

# DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



## Working for Winkleigh



Su-mer is i-cum-en in: Lhu-de sing cuc-cu!



Groweth sed and bloweth med And springh the wde nu.



Edition 54

Summer 2015

Cover sponsored by

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

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## The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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# WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## NOTICE OF POST-ELECTION VACANCY

Notice is hereby given that a number of vacancies have occurred among the members of the Parish Council. Any person willing to fill a vacancy should apply to the Clerk in writing or email on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the Voters List or the applicant should, during the whole of the twelve months preceding the 14th June 2015, have resided in or within three miles of the parish or the applicant's only place of work in the parish during the whole of the twelve months preceding the 14th June 2015. The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor.

PUBLIC elections cannot be held until the year 2020 but for the interim period the present sitting Councillors may co-opt to fill the vacancies.

Melanie Borrett. Winkleigh Parish Clerk  
[winkleighpc1@btinternet.com](mailto:winkleighpc1@btinternet.com) Tel: 01837 89095  
Lower Itton, Spreyton, EX17 5BB  
14 May 2015

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The past couple of days have been wet and windy. Leaves and blossom have been ripped from trees so soon after they have appeared. It all seems a bit unseasonal — I write this in early May. There are those who will ask me what I'm doing about it! By that they mean I should be praying for fine weather, except that if we have too much of it they'll be asking me to pray for rain!

I'm not only writing in the first part of May but also just a few days before what is sometimes called Rogation Sunday. It falls on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Eastertide (Easter Sunday being the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Eastertide). Easter is a season, not just one day, and carried on until the feast of Pentecost (what we used to call Whitsun) which is always seven weeks after Easter Sunday. It can get a bit confusing working it all out because the date of Easter, as you know, varies from year to year.

Rogation Sunday will have come and gone by the time you read this but I'll say a bit about what it means. The name comes from the Latin word 'Rogare' meaning to ask. Traditionally it was a day for asking for God's blessing on the land and the crops and often accompanied by a procession around the boundary of the parish.

But it is a Sunday associated with asking — as in prayer. But does prayer work? It depends on what you pray for of course — if you pray for ten million on the lottery then you might be disappointed! In the Gospels we are told that if you pray in 'Jesus name' prayer will be answered. In other words we pray in a way that reflects his priorities and purposes. We believe that God wants what is best for us, that he understands that need better than we do and whatever is best for us is what we will be given. Prayer is always answered but not necessarily in the way we think that it should be and always in God's time not ours.

One thing that you could pray for is a nice day on July 11<sup>th</sup> because that's the day of the Church Fête and we'd like as many people to come along as possible to browse the stalls and enjoy the superb tea that is on offer that day. Tickets for the traditional Duck Dinner Draw will be on sale in advance.

Another date for your diary is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June when we are having an 'Open Day'. You'll find details about that elsewhere in 'Distinctly Winkleigh'. Of course we are always open but we would like you to join us for the activities on offer and to have a chance to appreciate the superb building we have in this village. Look forward to seeing you on both of these occasions.

## Sheep Worrying

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 the owner, or anyone else under whose control the dog is at the time, will be guilty of an offence if they allow their dog to worry livestock on agricultural land. Worrying livestock means attacking or chasing any farm animal or poultry - there does not have to be any contact. The definition of 'livestock' includes cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses and poultry – game birds are not included. The dog must have been attacking or chasing livestock in such a way that it could reasonably be expected to cause injury or suffering or, in the case of females, abortion or the loss or diminution of their produce. If you allow your dog to worry livestock you can be prosecuted and fined, ordered to pay compensation and even have the dog destroyed.

Farmers are permitted to shoot dogs that are worrying, or are about to worry, livestock. This is outlined in the Animals Act 1971 section 9, which also states that the farmer is not liable to compensate the dog's owner in such circumstances. Any dog which is not a working dog can be regarded as worrying livestock merely by being off lead and not under close control in a field or enclosure where there are sheep. The farmer has to prove that the action was necessary to protect livestock and ensure that it is reported to the police within 48 hours. The dog's owner can then be subject to all the above penalties too.

An offence is not committed if at the time of the worrying the livestock were trespassing, the dog belonged to the owner of the land on which the trespassing livestock were and the person in charge of the dog did not cause the dog to attack the livestock.

***Sandra Brown***

***PCSO 30096***

***Torrington Rural East***

## Praise for Winkleigh Fair Committee

The following letter should have been included in the spring issue.

“A big Thank You must go out to Winkleigh Fair Committee for their fantastic Santa's Grotto. The queue of excited children, plus adults, was never-ending all day and was great value for money. Why would people want to go to the expense of going to the commercial ones in town, when 'Santa' is willing to come to your own village?

I look forward to your effort for 2015. Mrs. J.B.“

## **Winkleigh Church - The Treasures Within**

We are all familiar with the sight of the Church sitting high over the village, visible from miles around and looking particularly resplendent when the tower is lit up (with its low-watt bulb) at night. I am sure many of you have attended baptisms, weddings and funerals there and perhaps been to Midnight Mass at Christmas. You may not however, realise what a lovely building it is inside and just how much skilled workmanship from many centuries is on view. Stonemasons, woodcarvers, painters, brass and metal workers, stained glass workers, bell-founders, embroiderers and even wax workers have all left their mark. Outside, many of the graves have interesting stories to tell and you may well find your family or street name on some of them. The Churchyard also has the village war memorial and there are some interesting memorial stones inside the Church too. There is also an ominous but indisputable warning to us all on one of the monuments in the Lady Chapel!

In order to let people come and see all this we are holding an Open Afternoon on Saturday 13th June from 1pm to 5pm. There will be people on hand at various times (to be arranged) to show groups around, to demonstrate the organ, bell ringing and flower arranging, but you can come along at any time that afternoon and just have a general look round. There will be a quiz for the children (and adults too) to find items of interest. Cream teas will be available for which there

will be a charge, but everything else is free.

For further information please ring the **Vicar** on 83719 or Churchwarden **Andrew Ware** on 83526. Please see posters and flyers for refined details of specific timings. Hope to see you there.



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# WINKLEIGH CAR BOOT SALE

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**at**

**Winkleigh Sports Centre**

(In hall if weather is bad)

**Sellers: 8.00am – £5 per car**

To book a pitch contact: John Spilstead

01805 603394



**Buyers: 9.00am – 11.30am**

**Refreshments available**

(Tea, coffee & Bacon baps)

All profits will be divided between the Sports Centre,  
Village Hall & Community Centre.

**Please come and support us!**

**More Car Boot Sales on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> August  
and 13<sup>th</sup> September**

## THE INCOMPLEAT ANGLER (2)

Another extract from Ed and Sherrie Collinson's journal of our travels around Australia a few years ago in an old converted school bus.

We reached Onslow, a remote and sleepy little town on the west coast, where our bus decided to have a bit of a break down. There wasn't much in Onslow but luckily there was a garage. Onslow may have been a particularly grim place to break down in but it was a great place for fishing. I caught fish at Onslow. Fish that looked like fish I'd seen at home on Tesco's fish counter. Fish we could eat.

Well, actually I caught one fish, but it was quite a big one, a whiting. I proudly carried it back along the beach to the waiting 'dinner lady' (Sherrie) and stopped to pass the time of day with a fellow fisherman.

He stood, like a character from a Hemingway novel, with his huge rod thrust in some sort of holster affair on his belt. The incoming waves crashed about his stocky thighs as he eyed my whiting. I was careful not to gloat as I spoke.

"Any luck?" I said.

Suddenly the rod almost bent double as something took his bait. The reel squealed briefly then he leaned back, his face reddening with the effort of staying on his feet.

"Probably not a whiting! I ventured.

"Hammerhead mate" he grunted.

A hundred yards out something pretty big broke the surface, a fin, or tail, or something, sent up a shower of foam.

"What can I do?" I asked, putting my tackle and whiting down in a safe spot a few yards away. I tried to appear enthusiastic.

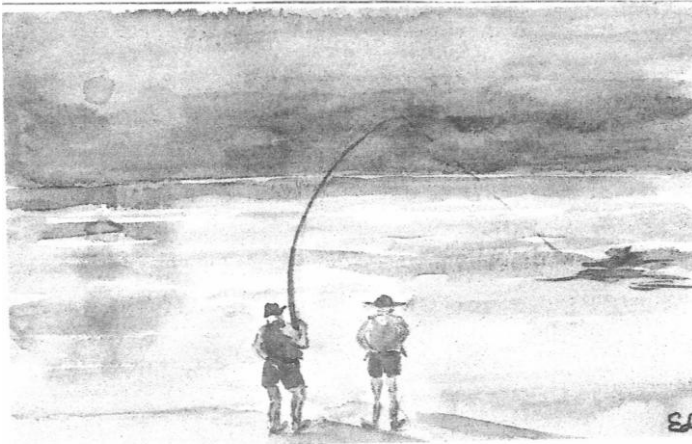
"Ah, good on yer mate, thanks, just grab it above the tail and drag it up the beach when I give the word."

The shark plunged around just off shore for about twenty minutes or so as my new friend reeled it in, closer and ever closer. I watched with the mixed feelings that people have when they are about to wade into the Australian surf to grab a hammerhead shark by the tail and pull it up on to the beach. I wondered what his next plan would be. What do you do with a hammerhead shark when you've just caught one and got some gullible Pom to grab it by the tail and pull it up on to the beach for you? I would never know.

The line broke with a 'twang'. Staggering backwards several steps he tripped and sat down heavily, luckily just missing my whiting. Whilst he was tying another hook on his line and baiting up I commiserated with him then, with a sort of casual haste, and before he could hook in to another monster from the deep, I headed back to my bus and the 'dinner lady' clutching my whiting.



The following morning the garage chap showed me the burned out starter motor and explained the situation. The situation is always expensive when garage chaps explain it. A new motor could be sent from Perth but the component, transport cost and fitting would be hideously expensive. It was 'make your mind up time'; we could pay up or settle in Onslow. We paid up, the fishing wasn't that good.



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## **Winkleigh Church Wives Group**

The Church wives Group is still a very active group, with many members joining us at our monthly meetings. This is the first year that we have held all our meetings at 2.30pm which has proved to be very popular with the members.

In November we were able to hold our annual Autumn Fair enabling us to make a donation of £500 to Okehampton Dartmoor Rescue. They had previously been along to our meeting telling us all about the work being done in Okehampton. They now have new Headquarters on the Industrial Estate in Okehampton and were most grateful for our donation which would enable them to purchase some new equipment.

This meeting was followed, in November by an interesting talk from See, Hear an organisation offering help to those with difficulties with Hearing & Sight. We were able to learn all about various equipment that was available to help with either of these problems.

In December we enjoyed our usual social afternoon, chatting and enjoying tea and Christmas fare. We were also entertained by some of the members either reading poems, telling stories, playing us their favourite piece of music to telling us some jokes. It made for an enjoyable afternoon.

January saw us once again enjoy our Lunch at Libbaton Golf Club.

February we were able to learn about the job of being a Shepherd followed in March by a talk all about R.H.S. Rosemoor. Our meeting in April saw one of our members, Jennie Gill tells us all about her Life while living in France.

In May we are looking forward to hearing all about the work of a Magistrate. And once again, in August we hope to have our coach outing.

Our New Year starts on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2015. Meetings take place in the small rear room of the village hall.

We welcome any visitors to our meetings.

**Janet Magor Secretary**

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## Community Centre Notes

So there we have it! The all new secondary Double Glazing in the main hall, costing over £10,000. Just in time for a nice hot summer! The 4 windows at the far end (red wall), and the triple windows in the centre of the Castle Street can be opened slightly - the other windows do not open. Please remember that if you open the outer windows, be sure to close them before you leave. On a couple of occasions we have found the outer window open and the inner window closed. If it rains, we have problems. If you get too warm, one can open the vents in the side walls or the doors.

This winter should be a great deal warmer. **Okehampton Glass**, who carried out the work, also replaced numerous cracked or Perspex with new glass. They have done a beautiful job. Alan and Phil are going to take a bit of a rest now having done 8 or 9 hour days. The next project in the restoration of the hall is in the planning stage.

Please remember the Wednesday Mini Market held in the Centre 0930 – 1100. There is also the coffee morning in support of the Cancer UK charity. We do sometimes have space for a few more stalls.



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## You may remember....

...back in 1997 Winkleigh worked together to produce a book - Winkleigh Past, Present and Future. It gathered together people's recollections of life in the village, highlighted changes over the years, looked at what people valued and why certain things were special to them. The book was an important building block of the first Community Plan and means we have a record of real voices connecting the past with the present and future.

One of the spin offs from the Winkleigh book was a Village Design Statement (or VDS for short). A group looked with a critical eye at Winkleigh's buildings, houses, features such as open space, gates, doors and windows, to analyse what it was about them that came together to create a place that was 'Distinctly Winkleigh'. The end result was an illustrated leaflet setting out some important statements about how new development should be designed so that new properties looked and worked in a way that best fitted with the older, traditional village. While the community produced a successful VDS, we were not so successful at influencing developers and the District Council when it came to the decisions they made about what was built here.

Time has moved on. There have been new developments at Kings Meadow, Westcots Drive and Elms Meadow. More new development is planned to the north of the village. The new Community Plan, (published last summer) and the surveys done to evidence it, showed that residents are concerned about loss of village character and fear it will be eroded further. As a result, one of the actions in the Plan is to review the VDS and bring it up to date. There is an opportunity to revisit the information in it, look carefully at what can be achieved locally, and improve how we use the document to influence decisions. There is also a chance to get involved, particularly if you live in one of the recent developments in the village, or have knowledge to contribute.

The VDS can be downloaded from:

<http://www.winkleighonline.com/VillageDesignStatement.pdf>

If you would like to help, then please contact **Penny Griffiths** or **Pauline Warner**

## Youth Club

We would like to thank Tim and Alison, who are giving up their time on Wednesday evenings to provide us with Archery lessons – we have some budding Robin Hoods amongst us.

If you would like to try Archery as well as Snooker, Football, Table Tennis etc. please come along to the Sports Centre on Wednesday evenings between 7 and 9pm. If you wish for any further details please ring **Rosemary Anstey** on 01769 520396.

# Winkleigh Parish Council

## GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17

You are invited to apply for a grant from Winkleigh Parish Council on behalf of a club or society for the financial year beginning April 2016. Grants are funded directly from the Parish precept which is included in the parish element of the council tax.

In order to be considered, application forms which are available from the Parish Clerk, must be completed and returned to the Parish Council by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015, giving the council time to assess the applications. The Parish Council will not be under any obligation to award any or part of an application. However, once agreed, and the criteria fulfilled, the individual applicants will be informed and expected to account for how the money has been spent within six months of receipt.

The Parish Council reserves the right to withhold payment of any agreed application until they are in receipt of the precept in April 2016.

For full details and an application form please contact our Parish Clerk, **Mel Borrett**, on 01837 89095, or email: [winkleighpc1@btinternet.com](mailto:winkleighpc1@btinternet.com)

**Winkleigh Parish Council**



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# SCRAP METAL COLLECTION

At  
**WINKLEIGH SPORTS CENTRE**  
**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015**  
&  
**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015**



**OPEN:**  
**10.00am – 4.00pm**  
**on both days.**

**No Fridges, Freezers,  
Microwaves or Gas Bottles. Thank You.**

**All proceeds to the  
Nepal Disaster Appeal**

## SINGING SUNBEAMS

Singing Sunbeams continue to make a joyful sound singing and playing instruments on the second Wednesday of the month in the Small Room of the Village Hall at 10.30. We are having our Summer Party at Stable Green Methodist Chapel on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June. These parties are great fun with games, lots of food and of course making a lovely noise.

We are so grateful to the folk of Stable Green who support our Sunbeams financially so there is no charge each time we meet.

All 0 -3 year olds are welcome so hope to see you.

Jan Ovenden 01837 83853

Liz Jones 01837 83654

## THE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS

Winkleigh Growers have 22 full allotments on the Sports Field. At present, one full allotment and one half of an allotment, are available to rent - £60.00 per annum for the full size, £30.00 for a half. In many parts of the country people wait years for a plot. But since the Recreation Field Committee provided this welcome facility for the village six years ago, everyone wanting a plot has been able to be accommodated. If you have little room at home for growing fruit and vegetables, here's a great opportunity to extend your garden space - and in a lovely environment! Speak to **Pam Berry**, our secretary, on 680193 for more details. She will be pleased to hear from you.



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## A SUNNY STROLL AROUND WESTCOTS DRIVE

I have lived in Winkleigh since 1983. Until 2001 I lived in a thatched cottage in Barnstaple Street with on street parking and with a flying freehold to access the back garden. But once through it, an established country garden with age-old soil that seemed to grow anything to profusion.

For anyone moving to a new development it has to be accepted that it takes time to create, not only one's own garden, but for any landscaping that has been put in place by the developers to flourish. I now live in Bullow View a small cul-de-sac off Westcots Drive, a development often maligned and possibly never having been visited by many living in or above the village.

I am a member of the RHS and a very keen gardener, so when approached recently regarding the lay-out and green space aspect of this area I was both interested and intrigued. It resulted in a walk around with other residents just to see how green and pleasant the area has become established and admire what has been achieved over the years.

Just prior to this, I had read in my RHS magazine about their campaign to take on grey spaces. Not that I am saying that Westcots Drive area is grey, but with much of it being interspersed by tarmac roads and driveways there, is by necessity, a great deal of grey. The RHS state in their survey that 92% of those surveyed said that being in a garden helped them relax and de-stress; 60% said looking at paved-over front gardens made them feel sad. So is it possible to make Westcots any more pleasing to the eye and mood?

New developments tend not to provide large gardens, leafy drive-ways, lawns to the front and allow only a small fence-bordered area to the rear described as a back garden, probably only big enough for a shed and a play apparatus, certainly not room for a pond, herbaceous border or large enough patio for a family gathering BBQ. Front gardens are determined by the layout of the plots on which they sit, some getting good outside space others nothing more than room to park a car and with or without a little green possibility. Westcots is no exception. It is therefore largely up to the individual homeowner to enhance their frontage or keep it merely functional. Despite this, walking around showed us that in the main Westcots is a very pleasant area in which to live and take a pride in. Many front gardens are a joy to see, especially at blossom time, cherry, lilac, magnolia, clematis and wisteria have now grown to a size that makes one want to stop and admire what has been done and the time, planning and energy that has gone into creating these havens. Gardens can be outside rooms to enjoy, especially a back garden where one can relax, but a front garden is there for all to see. But an important aspect is that it serves to beautify the area in general, transforming the roads, pavements and parking spaces into less stark expanses, giving pleasure to others as well.



If you have not visited (drive down if you don't like the idea of walking back up the steep hill), I encourage you to give Westcots a look - hopefully you will be very pleasantly surprised. Wander all around and stop from time to time to see the views giving windows onto the superb natural beauty of our area of Devon. Glimpse the church steeple, the occasional view of thatch, rolling hills and ancient wooded areas to the West on the footpath route to Broadwoodkelly. Don't just dismiss it as just another 'required' new development in the Winkleigh Plan.

The RHS in their campaign are encouraging people to plant anything from a small tree to a perennial. In small plots a pot, hanging baskets, window boxes can transform a dull area into a blaze of colour. Flowers in the garden encourage butterflies and bees. Our recent walk showed that Westcots is an enjoyable place to live and one which is really coming to life. By getting out the gardening gloves and trowel even those with less green space outside their homes can add that special touch, after all, it is said that a home is where the heart is and to be heart-lifting as well makes it an even more enjoyable place to live.

**Pixie Maynard**

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# DOWLAND COUNTRY FAIR & DOG SHOW

**SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2015 11AM - 5PM**

**@ FURZE PARK CROSS NR WINKLEIGH EX19 8PQ**

**Entry: Adults £5 Children under 16 Free**

Preparations are well ahead for the annual Dowland Country Fair. Every year people from all over the South West join us - last year we attracted over 3,000 visitors, which is absolutely incredible. So to show our appreciation we try to put on the very best schedule of exhibits for all the family.

George Mudge will be returning with his Sheep Shearing demonstrations the old fashioned way using hand shears.

North Devon Falconers with over 60 years experience will be flying Peregrines, Harris Hawks, High Bred Falcons and Owls, all these beautiful birds have the power to capture our attention.

- Horse Logging displays using 2 Shire Horses.
- Long Netting
- Horse and Cart rides with the Suffolk Punch
- Have a go Archery

Frozen Themed Tent - meet Queen Elsa and Oaten and sing along with them to all the Frozen movie hits. **LET IT GO!!!!**

Running Deer will be providing workshops and demonstrations in Green Wood Working, Bush craft and Camp Crafts, along with their Shire Horse Trelawney.

- Star the Duck
- Chase the Bunny
- Our entertainment stage this year will include, The Hatherleigh Silver Band,
- Cameron Mills, School Choirs and other performers.

As usual we start the day with Lurcher simulated coursing - book in from 9am for 9-30am start

Lurcher, Terrier, Family Dog and Ferret Shows plus Buckham Fair Best Rescue Qualifier

Vintage vehicles, trade stands, barbecue, bar, cream teas and much much more

**Keep checking our website for more information**  
**[www.dowlandcountryfair.org.uk](http://www.dowlandcountryfair.org.uk) Tel: 01805 804347**

**A great place to spend the day**

Donations from this event will be given to Farms for City Children Iddesleigh and other local organisations

## BACON ROLL TIME AGAIN!

Bacon Roll Time Again! took place on a lovely sunny morning at the end of March and you wonderful people turned out in droves. What a super morning we had. The Old Smithy was full of folk chatting and laughing and several sat out in the garden enjoying the sunshine. How can I thank you enough for your generous support. The massive sum of £830 (yes you did read that correctly) £830 was sent off to Cancer Research UK. So thank you, thank you, thank you to my wonderful friends who help, to local companies and shops who place orders, to those who pop envelopes through my door with donations and of course to all of you who come and give so generously.

Watch out for the posters and hope to see you all again next year.

**Jan Ovenden**

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### **ACUPUNCTURE**

**Above 'Changes' in Winkleigh**

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& muscle pains .**

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# CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

## WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL - 2014/2015

**OVERVIEW:** Your Council has been busy this year; over 40 planning consultations, enforcement issues, appeals, Inspectorate site visits and new Permitted Rights rules. We've also seen the introduction of 'paperless' planning by TDC, further consultations on the Local Plan and 'austerity' measures from District and County beginning to bite as infrastructure, such as road repairs, come under pressure. However, Winkleigh continues to demonstrate resilience with work on tree planting, community lunches, coffee mornings and the Memory Café. High Speed Fibre-optic Broadband has also been rolled out in Winkleigh and the new plastics-recycling facility located at D&S is proving a big success - reducing landfill by taking plastics that Torridge do not. The Community Plan was also launched, providing a sustainable 10-year vision for the whole community.

**TDC:** The Joint Local Plan is out for final public consultation, will be submitted to the Secretary of State in summer and should be adopted in Spring 2016. On housing, *"The Plan identifies a requirement for the provision of a minimum of 17,220 new dwellings across northern Devon ..."*. Winkleigh's allocation is around 55-60 new homes. Gov't targets aim at 30% of allocations for affordable housing, but this may be ambitious if developers negotiate lower provisions on new estates. So, it is a concern that the market may fail to meet local, affordable-housing needs. On planning in general, TDC seem more flexible, although Central Gov't still seem reluctant to give adequate weight to local opinion, despite *their* 'Localism' agenda! At the Plans Cttee meeting in March, many Cttee members expressed concern at the growing cumulative impact of wind turbines in Torridge - so Parish Cllrs, including myself, attending and lobbying Plans Cttee to support Winkleigh PC's recommendations, help remind TDC that their decisions affect local people!

**BUNGALOW:** The parish bungalow has undergone further works, including external insulation to improve energy-efficiency; the bungalow continues to provide housing for a local family and an income for the parish.

**ASSETS:** On our last inspection three litterbins went missing, these have now been replaced! We have also relocated or installed several new grit bins around the village, ready for next winter. Winkleigh is fortunate in having many benches in the village; all have been refurbished beautifully this year, as has the bus stop in Exeter Road. Winkleigh Chapel has also kindly donated a bench, to be sited in Old Chapel Gardens in memory of Mrs Betty George.

**COMMUNITY PLAN:** Our 52-page Community-Led Plan was published Oct 2014 and, courtesy of Distinctly Winkleigh, a 12-page Summary was delivered to every household in the parish. There are 29 actions in the Plan - many of which are 'in progress' or have been 'achieved', for example:

- ✓ **ACTION 2** - Tree planting initiative at the Sports Centre - **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 3** - Explore green corridors, wildlife networks – **IN PROGRESS**
- ✓ **ACTION 3 & 17** - Input on Planning apps – **ACHIEVED/ONGOING**
- ✓ **ACTION 6** - Updating of Village Design Statement – **IN PROGRESS**
- ✓ **ACTION 7** - A bin at Berners Cross layby - **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 12** - Expanded recycling project at D&S - **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 14** - Engage with TDC ref Airfield – **PART ACHIEVED /ONGOING**
- ✓ **ACTION 15** – Business themed promotion – **IN PROGRESS**
- ✓ **ACTION 16** - Lobbying for faster Broadband – **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 18** - Undertaking a Housing Needs Survey - **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 19** - Formal representations to TDC on Local Plan - **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 21** - Collaboration between community buildings - **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 23** - Meeting with DCC ref traffic concerns – **IN PROGRESS**
- ✓ **ACTION 28** - Continued representation on Wallingbrook PPG – **ACHIEVED**
- ✓ **ACTION 29** - Updated ‘Emergency Advice’ published/issued - **ACHIEVED**

The re-formed Community Plan Action Group (CPAG) is moving forwards with a new Chair; WPC & CPAG will release periodic updates on progress.

**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) & WALLINGBROOK (WHG):** The dropping of North Tawton by WHG due to financial viability, has been a lively topic of public debate. North Tawton is accessible by bus, unlike Chulmleigh, so is of concern to many in our community. Bow practice has agreed a temporary 12-month contract, while NHS England seek a permanent solution.

**HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC:** Due to budget cuts, Winkleigh is a low priority for improvements; however, WPC and CPAG are lobbying DCC for a meeting.

#### **FINANCE:**

- **PRECEPT (2015/16):** The Parish Council authorised a precept request for £13,903 with the additional Council Tax Support Grant at £736.71.
- **GRANTS & DONATIONS (2014/15):** A total of £750 in grants for 2015 were awarded to: Okehampton Community Transport £250, Winkleigh Fair Christmas lights £250 and Winkleigh Youth Club for archery equipment £250. From a £1000 fund held by WPC for the benefit of youth projects, WPC allocated: Winkleigh War Memorial Recreational Committee equipment

for Sure Start £400, Beaver Scouts for camping equipment £350.00 and Winkleigh Youth Club MUGGA contribution £250.00. Grant applications are advertised May-July so look on Notice Boards and in 'Distinctly Winkleigh'.

## COMMUNITY:

- **WINKLEIGH FAIR WEEK (JULY 2014):** Fortunately the weather was good! Notable events were: the Art Exhibition with talented Winkleigh artists making the exhibition a great success; the Sponsored Knit at Wright & Proper; the Vintage Vehicle Gathering with many bringing their wonderful vehicles (including a Huge Traction Engine); Saturday in the Square was probably the best, with many activities during the day and band in the evening. Let's wish the Fair Committee an even better 2015!
- **CHRISTMAS FAIR & LIGHTS (DECEMBER 2014):** The Fair Committee organised events during the year raising funds to replace all the Christmas lights with over 600 new (energy efficient) LED's for 2015!
- **MARKETS:** Thanks again to those involved in our weekly Weds Mini Market and monthly Sat Market - these are much appreciated dates in the village diary and help retain a social focus for village life.
- **DEFIBRILATOR:** Winkleigh now has a defibrillator, sited in the square beside the Kings Arms. There will be a further training session sometime in the summer, so look out for notices. We have also purchased emergency monitoring equipment for our First Responder.
- **SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL:** The School continues to work within "The Two Moors Learning Partnership", giving cost savings where packages can be shared between Schools. The Foundation is now fully operational, with the Pre-School being brought into the School unit. The Pre-School building will shortly expand via a Portakabin, to provide more space. Another Ofsted inspection is due next year, where schools rated as "Good" are inspected more frequently, but with shorter inspections!

## COMMUNITY BUILDINGS:

- ✓ The Village Hall received £2k from District Cllr Lausen's 'Community Fund' towards new projection and audio equipment - they are looking to the Lottery for funding the remainder needed.
- ✓ The Community Centre is being fitted with secondary glazing to the main hall, to help ensure a better-insulated, more sustainable building.
- ✓ The Sports Centre has a new fitness group; a play area on the old green and an Archery Club is on the horizon. The Allotments are still a great success along with short mat bowling.
- ✓ The newly formed "Three Halls Group" - involving the Sports and Community Centre and Village Hall - has seen the advent of the Car Boot Sale, showing how Winkleigh groups work well together. It is hoped this monthly event

will combine an "Antiques Fair" in July. All community buildings  
**URGENTLY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!**

**ROUND UP:** WPC now have a dedicated website [www.winkleighpc.org.uk](http://www.winkleighpc.org.uk) to improve public accessibility! We also purchased a dedicated laptop for Council and Clerk use and established a Cllr 'Info Pack'. Winkleigh also saw the under-grounding of many unsightly over-head cables by Western Power.

**FAIR WELL & WELCOME:** After 8 years, David Lausen, stepped down as District Councillor for Winkleigh, as he is moving house - we wish David and Philippa well in their new life in Taunton. After 19 years, our Parish Clerk, Nicki Bullen, gave notice - the Council applauds Nicki's dedication and hopes all goes well in her new post. Following a full recruitment process, WPC appointed a new Clerk, Melanie Borrett, who has hit the ground running! We wish Mel success in this diverse and often demanding role.

### **PARLIAMENTARY, DISTRICT & PARISH ELECTIONS - 7<sup>th</sup> MAY:**

- **Member of Parliament** - Geoffrey Cox (Cons) was re-elected
- **District Council** - four candidates contested one seat for Winkleigh Ward, including Betty Boundy (Cons), myself (independent), John Kane (Lib Dem) and Jake Glanville (Green). Whilst I am disappointed not to be representing Winkleigh, congratulations to Betty who was duly elected and said she will work hard on behalf of Winkleigh
- **Parish Council** – the Parish Council was uncontested with the 4 candidates duly elected; co-option of a further 7 members is now urgently required to gain a full Council (of 11 members)

**THANK YOU:** To all who have contributed to the well-being of our community, including the schools, numerous organisations, clubs, churches, chapels and individuals who keep things running. Thanks to our Parish Councillors who have often worked so hard to keep Winkleigh functioning effectively. A special thanks to Cllr Peter Stutt (Vice Chair), who has been so supportive during my 2 years as Chair and to Cllr Wendy Mondy for her diligent hard work; both have been an immense help. **I have enjoyed representing and working for Winkleigh for the last 4 years and wish the community a 'FAB-U-LOUS' year ahead!**

**Gail Flockhart (Chair)**

**Winkleigh Parish Council – April/May 2015**

## WINKLEIGH SPORTS CENTRE

The **Sports Centre** along with the **Village Hall** and **Community Centre** are working hard to bring **Car Boot Sales**, throughout the summer months, to Winkleigh village. The next **car boot sale** is on **Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>** and we really need your support (both sellers and buyers). Come and try one of our bacon baps for breakfast!! All the profits are shared equally between the three halls.

At the end of June we are holding a **Scrap Metal Collection** with all the proceeds going to the **Nepal Disaster Fund**. The skip will be open on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June from 10:00am until 4:00pm**.

We will be holding an **Antiques and Collectors Fair in the Sports Centre on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July along with the monthly car boot sale**. This will be a much larger event, with a bouncy castle and an ice cream van for the children.

### **Junior Tennis Coaching - 5 to 11 years**

We have a very good junior tennis coach, Lewie Parker, who runs the junior tennis club every Sunday morning from 9:30 until 10:30am. If it is wet the children train in the hall. We need more children to attend these sessions to keep Lewie at the club, so please bring your children along or contact Lewie on 07972 171330.

### **Ladies Exercise Class**

Leighe Hall has just started a ladies exercise class on a Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm until 8:30pm. Contact Leighe on 01837 83061 for further information or just come along (please bring a drink and towel/mat).

### **Saturday Club – Aged 3 onwards**

We would welcome new members at Saturday Club which runs from 10:00am until 12:30pm. and would like to see any older members that we haven't seen for some time. For more information contact **Brian Holland** on 01837 83521.

### **Gardens**

The flowerbeds around the car park area need landscaping. We would welcome any suggestions or volunteers to help us achieve this. Contact John Spilstead on 01805 603394 if you can help.

### **Thanks**

The Committee would like to thank James and Peter Anstey for all their time and effort during the last few months, cutting back all the hedges and trees that had been neglected for many years around the old bowling green. Special thanks go to Josh Noon who loaned us the wood chipper to enable us to get rid of all the debris.

### **Coming Soon - Archery**

We have recently started Archery on the old bowling green on Wednesday evenings during the Youth Club. These sessions have been very successful with



the children and it is hoped that we can hold a taster session, sometime in July, for adults. **Watch the notice boards for further information.**

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **JUNE**

**\* Free Open Day – On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June from 10:00am until 1:00pm**

The Sports Centre, in conjunction with Wallingbrook Health Centre, are organizing an **Open Day**, where participants of all ages can come along and try snooker, tennis, table tennis and short mat bowls. Refreshments will be available.

**\* Car Boot Sale on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**Sellers 8:00am - £5**

**Buyers from 9:00am until 11:30am**

**Tea, Coffee and bacon baps available in the hall**

**\* SCRAP METAL COLLECTION on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**Open 10:00am until 4:00pm on both days**

**NO FRIDGES, FREEZERS, MICROWAVES OR GAS BOTTLES.  
Thank You.**

#### **JULY**

**\* Car Boot Sale with Antiques and Collectors Fair on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**Sellers from 8:30am, Cars £5, Vans and Traders £10**

**Buyers from 10:00am until 2:00pm**

**Tea, Coffee and bacon baps available in the hall**

**Bouncy Castle and ice cream van for the children**

#### **AUGUST**

**\*TRACTOR RALLY on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

**Winkleigh Youth Club are holding a Tractor Run on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August to raise much needed funds for the Youth Club. It departs at 10:30am from the Sports Centre.**

**The costs are £13 per Tractor inclusive of cold meat salad and dessert. Extra lunches are £8.50.**

**Please contact James Anstey on 01769 520396 for an entry form.**

## ACE Archaeology Club update

By the time you read this we will have done our first excavation of the year.

This is our third year at Moistown near Winkleigh and this year we decided to do an extra week in May as well as our usual two weeks in August/September. As I write, after all the lovely dry weather we have had in April, the weather forecast for the first week in May, when we dig is looking a bit wet. We have our fingers crossed. You can see what happened on our website [www.acearch.org.uk](http://www.acearch.org.uk) or follow us on our FaceBook page.

Back in February Graham Langman, who is a pottery expert, had a look at some of our past pottery finds and helped us to be able to do some identification ourselves. He also had a quick look at some of the finds from our dig at Moistown and identified one sherd as being Saxo-Norman, we were rather excited!

In April, a couple of our members helped us in making willow shields. Forget any ideas of pretty little baskets, this is hard-core basket making. They will be tested, probably to destruction, at the Festival, see details below.



### Dates for the diary

**18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015** We will be on display at the CBA Festival of Archaeology. Check out - <http://www.old-tech-festival.co.uk> for more information as there will be a lot of other activities going on and will be a good day, or two, out.

**September 5<sup>th</sup>** Moistown Dig Open Day. Come along and have a look at what we are doing. There will be cake! The dig site is at Pattiland Farm, Broadwoodkelly, Winkleigh. EX19 8ED, which is the same place as the Festival.

It would be lovely to see some of you at either, or both, of these events. Feel free to email us at [ace@acearch.org.uk](mailto:ace@acearch.org.uk)

# SUDOKU

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Rated Difficult. Solution on Page 46

# **WINKLEIGH SPORTS CENTRE**

**With**

**Wallingbrook Health Group**

**Are supporting Healthy Living  
Week in Winkleigh**

**Why don't you..... try something new!**

**Local free activities**

**For participants of all ages.**

**On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
2015**


**10:00am until 1:00pm**

**Come and try snooker, tennis,  
table tennis and short mat  
bowling**

## Exercise Class at the Sports Centre

A new exercise class has been running at Winkleigh sports centre since 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings. The class is designed to cater for all age groups and levels of fitness. It is a traditional keep fit class designed to target all areas of fitness safely. The class structure combines fun aerobics and a little bit of dance movement to increase cardio vascular fitness, static body conditioning exercises to tone and strengthen core muscle groups and plenty of stretching at the end of the class to help with flexibility and relaxation. The qualified instructor is experienced and well informed and always has time at the end of the class to help with any questions.

We have had good attendance and feedback, however it is always good to see new faces, so if you are thinking about keeping yourself in shape and feeling great this year, come along and join in. You will need to wear trainers, bring a drink and a mat, rug or towel for carrying out body conditioning exercises. If you would like to speak to the instructor before joining, please contact **Leighe** on 01837 83061.

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## WINKLEIGH SUMMER FAIR

It's that time of year again, and we have Summer Fair plans coming out of our ears!

We have lots of exciting plans this year, including a hunt for the legendary firedrake dragon, a wonderful fashion show from years 1 & 2 at Winkleigh Primary School, a community evening and also our very own take on TV's 'Bargain Hunt'

We know all too well how hard it can be to join in everything when you are constantly having to dip into your pockets, so we are trying to keep Fair Week as budget-friendly as possible! This is one of the reasons why we have held so many extra events throughout the year, and why we appreciate your continued support – Thank you!

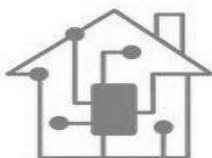
The **Community Evening** will take place on Tuesday 14th July at the sports centre. We would like to invite all local clubs, organisations and businesses to have a stall, but please note this is not a retail opportunity, it is simply a chance to come along and promote yourselves - displays, demonstrations and interactivity is all very welcome, as are samples! Our aim is to showcase exactly what fantastic things are available in our local area. Winkleigh Fair appreciates all the support you give us, so this is a very small way we can give something back to you. If you would like more information or to book a pitch, then please get in touch.

**Bargain Hunt** - are you Winkleigh's best bargain hunter? if so we need you! We are looking for volunteers to find a bargain and spend somebody else's money !! If you fancy getting involved, then please do get in touch.

Future dates for your diaries - We are planning on holding a Craft and Produce show, alongside a Family Dog Show on 6<sup>th</sup> September as well as a Scarecrow Competition and Trail. Look for more details nearer the time!

Please contact **Clare** on 01837 83299, **Deanne** on 01837 83431, or **Sian** on 01837 682820. Alternatively, you can email us [Winkleighfair@aol.com](mailto:Winkleighfair@aol.com)

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!! (11th - 18th July)



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## WHATS GOING ON AT WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

I'm not even going to mention "bench", just that it is in the hands of the Parish Council, or not!

On a more positive note, the refurbishments have taken place in the Oasis room and are absolutely fabulous. We now have an indoor, very posh disabled toilet with baby changing facilities, (which may be needed here very shortly,) a bigger kitchen with more work space and a hatch for serving into the chapel, it really is lovely and we're all pleased with it. The upstairs will be tackled next.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> we are having a table top sale between 10 and 12 o'clock. Various stalls of clothes, books and general bric-a-brac. Bacon rolls will be served from the newly refurbished kitchen, come along for a nose and a natter.

Bridget will be running our 3-day summer holiday club in the school holidays. You will need to book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited and go very quickly. Dates and times will be posted on Facebook nearer the time.

Winkleigh Fair fast approaches and as normal we will be having our usual Monday evening slot to bring some Christian music to the event and community. This will be at 7.30pm in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you there. The fair committee are also having a community evening at the sports field where we will be showcasing all our activities on offer here at our church, so if you would like to know or see more please speak to us at that event.

Oasis continues to meet every Monday for lunches from 11 – 2, offering a 2-course meal for £6.95. It is run by volunteers and all the food is supplied from Fiona's Farm Shop. All profits are split between our own chapel, Gateway Project, which is an overseas run organisation which helps and educates people in poverty, particularly women and children, and a local charity which we nominate each year. Anyone is welcome to join us for lunch or just coffee and cake, bacon rolls or any other snack we may have on offer.

Church is weekly at 11am with Sunday school except for the first Sunday in the month when we have a teatime meeting at 5.30pm with a bring & share tea. Worship services are for all ages and include singing, prayers, bible readings and a sermon. We also meet monthly just for prayer, should you have any prayer requests please contact one of the names below.

Until the next time, "Happy Holidays".

Keep up to date on Facebook @**WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHAPEL**.

For more information about church life or prayer requests, contact any of the people below or any other church member and we will do our best to help you.

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

**Rev Nigel Coke-Woods 01837 810591.**



## **The 3 Halls Group.**

The Sports Centre, Village Hall & Community Centre committees have formed a group to help raise funds to keep the halls running and generally improve relations.

We have been running a Car Boot Sale at the Sports Centre on the second Sunday of the Month since April with the profits being split evenly between the 3 halls.

In July our Car Boot Sale will be running alongside an Antiques & Collectors Fair (details below). We hope that you will come along either as a seller or as a buyer to help support Winkleigh's 3 halls!!

**Car Boot Sale, Antiques & Collectors Fair.**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**At Winkleigh Sports Centre**

**Sellers from 8.30am** (Cars £5, Vans & Traders £10)

**To book a pitch contact:** Car Boot: John Spilstead 01805 603394

Antiques/Collectors (in hall): Melanie 07940 794463

**Buyers 10am – 2pm**

**Refreshments available**

(Tea, coffee, squash & Bacon baps)

**Also: Bouncy Castle & Ice Creams**



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## HOW GREEN IS MY VILLAGE?

As green as the public-spirited villagers who steward it. There is no public planting now from Devon County or Torridge District Council.

Unlike cities and towns that have parks, villages are particularly vulnerable to tree and green-space loss: as infill, extensions and hard-standing personal parking spaces shrink gardens and replace flourishing hedges with symmetrical fences that proclaim ownership that dismay the imagination and impoverish biodiversity.

Green stewards, guerilla-gardeners and philanthropists are out there: Malcolm Passmore with his bench, the tenders of the flower-boxes and the Green Group with their tree planting behind the sports-centre. The clumps of daffodils that bloom every spring on Winkleigh's verges and roadsides were planted by Steven and Shirley Leahy, Peter Parker and Pat Tong, amongst others.

Steven recalls that an American lady, who lived at Plovers Barrow, turned up at D & S Supplies and plonked a huge bag of bulbs on the counter as a gift to the village. She has long since returned to the U.S.A. but her legacy remains.



Similarly, if you look at the R.A.F. Memorial stone on The Airfield you will see there is a rose hedge planted around it. That was planted by a man from Hollocombe, says Steven. He just turned up one day and did it. He, too, has since moved away. Two Norwegian Maples now frame the Memorial gifted by

Philip and Penny Griffiths. Douglas Penny dug the holes and Major Ron as chair of The British Legion witnessed Philip and Douglas planting and staking them. Douglas is ready to buy two more trees and perhaps these could be planted at The Ring o' Bells site. A near neighbour is keen to transform this site from an eyesore to a place of beauty and local pride, but a committed working party is needed.

Anyone keen to green up and beautify Winkleigh either with plant/tree donations, expertise, ideas or muscle please let's hear from you.

## **Royalty Honoured at Higher Punchardon Farm**

Four beautiful calves were born at Higher Punchardon farm during late April and early May. Fortunately one of them, a female, was born on the same day as Princess Charlotte, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, she was naturally named Charlotte and to commemorate the birth the other three calves, being two boys and a girl, have been named William, Kate and George

Many of the customers were lucky enough to see the birth of the calf, William, through the binoculars in the Farm Shop. But as there is only one pair of binoculars, a strict rule of observation was implemented during the ensuing excitement.

More of these noble creatures are due to be born soon and the binoculars will be in the shop, cleaned and polished – hopefully the first two will be a Charles and a Camilla and after that why not call into Fiona's Farm Shop, make use of the binoculars and suggest some names for the other new arrivals?



WILLIAM

GEORGE

KATE

CHARLOTTE

## **100 years ago: How Winkleigh reacted to the outbreak of war.**

The Legion continues our celebration of the anniversary of the Great War examining how the war was affecting the village in those early months of 1914 when the full impact of the horrors that were to come had not yet been realised by the whole population. Without a parish magazine of its own, some local Winkleigh news found its way into the Chumleigh Deanery magazine, reflecting the views of our vicar, the Rev. T. Ackland Edmunds. The much loved and respected Rev. Bremridge had died in a London hospital and was buried at Winkleigh on July 3rd, 1913 after 25 years service in the Parish, and 15 years as Rural Dean of Chumleigh. He comes over as a 'character', the magazine reporting him in his obituary as 'a man of kindness and a man of prayer. To a stranger his manner was often startling, but one soon learned there was a real depth of earnestness in his prayer.' His successor, Rev. Edmunds, accompanied by the first curate, Rev. D. Ottley, saw the village through the dark days that were to come, cheering the bereaved, welcoming returning heroes and the convalescing wounded and doing all they could to care for those who were left behind to worry and fret for the safety of their loved ones. Rev. Edmunds was inducted on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1913 by the Bishop of Crediton, followed by a dinner in the Winkleigh hotel.

In the last years of peace the village continued much as it had done for centuries, a population of under a thousand, the boundaries clearly obvious today. There was enormous diversity of income but even the really poor had the benefit in many cases of a tiny parcel of cottage land to grow vegetables and perhaps keep a pig in the yard. Families in many cases were very large, about one in five of the children dying in infancy but many old folk living to remarkably old age, even into their nineties. Winkleigh was a major centre for the surrounding community, boasting one of the best schools in Devon (certainly since the 1902 education act had taken the school into the care of Devon County Council). It was quite possible to live in almost total self-sufficiency in the village, without the need ever to go further, except perhaps to find a partner, trade in the horse-fairs at Hatherleigh, or for the young to find living-in employment on the farms or in domestic service, where a child's working life usually began between 13 and 14 years old.

Winkleigh was often described as 'a town' (as in Lowertown or Townsend) and indeed the range of shops, services and cultural life would do justice to a much larger settlement. Winkleigh was fast emerging into the modern world: alongside the last 2 remaining carriage builders was the cycle mender and motor agent, a bank, flourishing post-office, telephone kiosk in the Square, both a district and a private nurse, two doctors, a vet, a constable, hotel and 3 inns (with another in Hollocombe). Shops and services included three grocers/ironmongers, a fish monger, five boot and shoe makers (again, another in Hollocombe), a hairdresser, no less than seven dressmakers, two insurance agents, three butchers, a china shop, two coal merchants, a watch and clock repairer and a housepainter. Old trades lingered on: the last glover, a 'washerwoman', a rabbit-trapper, while one resident could describe himself as a 'retired mail-cart driver', another a 'journeyman', another a 'licensed hawkker'. With

universal literacy culture could flourish. Winkleigh had a book-seller, a newsagent, an artist's studio and photographer, a stationer, a private music teacher, a public reading room.

But it was the farmers with their powers over their employees, controlling wages and ownership of cottages, that dominated the economic scene: many were benevolent by the standards of the time, but rules were tight and inflexible - hence the general opposition to their workers being legally empowered to have two weeks paid leave to attend the annual T.A. camp of the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons. Everyone was dependent on the essential farming services, and again Winkleigh was self-sufficient. There were 5 thatchers (rick-building as well as houses), three wheel-wrights and two blacksmiths, three builders/masons, a rope maker, seven carpenters with a saw-mill, a seed merchant and of course a harness maker. The parish highways were cared for by a local road contractor.

Winkleigh was blessed with this tight-knit community which gave ample opportunity for social life to flourish - dances and whist-drives, concerts, a choir, a brass-band, a bowling green, cricket and football teams, shooting competitions with the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons, a boy-scouts troop founded by Rev. Ottley, a Company of the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons that paraded in Winkleigh, Empire Day on May 25<sup>th</sup> and of course the week-long Winkleigh Fair complete with a Fair Queen, procession, sports and recreations in the square, stock judging and pig-bowling, fancy-dress show, pony races, teas and a ball. It was a holiday for all and the young people from the whole district flooded in to enjoy the fun and the chance of a fresh relationship. November 1913 saw the revival of the Winkleigh Carnival, proceeds given to the village gas-lighting fund (a new wonder) and the Exeter hospital. The gentry played their part: Mrs. Johnson at the Old Parsonage; before 1913 Rev Bremridge with his considerable household of four young children, a cook, a general maid, a laundress, two child-nurses and a governess, with others on a day basis. There was even an occasional contact with the Earl of Portsmouth. It was (and still is) a very caring village, a form of self-sufficiency, looking out for the sick, the aged, and disabled, very mindful of the narrow economic hardships that could so easily strike from unemployment, injury or bereavement. Simple responses were available, often founded and donated to by the well-to-do: a clothing club, 1d a week to join a private nursing scheme, a Christmas club.

Terrible times were ahead and our village would be tested in all its strength and resolve. On August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914 the news came that Britain had declared war on Germany, the British ultimatum to withdraw from Belgium having expired. The village for many years had had a military aspect to it. The Devon Territorials were popular (as had been their ancestor the Volunteer Militia before them) and people were accustomed to watch the drilling. Quite a number of young men were already serving in the army and navy, and the memory of the Boer War was still very fresh in people's minds. Indeed, at least one decorated (but still young) Veteran was living in the village, Henry Palmer, who rejoined at once. Shooting competitions, many social events and a brass band enhanced the patriotism and jingoism of Empire Day and Royal event celebrations. The vast majority of residents were born well back into the reign of Queen Victoria and all grew up believing in the superiority of the British

Army, the invincible Navy and the vast empire. The newspapers were full of the rising threat from the Kaiser and the Dreadnought arms race.

Yet although Winkleigh went to war with a guarded enthusiasm, contrary to the national myths, in Winkleigh there was not the mass excitement of patriotism, no great rushing to join the Territorials or Kitchener's call for a new army. Some saw an opportunity to break out from a dull routine and join the colours but most thought that war would be something distant, and after all how could the farms survive if they gave up their labour? In spite of growing government propaganda the thought of changing their settled way of life was inconceivable. Slowly, pressure to enlist built up: from Colonel Alexander who was to settle after the war in Townsend House and who organised village recruiting during it, backed by the sermons in church and chapel and a constant barrage in the press. There was no thought as yet of conscription, seen as a nasty continental habit. All were volunteers and would be until the spring of 1916.

Knowledge of the individual men listed on the Memorial Roll preserved in the church are at best immensely detailed, at worst fragmentary or even non-existent, so that a complete picture is impossible to construct. Usually some clue can be found of their enlistment dates, which reveals a general picture. Some 65% of individual army records were destroyed in the London blitz, pension records survive for a few and medal records for nearly all. For the temporary officers, extensive weeding of records between the wars disposed of much, sometimes whole files, and the medical officers' records were destroyed altogether. In the earliest days Col. Alexander provided lists of those serving but by November these ceased to be published in the Ashreigney Deanery magazine, though no doubt they were posted by the church door.

The Winkleigh men serving in 1914 fall into three categories: first, those already serving in the regular army and navy, second, the serving Territorials who were immediately embodied for war, and third, those who answered the call to join either one of the three Devon Territorial battalions, the regular army or one of Kitchener's New Army battalions, the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Devons.

Life in the Services was an attractive option pre-war. Five Winkleigh men were serving in the Royal Navy: Henry Gay on H.M.S. Collingwood, Richard Mitchell on H.M.S. Carnarvon, Gilbert Davey on H.M.S. Marlborough, Guy Ottley on H.M.S. Hannibal, and Philip Bremridge, Commissioned on H.M.S. Chatham.

In the army were John Knight in the Life Guards, Sgt. John Medlock in the Royal Garrison Artillery, George Robins and Fred Lugg in the Coldstream Guards, Walter Holland and Sgt. Arthur Horner in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Devons. Territorial Army membership was impressive. Twenty men are listed as members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons, encamped on Woodbury Down as war was declared, taken at once to Plymouth, thence to Salisbury Plain, and by September most were on their way to India to 'replace' the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Battalion of the Devons needed urgently in France.

Very few decided to enlist. During the final months of 1914 two men rejoined the army after previous service, Frederick Horne (recalled to 1<sup>st</sup> Devons), and George Reed who had served in the Royal Field Artillery and now re-enlisted in the Army Service Corps. The two Dulling brothers, Frederick and Sydney, joined together into the Army Service Corps. Herbert Lugg the 8<sup>th</sup> Devons, Thomas Harris, William Ware

and Edward Jarvis the 9<sup>th</sup> Devons, Lawrence Johnson the Public Schools Battalion, and William Berry the Military Mounted Police. Ernest Western enlisted into the Royal North Devon Hussars and at the same time Frederick William Davey transferred from the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons into the same regiment. Archibald Molland was already serving with them. Two joined various branches of the Territorial Army in other places: Albert Buzzacott into the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion City of London Regiment, John Hammett the TA Royal Field Artillery. Others may have joined whose records have been lost.

The seriousness of war was first brought home to the village by the early death of two members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons before they even left England. Albert Stapleton died from typhoid fever and peritonitis on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914, tragically having just been married to his cousin, Elizabeth Ford. Charles Vanstone was 35, an ex-Militia man who rejoined the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons. He was the village postman, married in 1907 to Mary Ann Bright. He died from leukaemia on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1914, possibly from the physical strain of the training programme. Albert and Charles both lie in our churchyard and are remembered on the Memorial Cross.

The initial stages of the war were over, but there was a growing realisation that it was certainly not all going to be over by Christmas. The battles of Mons, the great retreat, Le Cateau, the advance to the Aisne had not directly affected Winkleigh. Trench war had begun, but still unknown were the extent of the losses incurred by the Expeditionary Force and the precariousness of our situation in France. Meanwhile, the village sent Christmas parcels and comforts to India, raised money for the Red Cross and the Exeter hospital, donated garments for Belgian refugees, and joined in the growing awareness that life was already changing.

The vicar of Ashreigney wrote:

‘I fear that we must regard the war as only in its initial stages at present. Defeat on a big scale may come to the enemy sooner than at present seems altogether likely, but the chances are that a long and dragging conflict is before us, and with winter weather the sufferings of the armies, and the losses by sickness will be likely to be very grievous. Let us who are safe at home not be weary in well-doing for those who fight for us, and let us not cease to pray for those who are in anxiety because of them’

## **Robert Side**

## Ex-District Councillor's Final Thoughts

Fourteen years ago, Philippa and I were house-hunting and saw a house in the Sunday paper for sale in Winkleigh. We booked an appointment but arrived over an hour early, so we decided to have a walk around the village. Although we are both from the West Country, what we found was very different from what we had expected. We were impressed by the lack of traffic in the square and the way people said 'good morning' to everyone. With two pubs, a post office and a few shops, Winkleigh seemed the right size for a village. So already feeling good about the village, we were halfway around the tour of the house when we put an offer in!

I have never for one moment regretted our rash decision and over the years I have come more and more to appreciate why face-to-face contact matters in our digital age. Recent surveys have shown that social relationships are ranked by most people as the key dimension of quality of life. Yet at the same time surveys also assert that a big slice of British society feels “unwanted, unvalued and unnoticed.” A third of people over 65 now say that they have no one to turn to, and an increasing number say they feel lonely all or most of the time. Loneliness is not just restricted to the elderly but young people also feel isolated despite being seemingly connected to the world by technology and social media. The internet, which promised so much in fostering social relationships, now seems to have a darker side. There would appear to be a dramatic rise in online hostility and many have come to regret posting photos or comments that they later regret.

In September 2011, Winkleigh was rated [by savings firm Family Investments] the best place in Britain for families to live, using such criteria as schools, crime, amenities and affordable homes. While we now know that this was due to a computer input error (by vastly overstating average salaries, homes appeared much more affordable), it was recognised that Winkleigh with its diverse, person-to-person relationships did have something special. Winkleigh, though, does have to change and adapt if it wants to improve the quality of life for all in and around its community. For too long Winkleigh has relied on a number of people – often wearing many hats – to organise its activities and lobby for / work with local government and various organisations to improve things (or sometimes stop things). Many probably work too hard for their community activities and a growing number are now elderly. More volunteers are desperately needed.

Finally, I wish my successor, Betty Boundy, all best wishes as district councillor. My big regrets are that in my time as councillor we were unable to -

- Have a development that enhances the old airfield site;
- Build an exemplar affordable homes scheme for local people; and
- Open up a walk to Winkleigh Woods.



I hope Betty will be able to make her contribution to achieving these and other projects for Winkleigh.

David Lausen

## **Fund Raising for North Devon Cancer and Chemo Unit**

I would like to say a **HUGE** thank you everyone who bought a raffle ticket, donated raffle prizes, bid in the Auction, and/or attended our ***Over & Above*** Charity Raffle & Auction Evening, which took place on Saturday 18 April, at the Kings Arms, in our lovely Winkleigh.

We were overwhelmed at the generosity of the prizes that were donated, and for everyone that gave up their time to attend.

The evening turned out to be a wonderful success, and I am delighted to confirm, that we raised in excess of £4,700 which is incredible, all of which will be going to the ***Over & Above*** Charity, which is the registered working name of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Charitable Fund. ***Over & Above***, have been fundraising to create a multi-functioning new unit, called the Seamoor Unit, which opened it's doors for patients in late March of this year. The funds raised on the charity evening, will be going towards this unit.

This unit is funded entirely by public donation and in excess of 2 million pounds has been raised so far. It is unfortunate that most of us know someone who has cancer, or will do in the future and having this unit will give the best possible chance for all of us in North Devon and surrounding area. I have been looked after by them for over a year now, and I cannot praise them high enough, and we will continue to fund raise for this brilliant cause.

Special Thank you to Barry, the Mad Butcher of Winkleigh, for doing a raffle on our behalf and raising £85.00, for Michael Bridgman for being our lovely Auctioneer, Cherry Roadnight who sold an amazing amount of Raffle Tickets at the school, and to Sheila Anderson who tirelessly knocked on doors selling raffle tickets and accompanying me on various trips out to ask for raffle and auction prizes from various companies in the area. Jordan Hookway was brilliant and entertained us with his music.

Thank you once again for your kindness & generosity, WINKLEIGH you are **AWESOME!**

With our warmest wishes

**Patricia Murtagh** and youngest daughter **Lauren Murtagh**

## Winkleigh and District Garden Club

Do you have a garden or an allotment? If so, Winkleigh & District Garden Club have a programme of speakers who will provide answers with respect to many gardening issues and much more; The Club also has a Quiz team who are doing extremely well and won the cup in Torrington a few weeks ago so if you would like to join or support the team please contact Jeanne Nightingale [nandjngale@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nandjngale@hotmail.co.uk)

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

19th May	"Herbs" Jenny and Chris Seagon- Laurel Farm Herbs
16th June	"Grasses" Dave Squires
14th July	Afternoon visit and cream tea- Bickham House, Kenn, Exeter
15th September	"Japan and Its Gardens" Jon Webster, Curator of Rosemoor Garden
20th October	"The Four Seasons of Dartmoor" Paul Rendall
17th November	AGM and cheese and wine
15th December	Christmas Social with a quiz – hope to see you all

Should you be interested in all/any of these subjects, then why not become a member of W&DGC 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.

For further information contact our Chairman Mr Ed Porter on 01805 804838 or Beverley Cook, [cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk)

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## Beaver Scouts

It is all change in Scouting. In the last few months badges and programmes have changed as part of the refresh of scouting, the Scouting Association asked young people and adults which new badges they wanted to see and also what they thought of existing ones. As a result the badges have been refreshed for each section; some have had their requirements updated, some are brand new and some have been discontinued. Some new badges were released in April 2014 as the start of this update.

Other improvements include removing the Programme Zones but introducing three key themes: Outdoors and Adventure, Skills and World. There will be more emphasis on Outdoors and Adventure, making sure young people experience as much excitement as possible during their Scout journey.

The Top Awards will be more challenging for young people to complete but easier to deliver and understand, while the Chief Scout's Awards will require greater commitment across a range of activities that better reflect the variety of the Scout Programme.

The review of the Scout Network concluded in July 2014 and the changes to the Programme and structure will be communicated later on in spring 2015. I think the changes are good, but feel that a rural colony being out 50% of the time in winter is impossible.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** At the end of July Hawkeye will be leaving and without him our numbers will have to drop to 12 because to every leader we can take 6 beavers only, so when Ron leaves there will be only 2 of us. Our meetings only take one and a half hours a week of our time and you can get as involved as much as you want. All new leaders will be police checked and if you want to get more involved you can help with the planning and you can also train to become a full warranted leader, it is your choice. It is a really good feeling when the children enjoy themselves and gain their badges. If we are to continue we need your support so please get in touch with Pat on 01837 83487 or send an e-mail to [roywcunnington@btinternet.com](mailto:roywcunnington@btinternet.com)

I would like to thank Hawkeye, also known in the real world as Ron Kercher for all his time and effort he has given to the Beavers. He will be greatly missed as a leader and a friend.

This summer term we are joining the cubs, hiking, treasure trail, sleepover, Climbing, archery, first aid and pet care just a few of the things we are doing, If you want to put your child's name forward then please get in touch at the above e-mail or telephone number.

At the moment we have spaces so if your girl or boy is aged between 5½ years and 8 years please get in touch.

Have a great Summer **Ahmeek.**

## WINKLEIGH SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

By the time you read this our Summer Season will be in full swing. This is quieter than the Winter Season but all who want to play matches will be welcome.

Our Rangemoors Flue and Chimney Specialists Tournament took place at the end of March. A great day's bowling for visiting Clubs from all over Devon, Dorset and Somerset. We are very grateful to Andrew Baker and all at Rangemoors for their continuing support and sponsorship of this event.

Our Winter Season finished with the Club winning quite a bit of silverware so congratulations to all players. Roll ups on Monday and Friday afternoon continue all year round and these are for social bowlers and all those forever striving to put up the perfect wood! These afternoons are very relaxed and all are welcome just come along at 2.00pm. It will be good to see you.

**Jan Ovenden** 01837 83853 or [oldsmithy1@btinternet.com](mailto:oldsmithy1@btinternet.com)

### Dear Customers of Plaice to Place

It was with regret that it has become necessary to move my core business to South Street in South Molton as it was no longer viable to be moving daily to new sites for selling. I have (as some have found) not deserted Winkleigh completely and have included a 2 hour stop on my Wednesday Delivery round parking in the Community Centre Car Park between 9am and 11am to be part of the Mini Market.

Many Thanks, **James Betteridge**.

Plaice To Place

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or [james@plaicetoplace.co.uk](mailto:james@plaicetoplace.co.uk)

[www.plaicetoplace.co.uk](http://www.plaicetoplace.co.uk)

## Friends of Winkleigh School

As usual the small group who make up the membership of the “Friends” group continue with the persistence, effort and self- sacrifice needed to keep supplying additional funding for all those little (and some not so little) extras that help so much towards the overall progress of the School.

The event which took place on 27<sup>th</sup> March was the “Easter Disco” and once again the floor of the School hall was alive to some pretty spectacular dance routines including many which were completely new to me, but I am sure some have a future in the world of dance! The evening raised £137.70. On 26<sup>th</sup> April The Kings Arms was the venue for a “Quiz Night” and another successful evening saw a return of £143, thanks go out to Mark for the pub playing host to this night.

At the time of writing we are approaching the date for the next meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, at which there will be discussion on future events which will include another ever popular “Bacon Roll morning”, currently pencilled in for 26<sup>th</sup> June. A presence at the Winkleigh market is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> August and another Disco, this time for “School’s Out”, is lined up for 17<sup>th</sup> July. Let us hope that we will be as lucky with the weather as we were last year when the event was staged in the School playground. Perhaps I can take this opportunity to mention that the “Friends” Chair, Tim, is responsible for providing the disco’s which do so much to help with these activities, also has an “Abba” band which play at the Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> May, this will have happened by the time you read this, were you there?

As usual I will make the appeal to all you “on-line” shoppers, please help the School by looking at the easyfundraising website, where retailers make contributions to our cause for money spent with them. It is ever so easy and there is a link from the School website or direct on

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fowinkleigh](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fowinkleigh)

I conclude with a thank you to the many of you in the Winkleigh and surrounding community who continue to give support to our School.

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

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

9	1	2	5	6	2	4	7	3
4	7	2	9	8	3	1	6	5
5	6	3	7	1	4	2	9	8
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7	5	9	1	2	8	6	3	4
2	8	4	3	7	6	9	5	1
6	3	1	4	5	9	7	8	2

## THE WINKLEIGH SINGERS

Firstly, we look back to our performance of Brahms' Requiem at Torrington on 21st March. Here we performed the "London" version, where the composer replaced the large orchestra with two players at one piano. Andrew Daldorph and our rehearsal accompanist Tom Bayliss were the pianists and our own soloists Tina Gladwin and John Smith did the honours in the solo passages. The North Devon Journal reviewer had this to say, "This was an evening well spent in delightful company with the rafters echoing to such inspiring and impressively performed music."

On Monday 8th September, we hold our annual open rehearsal at the Umberleigh Christian Fellowship Building (on the A377 opposite The Rising Sun pub) from 7.30pm-9.30pm. This is an opportunity for singers of all abilities to take part in a taster session alongside The Winkleigh Singers. Music will be available on loan on arrival at the workshop and will include well known and some lesser-known music. All the music will be in the repertoire of The Winkleigh Singers so it will be easy for all to pick up the music quickly. The rehearsal will be directed by Winkleigh Singers' founder and conductor Roland Smith. To be sure of having enough music available, please contact us at [info@winkleighsingers.org.uk](mailto:info@winkleighsingers.org.uk) or phone 01363 884446 if you plan to attend. There will be no charge for participation in this event.

During the Autumn we will perform a number of concerts at different venues around the county which will include a whole variety of music in different in styles to suit all tastes. For more information go to our website <http://www.winkleighsingers.org.uk>.

Our ever-popular Christmas concert this year will be on Saturday 19th December at Winkleigh Parish Church. As well as the usual mix of traditional Christmas carols for all to enjoy singing, our programme this year will include a seasonal selection from Handel's Messiah. We look forward to seeing you.



*The Winkleigh Singers*



## View From The Tractor

“We are stewards of the land; it's guardians,” says Justin Scleater, local farmer, and proud to be one.

The many changes in and around Winkleigh can be marked by the profound changes in farming.

Meeting with Justin at Fiona's Farm Shop, he was insistent that he is a part-time farmer. Born into farming, it is his life-long interest; but he, like all involved in agriculture, has had to adapt, change and diversify. In his case into contracting out to work on other farms. Now he grows old-fashioned long-strawed wheat varieties for thatching. He sells this direct to thatchers in Dorset and Somerset and enjoys this personal connection and involvement. Originally his family farm was dairy but, as with so many local small dairy farms, this became unviable. Justin explained that farmers have always to look for that extra value, or to increase in size.

The supermarkets with their hefty purchasing power have relentlessly driven down the prices of primary agricultural products and this has ensured that diversification and economy of scale is crucial. The local farming community now consists of fewer, larger farms. Chicken rearing has greatly increased as has pheasant breeding and expansion of farming and engineering retail. That tight-knit-group born of the common experience of dairy and live-stock is not as it was.

Strict regulations from Defra and the E.U. requiring traceability, passports and tagging have all increased the workload. Not all bad, Justin concedes, regulations on spraying and preserving field margins for wild-life habitats and bio-diversity are crucial for good stewardship of the land.

The global crash saw many fields sold, and old certainties of who owns what land breaking connections with the past. Foreign labour he speaks of highly, as yet another manifestation of inexorable change. At pains to point out that he is not in the same league as full-time farmers with many acres, he praised Fiona and her family's involvement with Winkleigh and Hollocombe in showcasing their local produce from their small, mixed farm and becoming a community hub.

**Penny Griffiths.**

## And finally . . . . .

As I am now into the second half of my eighth decade, the time has come for me to stand down as editor of Distinctly Winkleigh. It is eight years since, after reading that the then editor - Phil Simpson - was leaving to spend his doubtlessly well-earned retirement in Spain, I responded to the appeal for volunteer(s) to keep things going. I have absolutely no regrets and have enjoyed the task as it has given me much insight into how Winkleigh works and I've met with many wonderful people. Many thanks to all those who have written articles, without which the newsletter would have been a very dull affair! Thanks also to those who have placed adverts, thus making it possible to have it printed. Lastly a huge thank-you to the team of deliverers and their sterling all-weather efforts.

I will be doing just two more issues – Autumn and Winter – before hanging up my editor's hat. After that, dear readers, it will be down to "A.N Other" to keep the village newsletter going. Mr Other may well want to change the format and style – and why not? Progress can be a wonderful thing!

Meanwhile, the deadline date for articles/adverts for the Autumn Issue is Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> - but please don't wait until the deadline to send your article(s) in. We'd love to hear from anyone who has an interesting story or article, and I'm sure that there are some really good ones just waiting to be told.

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<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Philip Griffiths</b>	<b>01837 83407</b>
<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Margaret Miller</b>	<b>01837 83398</b>
	<b>Peter Howard</b>	<b>01837 83610</b>
	<b>Alan Jacobs</b>	<b>01837 83895</b>
	<b>Stephen Leahy</b>	<b>01837 83599</b>
	<b>Peter Monkcom</b>	<b>01837 83452</b>
	<b>Charles Stapleton</b>	<b>01837 83109</b>

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**

<b>Peter Monkcom</b>	<b>01837 83452</b>
<b>Alan Mulcahy</b>	<b>01837 680145</b>

Contributions to the newsletter can be received as follows:

Articles are fine in printed form, but we can also accept  
WORD format files on CD, Memory Stick, or e-mail submissions .

Newsletter team e-mail: [articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk)  
or [alan.mulcahy@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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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