

# *Whimble News*

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**August/Sept 2009**

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**The Thirsty Farmer**



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**3rd October: JU JU**

**30th October: ROCKET DOG**

**27th November: JUICE**

# WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

## August

- 7th Guided Village Walk, starting from the Heritage Centre, 6.15pm  
Booking – phone 822244
- 7th Bingo at the Cricket Club –proceeds in aid of Over 65's Christmas party
- 8th VPA show, Victory Hall. See posters for details
- 29th WOW collection, Parish car park 10.00 - 11.00am
- 31st Whiteway Cup semi finals and finals from 10.30am at the Cricket Club

## September

- 3rd Mothers Union Service, St Mary's Church 3.00pm
- 12th Devon Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride (see page 15)
- 12th Mud II at the Cricket Club (see page 39)
- 18th Bingo at the Cricket Club
- 18th History Society Talk - Victory Hall 7.30pm, Bob Symes on Mining in Cornwall and West Devon
- 20th Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church 11.00am
- 25th Reg Meuross at Victory Hall (see page 27)
- 26th WOW collection, Parish car park 10.00 - 11.00am
- 26th Soup and Sarnie, Victory Hall 12.00noon - 1.30pm
- 26th WOW Garage sale throughout the village (see page 53)
- 27th Back to Church, St Mary's Church 11.00am
- 28th Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00pm

## October

- 26th Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00 pm

## November

- 2nd Hospiscare Conference, Southgate Hotel Exeter 9.30am - 4.30pm
- 23rd Parish Council meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00 pm

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

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

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# Ed the Ed

So here it is – the August/September issue of the Whimble News. I am delighted to include a correction from the Whimble News team of the past, when I gave the wrong impression in my last editorial, that it was only David and Sarah Smith producing and distributing the magazine. My apologies for that oversight! But as with the nationals, we here at the News would never let the truth get in the way of a good story!

Whilst on that theme, I am sure that we will all congratulate Vicki at the pub on the roundabout about the change of name. According the Express and Echo, it is called the THIRSTY CAMEL (see page 21), and I can only guess that it is in honour of the pantomime beast that we all know and love. ...Oh all right...that we know.

So thanks to the Quiz people at the Thirsty Camel for their generous donation towards the running costs of the News, plus the anonymous donations left with the Post Office.

Well done to everyone involved in the Village Week, despite the challenge of the weather – as ever! If it's raining, it must be Village Week or Wimbledon. It was good to see so many people getting involved in all the different activities, and that is what makes this village so good to live in. However, it has been noted that yet another member of the village has publicly joined the merry band of cross dressers in Whimble. Well done John Griffiths (and his front man Alex Tooze) for their tandem entry to the fancy dress. There were some great handmade costumes this year, and some well-deserved prizes.

The official opening of the Cycle Track was another milestone for the village, and that was a well-attended celebration for the WAC4Y team and their tremendous efforts.

We have some photos of both the fancy dress and the Cycle Track opening in this edition.

Don't forget Mud II and Reg Meuross (Reg supported Hank Wangford – try and say that after a couple of lemonades – about 2 years ago at the Victory Hall). He has a wonderful voice – not as good as mine, but OK. It is great to see some more live music in the village. Make sure you get tickets!

We are also pleased to have an excellent article from Kevin 'The Printer' Thompson, proving that he CAN read and write(!) and the first instalment of reflections on his life, by Coram Hammett – we hope that you find them of interest.

It is great to see more contributions coming from the village, and if that spurs you on, we would be delighted, as ever, to receive your articles either via SO@PO, or direct to Bob - what am I going to do with Pam now – Scanlan (bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk) by Monday 14th September.

Following our glorious summer, the VPA will now have a new class of garden competition - Best Paddy Field with buffalo, in the village.

Hey ho, **Ed H**

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## News from Whimpe Post Office



The summer holidays are here and for those of you lucky enough to be travelling overseas, may we remind you that most currencies can be ordered from us with a next day delivery service. Euros are kept in branch and are available instantly; we also 'buy back' any unused notes (sorry not coins). Currency must be ordered in person and paid for in advance. Unfortunately, we cannot take your request by phone anymore.

A reminder that Johnsons the dry cleaners have a 'Rug Doctor' carpet cleaning machine available for hire, it's simple to use and very effective. Prices start from as little as £19.99 (pick up and drop off at the Post Office).

Thanking you for your continuing support

**Jim & Alison**

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P.S. I have just written a cheque to the Mount Batten Hospice for £646.60 on behalf of all of my friends who sponsored me on the 'Walk the Wight' challenge; many thanks again to you all.

Get ready to sponsor Ruby next year !!

**Alison.**

# FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

## HEAVEN IN DEVON

This was the logo used for the celebration of the foundation of the Diocese of Exeter 1,100 years ago, which covers the whole of the County. I found it most inspirational and 5,000 people turned up for a great service outdoors on Cathedral Green, taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was the culmination of months of planning and preparation. The following Friday there was a very moving service to celebrate the return of the Royal Marines from Afghanistan and the Duke of Edinburgh took the salute. What a very wonderful homecoming to Devon and what a joy and relief for the families.

What a great shame we were deprived by the BBC on Friday 4th July of that great tribute to our brave troops in Exeter and in the Cathedral, when they replaced it with tennis. Someone had their priorities sadly missing in good taste.

As I walked round my garden in the early morning, looking up at the sky and admiring the fleecy clouds drifting in the breeze, there came to my mind such a gentle, yet elated, sense of joy to be living in Devon, heavenly Devon.

“How various his enjoyments whom the world calls idle,  
And who justly in return esteems the busy world an idler too  
And nature in her cultivated trim dressed to his taste  
Invites him abroad. Can he want occupation who has these?  
Will he be idle who has so much to enjoy?

*William Cooper*

August in Devon villages is the month of our wonderful Flower Shows. As you can imagine, the months before are not spent in idleness but in planning, growing, taking the greatest care in cultivation to bring the best exhibits to the show. What anticipation and hope! The new schedules went out early to whet the appetite of prospective exhibitors. I must say I was most impressed by the way it was conceived. It is so good to know our school is very involved. When we lived in London, I used to get invited to special previews of the Royal Horticultural Society in Vincent Square and, by chance, I found this little poem which depicts it so well.

The King walked into the flower show tent  
He is just an average English gent  
Neat black jacket and grey cravat  
Rolled umbrella and bowler hat  
He thinks to himself “The flowers are fine



But nothing at all compared with mine.”  
The Queen comes into the big marquee  
She is just a gardener like you and me  
A bit of Old Chelsea in powder blue  
Vastly enjoying the private view  
She thinks to herself “I’ll eat my hat  
If I could not grow lupins like that.”

As a gardener myself, I am always happiest out of doors with a trowel or fork. To touch the earth with your hands is such a special contact with Mother Nature. To look at my flowers, see bees humming and butterflies fleeting from one bloom to another, to let the sunshine fall on my open hand and try to hold it is heavenly, especially when my robin follows and sings a sweet melody. I wish it would last for ever. Our Square has looked especially lovely this year, although some careless people still manage to drop litter. We now have elegant flower pots to prevent people from parking in the narrowest parts, which blocked traffic. “Say it with Flowers” seems to have worked so far although, unfortunately, one of our containers was damaged by a careless driver – but it was immediately replaced.

I just do not know where the months have gone. It seems that we have only just celebrated the Summer solstice, the longest day, and yet here we are nearing the end of the Autumn Equinox, when day and night are of equal length. September brings morning mists and the first sparkling, heavy dews. The colours in our beautiful Devon countryside are changing, with dramatic displays of bright red, bronze and yellow, and the birds are starting to make preparation for migrating to warmer climes. I feel that September brings an abundance of berries, some green and others bright and red, attracting the voracious birds. One often hears the expression INDIAN SUMMER applied to September. It was so called in the nineteenth century in North America because the native Indians used such balmy and warm days to store their crops and prepare for the long Winter months.

The spiders are also creating delicate pictures of great beauty which festoon shrubs and, for my great joy, my window.

The ragged, noisy boys intrude  
To gather nuts that ripened  
As soon as shook will patter down  
And harvest ends its busy reign  
And leaves the fields their peace again  
The Autumn shadows idly move  
And tinge the trees with many hues.



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## VINTAGE YEARS: Coram Hammett remembers:

I remember the house where I was born, an old cob (mud wall) and thatch roof dwelling, deep in the beautiful Devonshire countryside. The midwife had come in a pony and trap and, when she found she could not cope, the Doctor came the same way and I was brought kicking and screaming into this world as though I knew what was in store for me in this life. Three years later my sister Kathleen was born. We had our first tender years in this beautiful place. We were happy without resentment about our poverty. We had nothing but our health and happiness and we had God. Neither of my parents was demonstrative in their affection, but they did love us. I later realized that they in turn were acting in the same way as their parents did. We are all products of our childhood's environment.

Most of my childhood was spent while we were still in this cottage, and I spent my days in the forest and down by the river. I got to know every bend, waterhole, large rock, and all the large trees on the river bank. I used to catch eels, which mother would fry for us. We were poor and any food was good.

I once fell into the river and instead of sinking, I floated on my back until I could get out or was rescued. So my guardian angel was watching over me. We got all our water from a well fed by a crystal clear spring. One has to buy such water nowadays; it does not come out of a tap. After dark we used oil lamps and candles.

Both my parents came from large families who had lived in Devon for generations. My Mother was one of fourteen, my Father one of nine. My Father lived 66 years and my Mother lived 91. They were married in St Mary's Church, Morchard Bishop on 29th June 1925 and I was born on 28th June 1926. On 17th October that year I was baptised in St Peter's Church, Oakford . One of my given names was Coram, which is really a Devonshire family name that can be traced back 600 years.

At Oakford I started my schooling. That was three miles away, a journey I had to walk in all weathers. In the middle of the classroom was a pot-belly type heater which used to burn coke. There was only one teacher in this school. We used to be given one or two Ovaltine tablets free every day, provided by the government. A dentist would come and check our teeth once a year. He had a portable foot-operated drill if we needed a filling. I was not to become a great academic, just learnt to read and write and do simple arithmetic.

After a few years we moved to another cottage on the top of a hill, called Wind Whistle. It was there I saw my first aircraft. An airship moving silently and slowly along. Sometimes we saw gyrocopters, the forerunner of helicopters. I can remember my Father making wooden pegs for his rabbit traps and snares. I was fascinated by his skill in woodwork; he would sit on one log and use another for a chopping block. He could do all the repair jobs around the house as well as trapping rabbits, working on the farm and as a woodman with one axe and a cross-cut saw. We had no radio and only got one newspaper called the News of the World on Sundays..... to be continued



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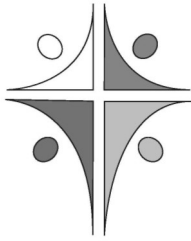
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## Churches 4 All

Whimble - Talaton  
Clyst Hydon - Clyst St Lawrence

**WHIMPLE CHURCH**  
[www.whimplechurch.org](http://www.whimplechurch.org)



Exciting changes are taking place in the group of churches, of which Whimble Church forms part. We have recently been joined by St Andrew's, Clyst Hydon, and together with St Mary's, Whimble, St James the Great, Talaton & Clyst St Lawrence, we make up a newly formed 'Mission Community' which is to be known as "**Churches 4 All**". The name indicates that we are four churches, that church is for everyone, and within the community there are different styles of church and service to suit every preference. Why not come along one Sunday and give us a try? Look out for our **new logo** in which the four churches are represented as people, worshipping God. The design illustrates that the churches and their members are each different but we are united in our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, represented by a cross at the centre.



We are enjoying welcoming young and old to our **Saturday Morning Coffee** when tea, coffee and home made cakes are served in church from 10:15 to 12:00pm every Saturday (except 8th August). Please drop in.

While you are in church, do browse the excellent new **lending library**. There are books suitable for those investigating Christianity, books to help us better understand the Bible, as well as others relating the Christian life generally. The church is open every day, and the books are available for anyone to borrow.

A couple of special 11.00am services to put in your diaries are **Harvest** on 20th September and **Back To Church Sunday** on 27th September. This latter service will be especially designed to appeal those who have not been to church for a while, or indeed, ever!



Come and give it a try and we think you'll be pleasantly surprised!



On 3rd September we are celebrating 80 years of the **Mothers' Union** in Whimble and you are invited to a special service of thanksgiving at 3pm. Do come and hear about their work and activities and stay for refreshments afterwards.

Our **children's and youth work** has thrived in the past year, and we look forward to welcoming current and new children to the different groups which start back on 13th September. Many children have recently moved up to Impact, the group for 10-13yr olds, with plenty of room for new younger children (5-9) at SClub11. Please contact Phil & Rebecca Dominy for further details (822163).

The **Impact weekend away at Bernards Acre**, primarily for 10 - 13s, will take place over the weekend of 9th - 11th October and anyone within the age bracket is welcome. The weekend will be packed with great activities, games and chill-out time with friends as well as opportunities to hear more about the Christian faith. Please contact Ian & Maggie Spicer for further information (823640).

If you were one of the many who acquired a lovely new bicycle at the bike auction on Village Day, why not take it out for a spin at **Devon Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride** on 12th September. Groups choose their route and aim to take in as many churches as possible (not least so as to enjoy maximum cake-consumption). This is an all-age event, and if you would like to join a group please contact Mike Ellingham on 822945.



### PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Whimble Church now has a Pastoral Care Team. Its members have been trained and are available to lend a listening ear, visit those who are housebound, ill, in hospital, 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)

### Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Celebration Service
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sclub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Service
4th Sunday	11.00am	Morning Worship
	10.45am	Sclub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
5th Sunday	11.00am	Churches Together Service

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# DOG POO

- a serious public health reminder to all dog owners – especially those who use the Parish Field.

The law requires all dog owners to clear up immediately after his or her dog, should it foul in places where dog faeces are likely to cause a health hazard to people. Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, owners **MUST** clear up after their dogs on all land to which the public has access. These areas include children's play parks, public greens and parks, residential areas, highways (with some exceptions), cycle paths and walkways. **TO AVOID FURTHER ACTION ALL DOG OWNERS ARE KINDLY ASKED TO BE CONSIDERATE.**

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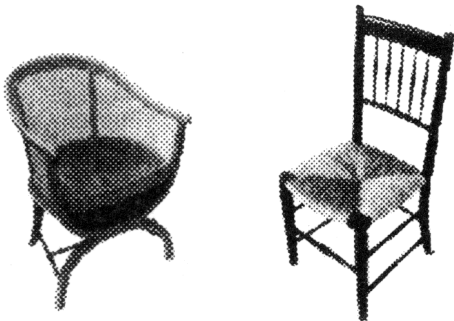
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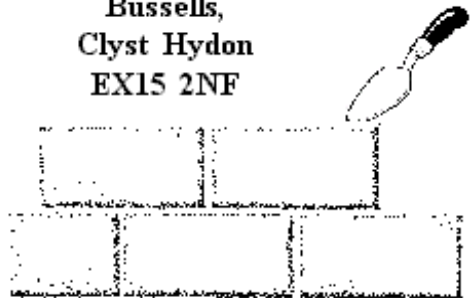
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# Care in the Community

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## Foot care

Did you know that for £5.50 per session you could have podiatry care at Ottery Hospital? This is run by a group of volunteers who have been trained to correctly cut toenails and carry out this service for others. This takes place at the hospital in Ottery St Mary on Thursdays. You need to book an appointment in advance on 01404 816000.

Whimble Parish Council



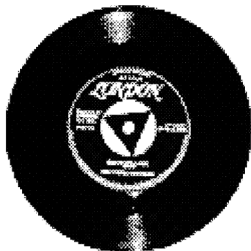
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# Village Day - Fancy Dress Competition

Overall Winners  
Moon Landing  
Tom and Robbie Palmer  
with Peter Betts



Winner of Key Stage 1  
Dulcie Sanders  
As a flower



Winners of the Over 12's Group  
John Griffiths and Alex Tooze  
as a newly married couple



Dave Salter (or Tickety  
Boo as lots of us know  
him) as Charles Dickens



There will be a full report on Village week in our next edition.

Elisha, Chloe, Molly, Eleanor, Katie and Anna as the 'High School Musical' entry



It must be true!  
I read it in the Express and Echo!



## Plot next door to pub is sold

LAND next to a Devon pub has been sold for housing.

The plot, next to the Thirsty Camel in Whimple, has been bought by a man from the East Devon village who intends to build a home on it.

There plot, previously part of the pub's garden, was sold with planning permission for one, four-bedroom detached house off a guide price of £120,000.

## THANK YOU TO WAC4Y

This Whimple resident and mother would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all the WAC4Y team for their vision and hard work in securing a grant for the Parish Field improvements.

I took my son and his friend to check out the bike track and BMX humps at the end of May (this was before the climbing equipment, swings etc had been built) and they were enjoying themselves so much that I had to come home and make a picnic lunch to take back so that they could stay longer. Now that the other equipment is up we will probably have to take tea with us as well next time we go.

When I first heard about the plans I was a little worried that bike tracks and a fitness trail may spoil what had been a lovely - although admittedly very underused - field. However, having seen it all up now, I don't think this is the case at all. There is still plenty of room in the middle of the track to play games in, fly a kite or whatever, and the BMX track and fitness equipment, positioned where they are, don't detract from the open feel of the site.

It's really good to have some facilities for the older children and teenagers of the village and I'm sure they will be well used.

The bike auction in July was a brilliant idea and very well attended (We got two new second-hand bikes to add to our collection of older second-hand bikes).

So thank you again, your work is much appreciated.

**Katy Howard**



Liz Silk speaking on behalf of WAC4Y



Sarah Randall-Johnson formally opened the new cycle track

The Parish Council would also like to thank Cllr. Mrs Sue Ayres for representing them on WAC4Y and for all her hard work on the Parish Field

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# Whimpe Victory Hall



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# MOTHERS' UNION



On the 3rd September the Whimple Branch of the Mothers' Union is celebrating the 80th anniversary of its foundation – something really to rejoice about. Unfortunately our Priest-in-Charge will be away on a sabbatical. There will be a service in church with invited guests from other branches in the Otter Deanery.

When we moved to The Manse in The Square dear Reverend Tucker and his charming wife came to welcome us with great pleasure. I had already met him when I was a delegate to the Aylesbeare Deanery Synod, which was then split with the new Ottery Deanery. They kindly invited me to join the Mothers' Union. How could I refuse? I must admit it was an entirely new experience to join a group made up solely of women, having belonged to Choral Societies for years, Art Club, riding clubs, Swiss Alpine clubs, tennis, skating hockey club where I was the only girl! Luckily I was asked to become the Overseas Correspondent with the Parish of Belmont in New South Wales, Australia, and for the last twenty-five years I have established a most friendly rapport and made wonderful friends. It just goes to show that there are no strangers in the world, only friends who have not yet met. In the words of the Archbishop "Make neighbours out of strangers".

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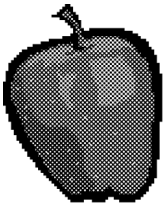
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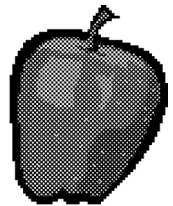
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"Dragonfly" is a performance of story songs from Reg's new CD collected from tales gathered whilst touring England. There are songs about the real Dick Turpin; the original ill-fated voyage of the Pilgrim Fathers; the tragic story of the young men executed in WW1 by their own men for "desertion"; songs about Elvis; the artist Edward Hopper; and the Duke of Monmouth's final battle in Westonzoyland, Somerset.

Bethany Porter is a brilliant young cellist, singer and ukulele player and will be accompanying Reg.

**Tickets available from Whimble Post Office**

**Adult £6.50 Child/OAP £4.50**

***"Intelligent & thought provoking songs, beautifully made and skilfully delivered"*** (The Times)

# The History of Whimple News

In the interest of historical accuracy we must point out that at no time did we ever produce the Whimple News as a team of two! Whimple News was born out of a parish appraisal in the late 1980s and a team including Edith Grout, John Mackie, Jane and Andy Hughes and ourselves began the News, substantially in the same form as it is today. Andy had acquired an 'almost free' photocopier and it was he who had the mammoth task of photocopying each issue, firstly in his garage and then in their spare room.

At the beginning, the 'copy' was typed but then computers came in and Derek Browning (formerly of Plumtree Lane) joined the team and produced it on his computer. Once copied (several days later!) the magazine was collated on the billiard table in the Hall by another team of people and then delivered to the deliverers as Ed does today.

Several years and photocopiers went by, the village was growing and an original 'run' of 475 had become 675 by which time the new housing on the Whiteways site was becoming a reality. For a brief time the then parish clerk took on the photocopying but the team felt that they had done enough and it was time to hand over. There was no break in continuity as the new team took over and the News is in substantially the same form, albeit with a lot more advertising which, of course, enables it to be professionally printed. It remains a great way of communicating and, as ever, the quality of its content depends on us, the readers! Well done Ed and the team.

Sarah and David Smith



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Tim Wright

# June 6th D - Day + 65 Years

## Background Information

During my life before Devon, I had the honour and pleasure of becoming involved with a group of men known as Normandy Veterans. It was on a shopping trip to Bracknell town centre with my then eight year old daughter Rebecca that I met Peter Thompson (no relation) who was the chairman of the Surrey branch of the NVA, (Normandy Veterans Association). He was collecting money to help subsidise a visit to Normandy Beaches the following week and, during our conversation, I said that I had always had the desire to visit Normandy and the cemeteries. Peter's reply was that I would be doing him a favour if I was to join them the next week, as a veteran had just dropped out through illness and he could return his deposit if I was to join them - so this was how I became involved. On this first trip I was one of only two people of my generation on the coach; the rest were all in their late seventies, eighties or nineties. We arrived in Normandy at a place called Arromanches. The visit was incredible and I made friends with veterans whom I am still in contact with today.

## The 2009 Visit

Having now visited Arromanches approx eight years out of the last ten, for the 6th June Commemorations, I'm always looking for new and interesting ways to get there and this year, while in conversation (after a few drinks) with friends who live in and around the village, I decided to cycle. I thought one or two friends may join me but finished up with eight, which was fantastic.

We split into two parties known as the "Advanced Party" (Gordon, Jerry, Chris M, Mike) and the "Mechanised Division". (Nick, Chris N, Steve and me). Gordon took his truck containing all our luggage and four bikes for the Advanced Party.

My party left Whimple Station with our pushbikes and headed to Portsmouth. We left on the Wednesday night ferry at 11pm, arriving at 6am in Caen. We then cycled up the Caen Canal to the famous Pegasus Bridge, which was the first place to be liberated by the British on June 6th by the glider troops. Here we were, supposed to meet up with the Advanced Party, but they let us down due to an overindulgent first night in Arromanches (lucky the boys 65 years earlier had more discipline!) so the new meeting point was now Courselles, which is a beautiful fishing port half-way between Pegasus Bridge and Arromanches. We stopped here and had a fantastic lunch of moules and beer. The weather was fantastic and the cycle trip was all along the beach edge, flat and very scenic. We arrived in Arromanches at approx 3pm and headed to the house we had rented, which was just a short walk to the village centre. After a quick clean up we headed out for dinner.

## Friday 5th June

We cycled to Omaha Beach, made famous by the film "Saving Private Ryan".

This is an American landing beach and we visited the large American cemetery which contains over 9,000 American servicemen who lost their lives during the Normandy campaign. After this visit, we stopped on the way back at Port en Besson - the cry of "8 croque monsieurs and 8 bieres" goes up for the umpteenth time.

We ended the day with a cross-country mountain-bike-friendly cliff-top ride which is great if you are not on a racing bike like Chris N. The day was completed with another great meal and lots of very nice French wine and beer.

### **Sat June 6th**

The big day: the 65th anniversary of D-Day, the beginning of the liberation of Europe. I still have trouble getting my head around what happened here back then. Arromanches was the site of the Mulberry Harbour, which was a harbour built in the UK, then towed across the channel and constructed to offload supplies for the next three months. Without it the push forward across France would not have happened. Men, fuel, trucks, tanks - everything came through this small village to the front line.

Our day started with a cycle ride to Bayeux in order to be with the British Veterans for their annual service in the British cemetery. More than 800 veterans marched into the cemetery, which is incredible when you consider the youngest veteran is now 82. The ceremony is always very emotional and at the same time very uplifting. Prince Charles was here with us, Gordon Brown was along the coast in the American cemetery, making a fool of himself by calling the beach there "Obama Beach"!

After a short lunch of - you guessed it - "8 croque monsieurs and 8 bieres", I headed back to Arromanches as I had a date,!!!! (see picture on next page). The rest of the boys headed off to see the Bayeux Tapestry but I think my date beats that !!!! Arromanches takes on a party atmosphere for the rest of the day with the locals mixing with British Veterans and much singing and dancing and drinking. We do our bit and dress up for the occasion (see picture on next page). Fireworks are always laid on for the veterans on the evening of the 6th June, and I'm always amazed by how many nationalities congregate here on this day every year, particularly the Dutch who really do appreciate our Veterans more than we do. Maybe this is because they were occupied for so long and then liberated by these amazing men.

This year they are saying that this is the last big reunion of Veterans here but having been here most years out of the last ten, I can't imagine it will be as the Veterans love it here and the French people love having them here.

The stories I have heard over the years from these men are incredible. I'm really pleased that I had the opportunity to take some friends with me to meet them while the history is still living and real, as in twenty or so years time this part of our history will only be accessed from books, films and the internet.

Now the other seven have seen Normandy for themselves they can be assured that I will not bore them with all the stories from my veteran friends, but there is no guarantee that if you meet any of them around the village they won't bore you.

Finally I will leave you with a slogan the Veterans use on some of their literature, which is a slogan that is relevant for today's conflicts as well as yesterdays:

**"IF YOU ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM THANK A VETERAN, NOT A POLITICIAN"**



Top Left: Steve, Nick and Chris with Monty  
Middle Left: arriving in Arromanche Mulberry Harbour in background  
Bottom left: Veterans at Play  
Top Right: Dinner on June 6th in Arromanches  
Middle Right: Bayeux Cemetery, me and a Veteran from the 9th Battalion Cameronians My Grandfather fought alongside him in 1944  
Bottom Right: Fiona Bruce, my June 6th date



## Thank you and goodbye from Pam.

Thank you to everyone who made my retirement from the Governing Body of Whimple School such a memorable and enjoyable occasion. As many of you know, I was very sad to leave but personal circumstances made me realise it was time to go.

Everyone was very kind to me. I was completely overwhelmed by the surprise party of Staff and Governors on Tuesday, after our final meeting, and by the generosity of their gift. However the highlight must be the beautiful card made by the children and given to me along with a huge bouquet of flowers at the leavers' assembly. Every child in the school has written a message, or drawn me a picture, and I shall always treasure this.

I have been very proud to have been so closely associated with Whimple School over the last ten years, and especially the last four years as Chair of Governors. I wish everyone continued success in the future. I shall miss my involvement, but you have not seen the last of me!

**Pam Scanlan.**



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## Dentaid 103 mile Devon Coast 2 Coast Challenge 2009

A gruelling south westerly headwind and driving rain was no obstacle for James and Freya Harris who, without complaining, cheerfully pedalled all 103 miles from Ilfracombe to Plymouth Hoe in July. They have helped raise the profile and money for Dentaid, the little known charity who improve not only dental health, but general health of people in developing countries.

A fabulous route took us through Devon's contrasting scenery of coastline, moors, rivers and countryside. We saw huge mosaic artwork benches created by local children, woodcarvings, historic monuments, imposing viaducts along with wildlife and flowers, ever-changing scenery and skies. Would we recommend it? Yes – but perhaps from Plymouth to Ilfracombe, as the wind direction did make cycling harder!

Some of the comments received from our party along the way,

James H: "Cycling to help poor people that live down south in Africa should be great fun, I might see a train along our route!"

Freya H: "Great fun, I'm enjoying the ride, I hope I don't have a puncture"

Andy P: "A good outlook and challenge but probably troubles ahead."

Andy M: "Day 1 doesn't nearly prepare you for day 2. I've never seen so many hills. We've earned every penny of our sponsorship!"

John M: "The hills are alive with the sound of groaning, Ah, Ah ,Ah AH,"

A big thanks to our support team; Gemma, Simon and Louise, who were always cheerful, encouraging us (from under a large umbrella) with water, bananas and the occasional sugar fix!

Any sponsorship would be welcome - [www.justgiving.com/nicolaharris8](http://www.justgiving.com/nicolaharris8).

With many thanks from the Harris family.



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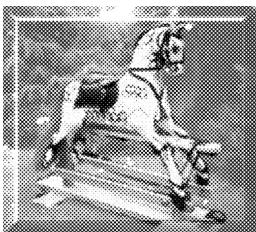
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# Patient Satisfaction Survey Results

During November/December we conducted a Patient Satisfaction Survey. Improvements made as a result of last year's survey were:

- Changes to opening hours
- Visual display in the waiting area to call patients
- Tannoy in the patient toilet area

It was evident from this year's survey that many patients are not aware of the services we offer. We are producing a leaflet to tell patients about our services. This will be available shortly from reception and our web site. Patients told us that when reception is busy the touch screen is not always readily accessible. Please do not hesitate to come to the front of the queue if you want to check yourself in using the touch screen. At your request we are reviewing the seating and layout of the waiting room.

The largest number of comments were based on the car park facilities. We are very fortunate to have on site car parking as other practices in East Devon do not offer any facilities at all. Our staff do not park on site unless they are working an early morning or late night shift. However spaces are limited. Therefore we ask patients who are mobile to park in the public car park which is only a short walk away from the practice. Unfortunately there have been instances where our car park has been 'blocked' preventing ambulance crews, doctors and nurses from entering and leaving the premises to attend to patients. If you are visiting the local shops and businesses in the town please do not use our car park as a free alternative to the public car parks.

We received some very positive feedback ranging from "excellent" and "this is the best practice I have ever registered at" to "am very satisfied". It is encouraging to read that our patients value the service they receive from us. We welcome feedback and are happy to receive suggestions and comments regarding the service we offer. We are continually working to maintain and develop the standard of service we provide for patients and your help with this process is very much appreciated.

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# MUD are coming to Whimble!

When I was a small child my parents used to throw big parties at Christmas, with family and friends filling the house. Without fail, at the start of the party they would always put on a 'Mud' album to get people in the party mood. I am therefore delighted to say that Handsome Dicks Records and Whimble Cricket Club have booked Mud II to play at the Cricket Club on Saturday 12th September.

Over the 30+ intervening years the band's line-up has changed but the music is still alive thanks to MUD II. This is not just another tribute band but actually includes members of Les Gray's Mud. They are playing in Belgium in August alongside other well known names of the 70's such as Suzi Quatro, Slade and the Rubettes, but on the 12th September they will be appearing in Whimble.

The support act is "An Evening Without James Taylor....and The Holy Host Of Others." - a very talented duo, specialising in the music of James Taylor (surprise surprise).

Whether you were an original fan of Mud or James Taylor, or have never heard of them before, please come along and support this event to raise money for Whimble Cricket Club. If this event proves to be as successful as we think it will be, we hope to put on similar events in future.

You can get a taster of the music from the following web sites:

MUD II: <http://www.myspace.com/mud2band>

An evening without James Taylor: <http://www.myspace.com/aneveningwithoutjt>

Tickets are available from Whimble Post Office, Whimble Cricket Club, Handsome Dicks Records (HDR), Ottery St Mary Tourist Information, Honiton Tourist Information, Exeter Phoenix or online at <http://www.handsomedicksrecords.co.uk/mud2/>  
**Alex Tooze**

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# Wine Tasting in Whimple

Would you like to know more about wine? Maybe you like a glass of your favourite plonk at the weekend but feel bewildered by the many other wines out there. Perhaps you know a little about wine but feel lost when trying to match wine to go with your meal from a restaurant wine list? You may be lucky enough to have a cellar stocked with d'Yquem and Lafite and would like to share your knowledge of wine with a wider audience. Whichever of these, or the many other potential camps you could fall into, we need you.



We're planning on starting a wine tasting group in Whimple. Now before you think that it's all a bit too Jilly Goolden for your liking, think again. There are no rights and wrongs about wine, it's all about what you enjoy, and you may even find out why you like it. This is your chance to have some input on how the wine tasting group will work.

So, if you are interested (and over 18!), e-mail Jean-Paul at [jp@jpb.me.uk](mailto:jp@jpb.me.uk) or call 822353.

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# WHIMPLE OVER 60's SOCIAL CLUB

## 'COUNTED IN'

In late 2008 East Devon Volunteer Centre initiated 'Count Me In'. It was a Devon-wide project to record and celebrate hours given by volunteers to groups, charity, school and other organisations without receiving money in return. It was to help develop a full picture of the enormous contribution made by volunteers and develop further the role of voluntary activity in Devon.

In supplying information as to personal details and ethnicity, with the name of the organisation involved, activity role and hours per week on average given, each person would receive a certificate recording their achievements. Each person would also be entered into one of eight cash prize draws of £50 for the area.

Having cajoled committee members to fill in the survey forms, I firmly believed they should receive some recognition for their involvement in running our Over 60's Social Club. In giving time and refusing any recompense, a certificate in recognition of their services would at least be a significant reward.

Certificates duly arrived and nothing was heard until the end of April when I was informed that our Over 60's Club had won a second prize of £500 in the 'Count Me In' prize draw, and that Lucy Smith was the lucky entrant. The prize money is intended to support and celebrate our volunteers.

Presentation of the cheque was made at the Bishops Palace gardens on the 1st July where 170 guests gathered to praise volunteers. Bishop Michael Langrish presented eight Devon Community Foundation Volunteer of the Year Awards whilst Emily Wood of BBC Spotlight presented the other awards to the organisations. Invitation to the award ceremony allowed myself as Chairman, Beryl Iball (Secretary), Ena Northcott (Outings Coordinator), Lucy Smith (Birthday Card Organiser) and Shirley Peters (Committee Representative) to attend. We were welcomed with drinks and given lunch in the marquee. Speeches were given by Councillor Roger Croad, Cabinet Member for Community Services, DCC and Emily Wood, BBC Spotlight & Winston Churchill Fellow. Presentations followed and many balloons, each representing the thousands of volunteers, were released from the palace grounds.

The foundation has awarded £6.6m in grants to 1,900 small voluntary and community groups run by volunteers. In Exeter more than 177 groups have been supported with a total of £800,000 in grants.

As a self financing organisation we **are** extremely grateful and proud to have been 'Counted In'.

**Arthur Iball**, Chairman Whimple Over 60's Social Club.

# *Simon Turner*

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# WHIMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## sports day

On Thursday 18th June Whimple School had their sports day. The first thing that happened on sports day was the key stage 1 obstacle races. They had to crawl through a tunnel then bounce on a bouncy hopper then jump over a hurdle then walk on big feet.



Then they had the flat races, they had running races, bouncy hopper races and it was really fun!!!

Next it was the key stage 2 sports Day. First it was the flat races. After that it was the obstacle race the hogsheads won!!! Then we had a parents obstacle race it was really funny!!!

By Evie Wilson, Jasmine Gribble and Leah Young (Year 4)

## making puppets

Key Stage 1 have been making puppets – animals from the Galapagos Islands. We made lots of different animal puppets like birds, sea lions, iguanas, lava crabs, tortoises and lots of others. We all had fun making them. We made them from amilk bottles and we stuck tissue paper on them and they look great!



By Emma Beedell, Bethany Carter, Charlotte Thomas and Jakob Perry (Year 2)



## Drum Crazy

On Monday of Arts Week the whole school went up to the hall and had a go at some DRUMS! We all knew the crazy rhythm. First we learnt a song it was called 'Coomama', then we had a go with some drums. We had to make up our own rhythms with what we had for breakfast, the first rhythm was toast and chocolate spread.

By Samuel and Thomas (Year 3)

## A Day at Crealy Adventure Park

On Tuesday 30th June, Yr 6 went to Crealy Great Adventure Park for the day – a leaving present from the Friends of Whimble School. As soon as we got there, we all rushed to the roller coasters like we were 5 year olds! Rebecca sat next to Mrs Vanstone, who squealed like a little piglet – wee, wee, wee, all the way home!! After a ride with the squeaky teacher, we went to the rocking boat, bound to make you sick after only the one ride.

Next up was the Dino blasters (or bumper boats). We got wet just lining up but when we eventually got on, the teachers should have stood well back, but they didn't because they didn't know we had ... SQUIRTERS! So with a push of a button they were wet, wet, wet!

Our designer outfits (well, bin bags actually) came in handy for the log flume. We looked like the Adams family, only bigger and uglier! After the log flume we got changed into our swimming costumes, and went to the summer soak zone. We all got wet and had fun.

By Kellie Ayres, Rebecca Hart and Millie Perkins

## MUSIC MIX

On Wednesday 24th June KS2 went to West Point for music mix day. There were lots of activities and the first one we learned was a song called crazy beat. Next we learnt a rhyme that had some actions with it. The actions were throwing an imaginary ball to your partner. After that we walked to the arena and watched some Japanese drumming.

By Kiko Keighery and Robert Palmer (Year 3) - Bye !!

It was great to see so many people looking around the school at all the art work on Village Fayre Day. The feedback was lovely. Another term and school year now comes to a close – may I take this opportunity to wish our Year 6 children all the best in their new schools, they have been a great bunch to have around and will be missed.

All the clubs and activities will begin again next term and if there is anyone who would like to offer help – it can be for anything and for a range of time slots (it doesn't have to be a regular commitment but is subject to a CRB check), call in at the office in September.

Many thanks to all those who have supported staff and children at the school throughout the last school year.

**Carole Shilston**

# WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Our events this year have so far been very successful.

Our first event in March was a very informative talk and practical demonstration of Flower Arranging. Hilary Webb gave us many hints and tips for the complete beginner and for the more experienced. Hilary made it all seem so simple and the very keen audience went away with some excellent ideas so the flower arranging classes at this year's flower show should be truly amazing. It was a very much hands on evening and even the most ham fisted of us managed to make a reasonably attractive arrangement!

Our next event was the Spring Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th May 2009 in the Village Hall. With better growing conditions many more of the plants were much further forward and there was certainly a good selection for all. It seems to be a popular event judging by the early turn out and it wasn't long before the trays were empty. Hopefully by now those that made these bargain purchases will be seeing good results in their gardens.

Our project for the village this year was, with the kind permission of the Village Hall Management Committee, to tidy up the flower borders either side of the main entrance. We are very pleased with what we achieved and the Village Hall Committee also appear to be pleased, judging by the letter they sent to us. The plants are now in bloom and do add a colourful frontage to the building, which adds to the improvements that have already been carried out inside the building.

The main event of the year, as always, will be the Annual Flower Show on Saturday 8th August 2009, again in the Village Hall. By the time this gets out no doubt all the final touches will be being made to all the arts and craft exhibits and no doubt those entering the flower and vegetable classes will be desperately persuading flowers to bloom and their vegetables to get bigger and better. We are looking forward to another colourful Show and hope to see an even better display of exhibits than last year.



**Paul Wilson,**  
Hon. Secretary.

I applaud your reminder to drivers, in the April/May Whimple News, that they should adhere to the speed limits and drive with care. I would like you to remind pedestrians that they too have a highway code - walk into and not with the direction of the traffic.

**Gillean Slade,** Dince Hill House

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# Whimble Womens Institute

The past two months have produced speakers on quite different topics. In June Julia Foss gave a talk on graphology - the interpretation of handwriting. Several members had their writing analysed, with varied opinions on the accuracy of the characteristics revealed by the individual interpretations!

In July there was a return visit by Ann Sutherland whose topic on this occasion was 'Every Woman Should Have ...'. Ann again gave an interesting and humorous talk.

During the past few weeks members have also enjoyed a visit to the Met Office. This was a truly fascinating evening, covering not only the day to day weather forecasting but also the hugely important part the Met Office played in planning various campaigns during World War II.

One of our members has enjoyed a course at the WI's Denman College and gave a glowing account of her visit. The weekly informal craft afternoons continue and we now look forward to what has become our annual garden party in August.

For more information and the opportunity to make new friends contact Ann Bowden (823450).

**Rosemarie Burrows**



# Whimble ToddLers Group

Back of the Victory Hall, Church Road, Whimble  
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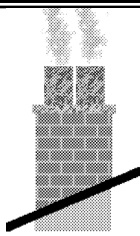


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# Swine Flu

## Advice from Coleridge Medical Centre

Symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of seasonal influenza: a feverish illness accompanied by one or more of the following:

- cough
- sore throat
- headache
- muscle aches

### Key Messages

If you have flu like symptoms:-

- **STAY AT HOME** and contact the Flu Pandemic Helpline on 0800 1 513 513, your GP or NHS Direct on 0845 4647
- **DO NOT COME INTO THE SURGERY OR GO TO A HOSPITAL AS YOU MAY SPREAD THE DISEASE**
- If you have been with someone who has flu-like symptoms please telephone the Flu Pandemic Helpline for further advice on 0800 1 513 513

### Key Reading

Go to [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk) and follow the links for swine fever. If you are not able to access a computer, telephone NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or the Flu Pandemic Helpline on 0800 1 513 513.

### Key Actions

#### Prevention

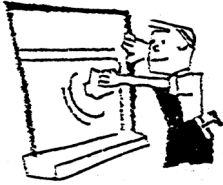
Remember that preventing the spread of germs is the single most effective way to slow the spread of disease such as swine flu. You should always:

- ensure everyone washes their hands regularly with soap and water
- clean surfaces regularly to get rid of germs
- use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze
- place used tissues in the bin as soon as possible

#### Preparation

You can also prepare now, in case the swine flu becomes widespread, by:

- establishing a network of 'flu friends' - friends or relatives who can help if you fall ill. They could for example collect medicines and other supplies for you so you would not have to go out.
- having a stock of food and other supplies, including basic cold remedies, available at home. This should be enough to last two weeks, in case you and your family are ill.



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# Wasters of Whimble

## Cardboard/plastics volunteer collections

Please remember that all cardboard and plastics should be clean. This helps the recycling process and avoids contaminating batches. Most importantly it makes it easier for the volunteers who very often use their family vehicles to transport the material collected. Remember 'clean and crushed' to help our wonderful volunteers. Some people are still unsure of the plastics that can be taken, so here is the list:

**All plastic drinks and milk bottles  
(squashed and lid back on or milk lids to the church for charity)**

**All plastic household cleaning bottles, Preformed biscuit or chocolate box trays  
Plastic sandwich containers, Yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ready meal containers, etc  
Plastic fruit containers (excluding polystyrene), CD's and cases, Clean plastic flower pots**

A list is available of items that cannot be recycled along with this list on the Devon County Council website.

**Next collection** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> September 10-11am car park off the Village Square.

## Village Garage Sale – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Please join us for this exciting event. Whether you run a sale at your home or get together with neighbours, this could be an excellent opportunity for you to make money virtually from your armchair. Please complete and return the attached form to Ivydene, Village Square, with £1, before the 31<sup>st</sup> August and we will include you on our maps which will be available from the Post Office from mid September or the Victory Hall on the day. We would ask sellers to consider giving us a donation of 10% of their takings (up to a maximum of £10). Any profits we make after costs will be given to Whimble News.

Get your map early and plan your day. Recycle your cardboard and plastic in the morning, have lunch at the Halls soup & sarnie and choose your first shopping venue ready for a 1.30pm start. You can then stroll through our lovely village, taking in all of the properties with goods to sell and hopefully bag a bargain whilst recycling. Garages open until 5pm.

## New members to our group are always welcome at meetings, events or just to our mailing list

- **contact:** Jenny Sanders 01404 823015 [jls.sanders@btinternet.com](mailto:jls.sanders@btinternet.com)  
Alison Betts 01404 823967 [alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk)

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To Wasters of Whimble (please return this slip to Ivydene in the Village Square before 31.8.09)

I would like to take part in the village garage sale on Sat 26.9.09 1.30-5pm – Name.....

My property address is.....

(if you are difficult to find, please give a description of how to get to you)

My phone number is.....

Goods for sale include .....

Please note if you cannot sell from 1.30-5pm or other notes.....

If you need to withdraw from the sale please let us know ASAP i.e. keep the above contact details.

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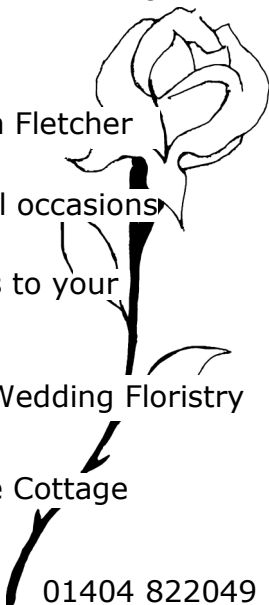
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Imagine my surprise when I received my mobile phone bill last month, which was more than 10 times greater than usual. A quick check showed I had been **billed** for two calls each lasting more than 30 minutes to an 0900 number at a cost of £150. My immediate reaction was what should I do, as I knew I had not made the calls. I also pay off my account by direct debit each month, so my bank account would be £150 less than it should have been.

I immediately phoned my mobile phone provider and, after being passed from one department to another, was able to **verbally dispute these two calls**. The reply I got was that they had been billed to them from the premium line provider and **they could do nothing about it**. They offered to put me through to the premium line provider who informed me that the service was to a **psychic advice line**.

My next call was to South West Trading Standards, who were most helpful, having had many similar instances related to them. Their first advice was to keep a log of all the calls I make and to re-look at the bill to see if I could remember what I was doing at the time of the alleged calls. Then, if I could identify what I was doing, put this **in writing** to the head office of the premium line provider sending it by recorded delivery and disputing the calls. They advised not to stop my direct debit as this would have broken my contract with my mobile phone provider.

It was at this stage that our diary came in very handy, which reminded us that at the time of the alleged calls we were towing our caravan back to Whimple from our holiday in North Devon and the mobile phone was in my pocket whilst I was driving. Also I noticed that the two calls were supposedly each made for 30+ minutes and shown as being made at 12.14 hrs and 12.15 hrs, **which was physically impossible**. This information was relayed to the premium provider by recorded delivery and, on receipt, I had a telephone call informing me that a cheque was in the post to reimburse the cost of the calls. This arrived two days later. At no stage did I get an apology.

The moral to this is that I now look at every bill I receive in a different light to the past! **I advise everyone to do the same**.

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PC 2883 **Jim Tyrell**. *John Munslow 01404 823456*



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<i>Clerk:</i> Gerri Turner,	823385
<b>St. Mary's Church</b>	
Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
<i>SClub11, Impact &amp; Contact Phil and Rebecca Dominy</i>	822163
<b>Devon County Councillor</b>	
Peter Bowden	823450
<b>East Devon Councillor</b>	
Andrew Dinnis	850363
<b>Whimble Primary School</b>	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. S. Langley	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Helen Penney	822948
<b>Whimble History Society</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Whimble Mothers Union</b>	
Margaret Burrough	822257
<b>Whimble Pre-School &amp; Toddler Group</b>	
<i>Chair:</i> Samantha Walker	822649
<i>Playleader:</i> Jo Westney	07794 652549
<i>Toddlers:</i> Sam Walker	822649
<b>Whimble Womens Institute</b>	
<i>President:</i> Avril Ellingham	822945
<i>Secretary:</i> Ann Bowden	823450
<b>Whimble Over Sixties Club</b>	
Beryl Iball	822905
<b>Whimble Recreation Trust</b>	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Mr P. Garraff	891206
<b>Whimble Village Produce Association.</b>	
<i>Chairman,</i> Adrian Williams	822430
<b>Whimble Football Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Geoff Delves, <i>Secretary:</i> Karen Delves	823258
<b>Whimble Tennis Club</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> Adrian Rushforth	823276
<b>Whimble Cricket Club</b> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee</b>	
<i>Chairman;</i> John Discombe	823614
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<b>Whimbletons</b>	
Emma Palmer	823083
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	
John Munslow	823456
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<i>Captain:</i> Liz Silk	822389
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<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
<b>Whimble Book Group</b>	
Katy Howard	823038
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WN60

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