

Whimble News



Feb/March 2004

What's on in Whimple

February

13th	Bingo	Cricket club	7:30pm
17th	Over 60's The wonderful world of water	Victory Hall	2:30pm
18th	Blood Donor Sessions see page 21		
19/20/21st	Dick Whittington by the Whimpletons see page 30		
25th	Short Mat Bowls	Victory Hall	7.30pm
26th	Flower Festival Meeting	St Mary's Church	7.30pm

March

2nd	Flower arranging demonstration by Mrs M.Watkins		
8th	VPA Flower Arranging Demonstration	Victory Hall	7.30pm
12th	Bingo	Cricket club	7:30pm
16th	Speaker—Care Direct		
16th	Adventures of Elaine and Delphine	Victory Hall	7.45pm
20th	Ann Daniels - Pole to Pole	Victory Hall	7:30pm

April

2nd	Bingo	Cricket club	7:30pm
27th	Trip to Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean		

St Mary's Church

Monthly Programme of Services

1st	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	All Age Service
2nd	Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
		11am	Sclub11 in the Scout Hut
3rd	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	Morning Service
4th	Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
		11am	Sclub11 in the Scout Hut
5th	Sunday	11am	Joint Benefice Communion

Please use the Whimple Diary held in the Post Office for checking availability of venues and booking events.
If your Association has an event which you would like listed above please contact Angela Smith on 822828 or e-mail Angela1smith@aol.com

Ed the Ed

I hope that you and your families had a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas – for me it started in a super way, on Christmas Eve at the carol singing in the church, and we have a report from our raving correspondent on that event.

My thanks to Miles for covering the editorial last time. A banker who can both write and act - a rare combination these days!

We bid farewell to Mike and Ali from the Thirsty Farmer, and they have been our biggest source of donations for a number of years, so a formal ‘thank you’ for all their support, and good luck for the future. Taking over at The Farmer, we welcome Tanya and Vicki who have settled into the pub really well since just before Christmas. They bravely kept their commitment to a New Years Eve bash, and that was great fun. I hear that tables are being booked for next year already! It was a shame that the rain defeated the plans for the usual large gathering in The Square at midnight – I was trapped in the Thirsty, having just had my hair done and didn’t want to ruin it!

The Whimble News is the conscience of the village, and to that end we print a sorry tale of the results of alcoholic excess from 3 anonymous members of this parish, who should know better. So powerful was their conversion to the path of sobriety, that if you can both identify these 3 miscreants and vagabonds, and catch them stealing a sup of ale together, and challenge them with the stirring words ‘You are the Epic travellers’, you will receive a fitting reward.

I am please to report that The Knees were given a progress check when the temporary custodian (Spry A. of Talaton) met the current Mrs H and myself as we pounded the lanes in a desperate attempt to burn off the Xmas calories. Whilst not being offered a viewing of The Knees, we could see that they were being looked after well, and were, at that time, warmly protected in orange florescent overalls. Should there ever be a repeat of the Royal visit to Applemead by The Princess Royal, and Alex is introduced again, I will have to ensure that The Knees have sturdy protection against errant dog attacks. We are talking national treasures here!

I understand that travellers have expressed concern about the ruddy hue of the custodian’s face as he goes about his daily business at The Tardis – fear not, it is all due to the new installation of a sauna room in The Tardis. Whilst you see the properly uniformed top half of the Spry, under the counter and invisible to the travelling public, are the pink and glowing Knees clad in luxurious SWT towelling, with flip flops on his feet. This is why he doesn’t come out of The Tardis for every train. (We have a missive from The Tardis later in this edition).

Don’t forget that The Whimbletons are girding their loins for yet another dramatic extravaganza of theatrical delight and delectation - see the advert later. We may have learned our lines by the performance, but who needs details like that to get in the way! We have a cast of thousands this year, plus some new blood, which is great – come and see us!

The next edition (April/May) will have a deadline for contributions of Monday 15 March. Please can we have your contributions to GO @ PO or direct to our Technical Director, on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk. If the 3 Epic Journeymen can put pen to paper, so can you!!

Roll on Spring!

Ed H

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

Mountain gorses shining blossoms
Do you teach us to be glad
When no summer can be had
Blooming in our inward bosoms?
Ye who God preserveth still
Set as lights upon a hill
Tokens of the Wintry earth

This is the kind of weather when we need a good book, some soothing music to listen to and a good fire. It is only sunny days that make for memorable and sometimes unexpected sights when the eye is taken by surprise. I think particularly of the golden flowers of the gorse. I remember a day in February 1988 when Jack was so ill on a terribly windy and wet early morning when I found a bunch of golden gorse smelling sweetly by the front door. It was put there by Betty Williams from the Post Office with a little note simply saying 'Thinking of you'. Since then I always think of those golden fragrant blooms as a message of hope. Throughout Britain you will find the prickly evergreen ever-blooming shrub known as gorse, furze or whin in hedgerows, on commons and in poor soil at any time of the year. Shakespeare in one of his poems said 'When gorse is out of bloom kissing is out of season'.

Another Spring flower which has a special place in my garden and affection is the snowdrop. The little snowdrops are a very welcome sight each year in February/March, their nodding white flowers serving as a promise that the floral year in the garden is about to begin. It has long been a symbol of hope. The legend has it that Eve was weeping in her barren garden after the Fall of Man when an angel comforted her by blowing on to a snowflake and turning it into a snowdrop. A flower bloomed and hope was born.



Early monks travelling back and forth to Rome brought the flower to England and it has become naturalised, originally near monasteries. It also became a church flower and on Candlemass, 2nd February, the image of the Virgin Mary was taken down and snowdrops were spread in its place. In this way the snowdrops earned the common name of Maids of February, Candlemass bells and Mary's Tapers. However, their presence in churchyards gave them an unlucky reputation. Even today, I have met village people who will not take snowdrops indoors. As I am not superstitious, I just don't take notice of such sayings. I vividly remember taking a Bunch of snowdrops to put in the Lady Chapel at Ottery St Mary Church for Candlemass, when I was greeted at the door by someone who said it was unlucky. Fortunately, the vicar, Prebendary Peter McGee, was there and I never forget his words - 'This is not a pagan temple but the House of our Lord and these flowers are part of his creation'.

In February there are quite a number of festivals apart from Candlemass. Saint Valentine's Day Feast of the martyred bishop of Terni in Rome. Sending cards, flowers and messages of love to loved ones is only a recent introduction. Originally in Roman times the 15th February was celebrated and called Lupercalia. It was celebrated in Lupercal cave where Remus and Romulus were supposed to have been found suckling the wolf - lupus. That is the origin of the city of Rome.

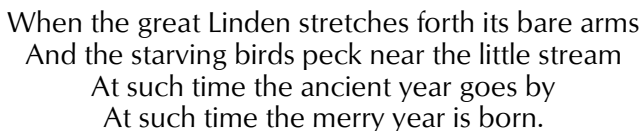
Then there is Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras or Pancake Day. It has been the custom for centuries to eat rich things before the long Lenten Fast. 'A Feast before a Fast', which lasts from the end of February until Easter on the 11th April this year. Have you ever tried to make cob-nut pancakes? - quite delicious, and a novel way to bring a bit of zest into your Shrove Tuesday celebrations:-

For 12 pancakes, take:-

2 eggs, 225ml/8fl. oz. water & milk mixed, a pinch of salt, 110gr/4oz. plain flour (sifted), 10gr/half an oz. castor sugar, 25gr/1oz. melted butter, 50gr/2oz. cob nuts.

Liquidise the eggs, milk & water, salt. Add the flour, sugar and butter and liquidise for another minute or so. Stand in a cold place, covered, for two hours. Thin out with a little milk if necessary. Cut the nuts very finely and add to the batter with the sugar. Have a hot pancake pan ready, and make nice thin pancakes. Serve hot with cream and sugar.

Very yummy!



When the great Linden stretches forth its bare arms
And the starving birds peck near the little stream
At such time the ancient year goes by
At such time the merry year is born.

NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER



Well. ...it has been and gone and it is all over ...I hope you all had a good 'festive season'. I bet you didn't give your wife a racehorse - well part of one if you are being fussy -oh alright then - very small bit indeed and I'm not sure which bit or whether it can actually run? ...we'll see!

P.O. business -glad you were all so impressed by the cheery originality and colourful beauty of the Christmas stamps -or did I misunderstand? Have you seen the new P.O 'Ant' adverts on the tele? I am quite impressed -they are pretty good -but whether they are worth it - time will tell.

Payment by Debit Card has increased - most of the bills payable at the P.O. can now be settled by this method (Switch, Solo, Delta etc) FREE. Also I understand that we can now offer withdrawal/deposit/balance checks on Alliance & Leicester Accounts, in addition of course to drawing cash from Lloyds & Barclays current accounts using debit card and pin, and some others. (Remember ALL ARE FREE). More and more banking transactions are being carried out in the P.O. - keep them coming as we need all we can get.

'E-Top Ups' for mobile phones are doing well and our range of inkjet cartridges are proving a hit with those that have bought them - good price and convenient.

Finally I have learned about the 'Great Truths' and this month I'll tell you the

"Great Truths That Little Children Have Learned"

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3 year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a working vacuum cleaner and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10)The best place to be when you're sad is in your Grandpa's lap.

All the best and a belated Happy New Year and to all those for whom the year could have started better - God bless - things will improve.

from **GO&HO@PO**

Since he wrote this article Gordon has been taken ill and is at present in hospital in Plymouth.

Our thoughts are with him and with Heather.

We wish him a speedy recovery. **EdH**

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BE READY**

Annie Haines and Janet Farrow, two local actors, will present their highly amusing evening's entertainment, featuring the adventures of Elaine and Delphine, two dysfunctional, desperate middle-aged women, on Tuesday, 16th March at 7.45p.m. in The Victory Hall.

Tickets £5 (to include a glass of wine and nibbles) available from Whimble Post Office and Sue Farmer (01404 822265) or Gill Curtis (01404 823257).

**IT IS ALL IN AID OF THE ACORN AND
SQUIRRELS GROUP OF THE RIDING FOR THE
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WHIMPLE CRICKET CLUB

Part time Bar Manager vacancy

Duties include stock control and ordering, line cleaning, cash and carry purchasing etc., own transport essential. Hours and salary are negotiable. Please contact: Roger Smith, Cornerstones, Dince Hill Close, Whimble.

Keeping Whimble Tidy

Anyone who has walked to the village from the direction of the Hand & Pen could not fail to notice the amount of rubbish that has been discarded along the roadside and in the hedgerows.

During my daily constitutional (walk that is) I have become increasingly irritated by the abandoned items such as, aluminium cans, plastic bottles, fast food containers, cigarette packets, plastic bags etc, etc.

I have now taken to collecting any item that I find during my daily walk to the amazement of my wife who thinks that I have become a little crazy since moving to the village two years ago.

The astonishing thing is that more items appear as if by magic over night which makes me very suspicious as I feel that someone has observed this strange character who keeps diving into the hedgerow to recover some strange item and is intent on testing my endurance and patience!!

From my observations it would appear that the majority of the items that are discarded emanate from moving vehicles, particularly drink cans and cigarette packets as these are found deep in the hedgerows. I am sure these are deposited by the many visitors that we as a village community enjoy as I am sure local people would not do such a thing!! Or would they?

So the message to all is *please* **Keep Whimble Tidy** and to take all unwanted and surplus litter or items home and where appropriate recycle them!! This will make my daily constitutional more enjoyable and provide a pleasant appearance to visitors as they approach our attractive village.

George Begent

POPPY APPEAL 2003

The local Honourary Organiser for the Poppy Appeal, Ann Pollard, has written to Gordon at the PO to say 'thank you' for the donation of £34.65 from the collection at the PO. The district raised a total of £806.50.



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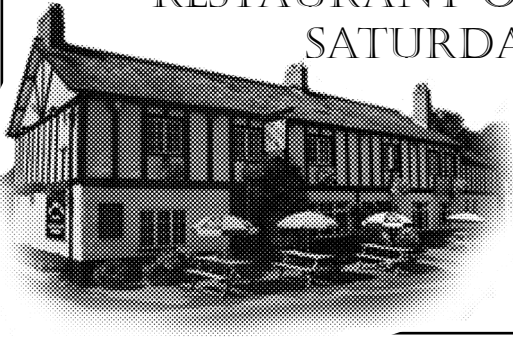
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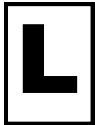


(now also looking after small animals)

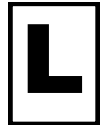
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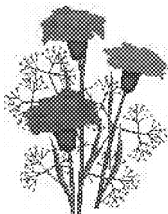
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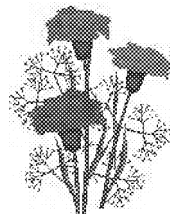
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TO HAVE OR NOT TO HAVE ?



There will be a meeting, by kind permission of The Revd. Rob Wilkinson, in St Mary's Church, Whimble, on **Thursday 26th February** at 7.30 pm. to determine whether or not there is enough support to stage a Flower Festival in the church, with proceeds going to the Church Restoration Fund. The proposed dates for the festival are from Friday 3rd September to Sunday 5th September 2004.

Having read this far, please do not move on to the next article in the belief that the last thing you would want to do would be to arrange flowers in church! We very much hope that we can persuade some of you that you would like to be involved in the actual flower arranging together with the existing team. It is not a requirement that you have to belong to the church to be involved with the flowers. However, more importantly, if we do go ahead with the festival, we will need a great deal of help and support in other ways from as many people as possible. Such as helping to get sponsorship, advertising the event, printing and, hopefully, helping with catering in the Village Hall for the visitors, as well as many other jobs that would need to be done to ensure that the festival is a success.

Please do come to the meeting on **Thursday 26th February** with your thoughts and ideas; we would be delighted to see some men involved! Without your help it will not be possible to have a flower festival. We look forward to seeing you.

Rosemary Horrell 01404 822013

NEED A GRANT?

Whimble Parish Council will be considering grant applications from organisations and individuals who are active or resident within the parish.

Please apply to the Clerk, at the address below, by February 13th, giving brief details of purpose and the amount required.

The Parish Council will be considering this at their next meeting.

Mrs G Turner, Penraddon, Hand and Pen, Whimble, EX5 2PX.



FROM THE CROSSING KEEPER'S HUT

Well, Christmas has been and gone, the New Year followed and after 17 days' leave put in the right places to make just over 4 weeks holiday, I have now returned, refreshed, to the Tardis. The faces I see at the moment are long and miserable. The weather's terrible, so I'm continually told, and everyone's skint and feeling overweight and considering going on the Atkins!

That was the first Christmas I could say I was actually at home for more than 2 days after my 7 year stint at Whimple delivering all your cards and other goodies and as of yet am not sure which I prefer – time will tell.

By the time you read this, Wassailing will have taken place, and unfortunately the Knees could not be present – the first time they have not been in attendance since 1996, due to the non-understanding SWT and Network Rail. I even tried 'compassionate leave' but to no avail. However, it would have been possible for the merry band of Wassailers to fit in a quick trip to Feniton and back, suggested times: OUT Whimple 18:35, Feniton 18:41; RETURN Feniton 18:55, Whimple 19:00.

I have an old apple tree that looks very poorly, that belonged to the stationmaster before the junction closed in 1967. It could certainly do with a few mugs of cider and a young virgin (the tree that is, not the stationmaster!).

On the Scout Group front my thanks and best wishes go to Val Bond, Pat Hamilton and Alan Groom of the Beaver Scouts Section, who since 1966, 1967 and 1970 respectively have notched up a total of 109 years service between them at Ottery St Mary and Whimple Scout Groups. It is without people like this that the Whimple Scout Group would not be here today – well done!! As you can see, I have some vacancies so please think about whether you could give up a couple of hours a week to do something very worthwhile. Karen Salter and myself have stepped in to run Beavers for this term but replacements must be found for April 2004 otherwise the colony will shut until new leaders come forward. It's up to you!

Cheers

Alex Spry

AGE
Concern

DEVON

**Information day for the over 50's
at Whimple Victory Hall
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from 10am to 1pm**

For further details ring Dot on 01297 21611



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XMAS EVE CAROLS

By our monotone but raving reporter, direct from a skulking position.

On Xmas Eve, the weather was against us, and so we sought the shelter of the church. I was amazed at what a tremendous turn-out we had – I estimate a couple of hundred people. The church was absolutely packed and it was a real squeeze – but such great fun! Julia Green had been overdosing on life and enthusiasm again, and did a superb job in providing that much needed direction. We singing amateurs rummaged through the carols leaflet, desperately trying to find the carol before it ended, and trying to remember what verses were to be sung, and which ones were to be left out... always a tricky one that!

The Xmas Eve session always helps me to rebuild my shattered confidence in the old vocal cords. A few friends and I were reminiscing recently about the untold damage done to our singing confidence by school music teachers who would patrol the rows of singing children, and select random children to either stand right next to the piano or be banished to the rear of the group. The first time it happened, I believed that I had been selected for higher things – but no. I never believed in the value of musical osmosis – as panto audiences have discovered!

Julia got us all organised (the makings of a Butlins Redcoat here!) and soon had all the children up in front of the band, singing away. We had one very brave lad who led them in ‘Silent Night’ – it made the whole evening worthwhile to see and hear him enjoying the carol, and not resorting to the famous British ‘mumble’. Well done!

The assembled musicians valiantly supported the singers, and added to the whole atmosphere of Xmas Eve. I was really proud to be part of the village that night – that’s what makes Whimble special for me.

So many thanks to the Julia for her enthusiasm and direction, and to Barbara Lambert for organising it all. Super job!!

THREE GENTLEMEN OF WHIMPLE.....

A cautionary travellers' tale of the hazards of mixing football at Exeter City (The Grecians) with South West Trains and a tipples or several along the way

Saturday 20th December 2003, 13.00 hours - three Fountain Flyers (one of our local skittles teams to the uninitiated) arrive at St James Park where one of the number is hosting lunch before the match. Two of the party are paid-up members of GA (Grecians Anonymous) while the third is an unsuspecting guest. A convivial lunch takes place, the Grecians lose the match, and consolation is taken by means of a modicum of post-match alcohol. Being responsible citizens (!), plan A is to catch the 20.30 train from Exeter to Whimple.

20.34 hours - amazingly, our three gentlemen (now rather happy and having forgotten the football result) coincide with the train's arrival on time at Central Station. The train is boarded, and a South West Trains official walks through and sells the requisite tickets. No problem chaps....we've cracked this.

20.45 hours - arrival at Whimple Station. Our travellers approach the carriage doors, press the button...nothing happens. A noisy discussion ensues, combined with increasingly frantic lunges at the door button and attempts to prise the doors open. With hindsight there was no sign of a platform outside, but no matter. The doors are immovable, and after only a second or so the train is in progress again, with the three disgruntled gentlemen of Whimple still on board. The ticket seller is pursued through the train. "You needed the front carriages for Whimple" "Then why didn't you tell us when you sold us the tickets?" "There was an announcement at the Station, Sir".

20.51 hours - lively debate is well in progress when the train reaches the next stop at Feniton. A decision has rapidly been reached to operate Plan B - to enlist the taxi services of the good wife of one of the party. Probably easier for her to find the Station at Honiton rather than Feniton. While the discussion rages, the train doors open at Feniton. There, smiling broadly under his official cap, is the unmistakable figure of Alex Spry. Not a bare knee in sight. Rather bemused, he asks our travellers what they are doing on the train at Feniton, noisily berating a South West Trains official. The tale to date is rapidly repeated, probably now with some embroidery. "But we're not getting off here either". Train doors close. Alex is still smiling, but with a confused expression. Train moves on to Honiton, where disembarkation is finally achieved.

21.00 hours - phone call to said wife. "I'll come out but you'll have to wait until I've heard the result of Pop Idol." Hallelujah to Pop Idol. The three gentlemen of Whimple, now relaxed and merry again, have time for a drink at Honiton, before being collected by ever considerate rescuer.

22.00 hours - Arrival at Whimple and attendance at a village hostelry to round off the epic journey, and bore anybody foolish enough to listen with further recounting of the tale.

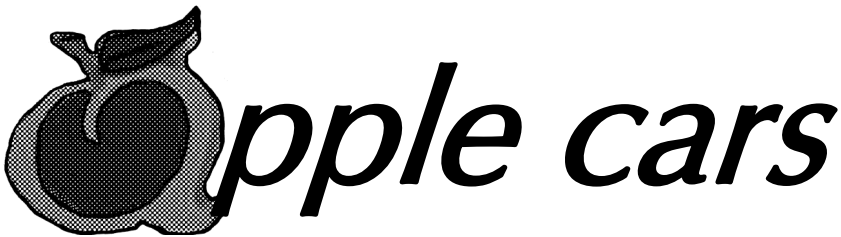
But who are the three worthy citizens of Whimple village??

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WHIMPLE WEATHER 2003.

	2003	2002
Rainfall	29.47 inches	44.02 inches
Rain fell on	153 days	195 days
No of days gales/strong winds	27	42
No of days 32 ^o f or below	47	10
Snow fell on	2 days	1 day
Thunder heard	5 days	4 days
Wettest month	November 4.42 inches	November 9.14 inches
Wettest day	30/10/03 0.92 inch	13/10/02 2.16 inches
Driest month	August 0.52 inch	August 1.18 inch
Hottest day	2/08/03 91 ^o f	29/7/02 86 ^o f
Coldest night	11-12/1/03 22 ^o f	10 -11/1/02 28 ^o f

As usual, it must be emphasised that these details were recorded in a garden in Whimple. They will not agree with those on Dartmoor, Woodbury Common or possibly the Rockbeare Straight, but are thought to be fairly relevant to the village.

My records now span 33 years of weather statistics in Whimple. I think it has been agreed that 2003 was a very dry year in most parts of the UK. I have to go back to 1981 (28.49 inches) to find a drier year.

We have lived in this garden for over 45 years and have a pond of some 90 yards circumference with a central island. There was no visible water in the pond for eleven weeks. We cannot remember it completely drying up since we have been here, until this year.

My apologies to those familiar with metrication - age has wearied some of us!

Ken Burrows

Blood Donor Sessions will be held on Wednesday 18th February
at Feniton C of E School, Station Road, Feniton
from 1:30pm until 3:15pm and 5:00pm until 7:15pm

Scout 11

has arrived!

On Sunday 11th January the new kids' club, run by Whimple Church, kicked off to a great start. 29 children enjoyed fun, games and prizes in the Scout Hut. If you are aged between 5 and 12, come and join in the fun. The club will run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month (apart from the odd Sunday over Easter and Christmas, and during the Summer Holidays). The dates coming up are 8th and 22nd Feb and 14th and 28th March.

Everyone welcome.

For more information contact Phil or Rebecca Dominy on 822163.



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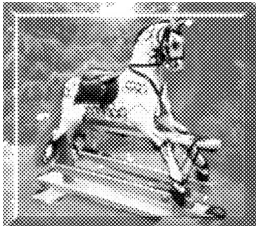
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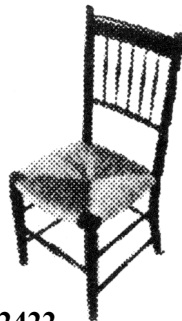
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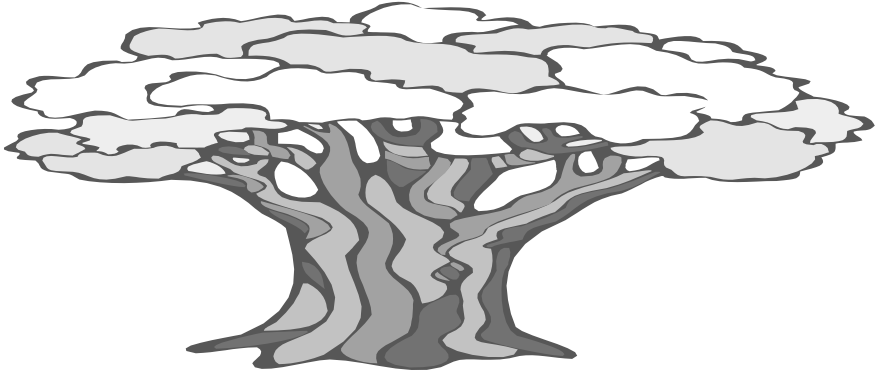


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Not as interesting as Granny's!



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WHIMPLE HISTORY SOCIETY

We have included a 'contact form' in this edition for the Whimple History Society - this is your chance to get actively involved with history of this wonderful village, and ensure that it stays alive for future generations.

So why should you join? The Society have done some truly outstanding work over the years, and other visiting groups have expressed their admiration for the tremendous progress made. It is now time to start the extension to the centre, so that more exhibits/displays can be laid out. Such efforts need your support please, and by joining the Society, you will be making a practical contribution to the village and the custody of its history. If you have been to the Heritage Centre you will have seen the excellent quality of the building and displays, which helps all visitors to appreciate where we have come from. There are also other benefits to joining, with regular meetings and visiting speakers; the informal Xmas buffet was an opportunity to see a new entertainment group (and I use that word loosely), making total exhibitions of themselves - and they don't care! The Society play an important part in the village - for example, they organise the Wassail and the Village tours each year as well.

Come and ioin us!



WHIMPLE HISTORY SOCIETY

I/we wish to join The Society.

Please send a joining pack to -

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:

Please return the completed form to Roger Smith, at The Heritage Centre, Lockyers Linhay, Church Road, Whimple.

FRED FINCH

We were saddened to learn of the death in December, of Fred Finch, formerly of Gathshayes Cottages. Fred was well known in the village, and one of our valued delivery team for a number of years. His daughter, Nikki, wrote a wonderful tribute to Fred for the funeral – below is an extract of the content.

“Fred was born in Ashington, in Sussex on 14th May 1922, to proud farming parents. He became a member of the Steyning Young Farmers, and entered many local shows with his father’s bulls from the farm, winning many rosettes.

During the war, being a farmer, Fred was exempt from being called up, and so, as part of his duty, he served with the local fire service. He had a good voice, and also played the organ in Ashington Chapel. He met and married Julie in Betchworth, and then bought a farm at Beaworthy, where he farmed for 10 years, raising his young family of Nikki, John and Andrew. He sold the farm in 1969 and then took a herdsman’s job at Yellands, where he worked until the early 1980’s. He then became self employed, doing relief milking for local farmers. At 65 he decided to cut down on the relief milking and devote some more time to his hobbies of gardening, photography, amateur dramatics and singing. He made 2 trips to Canada to visit his niece and nephew, once going down through to San Francisco in a camper van.

In 1997, he took everyone by surprise by taking a trip to Pakistan climbing the Hindu Kush for Mencap. He raised between £2000-£3000, and was very proud of this achievement.

Fred became ill shortly after celebrating his 80th birthday, and spent his last 12 months at Aphin House in Exeter, where he was a popular resident.”

We extend our sympathy to Fred’s family at this time, but also give thanks for such a full and energetic life, and his wonderful contributions to the community.

Ann Daniels

Whimble Victory Hall

7.30pm

Saturday 20th March

Tickets £3

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INTERNATIONAL PANTOMIME TRIP JANUARY 2004

So gentle reader, the current Mrs H and my good self checked our passports, inoculations, visas and ensuring we had sufficient supplies of fresh drinking water and sandwiches, set off for the unexplored territory of the Talaton pantomime.

A number of the Whimbletons were also starring in this local extravaganza, as well as taking part in Dick Whittington later this February – are they deranged or what? Answers on a postcard please..... We also had heard that the pantomime was a locally scripted effort, which surely deserves support!

The entrance to the Talaton Hall was beautifully decorated with all things Middle Eastern – ruby red rugs, jugs and containers of all wondrous shapes and sizes – it was a very creative idea. Perhaps we could do the same at the Victory Hall for Dick Whittington, and use bags of cat litter as the floor covering? This may need some more thought...The ticket team and refreshments operatives also added to the fun by dressing up in costume as well. The hall is a bit smaller than the Victory Hall but has a lovely atmosphere, aided by the fact that they run a bar for the panto, and your esteemed theatrical reporter was able to imbibe a couple of tinctures of the ale that they call 'Otter' during the performance. An excellent idea!

The pantomime was excellent fun, and was sold out for the last 3 nights which is always rewarding for an anxious cast! The story was well written, including several local references which amused the audience. Not only did Torquil McNeilage co-write it, but also he played a brilliantly evil Abenezzer, ably supported by Tin Tak his idiot gang member (played by Tom Samson). Whilst my good lady and myself enjoyed the performance, we were somewhat affrighted when these 2 n'er do wells hid in front of the stage, just by our seats, and poor Mrs H was savagely 'boffed' on the head by the villain's club – later explaining it away with 'What do you expect if you sit in the front row?' Fair point – but Tin Tak, beware if you come to the Whimble panto!!

Torquil's co-writer was Trish Lenehan, who has also starred with the Whimbletons. Trish was great as Aladdin, and rolled her eyes constantly in support of her slow-witted character. Trish also had the 'luvvies challenge' of lying unconscious front stage for some 10 minutes whilst other business went on around her – and not a movement or breath was seen or heard. No change there, then!

Other temporary loans (or is it us borrowing from Talaton?) were the Colin family, with Paul doing a Middle Eastern version of 'Allo allo!!' Maddie was there as an assistant to a very sexy Widow Twankey (Darby Allen) and Joss did a sterling job as the lad carrying the boards that announced changes of scenes.

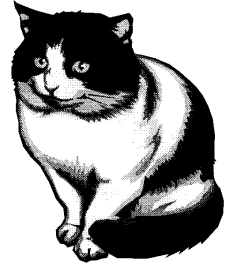
It was a great night out, and we both enjoyed it – it had a slightly more refined tone than the Whimble panto – but then we're a bit more earthy over here!!

See you all in February for Dick Whittington (dates are 19,20, 21).... be there, or be very afraid!!!

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THE THIRSTY FARMER

We would like to introduce ourselves to the village as the new landladies of The Thirsty Farmer. For those of you that haven't been into the pub, I'm Tanya and my trusty partner is the lovely Vicki.

Thank you to everybody who supported us through a crazy December! We are currently in the process of compiling our new menu and wine list, which is very exciting, so watch this space! We have also started opening all day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, which is proving popular.

For all you romantics, on Valentines Day we are offering Valentines Meal Specials followed by a disco. Bookings are now being taken.

Thanks and we hope to see you all soon!

Tanya and Vicki



WHIMPLE WI

Our December meeting was a Christmas party with games and a "Bring and Share" meal, the main entertainment being our own drama group, who performed a selection of sketches and musical items. The evening was attended by guests from West Hill W.I. and Escott W.I. It was a very happy atmosphere and everyone seemed to have a good time.

In January our scheduled speaker cancelled, but we were very fortunate to get an excellent replacement. A lady from Brixham, who entertained us with a delightful collection of songs, poems and anecdotes, all with a Devonshire theme. At both the December and January meetings we were pleased to welcome visitors and prospective new members.

At the end of January over 30 of our members will be enjoying a New Year meal at The Tumbling Weir Hotel. We are also looking forward to attending a theatre workshop and performance of "Private Lives" at the Northcott theatre, a Commonwealth meal, and various other events organised by the County federation.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors who are interested in joining our W.I. We meet in the Victory Hall on the Second Tuesday of every month. For any more details please contact me.

Ann Bowden. Secretary. Tel. 01404 823450



Jan Keslake

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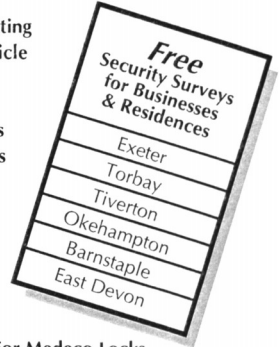
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EASTER - A TIME OF RESURRECTION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb is one of the truths which Christians declare and celebrate at Easter time. But you might well ask, 'What evidence is there that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead'?

Consider the following:

- Jesus' body had disappeared from the tomb. If the women who went to the tomb on Easter Sunday had gone to the wrong tomb the authorities would have quickly pointed out their mistake to them. If the authorities had removed the body they would have subsequently produced it in order to stop the spread of Christianity - they never did. If the disciples removed Jesus' body what possible motive could they have had for preaching that he was alive and being prepared to suffer and die for such a fairy-tale?
- Jesus was seen by many people. The Bible informs us of ten separate occasions when he appeared to different people, at different places.
- The change in the disciples behaviour. Immediately after Jesus died on the cross the disciples were despondent and disillusioned. Yet within a short period of time their actions were totally transformed. Once they had seen the risen Christ they became confident and courageous and fearlessly told everyone that Jesus is alive.
- The practice of 'tomb veneration' was common at the time. But there is no record whatsoever that Jesus' tomb was venerated. Was that because he wasn't there any more?

The evidence for Jesus' resurrection, when considered with an open mind, is undeniable. Indeed, so great is it that Lord Darling, a former Chief Justice of England, once declared there to be "such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true."

You are personally invited to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ at St Mary's church.

Rob Wilkinson



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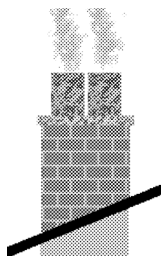
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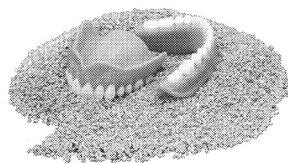
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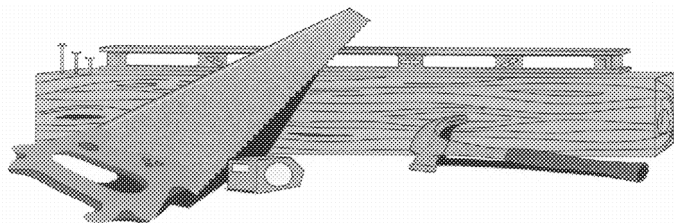


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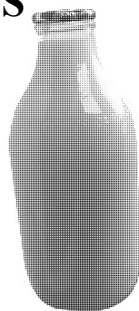
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WASSAIL 2004

based on hazy perceptions of the Trainee Associate raving reporter

The challenge this year for the History Society was how to avoid filling either village pub, on what is normally a very busy Saturday night, with crowds of people dressed in all sorts of garb, clutching instruments of noise and accompanied by highly trained musicians. So for months, Col Bob and his team have been sweating over a map of the village with lots of coloured pins, creating the perfect plan for 17th January. It all came together with an earlier meeting time and a different route, and a different end venue.

Thanks to Tanya and Vicky at the Thirsty for their help in the preparation of the Wassail cup, ably transported by The Trainee Associate raving reporter and Margaret Burrough to Littlemead Orchard. I understand that there was still some left over for the revellers despite these 2 having 'just a little taster'. Well done and thanks to Ray Horn for his support with the flaming torches and the bonfires.

The route, via Slewton Crescent, and then up to Knowle Cross was accompanied by the requisite thunderous noise to scare away the evil spirits, created by a crowd of about 150. The grand procession was led again by the Wassail Queen (Michelle Mallett) and Princess (Marie Batten) who did the necessary with the apples, salutations and toast at each orchard stop.

The second stop was at Jim Chard's orchard, and again, more Wassail cup was served (thanks Jim, for preparing that). I believe that the fashion comments from 2003 have been taken to heart, and newly created smocks were proudly worn by Alan and Gill, Roger and Col Bob. So what about the hours that Yvonne has spent on her hands and knees down at the stream, beating the white lollipop lady's coat with stones, only to be told, 'Sorry my dear, I've got a new outfit to wear'. I'm surprised that the poor lady didn't put a contract out for him with the Wassail gun team!

The Wassail crowd sported all sorts of adorned headgear to help with the general atmosphere and Pam Scanlan was heard to boast that she had taken advice from the Ascot milliner, David Schilling. I think she just wanted another mention in this mag!

The procession finished at the Cricket club, and more liquid refreshment was available to slacken the dreaded thirst that arises from a good Wassail 'mumble' with the old songs. Music was provided by the mighty rock band, fresh from their 40 Slips world tour, Slack Ma Girdle, who blasted out the decibels on some of their heavier numbers. The grateful fans feasted on apple cake and bread and cheese as they supped their 'cider chasers'.

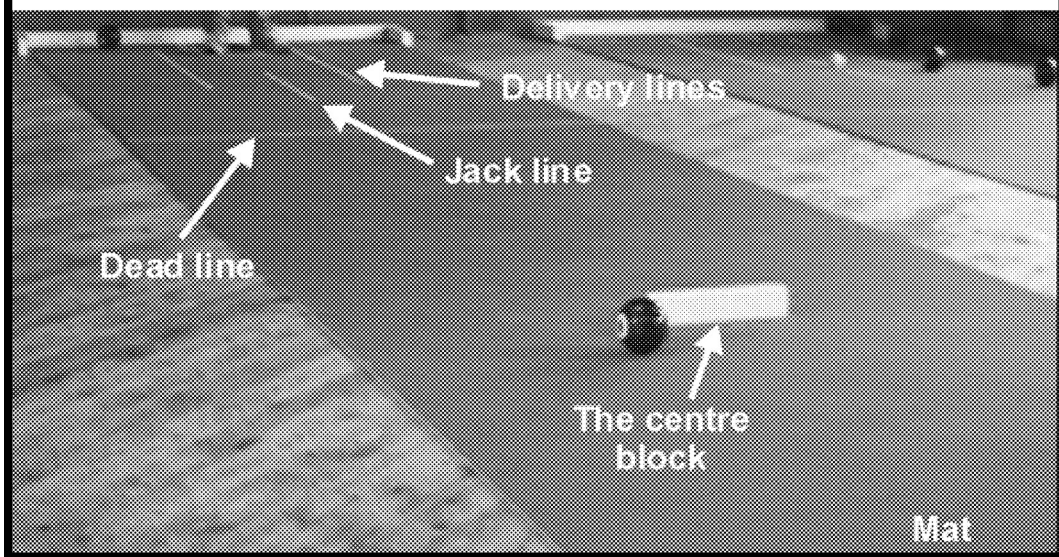
So a good night out...here's to next year!!

Whimble Victory Hall

SHORT MAT BOWLS

An introductory session of short mat bowls will take place at the Whimble Victory Hall on Wednesday 25th February commencing at 7.30pm. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Short Mat Bowls is a scaled-down version of indoor bowls. It is played on a mat about 40ft long by 6 ft wide. The game uses the same bowls as the more familiar game played on grass. On the mat there is a centre block about 1ft long. When a bowler delivers a bowl, it must pass the dead line, without touching the centre block and get as close to the jack as possible.



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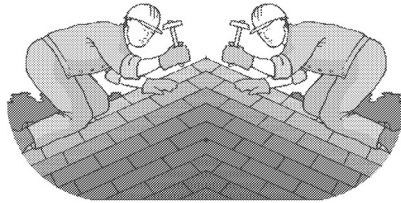
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BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

ALSO ASK ABOUT OUR WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

ADULTSWIMMING LESSONS, AQUAFIT

*CHILDREN'S SWIMMING LESSONS, MOTHER & TODDLER SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S PARTIES
SAUNA SOLARIUM*

*AND NOT FORGETTING OUR 'NATURE'S WAY' BEAUTY CLINIC WITH A FULL RANGE OF
TREATMENTS INCLUDING MESSAGES, WAXING, AROMATHERAPY, FACIALS, MANICURES ETC.*

TELEPHONE NOW ON: **01404 822196**

OR CALL IN AND HAVE A LOOK ROUND!

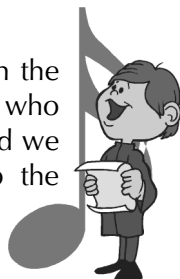
NEW YEARS HONOURS 2003/4

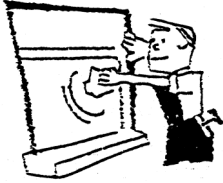
Sad old fool that I am, I always trawl through the lists of who has been awarded what, as I find it a rich seam of wonderful names and fascinating occupations. Some of the entries for 2004 that I enjoyed/wondered at included –

- Clouston Bewley (Poppy) Lady Cooksey, services to fencing... *should PRS be on the look out for competition?*
- Professor Judith Wordsworth George ...*super name!*
- Eric Blakeley, services to mountaineering, sport and charity in Jersey....*excuse me, but what mountains are there in Jersey?*
- Lawrence Bruno Nero Dallaglio....*such classical middle names!*
- Ian George Longrigg Gibson...
- William James MacKay , artificial inseminator, Genus, services to agricultural community....*good use of the word 'service'!*
- George Worsnop Smith, services to flower arranging
- Elizabeth (Wendy Patricia Jones) (Mrs Squires) Steel ...*will you make your mind up what you want to be called!*
- Mabel Aurette Swift
- Ralph Shillito Thompson
- William Bruce Stewart Tosh
- Audrey Totty...services to women in rural communities...*any help needed there?*
- John Bannerman Macpherson
- Gerhard Michael Landmark
- senior coachman, Royal Mews
- heraldic artist to the Royal Mews
- woodman, Crown estate
- stalker, Balmoral estate...*you'd get arrested in Whimble for that!*
- upholsteress, Royal Household...*so who needs to be upholstered?*

ORCHARD HARMONY

It seems a long time now since our Christmas Concert on the 11th December, but a huge thank you to all those who attended – it was wonderful to see the Church so full, and we are very happy to have been able to donate £259 to the Church Tower Fund. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success.





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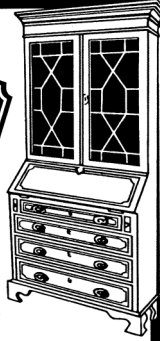
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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

It hardly seems five minutes since we are recovering from the millennium celebrations and here we are planning events for 2004, how time flies when you are enjoying yourself! Again this year we are hoping to stage all our usual events.

Following the success of last year's flower arranging demonstration, for our winter coffee evening we have invited our flower show judge, Jill White to give us more hints and advice on flower arranging. This has been arranged for Monday 8th March and will again include tips on flower arranging with practical demonstrations. So for all you budding flower arrangers, and all the experts, this is an excellent opportunity to pick up some useful hints for this year's show. This will be held in the Victory Hall at 7.30pm.

Future editions of the News will contain information of the other events for the year, but for those of you who want to start planning early, the annual Flower Show will be on Saturday 14th August 2004.

Paul Wilson,
Hon. Secretary.



Whimple Over 60's Social Club Activities

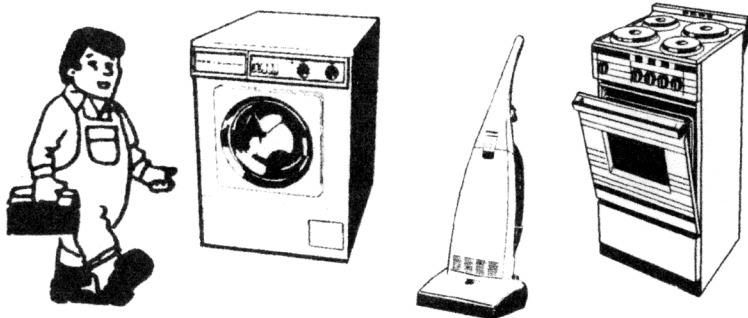
- Feb 17th Speaker—the wonderful world of water
March 2nd Flower arranging demonstration by Mrs M.Watkins
March 16th Speaker—Care Direct
April 27th Trip to Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean

For full details ... Contact	Secretary	Beryl Iball	822905
	Outings secretary	Ena Northcott	822228
	Membership secretary	Rachael Owen	823223

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STREET LIGHTING A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

Good street lighting is a very important feature in community safety, and it is a proven fact that they contribute to community and road safety.

I am sure on many occasions we have all noted that a light or sign was not illuminated as it should, and the next time we pass we again note it is still not working. Devon County Council wants to know when a street light or illuminated road sign is faulty.

If the lamp has failed then the sooner it is repaired the safer we all are in Whimple. The Electric company gets paid for the energy, whether the light or sign is lit or not.

Although the County Council carries out routine checks on street lighting and road signs, they also want the public to help spot any faults and report them quickly.

If anyone notices a light or sign not working please contact the fault line by telephoning **08705 561851** and help to improve local safety. **Anyone can report faults.**



When calling, the person notifying the fault will be asked for:

- the town/village
- the street/road involved
- the exact location
- the reference number of the street light or illuminated road sign.

There is a reference number on some columns at eye level.

Many of the presents bought at Christmas may have serial numbers on them as a security measure. A reminder that it is good practice to make a note of the serial number and file it away safely. Also don't forget to postcode items, marking pens are readily available at stationers and cost less than £1.00.

Don't forget, the number for NON URGENT POLICE CALLS **08452 777 444**

Clocks go forward an hour on Sunday 28th March at 2.00 am.

John Munslow 01404 823456

Organisations in Whimble

Whimble Parish Council

Chairman: Sara Randall Johnson 822524

Clerk: Mrs Gerri Turner, Penraddon, Hand and Pen 823385

St. Mary's Church

Contact: Rev. Rob Wilkinson 822521

Devon County Councillor

Mr. R. Giles, 14 Winters Lane, OSM. EX11 1AR 813387

East Devon Councillor

Andrew Dinnis 850363

Whimble County Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. D. Brice 822584

P.T.F.A. Chair: Adrian Hewitt 1 Church Rd 823459

Whimble History Society

Chairman: Richard Webber 822038

Secretary: Roger Smith 822244

Whimble Mothers Union

Mrs. D. Rastall Killigarth Church Road 822486

Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group

Chair: Liz Camp, Brook House, The Square 823392

Playleader: Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road 822168

Whimble Womens Institute

Secretary: Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green 823450

Whimble Over Sixties Club

Mrs B. Iball 11 Rectory Close 822905

Whimble Recreation Trust

Knowle Cross Sports Ground. Mr P. Garraff, Luppit 891206

Whimble Village Produce Association.

Chairman: Mr. A. Bratt, Rockwell, Talaton 822437

Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club

Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm 822257

Whimble Football Club

Chairman: Geoff Delves, 10 Elizabeth Close 823258

Whimble Tennis Club

Secretary: T. A. Lang 822512

Treasurer: J. Hughes 822659

Whimble Cricket Club

Mr. R.J.Smith 822244

Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee

Secretary: Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green 822262

Booking Sec: Teresa Daniels 823169

Whimble Post Office

Gordon & Heather Owen 822359

Whimbletons

Emma Palmer 823083

Neighbourhood Watch

John Munslow, 44, Slewton Crescent 823456

St. Mary's Bellringers

Captain: Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road 822873

Whimble Scout Group

Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking): Alex Spry 822844

The Whimble News Team

Editor

Ed Hitchcock 823194

Production

Bob Scanlan 822262

Vivienne Leonard 822415

Anni Hindle 822025

Delivery

Ed & Nicky Hitchcock 823194

Advertising

Miles Leonard 822415

Pam Scanlan 822262

Community diary

Angela & Peter Smith 822828

Treasurer

Miles Leonard 822415

Lynda Trevena 822876



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