

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 62

Summer 2017

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The Winkleigh Society Quarterly Journal



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Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan

At the monthly Winkleigh Market, members of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) group were on hand to promote the plan and raise awareness of current planning applications affecting the village. One of the questions put to visitors to the market was:

“How do we respond to the possibility of the current multiple proposals for 203 new houses being approved before the plan is agreed?”

A consultation document (with a target publication date this summer) about what could go in the NP is taking shape and we are keen to hear and reflect the views of **all** Winkleigh residents.

The proposed vision statement is that:

‘Winkleigh will be an inclusive rural community, built on our valuable heritage and an environment that is sustainable, strong and vibrant.

We will achieve this by working together to mutual benefit and by promoting a diverse, resilient place where people of all ages can thrive and work in safety.’

Once adopted, the NP is to sit alongside Torridge District Council’s own Local Plan.

The emerging Local Plan publication allocates a site to the north of the village, with a car park, for around 55 dwellings until 2031. At the time of its publication, this was considered to be an adequate contribution from a small local centre to feed into the five-year housing land supply.

However, there are now three applications being considered that would add a further 148 dwellings to the village, a total of 203 dwellings!

The current additional applications for development are the following:

- Land off Townsend Hill - 55 dwellings (1/0127/2017/OUTM)
- Land at Cross Park - 23 dwellings (1/0532.2016/OUTM)
- Kingsley Plastics - 70 dwellings (1/0346/2017/OUTM)

If you agree that the village needs development that is planned, structured and coherent, in contrast to the proposed approval of significant random new development on diverse sites, which does not allow for the best design/layout, community benefits, pedestrian and traffic solutions, then please let the planners at Torridge know as soon as possible, (*quoting the planning application references quoted above*).

The best way to do this is to write to:

**Mr David Green, Planning Manager
Torridge District Council Planning,
Riverbank House,
Bideford,
Devon EX39 2QG**

If you would like to discuss any of the above issues with a member of the working group involved in producing the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan, then please contact:

Wendy Mondy 01837 680022 (chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group)

Other Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members are:

Andy Clarke

Pauline Odulinski

Frank Whitcomb

Pauline Warner

Parish Church Notes

This is my very last contribution to Distinctly Winkleigh because, as many of you will know, I shall be leaving Winkleigh in July. By the time you read this I will probably be on Sabbatical leave and be busy packing up the house. Having been here twenty three years means having accumulated a lot of furniture and other things a lot of which we don't really use or need. Because of that we have sold or given away what we don't want to keep and made several visits to the recycling centre.

We're leaving earlier than planned (I was thinking about early retirement perhaps in a couple of years from now) as for the last eighteen months a small number of people having been making life very difficult and undermining us personally and the work of the Church here which is really very sad. And being who we are we can't go around running other people down even if we wanted to – so we can't answer back. All this has affected my own health and particularly that of Helen so just a few weeks ago we made the decision to leave earlier.

We're moving to Ireland. We had thought about buying a house there and moving in some time in the future but we're going now instead. We like Ireland and the house prices where we're going are substantially lower than here though we originally thought about Shropshire or Wales but couldn't afford it. The Vicarage doesn't belong to us so we haven't got a house to sell but at least we're not part of a chain.

It's going to be a bit of a change for us, a new country, getting used to a new currency (Euros) and they measure distances in kilometres not miles but at least we haven't got to try and learn a foreign language or have to drive on the other side of the road! We'll also still be in the EU at a time when Britain is about to leave.

It's going to be a bit of a change here too. Once I leave, the parish goes into an interregnum which means that the Churchwardens have to take responsibility (with help from the Archdeacon) for finding people to take services etc. until someone else is appointed and that could take quite some time. There is a retired priest (Fr. Graham Smith) living in Ashreigney who will be helping too as will our Reader Adrian Magor whom some of you will know.

If you're planning to come to a service then it will be worthwhile checking to make sure when they are taking place. However our regular coffee mornings will continue and a craft exhibition is planned for June; the Church fete will be on Saturday July 8th and the Fair Sunday service will be on 9th July at 3.00 p.m. I've asked the Archdeacon of Barnstaple to take that service – you may remember he came to preach at it not so long ago. Don't forget to bring along your eggs and flowers for distribution to the sick and housebound.

Finally, Helen and I would like to thank all those who have supported and befriended us in our time here particularly those who have been a great source of strength through the difficulties of the past eighteen months.

Fr. Peter Norman

Late spring in Hollocombe

We are very lucky to have several interesting footpaths in this small hamlet of Hollocombe. The one shown in the 'Walks in Winkleigh' booklet goes through farmland then down through the woods and follows Hollocombe water. It is very attractive now with the bluebells in flower and trees in new leaf as well as many other wild flowers. Roe deer are often seen in the woods. If the stream is too high to cross at the loop at the bottom of Timbridge woods you could walk back along the bridle way to Leach bridge, or carry on the path over a tiny stream to the lane where you can turn left, go over the bridge and connect to the path by going through the first gate on the left. (The sign directs you)

Many other paths around Hollocombe go in various directions and you can walk to Ashreighney or even follow the stream to Bridge Reeve where it joins the River Taw. Check the Ordnance Survey Maps for details of all the paths and bridleways.



Most of the farmers have finished lambing and now the fields are full of lambs to enjoy watching. They have great fun playing, often in the evening (after a long day sun bathing and feeding) racing about in great packs, hide and seek behind trees, king of the castle on any bank they can find or on any of the ewes who are trying to sleep.



Lots for walkers to see and enjoy, but please keep to the paths, leave everything as you find it, and particularly it is vital to keep dogs in control on leads. Several farmers around here have suffered the distress of dogs disturbing, attacking and even killing ewes and lambs so please be careful.

Wendy Oxborough

Community Plan – Taking Action



The Winkleigh Plan Action Group (CPAG) is a small group of local volunteers focused on identifying and implementing actions recommended in the **Community Plan**. A summary of the plan was distributed to all households in the autumn of 2014. You can view and comment on the full plan at our website: <http://www.winkleighplan.co.uk>.

The Action Group meets every three months for a few hours to discuss priorities and initiatives. We endeavour to work in close contact with Winkleigh Parish Council and the group now developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Our current focus is threefold:

- i) the application of the recently issued **Village Design Statement (VDS)** principles on future development within the settlement boundary;
- ii) improvements to traffic flow and parking within the village, with emphasis on the ‘20’s Plenty’ speed limit campaign, and
- iii) investigating and promoting recycling and environmental initiatives

We provide updates to the Parish Council, and to the general community through *Distinctly Winkleigh*. On the next page in this DW Summer edition you’ll find an article outlining some changes to the Torridge District Council recycling program.

Keep up-to-date with current developments, not only with the community plan but other local events and activities, by following our **Facebook©** page at <http://www.facebook.com/WinkleighParishPlan>.

Better still, become involved! Complete the ‘Comments’ form on our website or contact Collin Gibson 01837-680172.

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Winkleigh Community Recycling Success – More Plastics Recycled!



Now that Torridge District Council has reviewed its waste strategy, we can look forward to a food waste collection for all and kerbside collection of **nearly all plastics** (except black). This starts officially in **April 2018**, but meanwhile many of you have noticed that yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and plastic trays are already being taken in the green boxes. In addition, you can recycle bottles from shampoo, household products, etc.

Black plastic food trays are difficult to recycle because they are made with carbon black pigment (from coal tar) and cannot be detected by optical plastics recycling equipment. There is some evidence that carbon black may cause cancer, though it has been cleared for food use by government agencies. You can do your own research on this and decide for yourself. 1.3 billion black plastic trays (30,000 tonnes) are produced every year in the UK and all of them are going into landfill or incineration. A feasibility study in 2013 proved that if an alternative pigment was used, these trays could be recycled (www.wrap.org.uk).

However, it will take time for the packaging industry to change. So, bear this in mind when you are shopping and seek out alternatives to black plastic, wherever possible.

For details on recycling in Torridge District and a useful local '**Recycling Guide**' you can go to: <http://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/15039/Recycling-Guide>

*Kim Melhuish
Collin Gibson*



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Winkleigh Church Fundraising Group Report

There have been several comments from people around the village saying how good it is to have the Clock working and striking again, and as well as the engineer from Smith of Derby who fitted the required new pieces to the mechanism, we need to thank Tim Rhodes who set up all the necessary electrical work to enable the job to be done. There were many people and companies along with the Parish Council, the Fair Committee and other organisations who donated so readily to the fund-raising and we thank them all. Many donations were given anonymously so it is not seemly to name individuals publicly, but THANK YOU.

Our events so far this year have been very well attended and there is great pleasure in seeing people meeting together in the Church and enjoying the beauty of the place. The April event, 'Poetry & Pies', was very successful and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all those who joined us for that, indeed some who came along have already decided which poem they would read at the next occasion!

On 26th May there will be a coffee morning with all proceeds going to Christian Aid. This will be before the next Distinctly Winkleigh is distributed but I hope the posters will have drawn your attention to it happening.

Following on from that will be the **Church Fete on Saturday 8th July**, the day before the Winkleigh Fair Week. Details of that will be available quite soon, but in advance of the event make sure you have your Draw Tickets....there are some wonderful prizes!!

Margery Howard

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Winkleigh Parish Council

Chair's Annual Report 2016/17

This year has seen many changes within the council. We started the year with 4 vacancies on the parish council and now after many changes we are, at the time of writing this, left with only one vacancy. Since last May we have welcomed: Wendy Mondy, Deanne Whittaker, Sue Ware, Sue Taylor & Adrian Mercer to the council and wished departing Councillors Gail Flockhart and John Kane all the best in their future endeavours.

Finance: Grant Applications for the 2017/18 financial year were paid in April 2017 as follows:

- Citizens Advice Bureau - £250 towards volunteer advisers including training.
- Okehampton DC Transport Group - £300 towards continuation of their current services including the Ring and Ride bus service, voluntary car service and wheelchair accessible transport.
- Winkleigh Football Club - £500 towards refurbishment of the football pavilion.

Other donations & grants:

- The Council donated £75 to the Royal British Legion for a wreath.
- Winkleigh Football Club - £60 for First Aid training.
- All Saints Church - £500 repair of the Church Clock.

Shute Lane: As part of the Shute Lane useable access project the Parish Council approved part funding of 25% of the total project cost of £2,679 for stone & fence posts amounting to £670 with the remaining 25% & 50% coming from the Winkleigh Society and Torridge District Council (TDC)'s Community Grant respectively. Many thanks to Cllr Alan Jacobs for all his hard work on this with the assistance of Mr Roger Hill.

Traffic Calming on Townsend Hill: A public consultation was held regarding the proposed traffic calming scheme on Townsend Hill, many thanks to all who helped with this or who gave feedback. Special thanks to Cllrs Graham Peace, Collin Gibson and our Clerk, Melanie Borrett, for collecting all the information together for Cllrs to digest and use to make an informed decision.

Neighbourhood Plan Group: Cllr Wendy Mondy has helped to set up a group to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Winkleigh, this will be a statutory document once completed. Thanks to all those who are part of the group for their work on behalf of the Parish.

TAP Fund 2016 & P3 Partnership: Cllr Alan Jacobs had been producing a booklet promoting walks in the area, which will hopefully be available in the next couple of months.

Cemetery Bungalow: This year has seen a lot of uncertainty surrounding the Cemetery Bungalow. The Council undertook legal advice to clarify our ability to rent out the Bungalow in relation to the restrictive covenant on the Cemetery deeds, we have received confirmation that we are well within our legal rights to rent out the Bungalow so hopefully all that is behind us now and we can focus on the future.

I would like to extend my thanks to District Cllr Betty Boundy and to County Cllr Andy Boyd for their support over the year, also to all Cllrs for the time and effort that they put into council business.

Thank you also to all the parishioners who attend meetings, are our eyes and ears providing feedback on local matters, as well as those who help support activities and groups within the Parish in whatever way they can.

A special vote of thanks must go to our Clerk, Melanie Borrett for all the hard work that she puts in behind the scenes to allow the council to function effectively and for us as Cllrs to be able to do our jobs.

*Cllr Alice Turner (Chair)
Winkleigh Parish Council
17th April 2017*

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Watch Your Step!

A good Samaritan is reluctantly at work in Southernhay picking up dog mess.

As most people know, Southernhay is the a pedestrian route for school children and parents to-ing and fro-ing to Winkleigh School, and making their way through Clifford's Way.

A concerned resident, who is a dog-lover herself, is concerned that children will step and slip over in it. It is also a polluting eye-sore.

So please all you dog walkers keep a sharp eye on what **your dog is doing**.

An Apology – Sorry June!

Apologies to June Harris {correct surname} for getting your name wrong when talking to you about the article on “Old Man’s Seat” in the last edition of Distinctly Winkleigh.

Penny Griffiths



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The advertisement features a man in a dark polo shirt on the left and a dark long-sleeved shirt on the right. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif fonts and a cursive script for the tagline and delivery information.

The “Golden Hour” - The Difference between Life and Death

On Wed. March 1st, 22 “Forget-me-Not Friends” gathered in the Community Centre for the monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was Mike Date, who entertained and informed us with his slide show and talk on the History and Development of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT).

Devon has hundreds of miles of road, including some very narrow lanes. Road ambulances are not always suitable. The first hour after an accident is known as “The Golden Hour” - the precious time during which a casualty needs to reach hospital for the best chance of survival.



This is why the Air Ambulances have become so important in our wide-flung county. Back in the 1990s a young man lost his life because he could not be got to Hospital in time. His mother devoted herself to achieving the first Air Ambulance in Devon. A devoted team of volunteers has grown up over the years to raise funds for DAAT. Mike Date was part of that team from the very start. He has experience of horse-riding on Dartmoor. He saw how, immediately there was an Air Ambulance, casualties were swiftly got to their nearest hospital at Exeter, Plymouth or Barnstaple.

At first the helicopters were rented, but over the years, as more and more of us heard about friends, relations and neighbours being saved, the DAAT was able to buy the first helicopter, and now there are two. Joyce Brock told us how her daughter-in-law, Trina, was thrown from her horse, but successfully conveyed to hospital by the helicopter nearest to her. One is based at Exeter, the other at Eaglescott Airfield near High Bickington. Within five minutes of the telephonist requesting a helicopter three quarters of Devon can be reached. Within 20 minutes every corner of this huge county can be reached, including Lundy.

Fund raising is a permanent necessity. So how can we help?

Mike Date told us: www.daat.org will give you information on making donations, joining the lottery, or joining in fund-making events.



Lottery tickets can be purchased from Winkleigh Post Office. What could be easier?

The DAAT Lottery seems a very good way to contribute to the fund as well as giving us a chance of winning one of 13 prizes EVERY WEEK! There is one prize of £1350, two of £135 and ten of £50. The draw takes place every Friday. Winners are paid by cheque, posted by First Class on the day of the draw. Results are published on the website as above. You could always re-donate your winnings!

Shirley Cowling

*[Editors' note: Our thanks to DAAT for permission to use
their Logo and Photograph in this article.]*

Okehampton Choral Society Summer Concert

The Okehampton Choral Society with the Two Rivers Orchestra (leader Mark Dicken) will present a summer concert on Saturday 1st July at Fairplace Church in Okehampton. Beginning at 7:30 pm, the programme will include Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and several shorter works by Henry Purcell.

The choir, under its conductor Richard Edwards, will be joined by six soloists from London, Exeter and Truro Cathedral.

Tickets, price £10 for adults and £5 for children, will be available from June 12th.

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A Winkleigh Resident Remembers

Every day, at Winkleigh School [*Editors: now the Community Centre*], this ex-pupil recalls that one of the-pupils was appointed to go to Mr Letheren's, the Baker's Shop in South Street. The baker's daughter Janet also attended the school.

"In the mornings the lucky pupil (only tall, strong ones were chosen for this task!) carried back delicious yellow currant buns on a large wooden tray. The buns were large, hot and melted in the mouth. They were distributed to all the children who had paid their penny.

"The eldest daughter of the Headmaster, Mr Melhuish, would come to the picket fence from their house by the playground and as I ate my bun kept asking me for a piece. When I asked why she did not buy her own bun, she replied that she was not allowed to eat between meals!"

MAY DAY FROLICS ON THE VICARAGE LAWN

"When May Day came round, the girls had been practising for weeks for their maypole dances. Resplendent in pretty white dresses and accompanied by Mr Melhuish playing his piano accordion, the girls performed their elaborate maypole dance. This all took place on the old Vicarage Lawn. There were stalls and swing boats and all the village attended this colourful, splendid occasion."

[Editors' note: We hope to have more Memories from this Winkleigh Resident in future editions of Distinctly Winkleigh]



Avenue of Trees

When this Winkleigh Resident moved into a new bungalow some years ago, he established an Avenue of Trees along his driveway. Many of the trees were full of blossom when this photograph was taken.

Winkleigh Neighbourhood Watch

Last year in Distinctly Winkleigh we asked if anyone would be interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), if so to contact the Area Co-Ordinator Mr John Bowers (01837 83585) for enrolment information. Unfortunately we received **NO** enquiries at all from anybody.

As a result we have now accepted the fact that people are feeling safe due to the fact that our village is, to a degree, crime free. Our decision therefore is to no longer actively recruit new members, but only to be available if required. For contact purposes all existing NHW members should have stickers in their windows.

We urge you all to carry on being neighbourly and vigilant. Please report any suspicious activity to the police on either 101 (for non-life threatening or non-urgent incidents) or 999 (for urgent incidents and ones where a response is required ASAP) this will depend on the severity of the incident.

Shaw Taylor who presented Police 5 on TV years ago used to end the programme by saying “KEEP ‘EM PEELED” eyes that is, what a great idea.

At this time it is intended to hold a Public Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 14th June in the Community Centre starting at 7.15 pm, everyone is invited. Light refreshments will be available beforehand.

*John Bowers
Barry Jenkins*



The advertisement for Chulmleigh Community College features a crest on the left and the college name in large, bold letters. Below the name, it highlights '82% 5 A*-C GCSE Grades (including English and Maths)'. To the right, the 'CHULMLEIGH ACADEMY TRUST' logo is visible. The central text asks 'Interested in finding out more?' and provides contact details: 'T: 01769 580215' and 'E: admin@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk'. On the right side, a large, stylized question 'Where is your child going?' is written. The website 'www.chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk' is at the bottom.

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Speed Watch

A recent report identified that speeding, together with the density of vehicles, are large problems in the countryside and around small rural villages. A while ago some parishioners contacted WPC with concerns about speeding in and around the village.

As a result for those of you who did not notice, you will be happy to hear that the Speed Watch team has been active again this year (e.g. Townsend Hill).

We registered a total of 60 speeding offences whilst operating at two sites, twice in the last month.

Now that the team has control of the equipment needed we will in future be more active. Please remember that the penalties for speeding have recently changed considerably, fines and points are much higher than they were.

*John Bowers
Barry Jenkins*

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Winkleigh Society AGM - Chair's Report

The Molland Book copy that Wendy Oxborough is recreating in its original colours was on display and evinced considerable interest. Other maps and photos also provoked questions and conversations.

The black and white film tested people's memories of the 1950's or 60's. The size of the crowds in the square, the ingenuity of the costumes, the old school coach, working horses, the rich landscape and the excitement at the opening of The Ring O' Bells by famous movie stars intrigued those who had never witnessed this and provoked laughter from those who sampled the free drinks that flowed on that day.

The business part of the meeting saw all the committee re-elected with 'Stone' Naylor and Wendy Oxborough voted on; Wendy specifically to represent Hollocombe.

Points Raised In Report

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH: The two previous editions were bumper ones under the joint editorship of Alice Turner and Godfrey Rhodes. Local businesses, our financial life-blood, continue to support us. Many thanks to them all. It is also important that we reach out and contact new businesses and enterprises.

Ian Shacklock of MTF Training has loyally sponsored the front cover since the first issue in 2002, thank you Ian. The D.W. 'postmen & women' continue as a vital cog in the wheel of village life. Thank you. We have one new recruit, but could always welcome more.

Clubs and Societies keep us updated on their activities, interests and forthcoming events. Thank you.

LIVES IN A LANDSCAPE: Featuring interviews with local characters and where they live continues as an offshoot from The Village Design Statement.



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More participation, contributions, sketches, letters, ideas are always welcome so there is something of interest for everyone and more aspects of village life are covered: citizen journalism, if you like, as the ‘juggernaut of change’ refashions our village.

WINKLEIGH ARCHIVE: So much more available on line now thanks to Alison Mills from North Devon Museum advising us to use e-hive. Alan Mulcahy has also beavered away in retrieving so much of what we thought was lost. ‘Winkleigh Heroes’ has thankfully been saved, thanks to the tireless work of Robert Side. (the site had been lost when the original owner passed away).

Another significant addition on line is The Molland Book in easy to read type as a result of computerised voice-recognition again pioneered by Alan Mulcahy.

ART WORK: John Flower’s research and work on the ‘sgraffito’ in Winkleigh Church has highlighted Winkleigh’s link with The Arts and Crafts movement. Perhaps this could inspire some art work as the desirability of art as signifiers of our heritage continues to be flagged up, but this needs a specific champion to make it happen.

FOOTPATHS: Alan Jacobs continues to beaver away liaising with footpaths officers about the Parish walks shown on the definitive map The ‘Muddy Shoes’ group and other enthusiasts have been walking and describing the footpaths in the Parish in order to create an information leaflet that encourages others to walk them.

POP-UP MUSEUM: The flag ship event of The Winkleigh Society was well received and highlighted the importance of our village archive in sharing and understanding our History and culture. Thanks to the committee and all those who brought in their own archive speciality and participated so enthusiastically.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT: Brian Percival’s architectural painting that was commissioned to illustrate the VDS has been framed and presented to Collin Gibson of CPAG by the outgoing chair of Winkleigh Parish Council, Gail Flockhart. It is to

be put up in The Village Hall.



Thanks also to Gail for all her hard work in supporting the VDS and getting Torridge District Council to commit to its recognition as a material planning consideration.

LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS:

None of us exist in isolation and we aim to continue to forge links with Parish Council, CPAG, Winkleigh Fair, Ace Archaeology, Art Club and others.

BRITS, BAILEYS AND BEAUFIGHTERS

Was the title of an illustrated talk given in the Community Centre on Thursday 9th March at 7 pm by Bill Horner, Chief Archaeologist of Devon, covering 2,000 years (and more) of Winkleigh Heritage. The event was well-attended by an enthusiastic audience, and also included some displays of local artefacts and photographs.

[Editors' Note: See separate article on page 46]

FINALLY:

We're always on the lookout for enthusiasts, champions, naturalists & writers, artists to join us and help support our main objective of 'promoting high standards of planning and architecture in Winkleigh'.

*Penny Griffiths – Chair,
Winkleigh Society*

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Winkleigh and the Norwegians

Late last year Graham Pearce was asked by Winkleigh Parish Council to answer a letter from Andreas Seierstad requesting information about Winkleigh Airfield and the contribution made by Norwegian pilots during WW2. His father had flown from Winkleigh and Andreas was interested to find out more about us.

Graham sent him some photos showing its present state and also a small publication about the history of the airfield and thinks the response he received is worth telling in Distinctly Winkleigh, as there may still be some folk around who remember those days and even some of the Norwegians. The article that follows is extracted from Andreas' email and its attachments:

Hello Graham,

I have received the e-mails with the photos of the Memorial and the airfield in 2017. Thank you for this updated information. I think you have to know the history very well, if someone should find the airbase today!

I have also read the booklet you posted to me. It was interesting to read the history as my father was one of those who experienced the hospitality of the local population in Winkleigh. He writes in his diary in the end of August 1945 that he was one of three Norwegian airmen in the Methodist Church in Winkleigh, and after the service they were invited to a dinner-party the home of Mr. Collihole, who he describes as one of the most important men in Winkleigh! They are 15 people around the table and they are eating, singing, playing the piano and the atmosphere is like home!

He travelled around in the district, Oakhampton, Exeter, Plymouth, Cornwall and went for a round -trip in Mid-England and London at Easter. He also told me that they saw the bombed cities from the air when they were on training-flights. It made a great impression on him.

The Norwegians were very enthusiastic when peace came on 7th May - they travelled to London (without permission) and stood outside Parliament when the German surrender was announced. He took a photo of Churchill afterwards while walking to St. Margaret's Church for a thanks-giving ceremony. He wrote in his diary and often told me that Churchill saw the Norwegian airmen from Winkleigh standing in the first line in their uniforms, made the V-sign and said "Hello Norway" to them! They also travelled to London on 16th August when Japan surrendered and the war was over. He described the cheer and the joy of the people, and he was looking forward to finish the pilot-education and come home. They flew home on 12th Nov 1945.

My father had by luck escaped from the Germans in June 1942. He had just been a member of a resistance group at the senior high-school (he was 19 years old) and had just graduated, when he travelled on a weekend trip to his aunt in Telemark

and at midnight the Gestapo came to arrest him at home in Oslo. My grandfather lied to the police/Gestapo and the day after he made a telephone call to Telemark to the aunt with a message that my father knew meant he had to escape. My grand-father organised the escape from Telemark to Sweden and in June '44 my father came to England, from where he went over to Canada to start his pilot education, returning to Winkleigh in March '45.

My father described the war-time period as a time when he came out "in the big world - away from little Norway" - and saw what was really going on and was close to the war-action. It was a time filled with very intense life, friendship and serious questions. Becoming a pilot was risky as half of the Norwegian pilots were shot down and killed in action during the war - and the others knew about them. He enjoyed the last stages of the war in Winkleigh and he always spoke of good memories from that period.

Thank you so much for your kind help and information.

Best wishes,

Andreas M. Seierstad

Diary 7-9 May 1945 - Written at Winkleigh Airfield

Live report from Ivar Seierstad (b. 01.03.1923) from Oslo, Norway

7th May: A week has gone – and what a week! Victory has followed yet another victory! The dining-room at the airbase has been increasingly filled up with airmen who want to listen to the radio-news at 6.30 pm after the evening meal. First came the surrender in Italy, - one million soldiers! Gen. Patton & Co are moving rapidly into Austria and taking the south of Germany. Berlin falls the 4th May – Then comes total surrender to Monty – including Denmark and Holland. In Copenhagen there is



an enormous enthusiasm breaking out!

In the morning of 7th May the rumours started - and during the day it was announced officially that Churchill should make a speech at 3.00 pm the next day. The Germans had decided to surrender.

In this excited atmosphere many of us asked our boss – Gisholt – in the camp for permission to a day or two off for leave – but he was stubborn and said no!

Then Thorleif Andersen and I decided on our own – to take my bicycle together to Okehampton – I sat on the cross-bar. In a mood of joy we arrived at 10 pm - flags were put out all over the town. It was getting darker, and we decided to hike to London. It seemed hopeless, until a car

stopped. An extremely friendly lieutenant-colonel drove us through Newton Abbot to Torquay, then took his private-driver over and drove us to Exeter. Ten minutes later we were on the night-train to London - so we were very lucky!!! The train was not too packed with passengers, so we could sit from Bristol.

8th May: Tuesday and VE-day! We arrived at 7.00 am in London. We fixed a room in Marylebone Street; then we walked and observed the increasing expectations "in the air" and in the street-life. We stopped outside Buckingham Palace and screamed and shouted. In the masses of the people gathered there we were "driven" towards Downing Street for 3.00 pm to listen to Churchill's speech. Thousands of people were gathered, it was overcrowded and the atmosphere was electric. A historic moment when he declared the victory over Hitler-Germany was a fact! "This is Your day" he declared and the cheering in the crowd was enormous. – it seemed endless!

Afterwards – chaos broke out – the situation was out of control. People were almost mad and crazy. It is understandable after 5 years of terror bombardment and tough living-conditions. (Ivar told many times that the overcrowded streets were so packed with people that he suddenly walked over the roof of a parked car - that got pressed flat!)

I photographed Churchill when he walked in a procession from the Parliament to a thanksgiving-ceremony in St. Margaret's Church. We were 8-10 Norwegian airmen and we had almost come to the first row. When Churchill passed, he saw us in uniforms, made the V-sign and said "Hello Norway"! A moment to remember for rest of your life!

Afterwards we went, Hegg Lund, Hafslund, Skaale and I, up to County Hotel to join the Norwegian celebration. King Haakon of Norway and Prime-Minister Nygaardsvold made speeches on this glorious day. It moved me to listen and see how happy the King was. I sat on the gallery and could look directly at the King from above. After a while I went out in the streets and mingled into the crowd. We raised the Norwegian flag at Piccadilly Circus - this way really a day of joy. There were fires and people dancing everywhere in the streets. I was very tired when I went to bed late at night at the "Soldiers home".

9th May: Very tired today. I was mostly together with one of my best friends from the camp, but he was very sad and depressed, as he had contracted a painful sexual-disease. We sat in the park – St. James Park. We walked to Buckingham Palace and saw the King and the Queen leaving the palace. Then we met some other Norwegians. It was a terrible contrast between my friend's personal problems and the joyfulness that still were in the crowds that gathered in the parks and streets.

Returned to Okehampton, found my bicycle and came back to the camp.



Winkleigh Football Club

As some of you may know, we do have a football club here in Winkleigh and this year was a very successful one, as the team finished top of Division 6 of the Devon & Exeter League, having only lost once throughout the whole season

Under the leadership of Manager Barry Robinson (The Mad Butcher), we had a close group of players that wanted to achieve this success and gain promotion to a higher division. We finished the season on a high by winning our last game 9-3, making us the highest scoring team in all the leagues' 9 division, netting over a hundred goals. One of our longest trip for an away game was Lyme Regis, and it was nice to see some locals coming along to support the team.

My thanks go to all those involved in the running of the club, but we do need more people to help keep this club going and improving.

Now the season is over, Barry decided to call it a day from managing the team, from everyone at the club, especially the players we would like to thank him for his hard work and sacrifices over the past couple of years.

Some of the players will probably leave as well for one reason or another, and we thank them as well for their commitment to represent Winkleigh, and wish them luck for the future.

Now we look forward to the new season and soon we will announce dates for pre-season training and games, any players out there that wish to join please get in touch with someone from the committee or keep an eye for notices.

Lastly, I want to thank Nigel and Barbara, The Seven Stars and Kings' Arms, all sponsors and those individuals that come to follow the team, week in week out for their help and support.

Jason Caruana

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Winkleigh	24	11	1	0	73	19	11	0	1	56	19	22	1	1	129	38	91	67

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Lives in a Landscape – Lyn Baker

Old Playgroup Site – Castle Street

A disfigured site now, looming over Vine Street, but for many years it was home to Winkleigh's playgroup, a lively, well-run play centre for three to five year olds, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Founded by Mrs Lyn Baker in the late sixties, she and an assistant were paid (not a king's ransom!) with all mothers of registered children committing to regularly volunteering for 3 hours every half term (or pay extra).



Although based in the old pre-fab hut and with the use of the old school, now Community Centre, playground, Lyn wanted to make use of the waste ground behind the hut for more imaginative and adventurous play on a grass surface. A cohort of mothers swung into action levelling, digging and sowing the site during several long summer evenings (with the occasional barbecue thrown in). Ralph Gent built the fort, a huge tyre from the fire engine factory on the airfield was sunk in the ground to create a tunnel; and local tradesmen donated wood and sand as Lyn designed in variety, levels and den areas.

When complete it was officially opened by Sir Peter Mills, MP for Torridge, assisted by Betty Heggadon (from Winkleigh School) and Jo Stone of The Playgroup Association who always supported Lyn Baker with her efforts.



Creating the adventure playground was a community effort inspired by the playgroup founder Lyn Baker which so amply demonstrated the importance and power of harnessing all different talents, skills and the enjoyment of shared activity.

In particular, for many young women, it helped break through the isolation that many experience. The youngsters flourished and were enriched by their many and varied opportunities for play and friendship. Lyn also co-operated with The Mother

and Toddler Group when it started up in The Community Centre in 1976. It is still running there today thanks to Margaret Bridgman.

When Lyn retired in 1981 a surprise farewell party was held in her honour at The Village Hall. A talented artist, she wrote and illustrated a book about how she and her two brothers left Manchester in the 1950's to follow their dream of farming in Devon. Sadly she died before she saw it published; but her account of the trials and adventures of city folk taking on farm life entitled 'Our Lamps Glow Brightly' is still available at Dowland Church for a donation.

A fine testament to a talented lady.

[Editors' Note: Illustration from front cover of 'Our Lamps Glow Brightly' is published with permission from the Executors of F.E Baker.]

Winkleigh Morris

By the time this article appears Winkleigh Morris will be well into our 27th season of dancing in towns and villages in the area. Our first public display this year was in Torrington on 22nd April, followed by an evening performance between the two pubs on Tuesday, 25th April. In case you missed us, other dates when we are nearby are 20th June at the Duke of York, Iddesleigh, 4th July at the Red Lion, Exbourne, and 22nd August at the Ram's Head, Dolton, all starting at 8.00 pm.

Winkleigh Morris came into being in 1990 when Sylvia Duffy, landlady of the former Winkleigh Hotel, encouraged several of her regular customers to take part in evening classes for Morris dancing. We have remained active over the years, and still have some of the original members in the group. We perform a mixture of Cotswold style and Border style dances, including several of our own devising – the 'Kings Arms' and 'The Seven Stars' being two examples.

We are a friendly group of men and women, who enjoy dancing, enjoy a song and tune in the pub afterwards, and enjoy meeting Morris groups (or 'sides') from other parts of the country. Several will have taken part in our biennial weekend of dance in May. We will be travelling to Portsmouth in July to take part in a day of dance organised by Victory Morris Men, whom we met in Guernsey last autumn. We will also be spending a week in Derbyshire early in September, to take in a day of dance in the city of Derby.

New dancers and musicians are always welcome, especially if you live in Winkleigh. No previous experience is necessary. Our weekly winter practice season begins on Tuesday 26th Sept in the Community Centre, from 8 pm.

For more information see our website www.winkleighmorris.org.uk

or contact Colin on 01363 877216 or Averil on 01271 831461

Keeping Winkleigh on Time - Update

Since Easter, the tower clock of All Saints Church in the heart of the village, has again been chiming loud and clear, helping to keep Winkleigh 'on-time' something it has been doing since at least 1872. In early January an eyrie silence had descended over our village as various parts of the mechanism stopped working, needing substantial repair and replacement.

The original clock was made by Funnell of Brighton and is a flatbed movement with deadbeat escapement and Westminster strike. It was converted to automatic winding in 1982 and has since had several repairs, often following storm damage!

The community 'Tower Clock' appeal launched for funds has so far raised just over £3,800 towards the repair and maintenance costs, currently estimated at £4,685. We'd like to say a big **THANK YOU** to the many individuals and community groups that came forward with offers of financial support. In particular, the Winkleigh Parish Council, the Winkleigh Society and the Winkleigh Fair Committee. Regrettably, our appeals to local business organizations for support have been less successful.



If you are in a position to help keep Winkleigh 'ticking' with a donation – no matter how big or small – there's still 'time'. Please contact one of the following. If eligible, consider using the 'Gift Aid' scheme – it's worth an extra 25% to us! Many thanks.

Collin Gibson, Treasurer (01837-680172)

Margery Howard, Warden (01837-83362)

Marjorie Bowers, Warden (01837-83585)

Winkleigh Church Flower Ladies

Thank you to everyone who purchased a remembrance lily for our Easter arrangements in church. The response this year was amazing and our lovely church looked amazing.

Also thank you all who attended the coffee morning on Tuesday 18th April. A total sum of £226.17 was raised which will go towards our flower fund.

A Summer Solstice Devonshire Cream Tea to be held on Wednesday 21st June, 2.30-4.30 pm, which will be held outside the church weather permitting otherwise it will be inside. Look out for posters in the village for more details, nearer the event.

We are also planning a 'Special' theme for the 'Winkleigh Fair Week' this year being 'Seasons', and welcome everyone to the coffee morning of Tues. 11th July from 10.30 – 12 noon.

Linda Millership

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Stable Green Chapel

The warmer weather is with us, the snow drops and daffodils are a distant memory, the blue bells are fading as we enjoy the summer evenings and thoughts of holidays in warmer places. To get us all in the mood Terence Bourne international guitarist will be giving a Flamenco Guitar Concert on Saturday 29th July at 7.30 pm at Stable Green Chapel in aid of The North Devon Hospice and chapel funds admission free, refreshments will be available. So why not come along and have an evening of summer fun.

The Chapel's weekly services are held every Sunday evening at 6:30 pm when we have a variety of preachers.



For more information on the concert or services phone Fiona or James on 01837 83321.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*Fiona Betteridge
Chapel Steward*

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Winkleigh Short Mat Bowling Club

Our main season finished at the end of April but the Club continues throughout the year with five teams playing in the Summer Leagues.



Throughout the Autumn and Winter we had seventeen teams competing and now have quite a few trophies to go to the engravers! The most significant win of the season was the Club winning the Alan Wright Trophy the top tournament in North Devon and North Cornwall for the first time in Club history. So congratulations to all.

Our in house Club Tournaments are always popular amongst members and the winners this year were: -

Royal British Legion Cup – Bill Brook,
Dickman Mens singles – Mark Allen,
Wonnacott Ladies singles – Rita Redstone,
Carbery pairs – Ron Indge and Mark Allen.

Our Flue and Chimney Specialists Tournament was very successful with the winners being a team from Cerne Abbas in Dorset. Thanks to Andrew Baker and Rangemoors for their continued support of this event.

We continue to meet for social roll ups on Mondays and Fridays 2.00 – 4.30. If you fancy having a go just turn up or give me a call. We have bowls you can use and no experience is necessary. Look forward to seeing you.

Jan Ovenden (Secretary) 01837 83853

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The Winkleigh Singers

St Michael and All Angels Church in Great Torrington rang to the sounds of Mozart's Requiem when the Winkleigh Singers performed this great masterpiece in April, with spectacular organ playing by Andrew Millington and four wonderful professional soloists. It was an uplifting evening for singers and audience.



They are now preparing a summer concert to be held on Saturday 8th July at 7.30 pm at All Hallows Church, Broadwoodkelly.

Broadwoodkelly Church is the proud custodian of the only church organ in Devon which has a Grade 1 listing. This fine instrument, a 2-manual Telford & Telford organ, is now in need of an extensive restoration. The Winkleigh Singers will be giving a concert of summer songs and madrigals, English sacred and secular music, in aid of the appeal fund to get this work started. The instrument is generally in reasonable playing condition but suffers from its approximately 165 years of age!

You are all invited to the concert at 7.30 pm in the church and there is also an opportunity for organists to play this delightful instrument between 5.15 and 7.15 pm.

There will be interval drinks in the Village Hall and a retiring collection for the organ restoration fund.

The Winkleigh Singers will also be holding an open choir practice on Monday 4th September for anyone wishing to come and sing with a view to joining the choir. The friendly choir meets at the Umberleigh Christian Fellowship Building on Monday evenings from 7.30 - 9.30 pm and welcomes singers of all voice parts (in particular tenors!) See the website for details: www.winkleighsingers.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1171218

Bacon Roll Time Again!

Well, well, well! It is not often that I am at a loss for words but how can I describe you wonderful people of Winkleigh?

Each year the awful disease that is cancer affects our friends and family but there are so many advances now in treatment and recovery that more and more we feel we are beating this curse. All this is through the relentless work of Cancer Research UK and you have all played your part in bringing this about.

For the 14th year you came and had your bacon rolls and coffee, you bought the cakes and had a good chat with neighbours and friends and you all helped to raise the incredible total of **£1,100**. We couldn't believe it either! Every penny goes to Cancer Research UK



Our little cottage was full to bursting and we were blessed with glorious weather so you spilled out into the garden as well. Thank you to our local businesses for your support. Thank you to the "Team" for your hard work. Most of all thank you to each and every one of you for supporting this event; without you nothing would happen.

So words to describe the people of Winkleigh – terrific, loyal, unbelievable, fantastic, supportive and totally awesome. Thank you.

Jan Ovenden

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Shute Lane Report

Shute Lane is an ancient green lane running from the A3124 up to Exeter Road in the village. Although it was an exceptionally beautiful Lane with trees and numerous plants on both sides, the lane itself was extremely muddy and only walkable in wellingtons.

The parish council were fortunate to obtain funding from Torridge District Council with District Councillor Boundy's help. The first job was to scrape the accrued mud from the surface of the lane & dig a 30 centimetre channel down the west side to allow water to disperse easily. 40 mm clean stone was then added to the channel and spread along the lane.

A five bar gate is in the process of being erected at the end of the lane. What remains to complete the work is the top 40 feet or so of the lane. There is some debate as to how this will be done, however I'm sure a satisfactory solution will be found.



Ideally, a gate into Shute Lane from Westcots Drive will be the next project.

Thanks to the substantial work done freely by Roger Hill and his machines; with a potential Budget of £2680 we have currently spent only £1824 leaving a balance of £856 (with about 5 ton of paid-for stone in storage at Roger Hill's farm until we require it).

Alan Jacobs



Breeding Time

All the birds that are coming to Winkleigh to breed should be here by now, even the late comers, the Swifts and the Flycatchers. Our Swifts seem to have arrived as I write this on 6th May, which is really quite late, and there have been at least a dozen forming today the top level of the fly catching birds. Below them is a layer of swallows and below again are the House Martins. The other late arrival is the Spotted Flycatcher. I have not yet seen these in the village, but there were several in the scrubland on the North Devon golf course last week.

At Devon Birds we try to keep a record of what is breeding where, and we have a guide to help us. The rarest birds are group A, and group E are the most common. I should report anything of group C or better. That includes Bullfinch, Marsh Tit, Whitethroat, Kingfisher or Green Woodpecker. But we like to have a note of even commoner birds if they are clearly breeding. Simply building a nest, or copulation, does not prove breeding success, but adults feeding young is the most likely sign, or young not yet fully fledged. If you have clear evidence of breeding, preferably with photo, please let me know and I shall happily pass it through to the County Recorder.

Meanwhile the pattern of birds at your feeders will change. Instead of pairs feeding together, you will often get one bird, the male, collecting food to take back to the nest. Then the parents turn up with the fledglings, and this is usually the only time of year that I regularly get Woodpeckers, with at least one young and one parent giving a lesson in local food.

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Finding the warblers becomes even more difficult. Not only are trees and shrubs now in leaf, so hiding many, but also they are largely silent. Once their singing has attracted a mate, they no longer have a need to sing, although they probably call to establish each other's position. The Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler, our two most common warblers, have complete different songs, but their calls are listed as 'oo-ee' with two syllables, or 'ooee' with only one. Now and again I actually have got it right.

The best place to find the warblers is not full forest but scrubby land, with hedges and willow, hopefully also with gorse. I often look along the path just inside Winkleigh Wood, going straight ahead from the gate but looking (and listening) to your left. For a few years late May produced the extraordinary trilling of the Nightjar in Winkleigh Wood, just after sunset. This is usually at recently cut-over forest land, and I have not heard here for a year or two, but I should be very interested if you manage to find Nightjar in the area. It is quite unmistakable.

Peter Howard
83362

Winkleigh Young Farmers Club



Summer is now here, which is obviously a busy time for farmers, with grass silaging season and many other crops to harvest. Around Winkleigh you can't go too far without seeing fields of stooks of thatching straw. All these jobs mean long days (and nights) full of hard work, usually trying to catch any good dry weather. Luckily summer does mean that stock can be put outside for summer grazing.

As for the young farmers club, we are busy preparing our 'cubicle' for Devon County Show with the theme 'Around the world.' By the time this is published the show will have passed, along with it the show dance which is always a good event to let the hair down. I hope that if you attended the show, you ventured inside the YFC tent. It's such a good example of what the YFC is all about, with many club and individual entries.

We recently held our Easter disco on Maundy Thursday, which was successful.

At the end of April, 16 of us travelled down to Torquay for the National AGM. It was a great weekend spent with friends. We enjoyed watching the entertainment final which was won by a club in Wales. Cheriton and Tedburn represented Devon and came 3rd which was fantastic. We also saw some of the cheerleading competition where Tarka group (the group which Winkleigh belongs to) came 2nd! With Jess Squire from our club taking part. Congratulations to them all. Of course we all enjoyed the evening events as well, with 3 nights of radio one DJs and live bands, which was fantastic. It was also a good opportunity to dust off the dresses and suit and bow ties and have a good dance.

This time of year is also great for any outside events; foam parties, summer balls, outdoor activities day, and of course the summer rallies and shows.

We are hoping to hold a quiz on the 29th September. Look out for more information nearer the time.

For more information, please look at our Facebook page 'Winkleigh YFC' or contact our secretary Tim Laarveld – 07910074836

Katrina Brook

Winkleigh Sports Centre

The bright sunny weather always cheers you up. This is especially true for us all at the Sports Centre who are looking forward to another great year of supporting the community. The Winkleigh Fair isn't too far away and all at the Centre are keen to make a good contribution to this popular and historic occasion.

YOUTH CLUB: After last year's great success we will be running our Tractor Rally in August. Look out for details on Facebook or on the village notice board.

FACILITIES AT THE SPORTS CENTRE: We are maintaining the old bowling green at the rear of the Centre to make it more usable to the community. If you would like to hire this for sports, football, parties or anything else please contact Dave Woollacott on 01837 83684.

TABLE TENNIS: If anyone is interested in playing table tennis please contact Mike Wilson on 01769 520605.

AUNT SALLY: This old "pub" game is arriving at the Sports Centre. We believe that it began in Oxfordshire where it is still very popular. We are in the process of setting up a "throw" (the playing area for Aunt Sally) so look out for more details on Facebook etc to find out more. We hope to get a team together and have lots and lots of practice on the forthcoming long Summer nights. Contact Tom Radcliffe on 07811 772730 if interested - all welcome! It is a very easy game to play.

Thank you to all of you who wish to be updated about the night landing site and the telecommunication mast on Sports Centre land. Both proposals are in the planning stage and have been considered by Winkleigh Parish Council. Updates will be available soon.

Tom Radcliffe
Secretary

News from Winkleigh School

Everyone has returned from the spring break full of energy and enthusiasm for the busiest term of the year! All across the school, plans are being made for topics, trips, exhibitions and festivals, as well as casting forward to next September when new children join us, other children leave us and everyone else adjusts to their new classroom routines.

Before that happens though, the children in the Foundation Pod are asking ‘what’s at the bottom of the garden?’ This topic began with a splendid trip to Rosemoor, along with the reception class, to undertake the ‘helping Rosie, the garden fairy’ workshop. The children scoured the gardens for evidence that spring had sprung and collected petals, leaves and suchlike for Rosie’s big storage jars. They also had a chance to create a spring crown before passing their collections over. Later on in the summer term in Foundation there will be a family fun day out and votes are being counted at the moment to decide which venue that will take place at.

The fairy workshop was relevant to the reception class’s topic too as they are thinking about ‘fantasy’ beginning with designing a witch or wizard’s potion and then mixing it, with lots of thought going into what special powers each potion would bestow onto the drinker! Later in the term, the reception children will be looking at transport and visiting the Devon Railway Centre at Tiverton. The class will also be hosting some induction sessions for the new September intake, who will be joining the current class for some play sessions and also coming into class when the present reception children move up into their new class for the two days in July.

As is usual at this time of year, reception are also watching carefully their ‘Painted Lady’ caterpillars who are growing at an alarming rate and will soon be ready to spin their cocoons! This was after a very successful hatching of the frog’s spawn this year resulting in a good batch of froglets being sent back to the field pond that they began life in.

Years 1 and 2 have been working closely together on their topics, as they usually do, to make best use of available resources. So ‘minibeasts’ are being examined and the Year 2 class have been keenly observing their stick insects hatching from the tiny eggs as well as keeping an eye on the caterpillars in reception! The year 1 children have been very enthusiastically working with their new garden equipment, and undertaking mini-topics on the weather and money. They will be joining with the Year 2s on a trip to Quince Honey Farm and a walk around Bondleigh. Of course, with it being the summer term, the Year 2s have also been working hard on their SATS tests.

Our school will again host the reception and Key Stage 1 music festival in June when a number of local schools will visit us and perform, jointly and separately, songs around the theme of the ‘garden’, hopefully providing scope for some lovely tunes about insects, flowers, trees, fruit and vegetables.

Year 3 are planning to host an exciting visitor to enhance their ‘Celtic life and the invasion of the Romans’ topic, a real –life Roman soldier! This has proved to be very interesting in the past with the children gaining a lot from the ‘living history’ style of delivery. They also have their camping trip at Rock and Rapids to look forward to, when they will be trying out some water sports.

Italy is the focus for a ‘European Cities’ topic in Year 4, and, with their literacy work being based around a book called ‘Incredible Edibles’ they will be writing instructions and cooking Italian recipes. Living things and their habitats are being looked at in science and of course, the overnight trip to London, taking in some sights such as the Tower of London and a tour of Parliament, is being eagerly anticipated.

Living things and their habitats surface again in the Year 5 science topic. Their European focus will be on the country of Iceland, with some comparisons and some similarities being sought. Tesco are again coming into school to help with the beginning of the ‘Enterprise’ project, giving children an insight into business life, kicking off with the budgeting and preparation for a family picnic to take place for the Year 5 families later in the term.

Year 6 will also be taking part in the SATS in the next few weeks and, once the tests have been completed, they will be delving into Tudor life, comparing Madrid and Exeter in their European focus, and planning for their Woodland Wild Night Out in a secret location near Okehampton. Finally, for a last bonding session before they move onto the next phase of their education, they will be having a sleep-over in school with some exciting workshops and activities planned.

The whole school will again be taking a week out at the end of June to study art and to produce an exhibition of work from all year groups which, if the standard set last year is anything to go by, will be a sight to see!

Then, as the school year draws to a close, reviews and evaluations will be undertaken, the environment will be checked and spruced up as necessary and the process will begin all over again in September!

Vicki Fenemore – Headteacher

‘Muddy Shoes’ at Halsdon Nature Reserve - Monday 08 May, 2017



What a wonderful way to start the week! Our walking group met on the most glorious of May mornings at Halsdon Nature Reserve, near Dolton, which is a Devon Wildlife Trust site (DWT; www.devonwildlifetrust.org).

We walked from Ashwell car park across a meadow to be greeted by a wonderful scent of bluebells in the warm breeze. As the woodland began, so did the bluebells – swathes of purple were interspersed with the white flowers, dark green leaves and pungent smell of wild garlic.

We then walked downhill through mixed oak woodland to the DWT hide and information point, on the banks of the River Torridge. This hide is open to the public and is well equipped with

binoculars, flora and fauna identification books and a log book where people record the wildlife they have seen. Kingfishers had been observed during the previous few days, but in April there were lots of Otter sightings.

From the hide we turned left into the meadows by the river, passing the Golden Pool (story about the Golden Pool is on the wall of the Hyde). We then observed the comings and goings of wild bees that nest in an old oak tree on the river bank. Apparently the nest has been colonised for about 100 years. In the next meadow there is a bit of a mystery – another old oak tree has coins slotted into the bark. No-one knows when it started or by whom but some of the coins are very rusty and must have been inserted some years ago as the tree has grown a lot since, so they are quite high up.

After the meadows we walked uphill through woodland and carpets of bluebells. We then turned right along a broad woodland track which took us back to the river Torridge, a little way downstream from the ruined Victorian corn mill. We stopped near the mill for a snack and a shared thermos of coffee, whilst enjoying the sights and sounds of the river.

Re-fuelled, we continued walking and took a left turn beyond the ruined cottage and walked uphill to the big beech trees, where there is a lovely twisted wooden bench with views through the trees to the river below. We continued along this path which



traces the highest boundary of the reserve, offering dramatic views down the steep sided river valley to the river, hundreds of feet below.

We continued past Halsdon House and then through a gate into a meadow and up to the bench at 'Top of the World' – an aptly named spot as the views to Dartmoor are breath-taking. We crossed the meadow where some cattle were 'sun bathing' and chewing lush grass – they didn't bother with us at all! They looked very content. From the meadow we arrived back in the first bluebell wood and then retraced our

steps to the car park. This was a great walk (about 5km) with good company on a perfect morning in late Spring.

We concluded that Halsdon Nature Reserve is a very special and magical place and we hope to walk there again in the Autumn.

Rosemary Simmonds

Winkleigh WI

March was a very special month as our Group celebrated its 90th Birthday, with a Birthday Tea which was held in the Village Hall on the exact date (i.e. 8th March) with some previous Presidents invited. Lots of stories swapped and some photos viewed! We also always have a Birthday Lunch to which husbands are invited and we usually go to a Restaurant. However, this time we had a Bring and Share Lunch at the home of our President. All our Members were present.

April was a flower demonstration with garden flowers and also how to make an Easter Garden also using plants from the garden. Our Easter Bonnet competition was won by Wendy Watkins (who has been a member of this WI for 25 years) and the judge for this event was Bobbie Farrington.

Some of our members attended the Spring Council Meeting in Torquay and after the business side of proceedings were completed, the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) provided a short video and two ladies gave us a compassionate insight into the Samaritans. The morning finished with some brave ladies from the Women's League of Health and Beauty dancing a few of their routines with balls, hoops, clubs and ribbons. They were also wearing costumes from across the ages and had us doing exercises in our chairs!

After lunch our speaker Mandy Hickson, an inspirational, amusing, informative and lovely person, talked about her life in the Royal Air Force and we learnt that she was the first woman fast jet pilot to go into action in the first Gulf War. Her presentation with action film from the skies and sound track was great. Her first words were “welcome to my office” and three fast jets zoomed across the screen. She had us in stitches with some of her stories - a great day out!

May is our AGM month and also when we decide which Resolutions we will vote for at the National AGM which is in Liverpool this year. The two resolutions are Alleviating Loneliness and Plastic Soup!! The NFWI call on Government and industry to research and develop innovative solutions to stop the accumulation of micro- plastic fibres shed from every synthetic clothes wash getting into the Oceans.

Forward planning for June and July are a visit to Crediton Flower Show on Monday 5th June and ‘Learn how to play Croquet’ on 12th July.

We then break for the Summer and start back on 6th September with a presentation by Ray and Claire Tricker on their trip to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, visitors are very welcome.



Finally Winkleigh Womens Institute would like to wish everyone a HAPPY FAIR week and pray for good weather!

Claire Tricker President/Secretary



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Letting the Stories reveal the Place

The stories listed below have appeared in successive editions of Distinctly Winkleigh entitled 'Lives in a Landscape'. These stories are an off-shoot from developing The Village Design Statement (VDS), in acknowledgment that facts, surveys and principles are not the same as knowledge and wisdom.

- Malcolm's Bench on Hatherleigh Road. [Philanthropy]
- Clifford Short [Clifford's Way] and Brian Holland (Elms Meadow). [Pedestrian champions]
- Lyn Baker and mothers building the adventure playground. [Community Action]
- Lisa and Jason. (From affordable housing to King's Meadow).
- The old Hospital site (now Sunny View) and its link with refugees from the Second World War.
- Justin Scleater's 'view from the tractor'.
- David Trennaman; the story of the village hall row that split the village. [Building History of Townsend Farmhouse and Greystones].
- Postman's Tales from David Woollacott.
- George Jarvis and the art of casting a Hedge.
- From Farmers wife to author and artist (Shirley Cowling).
- True Grit – Steven and Shirley Leahy [local entrepreneurs].
- The story behind Old Man's Seat. [Street Life].
- The Oak Tree at Southernhay. The green landscape is as important as the built landscape.

Without stories of people, traditions (a Fair since 1262), agriculture, animal husbandry, knowledge of how the landscape has been fashioned planners can bulldoze their way through with insensitive change obliterating rather than enhancing natural features.

Successful plans are built on a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the special qualities and circumstances that combine to create an individual place.

The Parish Council, over the last 20 years has worked on, consulted and developed:

- Parish plans, community plans (2014) from which stemmed The Community Plan Action Group which in turn facilitated the Village Design Statement.
- It has recommended infill sites and new ones for development in cooperation with Torridge's local plan, mindful of the nation's need for more houses

and the desirability of change. The VDS is now referenced when responding to planning applications.

The chief planning officer on TDC, David Green, has encouraged Winkleigh to work on a Neighbourhood Plan as has Geoffrey Cox MP. Winkleigh is in the process of developing it. Wendy Mondy, Pauline Warner, and Pauline Odulinski showcased this work at Saturday's Market in May.

A series of hoops have been jumped through; but the slew of major planning applications heading our way, over and above the 55 the Parish Council had already ear-marked, throws into serious question Torrington District Council's commitment to Localism and their willingness to pay our village due respect and acknowledgement of all the work that has and is being done.



One of the main aims of the VDS is to make sure new development contributes positively to the distinctiveness of Winkleigh and respects the form and function of the village, so that community life is celebrated and enhanced. If our village changes with sensitivity and care we can create new places people can value and tell new stories to enrich the future.

We were warned that this time before the Local Plan was finalised would encourage ‘wild-west’ behaviour from Developers which we are witnessing now.

We do need Torrington to be held to account to high standards of planning that promotes local distinctiveness, to champion and facilitate a coordinated, integrated approach that works with the village community.

mindful of the depth of peoples' attachment to places.

Penny Griffiths and Pauline Warner.

13th May 2017

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Rocket and Rose endorsed by 'Dragon'

PRESS RELEASE - May 2017

Devon business woman receives top accolade from Theo Paphitis

Devon Small Business Owner, Gemma Bennett from online kid's clothing label, Rocket & Rose has received a top business endorsement from Dragon's Den & Retail Entrepreneur, Theo Paphitis.



Every week thousands of businesses try to catch the eye of Theo Paphitis by tweeting their business ideas to him through his small business Sunday initiative. (#sbs). Theo then selects his top 6 businesses for that week and endorses and supports them.

Last September, Gemma entered the much sought after competition and was delighted to have been recognised. "I was thrilled to have been chosen as it means so much to me & my family. My confidence & my business will benefit so much and I hope to learn & grow with all Theo's contacts & entrepreneurial advice".

Gemma lives and runs their online business www.rocketandrose.com from their home based workshop in the rural North Devon village of Winkleigh with her husband Daniel and young family of three.

Having experience as a student at the London College of Fashion and a career in Sales, Marketing & Event Management, Gemma was fast to create a fun clothing brand which attracted like-minded Mums.

The business started back in October 2011 when their twin girls were just 8 weeks old. Gemma was hand sewing tutus for friends & relative's children. Long hours and many sleepless nights with two very young babies along with lots of hard work and determination has grown the business to an extent where now, a team of 3 work on the business, producing bespoke & hand printer glitter print slogan t-shirts & other handmade garments.

Gemma has recently been to the Small Business Award ceremony, hosted by stationary giants Rymans, where she collected her Small Business Award from Theo Paphitis and took part in a Business networking event with fellow Dragon, Deborah Meaden & successful businessman, John Mills from JML.



With a handful of other awards, a new partner on prestigious selling platform "Not On The High Street" and a strong online presence on Instagram, Facebook & Etsy, you can see why Rocket & Rose caught Theo's eye for small business recognition.

Contact: Gemma Bennett
01837 83837 / 07535413070
gemma@rocketandrose.com
www.rocketandrose.com

Notes:

Awards: Mumpreneur Top 100 Award 2012 & 2015
 Jacqueline Gold - Woman in Business award
 #QueenOf Twitter Marketing Award
 #BrightPig SEO Twitter Award

#SBS: Theo is well known for his support of small business in the UK. It is said he does more to support small business than our own government.

Theo says... "I admire people who have passion and energy. If you cannot bore your friends to death about your own small business then something is seriously wrong. I was struck by the number of business owners on Twitter who wanted to tell me about their new products and services. Small Business Sunday was born so that people have a specific time slot to tweet and can pitch their 'sell' directly to me."

Step Back in Time



**22nd & 23rd
July 2017**

Step Back in Time Festival is on once again at Pattiland Farm with plenty to see and have a go at!

Displays include: Viking & Iron Age & Medieval and World War 2 living history & battle re-enactments.

Wander around the Living History encampments & learn about the culture of these different time periods in our history & be amazed at the battles taking place in the Arena throughout the day.

Children will love it!! Bring some chairs or a rug to sit on!

Displays of Vintage vehicles including Classic Cars, Motorbikes dating back 100 years, Tractors, Lawnmowers, also miniature Stationery Engines and Steam Engines & vintage televisions dating back to 1929 with cinema showing old TV programmes, domestic appliances, and vintage computers going back to the 70's.

ACE Archaeology Club will be demonstrating various experimental archaeology techniques and exhibiting the results of the excavation at Moistown, the site of a medieval house. Also Car Boot Sale & some Trade Stands.

See web for more info: <http://www.step-back-in-time.co.uk/>

Brits, Baileys and Beaufighters

Winkleigh knows it is an ancient hill-top village, but Bill Horner, Devon's Chief Archaeologist brought this to life with his illustrated talk, hosted by The Winkleigh Society, on 9th March in the Community Centre.



And to the untrained eye, it is not always obvious where ancient clues lie.

Elms Meadow surprised even the experts when doing their survey before building commenced. There was an archaeological watching brief on this site because of its proximity to the ancient strip-field system and Shute Lane.

Medieval pottery soon appeared but finding Bronze-Age artefacts was an unexpected bonus confirming, as Bill Horner said, Winkleigh's importance as an ancient settlement.

The site map indicates where trenches were dug and the artefacts uncovered, overlaid with the subsequent road layout on the estate.

The pre-historic evidence from Elms Meadow hints at more widespread Bronze-Age settlement than the surviving above ground evidence (e.g. burial mounds just beyond the parish boundary on Riddlecombe Moor) suggests.



There are also later pre-historic or Romano-British settlements, the enclosure ditches of which have been recorded from the air as archaeological cropmarks, scattered across the parish.

In later editions of *Distinctly Winkleigh*, we plan to outline other archaeological findings in and beyond the Conservation Area.

The Winkleigh Society

What's Going On at Winkleigh Methodist Church?

Our troll themed Holiday Club, which took place during the Easter break, was a huge success. Imagine 66 primary school children filling our Church with their excitement and enthusiasm, many of them (and the adult helpers) with the most amazing troll hair styles! What a quiet day it was!! So lovely to hear them singing, watch them playing games and listen to the discussions they were having in the more reflective moments when they had the opportunity to write a 'thank you' prayer on a banner next to their hand prints. A big thank you to Bridget Down and the team of helpers for all the hard work and planning involved in running such an event and to everyone who brought their children along.

A group of about twenty teenagers and leaders from our Circuit (local group of churches) enjoyed a 'Soul Watford' weekend away in May. They stayed in a vicarage and came back with exciting stories about their time together, including a visit to Thorpe Park. As one of the leaders, Sophie Roberts, commented on Facebook, *'We came as strangers and left as friends'*. Stowford Camp will be held again in July and several younger members of our Church will be attending. Then, some of them will be off to a rather larger camp – Soul Survivor – held at the Peterborough Showground. Thousands of young people gather for worship, teaching and ministry. The summer of camping comes to an end at the August Bank Holiday weekend with the local Bush Conference, held just outside Bow. This is a family event with teaching and worship for adults and a separate programme for children and teenagers. If camping isn't your thing, day visitors are welcome, detail can be found on their website.

On Sunday, 6 August a Youth Event will be held in the fields of the Roberts and Marshall families (Fiona's Farm Shop). At the time of writing, planning is underway – please check Facebook or our Church notice board for more information. This will definitely be a fun and exciting day with something for everyone, including food!!

On Monday, 10 July we will have our usual slot in the Winkleigh Fair Week programme with an evening of music starting at 7.30 pm and including refreshments with a donation to charity. Details on our Church notice board and Facebook.

A big 'thank you' to the Church Wives Group for the kind donation towards our children's work and activities. With so much going on, your financial support is greatly appreciated.

Our regular activities continue

Sunday worship begins at 11 am with coffee served from 10.40 am. Sunday School and SOW for teenagers runs at the same time. Every first Sunday in the month we meet at 5.30 pm instead of 11 am and have an informal time of worship and enjoy a bring-and-share tea together. Sunday 25 June will be 'Church on the

Beach' day – details on our Church notice board and on Facebook. Looking ahead, 11 am and will be led by Alan Libby from Cornwall.

SPACE Youth Club is proving very popular with about forty attending. It runs on the second and fourth Friday of every month (excluding school holidays): Years 5 & 6 from 7 to 8.15 pm and Year 7 upwards from 8.15 to 10 pm - £1 entry fee and a tuck shop available for anyone wanting to buy a snack.

Oasis continues to run on Mondays with a home-cooked two-course lunch being served at 12.30 pm (coffee, lighter lunches or cakes also available). All ages welcome – please pop in! Proceeds are used to support the charity Project Gateway and to fund a treat for regular customers. The next outing for regular customers is to visit the gardens at Castle Hill, Filleigh on Sunday 11th June.

All worship times and preachers are on our notice board outside of the chapel along with any other special events. As mentioned, keep up to date on Facebook - **WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHAPEL or SPACE for Youth Club information.**

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

Alan and Fiona Marshall 01837 83809 / Pam Down 01837 83674

Welcome from the Winkleigh Fair Committee

It seems hardly 5 minutes since we took on the mantle of managing the Winkleigh Fair and fundraising events and yet, here we are, some 9 months later with the winter behind us, a glorious spring in being and the prospect of a wonderful summer ahead. We have held two fundraising events since the last issue of DW. The first one was a Bingo night held at the village hall and which was kindly sponsored by DKD Carpentry. This was a most successful and well attended night - everyone had a wonderful evening.

By way of contrast, the evening with guitarist Philip Bailey at the Village Hall was disappointingly poorly attended. Philip played a selection of modern music in the first half followed by some excellent classical deliveries in the second half. We are extremely grateful to those who attended and supported the event.

However, looking forwards, there are several exciting events in the pipeline, some of which will have already happened by the time that the DW is published.

We are currently in the final stages of delivering a Race Night – small-time betting on horses with races being shown on DVD. We have a number of sponsors for this event including, at the time of writing, the Mad Butcher at Winkleigh, Nikki from website design company GFIVEDESIGN of Exeter, Gemma from GD Accountancy, Hatherleigh, Darren Howes from Howes Estate Agents, Winkleigh, Ed Knight from Ed Knight Logs, Chicklade, Michael Mustafa at MD Decorating, Winkleigh and

Emma Treby from Inspired to Change at Winkleigh and Exeter. Thanks to all our sponsors including those who came forward after the DW deadline for this article.

You will also have hopefully attended the illustrated talk given at the Village Hall by TV presenter, Author and Historian, Tim Matlin "The Titanic – A Very Deceiving Night". Tim is a world expert on matters of The Titanic and puts a differing perspective upon what actually happened on that fateful night.

Your Committee is actively seeking to provide a wide and varied range of events through the year in order to cater for all tastes.

On June 10th we are holding a Fabulous 80's Night at the Village Hall so we are hoping to see many of you with your flares, padded shoulders and big hair boogying the night away to the sound of Disco in Kernow.

The following week we are holding a children's tea and cake event in the village hall during which we will be showing "The Trolls" movie.

That almost takes us up to the Fair week itself when there of lots of exciting things going on. Some are old favourites such as the vintage and classic vehicle evening and the family bingo night but other activities are new.

We will be having a discovery walking tour around the village, stopping at a variety of interesting locations where refreshments will be available together with someone who will talk about the history of that particular spot. We didn't realise just how much history that is attributed to Winkleigh! We are hoping that the walk will culminate at Court Castle with refreshments and a short talk about the castle history.

A highlight of the Fair week will be a concert given by TV and stage stars, The D-Day Darlings. With sensational vocals, swinging choreography and a dazzling backdrop the show captures the very essence of the wartime era. Come and join us on a sentimental journey through the years of 1939-1945. We will be encouraging people to wear clothes or costumes of the day and we are also hoping to have a display of military vehicles outside the Village Hall on the night.



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The Seven Stars Pub is sponsoring a live street event for the Fair Day evening when an AC/DC tribute band will provide rock entertainment. During that day, there will be lots happening in The Square include a number of fairground rides, live music and food opportunities.

Your Committee is working hard to provide something for everyone during the week. We hope for two things – support from the villagers, which we know from past years is always there, and good weather which is always dependant on something of a wing and a prayer.

This year's programme of events for the Fair week will be published soon. By the time you read this article you may also be browsing through the programme and will see first-hand the full details of what is going on.

The beginning of Fair Church Service will be held at All Saint's Church at 3 pm on Sunday 9th July. This will be taken by The Reverend Graham Smith whom we look forward to meeting and welcoming.

The previous day, Saturday 8th July sees the Clay Pigeon shoot taking place at the Sports Centre together with an antiques and boot sale.

You will be aware that The Reverend Father Peter Norman is leaving Winkleigh during the summer for pastures anew in the Republic of Ireland. The Committee thanks him for all that he has done during his years at Winkleigh and for the support he has given to the Winkleigh Fair. We wish him and his family well in their new life on the Emerald Isle.

In arranging events we are very conscious that, as far as possible, we use local suppliers to source services, food and drink. Thanks are due to all of our suppliers including Marcia Butt at the Village Hall, The Bakery Stores, Sam's Cider, D&S Supplies and The Mad Butcher of Winkleigh. We are also grateful to Karen at The Seven Stars for allowing us to use the skittle alley through the winter for Committee meetings.

Publicising and advertising our events can always be a little challenging. We want to get details out to as many people as possible. You may have noticed that we now have our own notice board attached to the wall of The Bakery Stores in South Street. This is where you will find all sorts of information including contact details for each Committee member, a 2017 calendar of events and posters for forthcoming events. We are aware, however, that not everyone will see this so, in addition to placing posters strategically around the village, we have started leaflet dropping through letterboxes so that as many of you as possible know what is up and coming.

We have thanked many people and organisations in this article but the main thanks go to you, the villagers and residents, for your continued support. As a Committee, we really appreciate this and are so grateful to you all.

Let's all look forward to a great Fair week. See you all there.

The Winkleigh Fair Committee

Down Farm - the Grand Opening!

Since the winter edition we have been very busy preparing our market garden for opening in June! We are a micro farm, growing vegetables (fruit, nuts and more to follow soon!) on under one acre of land, using only hand tools. Our portacabin arrived mid-winter, kindly donated to us from Dolton, which will be our HQ and packing shed. Two poly tunnels are now up, the smaller one for propagating the thousands of plants we will grow this season, and the larger one being the home of the heat lovers - tomatoes, aubergines, peppers, chillies - and helping us grow throughout the winter months. Since February we have prepared 36 “no-dig” beds by adding a thick layer of compost directly on to the soil, and then covering in black, silage plastic to exclude the light and kill off any weeds for two months. Ideally longer would have been better, but our seedlings were ready to go into the ground and spread their roots!

As I am writing this our broccoli, chard, cauliflowers, cabbages, tomatoes, beetroot lettuce, kale, peas, broad beans, salad crops and herbs are all the ground. We can't wait for the first crop to be ready, and are very excited to be able to sell to our local community. We will have a small shop onsite that will be open when our first crops are ready, so please check our website or social media for the opening times and the date. We will know very soon - weather dependent! We will of course be at the Winkleigh market, now Beaford, and would love to sell to more local outlets for those interested. Do get in touch!

Down Farm Launch Party

Our official launch party will be the evening of Friday 14 July on the farm. Come celebrate the opening of our market garden and Winkleigh Fair week. We will be joined by local catering-van *Pig & Olive*, who will be cooking delicious wood-fired pizza, topped with Down Farm produce, *Moon Child Brewing Co.*, providing us with very tasty, small batch beer, wine from *Ten Acres*, as well as local soft drinks and Down Farm salads. There will be story telling (for all ages!) by *Love Local Food's* Kevin, music and DJs. Tickets (which include entry, pizza and a drink) are £6 for adults, £3 for 12+ and free for children. Please contact us directly for tickets; it is set to be a great evening!



*Henry Allison and Olivia James
Down Farm, Winkleigh, EX198DN
07902723849
downfarmwinkleigh@gmail.com
www.down-farm.com*

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Winkleigh Church Wives Group

The Church Wives is a group that meets at 2.30 pm on the second Monday of the month in the small room of the village hall. We have a very good membership and are open to all, we do not have any membership fees, and we are able to cover all our costs with having a raffle each month and a small charge for Tea & Biscuits.

Our yearly meetings start in September and we continue until our final meeting in June. We have a varied programme throughout the year. A yearly event is our annual coach outing in August, we are usually lucky with the weather on these occasions, but not always. Our trip to Weymouth in 2015 was to put it mildly a “wash out”!

Every year in November we hold our Autumn Fair, this is a very good fund raising event for us, as each year we like to choose a different Charity to support. Over the past years we have been able to send £300 each to North Devon Hospice, S.W. Children’s Hospice, £500 towards Dartmoor Rescue and last year alone we were able to donate £680 to Devon Freewheelers. This volunteer group of Motorbike Riders can deliver very quickly much needed Blood, Transplants and medicine to various Hospitals around the county.

As well as donations from our Autumn Fair we have a small raffle at our “late Christmas Lunch” which we enjoy in January and each year we try to donate the amount raised to local groups, which have included the School, Sunday School at All Saints Church, Beavers and this year the Chapel Youth Club. It might be a smaller amount than we raise in the Autumn but I am sure it is a great help to the groups that receive the money.

We try to have a variety of speakers during the year, so far, this year, 2016- into 2017 we have had speakers from Devon Freewheelers, Crediton Courier, History of Ambulances Train during WW1 to readings from a Gt. Grandmothers Journal, taking us back into the 19th and 20th century. At our next meeting in May, we will be learning about Russia, including some Russian music. We welcome any visitors to our meetings, even gentlemen, who have joined us on occasions, i.e. WW1 Ambulance’s.

Janet Magor, Secretary Winkleigh Church Wives Group

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Trees at War Memorial Recreation Fields

In August 2012 a group of Winkleigh people took over the management of approximately 2/3 acre of rough ground in Winkleigh War Memorial Recreation Fields. We called it “The Mound”, as it was a heap of spoil left over from the construction of the Sports Centre in 2003. Our aim is to provide an area where wildlife can flourish undisturbed and a peaceful and pleasant place for people to enjoy.

We planted the first trees in December of that year – rowans, oaks and wild cherries. We added to these original trees with 100 more in April 2014 and a further 100 in December 2015. All the trees are native species, which means they will provide food and shelter for birds and insects.

Since we started we have had many ups and downs, including sheep nibbling our tiny trees! We are grateful for the support of local people – Roger Hill, Andrew Ware and Tim and Andrew Roberts for their practical help with fencing, gates and maintenance. The trees were given to us – by Western Power and the Woodland Trust. Winkleigh Society and the Sports Centre Committee have also been encouraging.

Our trees are growing well, so our focus is on managing the grasses around them. Why not come and join in our occasional work-parties in Winkleigh's Biodiversity Area? Contact Kim J Melhuish (via Facebook) or ring Penny on 83407.

For photographs of the site see: <http://winkleighbiodiversity.blogspot.co.uk/>



Playing Fields Apple Trees:

Visiting the playing field the other day I was delighted to see a wonderful display of apple blossom. I discovered that the trees had been planted by members of Winkleigh Youth Club under the supervision of Brian Holland a few years ago. Apparently the young trees had been donated by members of the community to give the youngsters a sense of pride in planting trees and watching them mature.

Phillip Griffiths

Number Puzzle

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

Solution on page 63

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Spirituality and the Sacred – What it Means Within the History of Britain – (Part 1)

The idea of spirituality and the sacred is ancient, from Neanderthals arranging stones around a buried body to modern man and grave goods. It arguably involves and entices everyone, whether they know it or want it. At one level it can be the tantalising tease to some (though not to all) of magic, spiritualism, the occult, or, even the Harry Potter narrative. As the murky shallows of the Gadarene race in our society show, instant celebrity, instant knowledge and instant achievement make others weary and breathless of it all. They often to go to monasteries *et al* to seek sacred and inner space and renewal with the monks.

This article about the roots and background of the spiritual and sacred has been written from an Archaeological perspective, which is the secular job of this author. It also has a bearing ultimately on the Christian dynamic as it shows some background to the need for man through the ages to (worship or venerate) something else and higher. Stonehenge, the stars, feasts and elements were all about that. Philosophers, for instance may well reduce and distil such a quest simply as the search for knowledge, or reason in life and what if anything that could mean, or not. So arguably then it is natural to us as man/woman, as *homo sapiens*, to look for a higher authority within our lives, whether as ancients or moderns, even if it is only as ourselves in the end if no other authority is found.

One commentator, Martin Palmer suggests that we have lost our ability to read both our history and our landscape as the wonders of spirituality and the sacred that they really are (2002:6), and Louis Bouyer confers, adding that such spirituality itself has a history, and it's a long one (1968: ix). Palmer, quoting T.S.Elliot notes that there are those places "Where prayer has been valid," and Palmer offers some examples of these which have been erected, excavated, created, loved, forgotten, ignored, and occasionally rediscovered in the British landscape over time. He offers the examples of stone circles, burial mounds, churches, temples, synagogues and chapels (2002:7). But spirituality is as ancient as the "ancient of days" (*Daniel* 7: 9) as a devotional exercise. For some 6000 years, Palmer notes that every land has had its own sacred yet similar and distinctive history--the Holy Land in the Middle East, China, Syria, Egypt, El Salvador, or the sacred rivers of India (*ibid*). As "wells" of spirituality, he lists pilgrimage routes, sacred shrines, tombs, taboo areas, sacred mountains, holy rivers, divine forests dedicated to deities, gardens created for the glory of temples and churches and farms run by religious orders of various faiths as manifestations of the quest to encounter the sacred (*ibid*).

For the purpose of this article the word spirituality is meant to suggest a process of transformation from one position to another, producing a higher and greater level of theological understanding through a lived out faith. Or as Geoffrey Wainwright succinctly observes: "spirituality is the combination of praying and living" (Jones 1992:9). Essentially, this is the principle of *Lex orandi, Lex credendi*, asserting the

mutual interaction of prayer and belief, emphasizing that no one's spirituality is purely individual; it is influenced by public, communal worship (Jones 1992:39); to which Alister McGrath would add that such behavior entails "abandonment to divine providence" and the "sacrament of the present moment" (1993:623). Such devotions are nothing new, some arguing that they are about "roots" (Fox 1981:1) and they certainly predate Pope Pius XIth's Judaistic statement that "Spiritually we are all Semites" (Bouyer 1968:3), for spiritual parallels can be seen in mans' earliest sacred beginnings and roots--in the first two religions of Britain which predated mission based Christianity. But easily the most ubiquitous and accommodating definition comes from Sandra Schneiders who suggests that spirituality is "that dimension of the human subject in virtue of which the person is capable of self-transcending integration in relation to the Ultimate, whatever the Ultimate is for the person in question" (1993:11).

He suggests the earliest stirrings and consciousness of spiritual behaviour and the sacred take us as far back as the Palaeolithic period (c. 38,000 to 8000 BC) where animals and people were painted in ochre colours as the cave art in Chauvet, France (figure 1) and in Spain attest (2002:12). In the former, the innermost cave Palmer indicates was a shrine to the cave bear where offerings of appeasement were made to this ferocious beast, mirroring the similar but much later shamanistic cult behaviour of the sacrificed bear in Siberia and china from 1500 to 400 AD. Another example of ancient sacred behaviour is found in Creswell crags in the Peak District in Derbyshire where pieces of prehistoric art have been found on bone comprising a beautiful, almost mystical horses head on a deer's rib, and a finely engraved reindeer (*ibid*). Sometimes bone markings may be notations, but often they are markings observing the phases of the moon and other astronomical events for early ritual and sacred uses and therefore Palaeolithic spirituality (figure 9 – see future instalment), as much as for calendar purposes (Renfrew 1996:378).



Figure 1 Chauvet Cave art of over 300 horses and bears in southern France (Renfrew 1996:377)

Palmer indicates that one of the first religions in Britain came through the discovery of agriculture and the more fertile environment being considered a gift from the gods which allowed nature to be successfully managed; this followed on from the environmentally destructive Mesolithic hunters of the previously burgeoning wildlife (2002:20). With this great power to destroy, beyond the needs of simple survival, from 10,000 BC onwards, there is the loss of one major species after another and by 7000 BC the giant Irish elk, woolly mammoth, and woolly rhinoceros were no more (*ibid*).

Despite the Mesoliths being responsible for the first humanly created ecological crisis of deforestation and destruction, Palmer suggests that agriculture nevertheless recovered and continued to spread quickly along with the harvesting of domestic animals. Overall it provided a more settled farming existence inviting the worship of various land based gods that could be invoked, venerated and appeased to make the crops and fruits prosper (*ibid*).

This first of the British religions arriving out of agriculture was revealed in burial mound



Figure 2 West Kennet Long Barrow Wiltshire
drawn by its excavator, Stuart Piggott
(Renfrew 2002:467).

architecture in the Early Neolithic like that of the West Kennet Long Barrow (Figures 2 and 3) where over 40 people were buried in five chambers consisting of skulls and their fragments (Palmer 2002:21). Colin Renfrew (now Lord Renfrew) notes long barrows (c. 4000-3000 BC) were accompanied by a larger circular monument with concentric intermittent ditches termed Causewayed Enclosures used for sacred, religious, secular and trading purposes (1996:191).

Clive Jobbins



Figure 3 Front entrance view of the full length
of West Kennet Long Barrow (Palmer
2002:236).

[Editors' note: This article is to be continued in the next edition. Details of all references cited are available on request.]

Summer Word Search

P	A	D	D	L	E	S	T	E	A	M	E	R	C
Q	U	F	I	S	H	A	N	D	C	H	I	P	S
K	L	G	A	E	Y	N	S	A	M	N	A	S	L
J	I	H	L	A	H	D	L	E	I	I	X	E	H
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N	Z	C	O	R	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	Y
W	I	N	K	L	E	I	G	H	F	A	I	R	L

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SUNSHINE

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Solution on page 63



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friends

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7th June

5th July

2 August

6 September

4 October

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3	1	8	4	5	9	7	2	6

T	A	D	D	L	E	S	T	E	A	M	E	R	C
Q	U	F	I	S	H	A	N	D	C	H	I	F	S
K	L	G	A	E	Y	N	S	A	M	N	A	S	L
J	I	H	L	A	H	D	L	E	I	I	X	E	H
W	F	S	L	O	O	C	A	M	P	S	I	S	E
I	E	A	N	U	P	A	A	J	O	U	R	E	D
M	B	E	B	E	C	S	N	E	Q	N	T	E	G
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N	Z	C	O	R	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	C	Y
W	I	N	K	L	E	I	O	H	F	A	I	R	L



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What's On Diary - 2017

Please send details of your events to articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk

<i>5th June</i>	<i>WI visit to Crediton Flower Show – Pg 41</i>
<i>7th June - 2–4 pm</i>	<i>Forget-me-not Friends - Community Centre – Pg 60</i>
<i>9th June - 07:30 pm</i>	<i>Hollocombe Music Club – Community Centre (details at: website.hollocombemusicclub.org.uk/)</i>
<i>10th June – 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Fabulous 80's Night - Village Hall – Pg 49</i>
<i>14th June - 7:15 pm</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Watch Public Meeting – Community Centre – Pg 15</i>
<i>17th June – 10 am-12:30 pm</i>	<i>Table-Top & Jumble Sale – Village Hall – Pg 52</i>
<i>17th June – about 4:30 pm</i>	<i>Childrens' Tea & Cakes + Movie –Village Hall – Pg 49</i>
<i>20th June - 8 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Morris: Duke of York, Iddesleigh – Pg 26</i>
<i>21st June - 2.30 – 4.30 pm</i>	<i>Church Flower Ladies - Summer Solstice Devonshire Cream Tea – Parish Church – Pg 28</i>
<i>25th June</i>	<i>Church on the Beach Day – Methodist Church – Pg 47</i>
<i>1st July at 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Okehampton Choral Society – Fairplace Church Okehampton – Pg 13</i>
<i>4th July - 8 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Morris: Red Lion, Exbourne – Pg 26</i>
<i>5th July - 2-4 pm</i>	<i>Forget-me-not Friends - Community Centre – Pg 60</i>
<i>8th July</i>	<i>Church Fete (preceding Fair week) – Pg 8</i>
<i>8th July - 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Singers Concert, Broadwoodkelly – Pg 31</i>
<i>9th July - 3 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Fair Church Service – Pg 4</i>
<i>9th – 15th July</i>	<i>Winkleigh Fair –Programme to be published & distributed separately.</i>
<i>10th July - 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Evening of Music – Winkleigh Methodists – Pg 47</i>
<i>11th July- 10.30 – 12 noon</i>	<i>Church Flower Ladies – 'Seasons' themed coffee morning – Parish Church – Pg 28</i>

<i>12th July</i>	<i>WI 'Learn to play Croquet – Pg 41</i>
<i>14th July - evening</i>	<i>Down Farm Launch Party on the farm – Pg 51</i>
<i>14th July - 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Hollocombe Music Club – Community Centre</i>
<i>14th July</i>	<i>D-Day Darlings Concert – Village Hall – Pg 49</i>
<i>22nd / 23rd July</i>	<i>Step Back in Time, Pattiland Farm, Broadwoodkelly & ACE – Moistown Open to Public – Pg 45</i>
<i>22 July - 2 – 4 pm</i>	<i>Giant Jumble Sale – Community Centre – Pg 62</i>
<i>29th July- 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Stable Green Chapel Guitar Concert – Pg 29</i>
<i>1st August - 8 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Morris: New Inn, Roborough – Pg 26</i>
<i>2nd August - 2 – 4 pm</i>	<i>Forget-me-not Friends - Community Centre- Pg 60</i>
<i>6th August</i>	<i>Youth Event – Winkleigh Methodist at Roberts & Marshall families' fields(Fiona's Farm Shop) - Pg 47</i>
<i>22nd August- 8 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Morris: Ram's Head, Dolton – Pg 26</i>
<i>26th August</i>	<i>ACE – Moistown Dig Open Day</i>
<i>4th September - 7:30-9:30 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Singers Open Rehearsal - Umberleigh Christian Fellowship Building – Pg 31</i>
<i>6th September 2 – 4 pm</i>	<i>Forget-me-not Friends - Community Centre- Pg 60</i>
<i>8th September - 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Hollocombe Music Club – Community Centre</i>
<i>10th September - 11 am</i>	<i>Harvest Celebrations – Methodist Church – P 48</i>
<i>15th September (morning)</i>	<i>Church Fundraising – Coffee Morning – P 8</i>
<i>26th September - 8 pm</i>	<i>Winkleigh Morris First Practice, Community Centre – Pg 26</i>
<i>4th October- 2 – 4 pm</i>	<i>Forget-me-not Friends - Community Centre- Pg 60</i>
<i>13th October - 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Hollocombe Music Club – Community Centre</i>
<i>3rd November (evening)</i>	<i>FOWS Fireworks Evening – Sports Centre</i>
<i>10th November - 7:30 pm</i>	<i>Hollocombe Music Club – Community Centre</i>
<i>24th November (morning)</i>	<i>Church Fundraising – Coffee Morning- Pg 8</i>
<i>16th December</i>	<i>Carols In The Barn - Beachlea</i>

All dates & details are believed to be correct at time of going to press.

And Finally

As spring turns into summer, you will see that several articles in this edition feature pictures with a spring theme, from lambs in Hollocombe to maturing trees in full bloom around the Village, all helping to remind us of our rural landscape.

Set against this country scene is an article on the emerging Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan giving details of planning applications to build a total of 203 new houses in four separate developments around the village, which would result in a significant increase in the local population. The article also indicates how you can make your views on these plans known to Torridge District Council.

The Winkleigh Fair Committee has been very active during the year with a number of events culminating in Winkleigh Fair Week. As ever, we hope the sun will shine on the Village throughout Fair Week. You may also have seen that Winkleigh Fair now has its own Notice Board on the wall of The Bakery Stores in South Street.

As a result of some positive feedback received, we have extended the coverage of our “What’s On Diary” to include events we have been told about for the rest of 2017, so we hope you find this ‘longer view’ useful.

Lastly please be aware that the deadlines for the Autumn Edition are **Friday 11th August for articles** and **Friday 4th August for advertisements**.

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DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

This newsletter is published quarterly, by the Winkleigh Society, at the end of February, May, August and November and distributed free to households in Winkleigh Parish.

All information is correct at the time of going to press. The views expressed in submitted material are not necessarily those of the newsletter team or the Winkleigh Society.

All our readers are welcome to send in Articles (or other items) which are of interest to the local community.

Articles may be emailed to articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk, or sent to the Editors.

The articles deadline is the second Friday of each publication month.

Advertisements from businesses in the local area are also always welcomed and should be emailed to adverts@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk, or sent to the Editors.

The advertisements deadline is the first Friday of each publication month.

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4 editions	£50.00	£100.00	£200.00

All contributions to the newsletter can be accepted in printed form, CD, memory stick, or email attachments in WORD, PDF & JPEG file formats.

JOINT EDITORS

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Godfrey Rhodes, 32 Westcots Drive, Winkleigh EX19 8JP - Tel: 01837 682982

WINKLEIGH SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chair</i>	Penny Griffiths	01837 83407
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Margaret Miller	01837 83398
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Philip Griffiths	01837 83407
<i>Committee Members:</i>	Alan Jacobs	Barbara Jenkins
	Royston Naylor	Godfrey Rhodes
	Wendy Oxborough	

Winkleigh Society membership is open to all Winkleigh parish residents, who may freely attend and vote at meetings. Further information about the Society and what is going on in

Winkleigh can be accessed online at: <http://www.winkleighonline.com>

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