## Whimple News



Photograph by Sue Ayres

## Aug/Sept 2021

www.whimplenews.uk

#### THE THIRSTY



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#### **SPECIALS**

SATURDAY BRUNCH IS BACK 10.30 - 2pm!

TUESDAY IS ITALIAN NIGHT - SPECIAL MENU 5.00 - 9pm

THURSDAY NIGHT IS STEAK NIGHT 5.30 - 9pm

FRIDAY: KIDS EAT HALF PRICE between 3.30 and 5pm (kid's menu)

LOOK OUT FOR UPDATES IN WHIMPLE WHAT'S ON!







QUIZ NIGHT IS ALSO BACK! LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

Thanks SO much to all who supported our Charity Quiz night in July.

We raised an amazing £1,000 for our chosen charity MIND

#### Not Ed The Ed

Welcome to another Whimple News and apologies for not being a patch on the muchmissed Ed, although he still turns up for the wine at our News meetings (thank goodness) x

Sadly, we have another edition with tentative plans for events. I so hope they do happen and our wonderful local groups and charities can start to plan a bit further ahead. It was such a disappointment for everyone when the Village Week Committee had to announce the cancellation, but the Fun Run survived and was brilliantly supported (see pics inside).

On a much happier note, it's good to see the big, red thermometer finally reaching the top target outside the Hall (Ed would have made that sound much ruder) and well done to everyone who fundraised and donated.

The potential news about Whimple Stores creates such mixed feelings. On the one hand, it will be brilliant for the wonderful Sanders family to finally have more time, and less stress, but, on the other hand, they will be so missed. I know I speak for everyone when I say that they were literally lifesavers throughout the lockdowns and we are all so grateful for this and the amazing shop/PO they have created. Hoping for them that the sale progresses and we will look forward to welcoming the new owners to the village.

The Whimple In Stitch project has been really amazing. What an achievement and so beautifully put together. It is now proudly on display in The Thirsty Farmer, which is a good excuse to go in and maybe stay a while and then a little while longer... Marc and Donna and team have been flat out since reopening, bless them. It's so nice to be able to sit in a beer garden again.

On a personal note, I was very sorry to hear about the passing of Mike Burnell – one of our Cribbage League family. I am sure he will be counting his 15 2's in the sky somewhere, though. Condolences to his many friends and family, and to others in the village who have sadly lost loved ones since our last News.

You will read in this issue about the huge amount of effort being made at the moment to preserve the area from massive over-development, and thanks to those most closely involved. Good luck to Whimple Parish Council with their new work on the Neighbourhood Plan, POW+R, our Councillor Richard Lawrence and CPRE Devon, who campaign pretty tirelessly to help keep the county's heritage and natural beauty safe.

We still await the EDDC's decision regarding The New Fountain (I have no nails left).

I hope you enjoy this issue and do send any photos of our village you might take during your daily walks. We are featuring the Green's stunning rose garden this time, but a gallery page could be a plan for the future.

There is an article about someone else's shop in this one, but you can skip past that.

Do send your articles and pics for the next News to Bob on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk by Sept 13th, or please pop them through his door (Albecq, The Green).

Keep safe x

#### Sal Wilde

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### What's on in Whimple

#### **August**

10th Whimple WI Open Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.30pm

29th Thirsty Farmer Quiz

30th Whiteways Cup T20 Cricket Club from 10.00am

#### September

4th 'The Tuck Inn' Outdoor Summer Theatre in the Parish Field

11th 12th Man Festival Whimple Cricket Club 1.00pm gates open

26th Thirsty Farmer Quiz

#### October

2nd Community Thatre 4All, project launch, Talaton Village Hall 10.30-3.30pm Adults, 4.30-5.30pm Children

31st Thirsty Farmer Quiz

#### November

6th Bonfire and Fireworks at the Cricket Club



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## WHIMPLE STORES



#### Shop

Since our last update we are delighted that we have had an offer on the shop and the potential new owners are very keen to carry on running the shop and Post Office with existing staff assisting.

It is such a relief to have an offer from such lovely people who understand how important the village shop is and that they are looking forward to being part of such a lovely community

Taking over a business and Post Office can be a lengthy process so we are not anticipating completion until the end of October at the earliest.

Sabrina will be the main person running the shop and she is hoping to start working for us in August so that she can learn how to operate the Post Office and shop and take the opportunity to meet people.

Customers will be aware that sadly Sue has left us. We are so sad to lose her. Sue has been part of our team pretty much since we started. She has been a great support during our ups and downs and we miss her very much. However we completely understand her reasons for taking on a new challenge and although we wish she was still part of our team we wish her all the very best. Sue you have been amazing, thank you.

Sabrina and Dulcie will be helping to fill the gap left by Sue. They both need to train to operate the Post Office so please be patient if there are any uncertainties.

#### **Post Office**

Our banking services are getting good use and we can take cash and cheque deposits for most high street banks.

We are seeing a reduction in mail being sent which may be due to less home shopping but we are always happy to give advice on postage.

The need for customs labels to be clear and complete is becoming more important for European posting and if you are a business you need to look into the tax implications of posting to Europe. Leaving the EU has meant the loss of the VAT concessions and if you are selling to Europe you need to be a member or selling through a platform that is a member of an IOSS scheme. If you are not then the recipient will incur tax in the country of destination. Gifts are currently still exempt up to the value of 45 Euros.

#### Mark and Jenny

#### Mark, Jenny and Team



#### Welcomes You

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Regular or one off orders can be made.

Other services.

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#### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th-16th May 2021

Historically, the largest amount - including Gift Aid - ever raised for Christian Aid Week in Whimple was in 2019, a total of £1,854.

This year we decided that we'd deliver envelopes to homes as usual but that going round to collect them wasn't going to be appropriate. Jenny and Mark in Whimple Stores very kindly agreed to be the place where people could take their envelopes. We hoped that the amount raised would reach  $\pm 500$  and maybe a bit more.

Amazingly, the amount raised directly - including Gift Aid - was £1,202 in the envelopes. In addition, of course, some people will have chosen to donate on-line or by phone.

A very **BIG thank you** to everyone who was part of this result. There will be many people whose lives will be permanently changed for the better as a result.

Aubrey Curry and Mark Beedell



It is July already, and at Coleridge Medical Centre we are preparing for the annual flu vaccination campaign, to which a booster vaccination for COVID-19 may now be added.

We have scoped alternate sites, such as The Institute in Ottery St Mary, to deliver this service so that normal functions may continue at base camp. The hospital has become so busy that the space there is limited, and not practical. While on one hand this is good news, on the other hand it does provide us with a dilemma.

Meanwhile, we watch with interest the governmental shenanigans and what we will be told next. Travel, social mingling, masks, or no masks, all seem to be very much undecided until the last minute so we are rolling with the punches! This has not stopped us starting our chronic disease management services up again. Those of you with asthma, diabetes, chronic kidney, or heart disease will have already, or be due to receive letters inviting you for appointments. This is going smoothly with our able team of Megan, PK, Helen, Natalie, Vikki, Sarah, Jean, Emma B and Emma S! So, it's business almost as usual here at your surgery! This can be sped up even further if all patients in the target populations seek their COVID-19 vaccinations by dialling 119 or booking online via the National Booking Service.

In our Summer Newsletter, we have included profiles of all our lovely Salaried GPs. Please try to forge relations with them, as the four partners (Chris, Simon, Kate, and myself) are engulfed by an administrative tsunami every day. We do try to offer appointments with ourselves, but please be patient if there is a wait for these.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy summer break!

Dr Juliet Nelson



#### St Mary's Church Whimple

Our village church takes a lot of looking after. Would you be interested in helping to keep it looking as good as possible?

We are looking for volunteers to help clean the church. The time taken is about 1½ hours per week, the whole church being cleaned over a four week rota. All cleaning materials are provided. We just need your time and willingness to get involved.

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## Whimple Victory Hall TARGET ACHIEVED!

On Saturday 26th June the last 'band' was placed on the thermometer outside the village hall. Each band represented a £1,000 target up to a total of £12,000. The thermometer was placed in the hall grounds to indicate the Victory Hall Centenary essential repairs fund-raising drive.

Considering the circumstances, we are absolutely delighted to have reached our target and extend our heartfelt thanks to all the donors.

The hall will be undertaking essential repairs to the drains, some repair works in the garden and to the front wall during the school summer holidays.

#### Maria Wallis, Chair

The photo on the front cover shows, from left to right: Maria Wallis (Chair), Ali Tierney (Bookings Secretary), Rob Davis (Vice Chair) and Margaret Bucknell (Trustee).

Margaret is the grand-daughter of one of the founding members of the hall 101 years ago!



#### Whimple Victory Hall AGM

This is notice that we will be holding our AGM in September. Everybody is welcome to attend, but please check as there is a maximum number allowable in the room. Any nominations for Trustees can be made to the Secretary.

Date and time: Monday 6th September at 7pm

Venue: in the Committee Room, Whimple Victory Hall to elect new Officers and re-elect existing Officers by email request to diana\_wilkins@hotmail.com

Diana Wilkins, Secretary

#### New Fountain Inn Update

At the time of writing we are **still** awaiting a decision from EDDC re the planning application but have been taking further steps towards preparing ourselves for action, should The New Fountain come up for sale.

Thank you again so much to everyone for your support with the surveys we set up and we have some good news to report.

As a result of our being able to prove such good, local support, our application to join The Plunkett Foundation has been accepted and we are now beginning the process. We have been allocated our own advisor and met with her on Monday 26th July. She was very helpful and is currently assisting several other pubs in Devon and Somerset, some in our own situation and others now fully open, so we can gain from their experiences, too.

Once we have joined the Foundation, our advisor will help us to set up a legal body so that we can apply for any grants available and be ready to approach the village to discuss funding, should we be in a position to do so.

We may have to run some more small fundraising projects in the meantime. These will be to raise the rest of the joining fee and then for any legal fees required regarding our next steps for funding - feasibility studies/surveys etc, as and when they may be required. Look out for these on Whimple What's On.

You can read more about the Foundation on their website www.plunkett.co.uk but, in a nutshell, they offer professional help and advice to communities who are trying to preserve a major asset, including shops, pubs and even churches.

Their website header says:

"We provide practical advice, support and training to help communities establish and run successful community businesses, with long-term survival rates"

The other piece of exciting news is that the Government has now shown the support pledged in the March Budget and has launched its Community Fund to help with qualifying projects in order to protect, or create, Community Assets.

We are not sure yet whether we would qualify for this, but we will look into it if the pub becomes available and the Plunkett Foundation will also assist us with this.

#### Save Whimple's New Fountain Group





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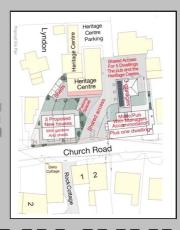
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From: Save Whimple's New Fountain Inn Group



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#### Planet Sal News!!

So happy to announce that Planet Sal has only gone and won an award! The Prestige Award for Best Card and Gift Shop South West.

I did hear about it just before lockdown 3, but thought it wasn't an appropriate time to publicise it.

However, I collected my trophy recently at a small ceremony, held at Escot House, and it was really exciting to actually hold the award and believe it was true.

There are, as we all know, some amazing independent shops in our area, so I was surprised to be nominated at all. They called and asked me to expand on my shop ethic, how I promote it, contributed to the town of Honiton during the last, difficult year, and the experience I offer to my customers in-store.

I genuinely thought that would be the end of it, but they rang back three weeks later to say I had won.

The ceremony was just after Planet Sal's third birthday, too!

#### PRESTIGE AWARDS

The Corporate Livewire Prestige Awards recognise small and mediumsized businesses that have proven to be the best in their market over the past 12 months.

All shortlisted companies put forward in the Prestige Awards are asked to support their nomination with evidence of their work, positive feedback from their clients, information on previous accreditation and recognition, as well as highlighting the most outstanding parts of their businesses.

The judging panel base their decisions upon areas such as service excellence, quality of the product/service provided, innovative practices, value, ethical or sustainable methods of working, as well as consistency in performance.

Thanks to all in Whimple who support me in the shop and have always been so encouraging.

#### Sal Wilde

Planet Sal, Black Lion Court, Honiton. www.planetsal.co.uk

## Wildlife thrives at East Devon Crematorium Ten years after opening

The endangered great crested newt and the rare horseshoe bat are just two of the species which have found their home in the grounds of a local crematorium in Whimple. As East Devon Crematorium turns 10 years old, colleagues are reflecting on the success of the ecological enhancements which have attracted some rare and interesting wildlife to make the site their home.

East Devon Crematorium first opened its doors on 13th April 2011 before holding a dedication ceremony on 15th June with the Bishop of Exeter. Set in ten acres of land, the site encompasses landscaped memorial gardens, established woodland with ponds and areas of wild flowers and grasses.

Working with Devon Wildlife Trust's ecology consultancy arm to identify opportunities for habitat enhancements, the most recent surveys have highlighted a number of new habitats on site which provide foraging, sheltering and nesting opportunities for a wide range of species.

A variety of wildlife has been found at the site which is owned by Southern Co-op-the regional, independent co-operative. These include at least seven species of bat including the common bat, the soprano pipistrelle bat and the rarer horseshoe bat; great crested newts with seven females and 10 males; 12 species of butterfly including cinnabar moths which are a priority species as part of the UK biodiversity action plan; more than 20 bird species including the RSPB Red List house sparrow and song thrush; and 48 invertebrate species.

Steve Pearce, Chief Operating Officer for End of Life Services at Southern Co-op, said: "It has been such a pleasure to watch the site flourish over the last decade. "The area, which was previously a cultivated field with wildlife limited to the edges of the site, now gives families from Exmouth to Bridport a calm place to remember their loved ones. "It seems fitting to mark our tenth anniversary by reflecting on this work and to continue to look forward at a number of other landscape improvement projects in the year ahead, including a new wild grass and flower meadow being sown later this summer."

The crematorium, which is looked after by seven on site colleagues, features sophisticated environmental engineering and incorporates some of the most advanced technology currently available.

In 2019, solar PV (photovoltaic) panels were installed as part of the co-operative's wider work to reduce its carbon footprint and its commitment to reduce absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 from a 2019 base.

The coming year will also see the introduction of new stone and woodland memorial orbs which will enhance the site and enable the cremated remains to be buried above ground.

To find out more about East Devon Crematorium, visit www.eastdevoncrematorium.co.uk or www.facebook.com/EastDevonCrematorium.



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## Protect our Whimple & Rockbeare Group

June 2021

www.powr.live

Email: contact@powr.live;

The beauty of living in a village like Whimple, apart from the amazing countryside, is a sense of belonging to a thriving community. This has been emphasised by so many coming together in total opposition to the potential loss of the New Fountain Inn pub and its car park being built over.

It is situations like this when you can vividly see what matters to our village. Loss of an amenity, impact on the Heritage Centre, a detrimental effect on our Whimple Conservation Area and the community activities linked to our





oldest hostelry – over 130 years – in the village. It is an intrinsic part of the fabric of Whimple.

The POW+R Group is currently working on several fronts to protect our village, or at least try to, as there is massive Conservative Government pressure for each District Council and Unitary Authorities to build, build, build; much of which would be on green fields.

A consultation has been launched over plans to expand the current town boundaries of Cranbrook. Following a request from Cranbrook Town Council, East Devon District Council is currently conducting a 'Community Governance Review' in line with the proposals that will see the expansion of the new town. Whimple Parish Council has been very generous to Cranbrook in ceding a number of areas into their jurisdiction, on the condition that Cranbrook does not extend over Cobden Lane. The governance review proposes that the very Western edge of our parish boundary moves under Cranbrook Town Council control.

At present, POW+R are trying to understand the positives and negatives of this. It may be advantageous to Whimple for these areas to become part of Cranbrook so that Whimple is not responsible for the upkeep, but it feels like the slow ebbing away of our parish. We are hoping that our Parish Council

will keep the village informed so that we can respond to the consultation in a meaningful way. Anyone wishing to submit their views on this matter, or should you require any further information, please contact EDDC by emailing mpearce@eastdevon.gov.uk by 16th September 2021. It would be useful to copy in whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com.

In addition, the Planning Inspector examining the Cranbrook extension is liaising with East Devon District Council on modifications to the proposed plans ready for her to present the final Report around early 2022. We are still awaiting news regarding the Cobden triangle and whether this will definitely be earmarked for development as the gypsy and traveller site that was proposed some time ago.

Barratt Homes are in negotiation with a landowner regarding development covering 35.53 acres in Lilypond Lane, Whimple. This would be a major destructive intrusion into the rural fabric of our village.

The new East Devon Local Plan went out to consultation in January 2021. POW+R Group provided a significant detailed response, including a 24-page Report. The EDDC intends to have a draft local plan, by January 2022.

It has been noted that there are significant concerns from villagers that our Parish Council has, for various reasons, not made progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, leaving Whimple very vulnerable to large-scale developments. POW+R has engaged with the Parish Council since its inception in early 2019, in a positive manner. We now have a very strong professional team with experience in Neighbourhood Plans, project management and in local Town Planning. By the time the Whimple News goes to press, we hope that our extensive expertise can be working in partnership with the Parish Council, pushing forward the Neighbourhood Plan, with the ambition to deliver it within one year. It <u>must</u> be done within a year if we want to protect our village boundaries.

POW+R is launching a petition opposing any expansion of Cranbrook beyond the existing town boundary and any Governance Review until the plans have been properly consulted on. It is hoped that a large number of residents across Whimple, Rockbeare, Broadclyst, Cranbrook Town and the Clyst Valley will sign the petition and force EDDC to debate the issues at a full council meeting. Details of the petition can be found via the link below and a campaign will shortly be launched via social media aimed at promoting it and asking people to share the link far and wide! Let's get our voices heard!!

http://chng.it/ZRf8tgkJR6

Alan Lascelles - Press and Publicity

24/7/21

As with the rest of the country, Whimple WI has cautiously eased itself out of the ever evolving Covid conditions. The committee of three decided that we would host our first two returning meetings outdoors. We have been so fortunate that two members offered their gardens for these get-togethers.



In June we met, almost tentatively, in Maggie's garden, with such fabulous views. The weather was kind, the rain kept away and the sun shone. It was so lovely to see good friends and enjoy their company for a couple of hours. Tea and cakes completed the idyll.

In July, it was our summer garden party, again held in Sarah's garden, more fabulous views. It took the form of a bring and share lunch and was a sumptuous feast, provided by the members themselves. Such a treat and just reaffirmed the friendship and warmth shared by our members. The sun shone and the birds sang and Dan, the magician provided amazing and spellbinding tricks at each table. He was so entertaining and I've no idea how any of his tricks worked!

We are grateful to Maggie, Sarah and their husbands for their generosity in hosting our get-togethers. A huge thank you to Marilyn our secretary/treasurer for all her hard work in organising these events and for ensuring everyone had a lovely time.

Our August meeting will, everything crossed, be in the Victory Hall, when a representative from Santander bank will speak to us about keeping safe online. Something which is important to everyone and so visitors will be welcome.

That's about it for now, our little planning committee will be meeting up in the coming months to plan next year's programme of speakers. We are always looking for local, recommended speakers and so if you have any ideas, or wish to know more about our WI then please contact Marilyn on 821860.

In the meantime, keep safe.

Di Eden

## WHIMPLE FRONT ROW CLUB

### We will be back!

We are keen to see everyone back at our film shows as soon as it is safe to do so. So watch out for posters and updates on 'Whimple What's on'.



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#### An Update from the Village Week Team

We were disappointed not to be able to bring you Village Week but, as promised, had something else up our sleeves and hope that you will now join us for an outdoor theatre event on Saturday 4th September starting at 6.00pm on the Parish Field.

The Common Players and the Tuck Inn will welcome you to the Greenwood where you will meet Robin Hood and his Merry Men, Friar Tuck and a Sheriff with an remarkably evil plan! There will be lots of action, live music and storytelling and is suitable for all ages.

Affordable, freshly cooked food will be available an hour before the start time. During that time, there will also be local musicians, an arts and crafts pop up space as well as a local bushcraft and outdoor education expert – and a bar as well. You can also sign up for a workshop earlier in the day leading to being an 'Extra' in the show.

Tickets are now available online at http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/common-players. £8 adult and £5 child or £10/£6 on the day. Family tickets are also available and food can be preordered. Workshop tickets are £6.50 and include evening admission.

We would like to be completely open and point out that a very similar event is available at Cranbrook shortly before ours where the tickets are cheaper as they have been heavily subsidised. Like most other villages on the tour, we couldn't afford to do that but hope you will be willing to support us nevertheless.

So why not bring a blanket or seat and join Whimple friends and family in an end of summer festival of theatre, fun and feasting?

#### Louise Walmsley

Village Week didn't happen again this year but in the planning stages it looked as though it might. So, on the Mastermind basis of "I have started so I will finish", the raffle went ahead.

Without Village Day itself, where most of the raffle tickets are normally sold, the expectations of the raffle were low. Sale of the raffle tickets, distributed with the previous edition of Whimple News, started off slowly but, combined with ticket sales at the plant sale, fun run and Whimple in Stitch, the eventual total was almost £800.

The draw for **The Village Week Raffle** took place in the Parish Field as proscribed.

The prize winners were:- 1st Prize £150 Graham Potbury
2nd Prize £100 Kathy Culshaw
3rd Prize £50 Bob Day

The draw and the subsequent distribution of prizes was all filmed by Bob Scanlan and will be shown on Whimple What's On

A huge thank you from the Village Week committee to Margaret for the loan of her milk churn (again), all those who bought tickets, the Whimple News team that distributed the tickets with Whimple News and a special thank you to Bob Scanlan who filmed and edited the whole thing.

There will be no distribution to good causes in the village this year. With such a modest surplus, the Licensing Authority has agreed that the net proceeds of this year's Village Week activities can be carried forward to next year.

David Myers, Treasurer Whimple Village Week



The embroidered 'map' of the village known as 'Whimple in Stitch' has now been installed in pride of place on the wall in the Thirsty Farmer.

The project was the brain-child of Suzanne Rothwell who, with Hilary Nowill, gathered together a team of 54 people aged between 8 – 81 to bring the idea to life. The embroidery depicts many of the key buildings in the village, with several embroidered by their owner. Although not every building has been included, the team believe they have captured the spirit of our village.

The completed "map" was displayed for the first time at the Heritage Centre on Wednesday 7th July.

Now it has a permanent home in The Thirsty Farmer with an explanatory text and list of all contributors, including Harry Trimblett of Whimple Joinery who kindly did the framing.





Just some of the creators of Whimple in Stitch

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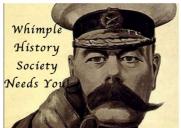




#### WHIMPLE HISTORY SOCIETY

## Looking for new members to join the History Society Committee

Do you have an interest in the history of the village and are willing to take on a role in the development of both the History Society and the Heritage Centre? Nothing too onerous and no problem if you are new to the village. We need fresh ideas and drive to help us move forward.



For more information email info@whimple.org or call Louise on 371433



## Blooming Whimple!



The changeable weather has certainly been kind to the gardens this Spring and Whimple's gardens are looking lovely.

This picture on Whimple What's On (taken by Chantellle Vicary Jones) shows the glorious roses, lovingly tended by Richard and Julia Green, on the corner of Whiteway Close.

Do send in any photos you take of scenes around the Village, which might stop you in your tracks. We would love to receive them.

#### Whimple News Team

#### VILLAGE FUN RUN 2021 - Against the Odds

After such a difficult decision to cancel Village Week for the second year in a row, it was some compensation that the Village Fun Run could still take place safely. However, there was some concern that without the full-blown excitement of Village Week and Village Day, that perhaps there would not be the enthusiasm for the Fun Run as a stand-alone event. Also, it was my first time organising this race, that has been part of Whimple celebrations for many years. But, boosted with optimism and spurred on by the fact that other sports events were taking place around the country – Wimbledon, European Football Finals etc. Why shouldn't Whimple Fun Run be a success too?!!

.... And it was! After a wet start to the day, the sun began to make its first appearance for days. 41 Competitors arrived young and old, from little ones of 4 years to veterans of 80 plus years. In fact, Bill Jordan has run every time since the start. After the months of Covid restrictions, it was obvious that we all needed to let off a bit of steam and enjoy ourselves outdoors, alongside other like-minded villagers.

After a quick warm up, kindly taken by Caroline Anstead, the runners set off. 12 volunteer marshals were in place, as well as Tim Adkins and Bob Sheehan on front and back bikes to keep things moving safely. The quickest runner arrived after only 9.58mins – Andy Hardy. In fact, his sister Rebecca Lenzi and her daughter, Sofia Lenzi finished shortly afterwards. What a sporty family!! The winning results are as follows – Fastest Runner - Andy Hardy

First Adult Female- Rebecca Lenzi First Youths - Holly Walsh & Tom Lennox First U12yrs- Sofia Lenzi & Rudy Startup First Veterans- Mel Ironsides & Bill Jordan

However, in my opinion all the runners are winners. So, congratulations to you all and thank you for making the Village Fun Run 2021 such a success. As with all such events, there are many people who help make it happen, so a big 'Thank You' to all helpers, stewards and Village Week Committee members.

One thought for next year, we had a couple of runners in fancy dress this year. Now that has got me thinking.... I'm looking forward to 2022 already  $\mathbb I$  and I hope even more of you will join in the fun.

#### Sarah Thackeray







#### **WHIMPOLYMPICS**

Although Village Week could not go ahead as planned, The WhimpOlympics was able to continue as a grass roots, outdoor activity. It took place 5-8th July on the Parish Field and provided free athletic activities for children aged 7-11yrs.

The rather wet weather didn't dampen their spirits as everyone ran, jumped, raced and challenged themselves. Beating Usain Bolt's record, Ball Throw as far as possible, Running Like the Wind, Standing Jumps, Sprinting, and Relays around the track. The young athletes gave it their all and had a lot of fun, sometimes working independently, and at other times as a team.

The final session was a team event with the 'Mega Throws' narrowly beating 'Flash' by 59 to 54points. EVERYONE was a winner though. WELL DONE!

As the Olympic motto says we can all aim to be 'Higher, Faster, Stronger'. Congratulations to all who took part.

#### Sarah Thackeray









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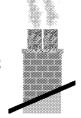
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#### A Window on Whimple's Weather – May/June 2021

Welcome to the fourth weather summary compiled from Whimple's two weather stations, one from Slewton Crescent and the other from Cobden Lane, live streaming local weather data;

Slewton Crescent Weather Station: https://bit.ly/35qwR9K Cobden Lane Weather Station: https://bit.ly/3bt3FTf

Historical data sets are also available through the same links.

May – Whilst April was one of the driest months on record, May was one of the wettest! The Whimple weather stations recorded 184mm of rain – over double the monthly average, in line with the rest of Devon, which recorded its wettest May since records began in 1869! The 12th and 13th accounted for almost 50mm of rain between them. Two Met Office weather warnings were issued for high winds and the Whimple stations recorded sustained wind speeds of 44 km/h and 40km/h on the 3rd and 21st respectively, with gusts of 63 km/h. The month started cold with freezing night time temperatures on 1st, 2nd and 7th. After being unusually cool for much of the month, temperatures and sunshine climbed in the last 6 days to a high of 23.2°C on Bank Holiday Monday 31st. Total sunshine was slightly below average for May.

June – a month of changeable and largely unpredictable weather, especially from the 18th. Apart from a dry spell between the 3rd and 15th, sunshine and showers dominated the month, resulting in slightly higher than average sunshine and rainfall. There were a number of Met office weather warnings for heavy rain and thunderstorms but Whimple seemed to avoid such drama. The first half of June was predominantly warm with welcome summer sunshine, especially between the 12th and 16th, with temperatures peaking on the 14th with a hot 26.9°C. The second half of the month brought more unsettled weather to Whimple with the 19th to the 21st bringing most rain (32mm) along with the 27th/28th (23mm) with a total rainfall of 61.5mm – slightly above average.

2021	May	Date	June	Date
Warmest Day	23.2 °C	31/05/2021	26.9 °C	14/06/2021
Coolest Night	-1.8 °C	07/05/2021	4.0 °C	04/06/2021
Windiest 24hrs	43.8 km/h	03/05/2021	23.7 km/h	01/06/2021
Wettest 24hrs	25.2 mm	12/05/2021	14.0 mm	19/06/2021
Av. Maximum	15.1 °C	N/A	21.3 °C	N/A
Av. Minimum	5.6 °C	N/A	10.4 °C	N/A
Total Rain	183.9 mm	N/A	61.5 mm	N/A
Total Sunshine	114.8 kWh/ kW	92.5% of Av.	133.3 kWh/ kW	112.8% of Av.

Note: Wind data is from Cobden Lane, while other data is from Slewton Crescent.



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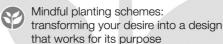
Contact Viv Brown to join or for more details on 07876653264 or whimpletennis@gmail.com

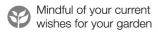


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# Whimple Cricket Club

We are getting towards the tail end of the season but there is plenty of cricket through the remainder of August. The last league game weekend is the 27th of August and our last Sunday game, the final game of this season, is the 5th of September. It's fair to say that on-field results have been mixed this season. Batting and bowling league points tell a story of competitive sides but we have struggled to close games out. Our junior teams have competed well at all ages, and it has been great to see many of our juniors come through into senior cricket.

I don't think I have mentioned here before that the club is now home to a defibrillator. This is housed in the hallway of the pavilion building. As part of the registration process, details have been provided as to how this can be accessed in an emergency even when the clubhouse is locked.

I'll take this opportunity to thank all of you that have played a part in the club this summer. Whether as players, juniors, parents of juniors, or social members. It has been a bumper year and I'm delighted our outdoor facilities have been put to good use through the restriction periods. It's a shame the football result wasn't what we had hoped for but the bar income from showing these games has been very welcome. More specific thanks go to the volunteers that support the club, without whom we simply couldn't operate. I won't list this group by name, but huge thanks go to all of those involved in the work on the ground, coaching, managing teams, captaining, helping with the bar and food, and all the other tasks we have.

Finally, please consider our upcoming event dates. These are important fundraisers for the club and we very much appreciate your support:

- Monday 30th August: Whiteways Cup. T20 cricket from 10am
- Saturday 11th September: End of season '12th Man' music festival
- Saturday 6th November: Bonfire and Fireworks

Look out for more details of these on our Facebook page, website, and around the village.

James Woollam Chairman, Whimple CC



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## Orchard musing

You may have noticed whilst walking in the village that we have undertaken replanting in some of the cider orchards in the last two years.

The Whiteways family started planting orchards around Whimple in the early 20th century and ever since then they have been a significant landscape feature of the village. These cider orchards were planted in the days when apples were picked up by hand and this meant that planting on slopes was not a problem. Very often a family would be responsible for picking up all the apples in a particular orchard and so varieties were planted that matured at different dates so harvesting over several weeks could take place. Some of our orchards now have names that reflect these families. Peggy's orchard was picked by Peggy Davies and her family who lived at 'The Farm'. Gerald's orchard by Gerald and Betty Radford, Gerald having lived on Gateshayes farm since he was 9 for the last 72 years has a wealth of knowledge on the history of the trees.

My parents, Raymond and Margaret Burrough bought the orchards in the 1990s when Whiteways sold the farm. The cider industry has waxed and waned over the years and is again facing a difficult time partly due to COVID 19 but also due to an oversupply of apples as modern bush orchards have been planted that yield far more apples per acre. The price of apples now is the same as it was 30 years ago and for some years we have been unable to sell all the apples produced.

Most of the orchards around Whimple have standard apple trees in them. These are taller trees that allow livestock to graze underneath. Many of these trees are now 60 to 100 years old and are coming to the end of their life and every year we lose some to the wind and old age. Economically these orchards are not viable, the yields are low, and the cost of labour for harvesting and pruning far exceed any income received.

We, however, are aware that the orchards are a valued integral part of the village landscape and also a great wildlife haven. We have always managed them extensively and this year they are now converted to full organic status. After much form filling we have managed to obtain some grant funding to partially replant and also prune the orchards which is important to retain vigour of the trees.

It will be a long time before these trees are fully grown and fruiting but we hope this will help to secure the future of at least some of the orchards.

#### Lester and Helen Bowker







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At this time of the year we are usually looking forward to our Annual Flower and Craft Show. Sadly, as was the case last year, we have had to cancel this year's Show. Naturally this was a very disappointing decision for us to make but, under the current circumstances, we feel it was the right one. Hopefully, those of you who discovered the joys of gardening have continued to do so this year as well!

In the last edition of the News, I mentioned that we were hoping to stage a Plant Sale in May. Well, despite the best efforts of the weather we did! After a very doubtful morning, we set up in the Victory Hall Car Park and at 2.00pm the clouds parted and the sun came out and we had a very successful afternoon. Our grateful thanks to all those who came along and got some great bargains and of course our thanks to the Hall Trustees for the use of the car park allowing us to stage the event.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July we had a coach trip to Hartland Abbey in North Devon. Some 36 members and friends made the long trek to the wilds of North Devon and had a very enjoyable day. Although the weather wasn't perfect, everyone was able to enjoy everything there was to visit. Our thanks to Doreen Staddon and Brian Nelson for organising this trip.

We are looking to have another coach trip in late August or September and we will get details out as and when they are decided.

In the meantime, lets hope the fine weather continues so we can all enjoy our gardens!

Paul Wilson,

Chairman, Whimple & District Gardening Club

#### W.A.R.T.S

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#### Control of Devon's Protected Landscapes needs to be kept local

Here in Devon, we're fortunate to have two National Parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the East Devon AONB. Together, these Protected Landscapes cover more than a third of our county and they are each distinctly different in terms of their topography, wildlife, agriculture and local economy. They are currently managed by authorities in the locality who understand the conservation needs and other issues which impact these special environments, and those who live and work in them.

Devon CPRE strongly opposes the proposal for Central Government to take control of Dartmoor, Exmoor and our AONBs. We believe that where our countryside is concerned, intelligence and decision making are best carried out by those who have experience of Devon's rural economy and live and work in the locality.

Central Government has to be in charge of national issues that demand an overview of the bigger picture - fiscal systems, diplomacy, military operations and the like. As a result of the pandemic, the Government has also assumed control in areas we once had the freedom to determine for ourselves: such as whom and where we meet and in what circumstances or whether we travel abroad. But the idea that some unwieldy government department in London should have the practical knowledge to control spaces as diverse as Dartmoor, the Norfolk Broads or the New Forest is both fanciful and foolish.

We in Devon CPRE deal with a wide variety of proposals with the potential to harm the landscape - in pursuit of development and financial gain or through a lack of knowledge and care for the environment. We are concerned that government housing policy is leading to our green fields being concreted over, yet without providing genuinely affordable housing for the young people who are, after all, the future of our rural economy. In recent years, we have commissioned independent studies on housing need to challenge those who try to ride roughshod over the wishes of local people with inappropriate or poorly conceived development proposals.

Control of our National Parks and AONBs needs to be kept local. These beautiful landscapes are too precious to sacrifice to some distant department or centralised quango. Join us and help us fight for Devon's countryside.

Devon CPRE is the only local charity campaigning to protect our countryside. We take an active role in matters relating to the environment and rural life - collaborating with communities, holding the Government to account, taking part in consultations around proposed new planning reforms, and working in close partnership with other organisations with similar interests. www.devoncpre.org.uk

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# Community Theatre 4All

Restarts this autumn with two groups (any possible remaining restrictions permitting)

#### The Adult Group

This group is open to performers aged 14 years and above and will be working on a play entitled "Talaton, A War-Time Refuge". This large cast play tells of the billeting of 23 Polish Jewish Kindertransport children in Talaton during the second world war and, in particular, re-tells the experiences of six of these children. The play, following extensive research, has been written by Tom Samson and is based upon interviews with and the writings of those six children and additional major contributions from their families. Extensive archive photographs and documents will be projected throughout the performances. This amazing and very uplifting story had almost been lost to memory and its recreation and the realization of all that the villagers of Talaton did during this time is certain to leave audiences in total awe and admiration of those who lived here at the time. This project will be launched at an Introductory Workshop in Talaton Parish Hall on Saturday 2nd October between 10.30 and 3.30. Attendance at the workshop does not commit anyone to participating in the production. Come along and find out for yourself and then decide if you wish to be involved. This workshop will include a full reading of the play during the afternoon session. Weekly rehearsals will take place on Tuesday evenings between 7.00 and 9.30 beginning on Tuesday 5th October.

#### The Children's Group - Young Community Theatre 4All

This group, which will meet in Talaton Parish Hall between 4.30 and 5.30 pm, is open to children between the ages of 8 and 13. At first the sessions will be based upon developing Drama and Performance skills, confidence, trust and friendship and when the group is ready it will begin working on a production of "The Little Prince" – an adaption of the children's book by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry. When these rehearsals begin the group will meet from 4.30 to 6.00 pm.

Further details of these projects can be obtained by contacting Tom Samson on 07979 876211 or emailing Community Theatre at:- communitytheatre4all@yahoo.co.uk

## About Community Theatre 4All

and its Director - Tom Samson

Tom trained in Drama and Theatre Arts at Dartington College of Arts in the early 1970's. He then completed a teaching qualification at Rolle College in Exmouth. For the next five years Tom taught in the Drama Department in Exmouth Comprehensive School before moving away to Hampshire, where, over the next 22 years, he built his professional career in two schools and with the county Drama Advisory service, for whom he led a number of youth theatre activities and directed two different youth theatre groups. Tom also worked extensively with adult community theatre groups in the county and also in professional repertory theatre as a part time member of the Lighting Department at the Redgrave Theatre in Farnham. During the 1990's Tom built an international theatre exchange with a school in Germany, both touring productions to Germany and hosting performances in his school.

Tom returned to Devon in 2002 and continued his teaching career in a number of local schools before taking early retirement in order to extensively travel.

Community Theatre 4All was created in September 2015 and gave its first performance — "Godspell" in Saint Mary's church Whimple in March 2016. A wide variety of different pieces of theatre then followed. These were:- "In Remembrance of a Lost Generation" (November 2016 Talaton Parish Hall and Whimple Victory Hall), an original piece telling the stories of the men of Talaton, Whimple and Escot who fought in the First World War, an open-air "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (October 2017 St James the Great Talaton), "Christ in the Concrete City" - a modern Passion Play (March 2018 St Mary's Whimple), "Murder at Checkmate Manor" — a comedy (April 2019 Talaton Parish Hall), a village hall tour of four comic Victorian Melodramas (November/December 2019) and, of course, most recently "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (St Mary's Whimple February 2020).



#### WHIMPLE CHURCH

http://churches4all.org/

#### Football's not coming home but sadly racism never left the spare room!

Hello my friends,

Who watched the football then, England v Italy?

I watched it with my boys and although I am not a football fan, I quite enjoyed it. I know some folks were probably on the edge of their seats, but I wasn't fully engaged with a lot of it unless the boy's voices showed things were getting tense. When we lost, I was a bit disappointed, especially as from my limited perspective there was some unsporting behaviour by the Italians, but to me, well, it is just a game.

Of course, to some folks' football is life and death stuff. You only need to watch the faces on the tv as the game rolled forward, the agony and the joy, screams of excitement and tears. Many fans went home elated, others depressed, but most folks, like me, will just get over it.

But not everyone.

Within hours of the end of the game, with an awful inevitability, the recriminations and hate towards the players started. And, also with an awful inevitability, some players got a lot more abuse than others. The young black men on the team, who had played so well, were deluged with bile and hatred and racism. The colour of their skin, being different, was enough to single them out for special blame.

Now I do not propose to directly address the sort of people who engage in this sort of abuse. From my perspective they are just best described as contemptible but their behaviour is a symptom of a particular type of problem most of us carry, hidden in the dark places in our hearts and minds.

It is the human urge to separate people into groups and we all do it. In part of course it is an evolutionary adaption, we categorise people instinctively, it is a survival mechanism which allows us to almost instantly separate threat from non-threat, but over a few hundred years it has been perverted into something else: the subdivision of other human beings by race, gender, colour, sexuality, physical ability and so many other subgroups and then the labelling of them as somehow inferior.

In the Bible one of the greatest barriers was between slaves and free, especially between slaves and their owners. Of course, it took more modern man to add colour of someone's skin into the mix, it may seem an odd thing to say but at least the slave/owner relationship in first century Palestine was not based on that, but slavery was extremely common and is described in detail in the Bible.

Women were also looked down on as inferior beings. Husbands often treated their wives little better than they did their slaves. Even almost two thousand years ago xenophobia was common, the Greeks were so proud of their culture and supposed racial superiority that they considered everyone else to be barbarians. And let us not forget the almost constant animosity between Jews and Gentiles, one of the authors of the Bible, Paul, talks about this in several of the letters he writes to the churches he planted.

So where are we now? We have had thousands of years to become enlightened, haven't we? Well, we still have a long way to go: Women are still subject to sexism daily. Shockingly, there are as many folks held in modern slavery now than when Britain was a leading evil in the transatlantic slave trade. It only takes a lost football game for the racists to have the confidence to take to social media to publicly engage in shameful behaviour.

As Christians we all know that Jesus came to restore our relationship with God and through this to restore our relationships with each other. Ultimately to show us that the most defining characteristic of humanity was as children of the creator God and nothing, nothing was more important than that.

Surely most of us believe we have moved beyond this stuff. If only it had been that simple though. Sadly, this sort of sin is deeply engrained in us and it comes out most strongly when we are looking for someone to blame for our problems.

When we talk about racism in the church, or homophobia or sexism or any other form of bigotry, it is easy to talk about the church as an institution or organisation. To label these issues as institutional racism or institutional homophobia, but I am afraid I think that is a bit of a cop out. It allows us to point the finger somewhere else, at some vague shadowy organisation, rather than search ourselves for those signs of the sins whose outworking is part of the problem.

Organisations do not post on social media or send letters or make sexist jokes or discriminate in hiring. Human beings do.

When we are disappointed or hurt or feel threatened, when we feel inferior or guilty or small or life seems stacked against us, we instinctively look for others to blame. That is what the racist insults were about to those young England football players.

As Christians and as a church we need to be very aware of this because we carry the same tendency to behave this way as everyone else does. Paul specifically writes to the church in Ephesus (in the book of the Bible called Ephesians), to warn them about one specific issue of their bigotry: Christians feeling superior to their non-Christian neighbours, and we would do well to still heed his warnings.

We still have conflicts between denominations, within denominations and in churches, and of course we have disunity between Christians and non-Christians. Then more broadly we have racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and so much more. The church is too often not a beacon of hope for the persecuted but a mirror to the problems of the world, and worse in the past Christians have tried to use scripture or tradition to justify this.

#### Continued

We still find plenty of other things to look down on other folks for, from the kind of music that is played, or how much music is played to dress codes, male or female priests, black or gay priests, the list goes on.

The rules and prejudices have changed since the time of Paul, but not the attitudes in many people.

It is a titanic struggle because it is a struggle against a seed of sin which lies in every human heart, the temptation to think we are somehow better than others. I describe it as a sin, which is an old-fashioned word, because that sums up what it is, it is something offensive to God.

The theme of oneness of humanity runs through scripture from the Bible from the first book, Genesis to the last, Revelation and right through to the two most important commandments Jesus gave us: we are to love God and love one another. Everything else we do is secondary to this, every other rule or commandment less important because these two form the foundation of all others.

This is why the treatment of those England footballers is wrong, why racism is wrong, why homophobia or sexism is wrong and why Christians feeling superior to non-Christians or another denomination or other faith and all of these forms and subsets of bigotry are wrong. Because in Christ if we are all equally important to God, we must all be equally important to each other.

God bless. Rev Marc.



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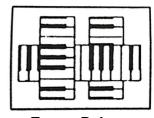
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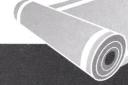
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As I write this we head into our final week of the term, the weather is very hot and we are all counting down the days.

Our children participated in sports day at the cricket field, albeit without any spectators and with all activities carefully managed in their bubbles. Despite this, the children had a great morning.

Our final classes, Ash and Oak, are on their school trips today at Axe Valley Wildlife Park. Last week Elm visited Drake's Farm and Beech went to Pixie's Holt to explore the National Park linked to their geography.

The year 6 children spent the whole week on residential at Pixie's Holt and participated in a huge range of activities including, weaselling, rock climbing, zip wiring across a river and archery, to name a few. Along the way it tested all the skills of the 6Rs, particularly resilience, respect and resourcefulness.









Our children continue to access our lovely garden behind the double mobiles – between them all they are growing a huge range of items whilst also listening to stories and making lots of things. A big thank you to the volunteers who continue to help with this.

The children in Ash and Elm Classes have also had a couple of Forest School sessions each over at the orchard area.

Beech class have been learning all about the human body. They have suggested and tested hypotheses about heart rate when doing handstands or shoulder stands.

Thanks to the Hannon Foundation, we have been testing local water sources for levels of alkalinity and trace elements. Beech pupils completed a blind taste test of filtered and tap water (the school tap water came out on top!)

At the end of this week we say farewell to our 26 year 6 children – we wish them well in their chosen secondary schools. We also say goodbye to some members of staff – Miss Passmore, Mrs Major and Mrs Thorne, all of who have been with us for a number of years (some too many to count!) Also, Miss Dunsford goes off on maternity leave and we welcome Miss Chalmers to cover her whilst she is away.

Finally, in what has been an extremely challenging year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and school governors – it has been an emotional rollercoaster and we have had to adapt many things regularly and at short notice. This has been bearable by having such a fantastic team to work with.

Everyone at Whimple Primary School wish you all a good summer and we will be back with you in September.

Carole Shilston, Head Teacher

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