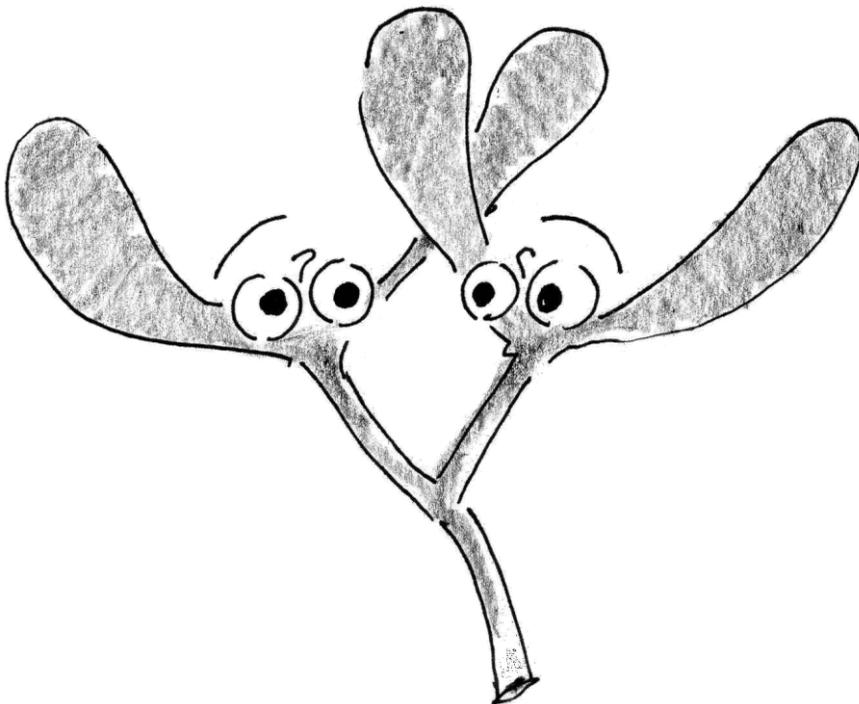


DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 44

Winter 2012

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The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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Winkleigh Society News

It seems incredible that only a year ago it looked possible that the Winkleigh Society was about to fold; and yet with the enthusiasm and drive of its members, it has been able to contribute so much to the life of the village and area over these recent months.

Several of the Committee members are part of the **Parish Plan Working Group**, thus demonstrating the concern of the Society for the Community as a whole. The Village Diary is now being produced and distributed (by email) each month, with copies on display in various key places around the village, as well as having a link on the Winkleigh Online website. Please send me an email (warmington49@btinternet.com) with the subject heading "Village Diary" if you wish anything to be included. Also let me have your email address if you want to receive a personal copy each month.

The **2013 Winkleigh Calendars** are now on sale at just **£3.50 each** (+ 40p if you require a card envelope) at the Londis stores and other places around the village. Because of the feedback from last year, we have produced it in slimline format, and as far as possible have included key village dates (such as wheelie bin collection days). The calendar contains some wonderful pictures of Winkleigh and area. Please note that we have only produced 200 copies, so don't leave it too late to purchase.

Finally, with regard to the future of the **Christmas and Summer Fairs** following the resignation of the Fair Committee: we do recognise and thank them for all they have done over the past few years – their hard work was and is, indeed a hard act to follow. As it was clear that no new Committee was coming into being, it was felt that the only way to make sure that the fairs would continue was for the Parish Council and the Winkleigh Society to make some response.

Leaving the Parish Council to organise the actual switching on of the lights in the Square at about 6pm, a strategy planning committee has come together, to organise the Fair, but on a much smaller scale than in previous years. The Christmas Fair and Lights switch-on will happen on **Sunday 9th December**, with the Fair being in the Community Centre. This will run from 2pm until 6pm, with arts & crafts, produce, Christmas gifts, stalls, etc. From 3pm onward a children's safe area will be provided in the Methodist chapel showing Christmas cartoons, and different craft activities, etc. (organised by the folks from the Methodist Church and the Preschool). Teas, coffee, home-made soup, etc will also be provided (at no cost) in the Oasis Room of the chapel. Time will then be allowed for everyone to process up to the Square for the switching on of the lights, with maybe the singing of a Christmas carol or two. If you, or someone you know, would like to help with organising either the Christmas or the Summer event please let myself, or Alan Jacobs know. **No one wants to see the fairs disappear.**

Graham Warmington warmington49@btinternet.com

I filled in a 'Comments Card' at the beginning of November when I noticed, half hidden, the opportunity to do so in a supermarket. At the entrance to the shop they have these alarmed security devices to stop people running off with certain tagged goods. But draped over these devices was a large banner wishing me a 'Merry Christmas'. I don't suppose anything will come of it, but I complained.

I understand the need to promote Christmas goods (though how many of them do we actually need and do we need them advertised as early as August!!) but I don't want to be wished 'Merry Christmas' nearly two months before the event!

It's all about a Baby. That's what Christmas is really about and that is the title of the short Nativity play that our Sunday School children will be doing at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Of course, Jesus isn't just any baby but God made flesh — the Son of God. And that means that our human life; our human nature is given value and dignity — a value and dignity that is denied by warfare, injustice, poverty and hunger.

Remember the Puppets? Three years ago we had a Sunday School Christmas Bazaar at which there was a puppet show by a Christian group based in Crediton. It was a great success and the puppets were extremely well done. Well, they're coming back on Saturday 8th December (in the afternoon — look out for the time on the posters). There will also be refreshments, stalls, face painting, raffle and visit from Father Christmas. A great afternoon for all the family — do come along and join us. Proceeds in aid of our Sunday School.

Other events to note. Friday 14th December at 2.00 p.m. in Church — Winkleigh Primary School Carol service. Saturday 15th December, 7.30 p.m. Winkleigh Singers Christmas Concert.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 24th December 5.00 p.m. Crib Service
11.45 p.m. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 25th December 9.30 a.m. Christmas Eucharist

All services will include traditional Christmas Carols and everyone is most welcome to join us.

And finally ... Thank You to everyone who supported our Harvest Festival and also the Concert back in September in aid of the Church Tower Repair. We still need to raise more money for the repair — if you can help with a donation please let us know.

OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Well, here we are again, the time of autumn mists and mellow fruitfulness. Or to put it another way, it's getting cold again.

Over the past couple of months, progress has concentrated on the external walls. Visitors to the centre will notice the white mortar on some of the joints - this is the lime mortar which was used originally. The reason that it looks different is that the new mortar must age, it can be 'painted' over using natural really organic materials - but it does smell a bit! It was found that the outside wall containing the big window had largely been repaired with cement mortar over the years, this being harder and more water resistant than lime mortar. This wall was repaired using cement mortar.

Re-pointing of the end wall required proper access. Scaffolding was brought in, allowing more work to be carried out. The windows were resealed and painted, The roof vent was repaired, this revealed that all of the louvred slats were connected together. Several of the stones forming the wall were found to be easily removed due to lack of mortar, these allowed free transport for the rain to get into the building. The final act was to ring the school bell.

During the inclement weather, the opportunity was taken to hack off the blown plaster on the window sill and also repair the stone mullions which had partially 'rotted'. These have been repaired and look considerably better. Hot water was also fitted to the new toilet suite.

More meetings have been held with different companies to try to sort out a way to reduce heat loss from the windows as well as trying to source better heating.

A new door has been fitted to the cellar and new doors are being made for the Fire Escape doors.

A quick note to people hiring the Centre. Please don't use sticky tape on the walls as it tends to pull the paint off. Blutac is better (other products are available)

In the past year the 3-man Gerry(atric) Builder volunteers have put in 868 hours. Work takes place each Monday and any offers of help are most welcome.



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DEVON OIL COLLECTIVE

Want to save money on the cost of your heating oil? *So do we!* Join our new community-based countywide oil buying syndicate and see how easy it is.

The Devon Oil Collective is an ethical social enterprise project run by the Community Council of Devon that can reduce the cost of your domestic heating oil. By bringing communities throughout Devon together and making the most of joint buying power, this scheme can make significant savings and pass them directly to you.

All you need to do to take advantage of this scheme is to pay an annual membership, from as little as £24, which will cover as many orders as you need during the year. The membership charge goes towards covering the administrative costs of running the project. Any surplus from the Devon Oil Collective will go directly towards supporting the charitable work of the Community Council of Devon.

How does it work?

After joining the scheme you will be provided with an order form. Orders can be placed through a local co-ordinator (if there is one in your area) or directly to the Community Council of Devon. Order deadlines are usually 12 noon on the first Thursday of every month, although bank holidays can disrupt the schedule.

Once your order is received, you can sit back and relax as we negotiate the best price from a range of suppliers. You will then be notified of the price per litre by either your local co-ordinator (if you have one) or the Community Council of Devon. Deliveries are usually made between 5 and 10 working days after the order deadline, and you pay the supplier directly.

The next oil order deadline is **12 noon Thursday 29th November**. Please note that there will be **no order deadline in December**. Winter deliveries can sometimes be risky if bad weather hits. Try to ensure you have at least 3 - 4 weeks of oil in your tank at the time of ordering so you do not risk running out over the winter period. For further information about the scheme see our website www.devonrcc.org.uk or call 01392 248919



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Update on the New Community Plan for Winkleigh Parish including Hollocombe & Surrounds



The **Open Day** for the new **Community-Led Plan**, held on Saturday 29th September in the Village Hall, was very well-received and attended by the local community. The aim was to present what is involved in 'parish planning' and gather people's views on issues affecting them. The Hall was divided into display 'Zones' for issues on the Community, Environment, Youth, Services, Business/Development and a Cafe Zone. We also had face-painting and a kids activity Zone, for parents! The Community Council for Devon said our **Open Day** was an example of "how to do it"!

Feedback gathered at the **Open Day** has now been collated and 'the results are in' with regard to identifying key issues, giving a picture of what people are really interested in. The process continues as we seek input from less well represented groups - the young and those outside the village in rural areas - before conducting a parish-wide consultation through a **Questionnaire**. To ensure a 'joined-up' approach we are liaising with external partners, service providers, councils and authorities; we are also conscious of emerging issues such as 'sustainability', to ensure 'future-proofing' the plan where possible.

We believe it will take 12-18 months to complete the new **Community-Led Plan**, which will span 10 years, eg 2013-2023. To ensure a 'living' plan where proposals are regularly addressed, we need to identify achievable actions vs aspirations with assigned responsibilities, conduct milestone reviews/updates and be backed by an 'Implementation Group' and Parish Council support.

The Steering Group is now busy following up various research tasks to help compile the **Questionnaire**, which we hope to distribute early in the New Year. We also hope to have an online version of the questionnaire. Please have a look at the Open Day pics and leave a comment on our **Facebook** page: <http://www.facebook.com/WinkleighParishPlan2012>

As 'Localism' devolves more responsibility to local people and parishes, it's important to ensure our new **Community-Led Plan** meets the demands of today and challenges of tomorrow, that it can respond to criteria for securing investment for our community projects, and provides an **achievable** vision enabling the community to influence their future and their environment.

Gail Flockhart, Chair of the Steering Group
Winkleigh Community-Led Plan
gail@theparadoxfactory.com

Winkleigh Singers

The Winkleigh Singers would like to invite you to join us for our ever popular Christmas Concert, 7.30pm Saturday 15th December at Winkleigh Church. Tickets will be available on the door.

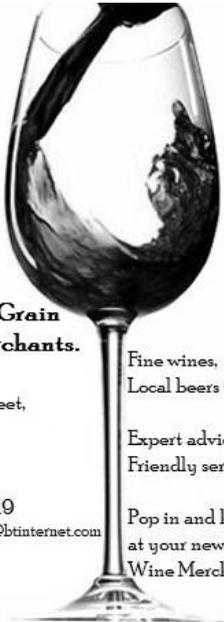
Our programme includes Britten's Ceremony of Carols, accompanied by harp played by Emma Spandrzyk, a student at the Royal College of Music. The review of our last performance of Ceremony of Carols said "...these amateur singers succeeded in getting over every nuance of the score and in giving the work a showing of which any professional choir would be proud." (North Devon Journal)

Also in the programme will be the first European performances of two Carols by the composer Derek Healey <http://www.derekhealey.com/context.html>. Derek was Roland Smith's choirmaster at Cookham in the 1960s before Dr Healey was appointed professor of composition at Ontario University. Of the two carols, "A Maiden Mild" is originally for choir and harp. The other "Christmas hath a darkness" has a new harp accompaniment specially written by the composer for this concert.

There will be the usual mix of traditional carols, many with audience participation, accompanied by organist Andrew Downton.

As is always the case, the ticket includes your programme and a complimentary mince pie. A cash bar will offer wine and soft drinks before the concert and during the interval.

Details can be found on our website or by telephone on 01363 884446. Tickets are available on-line at www.winkleighsingers.org.uk (follow the "concerts" link) or by post from Winkleigh Singers Tickets, 4 Pitt Court, Nymet Rowland, Crediton, Devon EX17 6AN (please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope).



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POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER.

By now we will all be aware who our Police Commissioner for the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority is, but do we know what this job entails?

The new Commissioner will take office on the 22nd Nov. 2012 and at this point the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority will no longer exist becoming instead the Police and Crime Commissioner.

On Monday 11th Feb.2013 at 2.30pm in the village hall the Church Wives Group are having a speaker from the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority coming to explain all that the new Authority means to us as a community. At the end of the meeting there will be time for any questions you would like to ask.

So if you would like more information and find out more, we welcome you to join us in the Village Hall on that afternoon.

Janet Magor, Sec. Church Wives Group. 01837 83799



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WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

You may be pleased to hear that we have been given the go-ahead for our refurbishment programme that will begin in the New Year. This will mean the removal of most of the pews and thereby providing a more flexible space for both sacred and social events, and the creation of three smaller rooms instead of the current Oasis Room: an enlarged kitchen, a disabled toilet and a small vestry.

With the increase in the size of our congregation (of all ages), we are now in the position of providing a Sunday School as well as our regular Messy Church Programme. With regard to the latter, Messy Church services will be happening on Tuesday 13th November (Advent) and 8th January (Joshua), beginning at 5pm in the Community Centre. On the alternate months, a Christmas Disco Party will be held in the Community Centre on December 8th and a Family Skittles Evening at the Seven Stars on February 9th (both at 6.30pm).

Over the Christmas period, various special services will be held: A Crib Service on the 16th, involvement with the Joint Carol Service at the Seven Stars on the 19th and a "Carols by Candlelight" Service on Sunday 23rd at 5.30pm; plus a Christmas Day celebration at 10.30am. Everyone is very welcome to join us on these different occasions. We are also providing children's activities on the occasion of the Christmas Fair.

We continue to meet on Sundays: 5.30pm on the first Sunday of the month for a Tea Service (Oasis Room), and 11am for the other Sundays in the month (chapel); with the Oasis Coffee Shop open every Monday from 10am until 1.30pm, serving morning coffees and teas, as well as mid-day lunches (however this will not be open over the Christmas period).

Unfortunately, because of cutbacks we are losing our fortnightly C.A.B. Rural Outreach Clinic which has been such an asset for the village and area.

As we are a praying community, if you ever want to chat about anything or would appreciate the opportunity for people to pray for you (all, obviously, in the strictest confidence) then either contact us through the normal means, or call into the Coffee Shop on a Monday morning. We will always make time for you.

Details of other events are to be found on our website: www.winkleighchapel.co.uk

Rev. Graham Warmington

warmington49@btinternet.com

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Winkleigh Society

Dementia Friendly Winkleigh

We all know that Winkleigh is a very friendly and supportive community. We now wish to make Winkleigh an easier place in which to live, for those with dementia or memory loss. This will hopefully enable people to stay in their homes for longer and to have a better quality of life.

What is planned?

- To gain feedback from people with dementia and their carers, about what it's like to live in Winkleigh (questionnaire available).
- An awareness raising/training session for people to find out more about dementia and the best support to offer.
- It is hoped that we can start up a Memory Cafe which will involve local health professionals and will be a friendly place to get together and
- To explore other ways of meeting the needs of people with dementia locally.

We now need -

- Feedback from people with dementia and their carers.
- Volunteers who might be interested in supporting ideas such as the Memory Café and
- People who already have or would like to develop a special interest in this area.

For more information please contact: Sarah Taragon (TTVS) on 01363 860151; sarahtaragon@hotmail.com or Philippa Lausen 01837 83209 dlausen@toucansurf.com in Winkleigh.

Dementia Friendly Winkleigh is being organised by a group of local volunteers, with support from TTVS (Torrige Voluntary Services) who have been awarded Awards for All (BIG) funding to look at how rural communities can be more dementia friendly.

SINGING SUNBEAMS

We have now had two sessions of the SINGING SUNBEAMS and what great fun they have been, a couple of dozen of our youngest village children with their Mums or carers singing away and making lots of noise with the instruments.

For those of you that haven't seen our posters or heard of us; SINGING SUNBEAMS is a session for 0 to 3 year olds to sing, have fun and make music with instruments and an accompanying guitar. We meet once a month on a Wednesday in the small room of the Village Hall from 10.30 – 11.15. There is no charge for this group and we supply light refreshments. Our next sessions will be on Wednesdays 28th November, 12th December, 9th January, 13th February and 13th March. We look forward to seeing you then.

For more details please contact:

Liz Jones 01837 83916 or **Jan Ovenden** 01837 83853

SINGING SUNBEAMS is funded and run by members of Stable Green Chapel.

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TAW VALLEY QUILTERS

Celebrate 21 Years

I came to Higher Hollocombe in August 1991, and having been a keen Quilter for many years, I looked around to find a suitable group I could join. There was Barnstaple (Crosspatch) and a group in Bow, which at the time seemed a days march away! So I decided to start one myself, and advertised in the Post Office at Winkleigh for anyone interested to get in touch. Our first meeting was held in Liz Rafferty's house in the Square – 21 years ago, come January 2013. We then held a few meetings in Phylis Chamings' house, adjacent to the Mad Butcher, and eventually came to meet at my house Homeleigh, in Higher Hollocombe.

Our first venture, as a group, was to make a small single bed quilt to be raffled, to raise funds for the North Devon Childrens' Hospice, and at a special Coffee Morning held in the Community Centre, we handed over a cheque for £650, which was quite a bit of money 20 years ago! The quilt was won by a lady living in Scotland – just goes to show how these textiles can move about!

The Group eventually grew too big to meet at my place, so we found a permanent home at the Community Centre. We mostly hired the small room, but when we had a Workshop, we needed to hire the large hall, but found there was a sad lacking of electric sockets for our machines. The group then successfully applied for a grant, and additional sockets were installed. We stayed at the Centre for many years until quite recently, when all the groups were given 'notice to move' due to the notification of closure by Devon County Council. During those years, the group grew to a steady 15 members or so, and we had regular tuition relating to the many aspects of patchwork and quilting.

Several members joined South West Quilters, which is quite a large organisation covering the whole of the South West up as far as Bristol and over as far as Dorset. (Membership exceeds 600 regularly) They hold regular Workshops and also yearly Challenges, which over the years, many of the Taw Valley Quilters have taken part.

One particular year we participated in the challenge England's Green & Pleasant Land, where we won a First Ribbon, and were published in Devon Life Magazine. Another year we set a challenge within the group to make Christmas Blocks and swap them between us, to make up individual Christmas wall hangings. All these Quilts were published in the national magazine Patchwork & Quilting, with a lovely article all about us. Another year we made a group quilt and presented it to Winsford Community Clinic to raise funds for their campaign,

and another time a dozen special cushions were presented to Ladywell at North Devon Hospital for the comfort of Breast cancer sufferers.

To celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we set a challenge within the group to make up quilts depicting '10 of anything' incorporating a small piece of weird fabric that was given to all participants. These 15 quilts were exhibited as Taw Valley 10th Anniversary Quilts at the very first National Quilt Show at Westpoint, which is now held every year in March. A few members regularly exhibit personal quilts at Westpoint.

Over the years, the Group has enjoyed exhibiting individual and group quilts at various other venues such as Quilts UK in Malvern and the international Quilt Festival at the NEC in Birmingham and a few individual Ribbons have been won.

At the present time, the group now meets at the Sports Centre, where they are full to overflowing, as the room is rather small. There are approximately 14 members and the group is now run by Pat Mincher.

Pat is organising a Celebration Buffet Lunch with a small exhibition of quilts, some time next year, inviting 'local' patchwork groups to share the fun and frolics. May the group continue to be creative and thrive over the coming years.

Val Thomas

Founder of Taw Valley Quilters

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OKEHAMPTON DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

Okehampton District Community Transport Group started in May 1990 (we were one of the first groups in Devon) with funding provided by Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council.

- The Community Car service was started up 2 years later with a small group of volunteer drivers. Although not always available we now have over 25 drivers on our books.
- We provide transport for the frail, elderly, and disabled people and for those who are rurally isolated where there is no public transport service. All our services are 'door to door'. We have over 500 clients registered. Some people use us on a regular basis others for one-off journeys.
- Our Ring & Ride bus is on the road 6 days a week. Monday – Friday bringing people into Okehampton from the surrounding villages as well as picking the people up in the town for shopping trips. On Saturdays we run a 'Passenger Club' going to destinations such as Sidmouth, Tavistock and Homeleigh Garden Centre.
- Some of our community car drivers have received volunteer awards from either County level or the Volunteer Centre.
- The car service can be used for social visits as well as medical appointments, subject to availability. We are often asked to take people to hospital appointments at Exeter, Plymouth, Tiverton, Moretonhampstead and on the odd occasion Birmingham or Bristol. We are also quite often asked to provide transport for people attending special health clinics i.e. Tai chi.
- We also have two wheelchair accessible vehicles which we use for both medical appointments and lifestyle trips.

We are currently recruiting new drivers for our Community Car Service (particularly in the Lewdown and Chagford areas) and also looking for Trustees. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please give Sue a ring on 01837 55000 or pop in to see her at our office opposite the buffet at The Railway Station, Station Road, Okehampton. We do not need a commitment from you for a regular service, even if you are only available once or twice a month, we would still like to hear from you. As our clients are spread over a large area, it is helpful to have drivers in the outlying villages available, which obviously saves on mileage costs, our passengers only pay the mileage from their home to destination and return. Any 'dead' mileage for the driver from their home to the client, is paid for by our group.

We ask passengers to ring by lunchtime the day before they wish to travel on the bus and at least 48 hours before they need a voluntary car.

RING AND RIDE TIMETABLE

Monday Chagford, Drewsteignton, Spreyton, South Zeal, Sticklepath

Tuesday Winkleigh, Broadwoodkelly, Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay,
North Tawton

Wednesday Bridestowe, Lewdown, Sourton

Thursday Hatherleigh, Highampton, Northlew, Folly Gate

Friday Bratton Clovelly, Beaworthy, Halwill

WINKLEIGH CHURCH – DUCK DINNER DRAW

Once again the Church Council would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes for the annual 'Duck Dinner Draw'. The duck dinner itself, donated and put together by Simon and Sonia Hodgson, was a veritable feast including an oven ready duck, potatoes and 5 types of fresh vegetables plus strawberries and cream, apples, 'After Eights', Pringles and wine.

Winkleigh Pine were again very generous in their donation of a beautiful pine TV unit and other prizes were donated by The Lymington Arms, Gordon Rogers, James the fishmonger, Londis, D&S, Rangemoors, Winkleigh Cider, Changes, Barry the Butcher and West Ridge Vets. The Post Office donated some stationery involved in the administration of the draw.

Thanks are also due to everyone who helped in any way with the Church Fete and teas and also the Harvest Lunch in October. Winkleigh Cider again kindly donated the cider at the lunch.

It takes more than £30,000 per year to keep the Church open for all the usual services, baptisms, weddings, funerals and special events like the Fair Service and Remembrance Day. This year we have had extra expense with the broken pinnacle, which cost about £10,000 to repair. Thanks to everyone who has donated money for this specific cause.

The Church clock and bells were sadly silenced for a time while the repairs were underway and many people have said how they missed the familiar sound of the clock striking. Our bells are rung regularly by a team of 9 people who all live in the village and as well as being rung for services, they are rung to celebrate national events and at times of national mourning.

Once again we would like to invite people to join our band of ringers and learn the ancient art of Devon Call Change ringing. Please contact Andrew or Sue Ware on 83526 if you are interested.

Charity Cycle Ride Raises £9,550

In August 6 friends from Winkleigh completed a marathon cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in 7½ days. The group consisted of Zena Mills, Lucy Harris, Lisa Pidgeon, Nicky Brock, Alison Reed and Rowan Weston who cycled a total of 904 miles, averaging over 120 miles each day. This was no mean feat when you consider that 8 months ago most of us had never cycled more than a few miles on the Tarka Trail. All those early morning rides setting off from wet, wild, windy Winkleigh set us in good stead for the trip. Some of the training rides were an adventure beyond belief, what with exploding tyres, numerous punctures and accidents. The inspiration for the ride was Zena who had cycled End2End for the Wooden Spoon Charity in 2010 and was keen to take on another challenge. Commenting on her 2010 ride, Zena said, "I really enjoyed the challenge last time and, despite very long days in the saddle and not being particularly fast on a bike, I still felt fairly fresh when I got to Land's End. It's a case of the hare and the tortoise because I felt I could still have kept cycling."

When Zena mentioned this to her husband, Ian, he jokingly said perhaps next time she should cycle up to John O'Groats instead of getting on a plane, train or driving. She took him at his word and set about recruiting some friends to join her on the first leg to John O'Groats. Although the rest of us had very little cycling experience, we were keen for a challenge and so decided to join Zena on the trip north. After several months of training, we set off from Land's End on Friday 10th August. We arrived at John O'Groats on the 17th August after cycling 904 miles and enduring considerable bad luck, illness, injury and mechanical failure, where Zena's spare bike came in very handy on a couple of occasions. We cycled 120-130 miles a day and often didn't get in until 9pm. It was the experience of a lifetime for us all and we take our hats off to Zena for turning around the next day and cycling back again, she has unbelievable determination and willpower.

On the 18th August the five 'Winkleigh Wheelers' set off on the long drive home to North Devon, while Zena jumped back on her bike and joined the Wooden Spoon team, being the sole lady of the team, to head for Land's End. The other 'spooners' had travelled from all over the UK to participate in the End2End challenge but needless to say, no-one else arrived by bike. By the time Zena arrived at Land's End on 25th August, she had cycled 1,778 miles in 15 days.

Every year the Wooden Spoon Charity organise the 'End2End', a John O'Groats to Land's End bike ride over 7 days to raise money for disadvantaged children. Many projects within North Devon have benefited directly from the Charity including Pathfield School and The Calvert Trust. Together we have raised approx £5,050 for the North Devon Chemotherapy Appeal and £4,500 for the Wooden Spoon Charity. Our 'adventure' wouldn't have been possible without our fantastic support team, Roger Curtis, Laura Lindley and Lou Banfield. They

coaxed us through the highs and lows, standing at the side of the road in all weathers, cheering us on, providing us with chocolate (always a good idea!) and lying about the remaining mileage for the day. The group were very fortunate to have been sponsored by Function Fitness of Torrington with Hi-Viz Gilets and team hoodies sponsored by Torrington Dental Implant Clinic. We really couldn't have managed this without the support of friends, family and community with their very generous sponsorship. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all. And finally, not to forget, our very patient, neglected but supportive husbands who made a fantastic job of looking after the children!

Zena, Lucy, Alison, Lisa, Nicky and Rowan

Devon Mobile Library Service

Each year Devon Libraries review the Mobile Library timetables to ensure that each village's stop is safe, well-used, and that the vehicle has enough travelling time between stops to reach their borrowers promptly. The Mobile Librarians also consult their borrowers to see how we can tailor the service to the community's needs.

As you will be aware the Mobile Library currently stops in Hollocombe on alternate Thursdays at the Old Church 13.15-13.35., and in Winkleigh on alternate Fridays; at the Four Seasons Village 13.30-14.00; followed by The Square 14.10 - 15.25.

The Mobile Librarian has consulted the borrowers and as a result, from 10th January 2013 we propose, with the agreement of the borrowers, to make the following changes:

We propose to keep the stop duration exactly the same, but to bring the arrival time in Hollocombe forward i.e 12.50 - 13.10. In Winkleigh Four Seasons Village 12.50 - 13.20 and in The Square 13.30 - 14.45.

This will ensure that the Mobile Library arrives promptly and that there is enough time for the borrowers to choose their books.

To ensure that everyone is able to access Devon Libraries, we work closely with the WRVS Home Library Service whose volunteers deliver our books and spoken word CDs to anyone confined to home, or who are no longer physically able to reach a library. If anyone in the village needs this help, please contact me via email pauline.anderson@devon.gov.uk or by telephoning 01392 384315.

Timetables for 2013 will be distributed as soon as possible

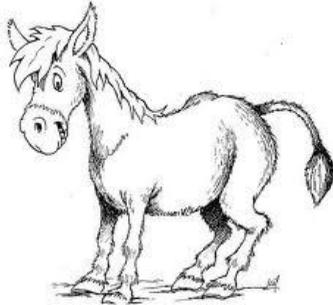
MONDAY SINGERS

Despite looking for someone to play an occasional accompaniment and also some new musical direction which we would be happy to remunerate for the right person, we are still enjoying our sessions.

We have now moved to the small room at the back of the Village Hall to encourage more of you to come and join us. Same day, Mondays, and same time, 7.30pm., every two weeks. Our next meetings up will be 12th & 26th November and 10th & 17th December and we will start the New Year and get together on 7th January 2013!!

For more details and information you can phone Wendy on 680022 or Shelagh on 01805 603347.

You are invited to
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
IN THE BARN
on Thursday 20th December at 7pm
at Beechlea, Berners Cross, Winkleigh



Join us to hear the real Christmas story being told & to sing some Christmas carols

Followed by refreshments

FREE ENTRY.....and wrap up warm!!

For more details contact

Liz on 01837 83916

Winkleigh Women's Institute

We have had a very interesting few months, with exciting speakers on a variety of subjects and a social evening about, what else, but ourselves! Our Lunch club enjoyed delightful meals at Strawberry Fields and at Fiona's. We now look forward to our Christmas meal at Weirmarsh Farm Restaurant.

Many of us spent an enjoyable afternoon at Barnstable Theatre, watching the most fantastic Moscow Ballet performing The Nutcracker. A pre Christmas treat.

The WI is a large organisation with a voice that is listened to, even by the Government. One of the WI's resolutions this year has been, to help farmers get a fair price for their milk. We hope our small group has contributed to this in many different ways. If you see our information that we have displayed in the halls please take time to read them.

We start our new programme next January and we have some interesting subjects including Singing for Fun, Family History and "Lingerie that fits!".

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and do take time to visit our stall at the Christmas Fair.

Pat Cunnington,
Secretary.



Changes

*Ladies & Gents hair salon
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01837 83004

A VISIT TO BROOMHILL SCULPTURE GARDEN, MUDDIFORD, BARNSTAPLE ON 16-8-2012

by Shirley Cowling

What luck! In this unsettled summer, to choose a day of sunshine and cloud, no rain, for our visit. A day of friendship and good food. When we shared food - arguably the best of all pleasures - we had enjoyed, in the statue garden, old and new, pretty and witty, modern and tribal, coloured plastic, stone, wood, mineral and modern polymers, imitating these natural resources. Throughout the morning our trios and couples ebbed and flowed, discussing, admiring, rejecting. Wondering what we would most like to see in our own gardens.

Now, towards the end of our visit, as we tire, and see the clouds beginning to gather again, we go downhill to search out the old tennis court and the installation we have been told by Google, and many times since, not to miss. The installation by Michael Roles. Change and decay. How many decades could it be since balls pinged over a central net, and laughter filled the familiar rectangle? There was not a sign of a white line, nor of sunken holes for posts where a net could have been erected. There was no laughter in the old tennis court now, and the encroachment of foliage was relentless.

Within this space, for the Millennium, Michael Roles created a stark message for all our tomorrows. This was reinforced by the gradual deterioration of the exhibit itself. Standing life-sized among today's human beings we encountered men, at least one woman, and a child, in 20th century clothing, in a tableau of violence. At the entrance one man sprayed a millennium message in red on a wall, while another watched. These two were unthreatening, and I studied them wondering how they were made. The chicken wire armatures were showing through the rotting clothing. This had been sprayed, to make it endure as long as it has. It had somehow been metallised. It was stiff to the touch (DO NOT TOUCH THE EXHIBITS!) and must already have stood through rain, wind, snow and many winters.

As we walked on we encountered ever more disturbing figures. A man in a gas-mask leaned backwards in an arc, about to propel the Molotov cocktail in his right hand at an enemy, or line of policemen, perhaps. Near the fence a body on the ground was scarcely visible through the ivy and other weeds swarming all over it. A figure with a light woman's pump showing beneath the torn trouser-leg represented the female freedom fighter - or terrorist. Her nearest companion in the niche, was even more eroded.

Most sinister of all, was the sentry hut at the very back of the court. A young man sat inside the hut with one leg missing below the knee. Beside him a stocky, healthy lad of 7-9 years, perhaps his son, had a belt of grenades, or even suicide explosives, strapped around his waist. Mis-educating the young into violence seems one of the most evil things that adult human beings are now doing on this beautiful life-sustaining planet of ours. But what do I know about it? I have had peaceful years since 1945, passed in the privilege of the never-hungry, culture-rich English Middle Class. The conflicts were always somewhere else. No longer in Western Europe. I

would feel very different if I had brought up my children in a Palestinian camp, with no hope of a better future. Or if my father had come home from “our” war with one of his legs missing, his soul embittered, his love of competitive sport finished, his ability to make a living for his family in tatters. Would I have caught the contagious disease of hatred for the regime that had sent him to war? Or for the enemy who had sent aeroplanes to London, and killed 30,000 helpless civilians, including three of our own family? But he did come home, undamaged, physically. Today’s living people all seem very pensive as they leave the tennis court and descend to the Car Park. I wielded my camera freely all the morning - but cannot take a picture of the sentry box. I shall not need a picture to remind me of its message.

Diamond Jubilee Community Tree Pack

The free Community Tree Pack has arrived, courtesy of The Woodland Trust and as part of the nationwide celebration of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. They need to be planted fairly soon and in places where we can all appreciate them. If you have any good ideas please let me know. Hopefully, some will go on the Winkleigh Playing Field site and we have one oak from the Royal collection at Sandringham which may deserve its' own space!

Please contact **Catherine Knight** on 01837 83205 or catherineknight@hotmail.com. Thank you.

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Winkleigh Sports Centre

The position of the Sports Centre within the community and surrounding areas has been prominent in the early deliberations of the group which has been set up to bring forward a new “Parish Plan”. This is largely because of the heavy usage to which the “Play Area” is put throughout the year and the swings, which got a mention in the last issue, are without doubt badly missed by many. This does at least give the opportunity to use these pages to explain that the Centre is not, as many obviously believe, a council or local authority facility. “Winkleigh War Memorial Recreation Field”, to use the full title, is in fact a registered charity and as such is dependent on the efforts of a small number of volunteers for its continued existence and the provision of facilities which are available to the local community and a wide surrounding area.

Funding for play equipment is dependent on those volunteers spending the time and energy to apply to whatever sources of funding are available, including various lottery based outlets, at any particular time. It will no doubt surprise many that, some 5 years or so ago, sums in excess of £40,000 were recovered and spent on this area but in the current financial climate it has become increasingly difficult to secure such funding on a regular basis. Anyway the present situation is that a start has been made on obtaining around £10,000 to enable the replacement of the swings and replies are currently awaited to other bid applications.

Perhaps this is a good opportunity to ask if there are any readers looking to get involved in local activities who may be interested in giving up some of their time for the Sports Centre?

At the meeting of the Recreation Field Committee on 15th October it was decided that an open day would be planned for around the Easter break in April 2013, this being to offer the community the opportunity to bring forward ideas for new activities within the Centre, or explore involvement in existing activities. This is particularly relevant to the bowling green situation which was mentioned in the last issue and is ongoing and will also fit in with some areas of the Parish Plan working group.

There will be separate reports for some of the groups at the centre so this report will conclude with the usual invitation for comment or offers of help.

Brian Holland **01837 83521** (briwyc@hotmail.co.uk)

Winkleigh Parish Tidy Group

The Winkleigh parish Tidy Group are still active and always looking for new members. So far, we have helped to clear and tidy the cemetery which had got into a bit of a mess, cleaned signs all around the village, cleared Shute Lane so that people can walk up and down it comfortably, cut back the brambles from the roof of the school bus shelter in Exeter Road and cleared out a few blocked roadside gullies which were either causing or about to cause problems with excess water on the highway.

We don't spend hours doing it, just an hour or so every other week, so please come and join us if you can. Have you noticed any jobs which need doing and would be right up our street? If you appreciate a tidy village which functions as it should then we all need to do something to help that to happen. Our next get-together will be on Sunday 16th December at 3pm in the square so please join us if you can!

Please contact Catherine Knight on 01837 83205 or catherineknight@hotmail.com.

 <p>Amy Pincombe FHP Dip Foot Health Practitioner Mobile Service 07712 148038</p> <h3>Caring for your feet</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Corns•Callus•Cracked Heels•Fungal infections•Ingrown toe nails•Manicures & pedicures•Verrucae	  <h2>JOHN COCKRAM CHRISTMAS TREES</h2>  <p>Norway Spruce Nordman Fir Fraser Fir</p> <p>FRESHLY CUT</p> <h3>PICK YOUR OWN TREE</h3> <p>AT CHULMLEIGH HILL PLANTATION</p> <p>Sat 1st & Sun 2nd December Sat 8th & Sun 9th December Sat 15th & Sun 16th December -9.30am to 3.30pm - -Peninnis, CHAWLEIGH</p> <p>Tel: 01769 580129 or 07724 079733 johncockram@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Member of The British Christmas Tree Growers Association</p>  
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Plastics Collection - Important Changes

Winkleigh has recycled 1,748 kgs of mixed household plastics over the past year, saving them from landfill. You have shown there is a very real desire within the village to increase our recycling activities. Thank you!

But because the plastics collection has been so successful we need to make some changes to keep it running smoothly. From January the crates will be removed and we'll be following Sustainable Crediton's mode' of a supervised monthly collection. Our collection will be on the first Saturday of every month.

Please bring your plastics to the
Community Centre Car Park
On Sat 5th January 2013
9.00 -11.00 am

By moving to a monthly collection the volunteers can:

- Help you by advising 'what goes where' (good sorting makes the plastics more valuable to PWS, our recyclers, who collect it for free).
- Ensure that all the plastics are clean.
- Screen out inappropriate items like dirty plastic.
- Accept more things for recycling, eg household paper, cardboard (recycle it rather than sending it to compost!) and tins. Of course, you still have your kerbside collection, but not everyone gets a green wheelie bin.

PWS offers this service to us completely free of charge, as they are committed to encouraging recycling within communities. However, there is a cost implication for them, so it is very helpful if some of the more valuable items, e.g. plastic milk bottles and aluminium cans, are included.

Please continue with your support, so that Winkleigh can significantly increase its recycling rates.

Remember, if you don't use it, you will definitely lose it!

Any queries please to Philippa Lausen 01837 83209,
Marie-Claude, Maggie Watson and Wendy Mondy

Okehampton U3A

Okehampton U3A's monthly meeting will be at 2.30 on Thursday, 31st. January, at the Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton, with refreshments and a Quiz.

(Contacts, **M.Hudson** 01837 52488, and **S.Johnson** 01837 54391)

Winkleigh & District Garden Club

We have a great 2013 programme which consists of monthly meetings with a range of speakers and a number of visits.

The club meets in the evening of the third Tuesday in the month in Winkleigh Village Hall and normally start at 7.15pm.

January 15th "**Pest Control**" Dave Archer

February 19th "**Hestercombe Gardens**" David Usher

March 19th "**Lavender**" Mr and Mrs Herd from Cheristow Lavender Farm

In addition to the 'topic' of the meeting, such as a visiting speaker, meetings also include a raffle, tea/coffee and biscuits, giving time for members to socialise, and we encourage members to bring in plants to sell/swap.

New members and visitors are always welcome to our meetings and under 16's can join the club without a membership fee. A nominal charge of £1 per meeting is made to visitors which is put towards the cost of the meeting and includes refreshments.

For further information contact our Chairman Mr Ed Porter on 01805 – 804838 or

Beverley Cook on e-mail cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk



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District Councillor's Report

“Localism” gives local authorities freedom to do what central government wants

When the Coalition Government first talked about the need for “Localism” I – like many others – believed that this was a good idea. After all the Localism bill which became an Act last November promised to give people more power over development in their communities. Instead the Localism Act could as well have been called the Centralism Act.

Let me give you two recent examples. The first involves a very topical issue in Torrridge – wind turbine proposals. The planning system (which came into effect in 1947) introduced controls over the development and use of private land ***in the public interest***. The power to take planning decisions rests with the local authority, which is a democratically elected body. However, in taking decisions the local authority can only take into account ***planning considerations***, which have been defined and tested through a series of legal cases over the past 65 years. If a lot of people object to a proposal, decision takers can only take into account ***legitimate planning issues***.

Just because a lot of people are opposed to a scheme doesn't mean that the planners – or Plans Committee - have to take their views into account. Indeed – as we have seen recently – the Planning Inspectorate often quickly overturns the local authority's refusal and can also award costs to the applicant if he/she believes that the local authority hasn't based its refusal solely on legitimate planning issues. Is it any wonder that so many people feel frustrated that they are not being listened to?

Another example is the reform of council tax benefit (CTB). The government will localise support for council tax from 2013/14. CTB will be abolished and local authorities must design their own schemes for rebating council tax to low-income families. It is stated that the objectives are “to allow support to vary across the country to reflect local priorities, and to strengthen local authorities incentives to promote employment and growth.” These are laudable aims but the reality is that this is nonsense. Councils have to achieve savings of 10% of CTB but because pensioners are exempt from these changes, Torrridge will have to find savings of around 25% from working age claimants. The notion that claimants hit by cuts will somehow be incentivised to find jobs is absurd.

And so it goes on. The Growth and Infrastructure Bill, due to have its second reading shortly, proposes a further shift of resources from locally elected bodies to the Planning Inspectorate – an unelected quango. Is it any wonder that people are increasingly turned off politics and have little or no faith in any political party?

David Lausen,

01837 83209

www.davidlausen.org.uk

WINKLEIGH SNOOKER CLUB

After our recent AGM, another and possibly significant year starts. 2013 could well be the 75th year of our village snooker club. I say 'could be' because from what I can determine the club was first started in 1938 being accommodated in the then new reading rooms behind the school. As has been mentioned previously, the club will be shortly commissioning a website which, it is hoped, will include a pocketed history of the club. So if there is anybody who has any memories or anecdotes of the club in its early days we would like to hear from you. As to the present, the club has managed to increase its profile with the help of some intuitive advertising and now is becoming known as the place to play and learn to play snooker. Antony Tanner's junior section has a good compliment of youngsters at present including, by all accounts, some budding 'Ronnie O'Sullivan's' and 'Ronnie O'Sullivanesses'. There is even a suggestion that a match between the youngsters and the seniors would be an appropriate start to our 75th year. No prizes for guessing who will be hell-bent on beating who if that happens.

The snooker team is under new management. James Anstey, a product of the youth setup, has taken charge and has introduced a fresh impetus by successfully arguing for, and getting, the reintroduction of handicaps for league matches. Handicapping is based on individual performances, and is reviewed every six weeks, thus giving each player a fair chance to compete, or as one wag was reported to have said 'This means that the 'experts' will have to give us mere mortals a start'. To date the team has played four matches this year, winning two and losing two. Early days yet, and if previous years performances are anything to go by, as the nights get longer so the snooker gets better. Watch this space.

Dave Ferguson 01837 83660 dave.ferguson@tiscali.co.uk



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ACE Archaeology Club

ACE has just held its 16th AGM - over 25% of our membership attended which is not bad for any organisation. After the business we enjoyed a bring and share lunch followed by a talk presented by Sue and Martin Watts; '**On querns and millstones, c.700-1700**'. ACE was very lucky to have such wonderful speakers, both experts in their field; Martin on water power in Devon and Milling and Sue on querns. Sue and Martin brought some of the tools used for dressing millstones and bits of quern and millstone for us to handle to see the different types of stone used. This will be very useful for ACE in the future, recognising large chunks of millstone is relatively easy but when the quern or millstone has been broken into small bits, it is a different matter, so the recognition of the types of stone used is very important. We finished the day with a cream tea, ACE certainly know how to expand the waistline!

Some of these fat reserves will be burnt off soon, as we will be clearing scrub at Moistown in preparation for the very last part of the earthwork survey. All of the earthwork survey drawings that we have done so far (30 in all), are now scanned onto the computer and await "inking in", which will make one plan of the whole site, the small area left to survey can be added later.

The dowsing in archaeology project at Moistown has proved to be most interesting, combining the dowsing and geophysics results has highlighted the need for an excavation for the verification of our findings. We plan to excavate sometime next year, choosing when will be difficult, who knows what the weather will throw at us then, I just hope that we get a summer! I have just finished writing the interim report of the project, which details all of the results so far, this will be posted on the ACE website very soon in a downloadable PDF format.

If you would like to know more about ACE or just fancy a day in the fresh air with some exercise, helping to clear scrub at Moistown, please do get in touch.

Our website can be found at www.acearch.org.uk or contact Janet Daynes at ace@acearch.org.uk or on 01769 520326

Chi Gong

The Chi Gong classes continue with enthusiasm but there is always room for more. So if you have aches & pains or are just generally feeling low after this dreary year come & try a class.

Mondays at the Community Centre small room 5.00 – 6.00 pm.

Thursdays at the Village Hall 10.30 – 11.30 am.

Tai Chi also continues after the Thursday morning Chi Gong class and we would love more beginners. So if you would like to know more about it give Sue Williams a ring on 01837 83817.

Winkleigh Patient Participation Group (PPG) & Wallingbrook Health Group (WHG)

The first **PPG AGM** was held on Mon 29th Oct in Chulmleigh, where Chair, Maggie Samuel introduced the aims of the **PPG** and reported on developments. Karen Acott of WHG gave a presentation on **'The New Health Bill'** outlining NHS reform, the new GP-led Clinical Commissioning Groups and challenges in delivering rural healthcare as GP's face increasing pressure to 'field' patients before/after hospital admissions, 'ration' healthcare and meet the demands of an aging population.

An **'Appointment System Review/Workshop'** in August highlighted: the lack of appt's, waiting times, getting usual GP at preferred location and travel for Winkleigh patients to alternative sites. Pre-bookable appt's have been reduced from 6 to 2 weeks to avoid 'blocking' and an additional GP/Nurse session introduced to help alleviate delays. However, we continue to monitor the situation.

Issues raised by Winkleigh PPG on Services & Access:

Chiropody/Footcare is only funded by the NHS for 'at risk' groups, eg diabetics, via referrals. Chiropody at WHG is provided by NDH (North Devon Healthcare Trust) as an 'outreach' service requiring specialist equipment and infection control, so is not appropriate at Winkleigh. Footcare outside the 'at risk' groups, unfortunately has to be accessed privately.

Physiotherapy is again provided by NDH, accessed at Chulmleigh because of the enhanced facilities there. Patients can be referred or self-refer, but waiting lists across the region are similar and long. If patients feel their need is urgent, they should make complain to WHG.

Diabetic Eye Screening like mammography is commissioned by RDE (Royal Devon & Exeter); the procedure cannot be carried out at Winkleigh, as again it requires special equipment and a dark room.

Transport: Volunteers for a local car service are needed by charities (eg Oke & District Community Transport), to help patients get to/from GP and hospital appt's. See surgery Notice Board for info or if you can help.

Suggestions can be made via the new 'Suggestion Box', installed in the surgery, but if your issue is personal or warrants a complaint and response by WHG, please write to Karen Acott or ask the surgery for a Complaint Form.

News for
Winkleigh:

Additional GP & Nurse Practitioner appt sessions on Weds afternoons (from 17th Oct)

Suggestion Box now in Waiting Room - forms supplied (can be anonymous)

PPG Notice Board, info and mtg minutes in folder in Waiting Room

Quarterly WHG newsletters to be available at Winkleigh Post Office in future

Virtual PPG available online (Google Wallingbrook Health Group and follow links to PPG)

SMS text messaging service (for appt reminders etc) now available - forms in surgery

Contact members of Winkleigh PPG via WHG
01769 580295

Gail Flockhart

Amateur Musician?

Well, we'd like to tune in to those with a hankering to play.

Ah – the nights draw in... gentle notes drift in the air... or perhaps it's sawing?

Yes indeed, it's that time of year again when ahead looms one of the 'Bondleigh Players' main gigs of the year. Dust will be blown off the cases, rosin applied diligently to bows, strings cranked up to the hum of the tuner, snapped (sigh) spliced and re-cranked. Yep, we'll be up there later next month, possibly fortified by a glass or two but we'll be happily bashing out a few carols at St James church. OK, I will readily admit, it's really our only regular gig other than the alfresco one we do around John's merrily bedecked Xmas tree. Come to think of it, there is also the odd occasion when the 'Players' will stumble magnificently through a few bars of various "guess this tune" numbers for summer village get-togethers. Mostly... the tunes do get guessed with very few of the captive audience managing to escape sobbing into the margins with ears clasped in despair – so that's a blessing. Don't get me wrong. We enjoy these brief, somewhat shambolic, appearances however... we also share a bit of a daydream.

Summing up that daydream. Whilst we want to maintain our 'for fun' approach to playing, we'd all quite like to do a better job at playing together (performing in the same key would be a start); be part of something more organized - ideally under the leadership of a slightly masochistic musical director; play alongside more like-minded musicians (I use the term musician loosely from a Bondleigh perspective); fill out the sound through a greater orchestral mix of instruments; basically just enjoy getting together on a more regular basis throughout the year.

So, are you a local musician (read music/play-by-ear) or maybe a kindly musical director/conductor who could help with the daydream? If you'd like to get involved... please, please, please do contact either:

Tamsin: tamsinwoodland@hotmail.com
Tel 01837 82334 or

myself: paul.cherrett@btinternet.com
Tel 01837 82980

At this point in time, other than keeping it local, I haven't much of a clue about how we might pull it all together. However, for now, let's just play it 'one bar at a time' until we have taken soundings and thus noted the level of interest. I shall report in due course. Thanks for mulling over this invite.

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Come on down: Help with it or lose it!

Community buildings, the Fair and more

Our buildings – The Community Centre, Sports Centre and Village Hall

What makes Winkleigh brilliant is what goes on here. We owe a lot to the people who make things happen ... and those who join in!

And don't forget: the buildings available for activities in Winkleigh are all run by **volunteers**. They are not run or funded by any public authorities. What's more, the rates you are charged per hour probably barely cover the day to day running. Each volunteer group that runs them works hard to put on fund raising events which subsidise the running costs or help with improvements. Many hours of free time are put in – taking bookings, keeping accounts, issuing invoices, collecting hire charges, managing and carrying out improvements, seeking quotes, dealing with public inspectors and regulations, and arranging waste disposal, etc – you name it!

And a very great deal of the work is done by a very hard-working few! We owe them a great deal!

Can you help? – we need all sorts of skills – if you got a few spare hours or time on your hands, come on down. You can find the contact names for each building on the Winkleigh website winkleighonline or on their noticeboards.

The Christmas Market and Lights, the Summer Fair

For the past 2 years, the Fair Committee have been warning us all that they were going to stand down. They have run not only the Fair Week in the summer but the Christmas lights and Christmas Market, most of them for the *last 8 years!* ***This autumn, they really have stood down!*** and there is a real probability that the Christmas lights will not go on this year? Is this the end. There is a rumour of a scaled-down rescue for the Square at Christmas ***but the Fair – and all the planning and fund raising done to make it possible – should have started by now and it has not!*** *Will there be no Fair next summer?*

Help my neighbour

Winkleigh has always struck me as a community with a tradition of helping our neighbours. Elsewhere in this issue, there is a mention of a volunteer effort to make Winkleigh a better place for dementia sufferers and their carers. Winkleigh has been chosen for a pilot scheme for this. In the coming years, there will be a growing need for helping our neighbours: ever more of us are living longer – the number of us doing so is accelerating; the hospitals and care system are already stretched to breaking point. We will not be able to avoid the need for far more people to be supported in living at home. And that is often better anyway. Paying carers to do everything will no longer be affordable. Being a good neighbour adds to quality of life for us as well as for a neighbour.

A Wellwisher

A Governor`s Tales - 2

At the time of writing, following the half-term break, our School is still awaiting the visit of OFSTED. This is of course a time of considerable change with the School having a new head, Vicky Fenemore in place from the start of the new School year. We have also seen the departure of two of our longest standing Governors, Margaret Miller and the most recent Chair, Susan Gill both of whom served their time with considerable distinction and the required degree of self-sacrifice in the interests of the School. With a number of new faces now serving on the governing body I think it would be true to say we are now facing a changing future with some trepidation but a determination to continue the upward trend in improvement levels.

On the funding front Friends of Winkleigh School has been frantically busy with events in recent months and the latest initiative has been the formation of a "100 Club" lottery, the first month of operation being October for which 64 people had signed up with payments of £12 for the full year. If you have not yet joined in then membership is still available and will be on-going with the fee being reduced by £1 per month as time goes on, to fit the requirement of the 12 month timetable. With regard to the events mentioned in the last report, we have enjoyed a fantastic "Casino Night" (thanks very much to the "Seven Stars" for hosting this) which raised £320, the "Duck Race" was a great success despite the original delay and raised around £500 (a good increase on last year), the "Bacon and Egg" morning was again very well received by all those taking part and contributed £307. The real spectacular was of course the "Fireworks Evening" at the sports centre for which the provisional figure to date is around £450. The "Auction of Promises" event on 24th November will have happened as you read. The "easyfundraising" on-line shopping website contribution is now standing at around £230 (dedicated link easyfundraising.org.uk/fowinkleigh, if you are not yet involved). We are currently awaiting feedback on valuation for a batch of mobile phones and cartridges which were collected recently.

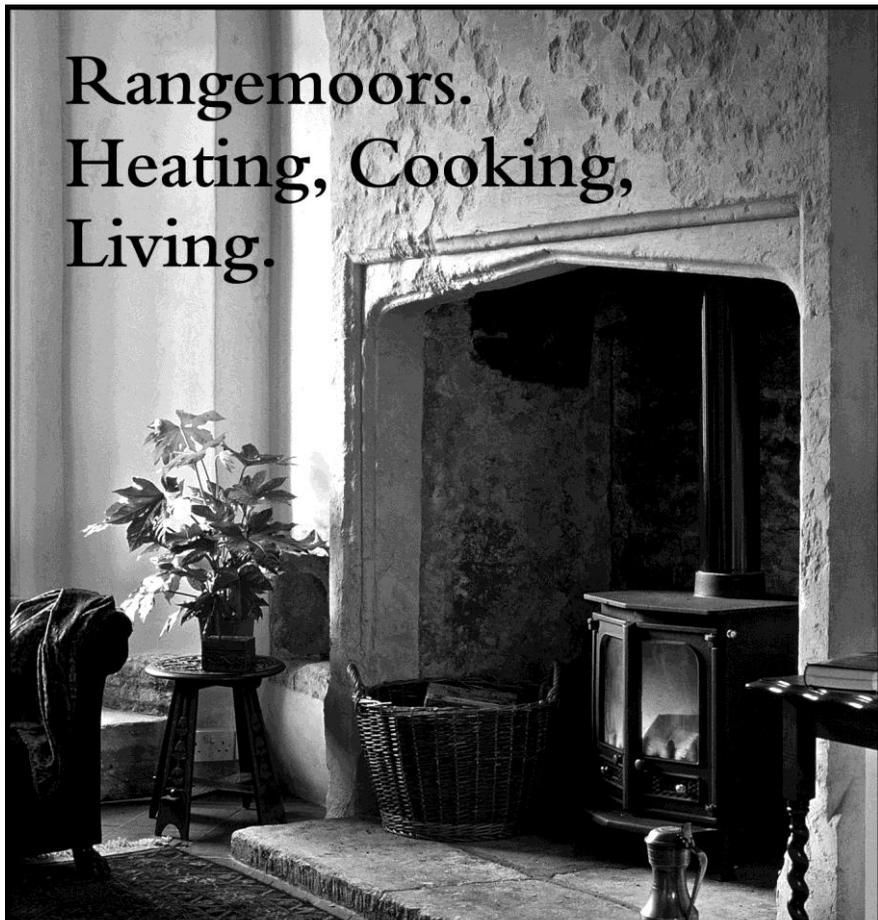
Allocation of these funds within the School budget is on-going. Recently £532 went towards swimming lessons and new chairs have been purchased for the KS2 library.

The FOWS AGM has been set for 28th November 19.00 at the school, which may not catch the date that some receive this D.W. edition but it will be in School newsletters and posters.

It remains to thank all those in the community who have helped by joining in our efforts and particularly those businesses and traders who have sponsored the fireworks and come to the fore on a day to day basis in helping out.

Brian Holland 01837 83521 (briwyc@hotmail.co.uk)

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Bluecoat Children's Centre

Hi everyone, hope you are all well and looking forward to the arrival of Father Christmas. Talking of Christmas, this year we are going to be holding a joint under-5's Christmas party with Bluecoat Children's Centre, Winkleigh Pre School, Winkleigh Toddlers and childminders at the Sports Hall on Thursday 20th December, 9.30-11.30 am.

This will be the first time we have run this event jointly and I am sure it will be a huge success and a great way for the children and parents to get together to celebrate this special time.

Trudi, Pre School leader, will co-ordinate from her side, telephone number (01837 680007), families that attend Bluecoat Playing and Learning on a Thursday will hear from me (01805 625830), as will Toddlers from Margaret, telephone number (01837 83447).

Oh! And I must make sure Father Christmas has the date and time in his diary!

The current Playing and Learning programme has just finished on a Thursday and I hope families have found the sessions interesting and the Magic Moment books a lovely way to record special events with your children. I will continue to take photographs and create observation through the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, the book is yours to add to and treasure as a useful and creative way to record your child's early years.

In the New Year, Thursday's may take a slightly different aspect as we will be aiming to develop volunteers to help set up and run sessions with the support of Bluecoat's. Volunteers, if they wished, could take on a training programme through the Children's Centre and gain a childcare qualification, free of charge. A great way to gain a recognised qualification for the future, especially as there may well be a need for paid qualified early years workers in the future. More details to follow this great opportunity in the new year.

Please look on our webpage or ask me on a Thursday about our new Spring programme at the centre. Apart from all the favourites such as Bounce & Rhyme, Wiggle Bees, Stay & Play we are going to be running some exciting, new to Torrington, parenting programmes so please have a look or speak to me on Thursday.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all.

Brenda Green

Outdoor Bowls Club

For all the people that may not know about the efforts being made by a group of volunteers to reinvent the above Bowls Club, we had a very successful day on the 2nd September 2012 with many interested people who would like the Bowls Club to be more user friendly and family orientated.

This would mean people could come along and play a game of bowls - perhaps on a Sunday- without the pressure of having to join a structured club. There are also other very talented bowlers in the village who could use the green for their practice rather than drive to clubs which are a long way away.

We did intend to continue with more taster/fun days but, unfortunately, were beaten by appalling weather. We will, however, be spending the winter improving the green and area and are looking forward to starting some more taster days in the spring when the sun will be shining.

If anybody would like to register their interest and be contacted about future taster days please ring **Mike Wilson** on 01769 520605

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And finally

Once again, Christmas approaches and the end of yet another year. It has seen the Met Office suffer a few more “near-Michael Fish moments” and farmers plans put into confusion – yet again. It has also spoilt the “*vendange*” at our local vineyard. We wish then better luck next year!

This is the point at which your editor must thank the Delivery Teams, without whom your DW would not arrive! **However, next year we will have two delivery rounds with no regular deliverers. These are Westcots Drive and “Village North East (out to Stable Green and Ashley Green).** One is feasible on foot while the other would require transport. If anyone would like to take on one of these “not too onerous” jobs every 3 months, please contact Alan at 01837 680145.

In your brand new, shiny diaries, please note that articles and adverts should be submitted before Monday, 11th February to ensure they get into the Spring Issue.

Meanwhile, the editorial team takes the opportunity to wish all our readers

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Treasurer	Alan Mulcahy	01837 680145
Minutes Secretary	Pat Cunnington	01837 83487
Committee Members	Margaret Miller	01837 83398
	Peter Monkcom	01837 83452
	Ralph Northcott	01837 83610

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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