

Whimble News



Feb/March 2005

What's on in Whimple

February

13th	Sclub11	Scout Hut	10.45am
15th	Over 60's club talk (see page 36 for details)	Victory Hall	
17-19th	Wimpleton's pantomime	Victory Hall	
19th	Parish Council Open Air Meeting	The Square	11.00am
26th	Impact pancake party	Scout Hut	10.45am
27th	Sclub11	Scout Hut	10.45am
28th	Over 65's Christmas party meeting	Victory Hall	7.30pm.

March

13th	Sclub11	Scout Hut	10.45am
15th	Over 60's club talk (see page 36 for details)	Victory Hall	
16th	Tennis Club AGM	Gatehouse Rull Farm	7.30pm

April

10th	Sclub11	Scout Hut	10.45am
11th	Sclub11	Scout Hut	10.45
24th	Annual Parish Church Meeting	Victory Hall	7.30pm

St Mary's Church

See page 22 for Mothering Sunday and Easter services

Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	All Age Service
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sclub11 in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Service
4th Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sclub11 in the Scout Hut
5th Sunday	11.00am	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 Lynda Trevena on 822876 or e-mail lynda_amelia@hotmail.com

Ed the Ed

I couldn't just launch into an editorial for this edition without acknowledging the tremendous loss of life in South East Asia from the tsunami, and to recognise the years of work that will follow, as regions try to rebuild; it can never be the same. It made me feel very small, insignificant and helpless in the scheme of things as I watched the pictures of destruction. To balance that, I have also been warmed by the amazing response from the Western world. We also have a wonderful response from some friends in the village...read on to find out!!

I hope that you can enjoy this edition – I know that I keep banging my gums together about the number of pages that appears to increase edition on edition – we knew we had struck the limit for the Xmas edition when Kevin the printer told us that he had only just managed to staple the magazine together with its grand total of 64 pages!!

This edition is brought to you by the newly expanded editorial team – as a result of our advert for fresh blood on the committee, we are delighted to welcome Naomi Glanville and Julie Millward. I hope that they enjoy their time with us – they both offer us different levels and types of experience, plus a real interest and enthusiasm for the village. Welcome!!

There is a real pantomime feel to this edition – a report on the Talaton panto – where Rob Wilkinson was spotted, laughing and enjoying himself, (will he dare to grace the Whimpletons?) and more advertising excitement for Goldilocks and the three bears in Whimple. Ticket sales have been fast and furious; it is said that ticket touts may be outside the doors on Saturday night, tickets are in such demand.

I hear that some people thought that I was being too harsh on Wendy down at the shop, with my remarks about queuing for her to finish her conversations. Graham and I have put our heads together and we do accept that Wendy can also be a good listener. So far we have 2 occasions, on April 27th and September 6th 2004. If you have seen any others, please let us know,

In our panto, for a change, I am playing Goldilocks' mother – why I couldn't be Goldilocks I do not know, as I have age and beauty on my side. I had to walk up Church Road for one of my fittings by that wonderful creative wardrobe mistress, Carol Hart. Carol had asked me to wear sufficient padding around my top half, so I had on a bra stuffed with socks under my jumper, and it was only when I was half way up the road, that I wondered what would happen if I was run over and the ambulance man ripped open my coat to administer some CPR, only to findthat would have made good news!!!

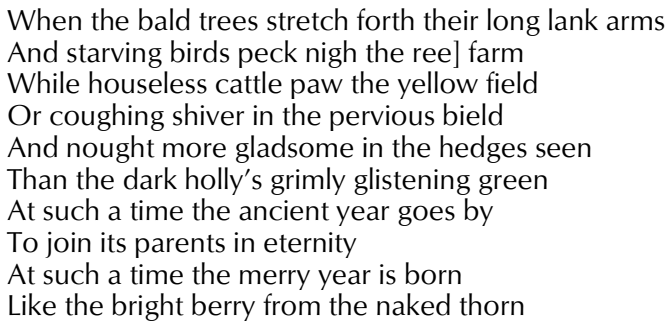
If you would like to contribute to these pages of world shattering events, grasp your pen and paper by 4th March when you need to have left your magical prose with Jim and Alison at the PO, or send it through the ether to Pam's bit of rough, bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk.

Hope to see and hear you at the panto!!!!!!

Ed H

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout



When the bald trees stretch forth their long lank arms
And starving birds peck nigh the ree] farm
While houseless cattle paw the yellow field
Or coughing shiver in the pervious bield
And nought more gladsome in the hedges seen
Than the dark holly's grimly glistening green
At such a time the ancient year goes by
To join its parents in eternity
At such a time the merry year is born
Like the bright berry from the naked thorn

In this poem Hartley Coleridge, son of our great Ottery St Mary poet, speaks of hope in the New Year. The cold dark Winter brings a fresh start, and a chance of renewal. As we approach another year, I am sure most of us ponder what's in store. Will we find that that there will be many happy days or will our journey be difficult. All of us are different

As they say in French "Vive la difference", and yet in some ways we are all the same in our aspirations in seeking out what is best.

I enjoy the Winter months for seeing natural patterns in the countryside. The leafless trees are silhouetted against the sky which some days is dark grey and then another day is clear blue. The sky at night is another of the things I have great pleasure in observing. The moon and the stars have shone very brightly lately. There was a superb full moon on Boxing Day which added a sparkle to all the bright lights and decoration in The Square which really looked at its best this year.

We are all sensitive to light and in January we see a gradual if slight increase of day light. We are all at our happiest when there is plenty of sunlight and we throw open our windows to let the sunrays warm up our rooms. I notice the seasonal changes which are still very clearly marked in the countryside. In Winter we like to sit by our fires with a certain lethargy unknown to us in the other seasons. Perhaps like in the animal world we find it is the season for hibernation. 'A sad Tale's best for Winter' wrote Shakespeare. Very soon I hope Spring will be with us. Shoots of crocuses are already peeping out. We will have longer days of light and our spirits will be lightened too.

On February the second is the Feast of Candlemass when candles for church use are blessed. It is also the day of the Purification of Mary and also the presentation of the Infant Jesus in The Temple. Celebrating light has always taken place during the darker season, probably because it gives mankind a sense of hope even in the darkest days.

I am grateful for each dawn and each day seek and try to do some kindness. I hope to spread some happiness wearing a twinkle in my eyes. It is a tonic that costs nothing. If we count our blessings I am sure that we will be surprised by the number we count each day. The more I say thank you the more nice things seem to happen.

Time is – the present moment well employed

Time was – is past thou canst not enjoy

Time future – is not and must never be

Time present is the only time for me.

In 2005, let us live for the day “Carpe Diem”, saying the only time I have to give is now. Instead of asking more of life, let us be content with what we have. I sincerely hope 2005 will be a year of great contentment for all of us.

From the seed of contentment
a harvest of peace is reaped
Break the sod with the staff of love
that the damp of envy may not remain beneath
Fortify yourself with contentment
for this is an impregnable fortress
Because from the seed of contentment
a harvest of peace is reaped.

Devon **Air Ambulance**



Carol Singing on Christmas Eve



Thanks to all who came and supported this annual festive event, particularly Julia Green who is so great at getting everyone to join in, and what a fantastic impromptu children's choir we had. Thanks also to the musicians - several new ones this year, hopefully you enjoyed it enough to join us again next Christmas.

The collection in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance made £185.20, so thanks to all for their generosity.

Barbara & Tom Lambert.

Whimpe Post Office News



Important Changes to E111 forms,

All old style forms expired on 31st December 2004.

New forms will be issued on an individual, rather than a family basis.

Please call in for an application form – new E111's can be issued on the spot.

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The Post Office has introduced a new 'Home Phone' service.

If you are an existing BT customer come in to the branch to find out how much you could save.

~~~~~

Game Licenses are now issued from this Branch.

~~~~~

Don't forget Valentines Day

Flowers can be ordered now in time for delivery on 14th February



And Mothering Sunday is just around the corner on March 6th.

~~~~~

Thanking you all for your continuing Support.

Jim & Alison



ALTAR FLOWERS

There has been a long tradition of having flowers on the altar of our lovely parish church of St Mary's. We are looking for people to help continue this custom.

Many of the people who arrange the flowers on the altar use the opportunity to remember a significant date in their life that means a great deal to them. However, other people place flowers on the altar just to make sure that the church looks attractive.

There is a rota in the church, by the hymn books as you come in, showing the available dates. If you are interested, please fill in the dates that you would like, or alternately, contact me for more information.

Rosemary Horrell 822013

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Tim Wright

FROM WHIMPLE TO

an update on the

The electrician is still wiring and wiring. . . the trouble is he turns up, gets a phone call from someone who needs an emergency job and we don't see him for two days.. It is soul destroying. The plumber is much the same. He came, he vanished, he came again, he put the village out of water, he repaired the pipe, but left us looking at a trench for three weeks, so we couldn't get a car in or out of the drive. He turned up again after many frantic phone calls, only to inform us with the help of many hand movements that there are delays everywhere on ordering bathroom suites, especially as Madame wants such an unusual design! I think not. All I've chosen was a plain white bath and basin. By French standards of curls, twirls and bows it was perhaps unusual.

Madame could always go and choose her own in a DIY shop and buy it there and then. No time wasted, I raced out to the local Bricomarche and chose a very French basin in white and an even more French bath. The problem was I couldn't get them all in our car. So one day a basin., next day a bath in the car.. hurray. . such excitement! No excuse now Monsieur le Plombier! Wrong. Oui Madame, mais j 'ai beaucoup de travail, so now he was too busy to plumb it in! How very trying. He has promised August so maybe by Christmas! C'est Ta vie en France.

Meanwhile on a more cheerful note, we've had a friend of our electrician who was an expert on tree cutting. The house is surrounded by huge conifers and one or two rooms resembled the black hole of Calcutta. Well the local tree surgeon arrived (his normal job is working in an ice cream factory) with a hired chain-saw, which he had obviously not handled before, and, yes you've guessed it, no ladder. All we have is a long roof ladder. Well imagine someone with a chain saw running, climbing a wobbly ladder up a very slim and tall conifer with me trying to keep the ladder safe. Huge branches crashing down around my ears.. The 'tree surgeon' balancing on one leg just to reach that little bit further and me imagining the tree surgeon crashing down as well with me underneath it all with the chain saw still running. Paul is hiding inside in total disbelief that all of this is actually happening with health and safety and all that.

Suddenly I had a brainwave, borrowed two work-horses from a plasterer and with some old shelves- voila a tower or something like it. The next fear was that the trees could easily fall the wrong side of our fence on top of the neighbours two cars. So a large rope was tied around the tree and pulled by Paul and me to prevent une avalanche dans le jardin du voisin. After two days our nerves had suffered more than we can take and divorce was once again on the cards!

THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

Peryers 'en France'

So far we've had five Finnish guests, two weeks of two French families and then some Germans. Where are you Brits and Dutch folks then?

One day I went to our local branch of the Credit Agricole to pay in some money. Tres simple you would think? Non! Because our branch is in Caen, they required a branch number. They had no record of a branch number even though it was the same organisation. I suggested they look at their computer but I had said the wrong thing. Madame this is France, we have no record.

So I left the bank, or tried to, as in France we have a system where when you enter you go through a vault with a lot of button pressing; after that more button pressing and then you are in. Same procedure when you leave, I thought. Non! I got stuck in between two elderly French ladies who only spoke Occitain to make matters worse and we couldn't go forwards or backwards. We started banging the glass but as the glass is bullet proof no-one heard us. After a little panic attack from the old lady and a nervous laugh from me we decided to wait until someone else tried to get in.. bearing in mind it was nearly closing time, we could be there for a long time. Suddenly our frantic hand movements were seen and we were rescued by a kind bank lady.

Back home I get on my bike and cycle up a very steep hill in 35°C to go back to the bank to inform them I could not find the local bank code. So there I was with my 500 Euro note (a ridiculously large note some one had given us as payment for our rental villa). Very few local shops accept 50 Euro notes, let alone 500. Enfin, having been told there was nothing they could do, she suggested she could break down the large note into 50 euro notes. Hurray, common sense at last. To my absolute amazement she rummaged in what looked like an old shoe box under the counter where all notes were thrown in, and handed me money in 50, 20 and 10 euro notes in a bundle that resembled a monopoly game payment, all mixed up. Not very professional.

Today I took Paul for a walking tour of the village - he needed the exercise you see. So we toured the local church which only has one service a month; the local bar and the local sights. We met a very interesting chap who is multilingual, aged 85 and had the very first transplant in France. He lived in Holland for three years as a child and knew both my parents' families!

Au revoir. As people may be favouring Europe rather than Asia for their holidays, you can find out about our flat by E-mailing us on Janineperyer@hotmail.com



The Whimbletons Present
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February 2005

Thursday 17th 6.30pm

Friday 18th & Saturday 19th 7.30pm



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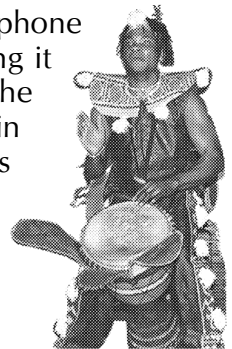
BIG NIGHT IN! - Villages in Action

ANGATA – The Music of Mali

Miracle Theatre – 20, 000 Leagues Under The Sea

Whimple residents have recently been able to experience two cultural events organised by Big Night In/Villages In Action.

In November, Angata, a truly outstanding group of musicians and dancers from Mali performed in the Village Hall. The drumming was amazing, and those in the audience who had attended the drumming workshop earlier in the day were able to show off what they had learnt too. Very impressive. Unforgettable was the sight and sound of the man who played the balafone – a type of xylophone with hollowed out gourds underneath – whilst holding it in his teeth and running up and down the length of the Hall. (Not a sight I would ever have expected to see in Whimple Village Hall, but I now realise anything is possible in this extraordinary multi-functional building). By the end of the evening virtually everyone was on their feet and singing. The sheer energy, skill and good humour of these musicians was a joy to experience.



In January, we plummeted “20,000 Leagues Under The Sea” with the Miracle Theatre who are based in Cornwall. This play succeeded in being a bizarre comedy whilst also making some serious points about our fishing industry and our world. The inspired use of audio-visuals, with images projected onto the backdrop, provided an exciting and unusual set. My one reservation was the ‘suitable for over 7s’ label, with the implication that this was children’s theatre; some of the issues and jokes I think were more suitable for over 13s!

Both of these shows would not have been out of place – and indeed have played – in major theatres in Exeter or Plymouth. Yet they have also toured rural villages thanks to the support from Villages In Action. As with so many things in rural areas, it’s a case of ‘use it or lose it’. These sort of events really do need local support to make them happen and to continue. So look out for the next Big Night In!

Katy Howard

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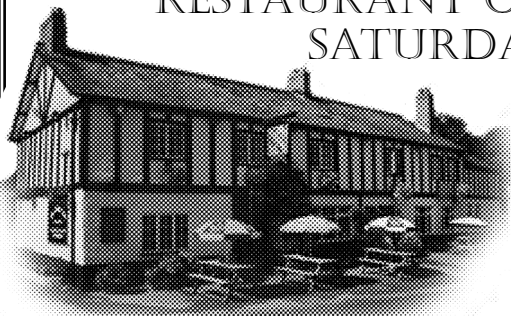
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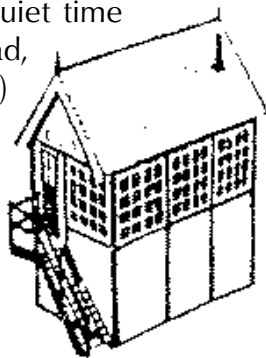
"Mellifera" Church Road
Whimple, Devon. EX5 2TF
Tel/Fax: 01404 823019

From the crossing keepers hut

The Knees would like to report that he has had a quiet time (apart from at home where the children have had, passed on and now recovered from chicken pox!) and therefore had nothing really to report. But they will be out and about for the opening of the extended building at Feniton crossing (due to be finished in February but more likely August!).

Cheers for now

Alex



WHIMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs D E Brice – Headteacher,

Whimple Primary School, Whimple, Exeter, Devon EX5 2TS

Tel 01404 822584

COMMUNITY GOVERNOR VACANCY

Whimple Primary School has a vacancy for a Community Governor. If you feel you have some experience (ideally from the business community) that would be of benefit to the School, please contact the Headteacher at the above address giving some background details about yourself. Thank you.

BOOK GROUP

Whimple Book Group is now up and running. So far we have been to sunny Botswana with “The No 1 Ladies Detective Agency”, and into the chilling future world of “The Handmaid’s Tale”. This month we are reading “The Photograph” by Penelope Lively.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact **Katy Howard** on 823038.





Veterinary Clinic, Whimble

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DECOMPOSITION NEWS

We held our first AGM on 19th, and Peter Bowden was elected as a Director, so your garden 'waste' is well represented within the village now.....We have also finished laying down hardcore tracks at the site so the Tipper can access the windrows. Both these improvements were financed from the CRED fund that exists for community groups setting up environmental projects. (The hardcore was in fact local recycled crushed concrete and makes a perfectly good road, it's cheaper than quarried material and doesn't leave holes in the ground!) The Tipper is more civilized than a tractor and trailer, but surprisingly not quite as agile in tight corners, so we might have to prune the mirrors!...

We are often asked why we cannot take kitchen waste. We would actually very much like to, but unfortunately it's governed by the animal health regs. which exist to prevent the spread of certain diseases. This means that it cannot be windrowed with garden waste, but has to be composted within special containers where specified temperature targets can be met. The regs. do not affect home composting, however, so do carry on using your own compost methods for this interesting material!

Please call me if you would like our general purpose compost delivered. (£2.50/ bag) For those who are interested in the technical aspects of growing I have an analysis available.

Finally our next collections are Tuesdays 15th Feb & 1st March and so on.

Hugh Roberts 822651

A BEGGING LETTER

Dear wonderful people of Whimble. I have been asked to collect raffle prizes for the Whimbletons panto this year and am asking for your help.

If you have anything in your cupboard or wardrobe that could be used as a prize PLEASE may I have it. I am happy to collect or you could leave a carrier bag outside my door (preferably with a donation in it)

Many thanks, Kathy McL

17 Dince Hill Close or phone: 822096

NEW YEAR AT THE THIRSTY FARMER

When I heard that the theme this year was going to be 'Grease', I immediately went for the simple plan of buying some overalls and smearing my face with some dark, oily mixture...until I had to visit the stage shop in Ottery for a panto wig. And, gentle reader, I saw the finest Elvis style wig, and it spoke to me, my dear, it said 'Buy me and I won't tell your wife'. And so I waltzed out of that emporium financially lighter but in a state of hirsute pride, thinking what an excellent purchase that had been. I combined it with a red jacket that I had bought in a moment of weakness and bad taste years ago, and never worn (sometimes it does pay to be a squirrel for things like fancy dress) – plus another great purchase from the same era, some white slip on shoes, finished off with a my first ever pair of proper styled glasses.

It was only when I entered the pub on New Years Eve that I discovered another 30 people had the same idea with the Elvis wig. So much for being an individual – that reminded me of being a teenager all over again!! There was young Barry Roache slumped on a bar stool, mean, moody and magnificent in a wig that had the biggest quiff in the world, adding some 2 feet to his height. He wore a tremendous pair of 70s gold sunglasses to complete the look.

We had a team from the Pink Ladies sporting very snazzy pink tops with scrolled lettering on the back – a lot of planning had gone into that, and my favourites for the night, Anne and Julie with their Blue Peter creations, which were conical hats with loo rolls artistically added in patterned rows, and sprayed silver.

It was a great night, with lots of good music from David Warwick that kept everyone on their feet. Vicki, Tanya and the team did an excellent job, and again, the ticket idea kept numbers at a reasonable level, and ensured that it wasn't silly to get a drink of lemonade, which is what most people were drinking.....I believe!!!!

Ed H

Waves of Whimble

Ladies and gents hair stylists with over 30 years experience

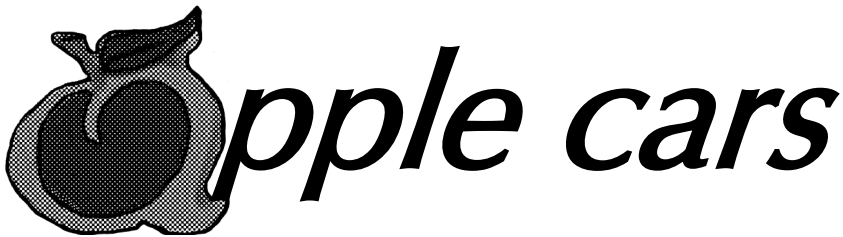
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Heather and Gordon Owen



Thanks for publishing the idea of a present for the Owens in Whimple News. £170 was the grand total and Sarah Randall-Johnson as Parish Council Chair presented a cheque for this sum to Gordon and Heather.

Geoffery Gardner



To Whimple Village

We would like to say thank you so much for the generous and touching donations made upon our retirement. Our plan is to live here in Whimple, in a bungalow in Dince Hill Close after renovations.

We thought of spending the money on something for our future home, but in view of the recent Asian earthquake thought that there were more pressing priorities so have made a donation to the Tsunami appeal - we trust that you approve.

Our thanks, love and very best.

Best wishes to you all,

From **Gordon & Heather Owen**

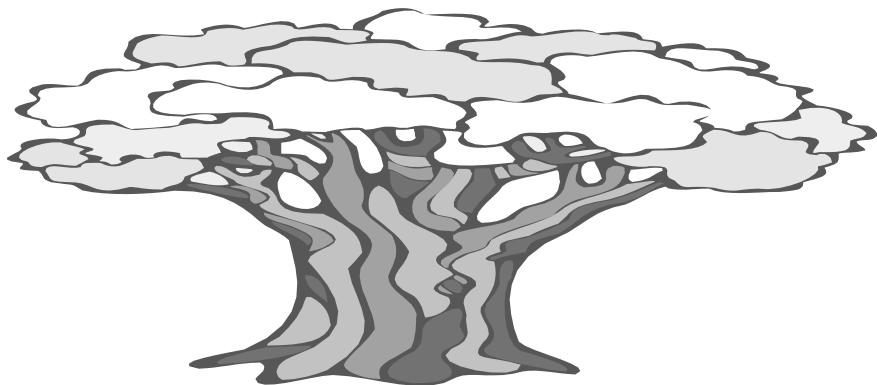
LADIES OF THE VILLAGE

Once again, what a wonderful party the Over 65's Christmas Party was, very rewarding the 'phone calls, cards and messages we received. A big **thank you** to anyone who helped in any way. The food was delicious and the entertainment by the 'Orchard Harmony' first class.

The date for this year's party is Friday, 2nd December 2005 so make a note of it! A SPECIAL MEETING has been arranged for Monday, 28th February of the committee at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm to make arrangements for this year's event. The helpers and anyone who is interested in helping in anyway are invited to attend. We do need more help. Your attendance would be appreciated.

Lucy Smith

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Whimble Stores

Dear Whimble Residents,

Due to recent developments in the village I must sadly start to use that most common phrase that seems to be heard most places now.

USE IT OR LOSE IT must now be put forward for Whimble Stores. With ever increasing running costs and also fewer sales we are unable to sustain a downward trend. Basically we need for you to start doing some shopping locally even if it is only a pint of milk it would be a start. There are enough people in Whimble to keep this shop running but only if you all use it on a fairly regular basis. For the people who do use the shop I extend a big thank you and I hope that we will be able to continue to serve you in the future.

Over the years Whimble has lost many businesses (35 counted so far) the largest being Whiteways Cider Factory then there was Webbers The Corner Shop the Butchers the Auction rooms and so on.

I try to not operate on a take only attitude and do my best to make sure we put something back into the Village mainly by way of the Fireworks night which has turned out to be quite a major event for Whimble in just a few short years. At this point I must thank those businesses and my staff that have also contributed to make the fireworks night as successful as it is. I hope that they have been supported themselves by the people of Whimble because without them there would be no more fireworks nights either.

Back to the shop and I must thank my staff who do an outstanding, fantastic, and terrific job not only do they do the shop work they also act as pharmacy staff , route planners , theatre staff and numerous other tasks which they take all in their stride unfortunately for which they do not receive many thanks, much better to be a paper girl or boy !!!!! or maybe even to work in a restaurant.! For those who did show your gratitude I can assure you they were absolutely thrilled.

Well the main reason for this letter is to point out to you that if you don't use the village shop then there is a very strong possibility that it will become another entry on the gone list and unfortunately making Whimble a less desirable location to live, as it will not have the luxury of close at hand shopping. The knock on effect of that will mean lower property values for selling.

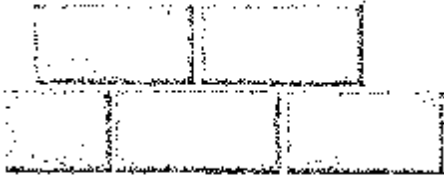
So the fate of the shop is in your hands - either you use it or it will be gone.

Graham

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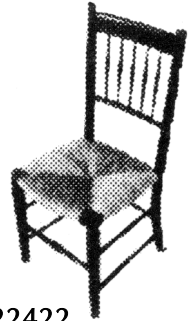
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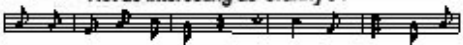
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Dear Reader,

When you read the editorial in the last edition of Whimple News, you might have been concerned that certain ladies in the village would have taken offence at ED H's personal comments about us.

At first we must admit we were a little shocked and could not imagine what led to such chauvinistic remarks. We have given the matter some thought and concluded that his only motivation must be an innate jealousy of the ladies concerned.!

After all he no doubt longs to have a wide circle of friends who actually enjoy the time spent chatting with him, rather than people who feel they ought to be polite!

What is more he would love to have a full head of hair which would be gaily tousled by the wind as he drove through the village in a genuine enthusiast's sports car rather than a family saloon car which has a soft top - in a vain effort to look trendy!

Jealousy is a dangerous emotion! If he is not VERY careful, our sad editor could find himself donning ladies' clothes in public in order to be noticed.!

No offence has been taken by either of us. In fact we have rather enjoyed the extra attention.

Wendy and Pam



TALATON PANTO 2005

'The man who wouldn't be king'

One wet and windy Friday night, gentle reader, the current Mrs H and I ventured out into the dark lanes that link Whimble with the village that is on the edge of the world as we know it, Talaton. Tempted yet again by the promise of a fine pint of Otter, and a glass of the Cabernet Plonk, made with locally trodden grapes, plus the potential of a fine evening of entertainment locally produced, directed, scripted and everything else, we risked life and limb, highwaymen and close encounters of the worst kind, to take our seats with bated breath,

Torquil McNeilage had written another fine script, bringing in the titles of Beatles' songs in a variety of...is subtle the right word here...no...in a variety of groaningly extravagant examples, with a wonderful mix of words Shakespearean. Torquil also played yet another 'baddie' in this pantomime, as Goodnight Jack, the assassin. Torquil does a brilliant baddie and takes the leering look to extremes, scaring some of the older ladies in the audience....or were they just coming to the boil?. Trish Lenehan, who has done some great work with us Whimbletons, was Michael, a young foolish king, and made full use of her voice and facial expressions to give us a thoroughly professional performance. I love watching Trish, because she has such a talent for panto, and brings lots of enthusiasm to her parts...in the nicest possible way. And she has better legs than me.

The story ducked and dived its way around the Talaton hall stage...which is a challenge in itself, as it is economical with space. I think there was one scene where so many people were on stage, it must have taken half an hour to get them all off again so that the panto could continue! It certainly makes me appreciate the Whimble stage size, where some performers have been lost for days trying to find their way off. The Talaton set designers had also done a superb job, especially in the scene for the Weird Wood where they had created a very realistic gnarled old tree trunk, and made it very spooky with appropriate lighting...me... scared....never!

Other Whimbletons helping out in the cast were the Colin family - Maddie, Paul and Joss who of course, were magnificent in their respective roles....and never got confused with which panto lines they had to say, as they are all 3 in the panto in Whimble this February. I don't know how Paul Colin does it because he also does a lot of the stage/set design work for both pantos ...is he mad or what?

The size of the cast was amazing, and it was great to see that younger blood had been encouraged to tread the boards in front of their peers and friends, which takes some courage. When you are old and battered like most of the Whimbletons, no one has that fear...we just hope that the old tickers get us to the end of the evening!

So in summary, another excellent night out in Talaton, and we look forward to visiting the other side of the planet again next year.

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S Club 11

&

IMPACT

On Sunday 19th Dec, S Club 11 and Impact groups lead an amazing **Special Christmas Celebration!!** Lots of people enjoyed an extraordinary mix of music, drama, dance, rap, carols, and much, *much* more! Then on Sunday 9th Jan, 25 kids and youth celebrated

S Club's First Birthday Party!

And still the fun continues...SClub (5 -10 years) & Impact (10-14 years) are due to meet in the Scout Hut at 10:45am-12:15pm on Sunday mornings. Please join us – even if you've never been before or haven't been for a while!

Forthcoming dates are: Feb 13th, 27th, Mar 13th, Apr 10th, 24th.

Also Impact Club Night: Sat Feb 26th Pancake Party.

For more info contact Phil or Rebecca Dominy on 822163 or dominypr@hotmail.com or visit www.geocities.com/dominyclan/SClub11.html

New Informal Monthly Celebration Service!

Following on from the success of the special Christmas Celebration Service in Whimple Church on Dec 19th, there will be informal services on the first Sunday of each month @11am. A music group and a number of different people will take part in the new-style format.

Sunday 6th Feb – Launching Celebration Service

Sunday 6th Mar – Mothering Celebration Service

Sunday 3rd April – Easter Celebration Service



WHIMPLE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday this year falls on 6th March and as usual, this ever-popular service when children (both young and old) present posies to their mothers will be held at 11am in St Mary's. It is a lovely service and we look forward to welcoming you to it.

St Mary's Church - Easter Services

24th March Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm

27th March Easter Sunday - Holy Communion at 8am and 11am

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM takes place on Monday 11th April (7.15pm for 7.30pm) in the Committee Room of the Victory Hall.



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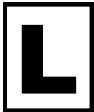


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WHIMPLE WEATHER - 2004

	2004	2003
Rainfall	35.32 inches	29.47 inches
Rain fell on	165 days	153 days
No of days gales/strong winds	43 days	27 days
No of days 32 ^o f or below	28 days	47 days
Snow fell on	5 days	2 days
Thunder heard on	6 days	5 days
Wettest month	October - 5.9 inches	November - 4.42 inches
Driest month	September - 1.6 inches	August - 0.52 inch
Wettest day	22.6.04) 18.12.04) -1.6 inches	30.10.03 - 0.92 inch
Hottest day	8 and 16.6.04 - 87 ^o f 5.8.04 - 87 ^o f	2.8.03 - 91 ^o f
Coldest night	1.3.04 - 23 ^o f	11/12.1.03 - 22 ^o f

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

I now hold 34 years of weather statistics in Whimple

2004 was a fairly average year weather-wise in Whimple. The 34 year average rainfall is 39.44 inches so we were below the average.

On the 22nd June when I recorded 1.6 inches, the South Hams recorded 2.5 inches. The Met Office claimed it was the lowest June depression for at least 100 years.

The 7th July was also fairly stormy, 0.8 inch of rain but 60 mph winds felled many trees in East Devon.

On the 15th August I recorded 0.9 inch of rain when Boscastle received 2 inches in 2 hours.

Ken Burrows

WHIMPLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On the 14 December we held our Annual Christmas Party where four members gave very enlightening demonstrations on "An Alternative to Christmas Crackers", "Marzipan Flowers", "Table Decorations" and "Christmas Baubles". A Bring & Share Supper followed this.

The finale was a "Shirley Temple" tap dance performed by two of our members and an amusing pantomime with colourful characters from famous stories!

At the January meeting a highly amusing talk by Norma Huxtable a farm land lady from Exmoor, on her experiences during the 40 years as Land Lady in her Bed & Breakfast establishment.

As a fund raising appeal for the Tsunami disaster members held a Bring & Buy sale which, with the raffle, raised £272.61 for Shelterbox.

This money has been donated to the Ottery St. Mary Rotary Club who supply Shelter Boxes.

Our thanks go to all members for their generosity.

If any prospective members wish to join or require any further information regarding the Whimple Womens Institute please ring **Ann Bowden** on **01404 823450**.



Jan Begent

WHIMPLE OVER 60s CLUB

15th February 2005

Speaker Mr Baker – Algonquin Park,
Canada, with slides

15th March 2005

Speaker – Mrs Lucy Channon - Fans

Touchdown

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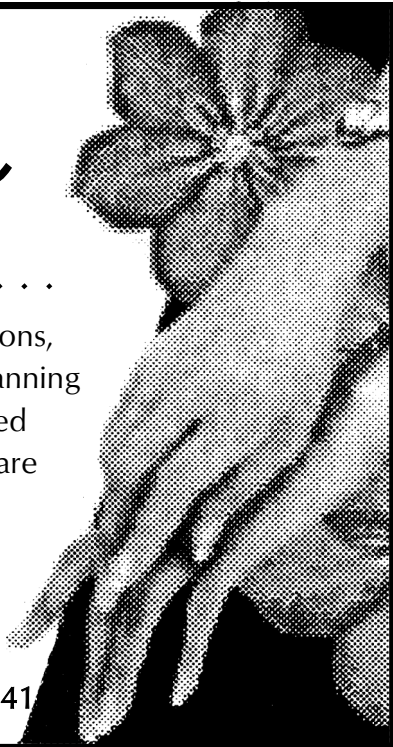
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Weekend in Falmouth

I would like to say a big thank you to Sadie and Robin for all their effort and hard work in organising these lovely trips that are so enjoyed by us all.

One very enjoyable moment was when three Whimble couples were brave enough to take part in the "Mr and Mrs" game, although there were three coachloads of people there. They received a lot of applause. The couples were:- Lucy and Eric Smith, Beryl and Mike Boyd, and Beryl and Arthur Iball.

The result was:-

1st. Beryl and Mike, who had one wrong.

2nd. Lucy and Eric, only two wrong after 61 years.

3rd. Beryl and Arthur, only one correct (I think!) but it was a huge laugh when Arthur was asked the colour of Beryl's eyes. After some hesitation he said "One is possibly brown, but I'm not sure about the other one".

All three couples were really good.

The next trip is in the Spring. We will be going to Blackpool, visiting the Lake District etc. Anyone wanting more details should contact Sadie or Robin on 823553. We would be very pleased for you to join us. You will not have to travel to meet the coach as it leaves from the Square.

Joan Ward.

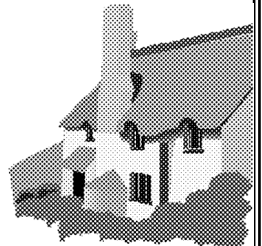
Parish Council News

The design and approval has already been obtained for a bus shelter to be erected in The Square.

An open air meeting has been convened at The Square for 11am on Saturday 19th February to discuss the actual sighting of the bus shelter.

Anyone wishing to air their views regarding this subject are invited to attend or write to the Parish Clerk, Mrs.G.Turner, Penraddon, Hand & Pen, Whimble, EX5 2PX before the above mentioned date.

Alan McArthur
Parish Councillor.
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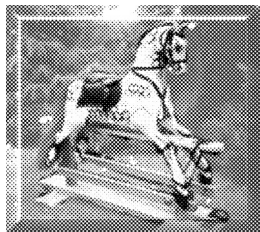
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CHARITY SKITTLES MATCH

A Charity skittles match was held on Saturday 22nd of January at the Cricket Club, where we raised over £130 for the RNLI.

The night was a great success, with 30 people taking part. There were 3 teams of ten. The captains, Paul Burton, Mat Corbett and myself picked our teams on the night. With Paul's team coming out the eventual winners, it all came down to Paul's anchorman, Tom Martin, to get 7 or more to win the match on the last leg...which he did.

Thanks to the cricket club for the use of their facilities, and to Sally and Ben for serving the much needed liquid refreshments, also to my dear wife Karen, for making the rolls.....they went down a treat.

There was also a prize draw to help raise money - thanks to all who gave draw prizes.

The reason we held the event to raise some money for the RNLI, was that Paul had made an error of judgement while out kite surfing off Exmouth. He thought that he would have one more go before it got dark, but while he was out there, the wind dropped and the tide swept him out to sea.

The rescue services were called out and started to look for Paul. It was dark by now, but while Paul could see the life boat looking for him, they were searching in the wrong place by this time. Paul was frightened that he might not get back at all so he pulled on all his resources and paddled back to shore four and a half hours later. He phoned the rescue services to tell them to call off the search with the words "I think I'm the one you are looking for". That's when I think they gave him a bit of a telling off!!! And called him a few prize names.

The whole episode was in the papers and even made the TV news...which all shows how lucky Paul was. Thanks to all concerned with the rescue, and to everybody who came to the skittle evening

Geoff Delves

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- Friday 18th February 2005
- Friday 18th March 2005

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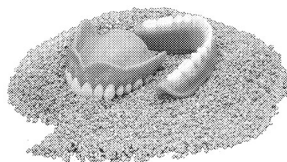
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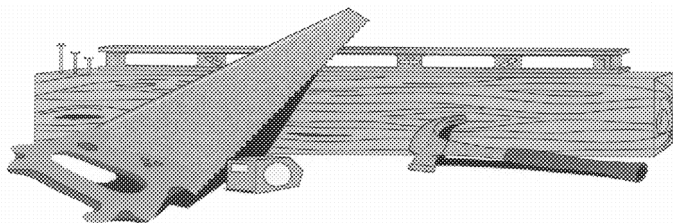


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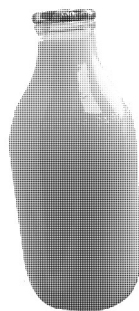
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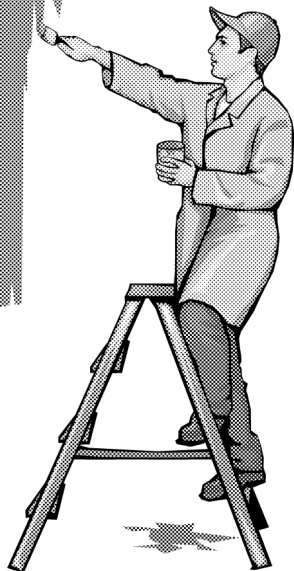
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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Firstly, I have to start with an apology! In the excitement of writing the report on the Flower Show last year, I inadvertently thanked Joan Ward for giving out the prizes. As those of you who were there know, it was of course Rachel Owen who so very kindly gave out the trophies and we were very grateful to her for doing this onerous task for us.

At the end of November we had our Annual General meeting which was very well attended. Another successful year was reported to the meeting, especially the Open Gardens Day which not only was very well supported but also raised a substantial amount of money which enabled us to make a donation of £275.00 to the Ottery St. Mary Hospital. Hopefully this coming year will be just as successful. There have a few changes on our Committee for the coming year. After a number of successful years as our Chairman, Andy Bratt decided it was time to stand down. The VPA is certainly very grateful for the energy and enthusiasm he has put in over the years. Thanks Andy. We are now under the control of Branco Love, who was our treasurer, and no doubt he will carry on with the same enthusiasm. Adrian Williams has taken over the good work that Branco did looking after our finances. The only other notable change is that Gilly Curtis is now our Vice Chairman.

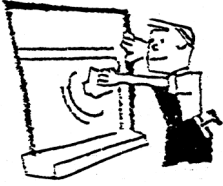
We are looking forward to another busy year with a number of events throughout the year. All dates and times will appear in future editions of The News, but the Flower Show will be on the second Saturday in August, which this year is Saturday 13th August 2005.

Paul Wilson,
Hon. Secretary.

MOTHER MOLLY'S HANDY HINTS

In case you feel that you need to lose a few pounds now the festive season is over - the easiest way to lose weight is to use a smaller plate!





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Have you ever lost your door key?

Most of us have at sometime in the past and not been able to enter our homes. This can be most embarrassing and costly.

One solution to ensure that this does not happen again, is to purchase a small purpose made key safe which is securely fixed outside your premises with a numeric keypad to open the key safe.

I purchased mine from 'Guardian Security' master locksmiths in Exeter for under £50. The firm gave very good advice and incidentally support 'Whimble News' by their adverts. It may seem a high price to pay, but the alternatives are not secure and a key safe should last a lifetime and can be taken with you if you move.

Christmas gifts

According to the news, this Christmas saw the largest number ever of small digital cameras given as gifts. Unfortunately they are also easily lost or stolen, so please postcode them and record their details and serial numbers, (which could be very helpful to the police) should you be unlucky enough to experience a loss or theft. You should also remember to add information to your insurance inventory for all valuable and sentimental items.

So, if you now have a digital camera, don't forget that they are an excellent way of recording your possessions, though of course you will need to get a friend or relative to take a picture of your new camera!

British Summertime

Don't forget that at **02.00am on Easter Sunday 27th March 2005** clocks go forward for British summertime.

John Munslow 01404 823456

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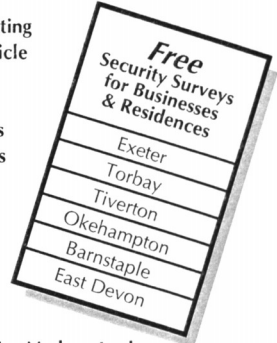
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Beware of Warnings

In 1997, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch began a contest to expose how frivolous lawsuits, and a concern about potential frivolous lawsuits, have led to a new cultural phenomenon: the wacky warning label. Here are some of them:

A warning on an electric router made for carpenters cautions: "This product not intended for use as a dental drill."

A warning label found on a baby stroller cautions the user to "Remove child before folding"

A prescription of sleeping pills says: "Warning: May cause drowsiness"

A sticker on a toilet actually warns: "Recycled flush water unsafe for drinking."

A massage chair warns: "DO NOT use massage chair without clothing... and, never force any body part into the backrest area while the rollers are moving."

A dishwasher carries this warning: "Do not allow children to play in the dishwasher."

A CD player carries this unusual warning: "Do not use the Ultradisc2000 as a projectile in a catapult."

An "Aim-n-Flame" fireplace lighter cautions: "Do not use near fire, flame or sparks"

A label on a hand-held massager advises consumers not to use ... "while sleeping or unconscious"

A container of underarm deodorant says: "Caution: Do not spray in eyes"

A cartridge for a laser printer warns, "Do not eat toner"

A household iron warns users: "Never iron clothes while they are being worn"

A label with a hair dryer reads: "Never use hair dryer while sleeping"

A 13-inch wheel on a wheelbarrow warns: "Not intended for highway use."

A cardboard car sunshield that keeps sun off the dashboard warns, "Do not drive with sunshield in place"

A Bathroom Heater says: "This product is not to be used in bathrooms"

A warning on a pair of shin guards manufactured for bicyclists says: "Shin pads cannot protect any part of the body they do not cover."

A box of birthday cake candles says: "DO NOT use soft wax as ear plugs or for any other function that involves insertion into a body cavity."

A five-inch fishing lure which sports three steel hooks and cautions users that it is ... "Harmful if swallowed"

A warning found on a bottle of drain cleaner which says: "If you do not understand, or cannot read, all directions, cautions and warnings, do not use this product."

A label on a snow sled which says: "Beware: sled may develop high speed under certain snow conditions."

A 12-inch-high storage rack for compact disks which warns: "Do not use as a ladder."

A smoke detector which warns: "Do not use the Silence Feature in emergency situations. It will not extinguish a fire."



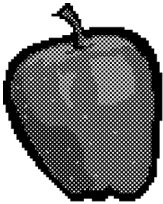
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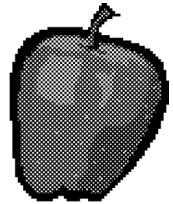
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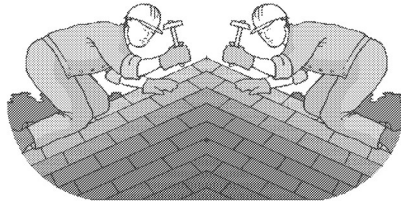
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Tennis Club AGM
Gatehouse Rull Farm
Whimble
7.30pm
16th March 2005

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards and kind messages sent to me during my recent illness. Best wishes for 2005 to you all.

Helen Horsburgh

A note from Jean Coombe

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and messages during my stay in hospital and afterwards. It is nice to know so many people care. I am now on the mend and will see you all soon.

Many thanks, Jean

Disappearing Christmas tree

Chris and Joyce from Waves the hairdresser were saddened when someone found it necessary to steal the Christmas tree from outside their shop and, in doing so, damaged their decorative lights.

A sad reflection on the someone's spirit of goodwill in the run up to Christmas.

Organisations in Whimble

Whimble Parish Council	
<i>Chairman:</i> Sara Randall Johnson	822524
<i>Clerk:</i> Mrs Gerri Turner, Penraddon, Hand and Pen	823385
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Contact:</i> 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	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. D. Brice	822584
<i>P.T.F.A. Chair:</i>	
Whimble History Society	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group	
<i>Chair:</i> Sally Young 11 Chard Ave	823228
<i>Playleader:</i> Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road	822168
Whimble Womens Institute	
<i>Secretary:</i> Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green	823450
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
Mrs B. Iball 11 Rectory Close	822905
Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground.</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
<i>Chairman:</i> Branco Love	822006
Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club	
Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Geoff Delves, 10 Elizabeth Close	823258
Whimble Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> J. Hughes	822659
Whimble Cricket Club	
Mr. R.J.Smith	822244
Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee	
<i>Secretary:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Teresa Daniels	823169
Whimble Post Office	
Alison and Jim Creasy	822359
Whimbletons	
Emma Palmer	823083
Neighbourhood Watch	
John Munslow, 44, Slewton Crescent	823456
St. Mary's Bellringers	
Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road	822873
Whimble Scout Group	
<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
Otter Rotters	
Hugh Roberts	822651

The Whimble News Team

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Ed Hitchcock 823194

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Naome Glanville 823167

Vivienne Leonard 822415

Anni Hindle 822025

Delivery

Ed & Nicky Hitchcock 823194

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Julie Millward 823985

Community diary

Lynda Trevena 822876

Treasurer

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