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Whimble, Devon.
Tel: 01404 822350

As recommended by
Camra, the Good Pub Guide and the Good Beer Guide.

Real Ales

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7 Days a Week

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Bookings are advisable
Especially at Week-ends

A Traditional Olde Freehouse Village Inn

Whimble News



April/May 2000

What's on in Whimble

April

6	Cricket Club Bingo	Cricket Club	7.30pm
7	WI Easter Fair & Exhib. of Work	Village Hall	
10	WI Talk 'Stained Glass Windows'	Village Hall	7.30pm
20	Cricket Club Quiz Night	Cricket Club	7.30pm
27	Whimble History Society talk 'Sing the Song of Grandisson' life & times of Bishop Grandisson	Village Hall	7.30pm

May

4	VPA Spring Plant Sale & Coffee Evening	Village Hall	7.30pm
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June

12	WI Members Night	Village Hall	7.30pm
16	Good Neighbour Day - Start of Neighbourhood Watch Week		
17	VPA Outing (see article for details)	The Square	9.30am

July

10	WI talk 'WRAF Aircrew Duties'. Miss A Paddy recalls her working life.	Village Hall	7.30pm
13-15	Village Week Flower Festival - 'Alphabetically Floral'		
14	Village Day		

August

11	Village Produce Assoc: Annual Flower Show		
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Please use the Whimble Diary held in the Post Office for checking availability of venues and booking events. If your Association has an event which you would like listed

St Mary's Church Easter Programme of Services

Sunday 1 April	8am	Holy Communion
	11am	Family Service
Sunday 8 April	11am	Parish Communion
Thurs 12 April	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 April	8am	Holy Communion
	11am	Easter Parish Communion
Sunday 22 April	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 29 April	8am	United Benefice Communion

Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
	11am	Family Service
2nd Sunday	11am	Parish Communion
3rd Sunday	10.30am	Service with a Smile
4th Sunday	11am	Parish Communion
5th Sunday	8am	Holy Communion or Joint Benefice Communion

The Whimble News Team

Editor

Peter Smith 822828

Production

Bob Scanlan 822262

Vivienne Leonard 822415

Delivery

Nicky Hitchcock 823194

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Advertising

Miles Leonard 822415

Jill Wilson 823339

Community diary

Vicky Stewart 823374

Treasurer

Miles Leonard 822415



Organisations in Whimble

Whimble Parish Council	
<i>Chairman:</i> Sara Randall Johnson	822524
<i>Clerk:</i> Mrs. Amanda Newman, Council Office - Torno	823385
Royal British Legion , Branch and Womens Section.	
<i>Chairman:</i> Mrs. F. Pratt, Sandfords	822451
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Contact:</i> David Rastall, Killigarth, Church Road	822486
<i>Contact:</i> Raymond Burrough, Gateshayes Farm	822257
Devon County Councillor	
Mr. R. Giles, 14 Winters Lane, OSM. EX11 1AR	813387
Whimble County Primary School	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. D. Brice	822584
Whimble History Society	
Mr. Bob Roberts	822311
Whimble Mothers Union	
Mrs. D. Rastall, Killigarth, Church Road	822486
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group	
<i>Chair:</i> Mrs. Sarah Griffin, Hillcroft, Church Rd.	823265
<i>New admissions/Playleader:</i> Sue Solf 1, Hillside, Talaton	822981
Whimble Womens Institute	
<i>Secretary:</i> Mrs. Rosemarie Burrows, Higher Slewton	822422
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
Mrs. Lin Carder, 18 Dince Hill Close	822538
Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground.</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
<i>Chairman:</i> Mr. A. Bratt, Rockwell, Talaton	822437
Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club	
Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimble Youth Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Leader:</i> Alison Lawry, Willowbrook, Whimble	822292
Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> B. Weeks, Briar Cottage, Church Road	822674
Whimble Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> T. A. Lang	822512
<i>Treasurer:</i> J. Hughes	822659
Whimble Cricket Club	
Mr. R.J.Smith	822244
Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee	
<i>Secretary:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Mrs. P. Weeks, Briar Cottage, Church Rd.	822674
Whimble Post Office	
Gordon & Heather Owen	822359
Whimble News	
Peter Smith, Lawn End, Church Road	822828
Neighbourhood Watch	
John Munslow, 44, Slewton Crescent	823456
St. Mary's Bellringers	
<i>Captain:</i> Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road	822873
Whimble Scout Group	
<i>Group Scout Leader :</i> Alex Spry	851290
<i>Scout Leader:</i> Adam Bird	813923
<i>Cub Scout Leader :</i> Alex Spry	851290
<i>Beaver Scout Leader</i> Valerie Bond	822473
<i>Marquee Booking Sec :</i> Mrs. Mary M ⁸ Connell	822729

Editorial

Living in Whimble means that most of us have been fairly distant from the recent disasters in the UK - which are mainly news items. Until now, when the effect of foot and mouth disease is very evident. We very much value the farming members of our community and feel for them. I'm particularly grateful that Lester was able to let us have an article to help us understand a little more.

But we can look forward with hope this Easter time as reminded in Geoff Gardiner's and Edith's articles. This issue also contains welcome contributions about past and future events from many of our village organisations.

Many have said how much they appreciate Gordon and Heather's regular 'News from PO Corner' which mirrors their much valued friendly welcome and efficient service at our village Post Office. We are pleased the computers have finally arrived and look forward to a progress report in our next issue!

Please could contributions for the June/July edition be left at the Post Office or sent by email to bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk by 15 May.

With good wishes

Peter

Foot and Mouth Disease

For many people turning on the evening news the sight of acrid smoke rising from a blazing pyre of animal corpses seems a dramatic enough picture. A crisis in our own backyard, is a reality which the countryside has struggled to come to terms with over the last few weeks.

I am sure everyone living in Whimble is more than aware of the huge impact the outbreak has made. However, for most people the personal impact will be the curtailing of access to footpaths and the reduced availability of good dog walks.

The farmers in your locality, though not yet directly suffering losses from this most devastating of diseases, have to cope with an undermining of their livelihoods on a daily basis. Dairy farmers may have cows calving in buildings away from home, which they are unable to bring home to milk. For many it simply has meant no income for the last few weeks with resulting cashflow and overcrowding problems as animals become ready for sale yet cannot be moved. Although certain movements of animals are now going to be allowed, they are only available under very strict regulations and many farmers are unable to take advantage of them.

Of course farmers are not the only ones to suffer, B&B owners, hauliers, contractors etc. etc. are all feeling the effects. Farmers, however, by the nature of their business are often on their own, and can easily feel isolated, especially when the normal visitors to their farm are excluded for precautionary reasons. The underlying worries of what the future may hold can sometimes seem overwhelming.

We have been very blessed by many people contacting us and showing us they're thinking of us, so we know we're not in this alone. If you know anyone who is in a similar situation, please show them your love and concern, it is a very real and helpful support.

Lester and Helen Bowker
Athelney Mount, Cotley Farm, Whimble

On Friday 27th April Edith Grout will give an updated talk with slides on the Life and times of Bishop John de Grandisson and his family at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall.

GOOD NEWS FOR PARK AND RIDE USERS

Devon County Council has reached an agreement with Stagecoach which will see the company continue operating services at the Honiton Road Park and Ride site at Sowton, on the outskirts of Exeter, until April 30th. In the meantime the County Council is taking steps to procure a replacement service to operate from May 1st.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE

If a week ago, when we were all frozen up, I had set out to write about a summer event it would have seemed unreal. Suddenly it is mild with Spring flowers blooming and it now seems more appropriate to say that the Church will be open on Saturday, May 19th to commence our annual summer of coffee mornings 10.00 to 12 noon. As usual we look forward to meeting you there once more.

D.F.

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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

At our first event of the new year, members enjoyed a very interesting and entertaining talk by Mr Derek Bedder on the Basics of Home Wine Making. He also gave a few hints on what judges look for as he has judged at many shows. Hopefully those of us who have not made wine recently will be dusting off the demi johns and getting back into production. So watch out for the bottles of Whimple Nouveau in the autumn!!

This years coach outing on Sunday 17th June will be to Kingston Maurward Gardens and Animal Park at Dorchester. Included in the trip will be an early evening short visit to Weymouth. The coach will leave The Square at 09.30, returning at approximately 7.00 pm. Cost of the trip is £8.00 for adults and £6.00 for children. Please contact Pauline Rogers to book your seats. We believe that this is the first trip of any kind from the village to these gardens so early booking advisable!

Our next event will be our spring plant sale and coffee evening on Friday 4th May. This will be held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm and entry will only be 50p - what a bargain! We will have a variety of plants for sale and if anyone has any surplus plants they want to pass on we will gladly take them as well - please label clearly so we can let people know what they are! We will also be running a draw with numerous star prizes and there be more information on the coach trip together with details of the various classes for the Flower Show in August - don't forget the date, Saturday 11th August. So, before you rush out to buy your bog garden plants elsewhere, make a date to see what we can offer to brighten your garden this summer.

We look forward to seeing you all in May.

Paul Wilson,
Hon. Secretary.

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Shakespeare's

It's a warm wind, the west wind full of birds cries
For it comes from the westlands, the old brown hills
And April is in the wind and daffodils

John

pear
Win
Tale

speaks of daffodils that come before the swallows dare and take the wind of March in beauty and violets dim, but sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes and that is exactly what has happened in our front gardens in The Square.

Today is the first Sunday in Lent and imagine my surprise when drawing the curtains this early morning to see snow on the ground and a great number of birds running round looking for food. The name of the month of April is derived from the Greek word for opening and indeed it opens its doors to Spring time, and after April is May when all the birds build and delight us with their sweet melodies and then come the swallows. Spring means the warming up of the soil. The first flush of annual weeds is better than any thermometer to put you wise over this, telling you that you can start sowing your seeds outside with sure conviction that they will germinate. April this year is also the month including Easter with Good Friday on the 13th. Time of great rejoicing for the Resurrection, for a new beginning.

For me Lent has always been a time for looking forward to New Life. During the forty days and forty nights until the glorious Easter morn, Jesus chose not to act, not to be tempted to turn stones into bread, to rule the whole world or to hurl himself from the Temple Parapet, he simply chose to act according to the will of His Father. During Lent our tempting is not entirely about the endurance our bodies go through by fasting, or giving up things, but far more about where the heart lies. Turning away the temptation, turning away what is small and sordid, but instead trying to find the good in others, to look forward to a newness of life. The lengthening of days as Winter turns into Spring, the promise of Easter is that we will be renewed.

I have always found that following the will of my earthly father, as well as that of my Heavenly Father, has helped me resist temptation. Don't get me wrong, I was certainly not a model child, but what my father taught me has helped me get through life and face the good and bad days with equanimity. It is many years since my father died. His last words to me were "Keep smiling whatever happens today". This was the last will of a very beloved man and I have tried to act according to his will ever since.

I am looking forward to helping to decorate the church, our Parish Church with Easter lilies. After weeks of bareness, what a glorious sight on Easter Morning to see our church in such golden array. Alleluia, He is risen.

Edith Grout

NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER

Well, what can I say...?

The P.O. computer system is named Horizon and I had always assumed that it was so named because no matter how you hard you tried to get near it, it still remained the same distance away..... but No..... it is **here, we are go and, surprise, surprise, we like it!** It is fairly easy to use and, as we are near the end of the installation chain, most bugs have been ironed out on the experience of others. It certainly rekindles enthusiasm for carrying out what are fairly mundane transactions - but please forgive our somewhat furrowed brows for a week or two yet!

Other P.O. News:

Foreign Currency offered commission free until the end of April.

Cash & Travellers cheques (except sterling).

Self-Adhesive 1st and 2nd class stamps now in; books of 6 and 12 (everyone else may have gone metric but the good ole P.O. is holding out!), also sheets of 100 sold only as full sheets, with smaller quantities still in gummed lick me quick stamps.

Comment: Dog mess still abounds - I never thought we would need the E.D.D.C. dog warden in Whimble but we do.

Finally: Heather found in her collection a postcard sent by her grandmother to an aunt - postmarked Whimble 1905 - stamped presumably by one of our distant predecessors! Small world isn't it.

I found the following anecdote printed in the latest Subpostmaster magazine, it struck me as topical and very funny...

A language instructor was explaining to her class that French nouns, unlike the English counterparts are grammatically designated masculine or feminine. House in French is feminine la maison, pencil is masculine le crayon. One puzzled student asked, What gender is computer?. The teacher did not know so for fun she split the class into two groups appropriately enough, by gender and asked them to decide whether computer should be a masculine or feminine noun. Both groups were required to give four reasons for their recommendation,

The men's group decided that computers should be definitely of feminine gender (la computer) because:

- ☞ No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
- ☞ The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
- ☞ The smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval;
- ☞ As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine (le computer), because:

- ☞ In order to get their attention you have to turn them on;
- ☞ They have a lot of data but they are still clueless;
- ☞ They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they are the problem;
- ☞ As soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you'd waited a little longer, you could have got a better model.

Bye for now - **GO&HO@PO**
www.almostcoping.com

Old Whimble Tales

I found an old past resident of Whimble now living in the Kentisbeare area, with a lively memory of his early years. As a young boy he would cycle into Whimble and join the local butcher in his van doing local deliveries. This was before the Webber butcher shop in the Square. The village at that time had a smithy and a saddler. Kentisbeare had two tailors and a shoemaker.

He remembered a villager named Trump whose hobby was repairing bicycles and he good-naturedly helped many youngsters who needed repairs to their bikes. His eyes twinkled when he recounted going with other youngsters to the back of the New Inn (now the Thirsty Farmer) to have glasses of cider from the two sisters who ran the pub.

The temptation of scrumping apples from the orchards could be resisted as they were cider-making apples but drinking the cider was an exciting escapade. In the Twenties and Thirties there were few young people of similar age, but the few gathered, from time to time by the pond on the far side of the Strete Raleigh Estate and spent their time evading the gamekeeper much to his disgust.

Cliff Benton

FENITON BOWLING CLUB

With the new season imminent, we would welcome hearing from anyone interested in joining us , whether ladies or gentlemen of any age, novices or experienced bowlers. Initial costs and fees are minimal ; bowls are available to borrow and the first Annual Subscription is FREE to new bowlers or people recently moved into the area. We have an excellent bowling green and clubhouse in a beautiful setting and a friendly band of members to welcome you.

interested? Phone our General Secretary Peter Goodsell (851259) or me - Richard North (Chairman)(813049)

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LAUNCH OF NEW GREEN WEBSITE

DEVONS schools are now able to access a new website aimed at boosting childrens knowledge of the environment and improving their health.

The new website has been developed by Devon County Council's education advisers and the Centre for Energy and the Environment at the University of Exeter:-

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/cee/better>

is now available. It offers a number of classroom activities which they can use to integrate transport and the environment with the National Curriculum.

Children (and adults) can learn how to navigate around a website, extract information from it, carry out a travel survey, calculate the pollution their travel to school produces and investigate ways of reducing pollution from the school run.

The Harbinger of Spring

Readers of Whimple News will have been eagerly scouring the pages of this magazine for the first report of the signs of spring in Whimple, as reported last year when Alex the postman was spotted wearing his shorts in March. I can now report the first sighting in 2001, when those legs were displayed on 14 February - another fine example of increased Post Office efficiency to combine the announcement of spring AND Valentine's Day. I have to report that it is not a permanent change of dress due to the frost and snow that followed!

ED H

Fund raising

For the community - by the community

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has attended the charity events held at the Thirsty Farmer which so far have raised over £700 for local charities. On Comic Relief night the total raised was £220. Well done to everyone concerned!

Q & A

Q. If you buy five pounds of apples, averaging three to the pound, how many can you put into an empty bag, which will carry two and a third pounds before bursting.

A. Just one, after that the bag is no longer empty.

Q. Who played for both England and France on the same afternoon at Wembley Stadium.

A. The Band - they played both national anthems

Q. What can be found in the centre of Paris, but not in either London or Milan.

A. The letter 'R'

Q. What do you get if you divide 40 by a half and add 10 to the result.

A. 90 40 divide by a half = 80, add 10 = 90

HAPPY EASTER!

Do you ever feel you would rather not watch the news or read a newspaper? Some days there seems to be enough to trouble in the world to make us despair.

The Easter message is the answer to this. It says that God came into the real world in Jesus to meet trouble and evil head-on. He broke the power of evil when He died, as we remember on Good Friday, and bore away the pain of the troubles which afflict us. And there is a new life to be found now, as Jesus came alive again. These are historical facts. The evidence is the Christian faith, found throughout the world.

There was once a clever Frenchman who was dissatisfied with all the religions he had read about. He decided to start a brand new religion, and he published a lot of articles putting forward his religious ideas as superior to Christianity.

After a while he became discouraged - nobody seemed to respond. He went for advice to a friend of his, who was a politician and also a bishop, named Talleyrand.

It is certainly difficult to start a religion, said Talleyrand sympathetically. The only advice I can give you is to get yourself crucified, and after three days to come back from the dead.

Easter is not a matter of pious wishes or hopeful dreams, but about facts which mean wonderful possibilities for us.

In particular it means we know that death, real as it is, does not have the last word. We can start a new life here and now which goes on beyond the grave. A new life that is strong enough to face the worst the world can bring against us.

Geoff Gardner

Whimble Primary School PTFA

Whimble Primary School PTFA held a Christmas Auction on 8th December last year to raise funds for the lease of two computers for the coming year and to purchase a mobile overhead projector.

The evening was a resounding success with incredible generosity from our local businesses who donated an abundance of wonderful Lots for auction. In addition to the Lots and Promises from those of us directly involved with the school, we did in fact, receive donations from all over the country!

Attendance of the event was excellent, with support from every quarter of the village. The Auctioneer, David Williams kept the atmosphere jovial with well timed jokes throughout the bidding. Bidders had a choice of fantastic Lots, such as home-made Christmas Cakes, Horse Rides, computer software, meals at the best pubs and restaurants in Devon, cider, bottles of wine, whisky, hampers, enormous sacks of potatoes, umbrellas, famous Artist Prints, a chauffeur driven ride in a Rolls Royce, theatre tickets, cuddly toys, cheese and much, much, more. It was very exciting, interactive, and tremendous fun...how often can you say that about a night out?

From the proceeds of the Auction, the School has since ordered the computers and purchased the overhead projector.

A very **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone, either by letting us have a Lot or Promise for the auction, or by turning up to bid.

Cheryl Shayler

Village Week Flower Festival

This years title is 'Alphabetically Floral' - a bit of a mouthful but it should be fun.

The actual dates are Fri 13 July (ooh!) until Sun 15 July. Anyone interested in taking part, who is not already doing something, can contact me on 822674 by the end of April.

Hope you all enjoy our efforts.

Paulette Weeks

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Whimble Cricket Club

Forthcoming Social Events

Friday 6th April Bingo Eyes down 7.30pm

Friday 20th April Quiz Night 7.30pm

(£5 per team, maximum of four people per team)

CRICKET

Preseason Nets have been arranged at Clyst Vale Sports Hall on the following dates

Colts Nets - Sunday 1 April, Sunday 8 April, Sunday 22 April, Sunday 29 April from 10.00am to 11.00am

Adults Nets - Sunday 8 April, Sunday 22 April from 11.00am to 12.00noon

Existing and new members all welcome to attend.

League Fixtures in Devon Cricket League D division (East)

Saturday 5 May 1st XI vs Woodbury

Saturday 12 May 2nd XI vs Cullompton

Saturday 19th May 1st XI vs Kentisbeare

Saturday 2nd June 1st XI vs Kilmington

Any new members, either playing or social will be made most welcome
(Play membership £25, Social membership £1)

RJ Smith (Chairman) - 822244

WHIMBLE TENNIS CLUB

Time to get the tennis racquet out again!

Membership fees are the same as last year:

Senior £18

Junior (under 18) £10

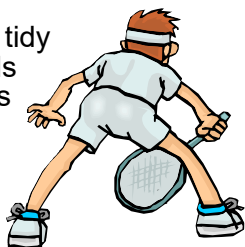
Family £40

Subs for the year are due now, and you can get a 10% discount if you pay before 31st May.

Club nights will be on Thursdays from 7.00pm, beginning in May.

On Thursday, May 3rd, there's a **Working Party** to tidy up the court surrounds - please come with some tools like secateurs, shears and spades - also tennis racquets. From 7.00pm

A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday, 24th April at 7.30pm at 33 Slewton Close. All welcome.



As in previous years a House-to-House Collection will be held on behalf of this charity in the village in the spring this year, during the week commencing April 9th, Exeter will have a collection on the 23rd, so if you are visiting the city on that day it would be a good idea to wear your sticker to avoid feeling you should buy another.

If you would like to help with our village collection, which would be much appreciated, please ring 822150 to arrange a patch.

Elsbeth Robertson





Ottery St. Mary Hospital League of Friends

The first fundraising event this year will be the
Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

at Woodhayes, Brackendown, off Higher Broad Oak Rd. West Hill
the home of Mr and Mrs Graham Murrin

on Thursday April 26th from 10.30 - 12.00

This is always a very popular event, especially for gardeners looking for
interesting plants at the beginning of the season. There will be a Cake
Bring and Buy and offers of cakes will be greatly appreciated.

All the proceeds will go to the League of Friends.

Myrtle Dockings 822667

Whimble News

UPDATE FOR ALL ADVERTISERS

As I am sure you are aware, we are approaching the end of another year
for Whimble News and therefore subscriptions for adverts will be due
shortly. Rates are to be kept at the same level as last year i.e:

Full page @ £60
Half page @ £40
Quarter page @ £25

This will cover editions from August 2001 to June 2002 inclusive.
In order to make the administration as straightforward as possible (for
the team of volunteers who produce the News), could all advertisers
decide if they will renew their adverts for the coming year, and also
review whether any changes need to be made to these adverts - e.g
wording or design/layout.

Thank you for your continued support and we will be in touch soon for
the above information.

WHIMBLE PLAY GROUP

Whimble pre-school playgroup continues to thrive with virtually
all available places taken up until July this year. The term's topic
is animals and their off spring. We had planned visits to an
ostrich farm and a local sheep farm but these have been
postponed due to the foot and mouth outbreak.

This will be the first spring of our outside classroom garden paid
for by the 'Awards for All' lottery grant. The children will be
learning all about preparing the ground, sowing seeds, watching
them grow, nurturing and caring for them and eventually to the
harvesting, cooking and eating of their produce. All this adds
another dimension to our learning through play approach.

We are pleased to have our President Auntie Ruth Brown back
and mobile. We thank her for her continued support and interest
and look forward to her regular visits, although we may draw the
line at playing football with the children for a while!

As the playgroup is so popular we would stress the importance
of registering your child as early as possible to be assured of a
place. Even if they are only a few months old, please complete a
registration form so that we can plan ahead to cater for the
increasing numbers.

Forms available from playgroup or
telephone 823265

Sarah Griffin



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**ST MARY'S CHURCH
WHIMPLE**

We'd love to welcome you at our

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

PALM SUNDAY, 8TH APRIL
11am Holy Communion

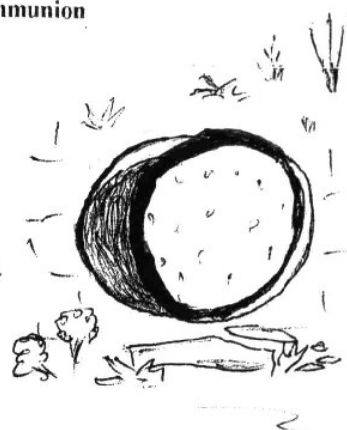
MAUNDY THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL
7.30pm Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY, 13TH APRIL
2 - 3pm Devotional Service at St James, Talaton

EASTER SUNDAY 15TH APRIL
8am Holy Communion
11am Family Service of Holy Communion



*God loved us so much that He gave
His only Son to die for us.
God loves us so much that He raised
His Son to life so that we might live in Him.
Jesus died. Jesus lives.
Good News for us at Easter.*



WHIMPLE WI NEWS

On a frosty evening on the 12th February, many members of Whimble WI had a very pleasant meal together at the Tumbling Weir Hotel in Ottery St Mary. The surroundings were warm and cosy and the food excellent. Many thanks to those that organised this, and the hotel staff who prepared and served it.

On the following Tuesday, a talk on Fountain Pens was given by Mrs Sue Courtier, who explained how her hobby became a business. She opened our eyes to the differences between pens and we exclaimed as we recognised the pens we had used at school, now worth £30! She showed us photographs of pens as works of art, now being sold for huge prices - £100,000. Collecting pens in the USA is very popular and it is from there that she obtains spares to refurbish those that are brought to her. She was warmly thanked.

There will be an Easter Fair held in the Village Hall on 7th April. It will be combined with an exhibition of members work

H.O

FRED AND PAT FOWLE IN AUSTRALIA

Since arriving in Australia, Fred and Pat have been catching up with all their relatives in and around Perth. They have seen their grand-daughter (Natalie) get married at the end of January and Fred had the proud job of giving her away. He has taken up fishing again but in the warm sunshine, and it appears that retirement and this sunshine have helped Fred to relax, take things easy and just 'go with the flow'. Graham reports that Fred is sounding a lot more relaxed and fitter when they phone back to Devon, which is great news. At the time of writing they are visiting Melbourne and Sydney, and then plan to visit New Zealand for two weeks. Sounds awful!!!!!!



Coleridge Medical Centre

Volunteer Help Scheme.

A committee meeting of the League of Friends was recently convened at short notice to discuss the growing crisis of funding of the Volunteer Help Scheme based at the Coleridge Medical Centre.

The Scheme, which was started in 1992, was immensely successful from the outset, and has become a much valued service to the community. This very success has brought about year by year increases in the running costs. The Scheme is organised by a full-time coordinator, Mrs. Pat Lane, and, because of the increased work-load, it has become necessary to appoint a part-time assistant.

Until this year the increases in the running costs have been offset by several large grants, contracts or donations, in addition to the League of Friends fund-raising and patients contributions to transport costs. The National Association of the League of Friends gave generous support for a time, and money was also received from a London Charity, but this has now ceased. Social Services and Hospiscare have continued their financial support.

It is now apparent that the Exeter Hospice is in serious financial straits, and that from April 1st the £7,000 given to the Help Scheme as a contribution to the co-ordinators salary will be withdrawn.

During the next financial year the League of Friends will have to find a further £12,000 if the Help Scheme is to continue in its present form.

The committee discussed the various options, ranging from reducing the work of the Help Scheme to match the current level of income or dipping into the Leagues reserves to replace what was previously supplied by Hospiscare.

It was agreed that the Help Scheme, through its volunteers, probably helps more vulnerable people in the community than any other organisation.

Apart from transport to the hospital, the Medical Centre or the Hospice, support is also given to anyone who is sick, disabled, housebound, lonely or in any way in need. A number of the volunteers are also volunteers for Hospiscare. They work with the Hospice nurse to help and support the terminally ill and the bereaved. Two Bereavement groups have been set up and are much valued by their members. Support is also given to carers and young families when in difficulties.

The doctors, and all those involved with the Primary Health Care Team, have stressed their appreciation of the Scheme, and have stated that they would find it hard to manage without it. After addressing all these issues, the committee agreed to use its funds to enable the Help Scheme to continue in its present form.

It was reported that one member of the community was so horrified at the thought of the Help Scheme having to reduce its workload, that he pledged £500 to the funds and is seeking another thirteen people to do same in order to replace the income previously coming from Hospiscare.

If you require any further information about The Help Scheme, or if you feel able to assist in fund-raising in any way, please contact one of the people named below.

Telephone contacts.

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