

# *Whimble News*

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Story Pages 12 and 13

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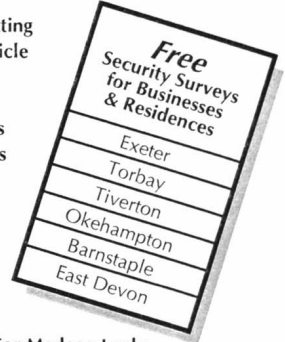
**Feb/March 2017**

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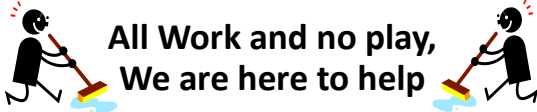
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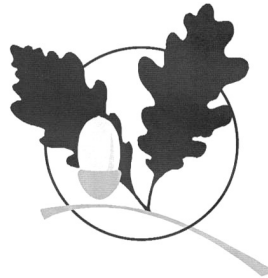
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*References for all past projects available*

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# What's On In Whimble

## February 2017

- 3rd On a Whim Promotions present Gaz Brookfield at the Victory Hall; doors open 6.30pm; see posters for details
- 4th Whimble Archive Film Show 5.30pm Victory Hall. Details page 35
- 4th Front Row Club Victory Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm
- 7th WI Coffee Morning at Ferndale, Hindstrete, 10.00am – 12noon
- 14th WI Meeting at the Cricket Club – 7.30pm Christine Smith – ‘Pleasures and pitfalls of a solo traveller’
- 16th The Whimbletons present ‘The Witches of Whimble at the Victory Hall Evening performance 7.30pm – details page 11
- 17th The Whimbletons present ‘The Witches of Whimble at the Victory Hall Evening performance 7.30pm – details page 11
- 18th The Whimbletons present ‘The Witches of Whimble at the Victory Hall **Matinee** performance 2.00pm – details page 11
- 18th The Whimbletons present ‘The Witches of Whimble at the Victory Hall Evening performance 7.30pm – details page 11
- 22nd WI Social lunch at The New Inn Broadclyst 12.00noon
- 25th Soup and Sarnie, Victory Hall 12.00noon – 1.30pm details page 15

## March 2017

- 11th Front Row Club Victory Hall 7.00 for 7.30 pm
- 14th WI Meeting at the Victory Hall 7.30 pm – John Scott on ‘Beer Quarry Caves’
- 25th Special Soup and Sarnie, Victory Hall 12.00noon – 1.30 pm details page 15

## April 2017

- 1st VPA trip to Boconnoc Gardens Cornwall – details pages 36 and 37
- 2nd Charity Afternoon Tea and Raffle, Victory Hall 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. Details page 19
- 4th Whimble WI hosting a Group Meeting at the Victory Hall 7.30pm – guest Ann Widdecombe
- 8th Front Row Club Victory Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm
- 11th WI Meeting at the Victory Hall 7.30 pm – Reuben Ayres – ‘Bowel cancer’
- 13th Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers – Easter Bingo at the Victory Hall eyes down 7.30pm
- 29th Soup and Sarnie, Victory Hall 12.00noon – 1.30pm

## May 2017

- 13th VPA Spring Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, Victory Hall 10.00am - 12.00 noon – details page 36
- 27th Soup and Sarnie, Victory Hall 12.00noon – 1.30pm

If your Association has an event which you would like listed in ‘What’s on...’ please contact **Ed Hitchcock** on 823194 or e-mail [edhitch@btinternet.com](mailto:edhitch@btinternet.com).

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# Ed the Ed

Here is your very first Whimble News of 2017 – we hope that you enjoy it. It has a wide range of articles for you – we have a lovely article from Dennis Friend, which was passed to me by Roger Smith from the History Society, and describes the five years Dennis spent in Whimble, as the son of the stationmaster living at the Station House in the early 1930's; we have an article that describes the Archives that the Heritage Centre contains, with an example of some village history from said archive; we have an excellent article about 'What next for Whimble Church' by Stephen Godsiff which very clearly articulates the background and proposed way forward for St Mary's – so a lot of reading this time! Plus we invite you into the Wonderful World of Hugh Roberts as he cycles into a local new town – how he got that article past Matron, I don't know!

And you may wonder what the cover picture is...on pages 12 and 13 you will find details of Michaela Slade's work in equine therapy, and I was lucky enough to have four sessions with Michaela up at the Munchkins field near Colyton. The photo is me with my first attempt at putting a head collar on a miniature Shetland pony as a part of this therapy. I blame the current Mrs H who introduced me to the world of miniature Shetlands, and she is now helping out two mornings a week with the 30 or so Shetlands that are cared for by this small charity; and that is why there is a collecting box for them in the shop.

All of you that were driven to mental anguish with the 11+ questions last time – fear not, Helicopter John will put you out of your misery on page 56. We have a lovely article from Sally Jones about Diesel who is no longer with us – but after all these years, I am still looking into his field for him as I walk past.

Well done to the WI for a very busy diary for the next four months and some good speakers – Ann Widdecombe in the village in April! And our very own Reuben Ayres later in April as well.

I did have to smile after reading the Parish Council page where I discovered that 'Big John' Griffiths and 'Small But Perfectly Formed Billy' Bloomfield are now highly trained Pothole Repair Operatives – I had this vision of them being measured up for their Shovels (for Leaning on), Tea Drinking, Watching The Other One whilst he gets on with the heavy work, and Setting up a Traffic Light System and then sitting in their van with aforementioned Tea.

Unrelated to the above appointments, Gerri Turner is now moving on from her position as Clerk to the Parish Council – I would like to thank her for all her hard work; Gerri has always been a delight to deal with in my lofty position as Editor. Who will steer the Parish Council now?

If you would like to add value to the next edition, then please either send it to Bob on [bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk) or drop in the Dairy Cottage post box opposite the New Fountain by Wednesday 8th March – speaking of the Fountain – a formal welcome to Paddy who is now the landlord as well as chef at the Fountain - very best of luck!

Don't forget to get your pantomime tickets from the shop whilst stocks last!

Ed H

## Important dates for your Diary

WHIMPLE VILLAGE WEEK 1st-9th JULY

and on the Parish Field

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Contact Sue Ayres [sue@reubenayres.com](mailto:sue@reubenayres.com) with any questions



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Jenny, Mark and the shop team would like to say 'Thank you' to everyone who sent/gave a Christmas card to them and for the kind gifts - it is nice to be appreciated and feel that we are providing a valuable service to the village.

We will give a fuller update on shop matters in the next edition.

Jenny and Mark



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Mark, Jenny and Team



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## The New Fountain Inn

Hello I'm Patrick, now the Landlord of the New Fountain Inn.

I would like thank everyone in the village for showing so much support and good will to me taking on the running of the pub. I will be working hard to provide Whimble with a good village pub, keeping to traditions and looking to improve and develop and maybe start a few new traditions along the way.

Event nights are coming soon, Steak night, curry night, Quiz night and even some live music. Also takeaway will be starting in February with a new menu, check Facebook and pub boards which will be updated.

Thanks

Paddy and the team at the NFI

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WHIMPLE**

**VICTORY HALL, WHIMPLE**

**THURS 16TH FEB 7.30PM**

**FRIDAY 17TH FEB 7.30PM**

**SAT 18TH FEB 7.30PM**

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**FROM 6.45**

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MATINEE



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**£6 ADULT £3 CHILD**

**WHIMPLE  
STORES FROM  
JANUARY**



## Equines and Elders

Recently, among the rolling pastures of East Devon, just outside of the picturesque town of Colyton, Michaela Slade, carried out Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy with a client aged over 65, in a bid to explore the benefits that an older client group might experience from the therapy. Michaela works from Mini Munchkins, a Miniature Shetland rescue centre, which is surrounded by a large woodland and overlooks the sea. Michaela has 20 years experience in care and six years in psychotherapy. She has been developing her various passions; horses, caring for people, and nature - and then merges them together with her skills.

Michaela enjoys working with an older client group and has a vision of bringing the values of equine therapy to older people. It is often assumed as being a therapy for young people, when in fact older people would benefit greatly from meeting with and experiencing the ponies in a beautiful natural setting. In the recent sessions with an older client, Michaela witnessed the benefits in just four sessions. The client built up a valuable and sensitive relationship with one of the ponies, Shadow. The client also reported an increase in self awareness. Being with the ponies and doing something different was also a benefit, stepping out of the comfort zone to experience being accepted by the ponies.

The therapy includes relaxation techniques, which it turns out benefits the ponies too! During a session, we sat at the table in the field and did ten minutes of relaxation, both of us had our eyes closed in order to be able to shut out distractions. When the exercise ended, the client and I opened our eyes to see every pony in the field laying down! It was a really special moment.

Michaela is currently offering equine therapy to over 65s at a reduced rate, please contact using the email address or visit the website below for more information.

[horseandsoulinfo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:horseandsoulinfo@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.horseandsoul.co.uk](http://www.horseandsoul.co.uk)

## Ed H writes

And I was that person with Michaela!

I am not known as an animal lover, but I found the four sessions very useful in 'having a look at myself' and being close to mini Shetland ponies as a new experience.

I became more aware of my energy levels and the benefits of thinking about the other person when in conversation. For example, I found that when I approached the field of ponies before doing my relaxation exercise, some ponies would move away, and this was because my energy levels were high and that proved to be unsettling for them. By doing a simple relaxation exercise, I could approach the ponies and get close enough to scratch their necks and backs, which they enjoy.

I also gained enough confidence to put a head collar on Shadow, the pony who seemed to react well with me – all this is a big achievement for me as this was the closest I had been to a pony or horse since I was 14!

And for me, the big reward after removing the head collar, was that Shadow was quite happy to just stand and lean against me for a few minutes. This doesn't mean that I will be approaching people to put a head collar on them, but it did give me an opportunity for 'selfish' time to think about how I interact with others. I was able to take lessons away from these sessions and relate them to my life and interactions with others which I found useful and valuable.

Michaela is a very easy person to work with, and you will have the added bonus of having the beautiful landscape of the Munchkins fields (near Colyton). If you would like to know more about my experience, just ask me!



## WHIMPLE CAROLS IN THE SQUARE



One of the highlights at Christmastime in the Village is the Carol Singing in The Square.



As always, it was well attended, and Emma, along with her band of merry musicians, did a fine job of getting everyone to join in. Sadly, I can't sing at all, but was with The Thompsons, The Wilsons and Dominic, who all sang with great gusto and made up for my miming along!

A good crowd this year of about 100, I would say.

*Sally Wilde*



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# Whimple Victory Hall



**Join us for  
Soup'n'Sarnie Lunch  
12.00noon to 1.30pm on  
Saturday 25th February**

**There will be a  
Special Soup'n'Sarnie  
12.00noon to 1.30pm on Saturday 25th March  
In aid of the Village Defibrillator**

Whimple Parish Council is arranging a defibrillator for the village. It will be sited at the Victory Hall. Various organisations have offered some funds to make this possible.

The Hall Committee have agreed that all the profits from a Special Soup'n'Sarnie on Saturday 25th March 2017 will go towards this important facility for the village.

A table-top sale will also be held in the hall at the same time, from 12.00noon to 1.30pm. We are aiming to have items such as soft toys, clothes, handbags and shoes, toiletries, books, CDs, DVDs etc.

If you have any items which could be sold please contact Maria on 823992, or bring them to the hall from 10.00am onwards on the 25th. Unwanted Christmas presents could find a new home.

Helpers to staff the stalls would be appreciated for about two hours to support this wonderful cause.

Maria Wallis

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# Diesel...by Sally Jones

Most people in the village would have heard by now, that I had to make a decision in Diesel's best interest – to have Diesel put to sleep just before Christmas. Diesel was coming up to 28 years old, and was not in the best of health, suffering from arthritis in his back legs. It was a very sad day for me – I had owned him from when he was 2 years old. He was my best friend and companion.

Everyone in the village knew Diesel, and I would always see someone at the gate with polo's, carrots, apples and probably a lot more that I didn't know about! He looked to see everyone and would stand by the gate for hours waiting to see people. He was part of the village, and took part in village events which he loved. I'm sure you all will miss him very much, as I do myself.

A Happy New Year to you all from us both  
Sally and Diesel



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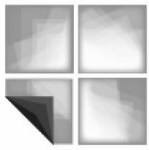
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# Charity Afternoon Tea and Raffle

*Date: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April*

*Venue: Whimble Victory Hall*

*Time: 2.30pm - 4.30pm*

*Price: £10.00*

*(Cakes, Scones, Sandwiches, Quiches, Tea, Coffee, and Fresh Orange)*

*A few of the raffle prizes that are on offer:*

*\*Spa day pass or Golf for 4 at Woodbury hotel\**

*\*A week family pass at David Lloyd\**

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*\*Full set of Lashes with Lydia Bird\**

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# Recollections of Whimple 1930-1935

## by Dennis Friend

It was autumn 1930 when I came to live at Station House, Whimple. My father had been made Station Master and we moved from Tonbridge, Kent, where I was born in 1925. Our first nights in Whimple were spent at The Fountain Inn, where Mr and Mrs. Lockyer and Dulcie were our hosts. What excitement for a boy of five years of age to live in a railway station, with the 'front room' looking out on to the 'up' platform. I must have spent all my spare time glued to the window, watching the express trains roaring through and the long goods trains chugging up from Exeter and beyond. I was barred from the platform unless with my father, in case I got too close to the edge. Station House had no electricity or gas when we first lived there and only one cold tap, situated in kitchen. The water was not drinkable and milk churns of freshwater were brought up by train daily from Broadclyst. The first shed in the back garden was a pump house and every day the porter, at first George Greenway, then Raymond, had to pump up into a holding tank sufficient water for the loo and domestic use. I liked helping with the pump when I was not at school. It was covered in thick grease on the working parts and had a peculiar smell. Needless to say, I often ended up with grease on me and my clothes. The well was covered with a large flat stone, just right for bouncing a ball.

The kitchen had a flush toilet off it, and a copper in one corner. As well as being used for washing clothes, our bath water was heated there, with a roaring fire underneath. I suppose this was really the scullery, the kitchen with a range being next door. We ate in this room, listened to the radio- called wireless then- and had our weekly bath brought indoors from the second shed. The pantry led off this room and I would creep in here to steal a piece of cheese or a drink of vinegar from a jug. Once, I bit the cheese directly from the piece, leaving teeth marks. When my mother asked if I had been at the cheese, I said it must have been a mouse! We used oil lamps at night, and a primus for boiling a kettle, and open fires or a range to keep warm. Electricity was installed while we were living at Station House. What a luxury, being able to go upstairs to bed with electric light and not a flickering candle which invariably went out when I opened my bedroom door.

Whimple Station was busy in the thirties. I was woken up every week day about 7.00 a.m., when the train from Exeter arrived, bringing the men to work at Whiteways. I could hear the boots clomping through the booking hall, and they became known to me as 'The Clompers'. Occasionally I was allowed into the Booking Office where Mr. Cobley and Les Greenway worked. Sometimes, they would let me send a message to the next station, using a semaphore instrument. I cannot remember how it worked but sometimes I would receive a mild electric shock from it. I also liked to paste the destination labels on to parcels. The paste was thick and smelly. If it got on my hands and it usually did, my fingers would stick together. Mr. Yendall and Bill Dart were the signalmen. They would give me a duster to polish the signal lever and let me push the button that rang a bell in the next signal box to signify the departure of a train. More electric shocks here. The station and the signals were all lit by oil lamps, and I would spend hours in the lamp room,

next door to the gentlemen's toilet, watching George Greenway filling up the oil reservoirs and trimming the wicks. I can still see him climbing the metal ladder to the top of the signal to replace the lamp and the smell of the paraffin and oily rags remains with me. Once or twice I went into the Goods office, where Mr. Greenslade was King, but it was a bit boring there, nothing to play with I suppose.

My abiding memory of Whimble Station is standing well back on the 'down' platform, hands over my ears, as the Atlantic Coast Express roared through. Happy days! When I see the goods yard today, I feel sad. It used to be a hive of activity with trucks being shunted to make up a good strain, lorries going between Whiteways factory and the goods yard, loading up barrels and, in the autumn the dried pressed apples called pomace which went off to be used in jam making. It had a very pungent smell, I remember. Mr Caswell was, I think the goods foreman and once in a while he would let me help(?) to couple up the trucks if they were not busy. Jim Caswell always wore his uniform cap at a very jaunty angle. I remember that so well.

There was dad's large vegetable garden on the far side of the goods yard, opposite what was the cricket club ground, and next to the mill buildings of, I think Lilley- no, I just can't remember the name. Was it Skinner and Lilley? The buildings have since been demolished. The cattle pens were up that way, but I did not spend much time there as there was always plenty of cattle to see at Webber's slaughterhouse!

Sometimes, even at a very tender age, my parents would let me go on the train to Exeter Central. Once there, I would walk along Queen Street to buy a bar of chocolate, or something for my mother before catching the train back to Whimble.. Allowing me to do this alone built up my confidence, and at the age of eight. I travelled from Whimble to Ramsgate on my own, even negotiating the change between the two Waterloo stations. I have since been told the guard kept an eye on me at my father's request, to make sure I did not get lost. Sometimes, I would go to Exeter with Eda Hamilton. She was a bit older than me, so with her I was able to explore further into Exeter. On the way home, we would club together a penny each, which then went in to a slot machine on the platform at Exeter. This would dispense one Churchmans No1 luxury cigarette in a small case lined with silver paper together with a 'strike anywhere' match. We would share the cigarette on the way home, being careful to breathe the smoke out of the carriage window.

Annual Sunday School outings always involved a train trip. We would go to Exmouth, Weymouth, Dawlish and Paignton. We must have had our own carriage when we went on to the GWR lines at Exeter St. Davids. Almost the whole school would go on these outings, leaving behind just those who attended chapel.

I suppose that we are lucky that Station House is still standing

Once, in the smaller of the two reception rooms as they would probably be called today, I was playing with fire, burning rags and whirling around to bring the flames alight. I heard my mother coming through the hallway, so quickly thrust the smouldering rags in to my toy cupboard to the left of the fireplace and shut the door. It was some time later my mother smelled burning. She traced it to the cupboard and opened the door to find all my toys slowly burning. My teddy bear escaped, but as part of my punishment, I was without any other toys until Christmas!

In the five years we lived at Whimple, my life revolved around the station, school and church, with pleasant interludes exploring the local countryside with friends from school, haymaking at the Nothcott Farm with Cyril and Ronnie, damming streams with Kennie Grant and once falling through the ice on Perky Pool (now disappeared). After the latter incident, I was taken home by May Bater. I took off all my clothes to try to dry them before my mother got back from Exeter. May put them all, including my wellington boots, in the oven of the kitchen range. I cannot remember the outcome. Alan Carthew and I used to roam around a lot sometimes we would take Jack Whiteway with us. Once, we all fell in the stream at the bottom of the cricket field.

The first few weeks at school were in the infants' class taught by Miss Bennett, then I moved into Mrs. Trott's class, finally to Miss Moore's room. I was due to leave to start at King's School, Ottery St. Mary, but my father was promoted to Station Master at Bognor Regis, so we moved up to Sussex. My memory seems to have blanked out much of school work, but I recall the travelling dentist arriving and setting up his chair and other frightening equipment in Mrs. Trott's classroom. I needed a filling – we called it a 'stopping' in those days and the drill was worked manually by a device similar to a treadle of a sewing machine. No pain killers then, just Mrs. Trott's hand to hold on to.

The 'bug nurse' came quite frequently. Once many of us had head lice. My mother washed my hair endlessly with paraffin and combed it with a small tooth comb. It did not worry me too much, apart from the incessant hair washing, but my mother was frantic!

When I was quite young, I became a cub. We met in the Victory Hall, and Mr.Griffiths would teach us the art of boxing. Later, I joined the church choir along with Alan and Gerald Carthew, Dennis Retter and Dennis Watts, who used to sing solo.

George Chard was the choir master and on practice nights, we would take it in turn to blow the organ. If you did not pump hard enough, the notes would change key and die out.

Whimple really was a community in the thirties. We all knew each other and took part in village activities. Dad was a sidesman and member of the Parish Council, mother the secretary of the Women's Institute and a demonstrator of jam making and bottling. I took part in some concerts; I guess they were school concerts. On one occasion the W.I. choir sang 'Strawberry Fair'. Lucy Caswell had a long dress and carried a small basket of fake strawberries. I think she wore some kind of bonnet, while I wore a blue smock. We came on stage from either side, met in the middle, held hands while the choir sang, and ended up with a kiss to loud applause. I fell in love with Lucy then! One Christmas, I was one of the Three Kings, wearing my dressing gown and a turban made of a cardboard cone covered in green and yellow crepe paper. I carried a glass vinegar bottle stuffed with silver paper and had to step forward when the other kids sang " Myrrh is mine. . . .". All this is so vivid as I look back

We had dancing classes one year in the hall and Pam Sweetland and I learned to polka and to do a tambourine dance. Was it Miss Morgan who taught us?

To celebrate King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935, six of us toured the village dressed in red, white and blue and pushing a hurdy gurdy. We were collecting for, I think, King George's Fund for Sailors, and we sold red, white and blue golliwogs which had been made by a team of volunteers. Mr and Mrs. Sweetland, Betty Griffiths, Jack Palfrey, Pam Sweetland and I were photographed in the lane by the cricket field and the picture hung in the Victory Hall for years. I still have a copy in my possession.

I learned about the "birds and bees" during my time at Whimple, but no names. I can recall so many of my school mates and where they lived. Dudley Banks, Clifford Conway, Kennie Stone, Richard and Derek Webber, Billy Lewis, Garland and Freddie Harris from the New Inn, Nancy Wheaton, the Elliot girls, Beryl Watts, Philip Harding, Beth Budd, Jackie Lovering, Herbert Breyley, Teddy Brown, Ivor Thomas, Annie and Winnie Pike and of course my 'best friend' Joan Dart, and there are many more tales I could tell. It all sounds rather like a 'Just William' book and I expect we were all up to mischief at times but we respected our elders and the countryside.

The five years my parents and I spent at Whimple were golden years. We were soon part of the village family, and were sad when the time came to move away to a town, albeit a town by the sea which was another cause for excitement for a ten year old.

I'll never forget Whimple – the happy days of childhood – a beautiful countryside at peace. Thank you, Whimple. Dennis



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Winter weekend tennis is still happening – mainly on Sunday mornings from 8.00am for a couple of hours. Do contact Roddy (secretary) or Marianne (treasurer) if you are interested in joining in.

It won't be long before the days draw out and the clocks will go forward an hour, allowing us to run our regular Thursday evening Club Night tennis sessions – just turn up and play!

We will be having our AGM shortly. It is usually held towards the end of March, so please keep an eye open for notices once we have the date and venue finalised.

Don't forget that tennis club members can join British Tennis for free and thereby enter the Wimbledon ticket ballot – please ask if you want to know more.

**Marianne Randall**

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## Whimble 2016 weather statistics (Dince Hill Close)

	Reading	Date
<b>Temperature</b>		
Maximum	31°C	19 <sup>th</sup> Jul
Minimum	-7°C	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Days with frost	65	
Last frost	5 <sup>th</sup> May	
First frost	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	
<b>Precipitation</b>		
Wettest day	56.9 mm	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov*
Wettest month	160.8 mm	Nov
Driest month	14.4 mm	Jul
Year total	834.4 mm**	

\*Between 19th and 21st November 109.7 mm of rain fell in Whimble: 13% of the year's total!

\*\*This is 106% of the long-term (1981-2010) average at Exeter Airport.



Flooding on Monday 21st Nov – 34.8 mm of rain fell.

Simon Foulds

# Whimble History Society

## The Whimble Wassail

The Whimble Wassail took place on Tuesday 17th January and a crowd of some 100 people gathered at the New Fountain before visiting the Whimble Wonder tree at the the Heritage Centre. They moved on to the Woodhayes orchard where Ray Horn had done his usual fine job in preparing bonfires and then to Jim and Mary Chard's orchard at Knowle Cross via The Square. The weather was cool and dry, which always helps! The Wassail ended at the Cricket Club where food was available, prepared by a fine team under Maria Wallis, so thanks to them. Thanks also to the preparers of the Wassail cup, King Ben and Princess Alelaide for their excellent recitation and toast/apple skills Thanks also go to the stewards, the New Fountain, for opening early, and the orchard owners Margaret Burrough and Jim and Mary as well as the gun team (who were without the dead-eye skills of Helicopter John this year but he managed to be with us in the Fountain at the start) and our musical maestro, Jim Causley and his travelling band – who made some fine music as we processed around the village, and afterwards at the Cricket Club.

Not only was it fun ,but we hope, educational as an experience. Certainly it was educational for Tickety who learned that you cannot fill your Wassail Cup from the stainless steel bucket if you put it in the wrong way round...but that is a secret between him and Roger Smith and we said that it wouldn't appear in the Whimble News. Whoops!

Thanks also of course, to the most important people, the Wassailers themselves...thanks for coming out with us, for your singing (English style!) and then finishing the evening with us at the Cricket Club. Here's looking forward to an excellent harvest.

## The Archives of the Heritage Centre

Many residents of the village will have visited the Heritage Centre to see the very impressive displays illustrating the long and varied history of Whimble. If you haven't visited the Centre yet then you really are missing a treat!

What people might not be aware of is the vast collection of archives held on the upper floor of The Centre. Contained in the archives is detailed research about the history of Whimble going back very many years and also more recent information. The newspaper article about 'The Red Lady of Whimble' is just one the fascinating items held.

The archive includes photographs and post cards showing different properties and areas of the village over the years. We also hold detailed histories of some of the older properties and photographs and records showing areas before they were developed. If you live in a more recently built property, you may be able to see what stood there previously.

There are details of people, businesses, agriculture, societies, sports clubs, churches, village events and customs, the environment – in fact just about anything relating to Whimble. if you would like to come to the Heritage Centre to see something in particular in the archive, please contact Gill Smith on 822977 to arrange a date and time.

The Society thought it would be a good idea to include extracts from the Society's archives in the Whimble News. Although many people are aware of the artefacts on display in the Heritage Centre, we suspect many do not realise the extent of published info we hold in the upstairs archives. Hopefully, extracts like these 'Tales of Whimble' will encourage more visitors to the Centre.

## Tales of Whimble - 'The Red Lady of Whimble'

In February 1981 an article entitled 'Red Lady of Whimble', written by 'D. Delaney', was printed in the Express & Echo newspaper.

The author said although the West Country is dotted with tales of ghosts and apparitions, he could not recall having seen anywhere the tale of The Red Lady of Whimble.

Mr Delaney claimed The Red Lady had made many appearances but, in the recent past, her visitations had dwindled and he could recall only three occasions in the previous decade when anybody had claimed to have seen her.

The article stated the "apparition" was generally believed to be the spirit of Jayne Cornwell, the middle of three daughters of the village baker, John Cornwell and his wife Ruth, who died in the latter part of the 18th Century. The dates were not entirely clear, the author stated, due to much of record of the period having been obliterated by water damage.

The story went on that repairs were being carried out to the Church roof and on 17th April 1787, Jayne Cornwell was struck by a piece of falling wooden scaffolding. Subsequently the Church roof did, in fact, collapse. Jayne was unmarried but six months pregnant and the accident caused her to lose her unborn daughter. It was widely believed the father of the baby was Jayne's cousin, Thomas Decevoir, a French wine merchant's son.

As a result of the tragic accident, Jayne was ostracised by the rest of the pious villagers, who saw the event as a punishment from God. Jayne died three years later, apparently of consumption, aged 27 years. Jayne never spoke to anyone in the last three years of her life and though she continued to live in her parents' house, they had nothing to do with her and she was a virtual recluse. She was buried outside the parish at Ottery St Mary.

In early 1801, Jayne's sister Mary claimed to have been touched on the shoulder and spoken to by Jayne. Her claims were dismissed until a vagrant, Jud Longbeater, was approached by a sobbing woman, dressed all in red, as he was cutting grass in the lower churchyard.

Mr Delaney stated since then as many as three or four sightings a week were reported. His article includes descriptions of some of the encounters and says it was generally believed the strange red hue of Jayne's appearance was because of the bitter anger she bore against the village for her harsh treatment.

Following publication of the article, enquiries were made by Reverend H G Tucker and others. The author's name did not exist in the village and it was generally accepted that the story was a total fiction written by a "freelance journalist" living in Church Road.

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# WHIMPLE AND BROADCLYST YOUNG FARMERS

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Bingo evening on 11th December - it was very successful with over 100 people attending, raising £424 for charity.

Thank you as well to everyone who joined us for the Big Breakfast on 2nd January - we served 121 breakfasts and made around £650 going towards Headway Devon and Sepsis Trust UK, our two charities for the year!

Keep these dates free in your diaries for these two future events -

- Easter Bingo at the Victory Hall – Thursday 13th April – eyes down at 7.30pm all welcome
- Big Breakfast at the Victory Hall - Monday 28th August 8.00am – 12.00noon

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# WHAT NEXT FOR WHIMPLE CHURCH?

In the Oct/Nov edition last year, the Revd Chris thanked everyone who had read the Statement of Needs board at the back of church and contributed to the process by completing one of the questionnaires provided. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has now considered the responses and begun to think about the next steps in the process of possibly modernising some of the facilities in the church building.

The vast majority of the responses fully supported the initiative of the PCC to start thinking about upgrading the facilities; particularly the kitchen, toilet, disabled access to the church and provision of a flexible space for children's work and other activities.

There were a few, however, who were concerned about why we are looking at this now and how these changes may affect the worshipping ambience in the church. It is therefore perhaps worth trying to respond directly to these comments to try to reassure everyone we have the best interests of the village as a whole in mind, and would like the support of the village, as we continue on the journey of modernising some of our church facilities.

***"Why are you doing this now, are you not just resurrecting what was rejected by the village several years ago?"*** This is undoubtedly an important question and it is easy to provide a glib answer which is no! However, to fully answer it requires an understanding of the governance of the church – so here goes!

The members of the PCC are trustees of the charity that is St. Mary's Church, Whimple. To a large extent, they have similar responsibilities to a board of directors running a company i.e. they need to ensure it remains solvent while providing a 'quality' service to the community within a changing legal and regulatory framework but also that it has a strategy to continue 'operating' well into the future. In other words, we are not just looking at meeting the needs of today, but we are also continually trying to ensure the church in the village remains viable 20 or 30 years from now. To that end our Mission Community (the churches of Whimple, Talaton, Clyst St. Lawrence and Clyst Hydon) has prayerfully put together a Mission Action Plan (M.A.P.); one of the pillars of which is engaging more with families, children and young people i.e. those who are likely to be the future of the church. Following on from that the 'Jigsaw' group, for children at Key Stage 1 in the education system and their families, was started in church 3 years ago. We are currently considering what service we can provide for those at Key Stage 2.

In order to provide these additional services and engage more with our community at all levels, we also need to consider how we use our assets to best advantage. In Whimple, our biggest asset and also our biggest liability is the church building. It is in the centre of the village and provides a magnificent setting for Sunday worship, weddings and funerals, but for much of the week remains under-utilised; it is open for those who wish to admire it or seek a quiet space, but there are few regular activities taking place within it. Meanwhile our annual budget to run the church is in the order of £50,000/year i.e. about £1,000/week, and when more extensive restoration work is required on our old, listed building it can be considerably more. I am sure you will agree this is a significant figure.



The funds come principally from members of the congregation, topped up by fund raising (the annual fete and a few other events), an occasional legacy and a proportion of the fees from weddings and funerals. Contrary to the belief of some, the Church Commissioners and the Diocese make no financial contribution to keeping a church in Whimple. It is therefore incumbent upon the PCC to ensure that the running costs, all raised locally, are spent wisely and that our assets are used to best advantage. To that end, it was decided that we needed to seriously consider how our building could be used to support our longer-term plan, to identify where its limitations provide a barrier to meeting our M.A.P. objectives and to possibly put in place a change process.

How does this differ from what happened several years ago? Last time, the first the village heard of any plan for re-ordering the church was at an open meeting when, without first explaining why any change was being considered, an architect introduced a possible new interior for the church which was perceived by some as a bit of a *fait accompli*. On this occasion, we have no existing plan for any physical changes to the building. We are simply meeting our responsibilities as trustees in considering the future needs of the church and are following what we believe to be a logical process while trying to engage with, principally our congregation (who currently pay most of the bills!), but also the wider village community, at each stage of the process.

It is also worth noting that since the meeting on re-ordering several years ago, the PCC has authorised the upgrade to the heating system in church and the installation of a fixed projector and screen. There seems to have been overwhelming agreement that these upgrades have made a significant difference to the comfort of all in church and the worshipping experience in our 'more modern' services, while not affecting the more traditional. Our plan is to upgrade our other facilities with the same rationale in mind.

***"What is the process for introducing any possible changes?"*** As mentioned above, the first step was to produce our strategic plan – the Mission Action Plan. Following that we considered how our assets can be deployed to try to assist in achieving that plan. At that stage, we identified where our building, in its current form, provided physical limitations to us meeting our objectives. In some cases, these were due to the demographic of our congregation i.e. about half of our adult congregation is over 70 years old therefore we need better access into the church and accommodation in church for those with mobility problems or ailments that get worse with age (back problems, etc.). Physically the church is not hugely child-friendly. We have problems conforming with changing health and safety and hygiene regulations. The lighting, heating and sound systems all required updating, etc. etc.

All of these identified limitations were put together into a 'Statement of Needs' which we have now shown to the village and asked for comments. Most responses were fully supportive. Some asked if new toilet facilities could be open to the village on a daily basis, perhaps with a key held in the shop. We can certainly consider that if we get as far as installing them, along with considering how we keep them clean (and who pays for that) if they are fully open to the public.

Our next step after finalising the Statement of Needs, is to give it to some architects to propose options for meeting some, all or most of the needs in the most cost-effective way without destroying or changing out of all recognition, what we currently have and cherish. There will then be further consultation with the village on the options before we make any decisions about which, or indeed if any, of the options are worth pursuing. Following that we will need to liaise with the Diocese and apply for a faculty (church planning consent). Then, depending on the proposed changes, we may need to liaise with English Heritage and a whole host of other special interest bodies such as the Victorian Society. We may also need to liaise with the local authority. Then we would almost certainly need to raise funds locally and seek grants to help fund any possible project before any work could start.

***“Why do you need more flexible spaces? There are other meeting venues within the village, such as the Victory Hall, Cricket Club and Scout Hut.”*** There are indeed other meeting venues in the village and we do use those from time to time. However, when Jigsaw was set up, the parents of the children involved specifically asked for the activity to take place in the church building so that the children would get used to going into church and be comfortable in that environment. Also, there are other events that take place immediately before or after services and moving (sometimes elderly) people elsewhere is inconvenient and sometimes breaks the thread of what we are trying to achieve. Occasionally, the other village venues are not available when something is needed by the church. Lastly, as mentioned previously, it costs a significant sum to maintain the church building, therefore it should be used as often as possible, not just on Sundays. It is not our intention to ‘poach’ events from other venues, but it is appropriate that church events should be held in church if at all possible.

***“Do not turn the church into a concert hall or café.”*** Again, this is not our intention. Having said that, many would agree that the acoustics are better in the church than in other village venues. Hence if there is a choral concert then church may be the best place for it. If there is a pantomime or film night then there is no competition to the Victory Hall.

We do offer Saturday morning coffee during the Summer months and rather muddle through with the facilities currently available. As H&S and hygiene regulations evolve, we see a requirement for the kitchen and hot water supply to be rather closer to where any refreshments are served; hence the requirement for upgraded kitchen facilities. Also ‘breaking bread together’ has been an important church community activity throughout church history. Consequently, it is very important to us that we should be readily able to offer rather more than ‘just or barely adequate’ refreshments around church services and other church events.

***“The stage at the front of church is not good and should be removed.”*** The staging was put in temporarily for the production of Godspell. Prior to that, as part of the ‘Statement of Needs’ process, the PCC had been considering putting in a raised area at the front of church for a variety of reasons. Hence, rather than removing it immediately after the production, it was decided to keep it in place for a trial period so that we can see which aspects work and which do not before considering whether to install (and probably commit a significant sum of money to) something more permanent; quite possibly to a different design.

*“Why not build an extension to incorporate the facilities required rather than change anything in the existing building?”* We are not yet at the stage of making decisions on the options that may or may not be available to us to fulfil our various needs. The possibility of building an extension over the churchyard rather than changing some things inside the existing church building, may indeed become a preferred option. That would solve many of the issues, but would also introduce other complications as it may involve moving some graves. In 1845, the last time the church had a major upgrade, a whole new aisle was put on the south side of the church. Therefore, it has been done before. However, rather than introducing a solution without going through a rigorous process of deciding exactly what is needed and why, and also ensuring the local community is fully engaged with the process, we will continue to take this one step at a time.

I apologise for a rather longer article than had been my intention, but I hope this explains where we currently are in the process and perhaps allays some of the fears that arise with any mention of change.

Stephen Godsiff, Churchwarden



## Whimble Archive Film Show

**Saturday 4th February**  
5.30pm, Victory Hall, Whimble

**The South West Film and TV  
Archive will be paying a special  
visit to Whimble to share old film  
and TV footage of the area.  
Come and see Whimble in years  
gone by.- a fascinating glimpse  
into village life of the past.**

# WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

By the time this edition of the News goes to print we will have had our AGM which was held on Monday 23rd January. No doubt the reports will have reflected on another good year for the VPA and a full report will be in the next edition. We are naturally looking forward to another very successful year.

It was very disappointing to learn that the Ottery St. Mary Garden Club had to fold just before Christmas. However, we hope that their members will be able to join our Association so that they can participate in our events and of course our Annual Flower and Craft Show.

Our first trip of the year will be to the Boconnoc Gardens in Cornwall on Saturday 1st April. The Cornwall Garden Society will be holding their Spring Flower Show there and there will be Show Gardens together with over one hundred Trade Stands. The coach will be leaving Ottery St. Mary at 09.00hrs and The Square in Whimple at 09.15hrs prompt! The cost of the trip will be £17.50 for VPA Members and £18.50 for non members. The cost will include the return coach trip to the Gardens, entry to the Show and also entry to the Boconnoc Gardens. To avoid disappointment you are advised to book early. To reserve your place, please contact Doreen Staddon and she can be contacted by email on:

**[doreenstaddon@btinternet.com](mailto:doreenstaddon@btinternet.com)**

or by telephone on 01404 823594 leaving your name, number of places required and a contact phone number. Alternatively, you can fill in the form the end of this article and leave it in the Whimple Stores with Jenny or Mark – our thanks to them for helping out on this.

Our Spring Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 13th May in the Village Hall. This has now proved to be a well established annual event and hopefully we will have the same support this year. We aim to provide a wide range of plants, so hopefully there will be something for everyone!

Our annual Flower and Craft Show will, as usual, be on the second Saturday in August, and this year this will be Saturday 12th August 2017. Details of the Photography Classes were published in the last edition of the News so hopefully all those keen photographers are already planning their exhibits! We hope to have the schedules out with all the details of all the various Classes by the plant sale in May.

Those are the main events for the year, but we hope to arrange some more for which full details will of course appear in future editions of the News.

We look forward to seeing you at these events as well as any others we can arrange during the year.

**Paul Wilson,**  
**Hon. Secretary**

**Booking slip for the BOCONNOC GARDENS, LOSTWITHIEL, CORNWALL, on  
Saturday 1st April 2017**

I would like to book ..... places on the above trip, leaving Ottery St. Mary at 09.00hrs and The Square, Whimble at 9.15am. I enclose £17.50pp for VPA Members, or £18.50 pp for non VPA Members (please delete as appropriate).

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# Whimble Parish Council

## Potholes, Precepts and Poultry!

Potholes are an increasing problem now, estimated to cause as many as 1 in 10 mechanical failures on UK roads and costing motorists an estimated £730 million every year. Devon County Council (DCC) carries out highway inspections in line with national guidelines and, if a pothole does not meet the safety defect criteria, it will not be filled – even if it is next to another one that is filled! DCC is unable to do much of the minor repair work due to continuing budget reductions from central government.

One solution is the Community Road Warden scheme. This is a partnership between Devon Highways and parish councils which enables communities to carry out highway work where approved by the local neighbourhood highway officer. The repair of minor potholes has recently been successfully trialed under this scheme.

Whimble Cllrs John Griffiths and Billy Bloomfield have completed the required training and the Parish Council will fund the equipment and materials to carry out pothole repairs in the next financial year. In order to cover this cost the Parish Council will need to increase the precept (this is the money requested from East Devon by the Parish Council and collected from all of you as part of your Council Tax payment). The increase will be less than £1 per elector – well worth it to fill those annoying potholes in the village!

The Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help with this task (e.g. holding a stop-go sign) so if you think this is something you would like to help with please contact the clerk, Mrs Gerri Turner, at [whimbleparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:whimbleparishcouncil@gmail.com) or on 823385.

## Avian influenza (bird flu) outbreak in the UK

There have been a number of Avian Influenza outbreaks in the UK and a Prevention Zone was declared in December that covers the whole of the UK.

The Prevention Zone means that all poultry keepers – whether on a commercial scale or simply a small backyard flock – are now required by law to keep the birds under cover, or otherwise keep them separate from wild birds. This requirement has now been extended until 28th February 2017.

It is also important that poultry keepers continue to keep a close watch on the health of their birds, and take steps to reduce the risk of infection via the environment, for example in wild bird droppings, by practising good biosecurity. You should do this even if your birds are inside. If you are concerned it is important that you contact your vet.

DEFRA has taken this action to reduce the risks and help protect poultry and captive birds from avian flu.

The Food Standards Agency advises that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

**Are you looking for a part-time, local job?  
Do you have sound admin skills?  
Would you like to help your local community?**

**Whimble Parish Council is recruiting a  
part-time Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer**

We are an active, 8 Councillor strong organization, which meets regularly (10 meetings per year and occasional planning meetings). Our current Parish Clerk is leaving after 13 years and we are looking for a community-minded, energetic and committed person to take on this challenging and rewarding role.

The ideal candidate would:

- Be able to work independently and from home.
- Be able to attend meetings in evenings and work flexibly at other times.
- Be able to act both collaboratively and on their own.
- Have previous experience in either a secretarial or administrative role (experience working for a similar body would be beneficial but not essential as relevant training is available).
- Be IT literate.
- Be able to prepare and maintain financial records.
- Be an effective communicator.

The position is part-time, averaging 10 hours per week.

A Council laptop, printer and telephone will be provided

Salary in accordance with recommended national pay scales depending on experience and qualifications.

Interested? To apply please send a CV and covering letter to the Chairman: John Griffiths, 3, The Square, Whimble, EX5 2SN.

Email: [hdicksrecords@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hdicksrecords@yahoo.co.uk) Tel: 01404 823480.

Or for more information please contact the current Parish Clerk, Mrs Gerri Turner on [whimbleparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:whimbleparishcouncil@gmail.com) or tel: 01404 823385.

Closing date for applications: 28th February



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## Community Theatre 4All



Our next production launches on **Saturday 11th March** with an **'Open Drama Workshop'** from **10.00am to 3.30pm** in the **Talaton Parish Hall**. The day will explore some of the themes of the play. This workshop is an opportunity for you to come along and participate in a day of fun drama activities and also find out what is happening, without committing yourself to becoming involved in this production.

We are not only looking for performers but also all the other areas that are so vital to the creation of a piece of theatre, Stage Management, Technicians, Costume Designers and creators. Props Makers, Publicity and Marketing and Front of House Staff. For further details contact Tom Samson on 01404 822234 or email:

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# News From Your Local Pre-School

## Happy New Year!



**WHIMBLE**  
Pre-School  
& Toddler Group

We had a busy end to last term with lots of Christmas activities and crafts. We took the children on a minibus to Cotley Farm to see the reindeer and the Christmas barn. The children performed the Nativity story in the hall to their families, which they did brilliantly and were accompanied by Rev Chris Martin on his guitar, he tells us it's his favourite gig!

The children (and us!) would love to have some snow this winter so we have been learning a bit about the North Pole and the animals that live there.

This term we are planning a trip to Ottery Fire Station and will be thinking about the people who help us such as the police, doctors and nurses.

**REMEMBER, if you are a keen gardener please purchase your seeds, plants & equipment online at...**  
[www.littlegreensprouts.co.uk/whimble\\_pre\\_school\\_playgroup](http://www.littlegreensprouts.co.uk/whimble_pre_school_playgroup)



### Information...

We have spaces at preschool for children aged from 2 ½ to school age, please contact Jo Sibley on **07794 652549** to find out more about us.

**There is also a breakfast club available.**

Please visit our website –  
[www.whimblepreschool.com](http://www.whimblepreschool.com)  
for more information and to find out what we have been up to!

### Dates to Remember...

**Baby & Toddler Group**  
Every Friday  
9.15 – 10.45,  
in Side Room Of Victory Hall  
(term time only)

**Half Term**  
Monday 13th –  
17th February



[www.whimblepreschool.com](http://www.whimblepreschool.com)

# Whimcram nearly there

It was a nice clear Sunday, so I thought that it would be nice to tootle round Crambrook by bike - I'd heard from others that it was increasingly novel and beautiful, and had become quite the place to visit.

I swung right at the Rockbeare Garage roundabout, heading just West of North to Tillhouse Rd. My word, they had thought of everything, wide dual cycle paths in Bradstone block paving, very attractive and with many small children practising on their Christmas bikes, attentive encouraging parents, and disciplined dogs on leads, gave me that nice warm feeling. I tootled on turning left into Tillhouse Lane, it too was spacious, and remarkably, no cars parked in the road! I could see why, all the houses had nice spacious garages and car ports, or if not, there were frequent small car parks, tucked away behind freshly planted flowering trees and shrubs: very clever design, and so spacious.

What was so refreshing were that several local building companies were involved in the new build, I counted five boards, Woodbury, Sidmouth, even one with a Whimble address, and naturally enough there were novel local touches in the architecture, even three conclaves of stunning cob and thatch houses from MaCabe in Ottery well known for beautiful modern cob and thatch buildings around East Devon, and reasonably priced too: four of them cleverly divided into starter units! They blended in so well with the high level of local stone fascias, and even the brick was all rivened, aged, and variable, so attractive.

I was approaching the centre, but turned off into Long Covering, again not a car in sight, there were flower beds set into the pavement, but in the distance, wow, a wonderful, huge, Devon sandstone block sculpture designed and sculptured by local art students. It already had a water feature, water tumbling onto ledges, already green with mosses and early spring flowers. It was surrounded by a black wrought iron fence not quite complete, so I stopped to chat to the blokes busily patching in the last public seating, all the iron work and craft detail from Branscombe black smiths, just brilliant! Beyond a nice sweep of green playing area rich with Willow artwork, several mini copses, a children's play area in natural materials, and public seating with picnic benches!! Green, tidy and totally litter free, not a dog poo bag in sight!!

It was obvious that the planners really were intent on enhancing the area and spreading AONB status into new towns too! Those five year degree courses are a real investment for our futures! Well done them!

I pedalled slowly to the shops for eleven's and there was a lovely little café with home made cakes, set up and run by a couple from Rockbeare - how about that! It was nicely busy, and young children so quiet and well behaved with their Mums playing in a designated area with toys.

Time was pressing, so I rode back along Younghayes Rd, to the main road past St Martin's Primary School - what a beautiful 'large tile' roof, blending in with natural colours, not that glaring cheap and nasty sheet roofing stuff used in 'built to price' PFI contracts, and with a large proportion of solar panels- probably sufficient to power the school and contribute to the grid too, nice to have an investment income for the children, good forward thinking.

So on I went back to the main road, past those big Percyman white jobs, some up for sale already....what a surprise! On to the Rockbeare Straight, and just as I was leaving the houses, past that wonderful Grade 2 land (Agricultural Land Classification - MAFF 1988), capable of growing harvest crops, horticultural crops, high quality grassland, just about anything already planed off and just begging to be built on! But I didn't mind, I knew it was going to be "Build Something Beautiful"...

"I have a dream, that one day, the town of Crambrook, sweltering in the pain of Percyman and Boovis, will be transformed into a local oasis..... I have a dream...."

Hugh Roberts

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# WARTS UPDATE

Hello and welcome to all new and existing members of W.A.R.T.S (Whimple Against Rising Tariffs). Our aim is to periodically secure the services of the cheapest oil provider to deliver to members within the EX5 Post Code. I am pleased to report our numbers have now increased to over 230 households.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

We are unable to quote an advanced 'price per litre' as the number of drops ordered on the day PLUS the price per litre on the day determines the end price on that particular day. However, we can assure you, past experience tells us that our prices have consistently beaten any individual household prices over the past 11 years.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017:

MONDAY 20th March 2017  
MONDAY 17th July 2017  
MONDAY 30th October 2017

We kindly remind you that:

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Anyone who does not have email should call 823317

\*Registration must include name, address with postcode and telephone number.

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A very Happy and Healthy 2017 to you all.

Whimble WI enjoyed a real treat at our November meeting, when Lucy Channon gave us a wealth of information of Christmas celebrations over the centuries, entitled 'Seasonal Serendipity' and we all learned something. This was enhanced with some wonderful illustrations by Lucy's husband Harry, depicting the different stories. Our grateful thanks go to them both for a fascinating presentation.

Also in November some of our ladies provided homemade cakes for sale in the Victory Hall in aid of Hospiscare, plus assisting on various stalls and with refreshments. This was much appreciated by the organisers and a healthy sum of money was raised for this worthy cause.

Our skittles match against Offwell in the County Competition was unfortunately cancelled by them at the last minute due to illness. This meant they had to forfeit the game and Whimble WI is therefore now in the third round – unheard of! We play on the 23 January against Smeatharpe, so come on ladies glory awaits!

There was a trip to the Manor Theatre in Sidmouth to see "White Christmas" and our ladies reported a most enjoyable evening. More trips to follow.

The December meeting was our Christmas Party in the Victory Hall, with quizzes and refreshments. We were then treated to a colourful performance by 5 of our more energetic ladies entitled **Strictly 'Some' Dancing**. They wore different costumes depicting what they would be if they were not a 'Member of the House' like Ann Widdecombe! Words and choreography by Avril Ellingham. A hilarious performance, which received a standing ovation (+ encore) and was captured on video for the future embarrassment of the cast! If they pass the 'audition', they may be asked to perform in front of Ann Widdecombe, the guest speaker when Whimble WI hosts a Group Meeting in April - more practising ladies?



Our final event for 2016 was a delicious Christmas lunch at The Thirsty Farmer, which was well attended and our thanks as always to Frankie Wilson for organising.

2017 began with our monthly meeting at which Sue Ayes, an Exeter Red Coat tour guide, gave us another interesting talk on the history of Exeter. She always finds new things to tell us that we didn't know about our local ancient City and leaves us asking for more.

WI members please note that our February meeting will be held at the **Cricket Club**, due to the Victory Hall being used for the pantomime. Our speaker is Christine Smith on the "pleasures and pitfalls of a solo traveller". Please contact our Secretary Ann Bowden on 823450 if you are interested in joining Whimble WI and making new friends.

**Barbara Ackland**

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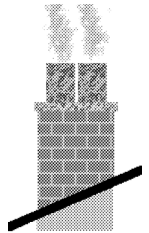
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## WHIMPLE NEWS DELIVERER VACANCY

We would like to thank Team Westney for all their help over the past few years with delivering the News to Church Road; now that they are moving out of the village, that leaves a vacancy in our wonderful team of delivery/logistics co-ordinators of the printed word.

The delivery round is for the 40 houses in Church Road from The Square up to Dince Hill Close. If you are able to help with this every two months, I would love to hear from you. Thanks!

Ed 823194

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# WHIMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Happy New Year from Whimple Primary School

Here we are again at the start of another year - where does the time go! School continues to be busy. Below is a brief roundup from two visits that happened last term.

This term children are being encouraged to write stories to enter into Radio 2's 500 words competition; some children's writing was printed in our own little book - 'A way with words' just before Christmas and we are also participating in a 'Readathon' later in the term.

Our 'Fantastic Friday' curriculum continues with children in year 5 and 6 having started learning their parts for a drama production in March; year 3 and 4 are having swimming lessons at Middlemoor; year 2 have been learning to sew and year 1 have been participating in 'Relax Kids' and learning some simple first aid, including the recovery position.

We continue to look for volunteers to assist with hearing children read - if you can spare a little time please pop in for more information. (All volunteers are subject to a DBS check and need to provide a character reference).

**Mrs Carole Shilston,**

Acting Headteacher

### Trip to Killerton

Reception and Year 1 children were treated to a great day out at Killerton House last term.

The theme for Christmas this year was 'Grimm fairy tales', in particular, Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, Sleeping Beauty, The Elves and the Shoemaker and Rapunzel.



All the children had been read the stories beforehand and they have been listening to and writing their own versions. In the afternoon, we followed the outdoor trail and made the most of the autumn leaves and sunshine.

## Anglo Saxon Fun Day

Beech Class have had a great time today.

Along with wearing their own Anglo Saxon attire they have been cooking vegetable broth, heavy oat bread, honey shortbread and baked apples. They have been involved in drama sessions, writing with runes, quizzes, setting up their exhibition and of course tasting!



## Exeter Chiefs teach maths

Yes, you have read that correctly. One of their community players' team came in to work with Beech class, yes, to teach some rugby skills but first to solve some maths problems. In one activity they had to buy items from the gift shop totaling them up and then working out the change. The scoring system of rugby was introduced, 5 points for a try, 2 for a conversion and 3 for a penalty - scenarios were given to total and then they had to reverse the skill and calculate back from a score to work out what might have happened in the game.



# Answers to the 11+ Quiz

As promised here are the answers to the Quiz in the Christmas issue

Arithmetic

(1) 44 (2) 65 (3) 19 remainder 1 (4) 686 (5)  $18/9$  (6) 34

English

Character (b) Steered (c) Mansion (d) Settled (e) Readers (f) Persuade

Reasoning:

- |                       |                |                    |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.                    | 2.             | 3.                 | 4.                    |
| (a) 9, 11             | (a) DEGEFH     | (a) 20, 27, 22, 38 | (a) EHFI              |
| (b) 15, 21            | (b) PRSQST     | (b) ARK, CAR, BAG  | (b) $1\frac{1}{6}$    |
| (c) 7, $8\frac{1}{2}$ | (c) DEEF, EFFG |                    | (c) 6, $7\frac{1}{4}$ |
| (d) 31, 63            |                |                    | (d) VE, UF            |
| (e) 12, 10            |                |                    |                       |

To those of you who got everything right - Well done!

John Aiton

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# FRONT ROW CLUB

## Front Row Club dates for Spring 2017

### Saturday 4th February

The Whimble Archive Flim Show and a feature film based on a true WWII story.

### Saturday 11th March

A thriller based on a bestselling novel.

### Saturday 8th April

Another film based on actual events - but these happened far more recently.

Membership is still only £20 for the year.

To find out what is showing and how to join, please visit

[www.frontrowclub.wordpress.com](http://www.frontrowclub.wordpress.com)

or email [frontrowclub@gmail.com](mailto:frontrowclub@gmail.com)

**We hope to see you soon**

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# Travelling with your pet

Now is the time of year when we look forward to the summer holidays and for lots of us, that can mean taking our furry friend along. Since 2000, the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) has allowed cats, dogs and ferrets to enter the UK from certain countries without being placed in quarantine. Animals resident to the UK can now travel to most European countries as well as more distant destinations. From 1st January 2012, the PETS travel scheme changed such that dogs and cats can move freely between PETS-scheme approved countries provided the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The pet must have a permanent microchip implanted, which lots of animals already have.
- 2) The pet must be vaccinated against rabies after microchipping. This can be done any time over 12 weeks of age using a licensed vaccine. Boosters are given according to manufacturers' recommendation.
- 3) The pet must have a PETS passport signed by an official veterinary surgeon, confirming the above conditions have been met.
- 4) Some destinations require an additional export certificate. It is important to check with DEFRA for specific conditions requested by the country you wish to travel to.
- 5) There is a 21 day wait after rabies vaccination before travel abroad and/or entry into the UK is allowed. This is to allow time for the vaccine to take effect.
- 6) There is a requirement for a veterinary certified tapeworm treatment 24 - 120 hours before return to the UK. Travel companies and ports will often help you locate a veterinary surgeon for this.

If you are travelling to a country not listed on the PETS scheme, additional conditions must be met. This means starting this process at least 4 - 5 months before you expect to travel. A blood sample must be taken a minimum of 30 days after rabies vaccination. If the test is successful, a three month wait must be observed following the date of the blood sample before your pet would be allowed back into the UK. If the blood test does not prove adequate antibody levels, your pet would require a second vaccination and blood test. It is also important to contact DEFRA and check for any additional requirements of travel to specific countries.

We recommend making sure your pet is protected against ticks and sand-flies during their period of stay outside the UK as these can carry a variety of disease which we rarely encounter in this country.

It's also important to consider whether your pet enjoys travelling, changes in environment and temperature or whether they may prefer to stay at home. If you have any questions, please contact your vet. Above all, enjoy your holiday!

With thanks to Vale Vets

# Organisations in Whimble

<b>Whimble Parish Council</b> (whimbleparishcouncil@gmail.com)	
<i>Chairman:</i> John Griffiths	823480
<i>Clerk:</i> Gerri Turner,	823385
<b>St. Mary's Church</b>	
<i>Parish Priest:</i> Chris Martin	822427
<i>Impact Cell:</i> Helen Bowker	823193
<b>Devon County Councillor</b> (www.peterbowden.org.uk)	
Peter Bowden	823450
<b>East Devon Councillor</b>	
Peter Bowden	823450
<b>Whimble Primary School</b> (admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk)	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. S. Jessop	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Maria Wallis	823992
<b>Whimble History Society</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> David Rastall	822486
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Whimble Mothers Union</b>	
Margaret Burrough	822257
<b>Whimble Pre-School &amp; Toddler Group</b> (whimblepreschool.weebly.com)	
<i>Chair:</i> Cathy Culshaw	822363
<i>Information:</i> Jo Sibley 07794 652549 or admin@whimblepreschool.com	
<b>Whimble Womens Institute</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> Ann Bowden	823450
<b>Whimble Over Sixties Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Arthur Iball	822905
<i>Secretary:</i> Beryl Iball	822905
<b>Whimble Recreation Trust</b>	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Whimble Village Produce Association.</b>	
<i>Vice Chairman,</i> Paul Wilson	822744
<b>Whimble Football Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Ian Stephenson <i>Secretary:</i> Julian Johnson	822639
<b>Whimble Tennis Club</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> Roddy Bridge	822057
<i>Treasurer:</i> Marianne Randall	822025
<b>Whimble Cricket Club</b>	
<i>Booking Secretary:</i> Jonathon Silk	822389
<b>Whimble Victory Hall</b>	
<i>Chair:</i> Maria Wallis	823992
<i>Secretary:</i> Dennis Calver	823660
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Ali Tierney	822724
<b>Whimbletons</b>	
Cathy Bartlett-Horwood	823944
<b>Wasters of Whimble</b>	
Jenny Sanders	823015
Alison Betts	823967
<b>St. Mary's Bellringers</b>	
<i>Captain:</i> Roger Algate	822480
<b>Whimble Scout Group</b>	
<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
<b>Whimble Book Group</b>	
Tanya Mooney	823326
<b>Whimble Table Tennis Club</b>	
Chris Beer	07787 544192

## The Whimble News Team

### Editor

Ed Hitchcock 823194

### Production

Bob Scanlan 822262  
bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk

Sally Wilde 823246

### Delivery, Advertising and Community Diary

Ed Hitchcock 823194  
edhitch@btinternet.com

### Treasurer

Miles Leonard 822415



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