

Whimple News



Aug/Sept 2008



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26th	September	Carnaby Street

WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

August

- 1st Guided Village Walk, starting from Heritage Centre, 6.30pm
8th Meat Bingo in aid of over 65's Christmas Party, Cricket Club,
9th VPA Flower and Craft Show, Victory Hall, 2.30pm
30th Cardboard & Plastic Bottle Collection, Village Car Park, 10.00-11.00am

Sept

- 4th Wasters of Whimple Meeting, Hillcroft, 8.00pm
13th Sponsored Cycle Ride for Devon Historic Churches Trust
20th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, noon -1.30pm
28th Cider with Roadies Apple Pressing, Heritage Centre

St Mary's Church

Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Celebration Service
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sclub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Service
4th Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sclub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
5th Sunday	11.00am	Joint Benefice Communion

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

If your Association has an event which you would like listed above please contact **Nicky Hitchcock** on 823194 or e-mail nickyjhitch@tiscali.co.uk

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Ed the Ed

I wish to apologise for that very silly comment at the bottom of my last editorial when I wished everyone a great summer. I now realise that such optimism is completely unfounded in a climate such as ours, and I regret that that I may have misled some of you to think that this summer was going to be all blue skies, warmth and fun. It won't happen again.

Nevertheless (what a great word!) Whimble spurned the poor weather forecasts and still arranged lots of events during June and July. Village Week refused to be defeated and brave souls did the worm charming in slightly damp conditions, and how Jenny Sanders enjoyed counting all the worms at the end, using her cupped hands. The walking Treasure Hunt was well planned by Good Old Uncle Alan (Smith) and we had some 50 participants. The music up at the Cricket Club on the Thursday night, sponsored by Paul and Gill from the Fountain, was excellent. Numbers seemed a little light early on, but by 9.30 - 10.00pm, the clubhouse was full, and all had a good time. Thanks! And well done and thanks to all involved in the planning and 'doing' of the Village Week.

Whimble has now seen its first Freecycle event – see the article later, but a word of praise for the Scouts in taking a risk with letting the WOW team have the Scout Hut for what could have been no, or very little payment. As it was, the WOW team were able to give the Scouts some £85 towards their funds which was great. Keep your diaries free for Sunday 28th September, when we have the apple pressing gang coming to Whimble again, with Pomona, the pressing machine. Again, you will have the opportunity to have your apples pressed, and the juice collected in your own containers for a nominal contribution. We don't have a play this year, but there should be enough to keep everyone entertained for an afternoon. Watch for details on posters!

Whilst on about apples, and a link to cider, and a seamless link to brewing, Alex Bell the Head Brewer at O'Hanlons, was invited to speak in London to The Royal Institute on July 16th, on the science of brewing, which was a great honour for Alex. Starting on page 18 there is an article that Alex has written for us. Many congratulations to Alex, and some well deserved recognition for both him and O'Hanlons.

If you would like to put quill to parchment, then please leave your epistle at the PO with Alison and 'Small Outlet' Jim. Electronically you send it to Robert Du Scanlan , Le Daupinoise du Vert on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk.

Enjoy the remaining few weeks of whatever they call this period in the year!

Ed H



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We have recently become agents for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust lottery. For those of you who are not too sure how this works, its simply it's a way to support a worthy charity and to have a flutter at the same time. When you join the scheme you will be asked to pay £2, one week in advance, then its just £1 per week . For this your number will be included in a weekly draw and the first prize winner will receive £1350 , then there are 2 prizes of £135, and 50 prizes of £50. At least 70p in the pound goes direct to the Devon Air Ambulance. We don't have many people on this scheme at the moment, which is a shame, but I am sure, given a little more publicity, we can build up a good amount of support for this charity from Whimble. If you would like to know more about this pick up a leaflet, or please ask.

Johnson's the dry cleaners are running a special deal on their 'Rug Doctor' carpet cleaning machine rental, for the summer. We haven't used this ourselves (we don't have carpets) but apparently its simple to use and very effective. For details on prices please ask, prices start from £19.99 for 48hrs (pick up and drop off at the post office).

Thanking you for your continuing support
Jim & Alison

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FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

There is no better, brighter place my eye may ponder over
than one comely space before The Old Manse door.
I talk to many a flower there, and smile upon them all
I breathe a fragrance on the air of a summer festival.
Such is the bright and happy place my eye does ponder over,
the small and comely garden before The Old Manse door.

I sincerely hope that our village will secure a place in the Best Kept Village competition. Our Square has been cleaned up and it looks so green and inviting. So many visitors comment and ask if it is the Village Green. The majestic Linden Tree and the babbling brook attract birds and wildlife, adding to The Square's rural charm.

As you cannot overtake time, the best way is always to be a few minutes ahead of him. Whatever your situation in life may be, lay down your plan of conduct for the day. The hours will glide more smoothly on without crossing or jostling each other.

When you have set about a good work, do not rest until you have completed it. In the morning, plan what you are to do, and at night think of what you have done. Do as you would be done by.

In my early morning world I see with delectation and pleasure the beauty of our Linden Tree by the little bridge over the babbling brook. I can hear the birds sing on every side – blackbirds, thrushes, chaffinches and my dear little robin, who follows me everywhere. I really could not be loitering in bed. It would only hurt me and deprive me daily of a great joy, and would also shorten the time of my life. When I discover something of my feelings it makes my heart swell with gratitude that I can still enjoy the beauty and stillness of the early morning, which gives me so much pleasure and makes my heart smile.

Now the glories of the year
May be viewed at their best
And the Earth does now appear
In the fairest garments drest.
Sweet smelling plants and flowers
Do perfume the garden bowers
Hill and valley, wood and field
Other blessings many more
At this time enjoyed be
And this is my song therefore
Praise I give O Lord to Thee

I think this very lovely poem by George Wither depicts romantically the charm of a summer day.

Suppose flowers themselves were new every day. Suppose they have just come into the world as sweet reward for some new goodness. Yet this phenomenon to a mind of any thought and loveliness is what may be said to take place every day. Geoffrey Chaucer put it so aptly in this short poem:

Seek out the good in every man
And speak of all the best you can
Then will all men speak well of thee
And say how kind a heart ye be.

It is remarkable how the colours and patterns of the countryside change almost daily during harvest time. You notice this when walking around the village or going on the bus to Ottery St. Mary. Sitting higher up than when in a car, you can see the contours of the land for miles around and you become aware that most of the fields are for corn or grazing dairy cattle. As the days of the harvest get closer, the view changes from green to gold and, except for the grass fields, the whole panorama becomes a glowing yellow, but only for a few days. Part of this patchwork of fields is to be harvested so, almost immediately, they are ploughed to prepare them for the next years' crop, and the parches of gold become that wonderful red of our fertile, Devon soil. Gone are the days when the corn was cut and bound in sheaves (as they were when I was at my agricultural college in Switzerland), which were then stacked tidily in stooks. No machinery – only horse power. With the same number of sheaves to each stook, the pattern was regular because it was drawn on a paper. Seen on a sunlit evening, the slanting shadows of each stook added another dimension to an already beautiful pattern. But I am daydreaming back to the days of the binder and thresher horses and carts.

The weeks of September and early October have long been my favourites of the year. September has a different, but equally alluring, charm. The urgency is over, the berries ripen. I can sit back in my garden and enjoy it all. Knowing me, perhaps making some constructive notes and plans, but postponing my activities until later. Often these days have a magic in their stillness, with early morning mists masking the outline of the trees.

Pleasures lie scattered all about our ways
Harvest for thought and joy to look and glean
Much of the beautiful to win and praise
Lie where we never heeded ought have been
Yet here mid leaf-strewn mornings Autumn mild
While pleasing sounds and pleasing sights are bye
Things beautiful delight my heart to smile.

John Clare

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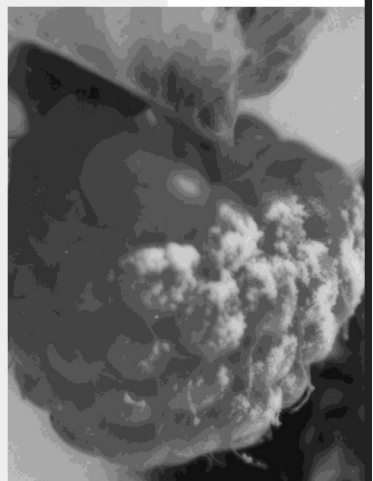
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WHIMPLE CHURCH

www.whimplechurch.org

We have recently finished a great sermon series on the “letters to the churches” from the book of **Revelation** in the Bible. As well as being encouraged to stay faithful to the end and, reminded of the amazing promise of our certain future with Christ in heaven, this series of sermons also presented many sobering warnings and challenges. It’s always amazing to see how God’s word in the Bible first written to churches two millennia ago still speaks so clearly and relevantly to us today in our present situation.

As well as Revd Rob Wilkinson’s task of teaching, pastoring, and leading the churches in the United Benefice of Whimple, Talaton and Clyst St Lawrence, he has also recently been appointed **Rural Dean** for the Ottery Deanery. His responsibilities in this additional role include pastoral care for clergy of the Deanery, being a link between the Bishops of Exeter Diocese and clergy in the Ottery Deanery and welfare of parishes with a clergy vacancy.

Looking back on recent events in the life of the Church, the **SClub11 outing** to Escot on 7th June was a great success, with glorious sunshine, picnic lunches and much fun particularly on Escot’s new ‘Death Slide’. **Impact’s end of year BBQ** was on Sunday 6th July and it was good to get together many of the youngsters who come to the Sunday morning group and also to the monthly Clubnights, and their families.

Thank you to everyone who came to the **Church Fete** and helped make it such a successful occasion. A highlight was the maypole dancing by children from Whimple School - ‘thank you’ to all of you, and to Sue Wilson for arranging it. The many stalls, attractions and delicious teas enabled in the region of £1,745 to be raised for church funds.



The Mothers’ Union enjoyed their summer outing on 2nd June to the Flower Festival in Crediton, followed by tea at Bickleigh Mill, and the **Bell Ringers** and friends enjoyed their annual outing on 21st June, visiting churches on the fringes of Dartmoor.

It was our privilege again to round off the events of Village Week 2008 with **Songs of Praise** on Sunday 13th July. We had a good mix of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs and it was great to hear those who chose the songs giving the reason for their selection and testimony to God’s work in their lives.

Looking forward, this year's annual sponsored cycle ride in aid of the **Devon Historic Churches Trust** and Whimble Church takes place on Saturday 13th September. This is an all - age event, and we had a good entry from Whimble last year. If you would like to join the group, please contact Mike Ellingham on 822945.



Our **Summer Coffee Mornings** continue on Saturday mornings from 10:15am to 12:00noon (except 2nd Aug & 13th Sept) with tea, coffee and home made cakes. Please do drop in, and also take the opportunity to stock up on **FairTrade** goods from the stall, which will be open at these times.

There are still some places on the **Total Adventure Activity Holiday** for 11-14 yr olds running at Kings School, Ottery St Mary, from 25th - 29th August 2008. This will be an action packed week of activities being organised by local churches, and run by Adventure Plus. The all-inclusive cost will be £150, and further details can be found at www.adventureplus.org.uk, or contact Phil Dominy(822163).



We look forward to welcoming you at Whimble Church where there is a variety of styles of service, and children's and young people's groups for all ages. Please do join us!

Knitters and Needle Crafters

Several people mentioned in the parish plan questionnaire that they would like craft classes in the village. As tutors are very expensive and crafts very varied, I thought there may be an interest in a group of crafters helping each other. Within a small group there's usually someone who can solve a problem. Sometimes it's just a bit of encouragement that's needed to get that U.F.O. (unfinished object) completed.

All over Whimble, behind closed doors, I'm sure there is a plethora of talent. It's really interesting to see what other people are doing, admire their work and occasionally massage your ego when (if) they admire yours.

If you are interested in such a group, come for an informal meeting and cup of tea on Thursday 4th September 3.00 at 13 Rectory Close or ring 822818.

Elisabeth Roberts

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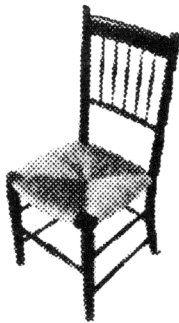
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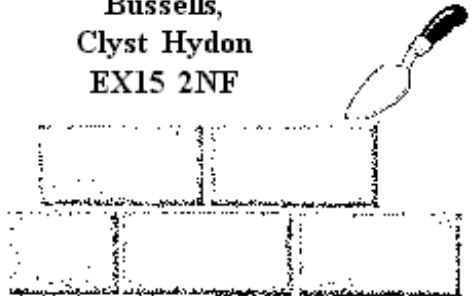
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Beer as nature intended

The Science of Beer

A talk given at The Royal Institution, London on 16th July 2008.

It was at the beginning of February that Liz came to tell me of an enquiry from the Royal Institution in London. I rang them and spoke to a young lady called Giulia Civello, on their events team:

“Hi, is that Alex? Yes we were wondering if you would be interested in doing a talk during our summer season about beer”

“Do you think people would be interested in that?”

“Oh yes, I’m sure it would be very popular”

“Perhaps they should try and get out a bit more”

And so began the preparations for an event last week. I was pretty sure this was something I wanted to be involved in straight away but a look at the website confirmed that this was a big deal. Yes this was the place that did the Christmas Lectures on telly with real boffins. Over 200 years, an army of famous names had delivered lectures here. Faraday took his chance when he was offered an apprenticeship to Davey after the chief chemist had a fight at the RI and walked out. I was certainly going to seize this opportunity.

I started gathering images to use and found both Chris Garratt at Warminster Maltings and Paul Corbett at Charles Faram hop merchants. Both had a David Bailey side to them and they provided me with some excellent shots of hops on the vine, barley in the field, and inside the floor maltings. Alex Herrera at the lab also obliged with some shots of yeast through a microscope and, gulp, some science stuff to put in it.

When I first started discussing it all with Giulia she said I didn’t need to make it too technical, but I was determined to cram in as much as hard science as possible. Help in this department came from an old mate from Imperial College. Better known for his Heineken Cup Final lion-suited pitch invasion of 2005, Dr Steve Wilkinson leads a double life as a softly spoken, brilliant research academic. He currently leads a team investigating the yeast genome at Manchester University and he allowed me to raid some of his finest work.

So it was starting to take shape, but I knew I had to work some gags in to keep peoples attention for a half hour talk. The only vaguely humorous things in a brewery are either finings related – isinglass having a similarity to a certain bodily fluid, and fluffy bottoms – caused by inappropriate fining rates; or plant related eg. flanges, nipples etc. Neither of these looked too promising. What if the Queen came?

The solution came when I looked into the history of beer. There was loads of material here. Civilisation was built on beer it would appear! Beer witches being burned by henbane tripping dipsos and Sumerian kings taking neanderthals under their wing with a cup of ale or two, and releasing them as human beings!

So by May I had a first draft. I did dry runs at The Wellhouse and Georges Marvellous Meeting House in Exeter. Turnout was poor but it was an illuminating experience. Much work to be done then. Changes were made and more practices inflicted on unexpecting audiences. Liz decided a public speaking professional would help polish my and Richard's projection. He would also be addressing a large crowd as we would be giving a tutored tasting after the main talk. Ian Price came down and, in a day, transformed us both from diffident umm-and errors to slick umm-and-errors. He also made lots of useful changes to the powerpoint slides, particularly enhancing the O'Hanlons brand.

One week before D-day saw me present to esteemed Eldridge Pope master brewer Dan Thomasson. I was getting there, but more changes were made and I felt we were as close to ready as possible, bar a snag with some video footage. Having seen our IT techy guys I thought that was fixed, but with two days to go it failed again when I did the dress rehearsal at the Thirsty Farmer. That section was ditched and fresh still shots were taken while Richard brewed next day, and plugged into the powerpoint. Crossing my fingers we headed up to London that night looking for an early start at the RI.

I got to Piccadilly early and stood outside the imposing columns of The Royal institution at ten. Inside I finally relaxed when I could see the finished powerpoint beamed onto the 18ft screen above my head in the 450 seat theatre. One final run through to myself left me still unsure about the detailed order and how to tee up those hilarious beer gags. Richard arrived with a van load of beer at lunchtime and we set about stillaging it all for the tasting. The Royal Oak and Dry Stout were in excellent nick but the bright Yellow Hammer had thrown a heavy protein haze. Curses! If only I had double checked that! It tasted fine but the dry-hop notes we wanted to talk about don't really sing unless the beer is star bright. There was nothing we could do now and with this in mind I started to feel more relaxed, if ambivalent, about the talk. I was confident the slides would do most of the talking and I knew I'd done as much as I could.

After beer writer and the evening's Chairman, Adrian Tierney Jones, arrived and we'd checked our tasting notes, Rich and I dashed back to the hotel to change. The adrenaline was starting to rise before the fire alarm went off when I was in the shower. My wife was worried it might be a real inferno but my mind was on more important matters. The flames could be licking under the door before I left without a tie on!

We returned just as people started arriving and I got a huge boost when family and mates began to filter in, especially knowing they had travelled from as far as Hereford and Manchester. Ian price gave me a quick pep talk and Adrian joked with Rich and me to help settle the nerves.

There was no private “Into the valley of death they rode” type chorus in my head, but not far from it. Finally the time had come.

As the applause after Adrian’s introduction faded I prayed my voice would come out naturally. It did! The history gags warmed the audience and me up, and from there I managed to get through the full 35 minutes with only a couple of stumbles. Ten minutes in an old chap's phone went off and I took a much needed breather while his wife helped him turn it off. What a god-send! At the end Adrian and I took a few questions between us which we managed to defend stoutly, including one hand grenade thrown in about the removal of female brewers during the industrial revolution. I knew the question-poser well as a singer-songwriter with a few choice, very saucy lyrics to his name but managed to censor myself from repeating them in my answer.

Following this we each ran our tastings in separate rooms. These have all just been refurbished and decorated to the highest Royal order and made a fantastic venue for what was literally, from the original Roman sense, a symposium or as we call it – a booze-up. Sadly Liz couldn’t make it on the night and John could only stay for a short time, but the O’Hanlon drinking tradition was perpetuated until the small hours with a large contingent drinking Landlord at the Coach and Horses next door until closing, and a team of night-watchmen finished the occasion with a slap-up binge at Mr Maroush’s Lebanese kitchen.

Alex Bell

HDR

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for full details

WACY - LOTTERY MONEY for WHIMPLE

Whimple Action Committee for Youth (WACY) is a group of volunteer parents working together with the Parish Council to improve facilities for young people in the village. During 2006/2007 WACY set about rejuvenating Town Lane play ground, erecting a youth shelter, goal posts and a basketball net.

We have now turned our attention to the much underused parish field.

In April 2008, WACY applied for a substantial Lottery Grant, which recently received provisional approval. We have now been invited to submit a more detailed plan of our proposal for further consideration by the Awards Panel later this year.

With support from the recently published Parish Plan, WACY proposes to build a dual purpose cycle and trim track, 500 metres long and two metres wide, around the perimeter of the parish field. Wooden fitness stations, for use by teenagers and adults will be sited at various points around the track, along with a wooden adventure trail for younger children and the less adventurous.

To improve access to the site, the Parish Council recently commissioned a footway from residential areas of the village to the field, providing easy access for the less able and for families with buggies and pushchairs. However, the Parish Plan indicated that a second point of access was needed. It is WACY's intention to build a narrow 'pedestrian only' footbridge across the brook from Slewton Crescent. The footbridge will be discreet in design and in keeping with its surroundings.

WACY is very excited about the project and hopes that with the help of the community, the parish field can be improved and used by everyone. Having a cycle track/trim trail on a central open space will greatly improve the interaction and relationship between different age groups, strengthen the community and help promote community activities.

If you have any questions please speak to any member of WACY; Liz Silk, Jenny Sanders, Ian Spicer, Mino Lovering, Sue Thorne, Alex Tooze, Richard Betts or Sue Ayres or call Liz on 822389 .





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It is 6.30am, it's cold and wet outside in Whimple. I poke a toe out from under the covers and quickly retract it as cold air rushes up underneath the bedcovers. With monumental effort I manage to catapult myself out of bed to face another long drive to work and a day sat squinting in front of the computer. Like many people, I have studied hard to move up the career ladder to achieve what is supposedly a satisfying and fulfilling job but, in reality, it's becoming a bit of a grind.

With a continuously increasing workload and dwindling social life I decide to make a change. Armed with a shiny new pencil case and blank notebook I enrolled in evening classes in photography at Exeter College. At this point I was oblivious to how this would completely change my life. The City and Guilds Course that I undertook was truly excellent and sparked a real passion in me for photography.

The rest, as they say, is history. A few years on and my working week is everything but routine. One minute I am photographing the Red Arrows from the runway at Exeter airport, the next, on the sidelines of a scrum photographing the Exeter Chiefs in action. In between, I might be photographing a fashion or bridal shoot, a child portrait, architectural interiors, or even tractor parts for a product catalogue! I never quite know what is around the corner.

That's not to say that it has all been plain sailing. There have been plenty of challenges along the way. You could wallpaper entire rooms with the pages and pages of adverts from rival photographers in the local Yellow Pages. One of my main challenges has been to distinguish myself from your stereotypical 'local photographer'. Guided by two excellent professional photographers and equipped with the latest digital photography kit, I feel I am well on my way to developing a unique, contemporary style of my own.

Take child photography, an area of work I am passionate about. Gone are the days of sitting a child on a frilly lace cushion with a grey background. Now is the time to wrap up warm and go out to play capturing children at their most natural kicking up leaves and stamping in puddles! These moments are the images that parents will treasure forever. You can't beat that for job satisfaction.

So things have changed a lot for me over the last few years. My old desk and daily commute seem a million miles away from my new life. Sometimes it pays to take a chance. Life is too short, so be brave and grab it by the horns...you never know what might happen!

If you would like to find out more about Jessica, or view some of her wedding, portrait or commercial work please visit the Perspectives Photography website www.perspectivesphotography.co.uk.

WHIMPLE OPEN GARDENS

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2008

You really missed out if you didn't grasp the opportunity to go mooching around some of the loveliest private gardens in this village.

The day started looking very taciturn, but thankfully as 2.00pm approached, the clouds had moved on and the wind had dropped to a lazy 'once in a while' breeze revealing a typically English summer's day.

I must admit here, that due to other pressing engagements - brushing and clipping Rupert (the dog in case you thought he was my partner), tidying house (boring, but a necessary evil) having lunch (the best bit, after all a girl's gotta eat!) my brother Lee and I finally got our acts together and flew out the door just before 4.00pm.

We duly picked up our programme from the Village Hall Car Park and paid our £3 entry fees. It was only then I was amazed to discover that the itinerary covered no fewer than 10 gardens! The map illustrated where the gardens were, order of viewing as well as a little welcome background on their evolution. (I think it would have been useful to have also had the names of garden owners here - but no-way did this lack of info detract from a highly interesting afternoon).

It was clear that all participating gardens had been preened, weeded, cut and spliced to within an inch of their verdant lives. Every enthusiastic gardener and perhaps their long suffering partners (?), had spent many an hour preparing for this day. Thoughtfully, huge, recognisable garden tomes were on hand for the odd forgotten name or after-care tips. Such dedicated efforts putting real passion into making this Open Day such a great success. And I have to tell you both Lee and I were grateful for it, particularly at Hindstrete where we put our feet up for a while and enjoyed the calorific delights of a cream tea at Perro's.

It would be difficult to pinpoint just one outstanding garden, but could I just congratulate Mr & Mrs Braund up at Woodside who despite being in their mid to late eighties went to huge lengths in assisting and welcoming all to their parking area and wonderful garden.

Sorry to hear you might not be participating next year as the walk around your garden would be worth it just for the outstanding view!

Lee and I came away having met new and enthusiastic people, bags full of cuttings, stomachs full of tea and cake, and minds full of thoughts of how we would like our gardens to be.

This was the first time I had ever been, but most certainly won't be the last, so I do hope you (and others?) manage to organise an Open Day for next year. Thank you again for your remarkable efforts!

Julie Millward

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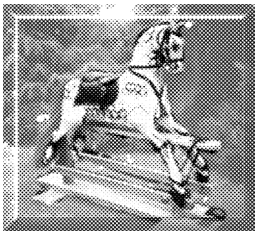
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Each individual would be responsible for their own payments direct to the Oil Companies, as per normal.

We are told by the suppliers that they have an obligation by law (Trading Standards) to supply a minimum quantity of 500 litres per household; Therefore we would welcome contact from anybody who may have some legal knowledge in this regard, as well as who we would need to talk to in order to change this law (if this is the case).

We are trying to achieve this so that each household can enjoy a smaller delivery of say 100 or 200 litres even though the tanker may be carrying a full load to the village.

If you are interested in being part of the **WARTS** purchasing programme please leave your full contact details preferably by email including **Post Code** with:-

Graham Batten - GKBatten@tiscali.co.uk - (823317)

or

John Aiton – Helijohn@uwclub.net - (823155)

At this stage, we are just gauging interest – but will inform you of the outcome via email, or in this publication, at the earliest opportunity.

PHEW! THE STATION HOUSE FINISHED AT LAST?



A number of people have come up to us in the village and asked how the Great Refurbishment Project is getting along, and this made me realize that finger has not touched keyboard for a long time, so here is an update.....

The last time I wrote, the new staircase had been installed, leading to our beautiful en suite guest room, and all that remained, come last summer, was the quick lick and a promise on the Big Room (where so many of you have dined in the past) and the station master's parlour. So when our son suggested a bet that the work would not be finished before the end of September, I rashly took him on. The rotten joists and boards in the Big Room were replaced, the plasterers "tanked" the walls, and Grandissons made a replica ceiling moulding and fitted it. At some point while this was going on, my Dear Spouse decided we'd come top in some phantom lottery and ordered new windows and a fireplace, as he had taken against the perfectly efficient, if rather plain, stove installed by Marion and Richard. Given the height of the ceiling, the new fireplace had to be specially made. Ho hum. Anyway, it all got completed in time for son-in-law (a closet pyromaniac) to do the Inaugural fire lighting when the family came to stay in the Autumn half term. It was a stupendous fire, which made a satisfying roaring noise as the flames leapt up the chimney. Dear Spouse, however, was looking a touch pale by now, as the grate had swallowed an entire scuttle of Mole Valley's finest in one gulp. Come to think of it, I found that rather satisfying too!

Then there was the little matter of the front door. Again, we had hoped to refurbish the original. I had found a photograph in the Heritage Centre, which shows the Whiteway family and faithful retainers posed in front of the Station House in 1909, with a view of the glazed panels in the door. That explained why we could see daylight through cracks in the door: the top panels were just pieces of plywood. Further investigations at Seaton Junction confirmed the glazing, although the design was marred by the need for a strengthening bar across the middle. The builders set to work to strip off the paint, and it became clear that the old door could not be salvaged. The Demon Damp was eating it at the bottom, and the whole thing could be bent out of true by one man. So a new door was ordered, taking more time. The delay was worthwhile: it came with stout double glazing, and no need for the unsightly cross bar. It took a long time to find a good letterbox to go with it - thank you, Paul, for your patience!

The parlour had also to be stripped out. The station master must have been a man of some status when the station was opened in 1859: his parlour was furnished with elegant wood panelling under the windows, and splendid shutter boxes. (When the woodwork was stripped of its endless layers of paint and sticky Victorian varnish, we found very good quality pine, with the individual pieces marked "Whimpe" in beautiful longhand writing in pencil. They must have been made up in the Railway's workshops; presumably the pieces for Seaton and Sidmouth Junctions and Broadclyst were being made at the same time). Unfortunately, some of the panelling had rotted completely, and we needed new sections - as well as a new bay window, and joists, floorboards etc.

The End was in sight, we thought, little knowing that the Beginning was just about to reappear. At about this time we became aware of a noise – the sort of noise in a pipe when a tank is continuously being topped up with a trickle of water. That can only mean that another trickle of water was making its way out somewhere. In fact, we had *two* trickles. A puddle appeared on the kitchen floor one night. The plumber took great satisfaction in pronouncing that it was nothing to do with him: the apprentice builder had put a nail through the skirting board into a pipe, and the plasterers had plastered the water butt stand to the wall. The butt had not been rigged up properly (our fault) and surplus water was splashing over and getting soaked into the wall. So, a large area of plaster had to come off in my beautiful new kitchen, together with the radiator. Meanwhile, I had discovered a crack in the bath – in one of the few rooms which the builders had never touched. Thus, as the prospect of celebrating Christmas in warm, dry living rooms was getting ever nearer, we were also facing a cold kitchen, serenaded by a de-humidifier, and no chance of warming up in a hot bath!

Well, the builders left at Christmas, and we eventually got used to a quiet house and not making two pots of coffee every morning. Christmas and Boxing Days are special for us, as there are no trains passing by. However, the lack of curtains became an issue as the New Year drew on. We had always felt as if we were living in a lavatory before with all the patterned window glass. Now we felt that we were in a goldfish bowl. We could look out on the field beyond the line and enjoy the changing seasons; on the other hand travellers could look in and see us at trough – not a pretty sight! I must say here that Whimble folk are wonderful and generally avert their gaze – or give us a cheerful wave. But people on the trains are another matter, some even getting up and moving down the carriage to stare as the train moves off! Sometimes all we could do was raise a glass or a yoghurt pot to them! The curtains took a very long time to make, and by the time they arrived the evenings were light and we were ready to move into the dining room at the back anyway.

And so here we are. Is it really finished? Well, there is still some snagging and decorating which Dear Spouse has decided are within his powers. Good! I thought. After all, this whole business started because we only had two bedrooms. We still only have two bedrooms! Admittedly the roof room is far superior to our previous guest accommodation, but we do need to get the old spare working too. For two years it has been used as a general dumping ground and now badly needs redecorating. As Mr DIY headed towards the staircase with ladders and paint pots and a purposeful air one day my spirits soared. But then he stopped. And there he stayed for weeks, constructing an arch over the new staircase to match the windows. I have to admit that the finished feature looks very good, and obviously involved some impressive engineering, but you can't put up grandchildren in an arch, and I had hoped that plaster dust was a thing of the past, and we can't have carpet on the stairs until the bedroom has been done....

And no! We haven't honoured our bet yet! I'll book the table at the Jack when the house is well and truly finished, maybe by the end of September *this* year.

Marion Gammell

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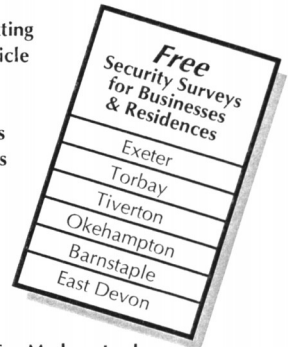
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Andrew & Jill Taylor

The End of an Era at The Vale Veterinary Clinic Myrtle has retired!

When we first thought about opening a branch surgery in Whimple in 1992, we were lucky because we already had a local contact in the village. Myrtle Dockings helped us find our first premises at Ivydene, and we invited her to be our first receptionist.

To start with, as is the way with new ventures, we didn't have many clients each afternoon, and so we had plenty of time for coffee! But as time went on, the surgery became busier, and coffee drinking less frequent. We started in two rooms: very 'James Herriot' with paper records and no computers. Myrtle's training was very much 'hands on' and she quickly picked up skills ranging from telephone answering and accounting to the more technical aspects of controlling the less amenable pets for blood sampling!

In 1996 we had become sufficiently busy to move out of Ivydene, to our present premises in Brook House. These premises are more spacious and modern, and still have the essential equipment for the happy vet: the kettle!

In 1998 there was a massive change that nearly saw the end of Myrtle's career in the practice. Computers arrived, and she was sure that she would never master the system. It's no secret that Myrtle is not a very young person, and I'm guessing that there were no computers at school when she was there. It is to her great credit, that, with a little training and help, she quickly mastered the system and became very adept at managing fixing appointments, putting up medicines, taking payments etc, that were needed. We then introduced computerised ordering, which she also mastered!

After 16 years, Myrtle has now retired from the practice in Whimple. We continue to grow and improve our service in the Whimple surgery, with facilities for surgical operations now in place. We have a new receptionist, Lorraine, who works with Claire to continue to provide the receptionist duties at Whimple.

For several years now at the Cullompton surgery we have had a team of companion animal vets who spend all their time treating pets. This has allowed the development of a highly skilled and proficient team of vets. We now include the Whimple surgery in their duties, to ensure that we can offer the very best service.

We wish Myrtle a long and happy retirement and thank her for her help over the last 16 years.

Blood Donor Sessions will held on Tuesday 23rd September 2008
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This replaces the session on 26th August 2008, which is now cancelled.



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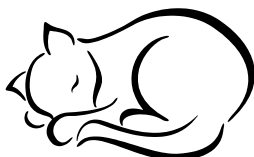
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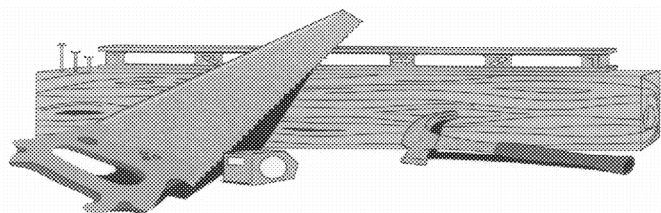
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The late William (Bill) Porter

Bills' family would like to thank all Bills' friends and neighbours for the support they gave him. He always looked forward to having a "chat" or making a cup of coffee and sometimes produced something a 'little stronger!!'. This companionship made all the difference to him and was something he appreciated. We live in Somerset but we were very aware of the concern everyone had for him, especially as he grew older, making sure that he was well and informing us as soon as he needed additional help, and for this we are extremely grateful. During this sad time we have also been able to experience that same kindness and support shown to Bill, and this has been a great comfort to us.

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to everyone for their cards , letters of condolence and for attending the service at the Crematorium, and for the donations to "The Dogs Trust.

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WHIMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

FLEECED

Performances: Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th June



For eight long months most children in year 5 and 6 have been learning lines and songs, for the production called "Fleeced", based on a Greek myth called "Jason and the Argonauts". All of class 5 have been working on props, and the scenery has been creatively done by Sue Draycott and Carol Hart. We really enjoyed wearing Greek-like clothes and having make-up on us. The audience was great with support and laughter all the way. But the best people involved were Miss Norton and Mrs Killen for helping us constantly.

By Hannah Tierney, Will Bowden and Rebecca Hart (Year 5)

It was great to see some familiar faces of ex-pupils and their parents enjoying the entertainment.

Devon music mix

The Devon music mix was great fun for all ages! There were many fun things to do like beat boxing and break dancing. Unfortunately, some of the things we wanted to do were fully booked up but we did manage to find a few things to do. By Anastasia

Drum Crazy



On Monday the 23rd June we had a man called John to come and teach us about drums and rhythms. It was great to play different drums and percussion instruments such as:- Base drums - Cow bells - Tambourines - Frogs and loads of other different drums!

It was extremely loud with all sorts of different instruments all going on at the same time!

By Will B

Art Activities In Arts Week!



On the 26th June we did workshops like making ice-creams, computer painting, clay tiles, water colours and press printing. Everyone loved doing everything they did. The ice-creams were especially good - they were quite hard to make.

By Cameron, Beth and Oliver

We have now come to the end of another school year – it’s hard to believe, I’m sure they get busier and faster (or is that just my age!) We wish our Year 6’s well as they move onto their secondary schools. May I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the school in any way throughout the last year – we really appreciate it.

Thanks

Carole Shilston

What a wonderful display of artwork at the schools art exhibition on Friday 4th July – a few days in to art week we could see some fantastic creations and wanted others (children and adults) to see and celebrate the pieces produced, hence the short notice for the event.

HELP WANTED

Whimple Primary School would like to know if there is anyone with a disability who would be willing to join a working party for their Disability Equality Scheme. The scheme is a requirement that all schools must put in place to show that the school is accessible to all people no matter what disabilities they have.

If you feel that you can spare a little time to help please contact the school in September on 822584.

Please enjoy more photos and details on our website

www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk

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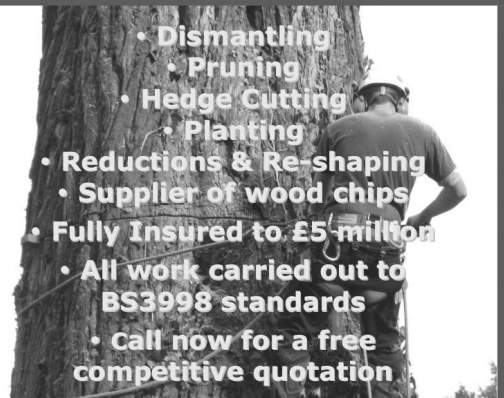
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Wasters of Whimble

Freecycle afternoon Saturday 28th June 2008

What a big WOW day in the village on that Saturday – a cardboard and plastic collection in the morning in the car park by the Vets – thanks to everyone who brought cardboard and plastic and especially, thanks to the WOW people who made it happen.

Later that afternoon, we had our very first Freecycle event for Whimble. Basically, it was an opportunity to bring quality, clean, workable and portable items to the Scout Hut, and then put them on display. And then the village had the chance to browse all these items and take what they wanted, making a contribution to the Scouts coffers as they left. The WOW team were a little concerned about how such an event would go, bearing in mind it was our first! We were delighted with the amount of ‘donations’ that were brought to the Hut – so much so that we had to find more tables. We were impressed with the quality of these items, and some lucky people walked away with a set of golf clubs and trolley, an unused Kenwood mixer, wine glasses, coffee mugs, gift-wrapped chopsticks, electric irons, children’s toys, computer keyboards, steamers, and lots more. If you weren’t there – you should have been, because there were some great ‘bargains’ to be had. Most people had supported the event because they didn’t have the time to do a car boot sale, and wanted to do something local and something that benefited the village. Items that were not taken by the end of the afternoon either made a trip to RIO in Ottery, to join a more formal recycling process, or got taken to a charity shop - so nothing was wasted or thrown away.

We also had a great supply of tea and fine cakes throughout the afternoon, and all at very reasonable prices. Thanks to everyone who gave cakes and thanks to all our helpers on the afternoon. It is good that we have a good base of support in the village.

By the end of the day, we were pleased to hand over £85 to the Scouts, and it had proved to be a very useful partnership for both of us. So next time, will you be there?

Cardboard/plastic bottle collection

Many thanks to the volunteers on 28th June, and all supporters. Don’t forget that we will be happy to help you get your cardboard and plastic bottles to the recycling centre and value all help if you are making a trip with space in your car.

Next collection Saturday 30th August 10.00 -11.00am, car park off of the Village Square.



Solar Power

There are many different companies offering solar panels and we have spoken to a number of people who have them. Generally people are very pleased and manage to get most of their water heated from the panels they have. Brochures suggest up to 70% per annum.



The few who have experienced problems suggest you consider using a supplier who is locally based or who have locally based engineers in case of any problems. Costs for solar panels for an average family home seem to vary enormously with figures from £3,500 upward. However, you can buy books showing you how to install panels yourself. Kaieteur in Sidmouth is a very useful shop for advice and self installation books and Solar Simplicity are a local installer based in the Village, who are friendly and helpful.

Green Electricity

All electricity comes from the National Grid. 'Green' tariffs can work in two ways. One way is for the provider to give a fixed donation to a fund for renewable projects and the other is for the supplier to put the same amount of 'green' energy as you have used back into the National Grid. 'Green' energy is from renewable sources such as wind, sun, sea, or by burning replaceable sources such as waste products or biofuels. Biofuels are considered to be carbon neutral, as they absorb as much CO₂ whilst growing as they do when they are burnt. However this is disputed by some people and the source of the biofuel can be a problem for many different reasons ranging from destruction of rainforests to reducing the production of grain for food.



Southern Energy are currently offering a scheme at the same cost as their conventional tariff and you can visit www.greenhelpline.com or www.switchwithwhich.co.uk. It is important to consider what your priorities are. Some providers invest in future projects, some invest in the current sources and actually produce their own 'green' energy. It is sadly very complicated but, generally, if they are already producing energy from renewable sources, they are a positive option.

Other

Next meeting Thursday 4th September 8.00 pm Hillcroft, Church Road

Don't forget we would value any advice or experiences you may have had. If you want us to look at a specific issue, please contact:

Alison Betts	823967	alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk
Jenny Sanders	823015	barnum.sanders@virgin.net



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Whimple Womens Institute

Although we are now past mid-summer, we seem to have had little summer weather. Nevertheless members of the WI have enjoyed two meetings and a number of other events.

In June our speaker was Mrs. Janet Willams who talked and demonstrated the skills of hat making - she made the evening both interesting and fun. We spent an evening with dolls in July, at the invitation of Mrs. Shirley Williams. We are great admirers of Shirley's beautiful needlework and it was fascinating to see her lovely dolls, to learn how the dolls are made and admire the wonderful colour combinations and use of fabrics and trimmings in their clothes.

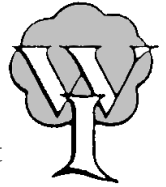
Members supported Village Day by running the tombola stall, also raising funds for Whimple WI. Weekly craft afternoons continue, with a combination of chat and a variety of needlework.

We look forward to our Garden Party meeting in August at the kind invitation of our President.

We welcome visitors and guests and, especially, potential new members.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, just contact Ann Bowden for further information (823450)

Rosemarie Burrows



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NEW CLINICAL COMPUTER SYSTEM

You may be aware, from recent publicity in the press, and throughout the surgery, that on 1st May 2008 our new clinical system went 'live'.

During the 1970s the practice was one of the first two practices in the UK to adopt a fully computerised patient medical record, in conjunction with the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. In the mid 1970s the partners of the practice worked hard to persuade other GPs nationwide that this was an important way to move medical care forward; particularly with corresponding advances in computer technology. Our original system, that had served us well for many years, was eventually taken over by other companies and, in our view, in recent years had not kept up with other rival computer systems. We carefully reviewed other systems available, and chose one of the main national GP Systems of Choice – SystemOne.

The smooth changeover to SystemOne was helped by the attitude of the staff at the practice. They all worked incredibly hard to get the system up and running. Our staff put in incredible time and effort to relearn their jobs on the new system and maintain service to our patients throughout the changeover. Thanks go not only to our staff but to all those patients who were 'patient'

PRACTICE PATIENT SURVEY RESULTS

During January 2008 we ran a survey to gauge how patients rate the practice and the services we provide. Thank you to all the patients who took part, and to volunteers from the Ottery and District Help Scheme, for assisting with the distribution of questionnaires. The survey results were shared at a meeting with our patient participation group. The majority of questions asked were scored as good, very good and excellent. (The lowest marks were for telephone access and able to see practitioner of choice).

Telephone answering is monitored and the performance of each receptionist is recorded weekly. At busy times patients may have to wait in a queue and we ask that routine calls are made later in the day.

Patients can always see the practitioner of their choice but this may require them to book in advance. Patients booking emergency appointments are the least likely group to be able to see the practitioner of their choice.

We will be running our 2008 survey in the Autumn. However, we are always very pleased to receive your comments and feedback.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

159 doctor and nurse appointments were missed during June. If you cannot attend your appointment please let us know so that it can be offered to another patient.

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CAR PARK

We continually ask patients to park in the public car park adjacent to the surgery. If you are able to, please use the Land of Canaan car park and leave the limited parking at the surgery for those who are less able.

Please be aware that we have a no smoking policy in force that includes the car park.

TELEPHONE ACCESS

A gentle reminder that our phone lines are very busy first thing in the morning. For routine appointments, test results and other enquiries please telephone us later in the day when our telephones are less busy.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Your doctor may agree to let you have a prescription, for a long-term treatment without the need for a consultation every time.

How do I order a repeat prescription?

Use the tear-off slip attached to your prescription or write out your order and:

1. Hand it in at the surgery or chemist
2. Post the request to the surgery
3. Fax your request to the surgery: 01404 816716
4. E-mail your request to: coleridgemedicalcentre@nhs.net
5. Telephone the chemists:

a) Alliance Ottery St Mary 01404 812503 , b) Co-op Pharmacy – 01404 812732

c) Alliance Woolbrook – 01395 579566

Or use the form on our website at www.coleridgemedicalcentre.co.uk.

What happens next?

A receptionist prepares and prints a prescription with the items you have requested. The prescription is checked and the collection point is stamped on the prescription.

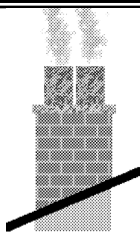
When you are first prescribed an item your doctor may want to carry out a more frequent review than usual to monitor any side effects, problems and dosage. In this case, the item you have requested will not be available as a repeat prescription and the receptionist will refer your request to your doctor.

Once printed, the prescriptions are sorted and left for the doctor to sign. At the end of morning and evening surgery the doctor checks and signs the prescriptions, and returns them to a receptionist. The prescriptions are then checked again, sorted and filed ready for collection by you or your preferred chemist.

We hope you will appreciate that the repeat prescription process takes a considerable amount of doctor and reception time. We hope, therefore, that you will appreciate our request to allow two working days notice when you order your repeat prescription.

The number of repeat prescriptions issued between 1st and 30th June 2008 was 3541

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New recycling and waste collection service

EDDC aims to raise recycling rates in East Devon to 50% by 2010. So a new service, to include weekly collections of kitchen food waste and plastic bottles, starts in Axminster, Beer, Seaton and surrounding areas on 4th August, and is the first of five phases across the district.

In addition, thousands of leaflets have been sent, explaining to householders that their waste and recycling collections will both happen on the same weekday with kitchen waste collected weekly and recycling material collected fortnightly.

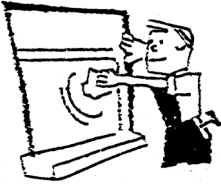
It would appear that Whimble is in Phase Four, so we cannot expect our arrangements to change until at least 2010. Closer to the start of the new service we will receive information leaflets explaining how the new system will work.

Change	Impact	Area affected	Timing	Information
New collection days for waste and recycling	Collection day to change from current day. Both recycling and waste collected on same weekday. No other change yet.	All of East Devon	From 2 June 2008	Targeted Leaflets sent May 19th EDDC Website Local Press
Phase One Waste improvement	Food waste collected weekly Recycling collected weekly - including plastic bottles Landfill waste collected fortnightly	Axminster, Beer, Seaton and surrounding area	From 4 August 2008	Targeted leaflets EDDC Website Local Press
Phase Two Waste improvement	Same as Phase One	Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary	From February 2009	Targeted leaflets EDDC Website Local Press
Phase Three onwards	Same as Phase Two	Honiton Exmouth Budleigh, Woodbury, Broadclyst	Autumn 2009 2010 2011	Targeted leaflets EDDC Website Local Press

Every household will receive two new plastic containers for food waste and a wheeled bin for their other household refuse. Until then, householders will continue to use the existing lidded green boxes for their recycling materials.

Anyone who is unable to use, or find space for, a wheeled bin can apply for a gull-proof sack, which folds away when not in use, and can be used to contain plastic refuse sacks to protect them from pests and rodents.

In addition to the leaflet campaign – EDDC’s website will contain full details of the changes. More information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions are available on the EDDC website at: http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/recycling_and_refuse
There is also a telephone helpline: **01395 571 515**



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Shutting the stable door

We all have experienced having quoted to us, “its no good shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted.” but do we ever learn lessons from the experience?

One person in the village, (who is self employed), recently lost valuable work equipment from the car boot. The specialist equipment was valued at a number of thousands of pounds.

1. Unfortunately the work equipment was not insured separately, and so was not covered by their normal car insurance for theft.
2. The equipment had not been post code marked, and the serial numbers on the equipment had not been recorded.
3. There was no visible signs of a break in to the car, so the presumption was that it was not locked when it was left either overnight at their home, or perhaps when it was parked the previous afternoon. Sorry to report that the theft was not noticed straight away, so the actual location where the theft occurred cannot be positively known.

It's obvious that we can all learn from this story, especially at this time of rapidly increasing costs, where the thief is on the look out to take advantage of our lax attitude to locking our cars and leaving things of value in our vehicles overnight, rather than removing them into our homes.

Property insurance can be a minefield, so it is suggested that, if you transport your work equipment in your vehicle, you check with your insurance company what requirement they require you to take to ensure so that, if the worst comes to the worst and you have to make a claim, it would be met by your Insurer.

Thefts of motor vehicle fuel are increasingly being reported in the media, so has your vehicle got a lockable fuel cap? If not, it's worth investing in one.



To give information anonymously, 'Crimestoppers' is there for you anytime of the day or night.

You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously by calling, and talking to one of their advisors. This helps them understand the full picture and makes sure the best use can be made of your information.

Lets hope you don't need to, but to report an incident to the police at any time:

999 in an emergency - otherwise 08452 777 444

John Munslow 01404 823456



ENGLISH COUNTRY MUSIC WEEKEND 20-22 JUNE 2008

I hadn't fully appreciated what this Music Weekend was about until I went up to the Thirsty Farmer, with the current Mrs H, on the Saturday lunchtime - do I spoil that good woman or not? We were out celebrating an excellent morning at the History Society, where I had talked on Whimble, Wassailing and the History Society. I had stood in front of some 30-40 musicians, all clutching these mysterious bags and boxes which obviously contained their squeeze boxes. I had a fear that at some secret sign, they would open up these boxes and suddenly deafen me with a rendition of "Old Tam's been out harvesting and now he's had some cyder and he'll be chasing all the young ladies of the village dee dum dee dum. " But no, they remained well behaved, unlike panto audiences! As I had included a description of the Wassailing, I decided to wear my beautiful Wassail smock for the entire presentation. Nothing like getting into the mood!

So there we were in the Thirsty, no expense spared, with a half of cider and a bag of crisps for the lucky lady - and I let her inside with me!

The left hand side of the pub was packed full with musicians, all clutching various styles of piano accordions, other squeeze boxes, violins, a trombone, a tuba, and believe it or not, gentle reader, a purple harp! They played non-stop, taking it in turns to lead the music, which was varied, great fun and foot-stompingly good. It was the purple harp that did it for me...very surreal. Watch out Eric Clapton.

We then moved to the Church, where Rob Wilkinson had kindly agreed that a concert could take place. So for a couple of hours, we were entertained by some great music, including unaccompanied solo singing by a number of people from the South West. The music was supplied by members of the Dartmoor Pixie band, who were very professional and talented, and the great thing for me was to see two young lads on squeeze boxes playing away, and really enjoying themselves. So this music appeals to all ages! And we even had Whimble's own Jim Causley to sing during that concert. Not only does he help to organise these events, but finds time to take part as well. Apparently the music continued up at the Cricket Club until the small hours. Is there no stopping these people?

So a great weekend despite the weather, and well done to the organisers, Jim, Jason Rice and Ali Standing.

Ed H

Where are my puddles???

What do you think of when the British summer comes along? Yes, I know, picnics, Wimbledon and puddles. That is what I want to write about today, puddles or the lack of puddles to be precise.

Gone are the days when my son could run into the car park at the Victory Hall and splash around to his hearts content, jumping from one puddle to another, like a kangaroo with fiery feet.

Gone are the days when he forgets that he has not got his wellington boots on, but splashes in the puddles regardless. Oblivious to the fact that his socks are now wet and will therefore have to be washed, along with the other 32 pairs of socks that are also wet and dirty, because he *always* forgets that he has not got his wellington boots on.

Gone are the days when I say '*No Max, don't jump in the puddles.....*', only to receive a cheeky smile, a knowing look and a streak of defiance as he jumps in to the puddles '*you haven't got your wellies on!*)

Gone are the days when he runs along shouting '*puddles, puddles, puddles*'; these are now replaced with '*where are my puddles?*'

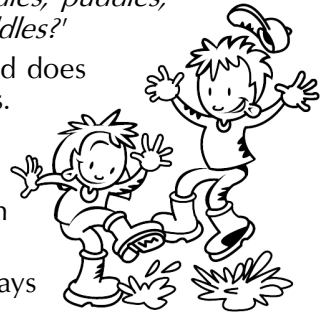
I know it's progress, and that the car park is now flat and does actually resemble a car park with white lined parking bays.

It is a lot better, but I do miss the puddles, as does Max.

The only solution is for me to dig some holes in the back garden and fill them with water, then he can have his own private puddles.

On the plus side we are doing a lot less washing these days so I guess that is good for the environment.

Neil Walker





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Whimble in Wikipedia



Wikipedia is a multilingual, web-based, free content encyclopedia that is written collaboratively by volunteers; its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the web site. This is what it has to say about Whimble:

Whimble is a village in East Devon, South West England, approximately nine miles due east of the city of Exeter, and three miles from the nearest small town, Ottery St Mary. It was listed in the Domesday Book as 'Winpla' which according to the Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names was originally the name of the stream that runs through the village, a Celtic name meaning 'white pool or stream'. The village is centred around the largely 19th century village square and rebuilt Norman church (which W. G. Hoskins described as having little of interest 'except a few carved bench ends'). Through the square runs a small stream which is one of many local tributaries of the River Clyst, which in turn feeds into the Exe.

Whimble is large enough to support two pubs and a Church of England primary school, and was mainly notable during the 20th century as being the home of Whiteway's cyder and pear products. Although the factory lands were sold off for housing in the 1990s, the village is still surrounded by orchards of cider apples and in its heyday boasted the largest cyder apple orchards in the world. It is now home to the unrelated O'Hanlon's brewery.

The centre of the village is about one mile north of the old A30 road, or 1.5 miles from the new dual carriageway. Whimble railway station is on the West of England Main Line from London Waterloo to Exeter.

Wassailing - Whimble is famous for it's long tradition of wassailing which it celebrates every year on Old Twelvey Night – 17th January.

The Whimble Wassail is an orchard-visiting wassail ceremony and was first mentioned by the victorian author and folklorist; the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould in his book *Devon Charactors and Strange Events* (published 1908).

Later in 1931 the Whimble Wassail was given further mention in the *Devon & Exeter Gazette* describing how the Wassail was hosted at Rull Farm, Whimble by a Mr & Mrs Reynolds.

The ceremony stopped during World War II but was revived by the Whimble History Society in 1980 and has grown into a very popular tradition attracting visitors from all over the country.

Trivia

Roy Hattersley once wrote a piece describing village life Whimble in *The Guardian*, which consistently misspelled it as 'Wimble'.¹ The Whimble Wassail song and processional tune were recorded by local folk musician Jim Causley, a native of Whimble, on his album *Fruits of the Earth*, a collection of traditional Devonshire and Westcountry songs, released in 2005 on WildGoose Records.



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<i>Clerk:</i> Mrs Gerri Turner, Penraddon, Hand and Pen	823385
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Contact:</i> Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
SClub11, Impact & Contact	
Phil and Rebecca Dominy	822163
East Devon Councillor	
Andrew Dinnis	850363
Whimble County Primary School	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. S. Langley	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Mrs Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
Whimble History Society	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough, Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group	
<i>Chair:</i> Sally Young, 11 Chard Avenue	823228
<i>Playleader:</i> Jo Westney, Glencroft, Church Road	822168
<i>Toddlers:</i> Sam Walker, 6 Slewton Cesc	822649
Whimble Womens Institute	
Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green	823450
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
Mrs B. Iball, 11 Rectory Close	822905
Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
<i>Chairwoman,</i> Mrs Doreen Staddon, 1 Allergrove Cottages.	823594
Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Geoff Delves	823258
<i>Secretary:</i> Karen Delves	823258
Whimble Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> Adrian Rushforth	823276
Whimble Cricket Club	
Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee	
<i>Secretary:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Ali Tierney	822724
Whimbletons	
Emma Palmer	823083
Neighbourhood Watch	
John Munslow, 44 Slewton Crescent	823456
St. Mary's Bellringers	
<i>Captain:</i> Liz Silk	822389
Whimble Scout Group	
<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
Whimble Book Group	
Katy Howard, 9 Whiteways Close	823038
Whimble Youth Club	
<i>Leaders:</i> Mino 07902651989 or Sue 07964211195	

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