

# DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



**Edition 30**

**Summer 2009**

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**The Journal of the Winkleigh Society**



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## WINKLEIGH SOCIETY NEWS

### WWW Directory

The Society is investigating the possibility of publishing of a new WWW Information Directory by the end of the year. However, it is too early to give any precise publishing date.

In the meantime, WWW information can be accessed on our Website  
<http://www.winkleighonline.com/infodirectory.asp>

### Speeding up Society News

The Society intends to inform its members by email of any issues considered of importance to the village. It would be greatly appreciated if members agreeable to receiving such information in this manner could send an email to: [articles@winkleighonline.com](mailto:articles@winkleighonline.com) so that we can keep our records up-to-date.

## CHANGES TO WWW DIRECTORY

### Winkleigh Warriors Womens' Netball Club

Contact Amanda Singer 01837 680170

### Winkleigh Youth Club (8-16 yrs)

Additional contact, Brian Holland 01837 83521

**Please amend your copy of the WWW Directory accordingly.**

If any reader spots an entry that needs changing, please telephone the change to Alan Mulcahy on 01837 680145, or e-mail the details to the articles address on the back page of this issue.



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I mentioned last time that it costs around £500 per week to keep All Saints Church up and running. That sort of figure doesn't include the occasional 'one-off' cost of things like replacing the boiler and the oil tank which we are now faced with — something in the order of £9,000 will be needed for this.

However, the Church Fête is coming up on the afternoon of Saturday July 11th. We shall have our usual round of stalls such as book, plants, tombola, white elephant, cakes and games and maybe the odd surprise or two. And of course there will be the fête tea — the best value tea for miles around and the chance for you to win a prize in the Grand Draw. Tickets for the Draw will be available ahead of the fete and will cost £1 each. Get your tickets early as they might have sold out by July 11th.

The day after the fête Fair Week begins with the Fair Sunday crowning of the Fair Queen and there will no doubt be plenty of publicity about this nearer the time. On Fair Sunday we have the 'egg and flower service' at 3.00 p.m. Why 'egg and flower'? Because it has been a custom to bring those items to Church on Fair Sunday and for them to be given to the sick and housebound. Children are invited to bring eggs and flowers to Church where they will be collected up and distributed.

The following Sunday sees the end of term service for the Sunday School when the children will take part in the Sung Eucharist at 9.30 a.m. In the afternoon, and weather permitting, we shall be holding our annual Sunday School picnic. Sunday School will then resume in September.

## WINKLEIGH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

WI members receive regular editions of the magazine 'WI Life' and some of the articles that have appeared in this year's copies alone make one realise what an active body the WI is.

There are several references to successful campaigns over the years, reminding readers that a campaign on Children's Health preceded Jamie Oliver's intervention in school dinner menus, and that a WI Carbon Challenge was in the forefront of reducing carbon footprints. The famous 'Litter' campaign was down to the WI and is still being promoted by such advocates as Bill Bryson who, as an American, reminds us what a beautiful country we live in. And did you know that in 1940 the Government granted the national Federation of WIs £1,400 to buy sugar to make preserves and a staggering 1,631 tons of preserves were made that year?

More recent campaigns have included supporting the Earth Hour of 2009 when businesses, offices and private homes switched off their lights for an hour to help the planet. The suffering of vulnerable women has been highlighted in the campaign for 'no more violence against women', and the plight of the mentally ill who are imprisoned without the medical attention they need is currently being addressed. This year the resolution at the AGM in London is to urge the Government to increase funding for research into bee health – and we all know just how important that is!

It is nearly a century since the WI was launched in this country, and stories of those early intrepid heroes who in 1923 went on an organised tour to Switzerland and climbed the Grindelwald Glacier as well as stories of the imaginative, creative and skilful hundreds of thousands who have belonged to the WI since, are inspirational. We learn that the first-ever student WI with 40 members has been set up at Goldsmiths College, University of London and wish them great success.

There has to be something about an Institution that can survive for so long and still be relevant, that can teach and encourage so many skills and that can be so influential. Why don't you come along and find out what it is?

# WINKLEIGH & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

## Remaining Programme for 2009

- June 1<sup>st</sup> (Mon) Committee Meeting – Kings Arms 6:30
- June 16<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting – Village Hall **7:15**  
Speaker – “Wildflowers of the West Country” – Paul Rendall
- June 24<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Visit – Lower Ashmoor Farm, Rose Ash: Tour & Cream Tea  
Meet at Village Hall at 6pm
- July 21<sup>st</sup> Visit – Garden Cottage Plant Centre & Vineyard, Coldridge:  
Talk, Tour & Cream Tea
- Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Club Summer BBQ – 1pm
- September 15<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting – Village Hall **7:15**  
Gardeners’ Market Evening
- October 20<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting – Village Hall **7:15**  
Speaker – “Garden Birds” – Peter Howard
- November 17<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting – Village Hall **7:15**  
AGM/Seed Order
- December 15<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting – Village Hall **7:15**  
Christmas Social Evening

New members and visitors are always welcome to our meetings. A nominal charge of £1 is made towards club costs and includes refreshments.

For further information contact our Chairman Ed Porter on 01805 804838

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## Two Little Old Ladies

Two little old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress.

The thin one leaned over and said, 'Life is so boring. We never have any fun any more. For £10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid flower show!'

'You're on!' said the other old lady, holding up a £10 note. The first little old lady slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. The smiling and naked old lady came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering crowd.

'What happened?' asked her waiting friend.

'I won 1st prize as Best Dried Arrangement.'

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## HELP for LONG-TERM CONDITIONS

A new *Expert Patients Programme* (EPP) course, run by the Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT), is being launched on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Hallsannery Centre, Bideford and will be held every Tuesday, for six weeks from 2pm until 4.30pm.

Trained tutors will offer free support to enable people with long-term health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, MS and arthritis, and help them develop skills, confidence and knowledge to achieve the greatest possible physical capability and pleasure from life, despite living with a chronic health condition.

The programme includes relaxation techniques, dealing with tiredness and feelings of anger and depression, and planning for the future. Research shows that such a programme can lead to better symptom control, fewer visits to hospital and an increase in the quality of life.

Devon PCT also runs *Looking after Me* courses for carers who look after a person with a long term condition.

Anyone who would like to attend any of these courses should call free on **0800 073 0792** or email [d-pc.EPP@nhs.net](mailto:d-pc.EPP@nhs.net)

All these courses are free but it is advisable to book early in order to secure a place.

**For more information or interviews contact Paul Hopkins on 01392 267 647.**

### Editors Notes

- Courses can also be organised for local community centres and village halls where at least 12 people wish to attend.
- Courses are usually held on the same day every week for six weeks. The sessions usually last for two and a half hours.
- Opportunities are available to train as a volunteer lay tutor for these courses – for further details please contact: **0800 073 0792** or email [d-pc.EPP@nhs.net](mailto:d-pc.EPP@nhs.net)

## ACE ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB

A myriad of things conspired against us doing much at all this spring, but being as how we are ACE, that did not stop us! We did manage to get in a couple of sessions at Moistown, one clearing the scrub from the earthworks and the other starting to survey the results. It was really exciting clearing away the brambles to reveal the remains of what once were quite substantial buildings.

One thing that ACE has always wanted to participate in is the CBA's (Council for British Archaeology) National Archaeology days held in July. This year I am proud to announce that we have signed up to the CBA's Festival of Archaeology (this has replaced the National Archaeology days); the festival runs from the 18<sup>th</sup> of July to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. Our event will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of August at Moistown, where we will be demonstrating and offering training in various surveying techniques, all of which require no batteries or previous experience, just enthusiasm! Wear old (thorn and possibly water proof) clothes, stout boots and bring a picnic.

Booking is essential as parking is limited. Please note; no dogs or smoking (as there will be a hay crop) and that access to the site is over rough ground and is therefore not suitable for the physically disabled.

Moistown is near Broadwoodkelly and situated on land owned by Pattiland Farm Ltd, who are giving us access to the land as part of their Environmental Stewardship Educational Access. This event is free.

If you want to know about other festival events check out the CBA website [www.britarch.ac.uk](http://www.britarch.ac.uk)

If you are interested joining ACE, please do get in touch. Membership is only £10.00 single and £15.00 family per year, so why not join!

If you want to know more about ACE, contact Janet Daynes Tel; 01769 520326, email [ace@ACEarch.org.uk](mailto:ace@ACEarch.org.uk) or check out our new website; [www.acearch.org.uk](http://www.acearch.org.uk)

## **HOUSE SCOUTS - WINKLEIGH HERITAGE**

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

Every year on four days in September (this year from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>), buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors, ranging from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples. It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture.

The Winkleigh Society is contributing to this event and invites you to join them on heritage walk around the village, where you can find out about Winkleigh's rich past, which goes back to at least the Bronze Age.

This will take place on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September at 2.30 pm; our guides will be Deanne Whittaker, Andrew Ware and Stuart Mitchell. The walk will start at the Old pump in Winkleigh Square and will include a visit to the Court Castle; one of the two Norman earthworks in the village and finish at the Community Centre where refreshments will be available. Here there will be an exhibition by the House Scouts project and ACE Archaeology club of; the Winkleigh archive, the built history of the village and Church, Explore North Devon, the WWII Airfield and much more.

Please note that you do not have to attend the walk to view the exhibition, the Community Centre will be open from 3.30pm.

In order to book your place on the walk, please contact Deanne Whittaker – 01837 83431

To find out about other events in the area, go to: [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

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# Wallingbrook Health Group

Newsletter April 2009

Wallingbrook

Tel: 01769 580269 (Reception) Tel: 01769 581131 (Dispensary) 01769 581045 (Fax)

Okement Primary Care Centre

Tel: 01837 658050 (Reception) Tel: 01837658051 (Adm8055)

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

**Please note that calls to and from the Health Centre may be monitored or recorded**

## **Not Able To Attend An Appointment? PLEASE let us know.**

As we reported in our last newsletter we have an ongoing challenge with patients not turning up for appointments.

During the month of March over 24 hours of appointments with our clinicians were wasted due to patients failing to attend their appointments and not contacting the surgery in advance to cancel/change the appointment. In some instances these were “emergency” appointments booked earlier that day.

**This has 3 major effects:-**

- **An increase in the waiting time for appointments**
- **Frustration for both staff and patients**
- **A waste of resources**

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.

We are now writing warning letters to patients who fail to attend and if this occurs more than once in a 12 month period then we may withdraw that patient’s ability to book in advance.

When making appointments please note that any one of our team will have access to your records for consultation purposes and, although we respect your wish to see a specific Doctor if you wish, your choice of appointments will be greatly enhanced if you are prepared to see whoever is available.

## **Benefits of going Smokefree**

Going smokefree isn't easy, but when you see the drastic improvements to your life and health, you'll want to set your action plan going as quickly as you can.

### **How will my health benefit?**

- You will reduce your risk of developing illness, disability or death caused by cancer, heart or lung disease.
- You will reduce your risk of gangrene or amputation caused by circulatory problems.
- You will protect the health of those around you by not exposing them to secondhand smoke.
- You will reduce the chances of your children suffering from asthma or glue ear.
- You will improve your fertility levels and your chance of a healthy pregnancy and baby.
- You will improve your breathing and general fitness.
- You will enjoy the taste of food more.

**NHS Free Smoking Helpline: 0800 022 43327 Days a week, 7am to 11pm. Here to help you!**

<http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

### **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 newly qualified Doctors experiencing General Practice as part of their post graduate training at either Wallingbrook or Okement. We also host medical Students as part of their training.

Currently we are hosting Dr Fizz Radford who is normally based at North Devon District Hospital

### **Race For Life 2009**

Race for Life is the UK's largest women-only fundraising event. The sponsorship money you raise for your event is absolutely vital to help Cancer Research UK continue its life-saving work. There are 3 local 5 km events in July – for entry details see <http://www.raceforlife.org> or phone the hotline on 0871 641 2282

Barnstaple	Sunday 12 July 09	11.00
Exeter (Killerton House)	Sunday 05 July 09	19.00
Exeter (Westpoint)	Sunday 19 July 09	11.00

### **New Computer System**

During May for the Okement Surgery and June for the Wallingbrook Surgery we will be moving to a new Computer System. The new system will bring much efficiency to the running of the 3 sites across the Wallingbrook Group. Every attempt will be made to keep disruption to a minimum but would ask that you bear with us in the first couple of weeks whilst everyone gets used to the new system. Further details will follow in due course.

### **Obesity**

Warm weather conditions bring new decisions about what to wear in order to remain feeling and looking good. It can also be a time when some of us decide that losing weight by changing our diet and taking up regular exercise is a good idea. A food diary can be helpful as you can see exactly what you eat and it can remind you to snack on fruit, nuts and seeds rather than biscuits. Drinking at least 2 litres of water is a great habit to establish and will help keep snacking at bay. Being overweight doesn't just stop people feeling good about themselves but it can pose long term health risks.

Source: [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

### **Extended Opening Hours**

The Practice offers some routine evening appointments for those patients unable to attend the Surgery during normal opening hours. These appointments are at Wallingbrook every Wednesday and alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm (there may be some exceptions during holiday periods).

We also offer routine appointments every third Saturday of the month from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm. Please check with reception for dates.

At these times the Dispensary is closed and urgent treatment continues to be provided by Devon Doctors on Call via **0845 6710 270**.

**Andy Warren**  
**Practice Business Manager**  
**23 April 2009**

## MARGARET MORRISH

23/7/1919 – 20/3/2009

Margaret arrived in our midst in the 1970's, from Wiltshire. She was the only child of a shoemaker, early in life displaying musical talent and so helped form a little trio of father, mother and daughter, who would do concert parties of an evening. This ability to "tinkle the ivories" would be later put to good use in the King's Arms, Winkleigh, when it was possible to pass a perfectly pleasant evening going from pub to pub (for then there were three) - that was the Friday routine, with piano playing on Saturday nights. Pints would be purchased for her and would accumulate on the piano top when she had reached her limits! She was a mean accordion player too.

For much of the Second World War, Margaret found herself drafted onto the land. It was probably in these years that she developed her unique everyday dress code of anything dungaree-like, baggy and serviceable. But when the occasion merited it, she cut a mean figure in curve-hugging fifties dresses and beachwear. Some of the latter travelled with her to Spain, when, after she had studied the language with Pelmans Institute and attained a high standard, she went over to visit a chap with whom she had struck up with as a pen pal. At that time she sported an imposing swept back head of hair - her Spanish chum perhaps regarded her as an honorary Spaniard on account of her dark locks! Her love of the guitar may have been kindled at this point. There was certainly no romance afoot. Letters were merely a means of broadening the mind, culturally.

Whilst still in Wiltshire (from remembered conversations, the Box area) Margaret's father constructed a new family home and one has to assume it was from here that she was courted by Arthur Morrish, whom she eventually wed. Her interest in animals may have been due to one set of grandparents keeping black cocker spaniels, or perhaps being country dwellers, hens and geese were always present. Links with the Royal British Legion, through her mother, Mrs. Ash, continued when she came down to Devon in middle age to accompany husband Arthur who had secured work with the North Devon Water Board. As simply very good companions, they remained childless. Margaret would say when pressed that she didn't go in for the mechanics of things. Perhaps this approach meant it was she who "called the shots" in day to day life with Arthur!

At 'Minicleave', in Hollocombe, there was originally a well tended garden and an interesting array of poultry, notably khaki campbells and geese. In her last few years there, her stock dwindled to a lone muscovy called 'Columbo' and a trio of geese diminished by the visit of a wily daytime fox, leaving her with just one, Julius. Margaret was proud to be pictured in a book of living history on Winkleigh feeding these geese and when she suffered her first seizure a few years back, it was a kindly visitor, letting her see herself in this picture, which helped get her mind back on track, along with other kindnesses. She was soon back to her own indomitable self - that little hint of tomboyishness.

Those of us gathered here today would have known Margaret through several means, in particular through her unstinting effort with Hatherleigh & District Cat's Protection League (she was a founder member) or her bombing around in a selection of older vehicles, of note one particular white van chosen for its number plate COW. It was her exploits in cars which both bothered and exasperated us as she tried to keep mobile well into her eighties. I mean, who else but Margaret would've complained of her carer's late running because she wanted to get to the King's Arms, her point of contact for local news and sometimes, sustenance! She would say that her favourite dish at home was a goose egg atop a bed of spinach.

When Winkleigh 'WASPS' was formed in the 1980's, Margaret displayed hitherto unknown talent, dormant since Wiltshire days. Repeating of her immortal words from a specially written local tale was thereafter employed - "the floods be out!" by me to signal to her if Bridge Reeve was flooded. She was a prolific writer herself and kept "Taw Valley Post" supplied with 'Nature Notes' and 'Minitales from Minicleave' for a number of years, the latter entered as a series of condensed stories for a Sunday Times competition. For greater intellectual stimulation she favoured the New Scientist "because it helps me keep up with what's going on".

Margaret's enduring love of wildlife, (meerkats, penguins, big cats) was, after being widowed, channeled into practical tasks at the nearby Devon Wildlife's Halsdon Reserve and the offering of homing pens for cats in distress. It was at this time that she gained the name "the pussy lady" and was often greeted by an audible 'purrrr' from a passing person in Winkleigh Square. She took it all in good faith, at least until the onset of old age spawned a certain gruffness.

She gained a few years male companionship in the form of Alan, her late husband's friend, before he succumbed to cancer. His invaluable help in and around the house now withdrawn, Margaret was seen to grumble even more as she struggled with physical chores such as wood chopping. Never one for housework at the best of times, her once idyllic cottage took on an air of neglect, as did its owner. She recognised that the time had come to move into a village, her preference being Winkleigh, but with well-intentioned friends with limited time keeping up the pressure on NDDC's housing dept., she was placed in a bungalow at Beaford. Desperate for company, she quickly befriended and came to rely heavily on her next door neighbour. She took the bus to Torrington for as long as she felt able. From here she did manage one of Ron Bendell's Boxing Day "bashes", where she fell into mud on leaving, and managed Idlesleigh Club Day to hear the band and meet up with old acquaintances - but there were frequent tumbles now, indoors and out.

And so she came to be installed in Castle House, Torrington. She yearned for outings in the countryside and devoured any news of Winkleigh. An absolute bonus in this last home was the introduction of two pygmy goats and assorted poultry, which she much enjoyed from outside when she could. She would still ask about her last cat 'Simi' but offered a friendly lap to Castle Hill's feline resident. A penchant for gin kept John the handyman in her clutches, or so she liked to think. Her favourite "pitch" was just inside the porch, in the company of one or two others, the Western Morning News and oftentimes a large 'G&T'. She loved the arrival of what she termed "playful" males, such as her doctor and two chaps from Dolton whom she thought would "give her a spin" round the local lanes in better weather. Sadly, that was not to be.

On 18th Margaret suffered a severe stroke. The prognosis was extremely poor. In true MM style she defied the doctors for a while, and returning to Torrington, she regained some movement, her comprehension remained undiminished. She died suddenly during the late afternoon of 20th February '09.

With Margaret, appearance did not count! But bother to engage her in conversation on any number of subjects and you would realise that under that rag-bag carapace, there lurked an intelligent woman - an accomplished musician, one of aristocratic descent (but that's another story), a true backwoods woman and thus, a survivor with a fierce sense of independence.

Adios amiga!

KML

## WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHAPEL - 125 years ago

I have in my possession a copy of the Bible Christian Magazine Yearbook for 1884. In the February section of the book I found an article by Rev T C Jacob regarding the opening of the current Bible Christian (now Methodist) chapel in Winkleigh. I presume that Mr Jacobs was the minister of the church at the time.

The article begins with these words, **“On Monday, the 27th, the new chapel and Sunday-school were opened. The chapel and schoolroom join one another and are of the same elevation. The structure has a pleasing appearance, and is a great improvement to the town.”**

The Bible Christians were an off-shoot of Methodism, founded at Shebbear in 1815. Over the course of the next few years Bible Christian chapels sprung up all over Cornwall and North Devon. At the time of the 1850 Church Census, the Bible Christians were the second largest (after Wesleyan Methodist) non-conformist denomination in Cornwall. In 1907 the Bible Christians joined several other Methodist groups to form the United Methodist Church, which in turn joined the Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists in 1932 to create the Methodist Church.

According to the article, Mr W J Harris of Halwill Hall presided at the celebration luncheon and after he had read an apology for non-attendance from Lord Lymington, **“Mr. Harris remarked on the amount of useful work which had been done throughout Devon and Cornwall during the last thirty or forty years by this comparatively small community... He could not help noting as he travelled about Devon and Cornwall how new chapels and schools were being built and enlarged, and seeing that they (the Bible Christians) were certainly not a rich community, he thought it proved that there was a wonderful amount of religious vitality in their midst. He was also glad to note that great efforts had been made by them in the cause of temperance.”**

In reply Mr Jacobs looking back at their time in the previous chapel said that **“they hoped, with the increased facilities afforded by the new buildings, to realise yet greater success. It was a great undertaking for a village congregation to build a chapel involving an outlay of £550, yet, the earth being the Lord's and the fulness thereof, it was hard if out of it there could not be obtained material to build a house in which the Gospel of the Kingdom could be preached.”** This underlined the faith of the congregation of the day, as he went on to say that **“up to the previous night the receipts were £305”**; and with other gifts given during the morning service, this had risen to £400; and by the end of the day they were just £100 short of their target; which in turn had fallen to just £60 by the time the article was written.

The article also contains a marvellous description of the new chapel: **“The new chapel is 38 feet in length and 27 feet wide, and provides accommodation for 150 people. There are also two schoolrooms attached, 28 feet long, by 14 feet wide; the upper schoolroom is arranged to act as gallery to chapel when required by means of folding doors, and will seat 50 people. The chapel is divided into three rows of seats with two aisles, the seats being constructed of pitch pine and varnished. The floor of the chapel slopes towards the rostrum, which is of pitch pine, with tracery panels and communion rail in front; the ceiling is divided into five bays, with moulding at angles and cornice at base, and is 22 feet in height from floor. The chapel is lighted with eight handsome lancet windows and one rose window in the end, glazed with**

diamond pattern glass. The walls have been built with local stone in random razed work, with ornamented red brick bands, and white glazed Marland brick, and Treborough stone dressings to windows, buttresses, parapets, &c. There is also a handsome iron railing in front of the building, and iron gilded finials to the gables.”

And as regards the Chapel today – just watch this space...

**Graham Warmington**  
4 Lendon Way, Winkleigh.

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## **OUR NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING WEB SITE**

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary have set up a new site that enables you to get to know the people in your local police team and to discover more about policing priorities where you live. Each neighbourhood beat in Devon and Cornwall is represented on the web site, with details of local officers and staff, news and events, and the key policing issues individual to each area. This information can easily be found by using your search engine (Google, Yahoo, etc.) to find “PACT Torridge Sector” then using your postcode to access regularly updated local news

Of interest are the policing priorities unique to your area that have been identified through the PACT process. PACT – stands for **Partners And Communities Together**. It is a method, which allows the police and their partner agencies to engage with all elements of the community. Through PACT we as your neighbourhood policing team, will identify the issues that affect you. Then, with the community and partner agencies, the top three priorities will be agreed, along with how everyone can work together to resolve them. It is important that the priorities chosen are ones that can be achieved.

In Devon and Cornwall crime is falling and it is one of the safest places in the country to live. However, it is apparent that communities are concerned about what happens in their immediate area and this can create significant fear about the level of crime. The aim of the Constabulary is to make every neighbourhood in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly a place where the communities are safe and feel safe.

Public satisfaction in our service has risen and now Devon and Cornwall are 10th best in the country in comparison with other police forces. The Constabulary’s focus over the next year will be the delivery of the Policing Pledge to further tailor our policing service to meet the needs of individual communities. This is a national programme of reform setting out minimum standards in 10 areas of policing and can be viewed on the Constabulary web site.

I hope you visit the web site and find it interesting and informative and welcome your return to read regular updates.

### **Contact details:**

Torrington Station  
Pathfield  
TORRINGTON  
EX38 7BX

Non Emergency 08452 777 444  
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

### **Station Enquiry Office Opening Hours - Torrington**

Mon & Tue 1030 – 1500, Wed & Fri 0900 – 1300, Thur 1530 - 1800

# **WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CHAIRMAN' S REPORT - 2008-2009**

The following report highlights the major issues which we have dealt with during the past year, ongoing issues and initiatives which we have encouraged in our constant endeavours to improve the quality of life of all our parishioners.

### **PLANNING**

#### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

##### **THE AIRFIELD - SITE DEVELOPMENT BRIEF**

One of the most important initiatives which we have had for many years, to input and inform our future development, is in process and nearing completion. SWERDA have funded a Site Development Brief for Winkleigh Airfield and consultants have been appointed to work on planning options. A Community Steering Group, which includes two representatives from Parish Council, has monitored and fed into the consultant's brief. The community was involved in a two day workshop at the beginning of the process and has been asked to give opinions on preferred planning options on 25th March 2009, before these findings are finally collated and an agreed option is approved with TDC to eventually feed into the Local Development Framework which will dictate future planning policy in the foreseeable future.

At the Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2009, it was felt that we should highlight Winkleigh's location in the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, types of permitted employment, live/work units and infrastructure implications. Obviously tight planning parameters must be involved to ensure that there is no excessive pollution and heavy vehicle movement. I must emphasise that at all times, Peter Stutt and I, as representatives of the Parish Council, have made it very clear that businesses and residents on the airfield in particular and parishioners in general must continue to be consulted in depth before any major planning decisions are taken.

### **TRAFFIC**

We have been having a continuing dialogue with Highways extending over a few years, through site meetings and letters, raising our concerns at the overwhelming need for traffic calming in the village and in particular on the 'Rat Run' from Zukis past the Primary School to the junction with the bypass. We have also enlisted the support of the Primary School with input from their Travel Plan and have contacted Chulmleigh Community College underlining the dangers of their pupil/bus pickup point on the corner of Farmer Frank's Lane. We have been advised by Highways that speed limit signs, flashing lights etc. tend to be ignored unless policed extensively, and that only physical impediments will slow down traffic.

To that end, we have researched and agreed with Highways on a particular type of speed bump which will slow down traffic, but will not impede lorries which have to access Hatherleigh Road. We were informed that 4 speed bumps would be needed between Townsend and the bypass at an estimated cost of £10,000, which was not immediately forthcoming. Last December I had a meeting at the Primary school with Michael Newcombe [D.C.C. Highways] and Jane Rivans to discuss safety concerns. We were advised that funding may be available through school travel plans but this seemed fairly

vague. In the meantime, I managed to get agreement on the production of a Design Statement for these improvements after April 2009. We are at present chasing this up with the hope that these bumps may actually be in place in 2010. It is most important that we cut down speeds on this road and have safe access to the village for those on Four Seasons and the rest of the Airfield. We expect that a slowing down of this route will deter those who use it as a shortcut so that the bypass is used for its original intention.

### **THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE**

The Boundary Committee has been set up under the ægis of the Dept. for Communities and Local Government to promote proposals for Unitary Authorities throughout the country. We are particularly concerned by the intentions of DCC who are intent on promoting a Devon-wide unitary authority based in Exeter. I represented WPC's views at a meeting of TDC in September 2008 and was allowed 3 minutes to put our concerns. WPC had agreed that they would prefer to maintain the status quo but if this was not feasible a linkage with North Devon would be more appropriate due to geographical position and the existing transport infrastructure as well as a population of 250,000 as opposed to 750,000 if linked to Exeter.

We have just been informed that the cost of changing to a county unitary authority would be £74.3m. Savings after this has been paid back are projected as £17.1 m per year - but no guarantee! It seems obvious that as we are an extremely large county in terms of land and that as we are mainly rural we would be sidelined, marginalized and generally ignored in favour of the urban areas. We are on the outer reaches of Torridge at the moment and have to ensure that we keep a high profile so that our voice is heard, and we therefore will continue to oppose this initiative.

### **MEDICAL MATTERS**

John Gledhill has been having talks with the Chulmleigh Patient Practice Group as to the viability of moving from their present consulting rooms on Southemhay to a larger site with a pharmacy, nearer the centre of the village. The present site seems unfit for purpose due to lack of accessibility for wheelchairs and has very limited doctor time. Since our village has doubled in population over the past 15 years, it seemed necessary that the practice should relocate. The site of the present pre-school, after they move to the Primary School, seemed ideal, but having commissioned a feasibility study, sadly the Practice have rejected this. It would be very helpful if we could have the backing of parishioners to press for more doctor time at Winkleigh rather than having to rely on private transport to access the facilities in Chulmleigh.

### **CEMETERY BUNGALOW**

- We have –
- A) Renewed ceilings.
  - B) Installed a ventilation system to counteract damp
  - C) Replaced and repaired windows
  - D) Inserted airbricks to ventilate the loft

We hope that these measures will ensure that in future further outgoings on the bungalow will be minimised.

### **GOOD NEWS!**

### **COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Excellent news that by the end of this year completion will have been made on handing over the centre to our community. Roger Smith is putting a management system in place to administer the centre and has had two surveys done. He is working on a project management plan to address basic maintenance and essential repairs. Congratulations to Roger and all the groups involved in achieving such a success.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

We have been encouraging the allotment group, Winkleigh Growers, with information on funding and give them our full backing on their exciting new venture.

### **DCC FUNDING**

New path and cycleway to the Sports Centre  
Grant for play area

Many thanks to our County Councillor, John Rawlinson, for his help.

### **PRESCHOOL**

I have spoken and written to the Director of Childrens Services DCC in support of the move to the Primary School site. It was good to hear that Winkleigh is at the top of the list for pre-school relocation and funding and hopefully this will be achieved in the near future

### **RED PHONE BOX K6**

We are in the process of listing the box in the square through English Heritage, who have been inundated with similar requests from all over the country.

### **DOG WASTE BINS**

We have ordered 4 more of these bins to be sited at-

- 1) The old Ring O'Bells site
- 2) Playing fields.
- 3) Hatherleigh Road
- 4) Junction of Torrington Road and Barnstaple Street.

I have also put stickers on ordinary bins to deter the deposit of dog waste in these as we are charged extra for emptying if they contain this, and this will be reflected eventually in our rates.

### **THANKS**

To P.C. Dick Rowlands, P.C.S.O.'s Sandra and Melissa for their commitment to keeping our village safe and for all the extra work they have done to engage with our young people  
To all the volunteers on the Fair Committee, Distinctly Winkleigh, Youth Club, Pre-school, the Winkleigh Society and all the other organisation and clubs which make Winkleigh such a special place to live.

In particular to our councillors who give up so much time and make such efforts in many different ways to make such a difference in the community –

- A) CCOWS – Cllrs Gledhill, Bowers and Griffiths
- B) Cemetery bungalow – Cllrs Holman, Cooper, Judge and Johnson
- C) Cemetery grounds group - Cllrs Hodgson, Cooper, Judge and J.Turner.
- D) Chulmleigh Patient Practice Group - Cllrs Gledhill and Holman
- E) T.A.A.G. - Cllrs Bowers, Holman and Johnson
- F) Playing fields and village hail committees - Cllr J. Turner
- G) Pre-school – Cllrs Cooper and N. Turner
- H) Emergency Plan—Cllr Cooper
- I) Internal Audit—Cllr Judge
- J) Steering Group—Cllrs Stutt and Bowers

Many thanks also to David Lausen, our District Councillor who is always available to answer tricky questions and who does such sterling work fighting our corner at T.D.C. A special mention must be made of Peter Stutt ,our Vice- chair, whose steady reliable advice is so very reassuring, and who brings such enormous committment and dedication to his role.

Another special mention too, of our exceptional clerk, Nicki Bullen,who has been such a tower of strength with enormous breadth of knowledge of protocols, regulations and procedures and who brings great enthusiasm to her work.

My hope is that whichever group we may be serving on in the coming year, that we will give it our best shot and that we will continue to serve the people of Winkleigh to the best of our abilities.

**MARJORIE BOWERS**

## Our War Memorial and how it came to be built

As many in Winkleigh know, much progress is being made with the British Legion’s project of recording the lives and stories of the men whose names are proudly inscribed on our beautiful cross. 90 years ago those heroes - and indeed all those who went from Winkleigh and who somehow survived the war - were very much in the minds of the whole village, when, on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1919, a meeting was held in the school to decide what form of war memorial would be appropriate for Winkleigh. The committee was composed of the Vicar, the Rev. Frank Nesbitt who had only just arrived, Mr Raymont, Dr. Glover, Colonel Alexander, Mr Lane and Mr E.J.Saunders. Mr. Raymont proposed a stone, others were more in favour of a village hall, or reading room. Everything was to depend on how much could be raised. These were difficult times, however. Prices had risen alarmingly over the past five years, wages were low, and all had suffered from war’s privations. The cross was built, but the idea of a village hall had to wait for much longer, and is another story. Meanwhile Colonel Alexander had completed his research and records of those who had died, as well as for all who had served, presenting the Roll of Honour to the church, where it hangs to this day.

The Parish Magazine for May 1919 comments on the difficulties of this task.

‘Our Roll of Honour, beautifully printed in red and black by Col. Alexander, on a large card, has now been framed and fixed inside the Church on the Northern wall, quite close to the door. It contains the names of all the men connected with the Parish who have served in the war, and a separate list of those who have given their lives for their country. We are still waiting for, and daily expecting, designs for the permanent War Memorial. Our readers will, we think, like to have a complete list of the men who have given their lives for us in the War. We had hoped to give not only the names, but also the regiments in which each man had served, his rank and the date of his death. We have not, however, been able to procure these details in every case, so we are printing the list as it is given in the Roll of Honour in the Church. The list is a long one for a Parish of this size. ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.’ They have laid down their lives for us, and may we always remember them in our prayers.’

The Rev. Nesbitt’s wish that the full details of every man’s service should be recorded for future generations was never totally fulfilled, and it is as a small tribute to his efforts at that time and indeed to the memory of the men themselves as we rapidly approach the centenary of the conflict, that the Winkleigh British Legion are determined that the full information should be available for all to see.

The design of the monument was a very important matter. The architect chosen was Mr. Herbert Read of Exeter. It seems that much discussion took place in the village between those who wanted a memorial in the churchyard and those, led by Colonel Alexander, who considered it more appropriate to have a civic memorial in the Square. The Vicar, however, was quite determined on a cross symbolising the sacrifice made, and made frequent references to the ‘Calvary’ of the horrendous losses in the war. In the event everyone agreed on the design, and permission to site the cross just inside the west gate was obtained from the vestry, but there were many delays as Mr Read was much in demand building memorials in many nearby villages. Costs mounted. By January 1920 the Rev. Nesbitt recorded in the Parish Magazine:

‘It is a plain rough granite cross, of the type known as a Devon Cross, with three steps for a pedestal, on one of which would be cut a brief inscription and the names of the men of Winkleigh who gave their lives for us in the war. The cost of such a cross will be about £180. No more fitting memorial could, I think, be found, for, after all, the men who laid down their lives for the salvation of their country, and for triumph of righteousness and freedom, were, in their way, either consciously or unconsciously, doing the same kind of thing that Our Lord Jesus Christ did for us; and though the cost of the Cross may seem large to us, even in these days when prices have risen so enormously, it is very little compared to the cost of the sacrifice which the Cross will commemorate. Mr. Herbert Reed, who, as you will remember carved the oak screen in our Parish Church, proposes to visit Winkleigh in order to view the proposed site, and to confer with the committee about any modification in the design.’

Later we read: ‘The Cross will cost £190 but in addition to this there will be the cost of a concrete foundation, the haulage from Eggesford station, and the inscription in letters of lead which will include the names of all the men from this parish who gave their lives for their country in the Great War. As we have already about £80 in hand, we shall have to raise about £135. This seems rather a large sum but it is really very small compared with the sacrifice which has been made for us, and I feel sure that we shall all contribute very readily and as liberally as we can. We all want our Memorial to be a worthy one.’ It was

Colonel Alexander who made it all possible, by organising the fund raising. By May 1920 £215 had been collected. The Vicar remarked hopefully:

‘This should be enough, or at all events very nearly enough (for in these days prices are always soaring) to cover all expenses, and I hope it will not be long before the granite Cross is erected in our Churchyard. The sum was a large one to raise, but, as I expected, everyone was so glad to help that there has been no difficulty in raising it.’

The dedication service was originally scheduled for Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> 1921 (a Thursday was early closing day for the shops) but took place one week later, because severely bad weather had delayed the final delivery. Neither the Bishop of Crediton nor the Archdeacon of Exeter could be present, but happily the Rev. Edmonds, who had known the men so well, came to perform the ceremony. There was a massive attendance, both at the 8 o’clock communion and in the churchyard at 3.00 pm. The Rev. Nesbitt was justifiably proud of what was achieved. He wrote that month:

‘We are all, I think, immensely pleased with our War Memorial Cross, and I at least have not seen one that I like nearly as much. When we were in London three weeks ago we saw the Cenotaph, of which so much has been written in the papers, and could not help thinking how very much better if such a cross as ours, only very much larger had been erected in its place. The Cenotaph seems so meaningless, while the Cross is such an appropriate memorial to those who willingly sacrificed themselves in a great and noble cause.’

50 comrades led the procession into the churchyard. The Cross was draped in a full-sized Union Jack, brought to Winkleigh by the Rev. S.F. Streatfield, a great friend of the Vicar when they both served at Buckfastleigh. Enlisting as a padre, Streatfield had rescued the flag from the British Consulate in Ghent on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1914, just as the last Allied soldiers were leaving the town and the German cavalry were galloping through, a real ‘Boys’ Own’ adventure story. The cross was unveiled by Col. Alexander and then solemnly dedicated by Mr. Edmonds to the Glory of God, and in thankful memory of the men of Winkleigh who gave their lives for their country in the Great War.

The Parish Magazine recorded the story. ‘Few of us are likely to forget the touching and impressive words of our late Vicar, who recalled the sad and anxious days when he was with us, and spoke of the comfort he was privileged to bring to many a sorrowing home. The Cross would always remind us of those whose names were inscribed upon it, and should help to draw our hearts nearer to Him who died for us on Calvary. Before Mr. Edmonds pronounced the Blessing, the Last Post was sounded by Sgt- Drummer Barrow, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Devon Regiment. Several beautiful wreaths were laid at the foot of the Cross, including one given by the Comrades of the Great War. We are all immensely pleased with our War Memorial, which is quite the most beautiful Memorial Cross that we have seen as yet, and shows to full advantage on the rising ground by the Western Churchyard gate.’

So much for the events of long ago. Sadly, for the majority of our village today, there are just the names on the memorial, and a few family memories, little more. Now it is as if that what is left is being renewed. The information can be preserved for all to understand. Everyone can know how our Winkleigh heroes suffered and how they died, a modern commemoration of all those brave men. It is in addition a fitting tribute to Rev. Nesbitt, and also a memorial to his son William who sadly passed away only a few weeks ago. I was privileged to know William in the last months of his life. He and Betty have given us their wholehearted support. Their enthusiasm and kindness, as well as many in Winkleigh who are assisting the project, are very deeply appreciated.

Supported and encouraged by Ron Fletcher our Chairman, our research is being recorded by the team, David Purnell managing the web-site, Ken Jones masterminding the photography, and myself working on the research itself. Please do take a little time to read our achievements so far.

You can access the internet on [acearch.org.uk/www/memorial.htm](http://acearch.org.uk/www/memorial.htm) but please remember there is a very great deal more work to be done.

Robert Side

[robertside@aol.com](mailto:robertside@aol.com)

## THE MINI-MARKET

Winkleigh Community Centre opens its doors at 9.15 every Wednesday morning for the **Mini-market**.

There is a Coffee Morning held in aid of Cancer Research, which not only raises money for a worthwhile cause but has also become a regular meeting place to exchange news and views.

There is Fiona's stall, with Home-made bread, cake, pasties and quiches.

Marion's flower and garden plant stall.

Hand-made embroidered cards for all occasions are also available, including custom-made cards.

Maggie's stall offers a wealth of knitting, sewing and embroidery goods, buttons & bows, felt & beads – as well as a Bric-a-Brac table. She also runs a regular raffle for a box of fresh vegetables, fresh fruit and a meat joint. Tickets are 50p for a strip of five and £1 for 10 tickets – Winner takes all!

Other stalls offer lavender products and vegetables and flowers according to the season.

Amongst the other attractions, the visitor can look at the history of Winkleigh, its buildings and farms by accessing the local archive on a computer manned by Janet & Gordon.

An Internet Access point is provided, with Jean Warren at hand to provide help if it is needed.

Torrige District Council are present the fourth Wednesday of each month to provide information and receive any comments/complaints.

Should you still have any problems, our local policeman is on duty to offer help and advice.

So, with so much going on, why not come along and see what we have to offer?

## WINKLEIGH YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Winkleigh Young Farmers Club recently held a very successful Easter ‘Wear your Wellies’ disco in which they raised £2,000 for Children’s Hospice South West.

Lucy Gross and Andrew Hookway are pictured presenting the cheque to Ian Roome of CHSW.



## **SPORTS CENTRE REPORT – Spring 2009**

### **WOMEN'S NETBALL SETS THE PACE!**

Yes, hot off the press, the news that is making the headlines is the birth of “**Winkleigh Warriors**” women’s netball team. The girls were so quick off the blocks that everyone has been left flat-footed by the way they have sprung into action, set about formation of a committee, appointed a coach and become involved in the competitive scene – all in the early part of this year.

At the time of writing, I believe they have been finding the net regularly in a number of friendly games and have performed with credit in a tournament in Crediton. They have also just played the first fixture of a summer league competition. Unfortunately, all games are having to be played away from home at present as we still await funding for a new surface dressing and markings on our court. Let’s hope it won’t be too long before they are able to pull in a local audience to give them some rousing support! For the uninitiated, by the way, I have just researched the subject and understand that a netball game is started with a “centre pass”. There, don’t say this journal’s not full of crucial information!

Moving away from women in shorts (yes, we must!) the other significant development for the Sports Centre, hot on the heels of netball, is of course the progress of the allotment group. At the time of writing the go-ahead to get on the ground is only two weeks old and all those who spend time around the centre will be heartened by the activity so far. I sense a genuine feeling amongst the community that the developments of the last year or so have breathed new life into this area and it is really fantastic, particularly with the help of good weather, to see so many enjoying the new play area, allotments and previously existing facilities - all of which are now benefiting from increased levels of interest.

On the subject of the play area, the official opening took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, with formalities carried out by John Rawlinson, who we must all thank for his support and enormous input in obtaining the funding package for the final stages. John was, by the way, ably assisted in his duties on the day by representation from Winkleigh School and the Pre-School who were able to thoroughly test out the new equipment!

On a finishing note, it should be mentioned that there are plans afoot for further development of the areas below the allotments, including possible provision of a cricket pitch, picnic areas and other leisure amenities. Discussions are ongoing at present, so if you have any ideas or would like to get involved, now is your chance!

**Brian Holland – 01837 83521**



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

## STABLE GREEN METHODIST CHAPEL

Stable Green Methodist Chapel would like to invite you to their Youth Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009 where "His Handiwork Puppet Team" from Crediton will be joining us to help our young people tell the story of Noah. All are welcome.



## 'Raindrops Keep Falling On My Boat'

NB: Please note that on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August our services will be at 11.00am where you will find a warm welcome awaiting you.

For more information please contact **Louise** on **01837 682843**.

### **D&S SUPPLIES**

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## WINKLEIGH FAIR 12<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009

The Church Fête on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July followed by the Quiz in the evening mark the beginning of Winkleigh Fair Week. Fair Week officially starts on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July with the well dressing by the pre-school and the official opening ceremony, the crowning of the Fair King and Queen, Torrington Silver Band and the start of the balloon race all of which will take place in the village square. The church service will be followed by cream teas served by Winkleigh WI in the Community Centre. On the Sports Field an inter-pub cricket match and a BBQ will take place with a bouncy castle to keep the children happy.

Throughout the following week various events will be held; the Sacred Concert, the very popular Dog Show on Tuesday evening. This year the venue for the Dog Show has changed - it will now be held at the Sports Centre from 6.30pm. A Car Boot Sale will also be held at the Sports Centre on Tuesday evening from 5.30pm. The village Produce and Culture Show will take place on Thursday afternoon and early evening in the village hall followed by Bingo at 8pm). On Friday the Children's Treasure Hunt will take place, followed by the under 11's disco which will be held in the Village Hall. Winkleigh Footpath Group will be organising an early evening walk leaving at 6.30pm which will be back in time to join in the pub games being held in the Seven Stars and Kings Arms. The pub games will include darts and pool competitions. Don't forget that the final of the Skittles competition, held all week, will take place on Friday evening too.

The week culminates on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Fair Saturday. Following on from the success of last year, we will be holding a Farmers' Market and Rural Skills event in South Street from 10am. Also from 10am, in the village square, there will be a vintage car rally with locally owned vintage vehicles. Afternoon events will start at 1.30pm with the Children's Fancy Dress parade and Competition – this year's theme is Devon Life. Mrs Recycle will be running two workshops for primary school children from 10am-12pm and the second from 2pm-4pm. Running throughout the afternoon will be a Battle of the Bands competition, the fair ground, Bucking Bronco and Bungee Slide with a bouncy castle for the younger children. During the afternoon Embarrassing Dad will be entertaining us, Lizard Man will be giving a talk on the range of insects and reptiles that he is bringing for you to meet. The Village Races, the Village Triathlon and the Grand Draw will take place towards the end of the afternoon. A BBQ will be available all day as well as other refreshments. There will be live music from 6.30pm with Karolina Gergelova, folk musician, and her band. From 8pm The Thorvetones from Thorveton will be playing to finish Winkleigh Fair 2009.

Winkleigh Fair Committee looks forward to welcoming you to all the events and hopes that everyone will have an enjoyable Fair Week.

**See posters nearer the time for final details.**

## WINKLEIGH YOUTH CLUB

The last newsletter report finished with an update on the progress of our youth snooker group. This time we have the great news that one of the very early members of this group has hit the headlines by becoming this year's adult singles tournament champion! If we ever needed proof of the merits of this particular scheme, a joint enterprise between the snooker club and the youth club, well here it is. James is just 17 now and has been playing most of us off the table for some years. Nevertheless, I am not sure any of us believed that with the pressures of tournament competition he would yet be ready to overcome the experience of long standing champion Steve. Commiserations to Steve, who will now be working harder than ever towards next year when I am sure he will be looking for revenge! It is appropriate to mention that the snooker club has gained a considerable number of additional members due to parents etc. of junior members deciding to join up.

We are now of course rapidly approaching the summer period and once again Fairs Week is on the horizon, with thoughts turning to the youth fun night. Last year we were able to join forces with Torridge Voluntary Services (now TTVS) and the police to produce a really successful community fun day. This year that option is not available as the police are committed to other duties, thus we have combined with the newly structured youth network to consider other possibilities. It is part of the edict of the network that young people should themselves take leading roles in organisation of such events and with that in mind consultation exercises have been taking place to establish the format for this year. At the time of writing it is too early to reveal any detail, but early lines of thought centre on moving to the following week to take us into school holiday period and opting for Friday, rather than Wednesday evening. Music is expected to play a large part of the night with bands and artists from surrounding areas, this to be combined with other fun activities.

On a general front, club nights on Wednesdays have been going well in recent weeks and the light nights - combined with reasonable - weather have meant being able to make use of grassed areas for outdoor activity. Indoors, the tuck shop continues different variations of hot and cold snacks with ice lollies recently proving popular. Saturday club is ongoing for anybody who would like to pop in and see us an alternative to the supermarket trip.

Enquiries;

**Brian Holland 01837 83521**

**Mike Wilson 01769 520605**

**Amy Bazley 01837 83212**

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

## WINKLEIGH SINGERS

Since we last wrote to you all, Winkleigh Singers have performed a concert (The English Anthem) in Torrington which has enjoyed a fabulous review from the North Devon press - "accomplished", "exquisitely" and "exhilarated" being some of the key words from that article.

Having left that concert on a high note (if the pun can be pardoned) it was straight back into the rehearsal room for the next show - and yet more diversity with Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonelle*". We understand from French counterparts that we are learning this work within a most ambitious timescale. It will be performed in St Peter's Church in Barnstaple on Saturday July 4th at 7.30 p.m. - we look forward to seeing as many Distinctly Winkleigh readers (and their friends) there as possible.

We will again be accompanied by Andrew Daldorph, this time demonstrating his inimitable skills and expertise on a French harmonium, alongside Anita D'Attellis on "the ivories" - in recent years Anita has played many prestigious venues including Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall. Our vocal soloists have credits to their names which collectively may take a good half hour to read, so come early to ensure a good seat and be prepared to be "wow-ed".

*Tickets £12, concessional free entry to accompanied under 16s.*

The following week we will be hard at it again, back righting wrongs in terms of recording - this coming Christmas we expect our CD to be available as the only Christmas music you will need to buy, or indeed want to play.

The mooted gig in Exeter has now become a reality, with Winkleigh Singers joining other groups as part of the "Two Moors Festival", to perform Bach's St Matthew Passion on a large scale in Exeter Cathedral on the evening of Thursday 15th October. Whilst this is not a Winkleigh Singers hosted concert, we will expect to achieve the same high musical standard and we are promoting the sale of tickets for this, so please keep an eye on our website, that of Two Moors Festival, or indeed nearer the date contact the Cathedral itself. It may seem like a long-ish trip to this event but it will be a night to remember.

Christmas 2009 may seem like a long way away, but in terms of rehearsal time, after the intricacies of J.S. Bach, there will be only a short space of time for the Singers to get to grips with another work to delight you all "at home" for the Traditional Concert in Winkleigh Church on 19th December. It is probable that Vivaldi may suit the occasion this year, but the next bulletin will be clearer about our aspirations.

We are still working towards a visit to France in spring 2010 - negotiations are still under way but again we hope for, and expect, a clear vision of what will be possible by mid-summer. Please bear with us as we work within "Entente Cordiale".

# WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

As reported in the previous Distinctly Winkleigh, the Community Centre is in the process of being handed to the Community by Devon County Council. This is very good news and has involved a lot of hard work on the part of several volunteers, but another chapter in the saga has now begun... that of **fundraising**. In addition to the continuing accumulation of funds from lettings, approximately £4,000 have been raised since last Autumn through planned activities, but we still need to do more!

With this in mind, the Fundraising Committee has devised the following programme for the next few months:

**Sun 28 June – A ‘Garage-Sale’ at 8 Old Barn Close from 10am-2pm- all proceeds to WCC**

**August – Tickets for a Grand Christmas Draw go on sale**

**August – The first of a series of Art/Needlecraft/Photography exhibitions**

**Late September – A visit to Wheatcroft Farm and a hedge-laying demonstration followed by soup and a roll**

**Sat 17 October – A Musical Soirée**

**Sat 14 Nov – A 50/50 Sale**

**Sat 19 Dec – The Grand Christmas Draw Event – a family occasion.**

The possibility of setting up a Lunch Club is being discussed – more on this later.

Details of all these events will be posted at a later date but readers might want to prepare for the 50/50 sale by hunting out items they no longer use but do not want to give away but instead can take half of whatever the item sells for at an auction. The evening will be a social occasion similar to the very successful Auction of Promises last year.

## **WINKLEIGH AIRFIELD SITE DEVELOPMENT BRIEF OPTION ASSESSMENT SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT**

Over a hundred people attended a second public consultation event on the development of a Site Development Brief (SDB) for Winkleigh Airfield. This was held at Winkleigh Community Centre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Earlier consultation had established the objectives for the SDB as promoting improved employment and recreation opportunities for Winkleigh and surrounding communities while encouraging landscape restoration and improved public access.

At this event possible options were tested to see how well they could deliver these objectives and to assess the impact they might have. People gave their assessment of the five possible options these explored different ways in which the site could be developed by landowners in the future. The options presented were two for limited change and three for different degrees of more significant change. Option 1 was to refine current policy and Option 2 to reduce the scope for development. Options 3a and 3b offered mixed use within a reduced development area and Option 4 offered employment use within a refined development boundary.

Despite the complexity of the task people made some keen judgements and gave helpful comments on how the options could be improved or developed. The views given will be taken into account by the consultant team as they go on to develop a Draft Site Development Brief.

This stage of public consultation will inform the development of a Draft SDB in the following ways:

- The boundary for development should be great enough to secure a scale of landscape restoration that would have a significant impact. This would have a boundary similar to 3b or 4.
- The amount of employment needed in proportion to the Winkleigh and surrounding population should be tested further along with the traffic impact of different scales of development.
- The preferred option should promote mainly small scale and/or lower impact employment uses possibly including distinct areas of combined residential and employment use or live/work.
- The visual impact of development on agricultural land should be tested further.
- The distinctions between areas of high landscape quality, of reasonable quality and in poor condition will be refined further and this should inform the priorities for areas of development and restoration.
- Existing businesses on the Airfield will be more closely consulted and, where feasible and appropriate, scope for their future development integrated further in the SDB.
- Public access should continue to be developed and integrated in the SDB although the scope to deliver a publicly accessible building should be tested further.
- The Steering Group should test the appetite for people to lead a community development trust and if appropriate determine the mechanism that could facilitate this.

The Draft SDB will also be consulted on between July and September 2009 when there will be further opportunity for people to make comments.

**Juliet Bidgood for the Consultant Team.**

**If you wish to see the full ‘Summary of Public Consultation’ and the ‘Options for Winkleigh Airfield SDB’ as exhibited please go to [www.winkleighonline.com](http://www.winkleighonline.com)**

## District Councillor's Report

During the last few weeks we have seen the scandal over MPs' expenses unfold, as more and more evidence of thieving has come to light. At the time of writing, it is difficult to know how the drama will unfold but there must be a good possibility that a number of MPs will go down for either fraud or obtaining (vast sums of) money by deception.

In happier economic times, the behaviour of many MPs would be seen as bad for politics. However, in the current recession/depression it is far worse. Our country's problems have been brought about by a heady cocktail of over borrowing by individuals; too much debt in company balance sheets; unsustainable/unproductive government spending; and reckless lending and speculation by banks. At the root of our problems is the bankruptcy of ideas and lack of questioning. All three main parties subscribed to a "centre ground" where, without question, bonuses were a good thing and the rich, by spending their money, enriched others. In addition, the two major parties supported an illegal war in Iraq, which has not only led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people but also increased the threat of terrorism.

Over the past thirty years, we have seen the increasing "supremacy" of the prime minister (and his/her executive) and the lassitude of Parliament. What has made it so bad is that successive PMs/executives believed that success was achieved by giving bankers what they wanted ("light touch regulation"), stoking the Whitehall machine (to increase centralisation), and forming quangos (which conveniently could then be stuffed with cronies). How we get out of this mess I don't know. As a country we make less and less; bankers are carrying on virtually as before despite massive losses and bale outs from us the taxpayer; and central bureaucracy and the quangos will defend their privileges to the last. I am certainly not in favour of paying MPs more; in fact I believe that any MP who takes an outside job should then forego any expenses (except for research and secretarial services).

I hope that the appalling behaviour of some MPs, though, will lead to an improvement in local democracy. Many people are angry and their anger is not just about MPs' dishonesty but the awful legacy of spin which has tried to cover over unfairness in our society, lack of job opportunities (particularly for young people) and the burden of debt for future generations. Hopefully many more will now challenge the patronising nonsense from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears, who has now been revealed as a serial claimer of "inappropriate" expenses and has had to repay capital gains tax. Local democracy does matter and we must do everything we can to ensure that the wishes of communities are genuinely taken into consideration.

David Lausen – Non-aligned Independent  
[www.davidlausen.org.uk](http://www.davidlausen.org.uk) 01837 83209

## And finally . . . .

That august and respected governmental organisation, the Met Office (not Westminster\*) has promised us a 'Barbecue Summer'. With the forthcoming elections approaching, it's only the politicians who look like getting barbecued.

Could give us something to keep our hands warm though!

But seriously - and statistically - it must be about time for us to have a decent summer. My barbecue has been quietly rusting for the last three years.

Our next issue is due to reach you in early September 2009, so please get any articles, adverts, letters, criticisms, to us by **Friday 21st August 2009**.

Contact details can be found on the back page.

\* Not a typographical error.



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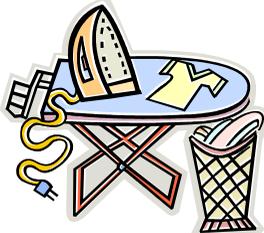
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## WINKLEIGH SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Peter Monkcom</b>	<b>01837 83452</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Robin Coombes</b>	<b>01837 680016</b>
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	<b>Alan Mulcahy</b>	<b>01837 680145</b>

The Society consists of approximately 95 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

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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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