



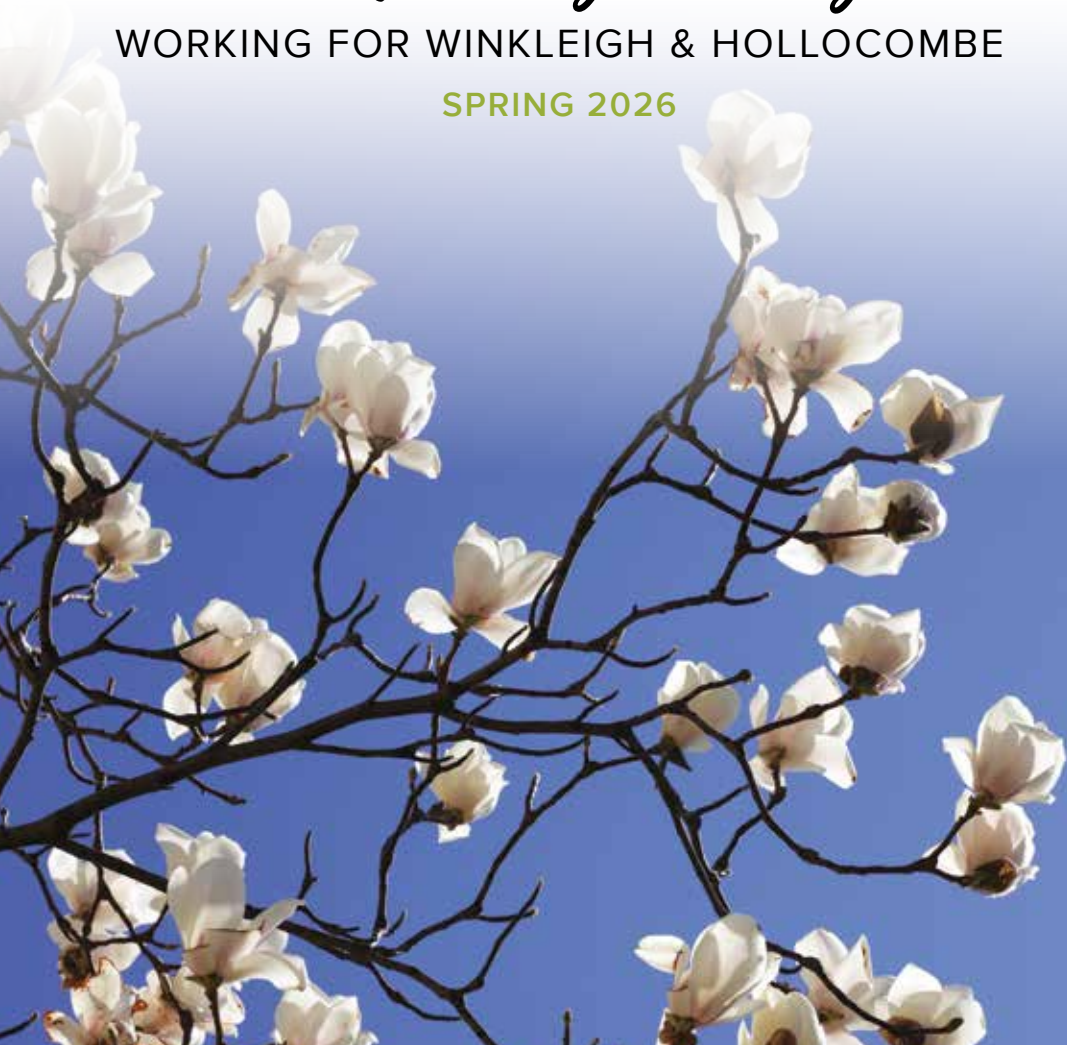
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Winkleigh Society Report

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE REVAMPED UNIQUE WINKLEIGH POST OFFICE SIGN

Thanks to craftsman woodcarver John Butler R.W.A. who has made a superb job of rebuilding, repairing and re-painting the Winkleigh Post Office sign that he created in the early seventies as a tribute to his parents who had run Winkleigh Post Office for many years.

We think John was amused and flattered that we [The Winkleigh Society] so appreciated the unique quality of the sign [and the story behind it] that we took the trouble to organise and finance the renovation: making contact with John in his workshop in Bideford Pannier market, negotiating with Tony [owner of P.O.] organising its removal [thank you Robert Baker] and taking the sign to Bideford so John could assess what was needed. When Robert took it down it was so weather-worn and delicate no brute force was needed. I felt some trepidation, [when we returned the dilapidated sign to John's workshop], that he might say it was beyond repair. However John took up the challenge and when he rang to say we could pick it up we were delighted with the transformation.



Penny Griffiths and John Butler



Robert Baker putting the repaired sign up

On returning to Winkleigh with the refurbished, re-painted sign Robert again volunteered and put it back in pride of place. Tony Bayley is delighted and so are we in the Winkleigh Society. When next visiting the post office please glance upwards and check it out.

Note: There is a YouTube video showing John carving at his Bideford studio. Search; John Butler woodcarver. Enjoy.

INTERPRETATION BOARD at Castle Green

Bill Horner [Chief Archaeologist Devon County Council] has been in touch enquiring about the s106 agreement at Castle Green for an information board about the history of this significant site. He wanted to know how much money had been allocated for this work. Jennifer Slade [Torrige's performance and monitoring team leader] forwarded all the s106 agreements for Castle Green and we then forwarded the relevant details to Bill Horner. £5,000 has been allocated.

WINKLEIGH SOCIETY A.G.M.

The Winkleigh Society A.G.M. will be held on April 10th at 7pm at the Community Centre. All are welcome and as in previous years the A.G.M. will follow a cafe style with cheese and cider provided. This year's theme will be working towards the 100th edition of Distinctly Winkleigh which will be published this winter.

Penny Griffiths and Margaret Miller

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Welcome

TO OUR SPRING EDITION

Spring has sprung and a grey, wet and very depressing winter has thankfully come to an end. The signs of spring are here with lambs gambolling in the fields and spring flowers appearing in abundance. I don't remember there being a better display of wild daffodils in previous years.

Whilst writing of young life it is important that DW reflects the views of younger members of our community and I am delighted that this issue contains the first of what I hope will be regular contributions from Year 11 students at Chulmleigh College.

If you have a bit of time you can spare and would like to be involved with Distinctly Winkleigh please contact me on the number or email shown below. Whether you'd like to write, liaise with our advertisers, proofread or help with the distribution or administration you will be welcomed with open arms!

Peter Hopkinson

Editor - peter@hoppy.biz - 07770 821752

The Distinctly Winkleigh Team

Editor: Peter Hopkinson

DW Team Advertising Liaison:

Philip Griffiths

Publisher: The Winkleigh Society

Graphic Designer:

Becci Arscott - bsharpdesigns.co.uk

Distribution Manager: Barry Jenkins

Regular Contributors: Alan Jacobs, Angela Findlay, Caroline Dennis, Erica Williamson, Jo Coffey, Kim Melhuish, Linda Millership, Margaret Miller, Pat Cunnington, Penny Griffiths, Tim Laarveld, Vicky Samuels, Allan Leighton, Lizzie Marshall, Marcia Butt, Pam Down, Pat Cunnington, Rachel Duckworth, Stuart Rosamund, Will Slocombe, Winkledown, Tom Robinson, Stephen Middleton, Pauline Odulinski

Distribution Team: Alan Jacobs, Andrew Warner, Anita Hooper, Catherine Knight, David Trenaman, Richard Clarke, Helena Lewis, Jackie Hooper, Jane Beresford-Smith, Jane Hill, Linda Millership, Linda Popham, 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

PRESS SNIPPETS

North Devon Journal Jan 1

A 22 year old man has been ordered to pay more than £11,000 for fly-tipping leaking oil barrels and fridges near Barnstaple.

The Moorlander Jan 9

Devon County Councillor Jess Bailey has called for the council to recognise the intrinsic rights of Devon rivers to flow naturally, avoid pollution and support bio-diversity.

North Devon Journal Jan 1

Devon and Cornwall police defend their road safety camera use after analysing traffic speed and collision data. It has sparked a lot of debate on social media. Sergeant Glyn Clarke insists that speed cameras are about safety, not punishing drivers.

Crediton Country Courier Feb 26: [Public Notices]

Buildings once used as offices for

Winkleigh Airfield could be converted into nine homes if planning consent is given at Bellinster Factory Estate, Berners Cross.

Express and Echo Jan 27

A student who stalked two members of staff at Petroc college in Tiverton and catalogued more than 1,000 covert images of students and staff has pleaded guilty at Exeter Crown Court. He was handed a three year community order consisting of a rehabilitation activity and 150 hours of unpaid work. Lifetime restraining orders were put in place to protect the two victims.

Okehampton Times Jan 29

Schools and community groups are invited to apply for free trees and hedgerow plants by **The Woodland Trust**.

Penny Griffiths

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WINKLEIGH

Parish Church News

As some of you may know, the Reverend Helen Blaine has now left the Winkleigh group of parishes for pastures new. She has moved on to be part of the North Dartmoor Parishes and sad as we are to lose her, we wish her well in her new venture.

On 15th February some 60 people gathered in Church to say farewell, favourite hymns were sung, gifts exchanged and cake consumed! It was a lovely bitter-sweet send off.

Please be assured that the functions of the Church will still continue while we await a new Vicar, which may well be many months.

For baptisms (Christenings) and weddings, please contact Sue Ware or Jane Hill (see below) and we can arrange for a priest to do what is needed. Similarly, if you have any pastoral needs and want to speak to a priest we can put you in touch with someone. If you would prefer to speak to a priest direct, the first point of contact is the Rural Dean Revd Tracey Doyle on 01769 560 593.

For funerals it is best to contact a funeral director first and they will liaise with us, but you can start with us if you wish.

Week to week the usual services will more or less continue but please see the noticeboards on the Church doors for full details.

We intend to continue with the Children's Activity Days in the school holidays as well as continuing to host school art exhibitions and the regular visits the schoolchildren make to the Church.

Other 'extra' services will continue – all the Remembrance Day events, All Souls and the Christmas services. The Fair Saturday service will be led by the Methodist Minister.

There will be a public meeting led by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple, Revd Verena Breed, on Thursday 26th March at 7pm in the small room of the Village Hall, to discuss the Church's plans for the future. All are welcome.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Sue or Jane.

Sue Ware 01837 83526 / 07484 891 567 / sueandware@hotmail.com

Jane Hill 01837 680128 / 07759 323 942 / janeandroger@hotmail.co.uk

A FAREWELL MESSAGE *from Reverend Helen Blaine*

The seasons are on the turn and after the dark days of winter, spring is just around the corner. At these times I'm often reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3: '*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*' The writer then goes on to list all those 'times' and I'm sure we could all add many more from warp and weft of life. Through all those times God is ever present and faithful.

For Alastair and I and for the parishes of the Winkleigh Mission Community there is to be a time, a time of change, of moving on and new adventures. After the last seven years as Priest-in-charge, the time has come for me to move on and to take

up my new post as Associate Priest in the North Dartmoor Parishes.

Serving this parish has been a profound privilege. From the quiet beauty of our Sunday services to the joy of weddings and the shared sorrow of funerals, you have allowed me into the most significant moments of your lives and this community. I shall miss the stunning view of Dartmoor from the churchyard and the hustle and bustle of the village square. It has been a lovely, friendly and welcoming place to live and we have both felt very much part of this community.

Together, we have navigated a pandemic, celebrated national events such as the Coronation and remembered those who have served their country in war. It has been a delight to be part of this vibrant village from Fair Week, Christmas markets, Airfield Memorial services and welcoming the school into church.

While the departure of a priest brings a season of change, the church is not a building or a single person; it is the people. It has been a delight to see people come together and work together in so many ways to ensure the life of the church continues in Winkleigh. The doors of your church are always open, for all seasons of life and you are welcome into it.

Sue Ware and Jane Hill as Churchwardens will be your point of contact during the vacancy and along with the PCC and Rural Dean will continue to oversee the life and worship of the church in Winkleigh.

With every blessing and prayers for the future.

Helen

All Saints Church *Flower Group*

A wonder array of floral arrangements filled the Church during the Christmas season. Many grateful thanks to everyone that contributed, and assisted in these displays.



EASTER REMEMBRANCE LILIES will be available to purchase during LENT beginning Wednesday 18th February. Relevant envelopes will be available to collect from the Church & the 'Post Office'[by kind permission of Tony Bayley] from Thursday 19th February until Saturday 21st March 2026.

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Linda Millership: 07967125857.**

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From your **Devon County Councillor**

Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin

Dear Winkleigh residents, January and February have been significant months for Devon, and I wanted to share an update on County Council decisions alongside the work I have been supporting locally here in Winkleigh. Devon County Council has now agreed its 2026–27 budget, our first full budget under the new administration, setting a clear direction: stabilising essential services, starting to repair what has been neglected, and investing in the foundations that keep our rural communities moving.

I continue to work closely with Parish Council Chair Pauline Odulinski, District Councillor Stephen Middleton, and Devon County and Torridge District officers, particularly on highways and planning matters affecting Winkleigh. Their support and collaboration make a huge difference, and I will keep pushing for Winkleigh's needs to be prioritised.

£19 Million Extra for Highways Including £4 Million for Drainage and Gullies

The condition of Devon's roads remains one of the biggest concerns for residents, especially after the severe storms and freeze thaw damage we have faced this winter.

I'm sure you will all be pleased to hear this year's budget includes £19 million of **additional** highways funding, with £4 million of this ringfenced specifically for drainage and gullies.

Improving drainage is one of the most effective forms of preventative work. When water is allowed to sit on or under the surface, roads deteriorate rapidly. This investment will support more ditching, gully clearing and preventative work, helping reduce future potholes and protect new resurfacing work. There are also plans to work more closely with town and parish councils on highways issues over the coming years through

a "Community Protocol", strengthening local input and collaboration.

The reality is that it would take hundreds of millions of pounds to bring Devon's roads up to standard because they are now in such a poor condition, after more than a decade of decline and underfunding. However, I sincerely hope the £19M increase in funding this year will deliver noticeable improvements. Let's all hope for some drier weather and progress on the ground.

As the weather improves, highways teams will move from winter emergency response into planned resurfacing and extensive drainage work. Please continue reporting problems, the easiest way to do this is through the "DCC- report a problem" website; your reports directly help prioritise the needs of Winkleigh.

Protecting Essential Services

Despite huge funding pressures, (and National Government not properly recognising the impacts of Devon being a huge rural county and the significant increased costs of delivering services compared to urban areas), Devon County Council has delivered a balanced budget for the year ahead. The budget was approved unanimously by Council, with 52 votes in favour, 2 abstentions and 0 against. This strong level of support demonstrates the shared commitment across the council to prioritise essential services and ensure long term financial stability.

Adult social care represents nearly half of the Council's total spend, and demand continues to rise as Devon has one of the oldest populations in the UK. The budget aims to stabilise and modernise services while maintaining dignity and independence for those who rely on support.

There has also been major national news for children's services and SEND. The Government has confirmed it will

write off around 90% of councils' historic SEND deficits, including 90% of Devon's £200 million High Needs overspend. This deficit was not caused by local overspending; councils were required to support children's needs even as national funding fell behind. The write off essentially corrects a long-standing national funding gap, but nonetheless the news was a very welcome relief.

Libraries, Community Investment and Locality Funding

The response to the recent Devon Libraries consultation has been nothing short of incredible. More than 22,000 residents took part, which is around four times more than the last major library consultation. This shows just how much our communities value their libraries. Libraries, especially in rural areas, are warm hubs, digital access points, advice centres, learning spaces and vital community meeting places, going far beyond the statutory book-lending service.

The results of the consultation will be published later in the spring, but, as cabinet member with responsibility for libraries, I have been attending many community meetings as part of the consultation, and the message from the public has been very clear: residents truly value these spaces and want their libraries protected. I am really pleased that the Council will be keeping the library budget the same as last year at just over £7M, with an extra £1M set aside to invest in genuine transformation of libraries and community-led improvements.

I also want to highlight the great success of the new Youth Grant "Places to go, things to do". All £160,000 was allocated in the form of small grants right across Devon. It was so successful that I am pleased to say we are continuing with it this year. It has been brilliant to see new youth groups form and to be able to support more activities for our young people, especially in areas where they are a long way from any kind of youth centre.

Locality (community) budgets are also increasing, with each County Councillor

receiving £10,000 from April to fund projects specifically within their area, supporting community organisations. These small grants can make a really big difference at parish level, supporting a range of initiatives, from youth work, events, equipment, to accessibility improvements.

Rail Investment and The Tarka Line

Later this month, I will be attending the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance (NDRDA) Rail Convention, where one of my key priorities will be making the case for urgent upgrades to the Tarka Line, and the need to find a parking solution at Eggesford Station. This rail route is vital for our rural economy, education, commuting and connectivity, yet it continues to suffer from reliability issues and outdated infrastructure.

Our petition, taken to Parliament by Ian Roomer MP, has already received encouraging responses from ministers and National Rail. We are determined to keep up the pressure for proper long-term investment in the line.

Broadband

There is finally some real progress being made in relation to broadband and Project Gigabit. I have for months requested meetings with government ministers, and last month had an online meeting with Programme Director Andrew Field from Building Digital UK (BDUK). I have also been working with Devon MPs, and the government have now reopened the voucher scheme for suppliers. We are currently looking at which areas are best placed to use these, with the voucher deadline being August. I will update when I have more information.

With very best wishes and hoping for a drier Spring (particularly as I'll be lambing outdoors in April- wish me luck!)

Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin

County Councillor for Torrington Rural & Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs
cheryl.cottle-hunkin@devon.gov.uk
07495 367801



From your **Torriddle District Councillor**

Stephen Middleton

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for putting your trust in me as your new Torriddle District Councillor for the Winkleigh Ward. It is my honour to serve you all.

TORRIDDLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

In December, we gave the go ahead as Councillors for the new agri-business park development at Holsworthy, adjacent to the livestock market. This is with the support of 7 million of government levelling up fund. Once it is built it will be a great asset to the agricultural community in the area.

In January I joined the climate action committee which oversees the net zero target for the buildings that are overseen by Torriddle District Council. Our next meeting will be at the revamped Torriddle recycling centre. This should make a very interesting visit to report back on.

WINKLEIGH

In December I met with two police constables, parish councillors and Winkleigh sports centre and allotments representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss security improvements in the light of the recent thefts. This was a very productive meeting with ideas to take forward for the future.

I have directed some councillor grant money towards the Winkleigh road safety survey, which is being overseen by Winkleigh Parish council. At the end of the month we have a visit from the Devon county Council director of highways who will be looking at road safety issues in Winkleigh, such as traffic

calming, pedestrian walkways etc.

£106 money has been made available from the Alison Homes site (1/0556/2022/FULM) for the Winkleigh community. This money is being targeted for parks, sport and recreation. Winkleigh Parish Council has had an initial meeting with Adrian Avery who is the community project officer who oversees future potential projects that Winkleigh might want to initiate. More information on this will follow over the coming months.

Stephen Middleton

Torriddle District Councillor for Winkleigh
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Winkleigh Parish Council

The New Year has begun with the Parish Council working to respond to your priorities and assure you that we are listening to your concerns.

You have told us that a major concern is that of the village needing a comprehensive infrastructure plan to support the many services which are being severely stretched. We are beginning work on this major project as part of protecting the village and its residents.

The other major concern arising from your many requests is the issue of improving safety for everyone walking around the village. We recognise the need to improve safety by increasing the number of pathways and reducing speed limits, an example being the traffic using Townsend Hill as a quick 'rat run' rather than using the bypass created specifically to reduce traffic through the village. Currently, we are actively engaged in direct discussions with both the District and County Councils and the Director of Highways has committed her team to supporting us with a view to providing some solutions to these challenges.

Shortly, we will be inviting people to a Parish Public Consultation meeting to hear your views. This will serve to inform what we do, in particular the much-needed Winkleigh Infrastructure and Services Plan through which we will endeavour to take action to make improvements. So please do take part.

An improvement that is currently in hand is the repair to the bus shelter on the A3124; a new bus shelter is

being made and should be erected in March. Councillors have also been active, working over the autumn to keep paths and walkways clear and, where possible, hedges trimmed. We have also increased the number of poo bins around the village.

We are only a small group of volunteers working for you so do please join us if you are interested in helping and being involved.

Pauline Odulinski




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SPOTLIGHT ON...

Steve Worthington



My name is Steve Worthington, and I am the newly appointed Chairman of the Winkleigh Fair Working Group. I am retired, having previously held senior leadership roles, including Managing Director and Director, within the communications industry, followed by ownership of an IT business.

After relocating to Winkleigh in July 2023, my wife and I quickly developed a strong connection to the village and were keen to become involved in the local community. I joined the Winkleigh Fair Working Group back in 2024 and was honoured to be elected Chairman last year.

My vision for the Winkleigh Fair is to preserve its strong traditions while continuing to evolve it as a vibrant, inclusive event that brings the whole community together. By supporting local businesses and encouraging wider participation, we aim to ensure the fair remains sustainable for future generations. I am proud to lead a dedicated team of volunteers who share this commitment and work tirelessly to ensure the ongoing success of Winkleigh's fairs.

Shirley Leahy



My name is Shirley Leahy I moved to Winkleigh in 1976 from Dolton and married my husband Stephen we have three grown up

daughters along with four grandchildren.

Both my husband and I ran a business called D & S Supplies for 29 years on the old Airfield, which is now split into three units Jonesy's Cafe, Pet Home & Garden and East Devon Cars.

I worked for 16 years as the caretaker and dinner lady at Winkleigh school as well as passing a psychology degree through the open university in 2004, I also helped run the local youth club for 6–9-year-olds along with running the Girl Guides for two years at the community centre.

I was previously a parish councillor before moving to Brushford for three years

and helped with the local Parish plan.

The contribution I feel I bring to the Parish Council is local knowledge of landowners, street locations and the overall parish boundary including Hollocombe also an understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the council along with a knowledge of all our local organisations that we are so lucky to have in the village.

It is also my aim to try and get as much funding for projects and organisations especially for our youth to enable the village to continue the great services it delivers.

I would like to make sure the village retains its history and character along with getting a fair share of housing being supplied to local families along with first time buyer opportunities to enable family members to stay within the village and not move away from lack of choice.

Winkleigh's Torridge D C owned Play Parks receive Grant



A couple of years ago Winkleigh Parish Council responded to a request to provide the Bear Bin which has been noted as a great success outside Elms Meadow Play Park (TP 39) where it can be seen from every direction. Torridge Maintenance Team has noted that it has made a huge difference in keeping litter at bay since residents, the children particularly, have been 'feeding the Bear' with litter. Well done all!

When Elms Meadow was built about 20 years ago the agreement for planning included a play park for children. Redrow chose to provide one with just a few pieces of equipment suitable for Age 4 and under.

Surveys of the 4 Play Parks in Winkleigh undertaken this time last year showed that Elms Meadow was the smallest and worst equipped play park but that it hosted by far the most children of Primary School age. It is regularly used after school and always at weekends and holidays. The gardens on Elms Meadow are very small, mostly courtyards only and the green space owned by Torridge is the only safe accessible area for children to play out.

Torridge D C's Play Area Strategy assessment in 2019 flagged TP 39 as Poor, whereas Westcote Play Park (TP 40) showed as Good. This has remained the

same since the last Strategy Plan.

I am delighted to report that after many site visits, discussions and emails which former Parish Councillor Andrew Warner, Clare Lill and I have had with Adrian Avery, The Community Engagement Project Officer for TDC, Winkleigh has been awarded a share of a grant from The Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Elms Meadow Play Park has been completely redesigned for a wider Age Group with suitable equipment including the Swing and the Picnic Bench specifically requested by the children. Westcote will get a change of equipment suitable for younger children (including a couple of pieces re-deployed from Elms Meadow) and a 'Rainbow' Bench as requested by former Councillor Andrew Warner.

Thanks to all the children, parents, councillors and particularly Adrian who was instrumental in turning this vision into a project and obtaining the funding, all within a year.

Work is expected to begin (weather permitting) on 2nd March with the hope of completion in time for the Easter Holidays.

Rachel Goldsworthy

Elms Meadow

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DIGGING FOR WINKLEIGH: *The History of the Winkleigh allotments.*

Reading that Winkleigh allotments have been awarded a sizeable amount from the s106 scheme (Lovell Homes/Castle Green development) prompted the question: When were the allotments established on the Winkleigh War Memorial recreation field?

The original village allotments were in the centre of the village off Barnstaple Street. Old Chapel Garden estate was built on this land; hence its name. However this left the village with no allotments. By the early 2000's there were increasing calls for substitute land to be found.

Where were they to get the funds and the land? Former District Councillor David Lausen takes up the story.

“Devon County Council had decided to sell Exeter Airport and reinvest the proceeds in Community initiatives. Winkleigh was quick off the mark and, working with County Councillor John Rawlinson, we produced a worked up ‘wish list’. The main project was a new

building for Winkleigh Primary School but money also became available for two projects on the Winkleigh War memorial recreation field:

1. Play equipment for the childrens playground.
2. Fencing for Winkleigh growers where they had been allocated land.

Torrige District councillors at that time had £2,000 per annum for community Initiatives. £800 was allocated for Winkleigh Growers. Businesses and other organisations also chipped in.

Getting the allotments fit for purpose took a great amount of time and hard work. In May 2009 the allotments were finally up and running.

Gillian Holman was secretary of Winkleigh growers and was supported by an enthusiastic group who made it all happen”.

Penny Griffiths

Seating For Bus Shelter

Two local businessmen have provided an excellent bench seat in the bus shelter on the main road (opposite The Old Parsonage B&B).

The shelter has been in place for many years, but sadly no seating. It can be a very long wait occasionally for the bus, standing is no joke for folk not as fit as they used to be!

A lovely made to measure bench seat has been designed and fitted by two public spirited businessmen using their skills and expertise. Namely; Cllr Tim Squance of Bespoak Joinery and Andrew Hicks of Hicks Engineering.

A big thank you from all that use the 5B bus and from future users.



Photo by Alan Jacobs.

Paul Beer Garden Services Winkleigh

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Local business happy to support the village

WINKLEIGH *Village Hall*

This is my second report since taking over as Chair of Winkleigh Village Hall. The handover is going well and we now have a new Facebook page. Winkleigh jubilee village hall. This new title is to keep it separate from the old one. The website, I hope to get up and running by the next edition of Distinctly Winkleigh. The December Christmas market went very well, with a good attendance of stall holders and the raffle attracted lots of interest, mostly because of the generous donations from local businesses. A big 'Thank you' to all of you who donated.

In February the first market of the month went well. Thank you Jane Beresford-Smith for organising it.

The new email addresses for the Village Hall are **winkleighvillagehall@gmail.com** and for Bookings and Market Stalls please use **winkleighvillagemarket@gmail.com**.


The Hall continues to be busy with two new hirers, namely Theatre Jam every Thursday and Piano lessons every Wednesday.

If anyone is interested in piano lessons with an experienced teacher, then please contact me and I will pass on your details.


The Village Hall Committee could still do with some more members to bring new ideas to the table, especially fund raising. If you are interested, you will be most welcome.

Allan Leighton

Chair - Winkleigh Jubilee Village Hall




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WINKLEIGH *Friendship Club*

The Friendship Club is up and running again fortnightly after the Christmas and New Years break. 2025 was a successful year and we hope 2026 will continue to be the same and would welcome anyone that would like to join us in the Community Centre.

The trips organised this year are as follows:

APRIL 14th Honiton for Market Day and Beer, **MAY 12th** Padstow,
JUNE 9th Kernow Mill and Looe, **AUGUST 11th** Jacks Patch garden centre and Teignmouth, **SEPTEMBER 8th** Greendale farm shop and Budleigh Salterton,
OCTOBER 13th Strawberry Fields and Tavistock

All are welcome to go on these days out travelling in style on the coach.

We leave at 9.30 am and leave our destination at 4pm.

If interested please contact Margaret E Bridgman on 07817134438.

Various talks are arranged during the coming year so watch this space for dates and topics and posters will be up nearer the time. As usual those will be open afternoons with homemade cakes, teas and coffee all for £2 entrance.

For any other information please contact Marcia on 07756818355.

Marcia Butt

Chairperson



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Winkleigh Community Centre

Fridays 10.00 - 12.00 a.m.

17 April

22 May

19 June

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Section 106 Agreement (s106)

Hopefully this brief article will explain what a Section 106 Agreement (s106) is, its purpose and when a s106 is used. It will also explore the position of the s106s relating to the major Winkleigh developments.

What is a s106?

A s106 is a legal agreement between the local planning authorities and a property developer or developers made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Under a s106 obligations are attached to the land which means if the land is sold by one developer to another then the second developer will be required to meet the obligations.

Purpose of a s106

A s106 agreement is there to make a new development more acceptable by making the developer contribute to the local area. They are designed to mitigate the negative impacts on the local community that may result from the development and so are development specific.

Common obligations of a s106

Typically s106 agreements will require the developer to contribute things that the development will need or impact. These could be:

- Community facilities such as parks, play areas and open spaces
- Affordable housing often calculated as a percentage of new homes
- Infrastructure such as roads, drainage, footpaths and cycleways
- Money for local services such as schools, GP surgeries and public transport
- Conditions determining when units can be occupied
- Long-term management and maintenance

When is a s106 used

S106s are used mainly for larger developments such as commercial sites and housing estates and are rarely used for private house extensions.

Advantage of s106 to the council

Without these contributions, a development might put too much pressure on local services. A s106 agreement helps ensure:

- The community benefits from the development
- The development doesn't overwhelm local infrastructure
- The council can approve the project knowing impacts are addressed
- The s106 can provide affordable housing without the need of public subsidy

Advantage to developers

The main advantage to developers is that of certainty with obligations and trigger points being known from the outset.

Turning to the Winkleigh developments, from the documents I've seen I have calculated the s106 obligations for each of the developments and have come up with the following table

CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL	HMV1	GWP	KP
Eggesford Station	124000.00	54000.00		70000.00
Artificial Grass Pitch	22569.04	11819.42	10749.62	
Parks, Sport and Recreation Grounds	452086.84	286429.95	165656.89	
Sports Hall	69008.49	36244.02	32764.47	
Swimming Pool	96812.50	50865.54	45946.96	
Allotments	11040.89		11040.89	
Off-Site Child Play	67685.36		67685.36	
Off-Site Interpretation Board	5000.00		5000.00	
	848203.12	439358.93	338844.19	70000.00

HMV – High Moor View

GWP – Great Well Park

KP – Kingsley Plastics

As at 10th March Torridge District Council had received funds to the tune of £210k from David Trenaman and Allison Homes, the developers of High Moor View. In addition to the above there will be a further s106 relating to application 1/0920/2025/FULM for 77 dwellings on Land West of Townsend Road. At the time of going to press the Council's planning website says the application is being considered and there is a proposed draft s106 Heads of Terms on file which show the areas for discussion being:

- 30% Affordable Housing (23 No. dwellings)
- Off- site highway financial contribution
- Primary Education financial contribution
- Secondary Education financial contribution,
- Secondary Education Transport financial contribution,
- On-site provision of Public Open Space,
- Off-site Public Open Space financial contribution

So the total of the obligations will exceed £1 million which in itself is a large figure but how far will it go towards mitigating fully the impact that the developments will have on the village?

Peter Hopkinson



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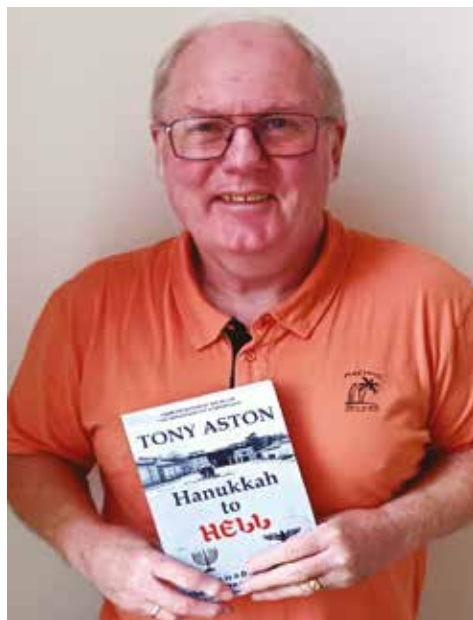
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Review of the novel

"From Hanukkah to Hell"

The novel *Hanukkah to Hell* by local author Tony Aston tells corresponding stories set during World War Two of the different routes taken to the Nazi concentration camp of Mauthausen in Austria; by a Jewish family, the US 11th Armoured Division, and a young German soldier destined for the SS and Camp Commandant. This then is a complicated tale following different characters with differing allegiances, and backgrounds. The author switches from one branch to another almost seamlessly, in the manner of Ken Follet. Aston does a great job of avoiding being sanctimonious by allowing the reader make up his or her own mind about the morality and conscience of war through the actions of the protagonists. Although inevitably there are episodes of violence, it is never gratuitous or laboured and always moves the story on. What is most striking about the book is the author's emotional intelligence. There is no implausible heroism or unlikely acts of resistance; just ordinary folk caught up on one side or another of a World War trying to do their best to survive physically and morally unscathed in extraordinary times.

The book tells of the bloody combats leading to the liberation of Mauthausen and the hopeless battle for survival of those incarcerated. We learn of the uneducated, naïve SS officer and his journey to cruel and uncompromising Commandant of the camp. The moral heart of this book is the Jacobson family and their different journeys through



the brutality of war and the unbending Nazi extermination machine. Journeys which for some family members ends in brutality, death and the end of hope. However, for the younger generation hope lives on. Siblings separated by ideology, war and a continuing uncertain future; but lending a great opportunity for a sequel!

Angela Findlay

Copies of this highly recommended book are available from Tony by emailing:
Info.tonyastonauthoratgmail.com

A smocking display!

January in North Tawton saw New York artist, Annie Coggan, staying for the Ruth Smith Gallery Art Residency, where she smocked 112 feet of hessian at the Community Centre and installed it on the front of the gallery in the Square. It's an artwork largely about smocking, it's interesting history and potential for contemporary uses. Smocking was incorporated into old forms of work wear because of it being really durable, warm and padded. It then became used more in fancy dresses because of its connotations to the 'rural idyll'. Annie is interested in our relationship to space and place through materials, and works with interiors and architecture, so she's done this big inside/outside upholstery to push a traditional building material and sewing technique to an extreme and to play with ideas of decoration and functionality.

As well as busily smocking away, Annie ran two workshops with Berlin/ Exeter artist Sam Godfrey, who came on the Ruth Smith Gallery Art Residency last year. The first of the workshops was on the honeycomb technique used on the front of the gallery, and the second was on bird beak stitching. They were well attended and full of

really interesting conversations. People went home enthused with having learnt a new skill and with ideas and plans of how to incorporate it into their own current creative projects, and we have since seen pictures of how it has been adopted.

Inside the gallery there are further examples of different smocking stitches and a couple of silkscreen prints by Annie in collaboration with Russell Janis. The project was co-hosted by Red Mud Arts.

See more at www.ruthsmithgallery.co.uk and www.redmudarts.co.uk




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Are you a budding Beekeeper?



The North Devon School of Country Beekeeping will be running a course for beginners with an emphasis on the practical aspects of handling bees and the week-to-week management of the hive.

The course will run for 12 weeks starting Sunday 12th April 10am – 12 noon, then each Sunday at the apiary (of 15 active hives) behind Harracott Village Hall (email the address below for exact location).

There will be small groups of 2 to 3 under a mentor. Each session will start with some of the theoretical aspects followed by practical 'hands on' with the bees (protective bee jackets/veil and gloves provided).

A place on the course incorporates a year's membership of the school, access to their books, hire of equipment, help and advice from experienced members. This could

include siting of your own hives, help to acquire bees, swarm collection and buying/selling equipment & bees.

If you are interested please email Kasia at; coursecoordinator@gentlebeekeeping.org.uk for full information including course fee and comprehensive details.

Phil Griffiths



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Winkledown

Dearest Gentle Readers

In Regency times Spring dates were of great importance. Imbolc, 1st February according to the much older (Pagan) calendar, was when winter ended and light returned; followed by Candlemas on 2nd, a traditional “Cross-quarter” Day in England. Following the Spring Equinox 21st February, The “Quarter Day” known as Lady Day (The feast of the Annunciation) falls on the 25th. Lady Day was legally New Year’s Day in England until 1752. That was the reason it remained the date for organising and paying annual wages and rents and ‘Hiring Fairs’ were held in towns and villages for domestic and other work staff.

Even today Easter falls 7 days after the Paschal Full Moon which is why Easter Sunday dates change from year to year. The date of Easter was quite important. Law courts, parliament, schools, as well as the church calendar all based dates on that of Easter. Generally, the Season in Town didn’t start until after Easter, although “Fashionable arrivals” for the marriage market started being recorded in February in the newspapers of the day. The Prince Regent held a Ball and Supper at Carlton House in February 1813 to start the process rolling.

Normally Parliament did not begin its first session of the year until after Easter. During the 40 days of Lent, activities were curtailed and austerity was observed, especially in diet. No luxury foods such as cakes or pastries, dairy foods, and fats from Mondays to Saturdays, and no meat on Fridays. Even during years when Parliament resumed early, the official London Season of parties and balls did not fully begin until after Easter Sunday.

Superstitions surrounding Easter in 1818 abound.

In 1818, Easter Sunday fell on 22 March, the earliest possible date on which Easter could occur, based on the formula laid down by Christian fathers. This was just one day after the vernal equinox, as the first spring full moon coincided with both observances that year. Most people during the Regency were well aware that this was the very earliest date on which Easter could fall. Many of them were also aware that Easter would not occur that early again for another 467 years, since Easter would not fall on 22 March again until the year 2285. (The very latest possible date for Easter Sunday is 25th April).

This very early Easter date created a rare coincidence which some people believed was a strong portent of some serious misfortune which would befall England. This coincidence actually caused Easter to come three days before Lady

Day (25th March). (A very ancient tradition held that the Crucifixion took place on 25th March, the same date as Lady Day. Though this specific date is not recorded in scripture, there were many in England who were aware of the supposed date.) A doggerel couplet which was well known during the Regency era captures the superstition that many people felt regarding the portent of the juxtaposition of Easter and Lady Day:

*“When my Lord falls in my Lady’s lap,
England, beware of some mishap!”*

Although nothing significantly terrible took place in Britain in the spring of 1818, quite a number of people believed that this occurrence was directly responsible for the death of Queen Charlotte on 17 November of 1818. Albeit, the Queen celebrated her seventy-fourth birthday in May 1818 and she had been in failing health since the unexpected death of her granddaughter, Princess Charlotte, in early November 1817. Even so, some people were convinced this early Easter, in close conjunction with Lady Day, hastened the Queen’s passing.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Season!

Affectionately, Winkledown



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Winkleigh Bowlers *launch new website*



The members of Winkleigh's Short Mat Bowls Club have launched a new website (www.winkleighshortmatbowls.club) to assist people wanting to take up the sport. The site is specifically aimed at helping those wanting to know more about indoor bowling to learn about the benefits it offers and to provide a simple "one click" way of getting in touch.

New members can enjoy up to 6 Free taster sessions with free coaching and instruction. In addition the club will provide a set of bowls to practice with. All the new recruit needs to get started is a pair of flat soled shoes which can be changed into at the Sports Centre so as to keep the bowling mats in pristine condition.

Club Treasurer Steve Worthington explained " We recognise that taking up a new sport at any stage of life can be a daunting prospect. Our approach

is to provide a safe and supportive environment for people of any age to try out the game of short mat bowls without the need to commit to Club membership. We run two social "Roll Ups" each week on a Monday and Friday afternoon where the emphasis is on fun, socialising and building new friendships."

Roll Ups take place at Winkleigh's Sports and Recreation Centre which provides a bright, modern, air conditioned facility with extensive off road parking and free Wi-Fi.

So whether you are looking to make new friends, take some gentle exercise or play competitively, short mat bowls could be just what you are looking for!

If you would like to know more, or to get in touch either search for WINKLEIGH SHORT MAT BOWLS or go direct to www.winkleighshortmatbowls.club



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GARDEN NOTES

To Coffey



Last Frost dates across the UK fall throughout this period of time. The best way to know for your area is to check with experienced gardeners close by. There are various other ways to tell but local experience is invaluable for this, combined with being aware if you are in a frost pocket, so more vulnerable to the slightest risk.

Why does it matter so much? Mostly because there are generally two groups of plants we use in our gardens, hardy ones and tender ones. Whilst there is a range within each of these across plants (such as plants that are so tender they will only ever survive in a glass house in the uk, and plants so hardy they can cope with weeks of far below freezing temperatures, the vast majority of common vegetables and garden flowers are either okay with frost or not. The changes it makes to the structure of water in a plant which does not have some form of protection can turn the plant to mush instead of a living being.

Even where the plant as a whole survives (such as hardy trees like apples) a late frost can cost it it's tender parts - sadly this is often

blossom which can destroy an apple crop if it's badly timed.

Plants like broad beans can survive over winter outside so how do we know when we can plant out our more tender plants, the ones without natural antifreeze, such as french beans?

Gardening books can give rough guides but are usually not geographically specific so only narrow it a little. Weather forecasts are useful but don't allow for planning too far ahead. If you can't find your local gardening club or allotments with friendly experienced gardeners then there are web sites or apps you can set to your local area and it will give you dates for not only the last frost but also when to start planting different plants in protected environments ready for planting out after last frost.

In mid Devon there are two events which are used as a marker of likely last frost dates. One is the mid Devon show, the other is the legendary Franklin Nights, which fall from May the 19th to 21st but that's a whole other story, involving curses and cider apple farmers, apple blossom and late frosts, hubris, ales, and the devil his very self.

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

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

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 weekly
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
- Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs



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Devon FitSteps Instructor Wins National *“Instructor of the Year” Award*


Winkleigh-based FitSteps instructor Elaine Coldman has received top national recognition after being named both Regional Instructor of the Year for the South of England and the overall FitSteps Instructor of the Year 2025.

Elaine, who teaches six weekly classes across Winkleigh, CREDITON, Bow and High Bickington, was selected from more than 700 instructors across the UK. “I was absolutely thrilled to win the Regional Award,” she said. “But to then receive the national title was something I never expected. I’m so grateful for my amazing class members who make every session special.”

Her classes have become known for their uplifting atmosphere and strong community spirit. Participants frequently report improved confidence, energy and wellbeing, while many enjoy regular



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social events organised outside of class, including coffee mornings, seasonal celebrations and regional gatherings.

FitSteps, created by former Strictly Come Dancing professionals, combines the energy of Latin and Ballroom dancing with accessible, partner-free fitness. Elaine’s extensive background as a Ballroom and Latin American competitor, having trained since the age of eight, ensures her sessions are both enjoyable and expertly delivered.

Looking ahead, Elaine plans to expand her timetable and introduce more opportunities for local residents to get involved.

“My focus for 2026 is to help even more people feel happier, stronger and more connected through dance,” she said. “It’s not about perfection — it’s about joyful movement.”

For further information on class details:
Contact: Elaine Coldman 07733 262475
or email elainecoldman@btinternet.com

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For more information visit our website

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The Adventure Awaits at Taw Fishing Club: Where Every Cast Tells a Story



At Taw Fishing Club, we believe that every great adventure starts with a cast, and every moment on the water is an opportunity to create memories that will last a lifetime. Nestled in the serene beauty of Taw Valley, our club offers more than just fishing—it's about connecting with nature, honing your skills, and being part of a community that shares a deep love for the waters.

Our Story

Taw Fishing Club was founded by a group of passionate anglers back in 1912 who shared a vision: to create a welcoming space where fishing enthusiasts of all levels could come together to enjoy the sport, learn from each other, and relax in the peaceful embrace of nature. From seasoned pros to beginners eager to cast their first line, the club is a place for everyone to enjoy the thrill of the catch.

Why Taw Fishing Club?

• Exclusive Access to Prime Locations

As a member, you gain exclusive access to some of the most beautiful and pristine fishing waters in the region. Whether you're chasing the perfect wild brown trout or hoping for a big catch, a sea trout or even a salmon, our carefully selected fishing spots are perfect for any angler.

• Learn from the Best

We have members who are professional guides who are able to take you not only on club beats but fish on other rivers too. As a club we hold regular sessions throughout the season around bank and river maintenance and ad hoc sessions on casting and tackle.

• A Community of Passionate Anglers

Fishing is more than just a hobby—it's a way of life. At Taw Fishing Club, you'll meet like-minded individuals who share your love for the sport. Whether you're swapping stories face to face on our meet up days or fishing alongside fellow members, you'll find camaraderie in every cast.

• Escape to Tranquility

Leave behind the hustle and bustle of daily life and escape to the peaceful waters of Taw Valley. The sound of the flowing river, the thrill of the catch, and the tranquility of nature will help you unwind and reconnect with what matters most.

• Commitment to Nature

As a club we are committed to the conservation of the river and surrounding area, we work with local and national groups on water quality, tree planting, bank erosion, fish refuge area in certain parts of the river and good practice and management of the river in general.

Our Promise

At Taw Fishing Club, we promise that every visit will be an adventure, no matter how big or small the catch. It's about the joy of being outdoors, the thrill of the sport, and the camaraderie of a community united by a love of fishing. We welcome new members novice or professional, please visit www.tawfishingclub.org to find out more.

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VOLUNTEERING

It is now six years since I set up what was called the COVID Volunteer Service with the help of members of the Parish Council and others. I was asked to stand down the service once the government decreed that COVID was no longer an issue. However, on studying my records I realised that the people we assisted needed help not because of COVID-19 but because of age, immobility, poor transport and infrastructure so I decided to keep the service going and it was renamed the Winkleigh Volunteer Service.

Running this service has been one of the highlights of my retirement, because I get to feel that I am making a difference and in doing so meet many engaging and interesting people.

In the whole six years I can honestly say that no one has taken the service or the volunteers for granted. Everyone has been grateful for the time and care we take and are happy to while away the journey to the appointment with tales from their lives and the joys of family. As a consequence of volunteering, I have met many people in our community whom I would otherwise not even known existed. People from a diverse range of backgrounds with their own unique stories and views on life. Volunteering has enriched my life and improved my sense of belonging to this village even although I am a blow in!

Being a volunteer has also made me incredibly grateful for my own health and vigour especially when I see others with mental and physical challenges still enjoying life and seizing the opportunity to share their life stories. There is no doubt in my mind that helping others

helps us to be happier and grateful for what we have. A 2020 study conducted in the United Kingdom found that those who volunteered reported an increase in feelings of happiness after volunteering. When we enjoy better well-being in the present, we are more likely to have hope for the future – and hope is a crucial element for better mental health, resilience, and healing. For when we help others, we shift our attention from ourselves to others flipping our inner monologue from sensing helplessness to feeling helpful.

As I said the people we support are exceptionally grateful and when thanked and praised our own serotonin



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levels increase and this in turn improves our mood giving a sense of purpose and direction.

One of the best things about being a volunteer with the WVS is you are not tied to every Wednesday afternoon for example, each action is different with a different person and a different route. If you've got plans or are busy you can always turn down that particular trip.

If you are new to the village and there are many of you then please consider volunteering for us. It's a great way to make friends, get to know the area, and it helps strengthen ties and broadens your own support network. Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety. The social contact aspect of helping and working with others can have a profound effect on your overall psychological well-being. Nothing relieves stress better than a meaningful connection to another person.

Volunteering combats depression.

Volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others and helps you develop a solid support system, which in turn protects you against depression. A good example of this was four years ago I had pneumonia and people noticed I was not out and about in the village and they knocked on my door to see if I was ok. Word quickly got round and soon I was inundated with volunteers to walk my dogs, fetch me food, shopping and medication.

There is no doubt that volunteering helps make you happy. By measuring hormones and brain activity, researchers have discovered that being helpful to others delivers immense pleasure. Human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel, gaining a natural sense of accomplishment, pride and identity and knowing *that today I have made a difference. How rich is that!*

Angela Findlay

Winkleigh VOLUNTEER Service

Volunteers take people to hospital and other medical appointments, collect shopping, take people to the shops, care homes and other **essential journeys**.

Volunteers give their time for nothing but we do charge 50p per mile.

Please give as much notice as you can

Please ring Angie 01837 682616

(if you leave messages on the landline and I don't return your call in 24 hours please ring or text 07455365144)

THANK YOU

May I take this opportunity to thank all my volunteers for their support and help with this service.

If you're interested in volunteering please give Angela a ring to find out more!






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<p>LEARN THE DANCES FROM STRICTLY This is your chance to learn the wonderful dances you see on Strictly without the need for a partner, and in a relaxed fun environment.</p>	<p>ANYONE CAN DO IT! You don't need any dance experience and you don't need to be fit to be able to enjoy FitSteps - it's a dance fitness workout suitable for everyone!</p>

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Winkleigh Football Club

A report by Tom Robinson

Well what can I say... A very very wet winter has halted play for Winkleigh's season leaving us with 12 league games still left to play & 1 cup competition. Since the turn of the new year Winkleigh has only played twice winning both, once on the road away to Lyme Regis & another coming at home to local rivals Crediton. Currently sitting comfortably in second place, Winkleigh will be backing themselves to win the league because of the extra games they have in hand on the teams around them.

The team who currently play their football in the Devon & Exeter premier has seen a dramatic rise over the past 6 seasons. The football club has either won or gained promotion for the last 6 seasons straight rising from division 6 to now competing for the top prize in the Exeter district leagues & Winkleigh do not plan to stop there.

Just before Christmas the club decided to apply for the next step in the football pyramid (The Devon League). To be approved, the club has had to make a series of changes to the pitch, the dugouts, changing rooms & an array of health & safety standards to just be considered for our application. This is without the team still needing to win the league with half a season still to play. Not only does this take a lot of time, it also comes as a financial strain. To apply and make the necessary changes obviously comes with a cost. We have and will continue to keep fundraising through events put on by the club. A special mention has to be given to Gavin Marsh, who volunteered his services to put on Rock & Roll Bingo. The club, if it wants to continue on this trajectory & push forward everything has to be taken up a notch. That's the standards and professionalism of committee members, the players, amount of volunteers we can attract and just the day to day running to keep the club striving forward.

If you have ever played sport, you know it's all about striving to be the best you can possibly be & Winkleigh has echoed that sentiment. We would love more committee members or volunteers who would like to get into something that's social, rewarding and community based. Lastly, we wish the team good luck as they look to resume their campaign this Saturday with 12 'cup final' matches left to see if we can lift the title.

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Countryfile

by Jo Coffey

Hawthorn

“Ne’er cast a clout ‘til May be out”

It is such a phrase to get from your mother isn’t it...

Is it the month or the plant? I had it from mine and she talked about it meaning the month. She would couple the cautionary phrase with anecdotes around the fact that her birthday is mid May and once it even snowed on her birthday! So be warned! Don’t pack your winter clothes in the case with the mothballs and get the summer clothes out in their place in the wardrobe until it’s June because you might still need them during May.

A little reading around the subject and you find a variation of it around many places. Some based in superstitions of luck and old clothes v new clothes. I particularly like the very early Spanish phrase which admonishes people to ‘not remove their overcoat until April is done.’

There are some who will argue for it meaning the plant. If you are going to do that make sure you have the right plant. Don’t confuse your mayflowers with other forms of high hedgerow white froth. There’s often confusion between blackthorn and hawthorn (also known as whitethorn) for which is the true mayflower.

Blackthorn flowers on black, thorny, bare branches in March or April - by the time you read this it may be already going over (depending how this year swings). Blackthorn is early hope, and if we’re lucky and it doesn’t get frosted, we could have lovely crops of sloes to season our gin later in the year.

Hawthorn, is the mayflower, it flowers



from mid-April through into full bloom in May and it flowers with it’s bright green leaves. The young leaves of hawthorn are known as “poor man’s bread and butter” and are theoretically edible (if very acerbic). Hawthorn will probably be flowering in a hedge somewhere nearby as you read this.

We can all interpret it as we choose so long as we don’t run around in summer clothes in March.

Of course in Devon we know you risk frosts until you’re past Franklin’s Nights (mid may) which is well past blackthorn flowering and just right for matching with mayflowers.

In reality the May month and May flowers difference is usually no more than a week or two, especially if you count it as when the flowers are in full bloom and fully out, rather than just starting.

So stay warm and enjoy the flowers and the return of the sun and warmth.



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Letters...



Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the many local businesses who so generously support the Winkleigh Summer and Christmas fairs each year.

These events are highlights of village life, bringing together residents, visitors, families and volunteers in a way that truly reflects the spirit of our community. They would simply not be possible without the backing of local businesses who donate prizes, provide sponsorship, offer services, or give their time and resources so willingly.

At a time when many small businesses face their own challenges, their continued support for village events is especially appreciated. Their generosity helps ensure that the fairs remain enjoyable, inclusive and affordable for everyone, while also strengthening the sense of pride we all feel in Winkleigh.

I hope this letter goes some small way toward recognising their contribution and encouraging residents to support these businesses in return. A thriving village depends on strong local enterprises, just as much as successful community events depend on their goodwill.

On behalf of many grateful residents, thank you for everything you do to help keep Winkleigh's fairs, and its community spirit, alive.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Worthington

*Chairman of Winkleigh
Fair Working Group*

Dear Editor,

I recently reserved a property on the Castle Green development. I have been told that the names of the roads are those of WW2 planes. My road will be called Beaufighter, nicknamed Whispering Death during the war. I find these names of planes very depressing and being reminded of fighting and death every day is not very pleasant, especially for older residents who will be living in the bungalows there.

I would like to know why these names were chosen for an historic site where castles once stood. I understand there's to be an interpretation board created for the entrance of the development. This will inform visitors about the 12th century castles' history and the surrounding land but how does one explain the connection of castles and war planes? If sometime in the future there is a development on the Airfield, will that be called Castle Green? This is how ridiculous and inappropriate this idea is. It seems that we are mixing up two very different historical sites.

I think the Community should have the opportunity to debate this very important matter. I have spoken to several people in the village who are not amused by these names.

Appropriate names could be: The Croft, The Court, Castle Gardens, Castle Mound, Croft Way.

What a difference that would make to a beautiful new area of Winkleigh. I sincerely hope that the Parish will give this some serious thought.

Name and address supplied

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 Village Hall

2nd Monday of each month bar January
Church Wives Group, Village Hall
2.30pm-4.30pm

TUESDAY

Yoga 9.45am Village Hall

Free 'Sewcial Crafternoon' at Catkin
Blooms 1:00-3:00pm

Badminton 7:00pm Village Hall

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

2nd Tuesday of each month Artists'
Critique Group: 7-9pm in North Tawton.
Email ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com for
venue details

Last Tuesday of the month Life Drawing
7-9pm at the Community Centre, North
Tawton.

WEDNESDAY

Mini market & charity coffee morning
9:30am-10:30am Community Centre

Piano Lessons early evening Village Hall

Tap Dancing 7:00pm Village Hall

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

Kung Fu 6:30pm-8:00pm & 8:00pm-
9:00pm Community Centre



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THURSDAY

Winkleigh Art Group 10:00-14:00
Community Centre

Chi Kung 10:30 Village Hall

Tiny Tots 9:30–11:15 Sports Hall

Theatre Jam Village Hall early evening

Therapeutic Pilates 7:15pm Village Hall

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

FRIDAY

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

Therapeutic Pilates 9:30am

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

SATURDAY

1st Saturday Monthly Market,

3rd Saturday of the month 10.00 Portrait
Session Community Centre, North Tawton.

MARCH

27th Chulmleigh Society. 'From Berlin to Bhutan via Beaford' a talk by Arts Consultant Diana Johnson. 7.30pm Chulmleigh Pavilion, Leigh Road, Chulmleigh EX18 7JL Members £5 non-members £7

APRIL

10th The Life of Chuck (15) The Pavilion, Leigh Road, Chulmleigh EX18 7JL Film starts 7:30pm

10th The Winkleigh Society A.G.M Community Centre 7pm

14th The Friendship Club coach trip to Honiton for Market Day and Beer

17th Movie night at the Village Hall Song Sing Blue

24th Talk 'Wildlife of the Exe Estuary' by author, wildlife guide and photographer

Dave Smallshire. 7.30pm Chulmleigh Pavilion, Leigh Road EX18 7JL. Chulmleigh Society members £5 non-members £7

MAY

12th The Friendship Club coach trip to Padstow

15th Movie night at the Village Hall Wicked For Good Part 2!

16th Comedian Johnny Cowling at Hatherleigh Community Centre in aid of Devon Air Ambulance Trust. Doors open 7pm tickets £12 from Hatherleigh P.O. Further information rotary.hatherleigh.cs@gmail.com

JUNE

9th The Friendship Club coach trip to Kernow Mill and Looe

JULY

14th-20th Winkleigh Fair

AUGUST

1st Sam's Cider Festival

11th The Friendship Club coach trip to Jacks Patch garden centre and Teignmouth

SEPTEMBER

8th The Friendship Club coach trip to Greendale farm shop and Budleigh Salterton

OCTOBER

13th The Friendship Club coach trip to Strawberry Fields and Tavistock

WINE COLUMN *by Bruce Evans*

Welcome to the new drinks column! Hopefully in this article I will be able to share a bit of my passion and knowledge in the drinks business, to help you drink better! One of my work mottos is "life is too short to drink rubbish". First of all a little bit about myself. I have a lovely little independent wine shop in Crediton, Grape & Grain Wine Merchants, and have been in the trade for longer than I have not. I started my career as a sommelier in country house hotels, and eventually moved into retail. During my time in the trade I have travelled to most of the wine producing regions of the world, from Lebanon to Australia, and have learnt that the makers of wine are often as interesting as the wine itself.

Wine is of course an agricultural product, and as such should reflect the grapes, soil, weather and maker in every sip. Drinks should never be worshipped, (that is distinctly unhealthy!), but always enjoyed. Of course, different styles of wine suit different occasions. Some wines do actually work best around a table with a good conversation, and others need a certain style of food in order to open up and show their true worth. The quickest tip for wine and food matching is to look at what food is eaten where the wine is grown; it invariably

goes with the wine. Right now we are hopefully moving out of 'the wet' and into spring. The warmer days and longer evenings open up the possibilities for lighter fresher white wine and perhaps even a delightful southern French rose! The fashionable white grape at the moment is still Sauvignon Blanc, with the big crisp gooseberry flavours which come from the examples out of Marlborough, New Zealand, or the flinty citric styles from the Loire. If you are one of the people getting bored of Sauvignon, then why not try a Galician white such as Albarino or Godello, still with citric notes, but tasting of the maritime climate they are grown in, the North West corner of Spain.

Another food coming into season right now is Lamb. The classic match for roast lamb is a good left bank Bordeaux, (which is predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon), the cassis and cedar flavours match beautifully with fresh lamb.

A good alternative to Bordeaux are the Cabernet based wines from South Africa, such as Barminey Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 from Stellenbosch, more full bodied, and with smoother fruit in classy layers on the palette, a real treat.

If there is one thing I am evangelical about, it is that we should all experiment occasionally. It is all very well drinking the same thing because we know we like it, but there are at least 100,000 commercial wines in the world, and they are all different. So why not be brave and try something new. The great thing about Independent Wine Merchants is that you can ask a question, and usually get an intelligent answer. Wine is an incredibly subjective thing, because it is dealing with personal taste, so of course you may make a mistake, but you may also find something new, fabulous and rewarding. Finally, as I live in lovely Winkleigh, home delivery is free...





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SCHOOL NEWS

Winkleigh Primary School's Report by Head of Teaching & Learning
William Slocombe



It has been a very busy and productive term since we returned to school in January, and despite a couple of late starts due to icy mornings, the children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and positivity.

The term began at full speed, with staff engaging in professional development and collaboration beyond our school. Mrs Fenemore and Mr Slocombe had the unique opportunity to visit government minister Josh MacAlister at Portcullis House, gaining valuable insight into national education priorities and discussing the work we are doing within our own community. Meanwhile, Mrs Fenemore, Mr Slocombe and Mrs Rowcliffe attended the RISE Early Years Conference which was a great opportunity to build on the already excellent provision we offer for our youngest learners.

It has been a joy to continue to host the Toddler and Baby group - 'Woodland Robins' within the school. This has developed since the local groups

ceased operating and it has been a lovely way to bring parents, families and professionals together. It truly is a highlight of each and every week. Join us in the school hall from 9am each Wednesday morning.

Collaboration has also been a strong theme this term. We were delighted to welcome Early Career Teachers from local schools to share good practice and celebrate the many strengths of our federation. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the dedication of our staff and the calm, purposeful learning environment our children help to create.

The children themselves have enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences. Our whole federation Science Day with Wonderstruck was a particular highlight, sparking curiosity and excitement across all year groups. From fascinating experiments to hands-on investigations, the day was filled with awe and wonder.

Sporting opportunities have also been plentiful. Year 1 and 2 pupils travelled to QE Crediton for a multiskills event, developing agility, balance



and coordination. Year 2 took part in a football festival at the Exeter City training ground, representing the school brilliantly with teamwork and determination. We have also attended two Boccia events at Atlantic Racquet Centre and in Paignton, with pupils demonstrating resilience and sportsmanship throughout. Bikeability training for Years 3 to 6 has equipped pupils with essential cycling skills and road safety awareness, building both confidence and independence.

Family and community events have continued to strengthen our close relationships. Years 6, 5 and 4 enjoyed special family lunches, which were very well attended and greatly appreciated. Our open morning on Saturday 31st January, hosted by the Senior Leadership Team, was a tremendous success. It was lovely to see so many prospective families visiting the school and experiencing our warm and welcoming atmosphere. We also held a family breakfast alongside an open morning, providing another opportunity for families to spend time in school and share in their children's learning.

Creativity has flourished this term. An inspiring Art Day with Emmylou helped the children prepare beautiful pieces for our art exhibition in the church over half term. We hope many of you were able to visit and admire the impressive

artwork on display.

We were also pleased to welcome our new inclusion partner from Devon County Council, James Crompton, who was very impressed with what he saw in our school, particularly the inclusive ethos and high levels of engagement in classrooms.

Finally, Monday 23rd February marked our first Writing Hook Day. Classrooms were buzzing with exciting activities designed to immerse children in new texts and ignite their imagination. The enthusiasm and creativity on display promise an exciting term of writing ahead.

It has certainly been a term full of energy, opportunity and achievement – and we look forward to all that the months ahead will bring.



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Young Views

DW welcomes the following articles from Year 11 students at Chulmleigh College and we hope that future issues will also contain views of the younger members of our community.

Can Graffiti Save Society?

By Jas Llewellyn



Imagine a world full of empty and barren walls and you look around at the equally grim faces of the younger generations. You question where society has let them fall through the cracks, who

rid them of their smiles and left them to spiral. However you do see a singular toothy grin on a particularly messy child. They are covered head to toe in different coloured paint and their grin shines brighter than the whole street.

Around one in five people ages 8-25 have or had a mental health disorder in 2023. Additionally up to 18.6 percent of young adults and 20 percent of adolescents are recorded to be facing depression. This is seriously worrying when the younger generation is the future to society. However art is often used as a form of therapy and to help people process their devastating emotions. Furthermore graffiti is often a way to bring the community together, for example Banksy's work often brings the Bristol community pride and joy for the attention it brings to the place they call home. Some might argue that graffiti is an eyesore, however what they don't realise is that graffiti isn't just limited to an artist name but can include full masterpiece. Could graffiti save society's

mental health crisis?

Most people can acknowledge that younger people nowadays spend more time on their phone and grew up with the internet, but did you know the effect it is having on the younger generation. Younger people are having fewer face to face interactions outside of school and are feeling isolated by the extreme extent of social media. This is why community and communication (something graffiti can bring to people) is so important .

What do I say we do about it? I say we create designated graffiti areas based on Leake Street Tunnel in London. This is not to upset locals but what allows people to create without worrying about being caught. The aim is to bring the community together and allow people to have a safe space to create art. But the real question is, if this will be enough to save society?



Beyond the Exam Hall: Rethinking What Success Looks Like

By Charlotte Pierce



Imagine sitting in an exam hall, opening your paper just to see a sea of numbers, letters and diagrams which hold no meaning to you. You sit this

seemingly stupid exam, wait for your results and see mistake after mistake. You feel the pressures to improve but never seem to be able to. This is the reality for many students who simply have no interest in the academic subjects like English, maths and science. They find themselves falling behind with teachers almost oblivious to their achievements in other areas, their first place dance medal, player of the match or grade 8 music. Yet when you look at the average school timetable, 39 hours a week are spent on academia. What I want to know is: can this be changed?

As with everything, education is full of variety. Some thrive from the pressure while others find themselves in continuous fight or flight when it comes to how we are expected to learn. Mounting homework, approaching deadlines and one envelope that seems to determine your future. Not everyone learns effectively in the normalised



pathway of GCSE for 2 years, A-levels for 2 years then a degree to top it off. An endless cycle of exams which only seem to cause a damaging effect on teenagers with almost 80% feeling overwhelmed by the pressures associated with public examinations.

Let's take, John Smith, a 16-year-old student about to sit his GCSEs. In lessons, he gets everything right, spends hours a week revising since the beginning of year 11, dreaming of the day he opens his results to see a column of 7s, 8s and 9s (A, A*, A**) looking back at him. His teachers are confident he can do it. He then sits his first round of mocks and only passes five subjects. Two of these are practical exams and the others feel like pure luck. The reason: the fear of the hall, the mind blanks as you fill in your name, sign away your knowledge on the front cover. This is a harsh reality for many students.

Not all students are designed to sit behind a desk, memorising quotes or solving equations. We are dependent on tradesmen: plumbers, farmers and builders, just as much as high-profile lawyers and surgeons. However, our education system implies that the only way to success is through A-levels and university. More hands-on courses (vocational courses and apprenticeships) are commonly treated as second best for the "not so bright" individuals, when in reality they provide the essential skills needed that academic settings can't achieve.

This may seem like a problem which is out of the public's hands, which it may be. However, I believe that until we change the societal conceptions of academics versus creatives and question whether the divide is truly as vast as we perceive, thousands of students will continue to hide their talents simply to conform to the traditional pathway and we will lose their shine. Overall, the system is failing thousands of students by dulling their spark.



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NEWS FROM *Chulmleigh College*

Chulmleigh College is the designated secondary school for pupils living in the Winkleigh area, which means Devon County Council provides free school transport to Chulmleigh for any child on roll at the school. We are proud to serve our rural community, and pupils from Winkleigh represent the second-largest group attending the College.

We are now in the middle of the Spring Term and, in many ways, this is our busiest period. Across the country, schools are particularly focused on Year 11 pupils as they receive their Autumn Term mock GCSE results and move closer to their first public examinations. GCSEs take place in May and June, but much of the preparation happens now. At Chulmleigh, our final round of mock examinations begins on Monday 2nd March. We firmly believe that practice improves performance, and these final mocks, and the feedback that follows, will play an important role in preparing pupils for the real examinations. We wish them every success.

Although traditional GCSE coursework has largely disappeared, some subjects still include Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs). These are similar in concept to coursework but are completed under greater teacher supervision. With deadlines falling during or shortly after the Spring Term, many pupils are focused on

completing work that contributes directly to their final grades alongside written examinations. Our best wishes go to those completing NEAs in DT, Food, Drama, PE, Art, Textiles and BTEC Animal Care.


Families with children in Year 9 will know that this is the season for 'options'. As pupils move into Year 10 and begin most of their GCSE studies, they make important choices alongside their compulsory subjects. These are significant decisions, and we look forward to confirming option allocations just before the Easter break.

Year 10 pupils are also finalising arrangements for Work Experience Week (13th July). This valuable opportunity allows them to experience the world of work first-hand. If you see our pupils out and about that week, please wish them well. A small number are still seeking placements, so if you are able to offer one, please contact us at admin@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk.

Finally, we hope the wet weather is soon behind us as we look ahead to lighter, longer and warmer days. The College is taking part in a Swift and House Martin nesting project this year, and we eagerly anticipate the welcome return of these birds swooping (and screeching) across bright blue skies.

Mr Payne, Headteacher

Core Subjects (lessons per fortnight)	Compulsory Subjects (lessons per fortnight) 2 to be chosen from:
English Language (5)	Art and Design (5)
English Literature (4)	Computer Science (5)
Combined (Double) Science (9)	Drama (5)
Mathematics (7)	Music (5)
French (5)	Physical Education Studies (5)
Religious Studies (2)	Food and Nutrition (5)
Physical Education (2)	Sociology (5)
Geography or History (5)	Psychology (5)
	Further Mathematics (5)
	Sciences as three separate GCSEs and instead of Combined Science (14)
	Textiles (5)




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In memory of

Lt Col Raymond Tricker (Ray)

who died on 20th January 2026

Ray lived a life defined by service, adventure, and remarkable achievement.

He devoted 40 years to the British Army, joining the Royal Corps of Signals as a boy soldier in Harrogate in 1953 at just 15 years old. He rose through every rank and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel at the end of his posting with NATO in Brussels in 1993.

This is when he and his wife Claire moved to Winkleigh and began the renovation of their much loved home Riddiford House - the scene of the weddings of both their daughters, Rosalind and Samantha, and many garden parties and happy times.

Following his military retirement, Ray embarked on a second career that was no less impressive. For more than 25 years he worked as a quality management consultant working in Europe and as far afield as Trinidad & Tobago and became a respected technical author, publishing over 30 books!

Ray's energy and enthusiasm extended far beyond his professional life. In his time he was an international rally driver, an Army ski instructor, a rugby player, runner, and waterskier. He embraced life fully, always ready for the next challenge or adventure.

Travel was one of Ray's lifelong passions. His Army career took him to live and work in more than 10 countries, and in his personal life he travelled extensively, visiting nations on every continent.

At the heart of Ray's life was his family. He was married to his beloved wife Claire for over 60 years, a partnership marked by enduring love, support, and shared adventure.

Raymond Tricker will be remembered as a devoted husband, father and grandfather, distinguished soldier, accomplished author, and a man who lived life to the full. His warmth, humour, and generosity touched many, and his legacy will live on in the countless lives he influenced and the stories he leaves behind.

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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.

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Peter Hopkinson – 07770 821752

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