

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 48

Winter 2013

Cover sponsored by

Ian Shacklock, MTF Training, Moortown Farm, Winkleigh. 01837 83325

The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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Winkleigh Society News

The Society's Year

The AGM of the Winkleigh Society is looming as I write this, and will be 'old news' by the time you are reading it. So this seems an appropriate time to celebrate our achievements and apologise for failures. Most important of all, the Winkleigh Society continues to exist, both with certain achievements of its own, and also as a support organisation for other groups ... simply acting as banker for other organisations is very useful when it is so difficult to open a new society bank account. I must express my personal thanks to all the members of the committee, who have all been working members who turn up to meetings. They have made chairing the group very easy.

Another real achievement this year, due mainly to Margaret Miller and Alan Mulcahy, has been the new edition of the Directory, following the excellent format devised by Wendy Mondy. Newcomers and long established residents will find it an invaluable source of information. Inevitably it will be out of date as soon as it is printed, but please send all corrections to the editor of *Distinctly Winkleigh*. Alterations can at least be posted into the online version.

The new website will, we are assured, be fully operational within the next few weeks, though we must admit that we have been assured of that before. Whenever we hand the website task to an expert, they immediately disappear off the face of the virtual world. Winkleigh seems to have that effect on some people! One of the problems with the new website is that the very fancy diary and events page will not allow us to produce a printed version from it. For months we continued to wait for this to be resolved, but I have finally given up and proceeded with the old version. It is nothing like so fancy, but at least it can be printed.

Our other failure has been the calendar for 2014. Family issues take us away at critical times, and computers will fail just when they are most needed. By the time we had solved our problems, we could not have got the calendar into the shops before mid-November ... by which time you would all have bought your calendars. However, we are convinced that we should have a calendar so we are determined that the 2015 calendar will be ready by September. If you have photographs which you would like to be considered for that calendar please send them to Alan Jacobs.

In February and March 2014 we are going to run another series of talks on Friday evenings in the Community Centre. The list of speakers is not yet complete, but Professor Michael Winter has agreed to talk about the Future of Farming, Matt Edworthy is going to share his Antarctic experiences, Sheila Anderson-Witty will talk about the fast disappearing hedgehog, and I shall talk about the local birds and the new bird atlas. Others, on architecture, on trees and environmental security are in the planning stage.

Finally, I must, of course, give particular thanks to Alan Mulcahy who has dealt with the whole of the production process of *Distinctly Winkleigh* for several years. The time has come that he needs some assistance and he hopes to pass on the baton before too long. So volunteers will be very welcome. But even if you cannot offer to help in the production, editing or distribution, then you can surely contribute to the material. You will notice this issue that DW publishes stories and puzzles as well as factual matter. We have also published some obituaries, and would like to encourage this idea. If you want to commemorate the life of someone in the village, a published obituary is certainly one way to do so.

And, please, can we have some more letters to the editor. Or do we all approve of everything that is done to us by ‘them with power’?

Peter Howard

Winkleigh Society Chair, 2012-2013

Winkleigh Memory Café

For people with memory loss and dementia and their families
and friends and for those who would just like a friendly
chat.

1st Tuesday of each month 10am -12pm

Methodist Church Hall Winkleigh

3rd Dec 2013, 7th Jan, 4th Feb, 3rd Mar 2014

Drop in and join us for tea/coffee and biscuits

For more details contact

Angela Le May 01837 83404 Claire Jolly 01837 83014

Supported by Torr**AGE** and the Winkleigh Society

The Winkleigh Singers

Thirtieth Christmas Concert with a Baroque flavour

Including a short Cantata by Charpentier,
some Bach and Vivaldi's ever-popular Gloria.

Come along and join us in celebrating the festive season
with traditional carols for all to sing.

Wine and soft drinks available from 7.00pm and during the interval.

Complimentary Mince Pies at the interval.

All Saints Church, Winkleigh, Saturday 21st December at 7.30pm

Tickets £8.00 in advance, £10.00 on the door, accompanied under-16s FREE from choir members, on-line from www.winkleighsingers.org.uk, most credit and debit cards accepted or by post from Winkleigh Singers Tickets, 4 Pitt Court, Nymet Rowland, Crediton, Devon EX17 6AN – cheques payable to The Winkleigh Singers. Please enclose SAE.

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Dec 25th, 26th, 27th: CLOSED

Dec 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st: 10-4

Jan 1st: CLOSED



Harvest seems a long way back now but this is the first opportunity I have had of thanking everyone who supported our Harvest Festival.

The auction raised nearly £200 which will be going to 'Made-Well' an organisation near Hatherleigh which supports young people with learning difficulties through growing fruit and vegetables, various crafts and keeping livestock. They have a nice café there too, so if you're passing pop in and see what they do. This year that choice of where the money went was made by children from our Sunday School and we hope to take them over to Made-Well to present the cheque.

If Harvest seems a long way back, then Christmas seems to be frighteningly close! Sunday School are already turning their attention to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve to which we hope you will all come — and this year we have a real donkey! This is always a good start to our Christmas celebrations as we recall the story of Jesus' birth which is, after all, what Christmas is really about. You don't have to be a child or to bring children to attend the Crib Service — all are welcome as indeed all were welcome at the manger on that first Christmas. God sent his Son not just for a few chosen people but for everyone one of us, shepherds and wise men and everyone in between, and that itself is worth celebrating. But if you can't make the Crib Service, or even if you do, there are other services and events which mark this festival.

Friday 13th at 2.00 p.m. Winkleigh School will be having their Christmas service in Church and on Saturday 21st at 7.30 p.m. there will be the traditional Christmas Concert (including Carols for you to sing) by the Winkleigh Singers.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services are as follows.

Christmas Eve	5.00 p.m.	Crib Service
	11.45 p.m.	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Eucharist

All of these services will of course include traditional Christmas Carols. You are welcome at any or all of these celebrations.

WINKLEIGH MINI MARKET

We are, as the name says, a mini market. We gather every Wednesday morning from 9.15 - 10.45am.

Most of the stall holders are local people selling their produce which includes homemade cakes and savouries, Chulmleigh Bakery bread, seasonal vegetables, handmade textile goods, plants, flowers, cards, bric a brac, books and toys. We also have a community internet point, first half an hour free. A food hamper raffle takes place every week for funds for the community centre.

A coffee morning in aid of Cancer Research UK also takes place at the same time.

Your local police community support officers attend to speak to anyone who has any concerns or questions that need to be answered.

We would like to invite you to come along to support this community event to either browse or if you would like to have a stall please contact **Fiona** 83382/83809 or **Marie Claude** on 680145.



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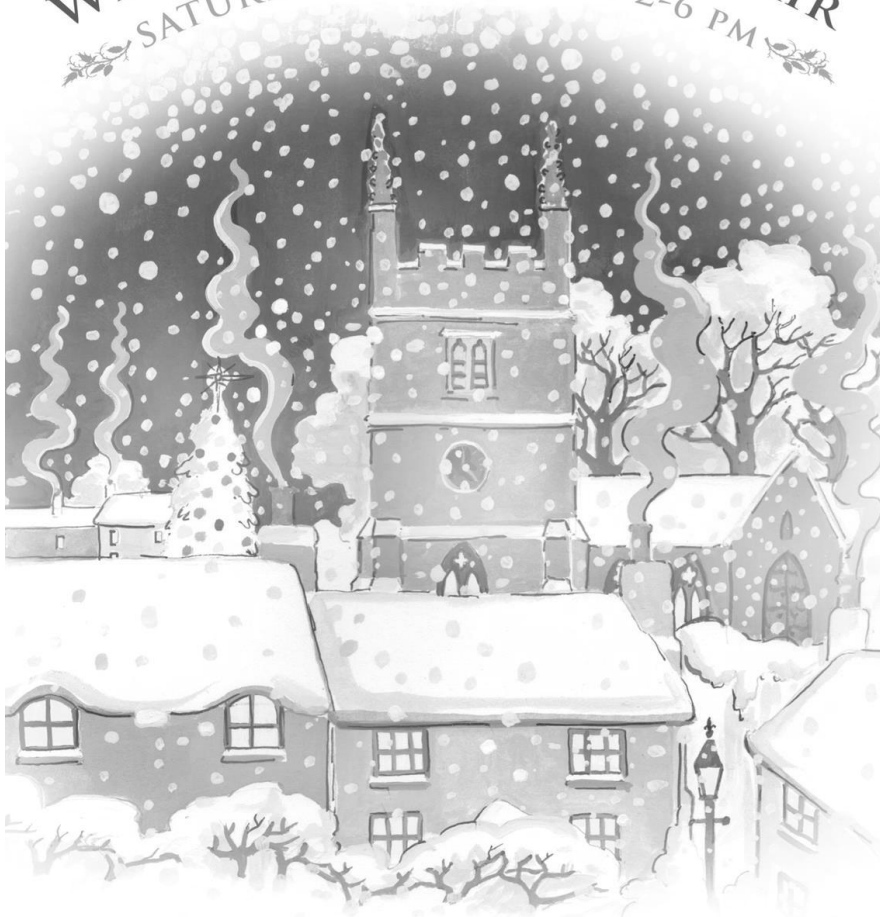
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WINKLEIGH CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2-6 PM



WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE & VILLAGE HALL

A large variety of stalls, Santa's grotto, hot food, raffle prizes,
Carol singing with the Bondleigh Barn Band, parade to the square for
Christmas Light Switch-on

Winkleigh Recycling

A big thank you to all those who continue to support this venture. Over the past two years, as a village, we have saved nearly four tonnes of plastics (mostly not taken in our green boxes) from going to landfill sites. The scheme is run entirely by five volunteers and to make our lives a little easier, we would be really grateful if you could remember the following:

- ❖ **Please make sure that all plastics are clean (including flower pots).**
- ❖ **If possible, please squash plastic bottles flat.**
- ❖ **Please insert caps back into the squashed bottles, if possible.**
- ❖ **Please stack together any containers of a similar shape/size.**

In our recent Parish Plan Questionnaire, there were many comments about our plastics recycling scheme. Generally, people felt satisfied with the collection. They valued the fact that we were trying to offer them the opportunity to get rid of their plastics, in a responsible, environmentally friendly manner. However, many also felt that the new monthly system was not convenient for them and preferred the old permanent cages. For a while that system did work well, but as time went on, a number of problems started to arise. There were only four of us trying to keep it going, which proved to be very difficult when any of us were away. The dumpy bags were extremely heavy to lift out, especially when wet and sadly on many occasions, inappropriate items had been left. We could not sustain this service and were pleased when Peninsula Waste Savers (North Tawton), agreed to collect from us on a monthly basis instead.

As a group, our ultimate aim is to persuade Torridge and South Molton to take a greater range of plastics in our green boxes and that is the goal, which we are now working towards.

Please contact us if you would like to help us in any way.

Thank you for your support.

Philippa, Wendy, Marie-Claude, Kim and Spencer.
01837 83209



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FOLLOWING OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT ...

The Community Plan is Moving Forward



- Results from the **509 adult and 59 youth responses** to the **Community Questionnaire** were presented to the **Parish Council on Weds 11th Sept 2013**, then along with some preliminary reports and proposals, displayed at the **Public Consultation Event** held **Sat 2nd Nov**
- The event was well supported with around **90 participants** on the day; **positive feedback** was received on the presentation and information; comments were received on some of the most important **issues and proposals** for Winkleigh, for example traffic
- Comments will inform the **drafting process** as we move forward towards a **Community Plan** - do continue to follow progress through updates in **Distinctly Winkleigh** and reports to the **Parish Council**; leave a comment on **Facebook [WinkleighParishPlan]** and look out for a **Community Plan Website [www.winkleighplan.co.uk]** now in development. We hope to have a full draft Plan by **Spring 2014**
- So **THANK YOU** for supporting and contributing to the **Community Plan** project - this will help identify actions and improvements for Winkleigh.

Gail Flockhart (Chair)
on behalf of the **Community Led Plan Group**
email gail@theparadoxfactory.com

Mrs. Doris Malaprop meets a friend at the Health Centre

Oh! Allo Doris . . . haven't seen you around . . . have you been ill, dear?

Not really dear . . . we've been on holiday to see my eldest daughter in Canada . . . her husband's an automatic engineer and he was offered a three year sebastopol over there . . . and 'cos we helped them put all their stuff in the furniture suppository, they bought our flights to stay with them . . . we did lots of trips, too . . . the best was to the Viagra Falls. . . very uplifting . . . but I had a bit of a do with my legs on the plane . . . you know I've been under the doctor with my pharisees . . . well it wasn't them . . . they thought I might have a DVD, but they don't really know what it is . . . spheroids didn't seem to help, either . . . they do their best, I know, but they're not inflammable, are they . . . look what's happening to George . . . you know how long he's been a martyr to wind . . . well they now think he might have an allegory . . . the only allegory George has is to finishing the bathroom tiling . . . Oh! that's me, dear, I'm in for my flu injunction . . . see you soon.

Coming next: how Doris marvelled at the flying buttocks of Notre Dame and found herself up a gum tree without a paddle.

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The Bondleigh Barn Band (BBB) – 12 months on.

Go on... you really want to know don't you? Yes of course you do...

(It's free to join us. Please do! We'd be delighted! See contacts below.)

On with the story...

Maybe you were wondering about the provenance/meaning of strange wailings and cries of "No, not that one, give me the other 'A'." gently drifting on the air of a balmy Devon summer evening? Well, I'm about to tell you all about it. Are you sitting comfortably? Good. I shall begin...

We return to that dark, stormy night of Jan 2013 when a little huddle of around 10 nervous, but musically inclined, individuals gathered together at the 'Coffee & Grog' shop, a secret Bondleigh barn location, not too far from Danny and Jane Semorad's farmhouse. Unfortunately I can't provide further details as I'm sworn to secrecy (You might possibly find more about these 'goings-on' courtesy of ex-NSA's Edward Snowden – but then, methinks, even they don't know quite everything).

Anyway, these musicians had gathered together after replying to a 'musicians wanted' ad – one placed in this very periodical. Full of fear and trepidation, virtually quaking in their boots, they soon fell under the masterly yet calming spell of the BBB's own impresario and kindly director of music – Richard Edwards. It was either that or they had, by then, consumed sufficient red wine not to be quite so worried about the order of notes that tumbled from their assortment of diverse and randomly tuned instruments. So thus... did it begin. The first year of building the band in terms of player numbers, repertoire, musical knowledge (varied) and performance at (almost) world-wide concert venues from as far west as Dolton and, full of promise, easterly to North Tawton (via Winkleigh and then Bondleigh) making a few bob for charities along the way. All that travel! Thank heavens for satnav.

Indeed, the Bondleigh Barn Band now consists of some 34+ regular players comprising guitars, mandolin, violins, piccolo, cellos, banjo, keyboards, trombone, trumpet, sax, harp, flutes ... and other stuff that I can't remember. We play a raft of different musical genres – sometimes together, sometimes as BBB sub sections. The thing is, the ethos is about enjoying oneself playing and learning together at our fortnightly Sunday evening practice sessions. (Current venue: Winkleigh Community Centre). Richard does a magnificent job creating a first class (floggings are rare) environment at which all can contribute and enjoy the experience of making music. OK, it's a bit ragged at times although I blame the woodwind section who, in turn, blame the strings but never-the-less it is a truly wonderful social opportunity for people to get together and enjoy creating music (term used loosely)

Clearly our musical director and driving force, Mr Richard Edwards, deserves recognition for steering our growing band of musicians through its first twelve

months of life. Indeed I'm thinking a night-hood would be in order. Possibly one of those tall floppy ones adorned with tinkering bells? However, this is still work in progress as I need to investigate the appropriate process in order to make this happen. In the meantime I remain open to HRH advice and suggestions...

So, back to the nitty gritty of this slightly disguised advertisement. I urge you to please get in touch if you play an instrument of any kind, whether-or-not you read music or simply play-by-ear. Just as long as you're keen to participate in our musical journey, we'll do our very best to make you welcome in our preparation for future world-wide concert events. To learn more, please contact either:

Tamsin Grayling: tamsinwoodland@hotmail.com (01837 82334) or



Paul Cherrett: paul.cherrett@btinternet.com (01837 82980)

So come on, 'tis time to turn up, tune in, thrum, twang, tweak, tinkle, or toot - and generally twinkle a bit as part of Devon's finest BBB.

Winkleigh Youth Club

There will be a Youth Club Christmas Disco on Friday 20th December between 7:30pm and 10:30pm at the Sports Hall.

Peter Berry

 <p>Amy Pincombe FHP Dip Foot Health Practitioner Mobile Service 07712 148038</p> <h1>Caring for your feet</h1> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Corns•Callus•Cracked Heels•Fungal infections•Ingrown toe nails•Manicures & pedicures•Verrucae	  <h3>UK and European Removals and Storage</h3> <h3>Storage and Selfstore</h3> <h3>Office and Commercial</h3> <h3>Piano Moving and Storage</h3> <h3>We buy & sell 2nd hand furniture</h3> <h3>Full or Part Packing Service</h3> <h3>Carpet Cleaning Service</h3> <p>www.coppsremovals.co.uk Cherrywood Business Park, Langtree, Torrington, N Devon, EX38 8LQ Email: gary@coppsremovals.co.uk Phone: 01805 601122 Mobile: 07787587410</p>
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Winkleigh and District Garden Club

Do you have a garden or an allotment? If so, do you want to find out more about growing soft fruits, roses and many other aspects relating to making the most of your plot? Next year Winkleigh and District Garden Club have a programme of speakers who will provide answers with respect to these subjects and much more; including matters relating to growing and tending grasses, gardening on clay, a trip to a significant and well known garden and a visit to a winery. The club meets in the evening of the third Tuesday in the month in Winkleigh Village Hall and normally start at 7.15pm. We start the year with:

21 st Jan	“Forty-five Years of Gardening on Dartmoor” Robin Hill from Andrews Corner, Belstone
18 th Feb	“Soft Fruit” Claire Forster from Bernaville Garden Centre
18 th Mar	“Grasses” Dave Squire from Rosemoor
15 th April	“Roses” Emma van Heussen from Rosemoor
20 th May	2.30pm Visit to Penny Jones' Asiatic Primula Nursery near Holsworthy
17 th June	“Gardening on Clay” Neil Lovsey
22nd July	Summer Visit to Knightshayes, Tiverton
16 th Sept	“A Tour of Japan and its Gardens” Jon Webster, Curator of Rosemoor
21 st Oct	Topic to be confirmed Barry Philips
18 th Nov	A.G.M. and cheese and wine
16 th Dec	Christmas Party

Should you be interested in all/any of these subjects, then why not become a member of WDGC or at least come along as either a member or a visitor on the third Tuesday in each month and see what we have to offer. 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.

The cost is £10.00 per year (commencing in January) and 20p for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuit per meeting. As a visitor you would pay £1.00 per meeting which also includes the cost of a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.

We hope that we have whetted your appetite and roused your interest in a very active WDGC. We look forward to welcoming you to the first of our meetings on 21st January 2014.

For further information contact our Chairman Mr Ed Porter on 01805 804838 or Beverley Cook, cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk or 01837 682840

A Very Big “Thank You”

Derek, Margaret and family would like to take this opportunity to thank all their wonderful friends and neighbours for their kindness, cards, phone calls, help, support and prayers during Derek’s recent illness

The care, support and treatment received from the doctors, surgeons, nurses and physios at North Devon District Hospital was wonderful. Since Derek has been home the physios have been visiting him three times a week.

Thankfully Derek is now walking, well on the way to a good recovery and able to do many of the “chores” he was doing before his stroke.

Thank you again. God bless you all.

Derek & Margaret Miller

Snow Warden Scheme

.Would you like to become a designated Snow Warden in Winkleigh?

Devon County Council is encouraging Parish Councils to join the Snow Warden Scheme, identifying a volunteer to act as the key point of contact during severe weather. Training will be provided for this co-ordinating role, which should help us all to help ourselves when the bad weather comes! These days we are expected to take some responsibility for our own community and this would be one way of doing that.

If you are interested please contact Winkleigh Parish Council via any councillor, or **Catherine Knight** on 01837 83205.

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WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Once again we've got to that busy time of the year. Every year Christmas seems to come quicker. We've got quite a lot going on over the festive period starting **Saturday December 7th** with the **Village Christmas lights switch on and Christmas street market** when the church will be open for children's crafts from 3.00pm as we did last year. The next day, **Sunday December 8th** will be **Messy Sunday School**, obviously with a Christmassy theme. This will run alongside morning worship which will be led by Mr David Worden, retired RE teacher from CCC.

Oasis Christmas lunch will be on **Monday December 16th**, roast turkey and all the trimmings, Christmas pudding, tea or coffee. We already have 20 booked for this event if you would like to join us please get in touch with us at Oasis.

Sunday December 22nd will be our **Family Carol Service** starting at 5.30pm, afterwards we will enjoy warm mince pies and sausage rolls. And finally, **Christmas morning** we will meet at **10.30am** for a short time of family worship.

A new year date for you to remember, on **Saturday January 18th** we will be having a **Messy Church Disco** in the community centre from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

Quite a lot to remember there, so just in case you think you may not, we have a new website www.winkleighchapel.co.uk where we have an events calendar, twitter feed and acebook link.

The **Okehampton Food Bank** still needs our food contributions. Thank you to those who have given, please continue.

We always think of Christmas being at the end of the year, but in fact, Advent is the beginning of the liturgical (Christian) year, and this year the first Sunday in Advent is December 1st, it sometimes falls in November, which is very irritating because we always start our candles and calendars on December 1st, so this year it will run together for a change. As Christians, Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus and a time for us also to remember that he will return again.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TOO!

We meet for worship at 11.00am, coffee from 10.30, except for the first Sunday in the month when we meet at 5.30pm for a bring & share tea followed by worship. All ages are welcome to join us at all our worship times.

Alan and Fiona Marshall 01837 83809. **Daisy Bray** 01837 83458.

Rev Nigel Coke-Woods 01837 810591.

Winkleigh Short Mat Bowling Club

We held our first Pairs Tournament in September and it was a great success. Teams came from all over the County to compete for a new Trophy. The eventual winners were from Beaford our near neighbours. We are very grateful to D&S Supplies and Mid-Devon Motors for their sponsorship of this event and to Barry The Mad Butcher for his raffle prize. This will now be an annual event in our calendar.

We have been delighted to welcome several new members this season and it is good to see them progressing in the game. Thanks to monies from several Grantors we are awaiting delivery of some new mats and equipment. Winkleigh can now boast one of the largest and best equipped Clubs in North Devon and North Cornwall but there is still room for you!

If you want to give it a try just give me a call. **Jan Ovenden** 0183783853

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Thanks – from Linden Lea, Castle Street

Julie and Stuart would like to thank all you lovely people of Winkleigh who have sent cards, good wishes, delicious meals on wheels, a chauffeuring service, flowers, plants, cakes and general help following Julie's unfortunate fall.

Your help and concern have been incredible and we both feel privileged to live in such a caring community.

Thank you all so much.

Julie & Stuart Mitchell



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Friends of Winkleigh School -Autumn 2013

With the new School year underway the “Friends” group met at the “Stars” on 18th September to start proceedings in what was once again going to be a busy schedule. The main item on the agenda was to agree a date for the A. G. M. This having been set for 24th October we all waited hoping that, following intense advertising through posters and School newsletters there would be more positive support in the form of increased attendance at what is a very important date for fundraising efforts. Sadly there was only a small improvement on the “no show” of last year. Undeterred, if a little sad, discussion commenced on the programme ahead aimed at giving that extra financial support that would be so much help to the School agenda. The first date, which is traditionally “pencilled in” a year ahead, of course “Fireworks Night”, scheduled this year for 2nd November at the Sports Centre. This event is always awaited with great anticipation, this year should be no different and fundraising efforts will be off to a good start- it will of course have happened before you read this report. Another date set was 22nd November for a bacon and egg morning, which is always a popular occasion and so well supported throughout the community. This can expect to be repeated at least once more during the year ahead.

The “Casino Night” took place on 21st September and was once again a great and financially rewarding event, the profit showing at £268.60.

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WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Members & Meetings

The recent **Community Plan Questionnaire** highlighted a need for elected representatives to raise their profile within the community. Knowing about the **Council** and who your **Councillors** are, might help kick this off. Each quarter in **Distinctly Winkleigh** we hope to feature some aspect of your Council's work. So, you may or may not know ...

- Anyone living in Winkleigh or Hollocombe can run as a **Councillor** (some restrictions may apply), **elections are held every 4 years in May - the next is in 2015**. The **Chair, Vice Chair** and **Committee Reps** are elected by Council members every year at the **AGM**.
- Being a Councillor is an on-going commitment and carries some responsibility - you need time to be a Councillor! Council work is governed by regulations laid down under statute, to be conducted in an open, transparent and accountable way. Oh yes, and **Parish Councillors are UNPAID volunteers!**
- Our **Parish Clerk** (Nicki) is employed and paid by the Council to carry out the administrative workload; our **District Councillor** (David) acts as a point of liaison between the parish and Torridge District Council.
- **Parish Council Meetings** are open to the public and are held on the **4th Wednesday of every month** (except Aug & Dec), usually in the Community Centre or Village Hall in Winkleigh. **Members of the public** are welcome to attend and can speak on any subject they wish, during either of the two **PUBLIC PERIODS**.

Council meetings are a chance for you to come along and meet Councillors, listen in or have your say - so please do. **Agendas and Minutes** are posted in **Parish Notice Boards** (by Kings Arms in Winkleigh and in Hollocombe) or you can go on the **email circulation list** by contacting Nicki (see list). Check Notice Boards for additional or extraordinary meetings too.

More on the work of **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL** in the next issue ...

Gail Flockhart (Chair)
Winkleigh Parish Council

WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
Councillors (October 2013)

Gail Flockhart (Chair): Heckapen Farm, Winkleigh, EX19 8DJ. Tel 01837 83740 or email gail@theparadoxfactory.com
Catherine Knight (Vice Chair): Kings Bungalow, Kings Farm Lane, Winkleigh, EX19 8HT. Tel 01837 83205 or email cathpknight@gmail.com
Marjorie Bowers: Church House, Church Hill, Winkleigh, EX19 8JD. Tel 01837 83585 or email marjohnbowers@tinyworld.co.uk
John Gledhill: West Chapple Farm, Winkleigh, EX19 8HB. Tel 01837 83272 or email gledgl@gmail.com
Philip Griffiths: 52 Southernhay, Winkleigh, EX19 8JH. Tel 01837 83407 or email philip@phwgriffiths.plus.com
Simon Hodgson: Mill House, Horry Mill, Hollocombe, EX18 7QH. Tel 01769 520266 or email info@chrishodgson.biz
Wendy Mondy: Beeches, Eggesford Road, Winkleigh, EX19 8LB. Tel 01837 620022 or email mondy@phonecoop.coop
Trish Sansom: 1 Sanders Mews, Barnstaple Street, Winkleigh, EX19 8UB. Tel 01837 83280 or email trishasansom@gmail.com
Peter Stutt: The Old Malt House, Vine Street, Winkleigh, EX19 8HN. Tel 01837 83283 or email i.peterstutt@gmail.com
Alice Turner: Rowans, Kings Farm Lane, Winkleigh, EX19 8HF. Tel 01837 83484 or email patience.turner@hotmail.co.uk
Andrew Ware: 1 Queen Street, Winkleigh, EX19 8JB. Tel 01837 83526 or email sueandware@hotmail.com

- **Nicki Bullen (Clerk):** The Bungalow, Hatherleigh Road, Winkleigh, EX19 8AP. Tel 01837 83981 or email winkleighpc1@btinternet.com
- **David Lausen (Ward & District Councillor):** The Croft, Torrington Road, Winkleigh, EX19 8HR. Tel 01837 83209 or email dlausen@toucansurf.com

A CHRISTMAS STORY

by Shirley Cowling

“Shall us go to Midnight Service tonight, Jack? ‘Ave ‘ee decided? I do so like to sing the carols and rejoice, with our friends, that ‘E came ‘ere to live among us.” Sue Glover looked at her husband enquiringly. Before they married he often accompanied her to church, but they’d been married three years now, and he’d never gone to church with her on Sunday. There was always a farming reason why he had to stay home. She was used to going on her own. Christmas Eve, though, was different. On that special night they did turn out together at 11-30, and greeted the rest of the congregation with “Happy Christmas” and handshakes, after the Service.

Then they’d come home, stuff the turkey, and put it in the Rayburn to cook slowly — all night. They’d drink a little sherry, exchange kisses under the mistletoe, and presents, and go to bed happy. Sue hoped the same tradition would continue this year. Jack answered, at last, after a good long think.

“I do like to go with you on Christmas Eve, you know I do. But that ‘eifer, Campion, looks like calving tonight. ‘Er mother, Ragged Robin, ‘as always bin a difficult calver. So I daresn’t leave Campion on ‘er own. ‘Er be openin’ up nicely, and losin’ a little fluid. No doubt about it. You go by yourself, or stay with me an’ Campion. Whichever you like.”

“I’d rather go with you, or be with you. I’ll come out with you, and ‘elp you calve the ‘eifer.”

So, as the church bells pealed their message across the frosty meadows, from the village, Sue Glover left the calving box to go back to the kitchen with the empty thermos. Jack had asked her to bring some mince pies with her, this time, when she’d refilled the flask. He’d visited Campion several times during the evening, but nothing much was happening. Refreshments would help to fill the waiting time. As Sue walked back across the yard, careful not to slip on the icy concrete, the bells had stopped, but she could hear Campion grinding her teeth, and helving in a troubled way. The heifer was standing up and kicking at her stomach, obviously uncomfortable.

“Things have changed since you went in,” Jack told her. “Put the food on the winder-sill, out of the way. I’ve managed to get a halter on her. I want you to hold her head while I put my hand in, to feel what’s happening. We might have to get Andrew out, Christmas Eve or not. I don’t like her making these noises instead of getting on with it.”

Sue held the lead-rope, hoping they wouldn’t have to get the Vet, and talked to Campion quietly, stroking her neck. Jack took off his jumper and pulled his shirt-sleeve up above his elbow. Then he put Vaseline on his forearm.

“O.K. My beauty. I’m just going to feel inside what your calf be up to.” His forearm slid up the birth canal. The heifer, feeling it, settled at once. Jack could feel the animal’s warmth, and the squeeze of a contraction.

“That’s just as it should be. Two little hoofs in exactly the right place. But I can’t feel the head. That should be lying right on the hoofs for a safe delivery.” As the contraction finished squeezing his hand he pushed the tiny hoofs back, and tried again to feel the calf’s muzzle.

“Now Champion is relaxed I can feel that the head is twisted back. I was thinking that might be the problem. “Old ‘er still, Sue. I’ll try and right it.” He leaned into the heifer’s rump, and pushed his arm even further into the birth canal. Champion stood quiet and still. It was Jack doing the grunting.

“There you are, my beauty. The head is where it should be now. I’ll have to pull the calf off with the next contraction.” Champion’s birth canal was soft and relaxed as Jack pulled up his left sleeve, and squeezed his second hand, also, into the gaping vagina.

“Here comes the next contraction.” All was silent as he grasped each hoof, reassured by the correct position of the head. He pulled. The well-lubricated vagina responded to the squeeze of the contraction. The hoofs and head emerged, immediately followed by the long thin body, back legs and tasselled tail, all limp and wet with the birth juices. Jack and the calf landed together in the clean straw. Champion jerked the rope out of Sue’s hand turning quickly to view her calf, with the special whickering noise that is only heard at calving. She immediately started to lick her baby.

“It’s a lovely ‘eifer calf.” He unclipped the rope from the head collar, not wanted to restrain her movements now that the calf had arrived. “Quite big for a first one. It’s a good job we could get her off without troubling Andrew.”

“Well done, my lover,” Sue congratulated him for his part in the birth, shedding tears. “It’s such a wonderful sight! What tiny white hoofs they are! I always feel emotional at a birth!”

“Just right for Christmas Eve, idn’ it? We’ll leave the light on, so she can see her baby, and so I can come out and check ‘em before we go to bed. She’ll have cleansed by then, I ‘ope. I’d like the calf to be up and suckling by then. Let’s ‘ave the coffee in the kitchen shall us? And I’ve got a little something to give you - -

Racing at Your Own Pace

I would like to say a big thank you to those who took part in Race at your own Pace [21st Sept] and for donations given from those who could not attend.

We raised £183 for Cancer Research. Once again THANK YOU.

Pat Cunningham.

Winkleigh Primary School seeks a New Governor!

Are you interested in a new role supporting Winkleigh Primary school and more importantly the children in it?

You do not need specialist skills to be a governor; enthusiasm and interest are much more important and there is training and support available to help you throughout your term of office.

Governors are volunteers. However, the role does come with responsibilities and commitment is essential!

If you are interested in finding out more please contact our Clerk to Governors **Caroline Crosby** or speak to our Chair of Governors **Vickie Howes** both on 01837 83354

Bowls Update

Just to let you know we have had an enthusiastic and friendly group of people playing Bowls on Sundays between 10am - 12am this year and various other times. We are still looking for more people who would like to use the bowling green next year. It would be a shame for the village to lose this facility. There was some mention of croquet and we would be happy to share the green with another group who might have any propositions.

Peter and James Anstey have been cutting the grass regularly with petrol kindly donated by Gordon Rogers.

If you would like to get out more and meet some friendly people please come along next year or ring **Mike Wilson** on 01769 520605

Looking for Great Great Grandma

Are you having problems with finding your long lost relatives? Want some help or are you a novice at searching censuses, web sites etc.? We would like to help you.

In Winkleigh we have a small band of enthusiasts who enjoy exploring, not only our family trees, but all aspects of historical data such as military history, social reforms, and other criteria which would have affected our ancestors. It does not matter if you are a complete starter, or would like some help if you have drawn a blank, (we call these brick walls) please join us once a month on the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month, no fee. For more information call

Kate 01837 83974 or **Margaret** 01837 83660

Ring & Ride – Christmas & New Year Arrangements

The Ring and Ride bus service will be available up to and including Tuesday 24th December, then will not be available again until Thursday 2nd January.

The car service will be available throughout the holiday subject to a driver being available and the request being received in advance (and before the office closes!).

The office will be closing at 4pm on Monday 23rd December and re-opening on Thursday 2nd January. The answerphone will be available, please leave a clear message with your name, telephone number, date of appointment, place of appointment and we will get back to you ASAP.

Sue Wonnacott Co-Ordinator

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Bluecoat Outreach

Hi Everyone, Seasons Greetings. Where has this year gone! it doesn't seem five minutes ago we were talking about Christmas parties.

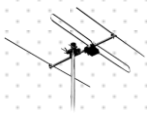


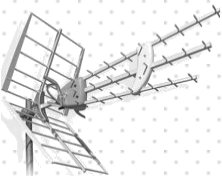
This year Bluecoat Winkleigh outreach party will be on Thursday 5th December 9.30-11.30. As usual a list for parents to chose a plate of food to bring will be provided and Father Christmas will be attending with gifts for the children. If you are unable to attend the Winkleigh party, parties are held at the Children's Centre in Torrington, families are welcome to attend Friday 20th December morning or afternoon. Bookings are required so please speak to me during the outreach session or telephone the centre and book your place.

This year we brought Baby Massage to the village, which was well attended and, from comments, very much enjoyed by the families. We also advertised a course, in partnership with St Loyes Foundation, entitled "Positive Beginnings". This course offers advice and guidance on returning to work, training, confidence building and searching for a job. Unfortunately, no one signed up for this course and therefore it was cancelled. However, Jane from St Loyes visits the Children's Centre on a weekly basis and can come out to Winkleigh to talk to families individually. If you feel you would like to have a chat with Jane you can contact her through me at the outreach session in Winkleigh or telephone the Children's Centre and Jane will telephone you back.

Unfortunately the Morris dancers had to postpone recently, but Brian has kindly offered to try to rearrange on our behalf for half term next Febraury. Thank you Brian from the Children's Centre for all the help you offer with "Village Matters", it is most appreciated.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

Brenda Green Family Support Practitioner



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Winkleigh Growers . . . At the Allotments


We've just come to the end of our fifth season - and, with a good summer, perhaps the best we have experienced. Allotment holders have good cause to be grateful to those on the Recreation Field committee who gave time and effort to bring the idea of Winkleigh having its own allotments to fruition. Recently we have been expressing our appreciation to our standing down chairman and vice-chairman, John Colgrave and Douglas Penny, whose leadership and enthusiasm have carried the initial efforts forward. The consequence is that holders not only have a place to grow their fruit and veg, but have a lovely environment in which simply to be.....especially when the sun shines and a spade becomes an instrument to lean on!

In some areas people have to wait years for the chance to enjoy an allotment of their own. By contrast we have a few allotments currently vacant, with an option to take on a half plot if a full size one seems too much. The cost is £60.00 for a year for a full plot, and £30.00 for a half plot. If this is of interest and you would like to know more, our secretary **Pam Berry** on 680193 is the person to talk to.



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Stable Green Chapel

When is a working shed not a working shed?

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Following the wonderful evening of Carols in the Barn last December we decided to hold Harvest in the Barn. The Hill family again gave the use of one of their working sheds and it was soon changed into an invitingly decorated Harvest venue. Tables laid up for food with floral decorations and all encircled with sheaths of corn. Over 100 people sat down to a Ploughman's Supper and a yummy array of desserts followed by tea or coffee.

We were all then treated to music and singing from Ian Finch and friends including some traditional Harvest songs for all to join in,

What a delight they were. Thank you to all who came and supported this event it was lovely to see you.

Singing Sunbeams our musical group for 0 to 3 year olds resumed meeting after the summer break on the second Wednesday of the month 10.30 in the small room of the Village Hall all welcome.

Stable Green meets for worship at 6.30 every Sunday. If you want to know more please contact:

Jane Hill 01837 680128 or **Dave Ovenden** 01837 83853

CAROLS in the BARN

is happening again by popular demand!

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Beechlea is the place.

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Affordable and Later-life housing

What is 'affordable housing'? Housing where the cost is realistically manageable in relation to local wages. Usually the rent can be low because the scheme is not for profit and the initial build/development cost is kept low by a significant amount of voluntary effort. It includes self-build schemes and part-equity schemes, which enable first-time buyers to get a foothold in the property market. Several charitable organizations support local volunteers to form their own Community Land Trusts.

For two years plus, a small group of us have been looking into the potential in Winkleigh for developing some community-owned affordable housing. It is widely recognised that the 'affordable housing' produced by commercial developers is not keeping up with demand, and is unsatisfactory in other ways. One great advantage of community-developed buildings is that local people (with a residence qualification) can be given priority. During this period, I attended three Community Land Trust development events to learn about and visit schemes already under construction or completed in Devon and Cornwall, the nearest being the one led by David Brown at High Bickington.

Our initial work has been carried out with the organizational support of Winkleigh Community Assets Trust, who have held the grant money on our behalf. (Technically, the Community Asset Trust could already act as a Community Land Trust, but would need additional legal arrangements to allow it to develop a scheme involving some market housing, for example.)

A year ago, an opportunity arose to purchase the land vacated by the former pre-school (beside the Community Centre in Castle Street) from the County Council. We made an initial indication of interest. With help from the Community Land Trust organization, we developed a business scheme for the site and looked at the legal forms for establishing a Community Land Trust. Because the potential scheme was a not-for-profit one, we obtained generous advice without charge from architects and builders; and one of these prepared several schemes for developing the site. We made preliminary enquiries with the planning authority. We applied to the Community Land Trust organization for a technical grant of £3,500 to pay for further preliminary professional services and we received a further grant of £1000 from our County Councillor, Andy Boyd. We believed that this particular site with close proximity to the village and services, was especially suited to later life housing. The requirement for affordable housing purpose-built for easy access and assisted living is likely to grow rapidly. Winkleigh already has a higher than the national average number of people in this age range.

However at the time that we were first required to make a formal offer to the County Council, the housing market in general was still very uncertain, making

the raising of the money for the initial purchase quite difficult. We made what we knew was a fairly low offer, not really knowing how long it would take to raise the necessary funds. (This can be done in various ways, in some cases by inviting members of the community to take shares in a Community Land Trust or charitable company. Such schemes often establish the support in the community and build up funds before land is identified – but this was not our situation!). In the event, the County decided to take offers from the commercial market. Initially these were very slow in coming but as confidence built up, they received offers, which were significantly higher than ours. Sadly the community benefit seems not to have carried much weight. The present position is that a commercial developer's offer has been accepted, although as yet, 5 months on, contracts have not yet been exchanged.

Undeterred, in the near future, we hope to arrange a public meeting for all those interested in this community project.

If you are, get in touch, preferably by email, and you will be kept informed.

Peter Stutt Email: i.peterstutt@gmail.com

Project members: Michael Downward, John Gledhill (Parish Councillor), David Lausen (District Councillor), Peter Stutt (Parish Councillor). Peter Stutt & David Lausen are also trustees, with Alan Mulcahy, Phil Tarry & Sara Grimwood, of Winkleigh Community Assets Trust.

The banner features a background image of a fan of various colored paper samples. The text 'Burridge Printers' is prominently displayed in a large, white, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, are the words 'trade • commercial • digital'.

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ACE Archaeology Club

At the same time as I write this article for Distinctly Winkleigh, the ACE committee are preparing for our AGM. This year I am looking forward to writing the Chairman's report because there are so many positive things to write about. As well as our usual meetings on the first Saturday of every month, over the summer we have held three major events; the Festival of Old Technology and Archaeology, an Excavation at Moistown and a Conference, which is no mean feat for a small club.

As I reported in the last issue of Distinctly Winkleigh, the Festival of Old Technology and Archaeology in July was a great success, despite clashing with Winkleigh Fair. I have been asked by a reader of DW to change the date of our festival, should it coincide again, I am afraid that this is not possible as the middle weekend of the Council for British Archaeology's, National Festival of Archaeology, is the only time that the Kernow Levy can manage, as they are appearing elsewhere in the country on the other two weekends. Unfortunately the date of the festival next year does coincide with Winkleigh fair again, so to get round this we are extending the festival to two days; Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July, so that you will be able to attend both the fair and the festival. What a fun packed weekend that will be!

The excavation at Moistown started on the 7th September and so did the rain! We only lost about two days in total to the weather during our fortnight but it did slow us down and consequently we did not get quite as far as we had hoped to. Although we did uncover some beautiful cobbles at one end of the trench, we did not get down deep enough in the area where the dowsers thought a wall to be. The trench is now back filled so finding out if the dowsers were right, will have to wait until next year when we uncover it all again. It was a great fortnight though and really nice to start seeing the real Moistown. We will be sorting the finds and carrying out other post excavation work over the winter months.

Only three weeks after the dig had finished we held our first Conference; 'Life in the Past: Archaeology, Rural Practices and Skills', at the Boniface Centre, in Crediton. There were nine speakers in all, covering quite diverse subjects, including Ancient textiles, Mediaeval ploughing, the Devon Domesday, Farriery past and present, Post war farming on Dartmoor, Dowsing, Hedging and the work of the Rural Skills Trust. The day was well attended, there was a buzz of chatter as people "networked" between presentations, as they perused the exhibitions and specialist book stalls. We were all very pleased with the day and there is talk of organising another conference in the future.

I hope that you can see now why I am looking forward to writing the Chairman's report!

If you would like to know more about ACE, please do get in touch. Our website can be found at www.acearch.org.uk (we are also on Facebook) or contact **Janet Daynes** at ace@acearch.org.uk or on 01769 520326



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District Councillor's Report

On Saturday November 2nd, the second consultation day event took place regarding the emerging Winkleigh Parish Plan. Over 80 people came along to give their views on what had emerged from the Winkleigh questionnaire. The results from the questionnaire itself reaffirmed to me why we originally came to live here, as the majority of responses showed a good balance of views. Most understood the special features of living in a rural community as well as the drawbacks, such as limited transportation and access to services. Yet at the same time the majority also recognised the need for some small-scale development – particularly if it involved more affordable housing for local people – and the importance of enhancing our environment.

At the consultation event many asked about what changes might happen as a result of the Parish Plan, and how would the plan fit within the Local Plan for northern Devon, which will hopefully be signed off next year. It is always difficult to know whether government is listening. At the moment the government is betting heavily on changes in the housing to lead the recovery. As readers of my last report in **Distinctly Winkleigh** will know, I am rather concerned about all the ramifications of the Help to Buy scheme that is the main flagship for the government. While it is definitely stimulating demand, the supply side at best can only grow by about 15 to 20% (with a fair wind) over the next three years. While it will boost house prices, it will make it harder for many potential first-time buyers – who are not getting ‘real’ wage increases – to get a home and it is likely to squeeze out many affordable housing schemes.

Here in Winkleigh we were being asked to plan for a relatively modest growth in housing – around 54 new homes over the next 18 years. (Of course there is no certainty that any might be delivered, as developers will endeavour to go to most popular areas first, and high fuel prices have definitely put off some families and retired people from moving to rural locations). However, following the APM and questionnaire responses, the PC accepted an allocation of around 27 new homes as part of Winkleigh's submission to TDC's Local Plan, so long as the majority of homes are affordable for local people; use local building materials and add to rural distinctiveness; are energy efficient; and are in small-scale developments and not in a big estate.

Employment opportunities are also high on the priorities in Winkleigh's Parish Plan (and the Local Plan for northern Devon). In around Winkleigh we are fortunate to have a number of micro and small to medium businesses doing a wide variety of activities. The trick over the next few years will be for many businesses to move “up the value ladder” (and faster broadband will help) and to attract inward investment, as our wonderful environment should encourage people that want to develop their own businesses to move into the area.

But the Parish Plan is more than just housing and employment. A number of relatively inexpensive ‘quick win’ initiatives have been identified and are being evaluated, and a number of Winkleigh residents have volunteered their expertise to help make things happen. Now more than ever Winkleigh needs volunteers to help shape the things that matter in our community and I am hopeful that new initiatives coming from Parish Plan will play their part in enriching the lives of people in our community.

David Lausen - 01837 83209

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Each row, each column and each 3 x 3 block must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9.

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Solution on Page 36

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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And finally

Christmas is nearly upon us and, according to various folk, it's going to be a hard winter after all that good weather we had earlier on. Still, "folk" can get it wrong occasionally – just like the Met Office! Let's just hope that it won't be too severe.

The Community Planners have had a very busy year, and it will be interesting to see what results from it. Like all visionary exercises, what one person sees as a good thing to aim for will not necessarily please another. But at least, the whole Parish has had the chance to have a say in how our future might be shaped.

We now have a Winkleigh Fair Committee (again) and we look forward to The Christmas Fair on December 7th.

Whilst looking forward, to the next issue, please remember to send in any articles that you want to appear in the Spring issue by Sunday, 9th February.

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

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Committee Members	Margaret Miller	01837 83398
	Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
	Alan Jacobs	01837 83895

Winkleigh Society membership is open freely to all Winkleigh residents. 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
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.co.uk
Or alan.mulcahy@tiscali.co.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.

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