



DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

The Winkleigh Society

WORKING FOR WINKLEIGH & HOLLOCOMBE

SPRING 2025





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Chain's Report

SPRING 2025

LIVES IN A LANDSCAPE: Collecting stories about movers and shakers in the village is The Winkleigh Society's follow up to the oral histories collected by Gillian Holman and Peter Monkcom in 1997 for **The Winkleigh Book project**.

In the last three editions of D.W. we have reproduced the story of Ron Peachey, the London lad who was evacuated to Winkleigh during WW2 where he had the time of his life.

When the war was over and evacuees were going home Ron was desperate to stay in Winkleigh and begged to be adopted. He had become a bell-ringer, a butcher's boy and loved to help out with the harvests and the heavy horses. He fetched water from the pump for the kind widow who hosted him [and another evacuee] in her tiny cottage on Church Hill. **Ron's parents never visited or sent parcels but Ron was no shirker, worked his passage and revelled in every aspect of village life including school [Headmaster Mr Melhuish] which he described as 'wonderful'.**

Many years later he returned to the village with his wife and stayed in Vine Street at **Deanne Whittaker's** B&B. Very unwell by this time: his wife told Deanne that Ron's abiding happy childhood memory was his time in Winkleigh and that this visit was profoundly important for him.

Deanne asked questions and encouraged Ron's wife to write his story. When Deanne received the letter containing Ron's story she passed it on to Gillian Holman who was collecting stories for the Winkleigh oral history project **It's Living History isn't it?** Ron's story is the only one in that collection that was not tape-recorded.

The Winkleigh Society is still collecting stories about local heroes in the village and regularly feature them in **Our Lives in a Landscape** series. In this edition we are telling the story of **Hazel Pike** who left money for the improvement and refurbishment of the Winkleigh Surgery.

UPDATE ON WINKLEIGH SOCIETY WORK

We had a visit from two Conservators from the South West archive based at Exeter to look at the Winkleigh Archive in Winkleigh Community Centre.

They advised us [Barbara and Barry Jenkins, Godfrey Rhodes, Penny and Philip Griffiths] how best to store photographs and documents so they do not deteriorate and can be displayed properly.

There is a very extensive Winkleigh archive in Barnstaple [Top floor of the library] overseen and catalogued by archivist **Gary Naggs**. The Winkleigh Society pays an annual subscription towards the upkeep of this impressive facility. As a result we are invited every year for a talk and tour.

Gary will be retiring shortly but his assistant Tyler Pollard will be taking over the post. Gary stressed that the archive is available to all on request and for a set fee the archivist will get out relevant documents and assist with research. Interested? **Ring Barnstaple Library and Archive and book a time slot. It is a treasure trove of maps, charters, land deeds and Parish politics [bastardy records and runaway apprentices] going back hundreds of years.**

I contacted Bill Horner Devon's chief archaeologist and thanked him for providing the visualisations of Romano British Winkleigh in our previous edition. Bill and

his Historic Environment team have plans for more research on Winkleigh's early medieval history under the Monument Management Scheme. We visited the South West Heritage centre in Exeter in March by invitation of Brian Carpenter [conservator]. Our annual General meeting will be held on April 11th. We always do it cafe-style and make it interactive. All welcome.

Penny Griffiths and Margaret Miller

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Welcome

TO OUR SPRING EDITION

A very belated Happy New Year!

Winter is over, Spring has sprung and what a difference a few dry, sunny days makes! Tania and I have a couple of dogs and walking them around the lanes in the first week of March has been a delight. The spring flowers are appearing in the hedgerows, there are lambs in the fields, we're no longer dressed like the Michelin man and with there being less mud on the lanes the dog washing is marginally easier at the end of the walks.

New to this issue is an Advertisers Index on page 64 which hopefully will facilitate the time it takes to find a provider of the service you are looking for. At the same time after several years of holding our advertisement prices we've had to increase them with effect from our summer issue. The new prices can be seen on the inside back cover and hopefully will be viewed as still offering fantastic value for money.

My thanks go out to all those volunteers who gave of their valuable time which made this edition of DW possible.

Peter Hopkinson

Editor - peter@hoppy.biz

The Distinctly Winkleigh Team

Publisher: The Winkleigh Society

Editor: Peter Hopkinson

Graphic Designer:

Becci Arscott - bsharpdesigns.co.uk

Regular Contributors: Alan Jacobs, Andrew Saywell, Angela Findlay, Caroline Dennis, Erica Williamson, Jo Coffey, Jonathan Cotty, Kim Melhuish, Linda Millership, Margaret Miller, Pat Cunningham, Pauline Warner, Penny Griffiths, Reverend Helen Blaine, Tim Laarveld, Tom Robinson, Tony Aston, Vicky Samuels, Simon Newton MBE, Jodie-Kate Johns, Richard Clarke, Winkledown

Distribution Team: Alan Jacobs, Andrew Warner, Anita Hooper, Barry Jenkins, Catherine Knight, David Trenaman, Richard Clarke, Helena Lewis, Jackie Hooper, Jane Beresford-Smith, Jane Hill, Linda Millership, Linda Popham, Margaret Miller, Monica Lawrence, Philip Griffiths, Roger Bourne, Sue & Andrew Ware, Wendy Oxborough

Proof Readers: Jane Beresford-Smith, Ken & Nicolette Tibbles, Phil Griffiths, Sue Ware, Tania Hopkinson

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PRESS SNIPPETS

The Moorlander: Dec 20

In September 15 pine martens, eight females and seven males were successfully released into Dartmoor. Volunteers have built den boxes which could also double up as maternity nests. It is hoped that the first babies will be born in March.

Okehampton Times: Jan 23

The Duchy of Cornwall [DOC] will continue to receive millions of pounds over the coming decades from renting out HMP Dartmoor to the Government even though the prison is not in use and may never reopen.

The Moorlander: Jan 24

South West Water is confident that it will have enough water resources for the region for the next 25 years and that building new reservoirs will be a last resort.

Crediton Country Courier: Jan 16

Lead worth thousands of pounds stolen from Crediton Parish Church. The thieves got onto the North Aisle roof and lifted nine bays of lead. Temporary protective sheeting is now in place until permanent repairs can be carried out.

Western Morning News: Feb 4

The World famous **Exeter Book**, a collection of riddles from the 10th Century is the basis of a new musical to be performed at Exeter Cathedral. The Cathedral is recruiting a community choir to write and perform it.

North Devon Journal: FEB 20

Devon is to become the first county in the South West to expand supervised toothbrushing to all primary schools.

Penny Griffiths



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PETER HOPKINSON (DW Editor) **07770 821752** | peter@hoppy.biz

Parish Church News

One of the most delightful sights on a dull day at this time of year is the bright yellow of daffodils. As the long, dark days of winter draw to a close, they herald the start of (hopefully) better days to come. Daffodils always seem so cheerful whatever the weather. They seem to withstand the wind and rain far better than anything else, almost stoically taking a stand against the battering weather. Defiantly bringing brightness to the world. William Wordsworth describes them perfectly in his poem 'Daffodils' when he wrote 'The waves beside them danced; but they out-did the sparkling waves in glee:'

Daffodils are widely seen as a symbol of life and hope. The Romans are said to have planted daffodils in memory of comrades fallen in battle or of loved ones who had died. It is likely that it was the Romans who brought them to Britain with them from their native Spain and Portugal. They are also said to be the flowers given and received on a tenth wedding anniversary.

Daffodils it seems also have links with the clergy. The Rev George Herbert Engleheart, vicar of Appleshaw in Hampshire, who clearly had time on his hands, is credited with breeding 720 varieties between 1882 and 1923. Apparently, his parishioners used to find a note on the church door saying 'no service today, working with daffodils'. I'm not quite sure what the Bishop would think today!

Daffodils are however often associated with our celebration of Easter as they remind us that from the dark and soggy winter earth and a rather unattractive bulb – something beautiful and bright can burst forth. A splash of colour too in the seeming endless darkness and dreariness of the world. These signs of new life and hope remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection and the promise for us all that death does not have the final say. A reminder too that in the seemingly dark events of the world around us, that there is always some hopeful light and colour brightening the gloom. We explore these themes of light and darkness, joy and hope as we journey together through Lent and Holy Week. All are welcome to join us as we remember the events of Christ's passion and rejoice in his glorious resurrection.

VE Day 80

To tie in with the national celebrations, All Saints, Winkleigh is planning the following for **Thursday 8th May**.

9:00am The Union flag will be raised on the church tower

6:30pm Joining in with bell towers around the country, our bells will ring out a celebratory peal

9:15pm A short service of commemoration around the war memorial followed by Lights of Peace at 9:30pm. Bring along your candle in a jar, lantern or a torch as we take part in a wave of light across the country.

Next time you see a daffodil, thank God for it and rejoice in its cheerfulness. Allow it to brighten your day and bring you hope.

Revd Helen Blaine

01837 83710 or Revhelenblaine@outlook.com



Easter Services

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday

9:30am

Morning Prayer,
All Saints, Winkleigh

Thursday 17th April

Maundy Thursday

7:00pm

Eucharist,
All Saints, Winkleigh

Friday 18th April

Good Friday

11:00am

Liturgy of Good Friday,
All Saints, Winkleigh

Saturday 19th April

Easter Eve

7:00pm

Easter Vigil,
All Saints, Winkleigh

Sunday 20th April

Easter Day

9:30am

Family Eucharist,
All Saints, Winkleigh

WHAT'S GOING ON at Winkleigh Methodist Church?

By the time we are all reading this no doubt we will have entered the season of Lent and will be romping our way towards Easter, another BIG event in the church calendar. This year we are having an Easter Holiday Club in the chapel for children to come along to. More details about this will be released nearer the time and will be advertised on Facebook.

Shortly after Christmas we were really pleased to baptise 5 of our young people and bring them into full membership of our church. We also welcomed others that had transferred their memberships from other churches to ours; it was an exciting busy morning.

We have also been busy modernising

and updating our technology to a central screen. All songs, videos and bible readings are played on this making it much more suitable for our contemporary style of worship.

Sunday March 27th will see the return of tea and pudding after a short break over the winter months - an afternoon of unlimited cups of tea, a pudding and lots of chat. There is a small charge. As this has been so successful we have decided as a church that it would be good to support other good causes with some of the donations.

We meet every Sunday morning for worship at 11am and all ages are welcome to join us for friendly, sometimes interactive, worship.

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DINE IN OR
TAKE AWAY

From your **Devon County Councillor**



When I last wrote for Distinctly Winkleigh in the autumn last year, it is safe to say the landscape of Local Government in Devon has been completely upended by some dramatic announcements by the national Government in London.

In short, just before Christmas, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper. Within that policy document the Government made it clear that they wish to see the reorganisation of local government in all two-tier areas, of which we in Winkleigh and in Devon are a part of.

Let me be clear, this is not optional. The County Council will be abolished. Torridge District Council will be abolished. Both DCC and TDC and the other Devon Districts including West Devon, Mid Devon and North Devon will all be replaced by a new 'single tier' unitary authority.

What size and shape this new unitary council will be is yet to be decided and will be the subject of intense discussions for most of this year. How long this will all take is also unclear as I will explain.

However, what will remain are the Town and Parish Councils. And so, when we do eventually move to this new structure there is going to have to be a stronger role for Parish Councils, like Winkleigh Parish Council, to deliver local services on the ground. Especially if we end up being part of a large unitary council that covers most of the geography of Devon.

Although the size and shape of the new council(s) is yet to be decided, the Government have made it clear that they expect the new unitary councils to have a population of at least 500,000. There will be some exceptions, but they

will have to prove that they are a high growth area with thousands of new homes being planned in the area. Devon County Council's population area covers 800,000. If you include Plymouth and Torbay (currently two small unitary councils) the population rises to 1.2 million.

The Government have also indicated that they wish to see small unitary authorities part of this discussion so, whether we like it or not, Plymouth and Torbay will be part of this ongoing discussion.

So, at the time of writing (end of February), where are we now? Currently the Government have instructed all councils in Devon – the 8 Districts, the County Council and the Plymouth and Torbay unitary councils – to submit an 'interim plan' to the Government by the **21st March**. They then expect full and final proposals to be submitted by **28th November**. If the Minister accepts the proposal, they would then, according to his letter to local councils, look to hold elections to the new 'shadow' unitary council(s) as soon as possible.

Despite this, there will still be County Council Elections in May this year, so whatever interim plans are submitted the 'new' County Council in May might decide to choose a different course. That is their prerogative but regardless of what does happen in May, I think it is important that all Councils in Devon engage on this. If we do not, quite simply we will have something imposed on us from Westminster whether we like it or not. That may yet still happen, but it is less likely if we work together to come up with some viable local proposals that best serve the residents of Winkleigh and Devon.

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I also think, regardless of what happens in the elections in May, that it is in the interests of *all* residents here to get an agreement quickly on what the new Council will look like. The longer this process gets dragged out then the more money it will consume, the more decisions that will get delayed, and the more council services that will be reduced while your council tax bills increase even further.

Uncertainty is not good for local government. In the next County Council term and within the next two years, the contracts for Highways, Library Services and Youth Services are up for renewal. If by 2026 we still don't know what the shape of the new council(s) will look like, that is going to make awarding new contracts extremely difficult. Either short term contract extensions or temporary in-housing pending a breakup of the County Council will be expensive options... and the more these kinds of costs go up the less money there is for day to day services like repairing roads or collecting bins.

As Cabinet Member for Workforce on the County Council, I am extremely concerned about the impact this uncertainty will have on the council workforce. If officials leave due to job insecurity, replacing those people – particularly if that post is due to disappear in the reorganisation – becomes very difficult. Most likely in this scenario, we will see an increase in agency staffing costs and that in turn puts more pressure on day-to-day services.

So, as I said before, that is why it is in all of our interests to get the future shape of local government in Devon at least settled this year. The practicalities and challenges of reorganising into the new Council we can deal with, but what I don't want to see is that process dragged out by indecision and delay.

If we get this right, then you the reader of Distinctly Winkleigh should not notice any difference other than a change in Council branding to the new unitary authority when the time comes. But if this gets dragged out or things go wrong, then as I outlined above I fear it will start to have an impact on you.

In the meantime, I will be working closely with other councillors and council officials to help develop the interim proposals to the Government in March.

I did wonder, in light of elections now happening in May, whether the County Council should submit anything to the Government and just wait until after the elections take place. However, I was elected to represent all of the people of Torrington Rural and, given the very clear instruction by Government to submit an interim plan in March, it would be a gross dereliction of duty to just sit on my hands and do nothing, and potentially let other councils like Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay dictate as to how Winkleigh and Torrington Rural should be represented in the future. I doubt the Government would give any serious weight to a retrospective DCC submission if we just sat on our hands and did nothing prior to May.

So, needless to say I will be doing a lot of work in March on what the future of local government here will look like. Hopefully for the next edition of Distinctly Winkleigh there will be more clarity.

In the meantime, the day to day work of the County Council continues and if there are any issues you'd like to contact me about please do.

Councillor Andrew Saywell

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From your **District Councillor**

WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?

With the development of the Townsend Hill and Great Well Park estates well underway, and with the Western Barn site (former Kingsley Plastics factory) likely to start in the near future, the needs of Winkleigh are clearly changing (whether you think this is good or bad, it is a fact). So where should the village go from now?

RETAIL

Although a shadow of the 14 former retail premises that could be found around the village centre in days of old, the village is still well-served having two pubs, a butcher, post office, hairdresser, florist, cafes, two small garages, a vet and half a village shop (surely could be better?). Perhaps there is an opportunity to take advantage of passing trade on the A3124 and B3220 – I note that there is no modern fuel service station for nearly 30 miles between Cridton and Torrington so such a facility might benefit local residents as much as passing travellers?

COMMUNITY

The village is well served by the two halls that host numerous activities, the churches and of course the expanding Sports Centre (soon to be connected by a light-controlled crossing over the A3124) courtesy of s106 money from the new developments. Plans for a footpath running on down to Winkleigh woods will also be a real bonus.

EMPLOYMENT

I recently attended the excellent Business Breakfast held in the

Community Centre and organized by the Parish Council – a really good and overdue initiative to bring the various businesses that surround Winkleigh “in from the cold” and to listen to their needs and concerns. It is a shame that more high-quality businesses have not yet been attracted to the Airfield following the Kingsley Plastics example although the Economic Development team at Torrington District Council are working hard on it! However, the expansion of the Beechlea Industrial Estate, with over 20 businesses (more to follow) employing nearly 150 people is a good example of steady organic growth responding to local demand.

Change is often difficult to accept but must always be embraced. Some, I know, would rather that the village remained as it was, however many accept that everything is constantly evolving and that change will always bring new and better opportunities if approached with a positive attitude. For example, in this day of internet and supermarket shopping, our shops and pubs need more customers in order to remain viable – this in turn generates greater competition leading to an improved service for local residents. Don't be afraid of change – embrace it and make it work to your advantage!

As always, if you have an issue or question that you think I may be able to help with then please feel free to get in touch.

Councillor Simon Newton MBE
07943 830220
Councillor.newton@torridge.gov.uk



Meet the councillor – Pauline Odulinski OBE

Pauline's professional and personal skills are put to good use in her role for Winkleigh Parish Council

Pauline Odulinski OBE enjoys living in Winkleigh – a lot. And because she cares about the village and its community, this helps her play an important role on the parish council, on which she has served for the past two years.

Speaking at Catkin Blooms café, which she frequents regularly, Pauline moved to Winkleigh some 10 years ago. She noticed immediately how friendly the local people were. “They were so welcoming and willing to help. When a place came up on the parish council, I thought I might be able to contribute, and it seemed like an opportunity to give back.” This is something of an understatement as she is highly qualified and has a proven track record.

Pauline's background is in further and higher education, and she was awarded an OBE for her contribution to further & higher education. She is a former Principal & C.E.O. of Aylesbury FE & HE College and has worked in an advisory role for several educational bodies as well as being a Fellow and visiting professor for Buckinghamshire New University. She is someone who believes in fairness and in life-long learning. “My passion is helping people, equality of opportunity for all and education is a gateway to this,” she says.

She remains concerned about the lack of facilities for young people in Winkleigh, “currently there is little for young people to do for social activity, although there is a new youth club at the sports centre, there is a need for more variety to meet the needs of young people.” One option is Young Farmers who meet monthly in Winkleigh – “we want people to realise that they don't need to be from a farming

family to participate in activities.”

The Council has a street safety group, led by the “A” team (Andrew Warner, Andy Keys and Alan Jacobs), who spend time working in the environment to provide protection and safety for the community, for example, our green spaces, benches, paths and many other facilities.

Even in her two years on the parish council, Pauline can see Winkleigh is changing and will continue to do so as many more move into the village.

She has lived in densely populated areas before and, in part, it was the tranquillity of Winkleigh which attracted her to move – although as she points out, there are around 30 community clubs and groups here, so there is always plenty to do.

But, with a building boom in process, resulting in more than 300 new homes without all the important associated infrastructure, there will be a strain on local facilities such as school and healthcare and leading to a vast increase in traffic.

“We want to see sympathetic development in keeping with Winkleigh's character, which is already changing. It is disappointing that some of the estates have not been built within the guidance of the approved Neighbourhood Plan. I would also question how many of these homes are affordable and if they are within reach of local people who want to remain here.”

Winkleigh Parish Council took a petition signed by most local people, who were opposed to the rapid expansion of the village without the appropriate infrastructure being provided. People were very unhappy about the fact this is happening on farmland, that the

appearance of many of the homes is more suited to an urban environment, as well as the lack of care for nature, such as with no wildlife corridors being provided and no EV charging points being supplied on the estate.

The parish council only has limited powers when it comes to stopping developments, but members are angry that these homes were not built in line with the Neighbourhood Plan requirements and that the views of so many continue to be ignored.

But, looking to the positives, she says the Council has produced a strategic vision and plan for the village, shortly to be provided for public consideration, to maintain the unique features of this important historic village as well as providing opportunities. For example, with a strategic plan we can bid for significant funding that could enable more investment into facilities for the village. We are conscious that building development has been focused on cars and roads and we would like to see more focus on solutions for pedestrians and cycles in a coherent plan. "We have playparks for small children but also a skatepark is one idea for older young people. It would also be good to see an expanded village shop and, as more people move in, this is a frequent request from our surveys. I'd like to see a residents' group get off the ground if we can engage more people to volunteer to join us."

Pauline is also closely involved with developing an important new initiative – the Winkleigh Community Awards, which will take place in summer 2025. 'It is important to recognise and value the contribution of the many people giving to the community's benefit and celebrate achievements.'

In terms of encouraging young people to take part, she has already spoken to the Head of Chulmleigh Community College about the writing competition which is to be about "place and belonging" and Winkleigh Primary School is supportive too.

Pauline is now actively promoting the awards, and she adds that there are often

places available for newcomers to the parish council. "Many will know Angela Findlay, who chaired the parish council, and is now leaving the area. I find this work rewarding and we'd love to welcome others who may wish to offer their services; we are a very small group at present – and a few more women would be good too as I'm currently the only one! We need more diversity so please can I urge people to think about it"

For Information: The Winkleigh Community Awards will be an annual event to recognise services in the community – it is open to all ages from six upwards, with the aim of creating a culture of recognition and appreciation.

THE CATEGORIES ARE:

Annual Award for Freeman/woman

awarded by Winkleigh Parish Council
For person/s of distinction, in the opinion of the authority, rendering community service.

Children and Young People categories:

Children's Award for Creative Writing
aged 5-7 and 8-10

Young People Award for Creative Writing
aged 11-15

Young People Award for Illustration
aged 11-15

Community Partnerships

Recognising an individual or group raising money for charity and supporting recognised social purpose and community benefit.

Community Service for People

Recognising a group making formal contribution and helping or supporting people through volunteering, while making a positive difference to the community.

Outstanding Service to People or Groups of People in the Community

An accessible award for those who are perhaps not physically able to take part in something active, but still have a heart-centred approach to their community.

Business Award for Excellence

For contribution to community service such as benefiting cultural, environmental, sustainable, ethical, or quality of life activities.

Friendship Club

AGM REPORT



The AGM of The Friendship Club was held on January 23rd in the Community Centre when the officers were elected en bloc.

- **Chair** Marcia Butt
- **Vice Chair** Shirley Rogers
- **Treasurer** Margaret Bridgman
- **Secretary** Pat Cunningham
- **Committee** Maureen Barnet, Lucy Brown, Bobbie Farrington, Queenie Pidgeon

As promised in the winter edition of Distinctly Winkleigh our trips for 2025 were decided. Everyone is welcome to join us on some-or all of the trips which are as follows:

April 8th Dartmouth, **June 10th** Minehead, **August 5th** Sidmouth during the folk festival week, **September** TBA, **November 11th** Paignton & Torquay.

Pick up point outside **BT Autos at 9.30** and usually we leave for our homeward journey back at **4.00**.

Posters will be up around the village nearer the time with booking details.

Before the trips begin we will have our first talk on **March 6th** with All about Lundy by Francis Stuart.

Next **May 29th Films** of Winkleigh past by Stephen Leahy.

Then **August 21st** Life as an Artist by Clarissa Galliano.

Followed by All about Owls by Martin Unwin on **October 30th**.

All talks include tea or coffee and delicious home made cakes and a raffle.

Every one is invited to join us on these occasions with entrance only £2 per person. We now have our own microphone system so everyone will be able to hear.

We continue to meet on alternate Thursdays in the Community Centre at **2.30-4.30** where there is whist, crafts, board games, tea and biscuits and friendship.

Hope to see you all there.

Marcia Butt
Chairperson

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Local Philanthropy

“Remember the depth of peoples’ attachment to places and let the character of the people and place express itself” [England in Particular].

A great example of local pride and an individual’s desire to benefit the local community is the newly refurbished and extended Doctors surgery in Winkleigh.

Hazel Pike, [Queenie Pidgeon’s step mother-in-law] was so grateful for the excellent care she received at Wallingbrook Health Centre that she bequeathed a substantial sum in her will to the local practice as well as the Barnstaple Exmoor Unit at North Devon Hospital. This generous gift enabled Wallingbrook to go ahead with the substantial rebuild and modernisation of the Winkleigh surgery.

Now complete and fully functioning it is a wonderful community asset for us all.

Southernhay [in particular] over the years has greatly benefited from the actions of two thoughtful and public- spirited parishioners. Most recently, **Hazel** for making it possible for the surgery rebuild, but also in the 1980’s **Clifford Short. Clifford was a Parish Councillor and he mounted a doughty campaign to have the short cut alongside the surgery created to enable the primary school children to walk safely to school avoiding Townsend Hill.**

No prizes for guessing why it is called **Clifford’s Way**. And thank you **Joyce Brock** [always an active Southernhay resident] for getting the signs made at Appledore Shipyard and for successfully petitioning to have two lights installed.

Thanks are due also to another of Southernhay’s residents who regularly looks after this short cut, cleans the signs and checks the posters.

Next edition: We will re-run the story of another philanthropist who made a difference in the village. This time it was for the residents of Elms Meadow: **Brian Holland.**

Penny Griffiths

Calling all Singers



Okehampton Choral Society is looking for new members! We are a friendly choir spanning a wide age range and all voices are welcome - there are no auditions and it doesn’t matter if you do not read music. All you need is enthusiasm and a love of singing and you will find yourself enjoying the opportunity to sing in four part harmony and discovering a wide range of music.

We meet on a Monday evening for a 7:15pm start at Fairplace Church, Okehampton. We are not a church choir but we do appreciate the warm and welcoming atmosphere that Fairplace offers. You will be welcome to come along for a couple of rehearsals before deciding whether you would like to join us.

For further information please contact:

Bill on 01837 53109 or Helen on 01409 231106

GARDEN NOTES

Spring planting and protecting early growth - frost free tender tips

To Coffey

Even plants which are hardy and can survive hard winters can have their new growth damaged by unexpected frosts. Pleasantly warm days, as we often have scattered in late winter or early spring can break dormancy for many plants and seeds and encourage early, or even premature tender young growth. This is the time of year when gardeners are well advised to keep an eye on the forecast for overnight temperatures. If it looks to be frosty (anywhere below 5 degrees can be an issue for some plants) and if some of your plants are putting on unseasonably enthusiastic soft green growth, do consider giving them a fleecy shelter overnight, it doesn't take much to keep the worst off.

Whilst your more tender plants are no doubt still tucked away in a heated greenhouse, or wrapped in frostproof outbuildings, a little fleece goes a long way for the tougher regular with early soft parts. Some plants are too big to practically fleece, though in the past it wasn't unheard of for a late frost to be greeted by fires trying to save early blossom in orchards, more often now we hope for enough varieties with different windows for flowering to improve the chances of any losses to frost damage to be only small. In the domestic garden though moving pots to sheltered sunny spots, and wrapping



tender tips could just be enough to save the young growth. Every plant has different levels of cold tolerance - the RHS website is a reliable source of reference for knowing which of your garden favourites need first dibs on the garden duvets.

MARCH

- Protect new spring shoots from slugs with barriers
- Where needed prepare to apply nematodes for slugs once soil reaches 5 degrees c
- Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs - if in doubt plant bulbs 3x size of bulb deep
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- Top dress containers with fresh compost
- Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
- Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
- Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
- Prune bush and climbing roses

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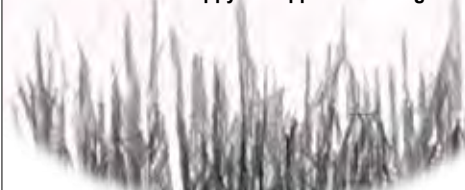
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APRIL

- Keep weeds under control
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors
- Start to feed citrus plants
- Increase the water given to houseplants
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- Prune fig trees
- Divide bamboos and waterlilies

No-Mow May

Consider leaving at least a part of your lawn to grow longer during no mow May (ideally treat it as a mini meadow and leave until autumn) .

It attracts a wider range of wildlife many of whom are beneficial in a garden setting. Better to leave a smaller patch for longer duration. Long grass encourages wildlife like butterflies to lay eggs, deciding the end of May is as long as you can bear it can mean you then destroy the nursery just as they hatch.

MAY

- Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
- Regularly hoe off weeds
- Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- Mow lawns being maintained as lawns weekly
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs

For optimum wildlife benefit and conventional gardening comfort mow a boundary giving neat edges to your wild meadow patch, and if it's large enough a curved path wandering through can really balance any concerns about it looking neglected or being impractical and turn it into a beautiful feature. If you want more wildflowers to develop in your mini meadows you want weaker grass - plant plugs of yellow rattle in with the grass and it will grow using the grass for its nutrient support, so reducing the vigour of the grass giving more delicate wildflowers an easier time.



Countryfile

*"O! but to breathe the breath Of the cowslip and primrose
sweet— With the sky above my head, And the grass beneath
my feet; For only one short hour To feel as I used to feel..."*

"The song of the shirt" by Thomas Hood 1799-1845

The county flower, the Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and the related Cowslip (*Primula veris*) are both beneficial to bees, butterflies, moths and beetles (though mostly to those with longer tongues).

Devon banks around the local villages are often populated with primroses, and their benefit in gardens is no less lovely. They require very little care and will self seed happily producing a variety of colours, from the dominant yellow through to either white or pale pink.

Both plants enjoy the moisture retentive qualities of the local clay and will grow most places so long as they get some sunshine. With increasingly warm summers they're probably best in partial shade so they aren't totally baked in midsummer. Cowslips do prefer chalk and limestone but they are a tolerant little plant and can still cope with our local acidic clay so long as they aren't waterlogged in winter.

Being in the same genus it's not surprising to discover that they can hybridise too. The resultant crossed offspring are known as false oxlips (*Primula veris* x *vulgaris*) - the true oxlip (*Primula elatior*) is like a paler more open flowered cowslip.

Historically different parts of the plants have been used for various medical

treatments, and though the leaves are technically edible they can be more bitter than most people would like. Probably the most appealing use is of the flowers to make primrose or cowslip wine, but the quantities involved would take a heavy harvest and commercial cultivation nowadays so it's probably best we enjoy them for their visual appeal and invertebrate benefits.

Anyone wanting to grow primroses or cowslips in their garden should know taking them from the wild is illegal, though sharing from a generous neighbour's garden will mean they are used to local conditions. When growing them from seed they should be sown in autumn for a spring display. Increasingly though these lovely wildflowers can be bought already in bud or flower.

April 19th is Primrose day, originating in the 19th century from Disraeli's love of the flower. Cowslips were traditionally picked on Mayday, though nowadays, with the understanding that our passing pleasures are less important than the core needs of wildlife for food, enjoying them in situ is preferable. Maybe taking time that day to go for a long primrose spotting walk around your nearby lanes and banks and meadows?

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Views from the People and Planet Questionnaire

The People and Planet Questionnaire gathered 21 responses from local residents, with 66% of participants from Winkleigh and 33% from Hollocombe. The feedback highlights a strong desire within the community to tackle environmental issues and take action to improve the local area.

Key Environmental Priorities

When asked about the environmental issues they were most passionate about, respondents identified the following priorities:

- **Wildlife conservation and recovery** (86%)
- **Water quality in rivers and streams** (81%)
- **Access to nature** (71%)
- **Pollution (air, water, light, soil)** (57%)
- **Recycling** (47%)
- **Climate Change** (47%)

These responses reflect a clear commitment to protecting local wildlife, improving water quality and ensuring continued access to nature.

Personal Action and Community Engagement

An overwhelming 95% of respondents reported taking personal action to reduce their environmental impact 'almost always' or 'often'. Actions include reducing energy and water use, supporting local business, minimising car travel and purchasing sustainable products. These efforts show a proactive commitment to sustainable living within the community.

Barriers to Environmental Action

Despite the enthusiasm, some barriers to taking further environmental action were identified:

- **Lack of time** (mentioned by nearly half of the respondents)
- **Lack of local groups**
- **Financial constraints**

These challenges may prevent individuals from engaging in additional environmental activities, though the desire for more involvement remains strong.

Preferred Local Initiatives

When it comes to local initiatives, residents expressed interest in joining the following:

- **Wildlife conservation activities**
- **Repair cafés or re-use schemes**
- **Community clean-ups**
- **Talks or walks in nature**

Many people also suggested activities that could foster greater community involvement, including group litter picks, local walking or running groups, regular repair cafés, and a 'library of things' to borrow rather than buy. There was also a call to **raise awareness of the climate emergency** and **attend Parish Council meetings** to stay informed on local decisions that impact the environment.

Ideas for Improving the Local Area

Several ideas were shared to improve the environmental landscape of Winkleigh and Hollocombe, including:

- Community herb and fruit areas and planters for bulbs
- An off-road footpath to the woods to reduce car traffic and encourage walking
- A permeable cycle and footpath connecting new housing estates to the Sports Field, School, Airfield outlets and more
- Making the main road safer for pedestrians and cyclists to reduce reliance on cars
- Improving access to the bus shelter on the Exeter route, with a dry, permeable path to improve safety and reduce water run-off

These suggestions reflect a desire to make the community more connected, sustainable, and safer for all residents.

Looking Ahead

With commitment to action from a core group of people, our collective effort could bring real change. Let's work together to keep Winkleigh and Hollocombe beautiful, sustainable

and connected to the natural world around us.

In terms of future engagement, **90% of respondents** expressed a willingness to support new environmental activities, either regularly or occasionally. This enthusiasm gives us an exciting opportunity for the community to come together, build upon these ideas, and make meaningful strides toward a greener, more

sustainable future for our Parish.

Please join us for an informal gathering to explore ideas on **Wednesday 26 March 2-3pm** at Catkins Blooms. We just ask that you buy a drink to support this local business.

Further information:

Kim Melhuish

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Winkledown

Dearest Gentle Readers,

Over the Winter months since my last missive, the Romantic amongst you will know that 'The Vill' has celebrated some important Village Weddings. Now in February, with Valentine's Day, the stirrings of Romance blossom as surely as the new bulbs and flowers and crops and animals in our fields. The sap is rising, new growth is budding and after a January that seemed to go on for ever, we can shake off the mantle of winter and delight in the coming of Spring.

Sadly, there have also been Village Funerals including the mourning of the loss of some of our notable Elders.

This is part of Winkleigh Village Life. This author can endorse that this Community comes together over such events in a way that harks back to the traditions and histories of villages for hundreds of years.

Kindness, Empathy, Awareness, Togetherness, Society - these factors help to maintain the spirit of The Vill and remind us that we are parts of a community that looks out for each other and honours and cherishes the life events of the Parish.

I read that in Barnstaple recently an 80-year-old gentleman, suffering from Parkinson's disease and partially sighted, fell over on Rolle Key one bitterly cold wet day and was unable to get up. Incredibly, his plight was ignored by passers-by, some of whom actively moved away from him, so as to 'not get involved'. It was over an hour before a young lad stopped to offer him help and was able to contact his family. As I read this, my immediate thought was how sad to live in a town where nobody cares, how lucky we are to live in Winkleigh, where no one would be left on a busy street in distress.

Long may our Village Values exist!

'Saint Valentine' was allegedly a Roman priest who continued conducting secret marriages in defiance of the orders of the Emperor. He is also known the Patron Saint of Sufferers of Epilepsy and of Beekeepers. He was martyred in the 3rd Century AD (CE)

In the last 'Winkledown' the hidden Poet's name was Byron. Another Poet's name is hidden within this text.

Yours affectionately,

Winkledown

Financial Focus – Tariffs and Conflict

Disclaimer: The author is an active, regulated Director and the founder of Moor Independent Financial Advisers Ltd, a local, independent financial planning and investment management firm serving private clients and trustees. This guide is for information purposes and does not constitute financial advice, which should be based on your individual circumstances.

The value of investments may go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invest. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. This article is for information purposes and does not constitute financial advice, which should be based on your individual circumstances.

Global markets remain poised at very high levels amid uncertainty over the behaviour and plans of Donald J Trump, 47th President of the United States. Trump's intervention in global marketplaces via tariffs, autocratic style and his decision to speak directly with Putin regarding the Ukraine conflict, have caused widespread consternation. The full, long-term impact and ramifications of these brash decisions are still being coldly evaluated.

In March 2024, the UK CPI inflation reading was 3.2%. By September 2024, it had fallen to 1.7%. The following monthly readings were 2.5%, 2.6%, 2.5% and for January 2025, 3%. The anticipation was for a reading of 2.8%. Higher, and particularly consistently increasing, levels of inflation make it more difficult for the Bank of England to cut interest rates. This has been reflected by market participants no longer fully pricing in two cuts to UK interest rates this year. Whilst this may normally provide strength for the

pound, reaction was muted. Participants remain cautious.

Confidence in the ability of the Labour government to deliver on its growth plans appears depressed. The Bank of England said earlier this month that it had halved its growth forecast for 2025, from the 1.50% it was expecting in November 2024, to just 0.75%. Meanwhile, the cost of borrowing for the UK government has risen, whilst actual levels of borrowing continue to spiral - public sector net borrowing was £17.8BN in December, more than £10BN higher than a year earlier. Reeves has also changed the rules to facilitate a further £80BN of borrowing for infrastructure projects; a decision many market participants have taken a dim view of given the near 100% debt to GDP ratio the UK faces, compared to less than 45% before the financial crisis of 2007-2008. The Chancellor's fiscal headroom of £9.9BN evaporated within months of the budget announcement, whilst the party is in a straitjacket of its own making with respect to additional tax rises due to the pledges it has made to the electorate. Despite these pledges, many consider that without a sudden, growth miracle, Labour will be forced to implement additional tax rises on the electorate in short order.

The US, further to their recent election, now appears to be suffering a similar fate to the UK. A recent slew of data shows consumer confidence in January 2025 fell to the lowest level since August 2021, whilst long-term inflation expectations spiked to levels not seen since 1995. The services purchasing managers' index slipped into contraction, whilst home sales in January dropped more than experts

had predicted and the services sector displayed a dip in activity. According to S&P Global chief economist Chris Williamson, US businesses' optimism has evaporated amid a darkening picture of heightened uncertainty. The rally in technology stocks is also reversing amidst fears about China's Deepseek model, threatening to disrupt the technology marketplace with a cheaper alternative to western counterparts.

Trump is threatening harsh tariffs, with severe financial implications and consequences, against formerly friendly trading counterparts. His style of governance and the number of Executive Orders he has signed are a serious concern for many in Congress who fundamentally believe in democracy, whilst Trump is further incensing many people by extending overtures to Vladimir Putin. For clarity, an Executive Order is a written order issued by the president to the federal government which does not require congressional approval. Executive orders are controversial because they bypass approval from Congress, allowing the president to act on his own.

Europe's economic outlook and production figures remain relatively depressed. For example, new car sales in Europe were down by 2.10% in January, as a jump in fully electric and hybrid-electric car registrations in its main markets was not enough to compensate for falling petrol and diesel sales. The eurozone's two largest economies, Germany and France, both contracted in the fourth quarter, whilst the Italian economy stagnated. The German economy shrank by 0.2% in the final quarter of 2024 compared with the previous quarter and is forecast to grow

by just 0.30% this year.

2024 saw stock market valuations in developed and many developing nations, such as India, hit record highs. Many would argue a pullback and some profit taking was inevitable this quarter. Looking past the immediate doom and gloom and further into 2025 is difficult at present, due primarily to the new American president. His alarmingly autocratic style of governance is both impossible to ignore and extremely difficult to predict. The American economy is always significant due to its size, but prior to Trump's presidency it was a bright spot within a global economy that was widely struggling to gain traction. If America falters in 2025, it may have broad and potentially severe repercussions on the global economy.

Also in the global mix is inflation and the strength of the dollar; the latter has a knock-on effect to commodities as they are priced in dollars and also affects Emerging Markets which may often struggle in the face of a strong dollar. It is certainly a complicated narrative to navigate at present, but bright spots and winners may often be found and volatility may open up opportunities for the knowledgeable investor. Broadly speaking, market participants would appear to be taking some profits, but not panicking. This suggests that, underlying the immediate caution, there remains a broad sentiment that there are reasonable grounds to anticipate medium to long-term growth over the course of 2025.

Jonathan Cotty Chartered FCSI

Director of Moor Independent
Financial Advisers



WINKLEIGH CHURCH FLOWERS LADIES

A big thank you to the ladies that decorated the church so beautifully for Christmas. We are a small group of volunteers that enjoy doing flower arrangements to welcome local residents and visitors to our church. If anyone would like to come along as a new exercise and have go, please make contact. Tuition will be given at all times. No experience is necessary.

AN EASTER REMEMBRANCE LILY will be available to purchase during LENT. Relevant envelopes will be available to collect from the Church or at The Post Office [by kind permission of Tony Bayley] **from Friday 5th March until Monday 7th April 2025.** All enquiries please contact – Linda Millership - 07967125857



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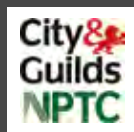
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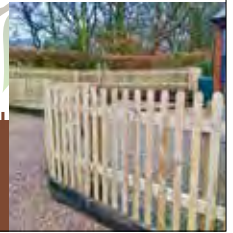


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Scribbleton shortlisted for South West Business awards

Many congratulations to local family attraction Scribbleton which was featured in our 2024 Autumn issue as the company has now been shortlisted in three categories of the South West Business Awards:

- **Female Entrepreneur of the Year**
– recognising founder and Director Sarah Cole.
- **New Start Up of the Year**
– acknowledging Scribbleton's growth and success since opening.
- **Leisure & Tourism Award** –
highlighting its contribution as a key family attraction in the region.

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Founder Sarah Cole said:

"Being shortlisted in not one but three categories just six months after opening is a fantastic recognition of what we have built at Scribbleton. Even getting to the point of opening doors to

the public after more than six years of planning and dreaming has been a huge achievement in itself, so to be shortlisted alongside so many great businesses is an amazing boost. Our aim has always been to create a welcoming space for families where children can learn through play, and it's wonderful to see that vision acknowledged."

The winners were to be announced at the South West Business Awards ceremony on 12 March 2025 just after this issue of Distinctly Winkleigh had gone to press.



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WINKLEIGH *Village Hall*

After what has seemed to be a long winter, Spring has arrived and the weather (hopefully!) will be improving. The last three months have been busy times for the Village Hall with all of our regular classes returning in the New Year, together with an ever increasing number of one-off or special events.

As there have been a number of changes on the hall committee in recent times, I thought I would take the opportunity to remind everyone of who the committee members are, so here goes:

We are a very friendly bunch, and more than happy to discuss your hall needs and queries so please do not hesitate to approach us.

I also wanted to let people know, especially the newcomers into the village, of the events that happen in the hall, week in week out. If you fancy joining any of the groups then either contact me and I will put you in touch with the organiser, or simply just come along to any event. You will be most welcome.



Chair – Tony Aston



Vice-Chair
Ian Whitehead



Treasurer
Tony Kennard



Booking Secretary
Kay Aston



Minutes Secretary
Jane Beresford-
Smith



Committee member
Julie Mustafa



Committee member
Beverley Cook

Chair Contact – 07946 490967

winkleighvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

Booking Secretary Contact – 07398 234579

winkleighvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

Mondays – **Yoga** 6pm-8.45pm

Tuesdays – **Yoga** 9.45am-11.15am

Tuesdays – **Badminton** 7pm-9pm

Wednesdays – **Tap Dancing**
7pm-8pm

Thursdays – **Chi Kung** 10.30am-11.30am

Thursdays – **Therapeutic Pilates**
7.15pm-8.30pm

Fridays – **Therapeutic Pilates**
9.30am-12.30pm

**Every 2nd Monday Church Wives
Group** 2.30pm-4.30pm

**Every 3rd Tuesday Family History
Group** 10.30am-12.30pm

Monthly on a Friday – dates vary –
Movie Night

Every 1st Saturday – **Monthly Market**

Contact **Tony and Kay Aston** if you are interested in joining any of these classes, or if you might like to hire the hall for your own event, on **07946 490967** for more details or email winkleighvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

During the winter storms, we suffered the falling of an oak tree within the grounds of the hall. This was kindly removed by Rob Knight and his friends (whilst he was preparing for his wedding reception in the hall the following day!) but it begged the question as to the safety and stability of remaining, large, trees especially after some of the high winds we have experienced. I contacted the trustees of the Castle grounds, who are responsible for such maintenance. They arranged for a tree surgeon to attend and carry out checks for which I await the report.

You will all be aware that the 80th anniversary of VE Day falls on May 8th this year. We have therefore decided that the monthly market, which takes place on the previous Saturday (3rd May) will be themed to reflect this. We have booked The Hummingbirds band to sing on stage during the market, bringing their close harmony magic of

the past to the present, specializing in the unforgettable melodies of the wartime years. Join us in celebrating this anniversary and come along in your 1940s garb – we certainly will!

Movie nights remain ever popular. At 7pm on Friday April 4th we are screening the latest Paddington movie “Paddington in Peru” then, and to celebrate VE Day, on May 23rd we will be showing “A Royal Night Out”, a feel-good movie which tells the story of Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret going out on the town on the night of VE Day in 1945. Come and join the fun!

Tony Aston

Chair



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Thursday **Tiny Tots** 9.30 - 11.15
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Friday **Youth Club** 19.00 - 21.00
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LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

A cautionary tale for teenagers by Angela Findlay



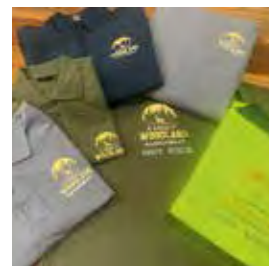
Mr O'Hara, who usually had a good sense of humour, hence his daughter's name, was fast losing patience. "Scarlett, get off that computer now, you've been too long messing about on it. You know you are only allowed an hour on school nights and then you have to do your homework!". "This is the second time of asking", he shouted again.

Scarlett sighed and switched off her laptop, she'd done what she set out to do that evening anyway. She'd set up a Facebook page calling herself 'Red', her Dad's nickname for her when she was little, it was both a play on her real name

and an abbreviation of Little Red Riding Hood, as when a toddler, she used to dress up in a red cloak and her Dad would affect to be the wolf and pretend to eat her by growling and rubbing his stubble over her bare belly. Too old for such games now she mostly messed about on social media in her room where she did her homework and listened to music. Her bedroom was both her pride and her refuge.

The following evening she posted on Red's page, photo shopped pictures of herself looking very grown up and sexy, she thought, even though she

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was only 13. Scarlett had done this for a dare demanded at school. Later she would check what responses she had on Facebook.

The next day Scarlett met her friends at school and how they laughed at her page and the contributions and comments her friends had made. Scarlett was delighted with the responses. Her best friend Maddy though told her she should not have put she was aged 16 as some of the older boys at school might check out her Facebook page. Scarlett brushed the warning aside, "Don't be silly Mads its only Facebook I am not actually going to meet any of my followers unless I know them".

One night, a few weeks later, during her allotted computer time, Scarlett checked her page and found a notice from a boy called Oliver who said he went to the neighbouring school in the town and was in year 11. He wrote on her page, 'none of the girls in my school are as pretty as you Red'. Scarlett modestly replied that the pictures had been photo shopped to give her the best advantage. 'So what' wrote Oliver, 'everyone does that and I bet you are a looker in the flesh'. Scarlett felt a strange feeling in her body when she read the word 'flesh'. Another comment appeared on her wall, this time from Maddy; 'Naw she's ugly, really aren't you Red?'

Scarlett's frisson turned to anger as she registered her friend's jibe. Then up popped a message, this time from Oliver. He wrote, 'I thought I'd send you a private message as everyone can read what we are saying. Message me back and it will be our secret, and you can tell me all about yourself'.

Over the next few days and then into weeks, Red and Ollie became inseparable on Facebook, she told him

all her secrets and fears and in return he told her about his school and how he was on the football team and which A levels he was planning to take after his GCSE's this summer. It turned out that Ollie and Red watched the same TV programmes, they were both fans of 'Buffy' and reruns of 'Friends'. They supported the same football team and music bands too, Scarlett felt that Ollie really understood her and was her friend.

Mr and Mrs O'Hara continued to be concerned about how much time she was spending on Facebook, especially when they received a letter from school saying that her grades were slipping and she was not as conscientious about homework as she used to be. Her dad started to enforce the one hour rule more strictly. Scarlett was not practically troubled by this as she was now texting, phoning and messaging from her mobile phone under the blankets at night. The conversations between her and Ollie were gaining intimacy with the late hour and location of their messaging. One night Ollie texted, 'what do you wear in bed, my lovely?' Scarlett responded "a very skimpy camisole and knickers in this hot weather, do you want a picture?" Scarlett had sent Ollie pictures of herself before and he had sent her pictures of himself, showing a tall, fair, good looking teenage boy in football kit. 'Please Red', Ollie wrote.

Scarlett posed on her bed and took a selfie and sent it to Ollie. He texted back "You are so beautiful Red. Would you send me one of you topless?" Scarlett thought for a moment and then she texted "You promise you won't show it to anyone else?"

The flow of selfies from Red to Ollie continued over the following weeks, each picture becoming more intimate and showing more nakedness on her

part. Ollie replied with a tenderness that made Red feel she was falling in love. He told her that he marvelled at her small breasts and tiny buttocks and assured her that he loved her and that she was beautiful. The fact that he did not send her intimate pictures of himself never occurred to Scarlett, she did not want them, and she did not ask for them. In reality she was still a child and anyway most of their conversations were about Man United and what they'd seen on TV and how lame some of the kids at their respective schools were.

As weeks passed into months and both Ollie and Red thought they should meet up properly. By coincidence, it turned out that Oliver lived on the other side of town near her grandmother's house.

Scarlett spoke to her mother one Saturday, "Can I go and visit Granny

next week?"

"I haven't the time to take you", her mother replied,

"I can go by myself on the bus, as I am 14 now and I know the way".

"I'll think about it", answered her mother".

Once Scarlett had gone to her bedroom, her mother broached the subject with Scarlett's father. "It's about time she showed some interest in her grandmother" he said, "let her go she's 14 now, she's no longer our little Red".

Mrs O'Hara told Scarlett over Sunday breakfast she could go on the bus to visit her grandmother the following Saturday. Scarlett squealed with pleasure, the first time on a bus by herself and the first time she would meet Ollie, she was so excited. Scarlett rang her grandmother and arranged to see her at midday. She then texted Ollie



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and said she would see him at 2:30 on a bench near the swings in Page Park, which was near her grandmother's house in Staple Hill. Ollie replied that they should meet on a bench in the woods at the edge of the park as it would be private and more romantic. Scarlett's heart skipped a beat and she texted back that she knew where he meant and that it was a lovely idea; away from the kid's area and the prying eyes of adults she thought.

The following calls and messages were a fervid mixture of practicalities and anticipation, what would Ollie wear and would Red recognise him from the tiny mobile phone pictures she had seen. It was agreed that Ollie would wear his Man United T shirt and baseball cap and she would wear tight red shorts and a red cropped top. Ollie told her not to tell her friends it was to be their secret.

Saturday came and Scarlett came down stairs in her shorts and full length T shirt over her cropped top, she somehow knew her mother would not let her travel on the bus dressed in that, even so her mother made her change into her jeans from her shorts. "Take the shorts with you, you can wear them in granny's garden" she said, "but too skimpy for the bus darling".

Scarlett arrived at her grandmothers on time and they had a lovely lunch in the garden, Scarlett took off her long T shirt and changed into her shorts. Her grandmother was thrilled to see her and thanked Scarlett for the home made jam her mother had sent her with. After lunch they sat and talked about school and Scarlett's brother and how her mother was and so on. As she left Scarlett promised to come again the following week.

Scarlett hurried towards the rendezvous and then slowed down as

she saw the imposing Victorian ironwork gates of the park. She was a little early and wanted to be at the bench first, but not sweaty and puffed out, she wanted to look her best. Her grandmother had not commented when she left in her shorts and cropped top.

As she neared the bench she was surprised to see what looked to be a full grown man in a Man United Top and cap on the seat. Startled, she slowed her approach and she phoned Ollie.

"Are you there Ollie?"

"Yes Red", he said "I'm waiting for you, I can't wait to see you", the man started to look about him, Scarlett moved behind a tree.

"You look awfully tall and strong for 16 Ollie"

"Yes I am mature for my years, all the better to look after you Red my lovely"

"If that's you – you have very strong arms"

"All the better to hug you with my lovely, now hurry up and find me my little Red".

"You look very grown up"

All the better to protect you Red, now where are you? he said

"I'm not sure mumbled Scarlett."

"Don't be frightened I'll come to you". She saw him stand and look around for her. She knew for certain then he was not a 16 year old boy. She switched off her phone and stepped out from behind the tree, straight in to the arms of a huge brawny man with tattoos.

"Come and meet my brother Oliver" he said and gripped her wrist in a vice like grip.

She saw the man, a middle aged man from the park bench walking towards her "Hello Red my lovely, there's nothing to be afraid of", he said, as Scarlett's scream was silenced with a firm hand over her mouth.



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Not much to talk about!

We Brits like to talk about the weather but there's not much to say about the rainfall figures for last year measured at Hollocombe's Horry Mill as they show 2024 was not the wet year I thought it was. In reality it was neither a particularly wet nor dry year with the annual rainfall being the 4th driest and 3rd wettest in the last 6 years. June and August 2024 were the driest Junes and Augusts but other than that not a lot to say about the rain in 2024.

Our thanks to Sonia Hodgson for supplying the data

January	103.7
February	189.1
March	121.4
April	71.2
May	91.1
June	29.5
July	94.0
August	33.1
September	133.8
October	112.8
November	132.3
December	74.3
Total	1,186.3mm

MY BANKING ADVENTURE

Recently my father passed away and at the funeral and the wake we asked guests not to buy flowers but to make donations to Air Ambulance. At the end of both events, I had a very heavy carrier bag which I took to my bank, a good forty-minute pot-hole-infested, drive away.

Therefore, I was disheartened when I arrived, having struggled from the car park with a hefty bag of coins and saw a column snaking down the High Street. Undeterred I swooped past the line of tutting people and was greeted by a smiling woman in bank livery and asked her if I could deposit this money.

"You'll have to join the queue" she said, flicking her red polished finger nails in the direction of the crocodile, like spattering blood over a crime scene. Sighing I joined the back of the line which was now even longer and joined in the general tutting. We British should be less good at tutting and better at politely but firmly complaining!

After about half an hour of waiting, foot sore and fed up, I finally reached the woman at the desk and told her I wished to pay in cheques, coins and notes into the Air Ambulance account.

"I am afraid we can't let you do that"

"Why ever not?" I gasped with incredulity.

"Money Laundering" she replied politely.

With quiet determination I said "Air Ambulance is a registered, national charity and won't be involved in money laundering.

"You might be though!" She quipped.

Completely frustrated both with her and the people grumbling behind me. I lost it.

"I am an old lady – do I look like a mafia don! This money is heavy the cheques are in danger of being past their sale by date, and I have queued for half an hour for you to tell me I can't pay this money in. This money is not mine." I said firmly "I need to pay it in, it's not mine to keep".

"Well, I am sorry but you can't" she said already turning to the frustrated tutting

man behind me.

Refusing to be fobbed off. I stood my ground and asked to see her line manager.

Sighing as if I was a troublesome child, she picked up the phone and waved me aside.

Ten minutes later a man appeared, wearing a natty suit and went to her desk where I heard the teller explain her version of events.

"My colleague is right" he reiterated looking at me down the blade of his nose.

"What am I to do with the money and cheques then? It's not mine" I felt like stamping my petulant feet.

"You could post the cheques, but we can't accept the money into the charity account money laundering rules."

Suddenly I had a thought. "I bank with you. Can I pay the money into my own account and then transfer it to Air Ambulance?" he scratched his nose and thought for a long moment. "Yes, you can" he conceded. I quickly dumped the carrier bag into his arms making it abundantly clear I had no intention of re-joining the queue.

He took me upstairs and reluctantly counted the filthy lucre, with a fastidiousness that made it clear that dealing with actual money was way below his paid grade and suit level.

Finally, we made the donation to Air Ambulance, cheques straight in, the rest via my own account.

Having successfully washed the money through my own account and fuming at the state of British Banking, I made my way past the queue and home, my arm still aching from the weight of the coins.

Perhaps if banks were still local and the manager and his staff knew their customers as was the case years ago. I wouldn't have to prove I wasn't a member of an organised crime syndicate!

Angela Findlay



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If you haven't heard of it before, Wheels 2 Work South West is a charity which offers affordable hire of a fleet of scooters and eBikes, serving communities throughout the South West.

Since its inception in 2001, Wheels 2 Work South West has assisted over 12,000 people in overcoming transportation barriers, enabling them to access work, training, social opportunities and local services such as train stations, medical centres and supermarkets.

"The eBike has truly changed my life, it has given me the freedom to get to and from work, attend the gym, visit family and so much more. It has been a game changer and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity"

- Max H, Truro

To be eligible for the programmes you must live in Devon or Cornwall. To hire an eBike you need to be over the age of 18, and for a scooter you need to be aged 17+ with a provisional licence and CBT (Compulsory Basic Training) Certificate or full bike licence.

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When you hire a bike through Wheels 2 Work South West, there's little you need to worry about. A 3 month contract means you know you have secure, reliable transport with all the important stuff taken care of like tax and insurance.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the use of a scooter or eBike, get in touch today to find out more. If hiring isn't right for you, Wheels 2 Work also sells their ex-fleet scooters and eBikes so if you would like to own your own transport they can help with that too!

"The organisation has changed my life giving me so much more freedom and confidence to get out more. With history of anxiety and depression I now have a new lease on life not having to rely on public transport"

- Johnathon, Holsworthy

Those interested in the services offered by Wheels 2 Work (Charity No: 1194170) can reach out via phone at **07970 480 807** or email: **admin@wheels2worksouthwest.org**

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WINKLEIGH *Bell Ringers*

The oldest, most significant building in Winkleigh is Winkleigh Parish Church All Saints. And the oldest, longest running society in Winkleigh has to be The Winkleigh Bell Ringers. All Saints church Bells have rung out across Winkleigh Parish for centuries. They rang in the reign of Elizabeth I to celebrate the victory over The Armada in 1558.

When clocks and timepieces were only for the rich, the morning bell rang to summon workers to work in the fields.

The curfew bell sounded at 8 or 9 in the evening. The church pulpit was where royal proclamations were read out and the people were summoned there by the tolling of the bells.

They were silenced throughout World War 2 [1939 -1945]; but how they rang out across the land when victory was declared.

Bell ringing is not for the faint- hearted. Ringers' diaries are punctuated with the long established rituals of the church; Sunday morning services, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, weddings, funerals and significant national events e.g. The Queen's funeral and the King's Coronation.

Jane Hill is Bell Captain. Ringers practice every Tuesday night from 7.30 to 9pm. Jane took over from Frank Pidgeon who was Bell Captain for fifty Years. Frank trained many bell ringers over the years as did Ken Brooke, another stalwart, who trained Andrew Ware.

Jane has been ringing since she was a young girl and is steeped in the traditions and discipline of this ancient practise. Climbing up the church tower on a cold January night to watch the ringers go through their paces, seeing the heft of the ropes, observing the stretch, effort, rhythm and concentration required from the ringers to create the bong that rings out into the night and across the village is to connect with History.

Impressive too is the loyalty of long established ringers, including Andrew Ware, Peter Penny & Roger Hill. There is also a keen 15 year old lad and [on the night I was there] visiting ringers from Coldridge.

Bell ringers across the region communicate and support each other with ringing tours and filling in for other churches when they need more crew. There are very few parishes in Devon which are outside 'the sound parish'. The Winkleigh All Saints bell-ringers belong to a community of enthusiasts dedicated to keeping this ancient art alive and sonorous.



Top Left: Jamie Ingliss, Alan Monks, Diana Marshall, Peter Penny, Teresa Kendall, Roger Dunn, Andrew Ware. In the front: Jane Hill and Henry Gent.

Penny Griffiths

Winkleigh Parish Council

Community Awards

2025



The Parish Council has launched two competitions in conjunction with Winkleigh Primary School and Chulmleigh Academy:

Children's Writing Competition

Entrants aged 11 or under are invited to write their own story about 'Magical Devon' in a maximum of 500 words. Illustrating your story is optional and the judges aren't worried about perfect spelling and grammar.

You'll need to get a wiggle on as the closing date for entries is 31st March. Submit your entry either by email to clerk@winkleighpc.org or post them in the special posting boxes in Winkleigh Post Office and the Community Centre.

Prizes of book vouchers will be awarded to the winner and runners up and all entries will receive a certificate of merit.

Annual Young People Award for Creative Writing and Illustration

There are two awards under this category with each having a theme of 'Belonging and Community'.

Young People Award for Creative Writing for ages 11-14

The aim is to encourage your personal reflection about belonging and the judges are looking for a creative story of up to 1000 words on the theme 'Belonging, Place or Community'.

Young People Award for Illustration for ages 11-14

The aim is to encourage your personal reflection about belonging in your illustration based on the theme 'Belonging, Place or Community'. Any medium of your choice can be used.

The closing date for entrants is 23rd April 2025.

Prizes for gold, silver and bronze awards receive gift vouchers and certificates of merit and every entry will receive a certificate.

Going to other schools or living in other parishes are not a bar to entering the competition.

The awards have been very kindly sponsored by Kingsley Plastics and Roger & Jane Hill





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WHAT'S ON...

REGULARS

MONDAY

Short Mat Bowls 1:45pm-4:15pm Sports Hall

Netball Club 7:30pm-8:30pm Sports Hall

FitSteps 6:30pm and 7:30pm Sports Centre

Yoga 6pm – 8.45pm Village Hall

2nd Monday of each month bar January

Church Wives Group, Village Hall

2.30pm-4.30pm

TUESDAY

Yoga 9.45am-11.15am Village Hall

Free 'Sewcial Crafternoon' at Catkin

Blooms 1:00-3:00pm

Badminton 7:00pm-9:00pm Village Hall

Family History Group every 3rd Tuesday
10.30am-12.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Mini market & charity coffee morning

9:30am-10:30am Community Centre

Tap Dancing 7:00pm-8:00pm Village Hall

Youth Club 7:00pm-9:00pm Sports Hall

Kung Fu 6:30pm-8:00pm &

8:00pm -9:00pm Community Centre

THURSDAY

Winkleigh Art Group 10:00-14:00

Community Centre

Chi Kung 10:30-11.30 Village Hall

Tiny Tots 9:30–11:15 Sports Hall

Therapeutic Pilates 19:30-20:30 Village Hall (booking required)

Tai Chi 19:30-21:30pm Sports Centre

FRIDAY

Youth Club 7:00pm-9:00pm
Sports Centre



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Therapeutic Pilates 9:00-12.00 Village Hall (3 classes, booking required)

Short Mat Bowls 13:45-16:15 Sports Hall

SATURDAY

1st Saturday Monthly Market

APRIL

4th Movie Night - 'Paddington in Peru'
Village Hall 6.30pm for 7.00pm

8th The Friendship Club trip to Dartmouth

11th Winkleigh Society AGM 7pm
Community Centre

Theme: Local Distinctiveness. All Welcome. Ploughman's supper

24th Winkleigh Parish Council
Community Consultation Event 7pm-9pm
Community Centre. To launch the WPC Strategic Plan refreshments provided.

MAY

23rd Movie Night - 'A Royal Night Out'
Village Hall 6.30pm for 7.00pm

June

7th Winkleigh Car Show, Seckington Cross, Winkleigh EX19 8EY

10th The Friendship Club trip to Minehead

July

13th-19th Winkleigh Summer Fair

August

2nd Sam's Cider's Summer Festival
5 The Friendship Club trip to Sidmouth during Folk Festival

November

11th The Friendship Club trip to Paignton & Torquay



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We've had a busy couple of months recently at Winkleigh YFC. Just before Christmas, we held a reindeer drive at Merton Clinton Hall. This is something that we had not done before, so it was good to try out something new. All members who attended had a good time.

Just in time for the 2025 new year, we also released our first ever tastefully naked calendars! These were in aid of Devon Air Ambulance and Cancer Research. We have so far raised over £1,000 from sales and sponsorship! We still have a small number left, available for the bargain price of £2.50 each. Many thanks to all the models, sponsors and everyone who bought one.

We then held our annual Christmas tree collection, which went very smoothly, raising £560.00 for charity. We had many repeat customers from last year, which was encouraging to see. Thank you to George from MTF contracting for chipping up the trees and SWF for use of their yard.

Winkleigh submitted a cheerleading team in to the Tarka entertainments competition on the 1st of February. Unfortunately, we didn't get through to the next round, but a good day was had by all who went.

The mini club held their annual pudding quiz on the 8th of February, which was very well attended by members of the public. It was great to see the Village Hall completely full.

We also had a brilliant tour of the Crediton Milling Company earlier in the month, which was very interesting and had a great turnout. Many thanks to CMC for showing us around.

Club members are looking forward to a weekend away in Weston-Super-Mare in March for South West Area.

We have a few different events coming up:

Winkleigh YFC dodgeball competition
@The Waie Inn, 06/03/2025.

Blind drop
@ Ashreigney Village Hall, 15/03/2025

Easter Bingo
@ Winkleigh Village Hall, 11/04/2025

For more information about our club or membership, feel free to call me on 07498 972991 or find our Facebook group – Winkleigh YFC.

Tim Laarveld

Social Secretary

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Letters...



Dear Editor,

I am sure many of your readers are aware of the Community Centre. However, to let everyone in the Parish know, it's situated immediately below the Village Hall. It was built in 1876 as the local school, so has substantial history behind it.

Currently, thanks to three Air Source Heat pumps it is now much warmer than in previous years. It was decorated internally a couple of years ago and we're currently working on the outside of the building.

Below is a list of activities currently using the centre:-

Kung Fu • Tai Chi • Art Group - Coffee Morning • Mini Market - Taw Valley Quilters • Winkleigh Morris Dancers • Winkleigh Young Farmers • Winkleigh Parish Council - Warmspace weekly lunches • Friendship Club - Ace Archeology • Bingo • Dog Training Classes.

At the side of the building behind the small wooden gate is a free food cupboard for any person struggling with food poverty. Please take what you need.

There are currently 2 directors & an active helper.

We could do with two more directors to help move things along.

If you are interested at all please call for a chat or if any of the activities interest you.

Alan Jacobs – ajrjacobs@live.co.uk
07706753991

Tony Byrne – tonybyrne275@gmail.com
01837 682795

ALAN JACOBS

Dear Editor,

I felt I must write to you to say how grateful I was to Distinctly Winkleigh/ Winkleigh Society Journal.

I had a problem getting a family member to an urgent hospital appointment and my usual contacts were unavailable to oblige.

I remembered the piece in Distinctly Winkleigh regarding the Winkleigh Volunteer Service, I phoned the organiser Angela and despite the short notice she was able to oblige.

The appointment was met on time and all turned out well.

Thank you for all you do.
A Winkleigh resident.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ASPIRING ARTISTS.

Budding young artists from across Devon and Cornwall can have their work displayed alongside famous names like Man Ray and Salvador Dali in a new art competition at Plymouth's The Box.

There are 4 age categories:

Early Years.
Primary School.
Secondary School.
18-25 years.

Please send high quality photo entries digitally to competition@Plymouth.gov.uk. Label the file with initials, date and category.

Contact details: The Box, Tavistock Place, Plymouth, Devon PL4 8AX.



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FOOTBALL ROUND UP

Update by Jodie Johns

With the wet wintry weather hopefully behind us, fingers crossed the unlucky run Winkleigh FC have been experiencing is behind us too! Despite all Winkleigh have been through over the past few months (change of managers, injuries, unfortunate losses) one thing that remains is the passion and commitment from each and every player involved - turning up each week and giving it their all. The team were finally rewarded for this last week (15th Feb) with a win at home against Upottery after a miserable run of losses and draws.

Results to date as follows:

Winkleigh 4 - 3 Clyst Valley

Winkleigh 3 - 3 Colyton

Crediton 2 - 0 Winkleigh

Sidmouth 3 - 0 Winkleigh

Clyst Valley 2 - 1 Winkleigh

Winkleigh 1 - 4 Wellington

Exeter Uni 1 - 1 Winkleigh

Winkleigh 2 - 1 Upottery

With only a couple of home games left for Winkleigh, all support is greatly appreciated. If you're thinking of popping down to see what it's all about, check out Winkleigh FC on Facebook to stay up to date with all of our current fixtures and events.

Speaking of events, I am writing only days after the success of our third darts tournament. A massive 47 entries saw people from all over Devon descend on the Village Hall for another night of arrow throwing. Over £1,000 was raised for the club which will help fund improvements to our pitch, clubhouse/changing rooms, equipment etc. - the list is never ending

and events like this are only made possible with the help of our volunteers who help organise, set up, run, cook, serve drinks and clean up, so a big thank you to you!

Winkleigh FC are hosting a night of comedy with Johnny Cowling on Friday 28th March in the Village Hall - tickets went on sale on Tuesday 11th Feb and sold out within a week! This is certainly set to be a fantastic night.

As the last part of the season approaches, manager, Steve Johns, had this to say "After a tiring run for the team, the last two games have seen a good draw against the young university side away from home, and a massive win against a well-drilled, experienced Upottery side. The commitment and passion from the players has been exceptional, even through the tougher times. Hopefully now, we can push on and have a good run until the end of the season and get Winkleigh back up the table where they deserve to be. Thanks to all of our supporters who make the trip whatever the weather to cheer us on - we really are the best supported club in the league!"

Our quiz night has been booked in the diary for Friday 2nd May, keep your eyes peeled for further information on that.

The end of season dinner has been booked to celebrate all things football within Winkleigh FC - something everyone looks forward to attending to see the season out.

Conversations are ongoing regarding our massively successful 6-a-side tournament which will be taking place in June, as well as a Veterans Match to be held in the summer.

Hope to see you at the pitch soon!

SCHOOL NEWS

Winkleigh Primary School Headteacher Mrs Victoria Fenemore reports

Dear Winkleigh Families and Winkleigh Community,

Spring has arrived, bringing fresh opportunities and exciting events to our school community! We have had a busy term so far and continue to look forward to the term ahead as we plan for various events such as residential trips, day trips and welcoming visitors into school.

Events this term have included:

Various sports matches and tournaments with more scheduled throughout the coming term: we were filled with pride as we reach the second stage of the Utilita Cup – children performed their best and we were very proud of them. We also attended a Football Festival which was a fun and engaging day of activities for our children. This term, our Year 3 and 4s were invited to learn gymnastic skills at Queen Elizabeth College and were supported by our Sports Ambassadors, this was a great day of activities and we are grateful to QE for these opportunities.

Various year groups participated in cycling proficiency training, Bikeability, which has again proved to be hugely successful and the children have participated enthusiastically. Our Art Ambassadors helped to set up a whole school Art Exhibition which was displayed in the church during the half-term break; we hope you managed to see it, the children's efforts made us very proud. Everyone participated in Safer Internet Day which adds to our structured education programme on

responsible and safe internet usage. We hosted a Wonderstruck Science Day which was a day filled with exciting and interactive science experiments, enjoyed by all of our children. Our Year 4 class attended a field trip about Waste Management to learn about sustainability and waste.

We have hosted Stay and Play at Nursery which is a great opportunity for parents to engage with their young learners as well as other parents. Just before the half-term break, we invited families in for Family Breakfast with the usual bacon rolls as well as the addition of continental croissants and pastries; the feedback for this change in menu was very positive and will become a permanent offer.

Our Subject Leaders have collaborated with teachers across both our schools in Maths, Geography, Science, PE, Music, and Art to enhance learning experiences.

We offer a variety of clubs for students as we aim to encourage children to explore their interests and develop new skills:

- Craft Club – A space for creative students to work on fun and engaging craft projects.
- Flute Club – For students who enjoy playing the flute and wish to enhance their musical abilities.
- Art Club – A perfect place for young artists to express themselves and refine their techniques.
- Gardening Club – Students will learn about sustainability and care for the school garden.

- Multi-Sports Club – A great way to stay active and try out different sports throughout the season.

Looking to the summer ahead, we have many exciting events planned. The Parish Council have organised a Writing Competition and we look forward to reading their entries. Our residential programme is set to begin with Year 3s camping, Year 4s staying at Escot, Year 5s visiting Skern Lodge and Year 6s going to London and then surfing. As ever we are proud to take our children on as many enrichment events as we can and our fundraising helps us to keep the costs affordable for our families.

For the latest updates, be sure to follow us on our school facebook page and check our school website at www.winkleigh.devon.sch.uk

Thank you for being a part of our wonderful school community.

Ode to the Bear Bin

We have featured the Elms Meadow Bear Bin in previous issues and this poem has been penned by young poets Wesley Lill (8) and Betsy Lill (15)

Our super Elms Meadow bear bin,
Is a great place to put our litter in.
It keeps the road nice and clean,
We planted flowers around as a team.
And now they are blossoming,
What an incredible thing.
If the council would heed our needs,
We could maybe add a bigger swing.
Or maybe have a picnic table -
If they are able.
A place to enjoy the view.
That all sounds great to me, but what about you?

Please help us expand the playground, so it is suitable for ages all around.

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In memory of Antoinette Jean Kingsbury

1946 - 2024

Toni would be very cross with me for submitting this tribute about her life here in Winkleigh and throughout Devonshire.

She would never want to be in the limelight or praised, always wanting to encourage others.

Therefore, this short summary is only a glimpse into her past life.

It was very fitting that her funeral service took place at Exeter Cathedral on the 22 January 2024. It was conducted by the Very Reverend Jonathan Greener Dean of the Cathedral and Canon Ian Morter.

It was gratifying to witness so many local attenders along with others from throughout Devonshire and further afield.

Toni was born in 1946 in Kilmarnock, her father was a Scot and her mother from Kent.

They chose to live in Kent and it was there age 5 at Ham Hill School where she first met and sat next to Ian- her future husband. We were married for 53 years and lived in Winkleigh from 1973, 52 years ago.

Toni had an aptitude for figures and worked for firms including the Reed Paper Group, Omega watch company and eventually for the National Cash Register company. She worked her way up the ranks and eventually installed accounting systems and trained others how to use them.

We both had good jobs and I suppose could be described, in terms of that era as, a "Pair of Yuppies". We chose to leave the rat race in Kent and, with another couple, bought and ran the Lymington Arms at Wembworthy.

Toni and I then purchased a Dairy, known as Kingsbury Dairy, moved to Winkleigh and added the Newsagents and bottled gas business, delivering to ten surrounding villages, along with two faithful employees Ann Parker and John Sowden.

That lasted some 43 years until retirement.

As if Toni did not have enough to do, she played a full part in village life, driving and delivering on her own rounds. She was a very kind person, always worrying about others, regarding her customers as friends. Especially the elderly who lived on their own, going in to make sure they were alright, fetching prescriptions or giving them time.

Toni was secretary to the Village Hall Committee, very often taking Natalie in her push chair!, Secretary to the Winkleigh Relief in Need Charity, teaching ballet at Beaford Art Centre and South Molton.

She started the predecessor of Distinctly Winkleigh producing Country Mart, a village newsletter.

At the same time studying for her degree on an open university course.

The best summer ever of 1978, in Winkleigh, Toni gave birth to our daughter Natalie who now works in veterinary services in Wiltshire.

Toni enjoyed everything about Winkleigh until she became ill and diagnosed with PSP or Progressive Supranuclear Palsy becoming increasingly disabled cared for by me and the superb care of Jackie Bridgman who gave Toni comfort and dignity to the very end.

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DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The Winkleigh Society publishes Distinctly Winkleigh quarterly at the end of **March, June, September** and early **December**. Copies are available free of charge to all homes and businesses in the Parish (many hand delivered, others available from village shops).

Please email Articles to articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk and Adverts to adverts@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk One-off posters for community 'not-for-profit' events are free of charge.

Please ensure that any images you submit are of the highest possible resolution and that all articles and images are copyright-free. All articles submitted for publication may be subject to editing, primarily for space or layout reasons.

Note also that it takes only 500 words to fill each (A5) page without any images.

Please be aware that the views expressed in submitted material are not necessarily shared or endorsed by the newsletter team or The Winkleigh Society. Furthermore the Society does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of any information, goods or services advertised in adverts or articles.

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All residents of Winkleigh Parish are welcome to attend and vote at Winkleigh Society General Meetings. Further information about the Society can be accessed at:
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