

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 36

Winter 2010

Cover sponsored by
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The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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Winkleigh Community Centre

Many of you are already aware of the long-running saga over the Community Centre site and the management committee's efforts to gain ownership of it. There has been little positive news since DW's summer edition.

The car park remains a contentious issue due to a revoke clause (given 6 months notice) in DCC's draft licence proposal. Should this clause be enforced then the access to the centre itself via the car park would be severely curtailed so that even pedestrian entry would be limited and no vehicle access or parking allowed.

DCC have already indicated that the possibility of future building development on the car park could take place. Apart from restrictive and possibly difficult entry our long term business success would be jeopardised! The WCC committee believes this latter situation potentially makes the overall transfer of the building and successful future usage a very high risk.

Therefore attempts are now being made through various political channels to purchase the car park in addition to the freehold transfer at nil value of the centre itself.

The Parish Council are assisting the WCC committee in this initiative. Given the phrases 'Big Society' and the creation of a 'personal well being' index ringing in our ears from Westminster, common sense may prevail and saving the car park for community use would provide a most welcome Christmas present.

RJS

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I heard recently of a shop playing Christmas Carols whilst full of Halloween decorations and people wearing poppies ready for Remembrance Day! How crazy is that! I'm not suggesting that any of those things is out of place — except the Christmas Carols in October — but what a combination.

On the television at the moment is a series of advertisements about parts of the world without clean water and how the charity Water Aid is asking people to donate £2 a month to help them. Which reminds me - thank you to everyone who supported Water Aid through our auction of Produce at Harvest time. I hope their campaign does well, after all what a small amount compared to what most people will spend buying presents for each other at Christmas.

Many of you I am sure support a charity of one sort or another or buy your friends and family an Alternative Gift from a charity catalogue. (We have a few catalogues at the back of Church if you have difficulty finding one). These are really such a good idea especially for people who have everything they need or are simply difficult to buy for.

Remember of course that the greatest gift of all, the Son of God born at Christmas, was a free gift, given out of love - God's love for the human race and indeed for the world which He made. This is really what Christmas is about and although many people may feel the financial need to cut back on spending this Christmas, this is something we can still celebrate. There will be no cutting back on our services however and we invite you to come and join with us at any or all of the services listed below. We shall of course be singing all the traditional Christmas Carols from Christmas Eve right the way through the Christmas season (the twelve days of Christmas).

Friday 24th December 5.00 p.m. Our popular Crib Service for children of all ages in which we tell the Christmas story and sing our Carols. (The collection goes to the work of the Children's Society)

11.45 p.m. Midnight Mass with Carols

Saturday 25th December 9.30 a.m. Sung Christmas Eucharist with Carols

The Light up a Life Service for the North Devon & Children's Hospices will be in Church on Monday 6 December at 7.00 p.m. and is open to everyone. Winkleigh Primary School will be having their Christmas Service in Church on 16th December at 1.30 p.m. This too is open to everyone.

All Saints Church, Winkleigh Flower Ladies Christmas Raffle 2010

We are a small group of enthusiastic ladies who do the flower arrangements throughout the year in the very beautiful All Saints Church. We would like to thank everyone for supporting the events we arranged this year. At Easter, the “Buy a Lily in remembrance of a loved one” was very well supported and we displayed more than 170 lilies in the arrangements. During the Fair Week we held an Open Day at the Church with coffee and cakes and to see the flower arrangements and this was well attended.

We want to raise money to help meet the costs of purchasing the flowers throughout the year and to this end we are running a Raffle with the first prize being the contents of a Christmas Hamper. The “flower ladies” will be out and about selling the raffle tickets starting on November 1st. The details of the hamper contents will be on display at the hairdressers “CHANGES.” (by kind permission of Valerie Bissett) where the draw for the lucky winner will also take place on Saturday morning December 18th at 10.00 hrs.

The four principal occasions each year when the Church is filled with flowers are at Christmas, Easter, Winkleigh Fair Week and at Harvest Festival. For next year we are again planning to give a “Coffee and Cake” morning in the Church during the Easter week to which everyone is invited to come and to see the flowers.

Ruth Jones (83268)

The Molland Book

In 1949 Lawrence Molland wrote *A History of the Parish of Winkleigh in the County of Devon*, a beautiful handwritten and illustrated volume which is now in the County Studies Library in Exeter. He also produced a copy of the book which is in the Gidleigh Chapel of All Saints Church, Winkleigh. Molland covers the well researched history of Winkleigh and surrounding area from the Domesday entry and gift of the village by William the Conqueror to his queen, Matilda. There are knights and squires, intrigue and corruption, wild animals and domestic disputes; all the ingredients of an epic tale of rural life.

Currently the book, which is in a glass case, is open at the first page. It is intended that the pages will be turned at regular intervals so that the developing history can be read by those interested. It is also possible to access the original book by contacting the library in Exeter giving them advance notice of your intended visit.

If anyone would like further information about the Molland book please contact me on 01837 83132 or sylviamv.smith@btinternet.com

Sylvia Smith

Friends of Winkleigh School

We are a group of parents who organise events throughout the year to raise money for Winkleigh Primary School. This enables the school to provide more than can be allocated on their budget such as sports equipment, helping to pay for trips that enhance developmental and social skills, projects to support life skills and any other equipment/resources that the teachers bring to our meetings on their wish list!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR FIREWORKS EVENING, what a fantastic turn out despite the weather! It was lovely to see the whole community coming together to help raise funds for our future generations. It was the first time the event was held at the sports centre and we are pleased it went so well. The total raised was £519.54 boosted by £385.00 sponsorship, a big Thank You to the sponsors. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR MAKING THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.

Every year we hold a Duck Race at Brushford on the last Friday of June, a School's Out disco in July at the School, Fireworks Night on the Friday around the 5th November (this year at the Sports Centre) and a Christmas Fair on the last Friday of November at the School. We are hoping to hold some other events during the year to help support the children of Winkleigh School.

If you want to know more about Friends of Winkleigh or have any suggestions contact **Lisa Garnsworthy**, Tel: 01837 83798.

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WINKLEIGH FAIR COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE

Winkleigh Fair Committee invites you to the annual Christmas lights switch on in the village square which, this year, will take place on **SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER**. Following on from previous year's successes, we will be holding a Christmas Market in the village square from 2.30pm. Come along and do your Christmas shopping from stalls selling local produce and locally produced crafts. There will also be soup, mince pies, mulled wine and cider punch to keep you warm!

The Oasis Coffee Bar in the Methodist Chapel will be open from mid afternoon serving free hot soup and hot drinks. Contributions for charity will be gratefully received.

The Christmas lights will be switched on at about 4.30pm with Father Christmas handing out sweets to the children. Winkleigh Primary School children will be in the village square singing carols around the Christmas tree.

If you live in the village, why not join in the Christmas decorations competition. Prizes will be given for the Best Decorated Christmas Window, Best Decorated Christmas House and Best Decorated Christmas Street and the Best Homemade Father Christmas - just place him outside your house! Judging for all categories will take place on Thursday 2nd December. Please ensure that your entry form is put in the box in the Post Office by 5pm on Wednesday 1st December.

We hope you can join us for the start of our Christmas celebrations.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FOR WINKLEIGH

Many readers will agree that high speed Internet Access should be available in rural areas such as ours, not just in the big towns and cities.

Indeed one of the benefits to the local economy may be that new businesses choose to locate in the local area, as it would make Winkleigh a more viable option than the major towns.

Why should local people, schools and businesses miss out on all the benefits of decent Internet access, just because we live in small communities?

Although our exchange is considered too small for the main rollout of next-generation Broadband, if we can get **just 75%** of all local email addresses to place a vote – **by 31st December 2010** – BT have committed to meeting with the local community to discuss the options available.

You can register your vote at **www.bt.com/racetoinfinity**

EXTREME WINE TASTING

The Marathon Du Médoc is, to put it mildly, unique. Sure it is 26 odd miles, but not many marathons major so much on wine tasting and fancy dress (3/4 of the runners don some form of ludicrous costume). 10 Majestic staff members rather foolishly decided to partake in this extreme form of masochism all in aid of our charity of the year - Parkinson's. After a variety of training schedules we convened at Château Lynch-Moussas the day before the big event. I felt honoured to be at Lynch-Moussas, a gorgeous fifth growth Château, homely and elegant surrounded by its vines. Frederic Casteja was a wonderful host, especially considering he had a new 15 day old son Alexon. As the theme this year was comic superheroes, between us we managed a Bat Woman, (John), Wonder Woman (Harry), a half hearted Ziggy Stardust, (myself), Cat Woman (Sophie), Superman, (Matthew Thomas), Tarzan, (Andy), and the Incredible Hulk, (Rebecca). The rest, Matt Wiltshire, Pete, and Mike, quite sensibly opted to run in our natty Parkinson's tops.

The morning of Saturday 11th September dawned as clear of clouds as expected, the temperature warm but not too hot. Eight excited school kids donned various forms of dress and nervously laughed our way through a lovely breakfast. The girls had gone down to the start early so that Rebecca could be painted green! As we set off with 'Bon Chance' from Frederic, spirits were high. Unfortunately the roads to Pauillac and the start were closed, so a 4KM walk to the start warmed our legs up and drew a series of comments and wolf whistles for Cat woman and Wonder woman. We arrived at start just in time and joined onto the back of 8,000 brightly dressed runners. The gun went and we set off, or didn't as the case was, because of the press of superheroes. At least no one else had a huge blue Ziggy Stardust wig. I soon realised why as when we began to trot, then run, my mouth and eyes filled with synthetic hair. The route took us out of Pauillac and then turned south, past the glorious Château Grand Puy Lacoste. We ran through the grape laden vines, to escape the press of lycra, and blue smurfs. The first tasting stop was at Château Batailley after 5KM. We met up with Frederic, who kindly relieved me of my cape and wig, while offering us a glass of 2009 Batailley. My first taste of a 09 and I wasn't disappointed, big structure of course but gorgeous fruit, it is going to be absolutely lovely.

We trundled on, hunting down groups of Smurfs and Roman soldiers, passing bees and prisoners, and feeling the sun warming up overhead. Ch. Lagrange was the next taster at 8 KM, The 2008 was on offer, grippy and full, but again with good potential. By the time we were sipping Château

Gruaud-Larose 2008 (very robust, one to sit on), at 11KM the field was beginning to thin and running was easier. My running companions were Mike, Superman and Wonder Woman, and we were having a great time. We drifted through the pretty villages Beychevelle and St-Julien Beychevelle and the superheroes dropped back a bit.

Mike and myself joined up with a couple of New Zealand “118” runners as we approached the stunning fairytal-esque Château Léoville Poyferre, at 16KM. The 2008 on offer was delicious, too young of course, but bags of supple dark fruit with the tannin and acidity. The temperature was now climbing, and although my taste buds were holding up well under the stress, my ear phones were struggling with being soaked on a regular basis as I drenched my body in an effort to lower the temperature. The route took us back to Pauillac, where the crowd increased and we reached half way. We were running freely, passing people, joking with the crowd, and having a great time as we past half way and set off north toward St Estèphe. We left the town and re-entered the vineyards, dripping with tight bunches of Cabernet.

The next memorable sample, winewise, was at Château Pontet-Canet, (23KM) one of my personal favourites. This fifth growth’s 2008 was lovely and supple, a lot more approachable now than the wines before. We ran north, past great Châteaux. Mouton Rothschild and Lafite Rothschild were majestic, (but unfortunately no samples). It was amazing to see all these big houses so close together, nestled amongst the vines. Little villages, built in the same golden sandstone as the big houses came and went as we entered The St Estèphe commune. My first disappointment came at Château Pomys, (29KM). The 2008 was classic young St Estèphe, very tight and the acidity was not balanced with the fruit. A lot of water was needed to stop me puckering.

The route then took us through the quaint village of St Estèphe. We turned south to Château Phélan Ségur. By this stage we had reached the head of the fun runners, and I think that those in front of us were proper athletes, not tasters. So when we side-tracked to sample some 1994 Phélan Ségur out of magnum, the Riedel glasses were flourished with a surprised smile. The 1994 was lovely, soft and feminine, balanced and still youthful. By now the acidity in the wines was matched by the lactic in the legs, and I didn’t appreciate running through the sandy soils of the vineyards of St Estèphe. It was a welcome sight to pass through the courtyard of Château Montrose (37KM) and see the Gironde river ahead. Mike hit ‘the wall’, and running the last 5KM on my own was not easy. Any thoughts of tasting dropped from my mind as finishing became the priority, and the pain began to spread from my thighs. The heat began to tell. I stumbled past the ham and oyster stands

with my mind firmly on getting one leg to move in front of the other. After an age I turned into the home straight and stepped onto the red carpet of the finish. The crowd lined the sides, and by getting them all cheering I forced myself over the line. The sense of achievement was enormous, and soon Mike joined me. We went for a well earned beer or ten and waited for the rest of our intrepid band to join us. By some weird fluke I turned out to be the fastest British runner in the race, and by finishing 133rd I worked out I had overtaken about 7,867 runners!

Amazingly we all finished and got our medals. We may not be challenging for an Olympic place, but the resilience and fortitude of the other Majesticers was plain to see, this is the marathon with the highest drop-out rate in the world. Blisters, cramp and de-hydration were not helped with having to walk back to our base, but a cool bath awaited us and we made it. Frederic then stunned us with the most amazing dinner, with his wines of course, (Batailley 2003, 1988, 1949, Lynch-Moussas 1995, and Ch de Rayne Vigneau 2002. The highlight for me was how well the Château Batailley 1949 had stood up. It had a lovely savoury aspect, but the fruit was still showing, layered and elegant. Revitalised, a bunch of us descended on Pauillac and danced the night away with the locals. We definitely showed them that the Brits don't give up, even if we were all walking like John Wayne. All in all a great weekend, lovely wines, nice stripy sun tan, and between us we have raised £10,000 for Parkinson's, a most worthwhile cause. I am sure that as the time passes, and the legs start working again, the experience will get even better.

Bruce Evans

W.D. CARNE

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Green Group - Winkleigh Primary School

Winkleigh Primary School is proud to have achieved our Fairtrade School status! We've been working hard to persuade people to swap to Fairtrade and use Fairtrade things ourselves, as well as learning all about what they do for poor farmers.

We have done well so far with our shoe collection. Mr Smith will be taking 19 pairs to Clark's to be recycled as part of the Shoebiz Appeal. Each pair recycled could provide a pencil and exercise book for a child in a Unicef education programme.

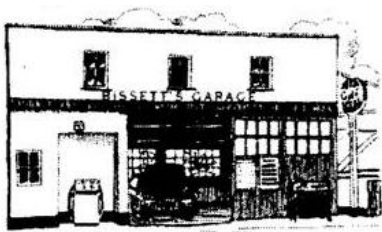
We are collecting old batteries for recycling. You can find the container at the reception desk. Please bring in any old batteries to stop them going to the land fill!

Green Group has started making fire blocks out of recycled paper to sell in the future. If anyone has saw dust or wood chips they could give us we could add it to the next ones we make.

The pond dipping display is now up in the school hall! There are pictures and information about all of the things we discovered with the North Devon Biodiversity Reserve group.

DON'T FORGET the Fairtrade shop the first Friday of every month.

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WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

The Christmas period is often looked upon as the most exciting part of the Christian Calendar with the account of God Himself being born into humanity in one of the poorest of situations of one of the poorest nations of the world, at that time. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” is how the Apostle John describes the event.

As a Church we will be celebrating the event over the Christmas period in a variety of ways: on the first Sunday in December [5th] we are moving our usual evening service to the morning [11am] to enable us to provide free home-made soup, during the time of the Christmas Market and ‘Lights switch-on’, from our Oasis Room. These can be either eat-in or take away. Any money given during the afternoon in appreciation will be given to the charities or organisations we will be supporting over the Christmas season.

Our principal Christmas Service will be on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm. As previously, this will be a ‘Carols by Candlelight’ service, followed by mince pies, etc. We will also be meeting on Christmas Day at 10.30am for a short celebration service. Our other services during the month will be at 11am on Sunday mornings (except Boxing Day, when there will be no service). We would love to see you at any of these special celebrations.

During January our Coffee Shop will be celebrating its first anniversary. From the profits of the Coffee Shop we have been able to help toward the continuing maintenance and development of the Chapel buildings; send £100 to an organisation called “Smile International” working in parts of Africa and Eastern Europe; and place £200 worth of books in our local school. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported this project throughout the year. We are now providing a Senior Citizen lunch-time special for just £6.50 (£6, if with one of our other cakes or traybakes). This is our meal-of-the-day, plus our cake-of-the-day and a cup of tea or coffee. We also provide a take-away service for both cakes and jacket potatoes &/or toasted sandwiches.

As from January, Messy Church will meet monthly on a Tuesday afternoon at 5pm in the Community Centre. This will be on the second Tuesday in the month – one month being a regular Messy Church Service (games, activities, 15 minute act of family worship, and a two course meal) whilst the alternative month will be some other form of family activity: a film, games night, craft workshop, etc. In December we are holding a Messy Church Christmas Party (for those families who have attended Messy Church throughout 2010, and our next Messy Church session will be on January 11th on the theme “After Christmas”.

A couple of other forthcoming events: our next Hot Chocolate Night will be on January 28th when we will be opening a discussion on “What makes us happy?” and during Winkleigh Fair Week in June we are hoping to stage the Musical “Pharisee”, which some of us will be taking part in.

As we are a praying community, if you ever want to chat about anything or would appreciate the opportunity for people to pray for you (all, obviously, in the strictest confidence) then either contact us through the normal means, or call into the Coffee Shop on a Monday morning. We will always make time for you.

Details of other events are to be found on our website: www.winkleighchapel.co.uk

Rev. Graham Warmington

warmington49@btinternet.com

POND DIPPING IN THE VILLAGE

The recently formed Winkleigh Biodiversity Group organised a day of pond dipping for the Green Group from Winkleigh Primary School, during Biodiversity Week. Five very enthusiastic Yr 5 pupils, armed with nets, magnifying glasses and a water testing kit, toured the village visiting several ponds. They discovered a wealth of wildlife on their doorstep and found that even the smallest and newest pond could be a haven for a rich variety of creatures. Reece Dawe, age 9 commented “We had an exciting day and we enjoyed seeing all the creatures- the newts were the best”. All the children agreed that if you want to help wildlife, then build a pond and, preferably, one without fish! The children were extremely well behaved and very keen. They are a credit to their school. Thanks are due to all those who allowed us to dip their ponds.

For more information on our group, please contact Philippa Lausen 01837 83209



ACE Archaeology Club

ACE has been so busy over the summer months I did not get time to write an article for Distinctly Winkleigh. As well as our own excavation there were plenty of others for our members (including me!) to join. We have also managed to fit in several walks on Dartmoor, exploring both Prehistoric and industrial Archaeology as well as continuing work on our projects.

Moistown at Broadwoodkelly; The earthwork survey continues, a few more sessions should see it finished but there is still quite a lot of scrub to clear first. After the survey is complete we intend to carry out a dowsing survey of the area and follow this up with some geophysics (earth resistance). It will be really interesting to see how all three surveys compare.

The main event at Moistown this year of course was the Festival of Archaeology, History, Sustainability and Environmental awareness. This was our contribution to the Council for British Archaeology's National festival. The event was very well attended and because of its diverse range of displays (from Medieval re-enactment to a collection of ancient televisions!) it attracted folks who would not have come for archaeology alone, but even so I was surprised by how many were genuinely interested in the effects that bracken has on buried archaeology!

This leads neatly on to the other ACE project; The Archaeology and Bracken project, this year we had hoped to be excavating bracken assessment pits all over Devon, but things always take longer to organise than our enthusiasm allows for! We tested out the methodology for the pits at Moistown during the festival, the results of which have shown that adjustments need to be made and therefore another pit needs to be dug. Once this is done and Dr Sandy Gerrard is sure that the methodology is sound, we will be arranging the next phase of excavation, hopefully next June or July.

The report for the Teigncombe roundhouse excavation is coming along well; the results of all the analysis funded by the Dartmoor National Park and Devon County Council are complete. The publication date for the report keeps slipping quite understandably because there is such a huge amount of information for Sandy to interpret, but he is getting there.

As if this lot wasn't enough to keep us busy, ACE saves the day for the Village Hall Committee! Back in the spring I noticed that the Winkleigh Village Hall was having some work done on a path leading to the hall. As the hall is built on a Scheduled Ancient Monument I enquired as to who was doing the archaeological work, no one as it turned out! After a hurried application for Scheduled Monument Consent by the Hall Committee, the local English Heritage monuments warden asked if ACE could carry out the watching brief. A commercial unit usually does this kind of thing; monitoring all ground works

by the builders, recording any archaeology found and producing a report. The Village Hall Committee had not included the cost of any archaeological work in their funding bid for the improvements in the first place and therefore had no money to pay for a commercial unit to do the work. ACE did the work for free and saved the Hall Committee a lot of money. Carrying out any kind of work on a Scheduled Monument without consent from the Secretary of State is a criminal offence and could have resulted in each member of the Village Hall Committee (being trustees) gaining a criminal record and having to pay a fine!

There are at least three Scheduled Monuments and many Listed Buildings in Winkleigh; permission is needed for any kind of work or alterations done to these. It is so much easier and less costly to do a little research before you start work; check out PPS5 (Planning Policy Statement 5) this covers planning legislation for both Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings and can be found at; www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps5

Also talk to the Conservation Officer at Torridge District Council to discuss your proposals.

Janet Daynes

Barnstaple - Exeter “Tarka” Railway Line

GOOD NEWS

With the introduction of this Winter's FGW Rail Timetable on 12 Dec. a new late evening train is to run on FRIDAYS ONLY from 17 Dec. leaving Exeter Central at 22.48 and Exeter St. David's at 22.52 calling at most stations including Morchard Road (23.19), Eggesford (23.32) and Barnstaple (23.59).

This new train on FRIDAYS only is principally to cater for those wanting to use the Tarka line to visit Exeter for an evening out and for those returning from day trips to London etc. also for those coming to North Devon for the weekend who currently have to be collected by road from either Tiverton Parkway or Exeter if they cannot get to Exeter St D in time for the 21.00 (Mons. to Sats.) train to Barnstaple.

The first train on Mondays to Fridays from Barnstaple will, from the new timetable, leave at 07.00 (07.30 Eggesford & 07.40 Morchard Road) and run 8 minutes earlier to Exeter St D so as to provide a connection into the 08.14 train to South Devon, Plymouth and Penzance.

The additional earlier train each way on Sundays, introduced from May this year, has been successful and will continue to run this Winter (Exeter St.D. 08.39, Morchard Road 09.11, Eggesford 09.25 to Barnstaple and return Barnstaple dep.10.00, Eggesford 10.26, Morchard Road 10.35 to Exeter).

For details of the ‘Tarka’ Rail Association who work closely with FGW to promote and improve services on the line visit www.tarkarail.org

Winkleigh Sports Centre

“Fireworks Spectacular”

Yes, making the headlines on 5th Nov. at the sports centre was the display and social night organised by and in aid of “Friends of Winkleigh School”. Despite adverse weather conditions the event was attended by some 250 people who all enjoyed a memorable evening, munching their way through a considerable number of burgers, washed down with quantities of liquid refreshment. The youth club tuckshop also did a roaring trade. At this point in time it would appear that this event will become a permanent annual fixture and one to look forward to at that. Before I move on I have to thank all those supporters of FOWS who turned up 2 days later on the Sunday morning and set about giving the sports centre the most intense cleaning session it has seen since it was built - I personally got quite a buzz out of seeing the community come together in this way. Many, many thanks to all of you.

On other fronts, I do of course have to mention netball before anything else (I don't want to get beaten up by two teams). So I will start by enclosing a short report from Sabrina on behalf of the Honey Bees :

The HoneyBees Swarming Success

QECC, Silverton, Thorverton and Winkleigh Warriors have played the HoneyBees and kicked the sting out of our bums, but not to worry as we are all having plenty of fun and our netball journey has only just begun!

We turn up each week buzzing with excitement, wondering how good the other players are that we meet (and they are good) and thinking this may be the HoneyBees week and, who knows, maybe at the end of this season we can tell everyone we have won???

South West Highways are in full support backing the HoneyBees through our netball journey.



Meantime Winkleigh's more established team, the Warriors have continued their road to success and are proving to be quite a handful for the rest of the teams in the league.



I have been asked to give their thanks to Barry, the Mad Butcher", and Gareth Cooper for their sponsorship and support. Barry wanted his photo taken so that was managed as well!

From the snooker club the exciting news is that they have now joined the Okehampton league and early results are showing moderate success. Having played four matches the score stands at-won 2, lost 2 - not bad for starters.

On remaining fronts, the Tennis Club has been awarded a councillor grant to support the continuation of their youth coaching and the Short Mat Bowlers are well into their busy season. Up on the allotments the wet weather is making for heavy conditions and I am sure many are looking forward to getting past the winter period.

Well that's all for now, as usual if you want to get in touch you know where I am.

Brian Holland 01837 83521

House Scouts

I am afraid that I have some rather bad news about Winkleigh Archive. Due to lack of volunteers to man the Kiosk, the Winkleigh archive will now be on view at the Mini Market every 1st Wednesday of the month, instead of every week. Gordon and I have been attending the Mini Market for over six years now and we just cannot afford to take the time out of work anymore. We are still collecting material for the archive, so do bring it along to the Mini Market or call me on **01796 520326** if you cannot make it then and, of course, if you would like to help out with the archive please do get in touch.

Janet Daynes

STABLE GREEN METHODIST CHAPEL

All at Stable Green invite you to their weekly Sunday services at 6.30pm

At Stable Green we hold Sunday evening services led by a varied range of preachers to accommodate our all-age congregation.

On the first Sunday in every month prayer meetings are held in the Sunday School before the service at 5.45pm. All are encouraged to come, or just let us know what you would like prayer about!

CHRISTMAS PUPPET SHOW:

A special event will take place on Saturday 4th December at 2pm at the chapel, where “His Handiwork” Puppet Team will be coming to perform their Christmas Production.... “Mabel from the Stable”. Please come along for this short time of all-age entertainment (the performance lasts for about half an hour). There will be no charge to see the performance. Tea, coffee and cakes etc will be available after the service, with any profits and donations being given to Children’s Hospice South West.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm. Come along and join us for Carols and entertainment, not forgetting the mince pies and sausages rolls after the service!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING:

Christmas Carol Singing around the farms and houses surrounding Stable Green Chapel will take place on Monday 20th December, commencing at 6.30pm at Berners Cross. All are welcome to join us. Remember to wrap up warm!!

For more information on any of the above please contact Louise on 01837 682843 or Liz on 01837 83916

we look forward to welcoming you to the above events and our weekly services

(you will find us on the Winkleigh to Chulmleigh road)



Christmas Open Day - Sat 4th December

Come and join us for a mince pie and mulled wine and
get into the festive spirit!

Christmas Cookery Demonstration

Monday 13th December—11.30am

Book now to avoid disappointment

Christmas Hamper Draw

Call into the showroom over December and enter our
Hamper Draw with £200!



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The Airfield, Torrington Road, Winkleigh, Devon EX19 8HR

2010 Winkleigh Youth Club

We are in changing times at the Youth Club. The good news is that the reappearance of "Seize The Moment" during the school holiday period was a great success and culminated in a full day's workshop, with visiting bands performing in the evening, on 29Th October. "Seize" have now entered into a 12 week period with the Youth Club on Wednesday evenings. The start of that period also saw the arrival of the Junior Fun Club to cater for 6 to 10 year olds, this is being run by Jon and his Mother and I'm sure you will be hearing more about this in the future.

Saturday club has been showing increased levels of attendance through the summer and one item of good news hot off the press is that Chanelle has just passed her driving test - WELL DONE CHANELLE. Unfortunately the really bad news is that we will be losing Chanelle sometime next year as the family are re-locating due to work commitments. Chanelle is heading for Uni. later next year anyway and whichever comes first we will all be wishing her the very best of luck and hope she will get in touch from time to time. Wiping away the tears I must now get on with news of the progress of the HogCo project. Following on the good work carried out by Andrew (Airfield Plant Hire), John Turner has done his bit by supplying a good quantity of horse manure which has been spread out with help from Dave Ferguson who has joined the project. Dave has also given me some advice on moving some of the fruit bushes and pruning. I think there has been another addition to our number but the weather has been so bad in recent days that I am assuming that to be the reason I have not heard from Simon since we met? HogCo are handling the ordering, and funding of the fruit trees which I hope will appear in January.

Well I think that's it for now, anyone wanting information on activities or to get involved please do get in touch.

Brian Holland 01837 83521



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DO WE STILL NEED THE POST OFFICE?

By Shirley Cowling

Eleanor Trott walks very carefully down the stairs. The letters plop onto the mat. She sees the flap close as the postman withdraws his hand. That's dear Will. One I won't be speaking to today! She regains her grip on the banisters, each side, as she continues down the stairs. She picks up the post, with some difficulty, then walks to the kitchen. She sits at the table as the kettle comes to the boil. Slits the envelopes with the humming bird opener, sent from California by one of her correspondents. Two bills, and a postcard of the Alhambra from Judith. "Weather superb, as is the Islamic Art. You'd love it here. Come with me next time." No. She'd never leave England again. Passport's out of date. If I can't go with him I shan't go. There's also a long screed from Mary in Newcastle. I'll keep that till later.

After breakfast she picks up her shopping list and linen bag. She walks down the passage again. Picks up the letters she wrote last night from the hallstand. She peers into the mirror and winds her scarf about her neck, once, twice, then ties it in the way she's seen the youngsters do. I'm glad scarves are in fashion again. I've got plenty of them. No need to buy another. She lets herself out of the front door, locks it, and puts the key into her pocket. The Mums are just coming back to the new estate opposite her cottage. They've been to school with the older children, and are now coming back with the younger ones in their pushchairs.

"Good morning, Samantha. Bertie all right?"

"Yes, thank you, Eleanor. You all right?"

"Yes, I'm fine." And I am fine, she thinks, coping quite well.

I'd never have dared call Miss Osbourne Alice, though I do quite like the informality nowadays. At least it shows they're not scared of me.

"Good morning, Tracey. Mandy back to school today?"

"Yes, thank you, Eleanor. But I think Jack's got the cold. Got to get him home in the warm."

And so on, all the way into the village square. She used to teach them all. She knows their family histories, and the names of their children. I shall know I'm getting old when I can't remember their names. She looks at the envelopes she's carrying. Paying the TV rental. One to Doreen, in Brisbane. They'd been in Training College together. She was a widow, now. And one to her niece, Betty, in Llandudno. Her youngest will be three, next week. Leon, they've called him. She'll buy him a card today. She posts her letters in the hole in the wall, then goes into the shop. Fruit, butter, loaf, milk, newspaper, stamps, new supply of paper and envelopes. More people to talk to in here.

“Good morning, Eleanor, how are you?”
“I’m fine, thank you, Emily. And you?”
“I’m fine, too. Nice weather, isn’t it?”
“Lovely. Hope it lasts. I’ve got so much to do in the garden, before winter.”
She chooses the card for Leon. Is he sensible enough to enjoy a 3-badge?

She gets it, anyway. She pays for her purchases, chats with the post-mistress.

“Love your necklace, Sue.”
“I was just admiring your scarf, Eleanor. Very cunningly tied.”
“My husband gave me this one. I’ve been without him two years, now.”
“And you’re managing well, aren’t you?”
“I am. I get my sniffy days, of course. Bye, for now.”

She goes to have coffee with Madge on the other side of the square. And who shall I write to tonight? She thinks out a new list as she walks across to her friend’s house. I’ll find Betty’s letter and answer her news as I’m sending Leon’s card. They’ll all go in the same envelope. Once I’ve seen “Only Connect” I’ll turn off the TV and get writing.

Global Work Party

Winkleigh cares about the environment

Thanks to all the people who joined in the "Great Jam and Chutney Swap" at Winkleigh Community Centre at Mini-Market on 13th October. People brought along jars of preserves they had made, to swap and to give away. It was a good opportunity to share our surplus produce and to talk about environmental factors involved in the choices we all make about our food.

We were also able to give a donation to Joliba Trust, which works in Mali on sustainable development projects.

This event was one of 7,700 in 188 countries, as part of a Global Work Party, involving positive action on climate change. 10:10 is an ambitious project to encourage everyone to cut their carbon emissions by 10% during 2010. Individuals and organisations have signed up and are working on ways to reduce the impact of their lifestyle on levels of carbon in the atmosphere.

Are you concerned about the environment we live in? Then perhaps you are interested in meeting up with local people to share interests and ideas - from wildlife gardening to energy conservation, from growing food to local crafts?

Please get in touch if you would like to be kept informed about future events and meet-ups.

Kim Melhuish email: kjmweb@ssmail.co.uk or 01769 520595

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Readers may recall that one of the few things I liked about the May general election was the idea of the Big Society. Although politicians were vague about details, the vision of an apathetic and alienated population becoming inspired by all kinds of local community and charitable initiatives together with, as David Cameron put it, “to replace state control with social responsibility” certainly appealed to me.

If Cameron’s critique of the state was hardly new, at least his proposals avoided some of the simplicities of ‘neoliberal’ thinking. Instead of simply advocating retrenchment of the state, he promoted an active role for the state – including local authorities – in creating the Big Society. For a generation of service providers fatigued by centralised targets and controls, the prospect of new freedoms gave many hope to play a more effective role in communities.

In early November, I went to the Big Society Conference for the South West at Taunton to hear at first hand from the Minister for Civil Society, an “independent think-tank”, and examples of Big Society case studies. Unfortunately, at the last minute the Minister (Nick Hurd) was unable to attend and while the think-tank talked about a number of initiatives, most – such as social inclusion bonds and “place-based” budgets – seemed more suitable for large-scale providers rather than local/ Big Society. Many at the Conference felt, that while many of the ideas behind the Big Society were good and laudable, it was, so far, a mixture of cost cutting and a rebranding of existing community activism.

It is very sad to see only six months into a new parliament that so many people at the sharp end are already feeling that they have been duped. Most accepted that things needed to change (and fast), but there is widespread concern that the severity of short-term cost cutting will not only lead to higher costs in the future but also that the most vulnerable will be particularly hardest hit. At the moment the government does not appear to understand that community initiatives need “seed corn” investment, and prevention (e.g. to stop homelessness, adapting homes for the elderly to avoid falls etc.) also require upfront investment.

It is very easy to be negative. Most of us understand the scale of the funding challenge in our society and there is considerable talent and commitment in our communities to make the Big Society work. The government, though, must listen and stop trying to put all the blame on benefit scroungers and some of the more bureaucratic centralist schemes of New Labour. Not everything New Labour did was totally without merit and/or is now costly to “unpick”. Two major reasons for our country’s predicament are subservience to the wishes of the City and a belief in management consultants, who are in reality nothing more than snake-oil salesmen. Here the coalition seems, so far, no better than its predecessor.

David Lausen

www.davidlausen.org.uk

01837 83209

Winkleigh Growers - Winter 2010

As I write the allotments are looking decidedly bleak. Some crops which are for winter harvesting are braving the wet and wind on site, however all the summer beans, peas and salads are now over. The ground on most plots has been cleared and dug over for a winter feed, others will no doubt follow suit as soon as possible

The site is maturing well now and most of us were able to keep the table well supplied through the summer months. Speaking personally we had enough beans to feed an army and hopefully will remember next year to plant fewer and to spread the planting over a few weeks so that not everything comes at once. The freezer is well stocked for winter and the cupboard full of chutney and jam; the latter not from our allotment. Seeing the success other growers had with different crops stimulates the imagination and next year we will be planting soft fruit and some of the more visually appealing squashes. The rabbit and deer proof fences seem to be doing their job and the paths are kept clear by Ray on the sit-on mower with help from Doug as is needed. Our thanks are due to them for their sterling work, we are really lucky to have them.

The AGM took place in early autumn John reported that a couple of people were giving up but that others were waiting to take plots. Bruce has stepped down as Treasurer and Ivor has volunteered to replace him.

Not too many recipes in this time but please keep them coming, especially dishes or preserves to make use of gluts of produce from allotments or gardens.

Janet's Aubergine Pie

Serves 2.

1 Aubergine thinly sliced, 4ozs thinly sliced gruyere cheese (a strong cheddar will do) 1 onion, rough chopped, 1 clove of garlic, crushed, 14 ozs can of chopped tomatoes, basil and olive oil.

Sprinkle the aubergine slices with salt, place in a colander and leave to stand for an hour to drain. Meanwhile fry onion and garlic until soft and golden, add tomatoes and simmer until sauce thickens, about 20 minutes. Rinse the aubergine and pat dry then fry in hot oil until lightly coloured on both sides. Blot excess oil off on kitchen paper. Layer the aubergine, cheese and sauce in an ovenproof dish starting with aubergine and finishing with sauce. Cook at 175 c for 30 minutes. Serve with crusty bread and green salad. Works well with courgettes too.

An alternative version of this is: once the aubergine has been cooked spread the slices thinly with the sauce and roll up like a swiss roll and skewer with a cocktail

stick, place in ovenproof dish and pour the rest of the sauce over, sprinkle with a mixture of grated cheese and breadcrumbs and bake.

The following recipes were available at the garden club and since we didn't know who brought them we couldn't ask permission to use them but they are just too good to keep secret so we hope that the author will forgive our borrowing them.

Frosted Courgette and Lemon Cake

250g unsalted butter, very soft plus a little extra for the tin, 3 unwaxed lemons, 200g caster sugar, 3 eggs, 2 medium courgettes coarsely grated (about 300g), 1 tsp of poppy seeds plus extra to decorate, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 100g self raising flour, 100 g of plain wholemeal flour, 1tsp baking powder, 85g icing sugar, 200g pack of full fat soft cheese and 4 tbsp of lemon curd. The latter is optional.

Heat oven to 180c or 160c if fan assisted, gas mark 4. Butter 2 20cm sandwich tins and line with baking parchment. Zest 2 lemons then squeeze juice in separate bowl. Place 20g of the butter, the caster sugar, eggs, courgettes, poppy seeds, vanilla and lemon zest in mixing bowl and beat until creamy. Stir in 1 tbsp of juice, both flours, baking powder and ¼ tspn salt. Spoon into the prepared tins and bake for approx 25 minutes until risen and springy to touch.

Mix another tbsp of lemon juice with 25g icing sugar for a drizzle. Mix remaining icing sugar and butter with soft cheese, remaining juice and zest of the third lemon. Beat until smooth and creamy.

Turn cakes out when partially cool and while still slightly warm prick with cocktail stick and pour over drizzle. When completely cold spread one cake with half of frosting and lemon curd if used. Top with second cake and cover the whole with frosting, sprinkle with remaining poppy seeds.

Courgette Tea Bread

3 eggs, 200g soft brown sugar, 350g shredded courgettes, 140ml sunflower oil, 2 tsps vanilla essence, 350g wholemeal self-raising flour, 1 tsp baking powder, 2 tsps cinnamon, ¼ tsp nutmeg, 225g chopped walnuts.

Heat the oven to 150c/gas mark 2. and grease a loaf tin.

Beat eggs till fluffy and stir in the sugar, oil, vanilla and shredded courgettes. Add flour and the remaining ingredients, mix well.

Turn mixture into the loaf tin and bake for 50/60 minutes or until a knife comes out clean. Leave to cool in tin and then turn onto rack.

Serve fresh and lots of butter though it is good on its own too.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR THE VILLAGE

Have your say on how to spend it!

Torridge District Council in partnership with Active Devon, the county sports partnership, was recently awarded funding from Sport England to co-ordinate and deliver the Active Villages programme across the District.

The Active Villages programme is a fantastic opportunity that will give people of all ages the opportunity to participate in sport and physical activity whether they are already active or would like to try something new. It is unique in that it gives the community the power to select how and what the funding can be spent on.

The programme is not a capital one so cannot directly fund buildings or skate parks for instance but is available to provide taster sessions for example; perhaps the community would like to have a specialist ballet teacher to come in and provide free classes? Perhaps a member of your community would like to become trained as a rugby coach, a tennis coach or cycle instructor perhaps? The funding could even pay for some netball posts and a ball, voila! you have the start of a new netball club!

We really want to hear from you. The money has been allocated to your village and will be spent; we just need the ideas from you, the community, as to how you would like to spend it!

For further information and to have your say please contact the Authority's Health and Recreation Officer James Jarroudi at james.jarroudi@torridge.gov.uk or by phone: 01237 428737.



WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE ART EXHIBITION

What talent we have in our midst! 23 individual art and craft exhibitors produced a very professional array of work at the second of the Art & Craft exhibitions at the Centre held on 13th and 14th November. Also there was a wonderful display of Christmas items from members of the Taw Valley Quilters.

There was a steady stream of visitors and well over 100 people came to view the exhibition with some people making purchases. Several visitors stayed for refreshments in the Main Hall where the tables were decorated with beautiful flowers and a wide range of tempting goodies were available.

All in all, the premise with which the exhibition was grant-funded was truly in evidence – an opportunity for local artistic talent to be shown to the people of Winkleigh. The next exhibition will be advertised nearer the time and will have contact details for anyone wishing to exhibit. Meanwhile, many, many thanks to those who brought along their work, to the people who helped set up the exhibition and to all those who supported it.

Winkleigh & District Garden Club

We are looking forward to the new 2011 programme which consists of monthly meetings with a range of speakers and a number of visits including a proposed visit to Highgrove in July.

The club meets in the evening of the third Tuesday in the month in Winkleigh Village Hall and normally start at 7.15pm.

Meetings: Jan 18th, Feb 15th, Mar 15th, Apr 19th, May 17th, June 21st, July 19th, Sept 20th, Oct 18th, Nov 15th, Dec 20th

Visits: May 10th, June 2nd, July TBA, August (Club Social)

In addition to the 'topic' of the meeting, such as a visiting speaker, meetings also include a raffle, tea/coffee and biscuits, giving time for members to socialise, and we encourage members to bring in plants to sell/swap.

New members and visitors are always welcome to our meetings and under 16's can join the club without a membership fee. A nominal charge of £1 per meeting is made to visitors which is put towards the cost of the meeting and includes refreshments.

For further information contact our Chairman

Mr Ed Porter on 01805 – 804838

WINKLEIGH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Early in November we had our Annual General Meeting with the election of Officers for the coming year. We have had some new members during the year, all of whom are keen and have lots of ideas; indeed 3 recent members joined the Committee. Claire Tricker was re-elected as President, Mary Taffs as Vice-President, Margery Howard as Secretary and Cathy Canning as Programme Secretary. Rachael Tapp stood down as Treasurer and Beverley Cook was elected in her place.

This has been a busy year with many different activities and events including a visit to a Mediaeval Manor House, a brilliant Taw Valley Group Garden Party to celebrate the Devon Federation's 90th Birthday, hosting the Spring group meeting, having stalls and serving teas at the Winkleigh Fair events and listening to some inspirational talks – oh, and a Quiz!

To crown the year our Skittles Team came first in the Taw Valley Group tournament and the last time we won it was in 2002. So, very well done to the team, we are proud of you.

A very interesting programme is arranged for next year starting with an illustrated talk by Colin Howlett about the restoration of the Gardens of Heligan. This will take place on Wednesday 5th January 2011 in the Back Room of the Village Hall. You are welcome to come along as a visitor to the monthly meetings for up to 3 months; why not join us and see that we are not just about jam and cakes, although we are pretty skilled at these and many other things!

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

PROFESSIONAL PANTO COMES TO WINKLEIGH

The amazing and talented Miracle Theatre of Cornwall is returning to Winkleigh after a 10-year gap to perform:

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST FROM MARS

**Winkleigh Village Hall
Saturday 29th January 2011**

Tickets will be available from D & S Supplies

Look out for the posters and flyers.

And finally

Another year drawing to a close - and what a year it has been!

The very cold start to the year, the General Election, the drama of organising a coalition. And now the new government's efforts to pull the country out of the indebted position we find ourselves in.

It certainly hasn't been a dull year. Our athletes shining at various sporting venues, and the latest news of the engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton, have certainly helped to brighten the year – despite the mixed economic news. On balance, though, it's been an improvement over 2009.

Whilst encouraging our readers to write in with any criticisms, beefs - or even articles – we remind them that the **closing date** for the Spring Issue is **Monday, 14th February 2011.**

Meanwhile, the editorial team takes the opportunity to wish all our readers

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Chairman	Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
Treasurer	Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145
Secretary	Wendy Mondy	01837 680022
	Janet Daynes	01769 520326
	Graham Warmington	01837 83574

The Society now has over 100 members. Membership costs £4 per person . This entitles you to vote at the Society meetings . If you would like more details, please contact Alan Mulcahy, our Membership Secretary, on 01837 680145.

Further information about the Society and what is going on in Winkleigh can be accessed online at: <http://www.winkleighonline.com>

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
Tim Rhodes	01837 83229
Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145

Contributions to the newsletter can be received as follows:

Articles are fine in printed form, but we can also accept PC disks or CDs in WORD format, or e-mail submissions .

Newsletter team e-mail: articles@distinctlywinkleigh.org.uk
Postal submissions: 8 Old Barn Close, Winkleigh, EX19 8JX
or Smythen Hill Cottage, Hollocombe, EX18 7QD

The Newsletter team is always looking for new members, please come forward if you would like to help in any way.

All information correct at the time of going to press . The views expressed in submitted articles and letters are not necessarily the view of the production team or the Winkleigh Society

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