

Whimble News



April/May 2004

What's on in Whimple

April

| | | | |
|------|---|-----------------|----------|
| 2nd | Bingo | Cricket Club | 7.30pm |
| 3rd | Heritage Centre re-opens | The Linhay | |
| 8th | Devon In Touch Roadshow | Heritage Centre | 11am-4pm |
| 13th | WI -The History of the RSPCA | Victory Hall | 7.30pm |
| 20th | Annual Parochial Church Meeting | Victory Hall | 7.15pm |
| 25th | Sclub11 | Scout Hut | 11.00am |
| 27th | Over 60's - Trip to Wye Valley & the Forest of Dean | | |

May

| | | | |
|------|--|--------------|----------|
| | Scout Jumble Sale - details to follow | | |
| 8th | VPA Spring Plant Sale & Coffee Morning | Victory Hall | 10.00am |
| 9th | Sclub11 | Scout Hut | 11.00am |
| 18th | Trip to Exbury Gardens; | The Square | 9.00am |
| 23rd | Sclub11 | Scout Hut | 11.00am |
| 25th | Lucy Channon talk on 'Heirlooms of the future' | Victory Hall | 2.30p.m. |

June

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 8th | Trip to Paignton Zoo and Brixham; | The Square | 9.00am |
| 19th | VPA Open Garden Day | | |
| 19th | Concert - World Premiere | St. Mary's Church | |
| 27th | VPA Trip to Althelhampton | | |

July

| | | | |
|------|---|--------------|-------------|
| 29th | Age Concern Lifestyle 50+ Project Coffee Morning | Victory Hall | 10am-12noon |
|------|---|--------------|-------------|

August

| | | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| 14th | VPA Flower Show | Victory Hall | |
|------|-----------------|--------------|--|

St Mary's Church see page 6 for Easter services

Monthly Programme of Services

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

Please use the Whimple Diary held in the Post Office for checking availability of venues and booking events.

If your Association has an event which you would like listed above please contact Angela Smith on 822828 or e-mail Angela1smith@aol.com

Ed the Ed

Peace has returned to the lanes now that the current Mrs H and my goodself are no longer perambulating them and learning my words for the pantomime (despite the views of the audiences!). If you came to our extravaganza, I hope you enjoyed it – if you didn't enjoy it, or didn't come, then a whole world awaits you with the Whimbletons. Come and join us! We had many new people this year, which was great to see, and that combined with three full houses, was really great. I loved the camel! What a feat of construction, and then using those well known thespians Emma and Jenny...what a masterstroke. I said to Jenny that I wouldn't make the puerile comment about being typecast as the back end of the camel, as that would be unkind, so I won't.

By the time you read this editorial, spring will have well and truly sprung, and we are honoured to reveal a preview of 'The Knees' as the harbinger of Spring within our pages. You will see that they have received the most excellent husbandry during the dark satanic months, and Alex will be allowed to look after them for another year, provided he does not abuse their publicity value whilst on duty. Train passengers could be ordered to turn their heads away whilst passing through the wilds of Feniton, lest they turn to stone, or at the very least, feel a little queasy. And it's no fun being a little queasy – they don't grow very big, so look after yours.

There is an update within this edition on our good friend Gordon at the PO. We all miss him behind the counter, and hope that his recovery continues. We are also delighted to welcome Herbert Breyley back into the village after his short stay away, and hope to see him around soon.

The News team would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation to our running costs, and we will continue to review how we can finance the magazine as effectively as possible.

Some articles submitted for the last edition didn't make it, and we have managed to catch up now – my apologies to those concerned, as my mind was on other things during January.

Thanks, as ever, to our energetic band of distributors, without whom we couldn't survive – and to our valiant contributors. If you would like to put pen to paper, fingers to the keyboard etc etc, then we would be delighted to see your works of art. The deadline for contributions to the June/July edition need to be either at the PO or with Bob 'the flying fingers of the Green' Scanlan on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk, by Monday 17 May 2004.

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

Have you leant upon a gate, without a need for words
To take in nature's wonder, and to listen to the birds?
Yes, leaning on a gate is a thing we ought to do more often
It helps us to unwind, reflect and soften



Leaning on a gate, I have seen the sun break through to illuminate a small field when youthful Spring around us breathes and every glade shines sweetly. Then I think what sunshine is to flowers, sweet smiles are to humanity. I see the primrose bank with its faint fragrance that awakes my senses and I think 'what a wonderful world'. Give to the world the best you have and sure enough the best will come back to you. And when I hear the thrush I think how eloquently well he sings. The dazzle of his song and mirth delight me with joy and wonder. When I see each star rise, sink and fade, then the sun shining sweetly, and for me each bird that sings its song sparks in me a spirit that leaps with gladness. My

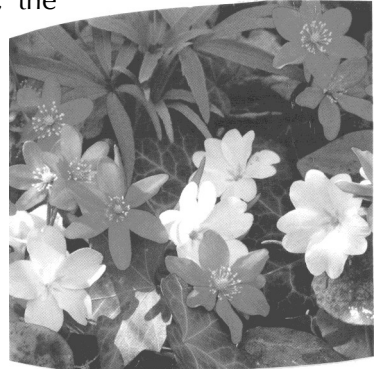
little walks give me such pleasure especially when nature appears so fresh and fair. To breathe the morning air makes me remember the days when larks whistled so sweetly as they flew in May.

When the sunny beams warm up the soil, the appearance of the first flush of annual weeds is better than any thermometer to indicate that Spring is not too far away. Another harbinger of Spring is the arrival of the swallows. Their graceful flight to catch insects in the sky, circling here, circling there. I do hope that they will come back to their nest in my drangway which they have abandoned the last two years and how I miss them.

I don't think there is a more delightful sight than the delicate bluebells along the lane banks. Their heads strongly arched, their powdery blue trumpets. It makes you feel the gladness of The May, nothing can bring back the hours of the waving grasses or the glory of the flowers when the insects as small as dust are reeling in the sun a glittering dance. I also like the large bindweeds with their white bells, wild hops and streaked woodbines and the cascading eglantines.

I think that a hedgerow bank bright with primroses, violets and barren strawberries must be one of the most evocative signs of Spring, with a few wood orchids for good measure. We are so lucky in Devon that primroses are still plentiful and orchids too as uprooting is now prohibited.

The primrose was the favourite flower of Benjamin Disraeli who always wore one in his buttonhole. He was also known as Lord Beaconsfield and in 1882 The Primrose League was founded. Ever since, the statue of Disraeli has been decked with a primrose wreath on the 19th April. The Primrose League was founded in his honour to perpetuate his constitution principles. He was a conservative politician and also a gifted novelist. He was Prime Minister in Queen Victoria's reign and it was during his premiership that Queen Victoria became the first Empress of India. He created the British Empire. Ironically, now I hear that primroses are scarce around Beaconsfield due to over-enthusiastic picking on April 19th each year.



Think every morning when the sun peeps through
The dim, leaf-latticed window of the grove
How jubilant the happy birds renew
Their old melodious madrigals of love
And when you think of this, remember too
Tis always morning somewhere, and above
The awakening continents, from shore to shore
Somewhere the birds are singing evermore.

HOSPICECARE COFFEE MORNING -12th DECEMBER

Despite the very inclement weather, a great number of friends supported this very worthy cause at The Old Manse. They came from the village, Ottery St Mary, West Hill, Aylesbeare, Pinhoe and Exeter. It was a very convivial get-together and we managed to raise £175.00 for the East Devon Group of supporters. Thank you very much for coming, and giving prizes for the draw. Books 'From My Window in The Square' were sold and signed and the entire proceeds went to Hospicecare. I may have another similar event in the summer.

Edith M-L Grout

NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER

Gordon and Heather would like to thank the village of Whimble for their kind wishes, prayers and offers of help after Gordon's stroke.

Gordon is making excellent progress now and he is working on his sense of humour to make sure it still works!

We would also like to say that the care received from the National Health Service has been superb – first rate emergency treatment – they don't always fall short of expectations!



ST MARY'S CHURCH WHIMBLE

Services for Easter are as follows:

Maundy Thursday (8th April) communion service at 7.00pm

Good Friday (9th April) service at Talaton at 2.00pm

Easter Day (11th April) services at 8.00am and 11.00am

We would be delighted to see you at any of these services.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will be held on Tuesday 20th April in the Committee Room of the Victory Hall.

Coffee will be served at 7.15pm, the meeting commencing at 7.30pm.

All parishioners are invited to attend.



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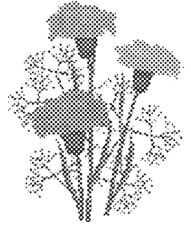
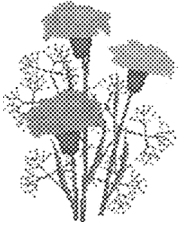
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Whimple Church Flower Festival is going ahead!

At a meeting held in the church on February 26th, it was overwhelmingly agreed that we would have a flower festival from Friday 3rd September - Sunday 5th September, closing with a "Songs of Praise" service on the Sunday evening to round off the festival: The theme of the flower festival being "Let there be Music".

It was much appreciated that so many people turned out in pretty unpleasant weather. We have had many offers of help, for which, many thanks. However, we do still need yet more assistance, particularly with stewarding in the church, making cakes and helping with the food which we are selling in the Scout Hut over the three days.

We would also like to hold a preview Wine and Cheese Party in church on the Thursday evening before the festival starts. We do need someone to offer to organize it please.

Rosemary Horrell 01404 822013

rosemaryhorrell@tiscali.co.uk

VISIT OF DEVON IN TOUCH ROADSHOW

THURSDAY 8th APRIL

The Devon In Touch Roadshow will visit Whimble on Thursday 8th April. The 'big red bus' will be operating from outside the Heritage Centre from 11:00a.m to 4:00 p.m.



It features a Radio Devon radio studio from which broadcast journalists Vic Morgon and Liz Scott will be broadcasting live on Radio Devon, including interviews with villagers and features about the village. They will also talk to and explain to visitors about the studio and Radio Devon.

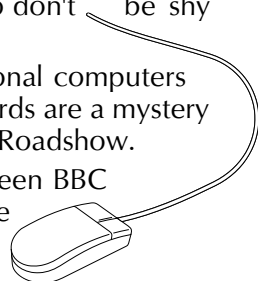
Also operating will be Devon County Council Communications Service with a learning suite with computers and advisors available to open up the world of computers, the Internet and e-mail. If you wish to know how to use these or improve your present skills the advisors can help you.

If you just want to use a computer or explore, you can. It's all free!

It's also a mobile radio studio where BBC Radio Devon can meet you face to face, hear your stories and broadcast them live to the rest of the county. Computer-phobes are particularly welcome on board - so don't be shy about coming along.

If you know someone who feels that the world of personal computers has passed them by - if RAM, megabytes and mother boards are a mystery - then that's exactly the kind of person who will enjoy the Roadshow.

This innovative community project is a partnership between BBC Radio Devon, Devon County Council and the Devon Fire and Rescue Service.



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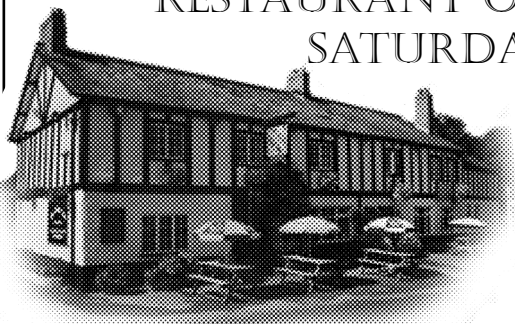
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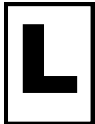


(now also looking after small animals)

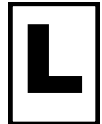
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Whimple Parish Council Meeting

On many occasions while walking through the Square I have paused to read the Parish Council Minutes and planning applications. Everyone is invited to attend the Parish Council meetings and the dates are posted on the board – I am always surprised to read that there are often no members of the public who attend and the maximum seems to be two. So, on 16th January, I thought I would go along and see what happened.

I sat with the only two members of public present and the council members seemed pleased the three of us had turned up. The meeting started with a 10-minute open session for the members of the public – this was very quick as I was only there to observe! The meeting then turned to the agenda that we were given a copy of so we could follow the proceedings.

The subject of the new doggy bins was brought up, as there had been two letters of complaint that one of the bins was too prominent – I thought that was the idea! We need to give dog walkers as much encouragement as possible to pick up dog mess and as one who regularly walks the lanes I think the situation has improved since the introduction of these bins.

There was also a request for consideration of another street light between Bramley Gardens and the New Fountain on Church Road as it is very dark where the road narrows – the various options were discussed.

Jim Tyrrell our local policeman reported there were 17 incidents reported to the police in January from Whimple parish. Five crimes which were letters sent to persons to cause fear and distress, a theft of a farm gate which one of the councillors was able to update Jim to say the gate had been returned and was hanging back where it belonged and a drink driver. I was reassured to hear what a safe area we live in.

Parish maintenance was discussed and I wondered how many of us notice potholes in the road and other work that needs doing and report these things to a councillor or do we just leave it for someone else to notice and report?

The tricky question of grants then came up; the parish council had notified village organisations that it was time for them to apply for grants from the council. Requests had been received from a number of organisations and, although they were all worthy causes, some tough decisions had to be made and it was obvious from the start that some were going to be disappointed. The council already had committed money for a bus shelter in the Square and to pipe water up to the allotments so the remainder was to be divided between the organisations. The merits of each request were looked at and some lively debate between the councillors ensued, compromises and difficult decisions were made.

I left before the end of the meeting, however I found most of the meeting very interesting and would certainly go again. The councillors are your elected representatives so if there are any village issues bring them to the council's attention.

Nicky H

WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY

or The History of Standard Railway Gauge - Anon

“Why is the Standard Railway Gauge (the distance between the rails) in the United States of America such an odd size?”

“What, at 4 feet 8.5 inches? – because that’s the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the first US railroads”.

“Why did the English build them that size?”

“Because the first railways were built by the same people who built the pre-railway tramways, and that’s the gauge they used”.

“Why that gauge then?”

“Because that was the normal wheel spacing of wagons prior to the tramways”

“What, like stagecoaches, but why that size?”

“When they tried other sizes the wheels broke on the long distance rutted roads in England because that’s the spacing of the ruts”.

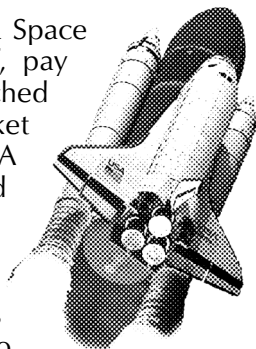
“So who built the original rutted roads?”

“The Romans did for their Legions, as they did throughout Europe. The ruts formed as a result of much use by Roman war chariots and other wagons”.

“So why did Imperial Rome build their chariots that size?”

“Because that was the width of two horses which was the standard motive power for each chariot”.

Now move forward 2000 years or so. When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on it’s launch pad waiting for the off, pay particular attention to the two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. NASA engineers who specified these would have preferred them to be a bit fatter, but they had to be transported by train from the factory to the launch site, and the railroad is routed through a tunnel in the mountains, the width of which was based on standard gauge track, which as we have already discussed, is about the size of two horses’ backsides.



So a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the most advanced transportation system ever invented was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of rear ends of two war horses.

So next time you are told “We have always done it that way”, it may pay to wonder why.



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There is already a wide range of Fairtrade products available in the main supermarkets but we are planning to make a wider range of fairly-traded goods available for sale on a regular basis in Whimple Church. The aim of our venture is to make you aware of the wide variety, and the high quality, of the goods that are available, and to encourage you to try them. We also plan to give guidance as to where they can be bought in nearby shops.

Once a month, usually at 12.00 after the morning service on the first Sunday in the month, we will have a display of goods for sale at the back of the Church. Non Church-goers are welcome to come in and buy and we will also be able to supply from this stock of goods at any time (phone number below), as people begin to know what we have available. We will also hold stalls at some of the Saturday coffee mornings in the Church throughout the Summer. These of course are also open to anyone.

Note; the main aim of this exercise is to demonstrate Christianity in action by helping the weak and often exploited growers of the developing world to get a fair price for the fruits of their hard work. It is a non profit making venture and nobody in Whimple Church will make any financial gain from it. So please have a look at the range of products and do try them. We think you will come back for more.

William and Rowena Wheeler

Tel. 01404 822527

Whimble History Society



WHIMBLE HERITAGE CENTRE –REOPENING

The Heritage Centre, situated at the New Fountain Inn car park, Church Road, will reopen for its 2004 season, on Saturday 3rd April.

It will be open until late September on Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Some new exhibits have been added and existing ones increased since last years opening. Admission is free. Car parking is available.

BOOK SIGNING

Whimble author Edith Grout will be present in the Heritage Centre on Saturday 3rd April from 10:30am to noon, signing copies of her best selling book "From my Window in The Square".

Published recently, the book tells of her life and time spent in Whimble and nearby, with many illustrations in colour, and black and white. The book is on sale at the Heritage Centre.

THE HERITAGE CENTRE "100 CLUB"

The History Society is once again running the above lottery draw. The membership of the 'Club' is open to anyone, aged 16 or over, and is not restricted to members of the Society. The proceeds of the Lottery go towards the Heritage Centre Building Fund for a future extension to the Centre.

Five drawings of the Lottery are held between April and December. Prizes are £50, £15 and £5 at each drawing.

Membership is £5, to take part in all the draws. Applications should be made to the address below, enclosing £5 for each membership required (cheques payable to Whimble History Society) before 20th April 2004 -

Whimble History Society, Lockyers Linhay, Church road, WHIMBLE EX5 2TA

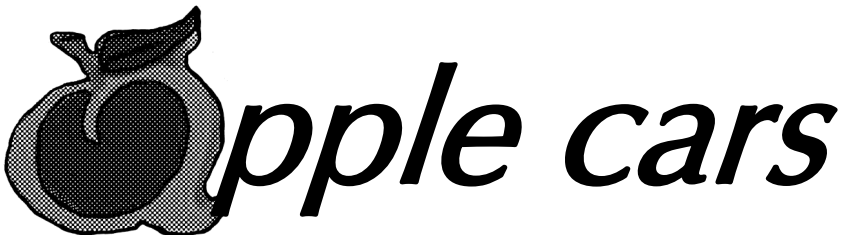
Members will be issued with a membership card. Winners will be notified by the Society, after each drawing.

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Concert in St. Mary's Church, Whimble

World Premiere - 19th June

Throughout most of the 30+ years we have lived in the village there seem to have been oboists in or around Whimble - I'm one. I've often thought that the Village Church would make an ideal venue for a chamber-sized orchestra and have decided, at last, to do something about organising one.

I have played all round the area for many years and made many friends in music. One group I play with, Abbas Music group, directed by Derek Browning, would seem to be the ideal size (17-20 players) and tends to concentrate on baroque to early & late classics. For many years we have been giving very successful summertime concerts and including early Haydn and Mozart Symphonies with concertos of the same period.

Derek Browning is a professional musician and well-known in the region and some years ago he honoured three of his friends, including me, by writing three concertos and dedicating one to each of us. These he calls the Colemere Concertos and are, respectively for recorder, bassoon and oboe d'amore (a slightly lower-pitched oboe much favoured by Bach and Telemann and now becoming popular with modern composers). The Oboe d'amore Concerto is tuneful and has a haunting slow movement and this concert will be its first performance.

To cut a long story short, with great encouragement from others, especially Rob Wilkinson and Sarah Smith, we are to present a concert in Whimble Church on 19 June. The programme will probably comprise:

- Suite in D major by Telemann
- Symphony No 1 by Mozart
- Colemere Concerto for Oboe d'amore & Strings
- Symphony No 39 by Haydn

Neither of the symphonies is very long. There will be an interval in the concert when it is hoped to serve wine or soft drinks (to be included in the ticket price). We hope that the players and audience can mix during the interval. It is intended to make just a nominal ticket charge for accompanied children in the hope that they will be brought to enjoy live music and take the opportunity to chat to the players and see their instruments.

Finally, in recognition of the importance of this historic church in our growing community, and the constant need for funds to preserve its fabric, profits from the concert will go to St. Mary's Church, Whimble. We hope to announce details of where to obtain tickets shortly. Meanwhile please telephone me on 01404 822344 if you would like further information.

Tom Lambert



S Club 11

About 30 'S-clubbers' have been meeting every other Sunday at 11 o'clock for the last 3 months - enjoying loads of fun, games, songs, competitions and SO much more! If you are aged between 5 and 12, come on down to the Scout Hut on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month (apart from Easter Sunday).

The dates coming up are 25th April, 9th and 23rd May.

For more information contact

Phil or Rebecca Dominy on 822163

(or see the new display boards
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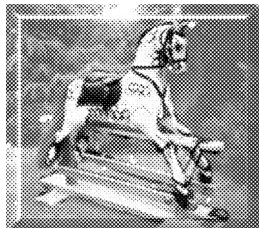
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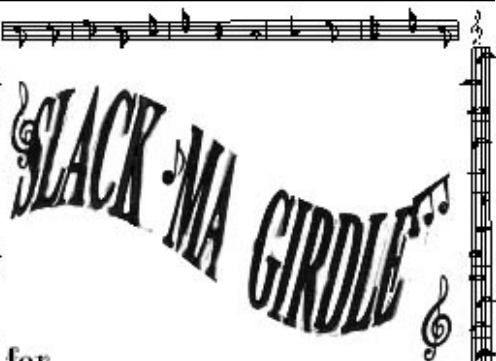
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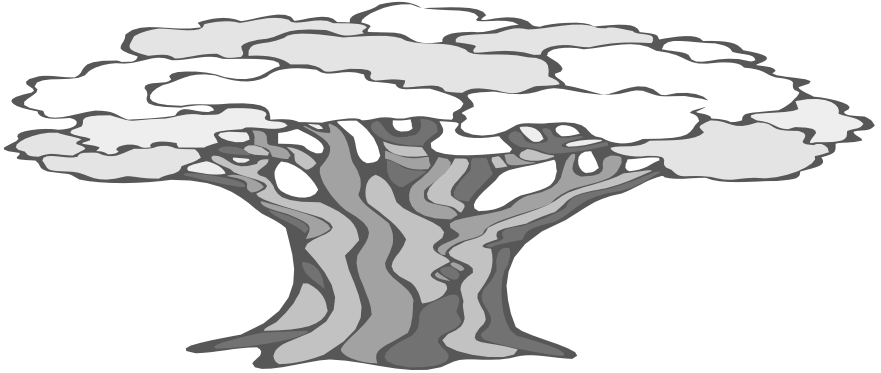
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FROM THE CROSSING KEEPER'S HUT

Well there, another two months has passed, spring is here, babies are being born and people are smiling again. The 'Knees' are still hibernating at the moment but can be seen covered up on a bicycle going between Talaton and the Tardis where their owner goes daily to play with his train set, drink tea etc etc.

Once we get our new ticket machine, I will be offering Apex and Super Advanced tickets (the ones you can get on the internet) to far off destinations such as London. Starting for as little as £20.70 not bad, eh!

Come up and see us. Open 06.00-22.00, Monday-Sunday. **Alex**



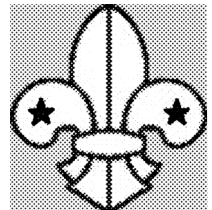
SCOUTS

Due to other work commitments I will no longer be able to become the Beaver Scout leader and will just continue as Group Manager for the foreseeable future. This will mean that in order for Beaver Scouts (6 - 8 year olds) to remain open after Easter, we will need at least 3 adults willing/prepared to go into uniform and undertake the relevant training to be qualified in this position. There is a strong parent rota now in operation, but it now needs at least 3 persons (aged between 18 - 65) to lead it and run it week to week. Ideally someone who likes working with young children and enjoys Arts and Crafts.

Hopefully in May we will be holding our annual Jumble Sale so please start turning out - same as before, we'll come round and collect. Watch out for the dates!

Take care. See you soon

Alex



What a Pantomime!

As usual the annual Whimbletons pantomime was a sell-out and, if you were not lucky enough to get a ticket, you missed a treat!

The very successful format somehow manages to combine a lot of laughs, some crazy antics and a variety of 'characters' to produce something resembling a classic pantomime. All the ingredients were there including audience participation, farce, slapstick, villains for booing and a hero and heroine to cheer, all culminating in the traditional happy ending. This production does not just happen! A lot of preparation and hard work goes on long before the audiences pour through the door in eager anticipation. Everyone involved is to be congratulated for a brilliant production yet again, and it was particularly good to see some new faces in the cast.

It is impossible to list everyone individually and praise their contribution. However I was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm of the younger members who made a great chorus line. The harem dancers provided their own form of entertainment which delighted everyone - especially the men. The bad guys alias 'the dirty rats' were brilliant and as 'over the top' as ever, however even they were eclipsed by the lip-curling, spitting camel who made his first appearance from the back of the hall spraying the audience and causing great hilarity! The 'cat-fight' was very cleverly choreographed and excellently performed, proving yet again that you should never work with animals!

I must not overlook the work of the production team who should be justifiably proud of their enormous contribution. The scenery and costumes were excellent and along with the lighting and the music combined to produce top quality support for the cast.

If you enjoy an enthusiastic amateur local production, the Whimbletons' pantomime must not be missed. The improvisation and prompting together with the occasional local reference are what makes it ours!

Don't miss next year's production!

Pam Scanlan



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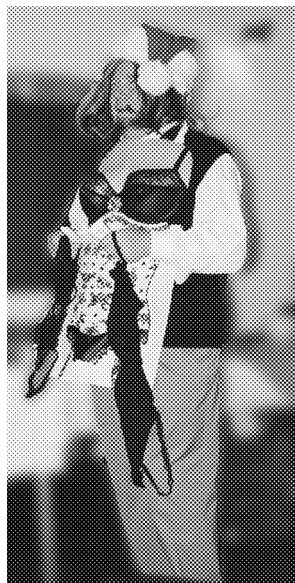
There will be other organisations joining us.

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DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF VILLAGE CAUGHT "RELAXING"

Following the article in the last edition about joining the Whimble History Society, some people have been under the assumption that the Society has a very sombre tone to its meetings. We are pleased to put the record straight, with this photographic evidence of the Chairman, (who prefers to remain anonymous), relaxing at the Xmas buffet in some slightly different attire from what he would normally wear on the streets of our fair village.

Perhaps a secret 'Rocky Horror Show' fan?
Come and join us!



THE THIRSTY FARMER

Thanks to everyone for making our Valentine Day and Mothers' Day meals such a success. We were really pleased to see that both events were fully booked, and look forward to more like that.

Thanks as well to everyone who supported our Wild West theme for the 'All day breakfast' on behalf of Cancer Research - with the breakfast and raffle sales, we will be donating some £600 to this very worthwhile charity. It was great to see so many people dressing up, and we got a couple of photos into the Echo the next day.

The new menu and wine list are working really well - the meal favourites are the beef bourguignon and the home-made steak and ale pie. Come in and try them!

A whole heap of live entertainment is coming soon - watch this space!

Tanya and Vicki



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We are delighted with the support and help from the Whimble History Society in their accommodating the Parish Council Records. We have also invested in a computer - so we are a paperless Council!!

As a result, the Parish Council have been able to terminate their lease on the property "Torno". Therefore, all correspondence should go to the Clerk's address, as below.

You can now contact the Council by phone or in writing by post, fax or e-mail.

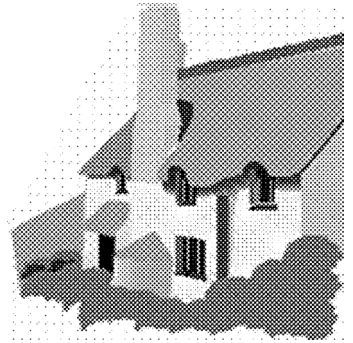
Clerk: Mrs G Turner,

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WHIMPLE WI

We have had a very busy start to 2004 with excellent speakers and various social events. At our February meeting Tom Coleman told us about his trip to Peru, "The Land of the Incas" illustrated with slides. Julie Clark came to the March meeting to tell us about the Witness Support Service. Julie is involved with the Exeter magistrates court and gave us a real insight into her work. Also at the March meeting we had a Fairtrade stall which was well supported.

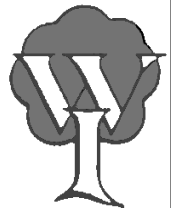
Members have attended county events including a theatre day at the Northcott theatre, a Commonwealth lunch with speaker, and a Health day in Plymouth. At the health day we had specialists speaking on Osteoporosis and Diabetes with suggestions for diet and exercise.

Our craft group continues to meet most weeks. Although a few members have retired from the institute we have welcomed several new ladies and we now have 49 members.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 13th April will be a talk on 'The history of the RSPCA' by local resident Jonathan Silk.

We welcome visitors and prospective new members at our meetings. For information contact:-

Ann Bowden, secretary tel. 01404 823450



more in sadness.....

In the last few months more than a dozen items have been taken from the Victory Hall and not returned. We can only conclude that they have been stolen. These range in value from trays costing £1 each to a tea urn worth about £100. We have therefore had to improve the security of the hall. The locks have been changed and there are new arrangements for locking up after events. We hope you will not find this too inconvenient and understand why we have had to take these measures.

It is particularly unfortunate that the Victory Hall, which is a charity working solely for the benefit of the village, has been targeted in this way. Please help us by being vigilant and let a member of the Committee, or if appropriate the police, know of any unusual activity in or around the hall.

Bob Scanlan

Jan Keslake

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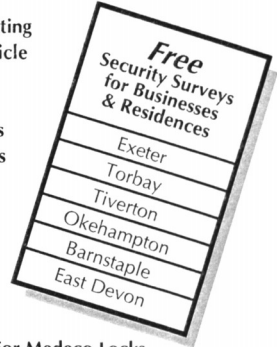
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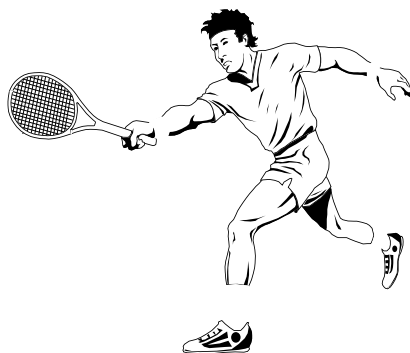
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WHIMPLE TENNIS CLUB

AGM – 2004



Following a fantastically successful 2003, the Club held their AGM on 23rd March. The committee reported a terrific 2003, with increased membership and a very encouraging response to the first coaching programme, which was organised during Spring/Summer.

The following was decided:

- ◆ Subscriptions would stay the same this year, and are due on 1st May – Adult @ £20, Junior @ £10, Families @ £40
- ◆ The Working Party dates to tidy up the court would be on Sundays - 9th & 16th May from 10 in the morning to noon
- ◆ Club Nights - Thursdays from 6th May starting at 7pm – all welcome, whatever your standard
- ◆ Club Social – 24th June – details nearer the time
- ◆ Coaching will again be organised starting with a *taster session* on Sunday 25th April at 4pm. Thereafter sessions will be on Sundays at 4 pm and will be charged at just £2.50 for the hour and bookable in 5 week blocks. Volunteers to help are needed & welcomed

Contacts are :-

Membership – Jane Hughes (822659) or Judith Imbo (823240)

Coaching – Miles Leonard (822415)

Working Party – Teri Lang (822512)

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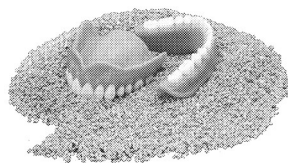
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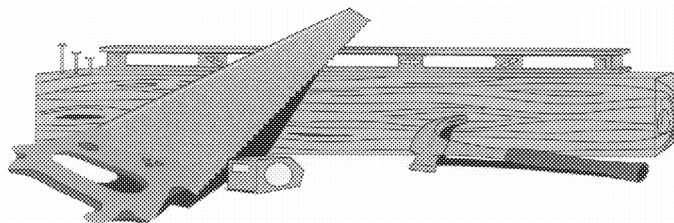


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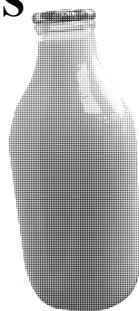
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LADIES OF THE VILLAGE

Our thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the 'Senior Citizens 40th Christmas Party', held in the Victory Hall on Friday December 5th, such a great success, with such a happy atmosphere.

The food was excellent and very well presented. The Ottery St Mary Silver Band entertained us with a wonderful selection of Christmas music, and Father Christmas came along to do the draw.

Excellent donations were received to help with this party – without these gifts we would find it very difficult to continue.

Arrangements have been made for the 2004 party to take place on Friday December 3rd – so make a note in your diaries!

LMS

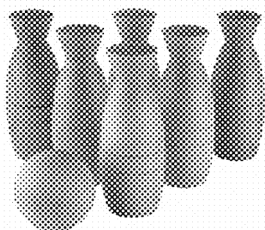
CHARITY SKITTLES MATCH

A charity skittles match was held at the Cricket Club on Saturday 24th January, and it raised £145 for the Over 65's Christmas party. Almost forty players turned up for the event – thanks to everybody who came along.

Big thanks to the Cricket Club for letting us use their facilities and Roger Smith for serving the much-needed liquid refreshment. There were 3 teams that took part – my team (Geoff's lot), John's mob and Vicky's girls. I think my team were the eventual winners but can't be too sure here as it was all a bit of a blur – I must have had one too many shandies!

The event was a great success, and we are looking forward to our next fund raising event. You might even win that one John!

Geoff Delves



The Healthy Option

Your senior readers can ignore this at their peril, for intensive care beds are now in short supply.

In November, Prime Minister Blair, answering reporters after his chest pains, said, "The public should take all the measures they can to improve their health."

An experiment carried out in Holland lasting two years, enrolled 3000 retired persons to forgo milk in their tea, which resulted in a 53% reduction heart problems reported, compared with the national average, at no cost whatever but a substantial saving in hospital care. So milk in later life clogs up the arteries because it is produced for rearing calves, not humans.

The ideal is to eat lots of veg and fruits, avoid all dairy products, red meats, fats and sugar. Then reduce the weight joints have to carry by cutting back on meal sizes, take exercise or walks for fitness, to prepare for a healthier old age later.

WHAT MORE CAN ONE ASK FOR?

Eric Braund

Whimble Pre-School Playgroup Curry & Quiz Night -31 January 2004.

A big thank you to everyone that attended the quiz and curry night on 31 January 2004. A total of £300 was raised for Whimble Pre-School Playgroup, which was wonderful.

Sorry for those who could not get tickets, they sold out much quicker than anticipated.

A delicious curry was served up by Jenny & Julia wearing their chefs hats! We hope the spices gave everyone's brain power a boost and well done to the winners.

You have to wonder considering this quotation and offered answer! "Whose motto is 'Blood & Fire'?" -

Answer: The Salvation Army (not the Hells Angels).



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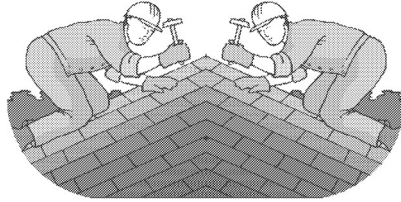
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- then you can ask for a partial or full refund. The amount of money you get back may be reduced to take account of any use that you have had out of the goods.

COMPENSATION

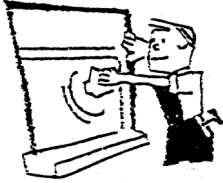
You **may** be entitled to compensation if: -

- the work was not carried out with reasonable care and skill, or finished within a reasonable time; or
- the trader has been negligent, for example has put in new windows which let in water when it rains and you have to redecorate; or
- you have accepted a repair, which turns out to be unsatisfactory; or the goods or services are unsafe and someone has suffered injury.
- you have incurred additional expenses or suffered inconvenience because of the breach of contract, for example, the cost of employing someone else to rectify faults, when the original trader was unable or unwilling to do so.

You should always take legal advice before accepting compensation for personal injury.

IF IN DOUBT CONTACT TRADING STANDARDS or the CAB

John Munslow 01404 823456



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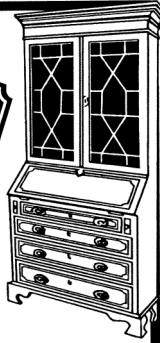
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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Our first event of the new year was clearly very popular when a large number of members and friends came along for the talk and demonstration by Jill White, our Flower Arranging judge at the flower show. It was good to see this event so well attended and hopefully it has inspired more of you to enter the flower arranging classes at the show. So that you can all gather your thoughts, a list of the classes is included with this report. So, we will be eagerly looking forward to an even more colourful display of exhibits this year.

Our next event will be the spring plant sale and coffee morning on Saturday 8th May in the Victory Hall commencing at 10.00am - PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENT DAY AND TIME. Entry will be only 50p and will include coffee. As usual we hope to have a variety of plants on offer and if anyone has any surplus stock they want to pass on will gladly do our best to find it a new home. So don't get too carried away at the local garden centres as we hope to have something for everyone!

We will be trying something new this year, though it is not new in the village. On Saturday 19th June we will be having an Open Garden Day. This has been done by other groups before but this year we have persuaded a number of people to allow you to trample all over their gardens, there is even an allotment to view as well. Although there will a charge for this, the proceeds will be shared with a local charity. Full details will be in the next edition of the News but will also be advertised around the village.

Our coach outing this year will be on Sunday 27th June - please note that, as with last year, it is not on Father's Day! We will be going to Athelhampton near Dorchester. Full details and can be obtained from Pauline Rogers at Lyndon, Church Road, or see her at the coffee morning in May. Early booking is advisable, as our coach trip has been very popular in the past.

Members are reminded that their membership fees are due and at only £1.00 per person it represents very good value. Money to Pauline Rogers at Lyndon please or to her at the May plant sale/coffee morning.



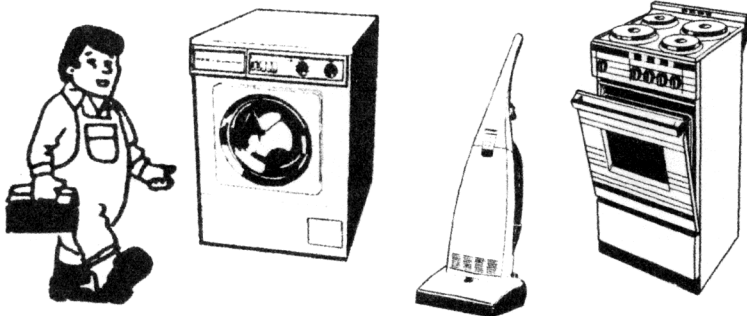
Details of the classes for year's Flower Show on Saturday 14th August will soon be finalised and we will have full information available at the plant sale. So if you want to know anything about the Show, just come along and ask. Together with the classes for the flower arranging, the list of classes for the photography section has been included so that those of you wishing to enter these classes can have plenty of time to prepare your exhibits.

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary

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FROM DORIS FORD

On behalf of Hospicecare and myself, I wish to thank all those who kindly donated contributions in memory of my late husband, Eddie Ford. A total of £331:50 was finally received by Hospicecare. A very big 'thank you' to you all

WHIMPLE NEWS DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED FOR THE PADDOCK

We have been helped by the estate agent in delivering to the occupied houses in The Paddock, but now need someone who lives at The Paddock, who can take the main delivery of half a dozen magazines every 2 months and drop them through people's letter boxes please. It would only take a few minutes of your time, and supports something for the village. Thanks.

The keen volunteer should contact Ed or Nicky Hitchcock on 823194...

Whimble Over 60's Social Club Activities

27th April Trip to Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean

18th May Trip to Exbury Gardens; depart 09.00 from The Square

25th May Lucy Channon talk on 'Heirlooms of the future' Victory Hall 2.30p.m.

8th June Trip to Paignton Zoo and Brixham; depart 09.00 from The Square

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

'BARGE PAINTING' ARTIST SOUGHT

The blue milk churn outside Dairy Cottage needs repainting, ideally in a similar style with decorations and fancy writing. Does anyone have these skills and would be prepared to help us out please (of course we'll pay!!!) or does anyone know someone who does...in which case please let us know if they would be interested...thanks.

Our number is 823194.

Ed and Nicky Hitchcock

Organisations in Whimble

Whimble Parish Council

Chairman: Sara Randall Johnson 822524

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

St. Mary's Church

Contact: Rev. Rob Wilkinson 822521

Devon County Councillor

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

East Devon Councillor

Andrew Dinnis 850363

Whimble County Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. D. Brice 822584

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

Whimble History Society

Chairman: Richard Webber 822038

Secretary: Roger Smith 822244

Whimble Mothers Union

Mrs. D. Rastall Killigarth Church Road 822486

Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group

Chair: Liz Camp, Brook House, The Square 823392

Playleader: Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road 822168

Whimble Womens Institute

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

Whimble Over Sixties Club

Mrs B. Iball 11 Rectory Close 822905

Whimble Recreation Trust

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

Whimble Village Produce Association.

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

Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club

Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm 822257

Whimble Football Club

Chairman: Geoff Delves, 10 Elizabeth Close 823258

Whimble Tennis Club

Secretary: T. A. Lang 822512

Treasurer: J. Hughes 822659

Whimble Cricket Club

Mr. R.J.Smith 822244

Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee

Secretary: Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green 822262

Booking Sec: Teresa Daniels 823169

Whimble Post Office

Gordon & Heather Owen 822359

Whimbletons

Emma Palmer 823083

Neighbourhood Watch

John Munslow, 44, Slewton Crescent 823456

St. Mary's Bellringers

Captain: Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road 822873

Whimble Scout Group

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

The Whimble News Team

Editor

Ed Hitchcock 823194

Production

Bob Scanlan 822262

Vivienne Leonard 822415

Anni Hindle 822025

Delivery

Ed & Nicky Hitchcock 823194

Advertising

Miles Leonard 822415

Pam Scanlan 822262

Community diary

Angela & Peter Smith 822828

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