

# WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2026



Strand Gate *Jonathan Murphy*



## Easter Joy

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness  
songs of triumph sing, for her Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting.*

Music can be very evocative, and Christian hymnody is no exception. A melody can move us emotionally in a powerful way, songs can hold a special place in our hearts, and music can conjure up memories of people, places and events in our lives.

The lyrics above are taken from the well-loved Easter hymn, *Thine be the Glory*. Musically, it is glorious and triumphant. The hymn perfectly displays the glory and brilliance of Christ's resurrection and urges us to dispel all fear and doubt on this great day of rejoicing.

This second verse of the hymn aims to draw us into the story of that first Easter morning – putting the singer in the place of the disciples as the risen Jesus meets them. The latter half of the verse speaks of the jubilant response made by the Church when Christ's victory over death is claimed.

Easter Sunday is the height of the Christian faith. That is why the church takes seriously the preparation leading up to this great and glorious day of celebration. On the following pages you will find a schedule of services for Holy Week. Each service reflects an element of the journey Jesus takes and offers a time to pause, reflect, pray and participate.

Even if church isn't your thing, I'd like to invite you to experience something of joy that Christians delight in at Easter. I am looking forward to first singing *Thine be the Glory* on Pett Level beach as the sun rises and then carrying that joy with me through-out the day to each church in our Benefice.

*Rev'd Nathanael, Rector*



## Midweek Holy Communion

**Thursdays at 10am**  
St Thomas, Winchelsea  
*in the St Nicholas Chapel*

This new weekly service, beginning on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April** will be a said service of Holy Communion using traditional language.

An opportunity to take half an hour to pause and pray, seek a moment of renewal in your week, and be blessed by God's presence in Word and Sacrament.

We will also pray for those who have requested the church's prayer on their visit to Winchelsea.

*'Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee.'*

George Herbert



## Holy Week & Easter 2026

The Benefice of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett

**Palm Sunday | Sunday 29th March**

**Benefice Holy Communion**

*with Palm & Passion Gospel*

11:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

**Wednesday 1st April**

Passiontide Prayers

**A Service of Prayer in Holy Week**

*followed by Afternoon Tea*

15:00 at St Mary & St Peter, Pett

**Maunder Thursday | Thursday 2nd April**

**Holy Communion**

18:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

*followed by an open Prayer Vigil including*

*The Ministry of Anointing 19:00-20:00*

**Good Friday | Friday 3rd April**

**Prayer, Reflection, Refreshments & Fellowship**

10:30 Winchelsea Beach Community Hall

**Good Friday continued**  
**An Hour at the Cross**  
14:00-15:00 Icklesham Church

**Holy Saturday | Saturday 4th April**  
**The Easter Vigil**  
*Service of Light & Renewal of Baptismal Vows*  
20:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

## **Easter Sunday**

**Sunrise Service**  
*Outdoor Holy Communion*  
*followed by breakfast in St Nicholas*  
**06:00 at Pett Level Beach**

**Family Holy Communion**  
**09:00 at Icklesham Church**

**Festal Eucharist**  
**11:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea**

**Easter Celebration Service**  
**16:00 at St Mary & St Peter, Pett**

Further details or queries:  
The Rector - [rector.wip@gmail.com](mailto:rector.wip@gmail.com)

[rector.wip@gmail.com](mailto:rector.wip@gmail.com)



*kt Bruce*

## **Thank you from Peter and Debbie Cosstick**

As most of you are aware, we complete our two years of office as Mayor and Mayoress of Winchelsea on Easter Monday. It's been an honour and pleasure to have represented our wonderful unique town and community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has supported us in so many ways. We believe that many things would not have been achieved without your help and support.

We are delighted that David and Howard are taking over, and we wish them both every success. They have our full support, and we do hope that you are able to attend the Mayoring Ceremony on Easter Monday to cheer them on. Both Debbie and I are now looking forward to 'catching our breath', taking a large step back and seeing more of our family.

### **St Thomas's School**

It was very rewarding to work with children of Castle Class (years 5/6) who focussed on learning more about Winchelsea and the Cinque Ports. The children did a fantastic job, researching and then presenting everything they had discovered. We now have some very young experts on Winchelsea, our maritime history, traditions, heritage and customs.

Once the project had been completed the children visited the Court Hall and Museum, hosted by Deputy Mayor Stephen King, and myself. Thank you Castle Class and staff for the hospitality, fun, hard work and energy over the past two months.

### **The Malcolm Pratt Room**

For those of you who use or attend events in the Court Hall, it was a pleasure for the Corporation to hold an informal ceremony on 28th February to name the reception and kitchen area 'The Malcolm Pratt Room' in memory of the late Malcolm Pratt MBE, in recognition of a wonderful man who worked so hard for the Corporation as Town Clerk for 28 years, writing all the brilliant books on Winchelsea, raising funds for the Corporation and supporting our Museum.

It was lovely to see Malcolm's widow, Bridget, and their family attend the ceremony and unveil the certificate. They were delighted and thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

With our warmest wishes, *Peter and Debbie*



Malcolm's widow and sons *Ian Kingham*



## **Winchelsea Mayoring on Easter Monday**

This Easter Monday is the annual Winchelsea Mayoring. There has been a Mayor in Winchelsea for over 700 years. If you've visited the Museum, you will see the names of the Mayors that have served the town, from the very first one, Gervase Alard, who was appointed in 1295. It seems fitting that his magnificent tomb lies within our church where the Mayoring now takes place each year.

Many visitors are surprised that Winchelsea still has a Mayor, and it's true that we almost lost that right in 1883, when an Act of Parliament abolished all municipal corporations (about two hundred of them), with the single exception of Winchelsea.

Winchelsea was spared due to Frederick Inderwick, the local MP and six times Mayor of Winchelsea, he managed to persuade his Parliamentary colleagues to add a special clause to the legislation which allowed Winchelsea Corporation to remain in existence, while removing its judicial and local government functions and all its responsibilities save for the maintenance of the historic buildings in its care, and the fulfilling of Winchelsea's function as a Head Port of the Confederation of Cinque Ports.

So, how is each new Mayor chosen? Well, the decision is made by the Freemen of the town. Currently there are over 30 Freemen, and they represent a broad cross-section of Winchelsea residents.

Once chosen, the Mayor selects up to 12 Freemen to be Jurats. The Corporation of Winchelsea is now a charity, so the Mayor and Jurats, form its executive board and serve as trustees. They are responsible for maintaining its traditions and carrying out the practical tasks surrounding the care and maintenance of the Medieval Court Hall, the three Town Gates and the Town Well, together with the operation of the Museum.

In reality, these appointments are made at the Charity's AGM. However, we still retain the traditional Mayoring ceremony. It has always been held on Easter Monday, and still follows a format that would be recognisable to those attending in medieval times.



The Mayoring is actually called the 'Annual Sitting of the Hundred Court', a hundred court was the term used for a local medieval court. At the start of the ceremony, a roll call of Freemen is called, there is a report from the previous Mayor, new Freeman and Jurats take an oath of office and finally the new Mayor, David Page and the Deputy Mayor, Ian Kingham are installed.

Present during the ceremony are the three important officers of the Corporation, the Town Clerk, Chamberlain, and Sergeant at Mace. The latter carry the town's two silver maces, as a symbol of the Mayor's authority. Both maces are made from silver and are around five hundred years old.

2026 is a special year for Winchelsea, when our Mayor becomes the Speaker of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. The office is held by the Mayor of each of the head ports and two ancient towns in turn. It passes from one town to the next on 21st May each year, by a process quaintly described as the 'septennial revolution'.

The Speaker acts as Chair and principal representative of the Confederation. It is not known exactly when the office was first created, but it has certainly existed continuously since 1357. Thus, it is older than the Speakership of the House of Commons, which dates from 1376.

The major event of the year will be Speaker's Day, on Saturday 26th September, when all the Cinque Ports' Mayors, the Lord Warden and other dignitaries attend a church service in St Thomas' Church, after a procession through the town.

As a symbol of his or her office, the Speaker wears a badge depicting the Ports' coat of arms, encircled by an anchor and cable and surmounted by a coronet. The badge is made of gold with 14 diamonds around the perimeter symbolising the member towns of the Confederation. It was commissioned in 1971, at the instigation of Captain Herbert Lovegrove CBE RN, Mayor of Winchelsea and Speaker of the Cinque Ports for that year.

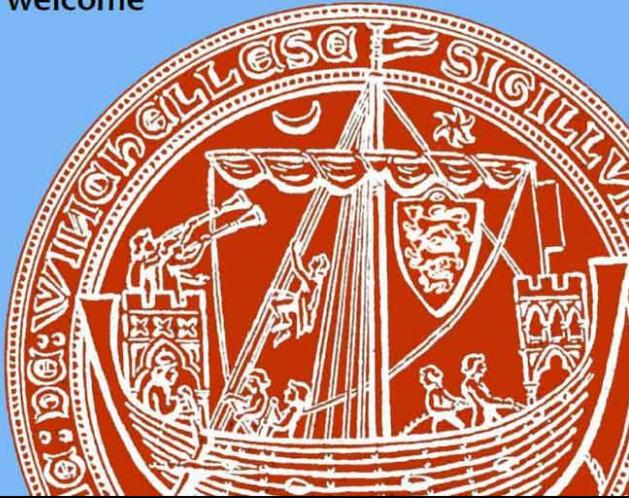
Our Mayoring is one of those things that makes Winchelsea, unique and special. We hope you can join us in the church on Easter Monday at 11am.



# Mayoring Ceremony

Winchelsea Corporation invite you  
to the Mayor Making ceremony  
at 11.am on Easter Monday  
in Winchelsea Church

All are welcome





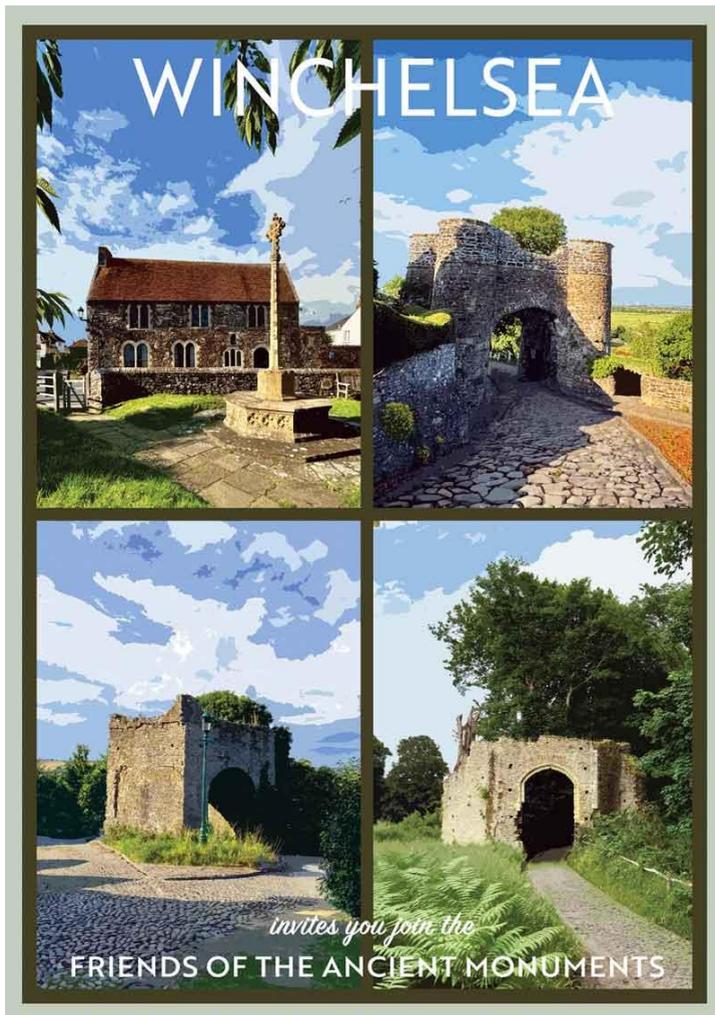
## The General Strike

All are welcome at the next Second Wednesday Society meeting on 8th April at 2.30pm. Our speaker will be David Page. This being the centenary of the building of Winchelsea New Hall, our programme this year also includes centenary subjects and David has chosen "The General Strike of 1926"

The General Strike started on 4th May 1926 and lasted nine days. There had never been a strike on this scale in Britain before and there hasn't been one since. It was called in support of the coal miners, who worked in appalling conditions at miserable rates of pay.

In this illustrated talk, David explores the overwhelming importance of coal a hundred years ago, the impact of the popular press on public attitudes and the fears aroused by the Russian Revolution of 1917. In this centenary year, he paints a picture of the different ways the nation reacted to this unprecedented strike, usually peaceful but sometimes violent. Winston Churchill proclaimed it a war but in the end calmer heads prevailed. Britain persuaded itself it could muddle through, but the miners discovered the bitterness of defeat.

Doors open at 2:15pm: members free, visitors and guests £5. The subscription for 2026 is only £15 and anyone can join. Homemade tea £2. Tessa's raffle as usual.



## **FOAM Annual General Meeting**

On Saturday 14th March, the Friends of the Ancient Monuments held their AGM in the Lower Court Hall. Thank you to all those who attended. For those who were unable to come, here is a brief synopsis of what was said.

After the normal formalities, Phil Mack our Chairman updated everyone on the key events for 2025. FOAM responded to five requests for funding from Winchelsea Corporation in 2025. They were, the completion of work to

the west elevation of the Court Hall, the new doorway to the entrance of the Lower Court Hall, repairs to the stonework surrounding the Museum entrance, the repainting of the Town Well signs, and the provision of an oak gun carriage for the 17th century cannon in the Museum Garden.



Funds for this work came from a number of sources, including membership, cellar tours and events like the FOAM Quiz, our bottle stall at the Fete and the performance of *The Turn of the Screw* in the wonderfully atmospheric Lower Court Hall. Phil continued by explaining that further features and improvements had been added during the year to our membership software and our event booking system.

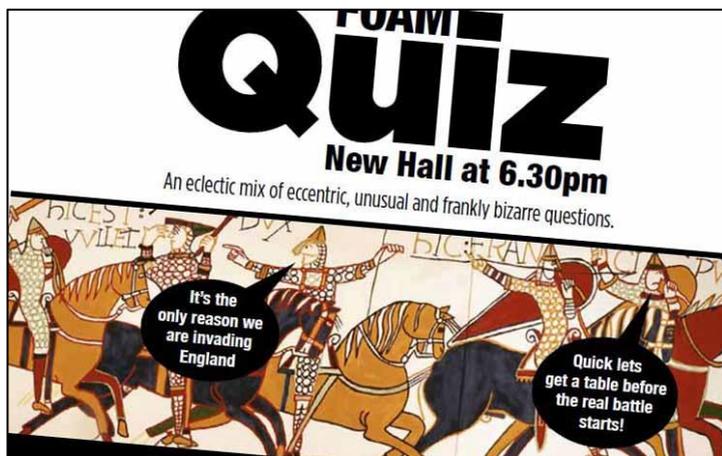
Ian Rowlands, our Treasurer, ran through the figures for 2025, which has been another strong and successful year for FOAM, with income increasing across several key areas as the Committee continued to focus on membership growth and effective fundraising. Membership subscriptions rose year on year, increasing from £1,880 in 2024 to £1,979 in 2025. Fundraising and events delivered a record-breaking year, with total income of £19,641, up from the previous record of £16,868. Net income from cellar tours was £6,325, while income from other events exceeded £10,000. Careful management of our savings and current accounts also generated £1,075 in bank interest during the year.

FOAM continued to provide strong financial support to the Corporation. In 2025, £15,380 was granted, broadly in line

with £16,010 in 2024. Operational expenses for 2025 amounted to £2,586. After all expenses and grants, FOAM recorded a net surplus of £1,706 for the year. As a result, total funds stood at £68,879 at the end of December 2025, leaving FOAM in a robust and healthy financial position.

Mark Harris our Membership Secretary confirmed that FOAM membership continues to rise, two years ago, we set a target of 150 members, we have comfortably exceeded that, with the figure now standing at 174. Mark continued by saying in 2025 we ran a free cellar tour for new residents where we talked about the work FOAM does, as a result several participants joined, we plan to do the same in 2026.

Our secretary, Chris Chappell shared with members the funding requests we anticipate receiving from the Corporation in 2026. FOAM has already agreed to fund an architect's report on the North Elevation - the rear - of the Court Hall, which is currently being carried out. We anticipate that further funds may be required to rectify any issues the report reveals. Chris also shared images of weed ingress on top of the town's three medieval gates. If allowed to become too large, the weeds can damage the stonework. The removal of these weeds is scheduled for 2026, and FOAM normally helps to fund this important work.



Chris continued by explaining that we've already held our first event of the year, the FOAM quiz, which raised more than a thousand pounds. Cellar tours resume at Easter and

will run until October. The Winchelsea Fete takes place on Saturday 15th August and we will once again be running our infamous bottle stall.

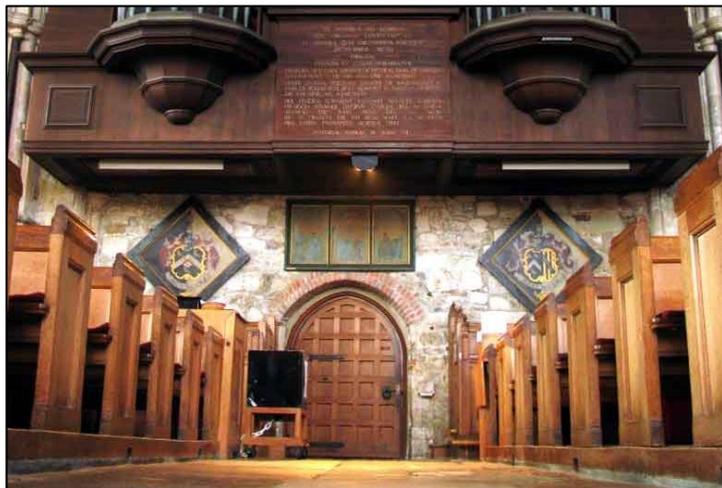
In October there will be two FOAM events. On Saturday 3rd October, the Pegasus Choir will once again be performing in the cellar at *Lines End*. And on Saturday 24th October, FOAM will be hosting an event in the Lower Court Hall, as part of a series of events in the town that month to celebrate the arrival of the Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum. Our event will be an imaginary debate between Harold Godwinson, Harald Hardrada and William Duke of Normandy, who fought over the English throne in 1066. More details of both these events to follow.

All five members of the FOAM committee have agreed to continue in 2026 and their reappointment was unanimously approved by members present. Ian thanked our members for their continued and exceptional support — not only through subscriptions and attendance at events, but also through their generosity with time, donations, and prizes. This willingness to step forward whenever help is needed is a vital factor in making our events both enjoyable and financially successful.

The AGM concluded with Mayor elect, David Page, thanking FOAM for their support of the Corporation in 2025, and commented on FOAM's professionalism and the close working relationship the two organisations now have.

A complete set of minutes will be sent to all members. If you are a new resident and would like to come on our special FOAM introductory cellar tour, please contact Chris Chappell at [chriswinchelsea@icloud.com](mailto:chriswinchelsea@icloud.com). If you would like to join FOAM, please contact one of the Committee.

*Phil Mack (Chairman), Chris Chappell (Secretary), Ian Rowlands [Treasurer], Mark Harris (Membership) and Glen Marks (Events).* Friends of the Ancient Monuments & Museum - Registered Charity No:1001486



## Church Annual Meeting

Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM)  
Saturday 18th April at 10.30am

You are invited to attend the APCM for the Church of St Thomas the Martyr. Each year we meet to receive the Annual Report and Accounts. We also attend to the election of Churchwardens and PCC members. As well as formal business, the APCM is an opportunity to hear about the past year and to look ahead to our hopes for the future – including plans and projects affecting the life of our town and local community.

This is also a good time to join the Church Electoral Roll and consider whether you feel able to put yourself forward for particular roles and ministries in the church:

- Churchwarden
- Deanery Synod Representative
- PCC Member
- Sidesperson
- Lay Assistant for Worship

Nominations for the role of Churchwarden, Deanery Synod Rep. and PCC membership need to be received before the APCM and should be given to Mary Parker or The Rector.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.  
More information: [rector.wip@gmail.com](mailto:rector.wip@gmail.com)

Winchelsea  
Garden Society

# Tulip Show

Saturday 11 April

St Thomas'  
Church

alongside the  
Church Market

A vase of tulips  
of your choice

Maximum vase size  
15 cm in diameter

All exhibits to be  
displayed between 9:30  
and 10:30

Presentation at 11:30



## **Church Market on Second Saturday**

Note that Church Market has been moved to the second Saturday of April to avoid the Easter weekend. 10.30 till noon as usual with the added attraction of the Garden Society Tulip Show.



## John Wesley's Chapel

On **Saturday 11th April** at 10.30 for 11am the Chapel will be celebrating the Easter season with a Songs of Praise service conducted by Rev Jonathan and Dr Julie Todd. The hymns and songs have or are being chosen by members and friends of the Chapel, and we are looking forward to some joyful singing of lots of resurrection hymns and songs. Teas and coffees are to be served before the service.

We've got a Coffee Morning on **Saturday 16th May** from 10am to 12pm but with an added twist of a couple of treasure hunts around town. Whether you choose to just sit and chat or get up and out exploring Winchelsea is entirely up to each person, Both of the hunts require only modest exercise, with one a tad longer than the other. There are no prizes for taking part, just the opportunity to get out and about and have a bit of fun spotting things of interest, maybe a surprise or two even for those who live in the town.

The Chapel will be open for both of the Open Garden Days on 20th June and 18th July. Between those there is a Creative Fun Day on Saturday 27th June when people can demonstrate their creative side through their artistic, writing, or photographic skills, the results of which may be displayed for the Chapel Anniversary in July.

As always, all are invited to come to any of the Chapel services and events. You will be very welcome.

# The Clarinet goes to Town



St Thomas'  
Church

Winchelsea TN36 4EB

**Saturday 9th May**  
**at 7.30**

Tickets online at [winchelsea-arts.org.uk](http://winchelsea-arts.org.uk)  
and at the door

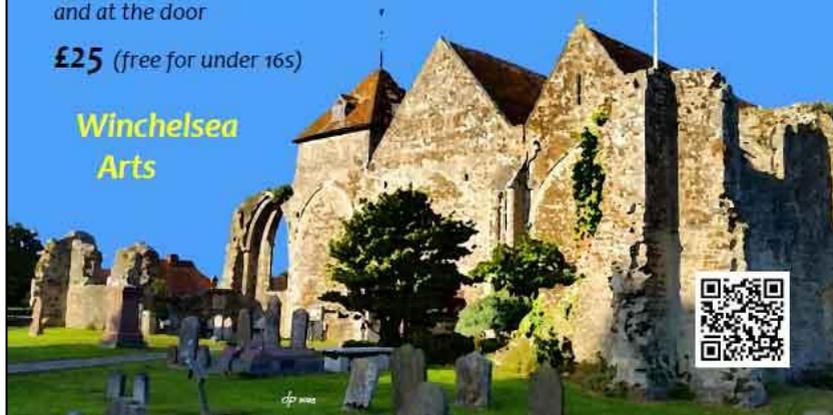
**£25** (free for under 16s)

**Winchelsea**  
**Arts**

**Emma Johnson** clarinet

**John Lenehan** piano

**Paul Clarvis** drum kit



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

[Click here to see the programme for this concert](#)



*Photo by kt Bruce*

## **News from the New Inn**

At last, it seems the better weather has arrived and it's encouraging to see visitors gradually returning to Winchelsea

It's been a very tough twelve months in the hospitality sector, with so many pubs closing due to many factors. Debbie and I took over the New Inn, in 2019 (the year before Covid) and during the past seven years we have faced significant challenges. Living and working through Covid was very difficult for everyone and those days of providing 'take away' food deliveries for the town seem a very long time ago.

Winchelsea is our home, and we are so fortunate to live in this beautiful town with a fantastic community. We are very grateful for all the support and friendship you have given us over the years. Apart from running the pub we have supported and hosted many local charity fund raising events. Debbie volunteers at the Museum and helps with locking the Church whilst I continue to volunteer working as a crew member with the RNLI at Rye Harbour. We also continue to help with various other community projects and try to attend as many local events as we can.

In 'normal' times, after Christmas the winter months have always proved very difficult for pubs but have become far more challenging due to the economic climate coupled with the two months of bad weather. We have had to find ways to reduce our huge overheads to help get us through the hard

times, which have included limited opening hours, and we hope you understand why we needed to do that.

### **Keeping positive and some of our plans for 2026**

As we approach Summer, we are gradually working to return to normal service and opening hours. We want to assure you that we have every intention to stay in wonderful Winchelsea and continue running the pub.

We are currently

- Returning to seven day opening on 1st May (Apart from Easter Monday we will still be closing on a Monday during April)
- Investing in our wonderful walled garden, with a view to reopening the garden on 1st May for all to enjoy the warmer weather
- Developing a range of events in the pipeline for 2026, which we hope you will support, as well as providing your ongoing daily custom (watch this space).
- Our first event being **Sunday evening 12th April**, with a charity Pub Quiz...booking now.
- We are in the process of revising our current food menu.
- We still offer our home cooked take away fish/scampi and chips during our food service times (just call us to order)
- We are intending to trial the **'Return of the Pizza'** eat in/or take out during May. (details to be announced)

We can also host and cater for various types of receptions and events that you may be planning, so just pop in and see us to discuss your needs.

As always, thank you for supporting the New Inn, without your ongoing support the business would not survive.  
'Our pub is your hub'

Wishing you a very Happy Easter

*Paul, Debbie & Team*  
Winchelsea New Inn  
01797 226252



# PUB QUIZ



At The New Inn, Winchelsea

SUN  
12

12th APRIL  
7PM

In aid of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve



**£20 PER TEAM**

(Maximum 6 players per team)

Tables can be reserved on  
**01797 226252**  
or in person



Hosted by

**JAMES TOMLINSON**





*Martin Lew Gor*

## **Winchelsea Residents Association**

Our next General Meeting will take place on Saturday 16th May at 11am in the New Hall. The hall will be open from 10.30 for tea and coffee. The meeting will begin promptly at 11 and finish by midday. WRA is a democratic group that represents and acts in the best interests of local residents. We warmly encourage everyone to attend and take part.

### **Membership**

Membership is important in ensuring we remain a strong and effective voice for our community. If you have not yet paid your £10 subscription for 2025/2026, we kindly ask that you do so as soon as possible.

NatWest Business Account Number : 59667362

Sort Code: 60-02-07

Looking ahead, we are proposing a reduced membership fee of £5 for 2026/2027, with the understanding that we may request additional voluntary donations if a major campaign requires funding.

## Get Involved

Committee members will be available from 10.30 if you would like to raise any matters informally over coffee. We also welcome new members to join the committee. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us: [ra@winchelsea.com](mailto:ra@winchelsea.com)

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 16th May.



John Dunk, Cynthia Martin, Howard Norton, Celia King, Sally Rhodda

## Spring Show

On a lovely sunny day Winchelsea Garden Society held their annual Spring Show. We had 203 entries, with at least five people entering for the first time. The Hall looked lovely with the scent of spring flowers on one side and delicious cooking on the other. The Hall was buzzing with people who stayed to chat and enjoy a cup of tea.

The cup for flowers was jointly won by Howard Norton and John Dunk. Celia King won the floral art cup, and the cookery cup. Cynthia Martin the cup for pot plants. The overall winner's salver went to Howard and John.

The judges picked John Dunk's trumpet daffodils as best in show and he received the Armoury Challenge Bowl. Finally we had a 'people's choice' for the favourite floral arrangement, and this went to Elizabeth Cloke.

Thank you to everyone who entered and helped to make the day so enjoyable.

*Sally Rhodda*



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT  
In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

# BOTTLE SHOCK

A TRUE STORY of LOVE, VICTORY and FERMENTATION



**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING**  
**Admission Free**  
**Refreshments, Pay Bar.**  
**Come early, enjoy a drink or two.**



## **Fete and Fun Dog Show**

It's official – we can announce that the Winchelsea Fete and Fun Dog Show will be taking place on the afternoon of Saturday 15th August - please pop it in your diaries.

A big thank you to Winchelsea Cricket Club and the National Trust for once again loaning their field. Last year the fete was organised by the School, the year before by the Cricket Club. In 2026 the fete will be organised by a small group of residents, in conjunction with the New Hall.

At our inaugural meeting we agreed that this year's fete should be a simpler, more compact event, centred around the ever-popular dog show, and afternoon teas provided by the New Hall. We anticipate that most of the action will take place between the Cricket Square and the New Hall.

We also decided that there will be an emphasis on traditional games and fun things to do for children, think splat the rat, tin-can alley, hook the duck etc. And of course, there will be plenty of room for the usual popular stalls from Winchelsea Clubs and Societies together with local businesses.

It's early days but we hope there will be some Live Music, a Creative Area for Children, a Self-Guided Nature/History Walk and the return of the Human Fruit Machine.

There's lots to do and we will need lots of help, both before and on the day, so if you think you could lend a hand, send an email to me at [chriswinchelsea@icloud.com](mailto:chriswinchelsea@icloud.com)

*Chris Chappell*



## **Winchelsea Beach in April**

### **Mothers' Prayers**

Mothers Prayers will be on Tuesday 7th April at 10am at *Dabchick Cottage*, Morlais Place Winchelsea Beach. For more information contact Mary Parker, 07927 107678.

### **Good Friday Service of Prayer and Reflection**

at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall on Friday 3rd April at 10.30am. Refreshments will be available.

### **Bingo for St Michael's Hospice**

Wednesday 15th April. Bingo and afternoon tea at the Community Hall at 3pm in support of St Michael's Hospice.

### **Craft Fair**

There will be a Spring Craft Fair in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall on Sunday 12th April from 10.30 to 3.30.

### **Fellowship Lunch 24th April**

Fellowship lunch will be on Friday 24th April 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. All welcome but please inform Mary Parker on 07927 107678 if you plan to attend. Donations will be sent to the Sea View Centre in Hastings which is a charity supporting homeless people.

[winchelseabeach.org.uk](http://winchelseabeach.org.uk)

**WINCHELSEA BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
*Registered Charity No. 278165*



**WINCHELSEA BEACH COMMUNITY HALL**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**10.30 - 3.00**

**ALL WELCOME**

**FREE ENTRY**

**REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING  
HOMEMADE CAKES**

**TO BOOK A TABLE CONTACT MARY**

**Email [parkermary848@gmail.com](mailto:parkermary848@gmail.com)**

**Phone 07927107678**

**WINCHELSEA BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
*Registered Charity No. 278165*

[parkermary848@gmail.com](mailto:parkermary848@gmail.com)



## **Rudes return in July**

The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company of professional actor-musicians return to Winchelsea on Wednesday 22nd July with their 2026 production 'The Wife'. Save the date!

It's spring on the road to Canterbury. Alyson of Bath, cloth-maker, widow, pilgrim, and five-times-married expert in the arts of love, has plenty to say and no intention of holding her tongue. As hooves clip-clop and birdsong bubbles, she tells of husbands rich and foolish, charming and cruel, and the hard bargains of love. Then comes her tale of a young knight, a terrible crime, and a question that sends him wandering the world in search of an answer no one can agree on.

A hilarious and beautiful poetic romp of word, wit and song, the play bristles with provocation and, just maybe, whispers a hard-won truth about love, power, and what women most desire.

‘The Wife’ is The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company’s original musical play inspired by Chaucer’s Wife of Bath. Bursting with professional live music, poetry and physical comedy, this outdoor production is by turns hilarious, provocative and tender.

Touring towns and villages across southern England this summer, Winchelsea is indeed fortunate to be hosting again on Wednesday 22nd July. If you haven't seen the Rudes before, I urge you to come this year. Already very reasonably priced, there are group prices and concessions available. It's such a fun evening, starting with BYO picnics and drinks from 6pm.

Running time: Approximately two and a half hours, including interval, 7.30 to 10pm.

Audience: Adults; suitable for mature children able to sit for the full performance.

Performances take place outdoors unless otherwise stated. Audiences are advised to bring warm clothing and a low-backed chair. Seating is unallocated. Sites open in advance for picnics.

For ticket prices, access information and full tour dates, please visit [www.therudes.co.uk](http://www.therudes.co.uk)

“Highly entertaining” – Time Out (The Wife)

Selected press comments on the work of The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company:

“A delight” – The Independent on Sunday

“Superbly done” – The Stage

“Such a good night” – The Times

*Hilary Roome*



## ‘Chummy’ Barden

This artwork was produced by Nigel Faulkner of Bexhill, great grandson of ‘Chummy’ Barden who was a popular character of the 1930s, telling the tale of his ‘official’ duties watching the Channel for invading ships. Pathé News filmed him at the Lookout in 1936:

[britishpathe.com/asset/79521](http://britishpathe.com/asset/79521)

## What's On Weekly At Winchelsea New Hall

|                          |                                  |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Mondays<br>09.30-10.15   | Pilates<br>with Hannah           | Suitable for all. Contact Hannah on<br>07936 151529 or email<br><a href="mailto:hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com">hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com</a> |
| Mondays<br>15.00-15.50   | Zumba Gold<br>With Daisy         | Suitable for all. Contact Daisy at<br><a href="mailto:fitnessbythesea@outlook.com">fitnessbythesea@outlook.com</a>                                   |
| Tuesdays<br>14.00-15.30  | Tune In<br>Winchelsea            | Fun singing group run by local tenor Gary<br>Marriot. All ages and abilities welcome.<br>Contact Rosemarie on 07941 458628                           |
| Thursdays<br>09.30-10.30 | Scottish Dancing                 | A fun, friendly class, suitable for beginners.<br>Contact <a href="mailto:maddycoelho@hotmail.com">maddycoelho@hotmail.com</a>                       |
| Thursdays<br>10.45-11.45 | Pilates<br>with Celia            | Suitable for all ages and abilities.<br>Contact Celia on <a href="mailto:kinacelia54@gmail.com">kinacelia54@gmail.com</a>                            |
| Thursdays<br>18.00-19.00 | Rother Fitness                   | Contact Rachel <a href="mailto:rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com">rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com</a>  |
| Thursdays<br>19.00-20.00 | Rother Fitness<br>Step Class     | Contact Rachel <a href="mailto:rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com">rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com</a>  |
| Fridays<br>09.30-10.15   | Pilates with<br>Hannah           | All welcome. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529<br>or email <a href="mailto:hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com">hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com</a>         |
| Fridays<br>10.45-11.45   | Move It or Lose<br>It with L Rae | Fun exercise class for all abilities.<br>Contact Lisa 07939 323937<br><b>NEW CLASS STARTS 17th April</b>   |

\*\*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 via WhatsApp

## New Hall News

### 100 Club

The winning number for the 100 club for March was number 72. Congratulations to the winner of the £100 club prize!

### New Hall Grand Centenary Ball

**Saturday 27th June**

Plans are progressing to ensure a fabulous celebration of our community hall's 100-year birthday with a 1920's themed ball, complete with jazz band, luxury canapes and a cocktail bar as well as a regular wine, beer and soft drinks bar.

Tickets will be on sale from mid-April. We'd really like to keep the ticket price as low as possible to make this an inclusive community event but need help to do so.

If any individuals or Winchelsea Societies feel able to sponsor this event do please contact the hall committee or myself directly or email [newhall@winchelsea.com](mailto:newhall@winchelsea.com)  
Any donations, however small would be very much appreciated. *Ali Casey*



My doctor can't believe how much better I am since coming to the classes.

**MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!®**

**Come & try your first class FREE**

Turn back the clock with our fun and friendly exercise classes to improve your

- ✓ balance & confidence
- ✓ mobility & flexibility
- ✓ strength & independence

Great new weekly class coming to The New Hall Winchelsea. Starting Fri 17th April 10.45-11.45 for all abilities. Lisa 07939 323937  
lisarae.brough  
@moveitorloseit.co.uk

**SAVE THE DATE**

**WINCHELSEA NEW HALL**

**GRAND**

**CENTENARY**

**BALL**

**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026**

**WATCH THIS SPACE**

**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON**



## **Rye Food Bank**

*Cam writes:* I will be making the April Food Bank doorstep collection on behalf of the Rye and Winchelsea Rotary Club on Tuesday 21st between 10 am and 1 pm.

For the last six years I have collected on the 3rd or 4th Tuesday of each month and delivered these donations the following day to the Food Bank in Rye, for distribution to needy local families.

I am always looking for new donors and would be grateful if within 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](http://ryefoodbank.com)

# Join 1st Rye Beaver Scout Colony!



**Every Monday 5.45pm – 7.00pm**

For children aged 6 – 8 years old at  
The Scout Centre, 1 The Grove, Rye TN31 7ND

- Games, sports, crafts, cookery, outdoor activities
- Fun and friendship and much more

Contact Section Leader  
**Willow** on **07856 230 470**  
or [william50@talktalk.net](mailto:william50@talktalk.net)



Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

**April 2026**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday 1st</b>    | <b>3pm: Passiontide Prayers - Pett</b>   |
| <b>Thursday 2nd</b>     | <b>6pm: Maundy Thursday Communion - Winchelsea</b>   |
| <b>Good Friday, 3rd</b> | <b>10.30: Prayer and Reflection - W B Community Hall</b><br><b>2pm: An Hour at The Cross - Icklesham</b>   |
| <b>Saturday 4th</b>     | <b>8pm: Easter Vigil - Winchelsea</b><br><i>NB: Church Market is transferred to 11th</i>   |
| <b>Sunday 5th</b>       | <b>6am: Sunrise Service at Pett Level</b><br><b>9am: Family Holy Communion at Icklesham</b><br><b>11am: Festal Eucharist at Winchelsea</b><br><b>4pm: Easter Celebration Service at Pett</b> |
| <b>Monday 6th</b>       | <b>Mayoring Ceremony - St Thomas's Church - 11am</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday 7th</b>      | <b>Mothers' Prayers - 10am</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 8th</b>    | <b>Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 11th</b>    | <b>Church Market and Tulip Show at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12</b><br><b>Easter Songs of Praise - Wesley's Chapel - 10.30 for 11am</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 12th</b>      | <b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b><br><b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b><br><b>Spring Craft Fair - W B Community Hall - 10.30 - 3.30</b><br><b>Quiz - New Inn - 7pm</b>   |
| <b>Thursday 16th</b>    | <b>Midweek Holy Communion at St Thomas's - 10am</b>  |
| <b>Friday 17th</b>      | <b>Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30</b><br><b>Winchelsea Wine Society (New Hall)</b>   |
| <b>Saturday 18th</b>    | <b>Annual Parochial Church Meeting - St Thomas's - 10.30am</b><br><b>Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 19th</b>      | <b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett</b><br><b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>   |
| <b>Friday 24th</b>      | <b>Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 26th</b>      | <b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b><br><b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>  |
| <b>Sat 2nd May</b>      | <b>Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12</b>  |
| <b>Sun 3rd May</b>      | <b>8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level</b><br><b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>   |
| <b>Monday 4th</b>       | <i>Bank Holiday</i>  |
| <b>Sat 9th May</b>      | <b>Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 7.30pm</b>  |

**Further ahead**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Sat 20th June</b>  | <b>Winchelsea Open Gardens for St Michael's Hospice</b>   |
| <b>Sat 27th June</b>  | <b>New Hall Centenary Ball</b>                            |
| <b>Sat 18th July</b>  | <b>Winchelsea Open Gardens for National Garden Scheme</b> |
| <b>Weds 22nd July</b> | <b>Rude Mechanical Theatre Company</b>                    |

**Note early copy deadline!**

**Please send copy for the May Magazine**

**to [ryevievw@gmail.com](mailto:ryevievw@gmail.com)**

**as soon as you have it to hand but, in any case,**

**before Friday 24th April**

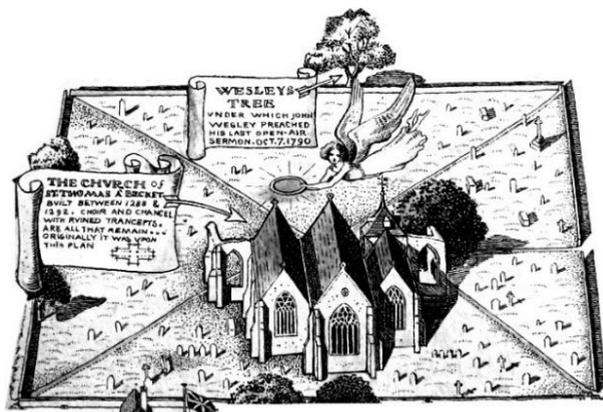


For Winchelsea Beach information go to  
[winchelseabeach.org.uk](http://winchelseabeach.org.uk)

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**

### **Rector**

The Revd Nathanael Hayler  
The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB  
01797 308531 [rector.wip@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kingcelia54@gmail.com)

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

### **Winchelsea 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**

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