

Whimble News



Christmas 2011



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What's On in Whimble

December

- 2nd Over 65s Christmas Party, Victory Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm
3rd Orchard Harmony - Requiem and Christmas Carols, St Mary's Church;
see posters for details
10th Christmas Fun Activity for children. Victory Hall 9.30am – 1.00pm
Details on page 34
10th History Society Christmas Lunch – Cricket Club 12.00noon
10th Whimble Cinema Victory Hall. 4.30pm – **The Polar Express**...details on
page 19 plus posters
10th Whimble Cinema Victory Hall, 7.30pm **White Christmas** -details on
page 19 plus posters
17th Soup and Sarnie Team offer a Christmas Special lunch; 12.00noon for
12.30pm Victory Hall. Details on page 27
24th Christmas Eve Carols 7.00pm in The Square (if wet, in the church)
31st New Year's Eve 2011 in The Square – details on page 38

January

- 13th VPA AGM, Committee Room, Victory Hall, 7.30pm Details on page 45
17th Annual Wassail, starting at the New Fountain Inn 7.00pm. Singing
practice outside the pub from 6.45pm - finishing at the Cricket Club.
28th Pre School Quiz and Curry Evening, Victory Hall; doors open at 7.00pm
for 7.30pm start – details on page 23
28th Soup and Sarnie lunch, Victory Hall 12.00noon

February

- 3rd On a Whim Promotions present Madison Violet and Abi Rich at the
Victory Hall, doors open 6.30pm Details on pages 20/21
16th Whimbletons pantomime, Ivanhoe, Victory Hall 7.30pm See page 13
17th Whimbletons pantomime, Ivanhoe, Victory Hall 7.30pm
18th Whimbletons pantomime, Ivanhoe, Victory Hall matinee - 2.30pm
18th Whimbletons pantomime, Ivanhoe, Victory Hall 7.30pm

Please use the Whimble Diary held in the Post Office for checking the availability of venues and when booking events.

If your Association has an event which you would like listed above please contact **Nicky Hitchcock** on 823194 or e-mail nickyjhitch@tiscali.co.uk



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Ed the Ed



Welcome to the Christmas edition of your Whimple News. We hope that you enjoy this festive offering and the many events/activities that are happening in this great village of ours over the next few weeks. Please support them where you can...and enjoy them!

I hope that those of you who came to the 'Wasters of Whimple' afternoon on 19th November enjoyed all the produce on display and were interested in the future of the local produce project. Well done to the Wasters especially to Jenny and Alison.

I see from the PO page that Jim Creasy has now 'outed' himself as a cross-dresser. This means that it will only be a matter of time before he (and Alison) beat a path to THE Cross-Dresser's club of Whimple that masquerades as the Whimpletons pantomime group.

Speaking of pantomimes, gentle reader (another seamless link that you will admire), you need to stand ready to buy your tickets in the New Year for the next extravaganza that knows no bounds. The Whimpletons will be attempting to present their version of 'Ivanhoe' or, as some of the cast are already calling it, 'Ivan's Ho', which I still don't understand. We have a number of new faces this year, and the script is very good – as ever!

I am pleased to report that the Bra Babes (the current Mrs H and Viv) completed the Cardiff half marathon in October, as power walkers, in under three hours which is a brilliant result. Plus the current Mrs H excelled herself in the Shortbread section of the VPA show in August when she was given a 'Highly Commended', which for a short while, became her household name! I think a Christmas gift on the theme of 'Modesty' is in order here.

We bade farewell to the lovely Joy Little in early October, and it was nice to see that Rob Wilkinson came back to conduct her funeral service. The church was full of friends and family who all wanted to pay their respects to a lady in her 102nd year – what a long and full life Joy had!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS RURAL EPISTLE (GUARANTEED NOT TO PHONE HACK), THEN PLEASE PASS YOUR WORDS TO SMALL OUTLET AND ALISON C/O SANTA'S GROTTTO, AT THE PO. IF CROSS-DRESSING OFFENDS YOU, PLEASE ZIP IT TO BOB ON bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk., BY MONDAY 9th JANUARY. THANKS!

The Whimple News team wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Ed H



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Whimpe Post Office News

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Children In Need collection, we raised a grand total of £175.82. For those who missed the gorgeous 'Julia', who helped us on the day, don't worry, I have a feeling she may join us again at some point in the future.

I'm trying to persuade her to sell kisses for Comic Relief, so watch this space.

~~~~~

Just for December we are extending our opening hours.  
For your convenience we will open all day and every day.  
Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm    Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

~~~~~

Here are the all important last Christmas Posting dates.

Air Mail Overseas

- Mon 5th Dec South and Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, Asia, Far East, Japan, Australia, New Zealand.
- Fri 9th Dec Eastern Europe, USA, Canada.
- Mon 12th Dec Western Europe.

and in the UK

- Wed 14th Dec Standard Parcels.
- Sat 17th Dec Second Class.
- Tues 20th Dec First Class.
- Wed 21st Dec Parcelforce express 48.
- Thurs 22nd Dec Special Delivery.
- Fri 23rd Dec Special Delivery with Saturday guarantee.

Of course we recommend that you post well before these dates, if you possibly can.

Finally, Jim and I thank you all for your continued support throughout 2011.

We wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Jim and Alison

Tel 822359 during opening hours only please.

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Christmas Eve Carols

7.00pm in The Square

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FRIDAY 17TH 7.30PM,

SATURDAY 18TH MATINEE 2.30PM

(SAME CAST!)

SATURDAY 18TH EVENING PERFORMANCE

7.30PM

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Whimble Coach honoured at Brit Insurance Annual Achievement Awards

Trevor Griffin, of Whimble-based cricket coaching company T.C.C., was honoured at a national awards ceremony earlier this month when he received the 'Chance to Shine' Coach of the Year Award.



The great and the good of the cricketing world came together at Lord's Cricket Ground to celebrate the work being done by Chance to Shine supported by Brit Insurance. The star-studded event was attended by the Governor of the Bank of England and Chance to Shine President, Mervyn King, England captains Andrew Strauss and Charlotte Edwards, along with fellow England players Chris Tremlett, Jade Dernbach, Lydia Greenway, Caroline Atkins & Jenny Gunn.

The judges were impressed with Trevor's energy, his friendly approach to cricket and education, his willingness to try out new ideas and challenge his own ability as well as the children, teachers and coaches he engages with on a day to day basis.

Speaking after receiving his award from England's Lydia Greenway, Trevor said "Tonight has been an amazing occasion. To be here in the Long Room at Lord's among so many people working to encourage grass roots cricket within state schools is very special; to win an award and be named Coach of the Year on top of that is an honour, something I'll never forget – it's completely out of the blue, I'm overwhelmed!"

The awards recognised the efforts of coaches, teachers and club managers from across the UK who are involved in the country's biggest school sports development initiative on behalf of the Chance to Shine charity. Locally, the project has been operating in over 20 primary and secondary schools in Exeter for the past 2 years as well as in other parts of the county, co-ordinated by the Devon Cricket Board.



Trevor receiving his award from England star Lydia Greenway

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SLEEPLESS IN WHIMPLE

Dear Editor,

I would be grateful if you could publish this letter in the next edition of the Whimple News. I am contacting you in a desperate attempt to find the 'love of my life'. I have always scoffed at stories of people experiencing 'love at first sight', 'eyes making contact across a crowded room' and all that soppy rubbish. Well no more, it has happened to me in Whimple of all places.

On Friday 18th November 2011 I happened to pop in to Whimple Post Office before going for an appointment at the opticians, expecting to see Alison busily beavering away with Jim supervising. But no, apparently Jim was off for the day, something about him having a Red Nose. There behind the counter, standing in as a most able replacement for Jim, was a most attractive young lady. She had a welcoming smile, fluttering eyelashes and rosy cheeks and made an immediate impact on me. What a 'cracker', beautiful brunette hair, piercing blue eyes (behind her specs), lovely cleavage in a most beautiful dress, a deep, husky almost manly voice. I did not get see her legs as she was sitting, pouting behind the counter but I can only imagine them to be perfect. In short, she was most definitely the woman of my dreams.

Not at all the type of woman you would expect to meet in sleepy old Whimple. She was a cross between Elizabeth Taylor and Anne Widdicombe, well the hair colouring was a bit like Elizabeth Taylor. The resemblance to Anne Widdicombe is true. I was so taken aback that I forgot to ask her for her mobile number. In a state of shock I left the Post Office and since that fateful first meeting I have found I just can't stop thinking about her. I am not sleeping properly, I am off my food. I just know it must be the 'real thing'. I have not felt like this about a woman for a long, long time. To be honest I have avoided women since my first love ran off with a Postman on a motorbike before the War (the Gulf War!).

I returned to the Post Office the next day, desperately hoping to see her and to have the courage to ask her out for a candlelit dinner in the New Fountain only to find Jim was back behind the counter, his red nose looking much better. Alas, no sign of the love of my life.

If any of your readers can help me find this woman I would be most grateful. Any information, no matter how trivial should left at PO Box XXX at the Post Office.

Yours truly,

Love struck

(Whimple)



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WHIMPLE CINEMA Christmas Film Day

Whimple Cinema is delighted to announce special screenings of two **classic Christmas** films on **Saturday 10th December 2011** as part of our first annual film season.

4.30pm: **"The Polar Express"** (U). FREE tickets available from the Post Office (note: children should be accompanied)

The Polar Express is a wonderful, heart warming family Christmas film that children will love.

7.30pm: **"White Christmas"** (U) - tickets £4 available from the Post Office

WHITE CHRISTMAS is a treasure trove of Irving Berlin classics, among them 'Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep', 'Sisters', 'Blue Skies', and the beloved 'White Christmas'.

There will be mulled wine, mince pies, a festive barbecue, Christmas music and more... come along with your family to start your Christmas off in style by watching two of the greatest Christmas films of all time on the big screen in a great atmosphere. Bring your own alcohol (glasses available).

All profits from refreshment sales will be donated to Whimple Pre-School.

For the first time, tickets are available from the Post Office, or alternatively you can reserve online at

<http://whimplecinema.wordpress.com/>



Prizewinning Canadian Duo to Perform in Victory Hall

We are thrilled to announce on behalf of On A Whim Promotions that the fantastic **Madison Violet** will be performing in the Victory Hall on Friday 3rd February 2012.

Since releasing their last album, *No Fool for Trying*, Madison Violet won the 2009 John Lennon Songwriting Contest for their track 'The Ransom', took home the 2009 Canadian Folk Music Award for Vocal Group of the Year, and were nominated for multiple East Coast Music Awards and a 2010 JUNO Award for Roots & Traditional Album of the Year (Group).



Their first disc, *Worry the Jury* (2004), was an introduction to the lush arrangements and harmonies that would become a Madison Violet hallmark, with their next album *Caravan* (2006) further exploring and incorporating country-infused, toe-tapping melodies.

Their breakthrough album was *No Fool for Trying* (2009). The record showcased Madison Violet's heartfelt (and often heartbreaking) lyrics in brilliant contrast to their uplifting arrangements, pushing their graceful harmonies to the surface. Receiving a mass of acclaim from outlets including the BBC, the CBC, *Maverick Magazine*, NPR, and *Penguin Eggs Magazine*, *No Fool for Trying* made dedicated fans of even the most hard-to-crack critics. Ultimately, Madison Violet captured the attention of *Mojo Magazine*, landing "Small Of My Heart" on the publication's distinguished playlist, "Mojo's Top 10," in December 2009. Madison Violet also have the unique distinction of being the only Canadians to win The John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

Their latest release, *The Good in Goodbye*, is an album born from their growth, both together and apart. It is a diary of their personal and professional experiences together as friends and musicians, unique relationships that affect each other in profound ways.

The duo has sold-out venues across North America and Europe, had the prestigious distinction of touring with Stuart McLean's *Vinyl Cafe*, and has shared stages with contemporaries such as Chantal Kreviazuk, Ron Sexsmith and The Indigo Girls. With their newest effort, Madison Violet prove they're among Canada's brightest singer/songwriters.

In support will be Abi Rich from Bridport, a young lady whose voice captivated the entire audience when I first saw her perform. Abi is a local singer/songwriter who has been performing in Bridport and the surrounding area since she was just 13 years old, starting with open mike nights and going on to sing at local festivals and

as support to more experienced local bands/singers. Abi sings a mix of her own material and some covers to which she brings her own unique style. At still only 14 years old Abi is surely a name to look out for in the future.

This will be a fantastic musical event not to be missed, at a bargain price of **only £6.50** per ticket. Do yourselves a favour, and come along and be entertained by Madison Violet and Abi Rich. See posters for full details, and check out YouTube for some of their music.

Alex and John



on a whim promotions proudly present

Madison Violet

The stunning multiple award-winning
Canadian duo on their UK tour

Plus local singer/guitarist Abi Rich

Friday 3rd February 2012, Whimble Victory Hall

advance Tickets only £6.50

from Whimble Post Office, Ottery St Mary TIC
or online at <http://www.onawhimpromotions.co.uk>

Doors open 6:30 pm, licensed bar available

It Ruined My Holiday!

From Thomas Cook Holidays

Some of the guest's complaints during the season.

"I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."

"It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time - this should be banned"

"On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all."

"We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels."

A woman threatened to call police after claiming that she'd been locked in by staff. When in fact, she had mistaken the 'do not disturb' sign on the back of the door as a warning to remain in the room.

"The beach was too sandy."

"Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women."

"We bought 'Ray-Ban' sunglasses for five Euros from a street trader, only to find out they were fake."

"No-one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled."

"We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish..."

"The roads were uneven."

"It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England it only took the Americans three hours to get home."

"The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the accommodation'. We're trainee hairdressers - will we be OK staying there?"

"There are too many Spanish people. The receptionist speaks Spanish. The food is Spanish. Too many foreigners now live abroad"

"We had to queue outside with no air conditioning."

"It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

"I compared the size of our one-bedroom apartment to our friends' three-bedroom apartment and ours was significantly smaller."

"I was bitten by a mosquito - no-one said they could bite."

"My fiancé and I booked a twin-bedded room but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."



**Whimble Pre-school
Presents**

QUIZ & CURRY

When?

Saturday 28th January 2012



Where?

The Victory Hall, Whimble



What time?

Doors open from 7pm for a 7.30pm start

How much are the tickets?

£7

Where can I get tickets?

**Available in Whimble Post Office from
Wednesday 4th January 2012**

Licensed Bar available on the night



All profits to Whimble Pre-school : charity number 1035316

On Becoming a District Councillor – Part 2: Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

After all the excitement of winning my seat I now had to find out how to do the job properly. First I was sworn in at the Council Offices at Knowle in Sidmouth, once a very grand house, but with all sorts of additions and extensions which make it into a rabbit warren where a shiny new councillor can easily get lost. The room numbering defies logic and even Council employees may have no idea where a particular room is: they have learned by rote the way from their office to the canteen, the loos and the front door, and have no idea where anything else is. Now, in the course of my Council duties when I need to seek out an officer or attend a meeting I allow for “getting lost” time.



I was relieved and delighted to find that the Council run some excellent training courses for new members and I have found these extremely helpful in getting started. From this training I discovered that Councillors have three main roles: (a) involvement in the business of the Council at Knowle e.g. membership of committees and “think tanks” and participation in the planning committee and full Council meetings, (b) involvement in the work of the Parish Council e.g. attending Parish Council meetings and presenting my monthly report on what is happening at the Council, and (c) my responsibilities towards my constituents - helping individuals when they require advice or support in resolving some problem to do with the Council.

Whichever role I am performing it involves meetings, meetings and meetings! Council meetings can be morning, noon or night, Parish meetings are usually evenings, and constituents are any time. Meetings at the Council office can go on for up to eight hours and similarly, the Parish Council meetings can often be four hour blockbusters. There is some well validated research that suggests that meetings lasting more than forty minutes become increasingly ineffective, and there have certainly been a few where I have lost the will to live! As a new boy I have not been appointed to many committees but, by the same token, I think I should go to lots of the meetings to find out how they work, and how important they are in the administration of the Council’s responsibilities. The Council Diary, known as ‘The Knowledge’, and published every week, seems to have an endless list of things to attend. However, much as they seem at times endless and interminable, they do provide an essential forum for the democratic process. And through these meetings I have learned to find my way around, found out what is going on, and met many interesting people.

I very quickly realised that the current Big Issue at the Council is the Local Development Framework (LDF) and I have attended as many meetings of the Local Development Framework Panel (LDF), as possible. The LDF will, when adopted, replace the current East Devon Local Plan, in place since 2006. The LDF review must be completed by February 2012 if the Council is going to be able to resist any development proposals put forward after the “Localism” Bill becomes law.

Without it, we will not be able to refuse planning permission because we wouldn't be able to show that new building development planning had already been agreed in our area. This planning also includes town centres, environmental protection, climate change, housing policy for the elderly, housing viability, employment strategy, land monitoring of both employment land and domestic land, and a green infrastructure policy.

Over the last several months the LDF panel has been meeting every fortnight and in the last two months it has been meeting weekly with a final all day session on the first of November. The panel will finally meet to present its draft plan to the Development Management Committee on November 18th – too late for this edition. So next time I will report on the draft.

LOCAL ISSUES. I have been approached by constituents recently with three queries – all in the Daisymount area.

- (a) The strange new development close to Keeper's Cottage on the road to the Daisymount roundabout: I have enquired at the planning department about this, and it seems that a successful application to develop a garage had been granted by the Council several years ago. The time allowed to start development was about to expire so the owners of the land have made a start upon the development. By so doing they secure the planning permission in perpetuity and we might have to put up with this unfinished piece of landscaping for a very long time.
- (b) Willow View: The application to complete the Willow View site with additional chalet homes and further landscaping had been refused earlier this year, but Gordon Podbury turned up to the appeal with most of the residents in tow and they were delighted to see the appeal accepted by a whopping majority so he can now go ahead with completing this attractive site at Straightway Head.
- (c) Signage to the crematorium. Several residents from Whimble and Hand and Pen have reported that distressed mourners have been found wandering around, trying to find the crematorium, having missed the one and only sign at the entrance. Gerri Turner as Clerk to the Parish Council and myself, as District Councillor, have both presented written pleas to the crematorium company requesting some improvement in the signage, more particularly direction signs off the Daisymount roundabout and a second large sign at the crematorium entrance. Watch this space!

Cllr Martin Gammell

A Few Facts about Christmas

Christmas was once a moveable feast celebrated at many different times during the year. The choice of December 25th was made by Pope Julius I in the 4th century A.D., because this coincided with the pagan rituals of Winter Solstice, or 'Return of the Sun'. The intent was to replace the pagan celebration with the Christian one.

In 1647 the English parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal. Festivities were banned by Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell who considered feasting and revelry on what was supposed to be a holy day to be immoral. The ban was lifted only when the Puritans lost power in 1660.

In 1752 11 days were dropped from the year when the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar was made. The December 25th, date was effectively moved 11 days backwards. Some Christian church sects, called old calendarists, still celebrate Christmas on January 7th (previously December 25 of the Julian calendar).

A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

At lavish Christmas feasts in the Middle Ages, swans and peacocks were sometimes served 'endored'. This meant the flesh was painted with saffron dissolved in melted butter. In addition to their painted flesh, endored birds were served wrapped in their own skin and feathers, which had been removed and set aside prior to roasting.

In Victorian England, turkeys were popular for Christmas dinners. Some of the birds were raised in Norfolk, and taken to market in London. To get them to London, the turkeys were supplied with boots made of sacking or leather. The turkeys were walked to market. The boots protected their feet from the frozen mud. Boots were not used for geese: instead, their feet were protected with a covering of tar.

'Hot cockles' was a popular game at Christmas in medieval times. It was a game in which the other players took turns striking a blindfolded player, who had to guess the name of the person delivering each blow. 'Hot cockles' was still a Christmas pastime until the Victorian era.

Before settling on the name of Tiny Tim for his character in 'A Christmas Carol,' three other alliterative names were considered by Charles Dickens. They were Little Larry, Puny Pete, and Small Sam. After 'A Christmas Carol,' Charles Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.

According to historical accounts, the first Christmas in the Philippines was celebrated 200 years before Ferdinand Magellan discovered the country for the western world, likely between the years 1280 and 1320 AD.

It is a Christmas tradition that a wish made while mixing the Christmas pudding will come true only if the ingredients are stirred in a clockwise direction.

According to a 1995 survey 7 out of 10 British dogs get Christmas gifts from their doting owners.

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Christmas Special Lunch

by the Soup and Sarnie Team

12.00noon for 12.30pm

on Saturday 17th December

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The next Soup and Sarnie Lunch is on Sat 28th January 2012



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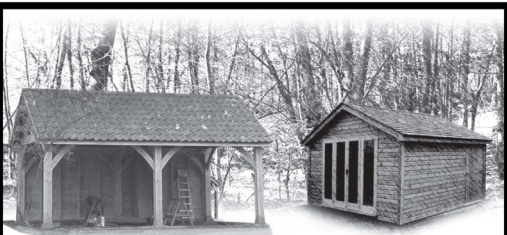
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Tim Wright

COMMANDO CHALLENGE 2011 NEW FOUNTAIN MEN DO IT AGAIN!

Around the lanes of Whimble, there has been the sound of heavy footsteps and laboured breathing as the team for this year's Challenge trained for the Big Day. The team was Billy Bloomfield, Simon Dodds and Sean Windows (until Sean broke his ankle), and then his place was taken by Steve Sidebotham.

On the day the team were accompanied by Debbie, Katy, Sue, Camilla, Mark, Andy and myself. After checking in and doing the warm up, our intrepid trio were off and running like heat seeking ferrets. We took a leisurely bus ride so we could gloat at them as they went through the dreaded 'sheep dip'.

After this bit of amusement we caught the bus back and awaited their arrival. They romped home with a time of 1 hour 26 minutes – one minute faster than last year, coming second in the 'All Male Category' and raising £1190 for the Devon Air Ambulance and Unit C for Wounded Marines.

The team would like to thank Gill, Chris and Michelle from the Fountain for the T-shirts and everyone else who were so generous with their sponsorship and words of encouragement.



Michael Heath

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Preparing for Winter

A team of volunteers is needed to help keep our village safe for everyone during the coming winter.

With winter just around the corner and the forecast of more snow and ice on the way, the parish council, together with many other councils, has registered with the **DCC Winter Snow Warden Scheme**.

During icy weather DCC commits to gritting Church Road and Broadclyst Road but as with last years widespread long-lasting severe weather sometimes even that is not always possible. **The Snow Warden Scheme, co-ordinated by Sue Ayres**, aims to help us keep our village footpaths and trouble spots on our minor roads in a passable, safe condition. You may have heard the stories of those who last year were afraid or unable to leave their homes because of icy paths and roads. With help from a volunteer team we aim to prevent that happening again.

We have already identified some village cold spots - the footpath from Dince Hill Close to the Jays, from the train station to School Hill, from Town Lane to The Square, from Rectory Close to the Post Office and from West View close to Dince Hill Close. Also, the road leading out of Chard Avenue, Knowle Cross Lane and the hill by Perriton Cross. If an icy footpath or section of road near you gave cause for concern and you would like some help please call Sue on 823082.

Last year many people did help themselves and others around the village but this year, to make sure everyone is safe, we would like to have a more co-ordinated approach . However, with all community projects we need you to volunteer to help. **If you have any time, no matter how small and would like to join our team please call Sue Ayres on 823082 or email sue@reubenayres.com If you volunteer but find you are unable to help when contacted, it doesn't matter, you can help next time – but please register your interest.**

The Snow Warden Scheme.

What are the benefits to our community?

To those parishes that join the scheme DCC is offering advice, guidance and training. They also offer Public Liability Insurance to all volunteers who help under the terms of the scheme.

At the beginning of the year the parish council was asked to locate and register all the village grit bins. The existing grit bins, together with a new one sited by the Cricket Ground, have now been numbered and topped up with a mixture of salt and grit.

Under the terms of the scheme the Parish Council has identified a space to store 3 tonnes of free salt and, with the help of James Baker from Holway Farm, this salt will be used around the village when and where needed. If you have a 4x4 and would like to join James's team please call me **Sue Ayres** on 823082 or email **sue@reubenayres.com**

Community Grit Spreader

With help from our County Councillor Peter Bowden, the Parish Council has purchased a pull-along grit spreader. The gritter evenly and easily spreads salt in a 2 metre width band on roads and footpaths and will be available to all volunteers.

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR ELDERLY OR INFIRM NEIGHBOURS THIS WINTER

Sue Ayres - Whimble Parish Council.



WASTERS OF WHIMBLE DO IT AGAIN!

Food
Fayre



On Saturday 19th November, Whimble saw the Wasters offer their most ambitious project yet to the village. During that Saturday afternoon we all had a chance to go

to the Victory Hall and see many food producers, all in one place, offering good quality, locally produced food with very few 'food miles' on the clock.

It was the first attempt by the Wasters to see what the possible take-up could be of a larger project that will involve the supermarket idea of ordering on-line, but concentrating on local producers.

Judging by the number of people that came to the Hall, the idea has been warmly embraced, and many went away with a wide range of purchases from cakes, bread, vegetables, meat, beer, honey, fudge, chutneys, juices, granola and some also had a chance to try some fresh goose meat!

It was a very successful three hours. The Wasters are very grateful to everyone who turned up and, of course, to all the producers who gave up their time to be with us. It was great to see so much good quality produce, all from local people, thus helping the local economy and saving a few trips to the shops.

Warren Spokes presented his ideas during the afternoon, about the next step of the on-line ordering 'vision' and shared some of his experience of similar projects that he has looked at. That certainly gave people a lot to think about, so watch this space!

Ed H



A Merry

Christmas opening hours

		St Mary's Church Special Services	Post Office	Whimble Stores	Whimble Surgery
Saturday	December 24th 2011	11.30pm midnight communion	9.00-12.30pm	7.30am-6.30pm	closed
Sunday	December 25th 2011	11.00am Christmas Service	closed	closed	closed
Monday	December 26th 2011		closed	8.00am - 6.00pm	closed
Tuesday	December 27th 2011		closed		closed
Wednesday	December 28th 2011				
Thursday	December 29th 2011				closed
Friday	December 30th 2011				
Saturday	December 31st 2011		9.00-12.30pm		closed
Sunday	January 1st 2012	10.30am Morning Worship	closed	7.30am - 1.00pm	closed
Monday	January 2nd 2012		closed		closed



From the Whimble

Christmas

(normal if blank)

Ottery Surgery	Ottery Pharmacy (Co-op)	Cranbrook Veterinary Surgery	New Fountain Inn	Thirsty Farmer	Milestone Garage
closed	closed	9.00am - 3.00pm		noon-12.00pm	8.00am-10.00pm
closed	closed	closed	noon-2.00pm	noon-2.00pm	closed
closed	closed	closed	open but no food	closed	8.00am-8.00pm
closed	closed	10.00am-5.00pm			8.00am-8.00pm
	9.00am - 6.30pm	8.00am - 7.00pm			7.00am-10.00pm
	9.00am - 6.30pm	8.00am - 7.00pm			7.00am-10.00pm
	9.00am - 6.30pm	8.00am - 7.00pm			7.00am-10.00pm
closed	closed	9.00am - 3.00pm	noon-2.30pm 6.30pm-12.30am	noon - 1.00am	7.00am-9.00pm
closed	closed	10.00am - 5.00pm	open but no food	closed	10.00am-6.00pm
closed	closed	10.00am - 5.00pm	open but no food		8.00am- 8.00pm

News Team



Churches 4 All
Whimple - Talaton
Clyst Hydon - Clyst St Lawrence

WHIMPLE CHURCH

www.whimplechurch.org



This year's **Christmas Fun Day** for primary school aged children will be on Saturday 10th December in the Victory Hall from 10.30am to 1.00pm. There will be Christmas crafts, songs, games, stories and lots of fun! Meanwhile parents can do those important pre-Christmas jobs that they want to do without having children in tow! Prior booking is preferred. Booking forms are available inside the Church or you can book a place by ringing Sarah Smith on 822123 or alternatively email furze.hill@btinternet.com.

Our **Advent Carol Service** is on Sunday 27th November at 5.30pm and our **Christmas Carol Service** is on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm. Both are traditional in style with readings and a mix of congregation and choir sung carols.



Our **Christingle Service** this year is at 3.00pm on Sunday 4th December. This is an informal service particularly suitable for children, when we celebrate Jesus as The Light of the World. This year's **Christmas Celebration Service** is at 11.00am on Sunday 11th December. This is another informal style service designed to appeal to all ages.

There will be a **Midnight Communion** service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day at 11.00am we have our **Family Service with Carols**. There are also a variety of other services at Talaton and Clyst St Lawrence. The Link (Churches 4 All magazine) and Christmas cards distributed around the village list the full details.

Please welcome our **Carol Singers** again this year as they sing through the village on Tuesday 20th December from 6.30pm, to raise money for St Petrocks, the organisation in Exeter which helps the homeless. If you would like to join them to sing or play a musical instrument please contact Gerri Turner on 822587.



Our charity for December and January is The Children's Society for its work with vulnerable young people. The donation from the PCC will be augmented with the collection at the Christingle Service and any individual donations put in the collection box by the charity display in the church when services are taking place.

One final thing to mention is that every month several folk from Whimple Church get together to **pray** – for global issues down to individual concerns. If there is anything you would like prayer for please do put details on a slip of paper in the box on the welcome desk in church, or email admin@whimplechurch.org. If you would like to come along to one of our Home Groups please contact **Sarah Smith** on 822123 or email: admin@whimplechurch.org for more information

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

A reminder that Churches 4 All has a Pastoral Care Team whose members have been trained and are available to lend a listening ear, visit those who are housebound, ill, in hospital or bereaved and offer prayer.

**If you or someone you know would like a visit
from a member of the Pastoral Care Team**

please contact David Rastall (822486) or Sarah Smith (822123)

The Parochial Church Council on behalf of Whimble Church wish you a joyful
Christmas and New Year.



St. Mary's Church, Whimble

Flower Festival

14th - 16th September 2012

*

Thursday evening 13th September
Preview with guest speaker

*

Saturday evening 15th September
Concert

*

Sunday evening 16th September
Songs of Praise

Further information
Margaret Bucknell, tel. 822389 or Lis Roberts, tel. 822818

What do **you** want from **your** church in Whimple?

The church building of St. Mary's is an imposing feature in the centre of the village but what goes on there, who owns it and who looks after the building? Does it matter to most people in the village as they go about their daily lives? Who cares?

Many of you will be aware that our priest in charge recently moved on to another parish and the church is currently in the midst of a "vacancy" while we go about recruiting another priest to take charge of our Mission Community which includes Talaton, Clyst St. Lawrence and Clyst Hydon. Although this creates a few difficulties for us, it is also an opportunity to take stock, explore in which direction we want to go as a church and, hopefully, recruit a new priest who has similar values and a sense of purpose to help take us in that direction.

When you talk to most people who do not attend church regularly about "the church" they tend to think of the building, whereas most church-goers probably think of the church as a group of people. In reality it is both. The building facilitates the activities of the people and we are lucky in Whimple to have been bequeathed a fine building by our predecessors.

In the absence of a priest, responsibility for running the church falls on the two elected churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council (PCC), also elected from and by those on the church electoral roll. At this time the PCC is starting to consider our strategy for the next decade i.e. what sort of church do we want in Whimple in 10 years time? There will be some of you who live in the village who have absolutely no interest in the church building or what goes on inside it. At the other extreme are the regular church-goers and we talk to them in church and can canvas their views relatively easily. However, we believe there are also a considerable number of you who may attend church either infrequently or not at all, but who have an interest in what we are doing and any plans we may have for the future. These may include those who attend for Remembrance Sunday, Harvest, Songs of Praise in Village Week and perhaps also at Christmas and/or Easter. There may be some of you who never normally attend church, but perhaps want the facility to be there for a possible family wedding, baptism or funeral in the future. Others may simply look on the church as part of our village heritage. Yet others may attend a church, but not in Whimple as you may feel we do not provide what you require or perhaps you do not attend church because you feel there is nothing we currently do that fits in with your busy schedule.

It is important that our plans take account of all of your views and needs as the church belongs to the village, not just those who currently attend church services regularly. Some of you expressed views on the subject of refurbishing the inside of the church when this was discussed a couple of years ago at an open meeting. I joined the PCC after that meeting and became a churchwarden earlier this year. Personally I believe that we do need to evolve over time both in our use of the building and to meet the changing needs within our community. But we also need to ensure that we pay heed to those locally who have a perceived stake in the church and who we rely on to support the church in a number of ways, not least when we are fund raising.

I couldn't possibly spell out in a short article why I think the church is important to the village as a whole, how it is run and the issues we face, but the PCC is producing a fact sheet which we hope you will find interesting and also a questionnaire. These will be distributed to each household in the parish early next year. From the questionnaire we hope to gain a better insight into what the village wants from its church. Your views are very important to us as we move into a new era with a new priest in charge and I hope you will take the time to fill in the questionnaire and return it to us.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your support in this matter.

Stephen Godsiff: Churchwarden.



WHIMPLE YOUTH CRICKET



Whilst undertaking their early evening stroll around the Recreation ground many villagers would have witnessed up to 50 children attending the Whimple Youth Cricket Club training night.

The youth section has grown to the extent that during the recent season we had teams in age groups from U10 to U15 representing the club in the East Devon Youth League. All of our teams were a great credit to the club and village and the U11 team were successful in winning their league championship. We were also lucky enough to have one selected for the Devon squad in the U11s and others across the age groups who represented the East Devon District.

For a small village we are very lucky to now have the impressive new nets to use as a training facility. The Youth section is vitally important to the village as many of the present adult players have emerged from the junior teams.

BUT NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Two of our team managers Phil Evens and Richard Bardot have 'retired' after many years service. We hope to run teams this season across the age groups but are **DESPERATE** for help with individual team administration(gathering eleven players for a fixture) and also people to keep the score board ticking over during games, which are held from April to July early evenings weather permitting. The age groups desperate for help are the U10s, U13s and u14s.

You may be reading this thinking 'I have a daughter so this does not concern me'. However, **GIRLS** are actively encouraged to play cricket and we would love to have them representing the club.

Previously we have not been very good at keeping the village informed of our fixtures and training so for this season we will be listing the teams' fixtures in this magazine so will expect a healthy gathering of villagers with sunhats and deck chairs to watch. We may even open the bar for you.

To end on a serious note please contact club chairman **Jon Silk** 01404 822389 or **Nick Rush** Youth contact 01404 823209



New Year's Eve 2011

Come and join us in the Square at around 11.45pm on New Year's Eve

Bring candles to light your way. Hear the church clock chime midnight

The church bells will be rung to welcome the New Year

Mulled wine will be served in The Square

We will sing 'Auld Lang Syne' together

Jan and John at The Jays will be serving mulled wine on New Year's Eve. Any donations of wine will be gratefully accepted! Please leave at 'The Jays'.



Ottery St Mary and District Hospital League of Friends

I would like to say thank you to the Whimple V P A for the generous cheque for £400. This came from the open gardens, so thank you also to everyone who opened their gardens and to the visitors who came.

This year is an expensive one for us as we have committed over £80,000 towards improving the day centre at the hospital. Also our ambulance is eleven years old and a little the worse for wear, so a new one has been ordered at the cost of £45,000.

Thank you to everyone who came to our coffee morning and to the people who gave me so many toiletries for my stall which made £84.50. Altogether the coffee morning made £655.60.

It is only the generosity of local people that enables us to do what we do.

Thank you for all your support.

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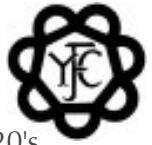
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Whimble & Broadclyst YFC



YFC - Young Farmers Club - is an organisation that dates back to the 1920's.

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"Joining YFC was the best thing I ever did - I love it and have made so many friends"

Our next event

Bingo

Sunday 11th December - Eyes Down at 7.30pm

Whimble Victory Hall

Everybody is welcome

If you are interested in finding out more about your local club please *contact* :

Adam Gibbins: 07807 021426

News from Nottingham

As we re-read the Oct/Nov issue of Whimble news we are reminded of the activities and hard work that go on in Whimble.

Having left in June 2011 for Nottingham we have been living in a rented property. Now we look forward to moving into our new home at the end of February 2012. Being in a rented property is not perfect as half our possessions are still in storage, meaning a lack of cakes coming out of the oven. However we have been blessed with being able to help the family and getting to know the area. We have yet to meet Robin Hood but we have been to Nottingham Castle.

We wish everyone in Whimble an enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

God bless you all.

Mike and Beryl Boyd

(email:mikeboyd7@btinternet.com)

Whimble History Society



Tuesday 17th January 2012 - Wassailing

This year's wassailing will start at the New Fountain Inn at about 6.30pm for the usual 'rehearsal'. The assembled company will then move off at about 7.00pm to Wymcott for the first wassail ceremony, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. I. Hardcastle.

The procession will then proceed up Church Road to Lower Woodhayes Orchard for the second wassail ceremony. The procession will then move back to The Square, via Dince Hill Close, where the procession will gather near the tethering stone to remember the Society's first chairman, John Shepherd.

Then the party will move onwards through Town Lane to the site for the third ceremony, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. P. Bowden. The procession will then continue to the orchard adjacent to Knowle Cross Farm for the fourth and final ceremony of the evening, courtesy of Jim and Mary Chard.

The last part of call will be at the Cricket club for traditional wassail refreshments (a small charge for refreshments will be made).

We would urge everyone to enter into the spirit of the evening by wearing traditional dress and bringing 'instruments' that will make sufficient noise to waken the trees and ward off any evil spirits in the apple trees.



The summer months have been a quiet time and we are now enjoying a busy and social autumn.

The title of our October meeting was 'Have a go at line dancing' - and many of our members did just that! It was great fun and both the spectators and those who took part spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Escot WI hosted a group social afternoon which took the form of a quiz. Following that we were entertained to an excellent tea and had the opportunity to meet and chat with members from the surrounding area.

The Annual Meeting was held in November when Avril Ellingham was elected President for the coming year. Two of our talented members organised a card craft session when we each produced a Christmas card.

The weekly craft group is again in full swing with members pursuing a variety of crafts - or maybe just appreciating the company.

We are always pleased to welcome guests and new members. If you are interested just contact Avril Ellingham (822945).

Rosemarie Burrows

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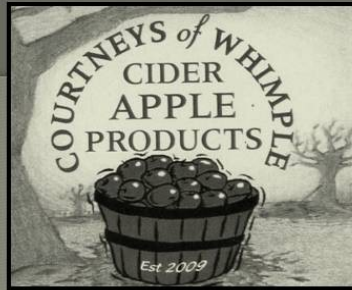
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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

We are now very much into Autumn and it will certainly be winter by the time this edition is delivered! I am sure everyone is reflecting on another successful year in the garden – well hopefully anyway!

By the time you read this we will have had our talk on 'Plants for Autumn and Winter Interest' by Chris Burchill. This will no doubt have been an excellent talk giving many ideas for what we can add to our gardens next year to make them even better.

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Friday 13th January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Victory Hall. All are very welcome to attend especially anyone who would like to join our Committee – we are always pleased to have new faces on the Committee!

For those who are planning ahead, we have decided to move the date of the Flower Show to avoid clashing with the final day of the Olympic Games. So for 2012, the date for the Flower Show will be Saturday 1st September. Don't forget that details of the flower show, results and pictures, together with all our activities are on our website and this can be found at:
www.whimplevpa.org.uk

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Archery

Most of us have seen archery on the television, have had a go when we were on holiday or would like to try it, but never have.

My daughter (Jess) and I (Len) live in Whimble and are now entering our fifth year as competitive archers. Jessica has been selected to represent Devon and Cornwall in the Lunior Inter-counties for the second year in a row and shot very well. I was selected to represent Devon and Cornwall this year at our Inter-counties shoot in October against three other counties.

We both compete all over Devon and Cornwall from January through to December, both indoors and outdoors. The weather conditions outdoors can be very challenging, as we all know about the brilliant summer that we have had. But that is all part and parcel of archery.

If you would like to try Archery, we do a have-a-go session at Broadclyst Sports Hall on a Sunday morning between 10.00am - 12.00noon. There is an entrance fee and an equipment fee.

For more information on Archery, please contact me on 822830.

Len Luck



Joy Little

A half-muffled peal of bells will be rung on Wednesday 7th December at 7.00pm in memory of the late Joy Little - a former bellringer - who reached the grand age of 101 and whose funeral took place in October whilst the bells were out of action



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WARTS UPDATE

Hello and welcome to all new and existing members of W.A.R.T.S (Whimble Against Rising Tariffs). Our aim is to periodically secure the services of the cheapest oil provider to deliver to members within the EX5 Post Code. I'm pleased to report our numbers have now increased to 170 households.



PLEASE BE AWARE:

We are unable to quote an advanced 'price per litre'; as the 'number of drops ordered' (on that day) PLUS the 'price per litre (on that day)' determines the 'end price' (on that day). However, we can assure you, past experience tells us that our prices have consistently beaten any individual household prices over the past 3½ years.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2012:

By popular demand there is a change to the dates circulated in November email!!!!!!

Intended Order Dates for 2012:

MONDAY 30th January 2012 **MONDAY 26th March 2012**
MONDAY 30th July 2012 **MONDAY 19th November 2012**

We kindly remind you:

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No price increases anticipated until 2012.

All that now remains is for John and I to offer you and yours
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



It's that time of year again when we are heading towards Christmas and all the activities it brings with it. Children will participate in Christmas dinner, parties, fayre and, of course, our Nativity. The choir are also singing at various events. In between all that, many children in key stage two are taking part in a wide range of sporting activities with other schools in our learning community and a member of staff from the Exeter Chiefs is also involved teaching children tag rugby skills. The F.O.W.S have raised lots of money for us and I have been lucky enough to be given some money to purchase some playground markings for the lower playground. These will be added to the playground in the next few weeks and should provide lots of colour and fun activities for all.

Carole Shilston

APPLE PRESSING AND PICKING!

For our harvest festival we went apple picking at the orchard in late October. We managed to fill over

20 bags! All the children picked the apples and yr 6 looked after the little ones. The apple pressing was by Dave Palmer. All the classes took part in this event. Dave Palmer had an apple presser and once we had got all the juice out of the apples we drank the fresh apple juice, it tasted very sour some of us had seconds but regretted it! By: Kiko Keighery and Max Bowden



sports centre activities

In late October year 3 and 4 went to Clyst Vale sports centre. Other local schools took part too. We did volley sitting down, tennis skills, balancing bean bags on our heads and racing at the same time, throwing and catching skills. We all really enjoyed it.
By Gabriel year 3

Craft fair

We had a Craft Fair in the hall. They sold all sorts of things there, like pottery, jewellery, knitted things and lots more. There was a cake stall and tea and drinks. There was a raffle too.



Learning how to knit.



The raffle prizes were bunting, craft books, heart sun reflectors and more. There was also face painting.

This is everyone at the craft fair. There were lots of stalls

Children in need

For children in need we dressed up in pyjamas. We had a tea party for lunch and brought a teddy bear. We each brought in 50p or more for a donation.



Antony Taverner

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OTTERY ST MARY AND DISTRICT HELP SCHEME

WATTS THE QUESTION?

Friday 30th September saw tables in The Institute Hall quickly filling with eleven quiz teams. They battled through the categories and 100-question flyer with the leading team frequently changing, such was the tight competition.

Barbara Pugh's posse of caterers provided a welcome refreshment break with local fresh bread, cheese and pickles, and an opportunity to buy raffle tickets for splendid prizes.

In a lively atmosphere almost £400 was raised to assist the valuable work of the Ottery and District Help Scheme justifying the efforts of question-setters David and Hazel Whiting and Quizmaster Jim Watts. A huge thank you to all contributors.

Another quiz will be held for the Help Scheme in Payhembury Hall next spring (date to be advised), and maybe a return to The Institute too.

Book a table from **Rose Watts** 811625.



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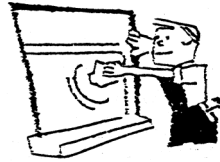
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Our open garden programme continues to prove ever popular and highly regarded and in 2012 it will be our 7th annual programme. Last year the gardens raised a staggering £20,000 and this money will help Hospiscare provide our vital service to patients and their families all over Devon.

We are now looking for new gardens for our 2012 programme so if you would like to support Hospiscare by opening your garden and help us raise much needed funds then please contact Tracey Skinner for further information on 01392 688063 or t.skinner@hospiscare.co.uk

Thank you so much for your help, should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on 01392 688020 or www.hospiscare.co.uk

Susie Healey, Fundraising Secretary

Hospiscare, Dryden Road, Exeter EX25JJ

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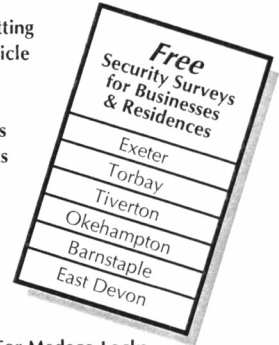


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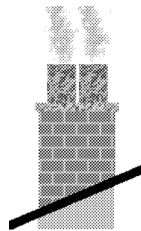
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Ottery St Mary Choral Society Christmas Concert

What better way for you to start celebrating the Christmas season than coming along to Ottery St Mary Parish Church on **Saturday December 10th**.

The Choral Society's programme will include Vivaldi's Gloria, Handel's Zadok the Priest and the Hallelujah Chorus. The Orchestra will be performing Barber's Adagio for Strings and you will also be able to hear local organist Ben Scott playing Widor's Toccata.

There will, of course, be community carols where you will be invited to join the choir in many of your traditional seasonal favourites.

At the end of the concert we hope you will join us in a festive glass of wine or soft drink, and a Christmas mince pie (all included in the price of your ticket).

Tickets at £9.50 (£4.50 for under 16's) can be purchased from Stagestruck in Ottery St. Mary (01404 811311) or from Society members.

Classics Galore

On Saturday 12th November the Choral Society was delighted to join forces with the St David's Players, the Exeter Symphony Orchestra, the Lympton SW Telecoms Brass Band and soloist Penny Daw to bring an evening of music to a packed house in the Great Hall at Exeter University. The music included favourites from Tchaikovsky, Handel, Lehár and Strauss and ended with a rousing finalé for the audience to sing along to Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. The final figure raised for the Force Cancer Charity is expected to exceed £10,000.

The Society is pleased to advise you that we now have a website where you can find more information about the society and forthcoming concerts.

www.otterystmarychoral.org

Thank you for your on-going and enthusiastic support which is always appreciated; society members look forward to welcoming you to their concerts.

For any further information regarding OSMCS please contact:

Liz Hooper - Publicity - 42116

Annie Bassett - Chairman - 823331



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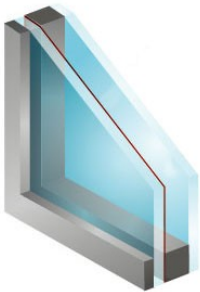
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