

DISTINCTLY WINKLEIGH



Working for Winkleigh

Lockdown Special Edition



Edition 74

Summer 2020

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The Winkleigh Society Quarterly Journal

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Foreword

Welcome to our Lockdown Special Edition - this time in colour - where we chronicle how the communities of **Winkleigh** and **Hollocombe** have rallied round, adapted and made the most of the new normal.

Reasons to be cheerful: Special contributions from younger readers; our thought-provoking cover from Elouise, the mind map from Betsy in the centre pages, snippets of art and ideas from Winkleigh children stimulated by the creative activities from the combined churches and the school.

Hollocombe has pushed the boat out with their account of how their community have come together in support and creativity.

The **Parish Council** organisation of volunteers and a community phone-line has ensured nobody is left vulnerable and unaware of what help is available.

Our **local traders** have adapted, re-organised, overcome supply problems and kept everyone fed and supplied through their door-to-door deliveries.

Local businesses have still wanted to advertise with us, despite their challenging circumstances. We also pleased that Hedgerow Print is still working and our posties are still willing to deliver, as we were always determined to produce our May edition: but we knew it would need to reflect our altered lives.

You, our readers, have also sent in a variety of stories and verses about your new circumstances and how you have adapted, for which we thank you.

V.E. DAY CELEBRATIONS may have been cancelled but are not forgotten: Councillor **Simon Hodgson** and **Derek Miller** have both sent us their accounts.

There will be no Fair Queen this year, but **Marcia Butt** pays tribute to **Winkleigh Fair** (established 1262) by sending in photographs of past Fair Queens and attendants.

We are not including a diary this time as so much has been postponed or cancelled, but this edition of **Distinctly Winkleigh** is bearing witness to how our communities have adapted and risen to the challenge of our altered national behaviour in this time of great crisis and uncertainty.

Our online diary at <https://winkleighonline.com> will continue to be updated with dates of any future events if you let us know about them.

Distinctly Winkleigh Team



Winkleigh Society AGM Report

Fortunately we just snuck in our AGM ten days before Lockdown. Thirty-five people attended and tucked into local cheeses, wine from Bruce (Grape & Grain) and apple juice from Ten Acres Vineyard.

Guest Speaker: Emily Wapshott - South West Archaeology

Emily intrigued us all by enthusing about the volume and riches of our native archaeology particularly in the South-West. A village as old as Winkleigh with two castle mounds abounds in potential and much is recorded in Devon County Council's on-line OASIS REPORTS on sites and houses. Local finds from Elms Meadow and Linden Lea were shown on her slide show.

Emily presented an overview of the professional remit of archaeology, which are: **Commercial, Community, Academic, Museums, Archives, Forensic, Curatorial, Commercial and why archaeology is important.**

Archaeology in the Commercial Planning Process: It is a planning condition to conduct an archaeology investigation before works commence. The cost of this has to be met by the developer. Emily outlined a range of archaeological activities that may be carried out during the planning process: a desk-based survey (local maps), walk-over survey/building appraisal, geo-physical survey & evaluation trenching. Emily concluded with practical tips for developers and reminded the audience that archaeology belongs to us all, the people, as it reveals the stories of our ancestors: how they lived, worked and shaped the landscape.

There was also a display of artefacts and 'finds' were identified.

Control Tower - Winkleigh Airfield: Ben Duncan, who is very concerned about its deteriorated state, questioned Emily about how to progress his investigations. As the Control Tower is classified as a National Monument, Emily advised Ben to contact the Heritage At Risk Officer in the South West for an assessment.

Emily also suggested building up a case for the preservation of the control Tower on the basis of its associated value (e.g. anecdotal links with Glen Miller).

Luckily Steven and Shirley Leahy (custodians of the Airfield archive) were at the meeting and shared information.

GUEST Youth Speaker - Josh Watkins: Josh reported on the key findings from the Neighbourhood Plan's Children's Questionnaire. Most popular with local children were: playing fields and play areas, Winkleigh Woods and the shops in Winkleigh

Square. Children also suggested that the outside environment could be improved with external furniture, wider pavements, fewer and slower cars and more bus-shelters, as there are no bus shelters at Elms Meadow or Sunny View.

Josh also talked about the Ten Tors Challenge and his achievements in Year 10 at Chulmleigh Academy. A fluent and confident speaker, Josh particularly enjoyed playing Hamlet in a Shakespeare Festival.

Young DW Contributor - Betsy Lill: Betsy took the microphone to say how she was happy to have her article published in DW about Greta Thunberg. Betsy said she would be happy to write more articles in the future.

District Councillor Simon Newton took the chair when the committee stood down for election. A proposal was made for re-election en bloc. All were duly re-elected.

Simon also congratulated The Winkleigh Society on updating and publishing issue 6 of '**The Winkleigh Business and Information Directory**', which is online at <https://winkleighonline.com>

Finally the committee were thanked for all their work and support throughout the year. Thanks also to Lorne and Alex Hamilton for the loan of their professional equipment and technical expertise ensuring the smooth running of the evening.

Penny Griffiths (Chair Winkleigh Society)

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Find The Winkleigh Society on Facebook

Thanks to some preliminary work by Stone Naylor and much recent work by Greg and Rachel Goldsworthy, assisted by Godfrey Rhodes, a **Winkleigh Society/Distinctly Winkleigh Community Page** has recently been created on Facebook.

Its aim is to promote local community activities and events sponsored or organised by the Society in pursuit of its objectives. In addition it provides a forum for making announcements and receiving feedback about Distinctly Winkleigh from a wider audience.

The page also includes a direct link to <https://winkleighonline.com> to enable easy access the online **Information Directory** and **What's On Diary**, as well as back-numbers of Distinctly Winkleigh, and other community-related news.

The page is entitled **The Winkleigh Society/Distinctly Winkleigh** or <https://www.facebook.com/TWSDW/> so please have a look at it and let us know what you think or post your comments.

Penny Griffiths

WINKLEIGH INFORMATION DIRECTORY – Issue 6 - AMENDMENT

Page 6 –Howes Estate Agents - Phone number should read 01837 83393



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VE-Day - I Was There - A Lasting Memory

I was fifteen years old and staying with my Aunty, Uncle and three cousins at Willesden Green. My cousins, two other friends and I decided to go up into London to join in the celebrations.

Early that evening, we caught the underground to Trafalgar Square. The first thing I saw were enormous crowds climbing anything in sight and jumping into the fountains. The noise was tremendous with dancing and singing everywhere.

From there we walked to Downing Street. We were lucky enough to stand right by the corner of one of the gates as Winston Churchill walked out. If I had put my arm out I could have touched him.

Then we walked to Buckingham Palace, quite a walk especially with the crowds of people. At this stage we were still six of us together. I don't think I have ever been part of such a vast crowd of people before or since, an experience I will never forget.

We waited there until the King, Queen, Royal family and Winston Churchill came out on the balcony. The cheering was deafening. Somehow during this part of the evening and with such massive crowds we managed to get split up with only one cousin and me being together.

The next challenge was to get home. By this time the underground had stopped so we walked the six miles home meeting many happy people all along the way. We eventually got home at three o'clock in the morning.

This is an experience that has stayed in my mind all my life.

Derek Miller



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Winkleigh Parish Council News

The Parish Council are not currently sitting in public due to the lockdown and have delegated emergency powers to the Clerk to act on their behalf to ensure business continuity and urgent matters are dealt with.

The Council will be holding 'remote' meetings using Zoom for any urgent business that cannot be dealt with by the Clerk until the lockdown is eased. Details of how members of the public can access these Zoom meetings, if and when they are held, will be published on the agenda.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting are both cancelled this year, and our internal and external audit timescales have been extended by 2 months

The Parish Council are supporting the parish with our COVID-19 Community Response Team and thank our Vice-Chair Angela Findlay for her hard work in co-ordinating the volunteers in the Parish and all the unsung volunteers.

We would also like to thank Kingsley Plastics for their donation of £1000 towards providing support to the Parish during this difficult time and DCC and TDC for the COVID-19 support grants given to the Parish. The Clerk is working with various members and bodies of the Parish on how best these monies can be spent to ensure



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continuity of our much-valued and appreciated parish facilities and to enable our volunteers to continue to carry out the services they are currently providing.

On behalf of the Parish, the Council pass a huge thank you to **Londis, Mad Butcher, Post Office, Fiona's Farm Shop and Kings Arms** for their faultless dedication, hard work and selflessness in providing facilities and support to our residents.

In addition, to all NHS staff and essential workers in the parish, we thank you for all you are doing and a big thank you also to our residents for staying home, staying safe and protecting our NHS.

If you are finding life difficult and a strain during the lockdown, please ring us on 01837 89095 and we can direct you to the most appropriate support, or visit our dedicated website page www.winkleighpc.org.uk.

The Council would like to explain that the recent delivery of COVID-19 leaflets, whilst seen by some as too little too late, was only the tail-end of our efforts. The leaflets were published online, on social media, emailed out and hand-delivered to some properties as the lockdown occurred but the lockdown delayed the printing and disrupted the delivery method planned to all house-holds in the parish; however, our COVID-19 telephone number (01837 89095) and dedicated email address (wpccovid19@outlook.com) were receiving requests for assistance and volunteers almost immediately. Our details were also cascaded throughout the District and we received referrals from CAB, Social Services, TDC, Waitrose, Post Office and Londis to name but a few, so assistance was being provided to the most needy and vulnerable immediately, and in the first month of lockdown the telephone number took over 50 calls, prior to the leaflet distribution but there have been no new assistance requests since the leaflet was distributed, reassuring us that those that needed our help were already receiving it.

If you have any suggestions on what more the Parish Council could be doing to support our parish and sections of the community during this difficult time, please do not hesitate to come forward and let us know.

If you would like to keep in touch with matters affecting the Parish, you can subscribe to our 'email me' list to receive formal and informal news from the Parish, Torridge District Council and Devon County Council and other third-parties. If you would like to join this list, please email winkleighpc1@btconnect.com – with your choice of Formal and Informal emails or just formal emails. Your details will not be shared with any other parties and you can unsubscribe at any time.

We currently have four vacancies on the parish council, please consider joining us – full training, mentoring and support will be provided. Please contact the parish clerk for more details on 01837 89095 or winkleighpc1@btconnect.com

Mel Bickell, Parish Clerk

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COVID-19 Help Service

Winkleigh Parish Council has been active in setting up a service to help people who are self-isolating or unable to access their normal help due to community staff being furloughed. Councillor Mercer has done a sterling job in Hollocombe and I have been coordinating the Parish Service with able support from Mel, Parish Clerk. The service operates 7 days a week Monday to Friday from 9 till 5 and weekend mornings.

The Parish Council asked for volunteers and at the time of writing I have 55 local people from all walks of life and of all ages willing to help and support the service. These volunteers have carried out many tasks: taking people to hospital, supporting the elderly and infirm in their own homes, supermarket shopping, medication collection and local errands.



***One of the many volunteers:
Joe Whittick – Delivering meat
(photo by Greg Goldsworthy)***

The willingness of Winkleigh Villagers to support this service has been second to none and those being helped have been grateful and have kindly acknowledged our efforts. It has not been a thankless task at all! The way volunteers have rallied round has been fabulous and the dexterity of local businesses in changing the way they operate in order to keep providing a service to the village and secure employment and business continuity has been fantastic to observe.

I have kept a compliments and complaints file and the compliments far outweigh the complaints. I have used the few complaints to review my practice and, I hope, learn from the suggestions made.

I was asked to write a piece for DW about what WPC and its band of volunteers have been doing to help, but I could not write this piece without acknowledging all those out there who are not formal volunteers, just quietly helping out a neighbour or checking on the elderly. They are unsung, unknown heroes and heroines who have all just got on with being good citizens and are kind, caring people.

Our Parish Council has been doing their best to support the people who live in our Parish. I hope Parishioners acknowledge that we are also volunteers and give as much time as we can, freely, to help the village. The Parish Council is still short of four people and I know from my dealings with my volunteers that there are a great many able and talented people out there, who will perhaps consider lending their skills and knowledge formally and become councillors!

Therefore, as you can see, I have not had time to be bored during this period of lockdown. I have not learned Italian or baked bread, although I did rescue a rook from my chimney and wrote a piece for the BBC Radio Four PM programme entitled Corvid interrupts COVID, but it has yet to be aired on the programme!

Angela Findlay
Vice-Chair Winkleigh Parish Council & COVID-19 Help co-ordinator

All Saints News

When the last issue of Distinctly Winkleigh arrived on our doormats I don't think we could have ever imagined that in a few weeks our lives would be radically different. The current global pandemic has changed our lives, the way we live them and has brought fear, worry and isolation into the heart of our homes and community. Our lives and the lives of those around us have changed forever and as we look to the future we can only begin to wonder what that future might look like. The world as we knew it has changed and going back to 'normal' seems unlikely and anyway as with all human experience it has shaped and formed us.

The rainbow has become the symbol of thanksgiving for those who continue to work in sometimes difficult conditions to ensure that we have access to food, healthcare, utilities and a whole host of other services required for society to function. It is also a symbol of hope and the promise of the future. The rainbow is a very biblical image, seen in the sky after the great flood, a sign to Noah and the whole world of God's love and covenant with his people. A sign that the world could and should be a better place.

As we start to think about emerging from the current level of restrictions, I suspect it will be a bit like Noah emerging from the ark after finally reaching dry land. For Noah the landscape around must have looked very different, much destruction had occurred. The flood waters would have receded leaving an unfamiliar landscape but



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also the opportunity for something new and wonderful to emerge. The same will be true for us. The beauty of the physical landscape may not have changed but the landscape for our lives will have. For some this sadly means the death of friend or loved one, the loss of income or the adjustment to differing social lives and independence. For all of us it means living through an experience we would never have imagined and the stress and strains that it has brought. Life will never be the same again and neither should it. The hope which lies before us is that there is an opportunity for new and wonderful things to emerge. There is an opportunity to build a better world, to bring about the sort of world God hopes for and to live in a more loving way.

We are already seeing wonderful things start to emerge. Pollution levels have dropped, fish can be seen in the Venice canals for the first time in years and car use has plummeted. Here is an opportunity to realise the impact we make on the world and commit to making sure we never go back. Communities have come together and shown love and care for friend, neighbour and stranger alike. Here in Winkleigh people have come together to ensure people have food, medicine and whatever help they need. This is community, this is love and this is a glimpse of a better world. I've been staggered by the volume of Foodbank donations which have been left at the Vicarage. No sooner has one load gone off to the Foodbank than more appears - Thank you. People are giving generously to help ensure that we have a society where no one goes hungry. For Christians all of these actions are a vision of God's Kingdom both for the future and for here and now, for all of us it is a glimpse of a better world.

However bruised, sorrowful and exhausted we feel as we emerge from this current phase of the pandemic we should look at the rainbow and have hope. Hope of a better world which we all play our part in building and the hope of opportunities to make it happen.

Church Services: Our buildings may be physically closed for the time being but church is not! We meet together every Sunday at 9:30 am for worship and on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm for prayer over Zoom. We are also having a social event on Fridays at 7:30 pm on Zoom which is great fun and has so far involved the inaugural Winkleigh Desert Island Discs and a Quiz. Please get in contact with Revd Helen Blaine if you would like details of how to join us and keep a look out on Facebook for details of services and events. Please also get in touch with Helen if you need someone to talk to, are worried about anything or have a question.

Knitters Required: Winkleigh Mission Community needs knitters of sheep for a Christmas sheep trail around the villages! If you can knit, have odd bits of double knitting wool in any colour (pink, green, orange, striped are all absolutely fine) and have spare time at the moment please contact Helen.

Revd Helen Blaine - 01837 83710
revhelenblaine@outlook.com

Lockdown! – Young Readers’ Experiences

From Maisie: Since coronavirus came, we’re not allowed to go out. School has closed and church has closed too. Our teachers send us work to do at home, and instead of going to church on a Sunday, we all use zoom to have a church service. We can see everyone’s faces, and can talk to each other at the start and end of the service. We listen to Helen take the service and we take it in turns to do the readings.

It’s nice that we can all still see each other even though we can’t actually be with each other in church. I’m sad that we can’t go to church but it’s nice we can do this instead. I can’t wait until the church opens again, and we can do crafts during the service and have biscuits and squash after the service!

From Kara: During lockdown, I have redecorated my bedroom, been on bike rides and watched a lot of Netflix! It is a weird time as I don’t have any school work or any revision to do and had to leave school early which we never expected. I am still keeping in contact with my friends on social media and FaceTime so I am able to stay sociable and I’m not just with my family all the time!

Submitted by Revd Helen Blaine

Winkleigh Church Flower Ladies

Sadly we were unable to have the scheduled ‘Lily’ displays at Easter owing to the Coronavirus pandemic. Hence everybody is looking forward to the Winkleigh Fair week when our arrangements will be of **Summer Colours** with morning coffee & cakes on Tuesday 14th July from 10.30 am to 12 noon.



Everyone is welcome.

The church will also be open for viewing the floral displays on Wednesday 15th July from 6 p to 8 pm with light refreshments for all visitors.

Linda Millership & Marcia Butt

NOTE: Dates are subject to change.

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Hollocombe Community Group

Hello everyone! We wanted to let you all know what is happening in Hollocombe and how we as a community are really working together to make a difference, support and help each other in this uncertain time.



It all started on 18 March 2020 when our local Facebook support group “Hollocombe Community Group” was created by Wayne Reed. The initial aim of “Hollocombe Community Group” was to establish and co-ordinate a group to offer help and support and to share up-to-date local advice and information.

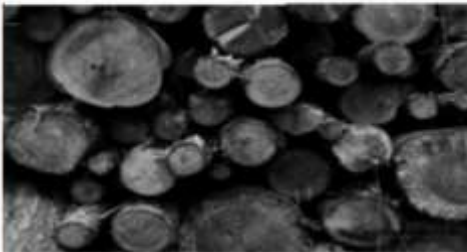
Wayne suggested many other things we could all do to make the group more useful including:

- letting the group know if anyone needed food or medicine collected, or if there was spare food or food to share,
- the sharing of books, puzzles, music and games, especially for the children,
- having a buddy system so everyone is connected via phone or FaceTime,
- letting the group know if you are ill so you can be supported through self-isolation,
- signalling your status if you wish by putting a coloured circle in a visible window: Green = Fit and Well, Orange = Self-isolating, Red = In need of help.

Over five weeks later we have 51 members on the group Facebook site which is brilliant considering how small a hamlet Hollocombe is. The group has been able to reach out to nearly every resident. We have all introduced ourselves to each other and welcomed our new residents. People who previously did not use Facebook have created an account solely for the purpose of joining the group to keep in touch. Others have buddied up so hopefully everyone has the support and help they need.

Everyone has embraced the support group so much that we now individually create new posts whenever we go out collecting prescriptions or shopping, either locally or

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to supermarkets, so everyone has a chance to ask for essential items which can be then delivered to their doorstep if required. This is especially important for those in self-isolation and those without transport.

We check the “Winkleigh!” Facebook page daily and update the group with news from Winkleigh including information from our local shops and suppliers with any changes to opening times, delivery details and supplies available. We also provide updates from Winkleigh Parish Council about key contact details, volunteering, details about foodbank donations/collections, and other relevant information.

Hollocombe Community Group has developed a range of activities for adults and children alike and these take place on a regular basis to keep everyone in good spirits and busy!

They include:

- Seed swapping – many of us were not able to buy seeds in time before the lockdown was announced so those that had spare offered them as swaps – marmalade and chutney seems to go down well! As a result, we are all busy sowing and planting on vegetables and flowers with a view to sharing them once they start to grow.
- Art packs have been put together by Helena, for adults and children, and these have proved enormously popular and many wonderful drawings and paintings have been produced. The acrylic paints in the packs have been also used to paint pebbles and stones with beautiful ladybug creatures and flowers.



- The Easter Window competition organised by Wayne and Helena was great fun and there are now many beautifully decorated windows in Hollocombe. A lovely way to brighten up the village. Congratulations to Bob & Georgina at Paddons for winning first prize!
- A special thanks to Félicité and children Maddy and Lucas for making homemade Easter cards and delivered them personally to many of the residents. Such a kind thought and welcomed by everyone who received them.
- Themed treasure hunts including mathematical, geography and history are organised weekly by Gemma who kindly puts the clues around the whole

hamlet. These are great source of fun for those out walking and for the children to find and solve the clues.

- Christine has shown us how to keep our dogs fit and healthy – the owners too(!). On-line videos of dog agility training have been posted which have proved so popular that people are making mini-agility courses in their gardens.
- Movie-themed scarecrows have been appearing around Hollocombe this week and they were judged today by Christine. There is some amazing imagination and creativity here – we have had Shrek, Cats, Johnny Depp (Pirates of the Caribbean), Mary Poppins, Queen of Hearts, Indiana Jones and George Formby. In fact, there was so much creative talent that no one winner could be chosen so everyone received a small prize!



- Beautiful photographs have been posted by many of us of the glorious sunrises, sunsets, super-moon and nature seen on walks around the hamlet. Hollocombe is renowned for the wide variety of flora and fauna found here and there have been some lovely photographs to enable us to identify these. Thanks to Kim for letting everyone know that the beautiful noisy small birds that appeared in many of our gardens recently were chiffchaffs and that garden warblers have been seen too.



- Wayne kindly produced a timetable of dates and times for when the many Space Station satellites and spectacular Lyrid meteor shower would be visible in April. As a result many of us have been out social distancing staring up at the dark sky watching these amazing lights appearing and moving around our night sky.
- Some of us rescued tadpoles who were in danger of drying out in a field puddle and now they are thriving in homemade “ponds” and will be released back into the river when they are a bit bigger. They love bread, cucumber and hard-boiled egg yolk. Who knew that?

- Future events include an online Bingo night being organised by Wayne on Saturday 2nd May at 7 pm which should be great fun. Eyes down everyone!
- Everyone is being industrious with whatever materials they have. Bird boxes, chairs and benches are appearing, and materials swapped and bartered for.
- And who can forget Wayne's fabulous rendition of the "12 days of lockdown" song which went viral on Facebook. Just brilliant!

I would like to add a personal thank you to Wayne whose idea of creating the Hollocombe Community Group on Facebook has been inspirational and been welcomed by everyone. His untiring support and offers of help have been recognised by us all. His idea has been fundamental for all of us here in Hollocombe to really get to know each other. We now know the name of each other's houses, children, pets and even camper vans!

Finally: I know there are many acts of selflessness and kindness that happen every day which may go unnoticed. So, thank you to everyone for being incredibly caring friends and neighbours during this surreal time in our lives.

Stay safe and take care!

Sue Dally

Hollocombe resident & Winkleigh Society Committee member

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Look for the Positives

In the situation that we currently find ourselves, it is very easy to look for the negatives; many people can no longer go to school or work, leaving the house is to be kept to a minimum, and across the country people are feeling the tension of having to spend each and every day with those closest to them. However, every cloud has its silver lining and after each storm there is a rainbow (in this case shining out even more brightly to support our undeterred National Health Service.)

At the beginning of the year, the **Winkleigh Environment Group** was formed and since then it has done its utmost to help our local wildlife and reduce the village's carbon footprint, but what no one ever really considered was that maybe all nature needed was a break! It seems that, as the country was forced into lockdown, our environment breathed a sigh of relief. In cities around the world, the sky is finally blue as pollution from vehicles and industry has plummeted, dolphins and swans have returned to the canals in Venice, where the water hasn't been as clear in decades, and overnight several mountain goats became famous, after taking over a town in Wales and causing havoc for the police. While our lifestyles may have inconveniently altered, we are giving the world around us the holiday it deserves after all we have thrown at it, for which it is evidently grateful.

Although of course many of us will look back on these bizarre times pessimistically, we should also think about the positive results of this quarantine, and it would be nice if some of the practices we have been forced to adopt continue after we are eventually released from lockdown. By working from home more often, we can reduce our vehicle emissions; in realising that actually our Devon countryside has just as much to offer as that of France or Spain, we can reduce our need to fly, and, if communities continue working together, to not only support each other but also the land on which we live, we might be able to mitigate and even solve some of the environmental problems we are currently causing. Through this ongoing pandemic we are finding that we can be entertained without needing to constantly be on the move, and by taking time to stop and think, we may be surprised by what else we are capable of achieving.

Author's name supplied to Editor

Thank you David



I'm sure I speak for all Winkleigh dog owners when I express my gratitude to **David Trenaman** for his relaxed attitude to walkers across his land. Being the only footpath within easy walking distance of the village, it has been a godsend for daily exercise during the lockdown. I regularly walk across these fields and have seen many non-dog owners using it too.

It's a refreshing change to find a landowner who is so accommodating. Thank you.

A grateful dog owner (Author's name supplied to Editor)

Winkleigh Church Wives Group

It is a strange feeling to be writing this report as instead of giving an insight into our activities over the past months, I must record a cessation of all events for the foreseeable future.

We were able to have our scheduled meeting in February. Our speaker for that afternoon was Revd Helen Blaine. She was able to give us an insight into her journey from a Veterinary Nurse to Ordained Minister.

We had a change of programme for our March meeting as at that time it was the beginning of news coming through of the Coronavirus and our speaker for that afternoon felt that he would be unable to attend. We are very grateful to Bobbie Farrington for stepping in at the last minute and talking about her family history on the farm between 1920 and 1950.

As you will now be aware we are not holding meetings at the present time but if we are able to come out from Lockdown and meet up in the near future we hope to hold a meeting on June 8th, it will not be the AGM but just a social afternoon to come together (not too closely) for a cup of tea and chat.

We hope to resume fully in September. I hope you are all keeping well at this present time. We will meet again.

Janet Magor (secretary)

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Lockdown Birding

Aren't we lucky? Most of us have gardens and we can walk with footpaths and lanes now largely traffic free. I have been able to do the most consistent piece of 'Citizen Science' birding I have ever achieved, walking most mornings from Townsend Cross west to Fourways Cross, left past Upcott, left down the footpath past Great Plantation and back up Townsend Hill, counting everything seen or heard that I could identify. I thought some readers might be interested in this as a table. The first figure is the greatest number seen on a single visit, and the second is the number of visits on which this species was identified.

Species	Max/ Visit	Visits	Remarks
Pheasant	2	9	Often heard. One black pheasant
Canada Goose	14	10	Now in breeding pairs
Mallard	1	1	
Little Grebe	2	3	Breeding on Upcott pond
Moorhen	2	2	On the pond
Cormorant	1	1	Flying over
Buzzard	3	6	Group on fine afternoons
Red Kite	2	2	Roosted overnight. Not yet breeding in Devon.
Sparrowhawk	1	1	In my garden daily!
Kestrel	1	1	Being harried by jackdaws
Barn Owl	?		Dead in the road. They often cross roads at low level
Stock Dove	4	2	Pairs in the wood
Feral Pigeon	1	1	A single white dove
Woodpigeon	9	10	Nesting pairs
Collared Dove	3	7	Village not outside
Herring Gull	230	6	Now seem to be resident in the village but 230 on a ploughed field.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	9	Plenty about, usually on the back of the tree!
Magpie	6	9	Family group
Jackdaw	40	10	Feeding in fields
Rook	25	10	Sometimes in big groups
Carrion Crow	5	10	Quite a few in pairs
Raven	1	1	Deep croak and wedge tail give it away
Coal Tit	3	10	More in my garden than the woods
Blue Tit	7	9	Busy feeding young.
Great Tit	5	9	Males singing and collecting food for young
Skylark	3	7	On the open top fields

Swallow	7	9	My first on 9 th April at Cider Works
Willow Warbler	2	7	Very few; occasional by Bulflow Brook
Chiffchaff	4	10	Gone quieter now, busy nesting
Blackcap	4	8	Song very clear but hard to find
Garden Warbler	1	2	On 24 th April: one at Upcott; song hard to identify
Whitethroat	2	3	A pair along Hatherleigh Rd
Wren	11	10	This is 'Wren Central'. One singing from every bush!
Starling	3	1	Few in summer, but nest nr the church
Nuthatch	1	6	On upper branches from top branches
Treecreeper	1	1	In Great Plantation
Blackbird	13	10	Mostly males getting food for females on nest
Song Thrush	2	8	Loud singer at Townsend
Mistle Thrush	1	1	Not definitive ID; one near Upcott.
Robin	5	9	Surprisingly little singing. Too busy feeding?
Duncock	4	10	Singing on hedge tops. Feeding young
House Sparrow	14	10	At least 4 colonies
Pied Wagtail	2	6	Pair in big field
Chaffinch	18	9	Difficult to count. Probably many more.
Greenfinch	4	6	Buzzing from treetops.
Linnet	3	2	Not common. With finches on old hay
Goldfinch	8	10	Several family groups - charms
Siskin	1	4	Strangulated calls. Always in my garden!
Yellowhammer	3	3	Not common. Family at 4+Ways
Reed Bunting	3	3	Group down by the brook

A total of 49 species and certainly some there that I failed to find, such as Bullfinch, Sparrowhawk, House Martin.

(illustrations by Sue Dally and Nicola Garmory)
(Finches: Reference: Mike Langham)

Peter Howard



Our Devon County Councillor Writes



I would like to start this article by thanking everyone in Winkleigh Parish for the part you are all playing to help beat the coronavirus. I have been really impressed at how everyone in Winkleigh has pulled together during this crisis and from contacting friends in the Parish who have been self-isolating, I know they have felt very well-supported by the community – so thank you for all you are doing!

At the time of writing we are still in ‘lockdown’, but I am an optimist and I believe we will beat this virus, so it is important in the coming days and weeks as the lockdown restrictions start to ease that we continue to follow the latest guidance from the Government and the NHS. If we continue to do this, then we will overcome this virus.

Like many of you I have been staying at home and have only travelled to collect prescriptions and medical supplies for self-isolating residents. It is as frustrating to me, as I am sure it is to you, that I cannot get out and about to see my friends in Winkleigh, but I have been keeping in contact as much as I can and at the beginning of May attended my first ‘virtual’ meeting of Winkleigh Parish Council.

While it has been a worrying time, I would like to reassure *Distinctly Winkleigh* readers that Devon County Council is doing all that it can to support the people of Devon during this pandemic. First, DCC has set up a dedicated coronavirus advice website - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/> - and I would recommend all readers who are ‘online’ to take a look at it.

Throughout this crisis I have been sending regular updates to the Town and Parish Councils in Torrington Rural (including Winkleigh) and sending as much information as possible to share within our communities. Within the County Council itself, a huge amount of work is going on and DCC is working closely with the NHS, the emergency services and the District Councils to protect the vulnerable, the old and the young.

Hundreds of extremely vulnerable people have been contacted by County and District staff as part of the ‘shielding’ effort to ensure that everyone who has to stay home for 12 weeks receives essential food, medicine and additional care if they live alone and do not have family or friends to support them.

The County Council and the NHS have also been working hard to provide temporary beds for people being discharged from hospital across Devon to help free up ward space for more intensive care facilities. In North Devon, the Durrant House Hotel in Bideford has been converted to a ‘care hotel’ to provide extra capacity as part of our Covid-19 response, is now ready to accept patients. This has been a great example of

collaboration across Devon County Council, Northern Devon Healthcare Trust and Primary Care.

DCC are also working closely with our hospitals to ensure that anyone who can be cared for in their own homes, in residential homes, or in these temporary facilities, can be safely discharged with proper support.

The County Council have also announced significant financial support for the social care sector, with £8 million of extra funding to support domiciliary care and residential care markets, along with a financial package to increase the pay of carers.

DCC has also introduced two new grants to support communities with the COVID-19 Prompt Action Fund. The first grant is for up to £500, with the second for up to £5,000. Both have been introduced to provide help for local organisations and voluntary groups to safely support vulnerable people in their communities and tackle the economic and social impacts of coronavirus.

Finally, I know the supply of Personal Protection Equipment to those providing care services has been an ongoing challenge nationally and locally. Devon County Council is using Millbrook, our independent community equipment provider, as an in-house and out-of-hours service to supply PPE if care providers cannot access PPE through their usual supply routes and the National Disruption Service cannot help. Our understanding from our operational teams is, that although the provision of PPE has been a challenge, the arrangements above have meant that no social care provider in Devon has been left without PPE supplies.

If I listed everything DCC is doing this article would run to several pages! Essential services continue to run, and I hope this article gives a flavour of the work the County Council is doing. While I may not be able to physically see you, I am working from home and still available to help on any County Council issues.

Stay safe and we will meet again soon!

Andrew Saywell 07886 446560 - andrew.saywell@devon.gov.uk



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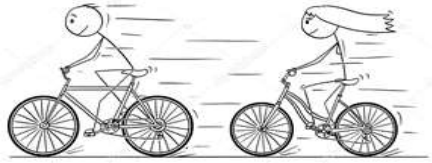
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From normal

The decision's made, I'm in need
Of a burst of speed
The roads are quiet, the cars have gone
It has to be
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Pedalling fast, wind behind
Across the airfield, I start to unwind
Clouds in blue sky, larks in the fields
Potholes to watch
Steering clear

Dolton Beacon, Ebberley Hill
Fast down the lane past copse and mill
Nodding bluebells, campions, garlic
Nature's bouquet
Holding sway



Through the woods, by Beaford Brook
Lack of cars means time to look
Rustling leaves, birds atwitter
Gathering twigs
For nests

Up to Beaford, an effort and a sweat
The hill is long, no descending yet
A strong headwind, chin tucked in
Pedalling hard
Towards home



Beaford Moor has fabulous views
The rolling hills in their wonderful hues
The road is flatter, the cycling easier
Dolton Beacon
Distant Dartmoor

At Hollocombe Moor we start the descent
Picking up speed, energy spent
Past Venton, Riddiford House
Up to the airfield
Almost home

Pedalling easily into the Square
Bikes down the lane, into the barn
Into the house, tea and cake
Our reward
For working hard



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Winkleigh Fairs Remembered



Marcia Butt has kindly agreed to share these photos of some Winkleigh Fair Days in past years, as this year is likely to be very different. We do not have the names of those in the photos, but have indicated the year. Many of you will probably remember or recognise them.

1930

1974



1984



1989



1997

1998



VE and VJ DAY

Seventy-five years ago, the greatest conflict that the world has ever seen finally came to an end after over five and a half years of war. To signify the fight ending in Europe, V.E. day (Victory in Europe) is celebrated on May 8th, whereas V.J. day falls on the August 15th when the war in the Far East ended. It has been estimated that about fifty-million people lost their lives during the war, most of whom were civilians caught up in the mayhem of destruction, a level of which will hopefully never be seen again. This year, the normal celebrations have had to be put on hold until sometime later on when a street party or social gathering might be allowed.

Every year on the 11th November, we remember those people who lost their lives in the two world wars, and while V.E. and V.J. days celebrate the end of World War Two, who remembers the survivors? Some might ask why is it important to remember something that happened seventy-five years ago, and may argue it should be consigned to the history books. Should we move on and concentrate on more modern issues? There are still a lot of people who remember and owe their lives to the triumph of good over evil, and if nothing else, we should celebrate for them.

The end of the fighting meant peace and safety for many, but for others the effects of warfare would last for the rest of their lives. As well as the physical injuries, the mental damage was often overlooked or just lived with. Although Winkleigh could be considered to be far removed from the effects of WW2, there are several



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examples of people who were deeply affected. Most of these are no longer with us, and as with the ones who lost their lives, we should all be grateful for them.

In Europe, the scale of destruction was so vast that millions of people lost everything: their homes, their country, and their families. A few of these were lucky and were allowed to start new lives in Winkleigh. Here they settled, married, and became accepted as part of village life. But how could they really call it home? For some, their memories would always haunt them. There were many nationalities involved with the fighting in Europe, and one such man was the highly-decorated Polish secret agent who lived at Stable Green. Although the details were never truly known, he played an important part in the destruction of the German heavy water plants, which were being used for their nuclear arms program. The price he paid was to never be able to sleep properly, and to always be expecting a late-night knock at the door when “they” came to get him. A few of us may also remember the Naval sea captain who could never adjust to civilian life, and lived his life in his car on the A377 near the Portsmouth Arms. He was often seen composing the crosswords for the Daily Telegraph, while being pushed along on his bicycle by his wife.

After the European war ended, the war in the Far East continued until the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Without discussing the rights or wrongs of the bombs, the ending of the war certainly saved many Allied soldiers’ lives, including at least two who later lived in Winkleigh. These men had spent three

and a half years as prisoners of the Japanese, and suffered extreme hardship while building and maintaining the Burma railway. Many of their fellow captives did not survive, and as with many others, they suffered in silence. There weren’t many who could begin to understand what they went through, so they kept their nightmares to themselves.

So whilst we cannot celebrate in the normal way, with church celebrations and street parties, please spend a quiet moment thinking about how good our lives are today (despite coronavirus!) because of what our fathers and grandfathers did seventy-five years ago.

Simon Hodgson

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Quarantine

For me quarantine has been dull, with little to do. I think everyone has struggled to stay entirely sane.

I have been passing the time trying to learn to unicycle with occasional success, although every success tends to come with at least five painful injuries.

Fortunately, where I live there is plenty of wonderful land to enjoy, which I had previously taken largely for granted but now fully appreciate, although I also can't wait to get back to a normal life and see my friends.

I really hope that soon some of the measures will be lifted, although in as safe a way as possible. Lockdown is tough for everyone and I can only imagine the difficulties of not having outdoor space.

Remember to stay safe and sane - it will get better.

Euan Ripper

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What's Going on at Winkleigh Methodist Church?

Well, what's going on world-wide as we all try to adjust to new and difficult circumstances due to Covid-19? As a Church, and as a community, I'm sure we all want to thank our amazing NHS staff, carers and every single key worker, whatever their role. They (possibly you as you read this) are all so brave and committed to helping everybody. The Winkleigh community spirit and support, with people going the extra mile and putting themselves out by working so hard, is recognised and very valued. ***Thank you!!***



Our Church **Oasis Café** had to quickly adapt to a different way of trying to serve the community following Church closure. There has been great feedback from many



people who have enjoyed the home cooked fresh food and appreciated it being delivered to their door. Thank you so much to the Oasis Team (all volunteers). We appreciate this has created extra work but the service is valued now more than ever!



Obviously worshipping together in the Church building and our usual activities, except for the Oasis Café deliveries, have stopped for the time being. We will let you know via Facebook and our notice board when there is any change. Meanwhile, there are lots of online worship options to explore!

Creative Station is the joint initiative between the Methodist Church and the Anglican Winkleigh Mission Community.

Every fortnight packs on a Bible theme are designed with bundles of craft supplies and templates, all being packed up in a paper bag ready to be used by

families in and around Winkleigh. The packs are left outside the Vicarage and a notice is put on Facebook to let people know they are



ready! It's been great to see some of the creations the children have made; from rainbow mobiles to scratch art candles

Winkleigh certainly has some very creative little people.

It's great to be involved in such a constructive and light

giving project! Keep sending us photos of your creations!

As a Church, we also say a big '**thank you**' to the **Distinctly Winkleigh** team! Initially, we expected there would not be an edition during the Coronavirus outbreak. Well, how wrong we were! The team were not to be beaten by it and have been determined to keep everyone in touch at this difficult time and, in doing so, will have created a special historical record to be archived for future reference. Well done to you all!

Should you want to know more about anything mentioned here, or if you have a prayer request, please contact any of the people below, or any other church member, and we will do our best to help you.

Therefore encourage
one another and
build each other up,
just as in fact you
are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Alan and Fiona Marshall 01837 83809 / Pam Down 01837 83674

Not Bacon Roll Time Again!!

It is with great reluctance that we have decided there will not be Bacon Roll Time this year. As I write this it is unclear when we will be able to have any kind of large gathering let alone in our little cottage. Therefore it would be pointless to try and fix a date. We are all very disappointed as we love this event and we all know how much the funds are needed for Cancer Research UK.

But we will be back bigger and better than ever! Keep looking out for information and posters but most importantly at this time: Keep Safe and Stay Well.

Jan Ovenden



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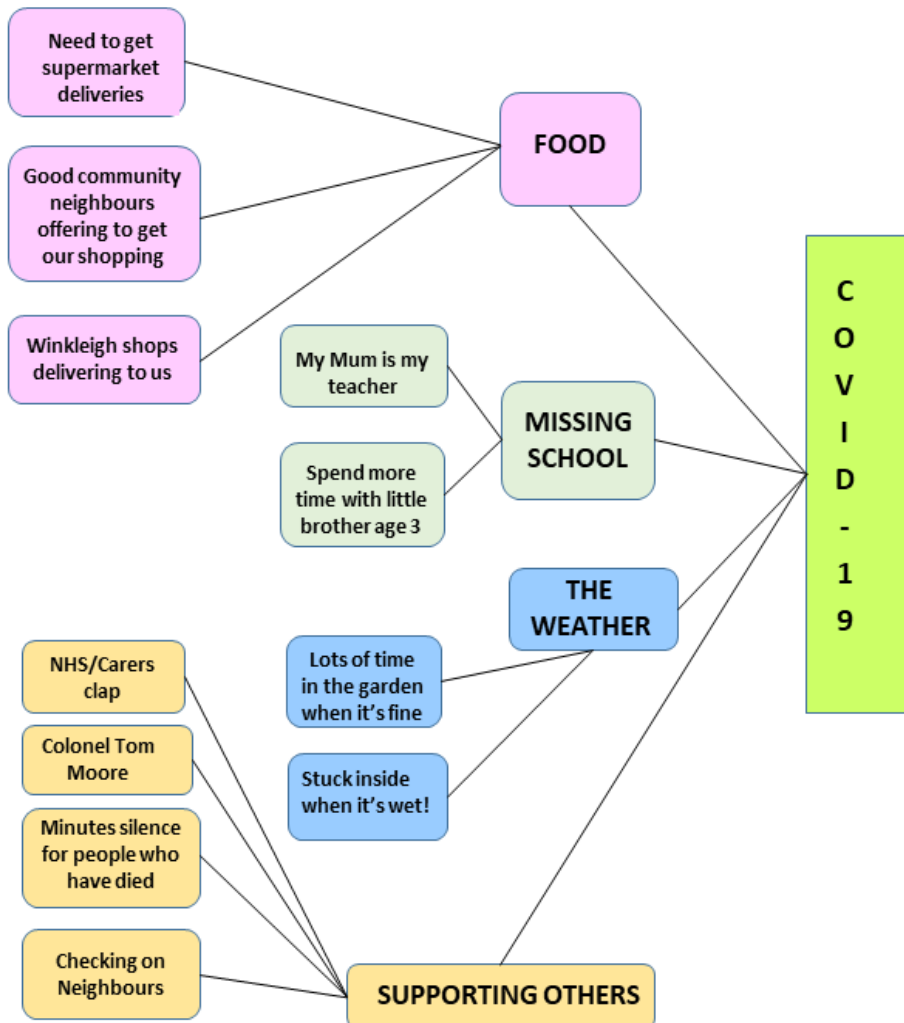
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COVID-19 Lockdown – Mind Map

Betsy Lill, age 10, created this mind-map in colour to capture her feelings on the Lockdown. It has been transcribed to fit into Distinctly Winkleigh.





Britannia Sailing Trust – Update!



Just a week before the Corona Virus Lockdown in March, we were really fortunate as we managed to buy a load of timber from Exeter and transport it to the shed in Winkleigh, with the help of our wonderful volunteers – (pictured here after unloading it all).

We now have enough timber for renewing and replacing damaged topsides and deck and making new deck cabins. We are still on the lookout for slow grown larch to complete planking the hull, so if anyone knows of any suitable trees, please get in touch.

Here is just some of the timber that we unloaded.

Despite the lockdown, and our volunteers unable to come to work, Sam has managed to carry on working on Britannia's restoration in self-isolation! He was enthused by having a stash of timber to start putting new wood into Britannia – something we have been waiting patiently to do since we rescued her back in 2013.

And this is what he has done with some of the beautiful English Oak! Fashioned 9 new frames and stanchions which show the beautiful shape of her stern. When the deck is laid on top, she will be strong and as good as new.

We have just heard that we have been given a small grant from the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights which will help towards our project. We are enormously grateful for all the help that we have received in the past, and to our volunteers, without whom we could not have made the progress that we have to date. Thank you everyone!

If you would like to know more about our efforts to save this unique ship, or can offer some time to help, please get in touch – everyone is welcome – we particularly would like to work with young people alongside our retired crew.

Phone Vicki or Sam on 01837 680036

Our website is www.britanniasailingtrust.org if you want to know a little more about her history, and we are on Facebook www.facebook.com/britanniasailingtrust where you can find regular updates.



*Vicki Samuels, February 2020
Chair Britannia Sailing Trust*

From our Torridge District Councillor



I am sitting at home writing this update on the 8th May – the 75th anniversary of VE Day – listening to recollections on the radio and remembering tales handed down by my late parents – father fought throughout the war and mother was a nurse in London. Seven weeks of Covid-19 lockdown does not seem to compare well with five years of war including the evacuation of children, lengthy separation, the blitz, retreat from Dunkirk, atrocities in the Far East, the constant fear and worry, etc.

Yet the country is now congratulating itself for becoming neighbourly and public-spirited during this crisis – whatever had we become to have lost such basic standards of civility as a norm? Perhaps one good thing that will come of this crisis is the eradication of the “me-first” culture and a realisation that real community effort involves more than just making a comment on a Facebook page!

For those who have been proactive in looking out for their neighbours and isolated family members, or taking part in the various voluntary groups to help and support the vulnerable, I must extend a big thank you – there are so many stories of people being kind and generous with their time. I would expect nothing less from a strong rural community like Winkleigh but it is good to hear nonetheless!

So far during the crisis Torridge Council has been concentrating on maintaining essential services such as waste collection, housing services and benefit payments. However, they have also had responsibility for the delivery of the Government’s various business support packages and to date have paid out over £23 M to nearly 2,500 local businesses throughout the District – a significant administrative task.

I very much hope that by the time we all read the next edition of the excellent Distinctly Winkleigh we may have more confidence that this pandemic is under control and that we are on a route to recovery – it is essential to stay optimistic and look forward to brighter times. In the meantime I hope that you and your families keep safe and well.

Cllr Simon Newton

Tel: 07943 830220

Email: councillor.newton@torridge.gov.uk

My life in lockdown

Reflecting back on the last six weeks of lock down, it seems that funny things have been happening to time. Although days can pass in a blur of activity, weeks can seem to go on forever. The same applies to distance. The weekly trip to the supermarket in Okehampton seems like an expedition, requiring precision planning of menus to avoid running out of anything mid-week and negotiation as to whose turn it is to venture out of the village. We can appreciate the beauty of Dartmoor from afar but it is no longer somewhere to drive to on a whim, rather a distant and forbidden land. Our world and our horizons have contracted.

In the initial days there was little time for reflection. Things were moving at a dizzying pace. I work at the University of Exeter and we had been dealing with Covid-19 as an issue affecting our international students, and staff and students travelling abroad. Within the space of a fortnight everything had changed and we were closing our campuses. Colleagues worked long hours to move teaching for over 20,000 students online. Researchers were unable to access laboratories and offices unless involved in essential coronavirus-related research or making PPE. Laboratory equipment was lent to hospitals, staff with medical qualifications volunteered and medical students graduated early to join the front line. Staff focussed on dealing with the most pressing issues, such as ensuring remaining students were safe and provided for, staffing helpdesks, providing hardship funds and helping those stranded in other countries to return home. Decisions that would normally have taken months were made within a day, and new IT systems were rolled out rapidly to everyone so that all teaching, exams and meetings could be

Jenny Rock

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held virtually. Senior managers met online every day to coordinate activities, and daily communications informed staff and students of the latest developments.

As a family of four, we also had to adapt quickly. My husband Matt was used to working from home but with regular travel to his charity's sites in Devon and Cornwall. As well as this travel having to stop, he suddenly had to tolerate severe interruption to his solitude. We moved an old table to the side of the lounge opposite his desk for me to use. Working all day on a laptop was not practical so before the lockdown was imposed, I managed to acquire a screen and keyboard from the office. Being able to order an office chair and a call-centre style headset online helped with backache and competing work conversations. Rachel decided to study in the kitchen because of bad internet connection in her room - which is fine until someone wants to make a coffee. She should have been sitting AS levels - but it is not as bad for her as for those who are missing GCSEs and A-levels. Emma can work in her bedroom so we don't see her for most of the day. They both say that teachers are being ambitious in the amount of work they are setting. I think the situation is particularly hard for young people whose education, activities, jobs and newly-found freedom have all been so disrupted.

Inevitably, some days are better than others for all of us. The novelty of spending more time with your family, and of seeing your colleagues' interior decor and cute pets during meetings - courtesy of Microsoft Teams - is perhaps starting to wear thin; I really miss the day to day interaction with my colleagues at work. For me, it helps to stick to the same basic routine during the week and for weekends to be different. I feel much better if I can get outside each day so I go for a run on weekday mornings. Although I would usually find every excuse not to go running, at the moment it feels like an escape to be



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relished. I have also dusted off my 30-year old bike, evicted the spiders nesting under the saddle and ventured out on two wheels - rediscovering a forgotten part of my youth, and discovering many local lanes for the first time. It has been wonderful to watch spring unfold in much more detail than usual - new flowers opening each day, birds returning. I didn't realise before how many orchids there are in our local hedgerows and woods! We spent lots of time gardening during the beautiful weather over the Easter break. I try not to think about all the things we would have been doing in the parallel universe without coronavirus and I certainly don't miss sitting in traffic jams every weekday to get to work. I also feel better if I ignore the well-intentioned articles and social media posts about how to work effectively at home, complete a fitness challenge, learn Japanese, declutter my house, research my family history, write a book or host a virtual party. Far from finding I have spare time on my hands, work is busier than ever and it is a challenge to avoid working every evening when you can't physically leave work. If I can fit in meals and enough sleep, and maintain reasonably good relations with my family during the day, I count that as a success. We are all just doing the best that we can under difficult conditions.

The main thing I keep reminding myself is how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country and that we are still allowed to get out and enjoy it once a day. I am also extremely grateful to all of the people working in the health and care sectors and in all of the jobs that are keeping the country going through all of this. At the University, thoughts and planning are now starting to turn to how we can gradually return to some sort of 'new normal'. Things are not going to be the same as before and there are certainly many things that I won't take for granted in future.

Helen Butler

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Winkleigh War Memorial Recreational Field Fund (WWMRFF) incorporating the Sports Centre

As most people in the village are aware, the Fund was set up in 1948 to provide much needed facilities for Winkleigh. Prior to that date the field that we know in its present form was already partly in use for sporting and social activity. From 1948 until now the Fund has been a non-profit registered charity which generates income largely through rental, leasing and charitable donation and grants. The Sports Centre itself has been a feature of the village for almost 20 years.

The present Trustees are very well aware that for the first time in the history of the Fund, some 72 years, its facilities are closed to all users, with only some exceptions. The whole place is very unusually quiet with no children on the play area or at Youth Club, no footballers playing their games and the empty building having no indoor bowlers, snooker players or regular hirers. Aunt Sally has not been able to start its fourth season on the old bowling green and several social events have been cancelled. Those wishing to play tennis have been unable to and all regular meetings of committees have been postponed.

The Trustees are pleased to see that largely the village has respected the fact that it has been necessary to close the buildings and grounds. However after following guidelines the allotments have been able to remain in use and there has also been



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planting in the biodiversity area. The Trustees wish to let it be known that all facilities will be reopened as soon as it is safe to do so.

Thanks to the work of the Trustees, Government grants that have been made available in this time of national crisis are being directed to the regular users of the facilities. This money will help clubs deal with their financial issues and help to enable them to return to normal when circumstances allow. More details will be released about this initiative in due course. The Trustees wish to maximise the impact of this financial support for the benefit of all users and for the people of Winkleigh.

The Trustees would like to thank Scott Lambton for his work as temporary Treasurer and Colin Brown for taking over the role on a permanent basis. Perhaps not the easiest of starts for Colin but he has the full support of the committee and Trustees.

Please note that for the time being the night landing site is not in use by Devon Air Ambulance as there has been some streamlining of their operation. The Trustees have been informed that this is only a temporary measure.

In conclusion, all of us associated with the Fund and the Sports Centre hope that everyone stays safe and healthy. The Government's advice of course should always be followed for the good of everyone.

An enduring feature of these terrible times will be the strength and unity of our wonderful village and the immense support that exists for those who are in need.

Tom Radcliffe (Committee Secretary & Trustee)

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Winkleigh YFC

Strange and scary times have been bestowed upon us since the last article I wrote for Distinctly Winkleigh. While many have to work from home or have been furloughed, farming life must continue as normal to keep supplying the nation. It is during these times that we really appreciate the family we have around us that allow us to keep our family businesses going and the nation fed.



Looking back to the end of February, the club competed at the County round of 'Cheerleading and Commercial Dance'. Members performed superbly in both performances, and showed great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, we were not lucky enough to go

through to the next round of the competition with either performance. However, the other Tarka YFC team did progress further in cheerleading.

The first weekend in March brought us to the South West Area (SWA) weekend, where 17 of our members travelled down to Newquay for a weekend of competitions and nights out. We spent the Friday afternoon settling into the house we had rented for the weekend and getting ourselves ready for that evening's party. Friday's theme was black tie, and every member scrubbed up very well.

Saturday led us to a day of competitions. As mentioned earlier, the Tarka Group of YFC won the County round of cheerleading and went through to compete at SWA to represent Devon.



Unfortunately, one of their team members was unable to make the SWA competition, so Ashleigh kindly stepped in and learnt their routine in 6 evenings. With adrenaline and excitement pumping through all six of us, our routine ran as smoothly as we could have wished. I am pleased to inform you that the team came 1st in the cheerleading, and we are now through to compete at the National competition representing both the South West Area of YFCs and Devon YFC. Unfortunately, with the current circumstances, we are waiting to hear when and if Nationals will go ahead.



As we had a cause for celebration, the club went out again on the Saturday night. This time, the theme was 'anything beginning with 'Y', 'F' or 'C'. Winkleigh decided that they were all going to dress up as cowgirls, with the boys thoroughly enjoying it. Sunday morning and afternoon was spent recovering from the long days and nights of Friday and Saturday. Danielle and Ashleigh cooked a roast dinner for the eight people staying in the house that night. The cooked meal was appreciated by all, and

everyone found it really nice sitting around a table eating together. A good way to end the weekend!

On the 23rd of March, we were informed by the National Federation of Young Farmers that we were to shut down for 12 weeks. Farming can be a very isolating profession so attending Young Farmers meetings could be the only social contact some people have at certain times. For this reason, we wanted to keep our club active during this period. So far, we have managed to create a 'Fridge Challenge' video and a 'Loo Roll Challenge' video (both can be seen on Winkleigh YFC's Facebook page). We are starting to look at having club meetings on Zoom so the committee can pass on what information we do have and so we do not forget what each other looks like. Additionally, a couple of our members are volunteering to help vulnerable people in the village.

Owing to current circumstances, we have obviously had to postpone all the events we had planned for April and May. We hope to be able to rearrange all these events for later in the year when everything is a bit closer to normality. Keep an eye out for our Facebook event pages and posters around the village to see the new dates.

As usual, if you would like to know any more information regarding the senior or mini-club, please don't hesitate to contact Danielle on 07544 940197. Alternatively, feel free to check either the 'Winkleigh YFC' or 'Winkleigh Mini YFC' Facebook pages.

Ashleigh Chambers

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"Lockdown and the need to get to the other side"

Following Government advice to stay home and the need to keep ourselves busy to pass the time, it was easy for my wife and me, as we had only recently moved out of the village to a converted barn that we have been doing up for over two years for what I thought was going to be peaceful retirement.

The property came with a couple of rundown outbuildings and about 4 acres of unmanaged land, along with hedgerows which had not been touched for over 20 years: steep land divided by a small brook buried beneath 7 feet of brambles and overgrowth.

This involved us in many days of brush cutting and strimmer work, with overhanging small branches to be cut and vine to be pulled up. It was at this time that I heard a voice above telling me to build a bridge; of course this was Shirley with a new idea calling me from the other bank.

The need to find the timber to complete the task was relatively easy for the first two pieces but led to hours of searching for the rest of the materials. As always the wife was ready to go above and beyond to keep us both busy and we soon had enough.

Getting the timber down to the site along with all the tools meant carrying them great distances but the frame was soon in position and we then searched and found some recycled decking boards for the top which then led us to think what about the sides?

We then found various sized fencing stakes which we screwed to the sides according to the height of each of them; the search was then on for rope which we eventually found and tied down the sides. Now finished, it must be time for tea having reclaimed another small piece of England with the scratches and stings to prove it.

Relaxing during the well-earned cuppa I heard the wife say "you know those decking boards we found I think we have enough to make a raised bed for growing some seeds"; luckily my mouth was full of cake and if we had the flour I would have suggested making another, not to be outdone by good ideas.



It's funny how one good idea can lead to weeks of hard work. The trouble with the lockdown is that it gives us all far too much time to look around, reflect and come up with new ideas. One thing is for sure we will all come out of this different people and ever-grateful for the community we all live in and the friends we have around us.

Steve Leahy

Home Composting: Making a Start

Are you worried about the state of our planet, global warming, or your own carbon footprint? Are you struggling to find solutions to headline news concerning human impacts on our environment? The Winkleigh Environment Group has been formed so that no one should feel alone in their quest to do something positive to improve our actions locally.

Eco-Anxiety has surfaced, as more facts are released, and we are very concerned about the effect this is having on young people in our community, as they need not just hope but action! One of the main problems with modern life is our release of too many greenhouse gasses. Wherever you look it up, Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) comes top of the list. All the gasses together form to cause the greenhouse effect causing the Earth to heat up.

Every litre of diesel used in a car or lorry produces not far off 3kg of CO₂. The making of two plastic bottles releases 1kg of CO₂ into the air. If nationally we can each reduce our emissions by 1kg the overall saving adds up to 60 thousand tonnes of CO₂. A small act shared can give fantastic results.

We believe the people of Winkleigh can do much better than that and be an inspiration to others. In our aim to reduce CO₂ we can look for ways to store it. One of the best ways is to lock it up in soil. The composting system run through the green

bin scheme (by TDC) is very convenient to many who pay for it. However when you map the road-miles, with unnecessary CO₂ release, we believe people can achieve much better results by composting at home, thereby saving money and storing carbon where it's most needed: in the soil.

Why compost at home? It's simple, when organic material is taken away we lose. No one likes loss! When we compost we gain. In fact the whole area gains. The benefits to wildlife are incredibly diverse, you pile up organic materials and nature moves in! Everything you need for success exists in your back garden. From microorganisms to worms and insects, you supply the "greens" and "browns" (with the magic ingredients of air and



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water) and you will have a round the clock army making your own, unique and valuable compost.

How do you Make a Start? Research. Just as in cooking there are many recipes that all make cake. Find the method that suits you and your likely materials. Choose the amount of time you want (or not) to spend on your pile. It can be as easy to tip it on your pile as it is to put it in a green bin. It's possible to make fast or slow compost, to suit your need. The internet is full of great advice, also you might have family, friends or neighbours who compost; talk it through with them as most home-composters are keen to share their experience.

How can I use my compost? Flowerbeds, Borders, Mulching Trees, Pots, Feeding your Lawn, but its greatest return would be to grow your own Fruit and Vegetables.

In the near future we would like to roll out community-learning workshops with composting being one of the shared skills so please contact us with your ideas or questions. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you find the links below useful.

www.devon.gov.uk Follow link: Environment, Landscape, Waste and Recycling.

www.recyclenow.com Go to Reduce Waste and click on Composting.

www.greenfacts.org

jameskendrew@btinternet.com with your questions

James Kendrew

This article was written before the current Coronavirus outbreak



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Communities help Nature across North Devon



Press Release -1st April 2020: Some positive news in these challenging days, as the Pledge for Nature project gets off to a flying start! Since launching in January, communities across the North Devon Biosphere have pledged to plant over 2500 trees, install over 40 bird boxes, 30 bug havens and make space for nature in more than 30 gardens!

Some examples of the brilliant pledges include: The Taw Fishing Club has put up six nest boxes for dippers and grey wagtails on the upper Taw near Coldridge, Nymet Rowland and Wembworthy. “Tom” from Dolton has pledged to plant apple, walnut, field maple and alder buckthorn trees to diversify his hedges. “Michelle” from Barnstaple pledged to plant bee-friendly shrubs in her garden. “Kitty” from Northlew pledged to plant 6 - 8 trees of local fruit varieties and sourced locally to make an orchard. The **Winkleigh Environment Group** has pledged to plant alder buckthorn trees as the foodplant for the Brimstone butterfly and the Environment Agency will be creating two wildflower areas at their Alverdiscott depot.

Mike Moser, Chair of the North Devon Biosphere Nature Improvement Group said “This is great news for north Devon’s nature – please encourage your friends, family and colleagues to get involved. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge so far - from individuals to community groups, and schools to businesses. Let’s make something positive from these difficult times.”

Make your pledges at www.biosphere.org.uk/pledgefornature.

You can still make a pledge even if it’s not an activity on the list by choosing ‘Other’ on the pledge form and tell us what action you are taking for nature. Also see the website for events and please spread the word by sharing pictures of completed pledges using the hashtag #PledgeforNature via: Twitter: [@PledgeforNature](https://twitter.com/PledgeforNature) - Facebook: [Pledge for Nature](https://www.facebook.com/PledgeforNature) - Instagram: [NorthDevonBiosphere](https://www.instagram.com/NorthDevonBiosphere)

Pledge for Nature is a campaign to galvanise community action for nature’s recovery across the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere.

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Ten Tors



Last weekend would have been the 60th anniversary of Ten Tors.

Unfortunately due to the current situation the event was not able to go ahead. However that didn't stop my friends and me from setting out around our gardens in full Dartmoor Ten Tors kit.

We walked 55 miles over the weekend raising money for MSF. It took a lot of pain but eventually we reached the finish and got to properly relax for a bit.

So far we have raised over £1500 for MSF!

George Ripper

justgiving.com/fundraising/tentorsfromhome



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News from Winkleigh School



A warm hello from Winkleigh Primary School. I hope you enjoy seeing some of the work our children have been completing. They are certainly working hard at this current time. Normally this edition would be full of all the exciting learning and events that are happening at the school, however times are very different at the moment. The summer term is always an incredibly busy one with events such as sports day, arts week, trips and residential visits.

There were so many exciting new events planned linking in with our community. We look forward to a time when we can get these up and running again. Our school Facebook page and website also show some of the fantastic learning our pupils have been doing, please do take a look.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful staff, children and parents who have adapted so well to a situation we never imagined we would be in. Whilst the school is closed, we are open for a small number of key-worker children. Our staff are working on a rota basis to manage this. I am so proud of our school community and the swiftness with which they all responded to the crisis. We do indeed have a very special community at Winkleigh.

A huge thank you also to Red and the team at Londis who very kindly provided food for free school meal children prior to the national voucher scheme coming out. I know it was greatly appreciated and once again highlights our wonderful community. It is such a shame that Londis could not have been included in the shops where vouchers could be redeemed. Red and I both tried, but to no avail.

When they are not in school, staff are setting online work for children to complete and planning for the curriculum. Our key message to all families at this time is to do what works for them; these are unprecedented times and the most important aspect is children's mental health and being together as a family. We have heard of so many new skills being developed at this time, which is lovely. Each week we set a challenge for our children, these have included:-

Origami, baking and photographing the beauty of nature.

We have loved seeing what our children have been up to, they have certainly been very busy and creative during the last few weeks.

Behind the scenes there is still so much going on: our admin team continue to manage emails and the office side of school and are kept very busy. I would like to say a special thank you to Toni Puddifoot our cleaner, who is ensuring the school is cleaned and sanitised on a daily basis.

The school certainly is a strange place at the moment. We are so used to it being filled with the hustle and bustle of school life. I know we will all look forward to

seeing everyone again and hearing the children's laughter around the school when it is safe to return.

Throughout these times safeguarding children and families is vital. If you have any concerns about a child or family, the number for MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) is 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk and give as much information as you can. If a child is at immediate risk contact the police on 999.

Vicki Fenemore

BELOW IS SOME OF THE CHILDREN'S WORK

FINLEY: "I want to go outside and play with
my friends and go on
adventures. I am sad

I can't be outside lots. When does the corona finish?"

Lianna Hill Nursery Class age 4 said:

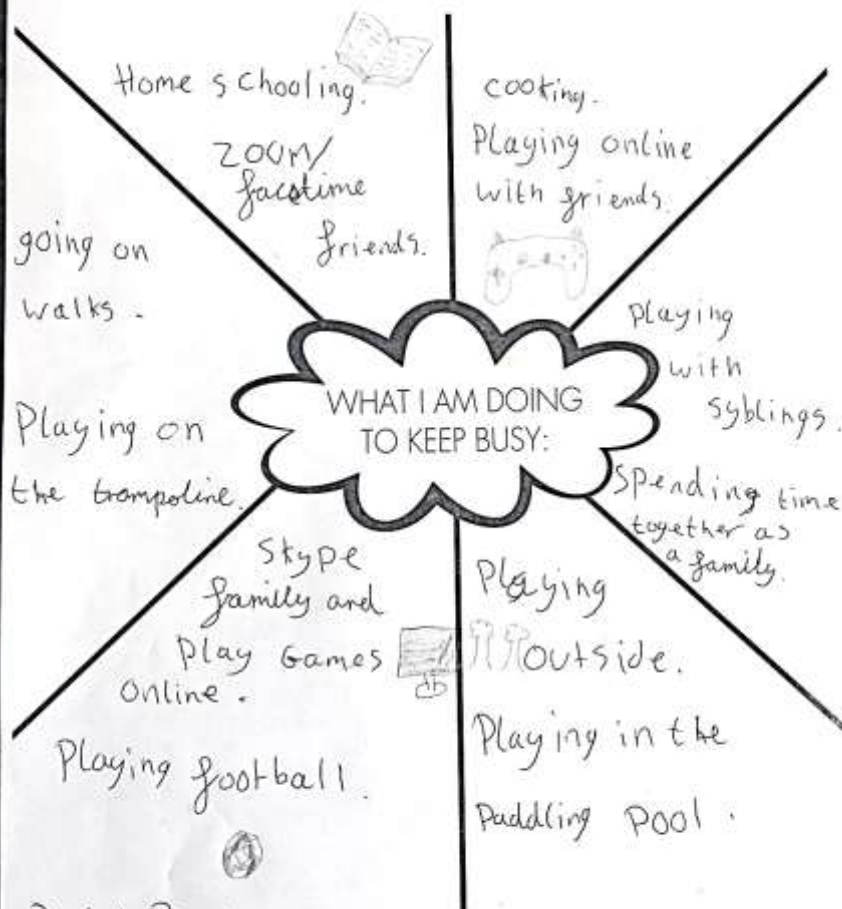
*"It's very sad that a lot of people are ill BUT I'm
having the best time ever at home with my
Mummy, Daddy and Laila, I'm having lots and
lots of fun."*



*Lianna has drawn herself and her little sister Laila
splashing in puddles under a rainbow.*

*Laila Hill age 3 Nursery class said she's "liked
finding worms, playing on my car and walks with
Mummy, Daddy and Lianna."*

YOU ARE NOT STUCK AT HOME. YOU ARE SAFE AT HOME!



Daniel Rhoads
Age 9

PHOTOS BY LINDA CREATIONS

The Lockdown

This lockdown has made me miss my friends and playing outside with them at school. I miss all the school clubs like the before school club and having a good conversation with Mrs Down, after school clubs playing football with my friends and Mr Davis I also miss him winding me up. I miss having my teachers Mrs Manning and Mrs Rowcliffe helping me with my school work. Sometimes I feel sad when I upset my mum and dad when they are trying to help me with the home learning.

When I am feeling sad I like to play games with my friend Hollie she makes me happy and when I receive letters from some of my other friends. I miss going out to my favourite takeaways like Uncle and Ozzys where that make me happy when I see them, and I miss having McDonalds also. I miss going to my swimming lessons with my mum and dad and also my tennis lessons. I also miss having our family outing to the golf club and other places.

I miss seeing my nanna and grandpa and having



sleepovers with them and going out together. They make me happy when they are helping me with my spellings and other work when I speak to them on Skype.

I miss going out to the shops to buy things for myself. I saw a nice picture of some of my teachers that were holding posters that made me both sad and happy at the same time.

*By Joshua Bellinger-Brown
(5MR)*

HOW I'M FEELING



HOW MY FACE LOOKS



I AM MOST THANKFUL FOR

Being able to
work.

WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW I FEEL:

Scared, worried, tired,
sleepy.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNT MOST
FROM THIS EXPERIENCE:

That my parents are
good teachers.

THE 3 THINGS I AM MOST EXCITED TO DO WHEN THIS IS OVER:

1 Seeing
my friends.

2 Going to
School.

3 Having
another
birthday.

martha Rhodes Age 8

Lockdown!

Who'd have thought

that I would need to be taught

by my mum - how outrageous!

For I cannot get away with anything more

than an open-mouthed (but oh so silent) roar

she knows me too well,

that I can tell

So as I try to escape - for an unscheduled break

Bertie gives it away, by tilting his head, from
something I said,

then wagging his tail he moans and whines
howls and blubbers - all of them happy signs

"What's going on?" says mum from nearby,

Oh bother! that's my last chance to
escape, I grumble

with a big sigh.



by Hollie and
Lynn Savory



Anya Rhodes
Age 11



Winkleigh Morris - Thirty Years On

2020 is the 30th anniversary of the foundation of Winkleigh Morris. We were planning a celebratory Weekend of Dance in May but unfortunately that has had to be cancelled due to the current restrictions on travel and meetings. For our anniversary we produced a pack of playing cards, (standard 52 deck + jokers) with photographs of Winkleigh Morris over the years, at many of our favourite pubs who have been very generous in supporting the project.

Unfortunately the cards were delivered on the day all pubs were closed! The cards will be available in due course from the **Kings Arms and the Seven Stars** but they can also be seen and ordered at our website www.winkleighmorris.org.uk.

Our programme of dancing out at local pubs has also been curtailed, certainly in the early part of our summer season, while it is questionable whether our performances in July and August will go ahead.

Winkleigh Morris were also preparing to run some after-school workshops for the older children at Winkleigh Primary School during the summer term but inevitably this activity will have to be postponed until some later date.

Assuming some level of normality has returned by the autumn, we will be resuming our practice sessions at the Community Centre every Tuesday at 8 pm from October onwards. New members are always very welcome - no previous experience in Morris dancing is necessary and we guarantee an enjoyable experience! New musicians are also welcome - we have musical notation, ABC notation and recordings of all the tunes.

Winkleigh Morris looks forward to being active again in the community.

Colin Andrews

Winkleigh Motorcycle Club *founded 2020*

A new club open to both riders, pillion passengers, and supporters wheresoever you live, having a shared love of motorcycling.

Motorcycle ownership unnecessary but safety helmet / stout clothing obligatory for ride outs. Riders must hold a full licence and insurance, and essentially have 'pillion insurance' if carrying passenger(s), and (where applicable) road tax, and M.O.T. certificate.

Ivan Sanders, 8 Elms Meadow, Winkleigh, EX19 8JU.
T: 01837-682888 E: sanderslongdrive@yahoo.com

Winkleigh Snooker Club – A history of the Club from 1994 to the Present day by Mike Wilson

I would like to write a history about the Winkleigh Men's Reading Room and Winkleigh Snooker Club. Although I have found out some interesting facts; because of the current situation I am unable to call to see some people to find out more, so if anybody can help, please could they contact me?

Whilst I await more information, I am writing Part Two of the story as follows:-

I joined the Snooker Club in 1994. At that time the club was based in Old Castle School, Castle Street, and was in a poor state with damp on the walls. I then attended an AGM and was asked to become Chairman. The committee told me there would be nothing to do as the Secretary and Treasurer did all the work. After about six months, the Church Commissioners gave the club notice to quit the premises. I was quite upset, as this club had been going since 1939, I had only been Chairman for six months and the club was closing. We did search for new premises but to no avail, so the plan was to sell two tables and keep two. These were very kindly stored in a barn belonging to Gordon Rogers.

After two years we heard the Bowling Club were hoping to apply to the lottery for a new club house. As I was working in Exmouth we asked Cyril Grieves, the past-

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Chairman, to step back to help. Cyril wrote a letter to John Cowle asking if we could be included in the project. This application took six years but incredibly we were successful. Unfortunately Cyril died before the Sports Hall was approved.

The two tables were recovered from Gordon's barn and installed in the new Snooker Room. At the official opening day in July 2003, I set up a table, enrolled two members and soon we had about ten members and were able to start the new club. At the first meeting of the Playing Fields Committee we were told a condition of the lottery grant was that we had to have a Youth Club. As I was the youngest I was asked to sort it out which of course I refused, but at work the next day I told Malcolm Passmore who insisted we should do it. That is another story but the advantage of being Chairman of both clubs was that I was able to persuade the Snooker Club to allow the Youth Club to play snooker on Wednesday nights. As this had to be closely controlled I asked for two volunteers to help. Both Anthony (Tony) Tanner and Brian Holland immediately put up their hands. This was so successful that we decided to allow youth members of the Snooker Club to attend under the guidance of Tony (Brian stayed with the Youth Club), on a Tuesday night.

In 2005 the youth challenged the seniors to a match and gave them a good game, but lost 8-4. The next year they lost 6-5 but the two following years the youngsters won 6-5 and then 8-4, after which the seniors did not want to play them again. In the sixteen years Tony was involved with the junior club he taught 10 girls and 86 boys, including Sophie Popham, the first girl member, James Anstey, who went on to win the club's singles cup, Sarah Woodson, who has played in the league this year and Sapphire Rae, who won the junior singles title six times. The club has been competing in the Okehampton & District league for many years but everything has now come to a sudden stop.

Luckily, the Snooker Club has Nathan looking after things during the lockdown and, hopefully, we will rise again from the ashes.

*Mike Wilson - 01769 520605
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‘A Writer Writes’

Some of you may know I like to write in my spare time. What many people don't realise is that during term-time this is really difficult, as the day job as a maths teacher gets in the way.

I was excited at the thought of having lots of spare time (yeah, right) when the Lockdown started and was looking forward to spending LOTS of time writing my new book.

I hadn't counted on just how much energy I would waste being consumed by all things Covid-19. I would obsessively check the news, my Facebook and Twitter feeds – anything that would get me information about this virus. This would send me into a state of anxiety and worry; not for myself, as I'm healthy and fairly fit, or at least I am for a 48 year old.

No, I was worried about my parents, who are in their late 70s. My mother had a cancer scare a couple of years ago, and so she got a letter telling her to not leave the house for twelve weeks. This was very scary – would I ever see my parents again? You, reading this, are hopefully too young to worry about the health of your parents, but I was facing the very real prospect that I would never ever be able to see them again, or hug them.

I worried about my children, and how they would cope with Lockdown life (much better than me, it turns out). Curiously, I was never worried about my wife Tinú – but then, as some of you know, she's hard as nails.

Eventually, I did the thing I needed to do from the start: I began to write. My current book is a kind of horror/science fiction hybrid set on a distant planet with giant worms, swarms of deadly insects and heroes who have no memory of their life on Earth.

As I write each day, the anxiety slowly fades, to be replaced by a focus on creating. It takes effort to sit down and write (or to do anything), but the very act transports me away from the current situation and as a result makes me feel much better.

We all need coping strategies, and it turns out mine is setting thirty metre worms on a rampage across an alien planet. The book might turn out to be total nonsense, but it is serving a much more vital purpose right now – it's keeping me sane.

Stephen King once said 'A writer writes'. He meant: stop *saying* you're a writer and get on with *actually* writing. I think the phrase can be altered to fit just about anything. A builder builds. A driver drives. A carpenter, um, carpen^ts. Throughout this time, try to make the best of a bad situation and don't let that anxiety bite.

This article was originally written for my school's FaceBook page.

Dave Watkins

The Winkleigh Singers

The trustees of The Winkleigh Singers carefully considered the implications of the current COVID-19 virus by consulting the advice of government, NHS and Making Music. With the health and welfare of our audiences and choir members in mind, we have put rehearsals and our future programme on hold. Our Spring Concert on 25th April and Summer Concert on 13th July have therefore been postponed until next year. All ticket monies have been refunded.

Rehearsals will provisionally recommence on Monday 7th September 2020 and proposed concerts are as follows:

Christmas Concert 2020 - 19th December at Chulmleigh Parish Church: Music for Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany season with some audience participation.

Spring Concert 2021 - Saturday 17th April 2021 at Torrington Parish Church: French Choral Masterpieces featuring internationally-renowned organist Peter King.

Summer Concert 2021 at Umberleigh Village Hall: A programme of light-hearted cantatas including Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo.

The choir look forward to welcoming you to their concerts once again.

CURRENT VACANCIES: New members are always welcome, especially at the start of each academic term when we hold an 'open rehearsal' as we start work on fresh repertoire.



The Winkleigh Singers

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REHEARSALS: We rehearse on Monday evenings from 7.30 pm until 9.30 pm, except public holidays, the time between our Christmas concert and the New Year, and the month of August. Rehearsals take place at the Christian Fellowship Hall, Umberleigh (on A377).

OUR NEXT OPEN REHEARSAL will provisionally be on Monday 7th September 2020.

Please visit our website www.winkleighsingers.org.uk to check the dates of events.

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W H T Letting

Archaeology in the time of Covid-19

We have had to cancel all our events from March through to July and we doubt very much that our dig will go ahead in August or September. Many of our members are in the over-65 age group and it is difficult to physically distance in the trench or in the mess tent while we watch the rain come down.



However, that does not mean that we have been idle. We had an archaeology themed Haiku competition: the prize was a toilet-roll. I am not sure if that is why we had so many entries!

One of our members has done an April Fools quiz and we have just sent out another one she did, for May Day. On our Facebook page we follow many archaeology groups and companies and they are busy putting up sessions

online, some live interviews and talks and some learning sessions, all free.

Our dig director is still busy finishing off the interim dig report for last year and some of us are sorting spreadsheets and cataloguing finds. The work goes on despite everything so perhaps taking a year out gives us all time to think about the direction we want to go in the next year. Meantime our houses are being spring-cleaned and our gardens, those of us lucky enough to have them, will be better than ever this year. Which reminds me, don't forget to check out all those pieces of pottery you are digging up, you never know what you might find.

Take care and all best wishes from ACE to the people of Winkleigh.

Erica Williamson (Club Secretary)



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A Fable in Times of Virus

Once upon a time, not so long ago, our beautiful Blue-Green Planet grew mortally ill. She gasped for breath as her leaf-green lungs were being destroyed. Her life-giving waters became putrid and poisoned and polluted air hung heavy over her lands. No one listened to her coughs and wheezes and cries for help.

For centuries the virus on the Blue-Green Planet had been silently growing and multiplying, breeding and spreading into every corner of her bounteous lands. For centuries it had quietly fed from, and taken, precious resources to feed its greed, and as the virus numbers grew, the more they took and squandered, leaving a trail of waste, destruction and death.

In her agony the Blue-Green Planet cried out for help and in time, out from the silver winter mists there crept a fearsome army, cloaked and crowned and bearing deadly weapons. The crowned hoards attacked the unsuspecting virus and many fell.

In mortal fear, the survivors retreated. They cowered and hid, locked down in isolated bunkers only creeping out occasionally to take what food they could strip from the shops. Their cars and planes stood idle, unused. Some heroically cared for the fallen, took food to those in hiding and bravely fought off the enemy hoards and the weeks passed. The weeks passed and the Blue-Green Planet began to breathe easy again. The air was cleaner, the noise and pollution was gone. The world was changing.... Instead of the drone of polluting traffic, there was birdsong. Where the streets were empty, the wildlife returned and the beautiful Blue-Green Planet began to heal once more.

Viv Girardot

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Winkleigh Fair News

As everyone knows these are strange and testing times for us all and Winkleigh Fair has not escaped this situation! The Winkleigh Fair Committee is aware that many members of our wonderful community are worried about Fair Week and we would like to update you about what we can do at the moment. Regarding Fair Week and Fair Day, we are obviously governed by our Government's guidelines. As these are changing regularly, we will update everyone through our Facebook page and with posters in the village once we have clear guidance so keep an eye out. Also diary dates will be updated at <https://winkleighonline.com>. We hope to be doing something special somehow and we do have some ideas how to have the Fair using social distancing but it is a bit 'watch this space' until we hear a bit more from Boris.

However, the good news is that during Fair Week we will definitely be running a Hanging Basket competition and the Scarecrows will be making an appearance but in a slightly different way! Again, keep an eye on our Facebook page and for posters in the village nearer the time for full information regarding these events. In the meantime, get your baskets prepared and plan how to stuff your scarecrows!

Wishing you all the best and stay safe everyone.

The Winkleigh Fair Committee

Winkleigh Fair Committee Change

I have very much enjoyed my time with the new Winkleigh Fair Committee, but, unfortunately, due to ill-health, I have had to take a step back. I am no longer Chairperson but still happy to volunteer to help when possible. I wish the Committee every success in whatever they do in these uncertain times.

Deanne Whittaker

P.S The new Chairperson will be Sarah Goody.



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The "This" that I am talking about
Is called Corona-Virus
It's certainly not going to give us Gout
But something far more seri-ous.

All the Oldies now have to stay at home
And this "*Self Isolating*" could be boring
So now's the time to pick up the 'phone
And contact those who are living alone.

They would love to hear a friendly voice
That comes right out of the blue
It really will make a lot of difference
And take away THEIR blues.

We have to keep a "*Social Distance*"
Of at least 2 metres away
Wearing masks and pretty plastic gloves
Well, won't we look pretty today ??

And when we do venture out for food
Just once a week at the most
To buy our staples of cheese, bread and milk
And perhaps some Beef we can roast !



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And just near the Church we have Barry
"The Mad Butcher of Winkleigh" he's called
We have to wait to be served at the door
But his meat is superb – so we can't ask for more!

With Tony running the Post Office
And the Posties delivering the letters
Plus a Vet for our lovely furry friends
We couldn't live anywhere better!

We WILL see the end of this Pandemic
However long it may last
Let's just thank all those helping the poorly
For that is such a huge task.

We have to thank all our Nurses
Plus Doctors and Care Workers too
Our Posties and Delivery Drivers
Who arrive with a cheery *"How-Do?"*

There's no more now that I can say
That hasn't been said before
I just wish you well – we'll come out of this Hell
And we'll love each other even more!!

Jennie Gill

What's On Diary – 2020

In view of the current uncertain situation, a diary of events is not being included in this edition. The few events that are mentioned in individual articles will all be subject to change and are therefore only provisional.

**Please consult our online diary for all updates at
<https://winkleighonline.com>**

And Finally

Life in Lockdown for the Distinctly Winkleigh team has continued pretty much as usual, except that this edition is the biggest ever at 72 pages, which is the maximum we can have. You may have also noticed that some of the regular items have been omitted this time to make space for more articles and pictures. We hope that everyone has found something of interest in this Lockdown Special colour edition.

It is really heartening to have received such a variety and number of articles from our readers, especially the younger ones, showing that the printed word is alive and well in Winkleigh. Thank you all very much. We also thank our advertisers for continuing to support us in these difficult times.

If anyone is having a clear-out in their cupboards, lofts, garages or sheds and finds a collection of past Distinctly Winkleigh editions, we are looking for copies of **DW 1, 6, 9, 13 & 16** as these editions are missing from The Winkleigh Society archives. If you come across any of them and would like to donate them to us, or just let us copy and return them, please let us know.

The deadline for contributions to the autumn edition of Distinctly Winkleigh is NOON on Friday 14th August 2020; publication is planned for the end of August.

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The Winkleigh Society publishes Distinctly Winkleigh quarterly at the end of February, May, August and November. Copies are distributed free of charge to all households and businesses in the Parish.

All readers are welcome to send in Articles, etc. for publication, but note they may need to be edited, primarily for space or layout reasons. Please email articles to articles@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk, or deliver them to the Editor.

Advertisements from businesses in the local area should also be emailed to adverts@distinctlywinkleigh.co.uk, or delivered to the Editor.

The deadline for articles and adverts is **NOON** on the second Friday of each publication month (February, May, August and November). Please send contributions in written or typed form, on memory stick, or emailed as attachments, in most commonly-used file formats.

Please note 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 recommend, or accept any responsibility for, any information, goods or services advertised in adverts or articles.

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All residents of Winkleigh are members of The Winkleigh Society and are welcome to attend and vote at Society meetings. Further information about the Society as well as what is going on in Winkleigh can be accessed online at: <https://www.winkleighonline.com>

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