

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 42

Summer 2012

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The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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Winkleigh Society News

With the recent changes with regard to the Winkleigh Society, a somewhat changed committee is now heading up the Society:

Chair:	Graham Warmington
Vice Chair:	Peter Howard
Secretary:	David Lausen
Treasurer:	Alan Mulcahy
Minutes Secretary:	Pat Cunnington
Other Committee members:	Margaret Miller, Peter Monkcom, Ralph Northcott.

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mrs Belle Bannister who had offered to also come onto the Committee at the public meeting at the beginning of the year.

After some discussion, and because no serious alternatives had been suggested regarding the name of the Society, it has been agreed to stick with the original name, and so the “**WINKLEIGH SOCIETY**” remains the Winkleigh Society.

As a Society, we are seeking to arrange a “**Winkleigh Together**” event on Friday June 29th, when we hope to draw together representatives of the different clubs and organisations within the village to see how we can network together, and how the Society can help to facilitate this.

Also, we are hoping to produce another **calendar** for next year, and would therefore appreciate good quality pictures to include in the production, which will probably be of a smaller size. Please let me have any pictures taken in and around the village that we might be able to use (email address below).

Finally, our congratulations to the Village Fair Committee with regard their special anniversary this July.

Graham Warmington 077597 25227 email: warmington49@btinternet.com

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Regular users of the Churchyard (I mean those who walk through rather than those buried there!) will have noticed the red and white tape around one corner of the tower. During a routine inspection of the lightning conductors one of the pinnacles was found to be loose. It's unlikely to fall off and it has recently been tested by some very strong winds, but just in case we have been advised to cordon off the path. So we apologise for any inconvenience but fortunately there are other routes that can be used without too much of a diversion. The pinnacle will be repaired as soon as possible though no doubt it will be expensive! The current estimate is around £10,000— donations welcome!

However, we will be having our usual Church Fete and Tea in July — Saturday 7th July at 2.30 p.m. The fete will be In the Community Centre and the Tea in the Village Hall and we look forward to seeing you at that event. Tickets for the long running Duck Draw will be available before that and our thanks in advance for your support in buying them.

Winkleigh Fair celebrates its 750th anniversary this year and, as this is a special occasion, the Fair Sunday service will have a special guest. The Rt. Revd. John Ford, Bishop of Plymouth, has very kindly accepted an invitation to preach at this service and we very much look forward to welcoming him to Winkleigh on this occasion. The Fair Sunday service will take place at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 8th July beginning with the procession from the square at around 2.45 p.m. — we hope that as many people and organisations will take part in the procession for this special anniversary.

The Bishop of Plymouth is a suffragan bishop (or assistant) in the Diocese of Exeter. At the time that Winkleigh Fair began in 1262 the Bishop of Exeter was a man called Walter Bronescombe (appointed in 1258 and the Vicar of Winkleigh was (probably) William de Molendis. He is recorded as such in a deed dated 15th August 1249 and that he was at the same time treasurer of Exeter Cathedral. His successor took office in December 1282. The Church would have looked somewhat different to what it does now though much of it dates from the 13th century — however the tower and the north aisle date from a later period. Whether the Church was used for a service as part of Winkleigh Fair is not, as far as I know, recorded.

OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Significant improvements have been made at the Community Centre in the year since it was acquired from Devon County Council, but there's still much to be done!

The long-standing roof leak which caused the damp wall in the small room has been rectified and the affected wall re-plastered and painted. The kitchen has seen some major improvements, with the walls tiled or fitted with white plastic sheets. A second sink has been added and there's a new water heater mounted below the work surface. The asbestos roof of the outbuilding behind the kitchen has been replaced with a new metal roof and modern guttering fitted and downpipes installed to replace those which "the years had not been kind to".

The worst of the cracked window panes have been replaced. Work has started on smartening up the main hall and will continue this year. A start has been made re-pointing the stonework, though the weather hasn't been good enough for this to be completed.

Gerry(atric) Builders - the small band of volunteers who have put in much of their spare time during the past year to make these changes – would welcome any extra hands to speed progress on this work.

Winkleigh Community Assets Trust intend to hold a meeting soon of "Users & Interested Parties" to help formulate plans for the future of the Community Centre. Keep an eye out for the posters.





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- You can even reserve books online, and collect them from the mobile library.
- Children have extra fun joining the Book Track and Summer Reading Challenge.

There is something to offer everyone on board so why not hop on and take a look?

The mobile library stops in Winkleigh fortnightly on Fridays at the Four Seasons Village 13.30 -14.00; and in The Square 14.10 - 15.25. The mobile library also stops in Hollocombe fortnightly on Thursdays at The Old Church 13.15 - 13.35"



The Golden Lion Inn, High Bickington

MINI REAL ALE FESTIVAL FOR THE JUBILEE WEEKEND

**Sunday the 3rd June 8.00pm, Quiz night.
£1 per person entry - winning team takes all!**

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3 Courses £12.95, 2 Courses £9.95,

Italian wines available to complement your meal.

Tables booked for the whole evening – one sitting only.

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Winkleigh Singers

"An enjoyable evening" "Good company" "Enjoyable; really good to have tuition as well (the food was good too)". These were all comments from our Open Rehearsal on the 19th March. We were very pleased that we had good attendance which resulted in two new members and bringing our tenor line to record levels. We still however have vacancies for basses, so if you are interested please come along on a Monday evening 7.30 - 9.30pm in The Community Centre, Winkleigh.

Vivaldi Singers 25th Anniversary Concert

The Winkleigh Singers spent a very pleasant time in Farnham when they joined the Vivaldi Singers in a programme to celebrate their 25th Anniversary, which included the Vivaldi Gloria and Recorder Concerto, with music by Bach and Handel. It was a very enjoyable time and the Vivaldi Singers provided very welcome accommodation and refreshments for the members that stayed over.

Forthcoming Concerts

Saturday 26th May 2012 Winkleigh Village Hall - Queen Elizabeth II

Including music from the Coronation and songs composed for Queens Elizabeth I and II. Ending with a resounding climax of Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia, Jerusalem and God Save the Queen.

In aid of The Royal British Legion

Saturday 30th June 2012

Concert of Early (Pre-Restoration) Music at Combe Martin Parish Church
in aid of the restoration of the church's rood screen and its 26 remarkable mediæval paintings of Apostles and Saints.

Also don't forget to pencil in our Christmas Concert in your diary:

Saturday 15th December 2012 - The Traditional Christmas Concert

Britten's Ceremony of Carols with harpist Emma Spandzyk of The Royal College of Music. As well as the usual mix of traditional Christmas music for all to sing, there will be the first European performances of two superb new carols by the English composer Derek Healey who now lives in New York. (Plans are in progress to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Benjamin Britten in the spring of 2013...)

All details of The Winkleigh Singers and their concerts can be found on our website or by telephone on 01363 83922. Tickets are available on-line at www.winkleighsingers.org.uk (follow the "concerts" link) or by post from Winkleigh Singers Tickets, 4 Pitt Court, Nymet Rowland, Crediton, Devon EX17 6AN (please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope).

THE OLYMPIC SUMMER 1948

by Shirley Cowling

1948 was a very exciting year for me. A growing up year. A year of big changes. I had just left my London Grammar School, as I was going to Boarding School at Caversham, near Reading, in September. So I'd be leaving home to live the "Twins at St. Clare's" dream that I'd read about in Enid Blyton.

Meanwhile, during the summer holiday, England was hosting an International Party. The London Olympics. A feast of sporting competition, with guests from all over the World. So much better than the terrifying, impoverished war years we had known in the recent past. My sister and I had lived at Farnham, with our grandmother, during the war. Dad had been in the Orkneys, in the Fleet Air Arm. Mum had stayed in London, working in Dad's business. It was lovely for us to be all together again.

Dad was enthusiastic about sport. He had been a keen soccer-player and cricketer, enjoying competition in his school teams, and the camaraderie that came with it. He had seen me picked for netball and rounders teams at my old school, and wanted me to do even more at my new one. He had managed to get two tickets for the Opening Ceremony and he took me with him. I was thrilled. So excited, as we set off by Underground to White City. Wembley was to be the main arena for the Olympics, but White City was chosen for the opening ceremony, featuring the end of the Marathon.

What an incredible treat for a girl of 14! I remember walking up a slope where it was hard to get through the crush of noisy, happy people. I'd seen crowds like this before, on VJ night, and on the day of the Victory Parade, along the Mall. They were wearing party hats, and waving flags. Touts selling them were everywhere - but I knew the tickets had cost a lot, so there was no money for extras. I knew better than to ask.

We arrived at the seat - just a wooden bench on the curved corner of the arena about four rows up, and quite close to the wide flat cup on the tall plinth. Dad pointed it out to me: "That's where the athlete will run up and light the Olympic flame. It's been brought all the way from Greece by relay. It will stay alight all through the three weeks."

I was so excited to be a part of this amazing day. A ceremony that went right back to the Olympiads of Ancient Greece. I had learnt about them in School, and read more in my Library books. I've always been impassioned about the ancient civilisations of the Mediterranean.

All through that sweltering afternoon we sat watching the teams from all the world marching their circuit of the arena. In front was the flag-bearer of each nation. And behind, the uniformed phalanx of those who were representing their countries in the various sports. Sometimes the group was pathetically small, but

the USA and Russia had each sent an army of competitors. Our own country had a moderately large contingent. We clapped and clapped for everyone, but especially as our own marched by.

Once the entire procession was completed we waited for the arrival of the final bearer of the Olympic flame. Here he was! To more applause he, too, ran his circuit of the arena. He ran up the steps and dipped the flambeau into the dish. There was a pause while the fuel ignited, then, there it was, ablaze. The symbol of the start of the Olympic Games 1948. The second time they had been held in London. The first had been 40 years before - in 1908. The bowl of flame would burn day and night throughout those three weeks, until August 14th

I was sticking to the bench. Sweat ran down my back. We had brought no water, no hats, no sun cream. In those austerity days we didn't even know such things were necessary for well-being. How much worse was the plight of those men who had been running their Marathon! The first competition of the Games, and making a display for us. This was the climax of the afternoon's entertainment. Now the entire audience was watching the entrance to the arena for the first competitor to arrive, run his circuit and win his gold medal. But do things ever go according to plan? Sometimes they do, but this did not.

We were about to see an exhibition of courage we would never forget. When the word "courage" is mentioned I always have this film played in my memory of the colourful occasion, the packed arena, the sizzling afternoon, and the Belgian, Etienne Gailly struggling in front of so many eyes. He was the first to enter the arena. He enacted his mime of suffering — but it was real! He could no longer run, but he was determined. He knew what he had to do. He had to keep on the hot, pink, sandy surface, right round the long oval — after 26 miles it was the final straw.. He wobbled from side to side of the track. Then he fell down. Then he got up again. Wobbled some more. Fell down again. We saw it repeated, yard after painful yard, again and again.

Had he lain down and stayed down the first-aiders would have been there, I believe. But because he got up again, and tried to keep going, he was still competing, and could not be aided. I doubt, now, whether there were water stations along the route. Were there? I don't know. But it was new territory for the organisers. No professional trainers or performers, no support team, no sports psychologists - none of the razzmatazz we endure today, 64 years on, in those amateur times.

A second runner arrived in the arena. This one was in good shape. Delfo Cabrera from Argentina. He ran confidently around the circuit, and claimed the gold medal. It happened again. The third runner entered the arena - and ONE OF OURS - Thomas Richards, Great Britain. The crowd's noise, after the near silence of watching Gailly's torment, crescendoed into a storm of cheering as our man won his silver medal. Still Gailly struggled on into the final straight at last. And yes, he did get the bronze. The drama of Olympic competition had arrived.

WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

We are very pleased to recommend “Response in Concert” on the Monday of Winkleigh Fair Week (July 9th). ‘Response’ is a Christian group based in Exeter. The evening will be a mixture of various musical styles, both secular and sacred. Entrance is free, although an offering will be taken during the evening, with all profits going toward the work of ‘Action for Children’ (formerly NCH).



We continue to meet on Sundays: 5.30pm on the first Sunday of the month for a Tea Service, and 11am for the other Sundays in the month. The Oasis Coffee Shop operates every Monday from 10am until 1.30pm, serving morning coffees and teas, as well as mid-day lunches; and once a fortnight, we host the Winkleigh C.A.B. Rural Outreach Clinic at the same time as the Coffee Shop (until 1pm). Please check with us (077597 25227) or consult the chapel website to make sure that it is happening on a particular Monday. We also operate as a collecting point for the Okehampton Foodbank.

Our Messy Church programme for the next three months is as follows:

- Tuesday June 12th: Messy Church Service: 5.30pm in the Community Centre - “The Feeding of the 5000”
- July: because of not wishing to conflict with Winkleigh Fair events, we will not be holding a Messy Church event.
- August (Saturday 11th): either a BBQ or a visit to Waie Inn – to be arranged.

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

01837 83574 or 07759725227

Winkleigh Women's Institute

It is all change at the top. Claire Tricker [President] and Margery Howard [Secretary] have stepped down. The Winkleigh WI is very grateful for all the hard work both ladies have put in over the years. Mary Taffs is the new President and Pat Cunnington is the new Secretary.

We have had a busy couple of months with a talk by Barbara Baxter on the Casualties Union, very gruesome in places but very interesting. The craft club is still going strong and we are busy making oven gloves, bags of all description and birthday cards for the Summer Fair. Our theatre group went to see Swan Lake, it was fantastic and we have already booked to see the Nutcracker in November. Our newly formed Lunch Club has already visited John West's Country Cottage [it was out of this world] and Eggesford Garden Centre. They will be going to visit Wright and Proper, Fiona's and lots more.

Our ladies have had a go at beginners icing, willow weaving, Zumba and a walk from Sampford Courtney to Honeychurch stopping at both parish churches for a short history on them.

As you see there is always something going on so why not come along to one of our meetings, which meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30, in the back room of the village hall. Or have a chat with us when we serve teas at the Summer Fair. Our next meeting is June the 6th and it is a "A Journey through India"

Dartmoor Decorative and Fine Arts Society

The June lecture of the The Dartmoor Decorative and Fine Arts Society is entitled **From Soup to Syllabub**. Jane Tapley, special events organiser at the Theatre Royal, Bath and TV production consultant will be providing a light hearted insight into the food and eating habits of 18th Century England.

The lecture will be held in **The Charter Hall, Okehampton** on **Wednesday June 27th**. Doors open for tea and coffee at 9.45 am. The Lecture starts at 10.30 prompt.

Everyone is welcome. Tickets are £6, payable at the door (refundable if you join the society). A year's membership costs £45 (£85 for two) and provides a quarterly Arts Magazine and 9 lectures (one a month except July, August and January) on a diverse range of subjects.

If you would like to Join the society you can download an application form from the DDFAS website www.dartmoor-dfas.org.uk or you can contact the Membership Secretary, Alex Crosthwaite Eyre at northlew@hotmail.co.uk

For further information please contact John Milton. Tel 01647 432 510
E Mail: Johnmilton@creaber.eclipse.co.uk

Winkleigh Pilgrimage to Ypres, April 16th – 20th 2012

A pilgrimage combines the interests of many people - those whose pleasure it is to reconstruct the past, visiting the very places where history was made so many years ago, those whose particular interests or emotions are linked to an important person or event that is particularly meaningful for them, and those who seek to try and reconstruct the history of their own family members. Such were the mixed motives of a small group from Winkleigh who set off in April for a five day tour of the Ypres battlefields. Our special interest was the notorious campaign of 95 years ago, the 1917 battles that collectively are remembered as 'Passchendaele'. The Winkleigh Branch of the British Legion had indeed a very special reason for this choice: Minnie Keenor, living in her 96th year in the Eggesford Road, and who represents one of the few living memories that the village has with those terrible events. While still not yet one year old, her father, L/Cpl. Sidney Parker was killed on the 26th October 1917 fighting just north of the Menin Road, the southern axis of the Passchendaele campaign. Neither Minnie nor her mother Elsie (born Elsie Alford, in Ashreigney) had ever had the opportunity of visiting the Tyne Cot cemetery where Sidney's name is honoured, nor to see the areas as they are today where he lived and died. And so the decision was made many months ago that her daughter Pat and her husband Roy Houghton should go instead, armed with camera and video, to visit these places for Minnie, to honour her daddy and show her what she could not otherwise visit.

Pat and Roy were accompanied by Ron Fletcher, our Chairman, Robert Side our organiser and battlefield guide, and Barry Beckingham who himself had very special reasons for wanting to visit Ypres and the surrounding area. The famous Menin Gate Memorial in the centre of Ypres records the names of over 54,000 men killed between 1914 and 1916 in the Ypres Salient who have no known grave. Every evening at 8.00 pm a commemoration including the last post is arranged by the Belgian Fire Service. Six of those names belong to Barry's family and as a special mark of recognition to both himself and the visit of the Winkleigh branch, Barry was given the honour of speaking the citation 'They shall not grow old...' in front of the large crowd of visitors, an Australian Air-Force delegation and other military veterans. Ron and Barry together then laid a bunch of poppies to commemorate the fallen. Over the following days we visited the graves of two other members of Barry's family, both killed in the 1917 battles, and two more memorials of his family at Tyne Cot.

From the 1917 casualties onwards, including Passchendaele, those men who have no known grave in the Salient are commemorated at the Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest cemetery of the allied armies in the world. It was here that our party commemorated L/Cpl. Sidney Parker, 1st Battalion of the Royal West Kents, in our own private ceremony that remembered his short life, his wife of only a few weeks and the tiny child he never saw but lives still today. Pat carried with her the locket enclosing Sidney's photograph which Elsie wore all her life, passed on

to her daughter, and now from Minnie to Pat in thanks to her daughter for this visit. We laid a tribute of poppies and a cross, spoke the citation and remembered in silence the sacrifice he made. In similar fashion we remembered Private William Mitchell, 1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment, who had died in the same area five days after Sidney. William was a Winkleigh man, the son of a thatcher, and the family was described in the Parish Church records as 'second to none in the Parish'. William had survived the action, but was killed moving back into the rear area. Again the tributes were laid, the immortal words spoken, followed by the silence of remembrance.

Two other Winkleigh men were commemorated during the five days of our visit: both had died in 1918. The first, Private Herbert Lugg, 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, was killed on 15th April 1918 in the severe fighting that followed the attempt by the Germans to break through the British and French lines to reach the Channel coast, in a final blow to bring the war to an end before the Americans could arrive in force. The attempt came very near to success, but with appalling losses and magnificent bravery the thinned out battalions that faced the onslaught finally managed to stem the tide. Herbert Lugg played his part, and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, some 12 miles south of Ypres, a very special place because here, too, a last post is played in a ceremony that is held at 7.00 pm on the first Friday of every month. After living as a child at Moor View, Herbert had married Betty Passmore, and left a little son, Albert, who was christened in our church in February 1913.

Our second 1918 casualty, Private William Berry, died on the 4th October 1918, when the war had finally become one of movement and the Germans were in the retreat that would bring the war to an end two months later. William was the eldest child of a large family, the son of a thatcher living in Hollocombe. He had enlisted at once in 1914 and served first in the Royal Military Mounted Police, but was transferred into the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers after the German offensive of March 1918. By chance, and one year after the Passchendaele offensive, William Berry was fighting in the very same area in which Sidney Parker and William Mitchell had died. Badly wounded, William Berry was evacuated to a casualty clearing station near Poperinghe but sadly got no further. There he died and was buried in the military cemetery named 'Bandagehem' - the name being an example of the soldiers' humour. On a very cold morning, with rain and sleet beating down, we followed there our private ceremony of remembrance. Even the weather was helping us to remember something of the conditions the troops endured in the line.

There were other highlights, the first of which was that we were 'billeted' for our stay at the famous 'Toc H' rest home set up by the padre 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915 to offer shelter and comfort to troops passing to and from the line through Poperinghe. The house has been kept very much as it was in those days, redolent of the atmosphere: uniquely it was the only place on the Western Front where rank was abandoned and officers and men could mix freely. We slept in rooms

hardly changed in 97 years, though very slightly less spartan! By contrast, we took our first lunch in 'Gingers' (now 'La Poupee'), where officers dined and where, in this extraordinary war, more champagne was drunk than in the Savoy Hotel - all within the sound of the guns a few miles up the road. The Passchendaele museum at Zonnebeke and the Hooge Crater museum on the Menin road gave us photographs, memorabilia and much further insight into the battles. We followed the line of the March 1916 attack on the Menin Ridge (a preliminary to Passchendaele) where 19 huge mines were detonated under the German lines. We saw the Spaanbroekmolen, the only surviving crater, now protected as 'The Pool of Peace', landscaped by Toc H with the help of the Ypres Town Council.

Two other memorials that were visited must be mentioned: the German cemetery at Langemark, very stark, men buried sometimes six or eight deep under flat burial markers, dark and somber under massive oak trees, a complete contrast to the beauty of our British memorials and cemeteries. Then to the place where the memorial emblem of the poppy was first thought of - the Essex farm dressing station just north of Ypres, where the medical officer was John McCrae. Following the death there of his great friend (killed as a result of the shelling of the post) McCrae wrote his famous poem: 'In Flanders fields the poppies grow, between the crosses row on row.....' The idea of the poppy took hold and the symbol was chosen by Earl Haig when he founded the British Legion.

The party returned each with our thoughts and impressions of what we had seen, our emotions stirred, and our understanding increased. For all of us our overriding thoughts were of absolute humility in the presence of so many brave men.

Winkleigh had sent its own heroes to the war, and **'at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'**

Barry Beckingham, Ron Fletcher, Pat and Roy Houghton, Robert Side



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District Councillor's Report

In early March the Welfare Reform Bill was passed. The bill introduces an annual cap on benefits and overhauls many payments within the welfare system. As many are likely to be affected over the next few years, I thought it might be useful to look at what has happened so far and what is in the pipeline.

Changes to Housing Benefit rules came into place from April 2011. One change meant that the level of rent that was allowed could be reduced. Some claimants were given 9-months protection before the reduction took place. Since January, protection periods have started to come to an end and will continue to do so until December 2012. Anyone affected will have been advised of the future change by Torridge Council's benefit team. If anyone is having difficulty in paying the rent, please contact TDC's Housing Team on 01237 428849.

There will be further significant changes to housing and council tax benefit from April 2013 (next year) –

- Council Tax benefit will cease from March 31st 2013 and be replaced by a council tax discount scheme. I have been advised that pensioners should be no worse off under the council tax benefit scheme and the scheme that will determine their “discount” will be determined by central government. Working age claimants, though, will be subject to a “local scheme”, which will be designed by each local authority. As well as designing a new scheme the Council must reduce expenditure compared to that spent in previous years. As a consequence, it is probable that many will be adversely affected and receive less “discount” compared to council tax benefit prior to 31/3/2013. Torridge is currently working with other Devon councils on this project. I will provide further information as we go through this year.
- Housing Benefit Restrictions (“Bedroom Tax”). There will be size restrictions for **working age** social housing tenants. Tenants who have one spare bedroom will have a 14% reduction in the rent allowed for housing benefit. Tenants with two or more spare bedrooms will have a 25% reduction. The change does not apply to pensioners.
- Benefit Cap. There will be a total maximum amount that can be claimed for all benefits for **non-working families**; £26,000 for couples and lone parent households and £18,200 for single adult households. At the time of writing, the Department for Works and Pensions was due to write to all the estimated 67,000 customers in the UK to prepare them for possible cuts. Councils have also been given a list of those affected (which I believe includes errors) and they will be in contact in due course.

I will write further on all of these issues, along with other changes to council tax and business rates in future editions of the Distinctly Winkleigh.

David Lausen – 01837 83209 www.davidlausen.org.uk

WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011---2012

Well, we did all know that we are really privileged, didn't we? Honoured, that is, to be living in Winkleigh. The best place to be bringing up children in England and Wales. And we certainly found that out one Monday morning in October when the TV crews descended on the square and, for a brief moment, Winkleigh was in the spotlight. As I said then, and truly believe, the reason that Winkleigh is so Wonderful is a reflection of our diverse, skilled and friendly community.

So from your hard working Parish Council, here is a summation of our efforts over the last financial year.

PLANNING –

CORE STRATEGY - Despite the fact that T.D.C. assured us that the already postponed launch of their Core Strategy would be available last winter, we've been told that perhaps it will be ready in the autumn---we're not holding our breath!

Especially as a new Chief Executive and Head of Planning have just been appointed, we had a talk by a planning officer, Dawn Burgess in the autumn to inform us on Settlement Hierarchy. This is a kind of table which lists the advantages to be found in each community, such as surgeries, shops, pubs etc. We had quite a long list of assets in Winkleigh, and apparently we're the 4th largest settlement in Torridge after Bideford, Holsworthy and Torrington. Presumably the information gathered will be part of the incentive to implement the rather nebulous Localism Bill recently introduced by this government.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

I have been in constant touch with Andy Boyd, our County Councillor, on pushing forward with calming priorities on the road past Winkleigh school. Apparently there is a new officer in charge of Highways who wants to spend as little money as possible. Therefore, despite waiting and lobbying for the last 8 years, we don't seem to be much further forward! I will continue to keep in contact with the various officials and become an irritating nuisance if that's what it takes!

MEDICAL MATTERS

We needed clarification on the new appointments and telephone system and our representatives on the Patients Forum, Gail Flockhart and Catherine Knight, have made our views clearly known. We had an interesting talk from Karen Acott and Sarah Stapleton from the practice, who advised us on changes at Wallingbrook. Did you know that the Winkleigh/Chulmleigh part of the practice has 6,500 patients?

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

For this year, we have given grants to--

- 1) WINKLEIGH SCHOOL
- 2) WINKLEIGH PRE-SCHOOL
- 3) WINKLEIGH FAIR
- 4) WINKLEIGH WARRIORS NETBALL CLUB
- 5) C.A.B.
- 6) OKEHAMPTON RING AND RIDE

Remember that you can apply for grants from May until July each year, and the forms must be returned by September. We give out the grants on the following April.

FINANCE

We have frozen the Parish Precept to £13,500, which is the same amount as last year in recognition of a general tightening of belts as the double dip of the recession bites.

LIGHTING

We have had most of our orange lights changed to white as the white bulbs use only one third of the energy of the orange ones. The police have also told us that they illuminate into dark corners in a much better way. I drove around Winkleigh in the evening a few weeks ago and made a list of the places where the orange lights remain. We have notified the authorities and hope that this will be rectified as soon as possible.

RENEWABLE PLASTICS

Many thanks to Councillor Watson, Philippa Lausen and Wendy Mondy, who have spearheaded a campaign to recycle clean plastics at the Community Centre. It's amazing how much one household can collect in a week. Please try to support this endeavour.

At last English Heritage has listed our fairly rare telephone kiosk in the square. It's a K6 and is still in working order!

We had a tree on the cemetery bank felled due to safety implications on the A3124.

HELP!!!

- 1) JUBILEE--- We need helpers on the day to put out tables, pour tea coffee etc and clear away. In the square on 4th June at 4 o'clock. Please bring some food to eat and share.

- 2) PARISH PLAN--- Our last plan is from 2005 and is now out of date. If you feel that you could help write a new one, pull together a questionnaire, or collate results, please let us know.
- 3) ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ---This will be held in the Centre on Wednesday 30th May at 7.30pm. If you have any interesting ideas or moans and groans do come along and help us make Winkleigh an even better place to live in.

THANKS

We have a very assiduous team of councillors who work extremely well in the following roles -

- 1) Cemetery grounds and bungalow - Cllrs. Hodgson, Cooper & Knight
- 2) Emergency plan - Cllrs Cooper & Stutt
- 3) Asset Maintenance - Cllrs Stutt & Cooper
- 4) Finance Group - Cllrs Stutt, Gledhill & Watson
- 5) Pre -school/school - Cllr Knight
- 6) Working! Tidy group - Cllr Cooper
- 7) T.A.A.G. - Cllrs Bowers, Flockhart & Watson
- 8) Community Centre - Cllrs Griffiths & Bowers
- 9) Village Hall - Cllr Turner
- 10) Playing Fields/Sports Centre - Cllr Knight
- 11) Chulmleigh Health Centre Patients Group - Cllrs Knight & Flockhart
- 12) Local Community Partnership - Cllr Stutt

Sadly we lost Cllr. Kenny due to pressures of work and we thank her for all her efforts. We welcome Cllr Sansom and hope she will enjoy the challenge!

Once again I must mention with gratitude Peter Stutt, Vice Chair, and David Lausen, District Councillor, whose invaluable experience keeps us on an even keel. Also our irreplaceable clerk Nicki Bullen who always seems to have the right answer for all eventualities!

Many thanks also to the Fair Committee, Distinctly Winkleigh and all the clubs and societies who make Winkleigh such a wonderful place to live in.

The Parish Council meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month either in the small rooms of the Village Hall or the Community Centre. During 2 public periods you can let us know which issues are of concern. The most recent minutes are displayed in the notice board in the square which also gives telephone numbers and addresses of your councillors. Please contact us if you have any problems.

Marjorie Bowers [Chair, W.P.C.]



HAVE YOUR SAY

If you would like to make a contribution to how Winkleigh is shaped in future, please get involved!

A New PARISH PLAN For Winkleigh

**JOIN IN
PARTICIPATE
SHARE**

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Winkleigh needs to update its 2005 Parish Plan. Things have changed a bit in the last 7 years - the economy, the environment, healthcare - so we need to know the important issues for people living and working in the parish TODAY!

The Localism Bill wants people to shape their own communities and the Parish Plan needs volunteers to help gather views from the parish and put them into a coherent form.

The issues on the right touch all of us in some way - but are there others? It is important you have your say.

Initially, the Parish Council hopes to form a volunteer Working Group (not just the Council!) to lead publicity and information gathering, perhaps through questionnaires, open days, public meeting, etc.

If you have some time and think planning our future is important, PLEASE join in - it's your Parish Plan!

ISSUES
Community
People
Places
Health
Environment
Housing
Roads
Traffic
Parking
Industry
Retail
Commercial
Employment
Youth
Education
Training
Services
Facilities &
Resources
Recreation
Law & Order

WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?

**THIS IS A COMMUNITY LED
PLAN, ANYONE CAN
CONTRIBUTE**

CONTACT

**NICKI BULLEN (am only)
01837 83981**

winkleighpc1@btinternet.com
winkleighpc1@btinternet.com

Plastics Collection at the Community Centre

The Winkleigh mixed plastic collection is still going strong outside the community centre. By the end of March you had diverted 836 kg plastic waste from landfill (since July 2011). That's a huge volume -- these plastics tend to be light. There are usually about 8 dumpy bags collected every fortnight. Many thanks to all who continue to bring their rinsed out household plastics for collection.

Please keep it coming and please keep it clean!

With the warmer months here it'll be even more important to make sure the plastic is clean so as not to attract flies or get smelly.

Here's a reminder of what we can accept:

Yes please!

- Clean bottles including shower gel etc
- Clean food containers like yoghurt pots, marg tubs, icecream containers, mushroom trays etc...
- Most plastic wrappings and film (in the separate bin please, not the dumpy bags) including shrink wrap, bread bags, clean cling film, mailshot polythene etc.
- Clean plant pots and hangers (separate bin)

No thanks!

- Expanded polystyrene cups/takeaway containers etc
- Dirty plastic of any kind
- Not supermarket carrier bags please
- No crisp packets
- No plastic with metallic foil incorporated
- Video cassettes

Any questions? You can contact Philippa, Marie Claude, Wendy or Maggie. Maggie's phone no is 83499.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Biodiversity Projects

Lichens

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in March, thirteen of us (8 adults and 5 young people) enjoyed an afternoon with lichens experts Dr. Ann Allan and Barbara Hilton. After a brief introduction to lichens, we strolled up to the churchyard to take a closer look at the great variety found in that area. Different lichens like to grow on different surfaces, so the flat limestone and granite gravestones provide an ideal environment. We also found lichen on the thatched roof near Church Steps, which is a particularly good indicator of clean air. After a quick look at the lichens on the Village Hall and Community Centre, we rounded off the afternoon with a welcome cup of tea.

Ken and Stella Jones are at present pulling all the information together, so that we can produce an information sheet including names, photos, and locations.

Wild Flower Meadow Project

Are you interested in supporting a local wild flower meadow project, either by donating saved seed, giving advice, or helping out in practical ways? Or if you would like to help in planning, planting, or "adopting" one of a hundred native trees from the Woodland Trust, many of which will be planted at the Winkleigh Memorial Playing Fields in November, then please contact Kim Melhuish, 01769 520595.

Look out for us on our stall at the Old Technology and Archaeology Fair at Pattiland, Broadwoodkelly on July 21st, where there will be nectar plants for bees and butterflies, and lots of advice on wildlife gardening.

We continue to meet up for "Green Drinks", at the Kings Arms on the second Tuesday of every month at 8pm. No membership fee, no committee, just an informal group of people enjoying a sociable drink and talking about our environment, in its widest sense.

Sue Williams Lic. Ac. **ACUPUNCTURE** Above 'Changes' in Winkleigh

**Treatments for back, shoulder,
muscle and joint pain.
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asthma & breathlessness.
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stress related problems –
migraine, irritable bowel,
anxiety & insomnia.
Tiredness, depression,
women's problems,
& much, much more.**

*Weekday, Saturday, and evening
appointments available.*

For enquiries & appointments

01837 83817



750 Years of Winkleigh Fair

WINKLEIGH FAIR 8th – 14th July 2012

The 750th Winkleigh Fair is nearly upon us! Be prepared for a week of celebrations!

Saturday 7th July starts with the Church Fete which will take place in the Community Centre during the afternoon. In the evening the traditional Quiz night will take place on Saturday 7th July in the Village Hall. Tickets will cost £6 per person and will include a ploughman's and ½ pint of cider! A bar for further drinks will be running all evening!

The opening ceremony will take place on Sunday July 8th in the square with the well-dressing, opening ceremony, church service, crowning of the king and queen, balloon release and cream teas followed by rounders on the sports field. The opening ceremonies will be attended this year by the Bishop of Plymouth. During the cream teas the collaborative community banner to commemorate 750 years by stitching Winkleigh as it is today will be unveiled in the Community Centre.

On Monday evening the Methodist Chapel is putting on a concert in the Village Hall.

In the morning on Tuesday the Flower Ladies look forward to welcoming you to the Flower Festival in Winkleigh Parish Church with organ music, coffee and homemade cakes.

On Thursday we are back in the field in our marquee, which has been kindly sponsored this year by Rangemoors. The Produce and Culture Show with a medieval theme will take place there during the afternoon – see posters about information for submitting your entries. The Dog Show will start at 6pm – all dogs and their owners are welcome! From 7.30pm we will be holding a charity ceilidh with half the takings going to Clic Sargent and the other half to fund Winkleigh Fair. Local musicians Sheer Hopody Barn Dance Band will be providing the music and calling the dances. Tickets will cost £5 in advance or £6.50 on the door. A BBQ will be running all evening and Exeter Brewery will be back running the bar.

On Friday in the marquee we will be hosting a talk on 750 years of Devon history by the Archivist of Powderham Castle. The talk will take place in the afternoon and will cost £3.50 which will include a cream tea and raffle to win a family ticket to Powderham Castle.

Building on last year's amazing event, Friday evening will be devoted to Winkleigh's Got Talent! If you've got a talent, come along and flaunt it for all to see and you could win £100! Exeter Brewery will be running the bar and there will be fish & chips and Thai Noodles available all evening

The 750th Fair Saturday – July 14th - will start with the Farmers/Craft market in the marquee followed by an afternoon and evening of entertainment. The theme for the Fancy Dress Competition this year is medieval. Please meet at the Mound at 11am

for registration. Entrants will then parade to the marquee for judging. During the day the Mound will be open between 2pm – 6pm for people to have a look around, with donations going to Little John's House in Romania. Events in the field will be running throughout the afternoon and will include: the Hay Bale Tossing Competition, the Welly Wanging Competition, Tug-of-War Competition. There will be Children's workshops and an entertainer with a dragon, archery, sword fighting, Robin Hood and Maid Marion. The Sealed Knot will be doing battle re-enactments with gunpowder, muskets and cannons. There will be live music with Becky Brine during the afternoon and you can dance the night away with the Feel Good Factor.

A variety of refreshments will be available all day. There will be a food tent on the side of the marquee which will have a hog roast, W.I. Cream Teas and more! There will also be people selling Fish & Chips, Baguettes, Thai Noodles, Ice Cream and along with this food Exeter Brewery will be serving all day!

Anderton & Rowlands Fun Fair will be in the field on Thursday, Friday evenings and all day on Saturday – bigger and better than before!

Transport from the square to the field will be available from 10am and will run throughout the day on Fair Saturday.

The first prize for the Grand Draw this year is a Charnwood C-four woodburning stove worth over £750 kindly donated by Rangemoors in association with the manufacturer. Tickets cost £1 are now on sale! The stove can be viewed in D&S from the beginning of June.

The second prize for the Grand Draw is a 2-seat garden hammock worth £100 kindly donated by D&S. There are also many other prizes to be won!

Due to the inevitable extra costs incurred for this year's 750th anniversary, we will be charging £1 for programmes. They are all numbered and will be entered into a draw to win a bottle of champagne. We are very grateful for the support shown by local businesses who are willing to sell the programmes for us, so if you don't buy one in the door to door delivery you'll be able to buy one from the Post Office, Wright & Proper and D&S.

Don't forget the Blooming Winkleigh Competition – help to celebrate 750 years of Winkleigh Fair by entering your garden! See your programme for full details.

Because the field is used for livestock glass will be prohibited on the field. The Winkleigh Fair Committee reserve the right to remove glass items where necessary.

See programme for full details and timings for all events.

The Winkleigh Fair Committee take this opportunity to thank the many individuals and local businesses for all their support.

Keep your diary free from July 8th until July 14th so you can come to all the events and join in the celebrations of 750 years of Winkleigh Fair

*Hear ye, hear ye, herein lie the categories of
ye olde village fayre...*

Arts and Crafts - Adult

<i>Class</i>	<i>Bodgers' crafts</i>	<i>Number in Entry</i>
1.	Ceramic bowl or vase	1
2.	Knitted Child's garment	1
3.	Cushion Cover	1
4.	Wood carving	1

<i>Class</i>	<i>Scrivening</i>	<i>Number in Entry</i>
1.	750 word story 'Winkleigh'	1

Children's section a goat per entry*

There will be age categories at the event

<i>Class</i>	<i>Scrivener</i>	<i>Number in Entry</i>
1.	75 words inviting a friend to Winkleigh Fair	1

<i>Class</i>	<i>Medieval Craftiness</i>	<i>Number in Entry</i>
1.	Medieval shield – any medium	1
2.	Medieval sword – any medium	1
3.	Medieval tapestry	1

*Let your imagination run wild...use cardboard, wood, papier maché, metal, fabric...make it
big, make it small, three-dimensional or flat.*

Children and adults bring us your bountiful crafty crafts.

** Fifty pence of your modern money*

TOP HEAVY HEATING OIL BILLS?

**Would you like to reduce the price
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and receive your oil through us when we order in bulk
on behalf of our membership six times a year.

Past Heating Oil Orders:

JANUARY	2011	125,000 litres
MARCH	2011	95,000 litres
JUNE	2011	110,000 litres
OCTOBER	2011	148,000 litres

**With oil order quantities like the above we GET
discounts!**

**For further information and a membership form go onto
our web site at: www.wopec.net or telephone 01884 861186**

Wallingbrook Health Group

Wallingbrook Health Group is launching an SMS text message service. Our aim is to reduce the amount of time lost by missed appointments and to deliver messages promptly. This type of service has been used successfully by Dentists, Opticians and more recently, Chulmleigh Academy Trust. To receive this service we need a mobile telephone number and signed consent. Text messages may be received for:

- Confirmation of appointment date, time, surgery and clinician.
- Important bulletins
- Monitoring recalls
- Appropriate messages from Wallingbrook Health Group

Texts will be clearly marked from Wallingbrook Health Group. They will only be sent to those people who agree to receive the information. Permission can be withdrawn at any time. To sign up for this service patients are asked to complete a consent form which can be obtained from any of the surgeries or downloaded from the website.

Winkleigh Fishmonger

Wednesday

Deliveries in local villages

Thursday 9am to 3pm

Great Torrington Pannier Market

Friday 9am to 5pm

Shop open in Winkleigh

Saturday 9am to 1pm

South Molton Pannier Market

James Betteridge

07818 569 329



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ACE Archaeology Club

Over the past couple of months we have managed to pack in plenty of days at Pattiland Farm and Moistown despite the really awful weather. I don't think that a day passed there without at least one shower, but we always go armed with our trusty old gazebo, so there is some shelter to keep us and our kit dry.

In April and May we have had two experimental archaeology days at Pattiland, these involved cooking in neolithic style pots (its amazing how a barely fired, unglazed pot full of stew will sit quite happily in a fire and not fall to bits), the resulting stew was delicious. We also built a coracle, well the frame part anyway, it will get covered and hopefully launched at the next session.

I mentioned in the last issue of DW that we were intending to carry out a dowsing survey at Moistown, this is an experiment to see how effective dowsing is as a geophysical tool. We set up a 7 x 40 metre grid running right through the middle of Moistown, this encompassed the area that was dowsed at the festival last July. Some members of Devon Dowzers came to help us out at the three sessions we held, so we had a good mix of folks from absolute beginners to the very experienced. Dowzers were asked to look for walls, their findings were pegged and then surveyed onto a plan. The results are very interesting as the dowzers found walls where there should have been some, even though none of the dowzers looked at any plans or maps of the site beforehand.

After the dowsing survey was completed, we carried out an earth resistance survey of same area. Dr Penny Cunningham of Exeter University spent a day with us teaching members how to use the kit, after this the data was downloaded and a picture produced. Although it had been very wet the results look good, it could have been just a mass of rubble but it looks as though there may be walls showing. All we have to do now is overlay the dowsing plans onto the earth resistance results to see if they match up.

The results of our dowsing, earth resistance and earthwork surveys will be on display at the Festival of Archaeology and Old Technology at Pattiland Farm on the 21st July. On the day Dr Penny Cunningham will be carrying out more work at Moistown with the earth resistance kit (and displaying the results), so come and see how it is done. ACE will also be exhibiting an update on the Archaeology and Bracken Project and ancient cooking techniques as well as carrying out all things archaeological from experimental to serious field work.

The Festival of Archaeology and Old Technology, is part of the Council for British Archaeology's National Festival of Archaeology, check out www.festival.britarch.ac.uk for other events in the area. Giles Warham is the organiser of Festival of Archaeology and Old Technology so if you want to exhibit or know more about the festival, please get in touch with him at giles@pattilandfarm.com.

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

CLAIRE SQUIRES

The name Claire Squires may be familiar to you - she was the runner who died towards the end of the London Marathon in April. Claire was running to raise money for the charity Samaritans, and since Claire died, over £1m has now been raised for her charity. Samaritans rarely attract national publicity, for example during the cluster of suicides in and around Bridgend in 2008, and, whilst many people will be generally aware of their work, perhaps the relevance of Samaritans in rural communities such as Winkleigh has been underestimated.

Samaritans hopes to benefit society by improving people's emotional health and sense of well-being.

The issues we help people address – stress, depression, financial and relationship worries – are common across society, city or countryside, young and old, rich and poor. Aspects of life in areas such as ours can though, I believe, exacerbate these issues. For example, many treasure the peace and quiet of the countryside but this can, for some, turn into solitude, isolation and loneliness. Emotional distress is, in my experience, independent of wealth, but the relative poverty of North Devon can make stress less easy to deal with. Moreover, friends, family, someone to chat to, are invariably more distant in the countryside and access to others is not always straightforward. Are these issues that you recognize? Are you, or is someone you know, vulnerable to these pressures and could benefit from Samaritans?

Samaritans vision is that fewer people will die through suicide. There is no single reason why people take their own life: it is often a result of problems building up to a point where the person can see no other way of coping with what they are experiencing. Most callers (85%) cite a number of issues, including:

- Recent loss or a relationship breakup
- An actual or unexpected change in their life
- A distressing or disabling physical illness
- Use or dependency on drugs
- An earlier suicide attempt or self-harming
- Depression

A seemingly minor event can be the trigger for someone to attempt to end their own life.

Whilst it is often thought that you have to be suicidal to contact Samaritans this is not the case. Whatever it is that causes you concern, distress or despair and you want to talk about it, Samaritans are here to listen. Anything you share with Samaritans remains confidential to Samaritans, we are here to listen and remain non-judgmental at all times.

Callers in North Devon can contact **Samaritans** on 01271 37 43 43 or visit the Branch in person at 2 Summerland Street, Barnstaple, EX32 8JJ. Alternatively you can call the national number 0845 7 90 90 90, email: jo@samaritans.org or you can write to: Chris, PO Box 9090, Stirling, FK8 2SA

Winkleigh & District Garden Club

We have a great 2012 programme which consists of monthly meetings with a range of speakers and a number of visits.

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

- Meetings: May 15th 'The Moth Man' time to be advised
- June 12th 7pm Visit to Hidden Valley Nursery
- June 19th 'Propagation of Trees and Shrubs' Neil Lovsey
- July 17th 'Living in the Box' Tony Wright North Devon School of Country Bee keeping
- August 7th Visit to Sutton Seeds Torquay time TBC
- September 18th 'A is for Apple' visit to Winkleigh Orchard Live
- October 16th 'The Seychelles – the flora and fauna of this tropical paradise' Pam Kemp
- November 20th AGM
- December 18th Christmas party and Quiz

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.

Need Help In The Garden?

RHS Qualified, Experienced Gardener

All Aspects of Garden Maintenance

Planting Ideas

Year Round Reliable Service

Call Maxine on 01837 680039 or 07815 309023



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 Beverley Cook, E-mail cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk

STOP PRESS

**DOWLAND COUNTRY FAIR
SUNDAY 17TH JUNE
11AM - 5PM**

More details at:

www.dowlandcountryfair.org.uk

Winkleigh Together

7 for 7.30 – Friday June 29th

Community Centre

In the last issue of Distinctly Winkleigh I outlined an event – “Celebrating Winkleigh’s Myriad of Organisations” – that we hoped to hold in the summer. The article had a good response and we have now firmed up on a date and format.

On Friday June 29th, we will have an informal forum for local organisations. The format is likely to be –

- Talk on possible sources of funds;
- How organisations might link with the North Devon Biosphere;
- Brief presentations by all organisations wishing to tell others about their events and activities; and
- Discussion about how we can work together to make our organisations more effective.

We very much hope that as many groups as possible will be able to join us for this important initial meeting and that they will take the opportunity to share their ambitions, plans and problems with other Winkleigh voluntary organisations. By the time that this issue of Distinctly Winkleigh is available I hope to have contacted the majority of organisations. We are keen to make these meetings fully inclusive, so if you know of any Winkleigh group, which you think should be invited, and I have missed, please let me know ASAP.

We would also like to include anyone who would like to set up a community activity by forming a club or one-off event; so if you have any ideas please get in touch.

David Lausen
01837 83209
dlausen@toucansurf.com
www.davidlausen.org.uk

A Winkleigh Society Sponsored Event

Winkleigh Sports Centre

The last report finished with us looking forward to the longer days and raised temperatures- but at the time of writing we still seem to be waiting! The newly installed solar roofing was really starting to show its paces during that brief spell in March when the sun began to shine but now it is really having to work on the gaps between the clouds to produce electricity for us.

Anyway, rain or shine, the Sports centre groups activities are continuing with the usual mixed degrees of success. A small group have put a lot of work into trying to get the bowling green back into shape and it is looking good – a number of people have remarked on this but there is a real need for more to come forward and get involved –where are you?

The Tennis Club A.G.M. took place on 27th April and although membership levels are stable they would greatly appreciate an increase in interest from the community. Their regular Monday “club” night is a good time to show up if you are interested. The Saturday morning junior coaching continues to go well, hopefully leading to the members of the future. The A.G.M. also discussed the future input from the Netball section where once again the “Warriors” are making the headlines- their most recent success was in the “Crediton Versatility Tournament” where they achieved a fantastic second place. Some of the credit for the recent improvements has come with the establishment of a new Tuesday night training session which is being coached by Claire Aldridge - thank you Claire, you seem to be getting that little bit extra out of them. Tournament winning cannot be far away as they enter into the summer league fixtures. Meanwhile for those who don't want to take competition too seriously but still want to have some fun, be active and get fit, Jo Salmon is now operating on Sunday Mornings (9.00) with just those aims in mind.

Another to hold a meeting has been the Snooker Club, this time an E.G.M., set up on 26th April by the new committee, to explain to the membership the need for certain actions required to get the books in order. There has also been a major refurbishment of both tables and a new storage cupboard is in the process of manufacture. When the new league season comes along it is certain the new table surfaces will make Winkleigh snooker the envy of them all.

So as the rain falls outside it only remains to add the usual appeal for any new interest or enquiries about current activities, please get in touch.

Brian Holland **01837 83521** (briwyc@hotmail.co.uk)



**Stunning showroom with over 100 stoves and
cookers on display**



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with David Pengelly
Wednesday 27 June - Starting 10.30am**

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to book your place!**

We look forward to seeing you!

**Tel 01837 83333 www.rangemoors.co.uk
The Airfield, Torrington Road, Winkleigh, Devon EX19 8DW**

Torridge Community Transport Association **RING & RIDE**

To book your journey or to enquire about the service please ring 01237 423232 Between 09.30 & 12.30 weekdays

Please phone at least two working days before you wish to travel. When you ring, please tell the co-ordinator if you require a wheelchair, walking frame or shopping trolley space or if you need to bring someone with you. The co-ordinator will confirm the approximate pickup time from your home. Please be ready for the driver to collect you. Please pay the driver the fare when you get on the bus. The driver will tell you when to be ready for the return journey and where he will pick you up. Please ensure that you are back at the pickup point on time.

Companions can also use the service if you need their help at the destination. Drop-off/pick up points in the towns; (subject to arrangement with the driver)

Barnstaple: Shopmobility Centre, supermarkets by arrangement. If you require the Shopmobility services, they can be booked separately on 01271 328866.

Okehampton: As arranged with driver

Beaford Winkleigh Hollocombe	£4	20 Apr; 4, 18 May; 1, 15, 29 Jun; 13, 27 Jul; 10, 24 Aug; 7, 21 Sept.	Barnstaple
		13, 27 Apr; 11, 25 May 8, 22 Jun; 6, 20 Jul; 3, 17, 31 Aug; 14, 28 Sept.	Okehampton

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Mob. 07805974914

Youth Club

We are pleased to announce our numbers have increased drastically and everybody is enjoying our latest addition which is the trampoline. This has become the most popular piece of equipment we have. We would like to give a big thank you to everyone who kindly let us have a terrific range of very good quality Keep Fit Equipment and the Gym is, hopefully, going to open the week commencing the 14th May.

We are expecting a visit on Wednesday, 16th May, from the Youth Network who wish to bring some people down to view our facilities. We hope the weather will change soon so we can enjoy using the outside areas.

Peter Berry

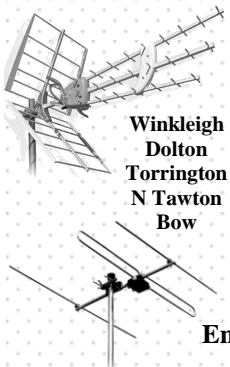
It is with great regret that I must announce my retirement from the Youth Club. I know I will miss the banter with the "great" youth members we have in Winkleigh.

When I was asked to start the Youth Club by the Committee of the Sports Centre I had no idea how to go about this until a very good friend, Malcolm Passmore, stepped in and together we started a very steep learning curve. When Dorothy Passmore stepped in to run the tuck shop we had some great times. Many thanks to all the rest of the people who have helped keep the Club going for the past nine years, especially Sue, my wife, who has worked constantly behind the scenes.

For a long time I have been unable to give the Club enough quality time and, now I have had more pressure from family and work commitments, I will step back and leave it to the new young team led by Peter Berry. Peter was one of the first group of children we had at the start of the Club.

I hope the village can continue to support the Youth Club.

Mike Wilson



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ALLOTMENT REPORT FOR SUMMER 2012

Another summer and the allotments are beginning to look well established. After an early spring and an appallingly wet April everyone is keen to get the ground cleared and dressed with manure or other feedstuffs and the early part of May has seen us all beavering up there as often as possible.

A new season has seen some new faces, inevitably some leave either because of other time commitments or changes to working lives. Those of us who have been around since we started the allotments have tried to make everyone feel welcome and we all spend time leaning on our spades and swapping 'advice' or just chatting as well as the serious stuff of digging and planting. It is amazing how many variations of plot design can be seen on one site.

During the winter months John and Doug, our redoubtable chairman and vice-chairman have made several picnic tables which are now dotted around so that we can take a break from time to time and one or two have used the better weather to take a picnic lunch up with them.

At the time of writing the site is fully booked but vacancies do occur from time to time so anyone who is interested should contact John Colgrave of Co-heat services.

Although there was insufficient space to include any recipes in this report we are still looking for recipes, especially for vegetables that we might grow but anything unusual is interesting. The idea is still that when we have enough we will publish a small booklet to be sold to raise funds for the allotments.

Please email any recipes to Gillian, gillyholman@onetel.com or to Ivor at ivorkoffler@gmail.com In the meantime happy growing.

FLOWER FESTIVAL AT ST. PETERS CHURCH, DOWLAND

To celebrate 880 years!

A warm welcome awaits you when you visit this 12th Century Church.

Friday 29th June 11am-7pm

Saturday 30th June 11am-7pm (Come and help us ring a bell 880 times!)

Sunday 1 July 11am-6pm (Finishing with Songs of Praise at 6.30pm)

Morning coffee & cakes, afternoon cream tea.

Plant & cake stalls.

Free Admission, All donations to St.Peters Church
Please contact Sue Dunn on 01805 804593 for further details.

**The 3rd Annual Old Technology &
Archaeology Festival
Pattiland Farm, Broadwoodkelly
Saturday 21st July 2012**

Opens 11am, Trade stalls and Exhibits until 5pm

**All Day & Evening -> Food, Real Ale Bar, Live
Entertainment**

This year supporting **DEVON AIR AMBULANCE.**

Ideal subjects for artists to paint and sketch. **ART Gallery** and **Exhibits of Archaeological works**, working **mud ovens** baking bread, **living history** re-enactment, **dowsing** with Devon Dowsers and more - **have a go!** Old Technology including **tractors, vehicles, tools, machines, spinning, miniatures** in steam, **vintage televisions**, domestic appliances and other interesting artefacts seldom seen in use today.

Various arena events throughout the day, including **Winkleigh & Exeter Morris Dancers**. Plenty to keep you busy all day! Excellent local B&B available. Come and enjoy a fun afternoon in the heart of the beautiful Devonshire countryside.

Entry £2 per person or £5 per car (whichever is less).

If you would like to know more about this event, please check our website: <http://goo.gl/GZqmR> (note: cAsE sensitive!) where fuller details are downloadable, including an application form for anyone wishing to be an exhibitor

WINKLEIGH SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

By the time you read this report the Winter Season will be over and the Summer Leagues in full swing.

The Club continues to go from strength to strength and had some real successes in the winter. We had 14 teams playing in five different leagues both evening and afternoon. As you can see there is ample opportunity for everybody to play competitively if they wish to, we also have many members who just enjoy coming to our roll up afternoons on Mondays and Fridays. All Club events were well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by the members. The end of March saw 21 teams from all over the County come to Winkleigh to take part in our Flue and Chimney Specialists Tournament. This was the sixth time we have held this event and once again it was heavily oversubscribed, everybody wanting to come to Winkleigh!

This year the FCS Trophy was won by Ilfracombe with the Runners-up Mutterdon. We are extremely grateful to Andrew Baker and all at Rangemoors Ltd for their continued support of our Tournament. Roll ups and league matches continue throughout the summer months so if you fancy giving the game a go just turn up on a Monday or Friday 2.00 until 4.00 or give me a call 01837 83853. You will be most welcome.

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Wallingbrook Health Group (WHG) and the Patient Participation Group (PPG)

WHAT is a Patient Participation Group or PPG?

PPG's offer a way for local people to be actively involved in the running of their practice - giving patients, GP's and practice staff an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and take action. The PPG are voluntary patient representatives and practice staff who meet to consider improvements to healthcare service provision.

WHO are Wallingbrook's PPG?

Wallingbrook's PPG meet in Chulmleigh once a month and currently comprise 11 patient representatives and 3 WHG staff, including Karen Acott, Sarah Stapleton and a GP. Ideally participants will be engaged and committed to achieving improved services for patients in their area!

HOW can Patient Participation help?

- by improving communications between practice and patients
- by helping patients and others to be more responsible for their health
- by giving staff the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest
- by contributing to continuous improvement of services
- by providing practical support and help implement positive change

What are the AIMS of Wallingbrook's PPG?

- to provide feedback on patients needs, concerns and interests
- to challenge the practice constructively whenever necessary
- to represent patient opinion, good or otherwise
- to undertake projects and reviews to enhance the performance and perception of the practice in the community
- to ensure consultation is built into new initiatives or change

What are the BENEFITS of Having a PPG?

- ✓ *"The idea of investing in patients and recruiting a PPG is that you can look at issues and challenges from a patient perspective, helping to ensure better and more representative solutions."* (Dr David Johnston former Chairman, RCGP Northern Ireland)
- ✓ *"A practice's PPG can challenge reforms that are not in the best interests of patients and can support the best possible implementation of change within the practice setting ...".* [See online: www.bma.org.uk].

If you want more information, please call **Sarah Stapleton on 01769 580295** (or 08443 87 80 78), or visit the WHG website. [www.wallingbrook.co.uk].

Gail Flockhart, Winkleigh Parish Council
WHG PPG, May 2012

**Annual Summer Fete at Little Acorns,
Seckington Lane, Winkleigh EX19 8EY
(opposite *Zuki's* restaurant)
on Saturday 16th June 2012, 2pm to 10pm
Free entry and parking**

Great fun for all the family, with lots to see and do!

Plants, cakes, books, bric a brac, and clothes stalls.

Face painting , home-made refreshments, fantastic raffle, bottle tombola,

Morris dancers, LA Buskers all day barbeque and licensed bar.

Live music and entertainment from 6pm by the magnificent band

Thick as Thieves

Everyone welcome!

Little Acorns is proud to announce that after 18 months of hard work, infinite planning, and huge anticipation (!), our fantastic new unit is now ready for occupation, and will be officially opened on the 31st May 2012.

Being able to offer a further 5 beds in Devon is the realisation of a personal dream for our registered manager, Annie Senger. Annie set up Little Acorns 5 years ago, as she was dismayed at the lack of availability of specialist residential care for people on the autistic spectrum in Devon. Annie was aware that several local people were living “out of county”, in order to receive the special support and understanding that they needed. With their children living, in some cases, hundreds of miles away, this naturally put Devon families and friends at a disadvantage, and made it difficult for them to maintain vital family ties and be part of their lives.

Drawing on over 30 years of training and experience in working with people on the autistic spectrum, Annie set about creating the best possible home environment where people can live meaningful lives, happily and safely and be a valued part of the local community. Winkleigh has proved to be well placed for our Devonshire service user’s families to be regular visitors. A further positive for Winkleigh has been the fact that we have recruited staff locally, and continue to shop in the village and support other local businesses. A massive thank you must also go to the local builder’s construction team, who have all worked unfailingly to make this project a reality.

In addition to residential care, Little Acorns also offers day services for people on the autistic spectrum and/or with learning disabilities, supported living and home care, including personal care and social support, for all ages. We are registered with the Care Quality Commission and all our staff have enhanced CRB checks, and are committed to lifelong learning, all of the team holding, at a minimum an NVQ 2 in Care.

If you would like any information on the services we can offer, then please call Annie or Laurie on 01837-680157. There are always lots of activities and events going on at Little Acorns and visitors are always welcome! Our annual fete is on Saturday 16th June – hope to meet you then!

SINGING FOR FUN IN WINKLEIGH

Our first three sessions have gone really well with upwards of 20 coming and we look forward to all you out there who would like to join us. We next meet on Monday 14th May at 7.30pm sharp, as Monday seemed to suit the majority of those at the first meeting, and every two weeks after that at Beeches in Eggesford Road.

Up to now Tilly Kimber has volunteered to be our Musical Director until we found someone closer, so we are very lucky in finding a Musical Director, Rosy, who will be with us on 14th May for the first time and she, like the rest of us wants the singing to be fun. It would be really helpful if anyone wishing to join us came with suggestions (about half a dozen) of those songs they would like to try and sing. The more the merrier.

Thank you Tilly for bearing with us at our tentative beginnings, so very much appreciated.

We would love you to come along and join us or if you wish do phone to ask any questions.

Wendy Mondy - 0845 4585466

Shelagh Quinn 01805 603347



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And finally

The task of preparing Distinctly Winkleigh has, for the last few years, fallen largely on one set of shoulders. However, when family problems demand that pair of shoulders to be elsewhere at just the moment when the next issue should be readied for the printer, it highlights the growing need for extra help. If there is anyone 'out there' prepared to provide this help, please do not hesitate to contact the Editorial Team (phone numbers on the back page).

Having got that out of the way, it must be recorded that great efforts are being made to celebrate two "only this year" events – The Queen's Jubilee and Winkleigh Fair's 750th Anniversary. Let's hope that both are blessed with some good weather and bring enjoyment to all who attend them.

Shirley Cowling's article on the 1948 Olympics and the efforts of Etienne Gailly to win a bronze medal were recently reflected by Claire Lomas finally finishing the London Marathon – 26 days after the start (and finish) – using her 'bionic legs'. Surely she also merits a medal for her bravery and persistence

Unlike the last issue, in which the deadline date for articles for the next issue was inadvertently omitted, let it be known that articles or adverts for the Autumn Issue should arrive before Monday, 13th August!

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Treasurer	Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145
Minutes Secretary	Pat Cunnington	01837 83487
Committee Members	Margaret Miller	01837 83398
	Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
	Ralph Northcott	01837 83610

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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