

# Whimple News



June/July 2020

#### THE THIRSTY



# The Thirsty Farmer

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MEANWHILE, TO CHEER US ALL UP, THEY ARE STILL ASKING FOR 'WINDOW ART' TO BE SUBMITTED, IF SAFE TO DO SO, THROUGH THEIR LETTERBOX, TO BRIGHTEN UP THE PUB. ALL AGES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE.





#### Ed the Ed

Welcome to the June/July edition of your Whimple News – I am delighted that our wonderful delivery team have been able to support our plan to restore 'normal service' again, following the temporary suspension of that service during the early days of the coronavirus. So here we are, back with the distributed paper copies, rather than hoping you would be able to pick up a copy from the shop. The on-line version is going to continue, with the benefits of full colour. Our new website address is www.whimplenews.uk so now you can find it on Google.

Well done to Whimple for rising to the occasion over the last few weeks – it has been great to see the way the village has worked together to help each other through these strange times. In particular, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to Mark and Jenny in the shop, Katie Williams and her fantastic band of volunteers, the Secret Chef, Marc and Donna at the Thirsty Farmer, not forgetting Julia and Richard Green with the 500 Words challenge – what a wonderful idea to have the authors reading their stories on Facebook!. I am sure that there are even more kind people in Whimple who have also helped us all through the Virus weeks and thank you to them.

We asked our usual contributors to let us know how they were coping in the current environment, and Jenny and Mark have submitted an account of 'a day in the life' to keep the shop running – it certainly shows their commitment to providing a service to us all.

We also have an army of 'garden gate' sellers who appear to have started a mini economy in our village, and profits going to worthy causes which is very generous. It has also been fun to see the singing initiatives, and the support for what I thought was a medical condition, having seen it described as 'the Thursday clap'!

For me and the current Mrs Hitchcock, we really enjoyed Jess Howe and 'What the Fatoosh' – an amazing and very unusual opportunity to try Middle Eastern cuisine delivered to your door!! Jess now has plans for Bristol and so will be diverting her energies to the big city. It was great fun whilst it lasted – thank you Jess.

The current Mrs H and I have combined bike rides and visits to local farm shops, where we have discovered the delights of home-made pork pies, pasties, Ugli buns and marmite bread! So, we are now fighting fit and ready for the Tour of Britain! And we have seen some beautiful local countryside.

We recently lost one of our village characters when John Aiton sadly passed away after a long fight with emphysema. He played a strong role in the History Society Committee and was one of the Gun Crew at Wassail. Helicopter John, as he was known by many of us (as an ex-Royal Navy aircraft engineer), was a regular in the Fountain and the Farmer where he would engage in good-natured debate on any topic. He always had a twinkle in his eye after one of these spirited debates! Our thoughts are with Thelma and family.

If you would like to contribute to the August/September edition, then please send your article to either me or Bob on bob.scanlan@ecipse.co.uk. Thank you! Stay safe.

EdH 3

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# Our new website address: www.whimplenews.uk

#### What's On In Whimple

With the restrictions on social gatherings in force, and to ensure the safety of those children still attending the school, the Victory Hall will be closed for all other purposes until it is deemed safe again.

This means that the following events have been cancelled - or postponed:

Village Week, Front Row Club, WI Meetings, The Church Fete Soup'n'Sarnies, History Society and VPA Meetings, Table Tennis Club,

As things return to normal, events will again be advertised in the magazine. And as soon as we know, we will put details on our website.

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There has been much focus in the media asking people who are ill not to delay seeking medical attention. Anyone with symptoms of a heart attack or possible stroke should seek urgent help. We are still referring anyone who may have a cancer urgently to the Royal Devon and Exeter for investigation.

A lot of work like immunisations, injections and bloods needed for ongoing treatments are still going ahead. Routine work like annual bloods and health checks are being deferred for the moment, but those who have had appointments postponed will be called in later in the year. You may be surprised how many queries and problems can be sorted out by a phone or eConsult, so please contact the surgery if you are worried about a medical problem.

We are aware that this has been an extremely stressful period for so many of you with worries about work, family, friends and the future. Our mental health is extremely important during this period. Luckily we live in such a beautiful part of the world and we are not completely locked down. Please try and get out into the beautiful spring countryside once daily if you can. Look after each other and anyone near to you who you know is vulnerable. We can offer help if anyone is struggling either with their mental health or with their safety at home. We will get through this difficult period. It is amazing to see such good community spirit and cohesion come out of this adversity.

Stay safe.

#### Dr Nigel de Sousa

A designated service is now available at our Whimple surgery for shielded patients only. Patients will still need to phone the practice to access this service.

#### **eConsults**

These are a wonderful, helpful tool for both our clinicians and our community. These are available to patients from the age of 18 and over. eConsults cannot be done on behalf of a child.

eConsults can be accessed via our website, and patients can expect a reply within 48 working hours for help and advice.

If you are trying to upload a photo to your eConsult to better describe a skin condition, please do so by selecting the option for 'I want help for my condition'.

We kindly ask that you do not email the practice with medical queries, but to rather complete an eConsult as this is more secure with regards to the information you send us.

#### A New Way of Working in the Practice

Our doors may be closed, but we are still open!

Here are some new ways services are running:

For patient and staff safety, we cannot organise general queries at the front door, so patients will need to call the practice to arrange a telephone consultation. Patients will receive a call back on the same day.

Phone lines are open between 08:30 -13:30 then 14:00 - 18:00. Out of these hours, calls will be forwarded to Devon Doctors.

Patients needing to drop off samples should ring the doorbell and await a member of staff to take the sample. Please do not put it into the post box.

If patients are trying to follow up test results with the RD&E, please be aware that there may be a delay in receiving a response due to temporary measures within the hospital. The Practice is unable to obtain these results on your behalf, and we kindly ask for you to be patient. The results will be sent out as soon as possible.

So that we can continue to offer the best possible service

to you, and communicate effectively, it is essential to ensure that all of your contact details held within the Practice are up to date, such as email addresses and mobile numbers. If you believe your details do need to be updated, please phone the **Practice** 



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# WHIMPLE STORES

#### Whimple Stores - A typical day under lockdown

Mark usually gets to the shop just after 6.00am to take in the newspapers, bread, fruit, veg and the milk from the dairy.

The goods are checked in and there are things that need to be put into fridges immediately, while the rest needs to be put onto the shelves.

The newspapers are checked in and the names are written on the papers we have been asked to keep back.

The Post Office stock of cash and stamps needs to be set up in the till and overnight updates checked.

Once the shop is open, we try to stay behind the counter until the shop is closed and we concentrate on getting customers in and out as quickly as possible. This means that, sometimes, we work together at the shop till - one of us pricing up the fruit and veg, or making coffees, and the other ringing the shopping through the till. At other times we work the shop and the Post Office counters separately, either processing things for the same customer at both tills or manning the Post Office, where we can be processing business mail which have been left with us.

We give priority to customers in the shop at all times, in order to help them to be in and out of the shop quickly.

Generally, customers are as delightful as usual and we can still manage a conversation whilst checking things through the tills. We have been really fortunate not to get too many grumpy customers and most customers have been really kind in respecting our risk, by not getting too close to the counter and using their bank cards, rather than cash. We know this is not always possible for people and we know that, for some, it is breaking habits they have had for a long time, but we would like everyone to know that we really, genuinely appreciate these small changes to help keep us safe.

At closing time, we can start to move around the shop again. We can do the end of day procedures at the Post Office and shop till, then we can start to restock and get orders ready for the next day. If we have unprocessed mails for business customers, we will process them and come back down for afternoon collection, to make sure they go out that day.

Usually, three afternoons a week, Mark goes to the wholesalers and we spend the rest of the afternoon checking stock in and restocking the store. We would then have to put any price changes through the till - we have seen plenty of them. Some are due to us only managing to get stock from a different supplier, some just because food prices were already starting to creep up, and some because we have only been able to buy catering or branded goods, which we wouldn't normally stock.

Wednesdays are always really busy afternoons. The Post Office end of week is on a Wednesday, so we have to count all the stock and make a declaration.

We also have deliveries from three or four weekly suppliers so there is a lot of stock to check in.

We have been really pleased with how well-stocked we have managed to keep the shop. This is down to a lot of work sourcing things that we couldn't get from our usual suppliers e.g. flour and yeast. Some goods we have had to buy in bulk and bag up, so there has been extra effort.

All the thanks and gifts we receive from people are very much appreciated, but it is important to remember that this is just our part of the story. During our day there are also drivers and staff from:

Dart Fresh Produce delivering fresh bread, fruit and veg Sutton Lucy Dairy delivering local milk, yoghurt and cream RD Johns delivering flour, yeast, toilet rolls Redmoors Wholesale delivering dried and tinned goods Smiths News delivery newspapers and magazines Farstrete Eggs delivering (without fail) free range eggs Brown Egg Farmer delivering (without fail) fresh barn eggs

Of course, there are also the Royal Mail visits - your delivering posties and the morning and afternoon collections. All keeping your delivery chains open and the drivers keeping the stock of stamps and cash flowing.

The Post Office has been keeping a close eye on our welfare and we have felt supported by them. They have stressed the importance of keeping the mail links open and we try to help and support our business customers and the Royal Mail workers.

Without these varied and consistent suppliers we would not be able to keep the shop stocked.

But, of course, this is only part of the story. Running a business is complex and there are still the daily requirements of bill payments and record keeping, along with the regular demands of wage and VAT returns.

Hopefully, this explains why it is necessary to close at noon each day. The social distancing requirements would make it difficult to have people behind the counter working together in the same way, but we cannot wait to have our staff back helping us. We miss them for very practical reasons but, also, because they are lovely people and we enjoy working with them.

We have had lots of you offering to help out and we appreciate this. So many of you are already helping by maintaining social distancing from us, using card payments and by coming in well before noon. You can also help us by not licking envelopes, bringing in your own pens to use and by leaving yourself plenty of time before noon to come to the shop. We can see people joining the queue after noon and that feels a little unfair, when Mark has already been there for six hours and we have another three or four to go.

Continued overleaf

We have seen so much kindness in the village. Volunteers keeping vulnerable people safe by helping them be able to stay indoors. So many people are making and doing kind things for people, or just watching out for their neighbours. This kindness is so important and a joyous thing to see.

We can also appreciate how important the village shop and Post Office has been and we very much appreciate all of your support.

We feel very lucky to be able to carry on trading as we know so many other businesses have been stopped. Whilst the queues may make it appear that we are really busy, in general our takings are similar, with occasional increased days. Our takings are squeezed into a shorter day with social distancing causing delays so thank you for your patience and we hope you continue to benefit from the great range of products we stock and the lovely quality of locally sourced products.

Jenny and Mark

#### Mark, Jenny and Team



#### Welcomes You

le/swap

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8.00am - noon Monday to Friday and 9.00am - noon on Saturdays and Sundays		

Pharmacy

This helps us to stay well stocked so we can continue to supply you with essentials.

We have good stocks of fresh produce, toilet rolls, eggs, milk and bread and dried goods. Some fruit and veg is noticeably more expensive but we are trying to keep the prices low and buy wisely.

The Post Office last collection will be at 11.30am but full services will still be available.

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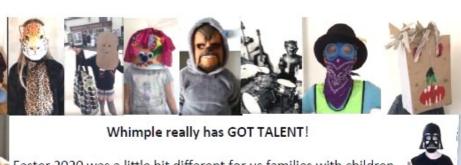
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# Easter 2020 was a little bit different for us families with children of Primary School age. They couldn't go on holiday, see family or friends. Influenced by ITV's, Masked Singer show, I thought I'd create a Whimple version and 24 hours later, 'Whimple Who's Behind The Mask' was born! Performers from as little as Reception all the way to Year 6 sent me their videos of singing, dancing, juggling, performing magic tricks – all sorts! I expected to get 4 or 5 acts but in the end we had 30 acts and about 70 people as audience members!! It was AMAZING and I'm telling you that WHIMPLE HAS TALENT! Some of the children really pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and it was so inspirational to watch them come out of their shells

enjoyed it and it helped them to get some fun out of Easter week lockdown. "It's such a great thing throughout the day and my children have loved every minute of it", "what a talented bunch they all are!", "We've enjoyed it so much,

and perform with such confidence. I even persuaded a couple of teachers to join in (special thanks to Matt Brown & Ruth Toze!)

absolutely brilliant! And it has definitely helped us survive another week!". Maybe we should run this again?! I wanted to write to Whimple News to let all of Whimple know how amazing our kids are!

Well done MASKED PERFORMERS ..... YOU ROCKED! (by Tanya Hynd)

Children & adults thoroughly



#### Whimple Parish Council

The implementation of the Coronavirus restrictions brought with it some challenging moments for the Parish Council. As you may be aware, two of the Parish Councillors work within the NHS/Health sector and have carried on working in their vital roles, whilst others have also been working either from home or in their jobs, which were deemed essential under the restrictions.

As for the workings of the Parish Council, it was becoming increasingly apparent in March that some form of lockdown was imminent and, in the March Parish meeting, the Councillors granted delegated authority to Kevin Finch, the Parish Clerk, to ensure essential services were maintained. Since then Kevin has been working from home and been on hand to answer residents' questions and concerns, take calls from EDDC and relatives of vulnerable residents in the Parish. He has also kept residents updated on the latest guidelines and deal with essential maintenance, planning and financial matters.

The Parish Council is very grateful for the excellent work carried out by the Whimple Volunteer Group and would also like to thank the admins of the WhimpleWhat'sOn Facebook site, for allowing Kevin to keep residents updated through his regular Facebook posts. It has been good to see the vast majority of residents adhering to the government advice and for this we should all be grateful

A significant change imposed on Parish Councils was the need to cancel all meetings. For Whimple Parish Council this included Parish Meetings, Planning Meetings and putting on hold the Neighbourhood Plan steering Groups. Legislation followed in April which gave Parish Councils the ability to hold 'virtual' meetings. The Parish Council embraced the new legislation and, after a trial run, the Parish Council held its first virtual Parish Meeting on Monday 27th April, mainly to deal with the year-end financial accounting sign off. Under the legislation, virtual meeting agendas have to be posted on the EDDC website, but Kevin also posted the agenda on the Parish website, and will continue to do so for future meetings.

Parish Notice Boards are not updated during the 'lockdown' period.

It is intended to hold further virtual Parish Meetings, but only on an exceptional 'need to' basis. The virtual Parish Meetings are time-limited to 40 minutes, from the time the meeting is opened to its closure, by the site operators. Therefore, only matters that are essential, and require an immediate and urgent decision, are able to be discussed. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups meetings will commence as soon as practical but, as mentioned earlier, with some of the Parish Councillors working on essential duties in the NHS, and others on a 12-week lockdown, these meetings have to be temporarily placed on hold.

With an ever-changing situation Kevin will continue to post updates, mainly from information provided by GOV.UK, the NHS website, EDDC and DCC, to keep residents informed.

Stay Safe

Kevin Finch, Whimple Parish Council Clerk



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#### Hello From The Whimple Covid Volunteer Group!

We hope you are managing to stay safe and sane during these very difficult times!

By now, if you are self isolating and in need of help, I'm hoping you are already in contact with your local volunteer. There are lots of us around the village, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you need anything, even if it's just for a friendly chat. If you do not know who your local volunteer is, then please contact me (details below) and I will put you in touch with them. We can organise food deliveries, prescriptions and a hot meal on a Saturday evening, plus anything else you might need help with. As I say, just ask.

The role of the volunteer group has obviously had to evolve, as we didn't know what was going to be required from us to begin with - so we have had to learn as we've gone along. It became apparent very early on that one of the main challenges was to organise and manage the huge amount of prescription requests we were being asked to collect. There was, initially, no structure and we were simply muddling through as best we could, worried that we might miss someone's request. I was so grateful when the lovely Charlotte Woollam offered to take on the challenge of organising this correctly! It is now a fine-tuned operation, with a rota of volunteers in place, going to pick up prescriptions from Ottery Boots and Wells, twice a week. If you need help with a prescription, then please get in touch with your local volunteer or myself. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Charlotte for all the hard work and time she has put into this. You're amazing!

We are not a professional team, we are not trained, we are simply a group of villagers trying to look after our neighbours as best we can. Most of us are trying to work from home as well as home-school our children, so I just want to say a huge thank you to those of you who are volunteering, I hope you are looking after yourselves - you too need to ask for help if you're struggling, or simply need a break for a few days.

I, myself, have struggled these past few weeks. I've had low days. I miss people, my children miss their friends and, to be quite honest, it's rubbish. But, getting me through these low moments, is the amount of kindness that this village has and is showing. I cannot believe how quickly everyone came together to ensure that the vulnerable in this village were being looked after. The number of offers I've had from people, who simply want to help, has been truly amazing. The artwork the children (and adults) have placed around the village is wonderful and really helping to lift spirits, as are all the lovely little stalls that have been popping up. I hope you agree that we are so so lucky to live in this wonderful Village. We just need to keep going, together and we will get through this. Hopefully, we'll be a much closer community because of it.

It is so important to stay safe, so, if you need support, please do not hesitate to contact your local volunteer or myself.

Katie Williams 07967 374760 or 01404 823810.

katie.silkydesigns@gmail.com



# NHS CHARITIES TOGETHER

#### Wonderful Whimple Fundraising

I am writing this article as both a Whimple resident and an NHS doctor at the RD&E to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been fundraising for the NHS over the last few months. It has been wonderful seeing the community come together for such a wonderful cause.

The Covid-19 pandemic has very much put the spotlight on the NHS and all the wonderful work it does but many people have asked why we should have to raise money for a public funded organisation? Well, it probably doesn't come as much of a surprise to anyone that the NHS is massively underfunded and there simply isn't enough money to provide all of the vital services needed.

#### **NHS Together Charities**

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In recent years NHS charities have funded major capital projects, pioneering research and medical equipment for our hospitals.

They also play a key role in mobilising volunteers to support NHS staff, brightening wards and waiting areas, and supporting mental health trusts, community health trusts and ambulance trusts.

www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk

#### **RD&E Charity**

The RD&E charity fundraises over and above what the NHS is able to provide and make a real difference to the RD&E patients, their families and the amazing staff who treat them.

www.rdecharity.com

#### Here are just some of the examples of wonderful Whimple fundraising:

Yard sales/table top stalls - over £300 (Thank you to the following families - Planks, Crews, Handleys, Dentons and Bayleys)

Devon Daschund Services - 5K dog walk for £5. Cody and Bradley Crew raised £60.

The Thirsty Farmer - £700 for the Colonel Tom's NHS fund by selling 120 hog roast baps and donating all of the proceeds. Thank you to Marc and Donna Slater.

Cycle ride, 600 miles in 14 days - Harry Knowles raised £2,179 (+£432 gift aid). Well done Harry, amazing!

Sheffield Uni Medic Rugby team ran 2500km in a week raising £6,500! Thank you to Oli Wellesley for your amazing effort.

Jill Courtney has been busily sewing beautiful face masks for the Whimple Volunteers and scrub uniforms for the NHS staff.

Caroline Reid and other members of the community have been making crochet straps for face masks which make wearing face masks for hours on end much more comfortable. These are an absolute life saver for our ears!

A final thank you to everyone who has raised and donated money for the NHS charities, your money will make a difference.

Thank you also to those who have given up their time to sew and crochet various essential items for the NHS staff.

Keep up the amazing work!

By Susie Plank https://www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk/



### (a) Note on Advertisements (a)



The advertisements that appear in this magazine relate to normal times.

We do not know for sure which services are available at the time of going to press, or how that will change over the days and weeks to come.

When you need to respond to an advertisement, we suggest that you either email or telephone the advertiser to find out whether or not they are open for business.

The News team.



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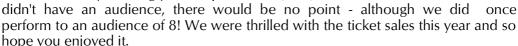
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#### Hello Whimple!

Just a quick note from the Whimpletons to say "Thank You" to everybody who came to see this year's pantomime 'Cinderfella'.

The cast, crew and musicians all put in their time and effort voluntarily to bring you our pantomime, but, if we



MHIMPLETON

Pantonime to the

We are planning next year's pantomime already. No scripts or ideas yet, but we have decided *not* to do 'Lockdown - the pantomime (The Wilderness Years)'!

We are always looking for people to get involved in the pantomime, be that on-stage, back-stage or front of house.

If you think you can help in any way, please contact Cathy Bartlett-Horwood on 01404 823944

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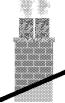
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2020 is the Centenary year for Whimple WI, but who, in their wildest dreams, would have predicted we would be unable to celebrate it as we would wish! I know the year is not done yet but, as you all know, everything is on hold until we have kicked this wicked virus into touch. Fingers



crossed that it won't be too long before normal service is resumed and, when it is safe to do, so our ladies can all meet again in the Victory Hall and share our experiences of 'Lock Down'. I sincerely hope we will be able to organise something in the Autumn or towards the end of the year but, if not then, we will just have to make 2021 our celebration year and make it extra special.

In the meantime, several of us have contributed to the following Newsletter and our secretary Marilyn has circulated it to the members. If we get enough contributions from our ladies, we will continue it hopefully every two weeks for the time being.

#### **AVRIL**

Mike and I are only exercising around the house as Sidmouth does seem to have quite a lot of visitors, and I am sure some people are driving here to walk and certainly others are not walking in their own areas. We power walk around the house for 25 minutes a day, which alas is not enough to lose any weight. Mike is in the garden most of the time and I still seem to fill my time. I have started knitting a cardigan, which I shall never wear - the wool was purchased on the internet and was here in three days. I am also baking a lot as I have taken it upon myself to make cakes, so that our family next door can each have one. Annabel is working three days a week from home. Tim, 16, is William's teacher for those three days, but I have noticed that football is on the curriculum quite a lot. We are sort of keeping our distance and do not go into each other's houses. The other day, whilst walking around the house, I was hit on the arm by a football kicked by William (7). I rubbed the arm - over acting of course! However, after accepting his apology I heard him whisper to Alexander "we shall have to toughen up Grandma"! Well, at nearly 78 I think I am as tough as I will get!

#### **SARAH** (who has been lambing)

Lambing not finished ....another 3 to go! It's been a mammoth job this year as we've had 23 Ewes with a lot of first time mums who aren't very keen on looking after their lambs. A lot of time spent encouraging then to accept and bond. When nature goes wrong it's so hard to correct it. I have to say though, when it does go right it's very rewarding.

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Another 2 lambs born today only 2 left to go.....please let them be soon! Can't wait to get them back into the field. We spend our lives changing straw and feeding them hay and nuts! It's a good job we love them all. Every one has a different character. Some are very friendly, some like you to stroke their heads and some are just scared. Considering we've treated them all the same, their instinct to run is still very strong.

#### **BARBARA**

When lockdown was announced, we decided to pull up the drawbridge and being in a vulnerable age bracket, we have not ventured out except for fresh air and exercise. I made an "Isolation to Do" list, so that we had no excuse to be lazy, and we have first tackled the outside jobs in the sunshine. We are fortunate that our daughter from Feniton is able to do a weekly shop for us and leave at the front door, but she stays for a brief chat at a good distance and it is so good to see her. We have also had some fruit & veg delivered and milk from the dairy, so we are very fortunate.

However, having to spend 24/7 with your other half for the foreseeable future did seem a bit daunting, but we have managed it ok for the past 7 weeks without any friction. There have been times when I have been in the garden and he's been working in his study, or he has been outside (mostly lounging in a chair in the sunshine I have to say!!) and I have been busy in the kitchen. We open the gates down each side of the house and power walk 20 laps at a time each day (him faster than me on account of my dodgy hips!!), including 100 steps up and down the raised part of the patio - Pete does the 100, I do 20! We have planted vegetables; onions, runner beans and courgettes, painted the side fences until the paint ran out, but, hopefully, Wickes will deliver some more in a couple of weeks so that we can finish off, and pruned everything that needed it. No bedding plants to go in this year but I think there will still be plenty of colour to come, as I managed to save all last year's geraniums! I now need a couple of week's total rest to let my hips recover or replacement is on the cards a.s.a.p. If it's sunny, each afternoon about 4 p.m. we sit on our front bench with tea and cake and call to anyone who passes by for a walk in the Parish Field (alone or with their dogs). We are so fortunate to have such a lovely view from our house of the little stream, trees and fields beyond and the bird song in the early morning and late afternoon is just amazing. I think we notice it more at the moment as the village is extra quiet.

We will no doubt come out of this at least having learnt more about different forms of communication with family and friends. We are now speaking to them, not just by phone, but on Skype, WhatsApp and Messenger, depending of course on their capability (& mine!!). We talk to friends on Skype each Saturday afternoon and have even play a revised game or two of Cribbage – I think the men occasionally cheat at the scoring, but I can't prove it!



Finally, my husband Peter has taken over cooking our evening meal each Saturday and, so far, with great success. It has however been challenging occasionally for our daughter to find obscure ingredients when doing the shopping, as he does want to do something new each time – he has had to deviate slightly from the recipe at times! I am, of course, banned from the kitchen whilst cooking is in progress, so that I am not tempted to interfere (as if!). When, hopefully, everything returns to normal,

who knows if he will keep this up, but I do hope so!

#### <u>DI</u> (an amusing conversation with her young grandaughter Amelie)

Amelie was rising 5 when she started primary school. Each reception child is assigned a year 6 'buddy' to look out for them during playtime and lunch break. Such a good idea. Amelie was excited to tell me about her first day, as we walked home. This was the conversation.

Amelie; Granny, I have a buddy at school.

Granny: How lovely. What's her name Amelie?

Amelie: I can't remember, but she has spots.

Granny: Oh do you mean freckles?

Amelie: No Granny, that's not her name......

Out of the mouths of babes!!

#### **MARILYN**

I was furloughed from work on 1st April and cannot wait to get back! I had got used to my lovely husband John doing the housework and cooking the dinner during the week. As I am now home, he has forgone the housework, although he does still cook on the odd evening. However, I do think this lock down has made me a little mad, as last week I suggested Spring cleaning our home ...bad idea!

I actually had one morning where I thought I would pretend to have a headache (!) to get me out of cleaning, but then looked at my poor husband's swollen arthritic elbow and offered to do the last two rooms myself. I think a few more Springs will have to come and go before I do that again!

We do shopping for some neighbours and I walk each day for an hour with Jan Sanders, she on one side of the road and me on the other. My Pilates teacher has kindly downloaded a class for me so I can exercise as well. I count myself lucky that I live in such a beautiful place.

#### Finally, a poem from Di our President:

Times Past and Present
Now that we are deep in lockdown
And the lives we lived, on hold
I've taken a moment to reflect on life now
And back, in days of old.

It's Whimple WI centenary, in July With plans in place to celebrate All suspended now, no chance to party Thwarted, stymied, by the hand of fate.

I've looked over past meetings' minutes With our plans set down in black and white Theatre trips, speakers, skittles and lunches Now scuppered out of sight.

Just as it was 100 years ago Following strife and loss in wartime We face challenges evolving now That we've not seen in our lifetime.

As did those women back in 1920 When they set up Whimple WI We can grow, evolve, learn and ponder Re-evaluate, we can if we try.



So, spare a thought for such inspiring women Seeking to improve a woman's role Through support in education and community War and grief having taken its toll.

We feel the kinship with them Lives on hold whilst we fight the virus 100 years of fellowship and friendship Certain to bind and inspire us.

So, if we can't meet up to celebrate

Spare a thought, or raise a glass of cheer

To mark our centenary in July

For dear ladies long gone and, those still here.

I hope all our members enjoyed our first attempt (we also included a quiz for them). I see that our wonderful village has risen to the current challenge and Whimple What's On reports so many people doing their 'bit' to help others – well done all of you and thank you. Stay well.

#### **Barbara Ackland**

For more information on Whimple WI, please contact Marilyn Mills on 821860

#### Lockdown

By Natalie Temple-Murray

Vacant roads, Wild walkers, Carefree cyclists,

Blossoming trees, Bleating lambs,

This is lockdown.

Sand tray sandcastles,

Paddling pool sploshes, Colourful painted blades of grass,

Continuous baking,

Endless cuddles from little arms,

This is lockdown.

Rainbow-filled windows,

Teddies wave from their sills,

Neighbours unite, Clapping the heroes,

This is lockdown,

Hundreds of hellos, Warm smiling faces,

Families finding time for each

other,

The sun shines down,

This is lockdown.

This is lockdown; Let's not frown.







Anyone who knows me, knows of my fondness for gadgets. A few weeks ago, my son was keen to tell me that Aldi were selling 3D printers at a very good price. That seemed to be too good an opportunity to miss, so I bought one.

You might say "What on earth is a 3D printer?". Well, it is a device you attach to a computer that can build a solid object by laying down very thin line of molten plastic, no thicker than sewing thread, on a flat plate. It lays down layer upon layer very slowly building up a solid object. With clever software it can build guite complex shapes. Great fun, but again you might say "What possible use is that?".

Just a few weeks ago, the world changed because of the coronavirus pandemic and the news on TV was full of stories about the desperate shortage of PPE for the NHS.

This prompted six 3D printing enthusiasts to get together to suggest that perhaps they, and anyone else who has suitable printer, might have a role to play in making the urgently needed face shields - so the call went out to anyone with a 3D printer to start making them - and the '3D Crowd' was born.

To cut a long story short, what started as a handful of people printing a few dozen face shields, has grown to over 8000 volunteers and nearly 2,500 hospitals

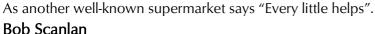
29

(including Nightingale hospitals), GP surgeries, social care organisations and pharmacies across UK have been given face shields.

Our community is an amazing mix of children, OAPs and hobbyists who are working round the clock with schools, university departments and companies to create thousands of much needed face shields to protect people tackling coronavirus in their local communities.

So far we have produced over 160,000 face shield kits but we are still struggling to meet huge demand. So If, like me, you printer have а 3D and help. https://3dcrowd.org.uk/, sign up and join us.

You could also help by making a donation that would be used to buy more of the materials that we need. Again see https://3dcrowd.org.uk/ for details.





Face shield parts ready to go to the 3D Crowd assembly hub in Honiton.



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# OTTER VALLEY VEG

#### An introduction to Otter Valley Veg

My name is Josh Podbury. I grew up in Whimple and I would like to tell you about a new business that I have set up For me fresh business ideas during lockdown became a necessity rather than a luxury!

I am a freelance musician and soul engineer by trade but came to Devon to visit my Mum during a week off in March. During that week, lockdown was enforced and the world of show business shut down over night.

After about a week into lockdown it began to dawn on me that even after lockdown lifts, people probably aren't going to be rushing to music venues, festivals or theatres. In fact the world of work that I left may well be unrecognisable after all of this. So what should I do?

I realised that with people staying at home and isolating and with the increase in demand for home delivery services there was a need for a service which I could provide. I set out to start a business within a week with no starting costs. I got in touch with several contacts in the food and catering industry as well as local produce suppliers and after setting up a Facebook page and rudimentary ordering system, starting taking orders. I think it was eight days from conception to launch. We present a new list of produce every week and people can either download, fill out and return the list via email or call up and place an order over the phone. Delivery is free for all orders over £20.00.

If there is anything that is not on our list then we encourage people to make suggestions and request and the endeavour to find what people need.

The business is called Otter Valley Veg and we offer a straight to your door, quality vegetable and grocery delivery service with a personal touch.

We have an online presence with website www.ottervalleyveg Facebook

@ottervalleyveg and instagram ottervalleyveg

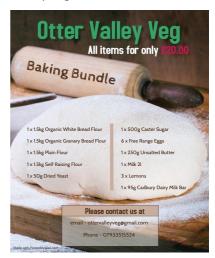
#### Phone number is 07933 515524

Email

orders@ottervallevveg.com







#### From your Dist

#### Dear residents of Whimple,

This is a very strange time to be writing something for the magazine and am not really sure how to gauge the mood of us all. I think that I shall begin by saying it is hard for us all in some, or many, ways, but that continuing to remind ourselves that this period will come to an end and we shall once again be able to hug the people we love.

I would like to focus on things we have gained from the lockdown if that's OK with you. It has been wonderful to witness the people of our village band together to create a



safety net for people who are lonely, vulnerable or unable to carry on with their activities of normal daily life. Our special thanks should go to Katie Williams, Sue Ayers and Kevin Finch. They have been outstanding in their efforts to coordinate our wonderful volunteers.

Jenny and Mark, Whimple Stores, thank you so much for the amount of work you have put in to ensure we all have access to a shop, you are truly amazing and so cool, you are blessed with feathers that do not ruffle, well at least that's the confidence you exude.

Kevin and I have been in regular contact to ensure we don't duplicate publications from EDDC, you can find so much on our parish council website, including updates, please take a look if you can.

The officers of East Devon District Council have been working hard with a newly formed hub and have this week managed to post a paper copy to all of our residents, so that those of us who don't have a computer can have access the services too.

The lanes have been quiet and the birds vociferous, just as it should be in a village like ours. It's wonderful to see people placing plants and other goods outside their houses to be put to good use. (Thanks to Billy B for my tomato plant). I would love to see more plants, vegetables and flowers for us all to buy or share.

A big thank you to the Whimple School team who have kept the children of frontline workers safe and entertained, a special thank you to Mrs Shilston (Head Teacher) for her work.

Council work continues, although a lot of our meetings have been cancelled until now as there has been a debate of how best to run virtual meetings. However, We managed to hold our first virtual development planning committee meeting on the 18th of May.

Our next and biggest meeting will be the meeting of Annual Council, which involves 60 members, the public, officers and Uncle Tom Cobley and all, can't wait to see how that goes.

#### rict Councillor

The waste and recycling team have kept going and the green bins were being collected from Monday the 13th of May. I think we should be holding a competition to see who managed to put the most in their bin.

I am still working as a nurse at the hospice and feel blessed to have work and to be able to help in some small way. A very tight control on visiting has meant that a lot of time is spent sitting with patients and sharing lots of laughter and occasionally a song or two.

Well, dear Whimple, stay safe and please be in touch if you or any one you know needs help.

Cllr Kathy Mclauchlan

Tel: 07811 138177 Email: kmclauchlan@eastdevon.gov.uk

#### **SHOP TIMES**

(Updated to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing)

**Tesco's** (not express'): Vulnerable people - Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00am -10.00am. NHS staff every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday one hour before checkouts open. ID needed

Waitrose: first hour of opening is for vulnerable people and those that look after them

**Sainsbury's**: Vulnerable - Monday Wednesday Friday 8.00 - 9.00am NHS and social care (ID required) - every morning Mon - Sat 7.30 - 8.00am

**M&S:** The first hour of every Monday and Thursday will be dedicated to to older and vulnerable people.

For NHS and emergency workers it will be the first hour's trading every Tuesday and Friday

Asda: From an hour before each individual store's opening time until on Mon, Weds, Fri and 9.00 -10.00am on Sunday will be dedicated and NHS staff and care workers. ID needed.

Iceland: opening hour for vulnerable

**Aldi:** NHS, Fire Service and Police have queue priority with ID, along with those carrying a Blue Light card. The same groups can shop for 30mins before opening on Sundays.

Lidl: No publicly announced times. Please check.

**Co-op:** Dedicated shopping hour for vulnerable, their carers and NHS 8.00 - 9.00am Mon-Fri and 9.00 -10.00am Sundays. Check with individual small stores.



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# Whimple Cricket Club

We would have expected the season to be in full swing by now, with league, friendly and junior cricket fixtures coming thick and fast. I know that Friday evenings and sunny afternoons at the club are on the list of things that many of us are missing. The decision as to what, if any, cricket can be played this Summer will rest on the interpretation of national guidance by the ECB and the decisions taken by Devon cricket on local leagues etc. Rest assured that, as soon as we get any indication and instruction, we will move to get as much cricket played as we can, at all levels.

Many people are using the ground for dog walking and exercise and we would encourage everyone to use the space. It was frustrating to have to close and lock the car park gates. We had little choice in this as a small minority were using the club as a place to park and congregate. Hopefully, we will be in a position to remove the locks soon, so that access is easier.

On a positive note, we have been able to continue with ground maintenance. The success of our events last year allowed us to purchase a much-needed replacement roller. Thank you to everyone who played a part in this by

supporting us.

We have also been awarded a grant to extend the pavilion building for disabled toilets. We hope to move that project forward in the near future; right now we have to be cautious, as we have no income and some continued costs.

When we are permitted to open the club, we will need your support more than ever. To that end, we hope that two events planned for later in the year will be able to go ahead:

#### Saturday 12th September:

Music Festival from 2.30pm - a new take on our annual Band Night.

#### Saturday 7th November -

Bonfire and Fireworks.

All best wishes from the club, we hope to be able to welcome you soon.

#### James Woollam

07989 234372





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If anyone is interested, they can email me at

#### info@asktheancestors.com

and let me have the details of the person/family, they would like me to research. Ideally, I need the full names, year born and where. We usually start with the last census of 1911 so we would need people born prior to 1911.

However, we have other resources, so just let us have what info you might have.

I would email anyone with all the records I find.

Our site has a free tree builder but for the non computer savvy folk I can set up an account for anyone and add the names I find into a tree for them.

I stress no payment needed nor credit card. I am up for the challenge.

Stewart Rothwell

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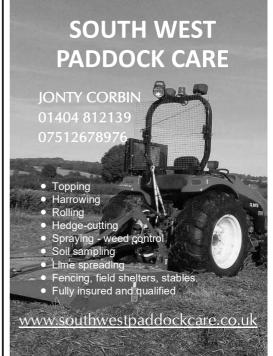
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## Whimple 500 Word Story Writing Competition

Right at the start of the lockdown we had an idea for a way of engaging local children and keep them from getting bored!

We decided to model the competition on the very successful Radio 2 annual competition and then launched it, with no idea of how it would take off.

We were delighted to receive a number of entries, including adults willing to take on the challenge.

There was a panel of seven independent judges, spanning a range of age and gender. Each story was scored using set criteria and the winners were decided by amalgamating the scores.

We are happy to announce the following winners:

Under 10 - Erin Badley, Runner up - Elliot Clayton

Under 14 - Holly Walsh, Runner up - Alabama Hastie

Over 14 - Hilary Nowill, Runners up - Julie Carter and Jill Courtney

There was an extremely high standard of entry and all entries were commented upon as being very entertaining.

As a result, we have been uploading a series of videos to Whimple What's On Facebook Page, with the stories read mainly by their authors.

Thank you Whimple for engaging with this project, it's been a blast! Iulia and Richard Green

### **Under 10 Winner**

### The Dragon and the Rabbit by Erin Badley, age 9

A long time ago there was a friendly dragon who went on a walk through the forest. After a while, the dragon came across a rabbit who saw the dragon and screamed, "aaargh!". "Don't be afraid" the dragon spluttered. "I am the friendliest dragon you could ever meet. Oh! Is that a bunch of carrots in your pocket? I love carrots". The rabbit gave a carrot to the dragon who munched on it with joy. "Well, I must be going now" said the dragon. "Would you like to come with me to my house?". The rabbit reluctantly agreed and followed the dragon to his home where a glorious carrot cake, covered in sprinkles greeted them. It looked so spectacular. "Ummm, may I have a slice of that cake please dragon?" asked the rabbit. "I mean, if you don't want me to then that's fine, but It looks so delicious and I just thought...". The dragon laughed and replied "of course! I was saving the cake for when I had found a friend to share it with". "You mean, you have never had a friend before?" said the rabbit in amazement. "Well, no." replied the dragon. "Whenever I go close to someone, they scream and run away, but I don't know why". The dragon sounded so sad. The rabbit explained that it was probably because people write stories about dragons being scary and eating people. The dragon looked even sadder because he didn't think he was a scary dragon. He thought he was very kind and just wanted to have friends. The rabbit started to hatch a plan to change people's opinions of dragons and to help her new friend.

The next morning, the rabbit began working on her plan. She wrote lots and lots and lots and lots and lots of books about friendly dragons and set about selling these books to replace all the ones about scary dragons. "Book one, done" she said to dragon. "Book two done. Book three done. Book four done." She actually wrote lots more books than that, but I just got bored of writing them all out. Anyway, back to dragon and rabbit. So, now dragon has lots of friends because people read rabbit's books and weren't afraid of dragons anymore. In fact, he had so many friends that only half of them got to eat a piece of the wonderful carrot cake because the cake was just too small, so he did a bit of baking with his new friends and they all lived happily ever after.

The End

#### **Under 14 Winner**



## The day EVERYTHING changed By Holly Walsh

#### 18th July 2019

Dear Diary,

Just back from Cancun, it's eight and a half hours away can you believe it! I wish I could sleep for hundreds of years. OOPS better not say that, Mum says be careful what you wish for it might just come true.

Night Night

#### 19th July 2019 (I think)

Dear Diary,

When I woke up everything looked the same but when I opened the curtains it wasn't and no my eyes are not playing tricks on me because I washed my face three times... wait now it's four! IT'S NOT THERE.

Instead of Mark and Angie's house there's a boulder, where the flats were there's a boulder, where the shop was there's a boulder everywhere I look there's a boulder.

#### I'M LIVING ON A BOULDER!!!

I am going to warn the people of this place, village, thing about them, Bye.

#### 20th July 2019 (I still don't know)

Dear Diary,

It was super hard getting down from my house I had to tie sheets and undies together to form the rope and climb down it.

I ran and I mean ran all the way to the village and they laughed in my face I know rude or what. They said the boulders were their history and had been there for forever. It wasn`t there yesterday was it? No... it can`t be unless mum was right and my wish of sleeping for hundreds of years came true. That`s not possible is it?

I need to work this out...

Bve

#### 21st July 2723

Dear Diary,

I found out something so strange yesterday. It turns out I must have slept for seven hundred and four years and this is my home then. It's the year 2723 it may be strange but there is no other explanation. This is sooo strange. Why is mum always right?

Bye.

Dear Diary,

Same day I miss Sam. I miss Dad. I miss Mum.

Why did I ever wish to sleep for hundreds of years.

See ya.

#### 22nd July 2723 (for sure)

Dear Diary,

Today was weird but then they all are right now but I met this strange boy-called Noah- who looked exactly like Sam. He asked me why I was there because apparently he knew everyone and he didn't know me. For some reason I trusted him so I told him my story and he sent me to his Crazy Aunt Cathy. She said all I had to do was admit mother knows best before going to sleep.

It won`t work but I miss my family so much I am willing to do anything, Fingers crossed,

Bye

#### 19th July 2019

Dear Diary,

I`M HOME!!! IT WORKED!!!

It has only been a night for everyone else.

The train station is back, the shop too, everything is back. I gave my parents a big hug when they woke me up, they were confused. Mum's bragging because I was muttering mother knows best in the night.



#### Over 14 Winner

Author: Hilary Nowill

Age: Over 14 (58)

Word Count: 498



### Chaucer

Chaucer was an old horse. So old he couldn't remember how he came by his name. Perhaps he was named by the little girl who used to ride on him in the sunshine, and at whose 5th birthday party he was the centre of attention. Maybe her grandparents named him when they bought him for her? Whichever it was, he shared the same name as a famous writer who wrote about journeys.

The children who had ridden Chaucer throughout the years had all taken journeys. Some long adventures over mountain ranges, deep into forests, along beaches. Some trips traversed deserts and seas, meeting vagabonds, nomads and pirates. Other rides were shorter than intended and curtailed with a cry to come home for dinner.

Chaucer had been owned by the same family for three generations. The original owner, the young girl was now a grandmother. Her children had ridden Chaucer and now her grandchildren enjoyed him. Whenever the grandchildren visited her, he was the first thing they wanted to see after giving their grandma a kiss.

Chaucer had received three saddles and three bridles during his lifetime. Each had worn thin with use. Once his mane and tail had been cropped short. There had been trouble about that and a lot of shouting. He hadn't minded. The weight of the long hair had been troublesome and he had felt lighter afterwards and ready to canter or gallop. The young girl had thought it would grow back quickly, perhaps overnight.

However, the young girl (for you are always young on the inside, even when you are old on the outside) felt that no one had experienced the adventures she had on Chaucer's back. They had shared such oneness, such unity in their quest for a crock of gold at the end of a rainbow, fighting dragons and crossing unnamed borders where men in turbans and ladies in veils lived. Sometimes when the house was silent and everyone was asleep, she would pat his muzzle and stroke his mane, remembering.

Now Chaucer was old, he was less able to have several children laughing and climbing up on him at one time, as he had long ago. But even now, as soon as anyone visited the house and saw him, they would stand and admire him.

The little girl who once rode him and shared adventures with him now elderly herself, smiled, and her eyes twinkled when she told her friends how many children had ridden him, and of her wonderful, generous grandparents who had bought Chaucer for her.

The two youngest grandchildren, were coming to stay with their Grandma today. His brass plaque said "Chaucer 1962"- it had been polished for the occasion. He knew his long mane would be combed, plaited and cared for and his tail would swish as they played with him.

Chaucer was an old horse but had many years adventuring in him yet, even though his rockers needed oiling and his paint was a little chipped.



What business do I have in the woods if I am thinking of something out of the woods?

Thoreau

- Mindful maintenance of the garden you have created
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#### IT support

I can offer IT support to those working from home.

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Chris



Well, what strange times we are living in. Normally in this edition, I would be able to report on our annual manic plant sale. Sadly, this had to be cancelled which was, naturally, a great disappointment.

However, and even more disappointingly, was the very difficult decision to also cancel our annual Flower and Craft Show. Not knowing how long the restrictions were going to be in place, the last thing we wanted to do was to try and put together a show at the last minute. So, regrettably, we decided that we had no alternative but to cancel this year's Show altogether. We apologise for this but hopefully everyone will understand.

On Friday 13th March, before the lockdown, we did manage to have a very interesting talk given by Brian Carlson on 'All Aspects of Fuchsias'. This was an excellent and well-illustrated talk and we gained a lot of knowledge on fuchsias. He gave us a very useful demonstration on how to take cuttings and how to pot them on. So, hopefully, everyone will have put this knowledge to good use and have some excellent plants this year!

At the time of writing we do not know when our next event will be, but we do hope that we will be able to stage our very enjoyable quiz night in November. We shall just have to be patient and wait and see!

I have heard rumours that many residents of the village have taken the opportunity to work in their gardens, so those of you who have should, fingers crossed, be able to enjoy the fruits of your labours later this summer!

Details of all our events are on our website, together with reports and photographs. So, visit us at www.whimple-vpa.co.uk for further information.

Paul Wilson,

Chairman, Whimple VPA







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#### WHIMPLE CHURCH

http://churches4all.org/

Normally, at this time of the year, we are looking forward to all the events which usually take place, such as the Annual Church Fete, our Songs of Praise service and the weekly Morning Coffee sessions. These have been put on hold for the time being.

Although the government have said that Churches could open from July, there is a lot of work to be done before this can happen in a safe way. The Church of England says that it does not expect to resume normal services before the end of the year, although the approach would vary on a regional basis.

The Rt Rev Sarah Mullally, who is leading the Church's plans for reopening, says questions remain about various aspects of worship, including sharing hymn books, distancing within the church buildings and Holy Communion.

In the meantime, our curate, Marc, has been working very hard, helped by his family, to produce a weekly service that can be found on YouTube. He has also produced weekly sessions, called 'Wednesday Wonderings', which have included topics such as The Da Vinci Code and God's response to prayer.

Full details of these resources can be found on our website:

### www.churches4all.org

You will also find copies of The Link on the website. The Link has been reduced in size as there are no events to publicise but, hopefully, the Prayer Diary and articles will provide some hope and inspiration in these troubled times.

Our Pastoral team are available if you feel you need to talk to someone. Contact details can be found in The Link, on the website, or by contacting Rev Marc Kerslake. Also, a big thank you to those people who have donated items to our Foodbank.



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Lee Maddicks

**David Drew** 

#### To Mark, Jenny, Dulcie and Harry

## WHIMPLE STORES

We just wanted to add an official "Thank You" from everyone at the News, and we are sure we speak for the whole Village, along with many folk from outlying ones, too.

You have gone above and beyond to help everyone get through this, risking your own health and always still serving with lovely good grace and a smile.

On a personal note, I made a cream tea for VE day and you had every ingredient I needed. All fresh and delicious. You also had to put up with me having a bit of a cry when I had to close my shop and was wondering how to cope! I am sure I wasn't the first to do that and won't be the last....

Not just village shopkeepers, but counsellors, bankers, baristas and carers for the whole community. And total stars.

**Sal** - on behalf of The News



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## The Whimple Half

The important message from us is "Thank you" to everyone who supported this event on the day and, in doing so, supported the ongoing challenge that Hospiscare face to raise money to provide the incredible service and end of life support.

The total raised from just the Whimple Half was £1823!!!

Brilliant and well done to everyone who did 'half of something'.

We were delighted to present Sofia Lenzi with her 'Hospiscare Hero' medal to recognize her incredible commitment and kindness on the day, but everyone who took part made a real contribution so, once again , a massive "Thank you" from us.

There will be some exciting news soon about another event that this great community of Whimple can get involved in to support Hospiscare.



#### Nick an Teresa Jarrold





#### WARTS UPDATE 2020

Hello and welcome to all new and existing members of W.A.R.T.S (Whimple 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 240+ 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 14 years.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020:

MONDAY 22/06/20 MONDAY 26/10/20 We would kindly remind you: ALL ORDERS FOR OIL SHOULD BE PLACED AT LEAST. ONE WEEK BEFORE THE ABOVE ORDER DATES!

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

All existing (and potential new) members with <u>access to e-mail</u> may contact Graham Batten with their order/\*registration at **gkbatten@btinternet.com**.

If you are without email you may call 01404 823317

\*Registration to include: Name/Address/Postcode &Telephone Number





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Closed for now

It brings me great sadness to announce that Sarah Jane's has closed her doors. I've tried my very best to implement extra measures to keep every one safe but it's come to a stage now that the safest thing to do is to close my doors for a short while. I'll be back stronger than ever once all this is over as we all will. We all need to stick together help one another and do our very best to try and fight this awful virus once and for all. The sooner we do this the sooner our world can go back to normal.



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## We Are The Lucky Ones

We are the lucky Ones We can do our crosswords Read our books Do something to improve our household looks We are the lucky ones We can stay at home Watch the telly or speak on the phone Stay in safe, be together or alone We are the lucky ones We are cared for, shopping and drugs arrive We are so, so lucky to be alive We can watch and stare At the spread of this awful disease so rare We are the lucky ones We are so grateful to all those who care In these times of sadness and despair Staying at home is our only chance But what about theirs They are working freelance Keeping us safe and well While you toil in the path of hell We are the lucky ones So take care, we love you all For all you are doing, old and small Thank you N.H.S. Keep safe with all your stress We are the lucky ones So take great care and bless you all.

In addition I would like to thank all the volunteers locally,
Mark and Jenny at the shop for such tenacity and good will.

To my daughter Gemma who works on a night shift at Sainsburys, packing boxes for distribution.
Her partner Ryan who shops for locals and collects and delivers prescriptions.

David and I are the lucky ones because we are retired and in lockdown.

With a lovely garden, food, neighbours, friends and family to phone.

Books, newspapers, crosswords in abundance.

Knitting, sketching, identifying wild flowers and watching birds.

WE ARE THE LUCKY ONES

Linda A. Ambrose

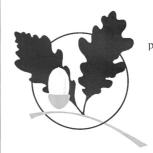
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#### **VE Day in Whiteway Close**

The celebrations for VE Day in Whimple were not as planned but, in lots of ways, just as lovely.

I walked up to the church for the 11am tribute, which was very moving. Then back to Whiteway Close for a special sing-along with Julia Green and her trusty amp! A flag had been erected, the sun shone and it was just great. All socially distanced, of course.

Marlene and Brian provided a delicious cream tea afterwards.

We have had a Whiteway sing-along with Julia every other Sunday at 11am during lockdown. Last one today (May 31st), sadly. We'll miss it! Thanks Julia. Sal



Do send us pics of your VE celebrations for the next issue.

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The school has been a very different place for the last few months. Since school closure on March 20th, we have just been open for the children of our key worker families. Generally, this has meant we have had between two and ten children in school and opening for slightly longer hours. We have also seen the return of some of our ex-pupils, whilst supporting pre-school and having some of our future pupils. Overall, the system has worked well and both staff and children have supported one another.

Teachers have been setting some home learning activities on our learning platform for children to access. These have been based around maths, english and one other subject area each day. We are in regular contact with all of our families via our weekly newsletters, email, phone calls and home deliveries.

Like many other organisations, the current situation has meant we have had to postpone, or cancel, some of our activities and events for this term. As we slowly find our way back into school, we very much look forward to sharing our learning and updates with you.

Whimple has a great community spirit and I am sure we will all 'come out the other side' with new skills.

Take care and look after each other.

Carole Shilston, Headteacher

#### School Activities During Lockdown

Since lockdown began, Whimple Primary School has been open to the children of key workers. There has been a wide age range and we have liked interacting and playing with people that we don't normally spend time with.

As well as completing lessons set by our teachers each day, we have been doing a variety of fun activities including, painting, cooking rainbow cakes and pizza, making giant bubbles, paper mache and riding on the balance bikes in the playground! We even had hot chocolate outside!

One of our favourite things, has been to play hide and seek around the school.

It has not been as bad as we thought it would be – it is actually better than normal school! We are looking forward to coming back to see all of our friends soon, but hope that everyone stays safe and well.

By Libby, Jemima, Joshua and Craig







# WHIMPLE TENNIS CLUB

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Parish Council (whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com)			
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Chair of Governors: Linden Best		822595	
Friends of Whimple School (FOWS) whimplefows@gmail.	com	002062	
Chairperson: Ali Large St. Mary's Church		823863	
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email: frontrowclub@gmail.com			
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Chair: Joe Pearce	11)	823512	
Information: Jo Sibley 07794 652549 or admin@whimplepreschool.com			
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# HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

## Self-Isolating or Social Distancing?

If you need help, call the name of the person on the leaflet like this, which, hopefully, you've had through your door—or contact Marc Kerslake, on 01404 822104 or by email: marckerslake@hotmail.co.uk.

Alternatively, if you're on Facebook, please ask on Whimple What's On or the Whimple Volunteer page. We have over 90 people in this village ready to help whoever needs it, so please ask.



We can help with food and prescription deliveries. Also, we can deliver books and jigsaws (this is correct at time of going to print but this is a fast-moving situation so restrictions may limit this service). We are also more than happy to just phone you for a friendly chat if you're feeling lonely.

There are so many people willing to help, please don't feel alone.

#### Information for Volunteers...

If someone phones you needing assistance please take their name and number so you can stay in regular contact with them.

With regards to payments for shopping/prescriptions etc. the options are: bank transfers, click and collect, cash on delivery of items\* (please see the note below) and credit notes/goodwill. This will differ from house to house and is entirely up to you how you want to work it.

If people are struggling to pay for things, then please get in touch with Marc Kerslake with regards to the donation box at the church.

The most important thing to remember is that both parties must wash their hands before and after deliveries take place.

\*Cash on delivery, rather than before, to hopefully stop scammers. It might be best to tell anyone that does ring you, that you do not accept cash upfront.

Please, please everyone, stick to the rules, at least two metres apart at all times, wash hands, then wash hands again and stay safe.

The response we've had in this village of people wanting to help out has been overwhelming. There is so much kindness happening, and it's important to remember that, at the moment, there is good happening in the world too.

Many Thanks to everyone who has volunteered.

Katie Williams 07967 374760