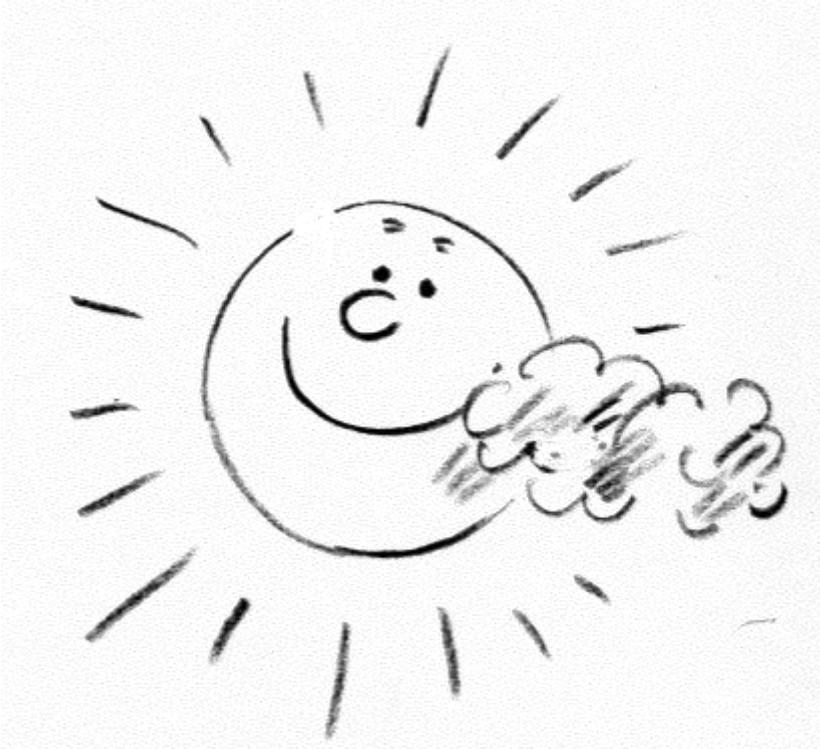


DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 34

Summer 2010

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The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

Clotworthy
House

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The Winkleigh Society

This Spring saw a highly successful and thought-provoking series of lectures on the theme of Rural Futures. Our thanks to Peter Howard for arranging such interesting evenings for us.

The series was rounded off by a “Where in Winkleigh” presentation by Maggie Watson, in which she incorporated images submitted by many people around the village and which can still be seen on the Internet at <http://winkleighplaces.posterous.com/>.

Whilst on the subject of the Internet, Winkleigh’s own website has had a “make-over” and now shows events that are scheduled in the village. <http://www.winkleighonline.com>

In addition to its function as an introduction to the village, our website is currently showing details of the forthcoming Winkleigh Fair. If any organisation in the village wishes to publicise an event, please contact us and it will be put on the website for you.

It would be nice to be able to get out those barbecues again, without having to put them smartly back into storage! Let’s hope that the Met Office has some better forecasts for us this year.

We wish you a very happy summer, wherever you spend it.

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It's difficult to predict whether the current run of fine weather will persist or at least make a reappearance in July for Winkleigh Fair and for the Church Fete which will be held on the afternoon of 10th July. As always there will be the usual selection of stalls selling books, plants, white elephant and cakes and other produce together with a chance to win on the Tombola or one of the other games on offer. Tea will be available as usual in the Village Hall providing the usual high standard of food and drink. Tickets for the Grand 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 10th and you could miss out on a prize! Do come along and join us whatever the weather!

The Churchyard Tree. The tree which stands next to the tower (a Monterey Cypress) has been a feature of the Churchyard for many years but sadly we have been left in a position where we have no choice but to take it down. It was planted far too close to the building (building regulations would not now permit planting a tree of this species closer than 25 metres to a building) and this has caused a great deal of damage to the path which could prove a hazard to those walking through. In the past we have made repairs to the path but this is no longer an option especially as the tree has not finished growing! We have taken advice on this matter from tree surgeons, archaeologists (regarding damage by the roots), the District Council, the Diocese and our Insurers. We have explored other options as the tree is in good condition at present and currently poses no risk of falling over.

Whilst we are reluctant to fell a healthy tree we also have a duty of care to those who use the Churchyard and to our Church building. Our Insurers, in reminding us of our duty of care, informed us that if the Tree Preservation Order was lifted we would have to remove the tree as they would no longer cover any liability. We were therefore left with no choice in the matter. A public notice was displayed on the Church Door and on a Notice board in the Church as required and permission has been granted for the work to take place. This may necessitate a temporary closure of the Churchyard for safety reasons whilst the work takes place (though by the time you read this it may well have been done). We do plan to plant another more appropriate tree well away from any buildings.

CHANGES TO THE WWW DIRECTORY

Please note the following changes/additions to the **WWW Directory**.

Foot Health Practitioner

Ford Footcare

Sally Bainborough RN. DN cert. Dip CFHP. MPSPract.

01769 580489 or Mob 07743 919387

e-mail: sallybainborough@yahoo.co.uk

Childminding

Sabrina's Childminding Service

Sabrina Bridgman

Tel: 01837 83169

Email: Sabrina@ksbridgman.co.uk

The WWW directory is also available online at **www.winkleighonline.com**

Just enter the service or name you are looking for and click on Search.

If you spot any inaccuracies or wish to make any additions or deletions, please let us know – Tel: 01837 680145 or by email: **am@distinctlywinkleigh.org.uk**

POND WATCH

As Winkleigh is part of the North Devon Biosphere, it is hoped that we can form a group interested in the biodiversity of our area. Several ideas are being discussed at the moment and one idea is to collect information and data about the ponds in our parish.

A recent study found that 80% of ponds in the UK are in a poor state, from the point of view of attracting wildlife. It would therefore be valuable if we had more information about the number, size and state of our local ponds. We would need individuals to give us these details about their ponds (garden or wild) and possibly to agree to a pond dip taking place. Once we have collated the findings, we can suggest ways in which the ponds could be improved if necessary. We hope to make a photographic record as well which could be displayed at a later date.

If you would like to be part of this project, then please 'phone or email Philippa Lausen on 01837 83209, **dlausen@toucansurf.com** for a chat.

“GATEWAY TO WINKLEIGH”

2 The Follies, Torrington Road

by Dr Geoffrey Parnell

Phase 1; The Smithy

Probably one of the notable costs of building the smithy must have been the preparation of the site itself. Much of the extreme tip of the Great Meadow must have been quarried away to form a level site - as evidenced by the fact that the existing ground level behind the house is higher the first floor of the building! Some of the measures that had to be taken before building work could begin were revealed during underpinning and drainage works that I have carried out along the back of the house. This revealed buried dry stone walling running parallel with the back wall that must have retained the geology while the foundations were laid and indeed to arrest possible movement in the future.. A similar action took place close to Barnstable Street to accommodate the well. The reason why the smithy was located on a difficult site might suggest that the blacksmith was focussed on taking advantage of passing trade.

The rectangular building plan of the smithy is approximately 33ft x 16ft in plan although the north-east corner is noticeably rounded. I have no doubt that this was intended to ease access in and out of the main entrance of the building facing Barnstable Street. This large opening 7ft 6ins wide and 7ft high, is spanned by a massive oak lintel and was blocked with brick during the subsequent conversion of the building into residential accommodation. The spacious dimensions probably allowed a cart to enter the building and immediately above the entrance is another blocked aperture 4ft wide and 5ft 6ins high. The base of the opening is flush with the floor and there can be little doubt that it functioned as a loading bay which would have been fitted with a hoist of some sort to raise stores into the upper floor, or loft. The remains of an early elm boarded floor were identified in the western part of the loft and about the present stairwell. Here there was evidence for an opening formed when the boards were laid. This was approximately 4ft 6ins x 2ft and perhaps large enough to accommodate stairs, but more likely a ladder.

Yet another brick-blocked opening has been identified to the left of the main entrance having been identified during preparations to install a night storage heater! This feature is rather enigmatic, but there is no doubt it was contemporary with the construction of the building for the cob has been formed around its timber frame. The sill of the opening is located some 4ft above the original ground level and at first I thought it was a window. However, the opening is awkwardly placed against the corner of the building and the head of the opening is set above the floor of the loft. The opening, approximately 3ft wide and 5ft 6ins high seems rather large for a window and I am, therefore,

inclined to interpret the opening as accommodation for stairs that provided an external access to the loft.

These were not the only means of entry into the smithy. A 3ft wide doorway was found in the back wall of the house at ground level, with a blocked window to light the loft situated above. A larger, and totally unexpected, opening was discovered in the north wall where the present entrance door is located; once again cob repairs provided the opportunity for inspection. The full length of the buried lintel has still not been determined but the 7ft that has already been recorded indicates that once again we are dealing with a large entrance, probably closed by double doors.

Perhaps one of the most significant features found during refurbishment was the remains of an original blacksmith's forge set in the southwest corner of the building. The cob is exceptionally thick here, forming a cant that is supported by a large oak lintel itself supported by a post on the right hand side. Both these timbers are re-used gate posts and still retain their pintles where the gates would have been fastened. The hearth area is now occupied by a later bread oven but the lintel and its supporting post show clear signs of having been subjected to heat and smoke. By comparison the flue rising up through the cob wall shows little evidence for the effects of a fire and this could, therefore, indicate that the hearth was equipped with a stove vented by a pipe set in the flue. I am inclined to believe that a blacksmith serving the rural demands of the vicinity could not have carried out all his work on a stove (unlike Tower gun furbishers who did). That said the site of a larger forge may still to be found and with that in mind the function of the large lean-to outbuilding has yet to be defined.

Finally, all the work I have carried out to the walls of the building indicates that in its original state the cob had no plaster applied within or without. The face of the cob was simply whitewashed and in the standard, and sensible, practice of the day the wash was carried over all the timberwork. The whitewash allows moisture in the cob to come and go and helps arrest powdering and crumbling, and in the case of timberwork, acts as a barrier to the activities of air-borne insects that like to eat wood. The practice of stripping off original lath and plaster to reveal exposed untreated pieces of timber in ceilings and over doors and windows is one of the acts of vandalism perpetrated by the ill-informed 'restorer' who seeks to create some sort of Hansel and Gretel 'cottage' environment. The desire to be surrounded by exposed, or black-painted, timber, and to have fireplaces called 'Inglenooks' seems to have developed from a warped interpretation of the Arts and Craft movement and found popular expression in half timbered semi-detached houses of inter-war suburbia. My kitchen ceiling has been subjected to this ignorant treatment with bits of plasterboard attached to battens fixed to the sides of sawn rafters that were never intended to be seen. The whole dreadful effect is compounded by polyfilla and gypsum sloped about the numerous gaps. In due course I intended to conceal this horror with riven laths and a lime plaster skin and return the ceiling to its former glory.

I have to say that I have noticed that the maintenance of cob buildings in Winkleigh is sometimes deplorable. Residents coat their walls within and without with cements and the other horror - gypsum. These non-porous finishes are a death sentence to cob, and some people only discover the danger they have created until after a collapse. Lime mortar and cob bricks and blocks are easily obtained by local building suppliers like J & J Sharpe and Mike Wye who also have the details of sympathetic builders who can do the work properly if you do not wish to do the work yourself. One other good tip with regard to protecting the exterior of your cob building is the adding of a clay aggregate (trade name 'Metastar') to your final lime mix. This will hardened the outer finish and increase its weathering ability without preventing the wall from 'breathing'. The final touch is the application of the rough caste to the wall face (see the fine example recently executed to the Honey Church tower by English Heritage). I always mixed some grit into the remains of the last mortar mix and flick or dab it on the surface of the wall. Historically it was done with a small shovel, which is still available for use, but I find this potentially messy and you do run the risk of spattering your neighbour's property!

Devon has more cob buildings than any county in the country. It is the quintessential vernacular architecture of the county and must be cherished and preserved. So if you have a cob building and a builder arrives with bags of cement, inform him that you would prefer to preserve your building and tell him to clear off.

Finally, when your render is finished and dry, apply the limewash. Do not use modern, nasty, acrylic paints; these will prevent moisture movement in the same way that wrapping your house in clingfilm will achieve. Limewash is absorbed into the render, rather than acting as a barrier, and there are lots of traditional ochre colours now available. That said, try not to use the nasty pink emulsion that I have on my house. This is a corrupt modern pastiche of 'Suffolk Pink' which, as the names suggests, was used extensively in East Anglia and whose colour was partly obtained with the use of animal blood; there is no evidence of a traditional use in Devon. The walls on my house were limewashed white throughout all its early history, but in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were limewashed ochre yellow, which was very common and something I am hoping to reintroduce.

To be continued ...



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Winkleigh Methodist Church

Over the next few weeks we are involved in various events that are open to everyone in the village (and beyond) to attend and take part in.

Our **Oasis Coffee Shop** continues to open from 9am through to 1.30pm every Monday (except Bank Holidays), offering a wide range of snacks and light lunches. We continue to widen our menu range with cakes, tray-bakes, toasted sandwiches, savouries, paninis, etc. etc. etc – as well as our popular mid-day light lunches. We are very grateful to all those who regularly support the venture, whether they come for a full meal at lunch-time or just for a quick cup of coffee and a chat sometime during the morning. During **Winkleigh Fair Week** the Coffee Shop will be open on the Saturday (10am – 4pm) providing Ploughman's Lunches as well as teas, coffees, etc.

Also during Winkleigh Fair Week, we (together with other friends in the area) are staging the production of the Musical "**ROCK**" in the Village Hall on the Monday evening. "Rock" is written by the same team that produced the very popular "While Shepherds Watched" that was staged in the village a few years ago. Free entry, although a free-will offering will be taken for the work of National Children's Homes.

Our next **Hot Chocolate Night** is scheduled for Saturday 26th June at 7.30pm. This is an informal opportunity to reflect upon and discuss issues that are relevant for today over a mug of hot chocolate. The theme for the 26th will be: "Suffering – why does God allow it, and where is God in the midst of it?"

After the success of our first **Messy Church**, our next one will be on Friday 9th July in the Community Centre. This will be focussed on the story of Jonah and the Whale. An opportunity for families to come along, have some fun, engage in various activities together, enjoy a short fun-packed family service and share a simple meal together.

Finally on the second Monday in September (13th), as part of our Harvest weekend, we will be organising a **Harvest BBQ** somewhere in the village.

Also, we meet for worship **every Sunday** morning in the Chapel (11am), other than the first Sunday in the month, when we meet at 5.30pm for a Tea Service in the Oasis Room. Please feel free to come and join us for worship at any of these times. Details of other events are to be found on our website: www.winkleighchapel.co.uk

Graham Warmington
warmington49@btinternet.com

Winkleigh & District Garden Club

By the time this update is published the Club will have visited the ‘Lost Gardens of Heligan’. A trip which was well supported and followed an excellent talk, with accompanying slides, at our April Club meeting. Our May meeting is concentrating on Plant Propagation with experiences from Club members along with members bringing in their spare seedlings/plants to sell/swap (proceeds to club funds).

Our next visit on June 1st is to Moon Farm, Monkokehampton. The Smallholding of Steve & Lisa Atfield: leaving the Village Hall at **6pm**

We have a Club meeting on the 15th June where the speaker, Michael Gee, will give a talk on “Mazzards, North Devon’s Special Cherries”.

July 6th is the date for another visit which is to Hole Farm, Woolfardisworthy. Garden of Nigel Alford: again leaving the Village Hall at **6pm**.

On July 20th our Club meeting will focus on” Seasonal Activities”, although the content is not finalised, we hope to have a number of speakers who will talk about ‘things’ that can be done at this time of year such as cuttings, pruning, using produce from the garden (or allotment) for chutneys, jams, cakes, etc.

The Club Summer Social will take place on Saturday the 7th August and the normal monthly Club meeting on the 17th August is replaced by a “Bat Talk & Walk” with Helen Shaw at Church Cottage Brushford at **7:30pm**

September 21st sees our annual Gardeners’ Market Evening which is only open to members, their guests, and by special invitation.

The speakers at our October 19th Club meeting are Tom & Jo Hynes on the subject of “Gardening in the Biosphere”.

The Club AGM, along with combined seed order, will take place at the Club meeting on the 16th November and the year ends at our December 21st meeting at which we propose a review of the year and club speakers (precise details to be confirmed later in the year).

Unless otherwise mentioned our Club meetings are held in the small room in the Winkleigh Village Hall and start at 7:15pm PROMPT. There is time for socialising whilst refreshments, (and biscuits), are consumed and there is a raffle at most meetings.

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 please contact our Chairman **Mr Ed Porter** on 01805 – 804838



WINKLEIGH TENNIS CLUB

New Tennis Season - New Tennis Courts!

At the last meeting on the 9th of May 2010 members of the Winkleigh Tennis Club discussed membership fees, club events as well as the creation of a new committee. This was a very productive morning.

We have agreed on a new programme of regular tennis club events and social occasions to encourage members of all ages and ability to meet each other, and of course enjoy more tennis.

There is now a Monday Club Evening from 6:30pm onward and a Sunday Club morning from 10 am to 12pm where ladies and men of all abilities are welcome. Junior members (over 14) of a reasonable standard are welcome too. Saturday morning children coaching lessons will start very soon too (dates to be confirmed).

The annual subscription rates are now:

£40 (Adult),

£15 (Child under 16),

£95 (Family – 2 adults and children at the same address) or

£65 (for 1 parent and children at the same address).

From now on, the subscription entitles members to access the courts **free of charge at all times** when there is no other scheduled activity, free use of floodlights, and free weekly Club events during the season. We think this is great value for money.

We are obviously delighted to see the tennis courts resurfaced. They really look the part!! The tennis season is now starting on TV and we hope it will entice more people to come and try tennis for the first time or rummage through their attic or shed to find an old racket.

Anyhow we hope to see you there!

For more information contact Doe Fitzsimmons, Secretary

Telephone: 01769 520 769

E-mail: doe@taichidevon.co.uk

WINKLEIGH VILLAGE HALL

Winkleigh Village Hall committee are hosting a Bingo evening on Friday 18th of June. Doors open at 6.45 for a prompt 7.30 start.

Entry is 20p and books are £1, each book contains 10 games with cash prizes on every game.

There will be a draw and drinks will be available.

All proceeds from this fundraising event will go to Village Hall Funds so please give your full support.

ACE Archaeology Club

We have a very busy summer ahead especially in July. On 24th and 25th of July there will be a Festival of Archaeology, History, Sustainable and Environmental Awareness at Pattiland Farm, Broadwoodkelly. ACE Archaeology Club and the Warham family will be hosting the event which is part of the Council for British Archaeology's National Festival of Archaeology. Over the weekend there will be displays of vintage tractors, standing engines, demonstrations of rural crafts with a chance for folks to have a go, a moth watch and a walk and talk on Home Power. There will be exhibitions of ACE's work at Moistown (situated at Pattiland Farm), and The Dartmoor Archaeology and Bracken project as well as a small excavation. Please note that no dogs are allowed on site and parking is limited so car share if you can, or be green and cycle or walk. Look out for the posters for more information or contact Giles on giles@pattilandfarm.com.

The CBA's national festival runs from the 17th of July to the 1st of August, check out their website for other events: www.britarch.ac.uk

If you want to know more about ACE, contact **Janet Daynes** Tel; 01769 520326, email ace@ACEarch.org.uk or check out our website; www.acearch.org.uk

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WINKLEIGH FAIR 11TH – 17TH JULY 2010

It's nearly that time of year again! The Church Fete on Saturday 10th July followed by the Quiz in the evening mark the beginning of Winkleigh Fair Week. Fair Week officially starts on Sunday 11th 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. Also in the square between 2pm and 2.45pm there will be a mask workshop for children. The church service will be followed by cream teas served by Winkleigh W.I. in the Community Centre. On the Sports Field an inter-pub cricket match will take place with a bouncy castle to keep the children happy. Hot snacks will be provided by the Lions of Hatherleigh

Throughout the following week various events will be held; On Monday the Roger Jones musical "Rock", about the life of St. Peter will be performed in the village hall. Produced by the West Devon Methodist circuit this performance is the last of their tour. On Tuesday evening the very popular Dog Show will be held at the Sports Centre from 6.30pm. The Lions of Hatherleigh will be providing hot snacks. On Wednesday it's Winkleigh's Got Talent in the village hall. If you've got a talent, come along and flaunt it for the village! The village Produce and Culture Show will take place on Thursday afternoon and early evening in the village hall followed by Race Night 8pm. On Friday, 6pm-9pm, there will be a children's disco at the primary school, organised by The Friends of Winkleigh Primary School. All children are welcome, those who attend Winkleigh Primary School can get in free, everyone else costs £1. All children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a BBQ and soft drinks with a licensed bar for the accompanying adults. The Winkleigh Footpath Group will be organising an early evening walk leaving at 6.30pm. 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 17th July – Fair Saturday. The Farmers' Market and Rural Skills event will be held in South Street from 10am. There will be a vintage car rally with locally owned vintage vehicles from 10am. Also running through the morning will be a mask workshop and Big Beat, innovative and original purveyors of percussion music will be running junk music workshops. Afternoon events will start with the Children's Fancy Dress parade and Competition – this year's theme is animals. Children's entertainer DJ will be in the square all day doing a walkabout show and balloon making. Running throughout the afternoon will be a Battle of the Bands competition, the fair ground, Bucking Bronco and a bouncy castle for the younger children. During the afternoon Musical Saw Extraordinaire will be entertaining us, ReptoBug 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 Game and the Grand Draw will take place towards the end of the afternoon. The Lions of Hatherleigh will be providing hot

snacks all day. The W.I. will be serving teas in the Community Centre, the Oasis Coffee Shop will be open for drinks and Ploughman's lunches, The Old Tea Shop will be open as usual. There will be live music from 6.30pm with the Thorvertones from Thorverton playing out Winkleigh Fair 2010.

Don't forget the Blooming Winkleigh Competition! See your programme for full details.

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.

Further Date to remember

Cheese & Wine Call My Bluff 20th November

FUN QUIZ AT LAPFORD

At Victory Hall, Lapford on Friday 11 June 2010 in aid of Force Cancer Support.

Our last fun quiz raised £526.50 for the Devon Air Ambulance so we're hoping for a repeat performance! A good night for a good cause is assured ~ and it's well known how you Winkleigh folk enjoy a good quiz!

Doors open at 7.00 for a 7.30 start

Teams of four, £5 per person including a light supper.

Licensed Bar.

Entries to Liz on 01363 83886 by Wednesday 9th June please.

WINKLEIGH MORRIS

On 19th March Winkleigh Morris generously presented donations to three organisations. Cheques for £575 were presented to Shelter Box – who provide emergency shelter anywhere in the world to those hit by disasters (natural or otherwise) – and to the Devon Air Ambulance, whose services are so necessary for those living in remote areas of the county.

They also presented the Winkleigh Community Centre with a cheque for £200, which will go towards the campaign to secure the Centre for the village.

For more information on the Winkleigh Morris, please contact **Angela Haines** 01837 83217

WINKLEIGH FAIR PRODUCE SHOW CATEGORIES

In the Village Hall on Thursday 15th July, afternoon & evening.

Adult section—£1 per entry

Vegetable

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Three beetroot | 6. Three courgettes |
| 2. Lettuce- any variety | 7. Five pods of peas |
| 3. Five French beans | 8. Five radishes |
| 4. Five carrots- any variety | 9. Five white potatoes |
| 5. Five runner beans | 10. Three tomatoes with calyx |

All produce to be gently washed and displayed on a white plate or black fabric

Fruit

1. Five strawberries
2. Three sticks of rhubarb
3. Five gooseberries
4. Ten raspberries
5. A collection of soft fruits-three varieties

All produce to be displayed on a white plate or black fabric

Flowers

1. Seven sweet peas in a plain vase
2. A single rose
3. A fern in a pot
4. A collection of flowers

Preserves

1. A jar of soft fruit jam
2. A jar of marmalade
3. A jar of chutney any variety

ART TREK 2010 - 11th to 28th June

Art Trek is a major North Devon Festival event, taking place over three weekends this June, with some participating artists even opening on the weekdays as well. Art Trek is known as a friendly event and the area's top Artists and Makers are seizing the opportunity to invite the public into their homes, studios, workshops and other assorted venues, to see their work and chat with them over a cup of tea!

Local artist Celia Olsson will be opening her studio in the garden at Little Linhay, Bondleigh (near North Tawton) as part of this open studios event. Celia will be open over the three weekends (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) between 10.30am and 4.30pm. She will also be open Tuesdays to Thursdays by appointment. Please ring the evening before. Little Linhay is just off the Tarka Trail, up the hill from Bondleigh Bridge.

Celia Olsson Tel: 01837 82796 Email: martin@macolsson.freeseerve.co.uk
Festival website: www.northdevonfestival.org

SPORTS CENTRE REPORT – SPRING 2010

WARRIORS ON THE WARPATH!

Yes, once again the headline makers in this report are Winkleigh's womens' netball team. Not much more than a year in existence and after spending the early months struggling against what, at the time, appeared superior opposition,



our girls are now becoming the team to beat. In fact they have not yet been beaten at home, after chalking up a win in the first home friendly on the newly surfaced and marked court. That, however, was only a warm up for the real "coup d'état" in their latest game (at the time of writing) against those great

local rivals Chumleigh - the final scoreline, at 26-25, suggests it was a close contest - but they did it! Not only that but the level of interest has led to the formation of a second team who will have the advantage of being able to train regularly with the first team to get themselves up to standard - who knows where it will lead!

Reports suggest that the much improved playing surface is proving an attraction and has stimulated new members for the tennis club as well. At a recent meeting the wheels were put in motion for the creation of a new structure and membership/playing conditions to allow for those who want to play on a more casual basis in addition to more dedicated members who will be aspiring to make at least two sessions a week.

On other fronts the bowlers are now working hard on the green and the first fixtures are under way, whilst the short mat season has finished and they have settled into the more casual summer period. The snooker club continues to attract new members and the tables are looking good after the recent periodic maintenance attention. The tournament has reached the final stage and there will

be more about that next time. The “growers” are of course at a busy time with new planting to be done and anticipation for the season ahead.

All clubs, as with the rest of Winkleigh, are at the time of year when “Fair Week” is very much on the agenda and plans are afoot for a number of activities at the sports centre, including the dog show, cricket match, a music and fun night and open day(s) for all the clubs during the course of the week. Watch out for posters and the programme for details - it’s not far away now.

Hot off the press, before I wind up, is the news that the youth club has just been awarded a grant from the “Awards For All” section of the “Big Lottery” for the installation of a solar water heating system at the centre - more about that next time.

Well I think that’s about it for now, except to say that if anyone is interested and wants to know more about activities at the sports centre, please feel free to get in touch, interest all round has been on the up in recent times but we have a pretty large field of activity and there is room for more if anybody has suggestions to offer.

Brian Holland 01837 83521

Stable Green Methodist Chapel

invite you to their weekly Sunday services at 6.30pm

At Stable Green we hold Sunday evening services led by a varied range of preachers to accommodate our all-age congregation.

On the first Sunday in every month prayer meetings are held in the Sunday School before the service at 5.45pm. All are encouraged to come, or just let us know what you would like prayer about!

A special youth service will be held on Sunday 13th June at 6.30pm, and this will be led by Stable Green’s young people, with the help of Kevin Down. A very warm welcome awaits you here and we would love to see you all. A traditional Chapel supper will follow this service.

For more information on any of the above please contact Louise on 01837 682843 or Liz on 01837 83916 or lizjones@hotmail.co.uk

.....we look forward to welcoming you each Sunday.....

(you will find us on the Winkleigh to Chulmleigh road)

The Community Centre

As Chairman I would like to thank the Young Farmers for their endeavours in re-plastering and painting the walls of the 'small room' in the Centre recently. An excellent example of what can be achieved within the parish given the will and necessary elbow grease. Well done Young Farmers.

With regard to the Community Centre building and the transfer of ownership from Devon County Council (DCC) to Winkleigh we are close to success. We have recently become a limited company and are now overseen by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). We have just held our first Special General meeting of the company which involved the four appointed Directors. This is mostly a bureaucratic exercise to get the 'show on the road' so that the overall processes can be managed effectively and legally. In ownership terms we are just entering the conveyance stage which then leads to completion and transfer of the building to us in due course.

I intend to call a full committee meeting on 23rd July which will be followed by a public meeting on 30th July in the Community Centre. Details of these two events will be displayed separately as a further reminder. It is important at this critical juncture that everyone is clear as to what is involved, including the risks and pitfalls. A formal AGM required by our constitution will follow in the autumn. This is particularly important as the future management board nominees will be agreed then. Readers should be aware that the present committee cannot go on forever and do not wish to do so! Over the last 4-5 years considerable energy has been expended to arrive at this point. New blood and expertise is required at this level. Thousands of people use the Centre on an annual basis but it still has to be a managed and properly regulated service provided to the community. Should potential volunteers fail to come forward we will not be in a position to finalise or recommend a transfer of the building to Winkleigh ownership. Transfer failure will mean DCC retaining possession and we will be asked to vacate and thus lose the facility. The site is then likely to be redeveloped in some other way by DCC. This situation would be a tragedy. Please attend the public meeting (when more detail will be available) and seriously consider volunteering for a role within the Community Centre structure.

Roger Smith

The Lunch Club

The Lunch Club that ran at the Community Centre from September through to March was very successful and the Fundraising Committee would like to thank all volunteers who helped make it such a success. Many of them donated delicious puddings and gave of their time with great generosity. Of course, the venture would not have been possible if we had not had the guests coming along each month, and we are extremely grateful to those of you who supported the lunches.

A grant from the Esme Fairbairn Trust enabled us to purchase the crockery, cutlery and all the table linen, and we were able to pass to the Treasurer approximately £760 profit by the end of the season.

The intention is to start again in the Autumn and have 6 further lunches but the dates have not yet been decided. We look forward to seeing you again.

WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

‘AWARDS FOR ALL’ GRANT

Readers might have heard that we have been awarded a Lottery grant to set up a 6 month ‘Sustainable-living skills’ project in the Community Centre. This is specifically for young parents who wish to acquire or develop skills in making clothes and cooking. All equipment will be provided, and the intention is to have 2x2 hour sessions per week when a group or groups can use the facilities with guidance from a qualified tutor and help from volunteers.

The Management Committee is seeking to find a Project Manager who will receive a fee for the work carried out, and 2 Tutors who will also receive a fee. Anyone interested in any of these posts should contact the Community Centre Management Committee at the following address:

Orchard House
Exeter Road
Winkleigh
EX19 8HW

Anyone interested in joining the groups should make contact either at the same address or telephone 01837 83362.

Researching your Family History

As a result of the advert in Distinctly Winkleigh a number of interested people have got together and formed the **Winkleigh Family History Group**. It is an informal group sharing the common interest in researching all aspects of family history. The level of experience within the current group spans those who have just started to those who have been researching for 15 years.

We have held two meetings which focused on 'Getting Started', Birth, Marriage, Death, and Census records and discussion around Certificates and what information they can tell you. At our next meeting on the 8th June, which will be held in the Winkleigh Community Centre, we will be looking at what information is available over the Internet for free and sites to which you have to pay a subscription.

Members also want to look at information pre 1837 in Parish Records.

The group will be holding monthly meetings, on the morning of the second Tuesday of the month, between 10:30 and 12:30. Topics for discussion at future meetings will be agreed by members at the end of each meeting thus ensuring maximum benefit to the majority of the group. It is early days but it is expected that we will invite experienced presenters covering all aspects of family history research to future meetings. Anyone interested in finding out about family history and researching their family tree would be most welcome at our meetings. For further information please contact Martin on 01837-682990 or email martin.hindry@hotmail.com (preferred)

W.D. CARNE

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Personal Attention Day and Night

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Winkleigh Growers Report (Allotment group)

In the last report we told you of all the sheds springing up on the allotments and of the prospect of a borehole to supply water.

Well the sheds were all established and filled with tools. That saved a lot of carrying to and from home, though I suspect that many of us found tools were at the allotment when we needed them at home or at home when needed on the allotment. Nonetheless we were all pleased to have the sheds in use. Then along came a storm with gale force winds and we found ourselves with sheds blown over, blown across the site and some quite badly damaged. A timely reminder that we are on an exposed and windy position. Now there are supporting posts on some, guy ropes on others and various methods used to prevent shed walkabout.

The borehole was successfully sunk and now water is pumped to the tank whenever necessary, from there it runs to the tap in the middle of the site. Chairman John and Vice-Chairman Ray are to be thanked for this. It's a great relief not to have to carry filled water containers from home.



The cold winter months meant that nobody could do any preparation as the plots were either under snow or frozen solid for weeks on end but recently work has begun again. When you pass the site you are likely to see people digging and planting and

sometimes even leaning on their spades talking! Planting has begun and by the time Distinctly Winkleigh comes out we hope to be reaping the reward of the hard work by taking early crops home for the table.

Our suggestion that people offer recipes for using some of the produce grown, particularly when we have a glut, has not been as fruitful (whoops, sorry about the pun but can't think of any other word) as we hoped. Nonetheless there are a few attached and we hope this will bring in more from the readers. Please send suggestions to ivorkoffler@googlemail.com

Pat's Chocolate Beetroot Cake.

75g (2.5oz) cocoa powder, 180g (6.5oz) plain flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 250g (9oz) caster sugar, 250g (9oz) cooked beetroot (no vinegar), 3 large eggs, 200 ml (7 fl oz) vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon vanilla essence.

Grease an 8in round cake tin, line with greaseproof and dust with caster sugar, preheat oven to 180c/gas 4. Mix the cocoa, flour, baking powder and sugar together. Put other ingredients into blender and whizz till smooth. Pour this into dry mixture and beat well. Pour into cake tin and bake in centre of oven for 1 hour or until knife comes out clean. Leave to cool for about 15 mins then turn out onto rack to cool. To serve sieve icing sugar over cake and serve with summer fruits and cream or ice cream, also good as a base for Black Forest Gateau with black cherry conserve, plain chocolate vermicelli, natural glace cherries, drambuie and chocolate cream.

From Gillian and Ivor, we had a real glut of kale last year so here are two recipes for changing the presentation.

Curly Kale Au Gratin

Wash the kale, cut away and dice some of the stalk, steam the stalks separately for a few minutes to soften before adding the leaf. Steam until cooked but still crisp then drain. While steaming the kale make a light cheese sauce as follows: Melt 1 oz butter in a saucepan, stir in 1 oz of plain flour and allow to cook, gradually add about 1/3 pint of milk stirring till thick and smooth, add grated cheese and seasoning to taste. Put Kale into oven proof dish and pour over cheese sauce, top with mixture of grated cheese and breadcrumbs and reheat under grill until brown. Serve with grilled or roast meat.

Kale with Peanuts

Prepare and cook kale as in previous recipe, in separate pan put a generous tablespoonful of crunchy peanut butter with 2 tablespoons of light vegetable oil, heat gently stir until peanut butter is combined with oil, toss the kale into the mixture and season to taste. This may sound strange but tastes very good.

Courgette & tomato bake (From Susan)

Equal quantities of Courgette and tomato finely sliced. Grease an ovenproof dish and layer the courgette and tomato slices alternately. Mix together equal quantities of breadcrumbs and grated cheese and add 1 clove of minced garlic and a pinch of cayenne pepper. Sprinkle this mix over the vegetables and drizzle with olive oil. Bake at about 200/220 c for approx 30 minutes.

Hot Russian Salad (also Susan's)

1 lb baby new potatoes, 4 oz baby carrots, 4 oz French beans, 4 oz peas, 2 tablespoons of good mayonnaise (home made is best), squeeze of lemon, 1 tablespoon of natural yogurt, salt and pepper. Wash and cook potatoes till just tender, cook sliced carrots, beans and peas to taste. Mix the mayo with yogurt and seasoning, add to hot vegetables and stir till coated. Serve immediately. Good with cold meats, grilled chops or sausages.

Tip for Cauliflower cheese, add a teaspoon of creamed horseradish to sauce and sprinkle with chilli flakes.

Baked plums (also from Susan)

Mix 300 mls of sweet cider, 75 g brown sugar and grated rind of a lemon, heat gently until sugar dissolves. Halve and stone 1 lb dark plums, lay on bottom of ovenproof dish – skin down. Pour cider mix over plums and bake at about 180 c for about 20 mins. Delicious hot or cold with vanilla ice cream or clotted cream.

Pickled Cucumbers (Courtesy of David Koffler)

Prepare a 2lb jar by sterilizing in the oven and then cool.

1 Tablespoon Salt

2 Tablespoon of Pickling Vinegar (3 for larger jar)

3/4 cloves fresh garlic

A few sprigs of Dill (which we blanch and keep in freezer)

10 peppercorns (15 larger jar)

Small cucumbers or large ones cut into sections and sliced down the middle.

Mix first five ingredients together in jar, pack cucumbers into the mixture and top with cold boiled water. Shake well so that liquids mix. Seal lightly and refrigerate. Leave for at least 5 days before eating so that the cucumbers absorb the liquid. Serve with cold food or just raid the fridge when peckish.

Pickled Cucumbers Mark 2

2-3 sterilized jars

2 medium cucumbers

1 medium onion, peeled

1 green pepper, deseeded

3 level tbsp salt

500ml (16fl oz) white wine vinegar

100g (3½oz) caster sugar

Slice the cucumbers, onion and green pepper very thinly, preferably using a mandolin, and cutting the cucumber at a slight angle to give longer slices. Put vegetable slices in a bowl and spoon salt over. Stir, then leave for 1-2 hrs, stirring occasionally, but not breaking up the cucumber. The salt should draw the liquid from cucumber. Tip the vegetables into a colander and rinse them well, then pat dry on absorbent kitchen paper. Pack vegetables well into the sterilised jars. Pour the vinegar into a pan and add the sugar. Warm until the sugar dissolves. Remove pan from the heat and pour the vinegar into the jars to completely cover the vegetables. Leave mixture in the jars to go completely cold, then cover and seal jars with vinegar-proof lids. This pickle is best left for 1 week before eating. It will keep refrigerated for up to 1 month. (Not suitable for freezing).

Kohl Rabi (from Lynn)

Peel and slice thickly. Boil in salted water until tender in an ovenproof dish layer with grated cheese, finishing with cheese. Add enough milk to just cover Sprinkle with nutmeg then bake for approx 30 mins at 180c or gas mark 4

Kohl Rabi is also good shredded and served raw in a salad.

Growing tips from Lyn Hanlon

A few tips I've gleaned from mags:

Grow spring onion 'White Lisbon' next to carrots to deter carrot fly

Grow 'old english thyme' next to cabbages to deter rootfly

Grow 'Summer Savoury near broad beans to deter blackfly, also pinch out growing tip once pods have set

Happy growing

Leader 4 Torrridge and North Devon

Do you have a project idea that is innovative and new? Is it going to help your community, environment or local economy? Are you looking for support and funding?

Leader 4 Torrridge and North Devon is a programme with funds to support projects and long-term action to improve the economy, environment and quality of life in our rural areas. We have already helped support a wide range of interesting projects, so why not see if your idea could become a reality?

We are looking for projects which are distinctive, innovative, involve partnership working, represent good value for money and leave a lasting legacy for Torrridge and North Devon. They also need to fit with Leader 4 objectives, which can be found at www.leader4.org

We would be particularly interested to hear from you if you have a project related to the conservation and understanding of our rural heritage, or perhaps have a community building from which you want to run a new essential service for the local area such as a community shop, or public IT facility.

Around £1.6 million is still unallocated and available for rural projects in North Devon and Torrridge. The grant funding comes from the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Commission through the Rural Development Programme for England.

Our four objectives are:

- Objective 1. To Raise and Support Growth Aspirations of Rural Micro Businesses
- Objective 2. To Improve Access to Services and Employment in Deprived Rural Communities
- Objective 3. To Develop the Assets & Resources of the High Quality Environment as an Economic Driver
- Objective 4. To Improve the Environmental Performance of Communities and Businesses to Create a Low Carbon Economy

For further information on the programme, please check www.leader4.org or call 01237 426423

Winkleigh Parish Council Chairman's Report. (2009-2010)

This year, my report deals with a few re-occurring and protracted issues which arose last year and have not yet been resolved. However, we are persistently pursuing closure on these topics as you will understand when you read on.

1. Finances.

GOOD NEWS! As you may be aware, T.D.C has increased its council tax rates by 2% for the forthcoming year and DCC has followed suit. But your prudent Parish Council has reduced its precept to £13,000, which means a reduction to Winkleigh ratepayers of just over 7%! We felt that in the current economic climate, it was incumbent upon us to make as many economies as possible. The plaudits must go to our Finance Group for their sterling work in this challenging area.

2. Core Strategy.

North Devon and Torridge District Council's Core Strategy forms part of the development plan and feeds into The Local Development Framework which is the first consideration when determining planning applications to 2026.

In our March 2010 response to this document, we made these points amongst others:-

1. We felt that the Core Strategy was unduly, "housing-led", that more weight should be given to employment land, highways and social and healthcare provision.
2. We welcomed small brown-field and infill housing development using local building materials and incorporating energy efficiency.
3. We were very concerned that the 4,000+ houses allocated to rural areas should be meted out without reference to local issues and demonstrable need.
4. We should like to see more positive action on Empty Housing.

These are the main points of our response but the whole document can be seen on application.

Airfield Site Development Brief.

Site Development Briefs cannot create new policy nor allocate land for development, this must be set out in the Core Strategy. However, an SDB can be used as a Supplementary Planning Document to the Core Strategy when adopted. Some of the main parts of the SDB:-

The provision of housing on the airfield other than live/work space is not considered an acceptable form of development.

1. We voiced our concerns at the inclusion of the old tip in the development area (and an extra paragraph as an alternative has been added.)
2. Any further development on the airfield will have to comply with planning policy for sites in the open countryside in order to prevent any more ad hoc development across the airfield.
3. Development would be focussed towards the central and southern parts of the site adjacent to highway infrastructure and authorised dev.

Our main aims are to make the site more attractive to a wide range of prospective employers and therefore to generate better jobs for local people and also to have improved opportunities for leisure activities.

As I write, the date for the next and last Steering Group Meeting has been put back to the 5th May due to the fact that TDC staff have still to collate and present the views from the last public consultation. The Core Strategy and SDB documents can be accessed on TDC's website.

Traffic

As I mentioned a year ago, we have an overwhelming need to slow down and limit traffic on the "Rat Run" from Zuki's past the Primary School to the junction with the by-pass. We have recently seen a design from Highways for 5 speed calming cushions from Townsend Cross to the by-pass, which would cost £25,000, money being accessed through the School Travel Plan.

However, I have just received a letter from Michael Newcombe (Road Safety Officer) which indicates that through the safety audit process it was found that an additional set of cushions would be needed at the bottom of the hill. This scheme, with additional lighting, will now cost approx. £47,000 and therefore has to go through the local, "Highways and Traffic Orders Committee" on 15th June. Let's hope this much-needed scheme won't take too much longer to complete!

Medical Matters

Despite John Gledhill's valiant efforts to secure a more suitable Medical Centre in the village, the Chulmleigh practice does not seem too interested in relocating within Winkleigh. However, it seems that they have recognised that there are growing needs here for extra consulting time – and this has been achieved.

White Street Lights

Many of you may have noticed that some of our old orange lights have been replaced by white ones.

Our local PC Dick Rowlands asked us to consider changing over as white lights shine into darker corners and are more energy-efficient and also cost less to run. There will be a gradual change over the next few years.

Police

We are indebted to the care and commitment shown to our community by

PC Dick Rowlands
PCSO Sandra Brown
PCSO Melissa Baker

We get a monthly feedback from them on crimes and incidents which are always displayed on the PC Noticeboard.

They have instigated, “Speed Watch,” a new traffic-calming initiative which uses locally trained volunteers to monitor specific problem areas using a staged warning system.

Our local Neighbourhood Watch team are asking for volunteers to help in this implementation.

Allotments

We have allocated a substantial grant to the Winkleigh Growers for essential works to generate a permanent water supply to this area, which we see as a long-term investment in the allotments and support for their sustainable future.

Grants and Donations

In order to regularise and control our annual spending and to have an even-handed approach to Winkleigh’s many clubs and organisations, we have decided on a new grant-aiding and donations policy.

Councillor Hodgson has prepared an excellent new policy document including an application form which we will require future applicants to complete. We will advertise for applications between May – July each year in the Public Noticeboards and Distinctly Winkleigh. Forms will be returned to us by 15th Sept of each year so that the agreed funding can be included in the Parish Council’s precept in November.

Thanks

To PC Dick Rowlands, PCSOs Sandra and Melissa. To the Fair Committee, Distinctly Winkleigh, Youth Club, Pre-School and the Winkleigh Society and all the others who make Winkleigh so wonderful.

And to all our councillors who give us so much time and effort!

1. Finance Group/ Internal Audit - Cllrs. Gledhill, Stutt & Turner.
2. Burial Ground and Bungalow. - Cllrs J Turner, Hodgson, Cooper and Judge
3. Emergency Plan - Cllrs Cooper and Holman.
4. T.A.A.G. – Cllrs Bowers and Judge.
5. Pre-School/School – Cllrs N Turner, Cooper and Holman.
6. Community Centre – Cllr Bowers.
7. Village Hall – Cllr J Turner.
8. Playing Fields – Cllrs J Turner and Cooper.
9. Chulmleigh Patient Practice Groups. – Cllr Gledhill.
10. Walking/tidy group – Cllrs Cooper, Judge, Johnson and J Turner.

An especial mention needs to be made of my stalwart Vice Chair Peter Stutt and our indispensable clerk Nicki Bullen. The tidy group has been helped many times by Andrew Bullen and new members from the general public would be welcomed.

Please remember that all PCs names and contacts are on the Council Noticeboard in the square and do not hesitate to contact us if you have information to give or concerns to be dealt with. The minutes of our council meeting and the dates of the next are all given on the notice board and during meetings there are periods when the public can air their views. Do come along – it keeps us on our toes!

Marjorie Bowers.

<p>THE AFTERNOON CHIGONG CLASS WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE THURSDAYS 4.45 - 5.45</p>
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Loose clothes, flat shoes, cost £1.00 a session.

Chigong is a method of ancient and new Chinese exercises for the health of the body, mind and spirit. There are exercises for us all, whatever our age and condition. They are not aggressive or competitive and there are no lycra leotards, sweat bands (no sweat) or towels. When you start Chigong you begin a journey of discovery about yourself and your body. These exercises bring physical and emotional balance, a greater suppleness and wider range of movement.

Members report feeling more positive, confident, and relaxed with a real sense of well being.

The exercises are slow and gentle and a pleasure to do. There is time for discussion and also learning about your body and how and why the exercises benefit the internal organs as well as muscles. This is a really friendly group who encourage each other and are a pleasure to work with. They tell me they love the exercises and it is obvious they practice at home because of their progress.

If you would like to join or know more about it contact **Sue Williams** 01837 83817

WINKLEIGH YOUTH CLUB - SPRING 2010

I am on strict instructions from Chanelle to make it a priority in this report to thank all those who made contributions to our Easter Fun Day, so that is where I will start. Thank you very much to Londis, Zukis, The Mad Butcher, Acorn Vets, Plaiice to Place, Cider Factory, Waitrose (Okehampton), Signpost Housing Association (who kindly sponsored Bluecoat Childrens Centre to enable their participation on the day), not to forget those individual names, which I'm afraid haven't been listed. We should also remember all those who volunteered their time on the day and, of course, those who came along and spent some money. Perhaps I can slip in a personal thank you to Chanelle herself who worked so hard to head up the event, as she does with her other Youth Club activities. Perhaps we did not have the best of luck with the weather but we were able to move most activities indoors and make it a successful day, enjoyed by all - with press coverage giving us a slot and some pictures in the Journal.

As we are dealing with thanks, mention should be given next to the Saturday Club garden and mini orchard project for which a good number of donations of plants, tools and assorted items have been and continue to be received. The garden is now beginning to show signs of good progress, with the first fruits just observable to those with good eyesight! This is, of course, the first year and we were - as I think I mentioned in the last report - got under way with the help of a grant from the District Councillor Budget. There are currently a number of plants in pots, some hardening off and some appearing in the ground with plenty of plans to keep us busy in the coming weeks. The other area which has seen considerable activity in recent weeks is the kitchen and once again I have to give thanks to all those people who have donated equipment - you can be assured it is being put to very good use, particularly on Saturdays and Wednesdays and I know for a fact that Chanelle is spending time at home, in the next few days and beyond with cook books which were donated. The first priority is this Saturday's cake menu etc. but she is also working on stir fry's for garden produce as it comes along.

With regard to other Club activities, Wednesday nights have seen considerable increase in attendance in recent weeks and we are working hard on increasing our range of interests. The craft sessions have been particularly popular, as has the new "Band Hero" game, whilst outdoors we are now able to make use of the grassed areas for football etc. as well as enjoying the now completed play area to the full. We are also currently working on the development of a new discipline procedure, which I hope we won't need to use too much but the police and others thought it ought to be available - PCSO Sandra Brown is helping with this.

Perhaps I should finish by inviting anyone interested in or wanting to know more about our activities or who can make donations of equipment (or cash) please get in touch - oh, and feel free to drop in and see how the garden is coming along.

Brian Holland 01837 83521

District Councillor's Report

At the time of writing, we now have a coalition for the first time in over 60 years. So far – less than a week in – it is virtually all smiles but we all know that the deficit will dominate policy and cuts will be coming. For a country reared on confrontational them-or-us yah-boo politics the sight of two leaders swapping jokes and appearing to genuinely want to do things differently was astonishing and rather uplifting. Instead of a lurch to the right we could see a new centre-ground progressiveness to get a better balance between economic growth, social justice and individual freedom. Time will tell.

Within a week, the election itself seems a long time ago. And it was all rather odd. There was little or no mention of Afghanistan and the main parties appeared to exclude women in promoting their cause (with the exception of the leaders' wives where the emphasis was on dress style and how they held their husband's hand). It was good, though, that Caroline Lucas was elected to be the first Green Party MP.

Not many in the South West will shed a tear for the removal of New Labour with its spin, corruption and cronyism. The Blair/Brown legacy is truly appalling – massive debt, an illegal war in Iraq which has stoked up resentment around the world and a more unequal and unfair society since the 1930s. Hopefully Labour will now respond to its defeat by looking for inspiration from its better days in the past, such as the massive improvements in people's living standards after the second world war and humanitarian/social reforms in the 1960s.

Here in the Torridge and West Devon constituency we were fortunate to have a number of excellent candidates. Geoffrey Cox has been an effective MP for the past five years and in some ways is not a typical Tory. Hopefully with the new coalition he will have more influence and opportunities to push the things he feels most strongly about – care for the elderly, special needs in schools and the importance of the arts – which all desperately need a voice in these difficult times.

I was a little disappointed by the Liberal Democrats. I know Adam Symons well as he is also a Torridge district councillor. He is intelligent and passionate in his wish to improve people's wellbeing, and has a lot of ideas and drive. However, the postal campaign was terribly negative. Do we really want to be told in every communication that Geoffrey Cox does some work as a barrister? I would much rather have heard about how he/the LDs would, for instance, enable teachers to teach, bring about more opportunities for people in rural areas etc., issues which were absent in all the vast number of communications our household received.

I know it is very early days for the new coalition, but I am surprised that the Big Society idea has appeared to have died a death. While the idea (according to Michael Gove on the Today programme) “didn’t play well on the doorstep”, the Big Society is not rubbish. It could offer an ideological basis for a new liberal conservatism. Many people’s expectations of what a government can deliver are far too high. The central state must now start to divest itself of power and revive localism. Even before the recession, Britain was not managing to cover the cost of its public services and this situation can only get worse as our ageing population moves from putting cash in to taking services out. Recently, the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) put it succinctly; “To cut public services without proper public debate about the long term challenges is a recipe for future discord. To make short-term budget balancing decisions without a clear long-term vision for public services could be disastrous.” The RSA went on to warn that we risk sleepwalking into a bleak future in which public services would be retrenched but not reformed, becoming increasingly poor services for a marginalized minority.

A new report – “Beyond Beveridge” – was published in mid March, which recommends a profound shift in culture, power and finance. It argues that we have to move away from “top-down” with its emphasis on targets, inspections, micromanagement etc. towards citizens, communities and localities. Today’s challenges are not just about “delivering” better services but about enabling people to look after themselves and others to make a contribution to larger social goals. We cannot tackle obesity, child neglect, loneliness among older people, long-term unemployment or climate change by just providing better services. Social networks can be amazingly powerful in shaping behaviours and attitudes.

I hope that the Big Society is not dead and that we can have a serious debate about the future of social welfare and the power of social networks because the alternative – the salami-slicing of public services – really will put us further into the mire.

Councillor Community Grant Scheme of £2,000

It is now two years since Torridge launched the Councillor Community Grant Scheme. Each councillor at TDC has a budget of £2,000 each year to enable projects that meet local needs to quickly get off the ground. So far, in Winkleigh grants have gone for equipment for the new allotments; “The Saturday Club”; the Community Centre; and Winkleigh Village Hall. In Ashreigney, I have been able to support two projects relating to the Parish Plan; Ashreigney Village Hall and the over 55s Club.

Grant money is for one-off capital expenditure or revenue items but the money cannot be used for retrospective funding. Any group – other than the parish council – based within the ward can apply. Although the pot of money that I can access is relatively small, it should also open up other match funding for groups. If you have any projects that you feel might be eligible, please get in touch – because there is money available!

Publicising Community Events

As I have submitted items for the local paper in the past I have been asked whether I am prepared to co-ordinate/compile announcements, and any other items of news in, and around Winkleigh, which could be included into the Community News section of the North Devon Journal. As this is a free service for contributors it is an opportunity for you to get your information out to a wider audience.

Therefore, if any Winkleigh, or surrounding village, club, organisation, institution, etc. would like an event, meeting, or similar, advertised in the local paper please contact me: Martin Hindry, Hillcrest, Wembworthy. Tel: 01837-682990. E-mail: winkleighrep@hotmail.co.uk (preferred) and I will do my best to get it included but please ensure that you give enough time to ensure the item can be published.

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And finally

Well, this has been a “Bumper Issue” - perhaps the biggest since the present team started producing Distinctly Winkleigh.

More articles are being received, right up to the closing date for publication. Please keep them coming. And don't be afraid to let us know if we are not covering what is going on in the village, or if you have any special gripe to air! Criticism, preferably constructive, can only be helpful.

Whilst you are writing those articles and criticisms, please note that the closing date for the Autumn Issue is Wednesday, 18th August. We have switched the closing dates to a Wednesday in order to give our printer a little more leeway to finish our newsletter on time if he is overloaded with other print jobs.

Looking forward to an avalanche of articles for the next issue!

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Chairman	Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
Treasurer	Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145
Secretary	Wendy Mondy	01837 680022
	Janet Daynes	01769 520326
	Graham Warmington	01837 83574

The Society now has over 100 members. Membership costs £4 per person . This entitles you to vote at the Society meetings . If you would like more details, please contact Alan Mulcahy, our Membership Secretary, on 01837 680145.

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

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
Tim Rhodes	01837 83229
Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145

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
Postal submissions: 8 Old Barn Close, Winkleigh, EX19 8JX
or Smythen Hill Cottage, Hollocombe, EX18 7QD

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

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

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