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QUARTERLY JOURNAL

The Winkleigh Society

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AUTUMN 2024



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Chain's Report

AUTUMN 2024

Over 200 people came to the archaeology open day hosted by Allison Homes on Saturday July 27th curious to know what had been discovered by the archaeological team excavating on the second phase of High Moor View.

Looking out over to Dartmoor you could see why this was a favoured site for our Winkleigh ancestors to establish a settlement. The aspect looking out to Dartmoor is glorious. There were trees, a river, animals and pasture: all you needed for survival. [See more details p40] Archaeologists, led by Bill Horner, displayed examples of stone tools and guided people around the site and explained the purpose of the huge pits and post holes they had uncovered.

Uncovered too by the archaeologists, as well as the footprint where the homesteads were, was the dried up river bed running from North to South, the evidence being the flattened stones worn smooth by the water flow.

Still lots to be uncovered and Bill Horner, Steven Reed and their archaeological team are keen to investigate further; well aware that Winkleigh is of significant historical interest and that more needs to be done to record and display our heritage.

At the moment the only interpretation board we have in this village is the one on the airfield; but considering we have two castle mounds, the remnants of a Norman deer park, strip fields, an ancient sunken lane as well as the latest Romano British find at High Moor view, we probably need more.

This is the third edition of Distinctly Winkleigh with our new editor Peter Hopkinson. This quarterly journal is the flagship product of The Winkleigh Society. We do need some more community enthusiasts to join us on the committee/editorial team.

Winkleigh is undergoing unprecedented change as more housing developments are coming on stream. Our landscape, soundscape, skyscape, roads, footpaths are all undergoing radical change or alteration. We need walkers, observers, artists, poets, letter-writers, historians to connect with us at Distinctly Winkleigh so we reflect what is going on in Winkleigh and Hollocombe. Please send us in your reflections, thoughts, questions, photographs and artwork and join us on the committee/editorial team. Contact me or our editor Peter Hopkinson.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mr Derek Miller who passed away on August 7.

Derek was loved and respected by so many and will be sadly missed. A true gentleman.

Penny Griffiths and Margaret Miller

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Welcome

TO OUR AUTUMN EDITION

Welcome to our autumn issue and a big thank you to all those who have made it happen. We welcome contributed articles and if you feel you might like to become an editorial contributor please let me have your email address and I'll email you a couple of weeks before the copy date to remind you of the deadline.

A disappointing summer weather wise is now behind us and it came as no surprise to hear that it was the coldest for ten years. Let's hope that things will even up by our being blessed with an Indian Summer and a mild winter. Despite the poor weather I hope you enjoyed the summer months and that all the dramas of exam results, new schools, leaving school and starting work or university have been successfully negotiated.

Talking of schools we are keen for DW to reflect the views of all ages and to that end I'd be very interested in having input from a young person so if there is a budding cub reporter out there who'd like to write an article or two for us please contact me.

Our Winter issue has a copy date of 10th November and will be published at the end of November.

Peter Hopkinson

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PRESS SNIPPETS

Western Morning News, Aug 7

Farming remains the most dangerous profession in the U.K. It accounts for over 20% of all deaths in the workplace.

Devon Life Aug

The story of the Western Rising of 1549 which culminated in a violent battle at Sampford Courtenay, is to be staged at The Northcott Theatre Exeter in October. Local Historian Mark Stoye has collaborated with The Northcott in producing a play that tells the story of **The Commotion Time** to mark the 475th anniversary of the **Prayer Book Rebellion**.

Crediton Country Courier Aug 15

The 47th Dartmoor Folk Festival took place at South Zeal on Aug 9 to 11th nicknamed '*the smallest and friendliest of all festivals*'. It is a lasting tribute to its founder **Bob Cann**

who was dedicated to keeping alive the culture and traditions of Dartmoor.

Okehampton Times Aug 1

The Neighbourhood Plan for Okehampton and Hamlets falls through at 11th hour. West Devon Borough Council will not be holding a referendum on the plan [that has been 8 years in the making] on the grounds that it did not meet all the conditions. It specifically failed on community consultation.

North Devon Journal Aug 22

Villagers at Petrockstow have banded together to save their church St Petrock. Informed that their medieval church was to be shut and possibly demolished, the *Save St Petroc's Petrockstow* [sspp] is working to re-purpose it for education and training.

Penny Griffiths



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WINKLEIGH

Parish Church News

As you walk into a church or cathedral on a sunny day, one of the most beautiful and uplifting sights has to be the coloured patches of light on the floor as the sun pours through the stained glass. Stained glass windows whether ancient or modern are beautiful and bring an artistic presence to every church which has them. But they are more than simply decoration – they tell the stories of faith, of people and speak of God.

Many stained glass windows depict scenes from the Bible or the lives of the saints. These were of specific importance in the days when few people could read or write, or if they did they didn't have their own Bible. The images in the windows helped people gain a greater knowledge and appreciation for certain scenes in the Bible, which would have been more difficult to grasp on simply hearing them read. My favourite example of this in All Saints, Winkleigh is the window which depicts the raising of Lazurus. Lazurus had been dead for several days before Jesus came to him; not great in a hot climate! To illustrate the significance of the miracle, in the window there is a man with his hanky to his nose just behind the risen Lazurus in his grave clothes! No one is left in any doubt that Lazarus was dead.

Stained glass windows not only tell of the Christian faith but also the faith of the people who have worshipped within the churches. They have been gazed upon by generations of worshippers and visitors seeking to understand the stories they tell. The windows are often dedicated to individuals or families, commemorating the faithful witness of those who have gone before us. These inscriptions add to the sense of history found in so many churches; of community life and of the faithfulness of God throughout the ages.

The windows themselves speak of the glory of God and the holiness of the building. The way the light filters through the glass creates a sense of calm and atmosphere. The light shining through also reminds us that the light of Christ shines through the darkness of the world to bring us hope and peace.

Finally the windows also remind us that we have a part to play within the world and our communities. Stained glass windows are not one single sheet of glass, they are made up of many coloured pieces. Each piece on its own is beautiful, uniquely coloured and uniquely shaped. However, when the pieces are put together the effect is even more wonderful and dazzling. We are beautiful and unique individuals, together we can create a more wonderful world.

So next time you pass by, pop into church. Take a pew, admire the windows and see what you discover.

Blessings

Revd Helen Blaine

01837 83710 or Revhelenblaine@outlook.com

WHAT'S GOING ON at Winkleigh Methodist Church?

For four weeks during the school summer holiday, we ran our **Monday Morning Munch**, offering a free breakfast to anyone who wanted to look in. As well as enjoying some food, this offered an informal, relaxed time for those who joined us and an opportunity to play some board games, make a puzzle together, do some art and crafts, play with a few toys or just sit and eat or chat. Things got quite lively and competitive at times with the adults making as much noise as the children and teenagers. Thank you to everyone who came along and for those who volunteered, donated food or money and helped to make it a success.

Our **Tea & Pudding afternoons**

continue and remain well attended by our local community, as well as friends from further afield. Again, thank you to everyone who has supported this in any way. Our next afternoon will take place on **Sunday, 29 September** at the usual time (between 3–4.30 pm).

£3 per tea & pudding

SUMMER CAMPS

Back in June, several members of our church helped at the annual 'Stowford Camp' - an interdenominational event for people from any or no faith which is overseen by the West Devon Methodist Circuit and led by a group of local volunteers. This is an action-packed weekend for young people with lots of fun, games, inspirational teaching, worship, eating and, of course, camping!

During August, some of our young people either attended or helped at DCYC (Devon Christian Youth Camps). DCYC is a registered charity providing the opportunity for exploring the Christian Faith through organising holidays for young people.

We are very proud of our young people for volunteering and helping to lead activities which makes the continuation of these amazing camps possible. Well done everyone!

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated Harvest which will have been led by Revd Melvyn Cooke. We have also been celebrating within our church family with the birth of a baby boy for one young family and a wedding for another! Exciting times and much to be thankful for!

Looking ahead to **Christmas** We shall be holding another '**Big Sing**' - carols by candlelight - on **Sunday, 22 December at 6.30pm in the chapel**. As last year, this will be followed by some seasonal refreshments. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Please see our Facebook updates and notices outside the church for detail about forthcoming events.


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 www.theoldparsonagewinkleigh.co.uk

 parsonagewinkleigh@hotmail.com

 07896 740903

WINKLEIGH *Friendship Club*



It was such a pleasant surprise to see so many attending and appreciating the talk on August 8th given by **Stephen Leahy** in the Community Centre. We had put out 70 chairs but had to put out more.

Stephen Leahy did not disappoint with his fascinating talk on the **History of Winkleigh Airfield**. Maps and photos were displayed as well as showing a film of the unveiling of the War Memorial.

Another film from Stephen's archive was of a V.E. Day celebration dance. Some of our audience were delighted to spot themselves swirling around the dance floor.

As usual the afternoon concluded with tea and delicious cakes by some of the ladies of the club. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

There is a keen interest in local history and personalities. Our talk on the airfield followed on from previous Friendship Club's talks: Andrew Ware's History of Winkleigh, The Mad Butcher, Life of a vet by Andrew Warner, Makaton and The Singing Ringers.

As a club we meet on alternate Thursday afternoons 2:30pm – 4:30pm in The Community Centre. All welcome. Entrance £2:00.

We have card tables, crafts and board games. Come along for a chat, friendship and refreshments.

Meeting dates for your diary: **October 3rd, 17th, 31st: November 14th, 28th: December 12th.**

Every other month commencing in April we have day trips and everyone is invited. So far this year we have been to Buckfast Abbey and Totnes, Bude and Homeleigh Garden Centre, Greendale Farm Shop, Exmouth, Tintangel and Boscastle.

Trips planned for November: Strawberry Fields Lifton and Tavistock.

Next trips will be advertised in the New Year.

Marcia Butt

Chairperson

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Smoke Gets In Your Eyes

Billowing acrid smoke blowing over from Orchard Lakes across the village over several days in August has ignited a storm of protest on the local social media platform.

Also provoking alarm was the cause of these huge bonfires; the felling of oak and apple trees and ripping out of hedgrows around the lodges during the bird nesting season. This is in contravention of consultee planning conditions and environmental principles in Winkleigh's Neighbourhood Plan ENV1.

Parish Councillors have raised concerns with planning enforcement and environmental officers at Torridge District Council.

The environmental officer Triston Babington-Taylor and enforcement officer Grant McGill have followed up complaints and visited the site.

District Councillor Simon Newton has also been involved.

Apparently one last bonfire was planned; but later it was agreed that a chipper would be used.

Penny Griffiths

LOCAL COMMUNITY TRUSTS – 2024 FUNDING AVAILABLE

The **Wright Fund** and the **Old School Fund** are two long-established local community charities, administered by members of the All Saints Church Parochial Church Council and elected trustees.

Each year, they are required to set aside a sum of money as either grants or donations to residents and organisations of Winkleigh Parish for a range of specified educational, recreational or for other special needs.

The **Wright Fund** (registered charity 205397) can assist recognised local organisations or individuals with grants for recreational or leisure activities, OR help relieve individual or family personal and household needs. The **Old School Fund** (registered charity 306918) provides financial assistance to help young people under the age of 25, normally resident in the Parish, pursue post-secondary education or training.

At present, each fund has the sum of £1,200 available each year to be awarded in the form of individual grants or donations of up to £300 per applicant. In the last five years the two trusts have distributed over £5,000 to local individuals and organisations.

If you are interested in applying for funding from either charity, or would like further information, please pick up an information leaflet available within All Saints Church, or contact the **Revd. Helen Blaine at 01837-83710 or e-mail: revhelenblaine@outlook.com**

The 2024 closing date for applications is 31st. October. Funds will be made available from 1st. November 2024.



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Our Devon County Councillor writes...



It is a pleasure to be writing for Distinctly Winkleigh once again and, at the time of writing at the end of August, it has been nice to finally experience a semblance of summer like weather!

As ever it has been a busy few months at DCC although writing at the end of the traditional summer holiday season there are a number of outstanding issues heading into the autumn. While the outcome of the General Election may not have been a surprise, the timing of it was and this unfortunately has had an effect on Devon's Devolution Deal.

A deal had been negotiated and agreed with the previous Government and all that was needed was Parliamentary assent to the creation of a new Combined Authority for Devon and Torbay which would have the necessary legal statutes to begin working on our new devolved powers.

Unfortunately, Parliament was dissolved before the necessary statutory instruments could be passed and so we are now waiting to see if the new Government will take these forward or want to make changes. The indications we have had so far is that they are probably going to implement what has already been agreed... but we will have to wait and see. My own view, and that of the Council's Administration, is that we should implement what has already been agreed and if the new Government wants to make changes, for example including Plymouth in the Deal or devolving more powers down to Devon, then we can discuss those once the new Combined Authority is up and running.

While the new Government is within its rights to pursue different projects, I sincerely hope as well that we do not

see a retreat away from the 'levelling up' agenda. Although as ever with these initiatives, things do not change overnight and many projects take a long time to come to fruition, the increased attention of Central Government on Devon and in particular this part of the County had been beneficial from awarding the funding of the new Appledore Maritime Centre to the reopening of the Okehampton Railway Line.

Talking of the Okehampton line, readers maybe interested to know that in June DCC approved plans to begin the construction of a new interchange railway station on the edge of the town near the A30. The new station will have 200 parking spaces and will offer better connectivity and access to the railway than the existing original town centre station.

I appreciate in Winkleigh railway users may want to use the existing connection at Eggesford or travel straight down to Exeter, but for many residents I represent in Torrington Rural I believe it will offer a better and more effective rail link than having to travel either to Umberleigh or all the way down to Exeter or Tiverton Parkway.

Onto more local matters, the ongoing condition of the Highway remains the number one issue for many residents but I hope now that we're in the summer that residents have noticed the number of improvement works taking place in or nearby Winkleigh Parish.

First, I was delighted with the resurfacing of the road from Stable Green to Bridge Reeve. An extensive amount of serviceability patching is also taking place, both in the village and the wider Parish, and there are also plans for resurfacing repairs to

Bude Hill. A number of sites have also been selected for the new 'elastomac' repairs in the village as well. I am also working with Highways to look at repairs to the roads in the south of the Parish near Bondleigh. I know at times how frustrating the potholes can be, believe me they are the bane of my life, but DCC has been investing more money into Highways and I am always on the case for Winkleigh and my other Parishes in Torrington Rural! Nonetheless, the money remains tight and we always have the continued juggling act of meeting the demands of the highways with the needs of our most vulnerable

children and adults in the community.

On a similar note I have also been meeting with representatives of the Parish Council and DCC Highways Officers to look at how we can further improve the traffic calming measures down Townsend Hill and an additional speed survey is due to be carried out on the road – I will be interested in the findings and report back on them.

Let's hope that the better weather we've experienced lately lasts into the autumn, and as ever, if there are any DCC issues you'd like to raise with me you can contact me on [f](https://www.facebook.com/cllrsaywell) cllrsaywell ring 07886 446560 or email andrew.saywell@devon.gov.uk.

FIND YOUR FLAIR FOR *Fitness with Dance*

From September to Christmas we're glued to our TV as tangos, jives, waltzes and rumbas light up our screens whilst we enjoy BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. We watch in awe, wishing we could dance so strongly.

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One such class is called FitSteps with Elaine, who offers classes in Bow, Crediton, Winkleigh and High Bickington. Check out her Facebook page for further details [f](https://www.facebook.com/fitstepswithelaine) **FitSteps with Elaine** or make contact via email elainecoldman@btinternet.com or mobile **07733 262475**.





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From your **District Councillor**

The general election has been and gone resulting in a change of Government, Winkleigh Fair week was a bit damp and we didn't win the Euros. Otherwise it's business as usual as we all go about our daily lives making the best of whatever circumstances we find ourselves in!

Today I have been helping the Parish Council identify and make sure certain conditions attached to planning approvals in the village are being adhered to. After a planning application is approved, the local planning authority do not have the capacity (nor the statutory duty) to constantly check whether the conditions of an approval have been met and so it falls to the local community (individuals as well as the Parish Council) to keep an eye on things. Whether it is unauthorised structures like buildings or mobile homes without planning permission or actions linked to a planning approval that have not been completed (eg highway and pedestrian improvements or remedial landscaping), it is essential that the local community, who are best-placed to notice such things, make sure the Parish Council know about any potential issues. They are then able to look at the detail on TDC's planning portal and work out if a report to the planning authority is required or not. This is all part of taking

"ownership" of the space we live in as well as helping to uphold the community values contained in the excellent Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan.

At Torridge, elected members and officers are currently working on a new housing strategy for the District. With the new Government reintroducing house building quotas – likely to be considerably higher than has ever been achieved here before – it is vital that the District has a clear view of what type of houses are needed and where (I hope they will agree Winkleigh have already exceeded their target!). This will be an interesting exercise seeing that there is unlikely to be any Government funding so any new house building will have to be generated through the open market. Watch this space....!

As always, please get in touch if there is anything I can do to help concerning the village or District. Do try to come along to the Winkleigh Parish Council meetings (7.30pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Community Centre) where you can listen to many local issues being discussed – and even raise some of your own!

Councillor Simon Newton MBE
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Councillor.newton@torridge.gov.uk

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W: <https://meetbarbaraellis.com>

Winkleigh Parish Council

Dear all,

I do hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying the last vestiges of summertime, few and far between as they are... I am writing to you on behalf of the Chair, myself, and the whole Council to update you on some activities that have been going on of late with your Parish Council.

We have just had our usual summer break throughout August but have by no means been idle despite some holidays. Councillors have recently been hard at work liaising with TDC, DCC, and local developers to reinforce good practice where we can. We are especially grateful to Cllr Simon Newton at TDC for his hard work alerting the appropriate controlling authorities about improper burning of waste, and ensuring the right 'watchdog' was put on this.

At home in the Parish, we have been continuing our efforts to clear pathways and keep our streets safe and clean, quite literally unearthing old paths at times. On this I would like to thank Cllrs Warner and Keys for their continuing hard work, they have been stalwarts on the beat! We have also been identifying a series of projects that will need our attention over the coming months, alongside repairing benches where they have needed it already. Cllr Jacob's woodworking skill is always of great use in this regard!

Cllr Odulinski and I have been heavily involved in updating our financial practices and good governance procedures, with welcome help from our Clerk; Cllr Odulinski's expertise in this regard has been paramount to making sure we as a Council have all the proper checks and balances in place to ensure we spend your money wisely; both I and the Chair would like to thank her for this.

Cllr Wonnacott, I, and Cllr Warner, have been involved in efforts to reduce litter on Elms Meadow, and I'm pleased to say that these efforts seem to have been rewarded by a drastic reduction in said litter! Thank you to Rachel Goldsworthy for proposing the solution that we as a Council adopted, and a special thank you to Cllr Wonnacott for his practical expertise in siting the bin – truly invaluable.

Cllr Goldsworthy continues to be our open ear at community events such as the mini-market, where I would encourage you to approach him and discuss any issues you may have – he really is an adept problem-solver who has aided myself and others this quarter numerous times (plus he isn't as scary as his appearance may imply!) Cllr Odulinski has also been a trooper with community events, leading the way on the great successful engagement we have had at recent fairs and so forth.

I have singled people out, not to isolate them, but rather to promote the unity we are all striving for. We as Cllrs are often working on different projects, but we are on the same side: to show you that we are working, we are improving, and we are here for you.

Best wishes to you all as we head into Autumn!

Your Vice-Chair,

Benjamin M. Roth

Ron Peachey

This is the second instalment of the memoir of Ron Peachey who was evacuated to Winkleigh from London during WW2 where he lived with Mrs Mary Reynolds in a cottage on Church Hill. It was first published in "It's Living History isn't it?"

School was wonderful. The headmaster was Mr Melhuish, he had one son, John who was my age. I think there were only two classrooms and there was one lady teacher. Most of the time we used slates and chalk as paper was in short supply. When school was too cold some of the lessons were taken in the village hall over the road. We usually took lunch to school. Mary used to make double-ended pasties with meat in one end and jam in the other.

Harveys the shop in the village did some sort of emergency school dinners if the weather was too bad for children to get home. There was a small room above the shop with two tables for about eight people. We went there only once I think. (I remember putting the cabbage in the drawer of the table! In case it came from Mary's garden!) *Editor's note: This refers to Mary spreading human waste over her vegetable patch.*

In the porch of the cottage we always had a big wicker basket full of vegetables and if anyone wanted to buy anything they just helped themselves and left the money. I remember swedes and turnips were one penny each; they were supplied by the farm. Mrs Earl would bring them in a sack in the horse and cart when she came to the village for shopping. Harveys was on the left side of the main road... they had glass topped biscuit tins along the front of the counter so you could make up a bag of mixed biscuits.

Colliholes was more of a general storeThis shop always seemed to be warm and smelled of cheese and paraffin. Just past Harveys there was an empty shop and a barber used to come there once

a fortnight. All he brought with him was a kitchen chair, a sheet to go round you, a comb and a pair of scissors. On the other side of the street was a sweet shop that sold a paper cone of broken sweets for a penny....just over the road was a shop that sold wool and drapery things but upstairs was a toy shop. We were allowed to look around up there before Christmas, but we never got any presents anyway, so I didn't see much point in that. Greg's parents used to send him a big parcel every year, so we shared that between us. *Editor's note: Greg was another evacuee staying with Mrs Reynolds.*

I don't remember the names of the other people living on Church Hill but next door was a lady who had a radio and we used to go there on Saturday nights to listen to the news. Not that Greg and I understood it – we didn't even know where France was where all the fighting was going on. Down at the bottom of the Hill on our side lived two sisters who I think were twins. They were about five years older than we were. Right down at the bottom and across the road was the Blacksmith's forge. I used to spend hours down there, sometimes working the bellows or holding the horses' bridles whilst the Blacksmith shod them. If there were two or three horses waiting to be shod the farmers would give us a penny to hold them so they could go off to the pub.

Gerrydon farm was run by Mr Earl who was Mary's son-in-law I think. He had two daughters, Marian and Mona, one of them married a lad from the RAF when they built the airfield. The Earls also had an evacuee, a young girl called Elsie le Clerc

from Jersey. We used to spend quite a lot of time at the farm during the summer helping with the animals and the harvest. Before coming to Devon I had never seen a cow or sheep so it was quite a shock for me. Outside the main farm gate was a pond where the geese lived. They attacked anybody coming to the farm and their noise set the dogs off, so you were chased by twenty geese and four dogs! Greg and I used to love working on the farm, collecting eggs, cleaning the farmyard and feeding the hens but the best time was harvest, following the combine and watching the dogs going after the rabbits. The worst job was churning the milk by hand to make cream and butter.

One other house I must mention is the white house at the far end of the High Street, facing the village. I don't remember who lived there but Mary used to go there once a week, maybe to clean or something. During the holidays we had to go with her. In the room to the right as

you go in the front door was a huge open fireplace. In the winter when the fire was lit there was a pall of smoke about a foot thick hanging from the ceiling. There were always two old men sitting one each side of the fireplace smoking pipes. I never saw them move or speak to anyone. We were always given tea and bacon sandwiches, we had to eat them where you could only see about a foot in front of you because of the smoke. Outside there was a big yard with barns and sheds to explore. There were chickens and cats everywhere. The best thing about the place was a barn full to the top with paper salvage. There must have been tons of it. There were newspapers, books and old school registers going back years. Greg and I played in there for hours, climbing up the mountains of paper. It was there when we arrived and it was still there when we left so that didn't do much for the war effort! Every Christmas Mary sat in that yard for hours, plucking chickens for sale.



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"A weasel is w-easily recognised a stoat is s-totally different"

Are they?

Are they really that simple to distinguish?

Factual differences abound:

They may both be in the same genus (*Mustela*) but they are distinct species: The stoat is *Mustela erminea*, where we get the term ermine from, as ermine is the stoats snowy white winter coat. The Weasel is *Mustela nivalis* - *nivalis* meaning like snow. The white change generally doesn't happen in Devon Mustelids though,

It is frequently stated in guides that stoat's are larger with longer tails which is all very well if you have a weasel and a stoat obediently stood still in front of you, carefully showing you their full profile so you can compare them. Identifying something only in comparison to something else only works if the something else is really familiar and the new ident isn't. EG: A ring ouzel is like a blackbird but has a distinct white breast band - but that's another article.

The actual sizes are that a stoat can grow up to **30-40cm** compared to a weasel, the smallest native carnivore, which only grows up to **27cm**, but of course unless they're stood next to a ruler most of us couldn't accurately tell the difference between 27 and 30 cm at a distance, and there must be a point in their adolescence where stoats are less than 30cm.

Stoats are sandy brown with a cream tummy, and the line between the two colours is straight. Weasels are a brownish grey colour, with an underside marked in

something between white and yellow which can have a less clean line between the colours and the possibility of the occasional spot of dark in the pale. Given that different people perceive and describe colour slightly differently, and since the spots are only possible not frequent and easy to see, that's hardly definitive.

Stoats often bound, a bit like a ferret running, they arch their backs more, weasels tend to be lower to the ground and scurry more, so as long as they are moving we are getting somewhere.

If the other factors aren't clear the real give away though is the tail. A stoat's tail is half the length of its body and ends with a bushy black tip; a weasel's tail on the other hand is shorter and stubbier, but most distinctly, has no black bushy tip.

This assumes you have an adult of the species though - stoat kits are not born with the tail black, it only develops at around 6 weeks, it does however remain from then on through a stoat's life, even in the areas of colder climates where their coat turns white with the winter cold.

Clearly the old saying is hardly that accurate, and more a play with words than clear and helpful truth, but whilst misidentification is possible, it seems fair to say that if we see an absolutely tiny mustelid it's likely a weasel, and if it is crisply marked with a black tail tip, it'll be a stoat.

To Coffey

GARDEN NOTES

Leaving Habitat

Jo Coffey



As things come to fruition, to harvest, and then in the case of deciduous perennials die back or shrubs lose their leaves, it can be tempting to tidy away all of the dead, but these messy looking leaves on borders and straw coloured stems are all part of the natural cycle. Whilst you don't want to leave the crown of delicate plants covered in soggy leaves encouraging them to rot, leaving some stems intact or making a nest of them over the crown can provide natural frost protection.

Leaving plant matter around also provides space for insects to overwinter, layers of leaves on borders is more hospitable than bare earth. Whilst there may be a risk of the less welcome insects overwintering (eg aphids) , unless your garden is badly out of

balance (maybe due to pesticide use) then there's at least as good a chance of the beneficial insects (such as ladybirds), their predators overwintering too which can really help keep gardens in balance and healthy.

If you have a lawn area it's not unreasonable to remove large drifts of leaves and either heap them under hedges or bag them with appropriate composting triggers, to over time make the much prized soil conditioner: leaf mould.

Another reason not to be too tidy with bits of plants which have died back is that they are excellent organic matter, just the thing needed to feed soil microbes, support water handing and help keep soil structure healthy. Whilst being exposed on the surface encourages them to break down they

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provide food for lots of little life forms as well as shelter. In time they become that key component of rich productive top soil - humus. Make sure any plant matter you do remove goes on a compost heap to be returned to the soil and kept within the local cycle.

On top of all these practical reasons to be reserved in our tidying is the sheer beauty of frosted fennel umbels and grasses making idyllic winter forms, that and tall hedgehogs of teasel heads encourage visits by charms of goldfinch feasting on the tiny dark seeds.

SEPTEMBER

- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Pick autumn raspberries
- Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals
- Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them
- Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway
- Keep up with watering of new plants, using rain or grey water if possible
- Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering
- Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so that they are ready for use in the autumn
- Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting (always ensure netting is tight and securely fastened)
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Find locations for hedgehog houses and install them.
- Allow hedgehogs to make their own beds with supplies of suitable materials nearby
- Start bundling hollow stems in sheltered spots for beneficial insects to overwinter in.

OCTOBER

- Divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants
- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into a greenhouse or conservatory
- Plant out spring cabbages
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
- Prune climbing roses
- Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year
- Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild periods
- Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf
- Apply a last round of nemaslug before the temperatures fall too far - the fewer overwintering and breeding slugs, the less slug damage in spring

NOVEMBER

- Clear up fallen leaves from lawns and ponds
 - Only loosely tidy perennials - leave dead material on some until spring
 - Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
 - Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
 - Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
 - Plant out winter bedding
 - Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
 - Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well
 - Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
 - Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
 - Use a seasonal bonfire to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting
- BUT CHECK FOR HEDGEHOGS!**

Who cares for the planet?

Who cares about Winkleigh?

Winkleigh and Hollocombe are full of creative people - with lots of activities, long-established or new ones springing up, so sometimes it's hard to find out exactly what is going on. Winkleigh Online website, Distinctly Winkleigh or Facebook are all good places to start finding out. But what about the network of people in our parish whose passion is for the environment – our natural surroundings? Here's a quick tour of Winkleigh's environmental groups:

Winkleigh Biodiversity Group started in 2010 and has undertaken all sorts of community action, including tree hubs and planting, citizen science (pond-dipping, butterfly counts, dormouse nest surveys) and creating and maintaining the wild space behind the Sports Centre from 2012-2023. This is now known as **Winkleigh Community Nature Area**, managed by the Sports Centre trustees and encompasses a larger space, including existing wooded areas, new hedgerows and meadow.

Following Winkleigh Parish Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency in October 2019, the **Winkleigh Environment Group** was formed at their request and held activities such as nestbox making, a film-showing, a Repair Cafe, sowing wild flower seed on verges, and its latest activity was to arrange a talk on 'Rewilding Roborough Fields' in February 2023. Some people meet occasionally for a sociable drink and to talk about anything and everything 'green' - it's called "**Green Drinks**" and has been meeting in local pubs since 2010.

None of the groups have any political affiliations. They have supporters, rather than formal membership – some people have taken part regularly and some just



occasionally. Over the past 14 years, a sizeable number of local people have joined one or more activities. We are also fortunate that there are lots of individuals committed to furthering the protection and enhancement of our environment through their work on the Parish Council, Planning sub-group, businesses, churches and other organisations. So, the answer to my questions? **Lots of people do care!** If you are also looking for ways to get active in our community or would like to know more, we would be delighted to hear from you:

Kim J Melhuish

wildspacestorridge@gmail.com

winkleighbiodiversity.blogspot.com



Winkleigh Community Action and
Winkleigh Environment Group

HAPPY FROG. Sad Frog Loses Ancestral Home.

I was excited and delighted to take this photo of this beautiful frog in my garden a few weeks ago. You see I was keen to have some



frogs in my garden pond. So I carefully collected a small quantity of spawn from a local pond. Later I released most of the baby frogs back to the pond from whence they came. It's amazing to watch them grow and transform from spawn to little tadpoles and into little frogs and this brought back happy memories of childhood pond dipping.

Very sadly shortly after this photo was taken I learned the frog's ancestral home had been drained by the contractors for Alison Homes. Frogs may have been spawning in that pond for hundreds of years. Sad.

A local person aware of what had happened made efforts to engage with the contractors so they could correct the situation and of their legal obligation to protect the environment but so far to no avail.

Ironically their overlords are a hedge fund and the pond ran alongside a hedge but I guess there were not the funds to invest in that sort of hedge.

I once witnessed the sad sight of frogs spawning on a lawn. You see the new home owners had filled in the garden pond 'Health and safety gone mad' as they were convinced their children might fall in. Chicken wire can provide a solution in such circumstances to cover the pond or to make safety cages for the children.

Look after yourselves, those around you and the environment.

Richard Clarke

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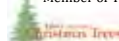
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Bee local

Playing a vital role in pollination, as well as in producing honey, Winkleigh beekeeper Alan Jacobs talked about his hobby to Rachel Gordon

Tucked away in a private area of Winkleigh Woods are two hives belonging to beekeeper Alan Jacobs – it's a peaceful and beautiful location far removed from the increasingly busy village.

"I've been doing this for around seven years and it's something I'd long been interested in – if you keep bees, you also continue to learn about them."

Alan, who is also a photographer specialising in nature, says he is a hobby beekeeper, although he still produces around 85 jars of honey a year. "These are sold at the Village Hall market, which takes place on the first Saturday of each month. Customers like the fact it's made with a great deal of care and is a local and natural product."

Honey can't be certified as organic as bees will collect nectar from many different plants, some of which may be treated with pesticides. But, as Alan points out, it is encouraging to see more effort being made to support nature and bees through planting wildflowers, including along the roadsides.

Bees feed on and require both nectar and pollen. The nectar is for energy and the pollen provides protein and other nutrients. Most pollen is used by bees as larvae food, but bees also transfer it plant-to-plant, providing the pollination services needed by nature.

Alan took a beekeeping course

before he set up his hives, and adds he learned a great deal from Marian Minton, who was long associated with the local beekeepers' association in Okehampton. "She was passionate about bees and was happy to pass on advice on caring for bees and honey." Sadly, Marian died in 2021, but she is well remembered for her expertise as an apiarist.

Bees are fascinating insects and live in a unique colony system. The hive is where the bees live and are born, going through the four stages of metamorphosis – egg, larva, pupa and adult.

It is the worker bees that are constantly active, and their tasks include guarding and cleaning the hive, building wax honeycomb, packing nectar and pollen in the cells as well as collection from flowers and plants.

They even fan dry air to evaporate excess water from the honey, putting



it into cells and then capping it with wax. The hive also contains propolis, a substance used in the hive to plug up small holes - this is also said to have anti-fungal health benefits.

“They typically fly a couple of miles to find food sources, often multiple times a day and visiting thousands of flowers, it’s incredible how hard they work.”

These bees also have a communication system using dance that shows where the food sources are located and the sun is used for navigation.

The majority of a hive’s occupants are worker bees. These are all females, which do not breed, while male bees are drones – there are only a few hundred of these, which have the sole purpose of mating with the queen.

Each hive has only one queen and Alan explains she is kept at the bottom of the hive - if she leaves, this can result in a swarm.

Up to 1500 eggs can be laid by the queen in a day, with the larvae fed by worker bees. In total a hive can house around 60,000 bees.

It is surprising, perhaps, that bees have such a short life span – workers only live around seven to eight weeks, while the queen lives far longer – around three to five years.

The life of a drone is also short and brutish – those that mate with the queen die afterwards, while the others that do not but return to live in the hive are evicted by workers before winter as they are superfluous to needs and they also then die.

If a worker bee stings someone, the insect will also die shortly afterwards.

Honey is the bees’ food and Alan harvests this, replacing it with a sugar syrup – in the winter months, he also leaves honey as this sustains the hive during colder weather, when the bees largely tend to congregate around the queen to keep her warm.

Honey is usually removed using a



bee smoker, which calms the bees, as he points out, they can be aggressive. Once at home, honey is removed from the cells by uncapping them and the honey is ‘spun’ from these into jars, using a centrifuge.

Alan points out that bees are being lost for a number of reasons, including climate change, loss of habitat because of development and industrial scale farming as well as use of pesticides. This is a global problem and he points out that in the US, vast almond farms in California – which can only exist because of pollination - there is concern about damage being inflicted on bees.

Many of these huge farms are using pesticides and commercial beekeepers transport truckloads of hives over thousands of miles for this purpose. Experience has shown that many bees die and having hives placed into a concentrated area encourages the spread of disease, particularly from the Varroa mite.

But, closer to home, UK bees are also under threat and Friends of the Earth has said 35 bee species risk extinction.

Small scale honey production has benefits for bees and consumers, ensuring honey is produced responsibly and bees are protected. Alan says some of the large commercial producers will sell honey that is adulterated with sugary substitutes and so it is not a pure product. He concludes:

“More and more people are realising that buying local brings many benefits and that includes honey.”

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ACE Archaeology Club

The annual excavation of the farmhouse at Moistown went ahead as usual but this time for four weeks. We only lost two or three days to rain and the odd afternoon to the heat. Such has been our summer! Lots of new diggers as well as the old hands who return to us eager and raring to go. Always room for more though. The trenches are now all covered up for the winter and some have been backfilled for added protection. Now the Director has to write it all up and it will be published on our website, in a few months. A couple of years ago we found a mystery coin on the site, which turned out to come from Ecuador and was dated to the 1800s. This year we have found another coin which had been turned into a pendant. One of the crew did some research and we think it might have come from Morocco. Why are these widely spread things on our site? We will continue to research. We had over 400 finds this year and these now have to be processed, pottery and glass, washed, metal cleaned off as far as we can and everything numbered and catalogued.

We also had a great Open Day, despite clashing with Mid-Devon Show. It was lovely to see so many interested and interesting people.

At the beginning of September, we have two very knowledgeable people coming to look at our pottery and help us identify and date some of it. They are John Allen and Kate Berlewen. John knows so much about pottery in the South West generally but Devon in particular and Kate is hoping to set up a



Eye view of Moistown (courtesy of Giles Warham)

reference collection of Devon pottery, known as a typology. Who knows, perhaps we will then be able to write up something about the pottery finds.

Our routes project has taken a bit of a back seat over the summer when everything focuses on the dig so we need to decide what to do with the work done so far and where we go with it.

ACE is going to be involved with Historic England and Devon Archaeology in some work in Winkleigh next year, watch this space for more news or check out Facebook and website later in the year when we will have more detail.

Talking of Winkleigh ACE had a visit to a Romano-British site that is being excavated prior to a housing development. Very interesting and great to see more work being done in the Mid-Devon and Torridge areas (roughly speaking). This part of Devon has always felt a little neglected when it comes to archaeology.

For more information check out Facebook and our website.
www.acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com

Erica Williamson

Financial Focus – Labour and the forthcoming UK Budget

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This quarter we are reflecting upon the UK change of government and how the forthcoming Labour budget may affect your finances.

In the UK, Labour have announced their intention that the ‘broadest shoulders should bear the heavier burden’. This statement was made during a speech by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer on 27th August. This is widely interpreted to imply that there are tax rises in the pipeline affecting those on higher incomes within the upcoming budget on 30th October.

In terms of economic output, the UK picture continues to improve with a reading of 53.4 in August on the S&P’s PMI, or Purchasing Managers Index, which was an improvement on July which read 52.8. A reading above 50 on this scale is considered a growth figure, whilst a figure below

50 indicates contraction. Concerns abound that the relatively fragile economic recovery may be crushed by the first Labour budget in October, which has promised additional taxation will be applied to current, record-high levels. Some consider it somewhat counter-intuitive to focus on a mantra of delivering economic growth, whilst coupling that vision with additional taxation. In general terms, many would argue that economic growth is usually achieved by facilitating investment, which in turn normally relies upon a greater amount of liquidity, or cash, to be made available within the local economy. Whilst this is often achieved by central banks lowering interest rates, thus making it cheaper for citizens and businesses to access finance and borrow money, governments may also act by lowering the corporate tax burden, where possible, to enable companies to invest in additional resources and grow, ultimately resulting in job creation and wage increases across the board.

In contrast, absorbing additional cash through higher taxation and then directly redistributing this money in certain ways, for example through additional pay rises to select public sector employees, may simply serve to fan the flames of inflation; the cash is still being injected back into the economy but in the form of increased spending power from certain individuals, rather than through underlying investment and projects that may result in tangible, long-lasting economic growth.

It remains to be seen exactly how this Labour government intend to achieve

the economic growth that they are aiming for. They have ruled out any increases to National Insurance, VAT or Income Tax.

One measure considered to be in the pipeline includes a flat rate of 30% on pension contributions. At present, income tax is effectively refunded on pension contributions on the basis of what would have been paid (e.g. 20%, 40% or 45%) and most may contribute up to what they earn (with a ceiling of £60,000 per annum before tax on pension contributions becomes due). A flat rate of 30% would mean that higher earners will pay 10% in tax on their pension contributions, additional rate tax payers would pay an extra 15%, whilst basic rate taxpayers would receive a 10% boost to their pension contributions. If implemented, this is forecast to raise £2.7Billion a year.

Inheritance tax (IHT) is under scrutiny, with the current allowances for the

passing on of agricultural land and business relief being touted as potential targets for Labour. However, many fear there will be further, widespread reform to the current system and existing allowances with respect to IHT.

The tax-free passing on of pension pots is also considered to be under review, with either inheritance tax or income tax, or possibly both, being applied to all these savings upon death. At present, no IHT is normally due and income tax is potentially payable on the pension monies only if the plan holder dies age 75 or above.

Council tax is a potential target for Labour, given the current system is based on house prices estimated in 1991. This system could receive a complete overhaul.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is currently charged at 10% or 18% (additional residential property) for basic rate taxpayers and 20% or 24% for higher



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or additional rate earners and 28% on carried interest. Initially the Liberal Democrats stated they would rethink these tax bands to be more similar to income tax – this would raise an estimated £5.2Billion a year.

A report by the Resolution Foundation (a Labour policy thinktank) has argued that £1Billion could be saved each year by capping ISA savings at £100,000.

Income tax thresholds are to be frozen until April 2028, a process known as ‘fiscal drag’ as inflation causes prices to rise whilst the amount of income tax payable is not being adjusted to reflect this. This is a form of stealth taxation.

Other planned tax raids that have been flagged openly by Labour include the windfall tax on the profits of oil and gas companies, which is to be extended to the end of the Parliament and increased by 3%, whilst investment allowances for this sector are to be

removed. Private schools will have their charitable status revoked, likely to be implemented from January 2025, or possibly September of the same year. With respect to ‘non-doms’, widespread reform is anticipated alongside a plan to increase the Stamp Duty surcharge for non-UK residents from 2% to 3%.

Independent financial planning from a Chartered professional may assist you to navigate the inevitable changes that are going to be implemented by the current government. Many independent advisory practices will offer you this advice without charge and all financial advice should be based on individual circumstances.

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Keir Mills helps to shine a light on Down syndrome

Thursday 21st March is World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. All over the world, events are held to amplify the voices of people who have Down syndrome, highlighting their vital role in our communities and calling for their full participation in anything that affects their lives.

Down's syndrome is a genetic condition in which a baby is born with an extra chromosome number 21 in the body's cells. The extra chromosome is associated with delays in the child's mental and physical development, as well as an increased risk for health problems. People who have Down syndrome are not all the same; every person who has the conditions is as individual as everyone else in the population and have more in common with their families than with another person who has the



condition. Down's syndrome is the most frequently recognised form of learning disability. A learning disability affects a person's ability to learn, it does not mean they cannot learn. Children with Down's syndrome follow the same developmental path as for all children and individuals have the same range of feelings and emotions as we all do. Most importantly, everyone who has Down's syndrome is a unique individual, full of potential.

The theme of WDSD 2024 is a call to "End the Stereotypes", and one young man from Winkleigh is doing his best to deliver that message. Keir Mills, 23, who lives with his parents Ian and Zena, has Down syndrome, but this has never held



him back in his pursuit of forging an acting career. Keir went through mainstream school and previously attended Winkleigh Primary School and Chulmleigh College before transferring to Petroc College in Barnstaple. He is a member of the ANTS (Actors of North Tawton) Theatre Group and the Get Changed Theatre Company in Okehampton. He also attends the Turning Tides Project in Crediton 2 days a week where he does music and dance.

Keir has appeared in various amateur productions locally but last year got his big break when he was invited to appear in a fashion photo shoot to launch a collection of clothing for renowned Glasgow fashion designer Franz Maggs. The commercial was produced and directed by film director Stuart Alexander, who was so impressed with Keir's acting skills he was immediately invited to star in a music video by Skerryvore, the well-known Scottish band. The video was to promote their latest single "Eye of the Storm" and

was released in February 2023 to great acclaim, with the band quick to hail Keir as the star of the video.

Keir's latest project has cast him in the lead role of another music video, this time by Peter Martin, a Brighton-based singer-song writer. The song "Out like a light" is a melancholic track which portrays a certain darkness around isolation, despondency and depression. The song is a real contrast to Keir's previous work, and allowed him to showcase his acting skills. The video was shot in Blackpool and Glasgow over two separate days, and included scenes from within the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, which was a real thrill for everyone involved. The video was again directed by Stuart Alexander who has collaborated with many UK bands including Gerry Cinnamon, Del Amitri, Altered Images and Nathan Evans.

"Keir absolute nailed it," said Stuart. "He is so professional and takes

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direction really well. Some of the scenes were really challenging with poor weather and various delays, but Keir never complained once. He is an absolute star and I can't wait to work with him again".

The video was officially launched on 13th March 2024 and has already been endorsed by many other artists and celebrities, including Frank Turner who stated on X (formerly Twitter): "the video features Keir Mills in a starring role and the whole thing is amazing".

With any form of disability, we often focus on what people can't do, rather than focus on what they can. Children and adults with Down syndrome often find activities more difficult, and learning can be impaired with the result that things take longer to learn. That does not mean that it can't be done, and Keir is a great example of someone who works hard at his craft and refuses to believe that his extra chromosome is a barrier to success.

Keir's dad Ian explains, "Everyone has very different levels of skill, knowledge and ability; exactly the same applies to children and adults with Down syndrome. We must avoid making assumptions and promoting

a stereotype which stops people with Down syndrome fulfilling their potential".

Stereotypes are extremely unhelpful, and the WDS2024 website has some real-life examples to highlight how hurtful and harmful such attitudes can be to people with Down syndrome. 21st March – a date chosen for its symbolism to Trisomy 21 – is a great opportunity to celebrate diversity, promote inclusion and debunk some long-held stereotypes.

Keir, and many others, are doing their best to change attitudes and minds, by showcasing their talents in a range of jobs and activities. Reality is changing, and perceptions are gradually shifting as we begin to appreciate the incredible contribution children and adults with Down syndrome make to our community and wider society. Thursday 21st March is a great opportunity to recognise this, and show some appreciation to some very special people within our communities.

You can always pop in and see Keir waiting tables at Fiona's Farm Shop near Winkleigh or in the cafe at RHS Rosemoor. However, you had better be quick, as Keir is adamant he will soon be on his way to Hollywood. And who are we to argue!

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Simon Hodgeson talks about the vagaries of the weather

January	143.7
February	14.3
March	166.1
April	76.9
May	48.2
June	41.3
July	143.6
August	70.2
September	105.1
October	126.0
November	174.8
December	160.0

If there is one thing the English are good at, then it is talking about the weather!!! Especially about the rain - so here we go.
Hollocombe rainfall records go back to 1977 and the total for 2023 was 1270mm - which is 170mm above the 45 year average

(no statistics though - we need Collin for that!). What we do know is that Feb '23 was the driest month in all that time, only 14.3mm. But the following month of March was the 2nd wettest in 45 years

with twice the average rain.
Otherwise the year was fairly uneventful, no great deluges, the most recorded was 26.9mm on 13th January, which was hardly enough to make the stream flood. Remember that the rain is collected at 9am in winter and recorded for the previous day, so daily amounts are spread over 2 days. Even in December when there was only one day without rain the total of 160mm was nowhere near the 291.6mm in 1999.
So, is our weather wetter nowadays? I think it is more a case of the rain being spread out over longer periods so it feels wetter and the winters are warmer now, so the darker months feel more miserable!! Maybe we have just been lucky not to have had the serious rain of places like Boscawen otherwise the tone of this might be different.





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The Curiosity Café

The Village Hall. Sunday 29th Sept 2pm-5.30 pm

Following our first two successful events. The Curiosity Café is back by popular demand. Crafts, Makers, Collectors, Artists, Musicians, Talks and Performance etc.


Feed your mind and your tummy, delicious cakes and quiche made by our lovely chef Ali Leah of the Warm Space Project.

The first part of the afternoon there will be a variety of show and tell's with refreshments and some ambient acoustic music. We have an in tune play me piano. The latter part of the afternoon will be talks and performance.

Also back by popular demand Bartek with his A.I. generated, interactive, big

screen projected, motion and sound activated odyssey. We invite spoken word and movement artists to participate bring your poem's short stories see them animated on the big screen. Prepare to be wowed!

We are also planning on a Christmas Special so if you have any ideas or activities you could contribute or you are able to volunteer on the day with set up etc please get in touch. Meet lots of interesting things and see lots of interesting people!

 The Curiosity Café Winkleigh.
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Winkleigh Volunteer Service

PATIENT NOTICE – Temporary Winkleigh Branch Surgery Closure

From Monday 16 September 2024, Winkleigh Branch Surgery will temporarily close to complete the extension and refurbishment of the branch surgery which will provide 2 additional consulting rooms and improved facilities for the patients and staff to serve. We anticipate the closure will be in place for 4 weeks.

HOW WILL WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICES?

Medication Collections

A small portacabin will be delivered to Winkleigh Surgery over the weekend of 14/15 September, prescriptions will be delivered and collected from the portacabin on a daily basis. No prescriptions or computers can be stored overnight.

APPOINTMENTS

We have been liaising with Angela Findlay & Sue Ware to ascertain if Angela and Sue are able to organise sufficient volunteers to run a car service to Chulmleigh 2 days a week **for patients who have no access to transport.**

- The service is planned to run Monday & Fridays.
- Appointments at our Chulmleigh site will be held for Winkleigh patients to coincide with the voluntary transport service.
- Our Wallingbrook team will be able to assist patients who have no transport booking the service.

Additional clinics will be held at Chulmleigh whilst Winkleigh Surgery is closed.

Please note whilst we recognise the closure will be difficult for patients with no access to transport, we recognise there is no other suitable premises for this short time that will meet the Care Quality Commission regulations, which includes infection prevention and control, protecting patients' confidentiality and security of the premises. We hope this announcement clarifies our commitment to provide continued services during the closure period.

Thank you to Angela, Sue, and team for providing their time and support in the provision of this service and to all the patients and neighbours for their support and understanding during the building works.

WINKLEIGH VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The Winkleigh Volunteer service has worked with Wallingbrook to mitigate the closure of the surgery. As some of our volunteers will be busy ferrying patients twice a week to Chulmleigh we will struggle to carry out our normal service, but we will do our best.

Please give as much notice as possible if you need transport to medical appointments.

As always, we are desperate for volunteers: especially with the temporary closure of Winkleigh and the coming covid and flu vaccination process resumes this autumn. Please consider volunteering for this much needed service. For more information ring 01837 682616 or 07455365144.

What have the Romans ever done for us?

Now that we have evidence of this large settlement at Winkleigh during the time of the Roman occupation what did the Romans think of us?

Definitely not too keen on the weather:

'The climate is wretched, with its frequent rains and mists, but there is no extreme cold... The soil will produce good crops, except olives, vines and other plants which usually grow in warmer lands.'

Tacitus ; Late 1st Century AD.

But Caesar was more complimentary:

The population is exceedingly large, the ground thickly studded with homesteads, closely remembering those of the Gauls, and the cattle very numerous... There is timber of every kind.

Julius Caesar, The Gallic War
[vol 12. Mid 1st century BC.

It was obviously worth conquering:

Grain, cattle, gold, silver and iron...also hides and slaves and dogs that are by nature suited to the purposes of the chase.

Strabo Geographica [4.5.2] BC/AD

And Boudicca's rebellions did not break out everywhere.

The inhabitants of Britain on the promontory called 'Belerion' are especially friendly to strangers and have adopted a civilised way of life because of their interaction with traders and other peoples. It is they who work the tin...

Didorus Siculus, Bibliotheca Historica [5.1]
1ST Century BC

Penny Griffiths

[Thanks to Bill Horner for the quotes]



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Winkleigh Fair July 2024

With the sun setting and an Aperol Spritz in hand, we reflect on what a successful and fun fair week we had this year. We had another jam packed week with an event each evening, from the traditional opening ceremony on the Sunday to the end of the week with the band on Fair Saturday.

We had a wonderful day for our opening ceremony on Sunday 14th July, many people attended in the gorgeous sunshine to join the Vicar in blessing the well, with lovely music, entertainment and cream teas it was a lovely afternoon.

In spite of the rain, the people of Winkleigh and surrounding villages came to support the dog show and we were overwhelmed with the amount of people and their dogs that attended! West Ridge vets maintained high spirits and professionalism all evening to make the event happen.

On Tuesday we had eyes down and dabbers at the ready to call BINGO! It was fast and fun night for all.

Wednesday saw the sun return in time for live music, a bbq, ice cream and a beautiful selection of Vintage vehicles.

It was great to be a part of the Community Centre's welcome evening, where everyone could see what our village has to offer for all.

Friday arrived quickly and it was time for thinking, we teamed up with the Village Hall committee to host a wonderful village quiz.

The week culminated with the main event! During set up in the morning the sun evaded us yet again as we set up the gazebos in the rain, we had to eventually admit defeat and move the day time activities to the village hall and community centre. Thank goodness for the wonderful

spaces we have in our village.

With live music, challenging children's games and inflatables to test your stamina, got all the kids hyped up. The 4pm band, Idly Wild played in the Seven Stars to a packed-out audience, getting people lubricated for the night ahead.

Not only did the weather cause some operational challenges for the day, the sewers also decided to throw us some curveballs. However, as a village you didn't let this stop you having a brilliant time!

The tug of war went ahead outside the Butchers with the youngsters all the way up to the Young Farmers who nearly took out the Kings gazebo with their strength (or lack of!). With bbq's and ice cream to keep people's energy levels high, it was time for the main band at 8pm.

Missin' Links brought the end of the week to a triumphant close, people ignored the smells of the street, forgot the rain that had tried to spoil the day and everyone let their hair down to dance and smile the night away with their friends and family.

Without everyone's help we would not be able to continue this amazing tradition of the oldest village fair in the country. We would love to individually list everybody that gave their time, donations and supplied us with the necessary equipment to run the fair, however, we don't have a large enough page!

Massive thank you to everyone involved and watch this space for details of the Christmas Fair...

Liz Rooke

(Fair committee member)



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Who will you be today? ...children choose at Scribbleton

Children can now let their imaginations run wild right here in Winkleigh at the newly opened play centre – Rachel Gordon met the founders, Sarah and Martyn Cole

Excited children from all over Devon – and beyond – can now be seen heading in their droves to Winkleigh airfield. The destination is Scribbleton, a new play centre that offers an immersive role play experience.

Scribbleton is run by Sarah and Martyn Cole, a talented and creative couple from Okehampton who designed and built the interior from scratch. The ‘little town’ is based in a spacious industrial unit with plentiful parking outside. Inside, Sarah’s long held ideas have been brought to life, as she explains: “I always enjoyed a CBeebies series called Biggleton with my son, Joey, who was then aged about one. It was based on a town made out of cardboard where children took on various jobs and had adventures and I thought this concept would translate well to a play centre, where the sets would resemble pages from a colouring book.”

A WORLD OF ACTIVITY

Sarah has plenty of experience in early years’ education and ran a number of baby and toddler development groups for young children called Tots Play. She wanted Scribbleton to be very different from the standard soft play offering.

For children – and parents and carers



– an imaginative role play centre offers more benefits. Soft play centres can be quite frenetic places where children may become overheated both physically and emotionally as well as them being more difficult to supervise because of access issues and the equipment.

In contrast, Scribbleton encourages parents and carers to be part of the play activity. “Children particularly like sending adults to the Scribbleton prison, fortunately, there is an escape tunnel for them to get out,” says Martyn.

The ‘town’ has a total of 11 vibrantly coloured sets which encourages children



to take on various roles, they can don costumes and play with some 300 props. The sets include a village stores, police and fire stations, a vet, farm, flower market, hospital and jail. There are vibrant colours and artwork everywhere, including clouds and rainbows hanging from the ceiling and the two guard dragons, Carla and Monty.

Positioned centrally is a special area for very young children and babies and there is a separate room where parties can be held.

WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY

Sarah is also planning to hold classes such as baby massage, yoga and signing. She adds: "We also want this space to be available for community events such as clubs and classes such as for home educators." A further feature is the sensory room, which has great appeal for the youngest as well as children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The aim is to be as inclusive as possible. Scribbleton is aimed at children aged 0 to 7, but older children, such as siblings, can also attend, provided they are supervised by an adult and follow the rules of play, which include no running around.

Sarah and Martyn both say how much they are enjoying Winkleigh and may even consider moving to the area in the

future. As Martyn says: "There is a great community here and we always work with local businesses." This included glass doors with the neighbouring glazing business, while the artwork for the beech plywood sets was produced by the exceptional local artist, Ryan Isaac from Barnstaple. The flooring, designed to resemble cobblestones, is from a company in Torrington. South West Fixings was used for timber and materials and a business called Design Shop, in Barnstaple, printed out the sets. Local tradespeople were also used to help with the building.

Scribbleton's coffee shop – a 'real' facility as opposed to the 'Doodle Diner' which is one of the sets, also uses local produce, including No.1 coffee from Okehampton and cakes from baker Sarah Lomax from Riddlecombe and Victoria Alcott near Tiverton. Even the café's ice-cream is from North Tawton's Barzotelli Gelato.

TAKING OFF

Since launching, the couple have taken on six staff, and all are working with a huge amount of energy and commitment to ensure visitors of all ages have fun.

For Sarah and Martyn, the hours are long and the work demanding, not least, they handle all the management as well as being hands-on – they are committed to

the centre having high levels of hygiene – between each 2 hour play session, there is a through clean during the 45 minute break, before the next one begins.

Meanwhile, Martyn continues to have a full-time job as an engineer at Premier Foods in Lifton and he is also a first-rate carpenter – he took on responsibility for the interior building work and set installation at Scribbleton and he also works at the centre when time permits, particularly at weekends.

But it's clearly very rewarding to see the business take off. As Sarah says, confidence grew when their own children – alongside 7-year-old Joey, they also have 4 year old Thea – thoroughly enjoyed an early play session. "We were still finishing off before we opened and Joey and Thea went round all the sets, they were completely engrossed in everything and we realised if they were loving being

'Scribblers', so would other children."

Even in these early weeks, there are many highly positive reviews and parties are booked up many weeks in advance. Children are coming from the local area, but also further afield, including Somerset and Cornwall.

Martyn says they are considering opening a second Scribbleton in south Devon and the business may even be offered on a franchise basis in years to come.

As word grows, it's clear the Scribbleton experience is a much-needed asset for Winkleigh, as a little town where children can live out their big dreams and make unforgettable memories.

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FOOTBALL ROUND UP

Jodie-Kate Johns reports on the results on and the changes off the pitch

Since the previous Winkleigh Football Club update, we've seen big changes at the club. New manager, Lee Green, has jumped straight into the role, gaining some fantastic signings and taking the team through their pre-season fixtures with fierce confidence, leaving everyone with promising hopes. In pre-season, Winkleigh have played teams from several different leagues including North Devon Premier, Devon League, St Piran League, Inter 1 and South Devon League.

The results are as follows:

Fremington 2 - 2 Winkleigh
Winkleigh 7 - 1 Landkey
Winkleigh 10 - 4 Appledore Lions
Winkleigh 0 - 1 Appledore FC Reserves
Winkleigh 5 - 1 Holsworthy Reserves
Winkleigh 3 - 1 Kilkhampton
Putford 2 - 14 Winkleigh
North Molton 6 - 1 Winkleigh
Winkleigh 2 - 2 Windmill FC

As you can see, a varied set of results but with 5 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses, it's left everyone with a sense of optimism as Winkleigh play their first league game of the season on Saturday 24th August, where the team will be stepping out in a brand new kit, kindly sponsored by Southwest Fixings Ltd.

The new signings previously mentioned include players of all different ages from all over the area, with a few younger players from

Winkleigh - look out for faces you may recognise!

Here's what Lee has to say ahead of the season:

"We're really pleased to have retained the majority of our players from last season, losing only a few to retirement, injury and travelling. On a positive note, we have new additions to the squad giving us a great balance of youth and experience. Overall, pre-season has gone to plan and we're looking forward to the league season opening game".

Off the pitch, we have been doing some internal works within our changing rooms, making the space a little bigger and giving it an overall refresh. The 6-a-side tournament held in July was another massive success, seeing teams from all over Devon make the trip to Winkleigh to compete - next year will be our 4th year of the tournament!

Be sure to follow our Facebook page, Winkleigh Football Club to stay up to date with all upcoming fixtures, events and news! We've got some interesting events in the pipeline I'm sure everyone will enjoy.

Finally, Winkleigh Football Club are utterly saddened by the passing of Derek Miller - a long standing supporter of the club who even played for Winkleigh at one point. Our deepest condolences are with Margaret, WFC President, and her family at this time.



In Tom Robinson's final Winkleigh FC football round up for DW he announces that his playing days are over and remembers a great supporter of the club

Winkleigh football club boasts a very proud and in recent times a very successful history. A history that can be tracked all the way back until 1909 when the club was founded and the first ball would be kicked on the hallow turf Winkleigh still use today. It's a long lasting heritage that everyone who has played a part in over the many years should be very honoured and proud to be a part of.

If you played, help make the teas, brought the children to watch, sponsored the club, ran the line, managed or simply had an interest to ask someone what the score was? Then you have played a part in the club's history and you've proven it's so much more than a sports club, it's part of the village's living history.

I say this because I have always been passionate about wearing the red and white of Winkleigh. Watching the mighty Winkleigh as a kid, I couldn't wait to be old enough and finally kick a ball down at the sports pitch myself. My hunger was only intensified when watching Winkleigh win the title back in 2003 with the local greats like Darren Turner, Boltman and the Glanville brothers to name just a few. As many of us find out time moves so quickly and before

I knew it.... I had finally turned 16 and I was making my long awaited debut for Winkleigh 2nd team, I can still remember the nerves, the butterflies, the what if I score the winner. It didn't matter about the standard, all that mattered was I could finally represent Winkleigh FC. Time moved on and so did my status, finally breaking in to the first team. Over that time came and went the legends I remembered..... leaving the door open for the young talent to come and keep this fantastic club surviving and thriving.

After 16 years of playing time, 11 years of them at Winkleigh I have to announce this will be my last Winkleigh FC football round up as I make the tough decision to hang up my boots and become another player for the Winkleigh archives. As much as my body is painfully telling me to give it up, there also comes a time where every player has to be honest with themselves and say the time is right. Winkleigh are in a very good place with lots of exciting young players with a great young manager at the helm. The Board behind the team is working as hard as ever to ensure the team runs smoothly which makes the entire club a pleasure to be around. I encourage the entire village


to continue to support the team, back the club and continue to be a part of Winkleigh FC long proud history.

I have one last segment to write and I am very honoured to be given the task to do such a service for a very special gentleman. Winkleigh FC was made a little less bright in August when we heard the sad and sudden passing of Mr Derek Miller, husband to long lasting club president Margaret Miller. Derek was someone I always noticed as a child because like myself he watched nearly every match he could. I always remember him in what I call the terraces watching proud as punch win, draw or lose. As I grew up around the club it was only then did I realise how much the club meant to Derek. Volunteering, donating, working was just a few of the tasks Derek and wife Margaret would undertake year on year. What will forever last with me about him was Derek's humbleness to never seek recognition for his loyalty. To him it was a proud duty to represent the club before himself every time and I will forever have admiration for him because of it.

As Derek grew older and his body begun to fail, Derek didn't give up on the club making sure Margaret could still take him to every game possible. The away games became more trickier for both to navigate but I can put money on it Derek would be the first to know what the score was. Incredibly he still managed to enjoy two bus outings with the football team, both ironically coming to Lyme Regis. One saw Winkleigh lift their second league title in the club's history. Derek in his twilight years now still managed to be a part of history and that was only cemented when he was

reduced to a tear when he heard the chants of 'there's only one Derek Miller' sung by the entire squad, a moment that gives me goosebumps to this day and a moment I'm proud he got to witness.


Derek only played once for Winkleigh quoting 'if someone is better than me, they deserve to play'. An attitude that only advocates the type of kind caring and team player the man was, showing you don't necessarily have to have played hundreds of games to be an icon of the club. Hard work, loyalty and passion can come in many forms and he is evidence of just that. Derek made a lasting mark on my Winkleigh career along with many others to wear the shirt, we will miss his ever presence but his legacy will never die. We send our regards to his entire family and they will forever have a place with the Winkleigh FC family.



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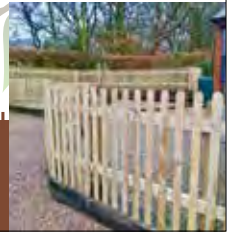


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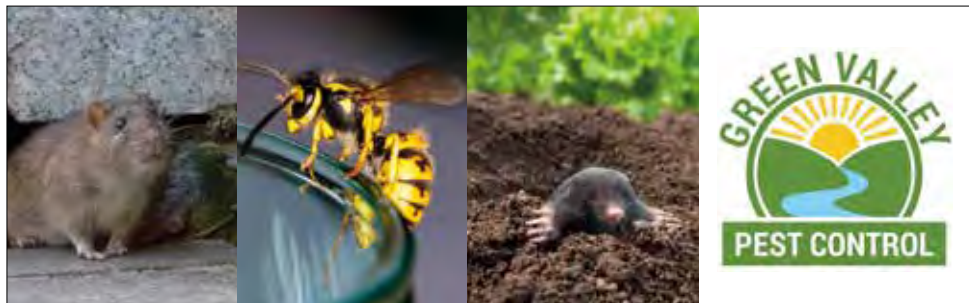
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REGULARS

MONDAY

Short Mat Bowls 1:45pm-4:15pm Sports Hall

Netball Club 7:30pm-8:30pm Sports Hall

FitSteps - 6:30pm and 7:30pm Sports Centre

TUESDAY

Free 'Sewcial Crafternoon' at Catkin

Blooms 1:00-3:00pm

Badminton 7:00pm-9:00pm Village Hall

WEDNESDAY

Mini market & charity coffee morning

9:30am-10:30am Community Centre

Tap Dancing 7:00pm-8:00pm Village Hall

Youth Club 7:00pm-9:00pm Sports Hall

Kung Fu 6:30pm-8:00pm & 8:00pm-9:00pm Community Centre

THURSDAY

Winkleigh Art Group 10:00-14:00
Community Centre

Tai Chi 10:30-12:00 Village Hall

Tiny Tots 9:30-11:15 Sports Hall

Therapeutic Pilates 19:15-20:45 Village Hall

Tai Chi 19:30-21:30pm Sports Centre

FRIDAY

Youth Club 7:00pm-9:00pm Sports Centre

Therapeutic Pilates 9:30am-12.30pm
Village Hall

Short Mat Bowls 13:45-16:15 Sports Hall

September

27th Winkleigh Football Club Quiz Night
– 7pm Village Hall

29th The Curiosity Cafe, 2:00pm-5:30pm
Village Hall

October

1st Winkleigh Morris taster sessions,
Community Centre 7:30pm.

3rd Winkleigh Friendship Club, Community
Centre 14.30 – 16.30

5th Winkleigh Monthly Market, Village Hall
10:00am to noon

8th Winkleigh Morris taster sessions,
Community Centre 7:30pm.

9th Church Wives Group, Village Hall
2.30pm-4.30pm

17th Winkleigh Friendship Club,
Community Centre 14:30 – 16:30

25th Movie Night - "One Life" 6:30pm for
7pm Village Hall

26th Angela Findlay video presentation
"Climbing the Highest Cliff in Greenland"
7pm-9pm Village Hall

31st Winkleigh Friendship Club,
Community Centre 14:30 – 16:30



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November

2nd Winkleigh Monthly Market, Village Hall 10:00am to noon

8th Movie Night - "ELVIS" 6.30pm for 7pm Village Hall

9th November RAF Winkleigh Remembrance 10:30am The Airfield

10th Early Bird craft, gifts and decorations sale Recreation & Sports Centre 11:30 – 15:30

10th Craft & Gift Fair Village Hall

12th Winkleigh Friendship Club trip to Strawberry Fields and Tavistock £12

12th Church Wives Group, Village Hall 2:30pm-4:30pm

14th Winkleigh Friendship Club, Community Centre 14:30 – 16:30

16th Indoor and outdoor yard sale Recreation & Sports Centre 11:30 – 14:30

16th Children's Decoration and Crafts Village Hall

28th Winkleigh Friendship Club, Community Centre 14:30 – 16:30

December

6th Movie Night - "It's a Wonderful Life" Colour version. 6.30pm for 7pm Village Hall

7th Christmas market - 10am-12pm Village Hall

12th Winkleigh Friendship Club, Community Centre 14.30 – 16.30

21st Children's Disco Sports Centre 19.00 – 21.00 Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian, younger children of people attending as adult to the child at disco can bring any younger siblings if they cannot get babysitter.



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elainecoldman@btinternet.com

Thursday 19.00 - 21.00 **Tai Chi**
jason@taoyinarts.co.uk

Thursday **Tiny Tots** 9.30 - 11.15
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Friday **Youth Club** 19.00 - 21.00
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Rachel Goldsworthy tells the story of the

Tidy Bear Bin on Elms Meadow purchased and installed by Winkleigh Parish Council.

At 2 pm on 20th August, families from Elms Meadow plus friends and relatives met outside the Play Park, so that the children could plant crocuses around the plot upon which Winkleigh Parish Councillor Adam Wonnacott had installed the new Tidy Bear Bin. Some of the children involved are shown in this photo of the event taken by Parish Councillor Greg Goldsworthy. Altogether there were over 20 children there to help.

The Crocus Bulbs were kindly donated by Teresa and Dave of Pet, Home and Garden Stores especially for this occasion, so a big **Thank you** to them.

Although there is a smaller bin inside the Play Park which is regularly emptied by Torridge Council Residual Waste Team (not the same as the domestic waste or recycling team for households) this is hidden from view by the hedge and not in a prominent position. Unless you are actually inside the play park which is designed only for pre-school age children, you wouldn't know it's there.

Elms Meadow is probably the safest outside play area for children of Primary School age within Winkleigh, as it has no through roads and the children play in and around the park area, on the road sides and pavements and in the car parking areas. It's great to see children out playing as in days gone by and not skulking around indoors with video games and mobiles, and without doubt they take care when any cars approach and they also look out for each other. Now the children of Elms Meadow and their friends who play with them, also adults walking through, have a focal point and their own Tidy Bear to whom **everyone** can 'feed litter'. This Bear can be seen from almost any direction and Torridge have agreed to empty it regularly along with their bin



inside the park. There have been a few teething troubles with their emptying it but we hope that now a regular Tuesday visit from Residual Waste will be in place.

Already there has been a noticeable improvement in the amount of litter (especially after recycling day when it's windy – I must emphasise it is **not** just the children's litter) and many people have remarked on how much better it is generally. Well done all those who have helped to make the whole area tidy, especially one 5 year old who makes it a special job almost every day according to her older sister.

An extra plea to anyone playing with balloons or water balloons, not just in Elms Meadow but anywhere. Please make sure you pick up all the balloons and bits of balloons. Even the new Biodegradable ones still last 10 years, but more importantly they are made of latex and can get stuck in the digestive tracts of birds, wildlife and pets, and can be fatal, even a small child could get latex stuck in their throat. It is extremely dangerous for any creature. Except one! A Tidy Bear!

Thanks to Winkleigh Parish Councillors, especially Andrew Warner and Adam Wonnacott who made it all happen.



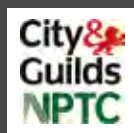
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We wish you all the best for the future. Let us know how you get on.

Editorial Team at Distinctly Winkleigh



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gemma Jenkins and Kieran McGinley on the birth of their daughter Evelyn Louise McGinley. Evelyn was born on 7th July and weighed 5lb 12ozs.

The Z Pods Have Landed

Five modular homes have now been erected in Sandford.

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DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The Winkleigh Society publishes Distinctly Winkleigh quarterly at the end of **March, June, September** and early **December**. Copies are available free of charge to all homes and businesses in the Parish (many hand delivered others available from village shops).

Please email Articles to articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk and Adverts to adverts@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk One-off posters for community 'not-for-profit' events are free of charge.

Please ensure that any images you submit are of the highest possible resolution and that all articles and images are copyright-free. All articles submitted for publication may be subject to editing, primarily for space or layout reasons.

Note also that it takes only 500 words to fill each (A5) page without any images.

Please be aware 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 accept any responsibility for the accuracy of any information, goods or services advertised in adverts or articles.

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All residents of Winkleigh Parish are welcome to attend and vote at Winkleigh Society General Meetings. Further information about the Society can be accessed at:
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