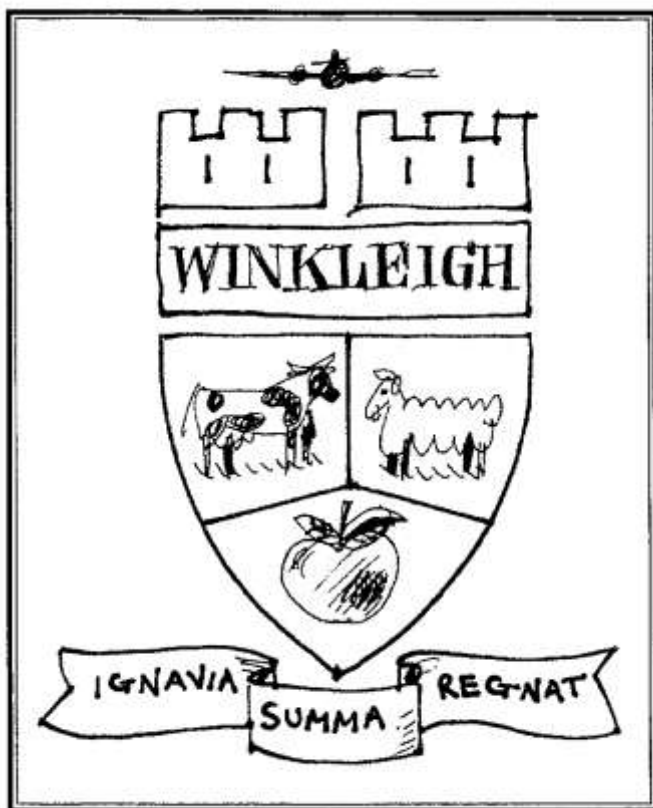


# DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 64

Winter 2017

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**The Winkleigh Society Quarterly Journal**



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## **The Winkleigh Society: Remembering Two People Who Left Their Mark on Winkleigh**

In August, Roy Cooper and Peter Monkcom sadly passed away. In their own inimitable ways they both left their mark on Winkleigh, particularly with their contributions to the Winkleigh Society.

The Winkleigh Society was formed in 2001. Roy Cooper was the initial prime mover and shaker to get the Winkleigh Society going with his enthusiasm and ability to generate ideas and contacts. Very quickly Roy was able to get together a team of doers and supporters from all walks of life in and around Winkleigh. Winkleigh was a very different place sixteen years ago and the village and the surrounding communities had suffered from the outbreak of foot and mouth in that year. The impact of foot and mouth on social life, livelihoods and the environment in the area were profound. On the positive side, though, the Winkleigh Society - mainly through the efforts of Roy - was quickly able to establish contacts with a variety of agencies who were able to offer help and advice, particularly to secure funding for regeneration initiatives (when obtaining funding was easier than today).

The first project was a Business Support Day to help businesses to make contact with agencies that might be able offer help, advice and funding. The project and its follow ups, including the directory “What do you want to know?”, brought in around forty-five thousand pounds of funding for Winkleigh businesses in the form of new equipment, IT know-how and consultancy advice, particularly in accounting and marketing.

Other projects soon followed which greatly benefited from Peter Monkcom's myriad of talents, particularly his design flair, artworks and photography. Peter played a particularly prominent role in -

- The launch of the Distinctly Winkleigh quarterly magazine and his front cover artwork and strap-line, “Working for Winkleigh” is still used today;
- Winkleigh House Scouts, which resulted in the legacy of the community kiosk archive; and
- The co-publishing of the book “It's Living History Isn't It”. The book is an oral history of Winkleigh, which contains interviews of local residents by Gillian Holman, together with Peter's photographic portraits.

The early 2000s were exciting times for the Winkleigh Society, but the threat of WINBEG – “the latest biomass power station / experimental waste processor in Europe” – changed everything.

The story of WINBEG is in many ways stranger than fiction; it would take up a whole Distinctly Winkleigh and more! While on the one hand the Winkleigh Society was able to build a team to fight the proposal and to make contacts around the country (and in the US), the successful fight did hold back other initiatives. When the battle was won, the environment to get funding was much tougher and the role that the Winkleigh Society can play in enriching community life inevitably evolves.

Roy Cooper and Rachel lived in Winkleigh for 10 years (1995 - 2005) and Peter Monkcom and Sue lived in Hollocombe for 20 years (1995 – 2015).

**David Lausen**

### **“THE LAST DUEL IN ENGLAND”**

As acted out on Winkleigh School’s playing field in 1997 with Peter Monkcom (*on the right in the picture*), looking more like “Captain Birdseye” than ever (his most successful advertising creation).

He was an accomplished actor and relished this scene from the Community Pageant ‘Painting Pictures with People’.

The duel was over a Winkleigh woman and it happened on Haldon Racecourse, Exeter.



## The Winkleigh Society – Chair's Report



### Short Story Competition

It was a new venture for us, but I am delighted to report that we have received 49 entries for our short story competition. The majority have arrived via Chulmleigh School, but others were posted through Margaret Miller's door or emailed to the Distinctly Winkleigh Editors.

We have entries for both categories; 7-11 and 12-16 yrs. The names have been redacted and copies sent to our three judges:

Shirley Cowling, Dan Beazley and Dave Watkins.

The names of the Winners will be announced at The Christmas Market on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the Village Hall. The money prizes will be presented by Mrs Margaret Dent, who dug up Thomas Barret's seal 20 years ago.



### THANK-YOU TEA for our DW Postmen & Women

The Winkleigh Society hosted a tea and cake afternoon at Fiona's for the deliverers of Distinctly Winkleigh. The magazine is the life-blood of the Society and without our faithful foot-soldiers we could not guarantee door-to-door delivery, which is what makes it so special. Many village newsletters/magazines are left in central hubs to be picked up and usually there is a charge.

Eighteen of our twenty-five postmen & women came for tea and cake and enjoyed meeting and chatting and putting the jigsaw together of who delivers where;

although most knew each other well, some deserve a long service medal as they have been doing it since Distinctly Winkleigh started in 2001.



Shirley and Stephen Leahy have now joined the team and Linda Popham and David Trenaman have also agreed to help out when we might be missing posties due to holidays etc.

Valerie Mathews arrived late, but she had come straight from Gatwick Airport, having landed there from Toronto that morning. Apology accepted, Valerie!

The event proved so popular that it was suggested it becomes an annual event. Thanks must go to Barbara Jenkins for contacting everyone and Fiona, Linda and Andrew for putting on a delightful afternoon tea.

### **Legacy of Roy Cooper and Peter Monkcom**

This magazine sprang from the work of Roy Cooper in establishing The Winkleigh Society in 2001 and the look/logo/design of the quarterly journal was created by Peter Monkcom.

The front cover to this edition is taken from Peter's extensive portfolio. He was very keen to have a village logo and this was his contribution.

Several of us attended Roy Cooper's Funeral in Tavistock and David Lausen represented us at Peter Monkcom's funeral in Somerset.

David has sent In a tribute to Roy and Peter which you can read on pages 3 and 4.

### **Other News**

Our web-site Winkleigh Online is now back up and running again, after it had been hacked, thanks to the Herculean efforts of Alan Mulcahy (see page 14). Alan is also continuing to ask questions of Torridge about the environmental hazard that is still blighting the Community Centre car park.

## Parish Pump

We did put in an unsuccessful bid for a grant to clean and smarten up the village pump. We did this because, when doing the mystery walk during **Winkleigh Fair week**, we realised no-one could read the inscriptions on it. However The Parish Council will be discussing this issue at one of their next meetings.



## Neighbourhood Plan

Several of our committee helped out at the open -evening community consultation display at The Community Centre in October. A full report is on page 34.

## Thank-you Alice

For several issues, we have had Alice Turner and Godfrey Rhodes as joint editors. However Alice has decided to step down after this edition, due to increased pressure of work coupled with being Chair of The Parish Council.

Thank you for all your hard work Alice, but we know you will continue to contribute articles on the business of Parish Council.

Thank you Godfrey for agreeing to carry on as Editor, in this multi-skilled role.

Please all you budding journalists, graphic artists, and techno-savvy whizz kids, do come and share your talents with us: either by sending in your work, writing us letters or joining our Winkleigh Society committee/editorial board. In particular we would like to encourage junior journalists. Following the response to our Short-Story-Competition, we know there are young authors out there, so please send us your views and news (via [articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk)).

*Penny Griffiths & Margaret Miller*

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## **Winkleigh Church Wives Group**

During the summer break, in August we all enjoyed our annual coach outing. This year it was a "Mystery Tour". Our first stop was at Buckfast Abbey; we then went on to Plymouth, arriving in time for those who wished to take a boat ride around the harbour. This was a most enjoyable and restful way to spend the afternoon. Those who wished stayed on dry land and enjoyed a visit to the shops.

We opened the year in September with a service in Church followed by a meeting in the Hall, where we discussed details for our forthcoming Autumn Fair; this will be held on SATURDAY November 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon. We will be having our usual stalls: Craft, Tombola, Cakes, Gifts and our popular Hamper Raffle. Teas and coffee will also be available.

The Wives has been going for over 60 years, and we welcome visitors to any of our meetings. We do not have a membership fee so do feel free to come along to any of our meetings. We meet on the second Monday of the month in the rear room of the Village Hall at 2:30 pm.

We have a varied programme planned for the coming year:

We began, in October with Bobbie Farrington talking to us about "Her Grandmother". Other items include hearing all about "Porcelain Old & New".

In December, we have a social afternoon where we just get to gather to test our skills with a quiz, and we bring along plates of food to share.

In January, we look forward to our Lunch, which we have at the Libbaton Golf Club.

Other events to look forward to will be: 'Holidays in New Zealand', 'Exercise in an Armchair', 'Walking the Camino' and an afternoon of craft.

We look forward to seeing you at any of these events.

*Janet Magor (sec.)*

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## MICHAEL CARDEW - A life well lived

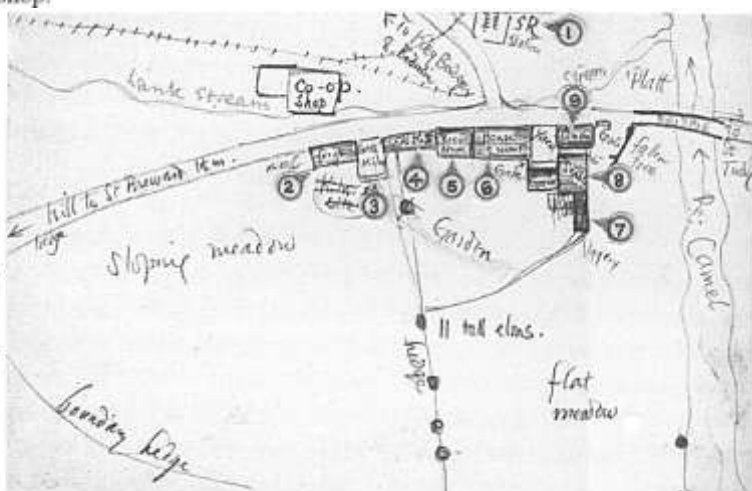
About 2 years ago I won a photographic competition which had a book for a prize. This was a biography of a potter, called Michael Cardew, by an author called Tanya Harrod. Knowing very little about this man I was intrigued to find his work and history all over the West Country, especially in Devon and Cornwall. There are specimens of his work in the Burton Galleries in Bideford, the Royal Cornish Museum in Truro, also in St.Ives, where he was apprenticed to Bernard Leach as a young man. He lived and had a pottery in Cornwall, near Bodmin Moor at the hamlet of Wenfordbridge.



*Cardew's bust in plaster.*

In March 1939 Michael Cardew returned to Cornwall to look for a suitable premises to start up as an independent potter.

He had, as an undergraduate, lived in the St.Breward area. One of the inhabitants that knew him from those earlier days informed him that the St. Austell Brewery had a disused inn for sale, with several outbuildings, in a hamlet on the edge of the moor in the Camel valley. He decided to go and see the place and made detail notes and drawings of the property and its location. These did make the place seem ideal. There was the inn itself, a granite building by the roadside, with a slate floor, a large fireplace and window seat, plus benches in the tap room. The kitchen with an old range and scullery; a parlour; plus 5 rooms upstairs. Attached to the house was a brewhouse and malt loft above, next along the line of the road was a skittle alley in a low attached building. Around a small cobbled yard was a cowshed; a Royal Mail box set in the roadside wall; pigsty and stable with loft over and a garage. Beyond the skittle alley was a disused blacksmith's shop.



Key:

- 1, Station (SR)
- 2, Forge
- 3, Kiln
- 4, Skittle Alley
- 5, Brewhouse
- 6, House
- 7, Piggery
- 8, Stable
- 9, Cowshed

*Cardew's sketch map of Inn and buildings.*

Wenfordbridge had no electricity or piped water, but a pump behind the house, and no drainage system.

The River Camel, all but a stream, ran along the edge of the properties's three acres and flows under a little stone road bridge. There were elm trees with pasture to the west and north, used by local farmers. Cardew also noted the local facilities of a railway goods station, 50 yards away; a Wenford Co-op store; local library and schools in St.Breward.

He was not frank about the grim actuality of the property. Valuers believed it to be unfit for habitation and suggested £350 a fair price for it. Michael, who liked the nearness of the river and the railway, had loved it from the first sight, offered £500 for the whole property, which of course was accepted. Details of his trials and tribulations, after moving in with his wife and 3 young children are well documented in Tanya Harrod's book.

Michael Cardew was born in Wimbledon, in 1901. The family had a holiday home in Devon, at Saunton, NW of Barnstaple. Arthur his father collected Devon country pottery for the holiday home which influenced Michael from a very early age and he saw his first pot being made at Fremington pottery.



Once a year the family went to stock up with more useful pots for every day use at the holiday home. They would travel from

Saunton to board a boat to sail across the Taw Estuary to Fremington Quay. Michael went to Fremington as often as he could and had his first lesson on the wheel from the owner's grandson at a very early age. He was convinced this was what he wanted to do in his life.



*Slipware cider flagon  
Winchcombe pot 1935.*

After Oxford University [1923] he became the first apprentice at the Leach Pottery in St. Ives, Cornwall. Where under Bernard Leach he became interested in slipware. Later Leach was to state that "he was the best apprentice he ever taught". Some have said "one of the best slipware potters of all time"

Cardew left St. Ives in 1926 to help restart the pottery at, what was to become, Winchcombe Pottery in Gloucestershire

He married Marie Russell, a painter, in 1933, then had 3 sons Seth 1934, Cornelius 1936, and Ennis 1938. The move to Cornwall in 1939 was short lived for Michael. Even after Michael, Bernard Leach's son, helped him make his first kiln, the outbreak of war and black out restrictions made it very hard to make enough money to support his family. So in 1942 Cardew decided to accept a salaried post in the Colonial Service, to teach pottery in Africa. Where he spent many

years making and running potteries over much of West Africa.

He returned to Wenfordbridge in 1948 and again made stoneware at his pottery. During 1950 an Australian took over the set up until 1954.

In 1951 the Nigerian Government appointed Cardew to become Pottery Officer in the Dept. of Commerce and Industry. During which time he built and developed a successful training centre in Ajuba in Northern Nigeria. He trained local talent, men and women, to become successful potters. He returned again to Wenfordbridge on his retirement in 1965. He then spent much of remaining life teaching, writing, demonstrating, and lecturing in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. He was asked many times to show his pottery in Arts and Crafts Exhibitions.



*Drawing of bird on end gable of pottery.*

He died in 1983 in Truro. His autobiography was published by William Collins, London 1988. Michael Cardew was the embodiment of the Arts and Craft Movement. A remarkable man and a wonderful story told in Michael Cardew potter "The last sane man" Thank you Tanya.

*Just west of Camelford a 'B' road to Bodmin forks left off the A39. After about 5 miles there is a left turn on to a road signposted 'Wenfordbridge' 1½ miles. The road slowly descends to the Camel valley through narrow lanes bounded by thick hedges until, after a sharp left hand bend, you come to the bridge [rebuilt after the disastrous flood of 1847], just wide enough for a vehicle to pass over. Immediately after, on the left, bordering the road, are a group of buildings, formerly, the old inn and outbuildings, which Cardew found in 1939. This became his family home and the start of his life as an independent potter.*

*Opposite the buildings, now, are a car park and tea place [The Snail's Place], with cycle hire, situated where the Railway station and sidings would have been in 1939. The railway lines to Bodmin and Wadebridge have long gone, now turned into the "Camel Trail", using all the disused tracks to Wadebridge and Padstow for cycling and walking along the course of the Camel River. The railway lines were taken up from 1967 to 1983. The "Camel Trail" reached Wenfordbridge in 2006. The pottery buildings and the kiln, with the house, are still there in 2017.*

**Postscript:** It's sad to say that after 2 years of trying to get some positive action, there is no information available about Michael Cardew at this popular and pleasant place. The good news is that a delightful and talented lady potter has taken over the pottery buildings and producing wonderful "heads" and many original pieces for sale, at Cookie Scottorn Ceramics.

*Submitted by John Flower*



*Pottery marks for Cardew and Wenfordbridge.*



## **‘What do you want for Christmas?’**

Are you racking your brains for a good Christmas present for a much-loved child? The child, anticipating the question, might already have a short-list. You’ll probably find that some suggestions are better than others. Is the request unsuitable, or inappropriate? Then there is the question of ‘how much should I spend on this present?’ and ‘will my present be measured according to what was spent on it?’ People often spend more money than they can afford in order to demonstrate their love, or even to meet the expectations of the child; remember, January is traditionally the month of debt.

‘What do you want...?’ is a hugely important question for anyone – child or adult – to ask of themselves. It’s a question that probably stays with us for the whole of our lives, and it only partly relates to ‘things’, things that we want to possess, things that should make us happy and fulfilled. More importantly the question of what we want relates to who we are as a person, and to the person we would like to be successful in life, an honest and reliable friend or partner, someone who has made a difference...and so on. This kind of desire can haunt us. Sadly, it has the power to distort and destroy, as when desire spills over into obsession and ruthlessness in the quest to possess what we want.

You might think this is a rather extreme way of regarding something as harmless and innocent as a Christmas present. For the believer, a Christmas present is a tiny symbol of a greater gift – that of God giving himself to the world he created, a world that has gone badly wrong through human sinfulness. We access this gift through a sublime and timeless story told in the Bible, of how Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, was born in a stable because there was no room anywhere else. Thus, in poverty and simplicity the world has received what collectively the world has always desired: forgiveness, salvation, and hope; all of which is within our reach by following the teachings and the example of Christ. All of us have a spirituality (even if that spirituality feels dormant and inactive). As one writer has put it, ‘Our desire is what powers our spiritualities, but, at the same time, spirituality is about how we focus our desire.’

I think the giving of gifts at Christmas provides some important guidelines for a wider and longer-lasting impact than merely December 25<sup>th</sup>. The quest for the perfect Christmas present might represent a symbol of our own longing – what do we really want?...what ends up wrapped in Christmassy paper is but a tiny symbol of that. The way we, as adults, behave about presents provides a template for our children: how do we receive presents, how do we acknowledge that a present is not just something to make us happy, but is in itself a symbol of how we are loved and cherished. Our children will learn from our example the true meaning of gifts, of how a generous spirit towards others enlarges the character and the integrity of

the giver, regardless of the reaction of the recipient. All these characteristics, and more, shine through the character of Jesus whose birth we are celebrating. Giving and receiving simple gifts is a great way of nurturing our children as fully rounded and useful individuals.

Have a wonderful family Christmas, enjoy your presents, both given and received, and...good luck with the Christmas shopping!

*Graham*

*01769 520824*

*gcsmith@uwclub.net*

PS Do come and join us in Winkleigh Parish Church this Christmas. We would love to see you!

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2 pm:**  
**Christmas Eve at 5 pm:**

School Carols Service  
Joint Carol Service with the Methodists,  
and Blessing of the Crib  
Midnight Mass, with Carols  
Sung Eucharist, with carols

**11.45 pm**  
**Christmas Day at 9.30 am**

## **PLOUGH SUNDAY** **14<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**11.am** Procession of the Plough begins in Winkleigh Square  
for a

Short service in church with the Bishop of Exeter,  
(in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Devon)

Refreshments in the Square  
Display of Vintage Tractors

Plough Sunday is the traditional way of beginning the agricultural year – Harvest marks the end.

An old horse plough will be carried into church for the symbolic blessing of the new season.

Owners of Vintage Tractors - please bring your tractors. The Square will be closed to normal traffic.

**All are invited, especially those who live and work on the farms.**  
**Wrap up warm! Hot food will be available.**

*God speed the plough!*



## Winkleighonline.com Is Online Again

On September 7<sup>th</sup> [www.winkleighonline.com](http://www.winkleighonline.com) was interfered with by Indonesian hackers, with the result that the site showed just a blank screen.

It is not known why they chose such a small website as ours to hack into, or what they gained by so doing. They made such a mess of the original site that it was decided to change the access password, erase everything and start again from scratch, using a different creation method.

The site is now back online, and is styled in much the same fashion as the previous one. There are links on the Home Page to the Winkleigh Diary, Winkleigh Heroes, Winkleigh Walks and Winkleigh Fair. There are also links to the timetables for the three bus routes that serve Winkleigh for travel to Exeter, Barnstaple, Bideford and Okehampton.

The top menu has sections for all the important social centres of the village, plus a section for Clubs and Organisations and a link for sending enquiries to the site administrators.

However, the original searchable Information Directory was lost due to the hacking but, as an alternative, a PDF version of the Winkleigh Information Directory booklet

- distributed to all Winkleigh residents back in 2013 - is available via a clickable link on the Home Page of the new website.

Initial efforts have been made to update the Services Section, but the administrators **would greatly appreciate it if businesses, farms, clubs and organisations with entries in the Directory could check the online version and let us know if any changes, additions or deletions should be made.**

**Please send any updates to:**

[website@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:website@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk)

**CHOOSE AND CUT  
CHRISTMAS TREES**

**AT CHULMLEIGH  
HILL PLANTATION**

John Cockram  
**Christmas Trees**

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> & Sun 26<sup>th</sup> November  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup>, Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
Fri 8<sup>th</sup>, Sat 9<sup>th</sup> & Sun 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Fri 15<sup>th</sup>, Sat 16<sup>th</sup> & Sun 17<sup>th</sup> December  
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SAT 26th 9.30-3.30

## **Winkleigh Parish Council Notice of Casual Vacancy**

Notice is hereby given that a co-option vacancy has occurred among the members of the Parish Council. Any person willing to fill this vacancy should apply to the Clerk in writing or by email.

Any person wishing to apply to become a member must meet at least one of the qualifications set out below in order to be eligible for co-option and must not be disqualified under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- The applicant must be registered as a local government elector for the parish; or
- The applicant should, during the whole of the twelve months preceding the date of co-option occupied as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the parish; or
- The applicant's principal or only place of work during those twelve months has been in the parish; or
- Have during the whole of twelve months resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it.

PUBLIC elections cannot be held until the year 2019 but for the interim period the present sitting Councillors may co-opt to fill the vacancies.

**Melanie Bickell**

Winkleigh Parish Clerk

01837 89095

winkleighpc1@btconnect.com

Lower Itton, Spreyton, EX17 5BB

26<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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## Muddy Shoes

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> nine of us (and one dog) gathered to do the Lymington Arms Walk from the Walks Around Winkleigh booklet (<http://www.winkleighonline.com/PDF/WinkleighWalks.pdf>). The weather was mild, misty and still, and the autumn colours mellow.



The route took us through a variety of countryside, from open fields to woodland paths and ancient tracks. We passed the farms which have been there for centuries - Abbotsham with its lovely view across the countryside - then West Brushford, Park and Collacott Barton, where the farmer showed us a new-born calf with its mother. Finally, just before Ward Farm we circled round skimming the edge of Winkleigh Woods past Herdwick



and Lifton and so back to Abbotsham Moor.

We watched a pink sun set as we made our way back and reached the Lymington Arms as dusk fell. In all, the walk took us just 2¾ hours and was nearly 8 km (5 miles) long.

If you would like to join our contact list, to find out about other walks we are planning, please ring Penny (01837 83407) or contact Kim J Melhuish on Facebook.



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## Wildfowl and Waders, Winter Water Sites

The winter flocks are now arriving in numbers, but apart from the Fieldfares and Redwings these are mainly wildfowl (ducks and geese) or waders, and these travelling further. Here are two inland sites (for wildfowl) and two estuarine sites (for waders).

The nearest good lake is at Meeth nature reserve at SS 530085. This is the old ball clay workings and the road to it leads west off the A386 just south of Meeth village. There is quite a walk from carpark to the lake (down to the central point and turn right) but they have now erected a good bird hide to look over the lake which has that strange light blue hue of clay lakes. Tufted Duck are regulars (and Canada Geese of course) with Goosander, Teal and Pintail, Snipe and Grebes.

Roadford Lake is rather further, and you may know the café near the dam, but there are not many birds there. The hide is at SX436930, with a free carpark. In fact you can see as much from the bridge just to the north, especially as the view from the hide is currently rather overgrown. I go via Hatherleigh, Highampton, Halwill, but then at Upcott Cross go straight on, on the east side of the lake, although the sign sends you the other way. The carpark is just after the bridge. Quite a range of birds here, not only Mallard, Canada Geese and Tufties, but I have noted Gadwall, Bar-headed Goose, Pintail, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pochard and even Smew!



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 **facebook**

For waders the simplest site is Fremington Pill, west of Barnstaple. A tricky road, but you can park at the top end and slowly walk down the creek to the main estuary and café (with superb macaroons). Here the birds are really quite close, so good for children and a light pair of binoculars is quite good enough. Lots of Redshank, some Greenshank, and both the Godwits are all regular with Shelduck and Egret. Quite a few rarities turn up here, including Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Redshank and Glossy Ibis. Last year while a group were watching the Ibis I realised that the little birds just five metres away were Little Stints.

The other wader site is new and in Barnstaple. There is now a good path along the south west side of the river, by Asda. I park near the Leisure Centre and cross the road. This takes you out beyond the new bridge and eventually to join the Tarka Trail. This is good for waders, including Curlew and Whimbrel, Godwits, Oystercatcher, Redshank, and I often find Mediterranean Gulls .... But I missed the Phalarope which was there recently. It's also handy to have a birding site close to the shops.

The waders often cause identification problems, so the annual bird report of Devon Birds is handy, where you can find statistics for each month. Just recently I decided I was not looking at Purple Sandpiper as they have never been seen in the summer months, so a flock of 20 seemed unlikely!

*Peter Howard*

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## The Winkleigh Singers

The Winkleigh Singers have enjoyed a good summer, giving a concert in July in the lovely church at Broadwoodkelly. It was a perfect summer's day and after the practice, the choir had a 'bring and share' feast in the church hall and a walk around the village.

The concert was a charity performance to raise funds for the refurbishment of the 150 year old organ, which decided to show its age by giving out a loud bang in the practice... and promptly gave up! Luckily there was an electric keyboard to hand and for the organ solos the organ was pumped manually, much to the amusement of all, with applause for the pumper as well as the organist! This was a concert of songs and music from renaissance to present day and was enjoyed by the audience including a Jack Russell terrier who just couldn't keep away, the door being open as it was such a warm evening!

The choir is joining with other choirs for a concert in aid of the Poppy Appeal in Barnstaple on November 11th and will then continue with practices for the Christmas Concert.

This year there is a change of venue for the Christmas Concert. It will be held in Winkleigh Village Hall on Sunday 17th December at 7.30 pm. The programme will include Britten's 'Celebration of Carols' accompanied by harpist Elizabeth-Jane Baldery and will be a magical start to the Christmas week. There will also be carols for all to sing and a bar in the interval. Tickets are available from mid-November and on the door, under 16s are free. Please see the website for details [www.winkleighsingers.org.uk](http://www.winkleighsingers.org.uk)

Plans are also in place for 2018 and include music by Handel, Mozart and Haydn in a concert to be held at Great Torrington on 21st April, and a concert performance of Purcell's semi-opera King Arthur in Umberleigh on Monday 9th July.

The Winkleigh Singers are a small friendly choir who practice weekly in Umberleigh. They have a varied repertoire of music and always welcome new singers. Do come along and meet them, at the concerts or practices, and for more information and contact details, visit the website.

Registered Charity Number 1171218



*The Winkleigh Singers*

## Winkleigh YFC

The start to the new YFC year has been a busy one with new officers now in their positions.

In September we started creating our carnival float for this year. Members decided on the theme 'A Haunted House' which has involved us trying to learn the Michael Jackson 'Thriller' dance. So far we have been to three carnivals; Okehampton (braving storm Brian), South Zeal and Dolton receiving: Second and Best YFC and First Best Visitors and Best YFC respectively. We have two more (Hatherleigh and Holsworthy) to see the season out.



We recently held our dinner and dance at the Waie Inn, with 78 current and past members, parents and friends in attendance. We enjoyed a lovely meal and danced the night away to live band 'Karina and the slaves'. A great night was had by all.

Members took part in the county hockey competition in Exeter and were unfortunately not placed but all who attended had a good day.

As mentioned earlier, we have just started a new YFC year and this year will be our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary! With this in mind we are hoping to hold many different events to raise money for our chosen charities, cumulating in an 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball this time next year. We have plans for a cider and pasty quiz, a blind drop, tractor run, discos, big breakfast, car treasure hunt as well as taking part in the young farmer's competitions; which may involve a performance of our pantomime for the villagers.

Please look out for more information on these events nearer the time. This really is an exciting time to join us, if you are interested. New members are always welcome.

More information can always be found on our Facebook page 'winkleigh yfc' or by contacting our new secretary Pete Folland on 07530322490.

*Katrina Brook*

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## New Romantic Author in Winkleigh

I have lived in Winkleigh all my life and I am married with two adult children and have had a debut novel published on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 which is called 'Age is just a Number – New Beginnings' by L I Beer.



I started to write the book three to four years ago, as I suffer with depression and anxiety and found writing was a way for me to cope with my illness. The book is about Rupert, who is a bachelor, and Elspeth, a widow with two young adults, meeting at a dinner party given by mutual friends. Their relationship develops but not everyone is pleased so it does not run smoothly. The second book of the series of four should be out by the end of the year or beginning of next year. The book is available online at Amazon, WH Smith, Waterstones and Book Depository at £7.99.

*Laura Beer*

An advertisement for Sam's Cider. The top left features the logo 'SAM'S CIDER' with a stylized tree icon and the tagline 'THE PROPER DEVON CIDER'. Below this is a row of six bottles of different cider varieties. To the right of the bottles is a circular ribbon graphic that reads 'Celebrating 100 years of cider being made on site'. The background is a black and white photograph of a rural landscape with trees and a fence.

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You can visit us at Winkleigh Cider Company, Western Barn, Hatherleigh Road, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8AP  
Onsite gift shop and local produce

## Lives in a Landscape: Birth on the Airfield (Part 1)

In the early 1990s approximately 150 'New Age Travellers' moved onto Winkleigh Airfield in assorted buses, vans, caravans, converted horse boxes and a little grey ambulance. They occupied the site on the left hand side as you approach D&S, which back then was open but is now gated and enclosed by the earth bank.

As the newly appointed local Midwife this was my first encounter with the New Agers but they are a group of people who were to have a considerable influence on my professional life and the source of several adventurous days and nights at work. A few days after they arrived in Winkleigh, one of them - let's call her Jane - went into the old Chulmleigh Health Centre saying she was 37 weeks pregnant and "the midwife can come if she wants, but I'm not really bothered" and walked out again.

Thus the next day saw me drive rather anxiously onto the site where my car was immediately surrounded by a pack of about a dozen wildly barking dogs. People were watching me from their vehicles, but as no one made a move to rescue me, I decided it was probably a bit of a test, so I got out and the pack followed me to the nearest vehicle which happened to be the grey ambulance. As I approached, the back door opened and there was the heavily pregnant Jane.

Over several years of association with the New Age travellers, I found that many of them came from, dare I say it, middle class backgrounds and many had parents who were high achievers - head teachers, senior medical staff, clergy, senior police officers, a consultant microbiologist and the titled daughter of the aristocracy. They had dropped out as some sort of reaction to their upbringing and some had real chips on their shoulders and interesting anarchic beliefs about society and authority. I became known amongst their community in North Devon (there were quite a few around back then) as I was always happy to debate politely but robustly with them and they knew I didn't necessarily agree with them. I particularly remember a poster with a picture of planet earth surrounded by toxic fumes from industrial chimneys and the caption "will the last person off the planet please turn out the lights". This poster was on the wall of a horse box which belched out black smoke whenever it was started up, but there it hung without any apparent sense of irony!

Anyway, back to Jane (not the aristocrat by the way - think senior medic). This was her first baby and she had had a scan but no other antenatal care. She let me examine her bump, listen to the baby and do her blood pressure, but that was all. She intended to give birth in her friend's converted horse box and didn't want any 'interference' but agreed to call me for the birth 'in case I could help if things went wrong'! I had to notify my bosses because this was generally 'not allowed' and we had multiple protocols (though not nearly many as nowadays) for care in labour. However, you can't force care on anyone, although it is actually illegal to deliver a

baby unless you are a registered midwife or doctor (stick to midwives). I was happy to support Jane in her ambitions and immediately found this attitude improved my welcome and I felt it much more likely she would accept my advice if intervention became necessary.

A few days later, at midnight, I was called to Jane as she was in labour..... *Sue Ware*  
(To be concluded in the next edition of *Distinctly Winkleigh*)

## DEFIBRILLATORS

Winkleigh has two defibrillators available for anyone to use:

One is in the blue box attached to the Council noticeboard in the Square by the phone box at the end of the Kings Arms. You just have to take it out, open it up and it will give you instructions. You cannot give someone a shock in error or by accident as it will only operate if it picks up an appropriate heart rhythm. The 999 call handler can stay on the line and guide you while you do CPR and await the ambulance. The other one is in a yellow box to the right of the main entrance to the Sports Centre. To use this one you need to dial 999 and get the code number to open the box via the keypad. Again the call handler will guide you through.

*Jenny Rock*

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## What's Going on at Winkleigh Methodist Church?

The **Pumpkin Heroes Holiday Club** welcomed well over thirty children with everyone enjoying a morning of games, crafts and activities – and a Bag of Hope to take home with them. A big ‘thank you’ to our Family Support Workers, Bridget & Sarah, and to our Youth Worker, Jonathan, and all the team of volunteers.

It seems that harvest celebrations and the half term holiday are only just over and yet we're all preparing for **Christmas!** We would love to see you at any of the following events:

- **Carols in the Barn – 6.30 pm on Saturday, 16 December at Beechlea Barn, Berners Cross, Winkleigh:** Free entry – wrap up warm and enjoy some carol singing and refreshments. Collection for Prostate Cancer UK. We would love to see you 😊
- **Oasis Christmas lunch - 1 pm on Monday, 18 December at the chapel:** Please ensure you book in advance.
- **Tractor and carols around the village – Friday, 22 December:** Many of you will have seen our festive tractor travelling around the village for the last few years. Our Church members will be busy decorating the tractor again but this year will be slightly different as there will be fewer stops and no door to door collection. However, we will again be fundraising for Devon Air Ambulance so would be grateful for your support for this wonderful charity. Please come out and give your donation to any one of our collectors standing/singing by the tractor. It would be great to have as many of you join the singers as possible – everyone is welcome to follow the tractor as it travels around (children to be accompanied by adults). There will be signposted stops - approximately as follows:
  - 6.00 pm - Elms Meadow
  - 6.30 pm - Westcots Drive
  - 7.00 pm - Kings Meadow Drive
  - 7.20 pm - Old Chapel Gardens
  - 7.30 pm - Winkleigh Square
- **Crib Service - 5 pm on Sunday, 24 December at the Parish Church:** This year we are pleased to be joining with the Parish Church for this special celebration service. Everyone welcome!





- **Christmas morning service – 10.30 am at Winkleigh Methodist:** This is just a short, informal service suitable for children and adults. Please join us if you are able.

**Food Bank:** Just a reminder that donations for the food bank based at Okehampton can be dropped into the Methodist Church (open for Sunday services as listed below and also open on Mondays for Oasis from 11 am – 2 pm) or Winkleigh Parish Church during the month of December. Families receiving the food donated will be particularly grateful at this special time of the year.

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.

**SPACE Youth Club** (about forty attending) runs on the second and fourth Friday of every month: 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 (£7) 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 trips for regular customers.

All worship times and preachers are on our notice board outside the chapel along with any other special events. If you are on Facebook, you will be able to keep up to date with what's happening at **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 do our best to help you.

Ian and Fiona Marshall 01837 83809 / Pam Down 01837 83674



**We would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018!**

JOY  
NOEL  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
PEACE HOPE  
WISEMEN  
CHRISTMAS  
BELIEVE FAITH  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
THANK YOU

## Patient Transport Group

I am looking into starting up a group of volunteers to take patients in Winkleigh to Chulmleigh Health Centre or Chulmleigh Dental Surgery for pre-booked appointments. Several surrounding villages have such a group and I have been talking to their co-ordinators about how they are run.

Basically we need volunteers who can sit by their phone and await calls for a particular day or half day and of course drivers. As a group, public liability insurance is needed to cover the drivers outside of their cars i.e. if they are helping patients from their door to the car and their car to the surgery (nothing is simple these days). Apparently most car insurers are happy to provide cover for driving as a volunteer at little or no extra cost.

I do not want to go into too much more detail here, but if anyone is interested in any of this, then please contact me on 01837 83526 or [sueandware@hotmail.com](mailto:sueandware@hotmail.com) and I will set up a meeting to see what we can do. A bit of fundraising is involved to fund the insurance and some admin costs and I would also be more than pleased to hear from someone who would take on the 'treasurer' side of it.

*Sue Ware*

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## News from Winkleigh School

School re-opened on September 6<sup>th</sup> after the summer break to a lively group of enthusiastic children who were keen to get on with the business of learning for the next year.

The Foundation Unit and the Reception class took some time at the beginning of term to settle the children in to their new daily routines. In Foundation, the children looked carefully at 'People who Help us' with lots of visits from professions like the Fireman, the Policeman, the Dentist and the Nurse. In Reception the children, while looking at ways to make the classroom a good place for everyone to be in, also had a visit from the Dentist, who left a new toothbrush for everyone to take home! There was an author focus in Reception too, Julia Donaldson, and the children were encouraged to bring in copies of this author's books to be read in class. After half term, the focus has moved to Celebrations and Festivals, with Halloween and Bonfire Night already covered. The classes will be looking at Remembrance Day, Diwali and, of course, then moving to the much awaited celebration of Christmas when the Unit and the class will join together for their Christmas concert and the Reception children will perform the Nativity at the school carol service in the church.

Year 1 and Year 2, working closely together, began the year with a team building and bonding trip to Trethorne Leisure Park and were lucky enough to experience beautiful weather! Year 1 then branched off into looking at the topic of 'Ourselves' and the children really enjoyed linking this with the 'Funnybones' series of stories.



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‘Light and Dark’ is the topic keeping them busy after half-term and Bonfire Night fits in well here. Different aspects of the same topic are being worked on in Year 2 at the moment. An over-riding title of ‘Explorers’ has been broken down into looking at Robert Falcon Scott before half-term and after, ‘Equipping Explorers’, with a focus on resistant materials, is driving their learning. The classes will be joining together to act out their Christmas performance, entitled ‘Midwives’ Crisis’.

The Active Planet was studied in Year 3 for the first half of the term. This involved a trip to Lyme Regis for a fossil hunt which was much enjoyed by everyone and again, the weather was kind. The Year 4 children also began the year with a team-building trip to Haven Banks in Exeter to experience a variety of water and climbing sports. In science, ‘States of Matter’ has evolved into looking at electricity and their ‘Rainforest’ topic has moved on to the ‘Ancient Mayans’. The Christmas performance chosen by these two classes is called ‘Rock Around Christmas.’

In Year 5, ‘Mountains’ have been examined within the topic work and these children have now moved on to ‘The Victorians’. An exciting time has been planned for the children at Powderham Castle when they will experience a ‘living history’ day, working in the kitchens, cleaning, washing and cooking just as the Victorians did! A challenging ICT coding day was recently attended by the children at Shebbear School where they spent the day learning how to build codes, write programmes and invent computer games.

Historical fiction has been engaging children in Year 6 with the ‘Ancient Greeks’ as their topic. Aspects of this topic are illustrating different subjects for the children, with how the Greeks traded providing learning in Geography, and the archaeology

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around shipwrecks providing evidence of how these ancient peoples actually lived. The 'Big Foot' drama group have been booked to bring this topic to life for the children.

The 'Friends' of the school have been busy fundraising since September with a well-attended Halloween disco for the children held on the last day of the half-term and the Bonfire and Firework night held at the Sports Centre, also extremely well-attended by the local community. All classes in the school are very grateful for the £200 per class donation to be spent on trips, passed out annually by the 'Friends', as well as the support they give to various projects and topics within the school, such as the development of the school's central area and the replacement of laptops and iPads.

The school now opens at 8 am for children who have been booked into the 'Breakfast Club' where they are kept busy with a variety of craft, sport and game activities until 8.50 am when classes are ready to welcome them. The club is proving to be popular with the children and with their families who may need child-care outside of the regular school hours. The Foundation Unit also now has extended hours and can offer 30 hours child-care. This is also proving to be vital for some families and the Unit has had to put a waiting list into operation as some days are very busy.

So the school continues to evolve and develop according to the needs of the children, their families and the community in which it operates.

*Vicki Fenemore – Head Teacher*

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## Winkleigh Fair

As I write this I am looking outside at a scene of pouring rain and dark sky. We are into the final month of Autumn. Halloween, All Saints Day and Remembrance Sunday have come and gone – Winter beckons. Winkleigh Fair, however, is alive and kicking with its varied programme of exciting events in the weeks leading up to, and including, Christmas.

### Annual General Meeting

Firstly, however, I should talk about the Annual General Meeting which took place in October. Sadly, the Committee lost the services of Mel James who stood down from her position as Vice Chair. Mel has been an enormous help during her time on the Committee and her sense of humour often kept us all going when things appeared to be conspiring against us! Thank you, Mel, for all your contributions and support. Thank you also for saying you are prepared to remain with us as a helper.

Kirsty Smith stood down as Secretary but agreed that she would stay on as a Committee member. Thank you, Kirsty, for all the work you carried out on the secretarial front.

I am very pleased to report that two people, Sally Bayley and Antonia Whittick, volunteered to join the Committee – this was voted upon and unanimously agreed before they had any chance to change their minds! Thank you both – we look forward to working with you and welcome your thoughts and contributions going forward. A further vote saw Julie Mustafa being accepted into the role of Vice Chair.

Tony Bayley also attended the meeting and offered his support as a helper to the Committee. This was gratefully accepted and already his contributions and ideas have proved valuable. Thanks Tony.



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The new Committee therefore stands as follows:

Chair – Kay Aston

Vice Chair – Julie Mustafa

Treasurer – Tony Aston

Secretary – Vacant (temporarily filled by Tony Aston)

Committee Members – Os Mustafa, Antonia Whittick, Sally Bayley.

## **Events**

We are hugely grateful to Joyce Brock and Andrew Ware for running the Whist Drive at the Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October on behalf of the Fair. This was a great night attended by 40+ players with lots of prizes. We hope to hold more of these evenings through next year.

By the time that you read this we will have had the “Bletchley Evening” at the Village Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> November. At the time of writing there were over 40 people who booked seats for this event at which the film “The Imitation Game” was screened and an illustrated presentation given by former GCHQ agent Bob Skelt on the people at Bletchley Park. I will report in more detail in the next edition of DW but it is likely that we will be looking at similar “double bills” for 2018.

We will be holding our annual Christmas Quiz evening in the village hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Please book your tables by calling Tony and Kay on 01837 83248. This is always a very popular and well-attended event. Christmas Present, Christmas Past, Christmas music and lots of other categories will all be there to challenge the brains of young and old alike.

Our Christmas Extravaganza will be taking place in The Square on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. There will be lots of Christmas market and craft stalls, live music, a variety of hot food, carols around the Christmas Tree (which this year has been kindly sponsored and provided by Reads Roofing) and of course, the opportunity to meet Santa in his Grotto. All of this will be taking place in the Square between 4 pm and 9 pm. The Square and Fore Street will be closed to traffic and parking prohibited from 2 pm onwards. We would like to thank all residents for their understanding in this respect and for their help in keeping this area traffic free for the duration.

We are thrilled by the return of the D-Day Darlings to the Village Hall on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. They will be performing their “Home for Christmas” concert under new, improved lighting and will include many Christmas favourites from the 1940’s plus lots of other period classics that you all know and love. Over 110 seats have already sold so ring the same number if you don’t want to miss out on this fabulous evening. What a way to start the Christmas season!

### Going forwards

As ever, we are keen to hear ideas and thoughts from you, the Winkleigh public, about any aspect of Winkleigh Fair and its activities. Joe Whittick, Antonia's son, has proposed a great idea. He has put forward a suggestion that the Committee might consider forming a young persons' Fair sub-committee of the main Committee to look specifically at what we might be able to provide for younger age groups. A great initiative from Joe and something which we, and he, are now actively exploring. People such as Joe, together with Alfie Davis and Matty James who have also been so helpful at many events, are the future of the village and the ones who are likely, with others, to be running the Fair Committee in years to come.

We will be putting the final touches to our 2018 Winter/Spring programme, together with the Winkleigh Fair week, in the coming weeks. Lots of exciting things to look forward to. Keep an eye on our notice board in South Street.

Finally, it was with great sadness that we learned of the untimely passing of Chris Lill, from Elms Meadow. Chris was a great supporter of Winkleigh Fair with him, his wife Clare and his young family attending many events. He will be greatly missed and our condolences are extended to the loved ones he leaves behind.

*Tony Aston, Treasurer*

*Mob: 01837 83248*

*Email: tonyaston1953@gmail.com*

### Letter home from war

Monday 12 November 1915

Somewhere in France

Dear Zoe

I wish I was back home with you. I hope you are well and that everything is alright at the farm. I hope Albert is doing fine.

On the boat to get here, I felt so sick. The boat was bumpy and rocky; I could hear the waves crashing on the wooden hull. There is barely any food- I'm really hungry.

I was galloping towards the German trench with mixed emotions, when I heard a gun-shot; then there was no weight on my back anymore. I felt so sad. Captain Nicholls' friend said I was really brave to carry on charging, he said it's what Captain Nicholls would have wanted me to do.

That made me happier, but the sight of dead bodies was so desolate and cold.

I can't wait to get home, I miss you so much.

Love Joey, your horse

*by Soren Moreby, age 11*



## Winkleigh Sports Centre

Unbelievably we are rapidly approaching Christmas and the end of another year. Where does the time go? With that in mind we would like to share our news with you as we value your support greatly.

Firstly the committee would like to thank the Friends of Winkleigh School for their excellent **Fireworks Night**. It was a great success and was very well supported by the village. The bonfire was a welcome addition on a cold November night and the firework display was impressive. Events like this are incredibly hard work for the organisers, so well done. The committee used the event to present plaques to some of our very generous donors who have made a huge difference to the Sports Centre facilities and resources. It was great to be able to thank these people face to face, the plaques will eventually be put up in the Sports Centre entrance hall.

**Saturday Club** - For many years the Saturday club has been running between 10 am & 12 noon. The club seeks to provide play opportunities for parents & children. This includes outdoor play, table tennis & air hockey. The old bowling green is also put to good use for football & other games. Tony has been running the club very well for the last few years but it is now time for him to take a well-earned rest as he is retiring. We do not want this much valued club to close and so we are asking if there is anyone willing to step in and take over the club. Full support will be given by committee members. Please contact Mike Wilson on 01769 520605 if you want to discuss this opportunity to support our community.

**Youth Club** - We are also looking for additional help with this club. It runs on Wednesday night from 7 - 9 pm. The committee is interested in increasing the funding for this club and would like to work with someone who has experience of seeking additional funding from various sources. If you feel that you may be able to help please contact Mike Wilson on 01769 520605.

A date to look out for - A **Christmas Party** is taking place at the Sports Centre on 16th December (7 pm - midnight). It is being organised by the charity Over & Above to support North Devon District Hospital. Festive food and Santa will make you feel that Christmas is just around the corner. Please contact Janet on 01837 682716 to buy tickets (£10 for adults/£3 for children) and for additional information. Please try to support this initiative and more importantly have a fabulous time.

Finally you may have noticed that the telecommunications mast is now in place. We are looking forward to being able to spend the revenues gained from this to good use to develop and build on what the Sports Centre is able to offer to the community.

Seasonal greetings to you all & see you in 2018.

*Tom Radcliffe – Secretary*

## Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan .....



A big thank you to everyone who returned their Parish Questionnaire about the Neighbourhood Plan. There was also a chance to add comments at a display in the Community Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> October. A tiny flavour of some of the feedback is below. The next stage of the work is to present the questionnaire findings and display comments to the Parish Council, before writing a draft Plan early in the New Year.



"Affordable housing"

"Winkleigh residents  
first"

"Too many houses"

"New footpaths to  
Winkleigh woods"



"New housing will reduce  
wildlife"

"No loss to biodiversity"

**Do you have desk top publishing skills and software? If so, there may be an opportunity to help put together the Neighbourhood Plan. Please contact Adrian Mercer ([zante256@gmail.com](mailto:zante256@gmail.com)).**

..... Were you there on 10<sup>th</sup> October?



**STOP PRESS!!**

The Parish Council have agreed to appoint independent rural traffic experts to help craft this topic in the Plan. Look out for more news about this early in 2018.

"Small units for businesses"

"Use the airfield"

"Pubs and shops limited in size"



"Safety! Pedestrians as a priority"

"Eggesford Road is a problem"

"Village car park?"



## Winkleigh WI



Winkleigh Members have been on their adventures this autumn and have shared their experiences with us!

In September Claire & Raymond Tricker took us on a Cruise to the Caribbean, Central America and then onto the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. After delays, due to rough weather, they finally sailed up the Mississippi. It took all day giving them very little time to clear Customs in all their finery and get to their first event, the Mardi Gras Masked Orpheus Ball (Black Tie was the dress code for the evening!). The Ball was held in an enormous building bigger than an aircraft hangar, with Pop Groups on the stage complete with flashing lights and giant screens so everyone had a good view. The noise was very loud, but the young were having fun, dancing to a mixture of old and new songs. The young ladies had the most amazing dresses but, much to our surprise, they had trainers on! Some of the young men were sporting wonderfully coloured bow ties and waistcoats but also had trainers – but this time with flashing lights.

The food for our group was in a very large box under the table and after everyone had eaten, the Parade started, with 35 Police Motorbikes (lights flashing and sirens going) followed by Fire Trucks and Ambulances also with everything flashing. What a noise and remember, this was inside a building! Then came some Marching Bands and brightly coloured vehicles which were highly decorated with more flashing lights and people in fun costumes throwing gifts all over the place. These gifts were mostly strings of beads but sometimes they even threw packets of them. Everyone was shouting '*over here, over here*' and, as you can see, a certain lady was particularly lucky in getting more than a few of them!



## Groundworks



All aspects of digger works from ponds and foundations to large scale landscaping, drainage and sites.

Well established & fully insured with lots of experience in large and small projects.

Martin Parish 07817 464420 or  
martin@pmfarm.co.uk

Once the parade had finished, the Dancing began again and looked as if it would go on until the early hours of the morning, but they had to leave around 12.30 as next morning they were due to watch the Street Parade. Their stand was in a very good position and there were many Marching Bands from the local high schools and universities. More floats with things being thrown also some Knights on horseback – don't think the horses liked the noise and crowds very much, however. They left halfway through the afternoon having had enough music to keep them going for weeks! You should have seen the rubbish it was everywhere but next morning, everything was clean and tidy. What an experience!

October's meeting was a talk given by Barbara Thorne about a visit to Peru but it was told as a story! There was a small brown Bear called Paddington in her house looking very sad and he said he was missing his Aunt and Uncle, so Barbara and her husband, John, decided to go to Peru to see if they could find them.

They flew to Madrid and then on to Lima. They travelled around the area of Miraflores, but no Bears there, so onto Nazca and to the Island's National Park. Saw some amazing sights, but no Bears there either, so back to Lima, on to Arequipa where an earthquake took place early one morning during their stay, but no Bears there! On to Colca Canyon (16,000 ft. deep), still no Bears! So another flight to Puno to visit Lake Titicaca at 13,000 ft. up in the Andes Mountains. Next stop was Cusco to a very old Hotel, but still no Bears. Then a train up a zigzag railway for 3/4 of an hour and then another hour up to Machu Picchu. This was a most amazing place but no Aunt or Uncle there so back to Cusco and onto at Iquitos and a boat to sail down the Amazon. They saw Pink River Dolphins, then off the boat to trek through the rain forest to a native village where the men were invited to try the blowpipes but still no Bears!! Back to Iquitos followed by Lima, where they stayed at a Ranch House. Next to Lima airport, a flight to Madrid and back home. An amazing trip in search of Paddington's relations and an extraordinary experience. Home to tell Paddington that although they had searched and searched, no luck.

# Local Logs



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All stored under cover & delivered in  
Chulmleigh & surrounding area.

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Truck Load      | £80   |
| Double Load     | £160  |
| Trailer Load    | £270  |
| Net of Logs     | £4    |
| Net of Kindling | £4.50 |

Martin 07817 464420 parish@btinternet.com  
www.mpcontracts.co.uk

What a wonderful way to describe a holiday, we all loved it, many thanks Barbara.

This month we were making Christmas Trees. All you need is an old clay plant pot, a dried oasis cone and lots of long lasting pine.

I am afraid that this will be the last Article from the Women's Institute as we will be closing at the end of the year. This is very sad as Winkleigh Branch has been going 100 years

continuously. It was one of the earliest Branches but unfortunately there are not enough members to make it financially viable to be able to pay our speakers and the rent of the hall. So Federation will put us into suspension for two years to allow for the possibility of some other people to start it up again.

If anyone fancies the Challenge you can choose the venue, day of the week and time to suite yourselves. Please contact DSWI on 01392 255386 for more information. I would like to thank my Treasurer Barbara, Jean, Janet, Carol and Wendy for their loyal support over the last few years.

We would like to wish everyone in Winkleigh and the surrounding area a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the WI.

*Claire Tricker (President/Secretary)*



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## **FESTIVE TRACTOR AND CAROLS**

**Friday, 22 December 2017**

*(organised by Winkleigh Methodist Church)*

**Stops will be signposted (approximately):**

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Elms Meadow</b>        | <b>6.00 pm</b> |
| <b>Westcots Drive</b>     | <b>6.30 pm</b> |
| <b>Kings Meadow Drive</b> | <b>7.00 pm</b> |
| <b>Old Chapel Gardens</b> | <b>7.20 pm</b> |
| <b>Winkleigh Square</b>   | <b>7.30 pm</b> |



This year we will not be door-to-door collecting but would appreciate you coming over and giving your donation to one of the carol singers.

All funds raised will be for Devon Air Ambulance.

## **The Eggesford Road Development**

The planning application for “Cyril’s Field” is still awaiting the District Council’s decision. Most local residents and many who use the road continue to oppose it on the grounds of safety and suitability.

What is proposed will widen a short stretch of Eggesford Road near the entrance, but it will do nothing to ease traffic conflict at the junction, and pedestrian safety has been ignored. Many young families walk to and from school and for them (and

for the less mobile elderly) crossing the main road can be very frightening. The development does create a pedestrian route through the estate to the A3124, but at a point where speeds are even higher. Residents are pressing for a controlled crossing of the A3124; better still that vehicle access should be here and not from Eggesford Road. Good design would then slow traffic on the main road.

The plans take no notice of the principles set out in the excellent Village Design Statement for Winkleigh. This emphasises the importance of safe pedestrian connections to bring the community together, matching the character and scale of the surrounding area, maintaining green spaces and creating buildings and using materials that harmonise with the concept of the village.

Such concern for people and place means more thought, and perhaps a little less profit. But the long-term value would be high.

*Michael Downward*

## Parish Paths Partnership

Sue Ware and I, as representatives of the Parish Council, attended a meeting of the Parish Paths Partnership in Torrington on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Briefly, the P3 Partnership as it's called is an agreement between a Parish and Devon County Council.

The Parish agree to complete an annual survey of all the footpaths in the Parish and draw up a programme of work if necessary.

Also to talk to landowners & DCC wardens regarding completion of work. DCC will Supply advice & hardware (gates, stiles, etc.) if needed.

We also agree to clear seasonal vegetation (i.e. walking the path with a pair of shears), and be first point of contact in the community for rights of way issues.

One of the few paths that failed the survey this year needed a bit of work: new gate etc. A few months ago I went to see the path and take some measurements, to find to my delight that the Footpath Warden had already done the work. The partnership does work!

*Alan Jacobs*





## All Saints Church - Charitable Giving

### CHANGING LIVES

At All Saints Church, Winkleigh we organise regular **'coffee and cake'** and other fund raising events. They are well supported by village residents – both regular church goers and many who aren't! Some events benefit on-going church operations – like recent events for the bell ropes and church clock. Other events provide much-needed donations for a variety of local and national charities, an important part of our church's mission and outreach.

In 2016, our fund-raising activities helped sustain a total of **£1,420.16** in charitable donations. This year, at our annual Harvest Luncheon, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, we included an auction of produce that, together with general donations, raised a total of **£249.29** for **'Farming God's Way'**, a charity supporting long-term, sustainable farming practices in Thika, a particularly arid part of Kenya.

With our sister parishes in Ashreigney and Broadwoodkelly a total of **£627.84** has been forwarded to help promote and apply proven conservation techniques with a biblical perspective to the most common vocation on the African sub-continent. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Our fund raising efforts continue on **Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 am with another **'coffee and cake'** morning in the church, this time in aid of **'Crisis at Christmas'**, an organisation that provides support to the homeless and vulnerable at this difficult time of the year.

**Please come along and join us. All are welcome.**

*Collin Gibson – Church Treasurer*



Qixx

Winkleigh

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## Friends of Winkleigh School

For those of you who don't know us, the Friends of Winkleigh School (FoWS) is a fundraising group, made up of local people, which works to raise money for Winkleigh Primary School. The money we raise helps improve the learning experience of the children.

FoWS welcomes any new members who would like to join us, so please do let the school know if you are interested. Some of the things we have helped to fund in the past include:

- a new paved courtyard area in school
- pantomime performances and workshops
- subsidized class trips
- formal accreditation for children's art work
- new laptops and books

We hope you enjoyed the Fireworks and Bonfire Night at the Sports Centre recently. All funds raised will go directly to school projects.

Some dates for your diary:

- Christmas school disco Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 4 - 5.30 pm
- Bacon Roll morning for local businesses. Feel like treating your staff to a warm bacon or egg roll? Or would your staff like the opportunity to buy one from us for their mid-morning break? The date is yet to be confirmed, but any business that would like an order form, please phone Tim on 83229.

Did you know that you can help us raise funds by setting up Easyfundraising on your computer or device?

**Easyfundraising** is a free service that allows charities and good causes to raise money when their supporters shop online with over 3,200 retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, M&S and Clarks. FoWS are registered with Easyfundraising and we'd like to raise awareness of this within the village, and ask that you please choose us as your "good cause" and help us raise more money for our lovely school.....and remember – it costs you nothing!

The following step-by-step instructions will guide you through setting yourself up:

Log on to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Within the "Search for a cause" box, type in – ***Friends of Winkleigh School – Devon***

Click on "Join us"

Enter a few personal details – name, email and password, then Click "create my account" and then "Get started"

That's it! You are all set up!

Easyfundraising can also give you a pop-up reminder every time you do shopping that qualifies for a donation – by downloading the “Donation reminder”, all you have to do is click on “Activate donation” and your purchase will automatically qualify. To get the pop-up reminders:

Click on “donation reminder” (top right of page) and then click “Get the donation reminder”.

Remember to “get the donation reminder” on each device that you use to shop!

*With thanks from the **Friends of Winkleigh School***

## **Darkinson's Support Group Okehampton**

We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month for mutual support over tea and biscuits at Castle Ham, Okehampton from 2 – 4 pm.

On all other Thursdays there is an exercise group for people with limited mobility. We keep up to date with the latest research developments and there is often a speaker. There are also several outings a year and a Christmas Lunch is arranged.

There is no charge for the meetings and all other activities are subsidised. Our next two meetings will be 25th Jan & 22nd Feb 2018.

**Do come and join us – you will be made most welcome**

**For further information, please phone 01837 55813**



## **TEN ACRES VINEYARD**

*Wine shop & camping open 1<sup>st</sup> May- 30<sup>th</sup> Sept*



**10am-8pm Closed Wed.**



*At weekends, free tastings and wine for sale by the glass.*

[www.tenacresvineyardcamping.co.uk](http://www.tenacresvineyardcamping.co.uk) or (01837) 83892

## Christmas with Okehampton Choral Society

The members of the Okehampton Choral Society have been busy preparing a very special selection of music for this year's Christmas programme. The first half consists of a performance of the first section of Handel's immortal oratorio "Messiah": a firm favourite with singers and audiences alike, ever since it was first performed in 1742. This part of the work deals with the promise and birth of Christ and includes such wonderfully joyful choruses as "For unto us a child is born".



**OKEHAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY**



**CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 2017**  
**HANDEL: "MESSIAH" (Part One) & SELECTION OF POPULAR CAROLS**  
Conductor: **ANDREW WILSON**  
Organ: **ROGER CLEVERDON**  
Fairplace Church, Okehampton:  
8th & 15th December, 7.30pm  
St. Mary's Exbourne: 11th December 7.30pm.  
Tickets: £5.00 Students: £2.00

*for the Fairplace concerts from BEANFEAST, The Arcade, Okehampton.  
Exbourne tickets available from THE BURROW, Exbourne. Or on the door.*

After the interval, the sixty-strong choir will perform a selection of popular carols by composers including Bach, Willcocks, Mathias and Rutter and there will be a chance for the audience to join the choir in well-known carols too.

The organ accompanist is Roger Cleverdon and the concerts will mark the debut of the choir's new conductor Andrew Wilson, who brings many years of experience as a composer, conductor and organist with him. Following 22 years as Director of Music at Kelly College in Tavistock, Andrew became Director of Studies of the National College of Music and organist and choirmaster of Okehampton Parish Church. He has won many national and international awards for his compositions and his "Hymn to the Virgin" is included in the programme.

As a result of the enduring popularity of the Okehampton Choral Society's Christmas performances, there will be three opportunities to hear them this year: at Fairplace Church on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and also at St Mary's Parish Church, Exbourne on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

All three concerts begin at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available at £5.00 for adults and £2.00 for full-time students and children.

## ***Need Help in the Garden?***

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## Can you tell your Old Man's Beard from your Witches' Whiskers?

These oddly descriptive and rather cheeky names belong to some of our region's hidden woodland treasures, the lichens. Unsurprisingly not many of us could point them out on a woodland walk yet the south west's coastal and upland woods (known as Atlantic woodlands) are some of the richest places for lichens, mosses and liverworts in the British Isles. **Plantlife** with funding from the National Lottery and the support of regional partners wants people to know more about the woodlands on their doorstep so that we can value them more and do more for their conservation.

*Over the next 12 months we will be developing the 'Building Resilience in South West Woodlands' project and we want to hear from the people who live near these woods, work in or visit the area. Let us know what you think about the woodlands of Dartmoor, Exmoor, North Devon, North Cornwall and the Quantock Hills. Tell us what activities you would like to get involved with. To do this go to [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BRCCommunities](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BRCCommunities)*

Now back to those beards and whiskers..

On your next woodland walk have a look into the branches of hawthorn, oak, ash and birch trees to see if you can find either of these lichens. Both are nationally fairly rare but can be abundant in some of the south west's older native woodlands as they prefer to live in the clean, light and damp conditions they provide.

### **Witches' Whiskers (*Usnea florida*)**

With its huge hairy wart-like discs, this grey-green lichen can't be mistaken for any other. The discs are the fruits of the lichen and can grow up to 1 cm across although they can be much smaller.



### **Old Man's Beard (*Usnea species*)**

Sometimes sticking up on branches and sometimes dangling from them in clumps, these 'usnea' lichens are made up of thin, round, grey-green threads and are reminiscent of a tangled beard.

To hear Plantlife's Alastair Moralee talk about the project on BBC Radio Devon go to [https://twitter.com/Love\\_plants/status/907228502394634240](https://twitter.com/Love_plants/status/907228502394634240)

**Plantlife**



Plantlife is the leading organisation working in the UK to protect and conserve wild plants and their habitats. Plantlife identify and conserve sites of exceptional importance, rescue wild plants from the brink of extinction, and ensure that common plants do not become rare in the wild.

## **Winkleigh POST OFFICE**

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**Owner: Tony Bayley**

## **Giving the gift of muck and magic to thousands of inner city children**

For over forty years, Farms for City Children has been welcoming children to the wonderful Nethercott House (just a stone's throw from Winkleigh) to immerse themselves in a world so unfamiliar to their normal urban environment. A unique opportunity to live and work together for a week at a time on a real farm, in the heart of the countryside.

And now more than ever, the opportunity to explore, learn in the fresh air and be children is desperately needed! For many of the children who come to visit, they may not know where their food comes from and have limited opportunities to explore the outside world. Since those early days, over 80,000 children have spent a week at one of the three farms – Nethercott here in Devon, the far westerly coast of Wales, or in the Gloucestershire countryside – this year almost 3,500 8-11 year olds came through the farm gates to be transformed from inner city primary school children into young farmers for the week.



Over the years, the formula has changed very little. Simply, children are involved in everything necessary to keep the farms going. They learn hands-on where their food comes from, the importance of caring for animals and the land, and the value of working co-operatively as a team. The rewards are, unusually, non-material and self-generated: children discover an active enjoyment in life and a sense of achievement, the effects of which remain with them long after they have left.

Michael Morpurgo (who founded the charity with his wife Clare) says: “working on the farm enables kids to feel useful. If your worthlessness is confirmed at school because you often fail there, then you become alienated from a society where success of all kinds is important. But on a farm, children can be proud of what they do.”





The children who benefit from a visit to one of the farms could never begin to cover the true cost of their trip so the charity subsidises every single place by at least £300.

If you're looking for something different as a gift this Christmas – why not give the gift of 'muck and magic'? Whether you can give a single gift of any amount or even a monthly gift of £25 (which would entirely subsidise a child's place each year) your gift will make a difference.



You can donate online at [www.farmsforcitychildren.org](http://www.farmsforcitychildren.org)

or send a cheque (payable to Farms for City Children) to  
Farms for City Children,  
Exeter Community Centre,  
17 St Davids Hill,  
Exeter,  
Devon,  
EX4 3RG.



## Carols in the Barn 2017

It's time for Carols in the Barn again!

This year we are going on a journey "The Greatest Journey". A journey based on the style of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".

An interactive Carol Service where we can all take part, so all come dressed in your favourite Nativity outfit. All children will receive a copy of the book

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 @ Beechlea, Berners Cross, Winkleigh.

Hot refreshments to follow and a collection for Prostate Cancer.

Looking forward to seeing you all at this special event.

*Jan Ovenden*

# **CAROLS IN THE BARN**

## **JOIN US FOR "THE GREATEST JOURNEY"**

**The Christmas Story in the style of "We're going on a Bear Hunt"**



**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 6.30**

**BEECHLEA, BERNERS CROSS, WINKLEIGH**

**An interactive Carol Service for all ages.**

**Come dressed up in your favourite Nativity outfit.**

**Everybody has a part to play.**

**Hot refreshments and collection for Prostate Cancer.**

**WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHAPEL**

**Winkleigh Village Hall**

**URGENTLY NEEDS!!!**

**- A Treasurer**

**If no one comes forward**

**The Village Hall may have to CLOSE**

**For details please ring Marcia on 01837 83734**

## Spirituality and the Sacred – What it Means Within the History of Britain – (Part 3)

What was to emerge later were the Late Neolithic sacred and secular stone circles described by Palmer as the second British religion before Christianity and which then replaced the long barrows and their accompanying causewayed enclosures (2002:33). Whatever astronomical reasons are suggested for the existence of these Late Neolithic stone circles c 3200 BC, it is argued that rite and ritual, sacred, secular and celebrative, and economic and trading activities occurred within those circles (*ibid*). This idea is not so alien though, the parallel can be seen in the market towns of Devizes, Wiltshire, or Sandbach, Cheshire where the heart of the town is the market-place, yet at the latter,

two Anglo-Saxon 8<sup>th</sup> century crosses dominate the area thereby layering the sacred upon the secular (*ibid*).



The Late Neolithic stone circles (Figure 8 left) of Avebury (c 2800 to 1800 BC), Stonehenge, and the artificial though enigmatic communal Silbury Hill (figure 7) are the religious cathedrals and, possibly, the stock exchanges and power centres of the prehistoric world (Palmer 2002:37). They were for major

pilgrimages, sacred processions, rites and ritual, probably also combining the modern day functions of Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, the Houses of Parliament, and the Stock Exchange, (*ibid*).

The Avebury stone circle built c2800 BC, the major spiritual site in Southern England, finally lost power to Stonehenge c 1800 BC, both sacred and religious areas predating the third British religion of Christianity. It functioned as a liturgical sacred drama centre created by the stones; a procession-cum-pilgrimage centre revealed by the avenues and

compactness of soil between stones and a trading centre of excellent flint for axes religious and other purposes (Palmer 2002:42).



Figure 9 (left) is one side of the Tossal de la Roca Palaeolithic portable bone from Spain possibly indicating a system of notation, but more probably astronomical movements for ritual purposes (Renfrew 1996:378).

Figure 10 (below) shows the basic types of church and component parts as devotion and liturgy within spirituality changed.

*Components: A - aisle, B - baptistery, C - chancel, Cp - chapel, N - nave, P - porch, Q - quire, S - sanctuary, T - tower, Tr - transept, V - vestry.*

*Types: 1 - single cell, 2 - two cell, 3 - three celled, 4 - four celled with axial tower, 5 - circular nave, 6 - turriform, with western baptistery, 7 - transeptal usually with central tower, 10 - multi-cellular with numerous side chapels or porticus (Rodwell 1981:62).*

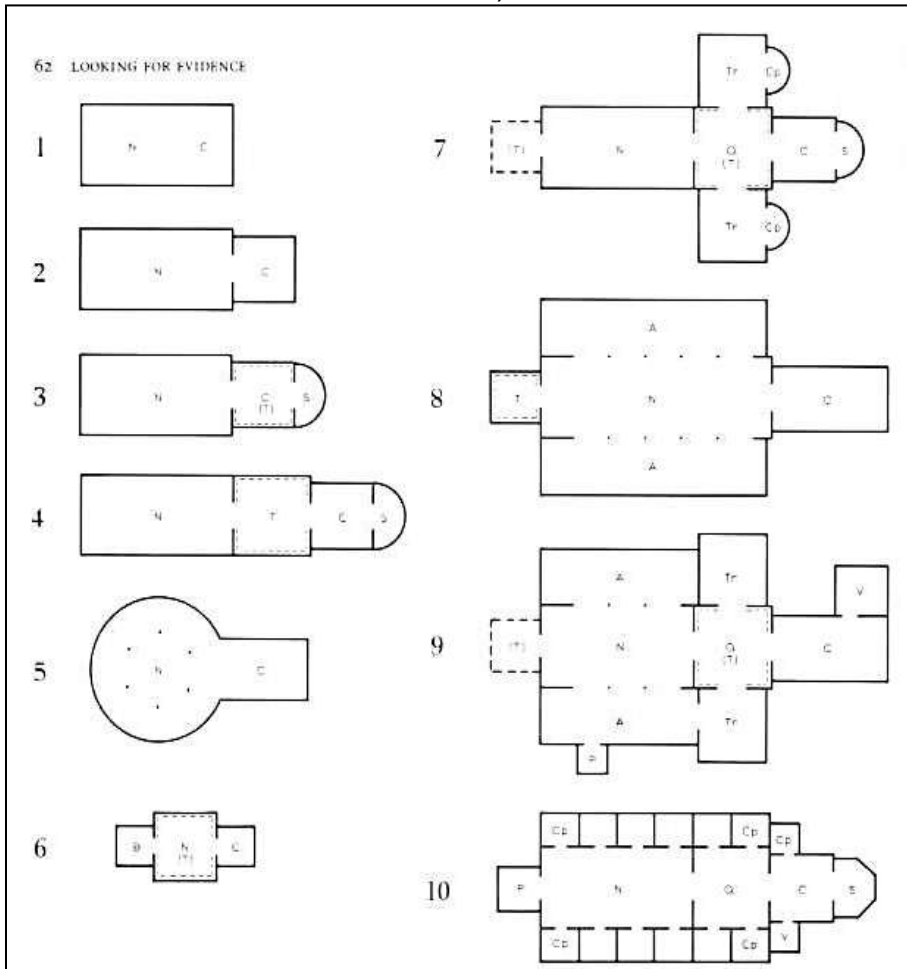
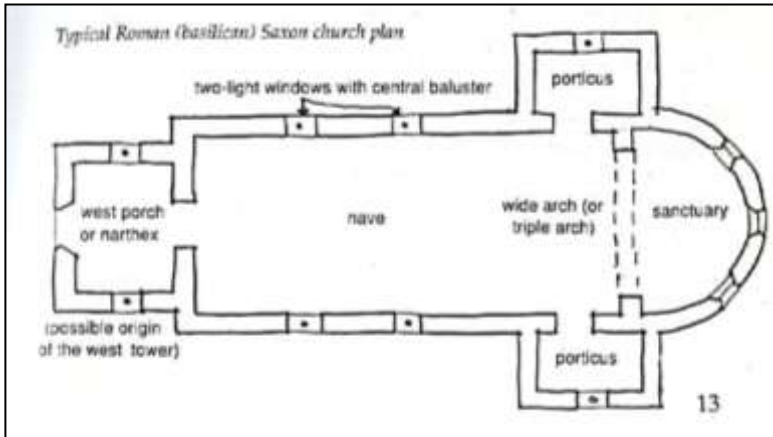


Figure 11 (below) shows a typical Roman basilican Saxon church plan, (usually un-aisled initially), examples of which are St Peter's, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, and the aisled Brixworth, Northants (Cunnington 1993:13).



*Rev. C Jobbins*

*[Editor's note: Part 3 (above) concludes this article. Details of all references cited in the three instalments are available on request.]*



# WESTCOUNTRY

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**TEL: 01409 254502 or 01271 309079.**

## ACE Archaeology Club

**Our Year:** ACE's year starts with our AGM in November so it seems like a good time to try to do a round-up of what we have managed to do this year. Most of what we do is outdoors, as you might expect, so we are at the mercy of the weather, but not much was cancelled. Our AGM always includes a planning session when everyone can contribute their ideas and wishes about what to do in the upcoming year.



Last year we shared our Christmas meeting with Friends of Berry Castle, in North Devon. We visited them on the Iron Age Hill Top enclosure they have been working on. They have cleared the site and arranged for information boards and hope to be able to do some limited excavation at some stage. They provided mulled wine and mince pies by an open fire and we then joined them at a local pub for Christmas lunch. The weather was lovely.

In **January**, we stayed indoors and had a look at some of the finds from last year's dig. The pottery had all been washed and allowed to dry off so needed numbering.

**February** was also indoors and we had a talk on astro-archaeology from Allan Jones, a volunteer at the Norman Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth.

**March** was a busy month; we ventured outdoors to do some clearing of our dig site at Moistown; did some more dowsing on the site and had two evening sessions on Geographical Information Systems and how they can be used in archaeology.

**April** saw us back indoors again making wicker shields. As you can see, we have some rebels who decided to make other things!



**May** is dig time, our first digging session of the year. We uncovered more and more cobbles but also walls and more and more sherds of pottery.

In **June**, a couple of members organised a walk on Dartmoor to look at some stone rows, cairns etc. to see if we could put some



of the astro-archaeology into practice.



At the beginning of **July**, we had a guided tour of Wooston Castle, by Bryher Mason, the Heritage Manager, Dartmoor Portfolio of the National Trust. Wooston Castle is another hill top enclosure, this time near Castle Drogo. We are sitting in the remains of the roundhouse near the Wooston Castle enclosure.

**July** is Council of British Archaeology Festival time and we did our bit as usual within the Step Back in Time Festival at Pattiland Farm, near Broadwoodkelly. We run a 'have a go trench' which, at times, we couldn't see for young people having a go. Some came last year and came back for another session.

**August and September**, we dig, not for two months but for two weeks at the end of August and the beginning of September

This is the find we got most excited about, a complete and undamaged Lee and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce bottle, with stopper!!

We have an Open Day in the middle of this dig and all are welcome to come and have a look and eat tea and cake in the sun.

If any of this sounds like your sort of thing, do get in touch. Our website is still a work in progress but we hope it will be up and running soon, in the meantime we can be found on Facebook.



*Erica Williamson - ACE Archaeology Club*

## Forget-Me-Not-Friends

Winkleigh Forget-Me-Not-Friends Awards For All lottery project aims are to:

- Extend the range of volunteer-led activities offered by the Forget Me Not Friends group in Winkleigh.
- Enable and encourage more people living with dementia and their Carers in the surrounding rurally isolated areas to access the group.
- Develop an 'information hub' to provide support and guidance around adult health and social care issues for people aged 65+ in the Winkleigh area.

The Winkleigh Group (Forget-Me-Not Friends) aims to enable and encourage people living with dementia (or awaiting diagnosis) as well as their Carers to attend our sessions. It is also for people living within Winkleigh with other related illnesses which can affect their memory.

Winkleigh is an isolated village, so we wish to extend our activities to surrounding rural areas. We are now having two group sessions on the first and third Wednesday of each month, which will help us to widen our range of activities. Throughout August/September we have had different activities from Exercise to music with Renata, and a reminiscence workshop using the James Ravilious picture archives. He was local and took many wonderful pictures capturing life in rural North Devon. This was organised with the Plough Arts Centre in Torrington. In October we had a tea dance. What a wonderful afternoon this was, with music from the "Swanswood" Band. We all danced and sang along to their tunes.



In addition, we are developing an 'Information Hub' which will be run by the co-ordinator, who will provide support/guidance around adult health and social care issues. These issues can be: How to fund care, what funding is available and how do you access it? How to make care affordable if funding isn't available. We can indicate the best websites for information and help, as well as suggesting products or services that might help. Everyone's starting point to supporting the elderly will be different, but signposting to the best advice and information will aid decision making and it can provide greater depth and breadth of support. It's not always easy to know when your elderly relatives or people you know need help, or to identify what help would make the most difference.

The information hub will operate alongside the weekly mini-market held in the Community Centre. This will be the second Wednesday of each month from October 2017.



# FORGET - ME - NOT FRIENDS

## WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Everyone is welcome, especially people affected by memory loss and their carers. We provide tea and a friendly atmosphere for those wishing to socialize for an hour or two each month.

Our special events have included speakers from the See-Hear Centre, Pets As Therapy, Devon Air Ambulance. We have held Poetry sessions, Floral Arrangement, Massage and Aroma Therapy, Movement to Music and other interesting presentations, as well as a visit to Rosemoor.

Advice surgery every second Wednesday of the month, 9.15-11.15, starting from October.



**Drop in between  
2 – 4pm**

**First & third  
Wednesday  
every month**



Chat

Laugh

Reminisce

Make new  
friends

Special  
events

### Dates 2017 - 2018

|                      |   |                  |
|----------------------|---|------------------|
| Sep 6 <sup>th</sup>  | & | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>  | & | 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>  | & | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>  | & | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | & | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>  | & | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>  | & | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>  | & | 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| May 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | & | 16 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jun 6 <sup>th</sup>  | & | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| July 4 <sup>th</sup> | & | 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>  | & | 15 <sup>th</sup> |

If you would like more information or you require a lift to the centre,  
**contact Trish [patriciab@torrage.org.uk](mailto:patriciab@torrage.org.uk) 01237 459337**



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## Re-creating a Heritage Orchard

From looking at archive maps of our farm, it is evident an orchard once stood at the back of the farmhouse. In 1997, all that was left of the old orchard was an ancient plum (growing at right angles to the ground), a cherry and a wonderful apple tree, with the kind of fruit you imagine from 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' - big, red and shiny. Over the years these vestiges also met their demise, but the area has been maintained as a meadow and wildlife habitat, hosting birds, mammals and insects.

However, we felt we could not only help wildlife, but also revive a historical landscape feature and be productive. So, we planted 32 fruit trees in January using Heritage varieties that tolerate high, windy and wet ground, such as we have in Winkleigh! We've already had a small crop and look forward to seeing the trees establish over the years. The apple varieties, culinary and dessert, have great names, eg; Ribston Pippin, Ashmeads Kernel, Tidecombe Seedling, Lord Lambourne, Edmunds Pippin, Oaken Pin, Upton Pine, Lord Derby, Newton Wonder and Don's Delight.

From the off, we've had our share of 'pest' issues; rabbits chewing through the guards and on return from holidays one tree almost entirely consumed by *Laotohe populi* or the popular Hawk Moth (critter right below) - happily transferred to a patch of willow, which they are equally happy to munch. Getting through trial by caterpillar, rabbit, squirrel and deer, not to mention scab and other fruit-tree diseases, will take determination!

*Chris & Gail Flockhart, Heckapen Farm*  
*[gail@theparadoxfactory.com](mailto:gail@theparadoxfactory.com)*



## Number Puzzle

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

*Solution on page 62*

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## Word Search

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

NATIVITY  
REINDEER  
PANTOMIME  
BOXING DAY  
MULLED WINE

CHRISTMAS CARDS  
FROSTY WEATHER  
HOLLY BERRIES  
ADVENT  
LAPLAND

SKIING  
MINCE PIES  
SNOWBALLS  
ROAST TURKEY  
CAROLS

*Solution on page 62*

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## Solutions

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

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



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## Letters To The Editor

Dear DW

On behalf of Winkleigh Parish Council, please could you pass on our enormous thanks to the DW distribution team for their voluntary time and effort to distribute the WPC Neighbourhood Plan Framework questionnaire.



It was vital that every household received a copy of this document and without the volunteers' help; this would have been much more difficult to accomplish.

We are all very grateful for the help you gave and this has been recorded in the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting.

Kindest Regards

*Mel - Mrs Melanie Bickell, Winkleigh Parish Clerk/RFO  
winkleighpc1@btconnect.com*

Dear Distinctly Winkleigh,

I am Celia Moore and I live in Longdown near Exeter. I am publishing my debut novel on November 1<sup>st</sup> and here is the writing on the back cover:

'Set over two decades with a backdrop of atmospheric Dartmoor, Fox Halt Farm is a fast paced and compelling romance. Billy, the girl from the struggling Devon family farm falls into the contrasting world of London life. The intense and moving story starts on a cliff edge. Betrayal, love and desperate secrets tear at your heart as you find yourself 'fighting' with Billy to save herself - and her beloved family home.'

If anyone is interested it will be available on Amazon or Kindle or alternatively, directly from me (celia@frub.org). Here is a picture of the front cover.

*Celia Moore*

PS: if your local WI or book club needs a speaker, I would love to come along and talk about my writing journey and experiences.



## What's On Diary – 2017 / 2018

*Please send details of your events to [articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk)*

*Please also note that not all regularly occurring events are listed here*

| <b>December</b>                             |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> December -                  | Winkleigh Fair Christmas Quiz – Village Hall – p 31   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                    | Writing Competition Winners Presentation – Christmas Market – Village Hall                  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> December- 7:30 pm           | Okehampton Choral Society Christmas Concert. Fairplace Church, Okehampton – p 44            |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December- 4 pm – 9 pm       | Winkleigh Fair Christmas Extravaganza – The Square – p 31                                   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December- 7:30 pm          | Okehampton Choral Society Christmas Concert. St Mary's Church, Exbourne – p 44              |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December – 2 pm            | Parish Church - School Carol service – p 13   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> December – 4 pm            | Winkleigh School - Christmas Disco – p 42   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> December - evening         | D-Day Darlings "Home for Christmas" Concert – Winkleigh Fair - Village Hall – p 31          |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> December- 7:30 pm          | Okehampton Choral Society Christmas Concert. Fairplace Church, Okehampton – p 44            |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December - 6:30 pm         | Carols In The Barn – Beachlea – pp 24 & 50  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December – 7 pm - midnight | Christmas Party – Sports Centre – p 33  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December -                 | Winkleigh Singers Christmas Concert, Village Hall - p 19                                    |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December – 1 pm            | Oasis Christmas Lunch – Winkleigh Methodist Chapel – p 24                                   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> December                   | Tractors & Carols around the Village – pp 24 & 39   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> December – 5 pm            | Joint Carol Service with the Methodists & Blessing of the Crib - Parish Church – pp 13 & 24 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> December – 11.45 pm        | Midnight Mass with Carols – Parish Church – p 13  |



|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December - 9.30 am  | Sung Eucharist with Carols – Parish Church – p 13             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December – 10.30 am | Christmas Morning service - Winkleigh Methodist Chapel – p 25 |
| <b>January</b>                       |   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> January - 11 am     | Plough Sunday – Square & Parish Church – p 13                 |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> January – 7.30 pm   | Winkleigh Society AGM, Community Centre                       |
| <b>February</b>                      |   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> February – 7.30 pm   | Hollocombe Music Club – Community Centre                      |
| <b>April</b>                         |   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> April -             | Winkleigh Singers Concert –Torrington – p 19                  |

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

## Beautiful Young Oak Trees

I'm sure you will have noticed whilst travelling along the B3220 towards Morchard Road, just past Grays Bridge, the avenue of oak trees growing through the roadside hedges at Collacott Barton. Mr Clarke who farms Collacott made a conscious decision 16 years ago to mark and save the young oaks growing in the hedgerows bordering his farm, whilst felling the rest of the hedges to keep them trim. His efforts are appreciated. The oaks are a joy now and will become magnificent in the years to come.

*Phil Griffiths*

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## And Finally . . . . .

As many of you already know, Alice Turner has decided to stand down as co-editor of Distinctly Winkleigh with effect from the end of this year, owing to an increase in her work commitments. For the last two years, Alice and I have worked as a team to produce the newsletter each quarter, so her contribution will be greatly missed. The Winkleigh Society Committee is content that I should continue as sole editor. Alan Mulcahy will manage the advertising revenue and general finances as before.

We have received reports from a few readers that they have noticed a lack of clarity in some of the adverts and pictures in recent editions, as well as in parts of the text. We have discussed these concerns with our Printers and have made a few changes, which are intended to improve the overall clarity.

Your comments (good or bad!) on these changes or any other aspects of Distinctly Winkleigh would be very helpful.

Please note that the deadlines for the Spring Edition are **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February for advertisements** and **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February for articles**.

Finally it only remains to wish all our readers, contributors and helpers -

**A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

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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 most welcome to send in Articles (or reports, letters, drawings, etc.) which are likely to be of interest to the local community.

Please note that articles may be subject to editing, primarily for space or layout reasons.

Articles can be emailed to [articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk), or sent to the Editor.

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

Advertisements from businesses in the local area are also always welcomed. Adverts should be emailed to [adverts@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:adverts@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk), or sent to the Editor.

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

## ADVERTISING RATES

|            | Quarter Page | Half Page | Full Page |
|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 edition  | £12.50       | £25.00    | £50.00    |
| 2 editions | £25.00       | £50.00    | £100.00   |
| 3 editions | £37.50       | £75.00    | £150.00   |
| 4 editions | £50.00       | £100.00   | £200.00   |

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

## EDITOR

**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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