



DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

The Winkleigh Society

WORKING FOR WINKLEIGH & HOLLOCOMBE

SUMMER 2025





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Winkleigh Society Report

SUMMER 2025

Wanton Womanisers, Frisky Fornicators and Settlement Swindlers feature prominently in Winkleigh's Parish records held at the North Devon Library.

Tyler Pollard, North Devon's Chief Archivist, entertained us at the Winkleigh Society A.G.M. with some of these tales from the Parish Poor Relief records. The overseers of the Parish of Winkleigh and Hollocombe were pre-occupied with tracking down miscreants who were suspected of cheating the poor relief system. The unwed mothers were made to confess publicly and name the father so they could be charged for the upkeep of the child. Runaway apprentices were also a recurring problem with farmers reluctant to be responsible for and pay unsuitable apprentices. Further up the social ladder the last duel in England took place on Haldon Racecourse over a Miss Dunham in 1870.

Going back much further to the Domesday survey of 1086 Tyler told us about **Brictric** who before the Norman conquest of 1066 was the Saxon Lord of Winkleigh. However, after the 1066 conquest, King William bequeathed all the lands that Brictric held to his wife Matilda which she specifically requested. We do not know what happened to Brictric after 1066 but we do know that Brictric, when he was ambassador to Edward the Confessor, had visited Flanders where he met Matilda daughter of the count of Flanders.

Matilda fell in love with the blond, handsome Saxon Earl and [defying all convention] proposed to him. Brictric turned her down. Matilda was humiliated. The Domesday book records the transfer of all the lands from Brictric to Matilda but not what happened to Brictric....

After this entertaining whizz through the archives I summarize what we as a society tackled this year.



1. Bedding in all the changes to D.W. has been challenging. Many thanks to our new editor Peter Hopkinson.
2. **Local Distinctiveness;** We do strive to feature stories that bring our History to life. Featuring across three editions of D.W was the story of Ron Peachey, the impoverished London evacuee who spent the war years in the village. Deanne Whittacker captured this story when [many years later] Ron and his wife stayed at her Bed and Breakfast. Deanne listened to Ron's story and urged his wife to write it down. Deanne then handed it to the living history project for inclusion in the book 'It's Living History isn't it? It is a hymn of praise to Winkleigh



AGM photo by Jaqui Sheppard.

and its rural way of life. We will investigate getting Ron's story professionally illustrated.

2. VISUALISATION OF THE ROMANO BRITISH SETTLEMENT (off Townsend Hill). Very pleased that Devon's Chief Archaeologist Bill Horner was able to acquire this for D.W. so our readers could see clearly how our ancestors would have lived.
3. Hosting the posties and proof readers tea at Fiona's in October. This is our annual thank you to a great team headed up by Barry Jenkins.
4. Annual service of remembrance at Winkleigh Airfield.
5. Hosting a visit from Devon County Council Conservators in the Community Centre who advised us on storage options for the Winkleigh Archive.
6. Visiting the county Archive in Exeter and given a tour by Brian Carpenter who explained what the conservators do to preserve and display Devon County's heritage.
7. Continuing to engage with the many businesses and traders in the village and invite them to advertise in our quarterly magazine *Distinctly Winkleigh*.
8. Ring o' Bells [village pub that burnt down in 1967] original sales documents have been sent to us by a family member of the former owners via Godfrey. Good addition to our archive.
9. Publishing *Distinctly Winkleigh* four times a year.

Kim Melhuish then read out her account of the Winkleigh biodiversity Group.

After the treasurers report we then moved on to the election of officers with Andrew Saywell taking the chair.

The existing committee agreed to stay on with the exception of Stone Naylor and Adam Wonnacott.

We received three new nominations: Richard Clarke, Ian Bishop and Catherine Knight. All voted in unanimously.

Andrew Saywell then spoke fondly of *Distinctly Winkleigh*, in his opinion one of the best village magazines in his patch. He said that several magazines in his area have now folded and that demise impoverishes community life.

Andrew then announced a dramatic career change. He is leaving politics and will be training to become an airline pilot.

We thanked him and District Councillor Simon Newton for always contributing reports to *Distinctly Winkleigh* and regularly attending our A.G.M.

I concluded by thanking our pro-active committee members, our speaker Tyler Pollard, our helpers who set up the hall and prepared the refreshments and Lorne & Alec Hamilton who ensured we could all be heard and the slide show worked.

Penny Griffiths and Margaret Miller



Welcome

TO OUR SUMMER EDITION

Firstly, many congratulations to DW's Designer Becci Arscott and her husband Ashley on the birth of their daughter Annabelle Helen Arscott. An enormous number of thanks go to Becci for doing the graphic design work on this issue when she should have been on maternity leave!

This issue sees first time editorial contributions from 2 establishments that are very important to Winkleigh & Hollocombe. The first is West Ridge Veterinary Practice which is well known to the majority of pet owners amongst us and the second is Chulmleigh College where a lot of our children progress to from Winkleigh Primary School. The current Chulmleigh College Head Boy, Harrison Jordan, is an Old Boy (can you be one from a primary school?) of Winkleigh Primary School and is profiled on p43 of this issue.

The local elections have seen a change in our Devon County Councillor and we welcome Councillor Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin to our pages and say thank you and farewell to high flier Andrew Saywell who is leaving the political arena to become an airline pilot.

Summer is here and the Winkleigh Fair 2025 (July 13 -19) is just around the corner. There is a programme of events on pages 32 & 33 so put the dates in your diary and enjoy all the fun of the fair!

Peter Hopkinson

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The Distinctly Winkleigh Team

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PRESS SNIPPETS

North Devon Journal April 17th

The Environment Agency is warning farmers with private springs, wells and boreholes to check that they are taking water legally. Farm inspectors report a lot of unlicensed abstraction in Devon and Cornwall.

Crediton Courier May 8th

Fire-fighters from Okehampton, Hatherleigh and North Tawton tackled a wildfire on Dartmoor which destroyed 12,500 acres of Moorland.

The Exeter Observer May 21st

The Supreme Court judges have unanimously upheld the legal right to wild camp on Dartmoor.

North Devon Journal May 8th

Two tier society fears with move to cashless transactions. Businesses may need to be forced to accept coins and

banknotes to make sure Britain does not sleepwalk into a cashless society.

Crediton Courier May 15th

An independent police conduct investigation has found no evidence of gross misconduct in its investigation into former Acting Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Jim Colwell. Suspended from duties in November, he has now resumed his duties.

Okehampton Times May 15th

Ten Tors grit and glory. Enduring heat, rain, hills, bogs and tiredness more than 2,000 teenagers completed the tough annual Ten Tors Challenge on the weekend of May 10th – 11th. A gruelling test of endurance, training, commitment and team work.

Penny Griffiths

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WINKLEIGH

Parish Church News

Over the last few months, we have had a front row seat from the kitchen window of the Vicarage of a blackbird nest. The nest is in the climber which grows up right in front of the window, giving us a privileged insight into the nurture of new life. We have seen the female blackbird diligently building her nest and sitting on her eggs. This was followed by the delightful sight of two baby blackbirds, beaks open wide for whatever delights their hard-working parents wanted to offer from the abundance of the garden. There was then the slightly worrying sight of a baby bird wobbling on the edge of the nest and before we knew it they had fledged. I did spend a few days hoping they were safe and praying that they didn't succumb to a cat or any other calamity, but as far as I can tell all was well.

It led me to reflect on the delicate balance of nature and how easily things could have gone wrong for our blackbird family, especially at human hands. We are lucky that the Vicarage garden is rather large and that we can consciously leave areas to grow wild as well as abandoning logs and sticks to rot, thus providing the habitats for insects to thrive and feed those hungry blackbirds. The pond and water barrel have provided spots to drink and bathe. We have also managed to not have to trim the climber and the window cleaner was asked to not clean the window, to avoid disturbing the nest. These were all relatively small and simple things but ones which have allowed new life to flourish and thrive.

By allowing nature to flourish and thrive, then we thrive too. It is easy to forget that humans are as much part of God's wonderful creation as the flora and fauna which surround us. Psalm 104 paints a beautiful picture of the interconnectedness of all living beings and of creator God - 'How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all.'

It reminds us that we are part of that delicate balance and each part is important in the life of the whole from the tiniest insect to the prickliest bramble (I may still need some convincing on the rampaging nature of brambles!) We are already seeing the impacts of climate change as we experience the driest spring on record and we need to be attuned to the effects we have on the planet. A reminder to us that we may need to amend our actions accordingly so we are the wise stewards of God's creation and all that we have been given for future generations.

Blessings

Revd Helen Blaine

01837 83710 or Revhelenblaine@outlook.com

P.S The blackbirds are back for a second brood!



Winkleigh Church *Flower Ladies*



During Lent 'Remembrance lilies' were available to purchase in respect of a departed loved one being a family member or friend. It is an annual wish very much desired. The thought was very much desired, hence the flower ladies were able to decorate all windows within the church together with the entrance porch. The 'loved ones' names were recorded in the book of 'Remembrance' for all to view during a church visit, also at the coffee morning held on Tuesday 22nd. March 2025.

Since 'covid' we have made donations to charities. This year a donation was made to 'The Air Ambulance' & 'Shelter Box' of £150.00 each. Thank you to everyone who supported us during this event.

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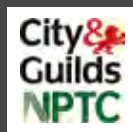
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WHAT'S GOING ON at *Winkleigh Methodist Church?*

I'm sure you've stayed in lots of hotels over the course of your life, and there's a fair chance that many of them will have had a Bible on the bedside table or in a drawer somewhere. Have you ever wondered how it got there? A book recording events that happened thousands of years ago in the Middle East and around the Mediterranean Sea?

By 2020, the full Bible had been translated into 700 languages, and the New Testament on its own had been translated into over 1,500. That mission began at Pentecost, when Jesus' closest followers, the apostles, received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Flames appeared above their heads and they suddenly started speaking in different languages. Some people who saw and heard them joked that they were drunk! But they were being given the power to follow the instruction Jesus gave them before he returned to heaven: "...you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere... to the ends of the earth."

At Winkleigh Methodist, we might not have seen firsthand how Jesus lived and what He did for us, but we want to continue that mission to tell people about Him. Recently, it was lovely to invite local children into the chapel for the first Easter Holiday Club in many years; lots of fun was had by children

and leaders alike as we played games and learnt about Easter together.

Tea and Pudding has welcomed our local community in once more and will continue throughout the summer on every 4th Sunday of the month. Proceeds go towards the running of the chapel, with a portion donated to charitable causes.

The young people at Winkleigh Methodist are also getting ready for Stowford Camp, an action-packed weekend full of fun activities, inspirational teaching and worship; a chance to meet up with friends, hang out with God and explore what life with God can really look like. Children and young people from any or no faith background are welcome; if you'd like more information, go to the 'Infusion' Facebook page.

Lizzie Marshall

UPCOMING DATES

4-6th July – Stowford Camp

Sat 26th July – Heritage Exhibition

Sun 27th July, 3-4:30pm
– Tea and Pudding


We meet every Sunday morning at 11am and all are welcome to join us.


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From your **Devon** **County Councillor**

It is a real pleasure to say hello as your new county councillor! It's a privilege to have been elected to represent you and I will work hard to make lives better for the people of Torrington Rural. Over the past few weeks we have had our induction and training sessions as well as our first full council AGM and cabinet meeting, and I've been getting to know lots of parish councils too!

The county results for the new council are that there is no single party control. Of the 60 seats, the Lib Dems won the most with 27, Reform UK, new to the county, won 18 seats; the Conservative Party – 7 seats; Green Party – 6; Independents – 2; with the Labour Party now having no seats on the council. This is a significant change at County Hall, where the Conservatives had been in control since 2009. 80% of the county councillors are new which is pretty phenomenal.

Cllr Julian Brazil was voted in as our leader and I was honoured to be invited onto his cabinet with the portfolio for

rural affairs. This is a brand new role that has been formed at the County Council and I'm really excited about what it will bring. I'm a fifth generation farmer and feel so strongly about supporting our rural communities. We often feel ignored and forgotten up here, and I will work hard to make sure that isn't the case in the future. I attended the Devon County Show a few weeks ago and was pleased to speak alongside Cllr Brazil on BBC Radio Devon about rural isolation here in Devon, including the lack of public transport and poor access to services as well as the isolation experienced by farmers and others in the community.

At our AGM, as well as voting in our leaders and chairs, we also voted to install "swift boxes" to some of DCC's buildings, a quick and easy way to protect this declining species, and we will be lobbying central government to require all new builds to install "swift bricks" as standard.

At our first cabinet meeting we heard



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about plans to improve support for local foster carers in Devon (there are 250 across the county). We agreed to bring allowances in line with national levels, reduce council tax charges for registered foster carers in line with neighbouring local authorities, and have also introduced an "equipment fund" to provide carers with essential equipment such as new mattresses, buggies and car seats. We hope this will show how much we value our foster carers and the important job they do, and increase retention rates across Devon.

I have lots of informal meetings lined up in the coming weeks, to be briefed on various issues including broadband, and also a day with our neighbourhood highways officer to have a look at the state of our roads and find out what has been prioritised for future work, as well as highlighting with him the many roads

that have been raised with me by local residents in the past few months.

I was pleased to attend Winkleigh Parish Council and look forward to working with them. There were many issues raised with me and we will meet again soon to discuss in more detail, particularly regarding highways, including speeding concerns in Winkleigh.

Please get in touch if there is anything I can help with, my email address is cheryl.cottle-hunkin@devon.gov.uk or phone/message 07495367801 and I will do my best to help

Best wishes,

Cheryl

Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin
County Councillor for Torrington Rural
Email: cheryl.cottle-hunkin@devon.gov.uk
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From your **District Councillor**

Well what was that? We have just finished the long dry spell covering most of April and May that I hope was not our Summer; although the rain we are now getting is welcome, let's hope we go on to get a proper Summer also.

As a result of the County Council elections earlier this month we have a new county councillor in Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin who has taken over from Andrew Saywell who retired from local government in order to pursue a new career as an airline pilot. Cheryl has been a fellow District councillor with me on TDC for the past 6 years and I welcome her to her new role in which I am sure she will be very effective. She has also been appointed to Devon County Council's cabinet to hold the Rural Affairs brief and so, like Andrew before her who was also in the cabinet, we can continue to enjoy a senior level of representation at County.

I was interested to hear when attending a recent Winkleigh Parish Council meeting that following the recent election 80% of councillors on

Devon County Council are new. I have also been told by previous county councillors that it takes at least six months for a new councillor to find their way around and start to understand how the Council with its £1.9bn budget works. With the Government's reorganisation of County and District councils (Local Government Reorganisation) requiring all local government administration and services in the County to be reorganised into 1, 2 or 3 unitary authorities (yet to be decided) within two years, I really worry about the workload and learning curve being inflicted upon our new County councillors. Indeed, I doubt some of them will have the time that this major piece of work will require and others may be challenged by its complexity.

The inevitable result will be that the reorganisation at County will be officer-led as most elected councillors will not yet be sufficiently embedded to make informed contributions to the decision-making process. With the combining of the District and County councils (and also possibly Torbay unitary council)



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there should of course be a significant saving of “headquarter costs” achieved by reducing the number officer and staff posts, so it would follow that the elected councillors should be in the driving seat otherwise the reorganisation will centre around preserving officer and staff posts - turkeys don't vote for Christmas! Exactly why it was argued that the recent County Council elections should have been delayed so experienced elected councillors could have been in control of the process – unfortunately party politics suggested otherwise.

The Parish Council laid on an excellent consultation evening last month although it was disappointing to see how few people attended. At that meeting I said how well I thought the Parish Council had done over the past year having restructured some of their functions giving them a much clearer focus. They have also been instrumental in setting up a collaborative group connecting Parish Councils across the District to share best practice and to identify common areas of concern.

In my last contribution I covered the issue of local services. The words I used to describe the village shop (Bakery Stores) may have been a bit clumpy and I wish to say that I intended no offence to Red or Ben. My overall message remains the same and many people from the village have been in touch to agree, however I apologise if this was felt to be a personal criticism by some.

As always, if you have an issue or question that you think I may be able to help with then please feel free to get in touch.

Councillor Simon Newton MBE

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ACCREDITED INSTALLER

A few words from the new Chair of Winkleigh Parish Council

After serving a four year 'Apprenticeship' as a Parish Councillor, I had the privilege of being voted in as Chair of Winkleigh Parish Council recently.

We have a very active Parish Council who have been working hard over the last few years to improve how the Council works in making it more efficient, and to engage more with the Parish. We have set up three groups, People, Finance & Government and Environment, to concentrate on aspects of Council work. The Leads of these groups have been Cllr. Pauline Odulinski, Cllr. Andy Keys and Cllr. Andrew Warner. This year, so far, we have held a Business Breakfast, to help engage more with local businesses, and a Community Evening for Parishioners to come along and hear what we have been doing and to ask any questions of concern.

Please remember that if you wish to send a question to the Parish Council you can use our contact form at www.winkleighpc.org/parish-council.

I look forward to serving the Parish as the Council Chair and would welcome seeing more Parishioners attend our monthly meetings.

With my best regards,

Cllr Greg Goldsworthy

Winkleigh YFC

I would like to start by apologising for missing a few articles! This time of year is usually slightly quieter for YFC, as many members are working long hours on silaging etc.

In March, we held our dodgeball tournament at the Waie Inn. The club has purchased a decent set of dodgeballs, meaning that is something that we can now do every year. Members who attended all enjoyed themselves.

3 members also went off to South West Area weekend, in Weston super-Mare. This weekend happens every year, and alternates around 3 coastal towns. Aside from perhaps visiting the pub, members go to see (or take part in) finals of competitions that have been taking place throughout the year.

We held our yearly blind drop at Ashreigney Village Hall. It was brilliant to use a new venue, and the backlanes around Ashreigney had a few people lost! Many thanks to members/parents who donated soups/cakes. All proceeds will be donated to charity.

In April, we had Lee from Sparex come to do a talk for the club. He showed us how the company is creating agricultural information videos for YouTube, and invited members to take part. Many thanks to Lee for your time.

For more information about our club or membership, feel free to call me on 07498 972991 or find our Facebook group – Winkleigh YFC

Tim Laarveld

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ACE Archaeology Club

Spring has certainly sprung but by the time you read this it will probably be pouring with rain, or we will have a drought. The upside of droughts for archaeologists is that it can show up buried sites, through parch marks/roughly speaking, if there are buried walls they show up as drier lines but if there are ditches, they stay greener. The trouble is that you do really need a 'plane to see the full effect, or nowadays, a drone! ACE's finances don't run to either of these things. So, we continue to dig. We very much hope that we can continue our dig at Moistown this year, but actual dates will have to be flexible, if you are interested keep an eye on our website or Facebook page.

We have reinvigorated our routes project with a meeting in May and details of this can also be found on the website. It was a positive meeting, and



we were joined by Terry Green from North Devon Archaeology Society who knows a lot about Devon place names and transhumance, the movement of animals to and from pasture, seasonally. We also had cake which always helps. The cake is the representation of a green lane with sheep being driven! We like the idea of cake matching the themes of our ACE days.

Talking of which, ACE days not cake, we have planned the following –

August - Moistown dig **2nd to 17th.**

13th September - we are hoping to arrange a visit to Uppacott long house on Dartmoor.

11th October - to be decided.

8th November – ACE AGM. A planning day with talks.

13th December – Looking at and working with some of the finds from Moistown.

ACE dates are always subject to change so do check the website and Facebook page for updates.

Erica Williamson

May 2025

www.acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com



TAW VALLEY QUILTERS

Forget the idea that a patchwork and quilting group is quiet and serene.

Taw Valley Quilters are a very lively group, there is always laughter and chatter, it's a miracle any work is produced! We not only make quilts (see Jeanne's star quilt) but also a variety of articles (see Jennie's cushion).

Our beginners are enjoying putting together their first lap quilt and within the group we have all levels of expertise, all are willing to help and assist each other.



Meetings are once a month in the Winkleigh Community Centre, on a Saturday, and sometimes we have professional tutors for workshops to expand our knowledge.

If you are interested please **contact Margaret** on **01837 83660(0)** or **mfer48dm@gmail.com**



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*“...it’s not a pet, Sir, hawks are not pets.”
Or when folks stop me and say, “Is it tame?”
Is it heck tame, it’s trained that’s all.
It’s fierce, and it’s wild, an’ it’s not bothered
about anybody, not even about me right.
And that’s why it’s great.”*

– Barry Hines, A Kestrel for a Knave 1968



Anyone who travelled by car in the 70s will remember the sight of kestrels hovering pointed winged, over the verges.

Others may be familiar with them from the movie “Kes”, or from GCSE English study of “A Kestrel for a Knave”, the literary source for the film. The film takes its title from the medieval law that a male servant or serf could own no bird but a kestrel.

Kestrels have been our most populous raptor for centuries, but also, it was capable of catching nothing much larger than a vole or a mouse.

Some may know the name windhover, or its other colloquial names: windcuffer (Orkneys); windsucker (possibly related to Swedish work “fokka”, to thrust or push). The name kestrel may come from the word crecelle - a bell carried by lepers. Ornithologists however are also likely to be familiar with *Falco tinnunculus* - the latinised name: *Falco* is from scythe, referring to its claws, more than its tendency to scythe the air; and *tinnunculus* suggesting little shrieks or ringing, echoing the bell.

Between 30 and 40cms tall, they are chestnut brown with blackish spots above, buff with smaller dark streaks below. The males sport a blue grey cap and tail, whilst the females have more pronounced blackish markings and a barred tail. They like open land, fields, heaths, scrubland and marshes and nests in cavities, so it is well worth providing a suitable nestbox if

you would like to see them around more.

Before their omnipresence in the 70s kestrels were at one point very badly affected by organochlorides such as DDT, but with their control/ban have fortunately recovered. They have 4 or 5 brown speckled eggs in each clutch, and usually 3 or 4 will make it through the months incubation and the month of brooding. Therefore so long as suitable habitat and food is available, they do have the potential to rebound a little better than many birds of prey, so long as the hazard harming them is promptly dealt with.

In the UK numbers are again fluctuating worryingly with a significant decline leaving only 40% of the earlier population (1995-2022) putting them firmly back on the UK Amber list for conservation. Most worryingly it is not yet clear why we appear to be losing our kestrels in the UK when their numbers are still stable in mainland Europe. Are we creating more secondary poisonings with rodenticides? Are we destroying nesting sites? Are they being directly persecuted? What is happening in the UK that is making it so inhospitable for one of our iconic native species, a bird with records running back into history, a bird so strongly linked to the English common man compared to their success in Europe?

To Coffey

GARDEN NOTES

Organic matter in soil and mulches

Jo Coffey



Organic matter benefits soils. Be they sand or clay, organic matter helps with moisture retention or drainage, and helps the soil texture be better for plant roots. Organic matter provides food for the microorganisms which keep a soil healthy, as well as for the worms and beetle larvae. Whilst traditionally it used to be dug into the soil, more recent work has shown that this isn't necessary. Unless it is necessary to dig to remove certain plant roots (eg docks) from a border or productive area, if organic matter is layered on top of soil it will, through natural forces, such as the worms and the rain, be drawn down into the soil. It has even been shown to be more beneficial to a balanced soil biome to not disturb it too much. The newly popular, but long tested and established, No-Dig gardening is very much based around these principles. It is something that most good gardeners have been practising for some time, often without realising it. My grandad wouldn't have called it No-Dig, but he regularly mulched his bountiful borders with spent mushroom compost (back in the days before they sterilised it before passing it on, so he had bonus mushrooms growing between his dahlias). This mulch has many benefits, it provides all of the benefits mentioned for adding organic matter to soil, but it also suppresses weed seed germination from the surface of the soil, makes newly arrived weed seeds easy to hoe or pull up, and it helps stop the rain which does fall in summer from all evaporating off the surface before it can benefit the plant by draining off past its roots.

Some mulches like compost break down fast and are topped up at least once a season, other mulches like beds and borders bark, will last a little longer, but essentially add the same benefits over time. Whilst mineral mulches like gravel and slate chippings can look attractive, and do have some good specific uses, generally they are best kept for areas where growing is happening in containers on top of them and they have a membrane underneath them as otherwise they too will tend work their way down into the soil.

Spent compost from annual planting containers can be used, but it is best to check it carefully for pests as vine weevils love pots but can still cause issues for plants in the ground (some like Heuchera are particularly susceptible) and never use the growing media which has had diseased plants in it as many diseases are soil borne and can last some time in compost.

Whether it's home made compost, bought multi purpose, or for the calcifuge plants like Camellias, a nice ericaceous compost without any added lime, your plants and the soil life will thank you for adding a good organic mulch to your borders and beds.

JUNE

- Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside
- Mow lawns at least once a week
- Plant out summer bedding
- Stake tall or floppy plants
- Prune many spring-flowering shrubs
- Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch

JULY

- Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
- Care for houseplant while on holiday
- Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise
- Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering
- Pick courgettes before they become marrows
- Treat apple scab
- Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up
- Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs
- Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if not given a spring feed
- Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines

AUGUST

- Prune Wisteria
- Don't delay summer pruning fruits trained as restricted forms
- Deadhead flowering plants regularly
- Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater
- Collect seed from garden plants
- Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready
- Once you harvest your main crop potatoes plant first earlies for a xmas treat
- Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries
- Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
- Keep ponds and water features topped up
- Feed the soil with green manures

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Victory in Europe Day

80th Anniversary

The 8th of May saw the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe which sadly Winkleigh didn't do justice to in terms of celebrating the occasion. Thankfully there was a church service of Commemoration that evening at the war memorial in the churchyard and hats off to the Village Hall Committee who themed the monthly market on the 3rd to mark the occasion. But where was the street party and where were the fireworks on the day?

Please see below Derek Miller's memory of being in London that evening, Revd. Helen Blaine's report on the service of Commemoration, Tony Aston's report of the Village Hall Market whilst Rachel Goldsworthy and Richard Clarke take a look at one of the table stall displays and the history behind the objects thereon.

I was there: A lasting memory of the late Derek Miller

I was fifteen years old and staying with my Aunty, Uncle and three cousins at Wilson Green.

My cousins, two other friends and I decided to go up into London to join in the celebrations. Early evening and we caught the underground to Trafalgar Square. The first thing I saw were enormous crowds climbing anything in sight and jumping into the fountains. The noise was tremendous with dancing and singing everywhere.

From there we walked to Downing Street. We were lucky enough to stand right by the corner of one of the gates as Winston Churchill walked out. If I had put my arm out I could have touched him.

From there we walked to Buckingham Palace, quite a walk especially with the crowds of people. At this stage we were still six of us together. I don't think I have ever been part of such a vast crowd of people before or since, an experience I will never forget. We waited there until the King, Queen, Royal family and Winston Churchill came out on the balcony. The cheering was deafening. Somehow during this part of the evening and with such massive crowds we managed to get split up with only one cousin and me being together.

The next challenge was to get home. By this time the underground had stopped so we walked the six miles home meeting many happy people all the way. We eventually got home at three o'clock in the morning.

This is an experience that has stayed in my mind all my life.

How the Parish Church marked the 80th Anniversary of VE Day *by Revd. Helen Blaine*

Thursday the 8th May saw the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. At 9:00am we raised the Union Jack and at 6:30pm our Bellringers joined in with the national celebratory peal. Later that evening we held a service of Commemoration at the war memorial in the churchyard. During the service we gave thanks for end of World War 2 in Europe and ultimately in the Far East. We thought about the impact of the war on the people of Winkleigh at the time including Aubrey Longston who lived in Fore

Street. He died in the sinking of HMS Neptune in December 1941. His name along with several others is on the war memorial. A testament to their service and the loss faced by this community. We also reflected on the role of RAF Winkleigh and on the challenges and hardships facing those who built it. Remembering too those who flew from the Airfield and never returned, especially those Canadian pilots who died so far from their homelands. As our thoughts turned to the end of the war we heard Derek Miller's wonderful memories of being in London on VE Day 1945. Sadly, war continues to rage in Europe and across the world and as we concluded our service we prayed for peace. Committing ourselves to play our part in working for a better, more peaceful and tolerant world. Finally, we lit our candles and all the candles in the churchyard to coincide with the national lighting of beacons at 9:30pm. The churchyard looked beautiful, and it was truly special to see other beacons being lit out across the valley and on the moor. It was lovely to have so many people come and commemorate the occasion.

Winkleigh Village Hall VE Day Anniversary Market

by Tony Aston



As we are all aware, this year marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, May 8th 1945. There are numerous residents of Winkleigh who, as children and young people, remember that day vividly. An important decision was made by the Village committee that we should mark the occasion of the anniversary in a special way.

The monthly Market, scheduled for May 3rd, provided an ideal opportunity to put on something exceptional. Firstly stallholders were asked to dress up either in period costume or in red, white and blue. This proved to be very popular and people were very creative.

The meeting room café was set up as a wartime NAAFI and decorated appropriately. The centre piece in there was a wooden Union Flag shield surmounted by original British and Allied military flags.

This was provided on the day by a local resident who related a story that went with it. It seems that this was displayed atop a lamppost in Pall Mall, London on VE night. A late relation apparently shinned up the lamppost, removed the display and promptly "relocated" it to his home, where it remained!

A slide show and accompanying music was shown in the NAAFI which displayed images from VE Day.

In the main hall, we were all entertained by the 1940s girl group, The Hummingbirds, who sang many wartime favourites, in the style of The Andrews Sisters, and were very well received.

The whole event was highly successful and many very happy people remarked how wonderful it was that we had made the effort to make the day as important and memorable as we did.

Margaret Bridgman's VE Day Display at the Village Hall Market *by Rachel Goldsworthy and Richard Clark*

Margaret Bridgman brought a wonderful historical table stall display to the special Village Hall Market which celebrated the 80th anniversary of V E Day.

This included 2 Scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings from the Western Morning News, which had been collected by, and featured Margaret's mother, Marion (maiden name) Hirst. Marion volunteered for the Land Army in 1940, aged 17 and a half, in Leeds. When asked, she wanted to help with milking cows in Yorkshire, being an only child and very precious to her parents. At 18, she was sent to Devon to train for 2 weeks as a rat-catcher on local farms!

After initial training with gin traps, cyanide gas and a cocoa tin full of arsenic, she later retrained with zinc phosphide which would kill almost immediately and she would often stay on the farms they had baited, some farms were very basic in terms of facilities. The Land Girls had no protective clothing and had to take great care with the poison! They would often kill over 200 rats at a time.

Marion's story was featured in the Tarka Country millennium Award project book about Winkleigh by Gillian Holman (Interviews & text) and Peter Monkcom (Photographs and Design) "It's Living History, isn't it?" The Winkleigh Society has a copy of this book in its Archive.

Later Marion met and married local Farmer's son Norman Short. He was in the Home Guard as a Night Watch Lookout in the church Bell Tower. He used to stay overnight on Lookout Duty then work all day at Westwood Farm (where he was born in 1914)!

Marion's friends and colleagues were Land Girls Rosemary Thompson who also lived in Winkleigh and Win Eccott in Hollocombe who married Mr Knot an Airman from London who had a tin leg as a result of a War injury, which he would let the children bang on with a stick. They attended the Opening of the Winkleigh Airfield War Memorial, May 1995.

Other treasured exhibits on Margaret's table were her mother's Tin Hat and her paternal Grandmother Alice L. Short's 1st World War Gas mask, still in its original box.

Watch out for the next Curiosity Café as Margaret has been invited to exhibit her display again.



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The Importance of Equity Diversity and Inclusion

As a child I grew up in poverty due to my parent's special needs and disabilities. At that time there were no protections for myself and poverty is still not a protected characteristic, however being born in the 1950s, the most socially mobile decade to be born in, I was lucky. I had the NHS to keep me well, free school meals and daily bottle of milk to keep me healthy. We had the support of home helps and social workers and on leaving school I was enabled to re-join education and train as a teacher with a benefit of a grant; eventually becoming a Head Teacher. All this support empowered me to leave the sink council estate that I grew up on. I mourn the loss of these things for later generations.

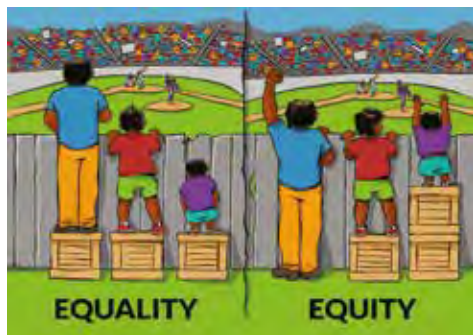
When being interviewed for my first Headship, in the 1990's, at a school for boys with challenging behaviour, all the candidates were asked to sit in the school staff room between the various activities and interviews. I looked around at the opposition and saw that I was the only woman, five suited and booted men and me in my newest Laura Ashley. At break time a male member of staff walked in and said to me "You'll be the token woman then?"

"Excuse me". I replied "what do you mean?"

"Well, you're just here to show that the interviews have been fair and included women, 'cus they'll never appoint a female Head of an all-boys school."

However, it wasn't just tokenism as I was appointed!

The same man knocked on my office door on my first day and introduced himself as the Head of Care, (it was a residential school) and abruptly



welcomed me with:-

"I don't agree with a female Head of an all-boys school and you'll not last five minutes."

Five years later on my final day the same person knocked on the door and spoke.

"I still don't agree with a female Head of an all-boys school but you have lasted five minutes!" Apology or recognition I know not.

This experience illustrates the importance of not just paying lip service to equity, diversity and inclusion. Bringing a female Head into the mix subtly changed the culture of the school which was dominated by male teachers, there were a couple of women on the care staff and women cleaners, and kitchen staff. Pupil compliance was enforced by restraint by men who were untrained in how to do it properly, using holds and moves designed to cause pain and therefore compliance.

Over the five years the staff were all properly trained and given other skills to de-escalate tension and violence, more women joined the staff and a more caring culture emerged.

Women and men are different and women bring different skill sets and

attitudes which support a more caring and natural environment for those boys. If they lived at home, they would more than likely be cared for by a mum and a dad and encounter females in the form of sisters and cousins and friends.

Having more women at the school softened the culture because women are often better at communication, empathy and collaboration contributing to effective team work and despite being the *weaker* sex, women often show themselves to be more resilient than men.

I have shared the above information about myself because currently the news is full of EDI as some people and organisations think it should be relinquished. I hope that my experience serves to illustrate how we can all benefit from EDI.

Some people think that equality and equity are one and the same thing but there is a subtle distinction in their two meanings which is important. Equality means that each person within an organisation has access to identical resources and opportunities. Equity however recognises that each person has a unique set of needs and circumstances and that adjustments need to be made in the allocation of resources to enable each person to reach an equal outcome. For example, if every building had a ramp instead of steps then we could all access it equally. Whilst just providing steps denies some people access, which is a form of discrimination.

Equality means fairness, but not all people have the same needs and it is important as a society that we enable those who may be disadvantaged in some way to get the support and resources they need in order to thrive and have the same opportunities as their peers.

Diversity is about acknowledging, respecting and celebrating difference, whilst inclusion is about creating an

environment where everyone feels welcome and included. Therefore, we all need to be aware of unconscious bias towards difference.

To this end the Conservative Government created a set of legally protected characteristics, in the Equality Act 2010 which are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. Discrimination against these protections is illegal.

This is not woke nonsense, we have all benefited in some ways from EDI. The word *Woke* originated in America and being woke means that you are actively aware of inequalities related to race and gender etc. However, in recent times the word has been used in a derogatory way to imply that people are being too sensitive or overly politically correct

However, I think being aware of injustice in society is of crucial significance. I would not be where I am today had not society individually and collectively stepped up to support a poor working-class girl to get an education and rise in her career.

EDI is not a series of policies to be thrown out, EDI affects us all. This Parish may be mostly white people but these protections are also about age and disability discrimination, the former of which affects us all. To those people who grumbled about the picture of two black girls sat on a seat in WPC Strategic Plan as not being representative of the village, should recognise, that there are a number of people of colour in this village, and many visiting daily, to care for our elderly and infirm. They are doing a great job for us and bring a diversity which should be welcomed.

Angela Findlay©



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PAPYRUS

Sue Dunn reports on the charity PAPYRUS (prevention of young suicide) exhibiting at the Devon County Show



Last summer, we created a meadow of hand made flowers at Dowland. Each one carefully made by local people to create a unique and colourful display.

The event was covered by the local media which led to us being contacted by the organisers of the Devon County Show!

This year we recreated our meadow in the centre of the main craft and flower pavilion at the show at Westpoint, Exeter on 15 /16 / 17th May.

We were honoured to be asked to take the display further afield as this gave us the opportunity to showcase the beautiful flowers but more importantly, continue to support the charity PAPYRUS (prevention of young suicide).

Sue Dunn and Claire Devany, both from Dowland completed the PAPYRUS training programme which enabled them to be ambassadors of this amazing charity. With the help of six more local volunteers from Dowland and Dolton we were pleased to highlight the work that PAPYRUS undertake in supporting young people and their families in the darkest of times.

We took 1840 flowers, one for each young person under the age of 35 who took their own life in 2023. With an area of 36 square metres, we created a unique visual display with a serious message behind it.

We managed to speak to representatives of Devon County council, GP surgeries, NHS staff, construction college, young farmers groups, and many members of the public, all of whom now know the importance of the work of PAPYRUS and will be able to support others in need.

We were all honoured to be given the opportunity to take the work of PAPYRUS to an event that was visited by thousands.



WINKLEIGH FAIR PROGRAMME 2025

Come and join in the fun!

Hello everyone!

We are thrilled to announce that this year's Winkleigh Fair is going to be absolutely fantastic!

We have an incredible line-up of activities and entertainment planned, catering to both children and adults alike.

The festivities will kick off with a grand opening in the village square, and then will feature a wide range of events including a dog show, bingo, a vintage vehicle show, and a fun game of rounders!

For those who love a challenge, there will be a tug of war and a quiz, also live band performances to keep the atmosphere lively. The final fair day promises to be a highlight with kids' games, various stalls, inflatables, face painting, and an array of animals to meet. We will have more bands and children's entertainment than ever before!

Please come along to this year's great event and bring your friends and family to join in the fun. Let's keep the tradition of this event, which has been running since 1262, alive and kicking! For more details, please see the following pages. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Ian Bishop



SUNDAY 13TH JULY

Opening ceremony 3pm

In the square with a church service led by reverend Helen Blaine

- Crediton Town Band
- Cream tea/cake stall
- Crowning of the King and Queen
- Blessing of the well



MONDAY 14TH JULY

Family fun dog show 6-8pm

At East Sedgetts, Farmer Franks Lane.

Sponsored by West Ridge Veterinary Practice. BBQ and drinks will be available. Raffle.

CLASS LIST

- Pure Breed (dog or bitch)
- Cross breed (dog or bitch)
- Best puppy (4-12 months)
- Best Veteran (8 years and over)
- Young Handler (14 years or below)
- Most handsome Dog
- Prettiest Bitch
- Scruffiest Dog
- Best Rescue
- Best Condition
- Best in show (open to all class winners)

THE RULES

- Dogs must be kept on leads at all times
- Organisers take no responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to any dogs, person or property
- No puppies under 4 months or bitches in season

TUESDAY 15TH JULY

Winkleigh Fair Bingo Night

Winkleigh Village Square

Doors open from 6.45pm. Eyes down 7.30pm. Bring your own drinks & snacks

WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY

Vintage Vehicle Show 6pm

Winkleigh Village Square

Live music. BBQ and drinks will be available. Ice Cream

THURSDAY 17TH JULY

Rounders 6pm

Sports Centre

FRIDAY 18TH JULY

Winkleigh Fair Quiz 7pm

Doors open from 6.15pm. Get your team together and enjoy the fun! Refreshments, Licenced bar and Raffle.

SATURDAY 19TH JULY

Winkleigh Fair Day 3pm

- Children's fun games in the square
- Panic Pete & the Roughbeats band
- Children's Entertainer Rob Pudner
- Woolley Animals
- Stalls

6pm

- Children's disco
- Adult tug of war

8pm

- Kiss This! Band

ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON

- Bouncy Castle
- Bucking rodeo
- Bungee run
- Basketball dual
- Tin Can Alley
- Bean Bag carnival challenge
- Lollypop Hoop
- Face painting
- BBQ
- Ice Cream



Fiona's Kitchen

25 years of family, food and farming

Yes, it's hard to believe, but here we are in our 25th year. So much has happened over that time. From the very small beginnings of a polystyrene box at the end of the lane to a summerhouse with an honesty box, then a purpose-built shop and small kitchen, to the final stage of bigger kitchen and shop.

Our children have all grown up now and we have an extra family member, courtesy of one marriage. Mum and Dad have sadly passed on, but we never forget that we would not be here now without all their hard work to buy Higher Punchardon nearly 60 years ago, their pride and joy. Andrew and I hope that they would continue to be proud of us being able to keep it for the future generation.

Our ethos remains the same today as the day that we first opened: to produce food which is prepared with care and responsibly-sourced ingredients. We remain absolutely passionate to bring you food that we enjoy eating and hope that you enjoy too. Sadly, we live in a world where quality does not seem to be a priority to the majority. I can safely say that we never compromise on quality, using grass-fed beef, lamb and pork and free-range turkeys all from our own farm,

as well as free-range chicken and Cornish bacon, for everything that we sell over the counter, including pies, pasties, quiches and much, much more.

Our café is very popular with regulars and holiday-makers alike, some of whom will remember the café from its early days. It is probably fair to say that we have a certain dynamic with our clientele, and café chatter often evolves into friendly banter.

Our outdoor seating area has expanded with the additions of the picnic tables, huts and, most recently, the new/old summerhouse. During the summer months, we have a plethora of swallows, house martins and swifts who keep many customers entertained and keep us busy providing them with water and mud. They are a real joy to us.

As a family, we would like to thank ALL of our customers who have supported us. Some, although only a handful now, have supported us for all of the 25 years that we have been here. We have fond memories of highs and lows, of so many people and events, of Foot and Mouth, of Covid. Without the support of so many of you, I would not have been here writing as I am today, and for this we are deeply grateful to you all.

Winkleigh VOLUNTEER Service

The WVS is there to take people to medical appointments and other essential Journeys. We charge 50p per mile and give our time for free. **Ring Angie on 01837 682616.** If I don't respond in 24 hours please ring mobile **07455 365144.**

Do not use mobile in the first instance as it doesn't work in the house! Demand for this service is ever increasing although those able to help are getting fewer and fewer. Unless we get new volunteers soon the service is in danger of folding. This will be extremely detrimental to those we help.

If you can spare a few hours a week Please get in touch. **Thank you!**

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The Winkleigh *Friendship Club*



The Winkleigh Friendship Club continues to thrive, bringing people together for friendship and community spirit.

A special shoutout goes to one of our long-standing members and past chairperson, Joyce Brock, who was recently spotted lending a hand in the most inspiring way — cleaning up the sign on Clifford's Way! Armed with a scrubbing brush, some water, and her trusty buggy, Joyce showed once again the heart and dedication that make our club so special.

Well done, Joyce — you're an inspiration to us all!

UPCOMING TALKS

(All events at Winkleigh Community Centre)
Everyone Welcome | 2:30 – 4:30PM

Thursday, 21st August

"Life as an Artist" with Clarissa Galliano

Thursday, 30th October

"All About Owls" with Martin Unwin

The Friendship Club meets on alternate Thursdays 2:30 – 4:30 PM at the Winkleigh Community Centre.

Come along for tea, conversation, and good company!

Marcia Butt

Chairperson

Winkleigh Environmental Group (WEG)

Winkleigh Environmental Group has reformed and looking to support any environmental concerns or issues and also hear of any exciting projects that you may already be engaged in. Some concerns already being highlighted by local people are the gradual loss of insects, including butterflies and moths, along with bats, birds and mammals. Other issues focus on traffic volume and pollution, water pollution, threats to honeybee populations and loss of wildflowers and woodland.

Some positive elements already in discussion are the proposed footpath linking the Winkleigh biodiversity area at the Sports centre to Winkleigh woods, maintenance of existing footpaths and the creation and placing of bird boxes, including two owl boxes around Winkleigh.

We would love to hear of things you have noticed changing in the natural environment, both for the good and not so good. The more we come together as a supportive vibrant group, the stronger our voice to try to make positive changes to our local environment.

We will be at the Winkleigh monthly market on Saturday July 5th with more information and some interactive nature based things. Come and talk to us and maybe join or support our group.

Stuart Rosamond

Chair





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Veterinarian Advice

How to look after your dogs in the heat

With the weather turning warmer, we as dog owners need to be aware of the issues our canine friends can face during the summer months. Here is some advice from one of our RVN's at Winkleigh.

Heatstroke (also known as heat exhaustion, sunstroke or hyperthermia) is a life-threatening condition caused when a dog's body overheats. Dogs are not as good as us at regulating their body temperature and can only sweat from areas that aren't covered in fur, such as their paws. Panting is the main way they lower their body temperature but sometimes this just isn't effective enough, causing a dangerously high increase in body temperature.

Heatstroke is caused by a dog's environment being too hot, by their muscles generating too much heat from exercise, or a mix of the two. Dogs are more at risk of developing heatstroke if they are without water, a sufficient airflow or shade. There are some reasons a particular dog may be more at risk of heatstroke -

- Brachycephalic breeds (such as pugs, bulldogs)
- long haired and thick coated breeds
- senior dogs
- more energetic breeds
- overweight dogs and breeds over 50kg
- other health conditions such as respiratory disease

A dog's body temperature usually reads around 37-39°C, but if it starts to increase, particularly above 41°C, they can show signs of heatstroke. The hotter the dog becomes and the longer their temperature stays high, the more damaged their tissue and organs become. Signs of heatstroke to look out for include:



- Excessive panting (even when resting)
- Breathing difficulties
- Tiredness and lethargy
- Drooling/foaming at the mouth
- Confusion
- Change in gum colour
- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- Collapse
- Fitting

On hot days there are some simple steps that can be taken to prevent your dog getting heatstroke.

- Always make sure they have access to plenty of fresh cool drinking water.
- **NEVER** leave a dog in a vehicle, conservatory or poorly ventilated room.
- When exercising your dog pick the cooler times of day to walk them. Early morning and late at night when the sun is weaker and the ground has started to cool is ideal.
- Choose shady areas and places with access to water if your dog likes to swim.
- Do not allow your dog to exercise excessively when at home as they can overheat in the garden as they can on a walk.
- Avoid dog play dates where they are running with others.
- Providing a shallow dog paddling pool

in a shady area can be a fun way to help keep your dog cool.

- Ice treats or low salt stock made into ice cubes can be given.
 - Wearing a cooling pet t-shirt or providing a cooling mat can help prevent overheating.
 - Check the ground temperature by placing a bare hand or foot on the pavement and testing for excessive heat. If it's too hot for you to touch it will hurt your dog to walk on it!
- If you suspect a dog is suffering from heatstroke follow our guide below and immediately seek veterinary advice.
- Cool the dog immediately – move them to a shaded area, pour cool (not icy cold) water over them and keep the fur wet, and place them in front of a fan.
 - Avoid pouring water on or near your dog's head, as there is a risk of them inhaling water which could lead to drowning, especially for flat-faced and

unconscious dogs. Instead use a cold flannel to wipe over their face and paws to help cool them down.

- If your dog is conscious and not vomiting offer them cool water but do not force water into their mouth.
- Take your dog to the nearest vets as a matter of urgency

It's not just dogs that are at risk of heatstroke. Please contact us if you'd like advice on how to keep your cats and small furries cool and happy during the warmer weather.

This article is intended only as a guide and veterinary advice should be gained if you think your dog is suffering from heatstroke.

For further information please get in touch with our friendly team.

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Wildlife Photography

*Photographer Jon Taylor
writes of his love of birds
and their habitats*

How lucky we are to be surrounded by nature: wonderful landscapes, beautiful birds, bugs and insects of all shapes and sizes! Here are some photos mainly taken in the garden in Winkleigh or at Halsdon Nature Reserve near Dolton.

Halsdon, a Devon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, is a great local place to visit for a lovely walk through the woods down to the River Torridge. Excellent woodland habitat plus riverbanks and grasslands are easily accessible – if a little muddy in Winter. The grey wagtails are a colourful sight on the banks of the river and perching on small islands in the flow. They are frequently to be seen munching lots of beautiful demoiselles. I was on the lookout for a kingfisher to photograph – but that's still on my bucket list.

Each year in spring we welcomed the swallows who would nest under our porch. They have been a bit disturbed the last couple of years, possibly owing to ongoing building works nearby, but

hopefully they will return in future years. Quick moving, they can be difficult to photograph on the wing.

The garden birds we all love to see sometimes seem happy to pose for the camera, but at other times turn out to be very shy. Still, it's often possible to get some images that show them going about their daily business, singing in the trees, collecting tasty worms, or just waiting for mum to turn up with the food.

At a smaller scale, close-up or macro photographs show the amazing levels of detail in the smallest of insects, making for scary portraits or apparently furry beasts helping to pollinate the flowers.



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From Winkleigh Primary School to Head Boy at Chulmleigh College:

Harrison Jordan Leads with Pride



Harrison Jordan (L) and Olly Finney (R)

In every community, there are young people who quietly rise through the ranks, not for recognition, but because they genuinely want to make a difference. Harrison Jordan is one of those individuals.

A former pupil of Winkleigh Primary School, Harrison has spent the 2024–2025 academic year serving as Head Boy of Chulmleigh College—a role that demands leadership, responsibility, and a commitment to the school’s values of compassion, ambition, and teamwork.

Reflecting on his time in the role, Harrison shares:

“I’ve really enjoyed the experience and having the opportunity to represent the school at events such as open evenings, or meeting visitors and conducting tours of the college.”

But it wasn’t just the public-facing responsibilities that shaped Harrison’s year. From planning the Year 11 prom to spearheading fundraising efforts, he has embraced the chance to work

collaboratively and represent his peers.

“It’s been valuable giving input about the needs and wishes of my year group,” he says. “I was really nervous about public speaking before, but now I feel quite comfortable doing this. It’s given me confidence in myself.”

The transition from a Winkleigh pupil to a confident young leader has not gone unnoticed by the Chulmleigh College community. Staff describe him as an “*exemplary scholar, a dedicated sportsman, and a kind, hardworking, and dignified Head Boy.*”

As Harrison prepares to pass the baton to his successor, Olly Finney, he does so with gratitude.

“I am really grateful to have had this opportunity,” he reflects. “I truly wish Olly well.”

Harrison’s story is a proud chapter in the Winkleigh and Chulmleigh communities—a reminder that with opportunity and hard work, local roots can lead to exceptional achievements.

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Winkledown

Dearest Gentle Readers,

This author is delighted to learn that the TV series *Bridgerton* (which inspired this column) is due to air its fourth season next year, and two more seasons are expected. Season Four is based on the third book “An Offer From A Gentleman” in Julia Quinn’s *Bridgerton* Series. What do you do? Read the book, then watch the series? Or vice versa? One or other may disappoint!

Here, in ‘the Vill’, The Nook, a new tea/ coffee shop with light refreshments has opened in South Street on weekdays 9.30am. until 3 pm. Very English!

By the period in which *Bridgerton* is set (mainly the Regency period 1811 to 1820) tea had taken over from the coffee shops which had been mainly frequented by men only. Women had to send a servant to buy tea from a coffee shop. Tea didn’t need roasting and grinding therefore was soon growing more popular amongst all classes. Brew lightly and keep energised.

The British East India Company, which held the monopoly on importing tea until 1834, held prices artificially high. In addition, the government kept raising taxes on tea in order to finance England’s expensive wars. Smuggling tea became a lucrative business, and shopkeepers and individuals were not averse to purchasing tea leaves on the black market. Be that as it may, by Jane Austen’s day, the drinking of tea had become a regular occurrence, both at home and in public. (source taken and adapted from *Tea in the Regency era & Jane Austen’s World*) online.

In the last ‘Winkledown’ the hidden Poet’s name was Keats. Another Poet’s name is hidden within this text.

Yours affectionately,

Winkledown

Letters...



Dear Editor,

Thank you.

On May 1st we went to the polls to elect our new county councillors. I stood before you all as your local Conservative candidate, but unfortunately this time it was not meant to be. I came third behind Reform who were second to Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (Lib Dem).

Firstly, I would like to thank the retiring Andrew Saywell, who over his 8 years as our County Councillor for Torrington Rural has been an absolute stalwart, working his absolute socks off representing us all and leaves huge, huge shoes to fill by his replacement.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin on her election to Devon County Council and on becoming our new representative for Torrington Rural. I wish her the best.

Thirdly, but most importantly, I would like to thank all 1,023 of you who voted for myself. I appreciate you putting your trust and faith in me, but sadly this time I didn't prevail. I will still continue my role as District Councillor for the Two Rivers and Three Moors Ward, who I work alongside Cllr R lock in this seat.

With the LGR on the horizon we could be back to the poles at any point in the next 2 to 4 years to elect our new unitary council, of which, I hope to be selected to stand again for you all and give it another shot.

Thank you very much indeed, your support means a huge amount to me and I look forward to building up to next time.

Until next time,
Thomas John Elliott

Dear Editor,

Many years ago, and for many years I was Trustee and Treasurer to the Winkleigh War Memorial Recreation Field, firstly under the chairmanship of John Cowle, and later of John Turner.

During that time there were attempts made to inveigle the Trustees into supporting such a project.

However, I consulted with the Charity Commission legal department which resulted in a ruling from them that such a grant of a public footpath over land owned by the Trust would represent a dilution of the value of the Trust Assets and as such, would render the Trustees personally liable in law for the such reduction in value. It was not therefore possible to proceed.

When this matter next arose, I had passed responsibility to another Treasurer, but made it quite clear to him that the Trustees remained personally liable if they were to implement such a scheme. It is no longer for me to tell the Trustees how to conduct their affairs, but it seems right and proper that they should be fully aware of the financial risks they would be taking.

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Pictured above are DW's Graphic Designer Becci Arscott together with her husband Ashley and daughters Charlotte and new arrival Annabelle Helen Arscott who was born on 6th April 2025



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The ponds can handle up to 2,100 cubic metres of water during storm events, effectively protecting both the development and surrounding areas.

In addition to the ponds the development hosts 15,000 square metres of green space which will include a community orchard and a dedicated wild space for wildlife.

WINKLEIGH SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

The Club had a successful Autumn/ Winter season running twelve teams in various leagues, and finishing with a good handful of trophies. The Summer season is now upon us and this is quieter but we already have a couple of wins.

As well as the competitive side we also meet for roll ups (practice) on a Monday and Friday afternoon 1.45 until 4.15 all are very welcome. Short Mat Bowls is a very sociable game and is suitable for all ages, we have a couple of nonagenarians who are very active members.

You do not need any experience as we will help you learn, we have bowls to get you started but you will need a pair of flat soled shoes or carpet slippers to change into.

So come along and give us a try. For more information please give me a call or just turn up we'd love to see you.

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Thursday **Tiny Tots** 9.30 - 11.15
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WHAT'S ON...

REGULARS

MONDAY

Short Mat Bowls 1:45pm-4:15pm Sports Hall
Netball Club 7:30pm-8:30pm Sports Hall
FitSteps 6:30pm and 7:30pm Sports Centre
Yoga 6pm – 8.45pm Village Hall
2nd Monday of each month bar January
Church Wives Group, Village Hall
2.30pm-4.30pm

TUESDAY

Yoga 9.45am-11.15am Village Hall
Free 'Sewcial Crafternoon' at Catkin
Blooms 1:00-3:00pm
Badminton 7:00pm-9:00pm Village Hall
Family History Group every 3rd Tuesday
10.30am-12.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Mini market & charity coffee morning
9:30am-10:30am Community Centre

Tap Dancing 7:00pm-8:00pm Village Hall
Youth Club 7:00pm-9:00pm Sports Hall
Kung Fu 6:30pm-8:00pm & 8:00pm-9:00pm Community Centre

THURSDAY

Winkleigh Art Group 10:00-14:00
Community Centre
Chi Kung 10:30-11.30 Village Hall
Tiny Tots 9:30–11.15 Sports Hall
Therapeutic Pilates 19:30-20:30 Village Hall (booking required)
Tai Chi 19:30-21:30pm Sports Centre

FRIDAY

Youth Club 7:00pm-9:00pm Sports Centre
Therapeutic Pilates 9:00-12.00 Village Hall (3 classes, booking required)
Short Mat Bowls 13:45-16:15 Sports Hall

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JUNE

23rd Winkleigh & District Garden Club's Flower & Produce Show

JULY

3rd Winkleigh Book Club Village Hall 7pm-8pm

7th Winkleigh Enviromental Group at Monthly Market

11th Chulmleigh Rural Cinema A Complete Unknown

13th-19th Winkleigh Summer Fair

25th 'Bridget Jones – Mad About The Boy' 6.30pm Village Hall

AUGUST

2nd Sam's Cider's Summer Festival

5th The Friendship Club trip to Sidmouth during Folk Festival

5th Winkleigh Book Club 7pm-8pm Village Hall

20th 'Da Vinci Code' 6.30pm Village Hall

21st The Winkleigh Friendship Club talk 'Life as an Artist' Clarissa Galliano 14:30 – 16:30 Winkleigh Community Centre

23rd The Winkleigh Flower & Produce Show Village Hall 14:00–16:30

SEPTEMBER

20th Church Fete 2:30-4.30 in the church

OCTOBER

30th The Winkleigh Friendship Club talk 'All About Owls' Martin Unwin 14:30 – 16:30 Winkleigh Community Centre

NOVEMBER

8th War Memorial Service at the Airfield

11th The Friendship Club trip to Paignton & Torquay

16th The Early Bird Craft & Gift Market 2025 11:30-14:30 Winkleigh Sports Centre



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SAM'S CIDER

Unveils Popular New Zero Cider

A refreshing new chapter is happening in Winkleigh, as a much-anticipated low-alcohol cider has just hit the shelves. The team at Sam's Cider is proud to announce the release of Sam's Zero — a crisp, flavour-packed cider that's already proving to be a crowd favourite.

After months of dedicated experimentation and refinement, Sam's Cider has crafted a drink that retains all the flavour of a refreshing cider, but with a low alcohol content. Perfect for those seeking a lighter option without compromising on taste, Sam's Zero is the result of a passionate effort to meet the growing demand for low-alcohol cider.

Sam's Zero Cider is now available to purchase at the Sam's Cider on-site shop in Winkleigh and numerous other outlets across Devon. Whether you're a cider enthusiast or simply curious to try something new, it's well worth a visit.

We've worked hard to get the balance just right," said Chris Beardon, who runs Sam's Cider alongside his father-in-law David Bridgman and his wife Kylie Beardon. "We're really proud of what we've achieved and thrilled to see such a positive response already."

Over 100 Years of Cider-Making Heritage

Sam's Cider has been made on-site in Winkleigh since 1916, making it one of Devon's most established cider producers. Still family-run today, the business is deeply rooted in tradition but always looking forward. The team is passionate about creating high-quality



ciders that celebrate the region's rich apple-growing heritage while embracing innovation.

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Summer term at Chulmleigh College is not dissimilar to a hive of industrious bees! Our pupils have been working hard in many areas, and as I write our Year 11 pupils are sitting their GCSE exams in their final term here at Chulmleigh - we know they will do well, and we are proud of all they have achieved.

VE Day

Pupils and staff all came together on Thursday 8 May for two minutes silence to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Our Year 7 pupils had fun taking part in a short film to mark the occasion, courtesy of Mid Devon Drones.

Visit by the Bishop of Exeter

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Michael of Exeter to our school. Our pupils shared their love of reading and poetry with him, engaging in thoughtful conversation and exchanging ideas. It was a true privilege to be in the room and witness such a meaningful exchange — a real highlight of the term. During the visit, we also discussed the invaluable mentoring scheme offered to us by the Church, and explored ways in which we overcome the challenges that can arise from living in a more isolated part of the country — though we all know it's the very best part of the Westcountry!

Ten Tors

Last weekend three teams of Chulmleigh pupils took part in the Ten Tors event and we are incredibly proud of how they have worked so hard together as a team throughout the last two years as they trained towards the event, overcoming many challenges, especially the weather! We would like to thank all those involved who work so hard to make it possible for all of our pupils, no matter their background, to have the opportunity to take part in such events.

Oxford University Taster Day

A group of Year 7 pupils recently travelled to Oxford to take part in a taster day at Oxford University. Pupils were given a tour of the University and an insight into student life. They took part in a workshop at the Natural History Museum where they were encouraged to practice their critical thinking skills - a core characteristic of a university student. They came away from the day full of inspiration and insight into university life and the opportunities that brings.

Our Living World Art Exhibition

Recently Year 10 art and textiles pupils have taken part in 'Our Living World' exhibition at KIND at the Corn Store, Barnstaple. A fabulous and professional show, supported by the Arts Council, and hung and curated by the gallery. A wide range of work on show portrayed different responses to our natural world around us, and included charcoal drawings, polyblock prints sewn into a community patchwork, watercolour paintings, ink drawings, soap carvings, cardboard and fabric sculptures.

Mr Johnson, Executive Headteacher



SCHOOL NEWS

Winkleigh Primary School report from
Head Teacher Mrs Victoria Fenemore

We are delighted to announce that we are extending our nursery provision to include children from 9 months old. This expansion reflects our commitment to supporting families and the significant interest we have had for this provision in our community; providing high-quality early years care from an even earlier age. We look forward to welcoming our youngest learners and giving them the best possible start in a warm, nurturing environment. We warmly welcome prospective parents and carers who would like to come and visit; please feel free to contact us should you wish to arrange a suitable time.

We were proud to mark VE Day with a commemorative street party on the school grounds. The event was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to come together in celebration and remembrance. We were honoured to welcome valued members of our community and the children welcomed our guests with warmth and respect.

Our programme of extra-curricular events continues to thrive this year, with a variety of trips enriching the children's learning experiences. Residential season is now in full swing. Year 5 recently returned from their adventure at Skern Lodge, where they embraced team-building and personal challenges through activities such as the obstacle course, high ropes, tunnels, canoeing, and rafting. Evening events included pool games and Olympic-style fun on the field. As ever, the feedback from the centre was glowing—highlighting the remarkable care, resilience, and enthusiasm our children consistently show.

Looking ahead, we're excited for our upcoming residentials: Year 3 will be



enjoying a camping experience, Year 4 will be heading to Escot, and Year 6 will embark on a three-day trip to London followed by a surfing adventure to round off their time with us in unforgettable fashion.

We recognise that these enriching opportunities come at a cost, and we are incredibly grateful to our staff and families for supporting our fundraising efforts—such as family breakfasts—which help make these experiences accessible and ease the financial pressure on families.

As we enter the second half of the summer term, we look forward with excitement to seeing how our children continue to grow, both academically and personally, as they prepare for the next steps in their educational journey. In particular, we send our very best wishes to our Year 6s. They are a truly accomplished group, ready to move on to secondary school, and we could not be prouder of all they have achieved during their time at with us.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our vibrant school.



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LIBRARIES IN DEVON GET THEIR VERY OWN READING CHALLENGE THIS SUMMER

Libraries Unlimited launches The Summer Book Quest for kids

Children across Devon are going to be able to take a Deep Sea Adventure at their local library, which for us will be Chulmleigh or Torrington Libraries, this summer as Libraries Unlimited launch their very own reading challenge.

Based on the charity's popular reading challenge for five to twelve-year-olds 'The Secret Book Quest', The Summer Book Quest sees beloved characters Pip, Zena and Libro head off on a new adventure. The theme for the first year is The Deep Sea Adventure, based on the Underwater Zone in The Secret Book Quest.

The aim with creating this unique quest, is to engage as many children as possible in reading over the summer holidays and making it fun and engaging. To complete the quest, children are challenged to do three things: visit the library, read what they love and complete one or more of The Summer Book Quest activities. Each completed task gives them a sticker and once they have them all they get a finisher sticker, keyring and certificate.

Activities are tied into the theme of The Deep Sea Adventure and offer lots of choices including 'draw a sea creature, real or imagined', 'try a water activity like swimming or rock pooling' and 'tell a member of staff an underwater fact. To be more inclusive, children can now count how often they read for ten minutes or more or count how many books they read - they choose.

Devon children's author Dan Metcalf was commissioned to create the story which introduces new characters including ninja starfish. And Emily Fox,



who created the illustrations for The Secret Book Quest and Libros Friends, has done the illustrations.

Libraries Unlimited have linked up with Active Devon, Surfers Against Sewage and Surfing England for The Summer Book Quest. Surfing England will be sharing the information with their surf clubs across the county and providing prizes. Surfers Against Sewage are providing activity resources to libraries including access to their online Ocean School, they're also providing prizes. Active Devon are supporting by promoting the challenge and encouraging families to visit their local community pools. Libraries across Devon are also teaming up with their local sports centres, including Mid Devon

Leisure and Fusion Lifestyle, to offer free or discounted swim sessions as part of The Summer Book Quest, encouraging families to get active and enjoy time together as part of the challenge.

Sophie Crofts, Reading Development Manager, Libraries Unlimited said:

“It’s an exciting moment for us to be launching our own summer reading challenge and a natural progression for our year-round reading challenges. It is more vital than ever to encourage children to enjoy reading as one in four children hasn’t reached the expected level of reading by the age of 11. It has been proven that reading for pleasure is more important for children’s cognitive development than their parents’ level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background. Reading for pleasure develops vital literacy skills, empathy, increased confidence and well-being too. As Devon is a coastal county, the



underwater theme allows connection with our communities, and we can promote the importance of looking after our oceans and planet. More than anything, we are trying to make it fun and inclusive. Who doesn’t love a ninja starfish?”

The Summer Book Quest will be launched on 12th July and is available until 6th September. It’s completely free to join the library and take on the quest, just head down to your local library and they will give you a pack to get you started on The Deep Sea Adventure!



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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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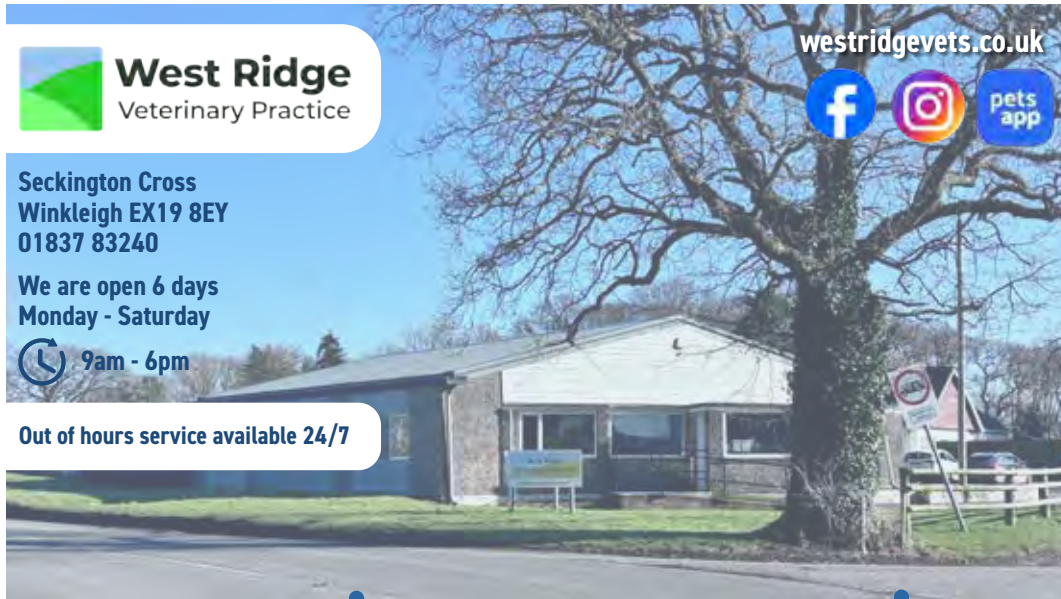


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