Whimple News



Photo by John Munslow

April/May 2013

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What's On in Whimple

April

- 13th Front Row Club Film Night, Victory Hall 7.30pm See Hall notice board for film titles.
- 22nd Parish Council AGM, Victory Hall, 7.00pm. Details on page 27.
- 26th History Society talk 'A portrait of Exmoor' in the Victory Hall starting at 7.30pm.
- 27th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, 12.00noon until 1.30pm.
- 28th Teatime Assortment Concert for Sam Palmer's trip to Cambodia St Mary's Church 3.00pm. See page 41 for details.
- 29th Parochial Church Council AGM, 7.30pm in the Church.

May

- 4th Annual village litter pick 10.00am in the Square. Details on page 19.
- 11th VPA Spring Coffee Morning and Plant Sale, Victory Hall 10.00am. Details on page 37.
- 14th History Society guided tour of Broadclyst Church starting at 7.00pm.
- 18th Front Row Club Film Night, Victory Hall 7.30pm. See hall notice board for film titles.
- 25th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, 12.00 noon until 1.30pm.
- 25-26th History Society celebration of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Heritage Centre. Details on page 15.
- 25-26th Talaton Open Gardens 2.00 6.00pm. Details page 52.

June

- 15th St Mary's Church Fete 2.30pm, Hindstrete.
- 29th Whimple School Summer Fayre details page 32.

July

7th-14th Village Week.

- 7th On a Whim Promotions present Arthur Smith at the Victory Hall 7.30pm. Tickets at the PO.
- 9th Clog Dancers at the New Fountain Inn.
- 9th History Society Treasure Hunt.
- 12th Orchard Harmony Sing-along Picnic.
- 13th Village Day in the parish field.

August

10th VPA Annual Flower Show, Victory Hall. Details on page 37.



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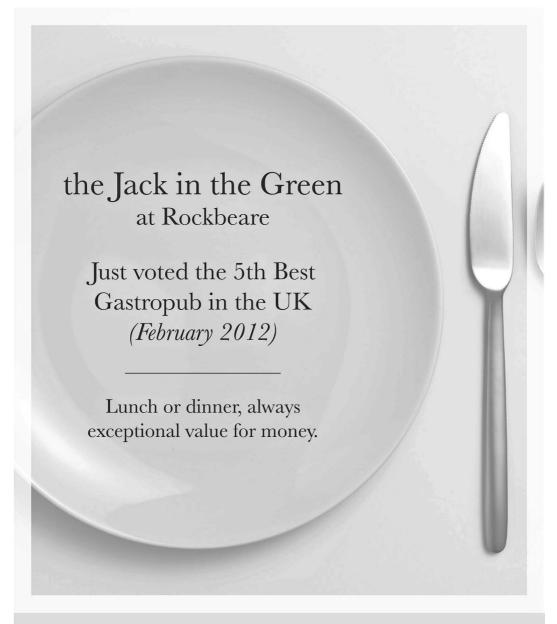
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Ed the Ed

Gazing out of my editorial window, in the week before Easter, I see that the temperature is a balmy 5°C, having dragged itself up from zero earlier this morning. I fear for the safety and well being of all the participants in the Easter Egg Hunt, and hope that the Whimple Mountain Rescue Team are on 'High Alert' during this event. On a positive note, at least any eggs NOT found will not melt!

I am proud to welcome you to this excellent edition that is jam-packed with village news and stories – we are delighted to have several stories from the children of the Whimple School – some very creative imaginations at work here! And there is some well-deserved recognition on page 43 for representatives of the Wasters of Whimple team at County Hall; we also have Roger Algate expressing his delight at winning the 'duff copy of the month' competition. Who will win this month? We have an article about our very own Lucy Smith, and we have a busy 'What's On in Whimple', including some tantalising hints of what Village Week will include in July.

For those of you who braved the pantomime, and having seen that young Sam Palmer in his first on-stage appearance in drag, you may well have thought that such behaviour needs to be driven out of the village. If you look at page 41, you have such an opportunity to rid the village of this teenage cross-dresser, and I would urge you to support this worthy campaign.

Our cover picture is of the thatcher who was working on the roof of the Post Office, and at one stage, appeared to be using a lawn mower to trim the excess thatch. When I went to remonstrate with the Post Master, because the surplus thatch was blowing all over the place and getting in my hair, I was left with a concern about how he perceives customer care. If he continues in that mode, then he most certainly will find himself up on stage at the next pantomime...again!

I hope that you were all able to share in Whimple's twenty seconds of fame on 'Countryfile' when the wassail was used as an introduction to a piece about farming.

It is that time of year again, and the Parish Council are inviting us to take responsibility for tidying up our own gardens and space, as well as to take part in the annual Litter Pick – both activities will help with the judging of Whimple in the Best Kept Village Competition. I hope you are able to offer some time here. Thank you!

Many thanks to the Parish Council (for a grant) and to the VPA (for a generous donation), plus some kind anonymous donations left at the Post Office – thank you! If you would like to submit an article for the next edition of Whimple News, then please email it to bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk or pass it to Jim and Alison at the Post Office by Monday 13th May. Thanks!

Stay warm and keep wishing for a cracking summer!

Ed H

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Whimple Post Office News

Royal Mail have announced the changes that will become effective from April 2nd. The good news is that postage for regular and large letters is to remain the same. However, there are changes regarding parcels that will involve a price increase. Parcels will also fall into two size categories which will mean new guidelines and templates. We will be provided with new literature soon so please ask for a leaflet if this is of interest to you.

We are now able to process applications for the 'Travel Money Card'.

It is a very safe way to carry 'cash' abroad and is available in eight currencies. It is accepted in 32 million locations worldwide. It is chip and pin enabled to protect against fraud. If you are going overseas this summer, pick up a leaflet and see if this can be an option for you.

We are closed over Easter, please ask us about when benefits will be available.

Good Friday	Closed
Easter Saturday	9.00am – 12.30pm
Bank Holiday Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9.00am - 1.00pm

Thanks to you we can now tell you that we have raised over £2,000 for good causes from the sale of lotto tickets and scratch cards. We are very pleased that this has been so popular and we are grateful for this extra support.

Offers from Johnsons the Cleaners for the next couple of months are,

April - 25% off Duvet Cleaning

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June - 25% off Curtain Cleaning

Thanking you for your continued support.

Jim and Alison Creasy.

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On Thursday 7th February members of the Ottery St Mary Choral Society went to the Tumbling Weir Hotel for their annual dinner and social evening. A delicious three-course dinner was enjoyed by the gathering of nearly eighty members and their partners.



The social evening was organised by Vivienne and Michael Gascoigne-Pees and also included a quiz and entertainment.

John Neal told the tale of 'Nelson at Trafalgar 2013', relating how different the Battle of Trafalgar might have been if the Health and Safety Executive and the Political Correctness lobby had been around two centuries ago!

Pauline Belton read a delightful monologue entitled 'Just in Case' by Charlotte Mitchell, highlighting the problems many ladies face, when trying to pack for a brief weekend away while still being prepared for every eventuality!

The two musical numbers were typically witty pieces by Noel Coward, 'That is the End of The News' and the Home Guard plea 'Could you please oblige us with a Bren Gun'!

The raffle raised a magnificent total of £176 for Hospiscare, our designated charity for this year.

For more information regarding OSMCS please contact:

Liz Hooper - Publicity 42116 Annie Bassett - Chairman 823331 www.otterystmarychoral.org





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Whimple History Society



COME AND JOIN US

WHIMPLE HERITAGE CENTRE is 10 years old this May.

To mark this there will be a Celebration Weekend on 25th and 26th May.

If you were at the opening in 2003 you may be able to spot yourself on the film of the event which we will be showing over the weekend.

For the children (up to age 12) there will be competitions with **prizes** for the best of the following:-

- Your design for a Birthday Cake for the Heritage Centre (a drawing or model only please)
- Your picture of, or a short story about, your favourite item at the Heritage Centre
- A Quiz about the Heritage Centre here are the first few questions but you will need to get the rest from the Centre after it opens at Easter
 - 1. Who opened the John Shepherd gallery?
 - 2. When was the old Linhay roof removed after renovations started?
 - 3. In how many pictures can you see the Railway Goods Yard and when was it removed?

The answers to these and the remaining questions may need a bit of research inside the Centre!

All entries for these competitions must be handed in to the Centre by Friday 24th May. The entries will be judged over the weekend and prizes awarded at the discretion of the judging panel.

For further details please contact Alan Smith on 822977

Heritage Centre Open Weekend 25th - 26th May

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ed,

What a brilliant idea to promote Whimple as Village of Culture (editorial Feb/March 2013).

Not only the cultural events you allude to that are taking place for the delight of village folk, but also the literary life that is so vibrant. There is the Book Club and Reading Circle so ably supplemented by the Book Exchange at the Post Office.

Neither should we overlook the contribution of Whimple News to literary criticism.

The double page spread devoted to '50 Shades of Grey' was inspired. In my copy of the News part one immediately followed your editorial with part two opposite Sue Draycott's black and white photography article. It was very journalistic, even promotional. I've never seen '50 Shades of Grey' represented so fulsomely.

Thanks for a magazine that continues to inspire. Keep up the good work.

Roger Algate



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BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2013

The Parish Council will be entering the village into the

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

competition once again.

Through the month of April we invite every household to join in a general tidy up and ask that you take the opportunity to spruce up your front gardens.

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Thank you - Cllrs John Schofield and Sue Ayres



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Orchard Harmony News

It has been a while since I have written to update Whimple folk on the progress of Orchard Harmony, so I thought I would do just that!

Our Christmas Concert was probably one of our most successful to date, both from the audience feedback and the choir's enjoyment.

We are planning to repeat the Sing-along Picnic during Village Week on Friday 12th July - this year we are hoping to add a 'Take That' set - watch this space!

We are going to provide a guest spot in Teburn St Mary on 20th July for the Tedburn St Mary Community Choir's Summer Concert. Why Tedburn? I run the Community Choir and am keen to link the two ventures.

Our Christmas Concert this year will be on Saturday 7th December, when we hope to perform some excerpts from the Messiah, alongside other popular classical pieces.

So..... we are keen to recruit some new female members. We are a really friendly group of ladies who love singing and enjoy the challenge of performing diverse music from Take That to The Messiah!

You do NOT have to read music, and I provide sound files of your part so you can sing along at home. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Interested? Give me a ring on 07779 139251.

Julia Green, Director, Orchard Harmony



Barbara Salter

Coram would like to thank all family and friends from the village for their cards, notes and support after Barbara's sad death on Christmas Day. He would also like to thank the Revd Chris Martin for the lovely service, and say how much he appreciated the support given by everyone who attended the service and who came to the Thirsty Farmer afterwards.



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I would like to thank everybody who attended my 60th birthday party and for all the lovely cards and presents. It was a wonderful surprise and great to share the evening with so many friends and family.

Special thanks to my children John, Stuart, Pete and Elisha for their time and effort organising the event.

It really was 'Tickety Boo'.

Dave Salter aka Tickety



WRUG gets to a meeting with Josie Rogers, Senior Strategic Planner, Network Rail.

On Wednesday 6th March I went to London to accept Josie Rogers' invitation to talk about the issues affecting infrastructure around Whimple's train service. We met at her offices above Waterloo Station and I was joined by Frances Trivett, MP Hugo Swire's researcher who was to brief him later. I had prepared three key points drawn from Rail Industry published data - most of it submitted to government.

- 1. Acknowledging the constraints;
- 2. Recognising the growth potential;
- 3. Seeing the key challenge to provide capacity; and now identifying the need for resilience.

Ending with a teasing quote from National Rail's one time CEO Iain Coucher who wanted to deliver "a railway where passengers can travel when they want to" So....Yes, where is it? And on that basis we began!

All points were touched on and we spent 80 minutes of shared exchanges. An interesting nuance that emerged was that National Rail will provide the infrastructure that the Train Operators require to run their trains.

The elephant in the room was - 'so long as the government agree'. The government in this case is initially represented by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR). Also, I detected a fleeting moment of surprise when I outlined why we thought the service had deteriorated. and then developed the point.

We discussed issues around more trains stopping at Whimple and how that might be brought about. The essential point to hold on to is that whilst certain developments could deliver more trains stopping here, it doesn't follow automatically. Influencing the building of a passing loop is only half the battle. Justifying an increased calling pattern is the other.

South West Trains franchise comes to an end in 2017. It is clear to me that the next four years are crucial for us if we want a better service. In those four years we need to describe what a better service looks like; get everyone to agree; and deliver a unified front to government so that the Department of Transport creates a Franchise Document that reflects our needs. That is the scale of the challenge, I'm afraid.

Do you still want a better train service?

Roger Algate





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Click on the online fault reporting form, then type in the postcode and click the position of the pothole on the map.

Do you have a dog?

Do you know the laws that apply to dog owners?

Do you walk around our village?

Do you have a view on dog poo?

The East Devon Dog Warden will be attending the Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 22nd April in the Victory Hall.

There will be a short presentation followed by a opportunity for you to discuss any issues with her, whether you are a dog owner, land owner or any other affected by these issues. The Parish Council will listen to the points raised and work with the Dog Warden to try to resolve any matters.

Does your family have a grave with a headstone in the New Churchyard in Grove Road?

The Parish Council are concerned that some of the headstones have had letters removed from them. Some of this damage is from several years ago but some is more recent. If your family headstone has been damaged within the last few months please inform the Parish Clerk on whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com

Village Week 2013

Planning for Village Week is progressing well. Our opening event this year, courtesy of 'On a Whim Promotions', is that well known comedian and television personality Arthur Smith. Tickets are already on sale and are going fast.

The New Fountain Inn will be holding a week-long beer festival with clog dancers visiting on the Tuesday. Most of our other regular events will feature and Orchard Harmony will again be singing for us on the Friday. Village Day will be in the Parish Field on Saturday 13th July so make a date in your diary – that is if the field ever dries out after this seemingly everlasting rain.

Bob Scanlan

The Whimpletons Panto 2013

We have been flooded with rave (or is it raving) reviews after the enormous Broadway success of Treasure Island...OK, we had <u>2</u> reviews...but they were voluntary and no force was used to extract these mighty works of art!

We are delighted to share these with you, gentle reader, with a special 'thank you' note from the Whimpletons.

It was with fear and trepidation that your reviewer attended what was promised (a promise fulfilled and equal to the promise by the 'young' performers) to be a presentation of the drama by Robert 'Big Looie' Stevenson, to wit (much of which was superbly displayed by the re-writers and the cast) of Treasure Island in a unique presentation – well not quite. It dragged on for three nights, on February 21st, 22nd, and with those responsible showing incredible nerve/verve on yet a third night on February 23rd, at which your reviewer was perhaps fortunate enough, but not paid enough, to be present.

Although it is churlish and invidious, but typical of this reviewer's lack of principle - and cash, since he has still not been paid for this article - to single out from a star-spangled cast for mention at least those who have promised to show their appreciation in monetary or (cheap) liquid form, some few words must be devoted to the staggering performance of Blind Pew - blind? he looked more like 'paralytic'; Fearless Freddie, delving into his vast repertoire, was greeted by applause which nearly raised the roof; the voluptuous display of the acting and other charms of Mrs Hawkins, Bertha, Martha, Matilda, Belinda; the androgynous appearance of Billy Bones/Captain Smollet; Jim Post Office superbly played by himself grudgingly, to Long John Silver for a (w)hopping performance, to Jim Hawkins as the Promising Young Artist with 4 nominations for the Cranbrook Oscars, to all the other 'actors' (politically correct), to all those who worked behind the scenes, to the writers (albeit unfortunately only a posthumous tribute to Peter Bolwell) and last but not least to the Director. For once the hackneyed phrase used of comedies 'Had them rolling in the aisles' - or as they left the bar to go home - is more than justified.

If any offence has been caused to those whose names are included or excluded in the above, I hope they will accept my apologies – the offence was purely intentional.

(Name supplied)

I don't know how they did it, but yet again the Whimpletons amazed us all by making this year's Panto even better.

When you arrived, the hall had been brilliantly transformed taking you on board ship and then onto a desert island. The props, scenery and even pirates in the bar, all added to the atmosphere prior to the start of the panto.

The cast were obviously enjoying their performance which was transmitted to the audience making the whole evening more enjoyable.

Blind Pugh was worthy of an Oscar although I think they will need to watch out for a certain Post Office employee who could be a closet actor.

Talking of closets, John and Ed will need to hide the key as Sam made his debut as a dame this year!!!

All I can say is well done to all. Your hard work is appreciated and Neil has only eight months to write next year's block buster. No pressure there then! Penny Daniels.

THANKS FROM THE WHIMPLETONS

Thanks for coming to the pantomime and making it a success - we would have felt very silly in an empty Victory Hall! We hope that you enjoyed yourselves - we certainly did!

We want to say a very warm 'thank you' to the very generous donors of raffle prizes for each performance and 'thank you' to everyone who bought tickets, helping to bolster our funds. .

Our generous donors were -

- Helen and Lester Bowker from Cotley Farm
- Paul Parnell at Jack in the Green
- Otter Nurseries
- Tesco
- ❖ Gill Mallett at the New Fountain Inn
- Chris Wollacott at Magic Wand Car Valeting
- Dillys in Ottery St Mary
- Boots the Chemist in Ottery St Mary

Thank you!!

If you want to get involved either on or off stage with the Whimpletons, then please contact me – we would love to hear from you!

Ed Hitchcock, Chairman, The Whimpletons



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Uninvited little visitors...

We love our pets, but not the creepy crawlies they can carry. This article doesn't allow in depth discussion about individual parasites so if you have further questions, please talk to your vet.



Most of us are familiar with fleas as they are the most common parasite in dogs and cats. Adult females lay up to 50 eggs per day, which burrow into dark warm places. These hatch out into larvae, then pupae. Moisture, heat and movement stimulate the adult flea to emerge and jump onto the nearest moving object. This is when we get bitten! This means the environment is infected so treating everywhere where your pet goes is as important as treating your pet. Many fleas carry tapeworm eggs so when pets groom, they ingest the eggs and become infected with tapeworms.

Tapeworms in dogs and cats can cause weight loss, vomiting and diarrhoea. Some species are native to the UK, others are not. Dogs travelling on the PETS passport scheme are treated by a veterinary surgeon between 1 and 5 days of returning to the UK to help prevent the disease entering the UK. Infected dogs pass tapeworm larvae in their faeces, which if ingested by livestock, can cause disease, making the meat a danger to eat if not cooked properly.

There are several roundworm species. Many puppies and kittens are infected from birth as some pass through the placenta and milk from mother to young. *Toxocara* is one which can cause blindness in children. Although this risk is small, it means hygiene and regular worming of pets are very important.

Lungworm is an emerging disease which we are still learning about. Dogs contract this through eating an infected snail or slug, either on its own or when eating grass. Signs vary from weakness and coughing to uncontrolled bleeding or collapse.

In the summer, we see more ticks emerging. They tend to be found in warm wet areas with long grasses, commonly near sheep or deer. Apart from causing local irritation, they can carry diseases such as Lymes which affects both people and pets. Outside the UK, some ticks carry other diseases which can be fatal, so if travelling abroad with your pet, continual protection against ticks is advised.

There are many different treatment options for the above conditions, in the case of some parasites, prevention is better than cure. If you need further advice, please contact your vet. (with thanks to Vale Vets)

The village website - www.whimple.net - not only includes more than ten years archives of Whimple News, it now has links to both the History Society and Victory Hall websites.

To make it even better I would welcome any recent photos of the village, or any of specific interest to Whimple, to be forwarded to me:

John Aiton at helijohn@uwclub.net

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A CONVERSATION WITH LUCY SMITH

Lucy and I had been chatting after the Treasure Island panto, when she reminded me that she had been part of the Rainbow Revue team from the village that used to put on amateur variety shows, not only in Whimple, but out 'on tour' to local halls. I thought that would make an interesting story for the News, but realised that I really didn't know a lot about Lucy herself. So I thought that I should write about Lucy Smith 'the person', before continuing with the Rainbow Revue chat.

And so, gentle reader, I recently found myself in the Square, crossing the little bridge over the stream to see Lucy. We had a great afternoon, covering all sorts of things, and I have distilled our chat into this article, which I hope you will enjoy.

Lucy was born in Whimple, in 1924, so that means she will be a sprightly 90 next year. Her parents were James and Dora Caswell, and the family lived at Westview – one of the houses between the PO and Grove Road. Her dad was the foreman at Whimple Station, and was in a perfect position to pick up bits and pieces of village news – a very important role in those days! The midwife who looked after her mum during her confinement with Lucy, also helped Lucy some years later with her confinement with our very own Roger Smith, village sportsman, retired teacher and Secretary of the History Society. The midwife has never done that before – no, not Roger Smith, but maintaining the link with one family.

Lucy attended Whimple School until she was 14. There was no local grammar or secondary school then so Whimple School provided all of her education. It was there that she discovered her life-long love of needlework and several fine items of embroidery decorate her home.

The whole family moved house to number 7 Grove Road until 1953 when Eric, Lucy and Roger got their own place in Chard Avenue – a brand new council house which Lucy was delighted with! Their last move would be to The Square in the 60s, and Lucy is still there.

The love of needlework helped Lucy to her first job, in Waltons Department Store, in Exeter, where Marks and Spencer is today, in the millinery and bridal section. She would catch the train into work, working 6 days a week, finishing at 8.00 p.m. on a Saturday night!

Lucy's parents were great supporters of the church, and she got involved in all the cleaning and flower duties, whilst her dad was responsible for maintaining a steady supply of coal to the boiler that heated the church – a very important role when it was cold outside! Lucy also ran the Sunday School for several years – that would be held at the Whimple School and then the children would march down to the church to meet up with their parents who would have just finished the morning service.

Lucy first met Eric, her 'husband to be', in the early stages of the war when he was in the army, and had been posted to Rockbeare Grange in the artillery, from his home in Yorkshire. She was walking past the New Fountain one day, and a group of soldiers were gathered on the steps to the bar. They were keen to go to a dance, but the one planned for the village hall had been cancelled, and Lucy told them that the nearest one would be in Talaton. And that was where they met again...and Eric then

34

'chased her', as she says! They married in 1943, on a Wednesday afternoon at 4.0pm – in those days shops closed on a Wednesday afternoon. Eric went to France for D Day, and Lucy stayed with her parents in Grove Road, moving to Chard Avenue at the end of the war when Eric was de-mobbed, and he obtained a job as a draughtsman with Henry Lewis, a local builder.

One of Lucy's stories about the war years concerned the time that Exeter was blitzed by the Germans – she made her way to the city and saw the horrendous damage that the bombs had made to the centre (but Waltons survived). She had friends at Polsloe, and decided to walk out to them, to check that they were OK. When she got there, she discovered that she had burnt the soles of her shoes on the still-hot pavements of Exeter as she made her way past the bomb-damaged buildings.

Roger was born in 1945, and that ended Lucy's department store career; however, she had volunteered to help with the Fire Service during the war, and was based in one of the offices at Whiteways.

After the war, Lucy was employed in the 'Home Sales' office at Whiteways for the next 18 years. That link meant that Eric played cricket for the Whimple and Whiteways team, where he gained a reputation both as a demon bowler and an excellent batsman, passing his love of cricket to the young Roger.

More next time...

Ed H

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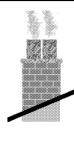
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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Our first event this year was our 'Social Evening' on Monday 25th March which was a Seed Exchange and Quiz Night. Unfortunately we were not able to advertise this through the News as it was arranged after the last copy date. Hopefully the information got out to all of you who wanted to attend.

The next event will be our Spring Plant Sale for which we desperately need the weather to warm up! Although we hope to have as many plants as previous years, they might not be quite as big we would like if Spring doesn't arrive before May! The Plant Sale is on Saturday 11th May and, as in previous years, you need to get there on time at 10.00am to get the best bargains.

We had hoped to have a talk on Aquilegias in April but this has been too difficult to arrange with the speaker. We shall however try again to arrange this for next Spring.

We have recently gone through the Show Schedule for this year and hopefully the new Schedule will be available from our website as well as the usual outlets. This year we are going back to our traditional date of the second Saturday in August - this will be Saturday 10th August.

We look forward to seeing you at these events, especially the Annual Flower Show. Details of all our events are listed on the website which is: www.whimplevpa.org.uk

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary.



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The New Year District Councillor's Report

These last few weeks have been a torrid time for E.D.D.C. Firstly with exposure on B.B.C. Radio 4 and then a large article in the Daily Telegraph featuring the District Councillor for a neighbouring Ward and the activities of the Business Forum. All this and the thorny issue of what to do with the Knowle will be keeping us all busy in the near future. In fact the Councillor involved has now resigned his council post. This will precipitate a by-election to replace him as there are still two years left of the current District Council which is rather a long time to leave a constituency disenfranchised.



The Council has also been criticised for failing to get its new Local Plan in place. This is something that must be done as soon as possible for, without the Plan developers will be able to obtain planning consent for endless housing developments without the structure and guidelines of a Local Plan in place, which can reduce this indiscriminate development. Certainly I have noticed in the last few planning committees that a certain level of fatalism has crept into our thinking along the lines of 'the old plan is now more or less irrelevant and the new one is not adopted yet so we are powerless to prevent excessive and uncoordinated planning'. Two examples of this situation locally are:

- 1. That in Feniton, thanks to a failure to follow through, we now have two proposals for housing authorised, which will create a large excess of houses over the number proposed by the original plan for Feniton to absorb.
- 2. Ottery St Mary now has two large developments authorised on opposite sides of the town whilst the long awaited development of the very derelict Cutler Hammer estate languishes and if authorised now would create a surplus of provision over what the old Local Plan demanded. Just think, it will be a year before the new Local Plan is in place and even this statement assumes that the new Plan is accepted by the government.......

Heavy Rain not a Problem for Cranbrook Comments from a recent Council news release

Councillor Andrew Moulding has reported that Cranbrook's drainage system coped well with the recent heavy floods. Any visible excess water is likely to be surface water that has collected on undeveloped land which, as yet, has no drains or sewers or is collecting in the attenuating ponds provided for this very purpose. Despite rumours to the contrary, the Headmistress of the primary school reports that the school was bone dry all the way through the awful weather. Demand for properties remains high, the consortium claims, with all but five of the of the houses so far started either sold, reserved or allocated to Housing Associations. On the other hand the first house occupied was, I have been informed, bought by someone from the north of England! Councillor Peter Bowden assures me that this is not the case and that it was in fact, bought by someone already living in East Devon. Another wonderful example of the psychology of rumour!

Moving or not moving?

On the 18th of January the last of the reports from the independent assessment of the economic impact of the Council moving from Knowle and Sidmouth was published. In addition, a report upon the bat colony living in Knowle has been deposited. The outline planning application for Knowle will be decided on 1st March at a special meeting of the Development Management Committee. This is a vital step in the process of moving to new premises in Honiton- with some talk about auxiliary offices in Sidmouth and Axminister to spread the load. There will be a negative effect upon employment in Sidmouth and the report estimates some 71 redundancies; in addition, there may be some small, adverse impact upon the 500 plus businesses in the Sidmouth area.

However, even if this stage is completed successfully there are still many obstacles before a move would actually take place which are all financial. This move is going to be very expensive and thus must be financially viable. Outline planning is only a first step - next the value of the Knowle site must be established and the proposed move can only go ahead if the sale of the site will raise enough to cover the cost of the proposed new premises. So the council are not there yet and, in fact, at the last planning meeting the application for outline planning for 50 houses and a care home was roundly rejected by the Planning Committee much to the delight of the good citizens of Sidmouth who had attended the meeting in extraordinary numbers. This result inevitably sets back the process of disposal of the site by some months.

As a member of the Planning Committee I voted against because I am fearful that the beautiful and historic parkland at Knowle could be crowded out by badly designed houses. Let's hope that the developers involved in this proposal take note of our objections and rejection of their application and come back with a more sympathetic proposal that retains the parkland as a delightful recreation area. At the same time something that also allows the Council to create more efficient and practical accommodation for itself without the loss of those 71 jobs in Sidmouth.

A Possible Pecuniary Advantage for the Ward?

At the Community Infrastructure Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) on Tuesday 29th of January 2013 one particular item which caught my attention was one of the conditions for calculating the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will be introduced in March this year. This levy upon housing developers has been introduced to complement or substitute for 106 agreements where the Council imposes a cost on developers which is used to provide extra infrastructure developments out of new building developments. The C.I.L. is an additional charge on developers that will deliver additional funding to ensure that other infrastructure considerations not covered by 106 can be partially funded by the developer. E.D.D.C. intends to adopt CIL in late 2013 or early 2014. As such it is a useful pecuniary benefit for the community where the development is taking place. The levy is charged on a basis of per square metre of new floor space and varies from area to area. The rural East Devon rate is £125 per square metre. Thus a typical three bedroom house would raise a charge of about £11,250, a percentage of which is allocated to the parish in which the development lies.

The point of interest for the parish is that if a local neighbourhood plan is not in place then the C.I.L. is calculated at 16%. If, however, a parish has a local neighbourhood plan in place then the C.I.L. is calculated at 25%. So, here is yet another incentive for all Parishes to construct their neighbourhood plans.

The Development of Ward Profiles in the County

The Council's Corporate Organisational Development Manager reports that he and his team are only waiting upon the publication of the 2011 National Census data before they start acquiring ward profiles for every ward in the East Devon Council Area. These place profiles are professionally generated computer reports that produce a high-level analysis of each ward telling a "story of the place." The profiles provide an overall assessment of economic, social and environmental conditions and performance as well as making comparisons with neighbouring areas and regional and national averages. I look forward to reading the profile for the ward to see how we are doing in comparison to our neighbouring parishes.

News from Whimple Rail Users Group (WRUG)

Finally, I recently received an e-mail from Roger Algate where he reported upon a meeting he recently attended on behalf of WRUG which made interesting reading. One item on the agenda was resilience where the organisation has the ability to cope with a crisis by some alternative activity or process. In this case the ability for an alternative railway to be used when one is disabled. This interest has been triggered by the flooding of the railway at Cowley Bridge when National Rail could not offer First Great Western space to allow trains to be diverted via Yeovil and Castle Cary because of a lack of track capacity. First Great Western is now pressing for more capacity on our line - which requires at least one more passing loop. MPs Ben Bradshaw and Neil Parish have been heard talking about their pressure on government to respond seriously to Devon and Cornwall being cut off. Just think - if they reopened the line round the north of Dartmoor to Plymouth then the problems of the far west being cut off would be a thing of the past. Finally, Josie Rogers who failed to come to our WRUG meeting last November finally agreed to meet Roger in her office in Waterloo! This meeting has now taken place and Roger reports that it was a useful meeting of minds with some good exchange of information on both sides. (see Roger's article on page 22).

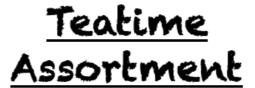
Stop Press: - From 'The South West Spine'. A report by Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council:-

Page 5 Necessary Next Steps (ii) Ensure that train services have sufficient capacity to support economic growth and avoid rising travel being stifled by a lack of capacity.

Although the focus by government is predominantly on First Great Western our line does get a mention in recommendations 3 "that the capacity of the Exeter-Waterloo line be enhanced to reinstate this line as a diversionary route, so that it can be used in the event of disruption on the main line (as prevailed in 2009)".

Keep up the good work on our behalf Roger, we are all in your debt for your efforts on our behalf over the last two years. Cllr Martin Gammell March 2013







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Wasters of Whimple

Wasters of Whimple were invited to attend the Devon County Council 'Recycle Devon Thank You Awards' at County Hall. Here is a picture of a few of the team receiving an engraved glass as one of the runners up in the Community Heroes category. They liked our ideas and the way the community could benefit directly from monies raised for other organisations.



So their thank you is a thank you to everyone in Whimple who has taken part or supported our events. Whimple is a good place to run a project. We hope to run many more and have fun whilst recycling and doing our own little bit towards reducing waste and saving energy.

We met some very interesting people including the overall winner who was a lovely lady from Honiton and the winner of our category was a very nice man from Hele who has raised £'000s for projects in Bradninch from a community composting scheme.

Just a reminder that we are a very informal group and new members or any ideas are always welcome.

Contact: Jenny ils.sanders@btinternet.com or Alison alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk





This year we celebrated Book Week in style. On the Tuesday, we had a visit from 'The Big Foot Theatre' – the big read.

It started with a whole school assembly on story writing, where 'an author' read her story which was basically rubbish, (although our very polite children said it was ok, until she actually said it wasn't very good!) Using different prompts the children came up with a story beginning and then in workshops afterwards, Year 2 upwards acted out an ending using a few make-believe artefacts. Find our stories below – the start given was that Frederick the gorilla was in a jungle helping out Micky the parrot who had lost his favourite stick.

On Thursday the children all came dressed as a book character – some of the home-made costume ideas were fantastic!

Have a good read!

Micky's lost stick

In the jungle on a summer evening, Frederick the gorilla was rolling in the leaves because he was itchy.

Micky the parrot flew down to see Frederick. Micky was sad because he had lost his favourite stick. Micky dropped his stick in the sea when he was flying about. He wanted Frederick to go and find it with his magic umbrella.

Frederick pushed a button on the umbrella and he and Micky flew off up over the trees. Soon they were flying over the sea and they saw dolphins and orca whales jumping out of the water.

An hour later they saw a tree in the distance. At last they were nearly there.

Suddenly, the umbrella lost control and Frederick and Micky started to somersault.

Next they found they had fallen in a palm tree. At the bottom of the tree was a giant bear leaning on the tree trying to get honey.

Frederick opened the umbrella again and they both floated down. "Why are you in my tree?" said the bear. "We just fell in," said the gorilla. "Can you help us find my favourite stick?" asked Micky.

Baris the bear knew where the stick was. He took them back to his cave in the forest. Baris went to the back of the cave and picked up a stick. "Is this your stick?" asked Baris. Micky looked at the stick and shouted "YES, it's my favourite stick!"

Afterwards, Baris asked Micky and Frederick if they would like to stay. "Yes please, we would love to." They all lived happily ever after in Australia.

Reception

Frederick saves the day.

In the jungle one autumn evening, Frederick the gorilla was rolling in the leaves because he was itchy.

Micky the parrot flew down to see Frederick. He was really worried because his favourite stick had gone missing. Micky told Frederick about his problem. Frederick said he would help as Micky was his best friend. "I shall go and get my magic umbrella," he said. He opened the umbrella and asked parrot to sit on top and hold on. Frederick could see Micky through the window on top.

"LET'S GO FLYING MICKY! 1, 2, 3 GO!"

They slowly flew upwards above the trees looking for the stick as they flew. Micky tapped the window. "I see my stick on the ground". They smoothly came down between the trees. Oh no! The umbrella's hook caught a branch. Both Micky and Frederick looked down to see a bear shaking the tree.

The branch broke and they fell down. They curled up in the umbrella and used it to roll down the hill to escape from the bear. Then they continued to look for Mickys' stick.

As they walked through the forest they saw a vultures nest way up in the tree. Parrot flew up to investigate. Then he saw his favourite stick. Micky shouted, "I've found my stick!" Frederick cried, "Look out Micky there's a vulture trying to get you." The vulture banged his beak on the edge of the pine tree just as Micky flew away.

"Quick, get the umbrella" said Frederick, "we need to get out of here!" In a flash they were back home. Micky said, "Thanks for getting my stick, see you soon."

Year 1

(Frederick has gone to Australia using his magic umbrella and crash landed in a tree with a bear growling up at him).

The gorilla squirted the bear in the eye with a water pistol. The bear ran away back into the bushes.

Frederick the gorilla took a branch and waved it at a helicopter that was flying by. The helicopter flew down and picked up Frederick from the tree and took him to Australia to search for Mickey's favourite stick. Before looking Frederick decided to have a little relax at the beach so he got a taxi which took him there.

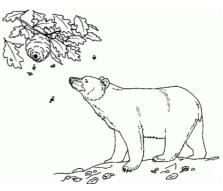
When he was lying on the beach he spotted a pile of sticks. When he took a closer look Frederick spotted Mickey's best stick right at the bottom of the sticks. "I've found Mickey's best stick!" he shouted excitedly, waving the stick in the air. This brought back the helicopter which took him home to the jungle where he presented Mickey the parrot with his favourite stick. "Thank you, thank you so much Frederick," squawked Micky and he gave Frederick one of his brightly coloured red feathers to use whenever his back got itchy!

Year 2

Frederick's adventure

Fredrick found himself stuck in a tall tree covered in thick luscious leaves. Below him he heard the faint crackle of snapping twigs. Slowly, he peeked out from beneath the leaves. There, stood a huge, hungry bear with an insatiable appetite! The bear was covered in a thick, scruffy blood-splattered fur coat. It's large, pointy teeth were as sharp as a jagged knife. Slobber was dangling from its slimy jaws like a flooding waterfall. Fredrick could almost feel the razor sharp claws as they raked furiously at the bottom of the tree, tearing off the bark!

Suddenly he heard a loud buzzing sound. Above him, he spotted a swarm of bees abandoning their hive at the sight of the growling bear. The hive was dripping with honey. In a flash, Fredrick had a brilliant idea! He reached up for the branch, which the bees nest was hanging from, and gave it an almighty whack. The hive plummeted to the ground and smashed into a million pieces! The rich golden honey oozed out of the debris. Immediately the bear made a dash towards the sticky puddle and began to lap it up.



In a powerful gust of wind a magic carpet, which had escaped from an evil magician, swooped down to save the day. Fredrick sprang onto the enchanted carpet but had no time to celebrate as a massive eagle ripped the mystical thread from the carpet. He began to plunge towards the Earth, but fortunately for Fredrick, he landed on a friendly tiger. The tiger galloped rapidly all the way to Australia. Suddenly, with an excruciating shriek, the tiger stopped abruptly in his tracks wildly waving his paw around in the air! Cautiously Fredrick dismounted the tiger and bent down to help his friend. As he looked down he discovered a pale green glow coming from the sharp stick embedded deeply in the tigers paw. Carefully he extracted the stick and saw that the crackly glow spelled out the name 'Mickey, now in embroidered in golden letters! He yelled out, "EUREKA! THANK THE FORCES OF GOOD. I'VE FOUND MICKEY'S PRECIOUS STICK!"

From up above him, Fredrick heard a swishing sound and saw his colourful umbrella gently gliding towards him. He grabbed the umbrella and swiftly floated through the sky and back to the jungle. He waved madly at the tiger as it began to shrink and fade from sight.

After a few hours, he landed with a gentle thud back in the jungle where Mickey was waiting for him. Fredrick handed over the stick with a proud smile and Mickey thanked him for his courageous work.

The end.

By Class 3. (Year 3 and 4)

Frederick the Gorilla (Big Foot Play)

Frederick the Gorilla was rolling in the leaves when Mickey the parrot flew over and asked Frederick if he could help him find 'the stick'. Frederick responded rather rudely "be quiet, I've got an itchy back!" Eventually Frederick managed to itch all his itches and was in a far better mood, so he agreed to help Mickey. "OK, Mickey let's go and find your stick."

However, Mickey was too tired to search any longer so Frederick collected his magic umbrella from his underground hideaway and flew off. Unfortunately for him ... he got stuck in a tree. And even worse, a big bad bear was mooching around the bottom of the tree and decided to try and climb up as Frederick looked like a rather delicious meal.



In his excitement to try and get away from the big bad bear, Frederick leant on a branch. A coconut, hanging on this very branch fell off hitting big bad bear on the top of his head and big bad bear fell down. Meanwhile Frederick accidentally lent on another branch which catapulted him into the sea.

As he was swimming in the sea, he saw, quite by surprise, Mickey's stick. "I've found you at last" giggled Frederick, but then, out of nowhere came a giant clam, mouth wide open. Before Frederick could splutter "Help", the clam ate him up in one huge gulp. Suddenly, (to the clam's annoyance) Frederick, his tasty dinner, was too much for him and with one rather revolting noise, burped Frederick out! Frederick shot, like a torpedo, out of the clam's hold and was hurled to the bottom of the sea.

Whilst struggling to get his strength back, Frederick noticed a shape poking out from the corner of the rock. Recognising the shape he swam in his fastest Gorilla Paddle to where the shape was. "Phew! Found you at last!", he whispered. With Mickey's stick firmly held in his palm, he swam enthusiastically (being rather proud of himself) to the surface of the sea.

Once back safely on land, he went to find Mickey and to give him back his stick."Thank you my friend", he exclaimed "Please stay and share some of my cocopops!"

Year 5 and 6 with special thanks to India, Dominic, Jack and Jakob

These stories are presented in class order as the children progress through the school. It shows the development of their story telling ability.



In February Heather Penwarden gave a most interesting and informative talk on Memory Cafes and, by way of complete contrast, Mrs Anne

Pagliero spoke on the history of Faberge Eggs at the March meeting. Mrs Pagliero also showed part of her collection of Faberge style eggs, which were truly beautiful.

During the past few weeks two members have attended courses at Denman College - one on 'Life Begins' and the other on 'Family History'.

Other activities have included the area quiz and a whist competition where three members have progressed to the final.

Whimple WI have decided to support and contribute to the Honiton Food Bank.

As usual, a variety of events and if you are interested in becoming a member do contact our President, Avril Ellingham (822945).

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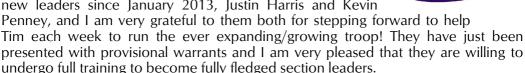
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Whimple Scout Group.

All is going well in all four sections at the moment.

The <u>Scout</u> section $(10\frac{1}{2} - 14\text{yrs})$ has been lucky to gain two new leaders since January 2013, Justin Harris and Kevin



<u>Cubs Scout</u> Section (8 - 10½ years) has also seen two extra helpers become more involved by becoming 'Sectional Assistants'. This involves basic training and I thank Chris Welch and Amanda Gillard for helping Akela Shelley each week.

Silver Chief Scout Awards were presented to James Barback, Jordan Gillard and Emily Spry, all 3 of whom have now moved up to Scouts. WELL DONE!

Beaver Scouts (5¾ - 8 years) continues to grow under its ever strong team consisting of Stan, Fiona & Sarah - many thanks to them too.

<u>Explorer Scouts</u> (14 - 18 years) meets every other week and is joined to T.S.J Explorers with Simon at the helm. Ten Tors training is on top of the agenda at the moment so good luck to all involved!

All sections have a very wide, varied and exciting programme each term and this is proven by the fact we now have 85 young members attending each week. More pleasing is that the number of adults leading the group has increased a little.

My thanks to Carol Hart, Maggie Spicer and co. for the Table Top Sale at the end of January (see below) and to Stan for organising the recent panto teas with me; this raised another £73.20.

We spent over £1000 on hut repairs and renewals last year so are always looking for new ideas for fundraising. So if anyone is offering?

Lets look forward now to an action packed Spring/ Summer Term full of outdoor activities for all ages......must be spring now.......Steve's been in and cut the grass for the first time in 2013....BIG thanks to Steve Bellamy for continuing as 'honorary groundsman'!

Cheers for now..... Alex Spry, Group Scout Leader, 1st Whimple Scout Group.

A huge THANK YOU, to all those who bought and sold on Saturday, many went home with bargains they didn't know they needed!

BIG,BIG Thank you to all the lovely cake bakers - you know who you are - and to Maggie, Sarah, Millie and Rebecca for hosting the Cafe.

And an especially HUGE Thank you to Alex Spry for all the running around and other jobs, and the spectacular bonfire - (maybe we should have sold tickets for that?). We made £150 towards continuing Scout Hut refurbishment.

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WHIMPLE CHURCH

www.whimplechurch.org

The year seems to be whizzing by. The PCC AGM is with us again. It will be held on 29th April in the Church at 7.30pm. Please come along to find out what has been happening over the last year. The Electoral Roll is in the process of being renewed. If you wish to be included, please contact Avril Ellingham for details as soon as possible.

Another important date for your diary is the Annual Summer Fete. This year's event will be on Saturday 15th June. Further information will be available nearer the time but any donations of items or help with stalls will be greatly appreciated. Contact Mike Ellingham for further information.

Our popular Morning Coffee returns on Saturday May 18th. Please join us for coffee and cakes and friendly company.

The new pattern of Services throughout the Mission Community has now been in place for three months. We hope that it offers something for everyone with services ranging from traditional to informal. We would like your feedback on this new arrangement. If you would like to attend one of the services in one of the other churches in the Mission Community, but have problems with transport, please contact David Rastall who will try to arrange a lift for you.

Twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, services are at St. Mary's in Whimple, we have a small band of musicians to accompany us in our worship. We would love to have more people join us, whether adult or young person. So if you can play **any** instrument at **any** standard, or know anyone who does, why not come along? If you would like more information email Phil Dominy dominypr@hotmail.com or ring 822163.

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

Further information about events in the life of Whimple Church as well other interesting articles can be found in the Link magazine.

Services for St Mary's

1st Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion

6.30 pm Evening Praise — a service aimed at older teenagers and anyone wanting to worship God in a slightly more relaxed and informal way. Refreshments will be served from 6.00pm.

2nd Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Celebration Service -an informal service for all the family. Refreshments will be served from 9am.

4th Sunday 11.00am Morning Worship.

5th Sunday 10.30am Mission Community Service

Full details of services at St Mary's and other churches in the Mission Community can be found in The Link.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP - NOW TUESDAYS!

Whimple Baby & Toddler Group is changing days, from the start of the Summer Term it will now take place on a Tuesday in the main hall rather than the back room.

Our friendly Baby and Toddler Group is run in our local village hall. We offer a super selection of stimulating toys for your baby and toddlers often with art and craft activities to stimulate your little ones creativity!

The group is run by parents for parents and is very friendly so please pop in and see us. We are also pleased to provide a snack & drink for your little ones and a hot cuppa for the parents/carers. Do come along, you and your little one/s will be very welcome!

Whimple Baby & Toddler Group is held every Tuesday between 2 and 3.30pm (Term Time Only) in the The Victory Hall. If you have any questions feel free to contact us, Katie Williams 01404 823810



QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT ME!

- How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- · Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- · What disease did cured ham actually have?
- · How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- · Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?
- · Why are you IN a movie but you're ON TV?
- · Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- · Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway...
- · If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?
- · Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!
- · If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
- · Why do the Alphabet Song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?
- · Why did you just try singing these two songs?
- Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face he gets mad at you but when you take him in the car he sticks his head out of the window?
- · Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting low?
- · Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough money?
- · Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
 - Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
- · Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- · Why do people keep returning to the fridge hoping that something new to eat will have materialized?
- · Why do people keep running over a thread a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?
- · Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?
- · How do those dead insects get into those enclosed light fixtures?
- In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

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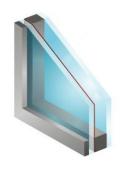
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SClub11 & Impact: Maggie and Ian Spicer	823640
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Peter Bowden	823450
East Devon Councillor	
Martin Gammell	823535
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Whimple History Society	
Chairman: David Rastall	822486
Secretary: Roger Smith	822244
Whimple Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough	822257
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Playleader: Tanya Chitty	823549
Toddlers: Louise Fenner	822272
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Secretary: Ann Bowden	823450
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Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking): Alex Spry	822844
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