

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 37

Spring 2011

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The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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Winkleigh Community News

Christmas presents for the Community Centre didn't arrive this year. Instead, the Centre's committee found itself obliged to draw up plans for closing the Centre down and handing the keys to Devon County Council. A very sad end to the campaign to keep the use of the Old School building, which has benefited the village since 1973.

However, there is now some hope that this situation might be resolved – more about this on Page 5.

The Village Hall was the venue for Miracle Players' modern pantomime – "Beauty and the Beast from Mars". It was a sell-out, and greatly enjoyed by all.

We hope that more events can be staged in the hall and that they are as well-attended.

These are difficult times, and it would be great if the people of Winkleigh could jointly overcome the obstacles and ensure that we don't lose any of the facilities we have enjoyed up to now.

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Easter is late! Well, it could be later but only by one day. How then is it worked out? To begin with there was a dispute about it with the churches of the East keeping it on one day, those in the West on another. An argument that lasted until the 8th century. In the West, in the year 325, it was decided that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 21st). Easter, therefore, can fall on any Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th. The variable date originally related to the time of Jesus' death and its connection with the Jewish Passover. I hope to expand on this in the Parish Bulletin.

However, Easter will no doubt arrive soon enough, so here are the times of the main services for that day and the lead up to it. Through these we celebrate the very heart of our faith.

Palm Sunday (17th April - 9.30 a.m.) will see us processing with a Donkey (weather permitting) as we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem proclaiming in that act, his claim to kingship. Maundy Thursday (21st April 7.30 p.m.) will see us gather around the altar as we celebrate the Last Supper with a Eucharist in which we hear his own words 'This is my Body, This is my Blood', after which we process to the Garden of Gethsemane set up in the Lady Chapel. Good Friday (22nd April - 10.00 a.m.) we return to stand at the foot of the Cross and witness his suffering and death for our sakes.

Holy Saturday (not Easter Saturday, that's 30th April) sees us gather after dark (8.30 p.m.) to light the Easter fire and from that the great Easter candle as we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. A celebration that continues on Easter Day (9.30 a.m.).

Before all of that we have Mothering Sunday when (at 9.30 a.m.) our Sunday School will take part in the service and there will be the usual blessing and distribution of flowers. Also, through Lent we will be having our series of Lent Address and Compline (Night Prayer) at 7.00 p.m. on a Wednesday Evening starting on 16th March.

Returning now to Easter. After Easter day I shall be having a few days off and then I will begin a three month Sabbatical. This means that I will be unavailable until 1st August. During that time services will continue and if you need to contact anyone please contact one of the Churchwardens or our Reader, Adrian Magor. Contact details can be found in the Parish Bulletin or in Church.

COMMUNITY CENTRE MEETING

It looks as though Winkleigh may be taking over ownership of the Community Centre in the near future.

As most readers know, after a lot of work by so many, negotiations between the community and Devon County Council (DCC) broke down in December. However, in January, Andy Boyd – Devon County Councillor – and David Lausen – Torridge District Councillor – had a meeting with DCC, which led to a new proposal by DCC. The revised contract ensures that, whatever might happen in the future, access via the car park is always available (whether by minibus or on foot) to the rear door.

At a meeting on February 15th, there was considerable enthusiasm from hall users and others for Winkleigh to take over the much-loved building so that the community can finally go ahead with the upgrading of facilities.

Andy Boyd told the meeting that Winkleigh now had a once-only chance of acquiring the Community Centre building on such advantageous terms. He said that if the revised offer was rejected, DCC would seek a buyer for the entire site.

Peter Stutt – vice-chairman of Winkleigh Parish Council - emphasised that if Winkleigh accepted the new offer, then the village must accept that a lot of effort would have to be made to effect urgent refurbishment of the hall, which has seen no concerted maintenance since 1973. “Now”, he said, “there will be no ‘Them’ to perform essential maintenance. As new owners, Winkleigh would have to foot the bill for this”. He suggested that there could be great mutual benefits in coordinating with the Village Hall, and perhaps also the Sports Centre, as each has unique qualities to offer. One area for cooperation could be in negotiating block purchasing deals with suppliers to reduce heating and other costs.

A second meeting was called for the following week to decide on actions and priorities and to recruit as many volunteers as possible.

Winkleigh Sports Centre-Report-Winter 2010/11

The Sports Centre A.G.M. took place on 17th January and it has to be said that the attendance was very poor once again. This is so much more of a pity when the financial report presented a much rosier situation than has been the case for the past few years. We are not completely out of the wood yet, as has been shown by more recent events such as the blocked field drain which was expensive to resolve, the broken car park light and an assessment of future repairs and replacements which was carried out at an informal meeting, but we are now within reach of resolving the debt issue which has been ongoing for so long.

Moving on to report on club issues the big news from the snooker club is the installation of a new lighting system which really is impressive on making the transition from our old set up. This was necessitated by the fact that 150watt bulbs are no longer obtainable, but I think those who have played under the new lights must be wondering why we waited. The performance in the Okehampton snooker league continues at an impressive level for newcomers and, at the time of writing, the team stand third out of seven teams, having won 6 and lost 8 matches, with 4 to play to the end of the season.

Both our netball teams continue to attract attention, with the “Warriors” still putting in impressive performances and holding good teams to account, while the “Honeybees” are still trying to find that sting but having good fun along the way and it has to be said the score-lines are getting closer - I am sure their day will come!

The recent pantomime performance at the Village Hall saw some input from the Saturday Club with help getting the premises ready and a lighting technician being discovered - well done Michael. There are now tentative moves afoot to involve the youngsters from this group on the “Drama” scene in the future. They are also joining up with “Seize the Moment” to give the bus shelters a much needed make over, as discussed at the January Parish Council meeting. This project is currently in the design stages to ensure the plans meet overall approval. The HogCo community garden under the guardianship of Saturday Club has been making impressive progress with the appearance of an assortment of fruit trees and the preparation of the old shrubbery areas to be replanted with an assortment of fruit bushes, herbs and vegetables accompanied, once again by sunflowers, sweet peas and other pollinators. Last year saw the start of this community project and it is to be hoped that this year will see truly impressive progress. On this particular point if anybody in the community feels they can join in any way, no matter how small, they will be very welcome and the rewards will be fulfilling (and tasty) - you don't have to be an accomplished gardener but you won't be turned away if you are!

The tennis club has had a boost in recent weeks with the resolving of the floodlight problems and all that remains is for the weather to improve to get them fully back in action - the restart of Junior coaching sessions is now imminent so watch for the notices on this.

So we end looking forward to brighter times in all respects - if you want any information on activities at the Sports Centre do get in touch.

Brian Holland 01837 83521

Winkleigh & District Garden Club

We have a great 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 23rd, 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 or for a copy of the programme of events please contact cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk

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ACE Archaeology Club

Work at Moistown continues. We now have just a small area of scrub to clear to enable us to finish the earthwork survey. We had hoped to do this last December but the weather got in the way so fingers crossed for sunshine at our next session there. When the earthwork survey is complete, using the same grid, we intend to carry out a dowsing survey and follow this with some geophysics. It will be most interesting to see how all three surveys compare.

ACE plans for this year's National Festival of Archaeology are steaming ahead, amongst many other exhibits we are hoping to be demonstrating ancient bread making, from the grinding of the spelt wheat to making and baking (in a cloam oven) the bread. This will take place at Pattiland Farm, Broadwoodkelly, on Saturday the 23rd of July, more details in the next issue of DW.

We are still developing the next phase of the Archaeology and Bracken project, it is taking much longer than we thought but it is so important to get it right before we can take it out to wider Devon and beyond. One thing that would really help this nationally important project is funding, so we are also looking into that too.

In January we had a fantastic guided tour by ACE member Phil Tonkins of some of Exmoor's archaeology from the relatively recent industrial West Somerset mineral railway to the Prehistoric Bats Castle in Dunster Park. February saw ACE enjoying a Zooarch (the study of bones in archaeology) day led by another ACE member Wendy Howard who is a PhD student at Exeter University, we learned all about bones in archaeology and the information they hold.

If you would like to know more about ACE have a look at our website www.acearch.org.uk or contact me at ace@acearch.org.uk or on 01769 520326

Janet Daynes

WINKLEIGH POST OFFICE

By the time you read this Sue and John will have retired after 8 years at Winkleigh Post Office. Our last day on the counter was Wednesday 16th February, but we were only able to announce our departure two weeks before and perhaps not everyone got to hear about it. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us and the Post Office during our time here, and for the lovely words which have been spoken and written to us in the run up to us leaving.

Please welcome Jan Bissinger and Sue McLaney who have taken over the Post Office as well as the house, flats and the shop. They are very keen to continue the friendly and efficient service which we hope you have enjoyed and we would ask you all to continue to use the counter at Winkleigh Post Office as much as you possibly can.

Thank you once again.

Sue & John Shorey

Village Hall News.

The village hall committee is holding a Quiz on Saturday 26th March starting at 7.30pm in aid of village hall funds. Entry is £5 per person to include food and drink. It is a maximum of 6 in a team. We will be giving away cash prizes for the quiz and have a book of 10 tickets worth approx. £60 to “Delta Force” paintball to give away in the draw.

To book a table please phone 01837 83484 or 01837 83734.

We have received a grant from the Signpost Housing Association to cover the cost of redecorating both the committee room and the kitchen. We hope that the work will be completed by early March.

Also as a result of a grant from Torridge District Council we have now installed heating in the kitchen.

THE FLOWER LADIES ALL SAINTS CHURCH WINKLEIGH

EASTER LILIES

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas Raffle (2010) and the sale of table decorations at the mid-week market. The winner of the hamper was Mrs. M. Partridge of Westcots Drive, who has recently moved into the village. The money raised will help to meet the cost of the flowers for the floral arrangements in the Church during the year.

Each Easter we put lilies into the Church flower arrangements in memory of loved ones. Their names are entered in the Book of Remembrance which is displayed on a table by the Screen pedestal.

We invite you to “buy a lily” in memory of a loved one(s). The cost of a lily is £3 and envelopes for the money will be available in the Church, at “Changes” (by kind permission of Valerie Bissett) and from the Flower Ladies. The envelope boxes with details will be in place from Tuesday **8th** March and the closing date for orders is Tuesday **5th** April.

We also invite you to come to All Saints Church during Easter week on Tuesday **26th** April at 10.30 am. for “Coffee and cakes” with the Flower Ladies and to view the Easter floral arrangements

Winkleigh Fair Local Produce Show

Adult section - 50p per entry

VEGETABLE

1. Three beetroot
2. Lettuce- any variety
3. Five French beans
4. Five carrots- any variety
5. Five runner beans
6. Three courgettes
7. Five pods of peas
8. Five radishes
9. Five white potatoes
10. Three tomatoes with calyx

MINI VEGETABLE BOX

11. Five varieties, a maximum of 10 vegetables in total

FUN CATEGORIES

12. Longest runner bean
13. Heaviest potato
14. Fattest carrot
15. Largest strawberry
16. Most interesting shaped vegetable

All produce to be gently washed and displayed on a white plate or black fabric

FRUIT

1. Five strawberries
2. Three sticks of rhubarb
3. Five gooseberries
4. Five raspberries
5. A collection of soft fruits – three varieties

All produce to be displayed on a white plate or black fabric

HERBS & FLOWERS

1. Seven sweet peas
2. 3 dahlias
3. A geranium in a pot
4. A collection of flowers from your garden
5. A posy of herbs

All flowers and herbs to be displayed in a vase or white jug (with the exception of the geranium)

Adult Section - Continued

PRESERVES

1. A jar of soft fruit jam
2. A jar of marmalade
3. A jar of chutney, any variety

COOKERY COMPETITION

Carrot cake - recipe to follow

Children's Section - 20p per entry

Theme: Grow Your Own

1. A play dough, salt dough or clay model of a fruit or vegetable
2. 5 home-made marzipan fruits
3. A vegetable animal
4. A collage using dried fruit, vegetables and pulses
5. A tractor made from recycled vegetables (no taller than 30cm)
6. A fabric fruit or vegetable
7. A pressed flower bookmark

BLOOMING WINKLEIGH

It may be cold and wet outside but why not start thinking about summer and planning your garden? We will be holding our Blooming Winkleigh Competition as part of Winkleigh Fair Week again this year and we would love everyone to enter no matter how big or small your garden is.

There is a new category this year - Best Vegetable Plot. This can be an allotment, a patch in your garden or a window box - as long as it has edible plants growing in it you can enter it for this category!

The other categories are:

Best Small Garden

Best Large Garden

Best Window Box or Hanging Basket

Best Street/Cul-de-sac/Small Area of Houses

Judging will be done by an independent expert during the week before the opening ceremony on July 10th and trophies will be presented to the winners during that afternoon's events.

So dream of long, warm summer days and start planning your entry now!



WINKLEIGH TENNIS CLUB

New Tennis Season starting soon!-

The days are getting longer and before we realise it, it will be the start of the tennis season!

Our regular tennis social events are still on Monday evenings from 6:30pm onward and Sunday mornings from 10 am to 12pm where ladies and men of all abilities are welcome. Junior members (over 14) of a reasonable standard are welcome too. It is a great opportunity to try tennis and see if it is for you while meeting other club members at the same time.

Youth Saturday Morning Tennis Coaching

After last year's success the club is now ready to resume its weekly sessions with the youngsters! We have seen some very good tennis and amazing progress and we hope that our budding tennis champions are ready for another season with Janine and our new coach Sam!

Every Saturday from 10 am to 11 am, weather permitting at the Winkleigh Sports Centre's courts. £2.00 per sessions payable 6 weeks in advance. For more information or to book contact Doe Fitzsimmons.

AGM

The club is holding its annual AGM on Monday 28th of March at 8pm to discuss membership fees, finance, coaching activities for adults and children, social events and fund raising activities. If you are a member this is your chance to have a say!

The BIG "BREAKFAST BRUNCH"!

We are inviting you to our annual fund raising event on **Saturday 9th of April from 9:30am to 12pm** at the Winkleigh Sport Centre. As well as our regular Youth Coaching session from 10 to 11 am, the club will be opening its courts from 9am to 10am and 11am to 12 pm to anyone who wants to hit the ball or have a go at tennis for the first time! Before or after a game, come and have breakfast/brunch with us (available from 9:30 am)! All proceeds will go to Winkleigh Tennis Club.

We hope to see you on the courts very soon!

For more information contact Doe Fitzsimmons, Secretary

Telephone: 01769 520 769

E-mail: doe@taichidevon.co.uk

WINKLEIGH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Surprisingly, although the Winter has been a hard one, we have not had to cancel any monthly meetings so far! The last events of 2010 included our Christmas lunch which was held at Weirmarsh Farm for the second year running, and there was total agreement that it was an excellent venue.

2011 started off well with some new members, who have been warmly welcomed, and a fascinating illustrated talk by Colin Howlett on the discovery and renovation of the Gardens of Heligan. Colin now lives in the village but was very closely involved with Heligan from the very germ of the idea right through to being a Director, and his passion for the place was evident.

We have also had a whistle-stop tour of the aspects of Waste Management in Devon and were given some very useful tips about how **not** let Devon go to Waste and, at the time of writing this, a group of our members went off to a Japanese Day in Filleigh sampling sushi and learning how to put on a kimono. There now follows a full and varied programme for the rest of the year, some fact-finding talks, some visits, some learning of new creative skills and an abundance of camaraderie and fun.

Do join us if you wish to be part of it all. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Back Room of the Village Hall. **See you there!**

TALES FROM THE TOWER

The Crown Jewels and the Ordnance Drawing Room

Dr Geoffrey Parnell

Shortly after I pushed my archaeological trowel into the wet deposits of Traitor's Gate in December 1973 I was asked by the then Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments for London, Peter Curnow, to go and have a look at some brick foundations that had been found below the ground floor of the Martin Tower on the north east corner of the inner curtain defences of the Tower of London. This was my first 'dig' at the Tower and at the age of twenty-two I was eager to please. I did not realise at the time that the brick foundations I uncovered and recorded were part of a security measure undertaken by the Lord Chamberlain's Office following a notorious incident on 9 May 1671 when a violent assault nearly resulted in the theft of some of the Crown Jewels and that a series of seemingly unconnected events and discoveries would eventually led me to the pages of *Distinctly Winkleigh*.

The attempt to steal some of the Crown Jewels is the stuff of legends and arguably one of the few Tower tales that has a proper documented history. Colonel Thomas Blood (1618-1680) was an Irish-born military officer of modest background who at the age of twenty married Maria Holcroft (a name to remember!) the daughter of a Lancaster gentleman from Golborne. Having switched from the royalist to the parliamentary side during the civil war he was awarded land grants and an appointment as a justice of the peace. After a colourful career as an Irish insurrectionist and then a client of George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, following exile in the Netherlands, Blood arrived at the Tower of London in late April or early May 1671 dressed as a parson and with a female companion pretending to be his wife. During a visit to the Jewel House Blood's 'wife' feigned a stomach upset that was part of a scheme to befriend the Keeper, Talbot Edwards. The incident led to a dinner in Edward's apartment on 9 May and the rest, as they say, is history.

My involvement in the matter was to uncover a number of shallow brick walls under the floor of the former Jewel chamber, some of which formed a strange polygonal shape. Only after these remains were removed - in order to reinstate the original floor level of the thirteenth-century chamber, and after I discovered the joys of the Office of Works Bill Books - did I realise that walls were part of a programme of works carried out in the wake of Blood's mischief, that included a division to separate tourists from the jewel display and the foundations for some sort of angular metal cage that can be seen on later illustrations of the Jewel Chamber. I should add that the contemporary Ordnance Bill Books reveal that the conversion of the 'Irish Tower' into the 'Jewel Tower' began in 1668 (another date to remember!) when the demolition of the old Jewel House began and when the Crown Jewels were moved into a temporary home, possibly in the Wardrobe Tower close to the south-east corner of the White Tower.

I should also add that with regard to Bill Books, the rubble removed between the foundations contained a number of badly corroded iron objects which, when X-rayed by the Tower Armouries conservators, were found to be 'bill hooks' similar to those

recovered from the battlefield at Sedgemoor in Somerset where the Duke of Monmouth and his Westcountry Protestant supporters armed with these basic agricultural tools were massacred by the royalist troops of the Catholic King James II thirteen years after the attempt to steal his father's jewels.

As the years went by my efforts at the Tower diversified and, although classified as 'Geoff the Dig' by the body of Yeoman Warders, I began deputising for the Inspectorate at works meetings, liaised closely with the Tower Education Centre (providing information, lecturing and giving guided tours) and, perhaps most enjoyably, began to explore the Public Record Office, a journey that led me to a Ph.D dissertation. Because of my interest in images in 1981 I was tasked with identifying some examples of the Tower that could be copied, mounted and framed for the official opening of the Martin Tower and the adjoining wall walk by Her Majesty the Queen. Among those I selected was a delightful floor plan of the first floor of the Martin Tower dated 1702 and a late-seventeenth-century plan of the Tower showing the proposed addition of artillery bastions and erroneously dated 1668 (that date again!). I realised that both, by some strange coincidence, exhibited nineteenth-century annotations but I made no mention of them when I subsequently described the Tower plan in an article published in 1985 enticingly titled 'Five Seventeenth-Century Plans of the Tower of London'. This accompanied the issuing of an important detailed survey of the Tower of London which I had dated 1682 and which the London Topographical Society reproduced in colour and as a near facsimile to support and accompany the article.

Shortly after this event I was surprised to see a pristine version of the late seventeenth-century Tower plan (without the proposed bastions), framed, and hanging on the Fortress House office wall of the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Andrew Saunders, with a date of 1692 added in the top right hand corner. Andrew kindly allowed me to have the plan photographed (appropriately at the Tower) and I thought nothing more of the matter until the dreaded moment came and the Ancient Monuments Branch became English Heritage and the rot set in. The academic Andrew Saunders was elbowed out of his historic post of Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments and was replaced by a fashionable and useless administrator called a 'Chief Executive'. My response was to head off to Andrew's old office to find out what had happened to the Tower plan. I had by now established that the plan included the great houses of the Surveyor and Clerk of the Ordnance (on the site of the present Fusiliers building) whose construction was only completed in 1701. That said, the added date of 1692 on the plan could not be trusted, but for other reasons, however, I was convinced that the drawing could not have been drafted much later than 1701.

The Chief Inspector's room had been cleared and was awaiting decoration. I tracked down Andrew's former secretary who told me that all those 'old prints' were in a cupboard behind the office and were probably destined to decorate the staff canteen! In a reckless move I rescued the plan, and together with some Works bills concerning the furnishings of the state apartments at Hampton Court during Charles I reign I set off to Kew where I made a presentation to the Public Record Office, who were very appreciative and asked me to bring along anything else I found of interest.

The next chapter in this saga came during the clear out of the former Historic Plans Room at Fortress House when I came across an ancient photocopy of a typed list titled 'The Tower of London: List of Plans forwarded to Office of Works with War Office letter of 1903'. This valuable document lists all the Tower drawings that existed at that time and

includes their supposed dates and crucially the War Office reference numbers that were applied to the drawings after the Office of Ordnance, the body responsible for producing the drawings, was dissolved in 1855 and its functions transferred to the War Office.

In the list I noticed the following entry ‘The Tower (1668) and Jewel House (1702) with an account of Colonel Blood’s attempt on the Crown jewels (2 sheets and mem:)’ in the date and reference margins the dates 1668 and 1702 are rehearsed and the reference Z^{46/}₆₈ added. Scribbled in pencil in the margin is the word ‘missing’ almost certainly a reference to the three-page memorandum. These were clearly the two drawings I had copied for the Martin Tower display in 1981.

In the early 1990s I embarked on a detailed examination of the Ordnance records in order to understand the formation and composition of the Ordnance Drawing Room at the Tower, an establishment that made a major contribution towards the training of British military surveyors and draughtsmen during the eighteenth century and was responsible for organising and overseeing the great triangulation of the 1790s leading to the mapping and publication of the great survey of England and Wales during the first years of the nineteenth century. The Drawing Room was, in fact, formerly established in the great eastern annex of the White Tower after the Board of Ordnance gave instructions on 16 February 1716 to begin work on the building conversion. This decision seems to have been a response to a report prepared in 1712 by Brigadier Michael Richards, the then Chief Engineer of the Ordnance, that included a recommendation that a draughtsman should be appointed as part of a package of measures to improve the recording and documenting of all activities associated with the Office's building programme.

As a matter of interest and historic coincidence the first appointed Chief Draughtsman, Robert Whitehand and his successor, Clement Lempriere, both occupied the Well Tower at the east end of the river curtain wall as their official lodgings at the Tower, which was subsequently occupied by the present author as an office and archaeological store from 1978 to 1984. Perhaps destiny played a part in the production of my proposed publication for it was during the time that I loitered in the Well Tower that I first became aware of an organisation called the Ordnance Drawing Room!

After my flight from the Tower in early 2009, and the permanent move back to my native Devon, I resumed efforts to complete work on the Ordnance Drawing Room and after a delay of many years came close to handing in my draft for publication. However, yet another delay was incurred by new information from a ‘REGISTAR of DRAUGHTS in the DRAWING ROOM, 1743’ that exists in an obscure corner of the War Office records in the National Archives at Kew. It would be unforgivable not to discuss the seventy-five drawings of the Tower of London dating before 1743 that are listed in this fascinating document presented in this order: a register number, that is entered in the bottom left hand corner of the original drawing, descriptions of titles, whether the drawings were copies or originals, original authorship or copied authorship, dates of authorship, whether the drawing were stored flat or rolled and last, but not least, the Tower reference number that was given to the drawings in 1743 and which was also entered in the bottom right hand corner of the original drawing.

As I compiled my catalogue I came across entries for the two drawings that I have described above. No. 2 in the register is described as ‘**Plan of the Tower, Origin[al]. Brigad[ier] Blood.** and No. 33 the ‘**Plan of the Jewel Tower. Origin[al]. Mr. Edwards’.** Brigadier Blood was none other than Holcraft Blood, eldest son of Col.

Thomas Blood of Crown Jewels fame, *and an engineer still working for the Ordnance at the beginning of the eighteenth century when he prepared the Tower plan, and Mr Edwards is almost certainly Talbot Edwards, the Keeper of the Jewels who was assaulted by Holcraft Blood's father, with a mallet and a sword, and who was still living in the Martin Tower when the plan of his lodgings was prepared on 15 August 1702. From the annotations on the drawings that I failed to interpret all those years ago I can see that the two drawings, together with the now missing three-page memorandum concerning the attempted theft of some of the Crown Jewels, were 'Handed over to Lieut. Monier Skinner by his father in 1872' into the office of the Inspector General of Fortification (IMF).

In conclusion, it may be assumed that the drawings and the memorandum formed a family heirloom of the Skinner family. The reason why the donation was made to the office of the Inspector General of Fortifications is that the rogue's eldest son was in fact the Chief Engineer in the Ordnance (living at the Tower) and part of the department's civilian branch that within seven years of his death was constituted as the Royal Engineers.

* In most of the Ordnance records the engineer's christian name is spelt 'Holcraft' but the DNB, presumably uses other sources, and names him 'Holcroft'. I must confess to having previously used the latter in publication, but on this occasion I thought I would try the alternative.

THE WINKLEIGH SINGERS

The Winkleigh Singers programme of work with young people started with a workshop day back in November last year. We had a number of teenagers attend from as far afield as Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and from a few places nearby. They spent the day working alongside the choir and other adults who had booked for the day. The result was that all took part, at the end of the workshop, in a performance of Alan Bullard's *A Feast for Christmas*. Our work with young people is to continue through this year with a further workshop planned for early June with those taking part being invited to take part in our July concert. More on this in the next Distinctly Winkleigh.

Our Christmas Concert got postponed by the winter weather but we were able to reschedule to the transferred New Year holiday on 3rd January. It was very good to see a good turnout of Winkleigh folk in the audience.

Looking forward, our next concert will feature a guest choir, The Vivaldi Singers from Farnham, Surrey, and we will be celebrating Liszt's two hundredth birthday with a performance of his *Missa Choralis*. Liszt is little known for his choral music, which is something we hope to correct in a small way at Torrington on 16th April — it is a superb piece full of interest for the listener. Also in the programme will be music by Stanford, Fauré, Rachmaninov, Monteverdi, and Cecilia McDowall's *Ave maris stella*, a beautiful and moving piece which combines text from the antiphon and Psalms 26 and 106. Starting and finishing in a mood of peace and certainty, the work is structured around a turbulent middle section anticipating the gathering storm.

Full details of the concert can be found on the choir website www.winkleighsingers.org.uk and tickets will be available on-line from 1st March.



DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY

Police Newsletter

From your Community Beat Team
for Torrington Rural

PC 6154 Perry Hodgson - 16154@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
PCSO 30096 Sandra Brown - 30096@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
PCSO 30335 Melissa Baker - 30335@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Winkleigh January 2011

CRIME AND INCIDENT BREAKDOWN

In the last 30 days Winkleigh has had 2 crimes:

1 Damage to property

Somebody has been dealt with for firearms offences.

We have received 7 phone calls in the same period where computer logs have been created they break down as follows:

2 Traffic issue

2 relating to damage

4 Miscellaneous

Social networks

Follow us whichever way you prefer on the main social networking sites.



Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Devon-Cornwall-Police/151265442987?ref=mf>

Our Facebook page is an ideal way to keep up-to-date with Devon and Cornwall Police without having to visit our main website, it includes our rss feeds from news and appeals as well as the Devon police Commander's blog.



YouTube www.youtube.com/DCPolice

We have videos covering many areas about policing and safety including crime prevention, personal safety and internet safety.



Twitter http://twitter.com/DC_Police

Follow our news, appeals and Devon BCU Commanders blog.

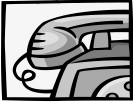
GETTING IN CONTACT



TORRINGTON POLICE STATION

**PATHFIELD
TORRINGTON
EX38 7BX**

Force web site; www.devon-cornwall.police.uk



NON EMERGENCY 08452 777 444

CRIME STOPPERS 0800 555111

ENQUIRY OFFICE OPENING HOURS TORRINGTON



Monday & Tuesday 10.30 – 15.00 Wednesday & Friday
09.00 – 13.00

Thursday 15.30 – 18.00

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Anyone interested in joining the Neighbourhood; Countryside, Horse or Farm watch schemes please get in contact.

You will be pleased to know we now have a Neighbourhood beat team directline with answerphone just for community messages: 01805 625806

This not for reporting ongoing incidents:

For crimes and incidences please dial 08452 777 444.

In an EMERGENCY CALL 999.

WINKLEIGH SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Winkleigh Short Mat Bowling Club recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

The idea of starting a club was first discussed in November 1985 and the first evenings play was in December of that year. So it was that on a Friday evening just before Christmas 2010 club members joined with former members at the Sports Centre to acknowledge this milestone.

We were delighted that founder members were able to join us. Stan and Glen King had been at the inaugural meeting and Stan had been the first Chairman of the club. Marcia Butt was also in at the beginning and served as Treasurer for many years, Marcia is still a member and plays in four leagues. Bill Brook, Sid Butt and Raymond Martin all current members were also playing in the early years of the Club.



A delicious buffet was supplied by the Club members including a cake to mark the occasion and the hall buzzed with chatter about bowling and trivia!

The club today is thriving with 16 teams playing in 5 leagues both afternoon and evening. We are looking forward to our Flue and Chimney Specialists Tournament in March which sees teams from all over the County coming to Winkleigh for a full day of competition. We are very grateful to Andrew Baker of Rangemoors for their continuing support of this event.

Not all players want to play competitively so they enjoy the Monday and Friday afternoon roll ups where you are always assured of a friendly welcome, some light exercise and a cup of tea.

If you think Short Mat Bowling could be for you or if you have no idea what it is all about why not come to the Sports Centre and find out more. You will be very welcome; we have plenty of room and the equipment for you to try out.

For more details give me a call 01837 83853

Looking forward to meeting you

Jan Ovenden Club Secretary

WINKLEIGH BIODIVERSITY GROUP

Last year, this newly formed group decided to survey local ponds to find out more about our local wildlife and water quality.

During the summer, a small team looked at 22 ponds, ranging in size from large lakes to small newly created garden ponds. Most of them (especially those without fish) were rich in wildlife and the water quality was generally good. Water samples and details of our findings were sent to Dr. Angela Julian of the Pond Conservation Organization who is adding the data to the national findings.

Our thanks to all those who allowed us to survey their ponds last year.

Now, we are looking forward to starting our project again in March and we would love to hear from anyone with a pond, who would like to have it dipped. As few as two of us can come along, so you need not fear that your land will be invaded! In addition to our pond survey, we also intend to start photographing lichens, fungi etc, so that we can build up a varied record of our local environment. We would also like to welcome more to our team, so please contact me if you are interested.

Many thanks

Philippa Lausen 01837 83209 dlausen@toucansurf.com



WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

May I begin by thanking everyone who supported our different activities over the Christmas period especially as the weather was so poor leading up to the actual celebration. Because of this, we were able to send various gifts to Children in Need, Barnstaple Poverty Action Group and the Barnabas Fund. With the current situation in Okehampton with the closure of Wiseman's and the 'Pie Factory', we have agreed to use the Oasis Coffee Shop (Mondays: 10am – 1.30pm) as a **collection point for the Okehampton Food Bank** which is run by the churches of the town. Dried, packet and tinned food will be welcomed. At the same time, if anyone in our community needs the provision of the Food Bank themselves please contact either myself or the Food Bank directly [0800 978 8563].

Because of different things happening, our "Hot Chocolate Nights" have been put on hold for the time being, although we are still running a Messy Church event each month – with **Messy Church Services** happening on the second Tuesday of March, May and July at 5pm (venue, because of closure of Community Centre, to be confirmed) and a **Messy Church event** on a Saturday evening during the alternative months. Following the Family Film Night in February, this will be a **Beetle Drive** in April [16th] and a **Farm Night** in June [18th]. The Messy Church in March will be on Shrove Tuesday [8th] and will therefore include something to do with **Pancakes!** During Winkleigh Fair Week we will be staging another Musical by Roger Jones: "**Pharisee**", the story of Nicodemus.

As well as our **Sunday Services** [5.30pm on the first Sunday and 11am on the other Sundays] we are beginning a fortnightly **Bible Study** on Monday evenings [7.30pm at Barn Owls, Punchardon Farm] – to which anyone is welcome to join us. This will involve a look at the Epistle of James. On the alternative Monday evening, our **Youth Emmaus** meeting will be taking place at 4 Lendon Way.

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

01837 83574

warmington49@btinternet.com

District Councillor's Report

Over the past few months, we have steadily become aware of how cuts in public expenditure may affect services. A lot of our time as district councillors is being spent analysing expected incomes and prioritising where we need to spend money in order to maintain or enhance services. It may sound easy, but I can assure you that it isn't. The task is made even more difficult because in addition to finding nearly £1 million budget savings in 2011/12 we also have to take into account financial projections for the remainder of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period. Taking into consideration all information we have had from central government and assuming council tax increases in line with inflation, the revenue budget of Torridge District Council will need to be reduced by a further £1.6 million over the further three years to 2014/15.

To oversimplify, Torridge District Council has come a long way in the past ten years – but at a price. In the early 2000s, there was little control of expenditure and many senior officers did the job to their satisfaction. Since the mid 2000s there has been substantial expenditure on redundancies and consultants (much driven by central government), which has cut back what the council does and its capacity. Despite this, the council has some “stars” such as rubbish collection, prevention of homelessness, and the Burton Art Gallery.

Reshaping an organisation is difficult. One isn't starting with a clean sheet of paper and financial pressures, such as high redundancy costs, may result in unfairness that “X will cost too much to ‘retire’, so Y has to go.” Inevitably many local authority employees are very nervous about their futures, as the severity of cuts in central government funding will lead to many hard working people losing their jobs at a time when employment opportunities are limited. Over the past few months some TDC employees have taken voluntary redundancy and some have reduced their hours, which has resulted in a very small number of compulsory redundancies for now. However, the CSR process over the next few years will make further staff cuts inevitable.

There is also the added complication of Budget Consultation with parishes and citizens. Not surprisingly, waste collection, clean streets and development control rank high in importance. “Leisure”, “Harbour”, “Northam Burrows”, “Culture” and “Housing Renewal” every year are ranked low and, if the questionnaires are to be believed, many parishes and citizens would like to see expenditure reduced or eliminated. I personally find this kind of consultation misleading, and I wonder whether those completing the questionnaires know what the costs are and who benefits from these activities.

I suspect that if parishes and citizens were asked to evaluate the importance of inspiring young people; keeping active and healthy; preserving unique aspects in our environment and landscape; or preventing the frail or disabled having to spend unnecessary time in hospitals or other institutions, that they might have a different perspective. Last year, some within TDC were using the low ranking of “Leisure” to argue that Torrington’s swimming pool should be closed. I find such a mindset terribly depressing and thankfully lobbying by local people led some councillors to change their minds. It looks as though the future of the pool is safe for now.

As readers of my previous reports will know, I have always believed that there is considerable waste in central and local government and that we need to do many things differently, such as using more volunteers. However, the more that is unveiled about how the coalition is forcing through its cutbacks agenda, the more worried I have become. Not only will the cuts undoubtedly hit frontline services, including care services to the vulnerable, but the process is “economic illiteracy”, as it will impact local economies rather than assist recovery. “Tough choices” may sound fine to a certain mindset, but we must think far more holistically about how services and activities can improve the quality of people’s lives.

David Lausen – 01837 83209

www.davidlausen.org.uk

House Scouts and Explore North Devon

Way back in 2004, two weeks after the Winkleigh archive Kiosks had been installed in the Community Centre, Devon County Council announced (out of the blue) that the building was surplus to their requirements and were therefore going to dispose of it. Well, we have managed to keep the building going since then but at the time of writing this article it looks as though the battle is lost. Unless a fairy godmother, or knight in shining armour steps in to save the day, the Community Centre is due to close at the end of February. Until a new venue for the archive kiosks can be found I am afraid that it will have to be mothballed, although some of the digital collection can be viewed on Explore North Devon which can be found at:

www.explorenorthdevon.org.uk .

This is fine if you have access to the internet but no good if you have not as the only public internet point in the village was at the Community Centre!

If you would like to help out with the House Scouts project, please do get in touch with Janet Daynes on; 01769 520326 or ace@acearch.org.uk



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New Team at M & M Plants

Maurice & Margaret Thorne have been running M & M Plants from their nursery site in Chittlehamholt for many years, and attending the South Molton Pannier Market for some 23 years, but have now decided to retire. They wish to say a big thank you to all their many customers for their loyalty and support and are grateful for the many friends they have made during their trading years.

They have handed over the baton to Jean & Martin Hindry who are taking over the Nursery and will continue to attend the South Molton Market.

Winkleigh Bell Ringers

Following last year's 'open tower' event we recruited 4 new people, two men and two women, to learn to ring the lovely bells of Winkleigh Church. As a result we are again having a morning when you can come along and see what bell ringing is all about. Please come along for coffee, a tour of the bells and the ringing chamber and a chat about what is involved. As before, there is no obligation to take up ringing, ringers do not have to be churchgoers and there is no charge for learning to ring. The current generation of ringers are keen to ensure that the art of Devon Call Change Ringing does not die out, so our bells are heard in their full glory for many years to come.

Please join us on Saturday 9th April, 10am - 12.00.

For more information contact: Andrew and Sue Ware 83526 or Frank Pidgeon 83327

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Winkleigh Fair - 750th Anniversary

Winkleigh Fair celebrates its 750th anniversary in July next year (2012) and the committee has started to discuss ideas of how we could celebrate. We would welcome any suggestions, ideas or offers of help from anyone wishing to get involved and support the events we will be holding. There will be a little suggestions box in the post office if anyone would like to contribute an idea or leave their contact details with any offers of help.

To commemorate this occasion we would like the community to get involved in producing two lasting creations that will stay on display in the village for future generations. Firstly we would like to identify a patch of land somewhere in the village where we could possibly plant 750 bulbs or plant a bed that would spell out 'Winkleigh Fair 750th anniversary' in flowers and/or plant a tree. Secondly we are designing a wall hanging/ banner that we would like as many people as possible to contribute to which will then be on permanent display within the village hall. Further information will follow but if you would like to know more before then or could help - please contact Catherine Kenny on 680011 or speak to any member of Winkleigh Fair Committee. Thank you.

Do you want to find out what's going on in the community?

The Parish Council is from time to time asked to provide copies of minutes. There are also times when the Parish Council and other community bodies would like to 'get the word out' about matters of current concern or interest, sometimes quite quickly. There is no easy way of doing this. We do of course publish a copy of the minutes of Parish Council Meetings and other community matters in the Parish Council Notice Board in Winkleigh and Hollocombe. But we cannot easily 'grab your attention' with that means. We are experimenting with a new arrangement: if you would like to be on an emailing list to receive news of Parish Council and community matters, you are invited to send an email to the Clerk to the Parish Council at winkleighpc1@btinternet.com which just says 'emailme' in the subject line

Another way to access the minutes of Parish Council meetings is via Winkleigh's own website – www.winkleighonline.com. Scroll down to "Parish Council" in the menu on the left hand side of the screen.

A big thank you to Winkleigh friends and neighbours from the Kenny's !

On the 20th December 2010, the day we were due to complete on our house sale we got the call we were dreading - that because of the snow the removal men weren't coming!

As we worried about what to do, in true Winkleigh spirit we were astounded by the stream of people and phone calls that came with the offers of help and very importantly the suggestion of a tractor! Lovely ladies Katherine, Cherry and Clare quickly set up a small crèche at their houses to look after the children and by 11am we had a small army of strong men at our old house packing and dismantling and a team of ladies cleaning and sweeping at our new house! We were so touched by how wonderful and warm hearted everyone was giving up their time that we wanted to write a special thank you to all of those who helped us.

The strong men: Ken Bryant (who deserves special mention as tractor and trailer driver - or was it a horse box?) Gareth Cooper, Ed Jennings, Marty Aldridge, Roy Singer, Mark Bridgman, Martin Parker, Richy Welsh & John from badminton! Anna Bridgman deserves special mention as she walked several times between properties carrying black bags of awkward stuff including the cat box, cleaned snow of the conservatory roof and didn't laugh too hard when I fell over several times carrying some house plants- none of which survived! The arrangers at the new house: Sara Grimwood & Max Morpurgo who merrily cleaned the cobwebs away, Ollie Stamp & Ellie Rafferty who put beds and tables together, Dave Watkins who put up curtain poles and my dear friends Susie Garland who took a sledge to Londis to get supplies and wine for the new house and Tinu Watkins who brought Christmas cake and made mulled wine for all the lifters and shifters! We also want to mention Iain & Jenny Biddlestone and Charlie Grimwood as DIY demons and Adam Duffin & Jo Salmon as great helpers sorting out the old house in the snow and looking after the girls so we could pack and Dennis for the paint brushes and John Scarlett for helping make it all happen in the first place.

What could have easily been an horrific and worrying time for us as a family - turned out to be a truly wonderful and awe inspiring day full of community spirit and laughter and will stay with Chris and I forever. Our only regret is that we didn't get to photograph everyone together in the snow! A truly great day and one to share with the grandkids- a big thank you to all of you that helped,

Best wishes for 2011 Chris & Cath Kenny x



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And finally

Spring is beginning to show itself – despite the very blustery weather we are having to ‘enjoy’. Snowdrops now, and soon there will be the daffodils. The Winkleigh Fair Committee is busy preparing, not only for the annual Fair but also for next year’s 750th anniversary. It would be good to see a floral tribute to the historic granting of the Fair’s charter in 1262. A rather nice way to welcome people to the village.

Also nice to see is the way Winkleigh is responding to the possibility of losing their Community Centre. We wish those involved every success in keeping this important venue available for us to use.

After eight years behind the counter at the Post Office, John & Sue Shorey are leaving us. Their cheerful and helpful presence will be missed by many. We wish them a very happy retirement and are sure that their successors will do their best to live up to the example that has been set for them.

It’s time now to remind all you letter and article writers that the closing date for the Summer Issue of Distinctly Winkleigh will be **Monday, 16th May 2011**.

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WINKLEIGH SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 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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