

# DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



**Edition 56**

**Winter 2015**

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## Editor's Farewell

So here it is – after more than eight years this is my final issue as editor of Distinctly Winkleigh.

I send my thanks to all those who helped with articles, adverts and, almost more importantly, the selfless work of the distributors. Thanks also to Peter Monkcom, who has now moved away from Winkleigh, for the many drawings he has provided to adorn the Front Page. It has been a rewarding period, and I'm so glad that I answered the previous team's appeal back in 2007. We had just moved to the village and I thought that getting involved with the magazine would be a good way to get to know about Winkleigh – it was!

Alice Turner and Godfrey Rhodes will be keeping the magazine going in 2016 and I wish them every success. Please send any future articles to [articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk) and the website will automatically pass them on to the new team. I shall, of course, be available to answer any problems they might encounter, but I'm sure they will be able to cope.

Thanks for your support – I will wear it always . . . . . !

## Christmas Has Arrived At D&S Supplies

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It's not even five o'clock yet but it's early November on a dull overcast day, so indoors it's necessary to put the light on to see properly and the woodburner in the other room is keeping the chill at bay. But it will get darker that little bit earlier each day as we approach our celebration of Christmas.

For our ancient ancestors the end of the year (or just before it) was a time for celebrating the return of the sun as the days began to lengthen again; a sense of relief in fact.

For Christians this time of the year is of great significance marking not the return of the sun but the birth of the Son (of God); a cause for celebration – the twelve days of Christmas at the end of which we mark the visit of the Wise Men (also known as Kings or Magi) at the feast we call Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January). 'Epiphany' simply means a revealing of something which is hidden. In this case it is the gifts of the Wise Men that do this revealing. Gold denotes that Jesus is a King, Frankincense that he is holy, and myrrh foretelling his death.

But there are lots of other things revealed about who this new born baby is in the stories that surround him and indeed in the Carols that we sing. Jesus Christ, born of Mary, is described as the one who 'came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all.' 'Tears and smiles like us he knew' (Once in Royal David's city) – this is a real person, God in human flesh - right at the heart of our understanding of this event. 'Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate Deity' (Hark! the herald angels sing) – hitting the nail on the head. 'Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing' (O come all ye faithful). 'O that birth for ever blessed, when the virgin full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving bare the Saviour of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face.' (Of the Father's love begotten). Could the whole meaning of Christmas be better put?

So in these increasingly dark days there is something to look forward to and here are the times of our services when we celebrate the most important birthday ever. Please come and join us and bring your friends and family too, you will be most welcome.

Christmas Eve 5.00 p.m. Crib Service  
11.45 p.m. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30 a.m. Christmas Eucharist

All of these services will of course include traditional Christmas Carols.

The School Carol Service will take place in Church on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 p.m. and the Winkleigh Singers Concert will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.

## Winkleigh Community Recycling



It is with regret that we have to announce the closure of the Recycling Bins at D & S Supplies on 31<sup>st</sup> December. There are two main reasons for closing. Firstly, the facility has been abused by a small number of selfish people, who have decided to dump their waste instead of taking it to the council tip. We have had to dispose of dirty clothes, dog poo, raw meat, mattresses, TVs and a sofa – amongst other items! Secondly, the site on the airfield is windy and Steve has had to lash the lids of the bins down during gales. Thanks to Steve and Shirley Leahy, who have supported this recycling site on their premises for the past 18 months. This was run entirely on voluntary support, including free collection by Peninsular Waste Savers (North Tawton). It was not provided by Torridge District Council.

An average household in our area produces half a tonne of waste per year (Profile on Torridge, 2013). There are so many ways in which we can change our behaviour to reduce this amount.

Our first priority is to **reduce waste**, for example by choosing to buy food which is not over-packaged. This may involve shifting some of our purchases away from supermarkets towards buying from our local shops. Stop junk mail by contacting Royal Mail (leaflets available at the Post Office). Don't forget your shopping bags when you go out – keep some in the car.

If you have items which can be **re-used**, take them to charity shops or try Freecycle, Winkleigh! or Chulmleigh Free Facebook pages.

Please continue to **recycle** via the Green Box and Bag and Brown Bag doorstep collections – this includes clothing, shoes, batteries, small electricals and watches, as well as the more usual items. Food plastics (pots, tubs and trays) and rigid plastics (toys, buckets, boxes) can be recycled at Okehampton, Deep Moor or Punchbowl Recycling Centres.

For other items – check [www.recycledevon.org](http://www.recycledevon.org)

Finally, what about the future? The only viable way of re-starting our Recycling collection would be to organise supervised collections, and for this we would need 2-3 volunteers per month and a garage or shed in Winkleigh village for storage until it could be collected by Peninsular Waste Savers on a weekday. So it's over to you, people of Winkleigh! Get in touch if you have some good ideas.

Kim Melhuish (01769 520595), Wendy Mondy and Marie-Claude Mulcahy

# Taking Action

So ..., what has been happening since the **Community Plan** was published at the end of last year? Has it been sitting on the shelf ... ?



The answer is “no”! The Plan has an action programme, designed to achieve some of the things the Plan covers. The work includes short, medium and long term actions across a range of topics. Currently, working groups are:

- Looking at solutions to **traffic problems** in the village
- Considering actions that improve the **environment**
- Resolving problems around waste **collection/recycling** and
- Updating the **Village Design Statement**



*Community action: Residents do an appraisal of Elms Meadow for the Village Design Statement.*

To celebrate the work and keep everyone up to speed on progress, the **Community Plan Action Group (CPAG)**, regularly reports to Parish Council and through Distinctly Winkleigh. Those involved in particular actions are also writing articles for DW. The Parish Council also review the Action Plan twice a year (May/Nov) in collaboration with CPAG. Progress is coordinated by CPAG, chaired by Collin Gibson.

In future, wherever you see this “**badge**” (top right), you will know that activities are contributing directly to *the priorities that you as a community have identified*. If you would like to know more about the work of CPAG, its membership or can offer help to bring some of the Community Plan’s actions forward, then please visit [www.winkleighplan.co.uk](http://www.winkleighplan.co.uk) for info.



## Dogs and the Churchyard

We have a problem! Not with dogs but with some dog owners who seem to think that the Churchyard is a play area for their dogs and, worse still, a place for them to relieve themselves. And you can imagine the mess when the grass is cut and a strimmer hits a pile of dog poo!

So we have put notices up asking that dogs in the Churchyard be kept on a lead at all times, that they must not go on the grass and must not foul the grass or the paths (even if you intend to pick it up). One of the signs was removed shortly after being put up – presumably by someone who thinks it's alright to let their dog foul the Churchyard. If we do find anyone letting their dog foul the Churchyard we will report it.

We don't want to ban dogs altogether but we will if the situation doesn't improve. The paths through the Churchyard are there to allow access to graves, acts of worship or visits to the Church. But those paths are not public rights of way or public footpaths, and although we don't mind people using them we simply ask that they do so responsibly and with respect.



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## Winkleigh Biodiversity Group

We have been given a further 100 small trees to plant in the wildlife area in Winkleigh by the Woodland Trust. These trees are given to commemorate the First World War, which claimed the lives of at least 27 men who served in the armed forces.

The wildlife area behind the Sports Centre now has a pedestrian gate beside the tennis courts. If you are visiting the area, please shut the gates after you. Sometimes stray sheep manage to find their way in, and then all our young trees get nibbled! This summer the area was full of wild flowers and there were plenty of Ringlets, Skippers and Meadow Brown butterflies which breed on grasses.

If you would like to join in with our activities, we don't charge a membership fee, and everyone is welcome. Contact **Kim Melhuish**  
email: [kjmweb@ssmail.co.uk](mailto:kjmweb@ssmail.co.uk)

For photos and updates visit: [winkleighbiodiversitygroup.blogspot.co.uk](http://winkleighbiodiversitygroup.blogspot.co.uk)

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## WINKLEIGH CHURCH WIVES GROUP.

The wives group has had a successful start to the group's year.

We began in Sept. with our service in church, followed by a meeting in the Village Hall, where we were able to have a detailed discussion about the forthcoming Autumn Fair. This will take place on Saturday Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 in the Village Hall, time 10am - 12.30pm. Many stalls including Crafts, Tombola and our Christmas Hamper Raffle.

In Oct. we had a return visit from Mr. Buckley, a Magistrate from Barnstaple, and on this occasion he was able to talk to us about how the Magistrate arrives at a decision regarding the sentence given to the person in the dock. As well as talking us through the process he was able to get us all involved.

We were given information on three different cases, and with the knowledge we had been given previously we had to decide what sentence we would give. It led to some "lively" discussions, but a decision was made in each of the three cases. It showed us how complex the work of a Magistrate is.

We look forward to our forthcoming meetings, a Craft afternoon in Nov. and in Dec., at our Social afternoon, we will be having a visit from a representative of the Fire & Police Service explaining How to keep ourselves safe from Scams either by Mail, Phone Call or the internet. The Fire Service will be helping us with our Smoke & Gas alarms. Everyone is welcome to come along to our meetings which take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

In Jan. we will be having our annual Lunch at Libbaton Golf Club.

We have a varied programme to look forward to in 2016.

**Janet Magor ( sec )**

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## On Being a Deacon

It's all a bit dizzy so far! Arguably it's something between apprehension and excitement—being an Assistant Curate and Ordained Deacon for Winkleigh and Ashreigney. Why? Because in one sense, in moving on from a Reader in the Church of England, you might argue that functionally almost nothing has changed. Although in another sense, sacramentally, everything has changed, and one can never be, or perceived to be, the same again. However, arriving at Ordination didn't just happen in Exeter Cathedral with Bishop Robert on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 2015. There was a journey involved. The all-important, all telling sediment in the wine bottle of faith that reveals this journey goes back to my childhood, when my then Vicar, Johnny Whitehouse, an old Methodist minister and ex-boxer<sup>1</sup> used to take me to the swimming baths and gently impart some of his sober wisdom into my ridiculously juvenile world. Along with a grandmother, the wife of a famous racing driver who would take me to the morning Book of Common Prayer service in Binley, Coventry when my parents were away with the Army. I can still hear her wonderful jack-in-the-box liturgical instructions during the service of 'pay attention, kneel, sit, and stand up'. Sediment determines the structure and quality of any red wine, and for me and my faith it all began accumulating there.

It has been a long journey, daring to believe that I have heard a calling to Ordained ministry. At least twenty years, and really, if I am honest since my teens people told me they felt there was a calling there. As a child, missionaries would come to our church and my parents would entertain them during their visits. I heard stories of miracles and wonder, and got hooked.<sup>2</sup> Hooked on a God who made a difference in people's lives, and critically used people, his being a relational God, to achieve those ends. Somehow, as a child, within the impossibilities of immature hope and belief I wanted a part of that. To be of use and make the difference, although, I wouldn't have defined it in such terms then. Not when such childhoods are typically punctuated with railway trains, bicycles, the girl next door and wanting to join the Army.

So after a time in the Army,<sup>3</sup> and having a wonderful family, running a Press and PR Consultancy business and then finally retraining as a Field Archaeologist, that calling I have described earlier showed itself in a resurgent love affair with scripture. I wanted to know all I could about how and why scriptural texts were

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<sup>1</sup> *As a boxer in his youth he decided to go to an open air church service in the 1930's and give the preacher a good hiding. Instead God gave him one and he came to faith, He never fought again, only cared for others. I was one.*

<sup>2</sup> *This idea of wonder became even more acute personally when after prayer in my church my son received perfect hearing, although he had lost an ear and 95% hearing when he was blown up by an IED in Iraq.*

<sup>3</sup> *I was able to make good use of this experience recently when I was granted the chance to work in the Army Chaplaincy with the Royal Corps of Signals at Blandford Camp, Dorset.*

created and the cultures that supported them. They were, after all, God's music and hymns to, and, for us. The Psalms being just one good example. I started attending university lectures part time whilst working, and studied Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic and Latin, not to mention being intrigued by the flamboyant picture language of Egyptian Hieroglyphs—though much of it is probably now forgotten. Why such linguistic study? Well, these were the languages of the countries where scripture was lived out and in some cases written down over the centuries.

Where, if you like the dream and drama of God's creation and lifesaving plan of Incarnation, redemption and forgiveness was played out in the human theatres and landscapes of earth and heaven. The rise and fall of empires, and, good news in bad situations for instance in the NT, Isaiah and the Book of Daniel *et al* shows us some of that.<sup>4</sup>

Therefore one of those first lectures at Nottingham University became a seismic shift, a tectonic collision—if not revelation for me. I saw the Professor of Greek write the 'name' I AM of God in Hebrew (יהוה) and then in the Greek (ἐγώ εἰμι)<sup>5</sup> on the blackboard before the class. This was the name that Moses had been told in Exodus (3: 14) by God to use to free, and, to 'let [the] my people go!'. Breathless, I wanted to be able to write these languages too. I was off, addicted, and still am. Arguably, this was probably also the reason why a couple of years ago I also began studying for a part time PhD on Anglo-Saxon Angels in sacred scripture, art and sculpture.

This then became the sediment in my bottle of faith which I as your curate bring to the Deaconate, hopefully having been enriched by others to humbly bring a depth to my preaching and other work within the community. So in the last year as a student Ordinand I was able to support my previous Masters in Theology studies by doing further New Testament and Old Testament/Hebrew Bible studies. They rounded off and expanded this previous learning.

This background is what has made, and brings your Deacon before you. But I am not a scholar, only, what we called in the Army a 'slogger'. Dizzy ivory tower academia is arguably not relevant to being a Curate, nor should it be, and it is not a place where I am comfortable. What is relevant is having the deep compassion,<sup>6</sup> care and concern for people, and, being able ultimately to bring a priestly presence into their lives. Like my ex-boxer Methodist Vicar, making the difference.

Practically, being a Curate/Deacon is the first of the three orders of ordained ministry in the Church of England, the others being priest and bishop. As such I

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<sup>4</sup> *Incidentally most of Daniel is written in the Aramaic.*

<sup>5</sup> *This 'I Am' statement was also assumed by Jesus thus mirroring God the Father, and caused the High Priest to accuse him of blasphemy triggering the crucifixion.*

<sup>6</sup> *Compassion is one of the seven words in Hebrew for love, and that word personified Christ's ministry.*

will be able to help taking funerals, lead certain services, take communion to the sick and housebound, and be involved in pastoral activity. Other services include Matins and Evensong which Deacons can do on their own. Deacons are different to priests in that they can't celebrate the Eucharist, give blessings, hear confessions or take weddings (well they can take weddings but it's not normally recommended). Like priests they are expected to have a discipline of prayer - saying the Office daily, publicly or privately. They are also involved in pastoral care - visiting the sick, taking communion to the sick, baptism and marriage preparation etc.

My role at the present includes Reading the Gospel because Deacons are servants of the Gospel and take Christ to the people both liturgically and pastorally. Deacons lay/prepare the altar for the faithful to meet with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament a liturgical expression of their preparing people to meet with Christ in their pastoral duties. Deacons often lead the Intercessions in which they bring before God and His people the needs of those whom he meets pastorally. These things also prepare a Deacon for the time when as a priest he will celebrate the Eucharist. Deacons are still required to attend training events, and they participate in the life of the local Church by being members of the PCC, Deanery Synod and Clergy Chapter.

Concluding, I comfort myself with the final and blistering and breathtaking comment which was said at my Ordination Retreat, and, I share it with you all because of its beautiful incarnatory poetry and poignancy—arguably, in a sense it applies to everyone: 'God had a dream, and it is you!'

After that, all that is left is the last line of Hamlet:

'And the rest is silence.'

**J Clive Jobbins**, Sept 2015.



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**Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year**

## DCC Snow Warden Scheme

As we all know, Devon County Council's budget is stretched beyond its capacity to provide all the services we would normally expect and, consequently, rural communities are being frequently asked to participate in self help schemes. The Snow Warden Scheme is such a program.

The voluntary job of being a parish snow warden is primarily to act as a coordinator and provide a key point of contact between the local community and DCC. The warden will also be able to recruit, register and deliver training to other community volunteers.

In short, DCC will provide training, salt, advice and public liability insurance. They will undertake to provide 5 tonnes of salt free of charge with up to a further 5 tonnes @ 100 pounds/tonne.

This voluntary role might well suit a farmer or someone who has storage space for salt and appropriate equipment to clear snow when required as well as spread salt.

A full description of the role can be found on the Winkleigh Parish Council website at [www.winkleighpc.org.uk](http://www.winkleighpc.org.uk), under latest news and links. If anyone is interested, please contact our parish clerk, **Melanie Borrett** on 0183789095 or write to her at:

Lower Itton, Spreyton, Devon, EX17 5BB



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## Winkleigh & District Garden Club

Do you have a garden or an allotment? If so, Winkleigh & District Garden Club have a programme of speakers who will provide answers with respect to many gardening issues and much more; The Club also has a Quiz team who are doing extremely well on the local league. If you would like to join or support the team please contact Jeanne Nightingale [nandjngale@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nandjngale@hotmail.co.uk)

The club meets in the evening of the third Tuesday in the month in Winkleigh Village Hall and normally start at 7.15pm. We have the following meetings:

In January we have a talk about 'creating meadows'

In February we have two talks one on 'Keeping chickens' and the other on 'How to win Gold at Chelsea'

In March it's our Quiz night – please come along and support your local team – thank you

### Need Help in the Garden?

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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 £12.00 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.

For further information contact our Chairman Mr **Ed Porter** on 01805 804838 or **Beverley Cook**, [cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY-BASED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

If you or a member of your family is interested in the future of affordable housing in Winkleigh, you may like to know that we hope to hold a meeting to look at what's involved in the next couple of months.

The focus is on the needs of Winkleigh families.

Your interest may be as a potential user of the housing or as someone who is prepared to put some hard work in to making a modest amount of good quality affordable housing or best of all both!

There are different forms of affordable housing:

1. Rental via a housing association
2. Shared equity where you build up a part share of the value in the house - which can be 'sold' so that you receive some capital.
3. Self-build where you and others join forces to carry out the building work.

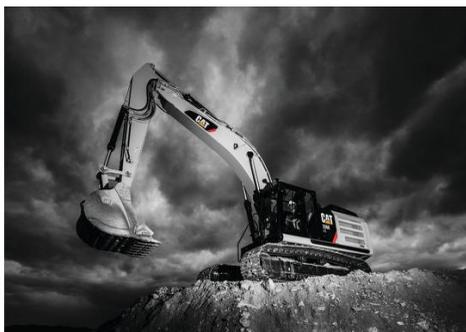
If you want to be informed about this meeting, leave an email address with the following address:

**[housing@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:housing@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk)**

If you don't have email, don't worry. Get a friend to send one. Come to the Mini-market in the Community Centre and ask to speak to one of the Trustees

**Peter Stutt**

## Groundwork



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## News from School

We have had a busy time at school since the academic year began in September. The new Foundation Stage Unit opened its doors for the first time on September 6th. This finds the youngest children in the school, aged from 2 to 5 years old and all in the Foundation Stage, working together in the same environment and it has begun very successfully. Staff have collaborated to provide a stimulating and exciting programme and environment to cater for all the children's needs. Moving to news of the oldest children in the school, we are again delighted by the excellent results achieved by our Year 6 class of 2014/15. These tables show the percentage of Year 6 pupils achieving each level in 2015, compared to national end of Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessment Levels and Test Results for 2014.

TEACHER ASSESSMENTS												
		Percentage at each level							D		A	
		W	1	2	3	4	5	6				
English	School	0	0	0	0	39	61	0	0	0		
	National	1	1	2	9	47	39	2	0	0		
Mathematics	School	0	0	4	0	48	43	4	0	0		
	National	1	0	2	9	44	36	8	0	0		
Science	School	0	0	0	0	43	57	0	0	0		
	National	1	0	2	9	49	38	0	0	0		

TEST RESULTS											
		Percentage at each level					T			A	
		B	3	4	5	6					
Grammar Punctuation & Spelling*	School	0	13	30	57	0	0	0			
	National	3	18	24	49	4	3	0			
Reading	School	0	13	26	61	0	0	0			
	National	3	6	39	49	0	2	0			
Mathematics	School	0	4	39	52	4	0	0			
	National	3	10	44	33	9	1	0			

The number of eligible children is: 23

Figures may not total 100 per cent because of rounding.

During the last half-term children across the school have participated in a variety of exciting trips and have been hosts to some informative visitors. The Foundation Stage had a visit from a dentist, in connection with their 'Ourselves' topic, to learn about what is good to eat for teeth health and she left everyone a new toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste. Years 1 and 2 visited Trethorne at part of their farming topic and also organised a magnificent farm machinery display on Scarecrow Day. Year 3 have been studying the Egyptians in their history topic and will be visiting Lyme Regis on a fossil hunt soon. Year 4 organised a 'Mayan' day when parents were invited in for the children to display their learning about the Mayan civilisation, tasting Mayan food and making Mayan sculptures. Years 5 and 6 have been looking at the Ancient Greeks, with Year 5 looking at education and slavery and Year 6 comparing democracy with then and now.

Work is underway to continue the improvement of the school grounds. Recently two of the wooden sheds have been removed as they had come to the end of their lives. We have seen the addition of the climbing wall and the 'tyre park' giving the children greater opportunities to test their physical skills. An 'Environment' Day is planned for the children to tackle lots of the seasonal jobs around the school on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov when parents will be invited in to see the results at 3.15pm, with delicious parsnip soup being available, cooked by the new 'Let's Get Cooking' team.

The Friends of Winkleigh School held a successful AGM in October, thankfully recruited some new members, and will now be continuing to organise events to raise vital funds to add to the learning experiences of the children. The group is currently working on paving over the central pond area to create a quiet outdoor space that can be used regularly by the children. Supporters of the school were invited to 'sponsor' a slab at £5 each and were given free entry into a raffle for one of two luxury hampers, created with donations from school staff. Over £200 was raised towards the cost of the paving slabs. One of the group's major annual expenditures is the grant of a maximum of £200 per class towards visits and trips, gratefully received by teachers to subsidise the costs of the trips to the school's families, so a variety of fun events are being planned to raise funds towards this target.

Finally, we have an invitation for the local community. Our annual Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December at the school from 4pm – 6pm. There will be an opportunity to begin, continue or complete your Christmas shopping at a variety of stalls, win some great prizes at the giant raffle, test your luck at the games devised by the older children and visit a very special seasonal guest. We would love to see as many people as possible at one of our major fundraising events.

# Winkleigh Fair

October 13th saw this year's AGM where three members stepped down, so we would like to thank Alan Jacobs, Suzy Garland and Scott Hughes for all their hard work over the last two years. We would also like to welcome our new member Kim Jordan.

We have had a very busy year fund-raising and due to the fantastic support we have received we have been able to make some very useful purchases. These include three new heavy-duty gazebos with 'Winkleigh Fair' printed on them, a mobile PA system, Christmas-tree lights, new LED bulbs and waterproof plugs and sockets for the Square lights and some folding tables. The cost of all these was approx. £3,500 and will hopefully be used by the committee, for the village, for many years to come.

Our most recent event was Hallowe'en where we saw Whirly Me Gigs Wondrous Wizarding Academy in the Village Hall and then Scary Tales in the evening. Both these events were in aid of Winkleigh Fair but were organised by Paul 'Billy' Baker and Clare Leahy with the support of many others as part of their Marvellous Event-ures.

These raised approx. £450 so thank you to everyone who came along and we hope you enjoyed them

Our future events include

## **Christmas Fair and Lights Switch on**

Saturday 5th December 1pm – 6.30pm

**Santa's Grotto** will be in the Community Centre 1pm – 4.30pm along with **kids' crafts** and refreshments.

The Village Hall will have lots of great market stalls selling homemade crafts and produce 1pm – 5pm

There will be mulled wine/mince pies and a BBQ in the Community Centre car park

Everyone is then invited to meet in the square at 5pm for mulled wine and to listen to our live entertainment from the Christmas band 'Jingle All The Way'.

Santa will be switching on the lights at approx. 5.30pm

## **Christmas Show**

Sunday 6th December

'**Entertainingly Different**' will be putting on their Christmas show in the Village Hall at 3pm. This is being organised by Winkleigh Fair and The Okehampton Freemasons in aid of Winkleigh Fair and The Dolton Scout Group.

Tickets at £5 can be bought from Howes Estates or D&S supplies

There are plans for a film event next February, possibly Bingo sometime and who knows what else!!

We are already thinking ahead to Winkleigh Fair Week July 10<sup>th</sup> - July 16th 2016, so if anyone has any ideas on events, or if you belong to a group/club and would like to be involved then please do get in touch

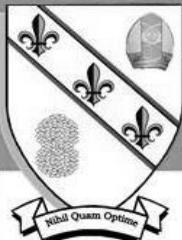
Chairperson: Sian Thurlow: 01837 682820  
Vice Chair: Deanne Whittaker: 01837 83431  
Treasurer: Peter Howard: 01837 83362  
Secretary: Clare Leahy: 01837 83299  
Members: Paul 'Billy' Baker, Chris Leahy, Ian Rule,  
Kirsty Miller and Kim Jordan

## Aged 18-25?

If you are aged 18-25 and studying at University or on a recognised course of training you may be eligible for a small grant from the Old School Charity.

To be eligible you also have to reside within the Parish of Winkleigh. Grants are normally given in the form of Book Tokens.

If you think you, or someone you know, might be eligible then in the first instance please contact the Chairman of the Trustees, **Fr. Peter Norman**. (01837) 83719



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## WINKLEIGH SINGERS

The Winkleigh Singers are currently busy preparing for their Traditional Christmas Concert on Saturday 19th December at the Parish Church, Winkleigh. This year the selection of carols will pay tribute to Sir David Willcocks who died recently, aged 96. Sir David was organist at Kings College Cambridge for many years and editor of the Carols for Choirs series, used by choirs worldwide including the Winkleigh Singers. As well as the carols, which include some for all to join in, the choir will be performing a selection of Advent and Christmas movements from Handel's Messiah with acclaimed local soloists Tina Gladwin and John Smith. A concert that is sure to get you feeling festive and not to be missed!

The concert starts at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm). Wine and soft drinks will be available and, as always, The Winkleigh Singers will be offering mince pies with their compliments. Tickets cost £10 (accompanied under 16s FREE and are available from choir members as well as from our website (see link below), or on the door.

In the new year, the choir will be performing the complete version of Handel's Messiah on Saturday 12th March 2016 at St Peter's Church, Barnstaple. We are delighted to be performing with professional soloists Hannah Reynolds, Fiona Mackay, Nicholas Hawker, Charles Murray and Devon Baroque orchestra, who will be playing authentic instruments. *Seen and Heard International* reviewed our last performance of Messiah with Devon Baroque saying "...it was an exceptional pleasure to hear a complete Messiah given by a first rate professional orchestra, a fine team of young soloists and a gifted amateur chamber choir".

Tickets are priced between £10.00 and £15.00 and are already selling well – don't miss it!

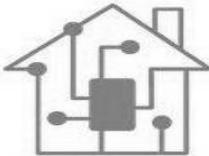
For full details of the Winkleigh Singers and on-line ticket booking, please visit our website: [www.winkleighsingers.org.uk](http://www.winkleighsingers.org.uk)

## Muddy Shoes Walking Group



We have had a couple of enjoyable walks in Hollocombe and are planning more over the next months. We now have a contact list of people who are interested in joining in. Most of our walks will last a couple of hours, and most of them will involve some mud! As well as enjoying our beautiful countryside, and each others' company, our aim is to explore footpaths in our local area. If we find problems, we aim to report them to the Rights of Way Officer.

Ring 83407 or contact Kim J Melhuish via Facebook, for further details



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## Lives in a Landscape

### A BONFIRE OF WINKLEIGH'S HISTORY ON 'THE HOSPITAL SITE'.



It may be called 'Sunny View' now, but to many of the older Winkleigh residents, the name that springs to their lips and evokes profound memories is 'Hospital Site'. The recurring theme is the communal bonfire that the children of the village built and burnt on that site for many years.

Today Sunny View represents ideal neighbourhood design. A circle of houses around a mini village Green that is planted with trees: with views out to the landscape, views of the church tower, two routes in and out and within walking distance of the village square.

But when the Hospital site was established during the war to provide medical care for the many military personnel, it consisted of a jumble of Nissen huts strewn any which way.

"It wasn't just for the military", says George Stapleton, 'I was sent up from Winkleigh School to have stitches for an eye-wound.' The locals used it as well.'

Even when the hospital staff had left, the tin huts remained and local families, desperate for housing, moved in and set up home there. It was Winkleigh's version of the 'pre-fabs'.

War might officially be over, but demobbing everyone and dismantling the extensive infrastructure that had been created because of the aerodrome would take years.

A Displaced Persons transit camp was established in empty Nissen huts at Berners Cross and the Control Tower. Men from the Ukraine and the Baltic States, were housed there and were put to work on farms in Winkleigh and surrounding villages. Maria Brooks, has a photograph of her father Stanley Malychkowych, looking frozen, at the old control tower.

He went to work on Ward Farm. Used to farm work in the Ukraine where he worked with horses, he adapted quickly to his new circumstances. He lived for a short time at the Hospital site, but they quickly moved into a home in Park Place provided by the farmer.

Hard workers, accustomed from their homelands to a hard, rural life, they adapted and fraternised well. Farmers had got used to working with German prisoners of war who were good workers. The D.P.'s that followed on were equally well received. But, unlike the Germans, it was much more difficult for the D.P.'s to be repatriated - it was too dangerous with the map of Europe redrawn when the 'iron curtain' descended. Constant Lopushok remembers that some moved up to Yorkshire, but many stayed in Winkleigh or surrounding villages and married into the community.

"The Village Hall played its part in socialising everyone, explains Constant. People would come from miles around for the village Hall dances. They were fantastic". This echoes what George Jarvis had said, when he waited for his sisters on the steps of the hall.

Within a few years marriages and children followed, hence the need for extra housing.

Constant Lopushok was born in one of the hospital site Nissen huts in 1948. He, with his parents Bob and Joan, eventually moved in to the new-build council houses at Southernhay in the early fifties. But the bonfires continued for several years after the last of the 'tin huts' had been demolished.

Constant, Doug Penny, Maria Brooks, David Woolacott, Margaret and Michael Bridgman and many others recall with great affection the huge village bonfire they would have on 'Guy Fawkes' night.

The Hospital Site was ideal. Even when some of the new houses were built there was still space. "We bought fireworks from Mrs Bissett's sweetshop, collected wood from the fields and woods around the village and had an enormous blaze", remembers Constant. "It was still smoking the next day", recalls David Woolacott.

Margaret Bridgman, whose parents moved in to the first council house constructed on the hospital site [and where her mother Marian Short, an ex-Land Girl, still lives], remembers the Reverend Lamb visiting everyone in their new homes on the site. "He always enjoyed the occasion", said Margaret.

Margaret and Michael Bridgman have some great black and white photographs of the built bonfires with local children standing in front, admiring their efforts in constructing it. And they can name most of them.

Eventually, tired of the eye-sore the demolished site had become, used as a dumping ground by the Council and hugely overgrown, George Stapleton and Wilfred French spent two days clearing and levelling the site and they tilled it with grass seed which was bought by Torridge Council. John Cowle lent the equipment needed. And trees were planted. Later the Brownies planted a tree in honour of their leader, Gwen Woolacott, who lived there.

The kerb edging happened later, when Douglas Penny asked John Turner to intervene over lorries backing over the grass.

New families have moved in but several of the originals are still there, witness to the historical evolution of this compact, ideally situated, user-friendly, community-minded and appropriately renamed ‘Sunny View’.

### **Penny Griffiths.**

[From conversations whilst looking at and photographing building design in Winkleigh].



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## **WINKLEIGH SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB**

The season is now in full swing and already we have had successes in the early rounds of Trophy Competitions. Our rollup sessions are well supported and these give us the opportunity to practise various shots that all help with our match play.

The first event of this season was our Pairs Tournament where we had twenty teams from Devon, Somerset and Dorset playing for the Trophy. This has proved to be a very popular event with over forty teams applying to enter. It is always good to see the Sports Centre full with people enjoying themselves. Congratulations to Woolsery who were the eventual winners.

We are a big Club, the biggest in North Devon and probably the biggest in Devon, but there is still plenty of room for you. Come along and join us any Monday or Friday 2.00 – 4.15. You will find a warm welcome.

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## Winkleigh Womens Institute

What a wonderful Centenary Year we have all had!!!!

NFWI decided that they would have a Baton sent round England and Wales, so each WI could see and touch it. It started in Wales on Anglesey where in September 1915 a group of ladies met in a small hall and this Institute at Llanfair pg is still running today 100 years later.

Now for our year. In January we were making beaded Jewellery with Barbara and February saw us learning some of the Advertising skills needed to promote a new product with Rozz

Five Winkleigh members attended Devon's Centenary Event with the Baton - on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> one member went to Exeter and on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> four members went to Halwill for a splendid lunch, entertainment and to pass the Baton around before it left Devon for Dorset.

Devon Freewheelers talked to us about transporting blood and organs around the County in March and we held our Birthday lunch on the 8<sup>th</sup> (our actual date) we were 88 years young!

Dot kindly taught us some useful handicraft skill in April but unfortunately nobody was free to attend the Federation Spring Council Meeting in Torquay. May was our AGM and also the Taw Valley Spring Group meeting in Chulmleigh Town Hall. June was the month that the National AGM was to be held in London at the Royal Albert Hall - there was also a WI Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. As our President Mrs Claire Tricker was the Delegate for Winkleigh and Ashreigney for the AGM, she was lucky enough to be able to go to the Garden Party as well! 5,000 women in Posh Hats and Frocks on a very windy day with Footmen chasing many hats around the inner entrance to the Palace and when we were all leaving we brought part of London to a standstill. Hundreds of coaches parked in the Mall with an exact time slot for arriving and leaving.

The AGM was very interesting and being inside the Royal Albert Hall was fantastic. We were lucky that Devon Federation were seated on the floor of the hall and had a good view of the stage and the Royal Family (Her Majesty the Queen, H.R.H. Princess Anne and Sophie Countess of Wessex). The Queen formally opened the Meeting and we all stood to sing Jerusalem; then she received the Baton on behalf of NFWI (she is of course a member of Sandringham WI herself).

The Presentation of the Bouquets did not quite go as well as planned! The first little girl was shy (especially when she saw all the people in the Hall) but she managed to go some of the way towards the Queen on her own. Princess Anne's flowers came from a VERY shy little girl who hid in her mother's dress most of the way and when Princess Anne bent down to say something she rushed behind

her mother again. But, the young lady who was to present Sophie`s flowers stomped onto the stage, thrust the flowers to Sophie, turned her back - and stomped off again!. All of us were trying not to laugh but when Princess Anne shrugged her shoulders (as if to say "*what have we done*"?) the Queen then smiled and the whole Hall dissolved into laughter - including the Royals. After the Royal Party had left the stage it was down to business for the rest of the day including links via satellite to Wales, Cheshire and Torrington (the Plough). As all these events were during the first week of June we were unable to hold our own Meeting! Later on in the month we had Taw Valley Centenary Garden Party at Riddiford House on the 17<sup>th</sup> , to which some previous Presidents were invited.

July saw us with yet another Garden Party at the home of Barbara Thorne.

September`s Meeting was at Tarka Pottery and a good time was had by all - and we have bowls to prove it!. We were lucky to have Mrs Pam Kemp talk to us about the Seychelles and show us some slides about the islands and her life there. More craft in November, Christmas Rings (polystyrene ring, small squares of material and glue) The demonstrator was Jo-Anne Sharp from St Giles in the Wood WI.

December`s meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> and it will be in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Kirk England talking about his life as a Roving Reporter for the BBC. This is an OPEN Meeting and all are welcome. The Meeting starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets £3 including tea and biscuits. There will also be a raffle! There will be the usual Christmas Lunch for members on the 8<sup>th</sup>

Next Year`s Programme will be on the Winkleigh Village website and so just click onto WI

The WI would like to thank Alan Mulcahy for all his time and efforts editing and preparing Distinctly Winkleigh

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE WI TO YOU ALL.**

## **Do You Know... & Do You Want To Find Out?**

We are a friendly group who like exploring our family histories, and willing to help if you are interested. We also have discussions on various historical topics which may be relevant to your family backgrounds. We meet monthly and it is free.

For further information ring **Kate** on 01837 83974 or **Margaret** 01837 83660

# An Arts and Crafts Mystery in Devon

## CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, WINKLEIGH

Interior Decoration and George Henry Pinckard

The Church, mainly 14th and 15th century, although the Chancel seems to date from the end of the 12th or early 13th century was restored in 1871-3 by the Barnstaple architect Richard Davey Gould (1817-1890). The majority of the £7,000 costs were donated by a locally born man, George Henry Pinckard.

The original wagon roofs were repaired and repainted all over, the angels re-carved and gilded on the nave roof. The lovely Chancel roof (by Gould) was enriched by diagonal ribs and wall plates with shield-bearing angels, carved by Hems, and the whole was painted and gilded.

An interesting feature of the decoration is the large amount of Sgraffito patterns on all the interior walls, coloured with terracotta and green. The amount of Sgraffito seen here is unusual in Devon churches. Sgraffito is formed by patterns being incised in the top layer of plaster to reveal the coloured layer of plaster beneath. The patterns, perhaps, suggest some early influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement, with its emphasis on natural forms and designs. Did the architect have some contact with William Morris or his followers? Or as G.H. Pinckard was then living in Surrey, did he bring some ideas from that part of the world? Much more research is needed to explain how this rural church came to be so beautifully decorated. Winkleigh is surely fortunate to have such a treasure in its midst.

Biographical details:

GEORGE HENRY PINCKARD benefactor of All Saints was born in Winkleigh Court on 25th May 1805. He became Chief of The Clerical, Medical & General Life Assurance Co. Moved to Chiddingfold, Surrey, and bought Coombe Court in 1860. He married Rose Hodson in 1865. Rebuilt the school and restored the Parish church with new Lychgate 1867/8. Supplied funds for Winkleigh Church in 1871. Winkleigh parishioners gave him a silver inkstand on his Silver Wedding in 1890. He died on 23rd July 1892 and is buried in Chiddingfold Churchyard. There are memorial busts of him in Winkleigh and Chiddingfold Churches.

From an obituary notice:

‘Mr. Pinckard became famous among agriculturists for his herd of Devons, with which he won prizes at many shows, eventually showing the ‘best beast’ of the year at Smithfield. As a landowner he was active with purse and advice in works of benevolence. He was especially conspicuous for his bounty in the promotion of church restoration, both in Surrey and Devon, and for the zeal with which he propagated the true principles of thrift in rural districts. He was a judicious, popular and painstaking county magistrate.

Section from his will:

‘I give to the Rector and Churchwardens of the Parish of Chiddingfold, Surrey and Winkleigh, Devon the sum of £200 to both to extend in such a way as they shall think fit in providing for the poor in their parishes a day of rejoicing on the second 25th of May after my decease, unless such a day shall happen on a Sunday, in which case the Monday immediately following the 25th day of May shall be substituted as the day of rejoicing. I desire it to be announced in each parish that such a day of rejoicing is in grateful recognition that I have lived many years with both the means and the wish to render some essential service to each parish



And the mystery.... to discover more about George Henry Pinckard’s Chiddingfold life and connections.

Submitted by **John Flower** who entered a photograph of the wall decorations for the Arts & Crafts Movement Society’s Photographic Competition 2013

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# Winkleigh Sports Centre

## **Thanks**

The Committee would like to thank the following:-

- 1) The Parish Council for their grant towards the upkeep and repair of the equipment in the play area.
- 2) Everyone who has supported the hall during the last 12 months.

## **Firework Night**

Unfortunately, this was cancelled as the Friends of Winkleigh School decided that they couldn't hold it in 2015.

## **Children's Parties – only £25 at the Weekend**

These have proved extremely popular throughout the summer months. A number of parents have organised 'Football' games on the old bowling green as part of their party and the children have loved these events. If you are still thinking of having a birthday or Christmas party in 2015 then a few dates are still available. Contact **John** on 01805 603394 for details.

## **Play Area**

In the next few weeks repairs and improvements will be made to items of equipment in the play area and a new backboard will be installed behind the basketball hoop.

## **Forthcoming Events**

Antiques and Collectors Fair on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Contact **Melanie** on 07940 794 463 for further information.

## **Clubs at the Sports Centre**

### **Junior Tennis Coaching - 5 to 11 years**

We have a very good junior tennis coach, Lowie Parker, who runs the junior tennis club every Sunday morning from 9:30 until 10:30am. If it is wet still come along as the children train in the hall. We need children to attend these sessions to keep Lewie at the club, so please bring your child/children along or contact **Lewie** on 07972 171330.

### **Ladies Exercise Class**

Leighe Hall runs a ladies exercise class on a Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm until 8:30pm. Contact **Leighe** on 01837 83061 for further information or just come along (please bring a drink and towel/mat).

### **Saturday Club – Aged 3 onwards**

We would welcome new members at Saturday Club which runs from 10:00am until 12:30pm. and would like to see any older members that we haven't seen for some time. For more information contact **Brian Holland** on 01837 83521.

### Short Mat Bowling

The Short Mat Bowling Club meets twice per week for roll-ups. These are held on Monday and Friday afternoons from 2:00pm until 4:30pm. For further information contact **Jan Ovenden** on 01837 83853

### Snooker Club

Please contact **Peter Anstey** for information on 01769 520396.

### Tennis Club

For court access please contact **Bill Dean** on 01837 82168.

### Youth Club

The Youth Club operates every Wednesday evening from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. Contact **Rosemary Anstey** for further information.

### All enquiries for the Hall

Contact **John Spilstead** on 01805 603394 or email him at [winkleighsportscentre@gmail.com](mailto:winkleighsportscentre@gmail.com)

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# Hollocombe Music Club



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To find out about forthcoming events, please add yourself to our mailing list by visiting our website at:



[hollocombemusicclub.org.uk](http://hollocombemusicclub.org.uk)



## STABLE GREEN METHODIST CHAPEL

The people of Stable Green are busy preparing for **CAROLS IN THE BARN**

To be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 at Beechlea, Berners Cross, Winkleigh .

Make sure you don't miss this magical event when the Christmas Story will be brought to life with total audience participation, moving effects and live sheep and donkey.

This is a real family occasion and suitable for all ages and we invite you and the children to dress the part. Shepherd, King, Angel donkey or sheep all welcome. But do make sure you wrap up warm.

There will be refreshments afterwards and a retiring collection for a local charity.

We look forward to seeing you all for this special event.

For more information call Jane 01837680128 or Dave 0183783853

**Please note the date change.**

**We have moved to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to avoid a clash with another village event**

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## WHATS GOING ON AT WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Autumn is definitely upon us now with the clocks having been altered and long dark evenings ahead of us for a few months. It also means that Christmas is just around the corner whether we like to think about it or not.

Some of our members have been working very hard establishing our new and very brightly coloured “Youth room” in the chapel. It really is looking fab and the young people are looking forward to being able to use it. Our new youth event “SPACE” has been very well attended and feedback has been good. A pool table, air hockey, table tennis and x-box games have been sampled so far, and having just received a very nice grant from the Parish Council, no doubt other things will be added. A Tuck shop is run every evening which is a definite hit. The evening is run by some of our younger members from our church and Kevin Down our Circuit Youth Worker. December 10<sup>th</sup> will be the only evening for the month and will then return on January 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a £1 admission charge.

Oasis continues to run on a Monday morning from 11.00 – 2.00pm. Come and join us for a hot home-cooked 2-course lunch for just £6.95p. We recently gave a cheque for £500.00p to Project Gateway a charity that we support through some of the takings from Oasis which was very much appreciated for their on-going work in South Africa. We also like to support something nearer to home and are currently looking into a Holiday at Home project which we may possibly run here in the chapel next year.

As previously mentioned, Christmas fast approaches. The Oasis Christmas lunch will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, booking is necessary for this meal. We will be having our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5.00pm led by Kevin & Bridget Down. On Christmas morning we have a short service at 10.30am. Normal worship will take place on Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am led by Mrs Daisy Bray. Everyone is welcome to join us for all events to celebrate the birth of Christ with us.

All worship times are on our notice board outside of the chapel along with any other special events that we may have on, also,

Keep up to date on Facebook @**WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHAPEL**.

Until the next time, Have a Merry Christmas & A happy New Year, from all at Winkleigh Methodist Chapel.

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

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

Rev Nigel Coke-Woods 01837 810591.

## Village Lunchboxes

Village Lunchboxes is a new catering service offered in mid-Devon.

We provide quality and interesting finger buffet style food delivered to your home or business in temperature controlled insulated boxes ready for you to serve at your convenience. We can also supply crockery and cutlery if required, we offer a full service for 5 to 30 people.

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## ACE Archaeology Club Autumn 2015

We are just about recovered from our 'dig' back in August/September. We had a great time with a great team. We had some new members, who were brilliant and carried on despite, in at least one case, a visitor from Sheffield, being flooded out of their tent. We were so pleased to have attracted a digger from so far afield.



We found more cobbles! We seem to have a house with cobbled floors both indoors and out. Something like a Devon longhouse? We don't know yet but it is exciting.

The weather was variable but we didn't have to spend too much time in the mess tent eating cake. Our new tent, which was the finds and administration tent, was great and we are now hoping to raise some money to buy another tent to replace the old, dark and leaking mess tent.

In October the Kingsteignton History Society asked us to have a look at what might be an Iron Age Hill fort but isn't typical. We wondered if it might be Roman in fact. We hope the Society will do more work on the site.

We had a major problem with our website, thanks to hackers, and it is now being rebuilt from scratch. So apologies if anyone has been trying to get in touch. If you want more information please use the e-mail address below

We have our AGM in November and that involves a planning meeting with our members so we hope to have some interesting things planned for next year.

We will let you know.

Erica Williamson Secretary

ACE Archaeology Club

[ace@acearch.org.uk](mailto:ace@acearch.org.uk)

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## THE INCOMPLEAT ANGLER (4)

Another excerpt from Ed Collinson's journal of an Australian adventure in their converted school bus a few years ago.

We had an overnight stop at a small bush camp near Manjimup in the Shannon National Park West Australia. A notice stated that there would be 'fire bombing in order to start controlled fires, these are necessary from time to time'. We took a chance that they wouldn't fire bomb our bus during the next 24 hours and pressed on into the woods. Eventually, after about half an hour driving down a narrowing track we found a delightful little clearing.

We had crossed over a rickety bridge at the bend of a small stream. I wandered, beer in hand, back to the crossing to see if, in case of a 'fire bombing emergency', we would be able to take it at speed. Then I walked along the path that hugged the banks of the tinkling brook. At a spot where the stream widened and slowed I sat in the silent woods and considered fishing for yabbies; small freshwater crayfish.

The best way to catch yabbies is with a baited net, I didn't have one but I thought I would adapt the fly net that I had put over my hat in the Kakadu National Park to keep the insects out of my facial orifices. I would bait it with a piece of bacon and hope to catch about a dozen for tomorrow's dinner. I returned to our bus and told the 'dinner lady'

"Just off to catch some yabbies for tomorrow's dinner love"

"All right dear" She replied in a tone that belied the anticipatory thrill she undoubtedly felt.

Using a short length of wire I fashioned a neck leading into the net, put a small piece of bacon inside, tied a length of string to secure it to an overhanging branch and tossed it into a likely looking spot in the middle of the stream behind a submerged log.

The next morning I woke early. I pulled on my boots and slipped out of the bus in my bathrobe. Armed with a mug of freshly brewed coffee I picked my way through the trees and the early shafting sunlight down to the riverbank. A blue fairy wren flitted alongside for a few yards scolding me off his patch. Then silence returned.

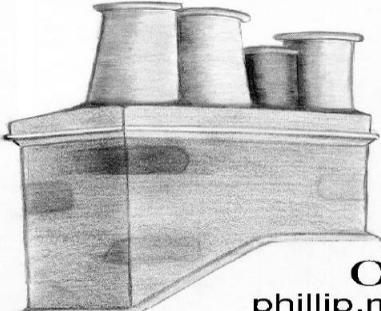
I crept stealthily and somewhat incongruously, in big boots and bathrobe, towards the twig to which I had tied my trap. I hauled in the net and peered in at tonight's dinner.

Most of the bacon had gone. A small yabbie sat on the remains of my bait defiantly waving its feelers at me. I searched the folds of my fly net for the other eleven that we would require for the dinner recipe. Clearly they had scarpered leaving this one to take the rap. As there is not much you can do with one yabbie,

from a culinary point of view that is, I released him and tossed him the remains of the bait.

As I watched him reclaim squatter's right on the leftovers I became aware of a strange noise. Rhythmic thumps that I could not identify. For a worrying moment I wondered 'what sort of noise does a firebombing plane make?' This sounded more like a small pile driver. With each thump it sounded closer. I realised that whatever was making the noise was rapidly approaching on the path that I was sitting on.

I began to get to my feet. Unfortunately in doing so I stepped on the hem of my bathrobe. As I teetered on the edge of the stream a very large grey kangaroo rounded the bend. For a split second he and I were on a collision course. It would be difficult to say who was most surprised. I suppose he was. At least I had heard something coming. He, on the other hand, could hardly have expected, as he took his usual early morning bounce through the woods, that he would come across a chap in a bathrobe and big boots studying yabbies. He skidded to an ungainly sprawling halt a couple of feet from me, did a comical double take, then, in an untidy confusion of legs and tail, plunged off at right angles through the dense undergrowth.



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**And really, really finally . . . . . !**

This issue has been harder than usual to put together, not only because of some technical problems with my email provider - which added some uncertainty that all articles that have been sent were actually received, but also my wish that my last issue would not be unduly affected by this.

The new team will be taking over in 2016 and I wish them every success. I'm sure they will get just as much support from the people of Winkleigh as I have over the past eight years.

To give the new team a little more time to prepare their first issue, the deadline for the next issue is Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> but please feel free to send in your articles earlier – it greatly helps with planning article placement!

Meanwhile, may I take the opportunity to wish all our readers

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

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## **WINKLEIGH SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Philip Griffiths</b>	<b>01837 83407</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Alan Mulcahy</b>	<b>01837 680145</b>
<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Penny Griffiths</b>	<b>01837 83407</b>
	<b>Margaret Miller</b>	<b>01837 83398</b>
	<b>Peter Howard</b>	<b>01837 83610</b>
	<b>Alan Jacobs</b>	<b>01837 83895</b>
	<b>Stephen Leahy</b>	<b>01837 83599</b>
	<b>Charles Stapleton</b>	<b>01837 83109</b>

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**

<b>Alice Turner</b>	<b>01837 83484</b>
<b>Godfrey Rhodes</b>	<b>01837 682982</b>

Contributions to the newsletter can be received as follows:  
Articles are fine in printed form, but we can also accept  
WORD format files on CD, Memory Stick, or e-mail submissions .

Newsletter team e-mail: [articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk](mailto:articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk)

Postal submissions: Rowans, King's Farm Lane, EX19 8HF  
or 32 Westcots Drive, Winkleigh, EX19 8JW

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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