

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh



Edition 53

Spring 2015

Cover sponsored by

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The Journal of the Winkleigh Society

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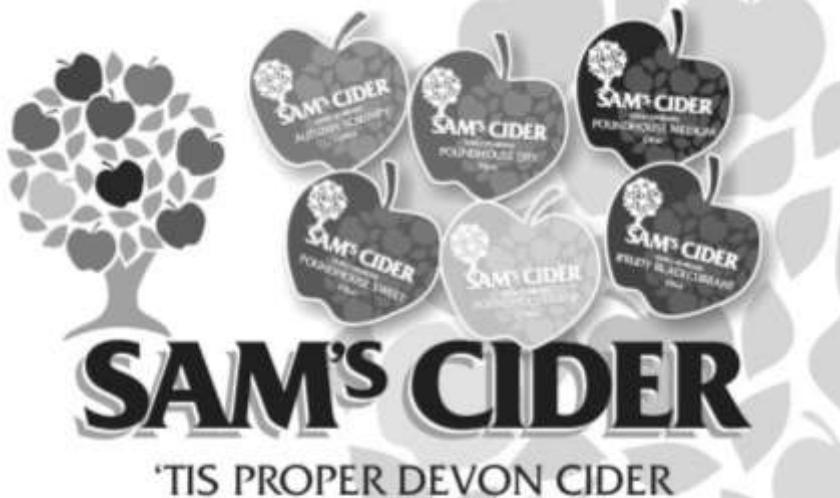
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Winkleigh - A Great Village – Let's Make It Even Better

Ask not what Winkleigh can do for you, but what you can do for Winkleigh.
(JFK, adapted)

The main purpose of the Winkleigh Society is to be there as an organisation to speak for Winkleigh when needed, as well as co-ordinate some activities which act to maintain the community. This means that in the absence of a major reason for the Society to speak out, some years will be routine, and 2014 was one of these. There are some important achievements, however.

The website has been debugged, thanks to some technical wizardry emanating from India, and the next stage is for all the societies to make full use of it. There remains a problem here, which is that one of the top gripes from local organisations is the lack of coordinating of the dates of events. However, by no means all organisations either put their events on the website themselves, or send them to us to do it. The remedy is in your hands.

Another answer to that problem is the new notice-board on the side of the Post Office. The Community Plan wished onto the Winkleigh Society the role of making some coordination between the three venues, Village Hall, Sports Hall and Community Centre, and Alan Jacobs now regularly chairs meetings of all three. One result has been the joint notice board, which the Society is happy to sponsor.

The money in the Society's pockets comes from *Distinctly Winkleigh* which, while freely distributed to all, does carry advertising which pays for the publication with a bit over for other Society activities. Like any publication, it needs refreshing from time to time and the current editor, Alan Mulcahy, is now anxious to pass on the load to someone new. Before long he is going to say, 'OK, that's the last issue', and unless someone steps up to the crease, then it will be.

After a year's absence, we did get the Calendar out on time this year. Last time we had complaints that the photography was not good enough, so we now have some superb images only for people to complain that there is less space to write. Lots of hard work goes into producing the calendar. However, the team is always happy to welcome fresh ideas and input.

Finally the Winkleigh Society needs new blood, and not only for the Calendar and *Distinctly Winkleigh*. We are very grateful to Steven Leahy and Philip Griffiths putting their names forward, as we are losing David and Philippa Lausen, and I also am stepping down as Chairman. But the age distribution and gender balance of the committee is not ideal. Please could we have a few hands tentatively raised from people who would lower our average age, and/or correct the male dominance? Your village needs you!

Peter Howard

Apart from listing the Church services I didn't say much about Christmas in the Winter Edition so I thought that I'd do it now. Too Late? Not really because Easter will not be that far away when you read this (April 5th is Easter Sunday) and the two are related.

What does Christmas tell us? It tells us that the baby whose birth we celebrate is none other than the Son of God. And that is the bit that is important to remember when it comes to Easter. When we look at Jesus hanging on the Cross on Good Friday, when we see him rise from the dead on Easter Day we know that this is the Son of God who has done all of this. Indeed no-one else could have done that — no-one else could have died for our sins and rose again to give us new life.

These are the extraordinary events that the Church celebrates week by week. But for how long can we go on doing this? As people we can do this indefinitely. In the building that we have, who knows? What we do know is that we need around about £600 per week (yes, per week) just to keep the building open and run the services that we do and it is becoming harder and harder to raise that sort of money. So it could mean that in the future it might not be available for baptisms, weddings and funerals or for any services at all — unless we have the money to do it, which is why we need your support when we come to fund raising. Those who attend Church cannot give that sort of money from their own pockets and the Church is there for everyone in the village either to attend regularly or for those important events in life.

Meanwhile back to Easter, or rather the lead up to it which we call Lent and which will be underway by the time you read this, though it will not be too late to join us on Thursday evenings for our Lent Address and Compline at 7.00 p.m. Full details can be found in our Parish Bulletin (free of charge in the Church or Post Office).

Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter has many important services the main ones of which are on Palm Sunday (29th March) when we process with a donkey, Maundy Thursday when we remember the Last Supper (7.30 p.m.), Good Friday and the Crucifixion (10.00 a.m.), Holy Saturday when we light the Easter Candle and begin the Easter festivities (8.30 p.m.) and Easter Sunday itself when the Sung Eucharist is at 9.30 a.m. Winkleigh School have their Easter service on Monday 23rd March at 2.00 p.m.

We welcome you to join us on any Sunday as well as for these special events.

Community Centre Notes

Work continues on the restoration and improvements to the centre. We are now awaiting the new secondary double glazing for the Main Hall. Some of the stone mullions have suffered over the years, and required raking out and refilling. Once all this has been completed a final paint of the inside windows will take place. Several panes of glass will be replaced at the same time – some have been replaced by Perspex over the years and one or two have cracked. The window improvements should help to retain heat inside the hall. Some of the windows have now been sealed to prevent unwanted draughts. Please do not open any windows in the Main Hall.

Some of the recently replaced ceiling tiles show signs of further water ingress. We had thought that these problems had been solved, but it does mean that more scaffolding and repairs will be needed to repair the roof void vent by the old school bell. Also water has found its way in via some of the roof gulleys, inspections show that repairs have been made over many years, perhaps it is time to “grasp the bullet or bite the nettle” and investigate more radical treatment.

One of the heater timers has been replaced to try to reduce the waste of energy - it was found that the one at the far end of the Main hall was not switching off. It sometimes remained on all night!

All maintenance work is now carried out by two of us, known as the Geriatric Builders, on Monday mornings - the only time that we can work and allow time for paint to dry before user groups start again in the evenings.

Phil Tarry, 01837 83836

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WINKLEIGH

**YOUR PARISH
NEEDS YOU!**

ELECTIONS

Thursday 7 May 2015

Including:

**Parish & Town
Council Elections**

Do you often wonder why **“THEY”** don't tackle
the things you feel need doing in the community?

Well ... now's **“YOUR”** chance!

If you are willing to give up some of your time and are interested in
community issues, then it would be fantastic to see you on our Parish
Council. As a committed Parish Councillor you could make a valuable
contribution to our Winkleigh & Hollocombe communities, so for more
information please contact:

The Parish Clerk on 01837 83981
or email winkleighpc1@btinternet.com

See the NEW Winkleigh Parish Council website at:
<http://www.winkleighpc.org.uk>

Or see election info at:
<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Winkleigh Parish Council
Article 07 from WPC Feb 2015**

The Flower Ladies Easter Lilies – 2015

Each Easter we put lilies in the flower arrangements in the church in memory of loved ones.

Their names are entered into the book of “Remembrance” that will be on display on the table beside the screen pedestal.

We invite you to “**Buy a lily**” this year in memory of “loved ones”. Envelopes for this purpose (with instructions) are placed in the Church, at Changes by kind permission of Valerie Bissett, D & S Supplies by kind permission of Shirley & Steve, and from any of the flower ladies.

Price of lilies £3.00. **The closing date for ordering will be Wednesday 18th March.**

We also invite you to come along to All Saints Church, Winkleigh during Easter week on Tuesday 7th April at 10.30 -12.00, for “Coffee & Cakes” with the flower ladies to view the lilies in the displays.

We are always looking for new arrangers to join us – should you be interested please contact Marcia Butt – (01837 83734) or Linda Millership – (01837 680040).



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Winkleigh Post Office will be **closed** on Thursday 18th March and will re-open on Monday 30th March.

Why?

Post Office Ltd has begun to modernise all its branches and now it is Winkleigh's turn. In order to carry out work needed to the floor and structure of the Post Office and install a new counter and equipment, the Post Office must close for just over a week.

Jan and Sue apologise for the inconvenience they know it will cause but hope that you will join them in celebrating the clean, fresh new look Post Office when they open again on Monday 30th March.

You will still find the same old fashioned and friendly service in the newly re-furbished Winkleigh post office.

Please keep an eye out for notices about the works and the temporary changes to services such as laundry and dry cleaning.

Winkleigh Post Office Not ***just*** a Post Office!

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Toys and stationary
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Travel money
Car Tax
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Cash Withdrawals at the Counter

Open 9-5.30 Mon-Fri
9-1pm Sat

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Winkleigh Womens' Institute

As some of you may remember Winkleigh WI won a Bursary to Denman, the WI Adult Education College. Two members, Mrs Barbara Thorne and Mrs Claire Tricker took up this offer and attended a stained-glass course on the 9th January. This course was tutored by Anna Conti an international stained-glass and mosaic specialist. They had a very intensive 2½ days with lots of standing, cutting glass and soldering the lead which resulted in each of them bringing home a glass panel to hang in a window. Anna Conti will be running a course here in Devon in early May and the venue is the Shorland old Farm web site

<http://www.shorlandoldfarm.co.uk/art-holidays-courses/art-holidays-courses-2015/anna-conti-stained-glass-panels-beginners-intermediates/>

Devon Federation are holding a grand centenary celebration this month on the 27th & 28th (February). The one on the 27th will be in Exeter and on the 28th in Halwill. There has been a Baton passed around Great Britain and it will be in Devon for those 2 days, it is hoped that everyone taking part will be able to hold it!

The Winkleigh WI meet on the first Wednesday of the month (see notice boards for more info) in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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We would like to thank all of the residents of Winkleigh and surrounding areas for their continued support

**Wishing you all a
Happy Easter**

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BACON ROLL TIME AGAIN !

Yes it is that time again when I ask you all to come and have a bacon roll and coffee and a good chat with friends and neighbours.

This will be on Friday March 20th, 9.30-12.00 at The Old Smithy, Exeter Road.

We will have a bring and buy cake stall but don't worry if you can't bake one just come and buy!

This will be the 12th time my fantastic friends have helped me to run this event and each year it has had more relevance to our personal lives. Your support has been amazing and in that time we have raised over £5,000 for Cancer Research.

So come along we have a marvellous morning.

Jan Ovenden

Bales Ash Cattery *under new ownership*

This heat pad is so cosy ... maybe just a little nap..

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Well I'm off outside to watch those birds on the hedgerow

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Bales Ash Cattery, High Bickington, EX37 9BL
Call Debbie or Caro on 01769 560880/561063

LOCAL HEROES

In the last issue of Distinctly Winkleigh, Penny Griffiths asked whether anyone knew who gave the Sports Centre to the village in the 1950s. The background to the Sports' Centre incidentally also reveals a story of real-life heroism in the truest sense of the word.

What is commonly referred to as the Sports' Centre is actually a Charity officially known as the Winkleigh War Memorial Recreation Field and was set up by a Trust Deed dated 9 August 1948. Its first Trustees were Richard Miller Chambers, Esquire of The Elms, Winkleigh; John Melhuish, Schoolmaster; and Reverend John Chudleigh Way of The Vicarage, Winkleigh. They purchased the property at that time known as Great Stick Park for the sum of £1,000 from the following four gentlemen: Ronald Henry Keith Johnson of The Parsonage, Winkleigh, Mortimer Noel Ford and William Spensley Simey both Solicitors in Exeter, and Commander Gordon Charles Steele RN VC of Her Majesty's Ship Worcester.

This latter gentleman is of particular interest to Winkleigh since he won the Victoria Cross and is buried here in the New Cemetery following his death on 4 January 1981 at the age of 89. His award came on 18 August 1919, while serving as a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, at Kronstadt harbour in Russia with the North Russia Relief Force. This action was part of the British intervention in support of Czarist forces in the Russian Revolution.

Lieutenant Steele was second-in-command of Coastal Motor Boat 88 on a raid of the harbour when it was caught in enemy searchlights and once illuminated, enemy gunfire killed the Captain at the helm, whereupon Lt. Steele took over command of the Motor Boat lifting the dead Captain aside from the steering position. He then successfully torpedoed one Russian battleship, and manoeuvred his boat to torpedo a second battleship before escaping out to sea. For this act of outstanding bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

History does not record the source of the £1,000 by which the original purchase was secured.

It may be incidental to the matter, but slightly interesting that the earliest recorded owner of the land (in 1929) was the Right Honourable George Ranken aka Lord Askwith, KCB KC.

Robin Coombes

Former Trustee, WWMRF



Picture submitted by Toni De Faoite

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BINGO

WINKLEIGH VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

EYES DOWN 7.30 PM



CASH PRIZES

OVER 18'S ONLY

HOSTED BY WINKLEIGH FAIR
PROCEEDS TOWARDS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

WALKING THROUGH WINKLEIGH

'NAMES CARRY RESONANCES AND SECRETS.'

Clifford's Way is a lasting memorial to Clifford Short who, as a Parish Councillor, championed this short cut to the Winkleigh Surgery from Exeter Road. He put up a doughy battle to establish this pedestrian route, when the new houses were built on the site of the old Blacksmith's Forge. It wasn't easy, there was heated opposition, and it culminated in a Public Enquiry at the Community Centre.

Clifford Short was convinced of the justice of his cause, as having to trek up and down the very busy Townsend Hill was dangerous, especially for schoolchildren and those visiting the surgery. Winkleigh Primary School and The Playgroup [which was then in the village] were vocal in their support. I can remember Mrs Lynn Baker, who founded Winkleigh Playgroup, leading the four year olds down to school and getting them all to hold on to a rope, so nervous was she of that busy road.



Thirty-five years on it is a familiar and much walked and appreciated part of the village connecting Southernhay to the village.

Clifford's Way sign was made at Appledore Shipyard by a member of Clifford's family. It is kept clean by Mrs Joyce Brock and it is she who lobbied Torridge District Council to provide the lights so it is safe to use the path at night.

Scroll forward another twenty plus years and this time it was Brian Holland and a band of mothers and children, who waged a lengthy and determined struggle to get pedestrian access from Elms Meadow Estate to the village.

Brian penned many letters to Redrow (the developers), Devon County Council and Devon Highways as the argument raged over whose responsibility it was and, crucially, who would pay for it. The emotional arguments about how being forced into cars necessarily detached the Elms Meadow residents from the village, made no impression .

Exasperated by the impasse, Brian and supporters contacted The North Devon Journal and were photographed on the busy by-pass, their only route out of the estate. The M.P. Geoffrey Cox was alerted and he, too, became involved.

It took many months and dozens of letters, but eventually the pedestrian route was built. It is not named, perhaps it should be. Now walkers and cyclists of Elms Meadow are connected to the village . And it is only by being connected that a sense of attachment and local pride can be fostered.

The stories about these pedestrian routes illustrate how determined, public-spirited villagers can re-shape and enhance our village landscape. It is the small details of the name of a path that sparks the telling.

While gathering this story, Clifford's widow, Mollie Short, was fondly spoken about. Recently deceased, she was a major contributor to The Winkleigh Book and always proud of Clifford's Way.

Thanks to: Andrew Ware, Will Hocking, Margaret Bridgman, Margaret Miller, Joyce Brock, Tony Baker and Clifford's daughter Dawn for sharing their memories

Penny Griffiths

WINKLEIGH SINGERS CONCERT

Saturday 21st March 2015 at 7.30pm
St Michael and All Angels, Torrington

Brahms: Requiem in the composer's own arrangement for soloists, chorus and piano duet

Liszt: Organ music

Book online at <http://www.winkleighsingers.org.uk/pages/concerts.html>

WINKLEIGH GROWERS

AT THE ALLOTMENTS, shared - one would guess with most other gardeners - a splendidly productive 2014 season. It's no surprise then that nearly all our holders are retaining their plots for what we all hope will be another fruitful year.

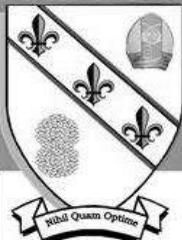
However one allotment has become available. It could be taken either as a whole at £60.00 for the year, or as two half plots at £30.00 each. If this could be of interest to you or you would like to know more - our Winkleigh Growers Secretary **Pam Berry** on 680193 is the person to talk to, and will be pleased to hear from you.

Winkleigh Fair

The Fair committee are very happy to report that 2014 was a great success, with Fair Week, the Christmas Fayre and other events all proving very popular and our balance sheet, now looks very healthy too! Our thanks go out to everyone who made a donation, either in terms of money, or goods and services. You certainly made our life easier! As many of you will know, our main objective is to replace the Village Christmas lights, and we are now well on our way to changing all the bulbs for LED which should be much more reliable, and of course eco friendly!

We have a great programme of events planned over the next few months, including Easter Bingo in the Village Hall, on Saturday 4 April at 7.30 pm, and on the 16 May we're having a 70's night, with an Abba tribute band. Dust off your flares and tank tops, and climb into those platform shoes. It will be a fab night! Plans are well under way for the Fair week which will begin on Sunday 12 July, and promises to be bigger and better! Keep your eyes open for more news of the events we have planned over the coming months.

Once again thanks for your generosity and your support.



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CHULMLEIGH
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Rev. Desmond Bickersteth Ottley and the Great War

Many were interested to read in the Winter edition the 1917 letter from Desmond Ottley to the Winkleigh parishioners, which had first been published in the Chumleigh Deanery magazine. Desmond was linked in Winkleigh by marriage to the family of Dr. Glover, the Winkleigh doctor, and the whole story makes further interesting reading.

Desmond Luis Edward Bickersteth Ottley was born in or about 1885 in Horsham, the fourth child of Henry Bickersteth Ottley a Clerk in Holy Orders, and his wife Marion. Desmond's father had been vicar of St. Margaret's, Ilkley, Yorkshire, and a Hon. Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. Desmond was educated at Christ Church, Oxford and like his father, took Holy Orders, being ordained at Exeter Cathedral on Sunday 22nd December 1907. He arrived in Winkleigh in 1913 as curate to the new Vicar, the Rev. T. Ackland Edmonds, who took over the Parish when the greatly respected Rev. Henry Bremridge died. The Rev. Henry Bremridge was a hard act to follow, but a relative, Mrs. Alicia Bremridge remained helpful, active and greatly loved in Winkleigh throughout the war, dying aged 74 in June 1919. Alicia Bremridge was the wife of Philip Bremridge, one of Henry's uncles. Meanwhile, Desmond worked hard in the parish as was reported in the local press, encouraging the formation of a boy-scouts troop or taking over from the vicar when Rev. Edmonds was unwell. In 1919 Rev. Ackland Edmonds retired, and Rev. Nesbitt arrived in Winkleigh from Ilfracombe where he had worked for 16 years.

The Vicar, Rev. T.A. Edmonds and his curate both considered joining the army as Church of England Chaplains. Rev. Edmonds was prevented by ill health, but Desmond joined as a Padre in August 1916. The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette of 11th August 1916 reported his farewell sermon in Winkleigh church on Sunday August 6th.

The Rev. R.B. Ottley's departure, to take up an Army Chaplaincy, is a great loss to Winkleigh. He has been curate here for two years and nine months, and during that time has endeared himself to the parishioners as a whole. His quiet, sympathetic nature has won a way for him into many hearts, and it is true to say that he is a friend to all and an enemy to none. On Sunday evening, after service, in the presence of a large number of people, a presentation was made to him of a roll-top desk as a parting gift of the parishioners. The Vicar, in making the presentation, spoke of the friendship between him and Mr. Ottley for the last ten years and said his work in Winkleigh would leave a lasting influence. Mr. Ashplant also spoke of the lasting esteem in which Mr. Ottley was held. In his reply, Mr. Ottley thanked the people most warmly for their gift, and said his stay in Winkleigh had proved to be the happiest of all his curacies.

The event was recorded in the Chumleigh Deanery Magazine, as Winkleigh at that time did not have its own Parish Magazine:

December 1916: *'Mr. Ottley, the curate, has volunteered. He writes cheerfully of his new life in camp with a brigade of artillery. His new address is Rev. D.B. Ottley, CF, 4th Reserve Brigade, R.F.A., Officers' Mess, Boyton, Wilts. I feel sure he would be delighted to hear from any of his friends in Winkleigh.'*

Thanks to this address we can trace the outline of Desmond Ottley's war service. The 4th/B Reserve Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery was then in camp at Boyton and his medal cards record that he first went over to France in September 1917. The Chumleigh Deanery Magazine gave further clues as to his whereabouts.

October 1917: *'The Rev. D.B. Ottley has gone to France and is attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery. Without mentioning exactly where he is, we can say that he is right up at the Front, at a place whose name has been made historic by thrilling deeds of the war. He has the best wishes of everyone in Winkleigh for good success and a safe return. The Vicar has asked him to write an account of his experiences for the magazine, so in the near future we may be able to print a letter from him.'*

Desmond Ottley was posted into a Royal Garrison Artillery Brigade of heavy howitzer artillery. Heavy howitzers were difficult to move so that they were based well behind the front line, but subject of course to targeted fire from similar enemy guns and aerial attack. On October 5th 1917 Desmond Ottley responded to the vicar's request to write a letter for the Ashreigney Deanery Magazine, which shows life in a relatively safe and static area of the war. This is the letter that was printed in the latest winter edition of *Distinctly Winkleigh*, and at the time the Brigade stood facing the first outposts of the Hindenburg line in front of the villages of Ecooust and Bullecourt. It is interesting to note that the 8th and 9th Devons were heavily involved in these actions: Thomas Harris, 9th Devons, whose name is on our Memorial Cross, was seriously wounded in the action on 7th May and died at the Le Tréport Base Hospital.

March and April 1918 saw the final German offensive of the war on the Western Front, which very nearly resulted in Britain losing the war. The situation was saved by tremendous courage, appalling losses, German mistakes and their own exhaustion. The dangers were far from over, however, and Desmond's brigade was continually gassed, while by June 1918 the first ominous signs of the Spanish 'flu were beginning to affect the Brigade. August brought the start of the final advance to victory, which gradually continued until the last days of the war.

Together with the other padres, Desmond had seen much of the horror and suffering: he had played his part, but he had found happiness too. He had begun to know Miss Eva Glover before her departure to go overseas in October 1915 as a VAD posted to Alexandria. Eva was the daughter of Dr. Glover who had brought his family to live in Winkleigh after his predecessor, Dr. Harvey, had left to enlist in March 1915. Eva's post-war record card gives her permanent address in July 1919 as Goodleigh House, Winkleigh, the same home that had been lived in by Dr. Harvey. Both the war histories of Dr. Harvey, killed in Mesopotamia,

and of Eva Glover are recorded on our War Memorial web-site, Winkleighheroes.co.uk. Desmond must have obtained leave during the 'quiet' times in late June and early July 1918 because on 4th July 1918 at the Parish Church of Ilsham, Newton Abbot, Eva Glover and Rev. Desmond Ottley were married. The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette reported, Saturday 13th July:

Marriage Ottley-Glover: On 4th July at St. Matthias, Torquay, by Cannon H. Bickersteth Ottley, father of the Bridegroom, assisted by the Bridegroom's brother, the Rev. Fielding Ottley, vicar of the Parish, and the Rev. T. A. Edmonds, Desmond Edward Bickersteth Ottley C.F., attached R.G.A.: to Eva Leonara, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Glover, of Winkleigh, North Devon.

On 24th December 1919 the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette reported that Desmond Ottley's next move was to a curacy at St. Mary's, Newton Abbot, 'for a few months', presumably following his demobilisation. However, a decision to move to India had already been made. On Friday 27th August 1920 the 'Western Times' reported:

'Rev. Desmond Bickersteth Ottley, a brother of the Vicar of St. Matthias, Ilsham, Torquay, having concluded his work at St. Mary's, Newton Abbot, will shortly sail for India, where he will take up work in the mission field. He has been presented with a wallet of notes, from the congregation, the presentation being made by Mr. J. Brealey.'

Desmond's medal card reveals his address in Calcutta to which his medals were sent in 1922. Meanwhile a daughter was born in 1920, Mary Bickersteth Ottley. After serving on the government staff his responsibilities increased when he was appointed vicar of the old Parish Church of St. John's, Calcutta. The end of the story comes as a considerable shock, then and now. Sadly, one morning in December 1924, Desmond walked into the bathroom of their vicarage house and shot himself. He was 39 years old. Whether or not this tragedy was linked to his experiences in the war or to the pressure of his new appointment we shall never know. The 'Western Morning News', however, reported on the 28th November that '*he was suffering from neurasthenia and was about to be transferred to Shillong.*' Today the condition is often referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder, often linked to past stress as well to those who continue to try to drive themselves too hard in their occupation. In Calcutta the local English language paper simply reported that everyone was shocked. Strangely, that newspaper apparently also reported that his mother-in-law was due to arrive that day or the next, but of course no link can be suggested between the two events. It must have been devastating news for the people of Winkleigh who had formed such a high regard for their curate.

Robert Side 01837 83036

WINKLEIGH SPORTS CENTRE

Despite the awful weather on Wednesday evenings, the boys and girls are still going outside, under the floodlights, playing football. This is leaving plenty of room inside the hall, for other sports activities such as table tennis and pool. If you are aged between 11 and 16 then please come along on a Wednesday evening between 7 and 9 pm, and join us.

Many thanks to all the Youth Club helpers in clearing out the old Bowlers' shed ready for use by the Fair Committee.

The Sports Centre is currently seeking funding for:

1. Archery.
2. Pickle Ball.

If successful, these sports will be available for all ages. If you would like to try any of the above then please contact **Mike Wilson** on 01769 520605.

We are hoping to take part in the Car Boot Sale on Sunday, the 12th April. This event is the first venture that is being arranged between the three Winkleigh Halls, for the benefit of the whole village, so please come along and support this event.

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District Councillor's Report

Fairer Shares for Rural Communities and the Need for Self Reliance

Just before Christmas, central government announced the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2015/16. Overall central funding for councils has shrunk by 40% since 2010, and this decrease has come at a time when demand for core services – such as child protection, tackling homelessness and social care of older people – is rapidly increasing. Not surprisingly, a lot of the headlines were along the lines that this would “push many councils to breaking point.” However, what doesn't seem to get much publicity is the massive disparity in funding between rural and urban areas.

Rural residents earn less, on average, than those in cities; pay council tax which is £100 higher per head; and see urban areas receiving government grants fifty per cent higher than those in the countryside. Delivering services in sparsely populated rural areas also tends to be more expensive, which further adds to the burden. In 2015/16, Plymouth residents will receive £391.72 Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) per head, which is 25% more than the £313.83 that Torridge residents will get.

Almost a fifth of England's population lives in rural areas and problems among rural communities – such as a lack of affordable housing and public transport – have been ignored for many years. Meeting rural needs must not be seen as solely an issue for DEFRA, a government department that itself has shown itself on many occasions to be not fit for purpose (e.g. badger culling, flooding on the Somerset levels, Single Farm Payment etc.). Instead, all Whitehall departments and agencies should be tasked with “rural proofing”, so that early thought is given to how policies will benefit rural communities and any unintended rural consequences can be identified.

Recently, the Rural Services Network (RSN) issued its Rural Services Manifesto for the incoming Government in May. The Manifesto focuses on ten policy topics which are linked together and in summary are -

- A more positive planning system, which engages and gains the trust of rural communities;
- More affordable homes, as housing (un)affordability is a key concern;
- Fairer local government funding;
- Public transport;
- Access to health facilities;
- Older people's services, as rural areas are home for a high and growing share of the older population;
- Tackling fuel poverty;
- Viable village services;
- Broadband and mobile connectivity; and
- Ensure that grant programmes and business support programmes reach into and benefit rural areas.

I believe that virtually everyone would agree that these issues are vitally important and taken together could help deliver more sustainable communities. However, as rural MPs only comprise a sixth of all MPs, rural issues will continue to struggle to get a fair share. But this shouldn't stop us all from lobbying our MP to be an effective advocate of our case for a fairer share.

But we will have to do much more than lobbying to make our community a better place to live for all of us. Across the world, rural communities are taking action through a variety of initiatives where they take ownership of the challenges affecting them. Here in the UK, though, there is a reluctance – and some unnecessary barriers – which stops communities from developing the community enterprise potential. However, there have been some successful initiatives. Dulverton in West Somerset has taken control of many of its activities and has used income from its car parks and toilets and grants to get many small community projects up and running, and Exbourne has successfully set up a community shop, which is now the hub of the village. In County Durham a local philanthropist has come forward to pay for a full time 'jack of all trades' worker for the village. So it can be done!

A Fond Farewell

I shall not be standing at the next election as a Torrridge district councillor in May. Overall, I have enjoyed representing Winkleigh over the past eight years at Torrridge but readers of my pieces in *Distinctly Winkleigh* and elsewhere will know that I have been extremely frustrated at times by the unfairness, ignorance and incompetence often caused or exacerbated by central government. Acting as an advocate and giving advice to residents has always been interesting and often challenging and I am grateful for all the help and advice that people have given me, particularly the parish councils of Winkleigh and Ashreigney. I have also enjoyed my wider responsibilities at Torrridge – particularly Performance Management and the Burton Art Gallery & Museum in my first term, and Audit & Governance, Planning and joining the Board of Tarka Housing over the past four years.

If anyone is interested in standing as the councillor for Winkleigh, please let me know as soon as possible. I will try to answer any questions about what the 'job' might entail and give advice so that my successor might avoid some of the mistakes that I made!

Soon after deciding not to stand again as a district councillor, we had an offer 'out of the blue' for our house. Philippa and I have decided to take this opportunity to downsize, as our daughters have now left home. We have had a wonderful 14 years in Winkleigh. We hope to stay in the south west and keep in touch with our many friends here. The new owners of Croft in the early summer will be Charles and Mia Bremridge. Many will recognise the surname, as the Bremridges have had a long association with Winkleigh. James Bremridge was

vicar of Winkleigh in Victorian times and he was succeeded by his son, Henry in 1887. Henry was also a renowned chess player, and one of his children, Frances married Reverend Jack Way, who was Vicar of Winkleigh from 1943 to 1957. Charles is the great-grandson of Henry and he and Mia are now returning to England after living in the far east for 28 years. It is interesting to note that Charles is also a keen chess player.

David Lausen

01837 83209

CAR BOOT SALES

**WINKLEIGH SPORTS CENTRE ALONG WITH
THE VILLAGE HALL AND
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**WILL BE HOLDING CAR BOOT SALES AT THE
SPORTS CENTRE ON:**

SUNDAY 12th APRIL

SUNDAY 10th MAY

SUNDAY 14th JUNE

SUNDAY 12th JULY

SUNDAY 9th AUGUST

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

SELLERS 8:00am - £5 per car

BUYERS 9:00am - 11:30am

Refreshments available

**ALL PROFITS WILL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY
BETWEEN THE THREE HALLS**

Please come and support us

DOWSING IN WINKLEIGH

When our family finally settled here in Winkleigh after a teaching spell in Saudi Arabia, I first encountered 'Dowsing' (not 'divining' -please). In what was to be my retirement from teaching Physics full-time at South Molton Community College I started to teach Dowsing to folk as an Adult tutor in the evening class program. These folk became the seed-corn for Devon Dowsers.

The society arose from discussions, held in 'certain local hostelries' with my CoFounders (two more Johns). As I was Founding Chairman, I had occasion to meet many influential people in the world of dowsing who would address our Society. For me, geophysicist Dr Murray Layer was most influential, for we speculated as to how dowsing might 'work'. We exchanged thoughts by post and formulated a plausible mechanism. This has led to our book,

Grounded - The language of the ancient earth. By John Bowers and Peter Dale

Peter has been a colleague and friend of mine for over fifty years. The book is for sale at The Crediton Community Bookshop, a few doors from the Crediton Courier newspaper office.

John Bowers

Fiona's

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WHATS GOING ON AT WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

In our last article I was saying that a bench would soon be seen in the village that we had gifted to the community in memory of Betty George. This hasn't quite come to fruition but we are hoping that it will now be placed at the entrance to Old Chapel Gardens during the circulation of this latest issue.

Our latest refurbishment project of installing a disabled toilet into what at the present moment is our Oasis room and extending the kitchen will now begin early April, just after Easter.

Talking of Easter, Bridget is running a 1 day, possibly 2 day holiday club on Wednesday 8th April, more details will emerge nearer the time, keep an eye on facebook.

Also on Easter Sunday some of our young people are having a full submersion baptism, others are being accepted into full membership and some are renewing their confirmation vows - a really exciting day for us as a church. Graham will be coming back to join with Nigel to help with all of this.

On a week to week basis Oasis runs every Monday morning for lunches and snacks from 11.00am – 2.00pm. Youth Alpha meets regularly for secondary school age young people. Sunday school runs alongside every Sunday morning worship which is at 11.00am, all except the first Sunday of the month when we have café style worship which is for all ages. Café style worship is quite informal. We have a bring & share tea laid out in café style, then we have discussion, activities, no fixed programmes, led by various people. Our next is on March 1st and will be led by an interesting lady called Jo Simpson who sets up alternative forms of worship.

We're very fortunate here at Winkleigh to have a very young Church and this is evident in our style of worship. We have live music or videos. Worship leaders assist the majority of our invited preachers for continuity and familiarity. Our minister Nigel is with us once a month and communion is taken every other time that he is with us. Please come along to any of our services, I'm sure you will be made most welcome.

Keep up to date on Facebook @**WINKLEIGH METHODIST CHAPEL**.

For more information about church life or prayer requests contact any of the people below or any other church member and we will do our best to help you.

Alan and Fiona Marshall 01837 83809. **Daisy Bray** 01837 83458.

Rev Nigel Coke-Woods 01837 810591.

WINKLEIGH SPORTS CENTRE

CAR BOOT SALE

ON SUNDAY 12th APRIL 2015
(In hall if weather bad)

SELLERS 8:00am - £5 per car

BUYERS 9:00am - 11:30am

Refreshments available

All profits will be equally divided between the Sports Centre, Village Hall and Community Centre.

Please come and support us

| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>Amy Pincombe FHP Dip Foot Health Practitioner Mobile Service 07712 148038</p> <h2>Caring for your feet</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corns• Callus• Cracked Heels• Fungal infections• Ingrown toe nails• Manicures & pedicures• Verrucae |  <p>COPPS ↑ Removals 01805 601122</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">UK and European Removals and StorageStorage and SelfstoreOffice and CommercialPiano Moving and StorageWe buy & sell 2nd hand furnitureFull or Part Packing ServiceCarpet Cleaning Service <p>www.coppsremovals.co.uk Cherrywood Business Park, Langtree, Torrington, N Devon, EX38 8LQ Email: gary@coppsremovals.co.uk Phone: 01805 601122 Mobile: 07787587418</p> |
|--|---|

Airfield Garage Winkleigh

Well after a year in business we hit the ground running with both general car repairs, diagnostics and services as well as having a range of restoration projects on both classic cars and campers. We managed to get our old VW Bay to a Volkswagen event last year, albeit still in primer, considering it was the first time it had been on the road for 7 years and was still in the same condition that it was dragged out of a quarry, just 4 weeks before we had agreed to take it, there were quite a few sceptics who didn't think we would do it and regularly popped in to see its progress! Yes we all did sleep in it as well and had a great weekend!!

For those of you who don't know me yet, I am based in the unit behind Zukis, we are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30 to 5.30pm and Saturday mornings 8.30 to 12.30. I have been in the motor trade for 28 years, working as a foreman in both Vauxhall and Saab main dealerships. I have always restored and owned many old classics, however I do seem to be collecting VW campers at the moment. So for those of you who may have an old classic tucked away that you would like to go out in this year, whether it is a car or a camper in need of some TLC or a complete overhaul, spring is definitely the time to start!

We are a friendly family run garage, and we welcome any enquiries for either general car repairs, bodywork or restorations please call in or call us on 01837 682678. If you are interested in following what we do, we have a facebook page Airfield Garage Winkleigh and we are currently working on getting a website up and running soon.

Andy Brewer



Airfield Garage Winkleigh
Servicing, Repairs & Classic Car Restorations

Andrew Brewer
Owner
Seckington Cross
Winkleigh

01837 682678

WINKLEIGH SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

The Winter bowling season is certainly flying by and by the time you read this we will be thinking about the Summer Leagues. The Club is having a successful time with 17 teams competing in five different leagues. All are doing well and are well up in their divisions. Knock-out Cup games are also played in between the League matches and again our teams have been very successful and have progressed to the semi-final stages. A very successful Club Pairs competition was held at the end of January and the winning pair was Mary Lawes and Len Rodgers, so many congratulations to them.

Plans are well in hand for our Flue and Chimney Specialists Tournament at the end of March. This will be the ninth time we have held this event that attracts bowlers from all over the County and we are very grateful to Andrew Baker and Rangemoors for their continuing support and sponsorship.

Club afternoons are held on Mondays and Fridays from 2.00. These sessions are very relaxed and we would welcome any new players. No experience is necessary and we can lend you some woods to have a try out. It will be very nice to see you there.

For further information just call **Jan** Ovenden 01837 83853 or oldsmithy1@btinternet.com

WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL HAS A VACANCY FOR A PART-TIME PARISH CLERK

To fill this surprisingly varied role the successful candidate will have excellent communication skills with people from a variety of backgrounds and an ability to deal with a wide range of issues. In addition have accurate administrative, office and computer skills and be numerate. Minimum 10 hours pw with some evening meetings. Salary in accordance with experience based on NALC & SLCC recommended rates (pro rata).

Closing date 19th March 2015.

Enquiries to gail@theparadoxfactory.com

AN IRISH MIRACLE

Murphy drops some buttered toast on the kitchen floor and it lands butter-side-up. He looks down in astonishment, for he knows that it's a law of nature, of the universe, that buttered toast always falls butter-down, so he rushes round to the presbytery to fetch Father Flanagan.

He tells the priest that a miracle has occurred in his kitchen, but he won't say what it is, so he asks Fr. Flanagan to come and see it with his own eyes.

He leads Fr. Flanagan into the kitchen and asks him what he sees on the floor.

"Well," says the priest, "it's pretty obvious. Someone has dropped some buttered toast on the floor and then, for some reason, they flipped it over so that the butter was on top."

"No, Father, I dropped it and it landed like that!" exclaimed Murphy.

"Oh my Lord," says Fr. Flanagan, "dropped toast never falls with the butter side up. It's a miracle. But wait, it's not for me to say it's a miracle. I'll have to report this matter to the Bishop and he'll have to deal with it. He'll send some people round; to interview you, take photos, etc."

A thorough investigation is conducted, not only by the archdiocese but by scientists sent over from the Curia in Rome. No expense is spared.

There is great excitement in the town as everyone knows that a miracle will bring in much needed tourism revenue.

Then, after 8 long weeks and with great fanfare, the Bishop announces the final ruling.

"It is certain that some kind of an extraordinary event took place in Murphy's kitchen, quite outside the natural laws of the universe. Yet the Holy See must be very cautious before ruling a miracle. All other explanations must be ruled out. Unfortunately, in this case, it has been declared 'No Miracle' because they think that Murphy may have buttered the toast on the wrong side"

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A History of Beaver Scouts

Beavers in Scouting are the name for the youngest section of scouting, with members younger than cub scouts and sometimes going to as young as five and ½ years of age. Other names are used in some countries, such as Joey's in Australia. The programme is based on the concept of co-operating and sharing. The first Pre-Cub scheme was set up in Northern Ireland by the 1st Dromore Group in 1963 and was called *The Little Brothers*. As the scheme expanded throughout the rest of the province, it was given the official name of 'Beavers' in 1966, this name having been considered by Baden Powell when creating Wolf Cubs. The following years saw the development of the uniform, age-range and general organization before the section was renamed Beaver Scouts in 1974. In Canada Beavers took off in a big way and leaders take their name from a Canadian book called "Friends of the Forest". Our leader's names are Ahmeek, Sunshine and Hawkeye.

Beaver Scout Colonies are controlled by the local Scout Group, which usually also have Cub Scouts and Scout sections. The Colonies are run by a Beaver Scout Leader, who must hold a warrant. There must also be at least two adults, one of whom must also hold a full warrant. Other adults who assist in running the Colony can include: Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders, uniformed and warranted adults; Colony Assistants, who may or may not wear uniform but assist regularly; parent helpers, who may irregularly help as part of a Rota scheme with other parents and young leaders. A Colony is recommended to have a maximum number of 24 members but that of course is down to the amount of adult leaders.

Colonies usually meet once a week during school term time, meeting times varying between an hour and an hour and a half. The emphasis for Beaver Scouts is on having fun, so a meeting involves playing games, and some sort of activity – such as painting, cooking or acting. Beaver Scouts are also taught about the basic aspects of Scouting, though much of this is left for older sections. Beavers also can go on organized indoor sleepovers and outdoor camping trips, but only for one night away from home, unless they are with their own family.

I got involved in Scouting through my own children who are now in their Forties. There was no beaver colony in the town where I lived so I was harassed into starting one up. Of course, my youngest son thought this fantastic but wow, it was hard work and here I am still taking part!!!!!!!

This coming July we lose a leader and I really hope some wonderful person will come forward and make sure we carry on. With January and February behind us we hope to get outside more and have a few adventures. Thank you to all the people who support us in so many different ways and a big thank you to the Winkleigh Church Wives whose donation means that the beavers will be taking part in a Fencing evening.

We have spaces so if you would like to put your child's name down then please get in touch with **Pat** on 01837 83487. Remember Scouting in all sections is open to girls and boys.

Ein Deutches Requiem

Johannes Brahms

Organ Music

Franz Liszt

The Winkleigh Singers

Tina Gladwin – soprano

John Smith – bass

Andrew Daldorph – piano & organ

Tom Bayliss – piano

Conducted by Roland Smith



"In the three decades following its formation the Winkleigh Singers have become well-known for high quality performances of classical pieces"

North Devon Journal

St Michael & All Angels Church

Great Torrington

7.30pm Saturday 21st March 2015

Tickets £12.00, accompanied under 16s £2.00

from choir members

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*The Winkleigh
Singers*



16TH MAY 2015

WINKLEIGH FAIR

70'S NIGHT



FEATURING TOP ABBA TRIBUTE BAND

'TAKE A CHANCE ON US'

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

SINGING SUNBEAMS

What a happy bunch we are! So what are we and what do we do?

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the small room of Winkleigh Village Hall 10.30. Although primarily aimed at 0-3 year olds, all are welcome.

We play instruments and sing all ably assisted by our guitarist.

We have a snack and drink – both children and adults!

We have a good natter and keep up with the goings on in our community.

All this and there is no charge as we are supported by Stable Green Chapel.

We had a super Christmas Party in December where all the family were able to join in the fun and games.

Please come and join us we would love to see you

Winkleigh Village Hall

The village hall committee has recently installed wireless broadband to help benefit our users. We have also submitted an application to Torridge District Council for a grant to enable us to install projection and amplification equipment for talks/lectures, films, concerts and much more.

Fundraising Events at the Village Hall:

Quiz - Saturday 14th March 2015. 7.30pm prompt start (doors open at 7pm)
£5 per person (Teams of 6 max.)

Refreshments included.

Cash Prizes

Raffle tickets available on the door.

To book your table phone 01837 83484 or 01837 83734.

Ladies Fashion Show by Abstract in Okehampton - Friday 24th April 7.30pm
See posters nearer the time for more details.



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Winkleigh and District Garden Club

Do you have a garden or an allotment? If so, do you want to find out more about composting? Then please come to our 'Muck and Magic' talk in February. This year Winkleigh & District Garden Club have a programme of speakers who will provide answers with respect to many gardening issues and much more; including matters relating to growing and tending grasses, Hostas, and a number of trips. The Club also has a Quiz team who have won 8 out of 10 quiz games. We are always looking for supporters and Quiz team members. If you interested please contact Jeanne Nightingale nandjngale@hotmail.co.uk

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

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 17th March | “All Muck and Magic” an in-house production on composting, manure and fertilisers |
| 21st April | “Hostas” Peter Savage- Bowden Hostas and Ferns |
| 19th May | “Herbs” Jenny and Chris Seagon- Laurel Farm Herbs |
| 16th June | “Grasses” Dave Squires |
| 14th July | Afternoon visit and cream tea- Bickham House, Kenn, Exeter |
| 15th September | “Japan and Its Gardens” Jon Webster, Curator of Rosemoor Garden |
| 20th October | “The Four Seasons of Dartmoor” Paul Rendall |
| 17th November | AGM and cheese and wine |
| 15th December | Christmas Social with a quiz – hope to see you all |

Should you be interested in all/any of these subjects, then why not become a member of W&DGC or at least come along as either a member or a visitor on the third Tuesday in each month and see what we have to offer. 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.

The cost is £10.00 per year (commencing in January) and 20p for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuit per meeting. As a visitor you would pay £1.00 per meeting which also includes the cost of a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.

We hope that we have whetted your appetite and roused your interest in a very active WDGC.

For further information contact our Chairman **Mr Ed Porter** on 01805 804838 or **Beverley Cook**, cookbeverley@hotmail.co.uk

Winkleigh Church Flower Ladies

A big thank you to all who supported us for our Christmas Hamper draw and decoration sale. The monies raised will go to the flower fund.

The prize winners were as follows:-

1st prize - Hamper Monica Cowle.

2nd prize - 2 bottles wine Jean Warren.

3rd prize - Christmas cake Jean Fletcher

4th prize - Chocolates Shirley Hall.

Healthy Living Week 2015

Healthy Living Week this year is from 8-13 June. Wallingbrook Health Group Patient Participation Group (WHG PPG) is compiling a programme of events and activities in the practice area. If you wish to be included in the 2015 programme please contact WHG with your details. All the existing clubs and activities will be invited to participate and provide a FREE taster session during the week, but it would be wonderful to hear from new groups or clubs who can offer something different!

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or 07815 309023**



We are trying to expand our range this year and include pursuits from villages surrounding Chulmleigh. Please get in touch by the end of March in order to be included in this year's programme.

Maggie Samuel

ACE Archaeology Club

Since I last wrote we have sorted out all the pottery from this year's dig. This involved an ACE day in October when members sorted through bags and checked that they had all the correct information on them. Finds had been coming out of the ground so quickly on the Moistown dig that it wasn't always possible to do more than the basics. Since then all the finds have been washed, where appropriate, dried and re-bagged ready for our next pottery session in February when we will have a pottery expert to help us identify and date some of the sherds.

In October we tried out Pole Archaeology. This isn't what you might at first think. Dr Sandy Gerrard took us out to Merrivale to try taking overhead photos of sites using a camera on a pole.



Without pole.



With pole.

As you can see you can get a much better view of this burial chamber and its surroundings, but without resorting to ladders or expensive drones.



Granted, it does look as though we are participating in some strange rite.

November is our AGM month and we had a good meeting, short on the business side and that left us time for a good shared lunch followed by an excellent discussion about the dig and how people felt it went and what we needed to do next.

In December two of our members arranged a visit to the Whitehorse Hill Cist exhibition at the Plymouth Museum. If you are interested in finding out more about the Cist burial check out Dartmoor National Parks website <http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk>. We had a great visit to an amazing exhibition and wound up the day at the members' house for our Christmas get together.

Unfortunately, as so often happens, our January walk was cancelled due to the weather!

A list of only some of what we will be doing for the next few months -

In April we will be willow shield making; May, we will be digging just for a week at Moistown; July, Sat 18th & Sun 19th: Festival of Old Technology and Archaeology

22nd August to 6th September: Excavation at Moistown.

5th September: Moistown excavation open day 11.00am to 4.00pm, tell your friends.

For more information on any of these events please go to our website or contact me through ace@acearch.org.uk. Some events do need to be booked and for non-members there is a charge.

Friends of Winkleigh School

This report starts on a superb note with regard to the latest fundraising activity, the first in 2015. This was another very popular and well supported “Bacon Roll Morning” held on 30th January, for which the news has just been released that the amount raised is in the region of £340. This is a really good and well- earned return for what is always a popular event within the community’s numerous supporters, who are so much appreciated by our School. I do have to confess that my personal involvement in this particular activity is limited to writing about it in this report, I don’t drive and would get in the way in the kitchen! I do however keep track through watching the e-mails flying about between the group as plans are made for the purchase of foodstuffs, the organisation of deliveries and the cookery on a grand scale in Anna’s kitchen. Believe me, it wears me out just following what is going on in print! It really is a ginormous effort and the School can be proud for such support.

The “Race Night” did eventually take place on 29th November and raised £506.58 a good return after so many complications in setting the date. The financial return for “Fireworks Night”, which was reported on in the last report, was £582.54 which is a fantastic result on another wet night! The “Bags to Schools” raised £200 and in other events leading up to Xmas: “ Market Teas” £93.10, “Cook Books” £31.50, “Xmas Disco” £166.38, “Xmas Draw” £142.84, “Xmas Fair” £34.60. I would also like to say thank you within this report to Hastoe Housing association for their generous donation, which will go to help with the next round of purchases and contributions to School activities .

The next “Fireworks Night” at the Sports Centre has been pencilled in this year for Saturday 7th November but, as things stand there is a major problem because the person who usually operates the display is not available. This means that another person carrying the necessary certification and insurance has to be found. If anybody reading this article is aware of such a person please come forward as soon as possible- the event is dependent on resolving this situation, if necessary the date could possibly be changed.

The “easyfundraising” website continues to make a steady contribution to funds and at the time of writing the total raised since inception is closing on the £600 mark so I will make the usual appeal to those who are not yet involved, please give it a try it really is very easy when you do your “on line” shopping, there is a link in the School website or you can use www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fowinkleigh, there are also a number of pointers within the site that can help individuals save money on purchases for themselves as well as benefitting the School cause.

A big thank you to all those in the community who continue to give their support, offers of help or any questions will be well received.

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

CAROLS IN THE BARN

Wow! What an evening.

Once again the Hill family of StableGreen Chapel opened up their workplace for the community to celebrate Christmas. All the trappings of their everyday work were cleared away except for dozens of hay bales that were placed around as seats. All the chairs from Stable Green Chapel were transported down and a trailer load from Dolton brought over. Were there enough? No sorry! The people of Winkleigh came out in droves and again we are sorry we ran out of seats but absolutely delighted to see you all.

Amongst all the rush and busyness of Christmas this was a time when we could all share the real reason for the season. Favourite carols were sung and familiar readings read. The donkey and sheep watched from their pen alongside. The star had stopped over the stable and the angel had appeared to the shepherds. The barn had been lit by a couple of hundred battery tea-lights. Mary and Joseph were in the stable with the Baby, and the children of Winkleigh joined them for a magical performance of Away in a Manger. What better way to celebrate Christmas.

The evening finished with cups of hot chocolate and delicious goodies. A retiring collection raised over £400 that was split between Children's Hospice South West and Winston's Wish.

Thank you all for your support. If you missed it don't worry it will all happen again next December make sure you look out for the posters.

WINKLEIGH SNOOKER CLUB

On a Super Sunday just before Christmas 2014 our latest snooker competition was held.

These events are seemingly becoming more popular, especially when there is some free grub and the occasional glass of something to loosen up the cueing arm, and, moreover, the prospect of a personal trophy to be won as well.

The most recent event was a pairs competition, where pairs were allocated from a pot of names thus ensuring that the 'better players' did not play together. As it happened two of our better players did play together (luck of the draw !!) and did win. Those two being Tom Mares, ably assisted by Mark (ITMA) Ward. Coming a close second were Brian (Hurricane) Holland and Sean Tindall.

Some may remember that Mark won our inaugural singles competition, hence the reference to ITMA. ITMA you say, well those of us of a certain vintage will remember a certain radio programme many years ago called ITMA or It's That Man Again. (so that clears that up then !!).

As ever, those of you who want to join or rejoin please use the contact details below.

Belated best wishes for 2015.

Dave Ferguson 01837 83660 (email : winkleighsnookerclub@gmail.com)

And finally

If you have read right through to this page you will already know that David and Philippa Lausen will soon be leaving Winkleigh. David's long service as District Councillor, together with the roles he has played in Winkleigh's social life, makes his departure a real loss to the village. His help in averting the threat of WINBEG was greatly appreciated, then and now. As a representative of Winkleigh at Torridge District Council he will be a hard act to follow. The Biodiversity Group and the Memory Café will feel the impact of Philippa's departure. We wish them happiness in their new location.

Fair Committee members have really put a lot of work in organising a super Summer Fair and Christmas Fayre. Their efforts to replace the old electricity-hungry Christmas Lights with modern economic LED bulbs shows how forward-thinking they are. Supporting their Easter Bingo and 70s Night events will certainly help them to achieve this.

Please note that the deadline date for articles/adverts for the Summer Issue is Sunday, May 17th, but please don't wait until the deadline send your article(s) in. We'd love to hear from anyone who has an interesting story or article, and I'm sure that there are some really good ones just waiting to be told.

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WINKLEIGH SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Chairman | Peter Howard | 01837 83362 |
| Vice Chairman | Ralph Northcott | 01837 83610 |
| Secretary | David Lausen | 01837 83209 |
| Treasurer | Alan Mulcahy | 01837 680145 |
| Minutes Secretary | Philippa Lausen | 01837 83209 |
| Committee Members | Margaret Miller | 01837 83398 |
| | Peter Monkcom | 01837 83452 |
| | Alan Jacobs | 01837 83895 |

Winkleigh Society membership is open freely to all Winkleigh residents. 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 |
| Alan Mulcahy | 01837 680145 |

Contributions to the newsletter can be received as follows:
Articles are fine in printed form, but we can also accept
WORD format files on CD, Memory Stick, or e-mail submissions .

Newsletter team e-mail: articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk
or alan.mulcahy@tiscali.co.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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