

Whimple News



Christmas 2009

The Thirsty Farmer



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SUNDAY
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WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

December

- 4th Over 65s Party, Victory Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
- 5th Heritage Centre open for buying Christmas presents 11.00am – 3.00pm
- 5th Christmas Fun Day, Victory Hall, 10.30am – 3.30pm (see page 40)
- 6th Christingle Service, St Mary's Church, 3.00pm
- 8th WI Christmas Party, 7.30pm, Victory Hall
- 10th WOW social evening – general get-together for all existing and new WOW supporters, Thirsty Farmer, 8.00pm
- 13th Christmas Celebration Service, St Mary's Church, 11.00am
- 19th Soup and Sarnie Christmas Special, Victory Hall, 12.30pm
- 20th Carol Service, St Mary's Church, 6.30pm
- 21st Carol singers in the village, raising money for St Petrocks
- 24th Carols in The Square 7.00pm
- 24th Midnight Communion, St Mary's Church, 11.30pm
- 25th Christmas Day Service, St Mary's Church, 11.00am
- 31st The Square 11.45pm ; Ring out the old year, ring in the new year

January

- 2nd WOW collection, Parish car park, 10 - 11.00am
- 8th 'Age of Stupid' – film presented by WOW in the Victory Hall at 7.30pm (see page 57)
- 12th WI Meeting 'Tudor Costumes', 7.30pm, Victory Hall
- 14th EDDC Neighbourhood Assessment – see article on page 29
- 16th Wassail starting at the Fountain 6.30/7.00pm. See article on page 23 for details
- 23rd Preschool Quiz and Curry night, Victory Hall; see advert on page 19
- 30th WOW collection, Parish car park, 10 .00 - 11.00am
- 30th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, 12.00noon – 1.30pm
- 31st Living Willow Chair making Course, Scout Hut, 10.30am – 4.30pm (see page 50)

February

- 18th Panto 'Little Red Riding Hood', Victory Hall 7.30pm See advert for details
- 19th Panto 'Little Red Riding Hood', Victory Hall 7.30pm
- 20th Panto 'Little Red Riding Hood', Victory Hall New matinee performance 2.30pm
- 20th Panto 'Little Red Riding Hood', Victory Hall 7.30pm
- 28th WOW collection, Parish car park, 10.00 - 11.00am

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

So gentle reader, here is our December/January edition, with details of lots of good things happening in our great village over the festive season. We hope you enjoy reading it. Please support as many events as you are able to!

The Whimble News team would like to thank all the WOW team, and everyone else who was involved with the Garage Sale held in the village - we were delighted to be given some £140 for the costs of the News, which was very generous. And thank you for the anonymous donation left at the Post Office. It does mean that we can control our advertising costs, and offer good value for money. Thanks again!

We have some more new advertisers this month, so please support them as and when you may need their services.

Well done to Geoff and Karen Delves and team for what I have heard, was a huge fun evening of 'Curry - Oke' at the Cricket Club. Some 85 people raised around £250 for the Over 65s Christmas meal, which is a fantastic contribution to our community. Well done!!

Apparently everyone there wanted to sing, so there may be hope later for the Carols in The Square and the 'join-in bits' at the panto!! I also understand that there was a particularly unique and moving rendition of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' that brought tears to many eyes.

Vicki at The Thirsty Camel also deserves a 'well done', for the excellent wine tasting evening that she arranged with Regency wines; there were about 100 people there, and some seven tables of suppliers/producers with a range from champagne to cognac to a pink muscat! It was a very busy evening (and interesting for me to see what the competition are selling!).

The Bra Babes recently did the Stride Cornwall 10km walk for Breast Cancer at Lanhydrock, and Sally Wilde, Miles and I, were allowed to accompany them (what an honour). However, it was not the walk in the park that I expected, and we ended up at front of the field of 400, setting a cracking pace which got us to the finish after 1 hour 30 with a lot of hills, and mud, mud, mud!! At the very start, the walk had to stop for a few minutes as 400 sheep decided to cross our path at speed; we didn't mind that, but when they came back and did it again three minutes later, it was getting silly! But great fun to watch. We managed to find a suitable village inn on our return trip, so that we could re-hydrate and top up essential minerals and nutrients, as demanded by our athletes' diet.

If you would like to contribute to the February/March edition, please either leave your polished prose with Jim and Alison (SO @the PO), or send it direct to Bob Scanlan on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk. by 11th January 2010.

The Whimble News team wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

EdH

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News from Whimble Post Office



We are very pleased to offer Courtneys Apple Juice as a new product. The Courtney family have revived a previously owned Whiteway orchard and are producing apple juice. The whole process takes place on their farm in Southbrook Lane; the labels are printed on recycled paper and use environmentally safe inks and even the bottles can be returned for re-use - how green is that?! The juice is available in two sizes and, at the moment, a special seasonable winter warmer version complements the range. It makes for a great little gift at this time of the year.

We were sorry to hear that Rockbeare Post Office is to close and at the moment there are no plans for an alternative site in Rockbeare village itself. We will, of course, welcome any extra business that may come our way due to this closure, as this will help us to continue in Whimble. We have asked to be considered to offer car tax here; we haven't heard yet but we are not optimistic.

Our gift vouchers have proved very popular and are a perfect gift for all ages as they can be exchanged in many various outlets.

Many last posting dates may have already passed and I am sure you all have managed to post before recommended dates !!

The last UK dates are:

Friday 18th December	2nd Class
Monday 21st December	1st Class
Tuesday 15th December	Standard Parcels
Wednesday 23rd December	Special delivery
Tuesday 22nd December	Parcelforce 48

We have had a couple of items of dry cleaning awaiting collection - since June, so if you are missing a really nice coat and a jacket (ladies), please collect soon or they will be donated to charity.

We thank you all for your support this year, it makes it all worthwhile.

We would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year.

Jim and Alison.

Tel 01404 822359 during opening hours only please.

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

THE OXEN by Thomas Hardy:

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock
Now they are all on their knees
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease
We picture the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawry pen
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then
So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years, yet I feel
If someone said on Christmas Eve
Come see the oxen kneel
In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know
I should go with him in the gloom
Hoping it might be so

As a few days of October sun bore down on us, which we all enjoyed, we were showered with avalanches of Christmas catalogues of all sizes and colours. The nativity is, after all, the most appealing in the Christian faith. Nor should we forget that the fateful journey to Bethlehem that Mary, Joseph and the gentle ass made was the first attempt to get away for Christmas, which so many favour today. I read the other day that carol singers should no longer be allowed to go round from house to house and I just wondered if that was political correctness gone completely crazy. I am sure that in our lovely village where carol singing around the village, and especially on Christmas Eve in our splendid Square, has been so successful, and has taken place for years by popular demand. It is one of the highlights of the festive season and everyone feels it is such a marvellous idea. Singing is one of the greatest ways to bring people together in harmony. Not only do we have singers but also a great number of instrumentalists, not forgetting a few dogs for good measure. So please good Whimple, turn up en masse for that unforgettable event.

Few homes will be without some form of decoration and favourite among these adornments will be the traditional holly and ivy, a bit of mistletoe and above all, the decorated Christmas tree with masses of presents piled around it. These plants are all symbolic and invite us to celebrate one of the most wonderful stories of all times – the birth of a very special child, Jesus Christ. So let us all get together and sing our beautiful carols in unison. I have absolutely no doubt that we will all turn up. The more the merrier. We are still so grateful to Barbara and Tom Lambert for the years they have devoted to organising it.

From East to West from shore to shore Let every heart awake and sing:

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
For angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Country sportsmen, farmers, gardeners and householders all alike, we are familiar with the cocky appearance of the pert little robin. Although a resident bird in our gardens, it is more often noticed in winter singing its distinctive little song from vantage points. It is such a friendly bird who likes the company of gardeners. It is well loved in England and also in Europe, but we have the monopoly as far as their great popularity with designers of Christmas cards. Each year I find that six out of ten are robins. No wonder he is the most loved and popular bird in our affection. There are three or more legends surrounding the robin. One I specially like is that he picked the thorns off Christ's head and his feathers became coloured by the blood. The second is so charming, he fanned the embers of the fire whilst Joseph went to get some more fuel thus singeing his feathers and when Mary saw it, decided that he should have a bright red breast. The last legend is very English indeed; in the last century, the postmen were called Robin who delivered the Christmas mail, so I hope that we will all greet Paul and our other kind postmen in the village, with a special greeting and show our appreciation for delivering our post in every weather, come shine or rain.

At Christmas I do no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new fangled mirth
But like each thing that grows in season

- were the wise words expressed by our poet of all times and seasons, William Shakespeare.

May you have joy at Christmas and happiness and contentment to last you the New Year and sing with all your heart.

Give Blood

Blood Donor Sessions will be held on Tuesday 29th December
at Payhembury Village Hall from 9.30am - 12.00noon and 1.15pm - 3.15pm





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BAR ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS
ADULTS £5 CHILDREN £3

SEATS ARE NUMBERED THIS YEAR SO RUSH TO THE PO TO SECURE YOUR PLACE!

PANTOMIME 2010

Overleaf you will see that this year, or more strictly next year as the panto isn't until February, the Whimbletons are proudly presenting something vaguely resembling 'Little Red Riding Hood'.

There will be some changes to the way that the Whimbletons stagger each year from success to success as they valiantly fight the script, the band and swine flu.

The changes are –

The Thursday performance will now start at 7.30pm instead of 6.30pm

There will be an extra performance as a matinee on Saturday afternoon starting at 2.30pm (but still a Saturday evening performance – what stalwarts, what thespian Olympiads you will say).

A bar (hopefully) selling beer and wine, for the Friday and Saturday evening performances.

Numbered seats – as you buy your tickets at the PO, you will be able to 'book' your reserved seats rather than rush to the Hall early on the night of the performance!

We hope that these changes will enhance your pantomime pleasure, despite everything else.

EdH

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Whimble Tennis Club

Juniors

As the end of our 2009 season comes nearer, we'd like to thank Robbie and Eddy Kerr for the enthusiasm, expertise and fun they have given to coaching the children again this year. Also to Andrew Barker for his intensive summer coaching week for all ages (including some wrinkly parents!!)

We have had a great social BBQ and plenty of willing parents for the weekly parent rota; thank you all for participating.

New next season

(COMMENCES WHEN THE CLOCKS CHANGE IN THE SPRING)

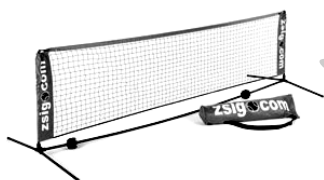
Foundation years and KS1

Wednesdays from 5.30 to 6.00pm. The first session is free for those trying out, thereafter it will be £1 per session. The free first month trial is to encourage younger children in the area to have a go and play. Please let Nikki know if your child may be interested.

KS2 children

Wednesday session warm up at 5.45 pm with parent help, with play from 6.00-7.00pm, £2.50 per session (includes 50p towards new equipment, balls, nets etc).

Coaching week Easter/ Summer holiday a possibility again.



Our new mini tennis nets

Please phone for details Nikki Harris on 823873 or e-mail justinandnikki@talktalk.net

Join the tennis club, treasurer Adrian Rushworth on 823276 or e-mail rushworth.adrian@btinternet.com

Membership: Adult £21, Junior (under 18) £ 10, Family £46

Bed Closures at Ottery Hospital

After Christmas, as a cost cutting exercise, NHS Devon is proposing to temporarily close 7 of the 21 beds at Ottery Hospital. These proposed closures will come at a time when, historically, Ottery Hospital has had 90-100% bed occupancy and when the most vulnerable people in our community will need community hospital care. Bed closures will certainly save money from the community hospital budget. However GPs will be forced to admit patients to RD&E Hospital, Exeter. This is a more expensive option for NHS Devon and patient stays are expected to be longer as there will not be an option for rehabilitation in the community hospital prior to home discharge. Relatives and friends visiting these patients will incur additional travel costs.

Some beds at Ottery Hospital are currently being used to accommodate patients from other community hospitals which are experiencing bed shortages and those patients who would usually be cared for at the Bungalow in Honiton, Stowford in Sidmouth and Conybeare at Axminster. These three specialist sites for the elderly mentally infirm are currently suffering bed closures themselves, which is increasing demand for community hospital beds and putting additional strain on community hospital nursing staff.

If you also feel strongly about bed closures please contact Clive Robertson, NHS Devon Provider Services, Unit 1 Exeter International Office Park, Clyst Honiton, Exeter, Devon EX5 2HL Tel: 01392 356900 and the County Councillor Roger Giles, 14 Winters Lane, Ottery

Sarah Evans

Hi - I am Sarah Evans, one of the three 'mad' ladies who you may have seen running the roads of Whimble, rain or shine - we did do the London Marathon and have several Half Marathons and a few 10ks under our belts. I also did the Four Peaks and we're still going strong. Anyway, onwards, while my children have been getting older and before I become completely redundant, on their terms, I enrolled on a Beauty Therapy evening class. Then, gradually over the next few years, I pieced together my qualifications in Swedish Massage, Indian Head Massage, Aromatherapy and Electrolysis my most recent being Hot and Cold Stones (which I haven't got as yet!) Thanks to all my family and friends who were my guinea pigs throughout my training and donated their bodies to massage, manicures, pedicures, waxing, eye treatments, facials, electrolysis-permanent hair removal and ear piercing! I'm grateful to you all and we have had some 'fun and games'.

Now that I am a fully qualified person I have a lovely treatment room attached to my home at Allercombe and can offer lots of relaxing treatments - or not so relaxing. My Christmas promotions are 15% off all treatments and Dermalogica products. My price list is in the Post Office or you can contact me on 822664. I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sarah Evans MIFHB MIGHT



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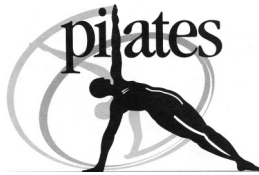
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What is Pilates?

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People who do pilates regularly feel they have better posture, are less prone to injury, and experience better overall health.

Who can do it?

Anyone, young or old, male or female, everyone can benefit.

When and Where?



Whimble Scout hut
Monday 1.30pm- 2.30pm
Wednesday 8pm – 9pm

Cost

6 week course £24, 12 week course £48

For more details or to book your place for January 2010 please ring:

Julie Wallace Edmonds 01404 46443

Ottery St Mary Choral Society and Orchestra

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At 7.30pm on Saturday 12th December

Programmes £8.50 (children £4.50) from Stagestuck 811311

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Swine Flu Vaccinations

If you are in one of the priority groups described below, please telephone the Doctor's surgery to book an appointment to have your swine flu vaccination.

The vaccine is offered to patients who are most likely to become seriously ill if they catch swine flu. This is a slightly different group of patients from those who usually receive a seasonal flu vaccination.

The patients in the following groups will be offered the swine flu vaccination:

Adults and children over six months of age who have a long-term health condition, including:

Chronic Lung disease, Chronic Heart disease, Chronic Kidney disease, Chronic Liver disease, Chronic neurological diseases, Diabetes mellitus-Immunosuppression caused by a disease, or treatment for a disease.

For example this may include patients who do not have a spleen and people who are on immunosuppressant treatment such as chemotherapy or are taking high doses of systemic steroids.

Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy

Patients who live in the same house as someone whose immune system is compromised by disease or treatment.

The vaccine should not be given to anyone who has had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction after being exposed to egg products. We understand that an alternative vaccine will become available for these patients in due course. Anyone not in the priority groups listed above may be offered the vaccine at a later stage.



On 17th October we held what has now become a regular pre-Christmas Coffee Morning. It was a very successful morning and raised £945 - the total after expenses were deducted. As usual there was tremendous support, including a superb cake stall, a wonderful draw, an excellent bookstall and a wide selection of Hospiscare Christmas cards and other gifts.

There were numerous helpers and I would especially like to thank members of the Women's Institute who gave so generously of their time and talent.

A number of people commented that they always enjoy coming to Whimple because there is such a wonderful atmosphere. On behalf of Hospiscare, thank you for coming and making it a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and helping to raise such a splendid sum.

Rosemarie Burrows

THE JACK IN THE
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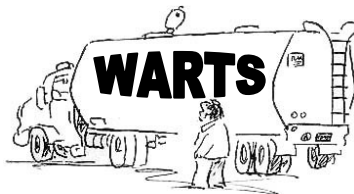
New for 2009 is a fantastic bar menu (with several choices under £10.00), an irresistible à la carte selection, vegetarian menu and a delicious medley of Scott's acclaimed desserts.

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Proud to support The Whimble News.

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W.A.R.T.S. - UPDATE



Hello and welcome to all new and existing members of W.A.R.T.S (Whimble Against Rising Tariffs).

As you will now be well aware our aim is to periodically secure the services of the cheapest oil provider that we can to deliver to our members in the village.

Our last order will have been made on 30th November.

Please remember that payment is required upfront if you have not purchased from the nominated supplier in the past.

We are very pleased to announce that our membership has risen to more than 120 households.

The schedule of order dates for 2010 is as below.

Intended Order Dates for 2010:-

08.02.10 24.05.10 23.08.10 29.11.10

We would kindly remind you that all orders for oil should be placed at least one week before the order date (and allowing a further 10 days for delivery).

Existing members (and any potential new members) without e-mail are invited to contact John Aiton on 01404 823155 to place their order or register their details (name/address/postcode/phone number).

All others with access to e-mail may contact Graham Batten with their order/registration details at utilitiesgb@btinternet.com.

*Don't forget :- You can also call either Graham or John to obtain cost reductions on your electricity, gas, telephone, mobile and broadband either at home or at your place of business.

Whimble Preschool and Playgroup

QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT

Saturday 23rd January at the Victory Hall.

Tickets will go on sale from January 2nd and, just a warning, - this night has sold out the last two years so buy your ticket early. It really is a fun night and last year the funds raised helped us buy some great outdoor equipment, which the children love.

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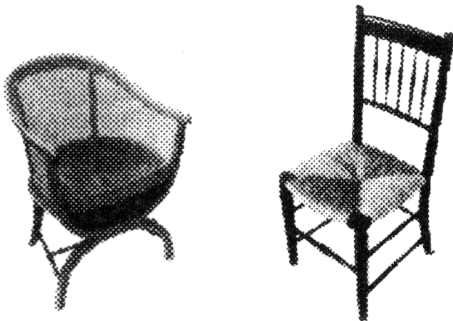
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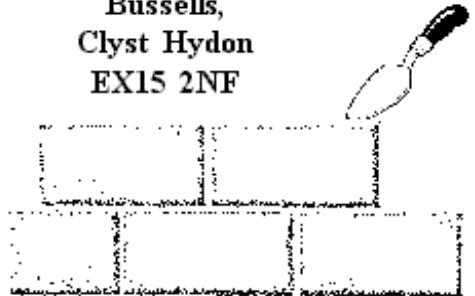
Higher
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Rosemarie Burrows

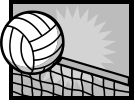
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WHIMPLE ACTION COMMITTEE 4 YOUTH Parish Field Project

Well done - The committee are hugely proud of what has been achieved in the four years since the first meeting and we hope the facilities provided have been of use to you and your friends and family. A huge thank you should go to Liz Silk who has been the driving force since the start and has never faltered in her vision for the youth. Liz is standing down from the Chair of this group and the committee are honoured to have worked with her.

What next? - We are pleased that the committee is continuing with its efforts with the youth of the village. The committee are looking forward to liaising with the Parish Council regarding maintenance and spending its remaining money on fine-tuning the BMX track and, maybe, providing some more equipment. As always this will be led by what is requested so, if you have an opinion, we would like to hear from you. If you would like to be involved this could be done at a very minor level. From experience the support of people is vital to move things forward, even if those people aren't regular contributors, or don't want to take on an active role. You could help to make a difference.

If you missed the meetings and would like to offer some ideas or your help, please contact Ian Spicer 823640.

HDR

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Whimble History Society



THE HERITAGE CENTRE WILL BE OPEN – for Christmas shopping on Saturday 5th December from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Don't forget that you can buy the Society's 2010 Calendar at the Post Office or Cotley Farm if you can't make the 5th.

WASSAILING

Please note that Wassailing will be on **Saturday 16th January**. We will be starting from outside the New Fountain when, at 6.30pm, there will be the usual rehearsal for the lusty Whimble voices. Around 7.00 pm we will set off on the usual route, up to Ian and Ann Hardcastle's, then to The Square, then to Peter and Ann Bowden's orchard, and to Jim and Mary Chard's at Knowle Cross, finishing at the Cricket Club.

There will be the usual fine fare at the Cricket Club for which there will be a small charge; hopefully our musicians will then entertain us with an informal session.

Please bring suitably noisy 'instruments' to help wake up the apple trees and scare away the evil spirits. If the weather is anything like last year, you may want to consider bringing a buoyancy aid and distress flares!



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Helen & Lester Bowker
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Whimble Pre-school and Playgroup

Sadly Jo Westney is leaving us as Senior Play Leader this December. She has put her all into the Pre-school over the past seven years and our children have benefited from her nurturing, warm and loving care. She really will be missed and we wish her all the best with her new career.

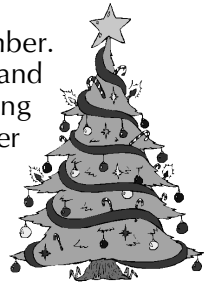
We are lucky enough to have found a great replacement in Tanya Chitty.

Tanya has been with the Pre-school as play leader for the past three years and we know she is up to the challenges ahead.

To all those parents with toddlers in Whimble, or the surrounding villages, who may be thinking of Whimble Pre-school for their children, come along and pick up an application form. It is never too early to apply and it helps with future planning for both the Pre-school and Whimble Primary School.

4 great reasons to choose Whimble Pre-school:

- **GREAT STAFF** - they are caring and supportive
- **GREAT CHILDREN** - all the children are from the local area giving them the opportunity to develop friendships which will follow through to primary school.
- **GREAT FUN** building, painting, splashing, playdoughing (is that a word ?), sports days, summer fairs.
- **GREAT LINKS** - to Whimble Primary School which makes the transition to reception class so much easier.



Harvest



"Please Jo can we have some more ...?"



Pre-School and Reception
Diwali Celebration

Have a great Christmas
From all at Whimble Pre-school

Win Free Live Music Tickets

Following the success of our MUD II gig in September, we have arranged a fantastic line-up for our next, bigger event at Whimple Cricket Club in 2010. It promises to be extremely popular, so we recommend you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

We will be announcing the full details at 7pm on Thursday 10th December at the Thirsty Farmer, so please come and join us to find out which acts we have planned for your enjoyment. Advance tickets will be available, so why not solve your Christmas present conundrums and slip some tickets into your Christmas Cards?

Every ticket bought on this night will entitle you to an entry into a free draw to win a pair of tickets absolutely free. This offer **ONLY** applies to tickets bought from Alex or John between 7pm and 8pm on Thursday 10th December.

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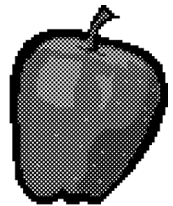
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EDDC Neighbourhood Assessment

Environmental Health will be carrying out a Neighbourhood Assessment survey in partnership with the Police in Whimble on 14th January 2010.

These assessments have been organised in various towns and villages across East Devon during the past two years.

Environmental Health Officers and the local Police will carry out a door to door survey of around 300 to 400 randomly selected properties in the village, completing a short questionnaire and asking whether residents have any concerns about their neighbourhood in general. We will particularly be asking about issues such as dog fouling, litter, crime, traffic, refuse etc and StreetScene's operatives will be in the area to litter pick and clear any problem areas.

We also offer advice and assistance to elderly, vulnerable residents around their home. A free fire prevention visit, free home security check from the Police, advice regarding insulation grants for every resident etc. There will also be a representative from The British Red Cross who will ask residents if they would like to attend a free life saving/first aid course, which may be held in the village in the near future.

Following the assessment a newsletter is produced highlighting the issues raised and informing residents about the outcomes of the assessment.

If you would like to discuss the above, or for more information, please contact me.

Debbie Challice, Technical Officer, Environmental Health 01395 571570

Garden Share possibilities in Whimble

People who have biggish gardens and who would be prepared to share them with others for vegetable growing (share the veggies too!) might like to make it known via the magazine.



To start the pumpkin rolling, there is a garden available in Grove Rd which is in just that position. Would interested persons contact me in the first place please.

Thanks

Hugh Roberts 622651

IMPROVED RAIL SERVICE – BUT NOT FOR WHIMPLE

The new “improved” hourly train service from Exeter to London Waterloo is due to come into force from 14th December 2009, but the additional trains will not be stopping in Whimble. The result for this village will be a REDUCTION in the rail services, particularly at peak times – notably the loss of the 9.10 to Exeter in the morning and the 4.44 in the evening, which are to be replaced by a 9.26 and a 4.30 respectively. These will be too late to get to Exeter before 9.30 and too early for those who finish work at 4.30. Exeter College students who finish at 4.30 will be expected to wait 1¼ hours before the next train.

As I recall, there have been two peak time trains serving this village ever since the new modern trains were introduced over 20 years ago. The loss of the local service to and from Honiton will leave us with just one peak time train each way. The new timetable has yet to be fully published, but I understand it already includes stops at Cranbrook!

South West trains have stated in a letter to me that “the new timetable allows for trains to either stop at Feniton, Whimble (and Cranbrook when it opens next year) or Cranbrook and Pinhoe only.” As I read it, this means that those who currently commute to Sowton via rail and bicycle will be out of luck as the trains stopping at Whimble will not stop at Pinhoe!

I, for one, will be forced into my car by these changes. I know others will be forced to do the same, and we will inevitably add to the peak time congestion in Exeter. Surely this railway line could be put to better use during the rush hour.

Jane Hughes



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Tim Wright



A Merry

Christmas opening hours

		St Mary's Church Special Services	Post Office	Whimble Stores
Thursday	December 24th 2009	11.30pm midnight communion	9.00-12.30pm	7.30am-6.00pm
Friday	December 25th 2009	11.00am Christmas Service	closed	closed
Saturday	December 26th 2009		closed	closed
Sunday	December 27th 2009		closed	closed
Monday	December 28th 2009		closed	closed
Tuesday	December 29th 2009		9.00-1.00pm	7.30am - 6.00pm
Wednesday	December 30th 2009			7.30am - 6.00pm
Thursday	December 31st 2009		9.00-16.00pm	7.30am - 6.00pm
Friday	January 1st 2010		closed	closed



From the Whimble

Christmas

(normal if blank)

Whimple Surgery	Ottery Surgery/ Pharmacy	Vale Veterinary Surgery	New Fountain Inn	Milestones Garage	Thirsty Farmer
		8.45-11.00pm 2.30pm-4.00pm		7.00am-10.00pm	noon-12.00pm
closed	closed	closed	noon-2.00pm	closed	noon-2.00pm
closed	closed	closed		9.00am-7.00pm	closed
closed	closed	closed		8.00am-8.00pm	
closed	closed	closed		8.00am-8.00pm	
		8.45-11.00pm 2.30pm-5.30pm		7.00am-10.00pm	
		2.30-7.00pm		7.00am-10.00pm	
		8.45-11.00pm 2.30pm-5.30pm	noon-2.30pm 6.30pm-12.30am	7.00am-9.00pm	noon-1.00am
closed	closed	closed		10.00am-6.00pm	closed

News Team

THE OTTERY ST.MARY & DISTRICT HELP SCHEME

The scheme, which started in 1992, offers support and help to anyone in the Ottery St. Mary G.P. Practice who is sick, disabled, housebound, isolated or otherwise in need. Volunteers provide the help. A number of these are also Volunteers for Hospiscare, and work with the Hospice Nurse to offer specialist care for the terminally ill and the-bereaved.



What is the Help Scheme?

Volunteers undertake a great variety of tasks - visiting and befriending the old, sick or lonely; sitting with a patient to enable the carer to have a break; shopping; in special cases undertaking simple household tasks; fetching children from school or caring for them whilst their mother has treatment, and many more.

Volunteer drivers will take patients to appointments at the Medical Centre, a Hospital, or Hospice, to visit relatives in hospital, to collect prescriptions, etc.....

Referrals to the Scheme can be made by G.P, Health Care Team, Social Services. Friends, Relatives or Patients themselves

Could you be a Volunteer?

We always need volunteers to help with a wide variety of tasks:

- No regular commitment is required - Just your time whenever you can spare some.
- We offer training and support.
- Out of pocket expenses are met

volunteering is good for your health and happiness.

For more information contact Pat Lane 816700

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



British Legion Poppy Appeal

This year we raised a £1198.43 for the Poppy Appeal.

Thank you to all who contributed and to everyone who, despite my lack of organisation, managed to get a tin round their area. Thank you also to those volunteers who agreed to do their area - there are however gaps around the village so if anyone else wants to step forward there is always room!

As a new girl I was asked to attend a lecture on how much the British Legion achieves with the limited funds they have, and I was seriously impressed by how many people are involved and the difference they make to many ex-servicemen's lives.

With the current level of casualties returning from Afghanistan our thoughts are especially with those in the village whose nearest and dearest are serving out there at this worrying time.

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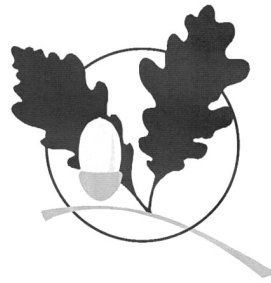
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New Year's Eve 2009

**Come and join us in the Square at around 11.45pm on New Year's Eve
Bring candles to light your way, Hear the church clock chime midnight**

The church bells will be rung to welcome the New Year

Mulled wine will be served in The Square

We will sing 'Auld Lang Syne' together

(The church will be open)

Jan and John at The Jays will be serving the mulled wine on New Year's Eve. Any donations of wine will be gratefully accepted! Please leave at 'The Jays'.

Whimple Victory Hall

Christmas Special Lunch

by the Soup and Sarnie Team

12.00noon for 12.30pm

on Saturday 19th December

Come and Join us

to book your place ring John on 823614 or Pam on 822262

The next Soup and Sarnie Lunch is on Sat 30th January 2010



WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

A few weeks ago a small group went to visit Adams Apples. This was an exploratory visit to this nursery which is at Luton near Payhembury. Mick Street has very kindly written a report on the visit and I am sure he will be only too pleased to answer any questions if anyone wants to know more about the nursery.

Next year the VPA will be running a special Challenge for 2010. The Challenge, which I am reliably informed is a 'Devilish Challenge', will be to all the other organisations in the Village and will not only be fun but also a test of your creative skills!! Apparently (so I am also informed) there is superb silver trophy for the winners, so clearly it is going to be an event not to be missed. Full details will be put in the next edition of the News so watch this space!

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting which will be held sometime in January 2010, the exact date has yet to be confirmed but it will be in the Committee Room in the Victory Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. Notices will be posted in the Village and, as usual, everyone is welcome to attend, particularly anyone who would like to join our Committee.

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary.

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e-mail:jaydiscombe@supanet.com

News from the Parish Council

Station footpath stream.

There has been much concern over the height of the water under the bridge at the bottom of the footpath, especially with the amount of rain recently and the possibility of flooding. Devon County Council's Bridge Maintenance Department and South West Highways Bridges Agent have examined it and DCC are obtaining quotes to clear away the debris. They realise the urgency due to the flood issue and are keen to do the job but are constrained by their lack of funds. When the work is carried out they intend to build a silt trap upstream from the bridge so the debris can be cleared away regularly.

Street Lighting.

Devon County Council has decided that, with some exceptions, all street lights not sited on main (A & B) roads will be programmed to go off between the hours of 0030 and 0530 every night. This will be put into effect over the next 2 to 5 years and will dramatically reduce the carbon footprint – the savings are expected to exceed 4000 tonnes of CO₂ each year. Exceptions will be directly influenced by the police and parishes where a need to keep lights on can be proved – crime and safety issues will be paramount. The county hopes to save nearly £500,000 per annum. An additional benefit is that we shall be able to see more stars!

Best Kept Village Competition 2009.

Whimple was placed 8th out of 22 in the 'large village' category in Devon and received the highest mark in this category in East Devon. The District Council will be holding an event in December to congratulate winners and runners-up in each category in East Devon. Whimple will be presented with a cup and a certificate.

Minutes.

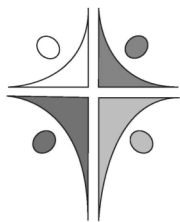
The full minutes of Parish Council meetings are now available for viewing on the WhimpleOnline.net website.

Dates of meetings.

Parish Council meetings are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. A full list of meeting dates is on the Parish Council notice board in The Square. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings – there is always a ten minute slot at the beginning for public participation.

Gerri Turner, Clerk to the Parish Council





Churches 4 All
Whimple - Talaton
Clyst Hydon - Clyst St Lawrence

WHIMPLE CHURCH

www.whimplechurch.org



When those 'Wise Men' we sing about in Christmas carols spotted an unusual star in the eastern sky, they knew it meant something amazing was about to happen—so they jumped on their camels to follow its progress.

The Bible tells us that the star led them to Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. An ordinary family on the face of it, though these wise guys reckoned this child had to be somebody special.

We would love you to join us this year on a journey of discovery as we celebrate the good news of Jesus coming into the world that first Christmas.



This years **Christmas Fun Day** for primary school aged children will be on Saturday 5th December in the Victory Hall from 10:30am to 3:30pm. There will be Christmas crafts, songs, games, stories and lots of fun! Meanwhile, parents can do those important pre-Christmas jobs that they want to do without having children in tow! Booking forms are available from the back of church and the Post Office.

Our **Advent Carol Service** is on Sunday 29th November at 6.30pm and our **Christmas Carol Service** is on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm. Both are traditional in style with readings and a mix of congregation and choir sung carols.

Our **Christingle Service** this year is at 3.00pm on Sunday 6th December. This is an informal service particularly suitable for children, when we celebrate Jesus as The Light of the World.



This years **Christmas Celebration Service** at 11.00am on Sunday 13th December, on the theme of "The Bethlehem Challenge", will take a creative and humorous look at the journey of the wise men. This is another informal style service designed to appeal to all ages.



There will be a **Midnight Communion** service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day at 11.00am we have our **Family Service with Carols**. There are also a variety of other services at Talaton and Clyst St Lawrence. The Link (Churches 4 All magazine) and Christmas cards distributed around the village list the full details.

Please welcome our **Carol Singers** again this year as they sing through the village on Monday 21st December from 6.30pm, to raise money for St Petrocks, the organisation in Exeter which helps the homeless. If you would like to join them to sing or play a musical instrument please contact Gerri Turner on 822587.



One final thing to mention is that every month several folk from Whimble Church get together to **pray** – from global issues down to individual concerns. If there is anything you would like prayer for please do put details on a slip of paper in the box on the welcome desk in church, or email admin@whimblechurch.org.

Revd. Rob Wilkinson and The Parochial Church Council on behalf of Whimble Church wish you a joyful Christmas and new year.

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 Worship
4th Sunday	11.00am	Morning Worship
	10.45am	Sclub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
5th Sunday	11.00am	Churches Together Service

Whimble Surgery

Coleridge Medical Centre has now been granted planning permission to extend their premises at Whimble and are hoping that the builders will be on site by March 2010. They have discussed their plans with the Victory Hall committee and representatives of the Parish Council, and they are working together to ensure that parking arrangements remain satisfactory for all concerned. There will be inevitable disruption during the construction stage which will be kept to the minimum. You will be kept informed of progress by newsletters, updates on the website and by Whimble News.

In due course it is hoped that the extension will provide extra doctor and nurse appointments and space to provide a training facility for medical students and GP registrars.

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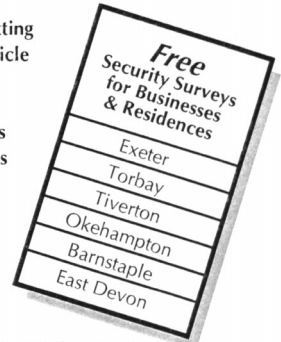
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OR CALL IN AND HAVE A LOOK ROUND!



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WHIMPLE POST OFFICE

Or, if you prefer to pay by Standing Order or cheque, ring 01392 469886 or download an application form at www.daat.org



Tel: 01392 469886 Fax: 01392 464574 email: lottery@daat.org

Devon Air Ambulance Trust is the official Lottery Promoter for the DAAT Lottery and is registered with the Gaming Board of Great Britain Schedule 1A of the Lottery & Amusements Act 1976. Promoter: C. Creer, Devon Air Ambulance Trust, 5 Sandpiper Court, Harrington Lane, Exeter, EX4 8NS Tel: 01392 466666 Fax: 01392 464329 email: info@daat.org Website: www.daat.org
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For those of you who wander past the school regularly you will have noticed a hive of activity. The playground for the younger children is being revamped and we have some smart new railings. The work is due to be completed soon; let's hope the weather improves so the children can get to use their new equipment. On a sadder note, during the half-term holiday, one of our new circular blue tables in the lower playground was stolen (and a water butt at the end of the summer holidays). If anyone knows of their whereabouts please call in at the school and let us know.

Luckily the rain held off on Monday 9th November so all the children at school and pre-school were finally able to go over to the Orchard and pick up the apples. These are being taken to Darts Farm to be made into cider (the staff are hoping we may get some free samples!).

We are still looking to recruit mealtime assistants on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes – for more information call in at the school office. We also need a representative from the community to be part of our travel plan committee. Drop us a line if you are interested.

Don't forget you can keep up to date by looking at our website
www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk

Carole Shilston



Yr 6 Excel Formulas



In ICT Yr 6 have been learning how to use formula on Microsoft Excel. We have been using special activities to help us like tables and graphs and also Uncle Bob's pig pens.

To use formula you type in any number in one cell, another in another and type in =b2*b3 or whatever cell numbers they are in.

* = times + =add / =divide - = subtract.

By **Elisha Salter and Courtney Coombs** (year 6)



On Friday 6th November Whimple Primary School had a musical assembly for children, mums, dads and other people. The choir sang and recorders, guitars and ukuleles played. The whole thing lasted an hour. The choir sang lots of songs including the camel song and the Old Bazaar in Cairo.

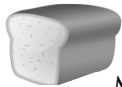
By **India and Alice** (year 3)



micro organisms

In science, children in years 4,5 and 6 are learning about micro organisms including yeast.

These are clean hands but unclean hands magnified 100 or more times look much different.



Yeast is in bread and lets off carbon dioxide which makes air holes in the bread.

Micro organisms are absolutely tiny - you have to look through a microscope to see them.



In approximately 20 minutes the micro organisms can multiply in your body.



Some micro organisms are harmful but some are bad and some are good and useful.

By **Tom and Joshua** (year4 and 5)

The wizard of Oz

Last half term the M&S productions came to our school and they performed the Wizard of Oz. Everybody really enjoyed it. Even the teachers did!

The funniest bit was when the flying monkeys sang the thriller! And thanks to the parents' fundraising we had a brilliant time watching the Wizard of Oz.

By **Kiko Keighery and Freya Westney**. Bye!



CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS

As Christmas approaches, it is time to dust off those instruments and vocal chords for the annual musical extravaganza that is 'Carols on Christmas Eve'.

Weather permitting, we will be in The Square at 7.00 pm, but if not, the Church will be the venue. It may be worth pointing out that the instruments (and musicians' fingers) don't like very cold weather or moisture, so if it is sub-zero we may go inside!

If you play an instrument and would like to join in, let me know. There is music available in advance so that you can practice. If you are a beginner, and would like to join in one or two, that is fine, and maybe the answer for some recorder players. Ring me for music.

See you then.

Emma Palmer 823083



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A VISIT BY THE VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION TO ADAM'S APPLES

One of the best ways to help an apple tree fight off canker disease is to apply lime to the ground. It is better to prune apple trees in August rather than winter as it reduces excessive re-growth. Apples should be picked slightly under ripe if they are to be stored for long keeping! These were some of the useful tips passed on to a group of us who visited Adam's Apples nursery at Luton near Payhembury.

The nursery run by Adam and Kim Powell was originally at Talaton, where they became well known, not just for growing apples but heathers and blueberries, which are sent all over Britain and Europe. We were privileged to hear how the new site has been established and their plans for the future. A demonstration of grafting was given, followed by a tour of the modern polytunnels which began with an explanation of the propagation from cuttings, and ended with the finished container grown plant ready for sale. The extent of the large number of container grown varieties of heathers and blueberries was obvious, but they have also expanded recently to include shrubs for hedging and gardens, many of which are sold to landscape contractors.

All the plants are available for purchase by the public but a visit needs to be booked beforehand to make your choice or arrange collection, please do not just turn up! Advice on establishing an orchard of top or soft fruit is readily given with purchases. Everyone was impressed with the vast knowledge that Adam has and his high standard of plant care. One lasting impression will be the large area of sunflowers grown as a break crop after removing grafted apples. They also provided a splendid view from the house and kept the bees and finches happy!

Please note that all VPA events are open to everyone, both members and non-members, and are printed in the "Whimble News", on the village notice boards or in our news letter.

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AT THE SCOUT HUT

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Whimble Womens Institute

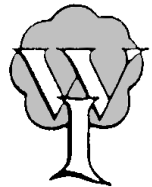
The autumn has seen us enjoy a busy and varied programme of events. In October Coral King made a return visit, again speaking on her experiences with the Luton Girls' Choir, on this occasion Coral told us of the choir's visit to Australia. The Whimble Institute's Annual Meeting was held in November.

Members were delighted that Avril Ellingham agreed to be President for a second year and it was also pleasing that three additional members joined the committee. But it was not just an annual meeting - three members demonstrated their favorite 'quick and easy' pudding recipe and everyone was able to enjoy tasting the results.

Additional activities continue with regular craft afternoons and a number of members thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the theatre at Sidmouth for the performance of an Agatha Christie play. Several members also gave enthusiastic help with a coffee morning in support of Hospiscare.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month and are always pleased to welcome new members. If you would like to know more just contact Ann Bowden (823450).

Rosemarie Burrows



Free Debt counselling for everyone from an award winning charity.

Back in the balmy days of spring,

the *Barn Dance in the Blossom*

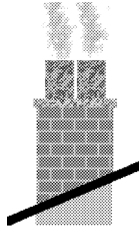
raised over £2000 for this charity and in particular for an Exeter centre to serve this area. The Exeter CAP Centre opened in October and exists to help and support people struggling with debt.

Free help and advice is available to anyone in need, irrespective of race, gender or belief. Working closely with local utilities and national finance institutions, we aim to offer a sustainable solution and real hope for the future.

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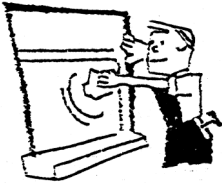
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Wasters of Whimble

Cardboard/plastics volunteer collections

Apologies for the error with the October collection. Dates are posted on the Parish Council notice board in the Square and the Post Office and tend to be the last Saturday of the month.

It is worth highlighting that this is a service run voluntarily. We are a small group of villagers who were disappointed with the recycling available to us kerbside and we felt there was a need to improve things. Our intentions have always been to help people without transportation or people with small amounts that are not worth a journey to the recycling centre. If you have more than 2 bags then you probably have ½ a car load and we would ask you to still come along but instead of unloading, we would ask you to top up your car and take a full load to the recycling centre. Alternatively, please consider getting together with neighbours and sharing the recycling trips. We would also ask people not to just leave bags in the car park without seeing the volunteers to ensure there is a collection that day. Due to the high volume currently being received we may have to turn away large quantities.

We have heard from EDDC that Whimble will not see an improved kerbside collection until November 2020. We find this quite shocking. This collection will not take cardboard or 'other' plastics only plastic bottles and kitchen waste. Other plastics – detailed below and cardboard will still be recycled at the recycling centres and we hope people continue to make use of this. Nearby recycling centres are available just past Tipton St John, Exmouth and at Marsh Barton. These are run by Devon County Council which is why they offer a different range of recycling. We hope people will share trips with friends or neighbours or will incorporate visits into other trips.

We will have to investigate whether our group can continue the monthly collections for another year. We had intended to stop when the kerbside collections came into force but we had expected this to be Spring 2020. We will update you when we have discussed this fully.

A reminder also that all cardboard and plastics should be clean. This helps the recycling process and is a courtesy to the volunteers who very often use their family vehicles to transport the material collected. Remember 'clean and crushed' to help our wonderful volunteers.

A reminder of plastics that can be taken to the recycling centres:

All plastic drinks and milk bottles (squashed and lid back on or milk lids to the church for charity), all plastic household cleaning bottles, preformed biscuit or chocolate box trays, plastic sandwich containers, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ready meal containers, plastic fruit containers (excluding polystyrene), CD's and cases, clean plastic flower pots.

A list is available of items that cannot be recycled along with this list on the Devon County Council website.

Next Collections - Saturday 2nd Jan, 30th Jan 10-11am
Webbers Close car park.



Village Garage Sale We hope everyone who took part enjoyed this event. We were pleased to see so many items being recycled and we believe many sellers had a successful day. It felt like a very sociable afternoon and we thank everyone who took part and Alison and Jim in the Post Office for their assistance. We were delighted to raise £141 for the wonderful Whimble News.

Social evening – you are welcome to join us in the Thirsty Farmer at 8.00pm on Thursday 10th December when we are meeting for an informal chat. This is a great chance for anyone with an interest to meet us and offer ideas without feeling a need to get too involved.

Next exciting event – Age of Stupid

film show and discussion Friday 8th January 2010 7pm for a 7.30pm start

We are very pleased to offer you all a chance to join us in the Victory Hall to watch a recent film highlighting some of the concerns over climate change and the predicted outcomes. Starring Pete Postlethwaite but also featuring 6 real life stories of people whose lives are touched. This film has been shown all over the world and is a drama/documentary lasting 1 hour 32 mins with a 12A certification.

After the film we will open a question and answer session with local climate change experts who have kindly offered to share their experiences and knowledge with us. There will be a lot of press coverage in December regarding the G8 summit and this is a great chance to understand the issues more clearly and why it is so important to make changes to our carbon output NOW.

This is an excellent opportunity to see a thought provoking film in the Village. We would like as many people as possible to come and see this film so we are offering this as a free event. We will have refreshments for sale on the night and we will be asking for donations to help cover the costs. If a profit is made it will be donated to a village organisation.

Next meeting Thursday 4th March 8pm - New members to our group are always welcome – contact:

Jenny Sanders 01404 823015 jls.sanders@btinternet.com

Alison Betts 01404 823967 alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk

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General tips

- Avoid walking home alone at the end of an evening - take a taxi or walk in a group with friends.
- Avoid taking short cuts or walking through dark deserted areas.
- Keep near the kerb away from bushes and buildings.
- Always walk facing oncoming traffic. Wear something bright and/or reflective.
- It is not recommended to hitch-hike or pick up hitch-hikers.
- Have your keys ready when you approach your home or vehicle to avoid delay in entering.
- If you are attacked, scream and shout as loud as you can and use a personal attack alarm if you have one.
- Carry a torch after dark and be alert at all times.

At the shops

- Carry your bag close to your body and be wary of persons around you.
- If someone snatches your bag don't struggle - you may be injured.
- If you are attacked or robbed get as good a description as possible of the offender and tell the Police immediately.
- Don't leave purses, wallets or handbags unattended on top of shopping bags or prams or on your supermarket trolley.
- Don't carry excessive amounts of cash in your purse, bag or wallet.
- Don't put your purse or wallet in a back pocket.
- Don't carry your credit cards and cheque book in the same bag or pocket.
- When withdrawing money from a cash point machine, be wary of anybody standing by or attempting to distract you. Put the money straight into a purse, bag or wallet.

Never forget, Whimble is statistically a very safe place to live, and if we all take care we can keep it that way.

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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<i>Clerk:</i> Gerri Turner,	823385
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<i>SClub11, Impact & Contact</i> Phil and Rebecca Dominy	822163
Devon County Councillor	
Peter Bowden	823450
East Devon Councillor	
Andrew Dinnis	850363
Whimble Primary School	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. S. Langley	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Helen Penney	822948
Whimble History Society	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough	822257
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group	
<i>Chair:</i> Samantha Walker	822649
<i>Playleader:</i> Tanya Chitty	
<i>Toddlers:</i> Sam Walker	822649
Whimble Womens Institute	
<i>President:</i> Avril Ellingham	822945
<i>Secretary:</i> Ann Bowden	823450
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
Beryl Iball	822905
Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Mr P. Garraff	891206
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
<i>Chairman,</i> Adrian Williams	822430
Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Geoff Delves, <i>Secretary:</i> Karen Delves	823258
Whimble Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> Adrian Rushforth	823276
Whimble Cricket Club	
<i>Booking Secretary:</i> Karen Delves	823258
Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee	
<i>Chairman;</i> John Discombe	823614
<i>Secretary:</i> Pam Scanlan	822262
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Ali Tierney	822724
Whimbletons	
Emma Palmer	823083
Neighbourhood Watch	
John Munslow	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	823038
Whimble Youth Club	
<i>Leaders:</i> Mino 07902 651989 or Sue 07964 211195	

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WN63

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