

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 49

Spring 2014

Cover sponsored by

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

The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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Winkleigh Society News

A series of lectures by both local people and visitors has been arranged for Friday evenings in early spring 2014.

7.30 – 9.30 pm, at the Community Centre. Admission £2

Talks last about 50 minutes, followed by coffee and questions.

21 st Feb	Michael Winter	Devon Farming: past, present and future
28 th Feb	Kenton Rogers	Trees, benefits, and threats
7 th Mar	Spencer Hodgetts	Biomimicry
21 st Mar	Matt Edworthy	Science in the Antarctic
28 th Mar	Mhairi Mackie	The Sustainable Village
11 ^h Apr	Peter Howard	Looking after our own place

The first two lectures, on January 31st and February 7th, were very interesting and well-attended.

Please note that the date of the final talk has been changed, from April 4th to April 11th, due to a prior booking at the Community Centre.

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Ash Wednesday (5th March this year) will probably have come and gone before you read this. It's the first day of Lent, the season many people associate with giving things up. But it's also an opportunity to take things on – all in order to deepen our spiritual lives. One such opportunity is our series of Lent Addresses followed by Compline (Night Prayer) which this year will be on a Thursday evening at 7.00 p.m. in Church starting on 13th March.

Lent is a season which ends with the greatest of all the Christian Festivals namely Easter when we give thanks for Jesus risen from the dead. The week leading up to Easter Sunday (20th April) is known as Holy Week when we focus on the last few days of Jesus' life on earth. There is a service every day that week beginning on Palm Sunday when (weather permitting) we shall have an outdoor procession following a donkey, the animal on which Jesus rode as he entered the city of Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday (17th April — 7.30 p.m.) will see us gather around the altar as we celebrate the Last Supper with a Eucharist in which we hear his own words 'This is my Body, This is my Blood', after which we process to the Garden of Gethsemane set up in the Lady Chapel. On Good Friday (18th April – 10.00 a.m.) we return to stand at the foot of the Cross and witness his suffering and death for our sakes.

Holy Saturday (not Easter Saturday, that's 26th April) sees us gather after dark (8.30 p.m.) to light the Easter fire and from that the great Easter candle as we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, a celebration that continues on Easter Day (9.30 a.m.).

We hope that you will come and join us for any or all of these services — you will be very welcome.

Before that is Mothering Sunday (30th March) when the service at 9.30 a.m. will include the children from the Sunday School and the traditional giving of flowers to mothers (young and old!).

The night before there will be a concert in Church given by the Winkleigh Singers at 7.30 p.m. Keep an eye out for more details and posters nearer the time.

We have recently begun a house group called 'Good News' which is meeting fortnightly to explore the scriptures and the faith and deepen our understanding of them and the Jesus we meet there. This is open to anyone and if you would like more information please do let me know.

The Flower Ladies Easter Lilies 2014

Each Easter we put lilies in the flower arrangements in All Saints church in memory of loved ones.

Their names are entered into the book of remembrance that will be on display on the table beside the screen pedestal.

We invite you to 'buy a lily' this year in memory of 'loved ones'. Envelopes for this purpose (with instructions) are placed in the church, at CHANGES by kind permission of Valerie Bissett, D & S Supplies by kind permission of Shirley & Steve, and from any of the flower ladies. Price of lilies £3.00. The closing date for order will be Saturday 29th March 2014.

We also invite you to come along to All Saints Church – Winkleigh during Easter week on Tuesday 22nd April at 10.30am for 'Coffee & Cakes' with the flower ladies to view the lilies in the displays.

We are always looking for new arrangers to join us – should you be interested please contact **Marcia Butt** – (83734) or **Linda Millership** (680040).



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Directory Corrections

It was probably too much to hope for that there would be no errors in the new Winkleigh Information Directory. Here are some corrections:

1. **Short Mat Bowling** Jan Ovenden's telephone number is 01837 83853
2. **General Store (Londis)** It is Lin & Red Hanlon – Not Liz.
3. **Howes Estates** Telephone number has been changed to 01837 83393
4. **Taw Valley Quilters** meet monthly, 4th Saturday 10am – 3pm (not 4pm)
5. **The Painting Group** should have been listed as the Art Group, as their sessions in the Community Centre cover other art forms as well as painting.
6. **Caravan Sales – Surf Bay Leisure** Telephone numbers shown are incorrect – should be 0844 88 00118 or 01837 680100 for export orders
7. **Lavender Products** - The contact is Vivienne Trusler
8. **Allotment Group** – The contact is now Pam Berry on 01837 680193
9. **Women's Institute** – Clare Tricker is now the contact person. Monthly meetings in the Village Hall from 7.30 – 9.30pm

New Addition: **Catkin Blooms** Florist, Catherine Kenny, Park House, Winkleigh
07870 166985 catkinblooms@yahoo.co.uk www.catkinblooms.co.uk



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THE KINGS ARMS

The Current Landlady, Nicola Cooper, took over The Kings Arms in early October and has had to overcome a lot of hurdles to get the business open and trading due to the previous occupants. The furniture along with the memorabilia and the log burner were all sold. The other big item that upset a lot of guests was the Captains Table. All of that is history and is behind us. What is needed now is the community supporting Nicky and helping her to make The Kings Arms a success again and she can only do that with your support and help.

It will never be the same as other occupants from years ago but it can be as good. The food is excellent pub grub serving Monday to Saturday from 12.30 until 21.30pm and Sunday roasts from 12.30 until 5pm.

The Kings Arms is also putting on the odd event throughout the year, so please keep an eye out for them. They successfully hosted a 70's night on New Years Eve and have since hosted a quiz to help raise money for the local school which was organised by the school. There is a traditional Irish band booked for 8th March to kick off Paddies Week with great drinks offers. Another quiz will be organised for March 30th 7.30pm, so please go along and support them. They are working alongside The Seven Stars for the Winkleigh Fair and putting on a 50's themed night to coincide with the vintage vehicle show.

Its your community pub, without you, there will be no Kings Arms

CoHeat Services

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01837 83080 or 07768 164696

2015 CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHS

We need Photographs for the 2015 Calendar, preferably images of Winkleigh & the surrounding area and especially those with a seasonal element, but everything will be considered.

We have some beauties but need more.

Please send images to **Alan Jacobs**. email: ajrjacobs@live.co.uk

SNOOKER CLUB

This article is primarily dedicated to the juniors of our club. Anthony Tanner, better known by the juniors as ‘the boss’, has penned an account of our junior section which is summarised as follows.

“The junior club, in its present form, has been in existence since 2003. We started with about 10 members which included the first girl, Sophie Popham. In 2007 two more girls, Sarah Woodison and Katrina Beer, joined and now the mix is seven girls and three boys. Needless to say the boys are not too keen on being beaten by the girls. (No change there then !!)

The original idea of the club was to give the youngsters a club night of their own where they could learn and/or improve their snooker skills. Various competitions were quickly started and have proved highly successful over the years since. Winners get trophies to keep with some small trophies up for grabs from a ‘mini competition’ around Christmas time. In 2013, for example, ‘the pairs’ competition was won by Sarah Woodison and Joseph Swain, whilst the main singles competition was won by Sapphire Rea after potting the last ball of the last frame. The boys, represented by Freddie Finch, did win the knockout cup however.

We like to encourage the parents to get involved, and so each year we have a parents’ evening. This event, now becoming an annual event, is where the juniors take great delight in trying to beat their elders. If previous events are anything to go by, a great time will be had by all.”

The club has recently been redecorated and now ‘looks the part’. Junior club night is on a Tuesday evening, so if you would like to get involved then come down to the sports centre. Numbers are restricted so there could a waiting list but please do not let that stop anyone.

Belated best wishes for 2014.

Dave Ferguson 01837 83660 (email : winkleighsnookerclub@gmail.com)



Hair salon

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Ladies, Gents and children are all welcome!

We also offer Ear piercing, Manicures and pedicures so come and treat yourself or someone else.

Also available on the premises:

Acupuncture from Sue Williams

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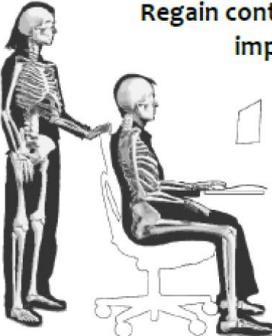


WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

- Preparation of a draft plan continues.
- The **509 adult and 59 youth responses** to the **Parish Questionnaire**, as well as comments provided during public consultation events, have been analysed and reviewed by individual topic.
- Narrative reports outlining issues and proposals covering a wide range of community themes are being prepared for inclusion in a draft plan.
- The draft plan will cover important areas such as **traffic, housing, development, business, community services and the environment**.
- We hope to have a draft plan for review and consultation by **late spring 2014**.
- All individual questionnaires have now been destroyed. Individual confidentiality has been protected.
- A summary data base has been compiled. You may view the results on the **Community Plan website**.
- Further comments on issues and proposals for inclusion in the **Parish Plan** are always welcome.
- Keep up to date on progress through ***Distinctly Winkleigh***, by using our Facebook page [**WinkleighParishPlan**] or the website: **www.winkleighplan.co.uk**

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Mrs Philippa J Lewis MSTAT : Mobile 07708 269971
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Mrs Doris Malaprop meets a friend at the Bus Stop

Oh! Allo Doris . . . you been away again then?

Only a short break, dear . . . George and me went on a city break to Paris . . . it was exhausting! We did far too much. We saw the Tweeteries Palace, the Moaner Liza in the Loo (what she's got to moan about no-one could tell us) . . . we went up the Trifle Tower and George came over all queer . . . we did a tour of Nostrodamus Cathedral with all those flying buttocks . . . why they couldn't build it strong enough in the first place beats me . . . in the evening we went to the Moulang Rude, which George enjoyed a lot, although I felt like a square peg in sheep's clothing . . . not my cup of tea . . . and talking of tea, we couldn't get a decent cup of tea the whole trip . . . and George's allegory didn't go down well with all that French food . . . but all in all we had a good time . . . I'd be barking up the wrong rails if I said differently . . . Oh! here's our bus dear.

Peter Monkcom

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BEAVER SCOUTS

The Beaver Scouts have been going since last September and all the leaders are enjoying themselves and we hope all 17 children who make up our colony are also loving it. The feed-back is positive. Our theme for the first term was Scouting and this term our theme is Winkleigh and the people who live and work here. We hope to be more outside come March and have lots of ideas which include A Spring Walk, another treasure trail, climbing and archery, a day out, campfire and sleepover plus our weekly programme. The Beavers are about to receive their first challenge badge and have earned their Hike One badge. Well done, they have worked hard for them.

We meet on a Tuesday in the Village Hall between 5pm and 6.15pm and if you are interested for your child to join or want their name on our waiting list then please ring Pat on 01837 83487. Beaver Scouts are boys and girls who are aged between 6 and 8 years of age, although they can start at 5½years.

It is sad that our Scout Leader [Skip] will be leaving us in February. He has been a Scout Leader for over 70years!!! All the leaders will miss him greatly and all the knowledge he takes with him. Of course we are always looking for new leaders so if you would like to know more please get in touch on the above number.

Ahmeek.

Winkleigh Memory Café

For people with memory loss and dementia and their families and friends and for those who would just like a friendly chat.

Next Meeting 4th March, 10am -12pm

Methodist Church Hall Winkleigh

3rd Dec 2013, 7th Jan, 4th Feb, 3rd Mar 2014

Drop in and join us for tea/coffee and biscuits

For more details contact

Claire Jolly 01837 83014, Philippa Lausen 01837 83209

Please let us know if you need a lift

Supported by Torr**AGE** and the Winkleigh Society

Devon Best Kept Village & Map Competition for 2014

Winkleigh Parish Council have been asked to promote the Devon Best Kept Village Competition and the Pam Parker Map Competition for 2014, so why not put Winkleigh on the map by entering!

The competition is sponsored by the Devon Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Mole Valley Farmers to encourage and showcase communities by seeking: "Villages which are doing their best with what they have."

Entry to the Devon Best Kept Village is free and is open to any village with a population of 3000 or under (entries by 18th April). Previous entrants report benefits of entering this worthwhile competition as;

- a decrease in litter and dog fouling
- more pride taken in the appearance of the village by residents
- improved village communication
- recognition for the village
- increased use of village shops and other businesses
- more visitors encouraged to visit ...

The Pam Parker Map Competition is open to children of primary school age and aims to introduce them to a greater understanding of where they live, and how maps work and come to be made (entries close end of summer term). Each map should be user-friendly and designed to enable any visitor to find their way around. Winners and Runners up receive Book Token prizes!

Info and entry forms at <http://www.cpredevon.org.uk/competitions> (follow links). This is NOT a Parish Council item, but entries apparently have to come through the PC, so please contact Councillor Philip Griffiths in the first instance, who has offered to act as co-ordinator for those wishing to organise an entry.

Philip Griffiths (Councillor) on 01837 83407 or philip@phwgriffiths.plus.com



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DE SPRING HAS SPRUNG...DE GRASS IS RIZ

.....I wonder where de gardener is? Probably up at the allotments - if not in reality - at least in her or his mind....planning! This season Winkleigh Growers are pleased to welcome several new allotment holders. However there are a small number of plots still vacant. The cost is £60.00 per annum for a full plot, £30.00 for a half plot. So.....if the coming of Spring and the lengthening days make you feel it would be good to have some productive outdoor exercise..... together with the pleasure of growing your own fruit and vegetables.....

Our secretary, **Pam Berry** on 680193 is the person to talk to.

A NEW DROP-IN CENTRE

NEED A C.V.- Do you want help with work applications and interview techniques?

LIKE CRAFTS- Enjoy the company of others or learn a new skill, knitting, crochet, tapestry and cross-stitch.

ENJOY READING – Swap books and have a coffee and chat, drop in.

SESSIONS IN BABY SIGNING/MAKATON – want to learn? Come along

Drop in on the 25th February and 25th March at the Winkleigh Community Centre 9.30-11.30

For more information – **Margaret** 01837 83660 or **Val** 01837 83126

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THE WINKLEIGH SINGERS

The Winkleigh Singers will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary this year and have now announced their programme for this special time.

Winkleigh Singers 30th Anniversary Concert;

All Saints.Winkleigh March 29th 7.30 pm a varied programme, including some favourite repertoire and some new "finds".

1st.World War Centenary Commemoration Concerts.

Fauré – Requiem; Arvo Part – Berliner Mass; with professional orchestra.

Sat. 28th June 7.30pm St. Michael and All Angels, Torrington.

Sat; 26th July 7.30 pm St. Mary Magdelene South Molton.

Traditional Christmas Concert

Sat. 20th. Dec 7.30 pm. All Saints. Winkleigh

Further information and booking at www.winkleighsingers.org.uk

Recent recorded works by John Byrt and Ira Paul Schwarz.

Christmas Music [CD]

Background;

The Winkleigh Singers founded in 1984 by Roland Smith, enjoys a broad repertoire from early to contemporary secular and Church music. The choir has performed with Devon Baroque, British Chamber Orchestra, Bartholomew String Ensemble, and N. Devon Sinfonia.

Royal College and Academy of Music students are often employed for concerts.

Roland Smith continues to conduct the choir; concerts include touring France, performances in Hungary, local venues and as part of the North Devon Festival.

The Winkleigh Singers continue to support charity events 'Voices for Hospice'; Macmillan Cancer Relief; 'Celebration of Christmas'.

Regular workshops are held, in the past led by Evelyn Tubb, Nigel Perrin, Deborah Miles-Johnson. These include other singers and choirs.

Joan Stribling de'Launay [Singer/Marketing]

WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

WHATS GOING ON AT WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH.

I am assuming that this latest edition is all things ‘Springy’ - a little hard to imagine given the current weather conditions, storm, stormy, stormier! As well as celebrating Easter in this next ‘Spring’ quarter we have lots of things happening at regular times.

The **OASIS CAFE** continues every Monday from 11.00am – 2.00pm where you can drop in for coffee and cake or join us for lunch from 12.30. Two courses for just £6.95p. All profits are used for modernisation of our own building, a community project and an overseas charity called Project Gateway.

We have a **BI-WEEKLY HOUSE GROUP** where we are currently watching the Bible series that was recently shown on Channel 5, coffee, cake and discussion.

YOUTH ALPHA has started again on alternate Monday evenings for teenagers, 7.30 – 9.30pm. The evening includes fun, puddings, and discussion on a biblical theme.

PRAYER MEETINGS are monthly, when numerous subjects are encountered, both near to home and far away. The **WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** is being held here at the chapel on Friday 7th March.

If you would like any more information on any of the above please contact any of the names below or other members of our church who will try to help you.

Don’t forget our website www.winkleighchapel.co.uk where we have an events calendar, twitter feed and facebook link.

We still host the **OKEHAMPTON FOOD BANK**. Thank-you to those who have given, please continue.

We meet weekly for **SUNDAY WORSHIP** at 11.00am, coffee from 10.40, except for the first Sunday in the month when we meet at 5.30pm for a bring & share tea followed by a time of informal worship. Bridget leads **SUNDAY SCHOOL** during the morning services in the Oasis room, so all ages are welcome to join us at all of our worship times.

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

Rev Nigel Coke-Woods 01837 810591.

WINKLEIGH SPORTS CENTRE

Winkleigh Sports Centre is in need of a new Secretary to complete the Committee line-up. Do you have some time and an interest in contributing to the future of this village asset? An organised mind full of constructive ideas combined with the ability to take minutes and understand the workings of committees would be great!

To find out more and/or volunteer please contact John Turner on 83484 or Catherine Knight on 83205 soon.

The Sports Centre has welcomed the arrival of some really nice new furniture in the form of 48 chairs and 12 tables to replace old, damaged and broken ones. The furniture was purchased with help from significant fund grants from County Councillor Andy Boyd, and District Councillor David Lausen to both of whom grateful thanks is given.

This means that we have a selection of tables and chairs to give away to a good home. If they can be useful to anyone, the above telephone numbers can be used to inquire.

 <p>Amy Pincombe FHP Dip Foot Health Practitioner Mobile Service 07712 148038</p> <h3>Caring for your feet</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Corns•Callus•Cracked Heels•Fungal infections•Ingrown toe nails•Manicures & pedicures•Verrucae	  <ul style="list-style-type: none">UK and European Removals and StorageStorage and SelfstoreOffice and CommercialPiano Moving and StorageWe buy & sell 2nd hand furnitureFull or Part Packing ServiceCarpet Cleaning Service <p>www.coppsremovals.co.uk Cherrywood Business Park, Langtree, Torrington, N Devon, EX38 8LQ Email: gary@coppsremovals.co.uk Phone: 01805 601122 Mobile: 07787587410</p>
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WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Where does your money go and what do we do?

Activities for the community in Winkleigh and Hollocombe include:

- 1. Providing and Maintaining Public Amenities/Assets:** for example
 - cemetery grounds & burial admin (few villages provide this!)
 - supplementary street cleaning (on heavily used routes in village)
 - litter and dog waste bins
 - grit/salt bins for treating PUBLIC paths and roads
 - and the cemetery bungalow

- 2. Community-Led Plan:** Over the past year, the Parish Council has supported the Community-Led Plan Group; several Councillors, along with community representatives, are developing an updated Community Plan to guide priorities for community improvements and support funding bids for projects when dealing with Torridge District Council or other public/charitable bodies.

- 3. Representation:** We represent the community where there are shortcomings in local public services provided by the District Council, County Council or other agencies and which have not been resolved after individuals have made their initial complaints.

- 4. Consultee:** We take a community view in planning where the Parish Council acts as a consultee making recommendations to the Planning Authority. We were consulted Spring 2013 on Winkleigh's preference for housing and development for inclusion in TDC's Local Plan; this is being drafted by TDC and we are monitoring progress.

- 5. The Precept:** Each household pays about £1.50 a month for Parish Council work, so where does this go? In addition to regular activities and the Clerk's salary, it varies from year to year. This year for example, we have been progressing ...
 - repairs to public seating and other assets eg bus shelter
 - the re-siting and purchase of new grit bins
 - development and implementation of the Community Plan
 - renovations to the bungalow (which also provides an income), including work on installing external damp proofing & insulation
 - a TDC Town & Parish Fund application for a village defibrillator

6. Planning: Wind turbine applications, particularly prominent ones, have been an issue. Prior to our response to TDC, we hosted a Public Meeting on the Bryony Hill application in collaboration with neighbouring councils - there are likely to be more in the future. If you want to be kept posted about major planning applications, see next section.

STOP PRESS ... FINDING OUT ... COMMUNITY NEWS AND PC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY ...

If you would like to be kept informed on matters of wide public/community interest, including agendas and minutes of meeting, [email your details to Mrs Nicki Bullen, Clerk to Winkleigh Parish Council](#) asking to go on the '**Email Me List**' - you will then receive Parish Council emails about Public Meetings, major planning applications, changes in services, road closures, etc. Copies of all Parish Council minutes are also available online by visiting winkleighonline.com website.

SNOW WARDEN

We are investigating the **Snow Warden** scheme, now being encouraged by County authorities to coordinate local resources in the event of snow which affects free movement in villages etc. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO **VOLUNTEER** FOR THIS, or want more information about what is involved, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK.

TIDY GROUP VOLUNTEERS

For a number of years, Parish Councillors have led a volunteer **Tidy Group** which, from time to time, improves public areas of the Parish which have become overgrown or otherwise untidy. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO **VOLUNTEER** FOR THIS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK.

DEFIBRILATOR TRAINING

We are looking for a number of volunteers who are willing to undertake training in how to use the new equipment. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO **VOLUNTEER** FOR THIS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK.

Contact: Nicki Bullen (Clerk) on 01837 83981 or email winkleighpc1@btinternet.com

Peter Stutt (Councillor)
Winkleigh Parish Council

Catkin Blooms – Local Cut Flowers in Winkleigh

Catkin Blooms offers a local alternative to flowers stocked by supermarkets and high street florists that are flown in from far-flung places across the globe, by being a 'green florist'. From a workshop in the garden I'll be offering creative floristry using local, seasonal and British flowers and foliage to create more natural and environmentally friendly designs. To supplement home-grown pickings I support other local growers and buy in from wholesalers who grow their own flowers in Devon and Cornwall.

Whether it's the happy occasion of a wedding, the celebration of new life, the marking of a life past, a special celebration, a thank you or birthday bouquet or just a bunch for the kitchen table please give Catkin Blooms a try! British flowers really are beautiful and as the weather warms up you'll be surprised at the seasonal range on offer.

Contact **Catherine Kenny** on 07870166985
or email: catkinblooms@yahoo.co.uk by Mother's Day at the end of March.

My workshop at Park House (opposite Mid Devon Motors) and my website <http://www.catkinblooms.co.uk/> will soon be up and running so please call in and take a look!

Winkleigh Village Hall

We are pleased to announce that the new kitchen has been installed! We have had positive feedback from users who think it is a vast improvement.

Some of you may have noticed the increase of TDC dog fouling signs dotted around the mound and outside of the hall, the dog warden will be patrolling around the area so please make sure you clean up after your dog.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Okehampton Choral Society are having a concert on Monday 23rd June in aid of the Village Hall as well as their own funds, it promises to be an enjoyable event.

Look out for posters nearer the time or 'like' us on facebook at 'Winkleigh Village Hall' for updates on all our events.

SINGING SUNBEAMS

Stable Green Chapel held a Christmas Party for Singing Sunbeams in December. The Christmas tree was decorated and lots of party food prepared.

It was lovely to welcome the families of our little Sunbeams; in some cases there were three generations. All joined in the singing using our instruments and the rendition of Jingle Bells was magnificent - Gareth Malone take note.

The children and adults then joined in the Christmas Story all waving their Nativity characters and animals in the air.

After tea Rev Sue told us all the meaning of Christingle and we watched a short film with the candles lit and the children's eyes sparkling with delight.

Many thanks to the people of Stable Green who continue to support this venture financially and by attending these events.

The New Year saw us welcoming more new "singers". Sunbeams is open to all children 0 to 3 years old. We meet in the small room of Winkleigh Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month 10.30. Please come along.



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Winkleigh and District Garden Club

Do you have a garden or an allotment? If so, do you want to find out more about growing soft fruits, roses and many other aspects relating to making the most of your plot? This year Winkleigh & District Garden Club have a programme of speakers who will provide answers with respect to these subjects and much more; including matters relating to growing and tending grasses, gardening on clay, a trip to a significant and well known garden and a visit to a winery. The club meets in the evening of the third Tuesday in the month in Winkleigh Village Hall and normally start at 7.15pm. We start the year with:

18 th Mar	“Grasses” Dave Squire from Rosemoor
15 th April	“Roses” Emma van Heussen from Rosemoor
20 th May	2.30pm Visit to Penny Jones' Asiatic Primula Nursery near Holsworthy
17 th June	“Gardening on Clay” Neil Lovsey
22nd July	Summer Visit to Knightshayes, Tiverton
16 th Sept	“A Tour of Japan and its Gardens” Jon Webster, Curator of Rosemoor
21 st Oct	Topic to be confirmed Barry Philips
18 th Nov	A.G.M. and cheese and wine
16 th Dec	Christmas Party

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Should you be interested in all/any of these subjects, then why not become a member of W&DGC or at least come along as either a member or a visitor on the third Tuesday in each month and see what we have to offer. In addition to the ‘topic’ of the meeting, such as a visiting speaker, meetings also include a raffle, tea/coffee and biscuits, giving time for members to socialise, and we encourage members to bring in plants to sell/swap.

The cost is £10.00 per year (commencing in January) and 20p for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuit per meeting. As a visitor you would pay £1.00 per meeting which also includes the cost of a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.

We hope that we have whetted your appetite and roused your interest in a very active WDGC. We look forward to welcoming you to our meeting on 18th March 2014.

For further information contact our Chairman Mr Ed Porter on 01805 804838 or Beverley Cook, cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk or 01837 682840

ACE Archaeology Club

ACE's AGM last November was very well attended and after the business part of the day came the fun bit. I gave a light-hearted presentation of a round-up of the year's events and activities, this was followed by an excellent quiz, organised by ACE members Mac and Wendy Howard, so a good day was had by all.

Wendy has just attained her PhD in Zooarchaeology (study of animal bones) from Exeter University, which is a great achievement, we are all very proud of her.

For the first time in many years our meeting in January had to be cancelled, not due to snow but far too much rain, the ground was sodden and would have made our walk on Dartmoor quite horrible.

In February we held a post excavation day, in the nice warm and dry Community Centre. We spent the day numbering, identifying and dating the pottery from the Moistown dig, the results are looking very interesting but more about that in the next issue of DW. Some of the artefacts from the dig will be on display at this year's Festival of Old Technology and Archaeology.

Next month an expert flint knapper is to give ACE a demonstration of the art, after which we all get to have a go. This kind of activity really does make you appreciate the flint tools that we pick up when field walking and also how very clever early man actually was.

Later in the spring we are going to do some more dowsing at Moistown, this time we will be trying to find the extent of the cobbled area that we found the edge of in one of our trenches last year. The geophysics results did not show these very well at all which is really odd as they were only about 20cm under the turf.

Plans are well under way for this year's festival which is on the 19th and 20th of July, the event is shaping up nicely, and there will be details of what is happening in the next issue of DW.

Plans are also being made for this year's dig at Moistown which is to be held a little earlier this year in late August. I don't suppose that it will make any difference to the weather, it is bound to rain but it will be slightly warmer rain and the evenings will be a bit lighter too.

If you would like to know more about ACE, please do get in touch. Our website can be found at www.acearch.org.uk (we are also on Facebook) or contact **Janet Daynes** at ace@acearch.org.uk or on 01769 520326

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Wendy Mondy 01837 680022,
Kim Melhuish kymweb@ssmail.co.uk,
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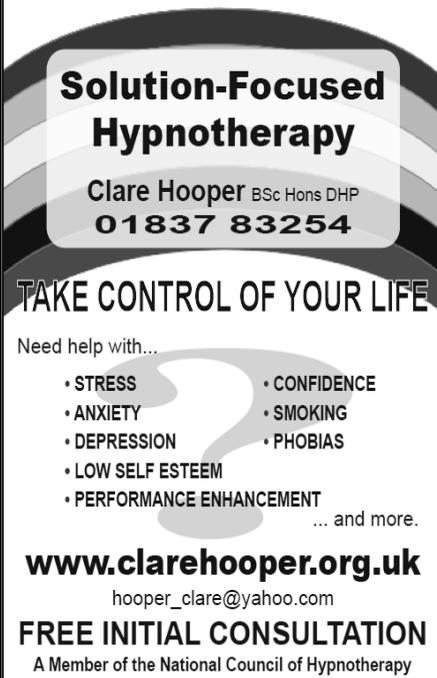
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Biodiversity Offsetting, the threat to Winkleigh

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State concerning Biodiversity Offsetting, the media are full of the threat to our ancient woodlands. These ancient woodlands are of undoubted ecological and historical significance, but, however precious, they are few and small in area. There would be little difficulty in declaring them sacrosanct. Biodiversity offsetting simply means that when developers make an impact on the landscape that destroys nature, they can pay money for nature improvement somewhere else. The wider landscape of England is equally under threat, and the most difficult phrase in the announcement is that an offset might be 'up to an hour's drive away' - perhaps in the next county. Here lies the greater menace.

This obviously implies that a landscape rich in biodiversity worth experiencing is not expected to be everywhere, but that it is something that we get in our cars to go and visit, assuming, of course, that we have a car to get into, as the places likely to benefit from the offset are not often accessible by public transport. The landscape thus becomes something to visit, not a place to live. This is the government which has promised more localism, but seem determined to destroy their own policy. If all offsets were to be restricted to the parish where the development was proposed, this problem would largely be resolved. This is not likely to happen because there is a deeper process at work, which amounts to the slow creation of the division between Protected Landscapes, managed by Conservation Officers and inhabited by the middle-class, and recipients of Offsetting on the one hand and non-protected landscapes where development will take place on the other.

Surely this is an exaggeration? In the 1950s and 1960s when National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (and Green Belts) were designated, there was surely no expectation, or intention, that they would significantly alter the social composition of the countryside, but we now see the effect of the 'gentrification' of these protected areas very clearly and estate agents throughout the country will be very well aware of the premium on house prices in National Parks, AONBs etc. The process is well established, and offsetting can only exacerbate it, not least because our conservationists are largely employed to protect those places and will find it difficult to oppose an income stream.

This process is responsible for having saved many landscapes of real importance from deleterious development, but this may be at the cost of the ordinary or everyday landscape where most people live. The opposing force is the European Landscape Convention, which is now part of UK law, but is written in such vague terms that it is never easy to demonstrate that it is being broken. Nevertheless the Convention applies to all landscapes, and is very clear that ordinary or everyday landscapes are significant, and of special value to their

residents. A process that continually favours the protected against the ordinary landscape could reasonably be understood as in breach of the Convention.

We are seeing the emergence of a strange alliance between developers and conservationists, each with their own territories—the ordinary landscapes where most people live controlled by developers against protected middle-class landscapes with conservationist control. Winkleigh is surrounded by many miles of ‘ordinary landscapes’ though much loved by locals. Already it is obvious that wind-power developments will be accepted in these areas but not in the coastal AONB or on National Trust land. In future we can expect more development in the ordinary places ‘off-set’ against improvements to our National Parks, the AONB and the core area of the Biosphere Reserve in Braunton Burrows.

So be careful of Biodiversity Offsetting. BO really does come tainted with an unpleasant aroma, and is a threat to all of our ordinary landscapes and to all who live outside the palisades of the protected areas. One is tempted to wonder what percentage of our law-makers live, or have their second homes, within such protections?

Peter Howard



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District Councillor's Report

The 2010 Spending Review set out deep cuts to the grants from central government for local authorities, and over the past (nearly) four years unitary, county and district councils have been making cutbacks, as funding has been significantly reduced every year. Views vary widely about local authorities. But whether they are seen as the provider of essential services, or overstuffed bureaucratic monoliths that have become 'too large for too long' councils are facing the biggest changes in generations.

Devon County Council is endeavouring to cut a further £25 million per year over the next four years, and the Council Leader John Hart (Conservative) has repeatedly warned that he is being forced to oversee unprecedented reductions and in a recent letter to the Communities secretary, Eric Pickles, he stated that 'economic development projects, youth services and libraries are all vulnerable'. (I was surprised that he didn't mention the state of our roads!)

Torridge District Council has been relatively lucky so far. A combination of not replacing employees who leave; some employees agreeing/opting to go part-time; and savings from renegotiating two outsourcing contracts (for leisure services and recycling collection) has made things relatively painless so far. At the time of writing Torridge isn't too far away from getting to the cuts needed for 2014/15. However, there is no way that TDC will be able to make further cuts of around another half a million pounds in 2015/16 without substantial redundancies. Restructuring options are now being evaluated. As you can imagine, staff morale is steadily declining.

Welfare cuts are increasingly impacting many. Although the number seeking help from Torridge District Council has not risen as much as I had feared, those who are seeking help from Torridge's Housing Options and Benefits teams, have come along with much more complex problems than previously. Not only are many seriously in debt, but stress/mental health is of increasing concern (just before Christmas one of the Housing Options team was attacked). I believe that many of us thought that welfare provision did need to be better targeted, but the constant cutbacks really are impacting people's lives. In most communities there are always one or two who 'play the system' but the vast majority reliant on welfare, are not on welfare by choice. In Torridge the majority of people affected by welfare reform are working, as our area is one of the lowest waged in the country. When welfare cutbacks started, they were remarkably popular with the general public. However, I believe that this is now changing and many feel that we are becoming a far too unequal society. Is it right that so many are becoming reliant on food banks when bankers – who after all, were mainly responsible for the economic crisis in 2007/08 – still get bonuses of millions of pounds despite making losses?

David Lausen - 01837 83209

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Friends of Winkleigh School – Winter 2013/14

At the close of the last report the 'Fireworks night' at the Sports Centre was fast approaching. This event is always awaited with great anticipation and this year was no different. The skies were spectacularly lit up and one observer, who witnessed the display from a property well situated for viewing and so had not needed to pay to attend, was so impressed that he insisted the following day on taking the treasurer's name to enable him to make a generous contribution! The total raised by this fantastic night was £314.68.

The first full year of the 100 Club has now come to an end with the total £250 raised being split evenly between the School and Pre-School. Renewals have been taken up by existing members and enquiries on new membership continue to be invited.

The amount raised by the 'easyfundraising' website for the last School year was £186.50, with the total amount contributed since the start of this simple, yet innovative system, closing on the £450 mark by the time this report appears. It has to be noted that new members have not been appearing in recent months. Please if you do any on-line shopping take a look at this - it is accessible through the School website, really easy to operate and can be fun, as well as coming up with surprising benefits for users, who may well discover new suppliers and save money for themselves in many areas. In addition to the contribution to the School cause, it really is win-win.

Final accounts for the 2012/13 School year showed income of £4,936.37 and donations to the School of £3,982.20 which have gone towards School Trips, KS 2 chairs, KS 1 Books, Theatre Performance, Chess pieces, Laptops, Tripod, KS 2 Books, Chalkboard & Maps and Leavers' Books. A further £566.70 has been pledged but yet to be paid. The total in the bank at 29/7/13 stood at £4,065.10.

During the course of the Christmas School performances on 12th, 16th and 17th December (which were brilliant!) a draw for a deluxe hamper and a meal auction were organised, and this raised £130. Many thanks to all those who made contributions.

At a meeting on 16th January in the Kings Arms discussions began on scheduling of events for the year ahead and final arrangements were made for the 'Quiz Night', which took place in the Kings Arms on 1st February. What a brilliant night this was, standing room only for some and really great to see this pub so well attended again. Let's hope this is setting the trend for the future in the K.A. This event raised £236 and at the time of writing the books for the current School year are showing a total raised to date of £1,414.06 which includes £378.60 from the bacon and egg morning, £268.60 from the casino night, £33.90 uniform sale, and £52.28 'easyfundraising' to add to the above amounts.

There is much more to look forward to as the programme unfolds, so watch for the posters. Amongst the new ideas was a suggestion for an August 'Winkfest' event which would mean finding a suitable field. This would be a hugely ambitious project and it was realised that it would mean looking at next year as a more realistic time for such plans. In the meantime if anyone can come up with ideas as to the location of a field which could be used for such an exciting venture please let us hear from you.

It remains once again to thank those in the community who support the cause throughout the year and if anyone out there wants to know more or can come forward with help, you will be well received. Our next meeting is on 13th February, so plans for future events will be in place as you read this newsletter.

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

Christmas Fair 2013

The Christmas Fair was a big success, for the first time using both the Community Centre & the Village Hall. Many people contributed to making it a really good day.

Santa's Grotto surpassed all expectations, a special thank-you to the Leahy family for the massive effort in getting it together.

A thank-you also to The Seven Stars & The Kings Arms for supplying Mulled Wine & Cider which was delicious.



Winkleigh Market

10am till 12pm

first Saturday of the month

in the village hall

***Fruit/veg, cheeses, pies, cakes,
preserves, gifts, soaps, crafts, cards
and much more!!***

Refreshments served.

Stable Green's Carols in the Barn

For the third year running a shed at Beechlea was transformed into a twilight setting with the Stable taking centre stage.

People from Winkleigh and further afield arrived in droves and soon all the seats were taken and people were standing all around.

The Christmas Story was told in reading and songs and our "props" man excelled himself – not only did the Star appear in the East and come to rest over the Stable but also the Angel in bright light appeared to the shepherds telling them not to be afraid. And they were not! The shepherds were Winkleigh's own new Beaver Scouts resplendent in shepherds headgear, they beautifully led the singing of While Shepherds Watch. Thank-you to you all and your leaders. Children of all ages joined Mary and Joseph on the stage to complete the Nativity scene. The donkeys and sheep watched the whole thing and were very well behaved.

Hot chocolate and mini toad in the holes were very well received by all and the shed rang out to the chatter of our community all having enjoyed the evening and looking forward to other Christmas celebrations.

The people of Stable Green Chapel would like to thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing you all throughout the year.

We meet each Sunday for worship at 6.30 you are most welcome.



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Email: charles.stapleton@tiscali.co.uk or
Wendy Pilbrow on Facebook, 07972 129539
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THE DONKEY'S STORY

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway. It just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well.

At first, the Donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quietened down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, Never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

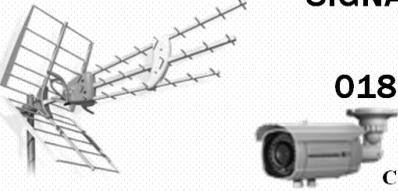
Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred. Forgive.
2. Free your mind from worries - most never happen.
3. Live simply and appreciate what you have.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

The Sequel to the story: The donkey later came back, and bit the farmer who had tried to bury him. The gash from the bite got infected and the farmer eventually died in agony from septic shock.

MORAL FROM TODAY'S LESSON:

When you do something wrong, and try to cover your ass, it always comes back to bite you.



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And finally

Winkleigh can be truly grateful for being situated on a hill! Since the last issue very little weather has been seen in these parts which wasn't classable as awful!

Everyone is truly sorry for the hardships being suffered by those in the weather 'front line' – the battered SW Coastline towns and villages and those living and working in the flooded areas. Whether it is or isn't blameable on climate change, the volume and duration of the rainfall could not possibly have been predicted. It has to end sometime – probably after we've had at least the biblical 40 days and 40 nights of it!

Despite the poor weather, Winkleigh Christmas Fair was another success, with our veteran Father Christmas waxing lyrical in his praises of the most innovative and imaginative Grotto he had ever seen – and he's seen many in his time!

And now we urge all imaginative writers to submit an article for our Summer Issue. It could be about your club or organisation, your hobby, your need to make people aware of something, or it could be a short story. Whatever it is, it will need to reach us by Sunday, 11th May. So sharpen your pens!!

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Committee Members	Margaret Miller	01837 83398
	Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
	Alan Jacobs	01837 83895

Winkleigh Society membership is open freely to all Winkleigh residents. This entitles you to vote at the Society meetings. If you would like more details, please contact Alan Mulcahy, our Membership Secretary, on 01837 680145.

Further information about the Society and what is going on in Winkleigh can be accessed online at: <http://www.winkleighonline.com>

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145

Contributions to the newsletter can be received as follows:
Articles are fine in printed form, but we can also accept PC disks or CDs in WORD format, or e-mail submissions .

Newsletter team e-mail: articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk
Or alan.mulcahy@tiscali.co.uk

Postal submissions: 8 Old Barn Close, Winkleigh, EX19 8JX
or Smythen Hill Cottage, Hollocombe, EX18 7QD

The Newsletter team is always looking for new members, please come forward if you would like to help in any way.

All information correct at the time of going to press . The views expressed in submitted articles and letters are not necessarily the view of the production team or the Winkleigh Society

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