

Whimble News



April/May 2022

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DRINKS 12-10pm

Normal menu available WED-SAT 12-2.30pm/5.30 - 9pm SUN 12-6pm

Band night, last Friday of the month from 9pm

April - New Heroes

May - Static Charge

Sal (not Ed) the Ed

At last, Spring is in the air and the village is full of colour again! It seems a long time coming...

It's great that plans can now be made for more outside, as well as inside, events, and this issue is full of possibilities for your diary. Even our wonderful Village Week is beginning to take shape, and Front Row is back, at last.

Of course, the closest to my heart is the chance to see the Panto Dames in full flight again outside The Thirsty Farmer on July 2nd. Oh, the drama, bitching and attempted cheating - all back for our enjoyment. RuPaul's Drag Race has nothing on Whimble. If you would like to be a Dame, or help with the event, do contact Cathy B-H in good time (details on page 15).

Another chance to get involved this Spring is by entering a favourite photo to the 'Anything from Whimble Parish' competition, which might feature in a calendar being produced in aid of the Hall. (*The Wonders Of Whimble and Man Calendars have done their bit, so keep it clean!*).

I really am enjoying Sarah's interviews with local, inspirational folk. This time it is Ann Daniels who, despite rarely managing to venture out in a matching pair of shoes, got herself to the North and South Poles! (*Plus loads more, of course, Ann x*). See page 26.

Big thanks to all involved in The Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, which you should all have received through your letterbox. The recent changes to the Cranbrook Expansion Plan is another worry for Whimble, so the Plan is absolutely vital.

Still on the subject of planning, the news that the appeal regarding The New Fountain Inn development, (to the Secretary of State Inspectorate), has been dismissed is good news for those who have supported the SWNF Group, and campaigned for it's preservation. Sometimes it felt like a David and Goliath battle, but it does show that these daunting issues can be taken on if people pull together.

On a more serious note - as I write, the war in Ukraine is raging and Our Rev Marc has written about it extensively in this issue. Heartbreaking, but many local people have donated, taken aid directly to the border, arranged small tributes and even offered to give a refugee a home and shelter, which is so lovely.

We are being reminded every day how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful, peaceful part of the world, and what a great community we have here.

Enjoy the Spring weather and do send us any articles you would like to share. They can be sent by email to Bob on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk by 10th May.

Sal x

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Whimble What's On

April

12th Whimble WI, 2.00pm at the Hub – Talk by John Lowe

18th Cricket Club open day - page 30 for full details

23rd WI/Hospiscare Coffee Morning, 10.00am - noon in the Victory Hall

25th&26th Talaton, A War Time Refuge 8.00pm at Cotley Farm

28th - 30th Talaton, A War Time Refuge 8.00pm at Cotley Farm - page 32

29th History Society Talk Victory Hall 7.30pm Neil Littleales on Demystifying DNA

May

14th Whimble Gardening Club, Plant Sale 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the Victory Hall

15th Whimble Gardening Club, Trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan - page 51

15th-21st Christian Aid Week - page 34

23rd WI/Hospiscare coffee morning 10am to 12 noon, Victory Hall

June

5th Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea on Sunday 5th June, 1.30 - 5.00pm

11th Whimble Gardening Club, Trip to Abbotsbury Gardens and Swannery

Saturday Morning Coffee and Cake is starting again soon!



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This is our second Whimple News article since taking over Whimple Stores and I am glad to say that we have now settled in and found the “rhythm” needed to successfully operate and maintain a village store and Post Office.

Since the last article, we have modified the opening hours of the Post Office and have started to reduce the breadth of PO transactions that we will cover. It is essential that our staff are able to run the Post Office counter with confidence and that means focusing on the broad repeating range of transactions. and removing transactions that require a disproportionate amount of time or are complex, infrequent or require a high level of expertise.

Most of the Post Office customers have adapted well to the revised hours with just a few disappointments, mainly due to not being able to process parcels early morning or late evening. To help this, if you have a prepaid parcel, you can leave this anytime with the shop staff along with your name and we will process it later and hold onto the receipt until the next time you are in. If you have a QR Code for printing a label for a parcel return, just forward the QR code (if possible) to:

whimplestores@rmcommerce.biz

along with your name and drop the parcel (also with your name) to the shop staff. We will then process the parcel when the Post Office is open and hold the receipt for you next time you are in.

We also support ‘Drop and Go if you a regular parcel sender. This allows you to bring in your parcels along with your account card anytime the shop is open and leave them with us for processing. Ask in the shop for more information if you are interested in this.

While our staff are learning the intricacies of the Post Office, please be patient with them. If they ask you to come back when the right level of expertise is available, this will be because we do not want to make mistakes that could cause a financial loss.

Our regular shoppers will have noticed that we are introducing new foods and additional ranges of cheeses, dips and other delicatessen items. New favourites are the Sharpham Rustic Cheese and Baba Ganoush. We are also making sure that we have stock to cater for key calendar events such as Valentines Day, Pancake Day, Mothers Day and of course, Easter. Wherever possible, we source food locally. If you feel we are not stocking things that you like, please let us know.

Our milk provider, Sutton Lucy had some equipment failure which stopped their production and we had to find temporary new providers. We wish Sutton Lucy a speedy recovery on their equipment.

We are planning to make a few changes to the layout of the shop over the Easter weekend.

These changes will create more space at the rear of the shop by moving the fridges and freezers which in turn will allow us to open up a space at the front of the shop for tables and chairs where our customers can enjoy a sit down with coffee and cake or tea and scones. We think that Whimble needs a communal space where friends can stop and chat and we hope that the front corner of the shop will provide that communal space.

To help with the changes, we are purchasing a new coffee machine and new metal shop racking. The pine dresser and bookshelves in the centre of the shop will be put up for sale or donated to RIO.

The new layout of the shop will also allow for easier browsing and the new racking will help us improve the range of products offered.

Our opening times for the shop over the Easter weekend will be 09:00 to 12:00 Friday, Saturday and Monday with the Post Office open only on Saturday as it is closed on Public Holiday days. Customers for Sunday newspapers will be able to collect them from the shop entrance but the rest of the shop will be closed all day for the improvements. We hope you will enjoy the new layout.

Finally, we say goodbye to Lynn Window who left us in February. Lynn has worked at Whimble Stores since 2016 and is now hopefully enjoying the additional time with her family and pets.

Rory, Sharon, Sabrina and Team

Rory, Sharon and Sabrina



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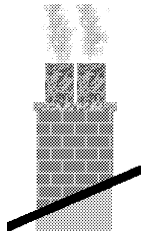
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We have Great News!! The Planning Inspectorate has dismissed the appeal and planning permission is refused on the proposed New Fountain Inn development. The decision was published on March 3rd.

A brilliant result for everyone who has fought to retain the pub and car park. The Inspector was very thorough and diligent.

As far as we understand it, an appeal can be taken to the High Court, or an amended planning application can be submitted, but it would have to be substantially different, plus approval for the development of the car park is unlikely to be granted.

The key point before any future planning application could be submitted, is that the pub would need to be marketed for at least 12 months and then be proven to have failed.

Let's hope the owner is now open to speaking to the group in terms of a Community purchase, or that another buyer can be found.

Thanks to all of you for your amazing support. We wouldn't have got this far without the village being so passionate about preserving The Fountain.

We would also like to thank Marc and Donna and their amazing team for continuing to provide Whimble with such a fantastic pub in the Thirsty Farmer, and all their hard work getting it back up and running after an awful two years for them.

We now await the next development as this goes to press.

Onwards and upwards!

Save Whimble's New Fountain Group

Claire Podbury

We, the family of Claire Podbury, wish to thank everyone for their love and support at this time. Claire's service took place on the 11th of February, St Marys Church Ottery St Mary.

We managed to raise over £5000 for The Quiet Mind Centre and The Wave Project - Two charities that are close to the family's hearts.



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Exciting Photo Competition!

Exciting News! Calling all budding photographers, young and old. The Friends of the Whimble Victory Hall are launching a Photographic Competition with the topic - 'Anything from Whimble Parish' (remember the parish is a huge and diverse area, it's not just the village).

Entries are welcome from all ages, children and adults. EVERY entry will be displayed at The Victory Hall during Village Week 2nd - 10th July. Afterwards judging will take place and the best photographs will be included in a special 2023 Whimble Calendar, to go on sale towards the end of the year. All proceeds will go towards the Victory Hall.

Other prizes will be up for grabs too, with more details to follow. Entry forms will be available in April.

So, grab your phones and cameras. Sort through your photographs from lockdown. Get out into the parish and start snapping. - flora & fauna, activities, the weather, local interests, sports, people, your garden, creatures whatever you think gives a glimpse of Whimble

Look out for further details regarding entry forms, dates and details in the next Whimble News.



Whimble Residents pay tribute to Ukraine

A small group of us gathered in Whiteway Close one Sunday in March to show support for those caught up in the awful human suffering in Ukraine.

Richard and Julia Green kindly brought a speaker and the Ukrainian national anthem was played, which was very powerful and moving.

We then held a minute's silence and laid yellow and blue flowers on the bench.



We can only hope that a ceasefire has been declared by the time this is printed

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PANTO DAME RACING 'RIDES AGAIN'!!

Hosted by The Thirsty Farmer



Hello all

Well Winter is slowly having its butt kicked by Spring and the smiles have begun to return to people's faces. We are noticing the lively Dawn Chorus from the birds who are turning their thoughts to nest building.

The Whimbletons have started turning their thoughts to the summer and making the most of being able to get out and about more, so by popular demand we are bringing back Panto Dame Racing.

The beautiful dames will be strutting their stuff, jostling for pole position on the starting line ready to cause mayhem and merriment on the 2nd July outside the Thirsty Farmer.

Thank you to Marc and Donna for being brave enough to allow the dames to run rampant. I can promise you all it will be so much fun.

Perhaps you see yourself as a Panto Dame who can rise to the challenge or you would like to help behind the scenes with make up or set up. Please let me know.

More details will follow shortly so watch this space.

Are you excited? I know we are!

Put the date in your diary and come along for fun frolics food and drinks.

See you all there.

Cathy Bartlett-Horwood 07400 085121



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Whimble History Society



Spring Update: The daffodils are waving cheerily in the lanes and buds are appearing on the trees signalling that it will soon be time to think about opening the Heritage Centre after its winter sleep – and this year I sincerely hope we will succeed!

We now have a curating team to work on our displays so look out for the Nudiknits, something for the Jubilee and a new display on the Tithe Map recently found in the Heritage Centre.

Hopefully some of you were able to attend the AGM on Friday 25th March when there was a talk introducing the Tithe Map and what it can tell us about the village in 1850.

The next talk on Friday the 29th April will be at the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm and will be by Neil Littleales on the subject of Demystifying DNA. He explains the power of DNA, how this works and how it has revolutionised genealogy, enabling the discovery of long-lost relatives – for good or ill!

Once summer gets well underway, we hope to restart the Village Walks so keep an eye out for advertisements on WWO or the next Whimble News.

As a committee, we were pleased to hear that Planning Permission for 3 houses at the new Fountain site has been rejected, partly because the impact on the Heritage Centre would have been significant. The Inspector did visit the Heritage Centre and although it was not in her brief to speak to anyone, we like to think she was impressed by what she saw and included those thoughts in her decision. Well done to all those in the New Fountain Group who made such an effort on behalf of the village.

Thank you to those in the village who have offered to be part of the curating team. We now need to ask for volunteers to help with stewarding at the Centre once it opens on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Nothing too onerous – if you'd like to know more, please contact info@whimble.org or talk to anyone on the committee.

Louise Walmsley



WHIMPLE CHURCH

<http://churches4all.org/>

Hello my friends,

I do not usually do politics, from the pulpit or elsewhere but some events in history require a response and today seems like one of those. If you are easily offended by vicars spouting off about things, you might want to read no further.

One of the routine accusations levelled at those of any faith community is that religions have been responsible for all wars. For any serious student of either history or sociology this is nonsense of course and just a few minutes looking into the facts easily dispels the myth.

One reason is, of course, that religion isn't a thing, just like the church isn't a thing, it is a group of people who share an idea. Things, that is organisations, be it businesses, the police, the government or the church don't do anything, it is the people who either run the thing or work for the thing who commit acts, be they good or bad. It is people who make the rules and act them out.

This is why I do not believe in institutional racism, to me the idea that organisations are in some way racist is just a cop out to excuse the often-shabby behaviour of individuals either in behaving in shameful ways or turning a blind eye to that behaviour.

Fortunately, although we are all capable of behaving badly there are very few completely bad people. However, the frightening thing is most of us have developed the habit of turning a blind eye to bad behaviour no matter who is the source, Whether it is the petty acts of anti-social behaviour we see around us every day, to racism, sexism or their colleagues in bigotry, to corruption in politics, to the big picture stuff of tyranny.

Sometimes we turn a blind eye because the wrongdoing on the one hand is balanced by an offer of benefit on the other: like Putin's cronies or a corrupt government which offers lower taxes.

Whatever the reason, we all know that it is wrong but we all do it. So as philosopher and economist John Stuart Mill famously once said 'All that is required for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing'. It is a lot easier to do nothing when we personally do not seem to be affected by those actions. It also allows us to condemn the actions and feel like one of the 'good guys' without actually having to do anything, except perhaps change our Facebook status for a few days. But every now and then those chickens come home to roost.

Enter President Putin.

In 2006 Alexander Litvinenko, an ex-Russian intelligence officer who defected, was poisoned in London. He died weeks later after drinking tea laced with polonium. In 2010, authorities blamed the poisoning on Russian intelligence agents acting on orders from President Putin

In 2008 Russia invaded Georgia on the orders of President Putin

In 2014 Russia seized the Crimea on the orders of President Putin

In 2018 agents poisoned Sergei Skripal, a former Russian military officer and double agent who had been jailed by Russia but released as part of a spy swap, and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury, England. While both targets survived, a British woman who encountered the poison after it had been disposed of, subsequently died. All of this happened on the orders of President Putin.

He has also fought proxy wars and shored up tyrants across the world, attempted to murder political opponents, arrested journalists and ruthlessly crushed protests.

None of this was done in secret, all of it was widely reported, much hand wringing taking place in the media and grand statements quickly forgotten. And all the while the west did close to nothing, of course there were sanctions and tough talking, but nothing of consequence.

And while all this went on governments around the world continued to cosy up to Putin and his cronies for the sake of financial expedience. Germany shifted most of its energy supplies into Russian hands, allowing it to raise billions of roubles (some of which will no doubt have paid for bullets and bombs which are currently being used), one of America's previous presidents even praised the man, and his malign influence was allowed to spread and businesses rushed to buy stakes in profitable Russian companies all paying their share of graft to the gangsters of Moscow.

Meanwhile Russian dirty money found its way in billions into London and into our own political system, money stolen from the Russian people, syphoned off by President Putin's cronies who bought visa's, houses, football teams, business, and respectability in our country. Whilst also buying political power and influence and the turning of a blind eye from ALL of our political parties for decades.

Despite the tyrannical behaviour of its leaders Russia was allowed to assume the cloak of international respectability, today it sits on international political bodies and hosts international sporting events particularly those where it's money buys favour.

Why does it happen?

Because it is just easier than taking a stand, because doing something meaningful costs, and these problems usually all seem so far away.

And then President Putin, following months of lies, ordered the invasion of Ukraine, the second largest country in Europe. And suddenly history seemed to be in danger of repeating itself.

Last week I was in Scotland with the family and, on the day the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine flashed across the world, I was out playing snowballs with our boys in a glen in the Scottish Highlands.

As I sat with my boys watching the tv I was struck by a frightening thought: I wondered if this was how fathers with sons had felt when the news of the invasion of Poland had flashed around the world on the radio on the 1st September 1939, the awful realisation of where this could end up and the cost to families across not just our country but the world. How obvious the path to all this seemed now, how had we missed it?

And then a second, more awful thought.

Would I have been so upset if this war was in Africa or Asia. What if this was not a white, western European country only a few hours flight from London? It is easy to rationalise people dying a long way off, isn't it? It is even easier if they are a different colour or speak a different language.

Now across Europe and beyond there is quite rightly a growing sense of outrage at war in the heart of Europe but why is it any different to war and brutality anywhere else? It is no more tyrannical than his previous atrocities and no war brought about by greed and selfishness in the west is more egregious than the actions of any other tyrant just because it happens to be on our doorstep.

And how long will our sense of outrage last? The sanctions already imposed will eventually inflict damage to Russia, although it will be the people not Putin and his chums who will suffer the most, but they will also bite here and in Europe. I can almost imagine the cost/benefit analyses conversations in governments now: "if we stop buying their gas will it inflict serious damage on their military machine?" "Yes, but it will also really damage our economy which might threaten our chance of re-election!". I read with incredulity of the Italian government's efforts to have luxury goods excluded from the sanctions being imposed, because it was OK to stop the oligarchs buying property but an embargo on Gucci or Armani seemed a step too far if it impacted their powerful business interests! And it isn't just politicians: on social media I have already seen support flowing for one of Putin's most ardent cronies because he happened to have changed the fortunes of a premier league football club he bought, it doesn't seem to factor that the funds used to manage this were stained with funds stolen from the Russian people.

So far, the UK government seems to have started well with the severity of the sanctions but how long will our resolve hold when that translates into pounds out of our pockets, possible fuel shortages or prices rises? Like Russia it will be the poorest in our society hit hardest, will those of us who are better off be willing to subsidise them? How willing are our politicians to give up the lucrative fees paid by Russian lobbying firms and how willing are we to hold them to that? Would we rather vote for a government who promises to safeguard low taxes or who vows to wipe out corruption at the heart of Westminster? How little will Putin have to concede to get back into the good graces of the western financial systems, how much is Ukraine worth in dollars and pounds?

Will we have the stomach for the fight, to suck up the economic pain this battle is really going to take? Will we have the will to vote with our conscience rather than our self-interest to force our politicians to sever ties with dirty Russian money, to make London a hostile place for buddies of Putin, and their cronies, to use the power of the mighty London financial machine to chase that dirty money stolen

from the Russian people wherever it goes and declare Putin what he is: ' a war criminal'?

And then, will we afford the same courage and tenacity in fighting the other tyrants of the world, no matter the location, colour or faith of those they victimise as we finally come to realise one of the things we should all share is our worth: because no country or individual is less worthy because of its geography or ethnicity of the same basic protections and freedoms we would expect for ourselves and those we love?

God bless. **Rev Marc.**

Whimble Parish Council

Whimble Parish Council have had a very busy year welcoming myself as the new Clerk and two new Councillors Mrs Emma Wills and Mrs Sarah Johnson. It's a completely new role for me and it is an incredibly varied role so I feel like I am still learning all the time. I'd like to thank all the Councillors for all their support and also Kevin Finch the previous clerk who is still so helpful if I never need to call upon him. There are still two Councillor posts available should anyone like more information about becoming a councillor please email:

whimbleparishcouncil@gmail.com

The Parish Council and the POWR Group along with some other residents have been working extremely hard on the Neighbourhood Plan and have made great strides to getting a plan in place for the village. The Parish Council would like to thank all of the volunteers involved in working on the Neighbourhood Plan. The new Questionnaire is now available for all residents to complete and return. The Neighbourhood Planning Team requests that all residents complete the questionnaire, there are many ways to complete and return - online questionnaire, fill out paper copy post it to Whimble Parish Council PO BOX 900 Exeter EX3 9BW, fill out paper copy and call Whimble Parish Council on 01404 812570 for the questionnaire to be collected, fill out paper copy and return it to a box at any of these locations Village Stores, The Thirsty Farmer, Victory Hall or the Hairdressers.

The Pump Track has been a great success for the village and seems to be enjoyed by all ages. The Parish Council are working with the Cricket Club and Football Club to try and ensure that any of the parking issues for the Pump Track are resolved.

The Parish Council have started the process of building a new website with Vision ICT to ensure that it meets all the Basic Accessibility requirements and look forward to the village being able to use it soon for any information regarding the Parish Council.

Claire Rayner, Whimble Parish Council Clerk, 01404 812570

<http://whimbleparishcouncil.weebly.com>

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Whimble Victory Hall

I am pleased to announce the **Friends of the Victory Hall** will be hosting a community **Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea on Sunday 5th June**, 1.30pm until 5pm.

We plan to utilise the carpark and garden as well as the facilities inside the hall to make the day a special community celebration. Julia Green and her singers will entertain us with songs from the 1950s onwards and for the children there will be a fun, crown making and decorating table - we may even have a throne to sit on.

Pimms and Ice creams will be on offer, for which there will be a small charge, but tea, coffee, cakes and savouries will be free. Please come along, spend time with friends and make the Queen's Platinum Jubilee something to remember.

If you can spare some time to help on the day or make a cake or a plate of sandwiches please let me know:

Sue Ayres, 823082 or email sueayres1@btinternet.com

If you would like to join the Friends of the Victory Hall group and help at future events email - victoryhall.friends@outlook.com. I would love to hear from you.

Many thanks, **Sue Ayres**, Chairman of Whimble Victory Hall.

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Just Ten Questions with Ann Daniels - Polar Explorer

Some of you may have previously been lucky enough to hear Ann Daniels talk about her Polar expeditions, but my interview, I'm sure' will still be an inspiration to all WN readers. Having been successfully chosen from over 250 women, Ann embarked on her first relay expedition to the Arctic in 1997 at the age of 31 years.

- 1. What made you go for that initial selection weekend in Dartmoor?** I was looking divorce right in the eye, I had my 18 month old triplets at home and I was in this world of difficulty. I saw the advert and thought this was something I could do. I wasn't actually thinking 'North Pole', but I felt I had to do something as I was drowning in my difficult situation. However, when I was at the selection I began to think WOW this could be a wonderful thing to do. We were given nine months to prepare for the next session. So I trained hard and was chosen - The only one not to have any experience, out of 250.
- 2. Did your childhood involve outdoor adventure?** No, I was brought up in Bradford. A usual city upbringing. We'd go to the local river occasionally in the summer, but nothing outward bound. When I went to the selection I couldn't ski, I wasn't fit and I'd never even had a rucksack on my back.
- 3. Talking of rucksacks, what is your kit list like for an expedition?** It's vital for your survival and your health, but you are pulling it all so you need to get the lightest kit that does the most work AND you have to be able to adapt it as well. For example, using skis & ski poles instead of tent poles. Everything is used for more than one purpose, and has to be repaired so a repair kit is essential. Everything freezes, so we have matchsticks taped around our Thermos flask so you can grip and open it, and you keep your toothpaste in your sleeping bag.
- 4. Where does your motivation come from, when experiencing such extreme conditions?** The first time it was all consuming as I was such a novice, but it's the same every time - I'm doing it for the team. That absolute desire that I have to do my best for the team. The first time was a relay and if we'd failed as the first group, none of the other teams would have got on the ice, so there was a huge reason not to give up. Also, it was the first time I'd been separated from my children, and I couldn't go back and say I'd given up. As the years have gone on, it's pretty much the same except more comes into play on a professional basis. I choose to be here and therefore I have to do my best.
- 5. You give many inspirational talks on leadership, what are the leadership skills that you recognise as crucial?** Real leadership is about your team not you. It really is about supporting your team, doing the best you can and enabling your team to perform. Because when they perform that's when you get success.
- 6. How important to you is the recognition of being the first female to achieve so many accolades?** Breaking into a man's world and paving the way for other women is important. Getting yourself there and working in equal terms, as a woman, is important. It's not about competing with men. We are all different and have different skills. So it's about being yourself and working hard.

7. I suppose that many of us imagine the Arctic and Antarctic as being white, cold, stark and bleak. Do you find any beauty there? They are two completely different environments. However, the Arctic is where my heart and soul lie. It is a moving layer of ice on a body of water. You get huge ridges which look like mountains, but they are just ice on top of ice, on top of ice. You see aquamarine blue where the ice may have sheared, there's white from the snow with the sun glinting on it. There's a sort of glitter that looks like a christmas card, black from the ocean, and a myriad of colours - pastels, muted and natural. It is breathtaking, it blew my mind the first time I saw it all. I'd never felt spiritual until I'd gone there. It's magnificent. I feel at one with the ocean and nature.

8. What changes have you seen first hand as you have returned with regards to global warming? Anecdotally, from 1997, on my first expedition, there was so much more ice, more ridges, and thicker ice. Over the years I've seen it disappear. When I did my 2002 trip we had to swim some of the journey. Scientifically, working with NASA I've drilled the depth of the ice and taken notation of all the ridges over five years, and it IS disappearing. Our water around the world is now changing, becoming more acidic with carbolic acid. It's affecting the very bottom of the food chain. Also, as the earth warms and the fresh ice caps on the land surrounding the Arctic Ocean melt, fresh water flows into the ocean and the salt levels are decreasing - causing tremendous damage to the eco system.

9. Do you have an important message for us? YES. All our oceans are connected. What happens in the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans, the very ends of our earth, affects how we ALL live - our climate, our weather, EVERYTHING. Also, how **we** live and what **we** do in our lives affects these Polar regions too. Very soon, the ARCTIC ice will disappear in the summer months, for the first time ever! On a positive note, mankind is waking up and we can make a huge difference and slow this down and we must. We have to. We just have to. I feel very passionately about this.



10. Finally, why Whimble? I was looking to be in this area, close to Dartmoor. Whimble was the one village that when I arrived I said '*This is the place I want to live, this is it, it's got the feel that I want.*' When I come back to Whimble it's home! I go to these extreme places and what you miss is stability, home, familiarity, and comfort from people. I know everyone here, it's a great village with a great community. I can get involved, join in and be a real person.

In Whimble, whoever you are, you are YOU.

I love it, it's fab.

*Ann at the North
Pole in 2002*

Sarah Thackeray

W.A.R.T.S

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Whimble Cricket Club

The club committee and membership were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Adrian 'Witts' Witton. Witts' contribution to Whimble Cricket Club was nothing short of extraordinary. He will be remembered as a popular and talented cricketer, having played and captained at all levels. He was a good friend to many club members, past and present, and was well known to local cricketers around the county.

Witts gave willingly of his time as a volunteer for any task that was required, but it was his work as groundsman for which he will be particularly remembered. It is no exaggeration to say that, under Witts' direction, Whimble has been one of the finest places to play recreational cricket regionally, if not nationally. The plaudits of visiting teams in local leagues, from further afield and at county level stand in acknowledgment of this.

We rely heavily on volunteer support for everything we do, but it is volunteers such as Witts to whom we are particularly indebted. His passion for the club and commitment of time and effort was without fuss or fanfare, and with no expectation of reward or recognition.

Witts will be sorely missed and we send our love and best wishes to Camilla, Luke, Fern, and all his family and friends. In due course, we will determine the most appropriate way to remember Witts' involvement at Whimble Cricket Club.

A busy season ahead

Fixture dates are all but confirmed for the forthcoming season and membership sign-up is now open for adult and junior playing and social members. All latest information is available on our website at www.whimblecc.co.uk where there will soon be a fixtures card to download. Our winter nets program for adults and juniors has been well underway for several weeks now, but there is still the chance to join as we prepare for the season.

Key Dates

- Club open day/junior sign-up: Monday 18th April (note: amended from Sunday 17th April)
- Youth training begins: 22nd April
- Sunday cricket begins: 24th April
- League cricket begins: 7th May
- All-Stars cricket begins: 27th May
- Under 11 girls softball training begins: TBC
- 12th Man music festival: 10th September
- Junior presentation night: 16th September
- End of season dinner: 15th October
- Fireworks night: 5th November

Volunteering and support

This will continue to be a key theme for the year. We need more volunteers to make the club sustainable. We are making a commitment to make sure all our volunteers feel well supported and trained. We want to ask for a small amount of time from a wider group, rather than a lot of time from a small group! We are conducting a skills survey and if you think you can support the club in any area we hope you will step forward. Again, more information on this can be found at www.whimblecc.co.uk.

James Woollam



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Talaton A War-Time Refuge



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About 'Talaton – A War-Time Refuge'

"Talaton – A War-Time Refuge" tells the true story of six of the twenty-three Polish Jewish children who were evacuated from Poland, on the Kindertransport, just before the out-break of World War Two and were 'homed' in Talaton. The play, written by Tom Samson, the company's director, is based upon extensive research, family archives and first-hand interviews with some of those whose stories are retold through the drama.

The story is obviously set against the backdrop of war-torn Europe but shows how, in a small Devon community, young lives could be transformed through understanding, care and, ultimately, love. In the words of one of the children homed in Talaton and recently interviewed for this production, "All of our lives were touched and changed forever by the kindness of poor, simple country folk who had little money for themselves but opened their homes to give us shelter, care, love and hope for the future."

This is the story of the Kindertransport children as it happened in Talaton. This story, in various ways, was to repeat itself throughout the country. It is a story where the 'first-hand experience' has almost been forgotten, leaving us with the dry historical details of those events. Through the words and writings of the survivors, the contributions of their families and the projection of archive photographs and documents during the performance, this ultimately uplifting story is brought back to life and once again made known. It is also a story that speaks to us today, as once again, as a country, we have to confront the issues concerned with vast numbers of refugees seeking sanctuary away from the horrors of their own homes. Copies of the play, which is historically accurate, will be available to purchase at the performance.

For this production we will be transforming the 'Christmas Barn' at Cotley Farm into an open, airy, enclosed theatrical venue. We will be bringing into the venue comfortable seating, major stage setting, lighting and sound as well as a projection system. There will be a licenced bar open from 7.30pm and during the interval.

About the theatre company

Community Theatre 4All was formed in September 2015 and draws its membership primarily from the villages of Talaton, Whimble and the surrounding area. The company gave its first performance, "Godspell", in St Mary's church Whimble in March 2016. Since this time the group has been highly active producing a wide range of work and performing in many different venues. "Godspell" was followed by an original piece called "In Remembrance of a Lost Generation". This play told the stories of the men whose lives are commemorated on the Talaton, Whimble and Escot First World War memorials. The play was performed in both Talaton and Whimble. Further work has included, amongst other productions, an open-air presentation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', a four-week tour of local village halls with an evening of comic Victorian Melodramas and, most recently, five performances of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', which was performed in St Mary's Church Whimble in March 2019 (just before the first 'lock down').



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022

The erosive concern that the circumstances of our lives could spiral out of control and that we could be very badly affected by Covid is an experience many had over the last 2+ years. For some, that has been the tragic reality. Alongside is evidence that people care deeply for their hurting neighbours and help in whatever practical ways they can, which really matters.

Last year in Whimple, when the pandemic was already 14 months old, something amazing happened. Villagers looked beyond their own troubles and gave very generously to support the work of Christian Aid across the world, helping families with far, far less than we have here. Over £1200 was given. **Thank you.**

Once again, between 15th – 21st May, Christian Aid envelopes will be delivered into nearly every home in the village by a team of volunteers. We all have the chance to reach out and together help to make permanent, life enhancing changes for the better. We can help families who - because of a combination of drought, famine, climate change, Covid and sometimes war - have had unimaginably tough lives. With the money donated Christian Aid can fix up water supplies, provide drought resistant seed and training on growing crops in a harsh climate. Your donation can make a huge positive difference.

Once again, we have the opportunity to bring our donation envelopes to Whimple Stores where the new manager, Sabrina, has kindly agreed to be the main collection point, just as Jenny and Mark did last year.

Thank you for digging deep, again.

Aubrey Curry and Mark Beedell

www.christianaid.org.uk



STOP PRESS!

Fully illustrated copies of the play, priced £10, will be available to purchase at the performances. This edition includes prints of archive photographs and documents that are projected during the performance. This is a limited print run but you can reserve your copy in advance by emailing Tom Samson at :- communitytheatre4all@yahoo.co.uk

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A Window on Whimble's Weather – January/February 2022

Welcome to the eighth weather summary compiled from Whimble's two weather stations, both surviving the February storms!

Data is aggregated from Slewton Crescent and Cobden Lane, and live streamed onto the internet:

Slewton Crescent Weather Station: <https://bit.ly/35qwR9K>

Cobden Lane Weather Station: <https://bit.ly/3bt3FTf>

Historical data sets are also available through the same links.

January – The exceptionally mild weather of the last few days of 2021 continued into 2022 with New Year's Day offering a pleasant 14.7°C. Night temperatures only started dipping below freezing from the 5th with the 21st being the coldest night at -5.4°C. There was 30% less rain than average (39mm as opposed to 60mm); the 8th being the wettest day with 11.4mm of rain. However, claims by the media of the sunniest UK January on record were not reflected in Whimble. Solar collection data collated over 10 years showed a very average January sunshine! Storms Malik and Corrie brought windy weather to Whimble in the last three days of January, with South Westerly gusts of over 40kph. Little did we know what February would bring!

February – For the first time since storms were named, the UK experienced three within one week! Dudley, Eunice and Franklin raged across the UK; with Eunice, whose development was an example of *explosive cyclogenesis*, being the most destructive since the "Great Storm" of 1987. The Met office issued red weather warnings for wind, throughout the South West. Whilst Whimble avoided the worst of the wind, some local damage was inflicted, with trees down in a number of places including Holly Ball lane and Cobden lane. Sustained South Westerly winds of 58.7kph were recorded at the Cobden lane weather station on the 18th, with gusts of over 73kph! Rainfall was a little above average, with the 13th being the wettest when 30% (15mm) of the month's rain was recorded in one day. February was warmer than usual with an average daily high temperature of 11.4°C as opposed to 9°C. Sunshine was slightly below average.

2022	January	Date	February	Date
Warmest Day	14.7 °C	01/01/2022	15.1 °C	16/02/2022
Coolest Night	-5.4 °C	21/01/2022	-3.5 °C	11/02/2022
Windiest 24hrs	33.5 km/h	31/01/2022	58.7 km/h	18/02/2022
Wettest 24hrs	11.4 mm	08/01/2022	15.0 mm	13/02/2022
Av. Maximum	9.6 °C	N/A	11.4 °C	N/A
Av. Minimum	1.5 °C	N/A	3.6 °C	N/A
Total Rain	38.9 mm	N/A	50.0 mm	N/A
Total Sunshine	37.7 kWh/kW	100.3% of Av.	52.6 kWh/kW	99.6% of Av.

Note: Wind data is from Cobden Lane, while other data is from Slewton Crescent.

Phil Dominy & David Brewer. Please send any comments or questions to dominypr@hotmail.com



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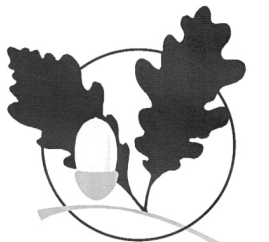
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When one sees the disaster that is being inflicted on the people of Ukraine, nothing else seems to matter. This has been caused by an immoral and callous Russian President that places no value on the human suffering he is causing. We hope that when the parish magazine has been printed this senseless violence will be replaced by diplomacy and peace. Let's make Whimple a yellow and blue village, to show that in one small part of England we stand in solidarity with the Ukraine President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In many situations in life's rich path it's sometimes easy to give up, when one experiences a task which seems insurmountable. What can be done by one individual or one small group against powerful corporations, service providers or public bodies?

New Fountain Inn

When a planning application was submitted for the New Fountain to turn the pub into residential usage, leaving just one, unviable, room, to pretend the pub was not being closed. Then adding insult to injury, by wanting a terrace of three, singularly unattractive and out of character houses in the pub car park, all within the conservation area. This was totally unacceptable to scores of villagers and a small core group was formed to create 'Save Whimple's New Fountain Inn group'.

A united force gathered to object to the application, which was led by Karen Scott in our village. On this one application there were 220 formal letters of objection to East Devon District Council (EDDC). POW+R Group was also taking a strong stance against this nonsensical planning application. The application was refused by EDDC and the applicant went to appeal against the decision of the local authority. At the hearing on the 15th February 2022, were representatives from the Save Whimple Pub Group, POW+R Group, the Heritage Centre and a local resident.

In a long, detailed and carefully deliberated report a determination was made on the 2nd March 2022 – The final sentence being, ***'For the above reasons and taking into account all of the submitted written and verbal evidence, the appeal is dismissed'***. This was a very welcome outcome after so much work had been done by all those that have fed into the objection process and those that were passionate about saving our village pub. Ironically, a small core group celebrated on the Friday, in the Thirsty Farmer. It is just a shame that the celebrations couldn't take place in the New Fountain Inn itself.

Cranbrook Development Plan

The Government Planning Inspector directed EDDC to make a schedule of changes, modifying the plan. These were undertaken and the results went out to public consultation, which concluded on the 28th February 2022. In this last stage POW+R submitted a letter outlining the main issues affecting Whimble and the impact that the plan has on our parish boundary. It is likely to take a number of weeks before the final agreement on the Cranbrook Master Plan can be made.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council and POW+R Group are moving forward with the creation of the Whimble Neighbourhood Plan. It is considered to be vitally important for our village as it sets out our own parish planning policies that will form part of the wider development plan and used in determining planning applications and other local policies.

The Whimble NP Team has started the consultation programme by first having an event at the Victory Hall on the 12th and 13th February 2022. This gave villagers a chance to discuss how they see the village evolving over the next 30 years. It was lovely to see so many residents turn out to give their thoughts. Over the two days we had 231 post-it notes of ideas completed – these have been recorded as part of the evidence gathering. The online village survey went live on the 12th February and the hard copies were out from the middle of March to all the properties in the parish area. A six week time scale is allocated for this stage of the process. We ask every villager to complete the survey / consultation document, including making separate submissions for those under 18 years of age, in whatever form they would like. Collection boxes will be in the Whimble Stores, Victory Hall, Village Surgery, Sarah Jane's Hairdressers and the Thirsty Farmer.

In addition, a wider consultation to national and regional organisations, business community, government bodies, including our neighbouring parishes will have taken place in March.

It is vitally important that as many parishioners as possible complete the form or online version, as this adds to the strength, legitimacy and soundness of your views in combination with all the others. The NP Team will then spend the next few months, analysing and evaluating the information to ensure it reflects the general views of the village and participants' comments, as well as integrating with the policies of the National Planning Framework and the District's local strategy. We will then create the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan by the autumn this year, with a view to complete the whole process by March 2023. You can access the online survey at <https://bit.ly/WhimbleNP>.

If you want to be part of the process to 'Protect our Whimble and Rockbeare' we'd love to hear from you! The Neighbourhood Plan will be achieved by: Ambition, determination, cooperation **and you**.

We wish all villagers well, good health and contentment, and let's get moving with the '**We love Whimble**' NP show on the road.

Alan Lascelles - Press and Publicity

Date: 8th March 2022

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NEWS FROM THE BELLRINGERS

Was anyone curious about why the bells were ringing in Whimple on 6th February 2022 at St Mary's Church at 10.30am when there wasn't a service to attend – 'not a call to action'?

It was our bands' contribution to a worldwide acknowledgement of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne 70 years ago when she was just 25 years old! The bells were rung around the world as far away as New Zealand and Australia; while in the UK peals were heard from hundreds of churches – including ours – all of which the Queen has been given a list of... and we are on it!



The official Platinum Jubilee celebrations are to be held at the beginning of June – bells will be pealed again that weekend!

Would you like to be part of this? Anyone interested in ringing church bells for the first time is most welcome to contact us now so that we can get training underway. And, are there any accomplished bellringers in our midst who would like to ring again?

Please contact us through our secretary

Marianne Randall:

Email: mrandall1959@yahoo.co.uk



WHIMPLE FRONT ROW CLUB

At last we are back!

We were keen to see everyone back at our film shows and were pleased to be able to show West Side Story on 26th March. Watch out for posters and future updates on 'Whimple What's on' .



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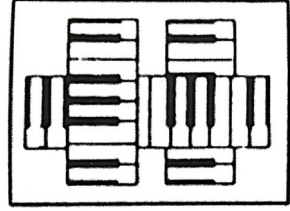
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As mentioned in the last edition of the News, we started the year with our AGM. Fortunately, we were able to meet in person this year and had a very productive meeting. We are now officially the Whimble and District Gardening Club as this was approved unanimously by those present. Also, we now have a formal constitution and a copy of that will be posted on our website..

For our first main event of the year, we decided to hold an Open Afternoon on Saturday 5th March. The aim of this was to promote the Gardening Club and to give everyone an opportunity to find out more about us, what we do and to attract new members. We were absolutely delighted with the response we had and we are very grateful to all of you who made the effort to come along. We hope you all enjoyed the afternoon. Our thanks to Andy Bratt for coordinating the event. Our next event will be an illustrated talk by Amelia Greenway of Springwater Farm which is in Mid Devon. This will be on Friday 1st April. The subject of Amelia's talk will be "My Farm - A Tale of Highland Cattle and Woolly Pigs!" However, as this talk will have happened by the time this edition goes out, a report will be in the next issue.

On Saturday 14th May, we will be holding our annual plant sale. This will be in the Victory Hall from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. We hope to have all the usual plants available and hopefully the spring weather will be kind to us to help with the growing! As those of you who have attended in the past will know, this is now a very popular event and arriving early is to be encouraged to get the bargains on offer! This event will be followed on Sunday 15th May with a coach trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan. This is likely to be a very popular trip so early booking is advisable. A booking form is included in this edition of the News.

On Saturday 11th June, we are having another coach trip, this time to the Subtropical Gardens and Swannery at Abbotsbury. For those of you who haven't been there before, these are two excellent places to visit. Again, this is likely to be a very popular trip so early booking is advisable for this as well. A booking form for this trip is also in this edition of the news.

All being well we are hoping that we will be able to stage our Annual Flower and Craft Show this year which is scheduled to be held on Saturday 13th August 2022. Fortunately, we have a schedule ready for printing and we hope to have copies available at the plant sale.

We do have plans for other events this year, and details of these will appear in the next edition of the News. A calendar of all our events is on our website along with details of our Committee Members and all our activities. All this can be looked at by visiting the website at www.whimble-vpa.co.uk

Paul Wilson, Chairman, Whimble GC

Whimble & District Gardening Club
Trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan Sunday 15th May2022

To book please complete the form below.

Name..... Tel. no.

e-mail address..... e-mails to more than you will be sent Bcc.

Please enter below number of seats required.

GC members £27.00 pp. Number of seats

non-GC members £28.50 pp. Number of seats

I enclose a cheque for £.....made payable to Whimble & District Gardening Club

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Whimble & District Gardening Club

Trip to Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens and Swannery Saturday 11th June 2022

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I am delighted to be able to report that after months of procrastination and hesitation, Whimble WI is finally off the ground! We were so pleased to welcome, in person, our speakers for our January and February meetings.

In January we were enthralled by Dr Peter Moore and his career as a police surgeon. He took us back to the inception of the service in the late eighteenth century and with a frisson of gore and welcomed humour, brought us up to date to its twenty-first century title of Forensic Medical Examiner and the expansion of the service.

February saw us welcome Sarah Pepper, a well-known local flower arranger. That really does not do her justice. She is also a superb storyteller and her history of the posy, use of corsage and beginnings of flower arranging was fascinating and delightfully told. Her sense of humour and fun was infectious and entertaining.

I like to think that using the Hub for our afternoon winter meetings is proving to be successful. We have averaged mid-twenties in number for each meeting and there is a warmth emanating not just from the central heating but from the warmth of friendship from the members themselves! We have welcomed visitors and new members. Long may it continue.

We are returning to the Victory Hall on Saturday 23rd April for our joint WI and Hospiscare coffee morning. This will be our first venture in two years and we really hope and wish for support from our local community. We shall be open from 10am to 12 noon with tea/coffee cakes, various craft stalls, paperback books, children's' books, Magpie jewellery, scarves and hats and a nick-nack stall. More stalls ideas are under consideration. Watch this space.

We hope to be represented at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Village Day, more wonderful opportunities for the local community to come together. Feeling part of something worthwhile and with a sense of belonging, is so important especially in these troubled times.

We can look forward to a healthier spring clean with our next speaker, Sarah Thackeray on Tuesday 8th March in the Hub. (My idea of a spring clean is to open all the windows and let the dust blow through, but please don't tell anyone!)

Please contact Marilyn our secretary/ treasurer on 01404 821860 if any of my ramblings have inspired you to give us a try. We'd love to see you!!

Keep well everyone.

Di Eden



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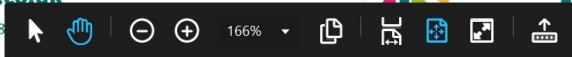
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It has been another busy term at Whimble Primary School and all the children have done very well to keep up their learning in what continues to be tricky times. We loved taking part in World Book Day and all of the children and adults dressed up as a character from one of the selected authors, as chosen by our school councillors.



There were some very creative designs!

Each of the children in our school are in four house teams across the classes, and the rabbits were delighted to earn a 'non-uniform day' just before half term for collecting the most team points. Our focus was *staying positive*; we look forward to seeing who will win this term as we are all *aiming high*.

We have really enjoyed taking part in our Fantastic Friday curriculum too, which is when we are able to take part in a variety of different activities that we might not be able to access in the school day. We have all been to the MUGA to build fires and drink hot chocolate in forest school; we have been taking part in some fun, active yet calming yoga sessions; and have been re-learning all the skills we need to play a variety of board games.

It's been all go here at Whimble School and we are very much looking forward to some more exciting activities and events as we move further into the spring term.

During the first half of the spring term, pupils in Beech Class happily took part in yoga, Forest School and cookery for their Fantastic Friday sessions. The pupils liked having a wider variety of adults teaching them and enjoyed the chance to learn in a range of environments. Highlights for us all included, shelter building in pairs or groups, using the creaming method to create yummy cupcakes and thinking about our movements and breathing during story yoga. Thanks to all the adults from school and the local community for their help with making these sessions possible.



For World Book Day, pupils dressed up as characters from their favourite books. Some pupils were from Simon Mugford's football superstars series, others were cats from the book called Varjak Paw, some were characters from the Harry Potter stories and a few were other well-known book characters. Each pupil also received a book token and took part in an assembly where they heard extracts from stories written by established authors.

Then on Tuesday 8th March, Beech Class also went on a trip to visit St. Nicholas Priory in Exeter. We went on the train and Rebecca, from Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, joined us for our outward journey to talk to the pupils about the benefits of travelling by train and about how to keep safe when waiting on a platform.

Once we got to the priory, we split into groups and visited some of the rooms in this historic place. We found out that poor people in Tudor times ate mainly pottage, with vegetables in it, whereas rich folk ate pottage with meat and vegetables. We also saw some lovely Tudor panelling in the parlour where the rich people dined and learned that they had short canopy beds. We also had a chance to handle some everyday Tudor artefacts and play some interesting games as well. We learned lots of information while also having fun.



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East Devon District Councillor:	
Richard Lawrence	07703 350285
Parish Council (whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com)	
<i>Chairman:</i> John Griffiths	823480
<i>Clerk:</i> Claire Rayner	812570
Primary School (admin@whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk)	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Carole Shilston	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Linden Best	822595
Whimble School PTA (Whimple.pta@gmail.com)	
Alisonshorer@hotmail.com	
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Parish Priest:</i> Rev. Marc Kerslake	822525
<i>Impact Cell:</i> Helen Bowker	823193
<i>Belringers:</i> Marianne Randall	07834 809270
Book Group	
Tanya Mooney	823326
Cricket Club (jameswoollam@gmail.com)	
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Football Club	
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<i>Secretary:</i> Lee Wheaton	077341 52120
Front Row Club	
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History Society	
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<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Over Sixties Club	
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<i>Secretary:</i> Beryl Iball	822905
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The Whimble News Team

WN137

Production

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

Sally Wilde 823246

Sarah Thackeray

Muhammet Bayrak

Advertising

Ed Hitchcock 01392 427982

edhitch@btinternet.com

Community Diary

Kay Dean

Delivery

Cathy Sharkey 822939

Treasurer

Miles Leonard 822415

Straightway Head
HOUSE
LUXURY BED & BREAKFAST

Whimble, Exeter, Devon EX5 2QS

01404 822177 / 07894 575975

contact@straightwayheadhouse.co.uk

www.straightwayheadhouse.co.uk



STRAIGHTWAY HEAD HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST

Luxury Country House Bed and Breakfast Accommodation in a peaceful rural setting on the edge of the village, with stunning views over Dartmoor

All rooms are en-suite and furnished to a high standard.

*Have you got a special birthday or anniversary coming up?
Why not hold your party here and let us do all the hard work for you?
Cally is a Cordon Bleu trained chef with many years experience.*

Ample Parking / Transfers to Exeter Airport



Living and Selling Locally

We offer straight forward, straight talking professional advice with over 30 years of local knowledge.

If you are considering selling or letting your property and would like some expert advice on the current market conditions, please give one of our offices a call today for a free up-to-date market appraisal.

Call for a free valuation today.

hallandscott.co.uk

Ottery St Mary
15 Broad Street
Ottery St Mary
Devon EX11 1BY
ottery@hallandscott.co.uk
01404 812000

West Hill
Potters Country Market
West Hill
Devon EX11 1TY
westhill@hallandscott.co.uk
01404 811839

Sidmouth
113 High Street
Sidmouth
Devon EX10 8LB
sidmouth@hallandscott.co.uk
01395 578791

London
121 Park Lane
Mayfair
London W1K 7A
london@hallandscott.co.uk
020 76294141



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 onTheMarket.com

the Jack *in the* Green

SAY IT WITH DINNER!

We start the year full of new energy and new ideas. Craig and his team have created a magnificent menu for Valentine's - think Champagne, Cornish crab, honey glazed duck, fillet of beef and a cheeky tonka bean brûlée.

With the nights now getting lighter again new menus are also being written for the spring. One of our favourite services of the year, Mothering Sunday, is on the horizon too.

Keep an eye on our social media as we start to gear up for our big '30 Year' celebrations in May.

Here's to a great 2022!

Paul, Judy & the team

www.jackinthegreen.uk.com

Tel: 01404 822240