

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 76

Winter 2020

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The Winkleigh Society Quarterly Journal



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DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The Winkleigh Society publishes Distinctly Winkleigh quarterly at the end of February, May, August and November. Copies are distributed free of charge to all households and businesses in the Parish.

All articles, etc. submitted for publication may be subject to editing, primarily for space or layout reasons. Please email your articles to articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk, or deliver them to the Editor.

Advertisements from businesses in the local area should be emailed to adverts@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk, or delivered to the Editor.

Advertising for not for profit events is free of charge.

The deadline for articles and adverts is NOON on the second THURSDAY of each publication month (February, May, August and November).

Please note that the views expressed in submitted material are not necessarily shared or endorsed by the newsletter team or The Winkleigh Society. Furthermore the Society does not recommend, or accept any responsibility for, any information, goods or services advertised in adverts or articles.

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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
	Rachel Goldsworthy	Sue Dally

All residents of Winkleigh are members of The Winkleigh Society and are welcome to attend and vote at Society Meetings. Further information about the Society, as well as what is going on in Winkleigh, can be accessed online at:

<https://winkleighonline.com>



<https://facebook.com/TWSDW/>

Cover photograph by Greg Goldsworthy

The Winkleigh Society Chair's Report - November 2020



Unable to organise events since March, we did manage to hold one socially-distanced committee meeting in the Sports Centre where we voted to pay £300 towards a scarifier to help towards the 'On the Verge' scheme to sow wildflower seeds on grass verges around Winkleigh.

Sadly we were not able to have our annual 'Posties' & Proof-readers Thank You Tea in November, but hope to be able to arrange one sometime in 2021. I am also pleased to welcome volunteer Jane Berisford Smith as a new Postie for DW.

The list of **Winkleigh Society Committee Members** below gives you some idea of the various ways in which they all continue to be involved:

Margaret Miller - Vice chair. Margaret is the longest serving member on the committee and her long-standing village memory and experience serves us well in many ways. Margaret liaises with the District and County Councillors, Winkleigh Young Farmers and Football Club for their contributions for each edition of DW.

Alan Mulcahy - Hon Treasurer for the Society and Advertising Manager for DW. Alan has laboured long and hard to create the latest printed edition of The Winkleigh Business and Information Directory and continues to maintain the online version, as well as the rest of the WinkleighOnline website. Having retired as DW editor in 2015, Alan continues to liaise with all the advertisers and is also responsible for posting copies of DW that cannot be easily hand-delivered.

Philip Griffiths - Hon Secretary. Undertook detective work in tracking new businesses and providing information for the updated Directory, a task which he continues to perform for the online version. Key role in organising the annual Remembrance Ceremony on the Airfield. Also a member of the proof-reading team for DW.

Barbara Jenkins. Organised the Scarecrow Trail for last year's Winkleigh Fair, as well as helping with the organisation of other previous events. Along with her husband Barry, who has recently taken on the DW Delivery Manager, she helps to deliver packs of Distinctly Winkleigh copies to the DW 'posties' around the area for their distribution to all households and businesses.

Sue Dally. Writes a regular feature about Hollocombe illustrated with her photos and sketches highlighting the increased community spirit there since the pandemic began. Also a key link with the Art Club and the Sculpture School. It is Sue who has championed the introduction of colour in DW.

Rachael Goldsworthy. Roving reporter for DW. She has interviewed business owners among other people and reported on some village events. Her articles are illustrated with husband Greg's photographs. Rachel also runs our news table at the monthly Village Hall markets inviting contributions and fielding comments.

Alan Jacobs. Key link with the Parish Council and the Environment Group. Pro- active on footpaths [produced the footpath booklet with the assistance of Alan Mulcahy] and has prepared two verges for wildflower seeding. It is also his photo of the unicycling juggler on the back of the Information Directory.

Stone Naylor. The Neighbourhood Plan features several of Stone's landscape and portrait photographs. His landscape photograph is on the cover on the Information Directory. He is pro-active on footpaths and archaeology. He has also produced and had published a calendar for 2021 that celebrates Winkleigh life.

Godfrey Rhodes - Editor of Distinctly Winkleigh. Has innovated, engaged and sought out stories and reports to supplement the regular DW articles. Maintains a good rapport with Hedgerow Print; collaborates with Alan Mulcahy on advertisers and for occasional editorial advice; as well as jig-sawing the articles and adverts together for each edition, all of which keeps him busy on a continuing rolling programme. He and his wife Jo, take delivery of the 1000 printed copies of DW from Hedgerow and count them out into distribution packs ready for delivery to the Posties.

Penny Griffiths - Chair. It is great to have such a pro-active committee with a diverse range of interests. Although we are currently stymied in planning future events, as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Group I am reminded that the Number 1 aim of The Winkleigh Society is: **To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting Winkleigh.** Hopefully Winkleigh's Neighbourhood Plan, recently approved by Torridge District Council, will make this a more achievable task, as it sets out clear objectives. *[Editor's note: see page 9 for NP article by Pauline Warner.]* Using the hard work and attention to detail of this Plan, I have, on behalf of the Society, regularly posted objections and comments on proposed planning applications, referencing specific environmental and connectivity issues.

Penny Griffiths



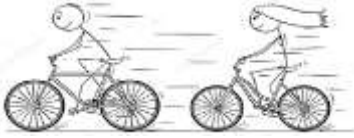
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Perilous Pedalling & Walking



I tested walking into the village and back the other day. It's not fun! Our lane down past Fiona's farm shop to the corner with A3124 is bearable mainly because there is not too much traffic, and when there is traffic, drivers are mostly aware they are in

a small lane so most are courteous.

From the bend down to the village on the A3124 is a nightmare on foot. I cycle it enough and it is bad by bike, but on foot, being slower, you are exposed to more traffic. On the bend through the beech trees there is no escape and no visibility, so you take your chances as cars and lorries zoom by, liberated as they are from the 30 mph zone.

There could be room for a path between the beech trees and the hedge up above the road and a single track gravel or similar would be a godsend for walkers. I expect it is not a part of the highways land, but if the landowner (Roger?) could be persuaded, it would transform that dangerous route. Unfortunately there is no good alternative.

Going out to Uncle and Ozzy's on the A3124 towards the airfield is just as bad. Again, by bike it is bad enough, but at least I can do it at 20 mph, so it's not long and the closing speed between me and the traffic is less. So really there is no safe way to get to the village by foot from here. No safe way for anyone who is a less experienced cyclist either. It really limits the childrens' access to friends in the village as they can't safely walk / ride. More ridiculously, when Euan was at Winkleigh primary school, we were considered too close for inclusion on the school bus.

Ian Ripper (www.wheatlandfarm.co.uk)

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Remembrance Service, Winkleigh Airfield - 7th November 2020

The Remembrance Ceremony took place at the Memorial on Winkleigh Airfield on November 7th.

Wreaths were placed on the memorial stone by representatives of the following organisations: Royal British Legion, Torridge District Council (TDC), Winkleigh Parish Council (WPC), The Winkleigh Society and one from the Canadian Nation laid by Royal Navy Chaplain Alastair Blaine (in the absence of Major Juurlink of the RCAF, who was unable to travel to Winkleigh due to Covid-19 restrictions).

Rev'd. Helen Blaine led the prayers and Ron Fletcher read out the Roll of Honour. A two minute silence was held at 11.00.

The ceremony, although shorter than usual, was a beautiful occasion to mark Remembrance, despite the extra Covid-19 restrictions imposed.

It is a tribute to the Cottey family that we have the memorial site, a wonderful mark of philanthropy. It is now over 25 years ago that the land was gifted to TDC by Ron & Ruth Cottey to become a lasting memorial to those who served and gave their lives for our freedom flying from RAF Winkleigh during WW2.



LIST OF THE FALLEN

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H C Bennett	RCAF	ACC
G Bishop	RCAF	OPS
J G Brown	RCAF	ACC
R R Burgess	RCAF	OPS
R W Donovan	RCAF	OPS
H J Findlay	RCAF	ACC
V M Grant	RAF	VR
R C Green	RCAF	OPS
C Hamlyn-Lovis	RCAF	OPS
J E A Herbert	RCAF	OPS
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J B Kennedy	RCAF	OPS
W F Kilpatrick	RCAF	OPS
J F Lawless	RCAF	OPS
D K I MacNichol	RCAF	FLYACC
W N MacPherson	RCAF	OPS
G R Moir	RCAF	FLYACC
R Newman	RAF	
E A Oswald	RCAF	OPS
H O B Payne	RCAF	FLYACC
R J Radcliffe	RCAF	OPS
P T Reid	RCAF	OPS
G S Richards	RCAF	FLYACC
R J Sloan	RCAF	FLYACC
W A R Sutton	RCAF	OPS
T W Trewin	RCAF	OPS
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E K Vickers	RCAF	FLYACC

Phil Griffiths

(Photos by Greg Goldsworthy)

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How to use your Neighbourhood Plan

Many people have strong views about planning applications and change in the Parish. Quite often this means writing to the Council to object to a proposal or talking to Parish and District Councillors to press home views. Why aren't the views put forward always taken into account?

The reason is that objections and views have to be confined to what is known as "planning matters" – things that are covered by planning law. The Neighbourhood Plan gives a good idea of the range of issues that can be covered.

Now that the Neighbourhood Plan has been approved by Torridge for use in decision making, it is an important tool to use when responding to planning applications. Making objections referencing the policies in the plan will make those objections stronger, and shaping responses around the objectives the plan is hoping to achieve will also be relevant. Equally, if you yourself are thinking of applying for planning permission, the Plan will give you a good idea of the things you may need to address.

This means that the Neighbourhood Plan is a document to be used, a ready reference on important planning matters for the Parish.

You can see the Plan on the Parish Council web site:

http://www.winkleighpc.org.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_31569.aspx

Once the current pandemic is over (under control?), there will be the chance to vote in a referendum to give final endorsement to the Neighbourhood Plan locally – this will probably be later in 2021.

Pauline Warner

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Breaking the Glass Ceiling



Congratulations to Kay Denham (née Leahy), who has been elected a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers; the highest level of membership within the institution.

Kay, the second daughter of Steven and Shirley Leahy, attended Winkleigh Primary, Chulmleigh Community College and Sixth form at Okehampton College before going to Plymouth University to study engineering. At weekends and in the holidays she worked at her parents' store, D & S Supplies, on Winkleigh Airfield.

After graduating, Kay's first post was with Wessex Water before joining NMCN (a company that provides critical infrastructure for the UK), as a mechanical engineer. In 2009 she became a Chartered Engineer.

Aware that women are still in the minority in the engineering profession, Kay is keen to promote engineering as a career path for girls:

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"When I first became chartered with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers I didn't know many women that were, but I think it is great that we are getting representation and recognition now. I take part in career fairs and activities with local schools to encourage the understanding that these roles are open to all and I think that this Fellowship helps to show how far you can go in construction and that the perceived barriers are being broken down"

Kay is now Head of Design at the NMCN water team in the South and supports projects primarily in the South West, working closely with teams across Bristol, Plymouth and St Austell.

Penny Griffiths

News from Winkleigh School



How wonderful to have the whole school back in September, we were amazed, but not surprised, as to the positivity, resilience and enthusiasm of the children on returning back after such a long break.

They have taken every change of routine and extra procedure in their strides without question. Not only that, but as we review, evaluate and make changes to our COVID19 risk

assessment, the children have to adapt and alter how things are done yet again, which they take in their stride. We know our children are truly amazing and this is reinforced every single day. We are very fortunate to have a great staff team at Winkleigh that, like the children, adapt and change constantly in line with Government guidance.

And what were they so keen to get back to in September?

In the Nursery, Autumn is the season of festivals and celebrations. It begins with Harvest then the Festival of Lights, Halloween, Bonfire Night, Diwali and Hanukkah finally ending with Christmas. The nursery children will participate in a variety of



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activities to celebrate the festivals and learn how many of them are celebrated across the country and around the world.

‘Ourselves’ was the settling-in topic in the **Owls** class this year. By focusing on themselves as people, the youngest children in mainstream education could begin to become independent, sorting out things for themselves like doing up their own coats and looking after their own belongings before moving on to ‘Transport and Vehicles’. Looking at rockets around Firework night and thinking of all the different ways Santa could travel to deliver presents will be stimulating lots of different projects and activities as well as providing a basis to learn literacy and maths.

In Year 1 our local environment was looked at by the children who studied maps and made a model village of Winkleigh. The children grew bean plants in plastic pockets on the windows to find out what plants need to grow and learnt techniques of drawing and painting by carefully examining the painting ‘Tiger in a Tropical Storm (surprised)’ by Henri Rousseau. As the clocks change and the nights draw in, the children will be thinking about why this happens by studying the changing seasons and the weather.

Using the school iPads will be keeping **Year 2** busy this Autumn as they will be researching ‘Explorers’. They will be learning how to isolate those key facts and making notes to build fact files. Specific explorers will be looked at in depth including Robert Falcon Scott and Amelia Earhart and they will be answering the question, ‘why are they famous?’.

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‘Rocks and Soil’ has been occupying **Year 3** children with experiments and analysis to discover the properties of the rocks. The class has now moved on to ‘Ancient Egypt’, when they will be very interested to understand the process of mummifying bodies, finding out what the purpose of pyramids was and deciding what they would put in their own personal pyramid.

Creative work will feature in **Year 4’s** new topic of the ‘Mayans’ when masks and headdresses will be studied and the children will design and make their own in this style. Comparing that way of life to the modern era will be revealing. Before that topic gets underway, the

children celebrated Remembrance Day by using felt to sew their own poppies, helping them further to understand the significance of this important day.

Year 5 children also looked at life in the modern era through their 'Mountains' topic, focusing particularly on tourism and how it impacts on mountain communities within different continents. For their new topic, history will be a clear focus as they concentrate on 'The Victorians', making a time-line of the many significant events of this period, looking at Queen Victoria herself and comparing school life then and now.

Finally, how we impact on the environment has been keeping our oldest children in **Year 6** busy when they have been designing an eco-town. Through a study of ordnance survey maps, the children had to make their designs and submit them to the planning officer (their teacher!) and then make plans to build their town. During the second half of the Autumn term, Henry VIII and all his antics will direct their learning with Tudor houses being built in class from balsa wood.

Christmas looms and things will be different in school this year but, as mentioned earlier, the children will approach the altered celebrations with their usual enthusiasm and positivity.

Vicki Fenemore

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Friends of Winkleigh School (FOWS)

FOWS is run by a group of parents that volunteer to fundraise on behalf of Winkleigh Primary School. Fundraising during COVID-19 has proved to be a challenge for FOWS. Social-distancing has led to the cancellation of the much-loved annual fireworks display and we have had to turn to virtual ideas instead of our usual line up of events. We hope that some of you have managed to complete the fireworks trail around the village. We are working on more events for 2021 which will be shared via the school newsletter and the FOWS Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support, every penny we raise is donated directly to the School. One easy way to support Winkleigh Primary School if you are doing online shopping this Christmas is through Easyfundraising. Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations. Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising.co.uk, then shop as normal.

Join the Winkleigh! Facebook Page

Do you know about the Winkleigh! Facebook Page? It was created for those who live, work or have any connection with Winkleigh. To join the group all you have to do is answer a few simple questions to stop any "bot" accounts joining.



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Winkleigh Parish Council News

COVID support and volunteer network: The Parish Council recommenced the support service on 5th November until the end of the current restrictions announced by Central Government. Any person requiring support or wishing to volunteer should contact the Parish Clerk on 01837 89095 or wpccovid19@outlook.com

Risk of closure of Winkleigh Post Office: The Council are seeking your views on how to secure the short- and long-term future of the Winkleigh Post Office, and welcome all comments and suggestions – see separate article on centre pages.

Parking Winkleigh Square: The council have submitted a request to Devon County Council Highways to look into the feasibility of providing a non-enforceable disabled parking bay outside Londis and double yellow lines outside the Post Office

Parish Traffic Calming: Members of the council have formed a ‘traffic response team’ to look at traffic calming and speed reduction throughout the main areas of concern in the Parish. Several productive meetings have taken place with the Neighbourhood Highways team, County Cllr Saywell and the traffic response team and we hope to have more to report on this in coming months.

Neighbourhood Plan: The plan is now a material planning consideration and carries material weight for all future planning developments in the parish, pending referendum mid-2021.

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Parish Council Vacancies: The Council currently have one vacancy which can be filled immediately by co-option. If you are a registered elector or have lived/worked in the Parish for at least 12 months and would like to join the parish council, please contact the Clerk for more information. Full training and support will be provided.

Parish Council Working Groups: Members of the parish council are responsible for carrying out asset inspections (benches, bins, bus stops etc), Cemetery inspections, as well as keeping the parish tidy. If you would like to become a non-councillor member of any of these working groups or would like any more information, please contact the Clerk.

Life on the Verge: The council have agreed to plant wildflowers on the verges within the village and we are currently awaiting relevant permissions from Highways and the necessary risk assessments in order to begin preparing the ground in early spring.

Devon Work Hub - Winkleigh Sports Centre: The Council, TDC and DCC are making considerable gains in applying for grant funding to create a Work Hub situated in the grounds of the Sports Centre, which looks to support the development of drop-in, shared workspaces to support those people who are working from home.

Keep informed: The Parish Council have an email contact group. If you would like to receive emails from the parish council regarding our meetings, planning applications, road works, Covid-19, and other formal correspondence that affects the parish, please contact the Clerk. You can unsubscribe at any time and your details will not be shared with any third parties.

*Melanie Bickell, Clerk to Winkleigh Parish Council
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John Bowers: 1937-2020



John grew up in Ilfracombe, the only son among four sisters. His father owned The Scarlet Pimpernel Garage where he learned many of his mechanical and electrical skills. After leaving Ilfracombe Grammar School he was called up for National Service, serving in the Royal Air Force. Afterwards he trained as a scientist in London where he began his teaching career; but he regularly returned home to North Devon on his trusty motor cycle to play a couple of rounds of golf at Saunton.

John moved to a teaching post in Bermuda and, whilst there, he joined The Musical and Dramatic Society where he met Marjorie who was painting scenery for a production. They married in Bermuda.

Their daughter Kathryn was born when they returned to the UK and in 1977 they moved to Winkleigh. John loved village life and was very public-spirited. He headed up the Neighbourhood Watch team for many years and was often on duty on the roads around Winkleigh with his speed gun.

John taught physics and chemistry at Okehampton and South Molton. After retiring he became fascinated with water divining.

He began to teach dowsing at evening classes. In 1988 John and two friends founded Devon Dowzers, an organisation that still thrives today. John, together with Peter Dale, wrote a book 'Grounded' about dowsing. He was the go-to expert when dowsing was discussed on regional television.

A keen bird-watcher, he loved to sit in his garden and watch the swifts and swallows return to their traditional nests under the eaves in his thatched roof.

A wonderful husband, father and kind friend, he will be much missed.

Penny Griffiths



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Our Devon County Councillor Writes



First, before I talk about the coronavirus, I would like to express my support for Winkleigh Post Office. I attended the virtual Parish Council meeting on the 11th November and will work with them and others to do all that I can to ensure we keep this vital facility in Winkleigh. I know from where I live in Shebbear and Langtree, the loss of the local Post Office in 2008 was devastating, and the impact is still being felt more than a decade later.

Can I once again thank **all** the people in Winkleigh for everything you have done and are doing during this pandemic. I know that a second lockdown will have been a blow for many people, especially for those local businesses who have worked so hard to remain open, have put in 'Covid Secure' measures and kept our local economy going.

However, at the time of writing (11th November), it does now appear that there is light at the end of the tunnel, with positive news about a vaccine being announced in recent days. Also as I reported in previous editions of *Distinctly Winkleigh*, locally and county-wide our infection numbers in Devon have remained low, and here in Torrington Rural well below the national average.

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I asked the Director of Public Health for the background information behind our local coronavirus cases and, in general, the cases picked up within Torridge tend to be scattered, with a scattering of 1-2 infections cropping up in workplaces, schools, and routine staff and resident testing in care homes. Cases have also been limited to single or whole households, with no evidence yet of wider community spread.

Torridge still has one of the lowest infection rates in the country and has the lowest rate of all the Devon Districts, at approximately two-thirds of the overall Devon rate and a quarter of the national rate, which is good news.

Across the whole of Devon, while our case numbers have risen in line with the national picture, they remain below the national average and in October the majority of infections (55%) were in young adults aged 16 to 39. Testing capacity has increased in Devon and the number of tests completed has risen steadily since August with the number of tests carried out also doubling. Most current cases have had contacts traced through the NHS Test and Trace system and, according to the Director of Public Health, the latest performance data at the start of November showed over 75 per cent of contacts are followed up in Devon.

Nevertheless, prior to the second lockdown, cases in Devon were rising in all age groups and it remains absolutely essential that we all follow the public health guidelines and remember to observe **‘Hands, Face, Space’** – sticking to social-distancing, regular hand-washing and wearing a face covering in an enclosed space.

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I know it is difficult and we all long to return to normality, but I have no doubt at all that one of the reasons why our infection numbers are lower in both Torrington Rural and Devon, has been precisely because we've seen such strong adherence to the basic guidelines. It should also be said that the residents, shops, businesses, educational establishments and care homes in Torrington Rural have all behaved impeccably to limit the impact of the virus.

As we go through the second national lockdown, we must keep up our efforts at all times so that if and when we do revert back to more regional and locally based restrictions, we can be in a good position to have a safe Christmas.

I want to assure readers that Devon County Council and its partners will be doing all that they can to support those in need during these difficult times. The County Council has re-opened its Covid-19 Grant Fund up to the 2nd December to provide flexible funding for organisations supporting those in need, including those who are clinically extremely vulnerable. Grants will typically be between £300 and £700, although in exceptional circumstances they may be up to £1,000. More information can be found online:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>

The County Council have also been awarded £2million from Central Government to support vulnerable children and families in the coming months. Over the coming weeks a range of community kitchens, holiday clubs, charities and local businesses will be enlisted to coordinate help and to support those who need it the most in Devon.

They will ensure that every child entitled to Free School Meals will be able to get food over the Christmas holiday, during the Easter half-term, and the Easter holidays. The County Council's top priority is to ensure that those in receipt of free school meals have enough to eat over the holidays, but the Council also wants to help and support people with wider vulnerabilities as well during this difficult time.

Lastly on more local matters, I am working with District Councillor Simon Newton and the Parish Council to secure funding for new 'work hubs' in Torrington Rural, which will provide bespoke office space and facilities for workers and businesses who will be working from home, not just for now but in the future.

While it has been a most extraordinarily difficult year, I know that we will get through this stronger as a community and we will see each other again. I wish all readers of *Distinctly Winkleigh* a safe and Happy Christmas. If there are any County Council issues you would like to contact me about you can ring me on 07886 446560 or email andrew.saywell@devon.gov.uk.



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All Saints' News

Normally at this time of year we would already be digging out the outrageous Christmas jumper, festooning the house with lights and complaining that we've heard 'Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer' too many times already. We'd be out and about shopping, treating ourselves to a new outfit for the Christmas party whilst also wondering just how big a turkey can be squeezed into the oven. This year however feels very different in the midst of a global pandemic. We are left with a whole host of questions including wondering who we will be able to sit round the table with on Christmas Day and whether presents will have to be posted to relatives we'd normally see. Suddenly we'd do anything to be able to sing about Rudolph and his nose or Santa wedged up a chimney. We might be left feeling a bit gloomy and it certainly doesn't help when the media start talking about Christmas being cancelled this year.

The good news is that Christmas can never be cancelled for two very good reasons. Both reasons give us cause for hope this year. The first is that through all sorts of circumstances people have still managed to celebrate Christmas. From the soldiers in the trenches of WW1 to the astronauts of the International Space Station, Christmas celebrations have occurred. People have come together with those around them, with friends, colleagues and neighbours to celebrate, to bring some light and sparkle into the world. Secondly, Christmas can never be cancelled because the babe in the manger whose birth we celebrate has been born and is born in the



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hearts of millions throughout the world. Jesus was God's precious gift to a world which struggles in the darkness with all the complexities that being human brings. A gift given in love to the world. The birth of Jesus, all those years ago brings light and hope to the lives of all who believe in him. He brings comfort and joy to those who celebrate his birth.

This year let's commit ourselves to not cancelling Christmas, we need its light to shine in our lives and in the lives of others more than ever. We might have to accept it is going to be a bit different but let's celebrate it with joy and hope. Get out the twinkly lights, dig out that Christmas jumper and celebrate in whatever way you can, with friends, neighbours and strangers. Celebrate the birth of Jesus with us at All Saints, Winkleigh at one of our Christmas services - details and times will be advertised in early December, once we know what restrictions are in place. Celebrate and bring joy by reaching out to others. Donations of non-perishable items for Okehampton Foodbank can be left in the Vicarage porch. The amount I take down on a regular basis is staggering and everyone's generosity is really appreciated.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has knitted sheep for our sheep trail. Unfortunately, I have been rather careless and they seem to have escaped around Winkleigh, Broadwoodkelly, Brushford and Ashreigney.

Contact revhelenblaine@outlook.com for a leaflet and help us find them from 4th December.

Rev'd Helen Blaine

revhelenblaine@outlook.com / 01837 83710

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Winkleigh War Memorial Recreational Field Fund (WWMRFF) incorporating the Sports Centre

The Trustees want to say a huge thank you to all of the clubs and users who worked so hard to re-establish activity at the end of the first lockdown. Unfortunately, but by necessity, we are back to square one with most activity being cancelled and the Sports Hall being once more closed. Not everyone is going to agree with these decisions but Government guidance has to be followed in the best interests of all of us. Thankfully the outdoor play area remains in use which offers some play opportunities to the village youngsters. Details of how to use this facility safely have been posted on the Sports Centre Facebook page (16th September). **Some guidance may have changed, so to remind you, the main guidance now is:**

1. Enter the area by gate closest to the main road & leave at the opposite end.
2. Please bring your own hand sanitiser/hand wipes. Wash hands after play.
3. Do not bring food or drink into the play area.
4. Take all litter home with you.
5. Obviously group size & family group sizes apply. (See guidance from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport which can be accessed on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website dated 05/11/20).
6. Please don't be overly critical of these proposals; it is up to all of us to make it work.

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Please note that some activity may take place on the grounds. For example, the car park remains open to authorised users and the allotments can still be accessed.

On a more optimistic note the Sports Centre has acquired a modern up to date kiln for use in the forthcoming pottery & craft workshops. Unfortunately we do not know exactly when these workshops will begin but at least it is something to look forward to. The scheme came about when it was realised that community kiln use is lacking locally and can often be very expensive. With this in mind it is the intention of the Sports Centre to provide, amongst other things, relatively inexpensive facilities for local potters to utilise. Hopefully we will have some more information about the workshops soon.

Just think about the words of Vishy Mitra as we approach Christmas “happy are those who take life day by day, complain very little & are thankful for the small things in life”. (This is not the official line of the Trustees & Management Committee, I just like the quote).

Tom Radcliffe (Committee Secretary & Trustee)

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Winkleigh Calendar 2021

The colour photos in the calendar were all taken since 2015 when I moved to Winkleigh, but the most recent capture was this September, when the Village Pump, sporting its shiny new brass plaque, was adorned with a beautiful garland crown and flowers around the trough by Catkins Blooms. It felt quite significant and symbolic to honour this ancient tradition of well-dressing, especially as most of Winkleigh Fair's events had to be cancelled due to fears over Sars-Cov-2.

Finding a good subject to photograph is the easy part, but then you have to find the best place to observe from for optimal composition. Also you must decide the right time of day for the best light. Sometimes you just get lucky and find yourself in the right place at just the right time, but often I'll wait hours for the right clouds to blow over and I might return numerous times to a good location as the seasons change.

As with many people, my usual flow of work has been seriously disrupted this year by lockdown restrictions. I have been spending the last 5 years scanning old negatives, putting together my next book about Glastonbury Festival. June 2020 would have been the festival's 50th anniversary, and my 30th year as an accredited photographer, but that opportunity has just disappeared into the ether. I usually work at up to a dozen smaller festivals and fairs throughout the year, from Devon to Kent to Lincolnshire, but this year not a single one!

Over the decades of documenting events, I've deepened my understanding and appreciation of the vital role that Celebration plays in all our lives: everywhere you go, creative expression is what gives greater meaning to our shared cultural heritage and inspires hopes and dreams for the future. Without Art, life would be extremely dull indeed: in fact, if you take 'art' out of Earth, all you're left with is 'Eh'!

I hope you like my photos from around our beautiful parish, and I hope they'll make lovely gifts to help connect you with absent friends and family. If you fancy something even more personal to send them, I'm happy to discuss professional portrait sessions either at home or a favourite location.

Copies of the calendar can be purchased from the Post Office, Fiona's Farm Shop and



the Bakery Stores (where Red has kindly declined any commission so we're giving £1 per calendar to charity instead!) I'm also putting posts on the Winkleigh! and TWS/DW Facebook pages to take orders. Alternatively you can phone me on 07754 673658.

*Royston Naylor
(most people call me Stone)*

Winkleigh Football Club

I think it's safe to say Winkleigh FC and everyone associated with the club have never seen a season play out quite like this one due to what is happening in the world right now and which, at the time of writing this, has unfortunately brought the season to a halt.

Preparations for the season started for manager Robin Knight, when, after the first lockdown he was given the green light for teams to come back together and resume training for the proposed new Covid-friendly season that was aiming to start in August. Winkleigh, after a successful season prior to this one, was promoted two leagues placing them in 'Devon Senior 1' which is something to be proud of for everyone involved with the club. For Robin, the main priority was rallying the troops from last season whilst recruiting more to strengthen the team so we were able to compete at a higher level. With the news of Dolton FC restarting and rumours flying of potential player transfers, Robin certainly had his work cut out over the summer.

Pre-season training seemed like an eternity waiting for the Government to give us the go ahead to be able to actually stage games again. Training was twice a week and we worked hard to shift that lockdown weight. Some of us were more guilty than others for gaining those extra pounds! It was in late July when Boris said football could go ahead again and we wasted no time organising a tough and busy pre-season of friendlies to get us ready for the new season. Fixtures came thick and fast boasting some good performances and some not so good from which we learnt. It was just good to be back out playing competitive football for most if I'm honest. Something we never thought could be taken away.

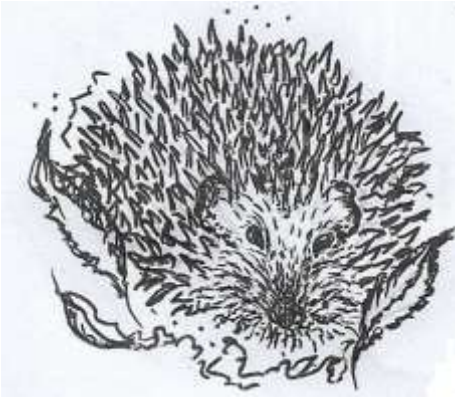
The league season finally managed to get started in August where we kicked off away to Heavitree winning our first game in Division 1. Following that we went on to Win / Draw / Lose / Win before the league gave us the marching orders of another lockdown. A disappointing ending but one I think deep down we knew was coming.

For now we sit and wait for more instructions on when we can resume. 4th December is what we have been told but realistically it's anyone's guess. We had our season cut short last year because of Covid and it would be an immense shame if this season had the same outcome. However, if not playing football potentially saves someone vulnerable from catching Covid then it makes it all worth it.

On behalf of everyone at Winkleigh FC I would like to say a massive thanks to everybody that comes and supports us on match days, I hope we fill it with a little bit of entertainment and laughter and we look forward to welcoming you back safely when we are able to start again. Take care.

Tom Robinson

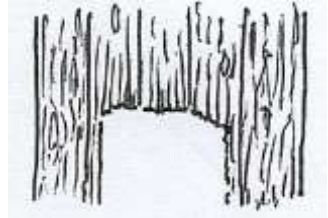
Giving Hedgehogs a Helping Hand



Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) are one of our most easily recognised and well-loved mammals. However, although once abundant in numbers across the country, they have suffered devastating population declines over the past century - currently there are only about 1 million left in Great Britain, compared to the 1950s when it was estimated that there were over 30 million – and almost all the causes for this

decline

can be linked to human activity (e.g. fences). Through encroachment of their habitat, we have reduced the resources available to them so it is important to make our gardens as hedgehog friendly as possible, especially now as they are preparing to hibernate and need to build up their fat reserves.



Slugs and worms are both important food sources, so avoid using lawn treatment and slug pellets which kill these organisms and may also contain active ingredients that can cause secondary poisoning to hedgehogs.

Although hedgehogs can swim, it is important to have a ramp leading down to ponds, which can be used by hedgehogs if they fall in and provides easy access should they need a drink.



If feeding a resident hedgehog, the most suitable foods to leave out are meaty pet foods and dried cat biscuits. Do NOT be tempted to leave out milk or bread and avoid meal worms, which can cause complications if eaten in large quantities.

For more information on how to help hedgehogs, go to these websites:

- www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk
- www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
- www.hedgehogstreet.org

Elouise Garland

Joan Stutt has died age 84 on 20 October 2030



Joan came to Winkleigh in 1998, when she retired, having lived in 10 places – in the North East, Surrey, and the Wirral and held 14 jobs in more than 10 different schools. Professionally, she qualified as a specialist teacher in food science and home economics, working in secondary schools, further education and primary. She loved teaching and many former pupils have commented how much they enjoyed having Joan as their teacher. Her most valued testimonials were: from one of her pupils,

an unusually wayward young lady to whom, after more than one run-in with her, Joan had been delivering a few kindly but rather direct home truths. In reply, the girl pronounced – in a rather broad Merseyside accent - “You are **sound**, Mrs Stutt. You are **sound**”; and from the Headmaster of a Sixth Form College, who wrote in her reference: “Mrs Stutt does not suffer fools gladly.” He was neither the first nor the last to recognise this quality in Joan.

At this same college, she had just been promoted. A week later, her husband’s job meant they had to move. It was the most severe example of the many sacrifices in career terms that she made for her family.

She had married Peter in 1959, celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary in 2020. It was not her way to talk much about her children: Victoria, Benedict and Marcus: but she was - privately - delighted that one of them had become a teacher like herself and the other two had both become doctors; and equally delighted that Victoria and Benedict had both married spouses, Phil and Marta respectively, whom she very much loved. Her seven grandchildren, Emily, George and Lucy in the UK and Pablo, Julio, Martin and Itziar in Spain have been her continuing delight. Sadly, her son, Marcus, an army doctor who served in Kosovo, predeceased her.

In Winkleigh, she enjoyed her retirement: a ‘regular’ at community markets, coffee mornings, and the annual village events, which she loved for the being with others. A regular contributor to the preparation of Community Lunches and the Cancer Coffee fund-raising, and a keen member of the fitness group Flex & Fun.

Perhaps one exception to her famous ‘don’t make a fuss’ principle was her great interest in her clothes, many of which she made herself.

In most of the 9 Roman Catholic Parishes where she found herself, she was asked to take classes for children in Catholic faith, serving as a Minister of the Eucharist for over 25 years and previously as a Minister of the Word. She enjoyed her membership of the church of the Holy Family in Chagford and the friends it brought her. Her

friends, family and former pupils all speak of her kindness, her sense of fun and her vivacity.

She did not take kindly to being ill: increasingly, it kept her from the two things that were central to her: she liked to get on and do things; and she liked being with people. In her last months, she made it clear that she was ready to leave this world. By her bedside, she had, as a bookmark, the prayer of St Teresa of Avila:

Let nothing trouble you, Let nothing scare you, All is fleeting, God alone is unchanging, Patience obtains everything. They want nothing who possess God; He alone is enough.

Peter Stutt

Back at school

*Back at school,
Now COVID's here,
We only sit ear-to-ear.*

*Not face-to-face,
We keep our space,
Helping to protect the human race.*

*Doors open to ventilate,
Windows too,
Oh the cold we hate.*

*No parents in school,
No assembly at all,
I don't think COVID's very cool.*

*At school PE remains the same,
It really helps to keep us sane,
Exercise is good for the brain.*

*Back at school,
Now COVID's here,
Hope we don't enter a new lockdown tier.*

By Betsy Lill (age 10-submitted on 31st October)

Hollocombe Community Group: August – October 2020

Hollocombe Hut is the focal point of the hamlet with residents contributing homemade goods, jams, marmalades, chutneys, delicious baking, vegetables, eggs, and kindling. The sales of these over the last few months have also helped us raise £30.56 for the local Okehampton Food Bank.

Hollocombe Community Group (Facebook) now has 68 members which is fantastic! We continue to support each other and to look out for each other and provide help when needed, especially important now that we are back in nationwide lockdown.

Fun and inclusive activities continue to be organised regularly for everyone to join in. Over the last few months these have included:

- A big thank you to Helena for organising the innovative “Something in a Jar” competition in August. It was such fun to see how inventive everyone was. Who thought you could do dog agility in a jar? We all received beautiful handmade rosettes by Helena.



- Saturday 26 September was the long-awaited return of Hollocombe online Bingo organised by Wayne. Terrific fun, a chance for us all to see and talk to each other and, as ever, fantastic prizes. We are looking forward to a Christmas special!



- On Halloween night, the Hollocombe Witch made a special appearance and flew round to see the beautiful and imaginative windows around our hamlet and to judge the pumpkins in the Hut.

Such wonderful pumpkins, including a fantastic elephant and a giant monster eating pumpkin. The windows were all spectacular so the Hollocombe Witch gave special Bat 🦇 commendations to everyone but she did mention she particularly liked Bel & John's - for not only superb windows but a very scary large bat and skulls in the garden. The Hollocombe Witch thanked Wayne for organising the event and providing the children's Halloween treat bags and Helena for beautifully decorating our Hut. It looked amazing! 🎃 🦇 ✨ 🌟



We would all like to make special thanks to Flic, Maddy and Lucas as their weekly baking of delicious tea breads, cookies, scones, and cakes has kept us all happy throughout the last six months.



Please continue to stay safe and take care!

*Sue Dally
Hollocombe Resident*

WINKLEIGH POST OFFICE – RISK OF CLOSURE

Winkleigh Parish Council has been advised by Tony Bayley, Post Master, that the Post Office in Winkleigh is likely to close following receiving formal notice from Royal Mail that the sorting office service will no longer be required from 27th March 2021 due to National restructuring and the sorting office will be relocated to Okehampton, which drastically reduces the income for the Post Office by £1,864 per month, making it no longer financially viable to remain open in its current form.

Winkleigh is classed as a 'Local Centre' in the Torridge and North Devon Local Plan, meaning it is expected to accommodate future growth based on a detailed assessment of the presence and accessibility of key services and facilities. The Parish is also due to expand with additional housing, potential new businesses, and the creation of a work hub.

The Post Office currently provides a full service, including, but not limited to, personal and business banking, bill payment facilities, cash withdrawals, pension payments, and vehicle tax, as well as providing a small retail shop and proved to be a valued community asset during the previous and now second COVID-19 lockdown. As a rural community with an older population, the service we enjoy from the Post Office is key to our community.

There is genuine concern about the possible loss of this valuable service to our Community and discussions will be held with Mr Bayley regarding the options for saving the Post Office for the Parish.

The Parish Council is actively looking into short-term and long-term funding solutions for the future of the Post Office in Winkleigh, including, but not limited to, creation of a Community Interest group to take over the franchise, crowd-funding, shared premises, and legal options of the parish council to provide interim short-term funding.

An exceptional funding offer of £1,000 per month has been secured from the Mailwork (Royal Mail) until December 2022, therefore, in order to meet the running costs of a full-time post office, Winkleigh Post Office needs up to an additional £800 per month financial support until such time as a long-term funding plan has been agreed and implemented.

The Parish Council is seeking your views on whether or not you would like councillors to investigate legal options to provide short-term funding to the Post Office for the 2021/22 financial year, by way of a rise in the Precept (Council Tax) of £9,600, which would be an increase of £15.11 per year for a Band D Property, **(£1.26 per month/29p per week)**. If you have any other ideas or views on how the long-term future of the Post Office in Winkleigh could be secured please also contact me.

Please take the time to let the Parish Council have your views either by writing to or emailing:

Parish Clerk,
Lower Itton,
Spreyton
EX17 5BB,
winkleighpc1@btconnect.com

OR hand your response in a **sealed envelope** to the Post Office in Winkleigh marked for the attention of the Parish Clerk. You can also submit your response by telephone to the Clerk on 01837 89095, between 10.00 – 12.30 pm and 1.30 – 4 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday each week.

In order to protect the interests of taxpayers, all persons responding will be requested to provide their name and address to the Clerk for verification, however, this data will be confidential to the Clerk and will be destroyed as soon as verified and not shared with any councillors or third parties, in accordance with the Council's privacy policy available on the parish council website *www.winkleighpc.org.uk*.

All comments must be received by end of 11th December so that the Parish Council can consider your views at an Extra-ordinary meeting on 16th December (date to be confirmed).

Melanie Bickell, Winkleigh Parish Clerk

Jenny Rock

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Terry Davey (3rd March 1941 – 27th October 2020)



Terry was born in Vine Street Winkleigh, and lived in the same house all his life. He attended the village Primary School (now the Community Centre) and Chulmleigh Secondary Modern School. After leaving school he worked for Bert Hunt in the bakery to the rear of the village store (now Londis). Terry and his brother Sid were up before the crack of dawn producing delicious bread and pasties.

Over the years Terry had various local jobs culminating in running a poultry unit at Kitchadon Farm near Wembworthy.

Terry had a great love of the countryside and of dogs; when younger he spent many hours with his terrier ferreting for rabbits on local farms.

For many years Terry and two friends voluntarily kept the grass in the churchyard trim, cash never entered into it, however, a couple of pints of beer mysteriously appeared as if by magic afterwards in The Kings Arms.

For many years he was a blood donor at Torrington and often joked he did it, “for the cup of tea and biscuit afterwards”.

Throughout his life he always kept dogs and was well known in the village for walking his (and other peoples’) dogs.

Terry was also a very keen pool player and enjoyed the occasional pint of Guinness.

A man of sunny disposition, friendly, well liked, a fount of local knowledge and a true countryman. He will be sadly missed by old friends and new.

W Hocking



Woolley Animals, Winkleigh



Chloe & Prince

In 2016, we relocated to North Devon with a dream. Stuart Woolley (yes that is his real name) was from farming stock and had been a sheep farmer all his life and Cathy Darcey a self-confessed 'townie' with a high powered job, high stress levels and a long way from the current lifestyle.

We came to Devon on holiday in our touring caravan and ended up spending so much time here that we didn't want to leave. We knew we would need some land for our sheep, a few goats and maybe alpacas as they were known for protecting sheep. We found a beautiful home in Riddlecombe where we developed our small business, which was incidental to our hobby of breeding a few sheep, and both had full time jobs.

The alpacas arrived only 3 weeks after we moved to Riddlecombe. We knew we had the ability to take it further so we thought why not? We did research, got the statutory requirements in place and 'alpaca walking' took off, a gentle stroll around farmland holding an alpaca on a lead – most people had never heard of it but it was more successful than we could have imagined, we saw almost 2,000 through the doors in the first two years and were outgrowing our house with 2.5 acres fast.

In 2017 we were devastated by TB in our alpaca herd, a wildlife strain that was possibly bought in by badgers or deer (we'll never really know). We cooperated with DEFRA who imposed restrictions on us, and sadly lost 4 of our beautiful boys. Seeing them suffer and having to let them go was heart-breaking.

At this point, we considered selling up, but Stuart wouldn't give in. Using the resilience that farmers are famous for, he spoke to friends and neighbours, went and bought another herd of alpacas and we halter-trained six youngsters in 3 weeks – something that can take months. With DEFRA's blessing we operated on borrowed land for about 10 months. We got through it together.

We were ambitious, still dreaming - we needed more land, we needed a second income to justify the alpacas. We wanted holiday lets, alpaca walking, goats to cuddle, miniature ponies, miniature donkeys and cute Swiss Valais Blacknose Sheep!

In 2019 we were lucky enough to move to Venton Farm, Winkleigh with two holiday cottages, a lake, woodland and pasture land. We have milking goats that we use to make goats milk soap, lambing several months of the year, holiday cottages to stay

in, alpaca walking and feeding farm animals by appointment. We also do nursing home, hospice and charity events, including alpacas as wedding guests.

The hard physical work, financial struggle, animal losses and sad times have nearly broken us at times, but we've had animal births, new life, new species, created memories for people, received five star reviews and plenty of returning visitors and more importantly we've developed a wonderful place that we love.

Until now we've operated by appointment which we still continue to do for alpaca walking but in 2021 we are introducing new animals and hope to open up to day visitors as well, providing somewhere to chill out and watch some very special animals. Did you know we are in the top three of Things to Do in Winkleigh on Trip Advisor?

We're very proud to be a part of Winkleigh and thank you for welcoming us!



Winkleigh YFC



As mentioned in the previous article, all YFC clubs within England have been instructed that they can now re-open if they feel it is right for them to do so. However, with the announcement of a national lockdown on 31 October, the National Youth Agency has placed us in the red sector and we must now return to online only meetings until further notice.

On the 9th September, the club held their AGM on Zoom. We had a great turn-out of members and also representatives from Tarka and County. All previous officers gave wonderful reports on the activities and events we had managed to hold and participate in before we were temporarily shut down. I am pleased to inform you that the new officers for the 2020/21 YFC year are as follows:

- Chairman – James Pearce
- Secretary – Abi Marshall
- Treasurer – Chloe Branson
- Sports – Josh Moore

Following on from our AGM was Tarka Group's AGM. Much like ours, we heard from all the Tarka officers, and everything that Tarka and the individual clubs within Tarka had achieved within the 2019/20 year. This included: our Tarka chair competing in

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the South West Area round of debating, Tarka online rally (where James Pearce was awarded Best Under 18 Male and Winkleigh came 3rd overall), and the Tarka cheerleading team (which Ashleigh Chambers was a part of) winning the South West Area round. The election of the new Tarka officers saw Ashleigh Chambers take on the role of Tarka Treasurer for the year.

Usually, in this edition of the Distinctly Winkleigh, I would be informing you of the progress we had made with our carnival float and the results from the first three carnivals we normally attend. Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus restrictions, all carnivals have been cancelled this year. Therefore, we are spending these months thinking of possible fundraising ideas and completing the necessary paperwork in order to hold them.

We are in the midst of trying to plan a COVID-Secure tractor run. The current plan is to hold the tractor run within the Christmas months so that we can make it themed and dress all our tractors up. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our usual meal after the tractor run due to our restrictions. Please keep an eye out for posters and Facebook event pages regarding this event in the near future for more details.

If you would like any further information regarding the Senior Club, please contact Abi Marshall on 07949 490240; for information regarding the Mini club, please contact Danielle Bradford on 07544 940197. Alternatively, please take a look at our Facebook pages for updates: 'Winkleigh YFC' or 'Winkleigh Mini YFC'.

Ashleigh Chambers

Winkleigh Fair Newsflash

We have a date for 5th December allocated for a Xmas Market and will communicate through social media and posters in the village if we're able to go ahead. Otherwise there will be a Xmas tree and lights in the square as usual but NO official "turn on".

Sarah Goody

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'LIVIN AN DYIN IN WINKELAY'

Imagined by the late Shirley Cowling & reprinted from DW43

My goodman, Will Gidley, and me, Ann Goodley, both born in Winkelay. Us be cozens, for our Faythers was brothers. Fayther were a good man. E liketh the name Good instead of Gid. Passon did teach im to read and write, when e were a boy. Fayther did teach me.

Our forebears go back to Conqueror's time. E imself did unt in King's Forest, east of Winkelay. E set up King's Arms, too. Our tavern. That were before that other King, Enry 3 methinks twas, let our village ave our Fair each July, and our market, each week. Will and me, us lives in King's cottage.

Now in the Year of Our Lord 1352, I must set down in record for our children — if there ever be any more — the tale of the bad years some of us ave lived through. At the very beginning of January 1349, when we was snowed een and life ard enuff already the pestilence came to Winkelay. Near alf the folk in the village did die. My goodman never free of taking is cart around the dwellins, ringin is bell and callin "Bring Out your dead." Will be gravedigger, but til March came, with the thaw, graves could not be dug, for the deep frost. In the church bodies lined up down the aisle, waitin for me to sew the shrouds. I did my best. Sewin all the dayslight hours and far into the night by rushlight, makin them, til my fingers did bleed with the work, and us runned out of cloth. Passon Sir Mauger Pilloud said us must bury em all in a pit, and without any winding sheets. When March came Passon told Tom Sanders — always preenin, e was, about is youth and strength — that God ad chosen im to dig the great pit with Will. So they dug the pit, down the lane. Twas just after that Passon imself did die, for e ad been blessin the dyin, and were infected from that. E ad been Vicar to us near on eight year.

It were a ideous death, but very fast. The ugly black bubos swelled up in groins and armpits and then they died. Young and old and those of middle age too. Our own twins was took, and they just one year old. Where did it come from? New Vicar came in June. E was Sir Ralph Treytheke. E did say it comed from God because us was so wicked. Can't see ow those twins of ours be wicked. Dear of em. They calls it the

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W H T Letting

Black Death but tis black for the livin, too. It leaves black in our earts for us know not ow us could be wicked enuff to deserve it.

All the ouses with the plague ad a red cross painted on the door. Twas the last thing Faythers did outside. If plague were in the cot then no one could go out or in. Ole families died. Our cart always full of corses. Twas a miracle Will and I did not die, nor Tom neither. I think us andled the bodies so much it someow saved us. That Sir Ralph did not stay with us long, for e died at end of August, and Sir Walter Jordan came in September. They was ard put to it to find Vicars. They was dyin so fast. But new one as a lovely voice to speak the Latin. I wish I knew what the words do mean. Sir Walter is our vicar still. I ope e will be many years. Us ave ad no new cases of the disease so far in 1352. Will and Tom ave filled in the grave pit. If it comes back again us'll ave to dig another.

In appier times, far into the future, maybe in the Year of Our Lord 2000, or even more, when it be Fair Week, there may be Feasts and Festivals, Singin and Dancin in that big field next the lane, and no one will remember the lane is called Carrion Pit Lane.



Okehampton District
Community Transport Group

Newsletter 67

Covid 19

We have been very fortunate that so many of our volunteer drivers have continued to drive throughout the pandemic and more have returned to driving recently, which has meant that we have not had to refuse many journeys at all (even the extremely short notice ones).

Our Ring and Ride bus service continues to operate Monday to Friday, please ring to book before 12 the day before you wish to travel. We currently have spare capacity despite having to socially distance so if you know of someone who would like to try our service then please ask them to get in touch, our fares are subsidised to keep them affordable and it is a good opportunity to get out and about in a safe way.

Our wheelchair accessible vehicles are available at any time subject to driver availability.

Please refrain from contacting the volunteer drivers direct, you can either leave a message on the office answerphone or our out of hours mobile is 07484525577.

Winkleigh Village Pump - The Althorp Connection

Just before the 'Rule of 6' came into force on Monday 14th September, I and many other people in the village, were saddened that it had not been possible to hold Winkleigh Fair, which has been an annual tradition here for hundreds of years and had been postponed this year due to Covid-19. On Friday 11th Winkleigh Society briefly discussed the possibility of arranging a Photo-Shoot to take place on Sunday 13th at 3 pm as the weather forecast was looking good, and we would not be able to have a photo with a group of people after that date. For the historical record we wanted to put something in Distinctly Winkleigh for 2020 in tribute to Peggy Osman, who every year dressed the well with flowers for the opening of Winkleigh Fair



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(Editor: see DW73). There was little time to prepare, but what a fantastic response!! Different groups of people came together in harmony to make this happen.

Cath from Catkin Blooms was asked if she could possibly bring out some of her pots of flowers to put by the pump for the photo-shoot. She gifted so much more! On Sunday morning the pump was crowned with a wreath of beautiful flowers grown in Cath's garden and she decorated the trough too! Children (and their parents) from Elms Meadow were asked if they would be willing to be in the photo, and Freya Wheeler(3), Emmy (5) and Ollie (2) Powlesland dressed up as Princesses and a Prince.



Verity Wheeler (5) declined to join in the photo but did lend us her unicorn toy. We were joined by a Princess witch in the form of Holly Knight (7), also Archie (last year's Fair King) Bridgman (12) and his brother George (14) who helped with traffic cones, setting up and clearing up, along with Sarah Goody, the Chair of Winkleigh Fair who helped to make this happen so smoothly. Derek and Margaret Miller who had opened last year's Fair were also present along with many other people who came in support, but socially-distanced, so sadly not everyone who came could be in the photographs.

I think the shopkeepers who had originally put up the granite obelisk to celebrate the 1832 Reform Bill would have been proud of the way Winkleigh came together to make this happen. I have tried to find out more about them and been researching archives, directories and parish records, but this will have to be the subject of a future article.

Currently, on the concrete render which covers the granite, we can still read *William IV* and *GREY* but other information is sadly illegible now. The pump was used in the hot summer of 1976 when all other sources ran dry. Derek Miller has spoken to me about how they collected the water and took it back to their farm (again, hopefully stories for another edition in the future from those who remember this?)



The pump was brought back to working order in 1996, the precedent for care and restoration of the obelisk set by the then Parish Council members (Photo 1997 courtesy of Margaret Miller).

The memorial was erected to commemorate the Representation of the People Act (1832), known as the first Reform Act or

Great Reform Act. This was the Act that paved the way for the beginning of democracy in this county and eventually led to the Chartist Movement to allow all men voting rights. It was another 100 years before the Suffragette movement led to the inclusion of all adult women. It was the first step to allowing ordinary people, rather than just rich and powerful land-owners, to vote in Parliament.

It was passed against a background of widespread unrest throughout the country. The 1819 Peterloo Massacre in Manchester, where crowds had gathered to demand parliamentary reform, had enraged and galvanised many to demand reform to a corrupt system that only conferred voting rights on wealthy land-owners. Terrified of what had happened with the French Revolution, the establishment was fearful of any reform. Legislation to widen the franchise was only passed by William IV's willingness to create sufficient peers to ensure its passage through the House of Lords.

The Reform Act extended the vote to the more prosperous middle classes. 56 Rotten and Pocket Boroughs were abolished and other changes made to a thoroughly outdated and corrupt system. New industrial cities such as Birmingham, Manchester Leeds and Sheffield were acknowledged and given 2 parliamentary seats. The Act conferred votes on propertied adult males and borough householders who paid an annual rent of £10.

It was a major shake-up of an unjust system, but there was a long way to go before working-class men and all women were enfranchised.

It must have made a powerful impact on the shopkeepers and householders of Winkleigh who were more numerous than they are today.

I did discover that, in the Molland Book, Lawrence Molland (1949) notes *"a remarkable granite memorial at the village pump dedicated to the four heroes of the recent Reform Bill (Russell, Grenville, Althorp and Brougham), "erected by permission of the Lord of the Manor".* However www.villagepumps.org.uk/pumpsDevon.htm refers to the fact that it *"carries the names of the men behind the reform – the Lords Grey, Brougham, Russell and Althorp".*

We can be pretty sure that Lord Althorp was one of the names, as he is referred to in both sources. I wondered why? And why Winkleigh? Two Reform monuments are to be found in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire in Scotland and there is a Reform Bill monument (also granite) in Newcastle in honour of Lord Earl Grey (Prime Minister 1830-34, who added oil of Bergamot to his tea!) and a Reform Tower in his honour on Stanton Moor, Derbyshire. There is also the Parbold Bottle Monument in West Lancashire to commemorate an area which until then had no representation in Parliament. But, so far, I can find no other monument to the Reform Bill in a village.

It turns out that **John Charles Spencer, 3rd Earl Spencer**, styled **Viscount Althorp** from 1783 to 1834, was a British statesman. Due to his reputation for integrity he was nicknamed "Honest Jack".

At the age of 22 he entered Parliament as the member for Okehampton in Devon. In Lord Grey's government Althorp was both Leader of the House of Commons and Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was instrumental in the success of government measures. Along with Lord John Russell, he led the fight to pass the Reform Bill of 1832, making more than twenty speeches, and is generally considered the architect of its victory. To carry the Reform Bill, the Whigs required a leader above party spirit. "Honest Jack Althorp" has been called "the most decent man who ever held high Government office" (see *Wikipedia and other sources*).



John Charles Spencer

I have traced his family tree down and found that his younger brother Frederick became the 4th Earl Spencer and was Princess Diana's Great-Great-Grandfather.

Possibly, one day, when the Fair King, Princes and Princesses of Winkleigh grow up, if the monarchy survives, King William V may visit Winkleigh and see that we have kept the memory alive and treasured the Monument dedicated to his maternal Great-Great-Great-Uncle.

Rachel Goldsworthy (Current day photos by Greg Goldsworthy)

Support your frontline healthcare heroes with a limited edition rainbow rugby shirt, rugby ball and face masks



10 year old avid rugby fan Ryan Mahajan is hoping to raise thousands of pounds for frontline healthcare heroes, after coming up with the idea of designing and selling a rainbow coloured rugby shirt and rugby ball, which will see all proceeds donated to charity.

Ryan's family run Aramis Rugby: a company based in South Molton which provides clothing and equipment to the rugby world. After sketching his ideas up on a pad at home, the design team brought his creations to life and a specially designed rugby shirt, rugby ball (and face masks) are now available to purchase from their website - www.aramisrugby.co.uk/charity.

100% OF THE SALE IS KINDLY BEING DONATED TO NORTH DEVON HOSPICE AS WELL AS THE CHARITY FOR NORTH DEVON DISTRICT HOSPITAL, OVER & ABOVE, WITH ALL PRODUCTION COSTS BEING ABSORBED BY ARAMIS.

Ryan realised that he needed to do something to help care for the people who are caring for others during the pandemic. He said "I felt bad that while we are safe inside our homes, the healthcare workers are working to save lives, sometimes risking their own. "I want to raise a lot of money for healthcare workers as they don't sometimes get to see their loved ones because of working in hospitals and hospices. I want to thank them for helping sick people and for helping us during coronavirus." Our 'official heroes' are held in high regard by Ryan and he is looking forward to raising as much money as possible to show his appreciation for them.

These special, limited edition rainbow coloured rugby shirts and balls (plus face masks) can be purchased NOW. Please visit www.aramisrugby.co.uk/charity to get your hands on them before they sell out!



From Our DW Archives – DW40 Winter 2011
Winkleigh Young Farmers - of Yesteryear



Left to Right: Derek Miller, Colin Thorne, Frank Pigeon, Roger Hill, Nick Hill, Clive Brook, Cyril Heggadon and Matt Jones.

The Winkleigh Singers Resume Rehearsals



The Winkleigh Singers

Registered Charity
Number
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The Winkleigh Singers, a well-established and well-known choral group in North Devon have restarted rehearsing in the New Assembly Rooms in South Molton, on Monday evenings.

Having jumped through the hurdles of risk assessment and found a suitably large, covid-secure venue to resume rehearsals after a break of almost seven months, the choir's first rehearsal was on the 12th October with more than 60% of the choir attending. Sitting at a responsibly socially distanced 2 metres from each other, they were joined by regular rehearsal accompanist Tom Bayliss and conductor Roland Smith.

Following a much-needed warm-up, the choir went straight into Handel's Hallelujah Chorus! The hour quickly passed as members sang through some familiar repertoire to get used to singing at 2 metres apart. It wasn't long before the choir became comfortable with the distancing whilst enjoying the resonant acoustics of the South Molton Town Hall's New Assembly Room.

Keeping the room well ventilated, with windows open, passers-by in the market square will have been treated to the welcome sound of music being sung live – something that we have all missed for so long!

It felt like no time before the hour allowed under the risk assessment came to an end at half-past eight, but too late to find any pubs still open!

The choir, who would normally be rehearsing in Umberleigh, are recruiting new members, especially sopranos, and offer a free three-week trial period to those interested in joining. More information can be found at <https://www.winkleighsingers.org.uk/membership/> or send us a message via <https://www.winkleighsingers.org.uk/open-rehearsal-registration/>.

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Welcoming a Refugee Family to Chulmleigh

By the time you read this we hope to be celebrating at Chulmleigh Community Welcome. Celebrating the fact that we have raised £9,000 and can return to the Home Office to receive 'final approval' to welcome a refugee family to Chulmleigh. Thanks to our amazing team and supporters,



we have done it through lockdown.

Why? People often ask. Because we can! For every time you've watched bombs falling in Syria and thought 'there is nothing I can do' - this is something we can do, together. Our family won't have to risk crossing the channel in an inflatable dinghy or a freezer lorry, they will enter legally under a Home Office scheme known

as Community Sponsorship. We are working in partnership with the parish, district and county councils and our sponsor the Pickwell Foundation.

The family will have full refugee rights: the right to work, go to school, access benefits and so on. A second question is often - how will they cope in rural

Chulmleigh? Many of the families come from rural areas. If you've lived life on the move, then a small, welcoming town like Chulmleigh, with its schools, health centre and shops, all in easy reach, might feel safer than a big city. At the least we can offer one family the chance of a roof over their heads, send their children to school, plan their future.

It's our job to find a landlord and empower the family to navigate their way in a new country, helping them with everything from setting up a bank account to improving their English. Luckily through lockdown people have continued to

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join us and we have supporters from Ashreigney to Chawleigh, South Molton to Lapford and from Winkleigh. Also via zoom, we've learned from other sponsorship groups and heard their stories. Of children who were so excited at their first chance to go to school that they slept in school uniform. Of adults now working for the health service or cooking Syrian street food in the local market. Or the family who like so many of us, finally had the time during lockdown, to grow their own vegetables. There are ten Syrian families already well settled in Devon including in Bideford, Braunton, Georgeham and Ottery and they've offered to help our family. We have been inspired by these groups and we hope that other towns and villages will be inspired by us to join this supportive and growing movement.

Meanwhile we are continuing to fundraise to meet our budget. Lockdown cancelled all our events but beautiful, hand-made cotton masks, terracotta tiles, home-made apple juice and other donated items, available from the Leather Shop in Chulmleigh, are helping to raise funds. Please join us in the final push. We hope to welcome our family sometime in spring 2021 after what for them will have been a very long journey.

Jo Moser

For more information: chulmleighcommunitywelcome@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/316011152715989>

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/thepickwellfoundation/Chulmleighcommunitywelcome>

Winkleigh Directory – Online Additions

CAR SALES Open Daily 9 am – 4 pm	<i>East Devon Cars</i> Gerrydown Ind Est Unit 3 Wink Airfield Email: Web:	01837 847847 Contact@eastdevoncars.co.uk www.eastdevon cars.co.uk
CAFÉ Tues-Sat 7.30am - 3pm Sun 9am – 1pm Hog roasts, Outside Catering	Jonesy's Café Unit 2 Former D&S Building Winkleigh Airfield Web:	<i>Telephone Orders</i> 01837 682618 www.jonesys-catering.co.uk

Newsflash from Britannia Sailing Trust

We are delighted to announce that Britannia Sailing Trust have been successful in a bid to the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, set up this summer to support Arts, Culture and Heritage organisations, big and small, which are so important to us all, creating jobs, community and bringing joy.



The funding we have been awarded is significant, and will mean that we have a real opportunity now to get our historic ship back in the water, as the restoration process can be speeded up. We can now afford to take on some paid skilled labour from time to time and we are more than hopeful that we will achieve our objectives for Britannia to sail again and be a flagship for marine conservation.



We are very fortunate to have a committed band of volunteers who have been helping us considerably over the past two and a half years since we brought Britannia to Winkleigh. We have also managed to keep on working throughout this difficult year, although progress has slowed down somewhat.

When restrictions are lifted we would like to hold a celebration, maybe host an Open Day, so watch this space for more news!

If you would like more information, or for updates, we have a website, and a Facebook page so please do have a look at www.britanniasailingtrust.org or [Facebook.com/britanniasailingtrust](https://www.facebook.com/britanniasailingtrust). Instagram as well! Or just phone Sam or Vicki on 01837 680036 any time. We always welcome visitors!!!

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ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Winkleigh Growers are a friendly group of enthusiastic gardeners who are keen to welcome new members to our allotments close to the Sports Centre. You don't need to be experienced or very knowledgeable, just have a desire to grow food and flowers and to commit to an active hobby. Your fellow plot holders will always be happy to help!

Plot sizes are 18 metres x 6 metres (whole) and 9 metres x 6 metres (half) and cost £60 and £30 per year. There is water on site, communal wheelbarrows, regular deliveries of farmyard dung and one of our members keeps the surrounding grass and paths mown and very tidy.

In return we all sign a contract to ensure we comply with sensible and realistic rules which protect us all. In normal circumstances we love to get together occasionally to socialise, share plants and ideas, eat cake and perhaps undertake odd jobs which benefit the whole group.

**To find out more and arrange a site visit please contact:
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North Devon Biosphere - What happens next?

*“What happens next is up to every one of us” – Sir David Attenborough’s haunting words as he closed his latest documentary, *Extinction: The facts*. These words were reinforced in the end of September UN report on Biodiversity which concluded: “The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.”*

The issues are as apparent here as they are in the tropics, and we have a special responsibility to look after nature in North Devon’s UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, not least because the economy of the local area depends on it. But how can each of us respond to Attenborough’s seemingly overwhelming challenge? I suggest four ways:

- 1) We urgently need to create more space for nature and connect up wild areas across gardens, community spaces, business sites and particularly farms - let a corner go wild, avoid the use of chemicals, make a pond or wild flower patch or plant trees. Farmers, who manage so much of the countryside, have the largest opportunity to help nature, and many are doing so already. But can you do more, by leaving aside some less productive land for nature, and making your farm more nature-friendly?
- 2) Use your spending power to support businesses that are doing good things for nature. Buy local meat and vegetables sourced from farms in countryside stewardship or with organic or Red Tractor symbols. Also at the supermarket, buy British - and avoid exporting problems abroad.
- 3) Use your influence to make government at all levels to do more for nature. Encourage your employer and other businesses to do more, both on the land they manage and through their supply chains. Lobby your bank or your pension provider to ensure they are not investing in businesses that are damaging nature.
- 4) Support a local conservation organisation and help their vital work.

We’d love to hear how you are going to respond to Sir David Attenborough’s challenge. Please contact us at biosphere-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or put a pledge on the map at <https://www.biosphere.org.uk/pledgefornature> where you’ll also find lots of advice.

What happens next is up to each one of us!

Mike Moser - Chair, Nature Improvement Group, North Devon Biosphere

Climate Smart Villages Winkleigh

We are putting a call out to all people in the Parish of Winkleigh and the surrounding areas who would like to participate in a local Self-build and Custom-build project to make contact. Maybe a Group build with friends could also be of interest. This project will be working with the Community for the Community.

A call also goes to landowners who may have land suitable for this project. Details below.

This project is for all age groups: first timers getting on the housing ladder, young, growing families wanting that larger home, retirees looking to downsize to a zero bill home.

Because of the Climate Emergency we are asking everyone to consider the build standard of Carbon Neutral, Passivhaus and Plus Energy homes only. With the right supply chain partners in place, which they are, homes will be far cheaper than a Taylor Wimpey home. Self-build can bring you savings of up to 47% Equity gain on completion of a home. Custom-build can be in the realms of a 15% to 27% gain. A high percentage of VAT on your build can also be reclaimed.

Self-build is entirely down to your own capabilities. You could either project manage others, or build 100% of the build yourself for maximum gain of equity.

Custom-build can be a built shell, completely air and water and tight with all renewables installed. You can then take on the completion of all the internal works. The *electrics, plumbing etc., finishing the kitchen, bathroom and flooring, which many people can do nowadays. We at Climate Smart Villages will be there as your safety net if you have any problems.

**Note that qualified trades must complete certain jobs.*

The Climate Emergency

So much to say but not enough space here. Please take time to access these two links:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/11/02/russian-arctic-sea-fails-to-freeze>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/>

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Climate Smart Village ~ Winkleigh. This is a great opportunity for Winkleigh Parish to make a difference, stepping up and becoming a truly Smart Village. Other villages will follow your example fighting Climate Change. Buildings are responsible for approximately 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO2 emissions in EU. These homes will be Plus Energy Generating buildings and Carbon Neutral fit for purpose. Safeguarding our children's future.

My name is Gary Milla and I head up a newly-formed group of a Passivhaus Architect, Planner and Construction Engineers. Our web site for Climate Smart Villages will be in place very soon with a holding page. Full site to follow.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.
Tel. 07857222503 ~ Email: gary.milla@gmail.com

Thank you so much people of Winkleigh for taking the time to read our document.

Take care and Stay safe from Covid.

Winkleigh Biodiversity Group

In August, we took part in the Devon Bat Project and recorded bat species flying along the hedgerow in the Biodiversity Area. Despite our second delivery of 100 trees arriving during March, a few willing volunteers were able to put them into the ground, while still observing the Covid restrictions. Most have settled in well, despite the drought this spring. So last planting season (December - April) we added approximately 250 native trees to the Spiral Maze Hedgerow at the Biodiversity Area. These were donated by Winkleigh Environment Group, *The Conservation Volunteers*, Woodland Trust and local residents. Please follow the link to: <https://winkleighbiodiversity.blogspot.com/> for more photos.

This winter we will be planting more, when restrictions allow. If you are interested in joining us, contact: trulywildabout@gmail.com. Our news updates are also posted on Winkleigh Community Action Facebook Page. Here are a few of my photographs.

Kim J Melhuish



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A Very Unusual Bird-Box

***When driving Westwards from Winkleigh
In the direction of Hatherleigh.
Past Ingleigh Green at "Oakhayes" you will see
A lovely male figure climbing up an Oak Tree.***

***My husband, Alan, loves building bird-boxes
And an idea put him straight into action
He got working with wood, a saw and a chisel
To make this unusual contraption.***

***We're hoping the birds will flock to this place
Seeking a nice cosy place for a rest
They need look no further, 'cos right by the road
Is Billy Boy's head for their nest.***

***To keep his neck nice and cosy and warm
I thought he could do with a scarf
So I'm now busy working my fingers on
A quirky and knotty scarf for a laugh!***

***So, if you want a good giggle
Next time you're passing by
Keep eyes on the road – but do take a glimpse
Of Billy Boy right up on high!!***



Jennie Gill

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Word Search

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

ANGEL

CANNELLONI

CARBONARA

GNOCCHI

LASAGNE

MACARONI

NOODLES

ORZO

PENNE

RAVIOLI

RIGATONI

SHELLS

SPAGHETTI

TORTELLINI

ZITI

Solution on Page 60

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Sudoku Puzzle

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

("Sudoku puzzles are provided by www.sudokuoftheday.com")

Solution on Page 60

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

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



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What's On Diary – 2020 - 2021

In view of the continuing uncertain situation, a diary of events has once again not been included in this edition. The few events that are mentioned in individual articles may be subject to change and should therefore only be regarded as provisional.

**Please consult our online diary for all updates at
<https://winkleighonline.com>**

And Finally

What a year 2020 has turned out to be with Covid-19 having such an impact on the lives and daily activities of all of us. We are fortunate that in this part of Devon there have been far fewer Covid-19 cases than elsewhere. However, many of the clubs, societies and other organisations that we enjoyed and almost took for-granted have had to go into hibernation or adapt to new ways of working. It is good news that the Christmas Lights and Tree will appear in The Square as usual to brighten things up a bit, albeit without an official 'switch-on'.

Once again we want to thank everyone who has sent us contributions during the year as well as the businesses who have continued to advertise with us; they are our main source of revenue without which DW would not be able to continue. Grateful thanks also go to our proof-readers and team of 'posties' without whom you would not receive a copy of this magazine.

Please also do let us know how we are doing – what you like or don't like – either by email, phone, or our Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/TWSDW/>).

The deadline for contributions to the spring edition will be NOON on Thursday 11th February 2021 for planned publication at the end of February.

We wish all our readers Health and Peace over the Festive Season and relief from Covid-19 in 2021

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