

# DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



**Edition 28**

**Winter 2008**

Cover sponsored by  
Ian Shacklock, MTF Training, Moortown Farm, Winkleigh. 01837 83325

## **Winkleigh Live Music**

**Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Torrington Silver Band**

**Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**TBA**

**Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tom McConville**

Tom McConville – the Newcastle fiddle Player – is one of the leading fiddle players of our time. A virtuoso musician and excellent singer, his rich and warm voice makes his interpretation of traditional and contemporary songs greatly admired by audiences around the world.

*“One of the greatest violinists I’ve ever heard and by far the biggest influence on my music – a true master.”*      **Seth Lakeman**

**Tickets for Tom McConville are £8 or £7 if bought in advance.**

**All tickets for the Torrington Silver Band are £5. Tickets available from D&S Supplies, Winkleigh Post Office and Londis Store, Winkleigh or ring 01837 83209.**

**There will be a licensed bar at the interval.**

## **Winkleigh Society    Beaford Arts**

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As readers will know, the Winkleigh Society which sponsors, edits and distributes this journal, is part of a national network of over 700 branches collectively called the Civic Trust. The overall idea is to improve where and how we live by fundraising, campaigning (particularly in the planning/development arena) and responding to need and events.

Our own society is reasonably healthy but improvements in:

- communications
- diversity
- membership numbers
- providing value for our members

are identified as important areas for action in 2009 and beyond.  
In the meantime, have a happy and healthy Christmas.

## EXPLORE NORTH DEVON & HOUSE SCOUTS

### Calling all organisations (again!)

I can not believe that there is not one organisation in Winkleigh (apart from ACE and House Scouts) that would like to “get it out there” for free to reach a global audience! You can have the opportunity to put your organisation and its history on the internet through Explore North Devon, the ever growing community heritage archive. Putting data on to the website is very easy, you will be given a password and all the training you need to add collections and stories. Don't forget a photograph taken today is tomorrow's heritage! The Explore North Devon website can be found at; [www.explorenorthdevon.org.uk](http://www.explorenorthdevon.org.uk) Have a look at it to get a feel of what you can do.

House Scouts and Explore North Devon volunteers meet up on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Community Centre, in the small room from 8.00 to 10.00 pm. The archive can be seen at the Mini Market every Wednesday morning from 9.00 to 10.30 am.

The archive, both digital and physical is still growing; there is a huge amount of cataloguing to be done so some help with this would be appreciated. If you would like to have a go at entering data, scanning photographs or conserving objects, or are interested in any aspect of local heritage, please come along on a Wednesday evening or contact **Janet Daynes on 01769 520326**.

It seems as though Harvest has only just finished and now it's time to think about Christmas. Although the shops and town centres will have been wishing you the joy of the Christmas season for some while, by the time you read this, Christmas doesn't start until Christmas Eve and then lasts for twelve days.

With finances being tight this year perhaps the emphasis will be away from expensive gifts, many of which will be forgotten about shortly after the paper has come off and the last cracker pulled. The real gift at Christmas is the gift of God's Son, Jesus who gives new dignity to all human life regardless of worldly wealth and status. In the manger we see one who is small and vulnerable yet the Son of the Creator of all the universe. Our human life is valued by him whoever we are - it really is the thought (God's thought for us) that counts when it comes to Christmas.

But if you are still stuck for something to buy those friends and relatives who have everything, there are many alternative catalogues around whereby you give the money to buy animals, seeds and tools, water pumps, training for teachers etc. in poor countries. The person on whose behalf you buy it gets a card to say where the money has gone. There are a number of these catalogues in Church if you can't find one elsewhere.

Our Christmas services are as follows and we extend a warm invitation to you and your friends and family to share them with us.

Wednesday 24th December 5.00 p.m. Our popular Crib Service for children of all ages in which we tell the Christmas story and sing our Carols. (The collection goes to the work of the Children's Society)

11.45 p.m. Midnight Mass with Carols

Thursday 25th December 9.30 a.m. Sung Christmas Eucharist with Carols

Also, Winkleigh Primary School will be having their Christmas Carol Service in Church at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 19th December (you don't have to have school age children to come!). Saturday 13th December at 7.00 p.m. in Church, there will be the Winkleigh Singers Christmas Concert (with audience participation!) - their 25th anniversary year!

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Winkleigh Fair Committee invites you to the annual Christmas lights switch on in the village square on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. This year, for the first time, we will be holding a **Christmas Market** in the village square from 5pm to 8pm where local produce and locally produced crafts will be for sale. There will also be a BBQ, roast chestnuts, mince pies, mulled wine and cider punch to keep you warm!

Children from Winkleigh Primary School will be in the village square from 5pm singing carols around the Christmas tree. Father Christmas will be there to hand out sweets to the children. The Christmas lights will be switched on at 7.30pm.

Prizes will be given for the Best Decorated Christmas Window, Best Decorated Christmas House and the Best Decorated Christmas Street.

We hope you can join us for the start of our Christmas celebrations.

### WINKLEIGH POST OFFICE

In support of the Christmas Market on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>.December, Winkleigh Post Office will remain open until 7 pm. The full range of Post Office services will be available, so bring along your Christmas parcels to post, buy your Christmas stamps, draw money from the 'free to use' cash machine, top-up your mobile phone, tax your car and even buy foreign currency and insurance if you are going on holiday.

Some of the last recommended posting dates for Christmas are as follows:-

Airmail to USA and Canada	- Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> .December.
Airmail to Europe	- Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> .December.
Second class	- Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> .December.
First class	- Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> .December.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and to thank you for your continued support.

**Sue and John Shorey**

## **Download more than 120 Devon walks - FREE!**

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So <http://www.walkingindevon.co.uk> came into being.

<http://www.walkingindevon.co.uk> gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County:

Details of more than 120 walks to download and print free, details of all the Devon walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information. So check out the website and get walking!



## The new name in stoves and cookers

The South West Wood Burning Centre has changed. We've got a new name - Rangemoors and some great new ideas for your home.

Pay us a visit and as well as the biggest range of cookers and stoves in the South West you can get some special launch offers on Rayburn, Esse, wood and multi-fuel burning stoves, plus a new range of Rangemaster and Falcon cookers.

### So much more in store

- Large range of cookers and stoves on display - some working models
- Cookery Demonstrations throughout the year - please contact Tanya Roberts for further details

Tel 01837 83333 [www.rangemoors.co.uk](http://www.rangemoors.co.uk)

The Airfield, Torrington Road, Winkleigh, Devon EX19 8HR

## GRASSROOTS AT WINKLEIGH

I was very pleased to meet with many of you at the Winkleigh Community Fun Day back in the summer – how time flies!!! I can't believe that Christmas is just around the corner.

Grassroots is part of TTVS (previously known as Torridge Voluntary Services) and we are here to help both new and existing clubs and societies look for money, set up and develop their projects and find and screen volunteers. Included within the development of your project, we are able to offer advice on health and safety, policies and procedures, building up a management group, monitoring your project and achieving Charitable Status. Grassroots can do this by linking you with the expertise of TTVS staff members.

Your group might therefore like to consider becoming a member of TTVS. For the small annual fee of £5.00 a number of valuable resources are available as follows:

- ✓ A quarterly newsletter – Torridge Matters
- ✓ Display boards available for loan
- ✓ Equipment for PowerPoint presentations available for loan
- ✓ Laminator available for use
- ✓ Overhead Projector available for loan
- ✓ Digital camera available for loan
- ✓ Wheelchairs available for loan
- ✓ Publications covering good Governance and Voluntary Management available for loan
- ✓ Access to a funding Data Base
- ✓ Information regarding CRB checks
- ✓ Discounts on a range of training opportunities

We are very grateful for the help and support of community minded volunteers, known as Community Contacts, who act as the eyes and ears of our service in their local area. Your local Grassroots Community Contact is Brian Holland who can tell you more about the benefits of TTVS membership.

For further information, please call or e-mail me. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Meanwhile, best wishes for Christmas and throughout 2009.

**Jay Chapman**

**The Grassroots Project (TTVS)**

[grassroots@torridgecvts.org.uk](mailto:grassroots@torridgecvts.org.uk)

01409 254484

07725 032284

## North Devon World Biosphere Reserve Lectures

### Winkleigh Society 2009 Season - The Future of the Countryside

All lectures will take place in Winkleigh Community Centre, Castle Street, Winkleigh, on Friday evenings at 7.30, except where otherwise stated.

Presentations are expected to last about 45 minutes, followed by coffee and 45 minutes of question-time.

Admission : £3. Winkleigh Society members free.

Peter Howard will normally act as chair.

1. 16<sup>th</sup> Jan **Winkleigh in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**  
Andy Bell, Biosphere Officer, Coast and Countryside Service
2. 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan **6.30pm Climate Change**  
Paul van der Linden, Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, Meteorological Office
3. 6<sup>th</sup> Feb **Working Wetlands Project and Culm Grassland**  
Peter Burgess, Devon Wildlife Trust
4. 13<sup>th</sup> Feb **Future Woodland Management**  
Jim White, Devon County Council
5. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb **Landscape for Everyone**  
Peter Howard, Bournemouth University
6. 6<sup>th</sup> Mar **Migratory Fish**  
Roger Smith, Winkleigh Society
7. 20<sup>th</sup> Mar **Farming in a changing world**  
Paul Cottingham, National Farmers Union
8. 27<sup>th</sup> Mar **The Dartmoor end of the Biosphere reserve**  
Ian Mercer, Dartmoor Commoners' Council

It is hoped that this will become an annual series of lectures. Ideas for speakers, both 'outside experts' and 'local experts' will be very helpful.

Contact: **Peter Howard**

Tel: 01837- 83362 e-mail: peterjhoward@btinternet.com

# **A Tribute to DERRICK STANLEY COWLING**

**1933 — 2008**

Derrick Cowling. A good family man, and a good farmer. Derrick was the eldest of three children. In spite of the war starting when he was only 6, he had a happy childhood in Surrey. To escape the bombing his mother took the children frequently to stay at Manaton, on Dartmoor, with their Cowling grandparents. It was there that he got his affection for tending animals and the outdoor life. During his teen years he attended Kingston Grammar School where he shone particularly on the Cricket Field.

After leaving school he worked at Selfridges in Oxford St. One hot summer evening, at Baron's Court Station, in the rush hour, he experienced a seminal moment. He decided that he disliked travelling in crowded tube trains and wanted to work on the Land. He spent his National Service in the Air Force and then gained some agricultural experience on a farm in Oxfordshire before attending Surrey Farm College. His first job after college was with a Dairy Farmer in Sussex, milking Jerseys.

During these years we met and married, and David was born in 1957. Two years later he began his great adventure of buying a farm in Devon, and setting up his own herd with my father, Denis White.

Mark was born in 1960, and three years later the family moved to Herdwick, Winkleigh. Derrick was always devoted to the care of his cattle, and his grassland. Passionately interested in Soil Structure and improvement, he has been a good example of a farmer working with nature and the seasons to produce high quality food from the land. Caroline's arrival completed the family in 1972, and as she grew up the new interest in horses came into his life. Driving his daughter and her show-jumpers around the country became an absorbing hobby.

He was the chairman of Mid-Devon Riding Club for ten years, helping to organize and run shows, and to encourage the learning of good horsemanship among young riders in the area. His cheerfulness and enthusiasm for life in the countryside has influenced family and friends into his retirement. He brought these same qualities into his other hobby of model railways. In recent years his garden has also brought him fulfillment. Since February 2007 when he became ill, he has maintained his courage and cheerfulness to the very end. His last words to us were "I'm perfectly happy". So many of the people who knew him are saying to us "He was a lovely man" - and we know it.

**Shirley Cowling**

**DEVONSCHOOLOFGOLF.COM**

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**CALL ; 01769 560167 or 07737066179**

# **FREE GOLF LESSON**

**WITH PGA PROFESSIONAL SARAH BURNELL**

**CHILDREN      SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY**  
**AGED 6 - 16      10.00 AM**

JUNIOR YOUNG MASTERS GOLF (YMG) COURSE STARTS  
ymg-golf.com  
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## **SPORTS CENTRE-ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS**

The single most significant development in the functioning of the sports centre land which did not appear in the last report has, without doubt, been the proposal for the establishment of allotment facilities on a part of the available land holding. This idea has received universal acclaim by the community at large and a sub-group within the committee has made progress in formulating a scheme which can be put forward for funding purposes (the RHS have grant availability for such proposals). In broad outline the scheme would entail some 40 plots with communal and individual huts within a fenced area. The water supply would come from a borehole with solar powered pump to show good eco-practice. It is also planned that a picnic area should be tagged on to the existing play area, making use of part of the current car park. There is of course much detail to be worked out but, subject to planning and funding requirements, it is hoped to be on the ground for the planting season next spring.

On other fronts, the bad news was of course the non-happening of the proposed additional cricket match. At the end of the day the weather had the last word and prolonged wet conditions made it impossible to prepare a pitch. There has, however, been considerable interest expressed in the possibility of a cricket "scene". Perhaps someone will come forward to make it happen for next season? Current word on the block is that main interest is centered round the two pubs.

The good news - yes there is more good news - has come first in the formation of a netball group playing on Sunday mornings. Despite not having the best of luck with the weather this has been operating for some weeks now and seems to be settling in well, let's wish them well for the future. We also have a new junior football group from Nymet Rowland operating on the tennis courts fortnightly on Monday evenings. Considerable interest continues to be expressed in the possible formation of a small gym facility, but there is a need for a group to come forward with more detailed proposals to enable this to move ahead - it is a great idea.

So, generally speaking, the future is looking bright with most core activities at the centre, having positive developments in the form of increased membership and levels of activity. If you are not yet involved, perhaps there is something for you? Any one of the contacts listed in the last D.W. would be more than pleased to hear from you.

**Brian Holland.**

## WCC's AUCTION OF PROMISES

The fighting fund to retain the Community Centre for the village received a boost on the evening of September 27<sup>th</sup>, when auctioneer Philip Pyle worked his mysterious magic to sell 69 promises – ranging from works by local artists to a week's pre-paid holiday and to a glider flight.



A highly-motivated team of volunteers transformed the Community Centre into a splendidly equipped auction room, with tables ready to receive bidders and some tasty treats prepared to be served.

The auctioneer's inimitable style soon relaxed any stiffness on the part of bidders, who joined in the fun and made it a memorable evening. The bids came thick and fast – almost echoing off the walls!! Even the auctioneer became so carried away by the excitement that he actually bid (and knocked down to himself) a splendid oven-ready goose! (In fairness, bids from the floor had already dried up.)

All in all, the evening produced a thumping £1,854 for the Winkleigh Community Centre's coffers, for which the WCC heartily thanks everyone involved - donors, bidders and helpers.



With the nights now drawing in - faster every day - this is the time of year for the youth club to look to gain full benefit from the wonderful facility provided by the sports centre floodlighting. With that in mind, perhaps now would be an appropriate time to start this report by welcoming into our ranks Andy, who has recently moved into our community and thankfully come forward with an offer to help with our activities. We are always so pleased to have new blood within our ranks and hope he does not have to spill too much of it on Wednesday nights! One of Andy's greatest assets is that he is somewhat younger than a number of us which makes him a great asset on the football pitch etc., although he will not be with us every week due to work commitments.

There have been a number of new developments in recent weeks starting with the ongoing replacement of those items lost in the burglary which I reported in the last issue. We have taken the opportunity to assess our existing equipment and carry out replacements as insurance money becomes available, supplemented by fundraising and a very welcome donation via the Parish Council. Another very valuable input to our resources has been the additional hands-on help now being provided by the youth network in the form of Rachel, who has been with us on a fortnightly basis and, amongst other things, is providing some very much needed craft and music/dance activities. A number of young people from the Chulmleigh area have also been joining in on a regular basis and appear to be fitting in well and making new friends.

Perhaps one of our most significant moves during the period has been the development of the tuck shop in looking to provide cooked food. This has generally been pizzas but we will be hoping to expand our menu in time. Home made cake has also been popular, so if anybody out there fancies donating something they feel might appeal it would be more than welcome. I should not forget to mention that full credit for the 'new look' tuck shop must go to Amy Bazley, who continues to put so much in on behalf of the youth of the community despite also being under pressure to keep pace with University requirements - thank you Amy!

The last report did mention the proposed performance by Carl Woodison and we are still working to arrange this (Carl is a very busy person!) Current thinking is to aim for a date in January and we are also planning to join up with "Friends of Winkleigh School" in laying on this event for the benefit of both organisations and as an example of co-operation within the community.

A usual reminder, with Christmas looming, we are still in the business of recycling your old mobile phones and inkjet cartridges.

If you would like to know about the Youth Club or feel you may have any input, please get in touch.

Brian Holland 01837 83521

Mike Wilson 01769 520605

Amy Bazley 01837 83212

Correspondence Address: 45 Elms Meadow, Winkleigh. Devon, EX19 8JU

Tel: 01837 83521 **Email:** briwyc@hotmail.co.uk

## SUDOKU

Fill in each 3 x 3 grid so that each row and column contain all the numbers 1 to 9

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						5		7

**Solution on Page 27**



## Wallingbrook Health Centre Newsletter November 2008

Tel: 01769 580269 (Reception) Tel: 01769 581249 (Admin)

Tel: 01769 581131 (Dispensary) Tel: 01769 581045 (Fax)

[www.wallingbrook.co.uk](http://www.wallingbrook.co.uk)

A little later than planned, it is time to update everyone on recent developments here at Wallingbrook.

### **Taking over Okement Surgery and changes to the Wallingbrook Partnership**

Earlier this year we were successful in a tender to take over operation of another Practice. The Practice in question is Okement Surgery which is situated within the Okehampton Hospital and which had been run by the Devon Primary Care Trust in recent years.

The successful tender was against another local Practice although there had been some speculation that one of the larger healthcare groups (such as Boots or Virgin) may have seen an opportunity for gaining a foothold locally. This proved to be unfounded and we were delighted to have been successful with a tender emphasising our commitment to providing high quality healthcare.

Lengthy discussions and negotiations followed in completing the legal aspects and we formally took over responsibility for Okement on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We are very pleased to welcome Dr Susan Taheri, Mrs Michelle Freeburn (Practice Manager for Okement) and their staff to our enlarged team.

As a result of the enlargement to the overall Practice two Doctors will join the Wallingbrook Partnership.

- **Dr Susan Taheri** qualified as a doctor at Manchester University in 1996. She moved to Exeter in 1999 in order to train as a GP and completed this in 2003. She has worked at Okement Surgery since it was first set up in 2004.
- Many patients will already know **Dr Ian Guildford** who has been working with the partners for the last 5 years. He trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, qualifying in 1995. He is married with a young family. As part of our commitment to teaching, Dr Guildford is responsible for the training of students and junior doctors from the Peninsula College of Medicine and our local hospitals.

Dr Susan Taheri will be the lead clinician at Okement although you can expect to see her from time to time at Wallingbrook and Winkleigh. Both Dr Ian Guildford and Dr Will Sherlock will work at Okement one day each week and most of the Partners will cover sessions at all three locations from time to time.

### **Attachment of Doctors to Wallingbrook**

Wallingbrook is designated as a Training Practice in liaison with the Peninsula Medical School and under the supervision of Dr Ian Guildford you may, from time to time, see Junior Doctors who are experiencing General Practice as part of their training. For the last 3 months we have hosted Dr Tim Tufnell-Barrett who is normally based at North Devon District Hospital and it is intended that this will be a rolling programme for the foreseeable future.

### **Not Able To Attend An Appointment?**

Whilst we understand that sometimes unforeseen circumstances may prevent you from attending an appointment it is very important to let the surgery know. This will enable us to reallocate appointments to others.

### **Medication Reviews**

It is good practice for us to review patients on repeat medication at least once a year. The purpose of the review is to check that patients are getting the best treatment and to agree what medication is going to be taken. It involves checking that the medication is working and not causing side effects. It is also a chance for the patient to tell us how they are getting on with their medicines, to ask questions and find out more about them.

Some reviews require patients to have a blood test beforehand. Please check with the receptionist when booking your appointment.

It is therefore important to come for a medication review when invited – even though you may be feeling well and are happy with the medication you are taking. For your convenience some medication reviews can be done over the telephone and you will be advised of this if it is appropriate.

### **Identification when picking up medication or when phoning the surgery**

There is a requirement for us to identify patients collecting their prescriptions or prior to giving out information over the phone and your help in this regard is very much appreciated. A simple way to avoid any embarrassment or giving over information you may feel uncomfortable with is for you to use your unique Patient Number. This appears on the top left hand corner of prescriptions or our reception staff can advise you of the number next time you visit us.

## Art On Prescription

Art On Prescription is a project which supports people aged 16 and over who are experiencing mild to moderate depression, stress, or anxiety. It supports people to make life that little bit easier by introducing creativity, opportunities for friendship and a professional package of support in a confidential environment.

The short art course will look at drawing, painting, printing, and more importantly, you do not have to be an artist to take part. The project is run by the Community Art Team from North Devon College and they hope to set up local groups in Chulmleigh and Winkleigh.

Dr Anne Brown is leading the project for Wallingbrook and she would be delighted to discuss the scheme with anyone who is interested.

If there are any issues relating to your experience of Wallingbrook which you wish to bring to our attention (both good and not so good) then please feel free to contact me to discuss them.

**Andy Warren**

**Practice Business Manager**

## **D&S SUPPLIES**

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The Old Airfield, Winkleigh

TEL: 01837 83366

The place you can get: Compost, Planters, DIY goods, Tools, Car accessories, Pet foods, Footwear, Waterproof clothing, Cleaning products, Household goods, Toasters, Kettles, Irons, Baking dishes, Electrical sockets, switches & cable. Gift sets, Stationery and Toys, Quilt sets, Bedding & pillows. Knitting wool patterns & needles, Watch Batteries, Carpet cleaner hire.

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*FRESHLY CUT OR POTTED*

**PICK YOUR OWN TREE  
AT CHULMLEIGH HILL PLANTATION**

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> & Sun 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup> & Sun 14<sup>th</sup> December  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> & Sun 21<sup>st</sup> December  
- 10am to 3.30pm -  
Also available at  
**PALM COTTAGE, CHAWLEIGH**  
Tel: 01769 580129 or 07724 079733  
johncockram@hotmail.co.uk**

Member of the  
British Christmas Tree  
Growers Association

## Hilda Gibson — Land Girls, We're still standing

Rally round the badge girls,  
Welcome it with pride.  
Remember those no longer  
Walking by our side.

Eighty thousand volunteers  
Of independent mind.  
No marching, drilling or salutes,  
Our roles were well defined.

Hard labour was our remit,  
Each working hour to fill.  
Livestock, crops and woodland  
We nurtured with a will.

We found fresh fields and pastures new  
In unfamiliar places.  
Young sons of toil called up to arms,  
Each man a girl replaces.

Frost bitten toes and fingers,  
But wait! We soon will find  
As Shelley wrote: "If winter comes,  
Can spring be far behind?"

Our joy was summer sunshine  
And red gold autumn days  
When leaves fell soft as snowflakes  
And stirred the smoky haze.

As years roll by we live our lives,  
The girls that time forgot.  
We hoped one day someone would say:  
"You did well, thanks a lot".

Now better late than never,  
At last we hear the call,  
The Cinderella army  
Is going to the ball.

# ACE ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB

## Teigncombe excavation 2008

In my last article for DW I had hoped that the weather would be kinder to us for our two weeks work in August than the two years previously. What a vain hope that was! The start day arrived (9<sup>th</sup> Aug) and the rain which had been falling since those few hot days of summer back in July continued in all its glorious and various forms that you find on Dartmoor. The two gazebos that we had were invaluable, keeping both diggers and trench, I won't say dry, but less wet than it could have been. There was only one day that was completely lost to rain, this is because it was blowing a gale and far too dangerous to put the gazebos up.

Fortunately we had a fine array of tents to keep us (when we were not digging) and our kit dry, I think that most of us had evolved gills and webbed feet by the end of the two weeks!

Those that have been reading DW for a few years now will know that the purpose of our dig is to research the impact of bracken on buried archaeology, so not only do we carefully record the archaeology but also the bracken rhizomes. Having looked at what bracken does in the confined space of a roundhouse, this year we wanted to compare those results with an unconfined area. So a 5 x 5 metre trench was carefully de-turfed, leaving all the bracken rhizomes behind. The topsoil was gradually cleared away from the rhizomes and once exposed were plotted photogrammetrically, then removed in metre squares and then measured.

There were not many finds from this layer, but this was to be expected; we found bits of coal, some pottery, a pipe stem, plastic and lots of bits of wire. Like Teigncombe I we plotted all of the finds 3 dimensionally also noting their orientation and inclination.

After a contour survey the trench was trowelled back again and again which in the top half of the trench exposed evidence of ancient ploughing, it was so exciting to see the dark lines gradually appearing.

The lower half of the trench had no plough marks but dark mottled marks some of which could have been misinterpreted as stake holes, but no, they were where rhizomes had once been, this certainly has implications for excavations in the past where bracken was present. Also in this area a large post hole was found, but proved to be modern as a threaded bar was found in it, this and the post hole went down and down where more curious bits of metal were uncovered. This turned out to be parts of a wire strainer for a telegraph pole, which had been placed in the hole when the post was removed in the 1990s. So there we have it ancient and modern in one trench, and the interaction of rhizomes to both, for our director to fathom.

## **Archaeology Days at Pattiland Farm**

So far we have carried out two earthwork survey training days (Sept and Oct) at Moistown, Pattiland Farm. Unlike the excavation both days were dry and sunny, which was quite a relief. At the end of the two days we managed to finish surveying the sunken lane which leads from the road to the ruins of Moistown. Our intrepid first-time surveyors did very well indeed, we had several groups working in different areas and at the end of the day their drawings all fitted together. The next sessions are to be held in the spring where we will start to survey the buildings themselves which is a very exciting prospect. If you are interested in joining in next year, please contact for information, or to book a place:

Rod, Sylvia and Giles Warham, Pattiland Farm,  
Broadwoodkelly, Winkleigh, Devon EX19 8ED

Tel: 01837 680176

If you want to know more about ACE, contact Janet Daynes 01769 520326

## **WINKLEIGH CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

We are a small group of enthusiastic ladies who do the flower arrangements throughout the year in the very beautiful All Saints Church in Winkleigh.

We want to raise some money to help meet the costs of purchasing the flowers and to this end we are running a Raffle with the first prize being the contents of a Christmas Hamper. The “flower ladies” will be out and about selling the raffle tickets starting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The details of the hamper contents will be on display at the hairdressers “CHANGES.” (by kind permission of Valerie Bissett) where the draw for the lucky winner will also take place on Saturday morning December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 hrs. .

There are four principal occasions each year when the church is filled with flowers – at Christmas, Easter, Winkleigh Fair Week and at Harvest Festival. For next year we are planning to give a “Coffee and Cake” morning in the church during Easter week to which everyone is invited to come and see the flowers.

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

One might have thought that the economic crisis – brought about by a heady cocktail of over-borrowing by individuals, too much debt in company balance sheets, unsustainable/unproductive government spending and irresponsible (to say the least) lending by banks – would have focused the government's mind on trying to fix what is an appalling and quite scary situation. At local government level, though, new “initiatives” have come at an incredible rate. In July, the Boundary Committee announced that its preferred option for local government in Devon was to have three unitary authorities – Plymouth, Torbay and – by far what would be the largest unitary authority by geographical area in the UK – the rest of Devon “governed” by a vast bureaucracy in Exeter. Now we have two further “initiatives” –

- The Audit Commission is changing the way that councils and some other government bodies are assessed locally; and
- People are going to be consulted on three possible options/models of how Torridge District Council conducts its business and makes decisions.

At the time of writing we do not know what the final report from the Boundary Committee will contain nor whether Hazel Blears, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will then set in motion the reorganisation that is likely to be recommended. The only certain thing I know is that there has been far more opposition throughout Devon than the government anticipated, estimated costs of reorganisation continue to rise and government is continuing to be very evasive when asked questions about the vast size of the unitary authority and what support there is. It is interesting to look at the Boundary Committee's own website, which shows that the majority of letters are strongly opposed to the new unitary. My guess – and hope – is that the government will use the excuse of the substantial cost of reorganisation to kick the report into the long grass.

Recently, the Audit Commission has announced that it will no longer be conducting a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) of each local authority. Instead from April 2009 it will develop a Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). This will be undertaken in conjunction with the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Healthcare Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, HM Inspectorate of Probation, and the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills.

It is claimed that this joined up approach will “focus on the prospects for better outcomes locally” and help in “tackling the causes of ill-health, improving the local economy and reducing carbon emissions.” Initially, it all seems quite logical and in theory should help democratically elected MPs, district and county councillors, and other interested individuals and organisations to more effectively lobby for improvements in services, changes in ways of operating and reallocations in funding. However, we must wait to see whether this will lead to improvements or just more “talking shops” and more expenditure on an ever-increasing inspection industry. I find it rather curious that DEFRA and our regional development agency, SWRDA are not included in the CAA.

In November, the Audit Commission announced that Torrridge District Council’s Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) had changed from “poor” to “good.” However, it also recommended that TDC should now look at changing the way it operates. Briefly, the government wants councils to adopt one of three models –

- A Leader with an Executive
- A Mayor and a Cabinet; or
- Our Current System (which is described as Fourth Option).

Government believes that the first two – because only a few councillors make decisions – help speed up decision-making and accountability. I could see some merit in this if TDC was a business or if a council is centred on a city with one political party in power. However, Torrridge is a sparsely populated area and many of its communities look to other towns than Bideford as their centre / main town. A big strength of Fourth Option councils is – because they are small – that they are better placed to express a sense of place. When you compare CPA grades for sparse areas of Fourth Option and the Executive model there is no difference. If Torrridge changed to a Leader with an Executive it is probable that there would be only half a dozen “decision takers” with 30 councillors sidelined.

Winston Churchill once said, “Democracy is the worst form of government except all those others that have been tried.” There is now a real democratic deficit in our country with more and more centralisation and unaccountable quangos. We need more people to be involved in decision-making and accountable – not less.

With all the new government restructuring “initiatives” it is vital that we do not take our eye off the ball of what is happening on the ground. Phase 1 of the Site Development Brief (SDB) for Winkleigh Airfield and beyond has recently been completed.

Phase 1 used research and public consultation to look at the role, function, needs and potential of Winkleigh. Phase 2 is now starting and this will look at possible options for the use of Winkleigh Airfield. The SPD will hopefully be published in the spring and it will then become part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and as such a very important consideration in the determination of future planning applications. Many proposals – some frivolous, some grandiose – have been put forward for various parts of the Airfield over many years. The area has been a magnet for developers of all kinds. Let's hope that the LDF will designate the area with clarity, and with the interests of residents and businesses in nearby communities uppermost.

TDC now has a stand once a month at the mini-market on Wednesday mornings at Winkleigh Community Centre. The response has been excellent with a number of people coming along to discuss issues such as waste collection, housing and planning. I hope more and more people will come along to ask for help and advice.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. I am very grateful for all the letters, e-mails and telephone calls. While in some instances I have not been able to help, I will continue to keep on trying!

**David Lausen**

[www.davidlausen.org.uk](http://www.davidlausen.org.uk)

01837 83209

## WINKLEIGH LEARNDIRECT COMPUTER SESSIONS

The LearnDirect sessions that have been taking place for over two years now at the Community Centre in Winkleigh hve been attracting lots of new learners recently. There are two sessions each week, one from 4pm to 6pm every Tuesday during school term times and the second from 6pm to 8pm each Tuesday during term time.

Learners can choose what course they want to do, there are a wide range of Maths and English courses for adult learners – do you need to find out about the mean, median and mode? Maybe you want to brush up your writing skills to help you in a new job or to help you write your latest best selling novel! There are also many different IT courses that are available from complete beginners' courses to the European Computer Driving Licence.

The existing learning community are the most fabulous band of people and are guaranteed each week to keep tutor Hilary on her toes but also in fits of laughter as they work through their courses and share some gentle banter as they stop for a cup of tea and cake.

On 16 December the group will be presenting a cheque to the North Devon Hospice which is the money raised from the refreshments offered each week.

If you want to join us please call **Hilary** on 01769 581017 or just drop in on a Monday evening.

## WINKLEIGH MORRIS

Back in 1990, when the landlady of the now long defunct Winkleigh Hotel signed up eight of her regular customers for evening classes in Morris dancing, no-one would have imagined that Winkleigh Morris would become firmly established as one of the most colourful and innovative mixed teams in the South-West. As they came to end of their eighteenth dancing season with a weekend of dance in the Brecon Beacons, they can look back over many successful years of entertaining the public with lively performances not only in the Devon but also at festivals and events all over the country, as well as in France, Holland, Germany and Ireland. Many of the members are experienced singers and musicians whose talents can be enjoyed in après-morris sessions in various welcoming hostelrys. A popular event in the Morris calendar is the biennial Franken's Night Weekend of Dance, which Winkleigh Morris expects to host once more in May, 2009, with around fifteen different groups involving some two hundred people estimated to take part.

Part of the Morris tradition is to pass round the hat (or in our instance, a leather tankard) at our displays. This is not for beer money, but after using a nominal amount for club administration expenses, the majority is donated to charity. Last year about £1,400 was raised for the Children's Cancer Ward at Exeter, and this year money will go to research into Parkinson's Disease.

Some of Winkleigh Morris, including Colin Andrews, the Foreman (instructor), and Angela Haines, the Bagman (secretary), have been with the group since the beginning, and some others for almost as long. Changes in work commitments and various other personal circumstances inevitably lead to occasions when valued members are no longer able to continue this enjoyable pastime with Winkleigh. To keep the team vibrant, new blood is therefore very important, and Winkleigh Morris would like to invite anyone who would like to have a go at Morris dancing to come along to the Winkleigh Community Centre at 8.00 pm on Tuesdays. Whether an absolute beginner or with some previous experience with another group, new recruits will be made very welcome in a friendly environment. Musicians are also welcome.

For further details contact **Colin** on 01363 877216 ([bonnygreen@btinternet.com](mailto:bonnygreen@btinternet.com)) or **Angela** on 01837 83219, or log on to [www.bonnygreen.co.uk/winkleigh.htm](http://www.bonnygreen.co.uk/winkleigh.htm)

## STABLE GREEN METHODIST CHAPEL

**Stable Green Methodist Chapel** would like to invite you to their Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm. Join us for a family fun and varied Carol Service, followed by refreshments.

A warm welcome also awaits you on Christmas Day at 10.30am for a short informal family service. All are welcome.

For more information on any of the above please contact **Louise** on: 01837 682843

**NB:** Stable Green can be found on the road between Berners Cross and Bridge Reeve.

## WINKLEIGH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There has often been much mirth at the 'Jam and Jerusalem' image of the WI, and little understanding of the range of activities and social implications enjoyed by so many for so long.

Here in Winkleigh we have members who joined over 50 years ago and still contribute a great deal to the meetings. There are also some new members who have recently moved into the village and are enjoying the camaraderie of belonging to such an interesting group.

Of course there is an element of jam-making, along with so many other skills that are now being recognised as valuable, particularly in the current climate of austerity. Making garments, embroidering beautiful items for the home, painting, cooking and baking, and many, many more useful and fulfilling activities are practised among our members. But there are also outdoor pursuits such as walking and sporting activities to be enjoyed. The list is very long!

Only when something controversial or unusual happens does it hit the headlines, but Calendar Girls was an initiative to raise funds for cancer research after the death of a WI member's husband. Recently formed 'breakaway groups' are filmed for our television screens but they are doing exactly what WI groups have done for decades, they are providing a forum for females to meet together, learn about a wide range of topics and debate issues giving concern in our country and communities.

The Winkleigh WI welcomes anyone who wishes to come along to a meeting in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of every month. The programme for next year has already been compiled and will be available in the New Year and there are many additional opportunities within the Devon Federation of WIs throughout the year. You are bound to find something of interest!

So, do come along and join us, even if it is just for a taster session – we look forward to seeing you.



## WINKLEIGH SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTIONS

Once again, it is the time of year to remind all members of the Winkleigh Society that subscriptions are due for renewal.

## Alumni of Winkleigh Primary School

**Kay Denham (nee Leahy)** – Kay recently gained a Master of Science degree in Waste Water Technology at Cranford University. Kay was also awarded the School of Applied Science prize for best part-time student and Yorkshire Water’s prize for the best thesis. Kay now lives near Barnstaple and is a Design Engineer in the water industry.

**Chris Blake** – Chris has recently completed a degree in Business Studies at Plymouth University and he is now studying to be a teacher at UWE, Bristol.

**Frances Lausen** – Frances opens the batting for Devon Girls U15s and U17s. In 2008, Devon Girls U15s were National Champions.

**Daniel Lee** – Daniel plays rugby for Devon U16s. In 2007/08, Daniel was also selected as one of the Schools of Rugby’s elite players.

## TAXI VOUCHERS

A taxi voucher scheme is to be trialled in the parishes of Winkleigh and Ashreigney.

A limited number of voucher books will be available to households in the two parishes on a first come first served basis. Vouchers can be used to pay or part-pay for journeys booked with *Around & About Private Hire*, based in Winkleigh, during January and February.

This project is being funded by Devon County Council as part of the ‘Access to Services in Rural Torridge’ project.

For more information contact **Jane Williams**, Torridge Community Transport Association, 74a High Street, Bideford, EX39 2AA. Tel: 01237 425522.

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

## GREEN WHEELIE BINS – Winter Collection Schedule

Torridge District Council has advised that Green Wheelie Bin collections this winter will be as follows:

Monday 22nd December 2008

Monday 19th January 2009

Monday 16th February 2009

Monday 16th March 2009

Following this last date the collections will be fortnightly on Mondays.

Nicki Bullen

Secretary, Winkleigh Parish Council

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## THE HOT DOG STORY

A man lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs.  
He was hard of hearing so he had no radio.  
He had trouble with his eyes so he read no newspapers.  
But he sold good hot dogs.  
He put up a sign by the highway telling how good they were.  
He stood by the side of the road and cried "Buy a hot dog mister".  
And people bought.  
He increased his meat and bun orders.  
He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.  
He got his son from college to help him.  
But then something happened  
His son said "Father haven't you heard the news?  
There's a big recession on.  
The unemployment situation is terrible.  
The energy situation is worse".  
Whereupon his father thought  
"Well my son has been to college.  
He reads the papers and listens to the radio, and he ought to know".  
So his father cut down on his meat and bun order.  
Took down his advertising signs.  
And no longer bothered to stand on the highway to sell hot dogs.  
And his hot dog sales fell almost overnight.  
"You're right son" the father said to the boy.  
"We certainly are in the middle of a great recession."



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## WINKLEIGH WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION FIELD

On behalf of the above committee, I would like to thank everyone that gave raffle prizes, food, donations and helped in any way to make our wine, savoury and magical entertainment evening such a success.

We made £920 profit after all expenses were paid. It was greatly appreciated, and thank you all for your support.

**John Cowell**

## And finally . . . .

Well, there it is - another year almost gone by. And what a year it has been!

But regardless of the dire prognostications of all the 'gurus' on the TV & radio, the editorial team at Distinctly Winkleigh would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a comfortable New Year.

Our next issue is due to reach you in early March 2009, so if you have any articles, beefs, criticisms that you would like to share with others, please get them to us by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009**.

## Fishmongers Shop in Winkleigh Square



**Plaice to Place**  
proprietor  
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plaice2place@btinternet.com

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## **WINKLEIGH SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Roger Smith</b>	<b>01837 680184</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Peter Monkcom</b>	<b>01837 83452</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Robin Coombes</b>	<b>01837 680016</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Wendy Mondy</b>	<b>01837 680022</b>
	<b>Gillian Holman</b>	<b>01837 680089</b>
	<b>Chrissie Cole</b>	<b>01837 680025</b>
	<b>Janet Daynes</b>	<b>01769 520326</b>
	<b>Philip Griffiths</b>	<b>01837 83407</b>
	<b>Alan Mulcahy</b>	<b>01837 680145</b>

The Society consists of approximately 122 members. Membership costs £5 for a couple or £3 concession for a single person. This entitles you to vote at the Society meetings. If you would like more details, please contact Robin Coombes, our Membership Secretary, on 01837 680016.

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

## **NEWSLETTER TEAM**

<b>Peter Monkcom</b>	<b>01837 83452</b>
<b>Tim Rhodes</b>	<b>01837 83229</b>
<b>Alan Mulcahy</b>	<b>01837 680145</b>

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

Newsletter team e-mail: [articles@distinctlywinkleigh.org.uk](mailto:articles@distinctlywinkleigh.org.uk)  
Postal submissions: 8 Old Barn Close, Winkleigh, EX19 8JX  
or Smythen Hill Cottage, Hollocombe, EX18 7QD

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

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

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