

Whimble News



April/May 2011

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22nd April The Late Shift

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What's On in Whimble

April

- 2nd Easter Egg Hunt; 2.00pm, the Orchard up Woodhayes Lane – follow the signs; proceeds to Whimble Primary School.
- 2nd Heritage Centre re-opens for the summer, 10.30am to 4.00pm
- 5th Bingo, Victory Hall; doors open 6.00 for 6.30pm start. In aid of Whimble School.
- 16th Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Victory Hall. Organised by the Whimble History Society. 12.00 – 4.00pm Details on page 21
- 18th Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00pm
- 29th Royal Wedding Breakfast – Cricket Club 8.30 – 10.00am see page 33
- 29th Whimble Children's Royal Wedding Street Party 2.00 - 4.00pm, see details on page 34
- 29th Royal Wedding Family Party, Victory Hall from 7.00pm, see page 35
- 30th Soup and Sarnie lunch, Victory Hall, 12.00noon – 1.30pm

May

- 6th Local elections – Polling Station at Victory Hall
- 7th Village Litter pick; 10.00am in The Square
- 7th Tidy your garden and roadside to support the Best Kept Village initiative
- 12th History Society –guided talk around St Mary's Church, see page 21
- 14th VPA Spring Coffee Morning and Plant Sale, Victory Hall, 10.00am
- 14th Barn Dance in the Blossom – see details on page 39
- 15th History Society – coach outing to Plymouth, details on page 21
- 16th Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00pm
- 21st Film night in the Victory Hall – 'Casablanca'; doors open 7.00pm, film starts at 7.30pm, details on page 23
- 28th Soup and Sarnie lunch, Victory Hall, 12.00 noon – 1.30pm

July

- 10th An Evening with Gordon Giltrap – Victory Hall ; doors open 6.00pm – see page 19
- 10-17th Whimble Village Week...see page 44
- 29th History Society – Conducted village walks; start at the Heritage Centre, 6.15pm; please book with Roger Smith on 822244

August

- 5th History Society – Conducted village walks; start at the Heritage Centre, 6.15pm; please book with Roger Smith on 822244
- 13th Village Produce Association – Annual Flower Show, Victory Hall

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Ed the Ed

Gentle reader...little would you guess that I am creating this masterpiece at 7.30am on a Saturday morning before catching 'the Whimble Fun Bus' to the Exeter Chiefs away game with the London Irish at Reading. Such is the commitment you get from the Whimble News Team, and I know that many of you think that I should be committed – but to a place where I can cause no harm.

The pantomime has now finished and many good people of the cast are sat sitting, looking at their partners on a Monday evening, wondering what to do with all this free time. Seasoned professionals will know that lists of 'Things to do' have been compiled whilst we have slaved at the coalface of pantomime perfection.

I commend the 'What's on in Whimble' page to you, dear reader – there is so much going on, especially on the Royal Wedding Day, when it appears you can be involved with something in the village throughout the day. The current Mrs Hitchcock and I are looking forward to the Gordon Giltrap evening on July 10th, not only to see the great man himself but to see young Jim Causley again, with Denbury Folk who both were brilliant the last time they came to Victory Hall. Plus there is the Film Night, and, of course the Barn Dance in the Blossom – always a lot of fun. And don't forget that Village Week is gearing up – don't miss the egg throwing! Choices, choices, choices. We are so lucky here!

Well done to the Villages in Action team for the splendid evening with Matt Harvey on 19th March. It was really different to have a very talented, creative and funny poet at the Victory Hall and everyone who attended had a great evening.

Thank you to the Parish Council for their generous donation to the running costs of the Whimble News, and thank you to the anonymous donors who leave contributions at the Post Office.

We bid a sad, but fond, farewell to Jim Tyrrell as our Local Beat Officer, who has been moved to Sidmouth as part of the Force re-organisation (see page 41). Jim has played a strong part in looking after us and he will be greatly missed. Thank you Jim for all your work, and the best of luck in the flesh pots of Sidmouth – but they will never be able to compete with the excitement of our runaway Emu a couple of years ago!!

IF YOU FEEL ROUSED ENOUGH TO PUT FINGER TO KEYBOARD/PEN TO PAPER AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONTENT OF THIS WORTHY VILLAGE MAGAZINE, THEN PLEASE EITHER LEAVE IT WITH JIM AND ALISON (AND RUBY) AT THE POST OFFICE OR WHIZZ IT DIRECT TO OUR VERY OWN APPLE BLOSSOM PRINCESS, AKA BOB ON bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk BY MONDAY 9th MAY.

Enjoy your village!



Ed H



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You may have recently read in the press that The Department of Work and Pensions has not awarded the Post Office the contract to continue to pay some benefits that have previously been paid via 'Giros'. We will lose this business during the next 12 months. We are assured that the DWP will work closely with the Post Office to help anyone being paid their benefit in this way to opt for a card account so that they can still access their money from a Post Office. If you currently have a benefit paid to you via a green giro, and wish to continue to withdraw your money from a Post Office then please speak to either of us and we will advise you.

On one hand we are assured that the future of Post Offices are safe, and no more branch closures are due, but the government are not putting any work our way, and it may well be that small branches will simply close as they are no longer viable.

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Royal Mail increased the price of postage on April 4th – hopefully you saw the advance notices and stocked up before that date – any postage stamps that have printed on them 1st or 2nd class are always valid despite when, or at what price you purchased them, so if you were wise enough to buy some before the price increase, you will save 5p for every 1st class stamp and 4p for every 2nd.

~~~~~

There are many Bank Holidays due in the next couple of months, here's a reminder,

Good Friday 22nd April	Closed
Saturday 23rd April	Open as usual
Easter Monday 25th April	Closed
Friday 29th April	Closed
Saturday 30th April	Open as usual
Monday 2nd May	Closed
Monday 30th May	Closed

Any benefits and pensions due on a bank holiday can be accessed on the previous working day.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Jim and Alison Creasy

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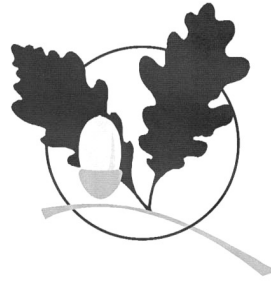
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FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

by Edith Marie-Louise Grout

This is the weather the cuckoo likes,
And so do I;
When showers betumble the chestnut spikes,
And nestlings fly;
And the little brown nightingale bills his best,
And they sit outside at 'The Traveller's Rest,'
And maids come forth sprig-muslin drest,
And citizens dream of the south and west,
And so do I.

This is the weather the shepherd shuns,
And so do I;
When beeches drip in browns and duns,
And thresh and ply;
And hill-hid tides throb, throe on throe,
And meadow rivulets overflow,
And drops on gate bars hang in a row,
And rooks in families homeward go,
And so do I.

By Thomas Hardy

I used to hear the cuckoo frequently in the past but now I never do, and yet it was a sound that was a sign of spring. Another sound I miss greatly is the hooting of an owl during the night in The Square. I wonder why? Another sight I miss enormously is the swallows. I had two nest in the drangway and to see them fly in and out was such a joy, and part of the summer pleasures when sitting under the beech tree on a warm sunny evening. It was like a display of ballerinas and now I can only dream of them. How often now is The Square empty of people but cars parked all over the place. Often visitors remark that there must be something special at the Church. In the early morning, you see all the school children in groups and they come back in the afternoon.

In the days when we had Webber's the Butchers, it was a constant flow. People came from all over East Devon and John Norman always happy and singing. In the spring, Derrick Webber press-ganged a team to clean up the brook and surroundings. Luckily we still have people sitting outside the New Fountain, our lovely village pub. And nearby we have our excellent Heritage Centre which is such an attraction for many visitors. Thanks to the dedication of so many there are new displays. It has gone from strength to strength because there are plenty of events organised. It is such an asset to the life of the village.

April and May are so delightful in The Square. Our garden club planted daffodils which brighten up our days.

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of each hour,
For the love which we from birth
Over and around us lies.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night
For hills and vale, trees and flowers
Sun and moon and stars of light
For the beauty of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Pleasures pure and undefiled
For each perfect gift of Him
To our race so freely given
Grace human and divine
Flowers of earth and buds of Heaven

For many years I was a church flower arranger and one year I was invited to join the flower ladies of Alphington Church near Ottery St Mary, and we selected this hymn as a theme. I don't think I ever enjoyed a festival so much because of the pure simplicity, joy and love it expressed. I was also invited to the village of Combe Raleigh near Honiton when we chose 'All things bright and beautiful' as our theme. We all shared in giving pleasure to others and also to ourselves. The festivals at the Church of St Mary, Ottery and the Cathedral were grander enterprises but it was so rewarding to create beauty for the pleasure of others, in any of the churches.

I also used to do the Lady Chapel in Ottery each week, and one day I came with an armful of hawthorn, and when I arrived, the ladies said 'Edith, you can't take those in, they are unlucky.' 'Chance was by my side because the unforgettable vicar Peter McGee said 'Ladies, this is not a pagan temple but the House of God who created every flower for the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of each

Easter Bingo

Tuesday 5th April

Whimble Victory Hall

Doors open 6.00pm

Eyes down 6.30pm

In aid of Whimble School.

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try to win some Easter eggs!**



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THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF 'WEIRD EASTER'!

The strangest Easter custom takes place in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, where there is a tradition of spanking or whipping women on Easter Monday! Males throw water at females and spank them with handmade whips made of willow and decorated with ribbons at the end. The spanking is supposed to be symbolic and according to legend, females should be spanked in order to keep their health and beauty during the next year. It doesn't sound much fun for the women!

Finnish children dress up, soot their faces, and go begging in the streets carrying broomsticks. Sounds a bit like Halloween? In some parts of Western Finland they even burn bonfires on Easter Sunday, but there is no sign of Guy Fawkes. This tradition takes place to ward off witches flying around between Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

On Maundy Thursday in Verges, in Spain, a traditional "death dance" is performed which involves a parade down the streets of the medieval town. Everyone involved is dressed in costumes and the procession ends with frightening skeletons carrying boxes of ashes. The scary dance begins at midnight and continues for three hours into the early morning.

If the man of the house in Poland takes part in preparing the traditional Easter bread, custom has it that his moustache will turn grey and the dough will fail. So the lucky man of the house is banned from helping out.

In Switzerland, villages turn their fountains into Easter Wells, using paper streamers, flowers and painted eggs to decorate them. The tradition takes place to celebrate the symbol of water and its importance to the dry areas of the Alps.

In Germany, the tradition is to create an Easter fire out of used Christmas trees from the winter. The fire is seen as a symbol of the victory for the beautiful and sunny spring over the cold days of winter. Perhaps we should start this tradition in freezing Britain!

In Latvia, the traditional Easter game played by the children is similar to conkers – but with eggs. Players pair off and use hard-boiled coloured eggs joined together with string. Competitors bang the ends of the eggs together until one player's egg breaks. The winner is the player with the stronger egg. It sounds a bit messy to us.

The Easter bunny is the most popular symbol of Easter thanks to the Americans, but over in Australia they prefer to use their native marsupial, the Bilby. This is due to the fact that the rabbit has destroyed their land, crops and vegetation. No wonder they don't like the bunny! Yes, this is a BILBY. Didn't you recognise it?



Britain actually does have some unusual traditions of its own. At the Hocktide festival in Hungerford, the town's new police constable blows his horn to call all the men to the Hocktide Court in the town hall. Two men are then elected and parade through the streets giving women oranges in return for kisses! We wonder how they decide which men get to do that!

Julie Millward



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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A full Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday April 18th and May 16th in the Victory Hall. Come and tell us what you think during 'public participation' starting at 7.00pm.

Community Use of the MUGA

During consultation for the parish plan, support for the MUGA to be developed as a community facility was strongly expressed.

As a result of negotiations between the Parish Council, Mrs Langley and the School Governors, community groups will now be able to use the MUGA as long as they agree to abide by the schedule of use outlined in the '**Management Scheme for Users**' which can be found on www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk - Newsletters/**contact 67- 4th February 2011.**

The school governing body is currently reviewing the lettings and charging policy which will go alongside the schedule of use and they hope to be ready to take bookings very soon.

Best Kept Village Competition

The application for this years entry to the BKV competition has been completed.

The competition isn't just about flowers and prettiness, it's about our sense of community and showing that we care for our environment.

How it works - Each village is credited with 100 points at the start of judging in early May. As the judges travel around the village, points are deducted for various things like the presence of litter and poor condition of different aspects of the village. The judges will be looking at the condition of our open spaces, notice boards and seating. They will look at the churchyard, cemetery and war memorials, car parks and sports facilities and at public and private buildings, gardens and allotments as well as footpaths and streams - they will in fact be looking at everything.

We've done well in the past losing a maximum of 10 points only - but we can do better. Let's show that we care for our great village and retain all of our 100 points.

You can help get started by joining with the Litter Pick on Saturday 7th May 10am in The Square OR by joining with the community and tidying your own garden and roadside frontage during the morning of May 7th.

The Development at Grove Road

The parish council is still waiting to hear if funding is available for a small number of affordable homes proposed for local people on the site at the top of Grove Road. If you would like more information please contact EDDC.

Date to Remember

Local Elections - Thursday 6th May - Polling Station at the Victory Hall



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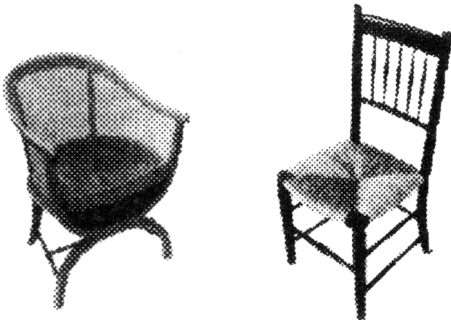
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AT IT'S BEST AND GET EVERYONE TIDYING

Whimble Folk for Whimble Folk II

featuring Gordon Giltrap

— Sunday 10th July 2011 —

(See poster or www.handsomedicksrecords.co.uk/gordon for full details)

For our second WF4WF event, Handsome Dicks Records and Mister Fixer are thrilled to announce that **Jim Causley** and **Denbury Folk** will be providing a warm-up to the legendary guitarist **Gordon Giltrap**.

Advance tickets are only £7.50 (£9.00 on the door), and are available from Whimble Post Office, Ottery St Mary Tourist Information Centre or online from www.handsomedicksrecords.co.uk/gordon.

Over the past forty years, Gordon Giltrap has graced the music business with his dedication to his craft and his affection for his audience. As one of the UK's most respected guitarists, he has consistently proved the adage that respect cannot be bought. It must be earned.

In the late Seventies, Gordon enjoyed a brief spell as a pop star, with a hit album (*Perilous Journey*) and two hit singles ('Heartsong' and 'Fear of the Dark'). 'Heartsong' was nominated for an Ivor Novello award, and is fondly remembered as the theme tune to the BBC's Holiday programme.

In 2008 Gordon received a Life Time Achievement award from the Newtonards Guitar Festival in Northern Island. Gordon regards this as his most treasured possession coming as it does from the land of his grandfather's birth and a country with a musical tradition close to his heart. Indeed Ireland has taken him to their heart. The largest guitar store in Belfast, The Guitar Emporium has engravings of some of the world's greatest guitar players on their front window. If you visit you will see engraved images of Jimi Hendrix, Rory Gallagher, Jimmy Page, Brian May and in amongst these greats there is...Gordon Giltrap. Needless to say the self-effacing Mr Giltrap feels very humbled by this superb gesture!

Many of you may already know Jim Causley, either from last year's 'Whimble Folk for Whimble Folk', the annual Whimble Wassail, or his nomination for the Radio 2 Folk award. Always amusing and very talented, Jim has kindly agreed to come back for this year's event and run the stage for us, so I'm sure he will be as entertaining for his 'home crowd' as he was last year.

Denbury Folk had their first public performance at this event last year. They went down a storm, particularly with the audience sing-alongs. Check out their rendition of 'Blooming Heather' from last year's event on YouTube. They are back again this year by popular demand, with a new selection of ditties for your delectation.

We hope to see you there! – Alex & John

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Whimble History Society



The Heritage Centre reopens for the 2011 season on Saturday 2nd April. It will be open every Saturday from 10.30 to 4pm and every Wednesday from 2.00 to 4.00pm, until Saturday 1st October. There are many new exhibits and some exciting new technology so we hope you will all be interested to visit over the coming weeks.

On Thursday 12th May Martin Horrell has agreed to give a guided talk of St Marys Church starting at 7pm at the Church. Numbers must be restricted so if you are interested please contact our secretary on the number below.

On Sunday 15th May there is a coach outing to Plymouth leaving the village Square at 9.00am and returning about 7.00pm. There are a few seats left so anyone who is interested should contact our secretary, Roger Smith 01404 - 822244. The cost will be £8 per person and you will be free to do as you please

WHIMBLE ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION SPONSORED BY WHIMBLE HISTORY SOCIETY

The Arts and Craft Exhibition in the Victory Hall on Saturday 16th April promises to be a wonderful showcase for the artistic talent that exists in our village and the surrounding area. We have over twenty exhibitors who will be showing a wide range of crafts and, in some cases, there will be the opportunity to buy the items on display. The following list gives some indication of the scope and variety of the exhibition.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| ✦ Paintings | ✦ Woodcraft | ✦ Hand made jewellery |
| ✦ Mosaics/stained glass | ✦ Hand made porcelain dolls | ✦ Hand made bags |
| ✦ Sugar sculptures | ✦ Cane chairs | ✦ Embroidery |
| ✦ Pencil drawings | ✦ Drawn threadwork | |
| ✦ Papercraft | | |
| ✦ Cross stitch quilts | | |

The Exhibition opens at midday until 4.00 pm and refreshments will be available. Don't miss this chance to see what can be achieved and perhaps be inspired to take up these arts and crafts for yourself.

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Film Night in the Victory Hall

Saturday 21st May

Doors open at 7.00pm. Film starts at 7.30pm.

For one night only, step back in time to 1942. The Victory Hall is your main source of escape from the horrors of World War II, and we've got a great film to lift your spirits: *Casablanca* (U)! Come early for a drink at Rick's Bar - we can't promise Humphrey Bogart but we can promise lots of fun for all ages!

The Victory Hall will be transformed into a cinema courtesy of 'Okehampton Moving Pictures', who specialise in touring rural locations with professional cinema equipment including large screen, projector and surround-sound system.

Please come along to support the inaugural film night. If it is a success then we plan to run two further events, and you will have the chance to choose the films!



Tickets £4 (cinema-style) or £6 (cabaret-style including canapés).

Book tickets online at

www.whimplecinema.ticketsource.co.uk

Alternatively, advance tickets can be reserved by telephoning Rob Davis (01404 823731) or by emailing whimplecinema@gmail.com

Soft refreshments available - please bring your own alcoholic drinks (glasses provided).

This event is presented by St Mary's Church. All profits will be donated to Whimble Christian Aid Week.



"This is it. The best movie ever made. 'Casablanca'." *DVDTalk.com*

"97%... An undisputed masterpiece ... Casablanca has only improved with age, boasting career-defining performances from Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman." *Rottentomatoes.com*



Whimble Victory Hall



*Come and Join us for a
Soup and Sarnie Lunch*



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on Saturday 30th April
and Saturday 28th May*



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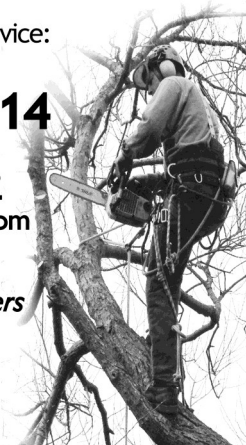
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Another panto has been and gone, does it really only happen once a year? My mother used to tell me how time would fly as I got older – how right she was. When I heard the Wizard of Oz would be this year's panto I thought, I know of the film and the stage show, but a panto? As usual Peter Bolwell put his own Whimbleton take on a classic story and turned it into another unique panto. This year for the first time the Thursday night performance had to be cancelled due to slow ticket sales, with only 8 tickets sold for that night and just a week to go, the difficult decision had to be made to cancel the performance. What a disappointment for all the cast and back stage people who had worked so hard since Christmas to provide an entertaining show for the village. Happily Friday and Saturday night and the Saturday matinee were well supported. The format changed slightly this year with the younger children performing the panto on Saturday afternoon and the older performers doing the two evenings. I understand this was because there are so many young people wishing to take part, which is great, but personally I did miss seeing some of the youngsters in the evening.



Anyway onto the performance, I did not see the children's matinee so unfortunately I cannot make any comment on that but I was there on Friday night booing and hissing with the best of them. It is difficult to mention individuals' they were all so good but it was nice to see a couple of outstanding performances from two members of the cast who have been with the Whimbletons since young children and have grown into very confident and talented performers. Sam Mahoney played Dorothy for all three performances and Cameron Beer took over the role of compere from Miles Leonard for the Saturday and did an excellent job of warming up the audience. It was good to see a couple of new faces in the cast, Marie Dougal-Johnson and Dave Jones, they seemed to be enjoying themselves so I hope to see them again next year. Dave, as the wicked witch of the east, appears to be yet another male member of the cast who enjoys playing female roles. There are going to be handbags at dawn when the next dame is cast! The comic element was provided excellently as always by Neil Walker and Simon Van Grudgings along with the bumbling trio of Geoff Delves, Dave Mahoney and Chris McLaughlan as the Tin Man, Scarecrow and Cowardly Lion.

It was obvious how hard the backstage crew had worked this year with costumes, scenery etc – well done. The audience seemed to have a good time and made plenty of noise when needed with singing, cheering, booing etc. Whether this was helped by the bar or by the tea and excellent cakes organised by the Scouts, Pre School and Friends of Whimble School I do not know. I would encourage anyone who has not been to a Whimble panto to give it a try, it really is a fun evening.

Nicky Hitchcock

WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

On Friday 4th March some forty members attended our first talk for 2011. Brian Carlson from Willand gave us a very interesting and entertaining talk on Fuchsias and Pelargoniums. After a potted history of his career, he showed us how to take cuttings and how to pot on young plants. Members were given a lot of useful tips on how to do this and how to look after the young plants and he concluded with an impressive slide show of fuchsias that he and others had exhibited at various shows. All in all, it was an excellent evening. Members were also able to buy some plants to bring on. No doubt these will all be exhibited at our own show in August!

Our annual Spring Coffee morning and Plant Sale will be on Saturday 14 May in the Village Hall starting at 10.00am. In recent years this has turned out to be a great success, and getting there on time is recommended to make sure you get the best of what is on offer. Hopefully we will be able to provide a wide range of plants but if there are any specific plants you would like us to have available, please let us know and we will see what we can do!

We are hoping to have an Open Gardens weekend this year and we are grateful for a number of new offers to have people trample all over their gardens! Details have yet to be worked out, but the usual notices will appear as and when we have finalised the details.

The Annual Flower Show will be on Saturday 13th August 2011, again in the Village Hall. We will shortly be looking at the schedules to agree the classes for this year's show, particularly the Photography and Flower Arranging Classes. We will endeavour to get this information out to you as soon as we can so you can all start planning ahead.

Following the huge success of the Village Challenge at last year's Show, we are working on our theme for 2011. It will again involve a Scarecrow Competition but this year there will be a different theme. The Challenge will be open to groups or individuals, so watch this space for more detailed information!

We look forward to seeing you at these events, especially the Annual Flower Show.

Paul Wilson,

Hon. Secretary.





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WHIMPLE CHURCH

www.whimplechurch.org

We hope you will join us at our various special **Easter Services** and activities. The first of these is our service for Mothering Sunday which takes place at 11.00am on Sunday the 3rd April, the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family.

Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers. However centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' Church - the main Church or Cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.) And most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

On the morning of Maundy Thursday, 21st April from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm we are again holding an **Easter Garden** children's activity morning, taking place in the Victory Hall. This is for children aged 5 to 11. Booking forms will be available from the Church or by contacting Sarah Smith on 822123 or Dianne Goodwin on 823476.

On Good Friday the choir will be singing Faure's Requiem at 2pm. On Easter Day there will be a Family Communion Service at 11am.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held in St Mary's Church on Monday 19th April, coffee from 7.00 pm, meeting to start at 7.30 pm.

On Sunday 27th February, at the end of the service, Rob read the following announcement: The Patron, The Bishop of Exeter and the Representatives, unanimous in their decision, are delighted to announce that, subject to the completion of the statutory formalities, the Reverend Robert Samuel Wilkinson has been appointed to the post of Team Vicar in the Culm Valley Team, as leader of the Culm Valley Mission Community which comprises the parishes of Willand, Uffculme, Kentisbeare and Blackborough. His licensing by the Bishop of Crediton will be on Tuesday July 5th 7.30pm in Willand Church.

We congratulate Rob on his appointment and wish him and Joan all the best as they move to a new situation. Rob has been in Whimble for ten years and his last Sunday service will be on Sunday the 29th May. It is planned to have a meal in the Victory Hall after the service, details yet to be arranged.

On Saturday 21st May Whimple Victory Hall is going to be transformed into a cinema courtesy of 'Okehampton Moving Pictures', with all profits going to Christian Aid Week. Full details can be found on page 23.

Future events to look forward to include the Annual Fete on 11th June, at the home of Mike and Avril Ellingham at Hindstrete and the Bellringers outing on 25th June.

It is regrettable to have to report that some unknown person(s) has been picking out lead lettering from some of the older headstones in the New Churchyard, Grove Road. Naturally, this causes distress to the relatives of the deceased, so please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police authorities. Thank you.

St Mary's Church Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday - 8am Holy Communion (BCP);
11.00am Morning Worship;

2nd Sunday - 11am Holy Communion;

3rd Sunday - 8am Holy Communion (BCP);
11am Celebration Service;

4th Sunday - 11am Morning Worship;

5th Sunday - 10.30am Churches4All joint service (various locations)

Wartime Tea Dance and Sing-along

Saturday 7th May

3.00 - 6.00 pm

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Wasters of Whimble

Hopefully by the time you read this there will have been a flurry of solar panels installed on many homes in the village.

One installer is hoping to have all those signed up with them installed before the end of April. This should see 15 homes in the village generating their own electricity, each saving an estimated 1.2 tonnes of CO² each year.



Once the panels have been installed each homeowner will need to contact their energy provider to inform them that they are generating and the installers should guide you through this process, although there is no harm in contacting your energy provider sooner. They generally have good help-lines if you have any queries.

We look forward to seeing productive and useful panels working hard soon and we hope to start a new project in the next few months. If you would like to join our group or have any ideas to offer please contact us.

Any enquiries please contact:

Jenny Sanders	823015	jls.sanders@btinternet.com
Alison Betts	823967	alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk



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29th April 2011



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*Details from Nikki Harris 823873. Alice Walsh 823262,
Jenny Sanders 823015, Jo Sibley 822183*

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Tim Wright

Matt Harvey

In March Whimble played host to renowned comic poet Matt Harvey, whose name may ring a bell with Edinburgh Festival goers and any Radio 4 listeners who like that sort of thing.

The subject of Matt's quirky poems ranges from the traditional:

IF LOVE

If love can build a bridge
can affection put up a shelf?



To the contemporary:

BOTOX

Early onset taxidermy.

Visiting all stations in between.

The interval was audience participation time with each punter contributing a line on the theme of the moon. The unenviable burden of pasting was shared by two volunteers and the resulting 'Big Society' poem is reproduced below.

Eclipsed, eclipsed, but only by.... Apple of Patrick Moore's eye
Peeking through the broken cloud, werewolf howling very loud
Werewolf's nemesis - oh yes... Its nice to be a lunar-tic
There's a large lunatic in my garden
There's nothing quite as sweet as a moon made of honey
Its big, its round, its upside down
Sometimes hidden, crater ridden, wave making, madness creating
How bight you shine... Friend of drunks and thieves and lovers
Cheese industry helper... Cheesy smiley facey
It looks like a cheese ball melting in a mushroom
The super moon is shining bright...Tonight a balloon behind a veil
Silvery Spring roads covered on toads... The earth's personal bodyguard
Blue moon, cold bottom... You could get arrested for that full moon.

Matt Harvey was brought to Whimble by 'Villages in Action'.
Look out for further big names on the small stage.

Tom Howard.

100 years ago

The 1911 Census and Emily Wilding Davison

In these liberated days it's hard to imagine that only 100 years ago women were widely regarded as second-class citizens. Campaigning for the right to vote, the suffragette movement launched a long rebellion which famously saw some tie themselves to the railings of 10 Downing Street.

Emily Davison was so committed to the cause, that she gave her life for it. No-one is certain quite why she stepped in front of King George V's horse, Anmer, at the Epsom Derby on 4 June 1913. Some say it was martyrdom. But it could have been a protest that went tragically wrong (her return train ticket suggested she meant to leave Epsom).

So, Emily Davison managed to get herself onto the 1911 Census record as a resident at the Palace of Westminster by hiding there on census night. On the night of 13 July 1911, she hid in a broom cupboard in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft in the crypt of St Stephen's Hall. Her actions on that census day had long been a rumour (not least because her conscientious landlady, at her rented flat on Coram Street in west London, filled in Davison's details even though she wasn't at home). But the release of the 1911 Census data showed that she achieved her objective.

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New Ticketing arrangements:

This year tickets are available only on the gate and not before.

Ticket price does not include food but food is available to purchase.

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Easter Eggs

Easter eggs are specially decorated eggs given every year to celebrate the Easter holiday or springtime. For centuries, eggs have been part of our Easter traditions...they are symbolic of new life and fertility, and are representative of resurrection.

The oldest tradition is to dye or paint Easter eggs, but newer traditions suggest giving chocolate Easter eggs, packets of sweets or plastic filled Easter eggs with money or small toys in them.

Easter eggs history is thought to date back to pagan times (they were pagan symbols), although there is no real evidence of this being the original origin of Easter eggs.

At Passover Seder, a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water symbolizes both new life and the Passover sacrifice offered at the Temple in Jerusalem. The ancient Persians painted eggs for Nowrooz, their New Year celebration, which falls on the Spring equinox. This tradition has continued every year on Nowrooz since ancient times.

In Christian times, the Easter egg origin has symbolic roots...an egg represents new life because of the chick within it. The Easter egg tradition may have celebrated the end of the privations of Lent. In the West, eggs were forbidden during Lent as well as other traditional fast days. Likewise, in Eastern Christianity, both meat and dairy are prohibited during the fast, and eggs are seen as "dairy" (a foodstuff that could be taken from an animal without shedding its blood). It was also traditional to use up all of the household's eggs before Lent began, which established the tradition of Pancake Day.

Another Orthodox tradition is the presenting of red coloured eggs to friends while giving Easter greetings. According to a History channel documentary about Mary Magdalene and her role in Christianity, the custom derives from a biblical event. After the Ascension of Christ, Mary supposedly went to the Emperor of Rome and greeted him with "Christ is Risen", whereupon he stated, "Christ has not risen no more than that egg is red" (pointing to an egg on his table). After making this statement it is said the egg immediately turned blood red. She then began preaching Christianity to him. The egg is symbolic of the grave and life renewed by breaking out of it. The red symbolizes the blood of Christ redeeming the world, represented by the egg, and our regeneration through the bloodshed for us by Christ. The egg itself is a symbol of the Resurrection while being dormant it contains a new life sealed within it.

For years, eggs have been embellished and exchanged at Easter, resulting in a rich amount of traditional crafts. Ranging from simply dyed shells to intricate works of art. Decorated eggs can add colour to the Easter egg hunt or become precious gifts to treasure.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL BEAT OFFICER PC JIM TYRELL.

Dear Residents,

No doubt many of you will be aware that due to the Governments Comprehensive Spending Review the Constabulary will be reducing its number of Police Officers and Police Employees by a considerable number over the next few years as a result of impending Budget cuts.

With this in mind the Constabulary is currently going through a very considerable reorganisation of the deployment of Officers across the entire Force area and a good number of Officers are moving posts as a result of this for various operational reasons. Two posts are going at Ottery St Mary Police Station.

I write to inform you that with effect from the 20th May 2011 I will no longer be your Local Beat Officer. I am being posted to Sidmouth where I shall remain in post until my retirement from the Force at the end of 2012.

I have to inform you that I am not being replaced by another Officer. Whimple and the surrounding locality will continue to be policed by colleagues remaining in post at Ottery St Mary including Police Community Support Officer Steve Trail and Officers from further afield as and when circumstances dictate.

Over the years I have made a great number of contacts within the village and the surrounding area and I would like to thank you all for all your support. I wish you all well for the future.

Jim Tyrell



Christian Aid Week – 15th – 21st May

Collectors will be coming round the village with envelopes to ask for contributions for this charity. Help is given to communities of all faiths worldwide. Disaster relief, such as the earthquake in Haiti, is undertaken but so is support through local groups to enable independence and raise standards of living. Please give generously and complete the Gift Aid declaration on the envelope, if you are able to do so.

Thank you very much for your continuing support for this charity - last year over £1300 was raised during Christian Aid Week

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Rail Users group for Whimble ? What happened ?

In the two weeks following publication I received 16 expressions of interest. All were supportive of championing the need of Whimble to have service restored and several quite exasperated at retiming in general.

750 copies of Whimble News went out and 50 leaflets were handed out to passengers leaving most trains arriving at the station, though not on the same day.

The conclusion must be that most of you are content with the way things are – or you don't really care. The data collected for the Parish Plan seems unconnected with reality.

Roger Algate

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Recently I had a spell in hospital and was visited there by many friends and neighbours. Also there were numerous 'get well' cards and telephone calls not only from 'locals' but also relatives and friends out of this area. I would like to say that I am now on the road to recovery but that is not so - however, that's life!

I am taking advantage of the Whimble News because of the area it covers to pass back all my appreciation of the kind good wishes sent us. Thank you.

Robin Tuck

Village Week 2011

Planning has begun for this year's Village Week. It will start with the 'Whimble Folk for Whimble Folk II' concert on Sunday 10th July and end with 'Songs of Praise' in St. Marys Church on Sunday 17th July.

Most of the old favourite events will be there with a few new ones.

The biggest change this year will be to Village Day itself which will take the form of a Village Fair to be held in the Parish Field rather than the Victory Hall. The Fun Run will start and end in the Parish field and there will be food, drink, stalls and events throughout the afternoon including, of course, the Fancy Dress Competition. It is hoped that all village organisations will play a part in making the day a success.

The Egg Catching proved popular last year so it will be held again outside the Thirsty Farmer once the Village Fair is over.

Please make a note in your diary to be sure you can be there - and if you would like to take part or run a stall please let me know.

Bob Scanlan 822262 bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk

Chocololics Corner

A large Easter egg or a nice box of chocolates can provide your total daily intake of calories in one go. Now, isn't that handy?

One of life's greatest mysteries?

You can eat 2 lb of chocolate.....and gain 5 lbs!!

If you get melted chocolate all over your hands,
You're eating it too slowly!

Diet tip: Eat an Easter egg before each meal.

It'll take the edge off your appetite, and that way you'll eat less.

Money talks, but Chocolate sings!

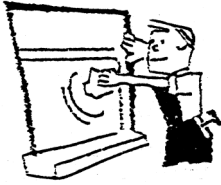
Problem: How to get two pounds of chocolate eggs home from the supermarket in a hot car.

Solution: Eat the eggs in the car park.

Q: Why is there no such organization as Chocololics Anonymous?

A: Because no-one wants to quit.





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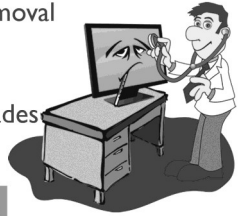


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e-mail: jaydiscombe@supanet.com

March brings so many different things to so many people and this March is no exception. The sky is lovely and blue, the sun seems to be working overtime and the colours appearing in everyone's gardens and all around are enough to lift away those long winter evenings.



Sorry I do go off on a tangent, back to the Dance-size Classes, well what can I say? FAB, so many more people joining us, men and women all ages, sizes and varied abilities and yet everyone loves it. Now we are in full swing with different routines every week so no learning same ole same ole, we find the classes not only challenging in respect of keeping fit or getting back into shape but also ensuring that we use our brains at the same time so two for the price of one. Still continuing to raise money for the British Heart Foundation we uphold our 'pay as you go' weekly rate of £4.95 per session which has not risen in the THREE Years that we have been running in Ottery (Old Boys School Tuesday Evening 8.00 until 9.00pm) or Whimple (Victory Hall Monday Evenings 7.30 until 8.30). Yes I did say Three Years so Happy Birthday To our Ottery St Mary Class and a Massive thank you to all for your continued support.

Our Murder Mystery Dinner in The Tumbling Weir on the 2nd of April has been a total sell-out since January which left several people disappointed. As I was not sure how this evening would sell, I had limited numbers available. However due to several people asking when the next one would be (not even having run the first one yet) I have booked another Murder Mystery Dinner for the 12th November 2011 and have already sold fifteen places, so if you would like to be part of the next one please contact Michele on 07984 869498. The price will remain the same as this one, at a total cost of £35.00 which includes a Three Course Meal followed by Coffee and mints and the Fabulous Candlelight Theatre Group once again. However the scene will be different and also the Murder so if you want to come again its a totally different set-up and this time we are also looking at making it an optional 'Twenties theme evening'.

Both the classes have gone from strength to strength and every week we endeavour to make the class fun and judging from our attendance (excuse the pun) we are doing a good job. With the mixture of music and dance styles, the classes bring something different every week. One of our ladies said she cannot wait for the class to see what routine we have put together and get stuck into it. That said, we are a very mixed group in so many ways, and yet everyone gets out of it what they put into it. You can work at your own level be it low or high impact we really are all about getting the heartbeat up and keeping in shape. if you have not had the pleasure of attending one of our classes, why not come along this week and see what you think? Go on, live a little or maybe a lot longer !!

For further information contact **Michele** on 07984 869498

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1st Whimble Scouts



A lot has happened with the Scouts in the six months since Tim and I have taken over the running of the troop. Firstly our numbers have grown from 12 to 22. We have been welcoming a regular influx up from the Cubs as well as several members completely new to Scouting. We are now meeting weekly and offering an exciting programme of adventurous activities that have something to offer everyone. We have been very busy with all manner of activities; out walking on Dartmoor in the rain and snow, camping in sub-zero temperatures at Caddihoe in Ashclyst forest, following trails on Woodbury Common, building structures out of poles and rope, cooking meals over open fires and serving cakes and tea at the Panto to name but a few. All sorts of things that put smiles (and mud) on faces, and sends them home ready for a well earned night's sleep!



We recently took our older Scouts on a weekend of leadership training to help them develop some of the skills and knowledge that they can use to help the younger members of the troop and as you can see from the photos, a great time was had by everyone, despite the thick frost on Saturday morning!



We are looking to further grow the troop and would like to recruit another leader who shares our passion for all things exciting to help us do this – if this sounds like you, then please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Similarly if you like the look of what we are doing and have children between the ages of ten and a half to fourteen, who would like to join or see what it's all about, let us know and we can see if we can fit them in!



Simon Powell Scout Leader - 1st Whimble Scouts
823665, whimblecouts@gmail.com

Blood Donor Sessions

Currently no blood donor sessions are scheduled at Feniton School or Payhembury Village Hall. Sessions will however be held at the Insitute, Ottery St Mary and at the Turks Head in Honiton. I would be pleased to hear from donors of any problems arising from the non-use of these venues in 2011.



Dawn Higginson 850758 Local Organiser



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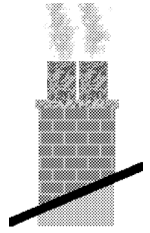
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

As I sit here writing this and the sun shining warmly on my back it's hard to believe in the last issue we were all talking about the snow! This term the children in each class have been looking at different countries. Oak chose Australia, Willow - India and Beech - Kenya. Each country is part of a different continent. Here are just a few bits and pieces of interest.



Hello this piece of information is all about Kenyan animals.

In Kenya there are five particular animals called the big five. This consists of elephants, leopards, rhinos, lions and wildebeest.

Elephant:

Where do they live?

African elephants can be found in 37 countries in Africa including Kenya. In Kenya they live in both forests and Savannahs' since this is where they will find most of their food.

What do they eat?

Elephants are herbivores and eat leaves, bark, fruit, shrubs, grasses and herbs. Did you know that an adult elephant can eat up to 140 – 270 kg!

What is a threat to the elephants?

One of the biggest threats to elephant kind is actually the human race. This is because humans have hunted and killed many elephants for their tusks. Now they are an endangered species. Apart from humans not many animals will try and hunt an elephant but some predators might take a calf.

Kenya



India is located in Asia and its capital is New Dehli. Welcome to our Indian news production. Indians have a lot of religions' but the main one is Hinduism over 55,000 people follow it. They have a lot of gods like Brahma the leader of gods, Ganesha the traveller, Shiva the destroyer and Vishnu the protector.

India is well known for the Taj Mahal. You have to take your shoes off when you enter it because it is a very holy place.

India people have a peace symbol it is called 'Om'. You will probably see this symbol on the gods of India.

By Ben. Pearce and Leon Miller

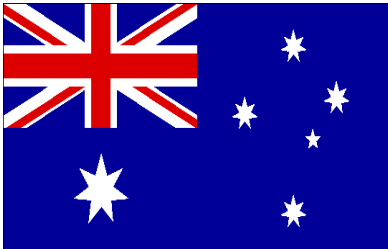
India



Australia

Aborigines painted pictures with tiny dots. They painted their skin.

They made up stories called dream time stories.



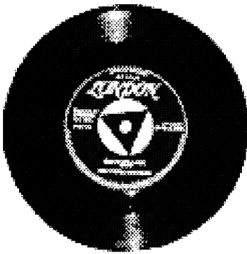
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Hello and welcome to all new and existing members of W.A.R.T.S (Whimble Against Rising Tariffs). As you will now be well aware, our aim is to periodically secure the services of the cheapest oil provider that we can to deliver to our members in the village. We are pleased to announce that membership has now risen to more than 170 households; driving better prices for all!



The March order has just been. Our price secured was 57.73ppl + vat. We were initially quoted 63.90ppl for a single 500 litres load and 62.80ppl for the bulk load.

Please bear in mind; we cannot quote an advanced 'price per litre'; as the number of drops plus the 'ppl' on 'that day' determines the end price (as a result of intense negotiations) on 'that day'. However, we can assure you, past experience tells us that our prices have consistently beaten any individual household prices over the past couple of years. So what have you got to lose?

Please remember to add the dates below to your calendar/diary for future orders and that payment is required upfront if you have not purchased from the nominated supplier in the past.

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Monday 28th November Monday 16th January

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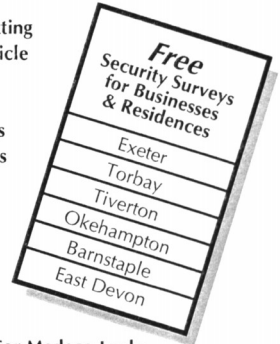
(Minimum order: 500 litres. Please allow a further 10 days for delivery)

All existing (and potential new) members with access to e-mail may contact myself; Graham Batten with their order/*registration at utilitiesgb@btinternet.com Where as any without e-mail are invited to call John Aiton on 01404 823155. (*Registration to include: Name/Address/Postcode & Telephone Number)

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At the February meeting we enjoyed an inspiring talk on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Jan Bateman spoke of the remarkable work done by these wonderful dogs and the independence and reassurance they give to many of those who suffer from loss of hearing.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

By way of contrast the speaker for March was Mr Brewer who talked on perfumery, explaining how the development of perfumes had followed history through the ages. Noses were put to the test! We were asked to give our opinion and to contrast several of the scents used during earlier centuries, through to Victorian times and to the mid twentieth century.

The area quiz competition took place at Broadclyst, in which Whimple entered two teams. Not only did Whimple compete, but we also provided an excellent tea for the 21 teams who took part.

Craft afternoons are again well under way. We welcome new members and if you would care to join the Women's Institute just contact the President, Avril Ellingham (822495), for details.

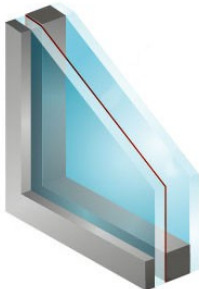
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Dave Chowings 60th Birthday Sponsored Cycle Ride

Hi there, I'm Dave Chowings and I'm a man on a mission.

After being a dedicated life long couch potato I took up cycling last year at the age of 59. I have greatly benefited from the exercise and lost around 2 stone to date. To mark my 60th birthday in February I have set myself a challenge to prove to my family and friends that there is still some life left in the old dog.

On 26 April I will set out to cycle around the borders/coasts of our glorious county of Devon, a distance of about 300 miles, over a period of 3-4 days and without back-up.

My wife Janet and I are short break foster carers and I have chosen to support Childrens Hospice South West following the sad loss of Tia Lorains in January this year, just before her 12th birthday.

We provided respite care for Tia for a number of years to allow her family some time off to recharge their batteries. Despite her severe limitations Tia was a happy child with a wonderful, uplifting and infectious smile. She is much missed by her devoted family and by all who knew her.

After Tia's death her family received much help and support at Little Bridge House near Barnstaple which is run by CHSW. The staff there do a wonderful job for children with life limiting conditions and their families.

To find out more about the charity please visit their web site: www.chsw.org.uk. You may also sponsor me on line by visiting www.justgiving.com/Dave-Chowings. All donations, however large or small will be gratefully accepted.

Thank you so much.

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Whimble Book Group	
Katy Howard	823038
Whimble Youth Club	
<i>Leaders:</i> Mino 07902 651989 or Sue 07964 211195	

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