

Whimble News

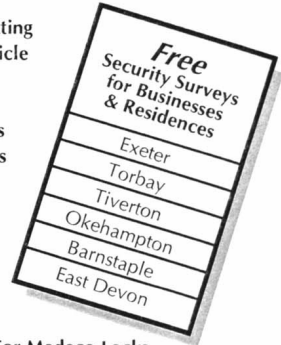


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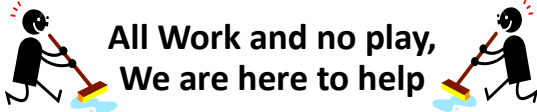
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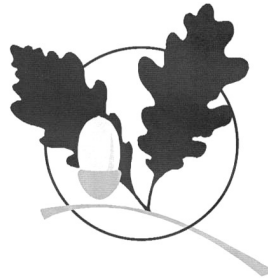
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What's On In Whimble

February

- 12th (Friday) Front Row Club – Victory Hall 7.30pm – ‘45 years’ Details page 37
- 18th The Whimbletons - ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’, 7.30pm Victory Hall
- 19th The Whimbletons - ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’, 7.30pm Victory Hall
- 20th The Whimbletons - ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’, 2.00pm Victory Hall
- 20th The Whimbletons - ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’, 7.30pm Victory Hall
Details page 11
- 26th History Society Talk at the Victory Hall 7.30pm; ‘Smuggling in Devon’ with Robert Hesketh
- 27th Soup and Sarnie, Victory Hall , 12.00noon – 1.30pm
- 27th Front Row Club Victory hall 7.30pm – ‘Maltese Falcon’ Details page 37

March

- 10th Godspell at St Mary’s Church 7.30pm – details page 15
- 11th Godspell at St Mary’s Church 7.30pm – details page 15
- 12th Godspell at St Mary’s Church 7.30pm – details page 15
- 12th Pre School Easter Egg Hunt – details to follow
- 18th History Society AGM, Victory Hall 7.30pm, followed by Martin Horrell talking on ‘ Medieval Rood Screens’
- 19th Soup and Sarnie, Victory Hall , 12.00noon – 1.30pm
- 19th Front Row Club – Victory Hall – 7.30pm – ‘Selma’ Details page 37
- 22nd Whimble School Easter Bingo – details page 33

April

- 2nd Book Exchange opens at the Heritage Centre – details page 9
- 9th Front Row Club Victory Hall 7.30pm – ‘The lady in the van’ details page 37
- 14th Whimble Church Fete Planning Meeting at St Mary’s Church 7.00pm – details pages 21 and 28
- 16th VPA coach trip to the Cardiff Spring Show – details page 30
- 29th History Society talk at the Victory Hall 7.30pm – ‘Metal Detecting’ with Tex Hart

May

- 14th VPA Spring Plant Sale and Coffee Morning – details page 30

June

- 11th Whimble Church Fete 2.30pm – details to follow
- 11th VPA trip to Hestercombe – details to follow

July

- 3rd - 10th Whimble Village Week
- 9th Whimble Day

August

- 13th VPA annual Flower Show – details page 31

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the FIVE BELLS *Inn*

Ed the Ed

Welcome to your February/March edition of the Whimble News – and it is a very special welcome because this is the 100th edition since we took over the magazine back in July 1999. Some of our original team have moved away from the village – some have stayed in the belief that they will be let off for good behaviour. We have also welcomed new people to our small but perfectly formed team, so a warm thanks to all connected with this great little magazine, including our valiant distributors. We have included some examples of articles we have published over the years, in pages 12 and 13. I want to pay tribute to the valuable technical input from Bob Scanlan, who has dragged this magazine into modern times, as he says on page 12. Who would have thought that the News would have an online version in 2014?

One of the joys of having a bunch of amateurs putting the magazine together is that occasionally we will make a boo-boo. I put my hand up to a public boo-boo I made with the centre page spread with the Christmas dates for the church services – we didn't have the valuable reviewing eyes of our proof readers running the ruler of good sense etc over it – the church times quoted were from last year, so my humble apologies to people who were inconvenienced by that. I have already apologised to Chris Martin, and he understands my incompetence.

We had a number of villagers pass away during the Christmas period – those that I know about include Edith Grout, Graham Fowle, Ena Joyce, Bill Richards and Babs Kitcher – our thoughts are with all their families.

We held the annual Wassail on Saturday 16th January, starting at the New Fountain, with Queen Annabel and Prince Ben doing the honours. Thanks to Dom and the team for opening early, and to all the orchard owners and suppliers of the Wassail Cup. I was pleased to be able to start the Wassail at the Fountain, and then to 'pass the smock of leadership' to Nick Bloomfield who bravely led some 150 people round the orchards, ending up at the Cricket Club. Thanks to Nick, and to Jim Causley for leading the music, and for entertaining up at the Cricket Club; and thanks to Ray Horn for his support as 'The Fireman in the orchards'.

Thanks also to the good people who answered the advert in the last magazine about help to deliver magazines up Lillypond Lane. I had a keen volunteer within a day of distributing the last edition!

If you would like to submit an article for the April/May edition, then please send it either direct to Bob on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk, or just drop it in the Dairy Cottage mail box by Monday 7th March - thanks.

Last time, we received an anonymous 2 page short story, which was kind, but we prefer to know who our contributors are, so please contact me – thanks!

Ed H

If your Association has an event which you would like listed in 'What's on...' please contact **Ed Hitchcock** on 823194 or e-mail edhitch@btinternet.com.

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Whimble Stores

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Happy New Year to you all.

We had a busy December and are now taking stock of things we can do to improve the shop. There are some structural works we have to do to make the property more secure and we hope to be able to install a new kitchen area to make this a more useable space for us.

We also hope to be able to invest in some new fridges and freezers to help us to reduce our carbon footprint by providing more energy efficient equipment which will be easier to clean with less bits dropping off.

We may also have to install more security equipment but we are looking into other options with the help of our community police officers who are helping us to deal with shop lifting issues. Hopefully with their support and the continuing support of parents and villagers this issue can be addressed in a less intrusive way.

All of these works are likely to cause a bit of disruption but we will aim to carry on business as usual.

There is still the ongoing work to the decaying woodwork around the front of the shop and we hope to get a specialist onto securing this soon. We would ask for people to be considerate to customers and those working in and around the shop, by not driving too close to the properties. The walls have been hit three times in recent months and this is very worrying for obvious reasons to the structure of the building but more importantly to people walking nearby. We have to access the property at irregular hours, sometimes late at night and sometimes early in the morning and it is often dangerous, with cars driving too fast and too close. We would politely ask for people to spread the word that the gap between the shop and The Jays is only really suitable for one vehicle so please be kind and give way, rather than squeezing through.

Post Office

There may be an increase in demand at the Post Office due to the closing of the PO at Cranbrook Vets. This will probably slow down again once the PO at Cranbrook eventually opens. We understand it has been delayed due to the unavailability of suitable phone connections.

Just a quick reminder that our last collection during the week is 5pm and we have to have everything ready for the Postman to collect at that time. We have been told that we should not make him wait as this can roll on to make all his other collections late. We need on average 10 -15 minutes to get the end of day banking and post ready for collection so please try to get things to us before 4.30pm to ensure it will go that day. If we are busy between 4.30 and 5pm we may have to ask you to wait whilst we process the end of day collections. Unfortunately with just the one counter we have little option but to give priority to the work we have in already.



Shop Local

Graham Fowle

We were very sad at the recent loss of Graham. He was very kind to us when we took over the shop and we were very grateful for all of his help and support. We will remember him fondly.

Mark and Jenny 822316

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A new BOOK EXCHANGE coming to Whimble in April

The History Society will be starting a Book Exchange in the newly refurbished wing at the rear of the Heritage Centre. Free to use on a 'return after reading' basis, the BOOK EXCHANGE will be open every Saturday and Wednesday afternoon from April 2nd.

Can you help us open with a good variety of reading material?

If you have any books to add to our library can you please contact Sue Ayres on 823082 or email sue@reubenayres.com. I can collect or arrange for you to deliver.

We would also be interested in acquiring books in large print.

Many thanks - Sue Ayres

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STORES





'WN100' can be found in the top corner of page 62 of this issue of Whimble News. As Ed points out in his editorial this reminds us that this is the 100th edition produced by the current Whimble News Team in the 17 years since July 1999.

Whimble News is, however, even older than that. Nine years earlier, in 1990, Sarah and David Smith put together the first edition which was photocopied on the Parish Council photocopier and then sent around the village.

This came to an end 17 years ago when the Parish Council handed over to the present team and Whimble News became a self-sufficient village magazine funded entirely by advertising and the generosity of donors.

Over the last 17 years it has tried to keep up with the times. Our first editions were mainly text with a few line drawings as we had no way of reproducing photographs back then. The master pages of the magazine were printed out and sent off to a printer to be duplicated and each time came back as a large pile of single sheets ready to be collated. Many, many hours were spent walking round and round Ed's dining table, always clockwise I recall, picking up one page at a time to assemble every copy of the mag individually. One lucky member was in charge of the long reach stapler that finally pinned each copy together. Of course assembling Whimble News was a task that had to be suitably fuelled and dizziness was, understandably, not the only reason that the team could be seen staggering home afterwards.

As time went by we set out to improve the magazine. Pictures began to appear as half tone prints made up of little dots in the same way as those that used to appear in newspapers. Later we were able to include real photographs, and now on special occasions these appear in colour.

The real breakthrough for us came with printing machines that not only printed both sides of each page in one go but automatically collated and stapled them together as well. The wear on Ed's dining room carpet was immediately and dramatically reduced.

Technology today means that this copy of Whimble News will be sent to the printer through the ether using the magic of 'the cloud'. The first time it appears on paper is when all of the copies are back with Ed ready to distribute.

Like the proverbial old axe that had several new handles and a few new heads, membership of the team has changed over the years but some of us have been there from the beginning. If you would like to be part of the Whimble News Team and help take it forward for at least another 100 issues, have a word with Ed and come and join us. We would welcome your help.



WN1 - July 1999

Our first issue introduced the new team which included four members who are still part of that team - Ed and Nicky Hitchcock, Miles Leonard and me.

As well as thanking Sarah and David for previous editions it covered issues such as closure of the children's playground, the opening of the new Doctor's Surgery, the retirement of Herbert Breyley the long standing Chairman of the Parish Council, a report from Miles on his first Whimble Day (Village Day in the Square), and rumours from Gordon, the then Postmaster, of possible closure of the Post Office.

WN25 - September 2003

Issue 25 included an article from Eric Whiteway on 'Whimble Streams', news of the closure of Otter Mill with a number of job losses, a report on Village Week with thanks to the WI and Zena for making new bunting, and John Munslow saying that our area was (and probably still is) in the top 20 safest places in the country to live.

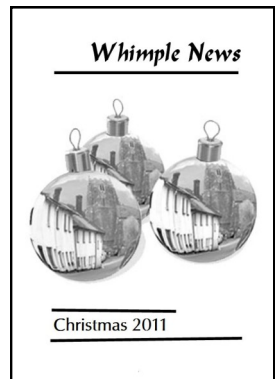


WN50 - October 2007

Issue 50 had a report on another successful VPA show, concerns about parking in The Square, an invitation from Jenny and Alison to be part of a new village organisation that subsequently became Wasters of Whimble, an article from Sally on driving her classic 1973 VW beetle back to its original home at the Karmann factory at Osnabrück and home again, the History Society reported on their Cider with Roadies event which welcomed the schoolchildren and Susie Langley their new Head Teacher

WN75 - December 2011

Issue 75 was the Christmas edition with adverts for seasonal events and the now familiar centre pages of holiday opening times, the second of the, now regular, reports from our District Councillor - at that time Martin Gammell, and details of a half-muffled peal which was to be rung in memory of Joy Little who was a former Whimble bellringer and had been Whimble's oldest resident and had reached the grand age of 101.



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“Godspell” Performances

After many months of hard work (where has the time gone?) the performances of “Godspell” get closer. This show will perform for three evenings only (Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th March, inclusive, at 7.30pm) in St Mary’s Church Whimple. Tickets are limited to 140 per performance and go on sale in both Whimple Stores and Talaton Village Shop from Monday 1st February. Tickets are priced £8.00 for Adults and £4.00 for Children.

This stunning piece of musical theatre has cast a wide range of performers from Talaton and Whimple, supported by a number from the wider locality. Knockout musical numbers, combined with a fast moving, dramatic and often amusing script takes the story at breakneck speed to the ultimately dramatic, powerful and moving finale that recreates the Crucifixion and Resurrection at the centre of the Easter story.

This company of over 50 actors, singers, musicians, technicians, front of house and publicity staff have been led in this new community venture by Julia Green as Musical Director (Orchard Harmony and Tedburn St Mary Community Choir) and Tom Samson as Producer/Director. The community feeling that has developed within the whole company will, we know, lead the group on to other things to follow this production of “Godspell”, our first show. We invite you to come and see what has been achieved. Plans are already well developed for our next production. Who knows, perhaps you might wish to take part in the next project?

Tom Samson

Councillor's Report



Once again it is time to bring you the news from East Devon and County Hall Exeter as we all settle back into the routine of our daily lives. Days full of Christmas cheer, far too much food, a dodgy knee and endless trips to the ATM - but with three grandchildren to fill the house for a month we have been blessed.

A return to work came far too quickly and planning, budgets and roads soon dominated my time, interrupted only by flood warnings and incessant rain. The changes in the weather have demanded the very best of our highway and drainage teams and I am pleased to say they have done well. Better forecasting and some excellent work by road wardens and parish volunteers made a real difference. We still have some way to go and the enormity of the task to improve a service as we are obliged to further reduce our budgets has not been lost on anyone.

At last we are now ready to consider the Local Plan which has been found 'sound' by the inspectors but requires that we accept a number of Main Modifications. Most are agreeable to all but issues around the number of Gypsy/Traveller sites we have to provide throughout the area and the Sidford development plan will generate a lot of discussion. The total number of homes, a five year land supply and the proposed site developments at Clyst St Mary and in Sidmouth (the Knowle) are given the stamp of approval. The land supply issue is critical to the defence of our settlement boundaries and I am delighted that Whimble Parish has made good progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. Acceptance by the Council and the EDDC Planning Team of our parish boundaries is probably the most important step forward we can make.

One issue of concern relates to the railhead at the inter-modal freight terminal planned for the 'Sainsbury Site'. Whilst Lidl have taken the option of the site for a warehouse and distribution centre the Inspector accepts that major constraints mean that the railhead cannot be put in place at this time. I am disappointed with this decision but accept the engineering arguments that have been put forward. Members of the Rail User Group will also be disappointed but I hope that their interventions into the franchise process and comments to SWT will have an effect. Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge have made a joint response to the consultation – and a comprehensive document it is. As it is only in draft I cannot release a copy but I will tell Roger as soon as it is published.

Government pressure to reduce our budgets continues and in both County and District Councils some searching questions are being asked. Devon County has decided to accept the government's offer of a 'ring-fenced' 2% increase in precept in order to cover the added costs arising from the Adult Social Care and Living Wage legislation. This is not a grant – you will pay for it. It will raise some £6.6million towards a bill that will rise to over £7.5million during the year. It means that the missing £1million must come from somewhere and therefore every budget in DCC will feel the pinch. As it happens, DCC are to reduce expenditure by another £24million in the coming year. In EDDC, the pressures are the same and changes presently under discussion regarding the future of Business Rates. The impact of recently awarded Enterprise Zones and the Community Infrastructure

Levy makes decisions much more difficult to reach when the future is not certain. Nevertheless discussions and debate in both councils will continue until March and both authorities are considering increases in precept (as are the police and fire services). A number of parish councils have proposed increases in precept to cover their extra costs. These parish increases are not fettered by government as are the increases in County and District.

Pressures to spend more are constant, nowhere more so than in the 'People' budget which anticipates an increase in numbers of Looked after Children from 605 to 687 and an increase in Adult Care expenditure exceeding £5million. It will always be difficult to contain spending when a statutory duty to meet the needs of vulnerable children and adults is difficult to predict but the budget is realistic and challenging. Moves by Government to change the way local services and needs are met suggest that grant distribution will be seriously reduced. This year DCC will see a reduction of £28.2million in our core funding – almost 16%.

Elsewhere the future of a quarry at Straitgate (Daisymount), the Cranbrook extension plans, Highway maintenance and support, Flood Alleviation issues, care of Foster Children and Village Planning issues all ensure a busy but often satisfying life.

I just wish we could enjoy at least one rising budget somewhere!!

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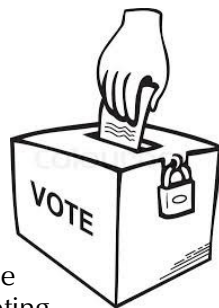
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Could You Help with an Election?

EDDC is currently preparing for the Police and Crime Commissioner May 2016 elections and are looking to appoint new temporary staff to help out. There are various roles available:



Presiding Officers - responsible for the conduct of the ballot in the polling stations and must have a good knowledge of the voting procedures. Hours of work: 6.15am to 10.15pm (without leaving the polling station) on 5th May 2016.

Poll Clerk - to assist the Presiding Officer in the conduct of the ballot in the polling stations. Hours of work: 6.15am to 10.15pm (without leaving the polling station) on 5th May 2016.

Verification/Count Assistant - to open ballot boxes, ensure the contents agree with the Ballot Paper Accounts and then count the votes for each candidate in the election. Hours of work: (verification) 10.45pm to finish, on night of 5th May 2016 and (count) 10.00am to finish, on Friday 6th May 2016.

Postal Vote Issuers - working in pairs, checking against lists that the correctly numbered ballot papers are inserted into the postal packs. Recording numbers and then sealing and counting the envelopes. Hours of work: 9.00am to 5.00pm on Monday 18th April 2016.

Postal Vote Openers - working in pairs, opening and checking contents of envelopes. Check data against a computer screen (instruction given) and counting number of ballot papers received. Hours of work: 9.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm, from Monday 25th April to Wednesday 4th May 2016. Please note that sessions are held depending on volume of postal votes received.

The rates of pay for election staff will be confirmed prior to the election.

If you are interested, please contact Electoral Services on 01395 517402 or email elections@eastdevon.gov.

Milk Bottle Top Collection

Sadly due to a bereavement in the family I will no longer be collecting milk bottle tops at the back of the church for recycling. I thank everyone who kindly supported the effort to assist Southampton General Hospital's specialist eye department in their research towards treatment of macular degeneration.

Bottle tops can be recycled, to save landfill, at the Pinhoe Recycling Centre. They go in the same container as plastic bottles.

Jane Clements

Straightway Head
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WHIMPLE CHURCH FETE

Saturday 11th June 2016 at 2.30 pm

A **PLANNING MEETING** for the Church Fete will be held on Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church, Whimple.

The 'Crockery Bash' stall was a huge success last year but we have no crockery left! If you are having a clear out and would like to donate crockery, we would be delighted to have it in advance.

We have always had wonderful support from the community. If you are unable to attend our Planning Meeting but would like to assist as in previous years, or if you are a newcomer and would like to help, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

With thanks,

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ENA RUBY JOYCE

25th August 1918 to 15th December 2015

Desirée, Susan, Ron and Families wish to thank everyone for the very kind cards, messages and thoughts of sympathy on the death of Ena/Mum. We also thank those who attended St Mary's Church on Tuesday 5th January to say their 'Goodbye' to Mum and for the generous donations to The Royal British Legion and the Devon Air Ambulance.

The service was what Mum wanted and for which we give our grateful thanks to Rev'd Chris Martin who relaxed us all with his quiet unassuming manner, his verger and organist. Thank you also to F.J.Luxton & Sons, Funeral Directors of Ottery St Mary who were so dignified and unrushed. It was lovely to see so many people in the church and at the cricket pavilion for Mum's 'Afternoon Tea'.

A last note, as only six of us took part, Mum began her journey to the church from the drive of 5 Dincehill Close! For that we convey our thanks to Chris, who now resides at No.5, for allowing this to happen.

RIP Mum, Nana, Great Nana, Great Great Nana and a friend to so many - keep smiling your lovely smile down on us all.

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Would YOU like to hire our community minibus?

Ottery Help Scheme manages a minibus on behalf of the Ottery & District Hospital League of Friends. The minibus is a fantastic local resource and is available to hire to individuals and groups in Ottery St Mary and its surrounding areas. The minibus is currently underused and we are very keen to advertise its availability to ensure that all those who could benefit from using it, do so.

The minibus has 14 passenger seats and is specially adapted with a tail-lift so that it can also cater for wheelchair users. It is available to hire to any person or group who has a need for example someone who finds it difficult to use a bus car or train, has limited mobility, is in ill-health or is vulnerable in some other way. If you are not sure if you fall into any of these categories, please do give the Help Scheme a call and we let you know.

The minibus is driven by our own volunteer drivers and is charged at £0.85 per mile. Or it can be hired by other not-for-profit organisations who have their own Section 19 Permit.

At the moment we have various individuals and social groups who use the minibus for social outings, health and well-being appointments or other events.

The minibus will be made available to anyone who can show a need. To learn more call **Helen Harms** Chief Officer on 813041.

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Join us for lunch
on Saturday 27th February
and Saturday 19th March

Soup 'n' Sarnie

After a disappointing year for Soup 'n' Sarnie in 2014, when we even considered disbanding the event, 2015 turned out to be a spectacular success – to such an extent that, on one occasion, we totally sold out of everything!

We now do five different soups, including at least one vegetarian option, a spicy option and a meat option. If you have a particular favourite, mention it to the team and we will see if we can include it.

Whilst it is hard work for the team of volunteers that shop, make the soups, cook the bacon and sausages, make the sandwiches, serve the food, lay the tables, tidy up afterwards and wash all the dishes, the buzz that comes from a well filled hall is very satisfying for the whole team!

2015 was a good year, help make 2016 even better. The first Soup 'n' Sarnie in 2016 is on 30th January, come and join us.

Our March Soup 'n' Sarnie will be on 19th March rather than the usual last Saturday in the month because of the Easter celebrations. We look forward to seeing you then.

The Soup'n'Sarnie Team

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Whimble Tennis Club



The blustery weather this winter has made our weekend morning tennis games interesting, with the wind carrying balls further than expected, or completely off course! You are welcome to join in the experience on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 8.00am and 10.00am; just come along to the court.

Whimble Tennis Club is now registered with the Lawn Tennis Association. This gives Whimble Tennis Club Members the opportunity to join British Tennis for free and thereby enter the Wimbledon ticket ballot. For further information please contact Roddy (Secretary) or Marianne (treasurer) by email, Roddy on whimble22@hotmail.com or Marianne on marianne@buildconsultants.co.uk.

If you would like to own a Whimble Tennis Club shirt, please contact Marianne on 822025 / marianne@buildconsultants.co.uk. We have a small stock of navy blue Callaway Opti-dri polo shirts, Ladies and Gents fit, with a smart rosy red apple logo on the front and 'Whimble Tennis' embroidered across the back. Cost £40/shirt with £5 going into club funds.

By the time this is in the Whimble News, we will be getting close to our AGM, which is usually held towards the end of March, around the time that the clocks change and the evenings begin to stretch out making Club Night tennis on Thursday evenings a regular fixture. Please keep an eye out for notices advertising the AGM, and come along to support the club.

Marianne Randall

Did you know the local NHS has a Patient Advice and Complaints Team?

NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS NEW Devon CCG) patient advice and complaints team is a service to provide patients, carers, family members, the public and staff with help, advice and support with concerns or comments relating to NHS services.

The team provides free and confidential help to investigate and resolve problems as they happen and aim to do this as quickly as possible. They can also organise in depth investigations of any problems relating to healthcare across a number of different services.

Hearing from patients helps us to make improvements and gives us early warnings of system problems. It is very important for the CCG to hear when things are going wrong.

You can contact us on the phone on 01392 267665, or 0300 123 1672, or text us at 07789 741099 or email pals.devon@nhs.net



WHIMPLE CHURCH

www.whimplechurch.org

Firstly a big thank you for all the support during 2015 for all the various activities including the Church Fete, Impact Quiz evening and Morning Coffee sessions but also support for the various services. It was good to see the Church packed for a number of special services during the last year. We have recently installed a new screen which was put to good use on Christmas Day and are looking at improving the lighting and sound system.

Sunday 14th February is Valentine's Day but coincidentally this year is also Marriage Sunday. To mark this the service on this day will have some special hymns and readings. There will also be a display of Wedding Photographs which is being prepared by the History Society.

It doesn't seem that long since Christmas but already we are looking forward to Easter; which is early this year. Ash Wednesday is on 10th February and we will be holding a Service of Penitence and Healing at 7pm at St Lawrence's Church in Clyst St Lawrence. Lent is a special time for prayer. This year we are running a special course for Lent as well as our regular Lent Lunches held in Clyst Hydon and Talaton.

We have also got a number of other special services planned for Mothers Day on 6th March and over the Easter period. Full details of these will be in The Link. Following the success of our activity morning at Christmas there will be an Easter Activity morning on Saturday 26th March in the Victory Hall.

Further ahead the annual Church Fete will be on Saturday 11th June. This is always a popular event and helps raise funds for the upkeep of our lovely church. If you are able to help with this years event, there will be a planning meeting in the Church on 14th April at 7.00pm.

Cranbrook Market

The market opens again for business on 11th February 2016 and will run fortnightly each Thursday night in The Younghayes Centre from 5.30 - 7.00pm. (Opposite St Martin's school).

11th and 25th February

10th and 24th March

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Clements



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 Grange Court Hotel (@GCourtHotel)

WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 11th January 2016 and it was good to see so many attend the meeting. The reports reflected on another good year for the VPA with all the events being well supported and very much enjoyed by all who attended. Particular mention was made of the talk by Paul Rendell on the making of War Horse which was the best attended talk we have had. The membership continues to maintain its high level and once again thanks were given to Myrtle Docking for all her work in signing up the members. The main events of the year, the Plant Sale in May and, of course, the annual Flower Show in August were their usual success. Thanks were given to Sherril Olive for all the hard work she put in to organise the Flower Show. We are looking forward to the usual mix of events during the year so hopefully it will be another very successful year!

Our first trip of the year will be to the Cardiff Spring Show on Saturday 16th April. The coach will be leaving The Square at 8.15 prompt! The cost of the trip will be £23.00 for VPA Members and £24.00 for non members. To avoid disappointment please book early as this will allow us to take advantage of the early booking offer being given by the RHS. To reserve your place, please contact Doreen Staddon. She can be contacted by email on doreenstaddon@btinternet.com or by telephone on 823594 leaving your name, number of places required and a contact phone number. Alternatively, fill in the form at the end of this article and leave it in the Whimple Stores with Jenny or Mark – our thanks to them for helping out on this. The trip is being organised in conjunction with the Ottery St. Mary gardening club so seats are likely to be very popular.

We are also looking to have a trip to Hestercombe on Saturday 11th June and the details for this will be in the next edition of the News. This trip will also be a joint trip with the Ottery Club.

For anyone who is interested, the Ottery St. Mary gardening club have booked Pippa Greenwood to give a talk on “Something Nasty in the Garden.” The talk is on Saturday 7th May at 7.30pm and, if you are interested in going along, please contact Doreen Staddon to book your seats.

Our Spring Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 14th May in the Village Hall. This has been very popular in recent years and hopefully we will have the same support this year. We aim to provide a wide range of plants but if there are any specific plants you would like us to grow, please let us know and we will see what we can do!

We are hoping to stage another Open Gardens weekend where we hope to have some ten to twelve gardens for people to look round. Although we have a number of gardens on our list, if anyone else has an interesting garden they wouldn't mind people exploring then please let us know. More information will follow in the next edition.

Our annual Flower Show will be on the second Saturday in August, and this year this will be Saturday 13th August 2016. We hope to have the schedules out by the plant sale, but they will also be available from the website as soon we have finalised all the classes.

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

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary

✂

Booking slip for the RHS CARDIFF SPRING FLOWER SHOW
Saturday 16th April 2016

I would like to book places on the above trip, leaving The Square at 08.15hrs. I enclose £23.00pp for members, or £24.00pp for non-members (please delete as appropriate).

Name

Tel No

Address.....

Email.....

Amount enclosed

The Children's Society

Thank you to all who provided and or purchased cakes following the Christingle Service in December. £155.20 was raised to towards the work of the Children's Society. Your support was very much appreciated.

Jane Clements

EDITH MARIE-LOUISE GROUT 1918-2015

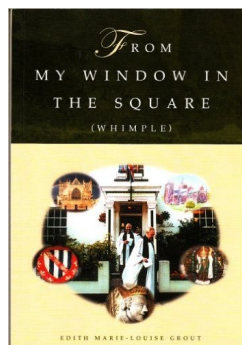
Edith had lived in The Square since 1982, when she and her husband Jack, moved to Whimble from Aylesbeare. Edith was born on the 7th November 1918, at Leysin in Switzerland, the seventh child of a seventh child at seven minutes past midnight – so a child with a strong link to ‘7’!

Edith attended agricultural college, staying in Switzerland during the Second World War, training in landscaping and floral decorations. After the War, she worked with the Publicity Services Department at Nestle, still in Switzerland. There she met Mercia Grout, the sister of the man that she was to marry, Jack Grout, some years later in 1956. Edith and Mercia became good friends, and when Edith came to the UK on a short term job swap, she was invited to Mercia’s home, where she met Jack, and the rest was history. Jack was the manager of Browns, the hotel in London, but in June 1963 they left London to start a new life in Devon, where they bought the Gypsy Hill Hotel in Pinhoe.

They worked hard to establish the hotel’s reputation, but in 1972, due to Jack’s failing health, they went to part-time at the hotel, whilst running a smallholding in Aylesbeare. Part-time still meant that they were involved in the business, and coupled with dashing to and fro between the hotel and the smallholding, eventually they decided to sell Gypsy Hill and devote all their time to the smallholding. Edith was very happy there, and got involved with the church and other village activities, with her newly discovered spare time. Edith had done a lot of historical investigation into Bishop Grandisson, a Swiss Bishop who had been at Exeter Cathedral for 42 years (1327-1369). He had completed the building of the cathedral, and the church in Ottery St Mary, so a rich subject for study! Edith used to give talks on the Bishop, and was recognised internationally for her knowledge.

In 1982, Jack’s failing health meant that they could no longer support the smallholding with their work and effort, and they needed to look for something smaller. which they found in Whimble, in the Square. Once they were settled, Edith threw herself into village activities, especially flower arranging, and the organising of flower festivals at St Mary’s Church, the church in Ottery and the Cathedral in Exeter as well as being a member of several committees.

Edith was a founder member of the Whimble History Society, and helped to organise the early exhibitions that were held at the school. She also was involved with the early village magazine, and contributed a column ‘From My Window in The Square’ for many years until her failing eyesight meant that she was unable to continue with this. However, a few years earlier, she had funded the publication of a book with the same title as her column. This told both the story of her very busy life, and included examples from her column. That book is still available at the Heritage Centre, and provides an excellent insight to Edith.



Edith's funeral was held in St Mary's on Friday 15th January and some 200 people came to pay their respects including many Whimple people, and relatives from Switzerland and the UK. Chris Martin led the service, which, of course, Edith had planned with her great attention to detail. It was good to be reminded of what she had achieved in her 97 years, and we all smiled when Chris mentioned how she used to 'collect clergy', and how she would very bluntly let you know if you had said or done something that was different from her own view! We will miss seeing her walking The Square with her carers, stopping and having a word with friends and acquaintances as they greeted her. Edith gave a lot to Whimple, for which we are grateful.

Ed H



Easter Bingo

Tuesday 22nd March

Whimple Victory Hall

Doors open 6.00pm

Eyes down 6.30pm

In aid of Whimple School.

All ages welcome.

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There have recently been thefts from properties in and around Whimble. These were from outbuildings and from an un-occupied house. It would be wise therefore to bear this in mind and to make sure your property is kept secure and report any suspicious activity to the police.

Bob Scanlan



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Friday February 12th



Saturday February 27th



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Bring Your Own drinks
Nibbles and glasses available
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ice cream available
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Saturday March 19th



Saturday April 9th



Men's Shed Project - Men! We Need You!

Ottery Help Scheme is working in partnership with the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) and Men's Sheds UK to bring a Men's Shed to Ottery St Mary.

Men's Sheds are sprouting up all over the country with the aim of providing a welcoming and creative space where men can meet socially and at the same time work on any project of their choice using a variety of materials and equipment.



The Sheds are mainly aimed at engaging those who are over 50 but all would be welcome - it may be that you have a talent to share with others or would like to learn more about wood work / metal work or some other craft or hobby. We would love to hear from all those who would be interested in using The Ottery Shed - we need a show of interest to make this happen! We also want to hear from all those who are interested in becoming Shed Committee Member, taking the lead in decision-making and shaping our own Men's Shed in Ottery. Please call Ottery Help Scheme now on 813041 if you would like to be involved.

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Happy New Year! Christmas now seems like a distant memory doesn't it?



The children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 performed 'The Grumpy Sheep' to lots of parents and grandparents.

Key Stage 2 participated in a Carol Service held at the church. All the children were able to attend the Christmas Fayre and visit Santa - run by our lovely parents. They also all sat down to a Christmas dinner and many created a Christmas hat to be judged by all staff and the school council.





Children in Class 1 visited Killerton House to see 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. The day started with a simple retelling of the story and was followed by a variety of activities as they travelled through the rooms of the house which had been beautifully transformed into scenes from the story. They played with Victorian toys, played musical statues and had to hunt for hidden potions.



After lunch we followed the outdoor trail following the clues. We made a beaver dam, found Rudolph and looked around the Christmas trees in the chapel. A lovely day was had by all.





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The New law on Microchipping Dogs

With effect from 6th April 2016 all dogs in England will be legally required to be microchipped and their details registered on one of the authorised databases such as Petlog.

How the system will work and what you need to do

Puppies must be chipped before 8 weeks of age and the breeder must be the first registered keeper

If you have not already had your dog microchipped you can easily get this done by your vet and many organisations

When do I need to change my dog's details on the database?

- When ownership changes.
- If you move house.
- If you change your phone number.
- If your dog dies.

What happens if I don't chip my dog?

Police and local authority employees will be issued with microchip reader scanners so that instant enforcement of the law can be carried out

You may be served a notice by the police or local authority requiring chipping within 21 days. You can be fined up to £500 and your dog seized and microchipped at the owner's expense.

Cats and micro-chipping

Although it is not becoming compulsory to microchip cats, vets and other organisations have many cats handed in as strays. Without a microchip, it is difficult to locate the owner easily and get the pet back home where they belong.

For more information on the regulations, please visit:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111122501/contents



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Dear Whimple residents,
Over the past few years I have been fortunate to have the pleasure of riding a beautiful mare along the roads of your idyllic village.

Many of you have seen us on a regular plodding along and might be wondering where we have been for the past 6 weeks... Unfortunately we had an accident, sadly one that could have perhaps been prevented with a bit of thought.

I know we can slow you up for a short while as you go about your daily

routine and I always think those of you who are considerate and think of us.

I am writing this in the hope that if you see us or other riding in the future you could take a few extra seconds to stop and think, whether it's driving past us or using "Scary monsters" in your garden.

Horses can be unpredictable but I am sure my fellow riders would agree that we do our utmost to make ~~it~~^{them} as safe as we can.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

Copy of a letter sent to South West Highways



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News From Your Local Pre-School



WHIMBLE
Pre-School
& Toddler Group

Happy New Year from all of us at Pre-school! We had a busy end to last year, we went on a lovely visit to Cotley Farm to see the reindeer and other animals, we did a Christmas treasure hunt there. For many children it was their first experience of a coach trip which added to the excitement! The children performed our traditional nativity play in the hall to their families which they did brilliantly and were accompanied by Rev Chris Martin on his guitar. We had a visit from 'Pyjama Drama' and acted out the story of the 'Blue Nosed Reindeer' which the children really enjoyed. We had an Ofsted inspection just before Christmas where we were judged as a 'Good' setting - the full report is available to view online.

We have welcomed 6 new children to preschool this term which means we are now full on Mondays and Fridays until September, but we do have some spaces on the other days so do please give us a call if you would like a place for your child and if your child is due to attend preschool, please get your

registration forms in to reserve their place.

As I write this, we are looking forward to the Quiz and Curry as our next big fundraiser so a big thank you to all those who support this event - it makes a huge difference to us financially. We are currently getting up to speed with technology and have just bought a tablet and some IT software to do electronic assessment.

Jo



REMEMBER, if you are a keen gardener please purchase your seeds, plants & equipment online at...
www.littlegreensprouts.co.uk/whimble_pre_school_group

Information...

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

There is also a breakfast club available.

Please visit our website - **www.whimblepreschool.com** for more information and to find out what we have been up to!

Dates to Remember...

Baby & Toddler Group
Every Wednesday
2-3.30pm, in Pre-School Room
(term time only)
Half Term
February 13th - 21st
Easter Holidays
March 25th - April 10th



www.whimblepreschool.com

**A RESPONSE BY WHIMPLE RAIL USERS GROUP
TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT
IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SOUTH WESTERN RAIL FRANCHISE**

Whimble Rail Users Group has been a forum for the expression of views about the service provided by the railway from the station at Whimble. This response is based on that knowledge and is in response to the Rail Executive Published Consultation and Consultation Meetings with the Department of Transport.

The overwhelming requirement is for a better service from the Station at Whimble. The improved service is characterised by a greater frequency of trains in each direction. Further the service is required to serve adjacent stations to provide easy communication and social mobility to all sections of the population.

In the immediate term an hourly service calling at all stations to Exeter permitting use of adjacent stations; an hourly service to and from London. In the longer term the addition of a half hourly service between Exeter and Axminster calling at all intermediate stations.

The infrastructure between Honiton and Exeter (Pinhoe) should be reviewed to ascertain if it is adequate to enable this aspiration is to be achieved.

Ticket purchase options should be widened to facilitate purchase and prevent hold ups causing delay and frustration.

The current class 159s are well liked though a bit tight for taller people. The extra set is welcome and should become the norm. The immediate future needs two four-car sets together replacing the current six; and four car set replacing the current three car sets. The current balance between First and Standard is thought satisfactory.

The Devon Metro aspiration as it affects Whimble is welcomed and higher capacity trains are needed to allow families with push chairs to have greater space in train. The Metro is required to reach Honiton, and ideally Axminster being the extent of Exeter's economic reach.

Looking across the national picture at current spending on rail, and then considering the investment level across the past ten years it is easy to conclude that the South West has been left behind, notwithstanding the Dawlish sea wall repair. A relatively small investment will deliver disproportionately beneficial outcomes.

The rail market in the greater Exeter journey to work area is diverse, in contrast to the 20-40 yr age demographic common to the Waterloo commuter traffic.

Roger Algate

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016:

**Monday 21st March 2016
Monday 25th July 2016
Monday 31st October 2016**



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At our November meeting Kate Fincham-Powell entertained us with a Christmas celebration of traditional customs, including folk music, seasonal readings and poetry.

Two of our members were invited by Ottery St Mary WI to attend a tree planting in the grounds of their church, to mark the national centenary year. A delicious buffet was laid on in the church afterwards and our two members enjoyed the afternoon.

Whimble WI members supplied homemade cakes at the Hospice Day in the Village Hall. Several members assisted on various stalls and helped provide refreshments, which was much appreciated by the organisers. A goodly sum was raised for their funds.

Our annual Christmas Party was held in the village hall in early December. Several members read out poems (some quite funny), a couple of quizzes were enjoyed and stretched the minds – some better than others! Everyone brought delicious food to share and the whole evening was a really enjoyable occasion.

Our final event of the year was a well-attended Christmas Lunch at the Thirsty Farmer. The food was good and the company in festive mood.

Various events will be organised for the coming year, such as interesting talks at our monthly meetings, skittles matches, social lunches, walks in the surrounding countryside (weather permitting), plus possible theatre trips etc.

If you would like to join us and become a regular member, please contact our Secretary, **Ann Bowden** on 823450.



A THANK YOU FROM GRAHAM

A big 'thank you' to all of you good people of Whimble for your get well telephone calls and cards after my stroke before Christmas. It was much appreciated.

I have never forgotten the support the village gave to my wife Diane after her road accident in 2007. Diane and I feel very fortunate to live in such a lovely village with its community spirit, and where help is not very far away.

We wish everybody a happy and healthy New Year.

Thanks once again.

Graham Potbury

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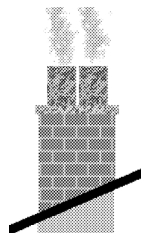
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The Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra (DYJO) was formed in March 1975 with the intention of providing performance experience and tuition for young jazz musicians resident in Devon. It is now a registered charity and is run by a committee of parents and supporters.

The Orchestra's members, who play a wide variety of jazz, have won many national awards for their performances and continue to play to enthusiastic audiences in Devon and beyond.

They meet for intensive monthly rehearsals between September and March and also attend a three day residential course during the school half term in October.

Recent performances of the Orchestra in Devon have included appearances at Teignmouth Jazz, Budleigh Salterton Jazz, Dart Music and Salcombe Festivals. They have also travelled to Switzerland on two occasions to attend the Montreux Jazz Festival.

The Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra comprises the best of Devon's youth jazz musicians and is split into two separate bands. DYJO2, under the direction of Brian Moore, caters for those aged 11-14 and is focussed on the essentials of big band playing whilst the DYJO1, conducted by Graham Hutton, which includes those aged 15-19, aims to stretch players' skills in all directions in a wide range of repertoire.



The Orchestra is always looking for new players and if anyone is interested, more information can be obtained from the website www.dyjo.org or by email to mail@dyjo.org.

If you would like to attend a concert, see the details below -

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The Choral Society had an extremely busy and happy few weeks leading up to Christmas 2015. After the fund-raising Classics Galore, there was the annual Christmas Concert and finally a visit to Otter Nurseries to sing carols for the late-night shoppers and raise money for our chosen charity, Hospiscare. Now we are busy rehearsing Haydn's Creation for the Spring Concert on 19th March .

Classics Galore Charity Concert

In November the Society was delighted to be part of the biennial Classics Galore Concert at the Great Hall of Exeter University. The Choral Society was joined by members of St David's Players, to form a choir of more than one hundred voices. Also on stage were the SW Comms Lypstone Brass Band and the Classics Galore Symphony Orchestra, under the musical direction of Malcolm Matthews. The audience of over one thousand was entertained with a fabulous selection of music culminating in a Last Night of the Proms finale. The sum of £17,500 was raised for the Force Cancer Charity and brought the total donated so far by the series of five concerts to £67,500.

Christmas Concert

The Parish Church of St Mary was filled to capacity for the traditional pre-Christmas concert. As well as carols, the evening's varied programme featured two main works. The first was the Concerto in C Minor by Alessandro Marcello. Usually performed on the oboe, on this occasion it was played exquisitely on the soprano saxophone by Alison Davies.

The major choral work was Gabriel Fauré's Requiem. This is a calm, serene and peaceful work sung with great lyricism, sensitivity and balance between the voice parts, as well as between choir and orchestra. Solo parts were sung by choir members David Batty, Michael Gascoigne-Pees, and Pip Gascoigne-Pees whose singing of "Pie Jesu" was particularly memorable.

The audience joined the choir for five carols, accompanied by the orchestra and the church organ, played by Alex Davies, while the ladies of the choir excelled in their soaring descants. We were also treated to a performance of Hubert Parry's glorious anthem I Was Glad, so memorably sung at the Coronation of our Queen, and included in the programme to mark the year in which the Queen became our longest serving monarch.

The well thought-out programme was interspersed with six other carols sung by the choir. These included 'Masters in this Hall', 'Sans Day Carol' and 'Deck the Hall' arranged by David Willcocks, which brought smiles to faces right around the church. Joyous too was the evening's concluding carol The Twelve Days of Christmas, in which the conductor, Malcolm Matthews, encouraged the audience to participate.

There were happy and contented faces as the audience joined with the performers for wine and mince pies, and there was a retiring collection which raised £464 for Hospiscare. (Review by David Ingles)

Carol-Singing for Hospiscare

This Christmas, for the first time, we were invited by Otter Nurseries, one of our sponsors, to sing carols to their late-night shoppers. Thirty or more society members, (many of whom were dressed in festive hats and sweaters!) thoroughly enjoyed singing a selection of their favourite carols and our hosts donated £100 to Hospiscare to add to money given by shoppers.



Spring Concert – Date for your Diary

The next concert will be on Saturday, March 19th in Ottery St Mary Parish Church. The centrepiece of the programme will be Haydn's Creation. This is considered by many to be his greatest masterpiece and was written after visiting England and being inspired by Handel's wonderful oratorios. We hope to see you then.

Tickets will be available from Choral Society members or Tourist Information at 10b, Broad Street, Ottery St Mary. Telephone: 813964.

We would like to thank you all for your support of Ottery St Mary Choral Society in 2015 and look forward to welcoming you to our Spring Concert.

For further information regarding OSMCS please visit

www.otterystmarychoral.org

or contact: Annie Bassett(Chairman) - 823331



The result of the Hospiscare Coffee Morning again exceeded all expectations. The total sum raised was £1,004 - I believe the highest yet.

Personal thanks are due to so many people, both for their help and generosity. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the usual band of willing helpers and here I would like to say a special word of appreciation to members of the WI. My thanks go to everyone for your support and good will.

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Organisations in Whimble

Whimble Parish Council (whimbleparishcouncil@gmail.com)	
<i>Chairman:</i> John Griffiths	823480
<i>Clerk:</i> Gerri Turner,	823385
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Parish Priest:</i> Chris Martin	822427
<i>Impact Cell:</i> Helen Bowker	823193
Devon County Councillor (www.peterbowden.org.uk)	
Peter Bowden	823450
East Devon Councillor	
Peter Bowden	823450
Whimble Primary School (admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk)	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. S. Jessop	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Maria Wallis	823992
Whimble History Society	
<i>Chairman:</i> David Rastall	822486
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough	822257
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group (whimblepreschool.weebly.com)	
<i>Chair:</i> Cathy Culshaw	822363
<i>Playleader:</i> Jo Sibley	822183
<i>Toddlers:</i> Linden Best	822595
Whimble Womens Institute	
<i>Secretary:</i> Ann Bowden	823450
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Arthur Iball	822905
<i>Secretary:</i> Beryl Iball	822905
Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
<i>Vice Chairman,</i> Paul Wilson	822744
Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Ian Stephenson <i>Secretary:</i> Julian Johnson	822639
Whimble Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> Roddy Bridge	822057
<i>Treasurer:</i> Marianne Randall	822025
Whimble Cricket Club	
<i>Booking Secretary:</i> Jonathon Silk	822389
Whimble Victory Hall	
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Tanya Mooney	823326

The Whimble News Team

Editor

Ed Hitchcock 823194

Production

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

Sally Wilde 823246

Delivery, Advertising and Community Diary

Ed Hitchcock 823194
edhitch@btinternet.com

Treasurer

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