garden Society Talk - New Hall - 2.30pm
Sunday 8th	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Wednesday 11th	Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
Saturday 14th	Wine Society AGM - Court Hall - 10.30am Coffee Morning - Wesley's Chapel - 10am to 12 Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm Valentine's Quiz - WB Community Hall - 7pm for 7.30pm
Sunday 15th	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Wednesday 18th	Ash Wednesday Service - St Thomas's - 6pm
Friday 20th	Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
Saturday 21st	Cosi fan tutti - New Hall - 7.15pm
Sunday 22nd	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Wednesday 25th	Garden Society outing
Friday 27th	Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
Saturday 28th	WAAHS AGM and Talk - New Hall - 10.30am for 11 FOAM Quiz - New Hall - 6.30pm
Sun 1st March	8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
Sat 7th March	Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12

Further ahead

Sat 14th March	Winchelsea Arts Concert
Sun 15th March	Mothering Sunday
Sat 21st March	Garden Society Spring Show
Sat 28th March	Falstaff

Please send copy for the March Magazine
to ryeview@gmail.com
as soon as you have it to hand but, in any case,
before Thursday 26th February



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



All Saints and St Nicolas
Icklesham

St Thomas the Martyr
Winchelsea



St Mary and St Peter
Pett



St Nicholas
Pett Level



Benefice of Winchelsea Icklesham and Pett

Rector

The Revd Nathanael Hayler
The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB
01797 308531 rector.wip@gmail.com
WhatsApp/SMS 07941 602349
The Rector's day off is Friday

Winchelsea 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

Winchelsea PCC Secretary

Mary Parker
07927 107678 parkermary848@gmail.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Dale Saxby
Friars Road TN36 4ED 01797 226479
office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk

Parish Magazine

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