

Whimble News

ONE WOULD RATHER BE
IN WHIMPLE.
ONE HEARS IT'S ALL
'GOING ON' IN THE HALL..



April/May 2023

www.whimplenews.uk

**THE
THIRSTY**



**FARMER
WHIMPLE**

The Thirsty Farmer

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NEW FOOD MENU NOW BEING SERVED

LUNCHESES

Wednesday - Saturday 12pm till 2pm

DINNER

Wednesday - Saturday 4pm till 8:30pm

Sunday is our great value Roast Dinner Day 12pm till 5pm
(please contact for later bookings).

Specials and Desserts can be found on the pub's specials board. Please note that between lunch and dinner the bar will remain open for drinks.

**LOOK OUT FOR BREAKFASTS ON SATURDAYS (FROM 10.30am),
SUNDAY EVENING BINGO AND QUIZ NIGHTS, PLUS BAND NIGHTS!**

**SPECIAL GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7th AFTERNOON TEA EVENT!
DISCO 7.30PM ONWARDS**

Afternoon Tea at The Thirsty Farmer. Will include a selection of finger sandwiches, Cakes, Freshly made Scones with Jam and Cream.

Along with Tea or Coffee. Available 12-5pm
Cream Teas £6.50/Afternoon Teas £15.00/High Tea with Prosecco £21.00

Sal The (Guest) Ed

Well, what a packed issue we have this time! SO much going on in Whimple this Spring that we'll all be worn out by the time summer arrives....

The big events for me are all the chocolate I'm going to eat over Easter, the reopening of The New Fountain and The Coronation festivities

It was such a tough fight to fend off the redevelopment of The Fountain that it is just brilliant to see the transformation happening now - and a board has gone up today (28th March) to say that the opening date will be Good Friday. See page 42 for a full article about this.

The village has also said a sad farewell to Marc and Donna, who ran The Farmer so well for five years, through some very stressful times. I hope they are enjoying their new home and having some fun 'other side of the bar' time.

Meanwhile, we welcome Ann, Joe and their team, who, to save The Farmer from being closed, took over at very short notice and have really hit the ground running. Thanks so much to you. (You can tell how important the pubs are to me).

So, in April, after all those chocolate eggs, and beer in both pubs, it will be good to support the YFC's Easter Monday breakfast in The Hall. See page 14.

The Cricket Club are starting their new season at the end of April and are also hosting an 'Open Mic' night, on the second Friday of every month, for all you aspiring musicians and singers. Sounds a great idea.

One of my favourite gardens in Cornwall, Trebah, is the destination for the Whimple Gardening Club's coach trip on April 29th. It really feels like a tropical paradise and has a little private beach, too. Details on page 27.

Then, in May - big fanfare - there will be a new King! Lots of voluntary effort is being put in by our wonderful village groups. Details of all the Happenings In The Hall are on page 9.

This issue also features an update on work being done/needing to be done in the Hall. Well done to all involved with the fundraising and implementation of this. Looking forward to hearing the new sound system at the Coronation screening.

I always enjoy reading Sarah's 10 Questions interviews. See page 22 for her latest one with Daphne Pemberton.

Finally, with so much going on recently regarding the EDDC Local Plan, our Neighbourhood Plan and so many applications in for new development, thank goodness so many local councillors and groups, such as POW+R, are willing to help and keep us up to date. Plenty of information in these pages.

Finally, do send anything you would like included in the next issue to:

bob@bobscanlan.co.uk by 10th May

See you in a beer garden somewhere soon!

Sal

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What's On In Whimble

APRIL

6th April: Good Friday opening of The New Fountain Inn

6th April: Good Friday Afternoon Tea event at The Thirsty Farmer

10th April: YFC's Big Charity Breakfast. Victory Hall. 9am-1pm.

See page 14.

11th April: WI Meeting, B&Bs in S W America 2pm in the Hub.

22nd April: WI Fundraiser for Hospiscare. Victory Hall. 10-12.

See page 47

28th and 29th April: Whimble Church. Music of thr Pirates Of
Penzance.

See page 12

29th April: Whimble Gardening Group trip to Trebah Gardens .

See page 27.

Coronation Events

29th April: Soup 'n Sarnie Coronaion Special in the Victory Hall
12-1.30pm

6th May: Front Row free screening of the event. Victory Hall .

See page 12

7th May: Live Swing music from 'The Ladies That Do' and a
cream tea 3pm-5pm. Victory Hall.

7th May: Special service celebrating the Coronation.

Whimble Church. 6.30pm

8th May: Young Farmers Family Fun day in The Victory Hall.

Games, Competitions, Bake Off and loads more.

From 12pm.

See page 55

MAY

9th May Annual meeting 2pm in the Hub

13th May :Front Row Club Film Night. Victory Hall.

27th May: Soup 'n Sarnie in the Victory Hall 12-1.30pm

WHIMPLE STORES



Whimple Stores continues to develop and provide a well stocked range of goods and services to the people of Whimple and surrounding areas, as well as our very welcome cyclists and walkers who have put a Whimple stop on their cycling or walking routes.

We have added Oak Park Dairy Milk to our stock, with deliveries to us on Tuesdays and Fridays. This has been a very successful new product and everyone who purchases this milk loves the quality and has quickly become used to the “bottle swapping” process.

If you are yet to experience milk that tastes like it used to many years ago, come in and purchase the milk in a returnable glass bottle (1 litre). You purchase the bottle as well and then swap the bottle when it is empty for a full one. You can, of course, get a refund on the bottle if you wish. The empties go back to the Dairy, for cleaning, sterilising and refilling. The milk is not homogenised, so the cream rises to the top and the milk is delicious. We also do their cream, which is thick and tasty.

If you wondered what we have done with the old Post Office counter, it is now the source material for the creative talents of the men in the Men’s Shed in Ottery St Mary. Men’s Shed is a community space where men can connect with each other, chat and create new objects from old materials and it does wonders for the mental health of the participants. We are glad to support this wonderful charity, even in a small way.

The Post Office space has now been converted into new racking so that we can increase our portfolio of wine, cider, beer and seasonal goods. If you like a particular drink that we don’t stock, please let us know. At customer request, we now stock zero percent alcohol wine and beer (McGuigan Sauvignon Blanc, Peroni and Guinness), for our customers who wish to be alcohol-free, while enjoying the same taste. Great option if you are the designated driver for a night out.

We are planning to install a drinks chiller, ready for summer, and to move the canned drinks from the large fridge. Electricity costs have increased four-fold and are killing small shops like us. We hope that a dedicated chiller will be more cost effective than the large fridge, when the doors are frequently opened to access drinks.

Our Bill Payment machine from Payzone, which we have leased, is in use and is covering rent payments, council tax bills and electricity key top-ups. We hope to add gift cards soon. We also sell the main postage stamps and provide cash withdrawals (with a small fee). No news as yet on a parcel service.

We have worked hard with our local providers to overcome some of the food shortages that have been in the news recently. Eggs have become scarce and expensive in the main supermarkets but we have plenty. We stocked peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes during the shortages and we have kept the price of kindling and logs low when the prices doubled in the supermarkets.

Don't forget that we also stock products that are themed around events such as Mothers Day, Chinese (Lunar) New Year, Easter etc.

Thank you to all of our customers who support us. Whimble Stores is a central and essential part of the village but it can only survive for the village if the whole village uses it. While we cannot replace the "big supermarket trip" that is needed to feed the family, we have a wide range of goods that are competitively priced, well stocked, local and fresh.

Rory, Sharon, Sabrina and the Team

**The Square
Whimble
EX5 2SN**



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822316**

Rory, Sharon, Sabrina and Team welcome you to our Stores and Coffee Shop for fresh Devon bread, milk, and eggs, frozen, fresh and canned produce, cards, stamps, stationery and more. We also provide bill payment facilities, electricity top-up and cash withdrawals.

| Opening Days | Shop and Coffee |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Mondays to Fridays | 08:00 to 18:00 |
| Saturdays and Sundays | 09:00 to 12:00 |
| Public Holidays | 08:00 to 12:00 |

WARTS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MONDAY 26/06/23

MONDAY 16/10/23

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



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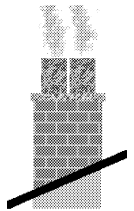
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King Charles III
CORONATION WEEKEND at the village hall



**Saturday
29th April**

12-1.30

Special Coronation Soup n Sarnie
A proper community event for everyone



**Saturday
6th May**

CORONATION DAY

Front Row Club
FREE Live streaming of the ceremony
Tea and cake



**Sunday
7th May**

between 3 - 5

From the 'Ladies that Do'
An afternoon of LIVE Swing and Jazz
Cream Tea



**Monday
8th May**

from 12 noon

Whimble & Broadclyst Young Farmers
Family Fun Day
Competitions and games



WHIMPLE CHURCH

<http://churches4all.org/>

St Mary's Whimple

You are very welcome to come into the church and sit quietly, enjoying this special space where thousands of people have come to pray, to think, to worship, to pause and reflect over all the years. If you'd like to meet others please do come to a service, and/or come for coffee, tea, and delicious cake. You're very welcome.

Dates in April and May

The very popular coffee/tea and cakes in the church on Saturday mornings will start again on 15th April, from 10.15am to 12noon. For other dates, please see below:

| Date | What | When |
|----------------|--|----------------|
| 2nd April | Book of Common Prayer, Morning Prayer | 9.00am |
| 9th April | Family Communion, Easter Day | 10.00am |
| 16th April | Book of Common Prayer, Holy Communion | 9.00am |
| 23rd April | Morning Worship | 10.00am |
| 24th April | Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial | 6.45pm |
| 30th April | Morning Worship (the other seven churches from right | 11.00am |
| 7th May | Special service marking the Coronation of King Charles | 6.30pm |
| 14th May | Morning Worship | 10.00am |
| 14-20th May | Christian Aid Week | 24 hrs/ day |
| 21st May | Book of Common Prayer, Holy Communion | 9.00am |
| 28th May | Family Communion | 10.00am |

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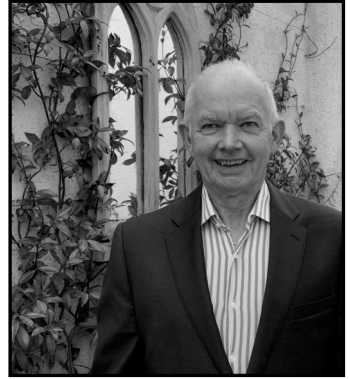
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Dear Whimble Residents

As your District Councillor I would take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter.

As you know I previously served as a Whimble Parish Councillor, I worked with the POW&R Group, and for the past 2 years have been District Councillor for the Ward of Whimble and Rockbeare. During this time, I have taken on board a number of issues important to the wellbeing of residents and local businesses. I am also passionate about village maintenance and play areas, and in recent years I have helped make funds available for these purposes.



In a recent survey it was made clear by residents that by far the biggest issue of concern is the loss of our natural green space to the overdevelopment and industrialisation of our green and pleasant land. I agree that we need more housing but it has to be the right type of housing and to satisfy local need, not just the greed of developers.

We need 'proper' affordable housing so that we can encourage our young families to live in the village. This is vital if we are to retain local facilities such as the village school, village shop and railway station.

I also agree with the production of renewable energy, but solar panels should be on roofs of buildings and on brownfield sites, not by taking more of our best and most versatile farmland for so-called 'Solar Farms'.

Our villages and surrounding areas are going to be under considerable threat for some time to come and I feel that as a Member of both the Planning and Strategic Planning Committees I have the right knowledge and understanding to ensure that the wishes of our Residents are at the forefront of any development decisions.

Being a District Councillor is not about politics, it's about doing the best for the people you represent, irrespective of political persuasion. I hope you will allow me to use the considerable experience I have gained to date and give me the opportunity to continue to work hard for the benefit of Whimble and Rockbeare.

If you share the same passion and dreams as I do, please vote for me in the East Devon District Council Elections on May 4th 2023.

Many thanks for your continued support

EASTER MONDAY BIG BREAKFAST



RAISING MONEY FOR
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MONDAY 10TH APRIL
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WHIMPLE VICTORY HALL

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Did you know that Whimple Victory Hall is a registered charity? Did you also know that the Trustees are volunteers dedicated to ensuring the hall is kept in good condition and accessible to all? And finally, did you know that to maintain and improve the building we rely purely on revenue received from bookings, donations, fundraising events and grants: we do not receive money from any other source.

You can see we have quite a task maintaining our 100 year old hall; a task that I have been made acutely aware of since I took on the role as Chairman of Trustees 18 months ago.

However, we have not been sitting on our laurels. Our aim in the coming years is to ensure Whimple has a village hall fit for community life in the 21st century.

So what have we been up to?

1. We started with a couple of small projects and successfully applied to the **Devon Freemasons, Wake Fund, receiving £1,500 to repair the cushions and replace the baize cloth on the snooker table** in the Billiard room. We also set about **improving the ladies toilets.**
2. The hall owned very little Audio-visual equipment and hirers wanting to give a presentation, play music or show a film either brought their own equipment or we had to scurry around finding what was required. No more! A **£10,000 grant from the Peoples Lottery Fund** along with £3,800 from hall funds has allowed us to **install a good quality, super-duper new AV system** including an electric screen, ceiling mounted projector, speakers and microphones – all connecting via Bluetooth or plugged in, in the conventional way. To compliment the use of the system we will **be purchasing a Performing Rights Society (PRS for Music) License**, this will allow the use of streamed and other sources of music at the hall. So book yourself a party or a music event and have some fun.
3. The traditional **1947 red telephone box** in the hall car park, donated to us by Rosemary Street is soon to be refurbished **as a community book exchange.** Restoration will be to a high standard and will cost around £1,800. After a year or more of fundraising, donations and **a grant of £125 from the Parish Council**, I am pleased to say we now have all the funds required.
4. We have also applied for a grant from the **Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund** (for the improvement of older village halls), to fund the replacement of **the roof over the main hall.** The application is still in the pipeline and I will update you next time. Sadly, the grant will only cover 20% of the total costs so our own funds will be needed. If successful, the work be carried out in the school summer holiday 2024.

5. **Plans to build a new small hall** on the North side of the building (car park side) are also underway. We currently have £140,000 in our building fund but some of this will be needed to cover the excess cost of the roof too – so we have some decisions to make before moving on to the next stage. We hope the village will be supportive when we start formally fundraising for this project.

That's it for now, I will keep you updated through Whimble News and Social Media. If you would like to contact me please call 01404 823082 or email sueayres1@btinternet.com

Don't forget to use your village hall for clubs, group events and private functions – our hire charges are very competitive. Check out the garden for summer events too. www.whimplevictoryhall.org

Many thanks, **Sue Ayres**, Chairman

Sightseeing in London - 23rd April 2023

Last October I discovered I had been successful applying to part of #TeamBreathe for the 2023 London Marathon representing Asthma + Lung UK. I happened to be sat at the bar in the Greyhound Inn at Fenny Bridges at the time and nearly spilled my pint when the email came through!

This adventure not only ticks off a bucket list item but also raises funds for an incredible charity. We need little reminder of the impact of lung difficulties given events in recent years. Asthma + Lung UK are the only UK charity that fights for everyone's right to breathe and as an asthma sufferer myself, means quite a bit.

On April 23rd, after I cross the start line, I will finally discover how my 400+ miles of training since January around our beautiful village has prepared me for the 26.2 miles ahead. I do have a cheeky target time in my head, but my first priority is to finish.

If you are interested in tracking my progress and / or make a small donation, just scan the QR code. Alternatively, search for 'Just Giving Andy Parker London Marathon' with Google and the link should appear at the top of the search results. I will update the feed on this link on April 22nd with my race number and info re on the day tracking - just for those enjoying a leisurely Sunday morning in front of the tele on 23rd April!

Thanks so much for reading - it's getting a bit real now, but it's also a lot lighter in the mornings.

Andy Parker – Slewton Crescent

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andy-parker28>
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A Window on Whimble's Weather – January/February 2023

Welcome to the first weather report of 2023 from Whimble's two weather stations.

Slewton Crescent Weather Station: <https://bit.ly/35qwR9K>

Cobden Lane Weather Station: <https://bit.ly/3bt3FTf>

Live and historical data sets are available for each station, through the links, above.

The start of 2023 saw unsettled, mild and very wet weather; followed by several weeks of stable, high-pressure systems leading to only one named storm to be declared (Otto); a relatively mild winter storm that mostly affected Northern UK areas on 17th February. This is in stark contrast to 2021/2022 when there were 7 named storms, 3 being named in one week in February! Consequently, much to the relief of many an insurance company, this made the 2022/2023 storm season by far the quietest since UK storm naming began in 2015.

According to the BBC – *“The UK's lack of named storms this season is likely to be due to the position of the Polar jet stream, a ribbon of strong winds high in the atmosphere that create and drive weather systems across the Atlantic to northwest Europe.”*

January – The very mild late December weather continued well into January, with temperatures well above average, before becoming colder on the 15th; also being the wettest day of the month with 16mm of rain. Though the overall rainfall for January was slightly above average (97mm); almost all of that rain (94.2mm) fell up to the 16th; making the first half of the month one of the wettest and the second half of month one of the driest on record. Stable, high-pressure weather systems then took hold, causing temperatures to remain low (the lowest being -5.4 °C on the 21st) and 30% above average sunshine.

February – Stable, high pressure continued to dominate much of the month resulting in February being the driest for 30 years (10mm of rainfall as opposed to an average of 63mm) and very mild (5th mildest on record), with slightly above average sunshine.

| 2023 | January | Date | February | Date |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Warmest Day | 13.8 °C | 04/01/2023 | 14.8 °C | 20/02/2023 |
| Coollest Night | -5.4 °C | 21/01/2023 | -5.4 °C | 08/02/2023 |
| Windiest 24hrs | 43.6 km/h | 07/01/2023 | 26.7 km/h | 18/02/2023 |
| Wettest 24hrs | 16.3 mm | 15/01/2023 | 3.8 mm | 21/02/2023 |
| Av. Maximum | 9.4 °C | N/A | 10.9 °C | N/A |
| Av. Minimum | 1.6 °C | N/A | 1.5 °C | N/A |
| Total Rain | 97.0 mm | N/A | 10.2 mm | N/A |
| Total Sunshine | 48.5 kWh/kW | 129.2% of Av. | 58.2 kWh/kW | 110.4% of Av. |

Note: Wind data is from Cobden Lane, while other data is from Slewton Crescent.
Phil Dominy and David Brewer. Please send any comments/questions to:
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WHIMPLE FRONT ROW CLUB

Film Nights Coming Soon

Saturday 13th May

Saturday 10th June

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm

Complimentary snacks. BYO drinks. Ice cream interval

See Victory Hall noticeboard to see what's on or email

frontrowclub@gmail.com

Temporary memberships available from Whimble Stores



Community Screening of the Coronation

Whimble Victory Hall will be open to show the Coronation of King Charles III on the big screen

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(Time TBC)

TAKE TEN QUESTIONS WITH



Daphne Pemberton has had a really interesting life. There is far too much to include here but I hope this interview illustrates her pride in her family, alongside her love of country life and animals, especially horses. I hope you enjoy finding out more about another of our Whimble residents.

Q1: So, how did it all start, Daphne? Tell me about your childhood.

I was evacuated from SE London in the war, with my adoptive parents. My father was a senior master and he brought the whole school down to Staverton, near Totnes. I was 5 yrs old and attended the village school. We stayed on a nearby farm which had horses. My parents didn't have any interest in farm life, but I instantly loved all the animals and the countryside.

Q2: You've spent so much time with horses, can you describe what it is that you love about them?

I just adore them, the love is just there. Interestingly, much, much later when I looked back and traced my birth parents, I discovered that they had come from Newmarket and had always been heavily involved in racing. So I suppose it's in my blood and my genes. as well as in my daughters' and grandchildren's genetics. It was strange finding this out after so many years, how everything is intertwined. It seemed to explain everything.

Q3: Did you return to London at the end of the war?

Yes, we went back to London, but I always came back to Devon during the holidays, as I missed it so much. I had to wait until I earned my own money before I could go to riding school. I worked in an office in the City of London, but hated it as I really just wanted to work with animals. Later when I married, my husband and I had our own TV rental business. I was responsible for collecting rental money from our customers. A lone female visiting flats and houses with a bag full of money. I had doors slammed in my face, gangs of youths calling out at me on the landings. This really hardened me up. However, it enabled us to buy a small holding in Kent with ponies and a pig farm as a hobby. I bred goats and dogs for showing. Our daughters were born here which was much nicer than London.

Q4: So how did you end up back in Devon?

We bought a site near Okehampton which had planning permission for a caravan park. We couldn't move in immediately, so we lived in a caravan - two parrots, two cats, three dogs, two children and us two! Also, we built the stables for the ponies and a horse, before we completed our own house! The park was very successful for fifteen years, but then we sold up and moved to Whimble in 1989. I do love Whimble. Its friendliness, and I love the Square, because it can't be ruined. It is a real village centre, unlike other villages. It is the heart of the village.

Q5: Do you have an equestrian event yourself?

No, I only rode for pleasure, because running our businesses I couldn't do anything more.

But the girls and my grandchildren have gone from strength to strength. My daughters were really competitive, frighteningly so!

Q6: What were those early days like then, with your daughters competing?

They competed right across the board - gymkhanas, show jumping the lot. And we never had transport, like youngsters do now. They would hack everywhere with me following them in the Landrover with all their gear in. If it was dark on our return, they would just hack in front with my headlights to guide them, all the way back. Often up to ten miles.

Q7: Do you have a pinnacle moment in all of this?

Oh there's been a lot of moments, gradually building up to where my family is today. They are all independent, and don't rely on me, but I do still go everywhere with them. When I was younger I always had jobs to do. Last minute grooming, and usually the tailend to clean, or clearing out the horse box!! I was a timekeeper for them too, keeping them on task. Nowadays, the horses are too large and spirited, so I don't get to hold onto them. But my family knows I am always there, supporting them.

Q8: You must be very proud of your family's achievements within the equestrian world. Can you tell me a bit about them?

We all live almost as one big family in Whimble, in our Devon longhouse. We have fifteen horses between us, old and young ones as well as the competition horses. Both my daughters are still very involved and two of the grandchildren.

My granddaughter works with Devon County Shows and organises all the horses and livestock, as well as competing. She won a big dressage championship up in the Midlands with her horse *Harley*, which was a proud moment. One of my grandsons works for *Horse and Country* making instructional films, as well as full-time coaching. He was asked to attend Badminton Horse Trials to interview the top riders as well as commentate which was brilliant. He is still on his own upward climb too, competing at a very high level.

Q9: Has there been a particular horse that has been special to you?

Yes, *Bugsy*. He was a retired showjumper. But I don't ride anymore, our horses are so very fit and strong, and on their toes. They need to be for what they need to do. Also the traffic is so different now, it's scary really, especially through the village. But we do have a school for everyone to ride out in at the farm which is safe.

Q10: So, what keeps you going and what is next for you?

My family does keep me going. My animals too, they get me up every morning - the peacocks, sheep, and pony. I have tickets for the Olympics in 2024 so I do need to keep going as I'm looking forward to that. Also, I am planning on writing a book for my family, because I have done a lot in my life. Not just the horses, but I've raced go-karts, rallied landrovers, archery, fencing, breeding and showing. There's a lot to say really, and much to be proud of in my life.

Thank you Daphne, and I really hope I have as much energy and spirit as you when I am older

Sarah Thackeray



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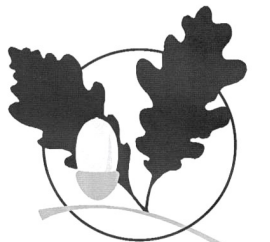
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As mentioned in the last edition of the News, we started the year with our AGM. With the meeting being followed with Paul Sharkey giving a presentation of some of his wildlife images, we were delighted to welcome an excellent attendance for this meeting. We were able to reflect on a full and productive year with all the events very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Club continues to prosper and has a good membership. All the principal Officers were re-elected to serve for another year which gives good continuity to the Club. However, it was recognised that we shouldn't be complacent and we are always looking for new members and also new Committee Members. The evening concluded with Paul Sharkey's magnificent wildlife photographs. It was fascinating to learn that a large number of his photographs had been taken in and around the village, quite amazing what is actually on our own doorsteps. This was a wonderful way to end the meeting and we are very grateful to Paul for giving up his time to show us such excellent photographs.

For our first main event of the year, on Friday 10th March we had a talk from Andrea Rye on her favourite twelve Poisonous Plants. Andrea is currently the Plants Manager at the Combe Garden Centre in Honiton. This was an excellent and very entertaining talk which was very much appreciated by the large number who came along to hear Andrea's talk. She clearly had an extensive knowledge of the plants which certainly enlightened us all to their potential dangers!

Our first coach trip will be on Saturday 29th April and will be a trip to the Trebah Gardens at Mawnan Smith near Falmouth. These sub-tropical Cornish Gardens have four miles of footpaths through dazzling exotic planting. They have been rated among one of the eighty finest gardens in the world, so well worth a visit! A booking form is included with this edition of the News which gives all the details of costs and times for the coach pick ups. Please note that Trebah only take payment by Credit or Debit cards so please remember

Our annual plant sale will be on Sunday 14th May in the Village Hall from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. This is the first time we have held this event on a Sunday so hopefully it will still be its usual success! We hope to have all the usual plants available and hopefully the spring weather will have arrived by then to help us grow all the plants we hope to have on offer! As those of you who have attended in the past will know, this is now a very popular event and arriving early is to be encouraged to get the bargains on offer!

This event will be followed on Sunday 25th June with a coach trip to RHS Rosemoor to visit the Rosemoor Rose Weekend and also the Craft and Food Market. Full details of this event and others we are planning in the next edition of the News.

Our Annual Flower and Craft Show this year will be held on Saturday 12th August 2023. We have nearly finalised sorting out all the classes for this year's Show Schedule and we hope to have copies available at the plant sale.

We do have plans for other events this year, and details of these will appear in the next edition of the News. A calendar of all our events is on our website along with details of our Committee Members and all our activities. All this can be looked at by visiting the website at www.whimble-vpa.co.uk

Paul Wilson,
Chairman, Whimble GC

Whimble & District Gardening Club Visit to Trebah Garden on Saturday 29th April 2023

To book please complete the form below:

Name..... Tel. no.

e-mail address..... e-mails to more than you will be sent Bcc.

Please enter below number of seats required.

GC members £30pp. Number of seats

non-GC members £32.00 pp. Number of seats

The price includes coach, garden.

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Whimble & District Gardening Club

Please delete as appropriate: -

I wish to get on the coach at the Canaan Way car park Ottery 8.30am // the Square Whimble 8.45am.

If you wish to get on the coach at Whimble please return completed form with cheque to Mrs Doreen Staddon, 1, Allergrove Cottages, Whimble EX5 2TJ (Tel 01404 823594). If you wish to get on the coach at Ottery to Brian Nelson, Gerway House, Gerway Lane, Ottery St Mary EX11 1PW (Tel 01404 813643)

Alternatively, you can hand in your envelope to the Whimble Stores or Roberts Hardware, Ottery St. Mary.



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Non-Gardening Club members £32**

**Price includes coach and entry.
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8.30am, The Square Whimble at 8.45am**

Please note that Trebah only accept payment by card in their café & gift shop.

**Contact for Whimble is Doreen Staddon Tel.01404
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Whimple Cricket Club

It always comes around quickly and here we are on the edge of a new cricket season. A bumper summer of cricket at Whimple is ahead! We've had a good block of winter training for adults and our junior ages and our teams are raring to go. We want everyone to feel welcome at the club, even if you are not a regular cricketer. Our bar will be open throughout the summer, including Friday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons from May to September. There will almost always be food available, either from the BBQ or Oggy Oggy pasties and sausage rolls served from the bar. We really appreciate all the support from spectators and visitors to the club. Early season dates to be aware of are:

- Saturday 22nd, 29th and Sunday 30th April: Home pre-season friendly games
- Tuesday 25th April: Junior games begin (U14s away at Exmouth)
- Friday 28th April: Junior training starts
- Saturday 6th May: League cricket begins
- Sunday 7th May: Sunday cricket begins

Membership changes

As has been well communicated in member emails, club membership for adult and junior players is changing this year to a monthly direct debit. If you are reading this and believe yourself to be a playing member who has not had a direct debit request, please contact us! We are also open to new playing members of all ages and skills. There really is cricket for everyone at the club.

Advertising and sponsorship

We are immensely grateful for Courtney's continued sponsorship of the club and we will be working closely with them again this year. We also welcome Oliver Joseph as an additional sponsor this season. In addition, we have many individual player sponsors supporting us in 2023, but there is also still time for you to support the club for this season with sponsorship or advertising. If you are interested in this, please get in touch.

Your help needed

Finally, a repeat of a plea that you might have read before. It takes a lot of hard work to run the club and we are grateful to the many volunteers that contribute to what we do. We appreciate any and all help that is offered. We are still looking for specific help in three important areas:

- Social media and marketing
- A women's cricket lead
- Saturday afternoon umpires

If you could be any (or all!) of the above, please do get in touch.

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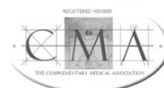
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Whimble History Society



The talks that took place in the New Year, the Murder of P.C. Potter and Operation Black Buck, were most informative and entertaining and attracted large audiences of members, friends and visitors. Our final talk for the winter season will be on Friday 28th April and will be advertised in our next Newsletter which will come out after the AGM on 31st March as well as being advertised around the village.

The Heritage Centre will be reopening on Saturday 1st April. The Display team has worked hard to produce a new display board about the Congregational Church in the village as well as a display of associated artefacts. There will be a Coronation Display to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Several other displays have been revamped, including the Muffin the Mule Display.

Sadly our Treasurer and Curator have resigned.

Our Treasurer, Mike Rovira, has been doing a sterling job over the last 13 years !!! Not only has he looked after our finances but has gained grants for the Society in the recent difficult times. He has also taken on the tasks of Membership Secretary, Heritage Lottery Organiser and Shop Manager. The Society is much indebted to Mike and all his efforts over the years. However, we are pleased to say that one of our members has come forward to fill his rather 'big boots'.

Our Curator, Louise Walmsley has also stood down, she has instigated several worthwhile projects including the Village Tithe Map and St Christopher Mural in St Mary's Church, Whimble. She also revamped our website and has recently been responsible for arranging our guest speakers. Our thanks to Louise for all she did for the Society whilst she was Curator.

If you have an interest in the Life and Times in Our Village, perhaps you would like to join our Curatorial team and help produce displays etc in our Heritage Centre or even become Curator. You will receive the full support of the Committee.

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Society will be made most welcome, The Society can be contacted at info@whimble.org.

Roger Smith, Secretary

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We have all felt the effects of inflation. The impact on food prices in the UK and around the world is severe.

In some places hunger is the norm. Globally, one in ten people don't have enough food to eat and at the moment things are getting worse, not better. For the 73 million children at school on an empty stomach, that stark fact makes concentration in lessons impossible, having a dire effect on their learning. Crushing poverty, coupled with inflation means that buying even a little food forces families to cut out things we would regard as essential. In some cases this means children and young people can't continue to go to school or college; with lasting consequences.

We have to start somewhere to make a difference, and it's always best to make a sustainable difference. As an example, Christian Aid's partners in Malawi are helping farmers achieve a step-change in their livelihoods using the humble but mighty pigeon pea: a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop. High quality seeds are needed to produce a crop in challenging circumstances and small farmers then need to be able to sell their produce for the best price possible, cutting out unscrupulous middlemen. Christian Aid are focussing efforts to bring this change about, though it is not a story you will hear much about in mainstream media.

In Whimple there is overwhelming evidence that people care very deeply and want to help those who are in trouble. Last year, in Christian Aid Week, Whimple raised £850 to help people who are in a far worse position than we are. Villagers looked beyond their own troubles and gave very generously to support the work of Christian Aid across the world, helping families with far, far less than we have. Thank you.

Once again, between 14 - 20 May, Christian Aid envelopes will be delivered into nearly every home in the village by a team of volunteers. We will all have the chance to reach out and make permanent, life-enhancing changes for the better, helping families who have unimaginably tough lives. Your donation can make a huge positive difference.

Once again, we have the opportunity to bring our donation envelopes to Whimple Stores where Rory, Sharon and Sabrina have kindly agreed to again be the main collection point.

Thank you for digging deep.

Aubrey Curry and Mark Beedell

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WHIMPLE NEWS TEAM HELP WANTED!

It's a fun, compact team on 'The News'. A small amount of voluntary work needed every other month. This would be to either help in our creative side, or in putting the magazine together. We currently use Microsoft Publisher, but are happy to look at other formats.

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THE NEW FOUNTAIN INN – From The Family

(The new owners, The Wheatons, apologise for not having time to write an article for us - they are flat out getting ready to open as this goes to press.

However, Kaya kindly sent me some notes and I have sorted them into something which will, hopefully, put across the info they want to share).

As one of the Save Whimple's New Fountain Inn group, it makes my heart soar to see the fantastic rejuvenation of the building. Having seen inside not long before the sale, it was a mammoth undertaking and would, to be honest, have been quite a scary prospect for us to take on as a community pub (although it was very much our intention to go down this route, if needed).

Happily, due to so much fantastic support from the village, and also thanks to the late John Aiton for his push to register it as an Asset Of Community Value, the development prospect had been refused, leaving the way clear for a possible sale. The Wheatons, a local family, decided to come forward and purchase it.

Kevin has 54 years in the building trade, Lee 26 years in the motor trade, so a very different path for them, but Kaya has been a familiar and friendly face behind the bar in The Farmer and the cricket club over the years.

They, and their team of helpers, have been working ridiculously hard to transform, not just upgrade, the Fountain into an exciting new pub and eatery. Many of the original features have been preserved, but the restaurant area has been extended into the garages, giving a lot more internal space, which they hope will also be useful for local groups. They stress that it will be very much a community hub for all, with traditional pub games encouraged, too. Three woodburners will be roaring away and keeping everyone warm in the winter months.

It will be family run and they hope it will be open in April (perhaps even before this goes to press) and they will be using local produce as much as possible for the meals.

They have set up a Facebook page already – New Fountain Inn – which has an option to message them if you have any suggestions for events etc or any queries. Sky and BT Sports will be available.

The main focus will be a family friendly, traditional pub.

Kaya asked me to stress how much the family appreciate the support and encouragement they have received from everyone whilst they have been renovating. She says it has been wonderful.

So, as we also have new owners in The Thirsty Farmer, this will give both pubs a new launch. The village has long been able to support the two pubs, so we look forward to their new plans, too.

Exciting times for Whimple, and summer is coming!



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It's a bright, clear and sunny morning and spring is hopefully springing. I'm back on my feet having just spent six weeks with my feet up following foot surgery. Friday 13 in Homebase did not, in my mind, bode well; however, the Nightingale (its new name) was excellent in all aspects with not a tin of paint or a pack of dying bedding plants in sight.



A digression and an explanation of why I missed our first two WI meetings this year. I am grateful to our president, Sarah who reports that the January meeting welcomed Simon Card who spoke on behalf of Devon Air Ambulance. His talk was extremely interesting and confirmed the value of this service. Many of the helicopter pilots are ex services and able to attend where land ambulances would find it difficult or impossible.

Sarah further reported that, in February, Justin Lascelles spoke with humour about his role within Gittisham estates and shared many amusing stories. He asked members to guess how many litres of milk the estate sells each year. Answers fell well short, being in the millions!

A social lunch at the Black Horse, organised by Jane was well attended. Another occasion where members meet up and enjoy a couple of hours of convivial company. Sounds good to me.

Our 14 March meeting continues the sociable/edible theme as we look forward to a pudding tasting evening. Even the thought of it makes my mouth water. The diet will need to be parked for a couple of hours!

11 April we welcome Angela White for a return visit. This time, in her own inimitable way, she will share her memories of her trip across S W America via various b&b's.

22 April, Saturday, sees our annual fundraiser for Hospiscare in the Victory Hall between 10am and 12 noon. It would be wonderful to see more young families in support as last year we had a fabulous selection of toys and games on sale at giveaway prices and so few families to buy them. Hospiscare is there for our worst times, whether we are young or old and this event is a simple way to show our appreciation and support for this charity.

9 May is our annual meeting where we confirm elected members and take a nostalgic look at our previous WI year. We usually manage a glass of something and a few nibbles to see the evening along.

13 June is a welcome return to Sarah Pepper who will share her vast knowledge of floristry around the 'country cutting garden'. Sarah is always entertaining and her visit is eagerly anticipated.

Outings and events are still being planned. We enjoy a get together, whatever form it takes.

If you are free on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2pm for a couple of hours and you enjoy fellow female company then please call Marilyn our sec/treasurer on 821860 for further information about Whimple WI.

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POW+R Takes a wider view

POW+R always aim to be open and straight forward. We will praise things when the instigators have got them right. In this case, full marks for East Devon District Council for their innovative solution at Exmouth. So significant it has made the national news, as it solves two problems with one solution. The cloud data storage systems now being used all over the world use considerable amounts of electricity. It's estimated that data storage in the cloud will need as much as 8 percent of all electricity to power. These computer hubs generate a great deal of heat.

England has lost nearly 400 swimming pools since the austerity programme of 2010. Many are local authority pools which are at risk due to high energy costs. Eight organisations, including UK Active and the Youth Sport Trust, alongside the Local Government Association, issued a plea to the government in January to step in to prevent the closure of sports facilities. Without a change in policy, there would be more closures. These closures will damage further our national well-being, our sporting global status, the health of our nation and the requirement for further costs to the NHS.

A first of its kind in the UK, the Exmouth, 25-metre swimming pool is now heated by an on-site data centre run by 'Deep Green', cutting at least £1,000 a month off its energy bills. This pilot will be followed by seven other swimming pools, undertaken by 'Deep Green', and it suggests these 'digital furnaces' the size of a domestic washing machine could also be used in distilleries, bakeries, laundrettes and apartments. The brains of the data centre are submerged in mineral oil, which captures the heat from the processors and minimises the amount lost to the air. This heat is then transferred to the swimming pool through a heat exchanger. It will cut the energy bill by £20,000 a year. This would be designated as a win, win.

Battleship grey hut

Of course, the local District Council does not get it all right. For example, the changing rooms at the sports hub on London Road, near Rockbeare looks more like a tin shed you would find at a naval base, not a type of structure you should find in a new town with a remit to have quality as part of the design code.

Temp Halt to Local Plan

The Government is having a bit of a re-think on Planning Policy to enable local councils' greater flexibility about the amount of house building needed in East Devon.

From the January 2023 consultation, concerns about the impact that new developments would have on the environment, infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals were raised by members of the public. These issues were acknowledged in the Strategic Planning Committee in mid-February.

The Government looks like it will give councils more choice over the number of new homes being built, allowing East Devon District Council (EDDC) to address local concerns that have been raised, which are considerable.

EDDC leader, Councillor Paul Arnott, put forward a motion that no further discussions or decisions on potential sites take place until the Government makes its decision. EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee agreed the motion, which means council officers will only continue technical work needed to support production of the Local Plan, such as water, sewerage and other environmental matters.

This all ties in with the concept of localism - decisions taken at local level. This also is acutely relevant at Parish Level in developing our own Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

POW+R Group is continuing to work with the WPC on the NP and whilst progress is being made, it is taking longer than expected. Currently, we are bringing together all the sections completed so far, in one single document. It's a bit like a giant jig-saw, all the outside is done; now we are working towards the centre and completion. This will be the draft, which will go back to the village for a further 6 weeks consultation. We will come back to the village with further news in the next edition.

New Fountain Public House

Since the pub was taken over and established in October 2022, there has been an immense amount of work undertaken, not only in the extension of the bar area, which looks like a doubling of the floor space, but also a totally refitted kitchen, plus a makeover of the car park. It looks like it may open when the Parish Mag goes to press in the first week of April. We at POW+R Group wish Lee and his team well.

In addition, the pub has once again been listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). A huge well done to Jeremy Wilson and all those involved with the application. A fantastic achievement!

The Thirsty Farmer

It will be a very hard act to follow as Donna and Marc did a great job over the last 5 years in a very challenging market and all the implications of Covid19. They excelled, especially on food, customer service and on bringing in some great live entertainment and creating a great atmosphere. It is understood that a new tenant has come forward to take over the business. Many village groups and villagers will welcome the new landlord.

Pithayes Farm, Church Road

POW+R Group Member sent detailed objections to the proposed change of use from agriculture to four residential dwellings with new entrance and associated development at Pithayes Farm Church Road Ref. 22/2207/FUL. The basis was that the development is outside the built-up area of the village and would therefore constitute to being in land designated as open countryside. Awaiting decision from EDDC.

Communications Mast

An objection was made by POW+R Group to the erection of an 18m (reduced later to 16m) Electronic Communication Mast. Ref. 22/1968/TEL. Planning was refused on the 15th Feb 2023.

POW+R Group continues to be proactive in protecting our village against anything that would harm the distinctive character of our community.

Alan Lascelles - Press and Publicity

Date: 22nd March 2023



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Thirsty Farmer 'Bonus Ball' Village Donations

As many of you know, Billy Bloomfield has been organising a 'Guess The National Lottery Bonus Ball' weekly game in the Thirsty Farmer for many years, donating the proceeds to organisations and charities within the village. This adds up to a substantial amount each year and is very much appreciated by all those good causes.

Here is Billy giving out the last donations before the pub changed hands, so Donna was asked to join the groups.

Pre School, Whimble Football Club and the Whimble History Society were chosen this time. Well done, Billy!



Murder By Jazz – A Murder Mystery by The Whimbletons.

What a great night was had by all. The first performance by the Whimbletons for **THREE LONG YEARS!**

Penned by Neil Walker, this Murder Mystery was absolute fun from start to finish and songs thrown in for good measure just added to the enjoyment of the participants and audience.

I have so many thank you's to list all of which contributed to a wonderful evening which raised such a fantastic amount for charity.

Thank you to Whimble stores for selling the tickets for us.

Our heartfelt thanks to Carolyn Cleasby, who flew down from Scotland, and Richard Taylor, who travelled from Chichester, to take part

Ruth Toze for organising the music and songs, Harry Sanders for the background music and Sue Draycott and Jenny Sanders for making us all look gorgeous.

Penny Daniels for keeping us on track with prompting and Alex Tooze for the sound and lighting. Sally Wilde, Sam Walker and Nikki Harris and helpers for being the perfect barpeople and manning the door.

A huge thanks to Martyn Randall and his amazing team who provided the delicious chilli for us all and the wonderful cast for putting on a brilliant show!

It goes without saying that Neil Walker (aka Sherlock Holmes) has once again pulled it out of the bag with a great script and a clever plot. However, the biggest thank you goes to everyone who came along to support us. We honestly could not do it without all of you.

As you are aware, the event was to remind you all of who The Whimbletons are and to raise money for the **UBUNTU WILDLIFE TRUST**. I am delighted to announce that together we raised a **huge £609.86** for this amazing charity. On behalf of The Whimbletons and Ubuntu, thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone for your support and generosity.

If you would like to get involved with the Whimbletons, be it on stage, music, backstage, costumes or anything else please contact myself or Neil Walker.

Cathy Bartlett-Horwood



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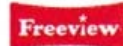
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With March slipping away quickly, we head towards the Easter holiday with sunshine and showers.

March always seems to be the month of dressing up! World Book Day is always a great one to start the month. Our children, via their school councillors, selected a range of authors to suit all ages and the children paraded around so we could try and guess each other's characters. Authors included some obvious favourites – Julia Donaldson, Roald Dahl and David Walliams, along with Terry Deary and Tom Fletcher.



Comic Relief is celebrated mid-March and we continued our theme from last year (one which Comic Relief also used this time), Mr Men and Little Miss. Seeing a line of Mr Bumps doing the conga was definitely one of the highlights!

Many of the costumes for both events were homemade and were absolutely spectacular; we really appreciate the time and effort put into them by children, parents and even grandparents.

Other National events we have also celebrated and learned about are, Internet Safety Day, International Women's Day and Neurodiversity Week. We have also had online visitors in our assemblies from the local charity ELF and Rock Steady, explaining what skills they use in their jobs and how their career took them to where they are now.

Curriculum activities have continued throughout the term – designing and making vehicles, making felt, weaving, learning about how to build websites, climate and its impact and writing stories based on a learnt text. This is just a small section of what has been covered – it amazes me how it is all fitted in!

All children have had Forest School sessions which have included a range of activities including mud faces, magic bands and making things from wood. The older children have also had sessions with the younger children to play a range of board games – this has been lovely to witness, seeing the interactions between them has been great, along with the acceptance of the older children that they are now able to except losing and understand that sometimes games have an element of skill and chance in them. Cooking and origami sessions have also been part of our Fantastic Friday curriculum this term.

All children enjoyed the soft archery sessions they had recently – teamwork was a key part of this as well as listening carefully to the rules and instructions provided.

Finally, I am also pleased to report, that after our recent Ofsted Inspection at the end of last term, the school continues to be judged as a good school. There were lots of positive comments about how children respect each, behave well and take on a range of responsibilities.

They acknowledged the hard work undertaken by staff and governors ensuring the children receive a broad, balanced and sequenced curriculum enjoyed by pupils and that the needs of all children are met. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all staff, parents, governors and volunteers who have continued to support the school in a wide range of ways – there are too many to thank individually, but everyone has an important part to play in ensuring our pupils have the best chances in life we can provide.

Carole Shilston, Head Teacher



Last week, Whimble Primary Schools Year 5 and 6's (Willow Class) travelled to Silverton Primary School to play a variety of sports: Tag Rugby, Football and Netball. The experience was a team building activity and pushed people gently outside their comfort zone. Whilst doing the activities, both sets of children from each school were split into Non-Competitive and Competitive teams. Visiting Silverton was a learning experience for the Willow Class students and it was nice to meet people that will be going to the same Secondary school as them. The teachers were supportive and it was an overall positive experience.

By Millie and Alex.



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| East Devon District Councillor: | |
| Richard Lawrence | 07703 350285 |
| Parish Council (whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com) | |
| <i>Chairman:</i> John Griffiths | 823480 |
| <i>Clerk:</i> Claire Rayner | 812570 |
| Primary School (admin@whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk) | |
| <i>Headteacher:</i> Carole Shilston | 822584 |
| <i>Chair of Governors:</i> Linden Best | 822595 |
| Whimble School PTA (Whimple.pta@gmail.com) | |
| St. Mary's Church | |
| <i>Parish Priest:</i> Rev. Marc Kerslake | 822525 |
| <i>Impact Cell:</i> Helen Bowker | 823193 |
| <i>Bellringers:</i> Marianne Randall | 07834 809270 |
| Book Group | |
| Tanya Mooney | 823326 |
| Cricket Club (jameswoollam@gmail.com) | |
| <i>Booking Secretary:</i> James Woollam | 07989 234372 |
| Football Club | |
| <i>Chairman:</i> Victoria Kendrew | 07966 550260 |
| <i>Secretary:</i> Lee Wheaton | 077341 52120 |
| Front Row Club | |
| <i>email:</i> frontrowclub@gmail.com | |
| History Society | |
| <i>Chairman:</i> David Rastall | 822486 |
| <i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith | 822244 |
| Over Sixties Club | |
| <i>Chairman:</i> Arthur Iball | 822905 |
| <i>Secretary:</i> Beryl Iball | 822905 |
| Pre-School & Toddler Group (www.whimplepreschool.com) | |
| <i>Chair:</i> Joe Pearce | 823512 |
| <i>Information:</i> Jo Sibley 07794 652549 or admin@whimplepreschool.com | |
| Recreation Trust | |
| <i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Roger Smith | 822244 |
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| <i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry | 822844 |
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WN143

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