

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



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Spring 2023

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The Winkleigh Society Quarterly Journal

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Winkleigh Society - Chair's Report February 2023



'I'm the voice of the village-the true, recorded official voice' so said Sir Roger de Keynes in The Winkleigh Pageant performed in 1997 on Winkleigh Primary School playing field.

The wise woman [played by Gemma Leahy] never one to be put down retorted: **"I'm the hidden voice, the silenced voice. What I know you won't find in the scrolls and archives – it's in the landscape, the cob walls, in our songs and poems and carved on our tombstones"**.

Now the voices of the ordinary people of Winkleigh can be found and read at The North Devon Archive in Barnstaple. Located in the archive, carefully stored in acid-free boxes and tied up in

Crime and punishment in 1615

Margaret Clevedon shall be openly whipped in the town of Winkleigh at some convenient time until her body be bloody and that you the constable of Winkleigh do see the same performed at your peril.



William Heywood, you are ordered to pay four pennies each week until the child of your illicit union with Margaret Clevedon attains two years and then maintain the child yourself. Take them away.

natural linen, are the records of runaway apprentices, accounts of paupers and how much they cost the parish and many, many bastardy records.

The parchment paper and spidery writing and wax seals tell their tale of the overseers questioning the women, adding up the costs of those dependants and demanding payments from named fathers or removals to other parishes.

The harsh punishment meted out to Margaret Clevedon in 1615 formed one of the scenes in The Winkleigh Pageant.

Illustration by Mick Lye

Winkleigh Society members plan to visit the North Devon Archive for an organised tour and question & answer session with the chief archivist Gary Naggs. There is a wealth of Winkleigh church records, legal documents, maps and legal transactions stored there; but it is in the reports of the overseers of the poor that you can glimpse the harsh reality of apprentices, soldiers and unmarried mothers. Interested in visiting the Archive? Please contact me at (01837) 83407.

The Winkleigh Society AGM will be held in the Community Centre on 10th March starting at 7 pm. Featuring LIVES IN A LANDSCAPE. Café-style seating with mulled cider and local cheeses.

Penny Griffiths, Chair of the Winkleigh Society

Warm Space, Good Company, Hot Food.



Ali Leah and Margaret Bridgman have stepped up to help the village through the **cost of living crisis**. Since Friday 6th January Aly and Margaret have been hosting a welcoming **warm space** in the small room in Winkleigh Village Hall every Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. There is a welcome for all: mothers with their infants, those who live alone or feel isolated or are worried about putting on their heating, or who want to meet up with a friend for lunch.

Pop in for coffee, cake and a chat or stay for the main course. Leek and potato soup and beef stew and dumplings were on offer when I visited. Delicious. Aly and Margaret will deliver if asked and also offer an order and pick up service. They want no-one to be excluded and operate a pay what you can afford policy.

Penny Griffiths

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News from Winkleigh Parish Church



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One of my favourite books of the Bible is the book of Psalms. A collection of 150 'songs' of praise, worship and lament which come from the depths of what it means to be human. Words written in times of joy

and of despair, which echo across the ages with a resonance which is as true and meaningful today as when they were first written. There is much competition however for the position of my favourite psalm. It could be Psalm 46 with its wonderful line of 'Be still and know that I am God' or Psalm 23 which offers so much comfort as we walk through the dark valleys of life. Then there is the joy of Psalm 150 with all its praise to God or the promise of God's steadfast love in Psalm 103. There is so much in the depth and variety, a psalm for every occasion and emotion.

If I had to be pushed to choose just one Psalm, it would be Psalm 139 which speaks of God's knowledge of each and every one of us, of how we are known and loved to the very depths of our being. The verse which stands out for me in the Psalm is verse 14: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know well.' We live in a world which tells us how we should be, what clothes we should wear and how we should act, so that society can judge us accordingly. Our young people are bombarded by social media influencers, the latest TikTok videos and their peers, all telling them how they should behave in order to be accepted. People can be forced into acting differently at work or within friendship groups, so that they fit in. It can be hard not to be able to act as one's true self.

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How often do we stop and remind ourselves and others that 'we are fearfully and wonderfully made'? We are all unique and wonderful individuals with a whole host of gifts and talents. Our lives and experiences shape us and make us the people we are. Acceptance and delight in each other's differences helps build relationships and communities. It's often said that the world would be boring if we were all the same and it truly would, but how often do we celebrate and delight in our differences? We know in our hearts that we are all wonderful but sometimes we need to hear it. Go and tell someone else that they are fearfully and wonderfully made and delight in the uniqueness of one another.

Blessings, Helen

The Revd Helen Blaine - 01837 83710 or revhelenblaine@outlook.com

Church Treasurer Needed

All Saints', Winkleigh is looking for someone to take on the role of Church Treasurer from January 2023. This is a voluntary position and the person does not need to be a member of the church. The role requires reasonable financial competence including the ability to maintain accounts and to be able to understand and meet the requirements of the Charity Commission.

The Treasurer is expected to attend PCC (Parochial Church Council) meetings which are held around 6-8 times a year and to report on the church finances at the Annual Meeting. Full support and training will be given. Owing to the nature of this voluntary role we will be asking for two references and will require the Treasurer to undertake Safeguarding Training.

If you are interested in helping us fulfil this valuable role or for further information, please contact *Revd Helen Blaine on 01837 83710, revhelenblaine@outlook.com*

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Winkleigh Parish Council

Dear All, I hope this finds you well and in excellent spirits – I believe I felt the first twangs of Spring filtering through the forest the other day, and although we have a few weeks before Spring proper comes through, I am enjoying the slight warming immensely; we at WPC hope you are too.

It has been another eventful few months for Winkleigh Parish Council, as we continue to seek to mitigate the impact of often invasive development proceedings and all the gubbins that goes along with that, as well as working alongside our colleagues at TDC and DCC to tackle the continual issue of potholes along our Devon roads. Many of our own roads in the parish require serious attention and, as has been noted by several councillors, the best way to get these attended to is always to report them! **Again and again if need be!** The same goes for those concerned about any recent actions taken by developers, **report and report again!**

Leaving those constant niggles to the side for a moment, the major change for the Council this coming quarter will likely be the search for a new permanent Clerk, as I feel I need to concentrate more fully on my university work. However, at the time of writing this I can confirm that I will be standing for co-option onto the Council to continue my efforts in some of the continuing projects. I hope you will get behind your new Locum Clerk, as you have got behind me in the past.

The Council is in a period of transition at the minute: whether it be Clerks, or the Council's approach to current tasks; as such it is more important than ever that you come along to meetings and see where the next year is hopefully going to take us. Bus shelters, new benches, Coronation proceedings etc... all these things are possible, with the support of the Parish.

For now, I bid you adieu, and wish to thank you all for your often intuitive responses to the submissions we have included in Distinctly Winkleigh. WPC would also like to take this moment to thank the team at Distinctly Winkleigh for their continued support of local government engagement practices. See you on the other side!

Benjamin (by time of reading ex-Clerk to WPC)

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Leon Hunt RIP



It is with great sadness that the family of Leon Hunt announced that he had passed away on 17th December 2022.

Leon was born in Chorleywood in Hertfordshire, but moved permanently to Devon in 1949 after his parents Bert and Marjorie started to rent a small shop and bakery in South Street, Winkleigh. Some will remember Leon with the nickname of Percy, a name that was given to him whilst working in a bakery in Wembley, his boss having told him that Leon was “a highfaluting name, I’m going to call you Percy”. The name stuck and followed him to Winkleigh. In 1956, the family were able to buy the shop in the square from Mrs Kennet. The shop was a sweet shop, and Mrs Kennet sold homemade sweets.

The bakery grew into a thriving business, and employed many people through the years, Harold (Tiny) Brant, Sid, Terry & Bill Davey, Rita Beardon, Linda Passmore, Arthur & Eileen Wonnacott and Melvin Popham to name but a few. Leon’s sister, Hilary was also involved in the business. H Hunt and Son, catered for many Winkleigh weddings, including Leon’s wedding cakes.

Leon married Carol Lendon in 1957 and had 4 children, Clive, Ashley, Vikki and Ian.

In 1969, Leon took a full-time position at Exeter College. It was a career he loved until his retirement. Leon’s sense of humour and fun, and his dedication to his craft, meant that he was popular with his students, and saw him taking them on French exchanges, and he even had a meeting with the Queen at the Devon County Show.

Leon remained involved in village life through the many quizzes that he helped organise with Willie Hocking, and money was raised for Winkleigh. He also remained judging at shows around the South West. Many will remember him in one of the Winkleigh pubs, usually playing cribbage or chatting with his lifelong friends: Peter Parker, Neville Heard and Jack Hayward.

Leon was never happier than when he was with his family - his 4 children and their partners, his 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank those who attended the funeral, made donations to the Stroke Association and Diabetes UK, and sent kind messages of sympathy.

Winkleigh Volunteer Service (WVS)



Last year in 2022, WVS carried out nearly 170 acts of kindness; that is one almost every other day. We are a confidential service which has taken people to dental and medical appointments. We supported patients physically and emotionally, by attending with them and even taken notes to help

with remembering what was said. We have shopped, cooked and cleaned for people in emergency situations like the Beast from the East, and enabled individuals to visit their loved ones in care homes.

All this was done by just eight Volunteers! At the time of writing every available volunteer is going out at least twice a week, so it would be good to share the load with new volunteers. So far, we have never let anyone down, but demand is increasing all the time. **If you think you can help us, please ring Angie Findlay 01837 682616 / 07455 365144 to have an informal conversation about volunteering.**

Conversely if you need help, please give as much notice as possible and remember although we give our time for free, we have to charge 50p per mile.

May I thank those eight volunteers for all their hard work. It is much appreciated.

Angela Findlay



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Winkleigh Community Centre

The Centre is looking for two or more people to join the existing Committee. The Centre plays a vital role in our active Community. The main hall can be hired for functions, birthday parties, meetings and exercise, etc. Currently there is a weekly Art Class, Yoga, Kung Fu and Morris Dancers. Every Wednesday there is a friendly Coffee Morning combined with a Mini market. Every other Wednesday there is also an opportunity for the elderly and people suffering from dementia to meet and share in a safe space.

At the moment the committee has two members assisted by one person who looks after the bookings.

We would welcome people with energy, enthusiasm and ideas to ensure the centre continues to meet the changing needs of our growing community as we move forward.

Would you like to help? Then please ring Alan Jacobs 01837 83895 or Angie Findlay 01837 682616 to find out more



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Our Devon County Councillor Writes



As this is my first article for 2023 may I start by wishing all Distinctly Winkleigh readers a healthy and successful year? I know it has been a difficult few years for many, what with the Cost of Living and the Energy Crises, and the pandemic before that. I remain, however, an optimist. I still believe better times lie ahead!

Nonetheless for anyone who is struggling this winter, there is help available, whether it is from the County Council or other partner organisations. A lot of information is online so please type in **devon.cc/costofliving** into your internet browser and you will be able to find advice, whether you are a resident or a business, if you are struggling to afford to pay for your energy, water, food, or other essential items.

It has been a very busy start to the year at Devon County Council as we have gone full swing into budget preparations for the next financial year, as well as continuing the work to stabilise the current budget. Compared with when I wrote my last article in the autumn, I am pleased to say we are now in a much more positive position, and I will talk about that in a moment.

But first, another issue that I know is high on people's minds at the time of writing... **potholes!**

Unfortunately, the weather pattern we have had since mid-December: prolonged freezing temperatures, followed by heavy rainfall, followed by more prolonged freezing temperatures, is probably the worst combination you can have for the highway network. Unsurprisingly, this has taken a very heavy toll on the network this winter and I know there are some particularly bad areas in Winkleigh including Bude Hill, the Airfield Road, plus several in the village itself.

At the end of January DCC had a total of 2,697 safety defects awaiting repair across the whole County. The Council's highways contractor has increased the number of teams from the usual 16 to 41, but the numbers waiting for repair has also been increasing daily (though at the time of writing that rate of increase has now slowed). There were also 1,500 reports still awaiting assessment.



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Adding to the issues facing us has been the freezing weather. Although more teams are working on pothole repairs, many have still had to be pulled to do gritting driving when the temperatures have fallen and so this has further exacerbated the backlog.

I am now seeing some tentative signs that they are starting to catch up on the backlog. While I know it has been incredibly frustrating – **please do continue to report as many potholes as possible**. I cannot stress enough that it is a numbers game, the more safety defect reports and pothole repairs reported on a road, the more likely it is that we can get some resurfacing done (as I was able to get done on Eggesford Rd thanks to the continued potholing of the road!). A rural road like the ones we have in Winkleigh with say just 1 pothole report a year is unlikely to be a successful candidate for re-surfacing. You can report potholes online on **devon.cc/report-it** or by phoning Highways on **0345 155 1004**.

The other local matter I have been working hard on has been the ongoing issues with the Townsend Hill development. In all my years in Local Government I don't think I've come across a developer quite like this one with their, at best, shambolic approach to fulfilling their planning obligations. As a County Councillor, the key issue for me has been to ensure we secure the traffic calming measures for Townsend Hill, and I can assure readers that DCC has been robust in their negotiations with the developer. We are now looking at the beginning of March for the traffic calming works proper to start. We shall see what happens, but I will continue to liaise closely with Highways on this.

I know some residents are concerned that *should* the 'Phase 2' application be approved it will cause further disruption if the traffic calming is already installed. However, given the trouble we have already had, I would rather see the traffic calming installed now than risk Phase 2 being granted planning permission and then have the developer fail to complete it or the traffic calming works. I have been assured by DCC that if traffic calming is installed and future construction works damaged it, the developers would be responsible for any repairs and replacements.

When I haven't been dealing with potholes or development issues, my main work at County Hall since the New Year has been on the new budget for the Council.



The image is a promotional banner for Gilbert Stephens Solicitors. It features a green and white color scheme. At the top right, the logo consists of a stylized 'gs' in green, followed by the text 'gilbertstephens' in a green serif font, and 'SOLICITORS' in a smaller, green sans-serif font below it. The background of the banner is a gradient of green, with a silhouette of a family (two adults and a child) walking on a path. Below the silhouette, the word 'Solicitors' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the tagline 'Legal advice for every chapter in life' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the contact information is displayed in white text: '01363 775 566 / law@gilbertstephens.co.uk' followed by 'gilbertstephens.co.uk'.

I am pleased to say that, compared with three months ago, the situation is looking much more positive as Devon's funding settlement was better than first forecast. Additional funding for social care came through from the Autumn Statement, and we had a more generous financial settlement in December than expected.

I would like to thank our MP Sir Geoffrey Cox, and the other Devon MPs, who listened to our concerns and took them up with the Government. Whilst we should be under no illusions that financial conditions remain difficult, we are no longer looking at having to bridge a £75 million budget gap and, as a result of this funding boost, we will be able to increase the overall level of funding going into Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Highways in the next financial year.

At the time of writing, the draft Departmental Budgets are going through the Council's Scrutiny Committees before finally being approved at Full Council in mid-February, so I will have more information about the overall budget then.

Alongside the budget work, I am pleased to announce that the County Council was able to appoint a new permanent Chief Executive in November – Donna Manson – who joins us having been the Chief Executive of the Highlands Council in Scotland, the UK's largest rural authority. Mrs Manson joins us having previously been a Head Teacher, Director of Children's Services and latterly Chief Executive and has a track record of turning around underperforming services and improving council finances. She has already been working part-time down in Devon and will start full time in mid-February.

As ever, if there are any DCC issues you'd like to contact me about you can contact me on Facebook on [facebook.com/cllrsaywell](https://www.facebook.com/cllrsaywell), ring 07886 446560 or email andrew.saywell@devon.gov.uk.

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Short Mat Bowling is a game for everyone, all ages and abilities, and can be played just for fun or more seriously in league teams. All you have to do is get your Bowl nearer the Jack than anyone else! There is a bit more to it than that but you keep learning as you go along.

The Club meets in the Sports Centre on Monday and Friday afternoons at 1.45 pm for practice sessions called roll ups. These are very sociable and our experienced bowlers are there to help and encourage newcomers. League matches are played on a home and away basis in village halls and pavilions throughout North Devon.

All you need to get started is some clean and dry flat-soled shoes, all other equipment will be provided.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU - JUST POP ALONG ANY MONDAY OR FRIDAY

JAN OVENDEN (PHONE 01837 83853 OR EMAIL OLDSMITHY1@BTINTERNET.COM)

Winkleigh Church Flower Ladies



This year's royal celebrations have been centred on the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla on Saturday 6th May.

Floral tributes will be displayed in the church for this special occasion, the Flower Ladies will be holding a coffee morning in church on **Tuesday 9th May to celebrate this occasion between 10.30-12 noon.**

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High Moor View, Townsend Hill and Phase Two

I am often asked by parishioners what WPC are doing about the current build; High Moor View, and the planned extension regarding Phases two and three. As Chair of WPC Planning Group, I can tell you that we have been very busy. With regards to the current build, we have been monitoring the progress and conduct of the developers and have submitted a number of complaints to WPC regarding their behaviours. Concerns have related to

- Poor husbandry leading to debris on the road,
- Vehicles not being hosed down so the road is awash with mud,
- Lack of banksmen regarding reversing vehicles,
- Construction traffic mingling with school children and pedestrians,
- Road closure signs not enforced and poor diversionary signage. Signs up when the road is open and not up when it's closed,
- Spoil heaps AGAIN more than three metres high along with contamination from debris such as plastics etc.,
- Men operating pneumatic drills without personal protective equipment.

Pictures and testimony have been sent as evidence to HSE, our MP, District Councillor and TDC, who have opened at least two investigations on our behalf. In addition, when parishioners send or phone in complaints regarding the developers, I have passed these on to the Enforcement Team at TDC. I am also aware that many



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residents have registered their own complaints and concerns, for which I thank you. I think it's true to say that if we make sure Allison Homes are held to account on this build and we let no lapse in complying with health and safety rules or community liaison slip through, then firstly, we will have a cleaner, safer, experience and secondly, they may think again regarding a second or third phase, as the people of Winkleigh care deeply about maintaining high standards and protecting the integrity of this precious historic village and will not allow our environment to be treated with disregard and disrespect.

With regard to the proposed Phase Two, I have written three objections to the original application and the amendments, as well as the re-consultation amendments on behalf of WPC. Each of these objections has been linked back to the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) and referenced the aspirations of the Plan. Copies of these can be emailed on request.

A group of residents organised a petition last summer objecting to all the new builds proposed for the village. It gained almost 600 signatures and was publicly presented to Planning Officers at TDC. We have lobbied the District Council and also harangued our MP about Torridge's inability to identify a five-year Housing Land supply, the consequence of which is allowing developers to ride rough-shod over community plans and aspirations

Finally, I would not like those readers on waiting lists for housing to think that WPC members are against housing, or any increase in the size of the village. What we have worked hard for and why we wrote the Neighbourhood Plan was to have the right sort of housing in the right place. In short, we want to see a variety of sustainable, environmentally friendly housing including starter and affordable homes along with social housing. Any new-build should be future-proofed for climate change, have EV charging points, parking spaces, and comply with the Future Homes Standards which come into force in June 2023.

Angela Findlay, Chair of Planning Group WPC

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My Graduation at Plymouth

I was excited when I awoke as I was going to receive the graduation papers for my PGCE course and see my fellow students. We had to catch the train from St David's Station, Exeter at 6:20 am so we got up at 4:00 am; all of us were tired but excited and my parents were so proud. The family had given me my graduation present the previous week: a ukulele. At the previous graduation in lockdown they had given me a silver-plated bugle. We all got dressed in our formal wear and had a cup of tea with a light breakfast.

We arrived at Exeter St David's station where the train was waiting. We clambered aboard and found a table with window seats where we sat down and talked about the day ahead. During the journey the sun started to break as we travelled past the sea which was a beautiful scene. When we arrived we had a 20 minute trek to the Hoe along Armada Way and arrived at 7:55 am, five minutes before the Marquee opened. We went into the main section to get our tickets for the ceremony, then went to collect my hood which had been bought for me. I changed into my gown and



put on my hood and mortar board ready for the photos to be taken. We queued up to enter into a makeshift photographic area where I had an individual photograph taken and a second one with my parents. We only ordered one copy of each photo in a cardboard frame but I was shocked that the cost was £78! I knew that it would be costly but was not expecting that amount.

Next we went back to the first section where Dad and Mum could get something to eat and drink before the main ceremony. I found my friends and we shared our news before we were all asked to make our way to the tent for the main ceremony.

I was shown to a reserved place for me to sit and my parents found a place in the audience before the ceremony began. The start was heralded by the lecturers and invited dignitaries finding their places on the stage before the Chancellor's procession started and everyone stood up to greet them. There were the obligatory speeches and someone from the RD&E received an award before the main ceremony began. After twenty-five minutes I was asked to make my way to the stage; all I could

think about was I must not trip up the steps or fall on the stage! I got up the steps with no problems and handed over a piece of paper with my name on it to the person reading out everyone's name. I took a deep breath, walked across the stage and



shook the hand of the chancellor and received the envelope containing my degree documents as a photograph was taken. Then I walked off the stage back to my place, seeing my parents grinning proudly at me as I passed them. I will treasure these few minutes as my ambition since I was a teenager had now become real; I am a newly qualified teacher of Music in Secondary Schools.

Another hour passed before everyone had received their certificates; then the dignitaries processed from the stage with the lecturers lining the main route to clap us as we left the Marquee for a 'class of 2022' photo to be taken. I stepped up to my place which was high up, and with someone leaning against me was frightened of



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falling; another person also felt dizzy and nearly fainted. It seemed an eternity until the photos had been taken and we were allowed to find our families. When we had found each other, we went into the tent where there were canapés and drinks. My Mum was tired and was dismayed to find there were no chairs or tables so we had to put our belongings on the floor, whilst we ate and drank our refreshments. My Mum found that she was unable to have much to eat due to her dietary requirements and as I am a pescatarian it was almost impossible. We had a drink and left, walking back towards the station where we found a food outlet to have a meal and drink and a much-needed rest before walking to the station.

We walked back to the station and were glad to board the train to take us back to St David's station appreciating the scenery of the places on route back home. It took an hour and a half before we reached our destination where we again had to cross the platforms using the walkway. We then got into the car and drove home, tired and exhausted. When we arrived home we had a well-deserved rest and reflected on our day and the people we had met. It was a day which I would not forget and the friends I had made and would keep in touch with.

Katrina Beer BA Hons, PGCE

Spring is just around the corner (really it is!)

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The Bondleigh Barn Band (BBB) Celebrates 10 years!!!

Following a small insert in “*Distinctly Winkleigh*” in 2013 asking for local musicians to meet and see what music they could play together, Alan, my husband, saw the insert but I thought it would be all youngsters with guitars. How wrong could I have been!



So on a wild and windy night 10 years ago on 27th January 2013, 7 of us met in Danny's Barn in Bondleigh and the BONDLEIGH BARN BAND was formed.

We were very fortunate that Richard Edwards, who had retired to North Tawton after a long musical career in London, was one of the 7 original members. From that day to the present he has been our amazing and very inspiring Maestro/Musical Director choosing different kinds of music from classical, jazz and popular to well-known singalong songs, whilst trying with his mighty Baton to keep us all in order – not an easy task with so many musicians in front of him! But we have always been a very happy and friendly Band!

After a few months, Danny's Bondleigh Barn proved too small so we moved to another local Barn, then to the Community Centre in Winkleigh, and 10 years on we meet in the Sports Centre which can accommodate over 40 musicians, with rehearsals there every other Sunday evening with their violins, viola, cellos, double bass, clarinets, flutes, bassoon, trumpets, French Horns, saxophones, keyboards, guitar and banjo: such an array of local talent. But we are always very happy to welcome new musical folk.



Over the years we have performed at venues around the area, all well-attended, to raise funds for local Charities. On Sunday 22nd January we met, rehearsed and then enjoyed a delicious Birthday Cake made by Richard's wife, Hilary, to celebrate our 10 years.

Long may it continue; if you would like to join us, please do come along to have a go.

Happy 10 Year Birthday to the BBB!!

Jennie GILL – BBB Social Secretary

Email to the Editor - Winkleigh Memories

I hadn't thought about Winkleigh in 70 years...but I was reading an obituary on Charlie Watts' widow, Shirley, published in The Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper. It mentioned an Arabian stud farm in Devon. So I Googled and found out that it was in Winkleigh.

In the late '40s my family--Frank and Margaret Tilbrook, my baby brother David and myself (born in 1941)--lived in nearby Dolton. My dad worked for the North Devon Water Board as a civil engineer and drove into the Barnstaple office each day. He had an Austin, a funny little black car with directional signals that popped out of the body of the vehicle.

One ill-fated day my mother persuaded my father to teach her how to drive. So we went to the now-disused Winkleigh Aerodrome, once home to fliers from across the Commonwealth. It didn't go well! Finally my father threw up his hands in resignation: "Margot, I'm more terrified of driving with you than I was of fighting the Hun."

It was a bit of an exaggeration since he, as a Major in the Royal Engineers, probably never saw a Hun. In fact, we remember this story: After Dunkirk, when he was retrieved from France, he told us that he was issued a rifle and asked to patrol the beaches. "Of course, we didn't have any bullets. I suppose if the Hun had come, I could have kicked sand in their eyes."

It was another 30 years before my mother secured a driver's license, this time on the "wrong" side of the road, in Canada. It was also an Austin - a bright red mini.

Anne Moon, Victoria BC

Happy 10th Birthday to Winkleigh Art Group

Who would have thought that ten years later the Winkleigh Art Group would still be running? I thought I would set up a ten-week course to enjoy some art time in Winkleigh, and here we are still creating some amazing pictures, in pencil, pastel, watercolour and acrylic. **[Editor: See the Art Group picture on the Front Cover.]**

Over the years we have covered all sorts of artistic mediums and styles. Most of the group hadn't attempted any sort of art since they were at school and were surprised how much they enjoyed themselves. I must admit some of the group were a little unsure of my project suggestions but they soon became engrossed in creating some amazing work and continue to embrace different ideas today.

We have had several exhibitions in some wonderful venues including the Dartmoor Life Museum in Okehampton, Winkleigh Community Centre and The Andrew Sinclair Sculpture School. We will be having a birthday exhibition later in the year so I hope you will all come along to support our very talented local artists.

Helena Lewis

Researching Virtual Reality, Stroke and Dyspraxia

My name is Jack. I live in Winkleigh and I'm completing my PhD at the University of Exeter. I'm interested in how people move and coordinate their arms. People who have survived a stroke can have difficulties moving their arms and, similarly, people with Developmental Coordination Disorder – otherwise called Dyspraxia - can have trouble coordinating their arm movements.

My research focuses on how we can build detailed technology-based assessments for people with these conditions. I'm trying to use something called Virtual Reality (VR) for this. Virtual Reality uses small screens, like goggles, to show you computer-generated environments. In these environments, you can use your hands to interact with objects in the real world. While you do this, we can use motion capture to record how you move your head, your eyes and your arms.

We can use mathematics to find interesting patterns in the recordings we collect. The members of our team at Exeter hope that these patterns can be used to create tools for diagnosis and assessment. Our aim is to create useful, fast, and low-cost techniques for clinics, schools, and home-use. We hope that our work can be used to learn more about function after stroke, and about function and coordination in people with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD).

We are currently looking for volunteers to register their interest in taking part in our research. If you're interested in talking to me about this work, if you've had a stroke, or if you feel like you are often clumsy or a little uncoordinated, please get in touch. We're also looking for adults without stroke or DCD to take part! I would be happy to talk more about what we do. [My email address is Jack Evans - je426@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:je426@exeter.ac.uk)

From our Torridge District Councillor Why is Our Planning System Not Working?



With the threat of overdevelopment around Winkleigh (and several other villages within the District), many people are asking me why the planning controls contained in the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan and the North Devon & Torridge Local Plan are failing to work? So I thought it might be helpful to try and explain the situation we are currently facing:

One of the core policy documents that direct Local Planning Authorities and their planning officers is the National Planning Policy Framework. Within this policy, councils are required to demonstrate that they have a 5-year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) – i.e. they have sufficient building land (with planning permissions) that will allow them to build the housing target allocated to them over the next 5 years. This has to be land with permissions that will reasonably deliver housing within the next 5 years and so a council cannot claim land where there is clearly no intention to develop it within this timeframe (e.g. a developer has “land banked” it for investment use at a later time). If a council cannot demonstrate that it has a 5YHLS then they are not allowed to use the development controls contained within their Local and Neighbourhood Plans (e.g. Development Boundaries around villages) – this is part of the Government’s incentive to encourage councils to have sufficient land approved for development in the future.

The 5YHLS requirement was introduced by the then Labour government in 2006 and has remained part of the planning policy of successive governments. In 2020 our current government issued a White Paper in which it said that they intended to remove the 5YHLS requirement where there is a Local Plan in force as it was no longer an effective incentive to house building. This measure was included in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, introduced in May 2022 and now making its way through the parliamentary and legal process.

The situation here in Torridge District is that the Council’s claim that it had a 5YHLS was challenged at a planning appeal in 2020 after the Council had refused planning permission on a large housing development in Torrington. At the appeal, counsel for the developer proved that some of the land TDC was including as part of its 5YHLS was not going to be developed within the next 5 years. As a result it was deemed that TDC did not have 5 years’ worth of housing land supply and the appeal was granted. From that time onwards TDC has been unable to demonstrate a 5YHLS and so has not been able to enforce development boundaries etc. – hence the developer was able to apply for planning permission to build Phase 2 of Townsend Hill even though the site is outside of the Winkleigh development boundary. TDC planners together with North Devon say they hope to have completed their review of their

land supply by the end of March 2023 (they had previously said Autumn 2022) at which point it is hoped that they can again declare that they have a 5YHLS.

We have been continually challenging TDC over this policy failure – one that may potentially have a disastrous impact on the village. After the well-attended public meeting in Winkleigh last year with our MP Sir Geoffrey Cox, he has held meetings with the Chief Executive and Council Leader to demand an explanation as to why their original 5YHLS policy was inadequate and also why it has taken so long to conduct a review. I have also written on several occasions to the Chief Executive and the Planning Manager about the same subject. At all levels the answers have lacked substance and have reinforced my view that TDC did not anticipate the risk of their weak 5YHLS data being challenged (they didn't ask the "so what" question before deciding to fight the appeal) and nor have they understood the impact that the loss of planning controls has had on our local communities. Cynically, some have even suggested that planning officers are enjoying the freedom of not being constrained by Local and Neighbourhood Plan controls! Let us hope the TDC review concludes quickly and that the 5YHLS is restored in March.

As always, please feel free to contact me for advice or on any matters within the Torridge District Council area of responsibility.

Cllr Simon Newton MBE

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Our Species of the Year in 2022 - The Hazel Dormouse

"The Mound", a community wild space behind the Sports Centre, is celebrating ten years since the first trees were planted there. Over that time the area has developed and matured - and more species have moved into this small haven away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. In December, while we were surveying for Harvest Mouse nests, we also came across field evidence for Hazel Dormice. So we can now confidently say that these elusive creatures are living there. Our story, lots more photos and detail on the surveys can be seen in the blog: <https://winkleighbiodiversity.blogspot.com>

Let's take a closer look at this endearing, but increasingly rare animal. As a declining species, protected under British and European Law, we will need to be very careful how we manage the area in future to avoid disturbing them.

People's Trust for Endangered Species says on their website: "Our national monitoring shows the population of hazel dormice has declined by half since 2000, with the species hanging on mostly in southern parts of England and Wales. Climate change, as well as changes in woodland management, farming practices and loss of hedgerows, have all taken a heavy toll on their living space. Dormice are good indicators of animal and plant diversity, and dormouse-friendly habitats are also good for woodland birds, bats and butterflies"

Therefore, the presence of Dormice is a good sign for us that this wild space is good for other species. One hundred species records for 2022 have been sent to Devon Biodiversity Records Centre and our Dormouse records have now been entered onto the National Dormouse Database.



We always welcome new volunteers to get involved with our activities. The best way to contact us is via Facebook - Winkleigh Community Action or ring Penny on 83407.

Kim J Melhuish – Winkleigh Biodiversity Group

In Loving Memory of Derek Yates - Four Seasons, Winkleigh

The Funeral Service of Derek Yates took place on Thursday 12th January 2023 at North Devon Crematorium, Barnstaple.

Derek died in Exeter Hospital on 16th December aged 79 after a rapid decline in health in the last quarter of 2022, leaving his wife Pat (and also his son Jonathan who lives in Lancashire).

Derek and Pat, originally from Rochdale, moved to Winkleigh over 20 years ago following retirement from business in Yorkshire after Derek's previous career in Engineering and teaching Engineering at night school.

A quiet Gentleman, his interests included Flyfishing, Snooker, Archery and Shooting: Shotgun and Clays but particularly Target Rifle & Pistol and latterly Gallery Rifle Shooting. He competed twice yearly in Major Competitions at Bisley National Shooting Ground for over 32 years and in his last 2 years of shooting (2018 and 2019) won the Gallery Rifle Advancing Target Competition with the Maximum Possible Score.

He was a member of local Devon Shooting Clubs where he ran Pistol League Competitions for Members and was particularly helpful and encouraging in coaching new and probationary shooters.

Derek was a very kind and much-loved man who will be sadly missed.

Pat would like to thank particularly those Winkleigh friends and neighbours who have been instrumental in helping her over the last few months. You know who you are!





Acorn is an independent co-educational school which provides learning and supportive environments for students from Key Stage 2-4 with Social, Emotional, Mental Health, Autism Spectrum Conditions and/or Specific Learning Difficulties.



It's been another busy start to term with our year 11 pupils starting their transitioning journeys to colleges such as Exeter and Petroc.

Our pupils have been enjoying their jam-packed timetable which focuses on maths, English, science and daily offsite visits, our pupils have been enjoying climbing, forest school where pupils are starting to develop their building skills in preparation for the college course.

Art has been a key theme this week, with our pupils exploring a range of techniques involving colour and heat.

Our pupils are travelling through time and having previously stopped at the stone age with a visit to Kents Cavern before moving into the Iron age where they will be exploring interesting artefacts.

We are looking for community volunteers to listen to our children read, if you can spare an hour or two a week we would love to hear from you!

Interesting facts about our wonderful school:

- The school can educate 42 pupils
- Acorn is a therapeutic school which focuses on praise, and therapeutic input to support our young people to develop
- Some of our pupils travel as much as 1 hour each way to gain access to the nurturing environment we provide.
- Pupil wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do at Acorn, with each pupil having their own individualised learning plan based on their own interests.
- Our class sizes are no bigger than 4!



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Acorn School, Seckington Cross, Winkleigh (part of the Phoenix Learning and Care Group)

Following discussions with regards to Advertising in Distinctly Winkleigh, Editor Godfrey Rhodes and Treasurer Rachel Goldsworthy who share the responsibilities of Advertising Management were invited to Acorn School recently by its new Head, Zoey Shelley, resulting in an interesting tour. We really didn't know quite what to expect, but we were both bowled over with the light, bright, welcoming atmosphere, calm colours and quiet nurturing rooms and the obvious deep dedication of the staff. Everywhere were signs of unconditional positive regard and a child-centred approach to Education.

Acorn is a Therapeutic Day School for children aged (currently) 8 - 16 with social, emotional, mental health, Autism spectrum conditions and attachment and/or trauma. The school utilises skilled therapists in Art, Music and Drama alongside Clinical and Educational Psychologists and Speech and Language Therapists to support the child back into education. Acorn's approach means that children who have previously experienced trauma understand natural and logical consequences to their behaviour as opposed to punitive measures i.e. detentions or exclusions in other settings.

The superb facilities, coupled with the training and immeasurable patience of the staff are geared to help children at Acorn make incredible progress, through individualised timetables. Children access a range of onsite activities, including Maths, English, Science, Humanities, Design Technology, Art, Music and Media including their own well-appointed (and much enjoyed) kitchens, library and workshop as well as providing offsite activities including Forest School, Construction school, climbing, sports, Fablab, swimming, the farm and many curriculum-linked trips. Life skills are a part of each child's timetable. The school is a success. There are older children leaving this year as they are all starting college courses at either Petroc or Exeter College; some will enter apprenticeships whilst others go on to Further Education.



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Zoey explained “Children can attend Acorn if they have an educational, health and care plan and are referred to us by county councils who also organise their transport – some children travel as much as an hour to get to us, because the school is the only one in Devon that can meet their child’s specific needs. Acorn currently has 40 children (our maximum capacity is 42) with class sizes of 4. Each class has 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant who build strong working relationships with the children and we have capacity to provide 1:1 support if required. Our children are about to sit their functional skills exams in Maths and English at level 2 and if successful this will mean that they would have achieved the equivalent of a grade 4 GCSE in both subjects - something that would have been almost impossible for them to achieve in a conventional mainstream setting.”

In the spacious light corridors and nurturing rooms, or in the soft, warm, comfy, cosy, sofa corners children experience a positive, ‘can do’ attitude and have available room and space to deal with emotional challenges. The staff, who were still all busy at work after the pupils had gone home, are tremendously inter-supportive and are rightly very proud of the work they do and the children they support.

Winkleigh should likewise be proud that such a wonderful facility is part of its local infrastructure and support Acorn School in its fight to have some traffic calming measures put in place on that very dangerous crossroads, to calm traffic on a daily basis at school arrival and leaving time.

Rachel Goldsworthy

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Financial Focus - *The Inflation Genie*

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Following over a decade of rock-bottom interest rates, the rise in interest rates in December 2021 offered some comfort to millions of savers. Sadly, this relief proved short-lived. By July 2022, savers were staring aghast at an inflation level unprecedented for forty years and recent predictions (from a poll of global asset and hedge fund managers published by Reuters in January 2023) are for inflation to remain elevated globally, persisting throughout this year. Given there can be little comfort in locking monies into a cash savings plan offering 4.5% whilst inflation is running at more than twice this level, the question that continues to prey on the minds of many private individuals is where best to put their money.

One alternative to cash savings plans, or Cash ISAs, is to invest those monies into other assets, such as Equities (stocks and shares), Bonds, Commodities and so forth.



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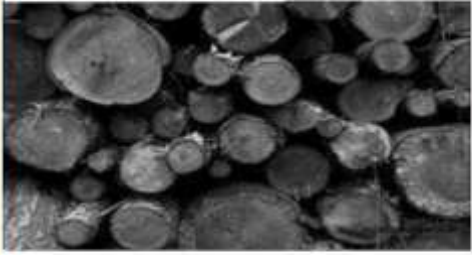
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Every individual may invest up to £20,000 into an ISA each tax year and it is also possible to retain an historic Cash ISA ‘wrapper’ and move those monies into an Investment ISA. However, alternatives to cash are likely to carry varying degrees of risk and volatility which many people are reluctant to embrace. One recognised way to potentially mitigate the risk is to hold an investment portfolio that is diversified across many different types of asset class, often referred to as a ‘multi-asset’ approach.

Whilst a multi-asset style may potentially be advantageous, creating a portfolio by purchasing a random selection of different asset types simply to create ‘diversification’ is unlikely to yield good returns over the longer term, particularly as external macroeconomic factors change. To explain this further, consider there are a number of different assets one may hold in the hope of weathering, countering or even profiting from an inflationary environment. These may include Consumer Staples as a sector within the equity space or inflation-linked bonds in the debt sector, possibly exposure to commodities, agriculture and infrastructure may be considered. A diversified portfolio that will potentially thrive in an inflationary environment may be drawn up - but what happens when the economic cycle moves on? One answer may be to hold a diversified portfolio that has been created entirely deliberately to profit in differing types of economic conditions. This type of approach is often called a ‘Total Return’ style because the portfolio or fund is aiming to generate a return in all but the worst of economic environments. As the economy moves through a series of cycles, the aim is to ensure different assets within the portfolio take turns to benefit in greater proportions than others.

Another consideration may be to make use of a ‘risk-targeted’ portfolio or fund. Risk-targeted funds or portfolios differ from others because they target an explicit level of risk which is transparent and fixed. The set parameters defining each risk level, such as ‘Defensive’ or ‘Cautious’, are normally tight. Therefore, having selected the risk level they are comfortable with, investors within a risk-targeted strategy can feel secure in the knowledge their monies will remain invested over the long term within

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the risk parameters they have agreed to accept. The investment manager may adjust the underlying assets and components, but must constantly ensure that the level of risk remains within its set target range. (A risk-targeted approach should not be confused with a 'risk-rated' fund or portfolio, which has simply been assigned a risk level based on a snapshot of its holdings at any one point in time. Risk-rated funds have not necessarily committed to remaining within set parameters relating to risk.)

A benchmark is defined as 'a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared'. A risk-targeted approach enables investors to easily compare returns from different investment managers because the level of permitted investment risk remains a constant, thus acting as a benchmark for performance comparison. However, most funds are not risk-targeted and will display their performance against a benchmark of their choosing. As the chosen benchmark may have very broad parameters (some permit anything from 40% to 85% Equities within the one benchmark), it is possible that numerous different risk levels may all be contained and measured against the one benchmark, potentially rendering the chosen benchmark an ineffective performance comparison tool when considered in isolation against the one fund or portfolio.

A clear, over-arching investment strategy does not need to be fiendishly complicated or contain complex derivative strategies to be very successful over the long term. A word of caution with respect to derivatives - there may be potential ramifications associated with these strategies, so prior to investment always ensure you completely understand your risk exposure and why the derivatives are being employed, alongside associated costs, repurchasing frequencies and so forth.

If you are paying for ongoing advice and/ or portfolio management, ensure you make the most of the regular review meetings that you are being offered and question any of the regular portfolio updates you do not understand.

Difficult economic times frequently serve to focus the minds of private investors. If you find you have unanswered questions, wish to explore your options for cash on account or you simply feel uncomfortable with your current setup, it may be a good time to review your affairs with a suitably qualified professional.

Jonathan Cotty, Chartered FCSI

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Plough Sunday at Monkokehampton



The Church in Monkokehampton had asked us if Alan's Man-Barn could be used for their Plough Sunday Service on Sunday 15th January. We had never been to a Plough Service before but readily accepted the challenge preparing our Barn with a Fergie Tractor borrowed from our friend John Hancock. Alan made a rustic Cross and a Lectern for Revd. Susan to put her Bible and Sermon on; we decorated the Barn with twinkly lights and all sorts of

rustic tools including Alan's father's antique Scythe. John Pearce provided a John Deere Tractor with Plough attached which stood outside so we were ready to go!

We had no idea how many might attend so we were mightily pleased to see nearly 60 folk



arrive from Iddesleigh, Dolton, Dowland and

Winkleigh; luckily we had enough chairs to accommodate them all! The simple service involved us all going outside so that Revd. Susan could "*Bless the Plough*". Afterwards everyone enjoyed the enormous array of delicious sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes provided by the Monko ladies – making it a great happy party!

Thanks to all who provided the goodies and thanks, too, to all who attended.

Jennie Gill



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Letter to the Editor: Road Safety in Winkleigh



Please put this safety advice for drivers in DW, as far too often I have seen walkers literally standing in the hedge and thinking “why are they trying to kill me”.

All drivers should be aware from reading the Highway Code that space and lower speed is vital while passing vulnerable road users: whether it’s a person with mobility walking aids, mobility scooter, horse, or walkers and cyclists.

If any road user is in the middle of the road it is generally because they find it easier to be seen and have a clear view themselves, or are simply avoiding pot holes and other hazards, particularly where there is no proper footpath. Too many cars are driving faster than is safe through the village particularly round blind bends and the amount of traffic will only get worse in future.

Please be mindful that if your vehicle can be touched by the person you are passing you are breaking the law (see Paragraph 204 of the Highway Code).

Alison Leah

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What's On Diary – March – August 2023

All dates & details are believed to be correct at the time of going to press. Please send details of your events to articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk. For up to date information (if DW has been notified of any changes) see the online diary at www.winkleighonline.com.

<i>March</i>	
4 th from 2 – 4 pm	Memory Café – Community Centre
10 th at 7 pm	Winkleigh Society AGM. Community Centre. Featuring 'Lives in a Landscape'. Cafe style
18 th from 2 -4 pm	Memory Cafe – Community Centre
21 st from 2 pm – 5 pm	Britannia 'Behind the Scenes' Open Day, located behind Airfield Garage. Seckington Cross
25 th at 7.30 pm	Winkleigh Singers, Assembly Rooms, South Molton
<i>April</i>	
1 st from 2 – 4 pm	Memory Café – Community Centre
10 th details TBA	Britannia Day Celebrations, Seckington Cross
10 th from 7 pm	'Living' (12A), Chulmleigh Rural Cinema, Chulmleigh Pavilion
15 th from 2 – 4 pm	Memory Café – Community Centre
<i>May</i>	
1 st from 2 – 4 pm	Memory Café – Community Centre
6th – 8th (for details see national media)	Coronation: Crowning of HM King Charles III Followed by Procession and 2 days of Celebrations
9 th 10.30 am – 12 noon	Parish Church – Flower display and coffee morning to celebrate the Coronation
15 th from 2 – 4 pm	Memory Café – Community Centre
<i>Future Events</i>	
29 th July	ACE: Moistown Open Day
12 th August	Parish Church Fete



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Pauline Metcalfe

You will need photo ID to vote at the May elections

For the first time, residents across the UK will need to show photographic ID to be able to vote at this year's local elections, which take place on 4th May across Northern Devon. Residents are being urged to plan ahead and make sure they are ready to vote by checking they have access to one of the accepted forms of ID.

The forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for a free ID online at www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/ or by completing a paper form.

The changes have been decided by the Government. The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.

*Clr Simon Newton MBE
councillor.newton@torridge.gov.uk - Tel: 07943 830220*

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What is happening to Winkleigh is a “perfect storm”

We, as residents of Winkleigh, find ourselves and our community facing a fractured planning policy and planning system that was designed for short-term gain but that may have far reaching, perhaps unintended, dire consequences for what is a small Saxon village and these will impact on our future community, environment and society.

Winkleigh is a very welcoming village and has embraced newcomers and new building programmes as indicated in our neighbourhood plan approved by Torridge District Council. However, we now find ourselves, as a village community, being asked to accept four large building developments that will mean the village expanding by 45% in a short space of time.

The “perfect storm” is partly the result of government policy that has given the Planning Inspectorate the overall power to overrule decisions to reject planning applications reached at the various planning stages in what would otherwise have been a democratic process of considering applications from the perspective of meeting the local needs and demands.

Planning policy states that the community must have a say in their future needs and that local views will be taken into account. The reality is very different; the normal rules do not apply; whatever we say at every stage can be overruled.



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This is an inherent contradiction; the policy states that the views and needs of the local community are to be taken into account but then the Planning Inspectorate has the ultimate power to overrule. This may be justifiable for developments of overriding national interest but is surely not appropriate for the sort of developments facing Winkleigh.

The “perfect storm” arises from the creation of a ‘make hay whilst the sun shines’ period for the developers in Winkleigh, whilst, with a new government, a new prime minister and a prolonged handover period, the governance framework can be said to have been paused for some time.

It has been compounded by the fact that Torridge District Council has not yet been able to confirm whether they have met their five year target for the supply of land for housing; had they been able to demonstrate their progress towards meeting the target then the democratic local process of planning decisions would be operating on a fair and consistent basis.

Winkleigh has a situation where multiple planning applications are being submitted to Torridge District Council, but, of course, separately. The result of this is that the four separate proposals for the total 275 dwellings (**being built without the associated infrastructure needed to support them and with no account taken of the approved Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan**), are having to be considered individually with no account being taken of the cumulative impact on and outcome for the village. This has provided an opportunity for opportunistic developers to make money quickly from hostile planning applications with the anticipated

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certainty that their proposals will be nodded through in the end despite having been rejected at the various intermediate stages.

The “perfect storm” further creates a paralysis arising from an environment where risk, caution and fear of getting the decision right are prioritised because of the legal and financial implications of potential litigation arising from decisions unfavourable to the developers. This is not to apportion blame to individuals but is just the reality of the accountability arising from policies that can be hard to interpret thereby dictating caution as the best way to handle applications.

It is clear that when presented with evidence-based views from a local knowledge perspective, sociological and environmental needs will be considered. However, when writing consultation comments, officers are quite rightly doing their jobs and acting according to policy and procedure but are phrasing their comments with one eye on the potential for the Planning Inspectorate being critical of their comments and on the prohibitive cost of litigation should any ensuing legal case be lost.

In the specific case of Winkleigh, this means that concerns arising from the valid evidence presented from a local knowledge-based assessment of the holistic impact of four separate planning applications, two of which are hostile, are lost as these applications are being considered individually.

Anyone trying to fight a legal case against proposed planning decisions faces huge legal bills to put up a fight and this is getting in the way of clear, objective, constructive decision-making and prohibits local communities from having their views heard in an equitable manner, the developers always holding the upper hand.

No other village in Torridge and North Devon is being asked to accept, without question, such excessive proposals for housing development and this is grossly unfair on Winkleigh.

The majority of people in Winkleigh want a level of new housing but a fair proportion to enable our existing overstretched infrastructure and services to be able to cope and not over such a short space of time as to destroy the fabric of village life.

Residents of Winkleigh are very concerned about the impact of these developments on people’s lives, their physical and mental well-being and how to cope with day to day living with the road safety issues, lack of parking etc., which will ensue.

This “perfect storm” needs to be recognised and action taken for fairness and proper consultation and consideration to prevail.

This is a plea to those accountable and with the power to affect the outcome for the village to act in the interests of the residents of Winkleigh and indeed all the other Devon villages, which may face similar challenges in the future.

Prof. Pauline Odulinski OBE

Winkleigh YFC Update



Christmas seems like a distant memory now. However, we have squeezed a lot in over the last couple of months.

We started off November with the younger club members organising the 'Mini' Winkleigh YFC Desert Quiz where there was great support from local people and a good night was had by all.

Moving on into December, the club had its Christmas meal at Libbaton Golf Club. All that went had a nice evening.

Many members got suited and booted and caught the bus to Exeter for the annual Devon YFC Christmas Ball which due to Covid, hadn't taken place in December since 2019. It was great for the club to be able to socialise with other clubs from all over Devon. For many of our younger members, it was the first time they had been able to attend the event.

After Christmas, the Club embarked on its first Christmas tree collection service. **We**



were pleased with the support from the local community and were able to raise £140 for Devon Air Ambulance. We plan to offer this service again next January, so do bear us in mind. All the trees we collected were chipped and have been turned into garden mulch.



Many thanks to all members who helped but especially George Shacklock (from MTF Contracting) who brought his tractor and chipper along and Jack Luscombe and family for the use of their yard at Devon Plant Services.



Winkleigh is part of six clubs which make up the Tarka Group. Every year they hold a Christmas Challenge, where each club holds an event and the people that go to the most are entered in the draw for a prize. Our annual Tarka Christmas Challenge was a blind drop held at Broadwoodkelly Village Hall on the 27th January. Seventeen teams took part and at the end all enjoyed a cup of hot soup and a roll. The winning team were past Winkleigh members so they brought it home! Thanks to all those who helped on the night in any way, especially the parents and leaders who gave up their time. The annual Tarka entertainments night was held in January and although Winkleigh didn't do a sketch,

members went along to help on the night with refreshments. Thanks to the Pearce brothers for representing Winkleigh.

Upcoming Events

We have our annual Easter disco in April. Look out on Facebook for more details.

We are also in the process of organising a summer ball. More details to follow in the next Distinctly Winkleigh

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, Social Secretary



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Happy 1st Birthday to Catkin Blooms Café in Winkleigh

I cannot believe that on 11th February 2023 Cath will be celebrating the first anniversary of the lovely Catkins Café in Winkleigh – housed in Bissett's Garage - with her wonderful Floristry & Plant Shop and an ECO Gift Shop and friendly staff: Sally, Lucy-Jade, Freya & Daisy.

Her Café has provided a much-needed meeting point for local folk to meet and chat over a delicious cup of Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Tea etc., accompanied by superb cakes and doughnuts in a lovely cosy atmosphere, sitting in armchairs or around the long wooden tables with cushions making for a comfy sit-down.

The windows of the Café afford the most glorious views across to Dartmoor on a fine day and also allow lots of sunshine to make the Café a very welcoming place to visit.

Well done Cath for all your efforts during the past year – here's to the second year and all the years to come!

Jennie G & Friends of Catkin Blooms Café



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Pop in & say hello, we are open Tuesdays to Saturdays 9.30am-5pm

We have a Friday Flower Club, seasonal workshops and events, pop in to ask for details

Britannia Sailing Trust News

Another three months, another fantastic tranche of work by the Britannia team and, of course, another update for the distinguished readers of Distinctly Winkleigh!

2023 is set to be a monumental year for Britannia Sailing Trust, and indeed for Britannia herself, as the 108 year-old ship is scheduled to return to the water for the first time in almost a decade. As we firm up plans for Britannia's relaunch in Exeter this Autumn, the ship's fabric itself also grows ever firmer, thanks to the continuing efforts of our volunteer 'crew'.

The glossy wooden deck rail - first fitted 40 years ago but more recently seen lying in pieces and covered in sawdust on the workshop floor - has finally been refitted. The wood has been lapping up pints of Dutch boat oil to give it a rich and resilient finish.



As with many aspects of this restoration, preserving the original material has taken far longer than it would have done to build anew. Striking the right balance between painstaking preservation and no-nonsense practicality presents an interesting challenge in historic vessels. Custodians of veteran sailing ships must tow a fine line between sentimentality and functionality, taking care to respect the

vessel's historic fabric while ensuring she will be strong enough to withstand the full force of the sea.

Thus in Britannia 'something old' often sits shoulder to shoulder with 'something new', complementing one another and weathering gracefully together. In this instance, it's a new coachroof (cabin top). Trainee shipwright Seb has been working closely with seasoned boat-builder Andy Cornish to recreate the coachroof as it was originally designed in the 1970's, allowing for greater standing room in the saloon below. The original had been removed when the Trust acquired Britannia in 2014 and the badly-fitted replacement had completely rotted. In this instance there was nothing to 'save', but many in our team relished the opportunity to leave their legacy

aboard the ship in the form of well-constructed replacement parts and other improvements.



We are delighted to welcome long-standing volunteer Abi back into the fold, now as a paid trainee. She joins trainee shipwright Seb, who is celebrating his one year anniversary on the project.

Our latest Open Day was another great success with over 100 people in attendance in the workshop and on the ship. Visitors and families enjoyed an afternoon of history talks, deck tours, caulking demos, traditional tool displays, tombola, refreshments and more. A modest sum was raised, which of course will go towards the continued restoration.

While on the subject of open days, we'd like to take this opportunity to invite readers of

Distinctly Winkleigh to our upcoming 'Britannia Day' event. Britannia Day is our annual party, celebrating the ship's original launch date. This year it falls on Easter weekend (10th April). More details to follow. As in previous years, we'll be hosting a free community event around the ship and her workshop, including live music, a bar, seafood and shanties, tours of the ship and other activities.



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This may be the final Britannia Day taking place in Winkleigh, so it would be lovely if you would join us to celebrate this seafaring vessel's wonderful decade-long restoration in our landlocked village since 2018. We are perhaps the only village in the UK with its own sailing ship - so do come along and see her before she departs, as we're afraid once she's gone, she most probably won't be back!

But of course, you'll be able to visit her on Exeter Quayside where her mast will be put in and the wire and rope rigging to take her sails will be completed. All of this of course is in preparation for going back to sea proper in the next 2 or 3 years.

Vicki Samuels, 01837680036 or 07776 330169

<http://www.britanniasailingtrust.org>

John Stainer – The Crucifixion

Okehampton Choral Society will be performing this well-known work on Saturday 1st April 2023 in Fairplace Church, Okehampton at 3pm.

Soloists: John Colpoys Wood (tenor) and Jason Bomford (bass) with Roger Cleverdon (organ) and Richard Edwards (conductor). Admission free – with retiring Collection.

Anyone who would like to join us for this performance will be most welcome – all voices will be happily accommodated. If you want to brush up your understanding of this work please feel free to join us at any of our rehearsals which take place on Mondays at 7:15 pm in Fairplace Church.

For further details please contact *Jenny Gibbons on 01837 840282*

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Our Flogas 'Crusade'

Our Flogas 'crusade' began in May 2009, with a chance remark by a neighbour on King's Meadow who mentioned that he was going to order some LPG from Flogas while it was cheap. I asked him what he meant and he said that he had received a letter from Flogas saying that for the next six months he could have his LPG for 35p per litre.

As I was paying 46p per litre plus a 5p per litre surcharge, I telephoned Flogas, but was told that I couldn't have the deal as I was a low user. Puzzled, I compared my bill with my neighbour and it turned out that I used far more than him! Again, I telephoned Flogas and was told this wasn't true, but they couldn't discuss his bill due to Data Protection.

Still not satisfied, I started knocking on neighbours' doors and was shocked to find that we were all paying different prices ranging from 35p to-52p per litre Together with an added surcharge of between 3p and 8p per litre. The standing charge was just as variable between 11.71p and 15.29p per day.

I wrote to Flogas asking a lot of questions and received a letter back, where every question was answered with: 'We cannot answer your question as you are a low user,' or using data protection as an excuse.

Damien Lloyd was the Flogas Domestic Heating Manager at the time and I phoned him continually; every time I telephoned, he was either at a meeting or not in the office. When I did get to speak to him, I was fobbed off with the same excuses. This went on until the end of July when I decided to change tactics as I was getting nowhere. I wrote letters to, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, Secretary of State, Ed Miliband, the CEO of Flogas, Henry Cubin and our MP Sir Geoffrey Cox. I also contacted The Energy Ombudsman, Consumer Focus, Watchdog and 'Don't Get Done Get Dom'. In each one I included evidence of our plight. I received a reply from all of them, but as it stood most couldn't help us as LPG was not regulated in the same way as mains gas. The only interest I had was from Flame TV, the makers of 'Don't Get Done Get Dom', a TV consumer programme.



Qixx

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By this time Trish and Terry Burrows had come on board and their help was invaluable. I was very apprehensive about making the program as I still felt that we could settle the problem with Flogas, so before signing the contract with Flame TV I telephoned Damien Lloyd and explained that a television company were interested in making a program about us and Flogas. I was shocked at his reaction, he obviously didn't believe me and said in a very disinterested way that they were still looking into the matter.

The same day I signed the contract, after which any contact with Flogas had to be through Flame TV. Before filming started, Trish, Terry and I had to knock on doors and get a petition signed. I was surprised that two people were against what we were doing. One slammed the door in my face and the other was very rude and refused to sign the petition, but they both took advantage of the deal in the end.

It was November when Flame TV came to Winkleigh filming for a week. Terry, Trish and I went to Plymouth where we appeared in the David Shepherd program on Radio Devon, although Dom did most of the talking. We even had a half-page article and picture in the North Devon Journal

At this time, we were still unaware of any problems on the Millwood (Westcots) Estate. It wasn't until the final meeting in the Village Hall where Dom revealed that the whole of Winkleigh would be paying the same price for Flogas - 33p per litre and 13.7p per day standing charge and there would be no more surcharge.

From that moment our relationship with Flogas changed and we were allocated a personal representative and still have annual meetings with a Flogas rep when contracts are due to expire and we try to ensure that Flogas customers all stick together as one group. Communication with our neighbours is the key to continuity as once we drift out on our own, prices will start to differ.

The most recent contract renewal started on 1st January 2023, so all Winkleigh consumers should now have received and signed up to a new one-year contract (rather than two years in view of the current volatility of energy prices). The bulk rate is now 49 pence per litre (which equates to 188.65 pence per cubic metre) and the standing charge is unchanged at 13.6 pence per day.

If you have any queries with your Flogas bills or have any other Flogas-related concerns, please contact one of the people listed below. They are your Winkleigh Flogas representatives who negotiate directly with our Flogas manager.

Janet Hobbs

If you would like to join us as one of the representatives, please ring for details:

Kings Meadow

Janet Hobbs - 83711

John Parry - 83147

Westcots

Barry Jenkins - 682909

Roy Cunnington - 83487



The Winkleigh Friendship Club

We will be meeting every other Thursday afternoon in the small Room at Winkleigh Village Hall, between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm.

The group is open to everyone: whatever your age and whatever your gender. We will be having speakers and outings, but at most of our meetings you will be able to take part either by joining our craft table, card table, and board game table or just sit, chat and make new friends.

Sometimes it is hard to join groups where you do not know anyone but do not worry, with the Friendship Club you will be welcomed and soon put at ease.

If you want to join us after your first session, then it is only £5 for a whole year.

Stop Press! We will be having our first speaker in April and our first outing will be in May "Exploring Exmoor"

If you want more information please ring: Marcia on 01837 83734 or email Pat on roywcunnington@gmail.com

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Rainfall for 2022 at Horry Mill

Month	Rainfall (mm)
January	60.2
February	80.3
March	34.9
April	35.0
May	56.3
June	56.3
July	14.6
August	36.2
September	130.2
October	77.3
November	194.9
December	124.3

As you may know, Horry Mill in Hollocombe is an official rainfall recording station for the Environment Agency and the table summarises the rainfall for 2022. The Environment Agency is always looking for volunteers to record rainfall.

It is quite a commitment, as they require readings to be taken every day at a set time. They provide the gauge and select the precise location, which is quite important.

We have been recording rainfall for the Agency at Horry Mill for sixteen years. You can compare these figures with those for 2021 which were published in DW 81.

Sonia Hodgson

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News from the Mad Butchers

'Buy a tile' is here to stay for this January and every January from here on in



After the famous hustle and bustle in Mad Butchers HQ at Christmas, January has always been where we dust off the cobwebs, reset and build for another year ahead.

This year we wanted to hit New Year with something different. We know times are hard at the moment and are all feeling the effects one way or another. How to give back something to our customers whilst raising money for charity, including the entire community and having a bit of fun as well? Enter the 'buy a tile' fundraiser.

The emphasis is as simple as it reads - you buy a tile from our shop wall, the tile has a number and, once bought, that tile is yours for the month. We donate two prizes each week of January and if we pull your number, you win. Easy really!

We began the month optimistically hoping to raise a few quid and expected to sell around 100 tiles. Fast-forward to the 31st and tile number 500 has just been sold. I am astonished by the popularity of the fundraiser and the generosity shown by everyone has been breath-taking. Everyone has embraced the idea and helped to brighten up the month, decorating the shop in graffiti at the same time!





It allowed us to give a little back as a thank you, picking eight winners throughout the month who won various prizes from roast dinner hampers, to binge night ins, romantic steak dinners or vouchers to spend in shop.

At the time of writing we still don't know the final amount, but it has smashed past the £800 mark and will be split between North Devon Hospice, Mind Mental Health, and a dementia charity, all charities close to our hearts for various reasons. That amount of money that has been raised makes me humbled to work and live in a community where all get on board when called upon.

That is why we will dedicate every January as charity month. Where between us and with your help will raise funds for charities or local causes leaving January blues a thing of the past. So thank you all again and roll on spring and Easter!

Tom Robinson, The Mad Butchers



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Week 4

Week 4

Friday

Jan 6	Apr 28	Jul 21	Oct 13
Feb 3	May 26	Aug 18	Nov 10
Mar 3, 31	Jun 23	Sep 15	Dec 8
Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
North Tawton	Square	09:45	10:45
Winkleigh	Square	11:00	12:15
Winkleigh	Four Seasons	12:20	12:45
Bondleigh	Old School	13:30	14:15
Iddesleigh	Duke of York	14:30	15:00
Dolton	Ram's Head	15:15	15:45


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News from Winkleigh Football Club

As we quickly pass the half way stage of another season, Winkleigh have found good form of late which comfortably sits them in second place in Division 1. Since the turn of the New Year, Winkleigh have played all three of their league matches on the road with wins coming away at Beer, Hatherleigh and Lymptone, with confidence building with every game.

Earlier in the season Winkleigh was a mixed bag finding consistency hard to come by. Player availability and injuries were certainly factors and training new players who join the squad takes time. While we aren't ruling out winning the league, we know it's not in our hands, because Upton have to drop points elsewhere. It's a very competitive league with a lot of strong sides who also have eyes on the title. However if theoretically we have a chance, then we will believe we can; that's the attitude Colin has instilled in us with our current form.

Whilst being competitive in the league, we also remain in two cup competitions. Winkleigh's only home game this year was in cup action against Ilfracombe where we emphatically put 8 past the 'Seasiders' to progress to the quarter-finals of the Torridge cup. Next up is Appledore and the date still needs to be confirmed. Winkleigh, who will be the underdogs, thankfully have home advantage when the two meet so we will back ourselves with a chance. Winkleigh also find themselves in



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semi-final action in the coming weeks facing Park United, who are another strong north Devon side where Winkleigh will be the underdogs again. The date is also to be confirmed. These are all games to get excited about as Winkleigh look to keep up their momentum in both league and cup action.

Off the pitch Winkleigh have had lots of successful events taking place, raising much needed funds to keep the club alive. The hard work from the Board never stops and

can go unnoticed at times as they always work tirelessly when asked. A huge thank you from me, as a player, along with the rest of the squad, but more importantly also recognition for your hard work. We see it and know how important it is for the club.



For the last few years Winkleigh have remained competitive and successful with back to back promotions; now looking for a third. All that is missing is some silverware and as long as we have a chance we will continue to believe that this year could be our year.

Finally please keep an eye out for updates on the Winkleigh Facebook page for weekly round-ups, fixture dates and kick-off times for upcoming matches.

Tom Robinson

Photos by Greg Goldsworthy

Local Press Snippets

Western Morning News [Jan 27]: The Open Farm Sunday team are organising a series of breakfast meet-ups for farmers between February and April. The aim is to support, inspire and up-skill farmers thinking about taking part in **Open Farm Sunday**. Since 2006 over 2.7 million people have been welcomed onto farms, enabling farmers to demonstrate and explain why they are so proud of British food and farming.

Second Railway Station at Okehampton: West Devon Borough Council has received a total of nearly £13.6 million from the Government's levelling up fund for a second railway station on the industrial estate to be named Okehampton Parkway station. It will include charging points for electric vehicles and cycling facilities. **Okehampton Times** [Jan 26].

Old Crockern, Help Us Protect Our Moor! Is the lead story in **The Moorlander** [Feb 2]; Indeed this one made all the national newspapers.

But old Crockern [the guardian spirit of Dartmoor] failed to influence the High Court who ruled against Dartmoor National Park Authority and for Alexander Darwell hedge-fund manager and landowner of 4,000 acres on Dartmoor. The Darwells challenged the presumed right to wild camp on the land they owned, ending the tradition of Dartmoor being the only place in England where it is permissible and provoking a series of mass protests organised by The Right to Roam.

North Devon Journal [Feb 2]: Highlights the 50th anniversary of the South West Coast Path Association. It is the UK's longest national trail. To find out more about all the events planned to celebrate this most demanding of coastal walks, go to southwestcoastpath.org.uk/50

Penny Griffiths

Why Local Governance and Democracy is Important

On May 4th there will be an opportunity for you to stand as a candidate for your local parish (Winkleigh), or district (Torrige); elections for you to decide which candidates will have your vote.

Local elections are important but unfortunately, second-tier contests still fail to receive the attention they deserve. However there are reasons to stand up and be counted and to turn out for our local elections.

This will be the first opportunity for voters to make their opinions known at the ballot box since the last general election in December 2019. However, a lot has happened both locally and nationally since then!

High-profile issues such as inflation, wage squeezes, energy prices and industrial unrest will affect voting intentions for political parties. However it's important to remember that electoral behaviour at the local level is both complex and fluid. With these points in mind, it would be wrong to assume that May 4th will solely be a referendum on the main parties.

Local authorities are responsible for a significant proportion of our public services. Their budgets are handed to them from Westminster but it's up to them how they are spent. As financial restraint becomes increasingly apparent the effects trickle

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down to local communities. Conversations about local issues; pot-holes, schools, fly-tipping, housing developments and so on become more relevant and may shape voting intentions; this will affect the main parties and indeed send them a message. Whether we vote or not or like it or not - what happens in Parliament and at the local level will affect you. Government, of course, makes the big decisions such as pay-restraint, levels of benefits and taxation, etc. Devon County Council will make decisions regarding things like fixing (or not) pot-holes, schools and so on. Torridge District Council will make pronouncements on planning and sports amenities as well as setting the council tax. Winkleigh Parish Council will make decisions on things like benches, defibrillators, grant applications, dog-poo bins, etc. and be consulted on planning applications. In our representative democracy these decisions have been devolved to the different tiers of Government which are all made up of ordinary people like you and me.

As a local Parish Councillor, I have worked very hard on your behalf: contributing to the production of the Neighbourhood Plan and campaigning for people to turn out and vote for it in the local referendum. Despite being concerned that having a plan which can be disregarded because Torridge have not identified a Five-Year Housing Land Supply, I have fought long and hard for it to be recognised by TDC, developers and applicants. As Chair of the Planning Group on WPC, I have worked tirelessly not only to halt phase two of Townsend Hill, but to remind developers of the need for affordable homes and social housing. I have constantly championed the need for sustainable growth and housing which is future-proofed for climate change.

I also support Alan Jacobs in running the Community Centre, and I set up, and have been running, the Winkleigh Volunteer Service. In addition, I am now Chair of Governors for Winkleigh Primary School and Kings Nympton Federation.

Therefore, I am one of those sad people who think that local Government matters and our votes matter, whether you endorse my appointment with your vote, or vote for some other candidate if you don't think I have earned it. I expect to be accountable to the electorate which is why my full name, address, email and phone numbers are available to all voters and not just a select few.

In recent years across the UK, participation in elections, particularly at the local level, has reduced; this is more than true in Winkleigh and Ashreigney where your parish councillors, with the exception of the by-election in November 2021, have walked into the job unchallenged and unopposed for decades, irrespective of their fitness to be councillors or their commitment to the role. It has been said that this apathy on the part of the electorate is because people don't care, but I don't think it is true. I only have to look at those who support the Winkleigh Volunteer Service, and the many others who volunteer for the Church, Village Hall, and Football Club, to name but a few, to know that it is not about apathy. The current waves of industrial unrest also prove to me that people are not apathetic; they do want to protect their standards of living and help others as best they can.

So why, I ask myself, are people less willing to support Local Government? Perhaps individuals feel that being active at the first tier of Government is a waste of time, because they are powerless and can't influence and affect positive change at this level? This is clearly not true as, at the time of writing, I have persuaded TDC to investigate work practices and health and safety issues at the High Moor View Site. I also have influence and oversight at the School as well as over planning applications in the parish. I agree there is much more to be done than I can do, but small changes really matter in the lives of people.

Last week I was dealing with fifteen people who all have hospital or medical appointments in the first week of February; I managed to get every one of these people a lift to their appointments. Believe me knowing you have done your best and managed to make someone's life easier if only for a moment makes it all worthwhile.

So please do vote for whoever you think are the best candidates and even more importantly why don't you consider standing yourself; what do you have to offer the people of Winkleigh? I ask this because there is no doubt that the people of Winkleigh deserve and need a fully functioning and effective Parish Council, especially as the village increases in size.

Many of the current, unelected, incumbents are not putting themselves forward this year. As a result it is possible we won't have a Parish Council at all, in which case decisions about our Parish would devolve to Torridge. Some of you may think this would be an improvement! However, I for one would like local decisions to be made at the local level by people you know, on whose doors you can knock, whose phone you can ring and who you can chuck out at the next election if you think they are not doing their job as a councillor. So please be an active citizen this year.

Angela Findlay

(Any views or delusions of grandeur are entirely my own and might not be shared by other members of WPC)

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A Winter's Tale

The sun was out and it did shine
I thought a walk would suit me fine
I did not have to travel far
It's just a mile in the car
As I got out it was exciting
But then I found the wind was biting
I started out step by step
I met a lady with her dog Shep
On I went and saw more curs
As I tramped through the mighty firs
Then I came to an icy dip
I took great care not to slip
Beyond the dip there is a hill
It was here I felt the chill
It was only wind no rain or snow
But halfway up I had a blow
At the top I had had my fill

But the journey home is all downhill
The sky is blue just like at dawn
Just by the pond and its frog spawn
Frozen solid which isn't nice
Their little eyes showing through the
ice
Moving on it gave me hope
As I was on a downward slope
As I came round the very last bend
My ordeal was at an end
The entrance gate was just in sight
I pressed on with all my might
I will remember this quite distinctly
A winter's walk in the woods near
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ACE Archaeology Club - Looking Forward

Although it doesn't always feel like it the days are getting longer, as I type in the beginning of February, and we are looking forward to getting out and about again.

Although our first visit of the year coincided with last month's bad weather; so a trip to Barnstaple museum and a guided tour around the interesting nooks and crannies of Barnstaple had to be postponed.

This year, as well as the usual Moistown excavation, 22nd July to 6th of August, we hope to spend some more time at North Tawton and also on Dartmoor with one or two side visits: one to Cornwall and one much nearer home to Coldridge church.

We are now working closely with one of the Dartmoor National Park archaeologists and this will, we hope, give us the chance to do some work on the prehistoric monuments of the moor. Moving along in time we may be looking again at North Tawton's Roman history and the medieval history of St Matthews Church in Coldridge.

Moistown of course takes us through the ages. We have been waiting for it to warm up a little so that we can start working on classifying some of our finds, particularly the pottery. They are stored in a rather cold workshop.

Sorting the blue and white and an intriguing little pot



Piecing together the jigsaw.



More details of the days and the dates can be found on the diary page of our website. Some are a little vague at present because permissions and funding are needed for some work but it will be updated.

See <https://acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com>

Interested in Moistown?

Come to our Open Day on the 29th July. There is usually cake!!

Erica Williamson

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Cob-wall Houses in Winkleigh Village Centre

Whilst walking around the village and taking in the excellent cob wall houses, many with thatched roofs, I noticed that repairs had been carried out to the external walls of almost all and I noted that Portland cement-based render had been used in all applications.

This will cause issues in the future as cob walls should be rendered with lime-based mortar with a white wash or lime wash to finish off. What happens is the rain water is repelled by the Portland cement render and floods the lime render in other areas. Lime-based renders as a rule do not crack, but allow movement of the wall. Unfortunately cement-based mortars shrink and also crack as the cement render will not move with the wall; this allows the repelled rainwater to infiltrate the cracks and damage the clay binder which holds the cob together possibly resulting in the failure of the cob wall.

The biggest danger to any building is water either from rain or condensation; the effects of water on older buildings can be very significant, and will in time cause wood to rot, hard plaster to blister and fall off, decorations to decay, and worst of all black mould to form in poorly-ventilated houses.

Black mould has always been a problem but recently has been brought to the forefront because of recent fatalities of children and some elderly and infirm people.

Houses built with cob walls were made from materials readily available: i.e. clay, straw, water, and stones which were mixed together and filled into a shutter or laid as a wall, freehand with the face cut cleanly with the back of a shovel; the foundations of the cob walls were formed in stonework and built 18 inches (450 mm) above the local ground levels.

Cob walls should be finished off with lime mortar render or limewash, the walls were usually about 24 inches (600 mm) thick. Cob walls breathe and allow moisture to be held which then disperses due to natural evaporation. Over time the walls themselves will move due to minor ground heave and other natural forces. When this happens the limewash and the lime mortar will move elastically with the walls.

When these cob wall houses were built, all of them would have had open fireplaces which as well as heat and a cooking area, provided natural ventilation. In addition, the doors and windows as a rule generally were not airtight so there was always a natural flow of air through the house taking any moisture condensation etc away.

From what I can see around the village many of the houses have been fitted with windows and doors that understandably do not allow draughts. As well as this the modern way of cooking with intense heat, steam from kettles, and modern bathrooms with hot showers all produce moisture which leads to condensation.

The average person produces approximately up to 1.5 litres of moisture /condensation per day, so, unless this is extracted either by natural means through

the walls, open windows or electrical extractors, it stays inside the house. You may think that your bathroom and kitchen extractors are doing the job for you, but these are only brought in to use as required. When you boil the kettle and when you breathe out you are producing moisture and heat from your body also produces heat, all of which will condense into water against a cold surface. So why is this a problem?

Well in a cob-walled house natural ventilation via the fireplace and poorly-fitted windows and doors as well as the cob walls themselves assist by absorbing some moisture so condensation was taken care of.

Going back to the beginning: Portland cement-based renders and modern paints which contain polymers (plastic) stop walls from breathing, tight-fitting windows and doors also stop draughts. They all stop the movement of air resulting in black mould in corners and ceilings. In addition, some of the condensation will find its way into the pockets where the floor joists are built and into the walls to rot the wood, which can result in failure of the timber joists and ultimately the floor.

The answer has to be either ventilation of all areas or the use of dehumidifiers in all rooms (for a dehumidifier to work efficiently the temperature has to be 70 degrees Fahrenheit). In our last property I installed a Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) system which was very efficient as it recovered heat and recycled it, as well as changing the air throughout the house 1.7 times per hour, resulting in heating costs halved and all condensation gone. For more information you will need to seek advice from qualified companies.

Of course, another way would be to increase the natural ventilation by not using hard materials such as Portland cement and modern paints on the walls.

Should you put the house on the market any sharp-eyed RICS surveyor preparing a report for a potential buyer will highlight some of these issues and as a result will reduce the valuation accordingly.

Peter O'Brien
Construction Professional

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I	O	E	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	J	O	P	X	B
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Solution on Page 69

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

Solution on Page 69

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



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

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

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And Finally

To brighten up the onset of spring, this edition is also in full colour. Please do let us know if you prefer the colour layout to the previous black and white, or if you have any other comments or suggestions, good or bad. We will continue to have a table at the monthly Saturday Markets in the Village Hall this year and look forward to seeing you there.

As other articles in this edition mention volunteers in many village organisations, we should include members of the Winkleigh Society Committee, the proof-readers, the distributors and the posties for the many unpaid hours they devote every three months to make sure that you receive your copy of Distinctly Winkleigh. None of it happens by magic! Also we could not afford to produce Distinctly Winkleigh at all if it wasn't for the continuing support of our advertisers, so please do remember them if you can make use of their services at any time.

If you would like to get involved with DW in any way, please feel free to contact us.

The deadline for the next edition will be noon on Monday May 8th, which is the concluding day of the events for the Coronation of HM King Charles III.

Publication and distribution of DW86 is planned for the end of May.

*Please don't wait until the last minute to send us articles!
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A Winkleigh Sunrise – photo by Rachel Goldsworthy

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Please also 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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