

Discover **WINCHELSEA**

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winchelsea.com



Discover Winchelsea

Winchelsea is one of the Cinque Ports, an historic town set in a landscape of national importance on the East Sussex coast

With surrounding countryside protected by the National Trust, there are spectacular views along the Brede Valley and across Rye Bay to Dungeness

Winchelsea is one of the best preserved medieval planned towns in the country, with streets laid out on a rectangular grid pattern

Founded in the late thirteenth century as a port by King Edward I, it replaced Old Winchelsea which was swept away by ferocious storms and the rising sea

For what to see, what to do. and where to stay, read on...



winchelsea.com

Find out more about the Cinque Ports
at cinqueports.org



What to see... What to do...

- Use the map in the centre fold to explore the town
- Visit the Court Hall Museum
- Book a Cellar Tour or Historical Walking Tour
- See the stunning stained glass and impressive medieval tombs at St Thomas's Church
- Pay your respects at Spike Milligan's grave
He told us he was ill
- Take in the panoramic views from the Lookout and the Beacon
- Stop for a drink or a meal at the New Inn
- Pick up a coffee from the Little Shop
- Sit down to tea at the Farm Kitchen
- Visit the Cellar Door at Charles Palmer Vineyards walk the vineyard trail or book a wine tasting
- Follow the 1066 Country Walk and the Royal Military Canal Path

Winchelsea Corporation

The story of the Corporation stretches back to the thirteenth century and the Mayor and Jurats governed the town until relatively modern times

Now a charity with no local government powers or public funding, the Corporation has stewardship of the medieval town gates and Court Hall. It runs the Museum, publishes the *Winchelsea Town Guide* and maintains the town website

The Mayor continues to represent Winchelsea at the ceremonial and civic events of the Cinque Ports' towns. The Corporation is able to fulfil its charitable objectives through the generous support of the local community





The Museum contains displays and exhibits that illustrate the history of Winchelsea. Located in the High Street, the Court Hall dates back over 700 years. It is the home of Winchelsea Corporation and in its time has served as the town gaol and community hall. Here the most famous Victorian actress, Ellen Terry, passed on her skills to Winchelsea children

Exhibits include maps, models, pictures, pottery and items relating to daily life. Staffed by knowledgeable local volunteers, the museum is regularly open from April to October with books and other gifts on sale

Opening times are posted on winchelsea.com where you will find lots of information about the history of Winchelsea

The Court Hall Museum



Considered one of the finest church buildings in Sussex, St Thomas's was planned to be of cathedral proportions with a nave extending almost to the churchyard wall. The ravages of the Hundred Years' War left it severely damaged and only the chancel remains

The remarkable stained glass windows were designed by Douglas Strachan and installed between 1929 and 1933

The Alard tombs are St Thomas's most important relics. The Alards were Winchelsea's most significant family and their tombs were placed here in the fourteenth century. Comedian Spike Milligan lived in nearby Udimore and is buried in the churchyard

St Thomas's Church

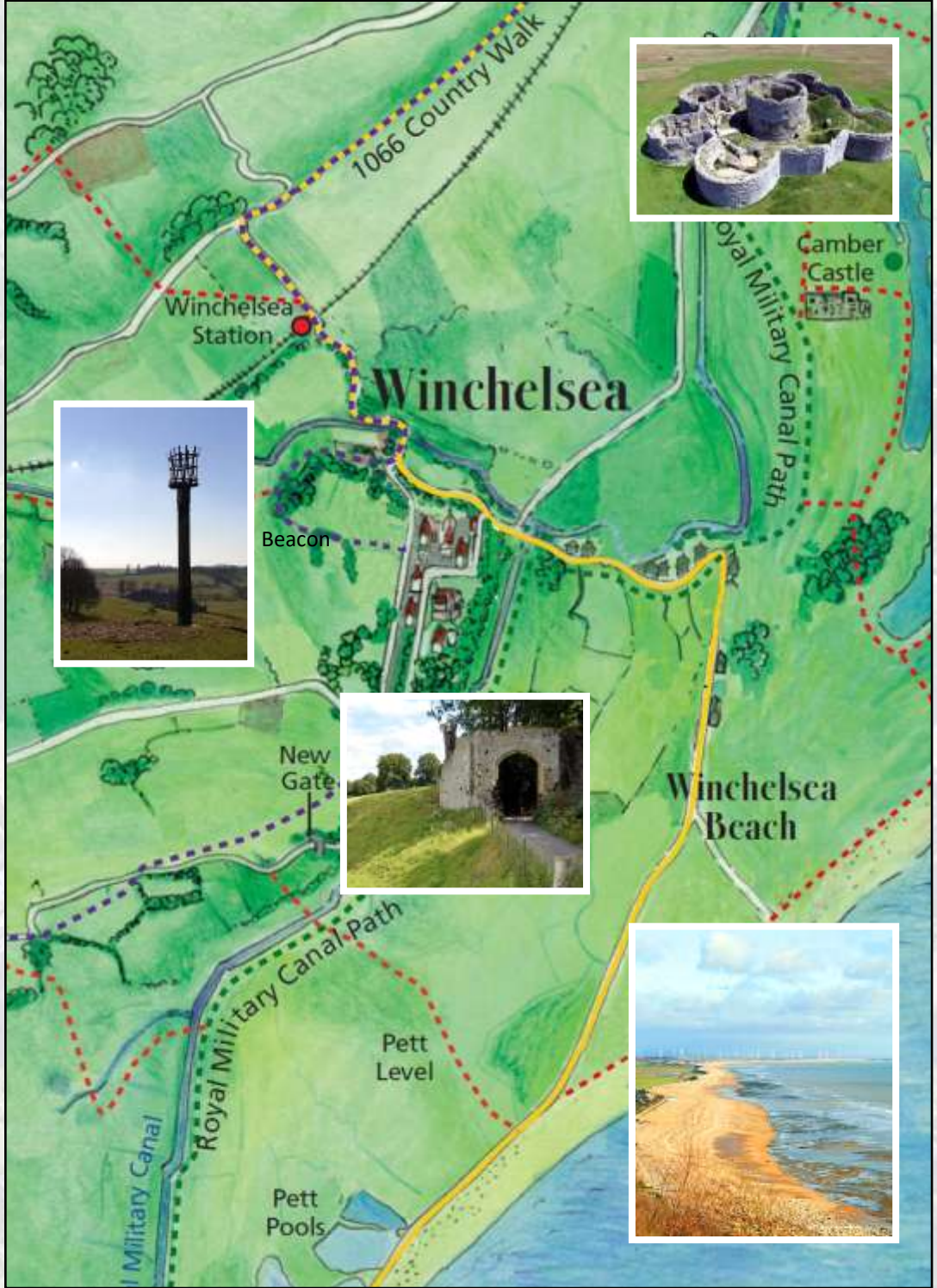
The Winchelsea Cellars

The stone-vaulted medieval cellars are an important part of the town's history. Only Southampton has similar numbers of the same quality. You can easily identify entrances at ground level, but the size, scale and beauty of what lies below can only be appreciated by a visit underground.

From April to October, knowledgeable local guides run fascinating tours of the cellars. They provide an insight into the history of Winchelsea and its role as a Cinque Port and a centre for medieval trade. Tours, which last approximately 1½ hours, take place on most Saturday mornings, plus some bank holidays, and during the Rye Arts Festival in the autumn. We also run historical walking tours of the town.

They can only be booked online, either via winchelsea.com or directly, using the QR code below





Walks and Views

See the town map in the centre fold for the places to go to get the best views

- Looking west from the *Millennium Beacon* you can admire unspoiled country views along the Brede valley
- Looking east from *The Lookout* at the end of the High Street you can enjoy the sea view of Rye Bay with Dungeness beyond
- From North Street you can see across to Udimore and Rye
- A stroll southwards along Wickham Rock Lane takes you to the *New Gate* which was once the only way out of Winchelsea by land
The gate is about fifteen minutes' walk from the church

The 1066 Country Walk comes through Winchelsea

The route winds through the countryside that witnessed the Norman Conquest, starting in Pevensey, passing through Battle and finishing in Rye
visit1066country.com/things-to-do/1066-country-walk-p881061

The Royal Military Canal skirts the east of the town

The Canal Path runs south to the sea at Pett and north to Rye passing the impressive Tudor shell of Camber Castle
romneymarshhistory.co.uk/royal-military-canal

- *OS Explorer maps 124 and 125 are recommended for these walks*



Historical Walking Tours

Historical Walking Tours of the town take place between May and September. Tours include an insight into the Court Hall and a visit to the Museum. If you wish to book a place on one of our planned Historical Walking Tours please use the QR code



Group bookings are also available by prior arrangement
Please email info@winchelsea.com
for all enquires

March

Garden Society Spring Show

April

Mayor Making Ceremony

July

National Garden Scheme openings

August

Summer Fete and Fun Dog Show

Garden Society Summer Show

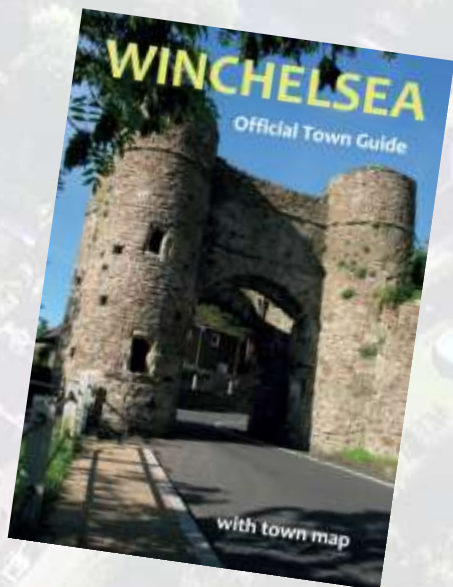
Millennium Artefacts Art Exhibition

November

Christmas Fair

December

Christmas Windows



*Our illustrated town guide is on sale
at the Museum and in the Church*

The Little Shop - 9 High Street Winchelsea



It may be little, but you will be amazed how much our shop has to offer to help meet your essential shopping needs, including takeaway hot drinks, daily newspapers, bread, pastries, sausage rolls milk, vegetables, fruit, meat - all fresh and locally sourced

We are open weekdays from 8am. 9am at weekends

01797 226287



Winchelsea Farm Foods



THE NEW INN

WINCHELSEA

German Street Winchelsea TN36 4EN

01797 226252

newinnpubwinchelsea@outlook.com

newinnpubwinchelsea.co.uk

The warmest of welcomes awaits you at the New Inn
A traditional family-run Inn, dating back to the late 1700s

**Located in the heart of the town overlooking the Church
A perfect setting to relax, eat, drink or stay
in one of our four ensuite rooms**

Our wonderful secret walled garden offers al fresco
dining during spring and summer

**We offer a range of real ales, and an extensive menu
using fresh, locally sourced food where possible**

Dogs welcome in the bar, restaurant and garden areas



We are a family-run single wine estate located in the ancient town of Winchelsea

Visit our charming Cellar Door and sample the wines, walk the vineyard trail or book a wine tasting to hear our story
You can also stay on-site at Wickham Manor, a beautiful 16th Century Manor House nestled within our 120-acre mixed farm and vineyard
Cellar Door Opening Hours
Wednesday to Saturday: 11am - 5pm Sunday: 12pm - 4pm



Charles Palmer Vineyards, Cellar Door
Wickham Manor, Wickham Rock Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AG
07869 148935
vineyard@charlespalmer-vineyards.co.uk



STRAND HOUSE

**The Strand
Winchelsea
TN36 4JT
01797226276
stay@strandhousewinchelsea.com
www.strandhousewinchelsea.com**

Strand House welcomes guests to stay in its quirky, 15th century rooms. Breakfast on the terrace in summer and cosy up by the fire in winter. We serve a variety of delicious breakfast options and provide a fully stocked honesty bar. Dogs are welcome too.





*Greysfriars
Winchelsea*



Weddings, Events
Holiday Stays

We are now taking bookings for Weddings and Events

Our two self catering apartments, Eagles Nest and Herons Wood offer private dog friendly gardens with hot tubs, spectacular views and quiet luxury Available to book separately sleeping 4 and 5 respectively, or two together sleeping 9

Book online at greysfriars.co or email caroline@greysfriars-winchelsea.com 07853 190939

Winchelsea Farm Kitchen

Tea Shop - Kitchen - Breakfasts - Lunches - Afternoon Tea - Ice Cream Sundaes - Milkshakes - Garden



12 High Street 01797 721790

Winchelsea Arts



Photos by Kt Bruce

Presenting an annual series of six concerts featuring a broad range of musical styles from jazz to classical Winchelsea Arts aims to bring music of the highest quality to the town, to support emerging young artists and to ensure that St Thomas's is at the centre of Winchelsea's cultural life

Subscribers benefit from substantial discounts on the ticket prices for individual concerts

Find out what's on by picking up a brochure when you visit the church
or go to winchelsea-arts.org.uk

Join the Friends and help preserve and improve the fabric, furnishings, stained glass and monuments of this amazing building



Registered Charity No: 249108

Become a Friend of Winchelsea Church

winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk/winchelsea/friends-activities

Discover Winchelsea



winchelsea.com



Travel Information

Regular bus services run between Hastings and Rye

The 100 via the A259 stops in the centre of Winchelsea

The 101 via Winchelsea Beach stops at the

Sea Road junction on the Rye side of Winchelsea

$\frac{1}{3}$ mile below the Strand Gate

For times see stagecoachbus.com/timetables

The railway station lies a mile from the centre of

Winchelsea and is served by trains on the Marshlink Line

which runs from Ashford International to Eastbourne

via Rye and Hastings

Timetables at southernrailway.com

Bus and train information also available from

traveline.info 0871 2002233