

Whimple News



Christmas 2008

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MUSIC DATES

5th December: Disco

12th December: Disco

24th December: Disco

New Years Eve: Disco

6th February: Kiss This

WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

December

- 5th Over 65's Party, Victory Hall, 7.00pm
- 6th Children's Christmas Fun Day, Victory Hall, 10.30am - 3.30pm
- 6th History Society Shop Open, Heritage Centre, 11.00am - 3.00pm
- 7th Christingle Service, St Mary's Church, 3.00pm
- 8th Orchard Harmony Christmas Choral Music, St Mary's Church, 7.30pm
- 9th Over 60's Christmas Lunch at Mount Pleasant Inn, Dawlish
- 11th Draw for Pre School Christmas Hamper (tickets from PO)
- 11th Pre School Coffee Morning (watch for posters)
- 13th History Society Shop Open, Heritage Centre, 11.00am - 3.00pm
- 13th Christmas Bingo, Victory Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm
- 14th Christmas Celebration Service, St Mary's Church, 11.00am
- 14th Sarah Pepper Festive Door Wreathes, Victory Hall, 7.00 - 9.00pm
- 16th Over 60's - Xmas Bingo
- 20th Christmas Special Lunch by Soup & Sarnie Team, Victory Hall, 12.00noon
- 20th Eden Project Visit (see Wasters Of Whimple article), 09.30am - 7.00pm
- 21st Sarah Pepper Festive Table Centre Displays, Victory Hall, 2.00 - 4.30pm
- 21st Carol Service, St Mary's Church, 6.30pm
- 24th Carols in the Square (in Church if wet or too cold), 7.00pm
- 24th Midnight Communion, St Mary's Church, 11.30pm
- 25th Christmas Day Service, St Mary's Church, 11.00am
- 31st Auld Lang Syne, Candles and Mulled Wine, The Square, 11.45pm

January

- 3rd Cardboard/Plastic Volunteer Collection, Village Car Park, 10.00 -11.00am
- 12th Village Produce Assoc'n AGM, Victory Hall Committee Room, 7.30pm
- 13th Introduction to Cameras & Computers, Victory Hall, 10.00am - 4.00pm
- 17th Wassailing, Heritage Centre, 6.40pm for practice, leaving at 7.00pm
- 24th Quiz and Curry Night (watch for posters)

February

- 19th Panto, Beauty and the Beast, Victory Hall, 6.30pm
- 20th Panto, Beauty and the Beast, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st Panto, Beauty and the Beast, Victory Hall, 7.30pm

For Church Services over the Christmas period see page 28

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

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Ed the Ed

Dear fellow bank owners. Welcome to the Christmas edition, packed with information about all sorts of things that are happening in this great village. Please support them as much as you can!! It is good to see that the Village Plan work has produced another day of education in the form of the 'Introduction to Cameras and Computers' on Tuesday 13th January. Plus the excellent Sarah Pepper is offering more workshops in the run up to Christmas.and Xmas Eve Carols in the Square...and Wassailing...and the Over 65s Party etc etc!

Don't you hate those very early morning phone calls (see my article later) so when I got a phone call just before 08.00am one day, from a distinguished burgher of the village, who rang to ask me a question but forgot what the question was, so he had to ring back in a couple of minutes, I was bemused. But I told John Discombe that would be our secret and it would go no further.

We had an opportunity to see the work being done on the village hall when we popped in for a 'soup and sarnie session' recently. It will be a great improvement to the facilities, and well done to John 'memory man' Discombe and his team for all their hard work in obtaining the funding for these changes. If you haven't done a 'Soup and Sarnie', then you are missing some excellent soups, plus a chance to help the finances of the Hall, plus meeting other people from the village. I was thanking my lucky stars after this visit, as I appeared to be the only man in the village who had not seen Gerri Turner's operation scar. So as I gently slurped my soup, the Clerk to the Parish Council was pulling her jumper up to show me her NHS handiwork, and very impressive it was too. Thank you, Gerri.

Since I last put editorial pen to paper, our longest serving contributor, Edith Grout, celebrated her 90th birthday and had a lunch time 'do' on 7th November. It was good to see so many people from the village popping in for a quick drink, bearing flowers and cards. Happy birthday Edith; here's to many more!

You will have seen the current Mrs H and I perambulating around the village on a regular basis. Well, it has now gone serious because Nicky and Viv Leonard have been successful in obtaining places on the Moon Walk in London, in May next year, which is a night time 26 mile walk though London on behalf of Breast Cancer Charities. I foolishly said that I would do the 10k Powderham Walk with them (as a training exercise), expecting a casual stroll. Like mad women possessed, they set off at a rare lick of speed, and we did the 10K in 1 hour and 25 minutes, which I was told we were very pleased with. So the next few months will have these 2 walkers increasing their distances and, nearer the time, looking for donations for Cancer Charities. Please help if you can.

If you would like to contribute articles for the next exciting edition of this magazine, please either propel it through the ether to Santa's little helper at bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk, or via Jim (Small Outlet) and Alison (The Good fairy) at the PO by Tuesday 13th January.

The Whimple News team wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2009.

Ed H (now with panto script, but not sure what to do with it)

**THE WHIMPLETONS PRESENT:
THE LONG-AWAITED
2009 PANTO...**

BEAUTY & THE BEAST

OR SOMETHING LIKE IT!



**VICTORY HALL ON FEBRUARY 19th AT 6.30pm ,
AND FEBRUARY 20th AND 21st AT 7.30pm.**

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(AND A FEW MORE), BUT DON'T LET THAT PUT
YOU OFF!!!**

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SURE OF A SEAT.**

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Whimble Post Office News



As I write this article, the Balfour Beatty Boys are doing their thing in The Square. With the road closures and diversions. We have been impressed by the number of our customers who are making their way to us despite the difficulties, and we thank all for persevering through all the mess and mayhem.

We would like to welcome all Halifax and HBOS customers with personal current accounts to the Post office 'banking family' i.e., LloydsTSB, Co-op, A&L and Barclays. You are now able to check your balance and withdraw money from your accounts. If you're not sure what Banking transactions we can offer you, and your chosen bank, please ask.

We are still finding many people not understanding the 'Pricing in Proportion' scheme introduced by Royal Mail over two years ago, which can mean that the recipient of a letter with underpaid postage has to collect the item from their sorting office and pay the admin fee, plus the difference in the postage. As many of you will be sending cards in the next month please remember that if the card has any extras, such as ribbons, badges decoupage, or is extra large, it will probably need extra postage. Cards in these categories will cost 42p for second class , or 52p for first class. If you are not sure, we have a size guide in the post office, or ask us.

We also sell a large selection of Christmas Cards, gift wrap and packaging materials. 'Christmas Greetings from Whimble' cards remain as popular as ever and are the same prices as last year. Special 'Tipsy' Marmalades are also available now, as well as homemade mincemeat.

Now for those all-important posting dates for the Christmas period.

Date	International Air Mail
Friday 5th December	South and Central America,Caribbean,Africa,Middle east,Asia,Far East,(except Japan),Australia and New Zealand.
Wednesday 10th December	USA ,Canada,Japan.and Eastern Europe
Friday 12th December	Western Europe

and for the UK

Thursday 18th December	Second Class
Saturday 20th December	First Class
Friday 19th December	Special Delivery/Saturday Guarantee
Tuesday 23rd December	Special Delivery
Wednesday 22nd December	Parcelforce 48

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas

Thanking you all for your continuing Support.

Jim & Alison.

Whimble ToddLers Group

Back of the Victory Hall, Church Road, Whimble
Wednesdays 2.00pm - 3.30pm (term time)



Open to Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Guardians
with children from 0 - 3 years old

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FLOODING IN WHIMPLE

Our sympathies go out to the people in the village who were flooded recently – having seen the photos of the height and speed of the water, and heard about the 3–6 months that people have to wait before they can return to their houses, it is important to know that Whimple was as badly affected as Ottery. However, in true British style, there have been some warming stories about instant offers of help, in all shapes and forms, which makes you proud of Whimple.

And all I was doing on that night was to try and get into Ottery at 1.20 am to reset the shop burglar alarm, complete with lightning effects.

I actually failed to get through, having turned back from Barrack Road, which appeared to be blocked, and then tried again via Fairmile until I decided that it was getting far too dangerous even for sorting out the shop alarm. I crept back into Whimple at 2.30am, parking at the Hall because under the bridge was flooded, and so I had to walk through some very cold waterand me with no wellies!!! And the next day it took me an hour and a half to get into Ottery, going past Gittisham and via Sidford!

But what went on around The Green makes all this driving adventure pale into insignificance. These poor people will have severe disruption to their lives for the next few months.

Bearing in mind that yesterday is already the history of today, I have been asked by the History Society, if anyone has photos, or if they would like to offer any recollections of these most recent floods, for the Heritage Centre, as a record of Whimple in 2008. Please contact Daphne Rastall at the Heritage Centre, if you are able to help here. Photos can be copied and returned to you. Thanks!

Ed H





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Whimble in Wikipedia - Wassailing

Our last edition included an excerpt from wikipedia, the on-line encyclopedia, which told the world about the village we call home. Our esteemed editor's exhortation to join the wassailing on 17th January prompted me to see what wikipedia had to say about wassailing and I was delighted to find that ours is considered to be one of the world's most important annual wassails. Another claim to fame for Whimble! This is what appears in wikipedia.

Bob Scanlan

The Orchard - Visiting Wassail

In cider-producing areas of England, such as the West Country, wassailing also refers to drinking (and singing) the health of trees in the hopes that they might better thrive.



An old rhyme goes: "Wassaile the trees, that they may beare / You many a Plum and many a Peare: / For more or lesse fruits they will bring, / As you do give them Wassailing."

The purpose of wassailing is to awake the cider apple trees and to scare away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in the Autumn.{"England In Particular", Common Ground 2007} The ceremonies of each wassail varies from village to village but they generally all have the same core elements. A wassail King and Queen to lead the proceedings, and song and/or a processional tune to be played/sung from one orchard to the next, the wassail Queen will be lifted up into the boughs of the tree where she will place toast that has been soaked in Wassail from the Clayen Cup as a gift the tree spirits and to show them the fruits of what they created the previous year. Then an incantation is usually recited such as

Here's to thee, old apple tree, That blooms well, bears well. Hats full, caps full, Three bushel bags full, An' all under one tree. Hurrah! Hurrah!

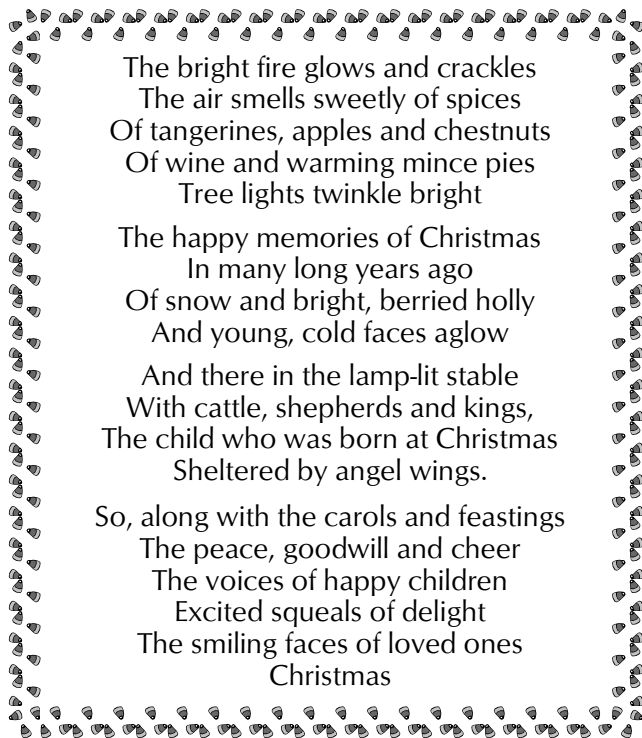
Then the assembled crowd will sing and shout and bang drums and pots & pans and generally make a terrible racket until the gunsmen give a great final volley through the branches to make sure the work is done and then off to the next orchard. Perhaps unbeknown to the general public, this ancient English tradition is still very much thriving today. The West Country is the most famous and largest cider producing region of the country and some of the most important wassails are held annually in Carhampton (Somerset) and Whimble (Devon), both on 17th January (old Twelfth Night).

Private readings about people in Somerset in the 1800s revealed that inhabitants of Somerset practiced the old Wassailing Ceremony, singing the following lyrics after drinking the cider until they were "merry and gay:"

"Apple tree, apple tree, we all come to wassail thee, Bear this year and next year to bloom and to blow, Hat fulls, cap fulls, three cornered sack fills, Hip, Hip, Hip, hurrah, Holler biys, holler hurrah."

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE.

Christmas Greeting from Edith Marie-Louise Grout



With the same rhythm year after year, with wonderful carols in every church in the land, a festival of light, hope and love.....that is the nature of GOOD NEWS and a story that bears telling and re-telling. The Christmas story reminds us of the angels, proclaiming and bringing good news to the whole world. It also tells us that everyone is included - the rich, the poor and the marginalised. It tells us of a moving human story, of a baby born a child and yet a king, but not in a princely palace with a warm bed and servants busying themselves with mother and child, but to refugee parents in an ill-lit stable in an occupied land. Today there are still millions of refugees with nowhere to go - not even an ill-lit stable. It is therefore important for all of us to remember the story and think of the less-favoured.

Before the actual celebrations, there is the period of four weeks' preparation and expectation called THE ADVENT. The word Advent comes from the Latin word 'aventurus' and the Old French 'aventure'. It is a time to prepare for and expect an event - a season of good will leading up to Christmas.

The birth of a baby is always an event full of joy, love and promise. I have very recently experienced the joy of becoming a great great aunt to a baby girl, Isabelle, born in far away New Mexico.

The modern world seems to be obsessed with celebrities, and I wonder what the band of angels made of the message they were to give, with no stage, no crowds and a 'one night only' performance! Their audience that night could have dismissed the message as a sort of dream, or delusion of cold and tired men. Why would they listen to a voice that seemed so irrelevant to their way of life, their work and their status? Yet the pull was so strong that they followed the angel's directions, and were guided by a single star to the stable.

This ancient story explains the meaning of life and it places a special value on the dignity of human life in poverty. Each child is born a unique individual, with their own gifts and abilities. The world we live in is our inheritance and so is the message of Christmas.

The rhythm continues into the New Year, with the Feast of Epiphany celebrating the Wise Men, who brought their gifts to that special and unique new-born baby. They also followed the star but, after remembering an extra bit of news which may harm that special family, they quietly returned to where they came from.

From my window in The Square I love to study the seasons. The birds fluttering from branch to branch at the moment looking like filigree against the sky. On a sunny day, it is quite magical. At this time there is not much singing, except for the plaintive song of my robin waiting for titbits, which the blackbirds are eager to share.



We are gliding gracefully into a New Year, so the Church Bells tell us:

The little brook winds round and round
It covers quite a lot of ground
And loves to laugh and play the fool
Like children coming home from school.

The little brook, too old to play,
Will have to work another day
Yet, while its baby course is run,
It seems to have a lot of fun.

The log was burning brightly
It was a night that would banish sin
For the bells were ringing
the old year out and the New Year in.

To wish you joy with the family
And Good Luck throughout the New Year.



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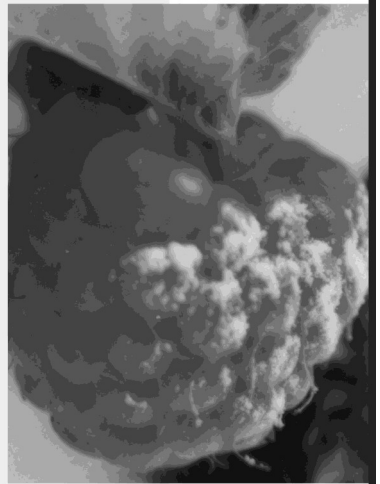
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Whimble came out to PLAY!

On the 30th and 31st July 2008 Jane Sharp and Polly Mercer, Mobile Play Workers from East Devon District Council, along with volunteer Jenny Saunders, based themselves at the Victory Hall to deliver play opportunities for children. Over the past year they have been working in nine other areas across the district to deliver their Mobile Play Provision called 'Off the Sofa Dayz'

The two days were very successful and, despite the freak weather and the floods PLAY continued! 32 children attended, being offered circus skills, arts and crafts, kwik cricket and uni hoc, to name just a few. Parents also joined in the fun to create a really great community spirit for the project.

'Off the Sofa Dayz' would like to thank the local school for allowing them to attend and publicise the events, and would also like to thank the Parish Council, who have supported them with publicity for 'Off the Sofa Dayz' and funded the hall for the PLAY activities.

Volunteers are very important to keep these projects running and, if you are interested in 'Volunteering to Play', you can receive FREE training, please contact **Jane** or **Polly** on 01395 571556 or jsharp@eastdevon.gov.uk / pmercer@eastdevon.gov.uk



CHRISTMAS COURSES WITH SARAH PEPPER AT WHIMPLE VICTORY HALL



Winter Events 2008

Two sessions

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER

(7.00pm-9.00pm)

festive door wreaths

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

(2.00pm-4.30pm)

to make a fresh flower and foliage
table centre ready for Christmas

Course fee of £5.00 per session
and bring your own materials/or
buy any bits you need on the night

**To book a session, get a resource list or for more
information please contact
Ali Tierney on 01404 822724**

Whimble Victory Hall



Course Breakdown

Introduction to Cameras and Computers

(1 day course 10 – 4pm by Cosmic)

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- Come and find out just what's involved!
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- Learn about up grading your cameras storage to be able to take more or bigger pictures - even video!
- Learn the importance of buying good batteries
- Then learn about just what to do with your photos once you've taken them
- Just how do I get my pictures off my camera?
- I have thousands of images on my computer and they're all in a mess!
- Let us show you what to do with your pictures with 'Picasa 2'
- I haven't got a computer!
- Why do I want a digital camera anyway!

May-be you *haven't* got a digital camera... yet, but were thinking about getting one. Let Cosmic show you what to look for! Come and learn all about them and how to use them to their best advantage.

Tuesday 13th January

In the Committee Room of the Victory Hall

£27.50 to include a light lunch with tea or coffee

Book your place with John 823614

NB. This course is an introduction to digital cameras and is aimed at people who *can* use a computer in a basic way, but who wish to be able to be more in control of their photographs and photography and who wish to move onto the next level



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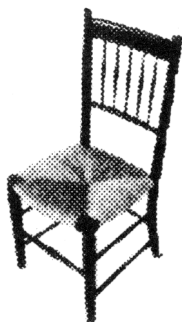
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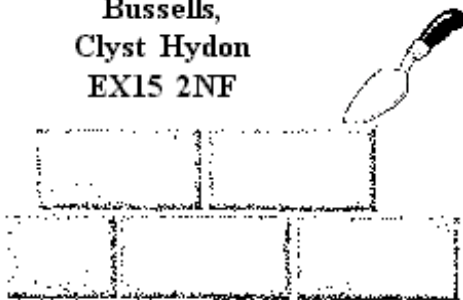
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A Most Excellent Birthday Present

Earlier this summer (sorry about the appalling language already!) the current Mrs H was going through the normal annual tribulations of wondering what to buy husband for his birthday. ..what can you get a man who has everything...? But no, gentle reader, the current Mrs H is famed for listening to the ramblings of an old man and filing them away for later use. I had been beating my gums about wanting to have a review of my driving skills, as it was some centuries ago when I took my driving test. I think it was the same week that they invented the wheel.

And so it came to pass that I found myself the proud owner of a voucher for a 3 hour Driver Development session at the Devon Driver's Centre based at Westpoint, which I proudly presented to Mike Hull one Friday afternoon, at the DDC office. Mike explained that he would be my trainer/instructor for the afternoon, and gained 10 out of 10 from me (as an ex trainer) when he asked me what I wanted to get out of the afternoon. I explained that I wanted feedback on my driving skills as they had not been reviewed for many years and I was certain that I had some bad habits, which were invisible to me. Mike told me that for the first ten minutes he would give me directions but no feedback because he wanted to see how I drove 'normally'. We then set off towards Exeter, and ended up parking in the Pizza Hut car park near Tesco. Gentle reader, my heart fell as I suddenly thought that I was going to be a chauffeur for a trip round Devon to see how many fast food outlets we could visit in 3 hours, with Mike piling his way though burgers, pies, pasties , fizzy drinks, cakes, kebabs, fish and chips...where would the list end? And HOW would it end – would the fire brigade have to remove the roof of the rather smart Mondeo TDCI that I was driving and lift him out?

No such thing! Mike offered useful feedback about what he had seen, and we then set off for a drive that used all types of roads, including motorways. During the drive, he told me that I was slowing down in a very 'old fashioned' way, because I was using the gear box and the brakes to slow the car down. This was the way that I had been taught all those years ago, based on the theory of sharing the load of slowing down between engine and brakes. This was one of those invisible things that I needed just that sort of feedback on. Mike challenged me to slow down earlier as I approached obstructions, and then select the gear that I would pull away in. So I started to try that, and I have to admit that I found it really difficult to 'unlearn' that particular bad habit. As the afternoon went on, I felt more comfortable with that and now do it regularly – but I still have to think about it!

The Mondeo was fitted with an in car video camera, and I had especially asked for this car, as I knew the value of video feedback. As it was, the video feedback wasn't needed as I agreed with all the comments that he gave me, delivered in a very positive and constructive way. It would have been useful if we had disagreed on a particular point, and he could have shown me the evidence.

One of my concerns on motorway driving was that I didn't plan far enough in front when I was overtaking, and would often find myself too close to the vehicle I wanted to overtake, trapped by a succession of other cars overtaking me. So we did some practising down the M5 and there was one exercise which had me driving at 70 mph - not 69, not 71 but 70 on the nose, down the motorway and overtaking safely, at a constant speed. I found that very useful - and very difficult!

So what did I get out of the afternoon? I was told that my slowing down was 'old fashioned' and have changed that, and that should be of benefit to my car; I feel easier about planning where I need to be on overtaking; I accept that I drove up to hazards too quickly; I plan to read the Highway Code and check that I am up-to-date with my knowledge; I am more observant about changes of speed limits especially 30/40; I am using my wing mirrors more, especially when I set off after stopping; and the most important lesson for me was about setting a safe distance from the car in front using the '2 second rule'. I was very confused when Mike mentioned this, as I couldn't see how it could be done. Mike explained it for me - when you are driving behind another car, on the open road, check your distance by watching when the car in front passes a stationary object at the side of the road and then say to yourself 'Only a fool breaks the 2 second rule' which in itself should take 2 seconds. If you arrive at the same object before you have finished that phrase, then you are too close and you need to back off.

Would I recommend it to any one else? Certainly - I found it invaluable, and it is a worthwhile review of your driving skills. We all think we are good drivers - but it is healthy to challenge that view. All you need is an open mind to see the benefits of such a review.

So now you know what to say when you write your letter to Santa!!

Ed H

Whimple & Broadclyst YFC

CHRISTMAS BINGO

on Saturday 13th December 2008

at Whimple Victory Hall

7.00 for 7.30pm

Lots of Christmas prizes

Draw

All welcome

Steve Hammett, Social Secretary, 01392 461268

WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday 28th October we had a very interesting and informative talk by Chris Yates. The subject of his talk was "Plant Associations" and he told a very attentive audience of how plant shapes and colours can compliment each other. The talk was well illustrated with slides he had taken of his own garden. In addition to the talk those attending had the opportunity to purchase some excellent plants.

On the same evening, our Chairman Doreen Staddon was presented with the award for Whimple being the runner up in the Best Kept Village Competition, which the Village entered for the first time. Although the VPA helped to make sure all the areas which the Judges were going to look at were in as good a condition as we would like, it was clearly the whole community which helped Whimple to achieve this award. The picture shows our Chairman receiving the Award from Sara Randall Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday 12th January 2009 in the Committee Room in the Victory Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, particularly anyone who would like to join our Committee.

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary.



HDR

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WHIMPLE HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY REPORT

In the September of 2008 the Devon Rural Housing Partnership with Whimple Parish Council, carried out housing needs survey in the parish. The purpose of the survey was to discover if there are a significant number of people living or working in Whimple who have not been able to obtain housing suitable to their circumstances.

WHAT WE ASKED FOR

Households were invited to complete a three-page form. This was designed to gather details of the reasons for which the current accommodation failed to meet its needs, and the type of accommodation required in the future.

WHAT YOU SAID.....

There were a total of 292 Surveys returned, which is a response rate of 40.3%. This is a good response.

- Thirty-one households were found to be in housing need.
- Eleven households require housing immediately, or within the next year
- Twenty-one households need housing within the next three years.
- Twenty of those in housing need have incomes of under £15,000 per year.
- The biggest reason for wanting to move was setting up an independent home.
- 76% of those replying said they were in favour of a small affordable housing development for local people.

WHAT THE REPORT RECOMMENDS.....

- Provision for the need of 31 affordable homes needs to be made in the parish.
- Twenty-five percent of properties should have one bedroom, fifty percent 2 bedrooms and twenty-five percent 3 bedrooms.

WHAT NOW??

The Rural Housing Enabler will work with Whimple Parish Council and East Devon District Council to work up proposals for affordable housing in Whimple.



★ DRAIN-WIZARD

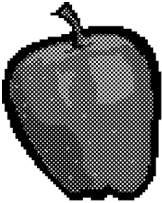
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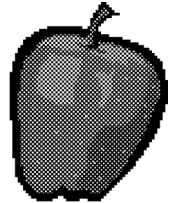
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WHIMPLE CHURCH



We would love you to join us this year at our many special Christmas services and events, when we remember and celebrate the coming into the world of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Following the success of last year's event, we will be holding a **Christmas Fun Day** on Saturday 6th December for primary school aged children. It will be held from 10:30am to 3:30pm in the Victory Hall and is free of charge. There will be Christmas crafts, songs, games, stories and lots of fun! Meanwhile parents can do those important pre-Christmas jobs that they want to do without having children in tow! Booking forms are available from the display desk just inside the church door, the village shop and the Post Office.



Our **Advent Carol Service** is on Sunday 30th November at 6.30pm and our **Christmas Carol Service** is on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm. Both are traditional in style with readings and a mix of congregation and choir sung carols. If you would like to sing in the choir at the Carol Service please join us for rehearsals in the Church at 7pm on 11th and 18th December.



Our **Christingle Service** this year is at 3.00pm on Sunday 7th December. This is an informal service particularly suitable for children when we celebrate Jesus as The Light of the World. Our **Christmas Celebration Service** is at 11.00am on Sunday 14th December which is another informal style service designed to appeal to all ages.

There will be a **Midnight Communion** service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day at 11.00am we have our **Family Service with Carols**. There are also a variety of other services at Talaton and Clyst St Lawrence and the Church magazine lists the full details.

Please welcome our **Carol Singers** again this year as they sing through the village on Friday 19th December from 6.30pm. If you would like to join them to sing or play a musical instrument please contact Gerri Turner on 822587.



Thank you to all who supported our **Fairtrade Evening** on 7th November, and we hope that you enjoyed the **Quiz and Pudding Evening** the following week.

A date for your diaries for the new year is 17th March when we are planning a special **St Patrick's Day event** – not to be missed!



One final thing to mention, is that every month several folk from Whimble Church get together to **pray** – for global issues down to individual concerns. If there is anything you would like prayer for please do put details on a slip of paper and place in the box on the welcome desk in church, or email admin@whimblechurch.org. If desired, requests can be made anonymously.

Revd. Rob Wilkinson and The Parochial Church Council on behalf of Whimble Church wish you a joyful Christmas and new year.

Whimble Womens Institute

Our speaker at the October meeting was Dr Gavin Haig, FRCS, whose subject was 'The trials and tribulations of being a surgeon'.

November was effectively two meetings in one, with our regular monthly meeting and also our Annual General Meeting. At the AGM Ann Bowden confirmed she did not wish to undertake a fourth year as President and Avril Ellingham was elected. Warm appreciation was expressed to Ann for her splendid leadership during her three years in office.

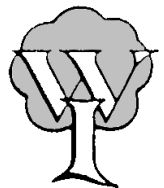
As usual there has been a variety of activities undertaken by members. Denman College, the WI's own college, is this year celebrating its diamond anniversary and marked the occasion with a series of open days in September. Several members visited the college and thoroughly enjoyed the various displays and demonstrations.

Craft afternoons continue and there have also been several day schools covering a variety of topics, from making and dressing dolls to patchwork and covered coat hangers. Members also provided enthusiastic support for a coffee morning for Hospiscare.

The autumn has passed very quickly and we now look forward to our Christmas meeting, but it would be inappropriate to conclude this report without paying tribute to Ann Bowden who, despite her home being badly flooded, has continued to play her usual full part in Whimble WI. Thank you Ann.

For further information contact Ann Bowden on 01404 823450.

Rosemarie Burrows



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Collection Service

Beauty Treatments at Christmastime

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself to you all in Whimple. I have recently set up a beauty treatment room in my home in Rockbeare, where I can offer clients complete privacy and relaxation for their chosen treatment without the hassle of travelling and parking in town, providing a completely professional service, fully insured.

The treatments I offer range from all of the essential beauty treatments, such as Waxing, Manicure, Pedicure, Eye Treatments, Make-up and Facials through to Holistic Treatments including Swedish Body Massage, Hot Stone Massage, Indian Head Massage and Aromatherapy Massage. I am continuously studying and will soon be adding Reflexology and Sports Massage to my range.

We have the party season to look forward to and, although we are thinking of hiding under layers of clothes, the dresses will soon be out for Christmas parties. With the party season upon us I am offering all clients, existing and new, a 20% discount on all treatments. Why not look your best with professional make up, or have a top-to-toe pamper session, for the occasion!

I have a range of gift vouchers available if you needed ideas for Christmas!!!

Jacqueline Cockayne, Holistic and Beauty Therapist — For more details, or to arrange an appointment, ring 822126 or text me on 07872 968477



New Year's Eve 2008



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

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

The church bells will be rung to welcome the New Year

Jan and John at The Jays will be serving the mulled wine on New Year's Eve to help see in the New Year! Any donations of wine will be gratefully accepted!



A Merry

Christmas opening hours

		St Mary's Church Special Services	Post Office	Whimble Stores
Wednesday	December 24th 2008	11.30pm midnight communion	9.00-12.30pm	
Thursday	December 25th 2008	11.00am Christmas Service	closed	closed
Friday	December 26th 2008		closed	closed
Saturday	December 27th 2008		9.00-12.30pm	
Sunday	December 28th 2008			
Monday	December 29th 2008			
Tuesday	December 30th 2008			
Wednesday	December 31st 2008		9.00-12.30pm	
Thursday	January 1st 2009		closed	closed



From the Whimble

Christmas

(normal if blank)

Whimple Surgery	Ottery Surgery/ Pharmacy	Vale Veterinary Surgery	New Fountain Inn	Milestone Garage	Thirsty Farmer
		3.00-4.00pm		8.00am-8.00pm	noon-11.00pm
closed	closed	closed	noon-2.00pm	closed	noon-2.00pm
closed	closed	closed		8.00am-8.00pm	closed
		4.00-6.00pm	noon-2.30pm 6.30pm-12.30am	8.00am-8.00pm	noon-1.00am
closed	closed	closed		8.00am-8.00pm	closed

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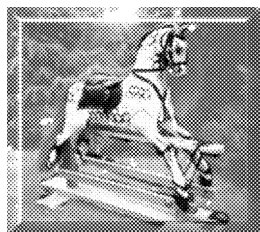
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Whimble History Society



On 24th October, the History Society had their bi-annual Auction of Pledges and Promises at the Victory Hall. We had a good turn out of people willing to put their hands in their pockets for a good cause, and David Williams, our auctioneer did a brilliant job teasing some £2000 from them, for the 60 pledges and promises. It was a very relaxed and informal evening, helped by the arrangement of tables, with food and drink to help the thirsty and hungry work of bidding for all these different 'lots'. The Committee were delighted with the results.

The History Society Shop will be open on two Saturdays in December, the 6th and 13th, from 11.00am - 3.00pm, so you will have the chance to not only buy your 2009 calendars but other great value Christmas gifts as well from the wide range of stock. And it's all in a good cause. Please support the History Society in maintaining the Heritage Centre for Whimble.

Don't forget Wassailing on Saturday 17th January. We will start at the Heritage Centre with vocal practice, at around 6.40pm, with a plan of setting off at 7.00pm. We will end up at the Cricket Club for refreshments and food (there will be a nominal charge for the food), having wassailed hopefully, around three separate trees. Don't forget your wellies, your singing head, something to make a lot of noise with, and a small mug for the Wassail cup that will celebrate each tree visit. Young Jim Causely will be with us again, plus several of his musician friends, so it promises to be a good night for the apples.

The recent Housing Survey had a return rate of 41%, which Alan McArthur, of the Parish Council, is very pleased about. The major points from the survey revealed that there are 30 people who require housing in Whimble, but there are only 4 people registered with the East Devon Council. If any of the 30 wish to be considered for accommodation that is under the control of East Devon Council, they need to register directly with the Council.

Update on W.A.R.T.S.

Our last oil order was delivered on 23rd October and attracted 13 households to purchase between them 8700 litres. We managed to accomplish better than a 10% improvement on the price of a single load of 500 litres .

The next order will be placed on 8th December for delivery shortly thereafter and this time around we can expect around 30 or more households to be ordering.

Naturally we are enthusiastic about achieving an even greater economy.

For those who have not yet joined W.A.R.T.S. (Whimble Against Rising Tariffs) for their oil supplies and are keen to do so please contact either :-

John Aiton on 01404 823155 helijohn@uwclub.net

or me, **Graham Batten**, on 01404 823317 gkbatten@btinternet.com

please note my [new e-mail address](#)

with your name, address, postcode, contact telephone number(s) and e-mail address (preferably).



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BIKEABILITY CYCLE TRAINING AT WHIMPLE SCHOOL

A brief history - In the late summer or early autumn terms, you may have noticed some Yr 5 and 6 children riding bicycles through the village on a Friday after school, sporting Hi Viz tabards, and you may have wondered why!

These children have all been through the rigorous and challenging discipline known as Bikeability Cycle Training, (not to be confused with cycling proficiency – an ancient and outmoded ritual!)

This free and fantastic facility for the children of Whimple School has been taking place each summer and autumn for the last 5 years! And has given instruction on safe cycling to over 60 children.

The instructors themselves have been volunteer parents, who have been trained by the D.C.C Road Safety Team, then gone on to impart their wisdom of the roads to the young cyclists of Whimple.

The trainees all really enjoy the course – even the “homework”! At the end of the 6 week course the trainees not only receive a certificate, but a wealth of skills, knowledge and confidence on their bikes they will keep forever!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to previous cycle training instructors, who are; Andy Hart, Richard Betts and Rebecca Dominey , and their helpers, Kevin Kieghery, Jonathan Ruscoe, Ian Spicer and Mark Perkins.

In order for this valuable facility to carry on at Whimple School, new instructors are needed now. If you are interested to become an approved instructor, talk to me or call the Road Safety Help Desk on 0845 155 1004

Carol Hart, Course Coordinator

Christmas Eve Carols

As Christmas approaches, it is time to dust off those instruments, and vocal chords for the annual musical extravaganza that is "Carols on Christmas Eve".

Weather permitting, we will be in the Square but, if not, the Church will be the venue. It is maybe worth pointing out, that instruments (and musician's fingers) don't like very cold weather or moisture so, if it is sub-zero, we may go inside!

If you play an instrument and would like to join in, let me know, there is music available in advance so that you can practice. If you are a beginner, and would just like to join in one or two, that is fine, and maybe the answer for some recorder players. Ring me for music - 823083.

See you then,
Emma Palmer



Whimble Pre-school and Playgroup

At last Sally has handed over the reins of pre-school, or should that be 'found a willing victim to take over'?

She has done such a wonderful job as Chair over the last 5 years (some jail sentences aren't that long) and I would like to say a huge thank you to her on behalf of everyone involved in Pre-school both past and present.

She's a tough act to follow and I really hope I am up to the challenge. Thank heavens I have the support of a great team that is the Committee & Staff of Pre-school.

If you or your friends in Whimble or surrounding villages have children coming up to the age of 3 please think of Whimble Pre-school as a GREAT place for them to go (I can speak from personal experience , my son Max truly loves his days there).

GREAT STAFF - They are caring, supportive and much loved

GREAT CHILDREN

GREAT FUN - Building, painting , splashing , play doughing (is that a word ?), sports days, summer fairs

GREAT LINKS to Whimble Primary School, which makes the transition to the reception class so much easier.

Okay that is the end of the shameless advertisement.

Just a quick note on up coming events / fundraisers -

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Tickets will be on sale at the Post Office from 1st December. A wonderful prize for either a Christmas gift or for yourself. Winning Ticket to be drawn 11th December at Pre-School Coffee Morning (watch for posters)

QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT

Always a fun night , 24th January. Details to follow

We want to put this next lot of fundraising into some more great outdoor toys. Please try and support us in any way you can - Help keep our pre-schoolers smiling.

Have a great Christmas

Sam Walker and all at Pre-school



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1st Whimble Scout Group



Firstly I'd like to say a BIG thankyou to Elaine for getting our Scout Section up & running this term. It now has seven invested Scouts, although only able at the moment to accept Cubs who are already invested within our group, and aged 10 and a half upwards, we are hopeful some new adults may come forward to become assistant Leaders, (any offers greatly appreciated!!), Once this has happened we can then open the gates to those boys & girls aged 10 -14 who would wish to join.

Secondly a BIG WELL DONE to all those at 1st Whimble Scout Group who represented us on Remembrance Parade last weekend. It was definitely the largest turnout for a number of years and, in particular, well done to Charlie Spicer and Miranda Burton for their excellent readings, and to William Bowden for laying the Wreath. You were all a credit to our village.

Thirdly, and by no means least, Well Done to Joan , our Cub Pack Akela, who has recently undertaken a large section of her Leader Training. Hopefully, by next Summer, Joan will have her Nights Away Permit, allowing her to lead groups on overnight camps away from the Hut. Many thanks must also go to Kevin Penney for his continued support as regular parent helper at Cubs. (Honorary helper!!)

As far as the Beaver Scout Section goes, numbers continually grow (now at 25 members aged 6 -8 yrs + one new family member aged 4 months!!), and, as you know, it has been another very busy year for Shelley & myself, particularly in the summer when we were blessed with our 3rd child , Rose.

Rose has been attending Beaver Scouts since she was only 2 weeks old and thoroughly enjoys all the entertainment & activities!!

Many thanks, as always, to Shelley and our strong band of parent helpers, without whom this Section would never run.

Alex Spry (Group Scout Leader)

For Sale

We have two cabin beds for sale:

One has a wooden frame with a desk and bookshelf underneath and is medium height.

The other has a metal frame with a desk and single futon underneath.

The maximum height is suitable for children over 6 years.

Both can be taken apart and are easy to reassemble.

We would like £50 for each of them.

Sanders 01404 823015

Wasters of Whimple

Cardboard/plastics volunteer collections

The October collection was overwhelming, with 2 full car loads of plastics and a trailer and 2 full car loads of cardboard.

We are always delighted to see people, especially those with small quantities and those who would not be able to get to the recycling centre. We would ask anyone with larger loads to contact us independently of the monthly collections, so that larger loads can be taken separately, leaving the monthly collections with a manageable amount.

Lids should be removed from plastic bottles and the Church will take and recycle milk bottle lids. It is helpful if all cardboard and plastics are clean and crushed if possible and separated into separate bags. We will gladly return your bags for reuse. The sorting process can be time consuming and unpleasant if the waste is mixed and dirty and we would especially ask you to ensure that other waste does not get into your recycling.

Next collection Saturday 29th November, 3rd January 10-11am Car park off of the Village Square. Collections will hopefully be the last Saturday of every month, same time, same place.

Autumn social event – now planned for mid February

Unfortunately we couldn't get everyone together for the Autumn but we are hoping to be able to achieve an event in February. We still hope to have a speaker on composting and representatives from East Devon District Council and Devon Recycle and a launch of.....

Skills swap register

At the social event we hope to be able to launch a skills swap scheme. We anticipate that this will involve a list of people registering the skill they want and what they can offer in return. This should help us to keep trade in the Village and hopefully reduce transportation. It should be a great community asset that could help us all to cut costs. We will help to set up the scheme but it will be down to all individuals using it to make it work fairly.

Fashumble Show

The Friends of Whimple school have agreed to work with us on a Fashion Show in the Spring. This will be your opportunity to recycle those unwanted/misbought items that are lurking in your wardrobe. We will be inviting you to bring in clothing and accessories and name the price you require for the item. The items will be displayed and modelled and then available for sale. If sold you will receive the sale proceeds less a small commission. Again this is an excellent way of recycling and keeping transportation and production costs to a minimum. Whether you think it is a posh jumble sale or a retro clothes fest it will hopefully be a lot of fun.

Very exciting news – Christmas trip to the Eden Project

We are delighted that the Eden Project have offered us the opportunity to visit them on Saturday 20th December.

There will be a coach leaving the Square at 9.30am with return anticipated at 7pm. The cost will be £7.50 per person/child. This will cover the cost of the coach. There will be an opportunity to use the skating rink at the Eden Project and this will cost a little extra.

If you have never visited the Eden Project this is an excellent opportunity to do so. It is an intriguing environmental project with something for adults and children alike. There are a number of restaurants and a large gift shop full of unusual and sustainable gifts.

Numbers are limited so please book early if you want to join us.

Thank you for supporting us in our first year. We hope to see you at some or all of our forthcoming events or meetings and wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Jenny Sanders 823015 jjs.sanders@btinternet.com

Alison Betts 823967 alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk



Communion Table Flowers

The rota for arranging the flowers behind the Communion Table in St. Mary's during 2009 is now in the church. It is to be found by the hymn books as you come in. If you would like to remember a particular date, or would just like to help to make the church look attractive, please fill in the dates that you would prefer, or alternatively contact me for more information.

The numbers of people that volunteer to put flowers in the church are dwindling and, as a result, we would be very pleased to welcome anyone who has not previously been involved in putting flowers in the church and I would be happy to help in any way I can.

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WHIMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Tudors

All of KS2 have been learning about Tudor life. There were 6 Tudor monarchs. Beech have created collages of the Tudor kings and queens of Henry the 7th Henry the 8th Edward the 6th Lady Jane Grey Mary the 1st and Elizabeth the 1st. Willow painted the Tudors with felt and fabrics and they are on display in the corridors. Oak have painted pictures and named them after themselves.



We have found out that the Tudors got punished for gossiping and they had to wear a brank. You also got punished for being drunk in a public place and had to wear a drunk mans cloak (barrel).

By Ruben Haywood and Matthew Parker



our school trip



On the Tuesday 30th of September Years 1, 2 and 3 went on a school trip to Escot. First of all we made a woodland badge so the man could see our name then the man showed our class around Escot. First of all we went to the maze and Freya got lost and the man went down to get her and in the end we all got out.

After we went to watch the birds of prey, we watched 2 birds fly it was very exciting.



After the birds of prey we went to the otter family. A lady came to feed the otters then we asked her some questions and she told us the answers then the otters licked the glass.



Class one assembly

In October we did an assembly for our parents and anyone who came to see us in the Victory Hall. It was all about our body, we did about food groups and how healthy they are. Also about our senses, how we move and we sang "head, shoulders knees and toes" and we made a new version of it.

At the end everybody gave us a huge clap. We had loads of fun and we would love to do another different assembly.

Charlottes web

M & M Productions

Written by EB White



Paid for by Friends of Whimpe School, M & M productions on the 2nd of October presented Whimpe School with Charlotte's web. It's where a pig called Wilber meets a spider called Charlotte; Charlotte saves Wilber from becoming sausages by producing different words in her web. The children and staff all found it very funny and enjoyed it so much we would definitely invite M & M Productions again.



DARE TO WEAR PINK DAY!!!!

On the 24th of October we had to come to school in pink and red but we must have had a bit of pink on us. . We had some very wacky outfits!!!

It was all for BREAST CANCER RESEARCH
WE RAISED £171.62

We have also raised nearly £100 for Children in Need!



Whimpe School Governors' Open Evening

The Governors were very pleased at the response to their invitation to visit the school. We were particularly encouraged by the number of people from the village, several of whom had attended the school in the past. We received many positive and flattering comments about the quality of the children's displayed work and the alterations to the building.

Thank you most sincerely for your support.

Pam Scanlan, Chair of the Governors



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Ottery St. Mary Hospital League of Friends

Thank you to all the people who took the trouble to come into the hospital to support our coffee morning. We made £572. Also thank you to the people who became new members.

At our last meeting some of the purchases we agreed were:

- Two low beds with alarms £2,000
- Diabetic equipment to the value of £2,500

We also agreed to give the Help Scheme £10,000 a year for each of the next three years.

Thanks to the support we get with fund raising and donations, we are able to grant most requests for equipment that the hospital asks for.

Myrtle Docking, Membership secretary

Myrtle Dockings, as Membership Secretary, tells us that she needs some new people to bring fresh ideas to the organisation. Myrtle asks that if anyone in the village can spare some time to attend 4 Committee meetings a year and to help with some of their good work that they contact her direct on 822667.



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Success for Whimble Cricket Colts and County honours

Introduction

From the <11s to the <17s the youth of Whimble CC have all had an enjoyable as well as successful season. It is reported that all the teams practised and played with enthusiasm and above all had fun, win or lose. All teams have come in the top two in their various leagues.

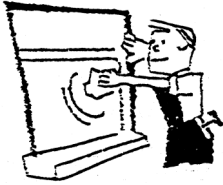
Several players have been selected for representative honours: Adam Holmes and Matt Plowman for the Devon <15 squad; David Chamberlain, George Meadows and Foyez Rahman for the East Devon <15 squad; Matt Golding for Devon <14, and East Devon <15 and West of England squads with the chance of a tour to South Africa. Jack Dart for Devon <13; and inappropriately last Rebecca Bertrand for Devon Ladies and Devon <13 boys squad. Chris Palfrey and Will Cleal from the Colts both also play regularly for the Club 1st XI and other Colts will soon follow!

Team	Captain	Manager	Results
<17	Will Cleal	Mike Cleal	Not lost – probable league winners (tbc) and winners of East Devon Cup.
<15	Foyez Rahman	Geoff Chamberlain	Won all league matches, got to the Devon final of Nationwide Cup, and final of East Devon Cup (rained off).
<14	Luke Whitton	Richard Bardot	Won 6/7 and 2 nd in league.
<13	Jack Dart	Phil Evens	Won all but 1 and 2 nd in league.
<12	Alex Evens	Phil Evens	Won all 7 and league (tbc).
<11 Hardball pairs	Jack Wellsley	Dave Fielding	Lost only 2 games; in finals of East Devon Cup.

The fun and success of all those teams is a huge credit to all the players, team managers, Trevor Griffin and other coaches, parents, helpers and supporters. Whether it's organising, coaching, feeding, scoring, umpiring or driving it helps provide a huge opportunity for the players and a great benefit to Whimble Cricket Club.

Anyone interested in participating in any way please contact the club or relevant team manager via information on www.whimblecricketclub.co.uk

Chris McLauchlan (822096)



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TV AERIAL SCAM UNCOVERED

UNSCRUPULOUS COMPANIES and trades people are duping consumers into believing they need upgraded aerials to receive digital TV.

Trading Standards (TS) offices around the UK say that this is currently a very popular doorstep scam, and even those who have not been cold-called by con artists are being led up the garden path.

Mystery shopping tests were carried out by Leicestershire and Dorset TS officers. Leicestershire officers found that more than a quarter of 31 aerial installers approached by its 'shoppers' claimed a new TV aerial would be needed, without even looking at the existing one. Dorset officers, who called 14 aerial installers and visited 15 electrical retailers, found nine of these gave misleading advice.

However, research carried out by Ofcom found that only five to ten per cent of households will need an aerial upgrade.

David Bull, head of Leicestershire County Council TS, said: "There are many honest aerial installers, but there are some who will aim to catch out unsuspecting and vulnerable consumers."

In both mystery shopping procedures TS officers posed as consumers, saying they had a three-year-old TV aerial and asked if a new aerial was required in preparation for the digital switchover.

Some people were told they needed a digital aerial, when there is no such thing. One electrical store wrongly recommended a new television costing £1,000, when all people need to convert an old television is a Freeview set-top box costing £20.

In Whimple, where our signals are broadcast from the Stockland mast, we are scheduled for the switch off of our Analog TV signal in May 2009, so we all will need a digital TV signal.

Lets hope you don't need to, but to report an incident to the police at any time:

999 in an emergency - otherwise 08452 777 444

John Munslow

IDENTITY THEFT—Sorry to report, but a good friend named **SID** has had his identity stolen, so we now call him Ssssss..... Don't let it happen to you.

Three Cheers for Whimple

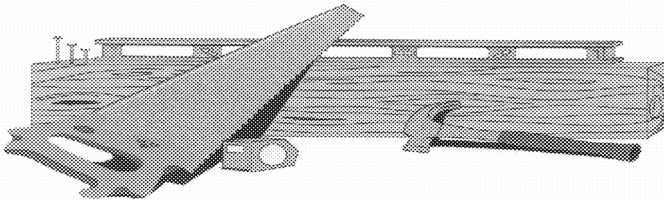
Hip Hip Hooray

My heartfelt thanks to members of the Whimple Produce Association, the History Society, Gill and Paul from the New Fountain Inn and Jim and Alison from the Post Office for helping to make my special 90th birthday such a very happy occasion, a real village do. Last but not least our MP Angela Browning gave me some of her time despite the fact that she suffered heavy flooding in her own home.

The Old Manse is now looking like the Garden of Eden with beautiful flowers and lots of delicious sweets. The sun was shining and it was warm and mellow. What more could I have asked for than so much friendship and love from this lovely village where I have lived for 26 years. I have written articles from my window in the square for 25 of them and hope to continue for many more years.

Thank you Whimple

Edith Marie-Louise Grout



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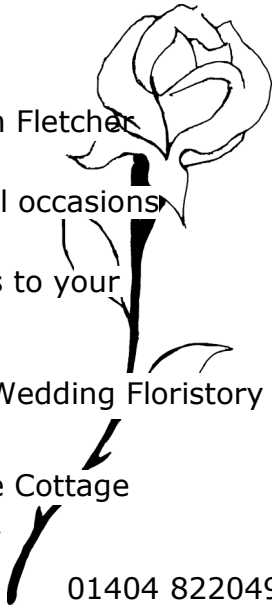
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WN57

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