

Whimble News



Feb/March 2006

What's on in Whimple

February

12th - S Club 11/ Impact 10.45am in the Scout Hut

25th - S Club 11/ Impact Club Night Pancake Party 6.00pm in the Scout Hut

26th - S Club 11/ Impact 10.45am in the Scout Hut

March

4th - Jazz in the Victory Hall 7.30pm tickets from the P.O. £5.50
concessions £4.00.

5th - Celebration services in Whimple Church.

11th - Impact Club Night Games 6.00pm in the Scout Hut.

17th - Collection for Cub Jumble Sale, please leave outside your door.

18th - Cubs Jumble Sale in the Scout Hut 2.00pm

26th - Mothering Sunday

April

1st - Make Poverty History

2nd - S Club 11/ Impact 10.45am in the Scout Hut

23rd - S Club 11/ Impact 10.45am in the Scout Hut

July

1st - 8th Village Week

St Mary's Church

For Easter services see page 43

Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	All Age Service
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	S club11/Impact in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Service
4th Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	S club11/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 Lynda Trevena on 822876 or e-mail lynda_amelia@hotmail.com

Ed the Ed

This edition includes many examples of things that have happened in the village and things that are going to happen in the village – what a busy village we are! I know that when I have mentioned all the things going on to my colleagues at work, they are always very impressed with the levels of activity. We had a very pleasant evening recently up at the Hall watching the Italian film (with sub titles!) *Il Postino* - I thought that it was about an unwell postman, but I was wrong. We had a great evening, with pizza, and wine, with tables set up in the hall, and bowls of olives and crisps on the table. Very cosmopolitan – thanks to Louise and her team, plus Villages in Action.

Whimble has a lot going on because people get involved and want to do something. Whenever I hear anyone bemoaning the lack of things to do, I always want to borrow some words from John F Kennedy (and reduced to Whimble level) – “Ask not what your village can do for you but what you can do for your village”. As long as we have willing people who are prepared to get involved, then we have a good future as a village. Please support them in whatever way that you can.

Wassailing , the Walking Bus, the panto, Villages in Action , the Book Group, Xmas Eve carols, and many more, are in this edition as examples of people giving up their time for the village. Thank you!

Please read the short article about creating a vision for Whimble, driven by the Parish Council, who are very keen to gather villager’s thoughts about the future of the village. Please do your best to attend the meeting advertised, and play your part in this important step for Whimble!

I would like to formally bid farewell to one of the Whimble News team, Anni Hindle (and husband Tony who delivers to The Withy). They are moving to Sidmouth in the next few weeks, and I would like to thank them both for their work with the News, and to Tony for his work with taking photos for the panto and the News good luck in your new home.

In my new career in the wine trade, I have been reading one of the many books on wine, in a vain attempt to understand this new world and I have been highly amused by some headings on the descriptions of some pages - my favourite ‘buttock-clenchingly acidic’, followed by ‘dive up your hooter’, ‘buxom melons’, ‘call the paramedics’, and ‘ripsnorter’. These certainly take some of the mystique out of the wine world for me ! So much wine to taste, so little time.

We would love to have articles submitted for inclusion in the next edition – please get them to us by Monday 20th March, either with Jim and Alison at the PO, or direct to ‘Wombling’ Bob Scanlan on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk.

Ed H



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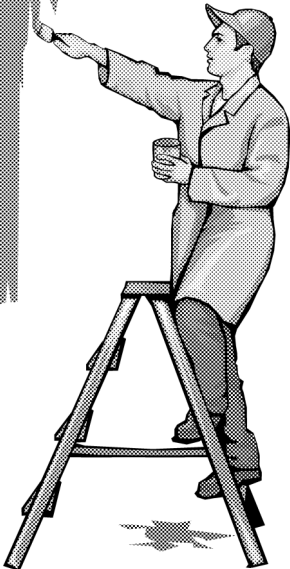
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- Good Friday - Plan B (ex-Mid Life Crisis)**

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

OHI BE MY VALENTINE!

Saint Valentine that are full high on loft
Thus singen smalle foules for thy sake
Now welcome Summer, with thy sonne soft
That has this Winter's weathers overshake
Well have they cause for to gladden oft
Sith each of them recovered has his mate
Full blissful may they singen when they wake
Now welcome Summer with thy sonne soft
That has this Winter's weathers overshake
And driven away the longe longe nights black.

The celebrated medieval poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, so well known for his Canterbury Tales, wrote one of the earliest English Valentine's day poems. The association of this date with courtship may arise from the mid-February pagan fertility feast of Lupercalia and/or the medieval belief that the birds chose their mates on this very day. 'Valentines' were originally cards boys drew by lot with the name of the girls to be courted. How charming! Most probably the origin of today's Valentine cards so abundant in our card shops. Our local postmaster tells me that they sell an enormous amount of Valentine cards and I know that the florists fill their shops with red roses, the emblem of true love. Lupercalia, a Roman festival included feasting, dancing and sacrificing goats. Priests ran round the city carrying whips made from the hide of the sacrificed goats, a blow from which was believed to cure sterility in women.

I remember with a smile our happy days in our smallholding in Aylesbeare a real menagerie of cattle, a run full of free range chickens, three Dalmatians, four farm cats. One day as we passed a farm gate, we saw a notice 'Goslings for sale' and we had visions of this addition of golden fluffy creatures growing up and rearing their own family. How can you tell whether a pair were actually a goose and a gander? We soon discovered that those golden fluffy balls of gold were two ganders and most aggressive. So we prayed for a small miracle to happen. It was on St. Valentine's day and a car came down our drive and two men came out of it and said: " We have a problem and have been told that you may be able to help us solve it. What we thought was a gander, has started laying eggs, and we wondered whether you would have a spare gander". Imagine our joy and elation when we swapped one of the ganders for a young and pretty goose.

St. Valentine worked miracles and soon after, on a lovely sunny Spring day, four fluffy golden goslings were born and like in any good fairy tale, they lived happily ever after and gave us so much joy.

From now on I will listen with new ears to the song of birds, observe them in my garden and I will also see with new eyes the colour of the sun in the rising and the setting, the phases of the moon, the movements of clouds and all these gifts of the Earthly Mother will bring joy to my heart. Over the many years I have lived in The Square I found the more you are in harmony with Mother Earth and God's magnificent creation, the more you find inner peace, serenity and contentment and this is infectious and brings joy to others a smile. A kind word just a few simple gifts to give away daily. One often hears it said that travel, which is now in the reach of all, and audio-visual communication which have turned the world into a village are making for better international understanding. True, it is easier today to meet people than in our fathers' days. But do we really know each other better? Is any real insight gained from fleeting, haphazard contacts? May it not be wiser sometimes to turn away from the profusion of pictures and the flow of talk and reconsider what the written word can do to unlock the gates of knowledge and friendship. If one is to understand all this, the heart must come in to play. It alone can grasp the essentials. I would like to express the hope that all these ingredients may be but a stepping stone leading towards the fuller sounder understanding on which esteem and true friendship stand firmly based. I must say that my own experience during Advent and the festive season was a constant flow of messages of love, affection and true friendship which will help me to face the year 2006 with confidence. I feel so blessed.

Soon it will be the vernal equinox, the point in Spring and Autumn at which the Sun's path, the ecliptic, crosses the celestial equator so that the day and night are approximately of equal length, the vernal equinox is on the 21st March without fail.

Yea, welcome March! and though I die ere June
Yet for the hope of life I give Thee praise
striving to swell the burden of the tune
That even now I hear they brown birds raise
Unmindful of the past or coming days:
Who sing: O Joy! a new year has begun:
What happiness to look upon the sun!

How happy the trees must be to hear the song of the birds again in their branches. After the silence and the leaflessness to have the birds back once more and to feel them busy at the nest building, how glad to give them the moss and the fibres and the crutch of the boughs to build in. Even in towns do birdsongs announce the arrival of Spring. It reminds me to listen for it. In such small pleasures, so easily missed, lies happiness.

To all to whom this little article may come: Health for yourselves and those you hold most dear : Content abroad, and happiness at home.

Waves of Whimble

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Tim Wright



Whimpe Post Office News

A reminder to all those planning trips to Europe this spring – please remember that you will need one of the new style EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) to cover yourself for emergency treatment. Application forms can be collected from the Post Office. All old E111 forms are now not valid.

Flowers By Post. This is really proving to be a very popular product – and satisfied customers tell us that the flowers are of a very good quality.

A new brochure has just been launched for the forthcoming season to cover Valentine's Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter, with beautiful bouquets from £15.00 by Post and £32.00 for Courier Service.

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Mothering Sunday March 26th.

Thanking you all for your continuing Support. .

Jim & Alison

Eva Roach

Barry, Trevor, Keith, and families of the late Eva would like to thank relatives and friends for their help, letters, cards and kind messages of sympathy received during their recent sad loss.

Thank you to everyone who attended the service and to all who gave donations.

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Whimble School



Success of the Walking Bus

As many of you will have noticed, the new Walking Bus services for Whimble School are now going strong. Having initially planned to have two halves of the bus starting at different points, then meeting outside the Thirsty Farmer before walking into school, it soon became apparent from the enthusiasm of the children that they would run as separate buses. Each bus is limited to 16 passengers, and we now have 16 for each bus, although they don't all travel on it every day. The scheme has been so successful, that we are hoping to launch a new bus from The Square in the next few weeks. The new bus will run from The Square and will go through Rectory Close until the Church tower is finished.

Each route has to be risk assessed by Devon County Council's road safety team, which includes engineers, and police to make sure that the buses' journeys to school are as safe as they can possibly be. It is quite a sight to see a bus full of passengers, all wearing high-visibility waistcoats, walking to school. Each bus has a volunteer parent at each end as "driver" and "conductor" and sometimes an extra one in the middle, all of whom have some training and are police checked. Other parents can also walk along with the bus if they wish to take their children into school.

Part of the aim of the buses, is to reduce congestion outside school and in the Victory Hall car-park, and it has really made a difference already. So, look out for the buses, and help us to improve road-safety in our village. **Emma Palmer**



The amount raised in Whimble for the 2005 (Nov) Poppy Appeal was £1,507.83. Many thanks to all who helped make this a record amount for Whimble. **Frances Pratt**



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Hank Wangford and Reg Meuross

December saw Hank Wangford and Reg Meuross charm a capacity audience in Whimble. After Slack Ma Girdle, Hank and Reg are the biggest names ever to have played the Victory Hall. Allegedly.

Our roving reporter cornered Hank in the interval to bring you this penetrating in-depth exclusive.

WN: Where did you get that hat?

H: Down a dusty trail in the New Mexico Desert

WN: When and where did you and Reg first meet?

H: Oooh! It's lost in the mists of time - it must have been fifteen, sixteen years ago when I first saw Reg, maybe playing in London or at the Edinburgh Festival. He was with a band called 'The Panic Brothers'. I knew straight away that I wanted to steal him, but I had to wait until they broke up.

WN: What's your favourite chord?

H: A minor

WN: How many performance shirts do you own?

H: At any given time I might have three or four. At the moment I've got this one [orange, with skeleton motif], a similar one in red and black, and one with cowgirls on.

WN: Worst gig ever?

H: There have been so many... Hmmm... Lowestoft Pavilion, by the pier. Three people and a dog.

WN: And the best?

H: Hard to choose. Recently – Queens Hall, Edinburgh. The acoustics were so good we didn't recognise ourselves.

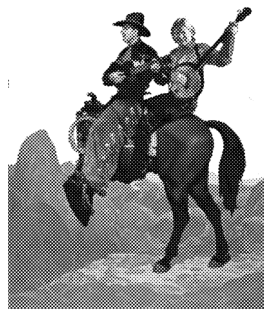
WN: How was Vera's chicken soup?

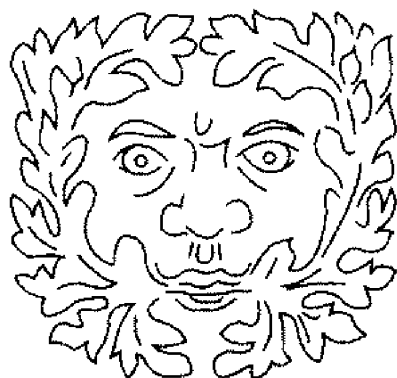
H: The soup? Good.

Hank is a bona-fida medical doctor and continues to work one day a week at the clinic where he has practised for many years. The rest of his work time is spent doing music.

Hank and Reg were able to appear in Whimble thanks to Villages in Action.

Tom Howard





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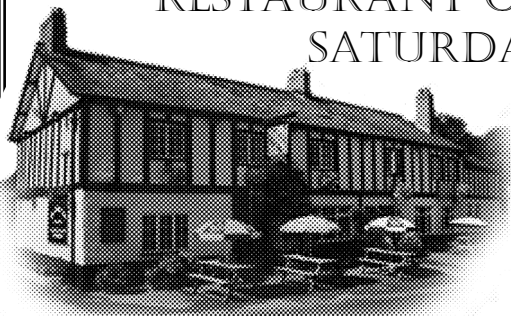


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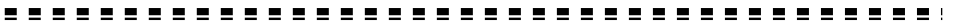
CAROL SINGING IN THE SQUARE - CHRISTMAS EVE

It was great to see the church so packed for the informal carols on Christmas Eve. For me it is the signal that Christmas is here, and it was a great start to my 'proper' Christmas. It is always fun to meet up with the rest of the village at a time like this, and then carry on, afterwards, at one of the pubs with a lemonade and a packet of crisps.

Whatever medicine that Julia Green is on, I think we all need some! Julia does a superb job each year, and always brimming over with energy and enthusiasm, and bringing the best out of the children in a gentle and fun way. I was really impressed with the young man who had volunteered to sing a solo – very brave and he did very well. We professional singers are good at recognising up and coming talent! The evening raised money for the Devon Air Ambulance – so well done Whimble, and thanks to all the musicians who took part, and to Julia.

We include two letters about the Xmas Eve carols in The Square; one raises a concern about the venue, and this is answered by the organisers, Tom and Barbara Lambert. If you have a view, please let us know!"

Ed H



Please can someone explain why the wonderful Whimble tradition of 'Carol Singing in the Square' on Christmas Eve seems to have found a permanent home within the church?

We always felt there was something magical about the informal gathering allowing anyone and every one of all ages to feel comfortable enough to join in with the singing. Some came carrying lanterns or torches, chatting with each other passing on Christmas Greetings, all this with the added surprise that a very busy Father Christmas might also just find the time to join us!

My elderly parents stayed with us this year and one of the highlights of their last Christmas in Whimble was being part of a fairly unique event.

This year the weather was perfect and other members of the family from outside the village joined us. So imagine the disappointment as we walked into an empty and silent square.

It should be said that the event inside our lovely church was very professionally done and maybe the many people who attended preferred it that way? We just felt that as there are already various formal Carol Services we can all attend – it's a great shame to lose the fun and informality that the unique 'Carol Singing in the Square' offered!

Are we alone?

The Silk Family

First of all we would like to thank everyone who attended - especially those with children of all ages. All the instrumentalists who turned up - including the young ones - did a great job and the whole evening was given a polish by the efforts of our MC, Julia, who jollied us all along to such good effect. Grateful thanks have been received from Devon Air Ambulance for whom £144.78 was collected. They now operate two helicopters and need £2.2m per year! We appreciate the efforts and generosity of those who prepared the Church and offered its use for the occasion.

We have been touched by the many comments we have received after the event. We had not fully appreciated the extent to which so many of you enjoy this part of Christmas and, in particular, being in the open-air when weather has permitted. This time it was in the Church despite fine weather outside. And there were reasons.

We have been trying to encourage more and more children to take part - either by singing or playing instruments. For those learning instruments carols are a very good way to get a buzz from playing in public. Whilst some wind instruments can be played outside in damp weather without detriment, strings certainly can not. Then there is the problem of small children separated from parents to be brought to the front for, say "Away in a Manger". In the darkness we have been worried about when they would be out of sight and their whereabouts unmonitored. Lighting is a problem in the Square, especially for young instrumentalists - older ones can sometimes busk! There have been occasions when someone has wanted to drive a car through the middle!

From the feelings that have been expressed we realise that we have to think more about how to overcome the difficulties. Perhaps a canopy for instrumentalists and/or moving further down the Square. Closing the road, with prior notice, is also an option. All this will entail much more time given in thought, organising and physical effort on Christmas Eve itself. As it has grown in popularity and we have grown older we have probably reached the stage where the whole event needs to be taken forward with new volunteers to plan it and make it happen. So please talk among yourselves, send your comments and watch this space for developments.

A lovely letter to the Editor refers to "the wonderful Whimple tradition" and "something magical in the informal gathering" (when outside). Let's try to build on this.

Tom and Barbara Lambert



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Parish Council News

Whimble Traffic Plan

The Parish Council is liaising with Devon County Council, Road Safety Officers, Police and other agencies in order to arrive at an affordable consensus with regard to traffic calming in Whimble.

At the last meeting of the Parish Council 14 items were looked at that had been discussed with Devon County Council. A number of additional comments were made for consideration by DCC. Items discussed include the extent of a 20mph zone, interactive speed signs, adjustments to existing road markings, provision of safer walkways and other measures such as chicanes.

The discussions are running in parallel with road safety improvements consequent on the success of Whimble Primary School Travel Plan.

Gerri Turner

Parish Plan

Do you have a Vision for Whimble?

The Parish Council has initiated the preparation of a Parish Plan for Whimble. Such a plan has to be based on the views of everyone in the community, and will identify the actions needed to tackle issues of concern. The aim is to include everything that is relevant to those who live and work in the parish, from employment to playgrounds, and from housing to health.

A full consultation with all parishioners will be undertaken later in the year, but a preliminary meeting to learn how the Parish Plan process will be undertaken will be held on:

Thursday 2nd March in the Victory Hall at 7.30pm.

A speaker from the Community Council of Devon will give a short presentation on parish plans and this will be followed by your first opportunity to give an early indication of the issues the plan should cover.

Please do come.

Mike Ellingham





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NEW YEARS EVE

The theme in the Thirsty Farmer was Pantomime and Nursery Rhyme Characters....so no problem for me to get the old Widow Twankey dress out plus the false frontage and away we went. I was surprised and delighted to see so many of the good gentlemen of the village who had dressed up as ladies. Should I be surprised and delighted or worried? Perhaps we could have a regular Cross Dressers Club evening!!!!!! It was a good evening with great music and nicely served lemonades – well done to Tanya and Vicki and the rest of the team who all dressed up.

A few of us managed to totter up to the Square at midnight and meet up with more villagers who were dressed a little less extravagantly, and we were able to join in the festivities there, lubricated by a sup of mulled wine, courtesy of John and Jan at The Jays – thank you for doing that.

Ed H

Old Year's Night

Jan and John at The Jays would like to thank all those people who turned out on Old Year's Night and supported the activities in The Square. They would like to express special thanks to those who donated bottles for the mulled wine – some of whom did not make it to The Square as events overtook them and some who could not drag themselves away from their Jigsaw Puzzles. A very Happy and Healthy Year to you all.

Our thanks to Paul, Gill and the customers of the New Fountain Inn for their generous donation from the Christmas Draw. The money will go towards much needed facilities for the family/bereavement room in the Emergency Department at Wonford. This includes such items as some decent crockery, toys or games for children, and practical items for use after cot deaths. Such facilities are very important for the bereaved, and help the staff to help them.

Chris McLauchlan on behalf of the Emergency Department, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Wonford) Consultant in Emergency Medicine



★ DRAIN-WIZARD

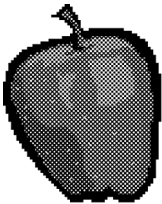
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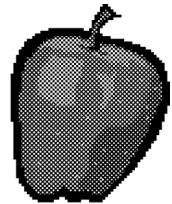
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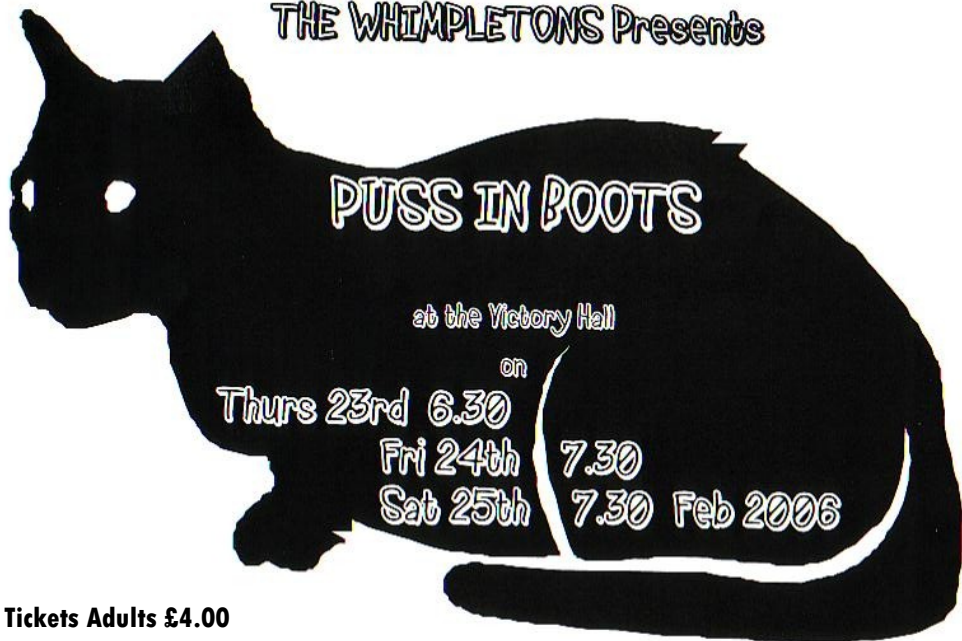


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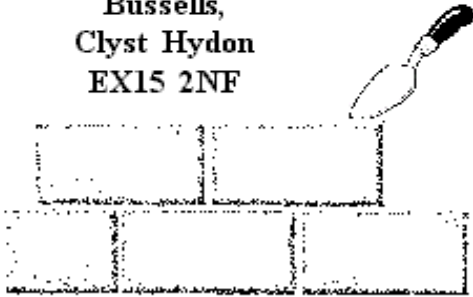
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Great Trees of East Devon - which is your favourite?

Have you got a favourite tree in the Parish of Whimble? Perhaps you have noticed its size, its wildlife, a story associated with it – or just its beauty within the landscape. The Countryside Service has won a Heritage Lottery Grant to fund a three year project to find and record the important trees of the district. Project Coordinator Kate Tobin launched the Great Tree Hunt in September 2005 and it runs until June 2006.

People can nominate their tree to be a Great Tree of East Devon using a form in a leaflet or on the website (www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside). Recording a tree on the interactive map on the website means its details can also be sent directly to the national Ancient Tree Hunt, helping their quest to record ancient trees.

There is also a fantastic prize to be won for a photo competition running alongside the Great Tree Hunt. The very best photo of a tree nominated for the Hunt will win a digital SLR worth around £700 – a Canon EOS 350D donated by Canon UK and the Devon Camera Centre. So find a tree with a story and start snapping. You can even claim a free A4 print of your photo by taking it along to a Devon Camera Centre shop along with your entry form.

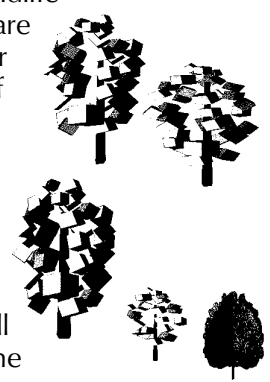
Britain is home to the majority of ancient trees surviving in North West Europe and they are a distinctive feature of East Devon. However they are being squeezed out of the landscape, threatening the wildlife dependent on them. The national Ancient Tree Forum are particularly keen to find out about the distribution of our ancient native oaks - anything over 5m in girth is of interest.

A tree doesn't have to be old to be a Great Tree or to be of interest – it may support rare wildlife or have a good story.

Trees nominated can be on private land and it will be possible to keep their exact location vague, if necessary. However some level of public access or visibility will probably be required for a tree to be chosen as one of the final 60 "Great Trees of East Devon".

The Great Trees project also supports parish tree wardens, works with schools and raises awareness of the importance of ancient trees and how to look after them. Schools can sign Kate up for a free visit on a tree-related topic by phoning her on 01395 516551 x 2060.

Kate Tobin can be contacted at East Devon District Council on 01395 517557 or at ktobin@eastdevon.gov.uk.



WHIMPLE WEATHER - 200



	2005	2004
Rainfall	43.26 inches	35.32 inches
Rain fell on	159 days	165 days
Snow fell on	9 days	5 days
Gales/Strong winds	33 days	43 days
No of days 32 ⁹ f or below	57	28
Thunder heard	7 days	6 days
Wettest month	October (8.36 inches)	October (5.9 inches)
Wettest day	18.10.05 (2.28 inches)	22.6.04 (1.6 inches)
		18.12.04 (1.6 inches)
Hottest day	13.7. 05 (9 ⁹ f)	8 & 16. 6. 04 (8 ⁹ f)
		5.8.04 (8 ⁹ f)
Coldest night	28.12.05 (2 ⁹ f)	1.3.04 (2 ⁹ f)

I now have 35 years of weather statistics in Whimple.

It must be emphasised this is a record in a garden in Whimple and may not agree with that of 2 or 3 miles away but is thought to be reasonably relevant to the village.

The average rainfall in this garden is 38.79 inches so 2005 has been above average. October, November, December produced 17.96 inches and for a period of 32 days between 11th October 2005 and 11th November 2005 I recorded 12.26 inches.

Wot no metrication? Age!

Ken Burrows



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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting for the VPA was held on Thursday 12th January 2006 in the Committee Room at the Victory Hall. We had to rearrange the date due to the original date clashing with the Wassail night. We hope nobody was too disappointed at not being able to be there but we did have a packed meeting! It was good to reflect on another busy and indeed very successful year. However, there was a bit of a shock in store when in came to electing the Committee for the coming year. Firstly, we learnt that Pauline Rogers was to stand down as our Vice Chairman and Subscription Secretary. Pauline has worked very hard for us over the years not only for fulfilling these two roles but also for organising many successful coach trips. We are very grateful to her for all the work she has done. Secondly, and perhaps more surprisingly was the decision from Frances Pratt, affectionately known as Mrs "P", to stand down as Show Secretary. At the meeting she told us that she became a Committee Member of the VPA in 1960, and has been Show Secretary for 44 years! Not many organisations will have had that sort of dedicated support from one person. Clearly this will be a very difficult act to follow, but fortunately she won't be too far away to help us out. It was unanimously agreed that both should become Honorary Vice Presidents of the VPA.

Due to the very successful events we have organised over the last two years, we have agreed with the Parish Council to fund some spring bulbs for the village. We are currently looking at various sites, but if anyone has any thoughts on this, we would be very interested to hear where you think they should go. Our Chairman, Adrian Williams, would be pleased to have any ideas you may have, see contact details for phone number.

It was also agreed at the meeting that membership subscriptions would be £1.50 per person for the coming year. This would entitle members to free entry to the winter coffee evening talk in February, the plant sale in May and free entry to view the Flower Show Exhibits. Doreen Staddon has agreed to be our Membership Secretary this year and she will be assisted by Sylvia Broom and Zena Calverley. Any one of these three will be pleased to take your money for those of you eager to renew your memberships, and of course we will welcome with open arms any new members! It is still the bargain of the year at less than three pence a week!!!

The first event of the year will be on Tuesday 28th February 2006, in the Victory Hall, where everyone is invited to a talk by Mr P. Cantrill, the owner of the Dayspring Plants Nursery. We have asked him to give a talk on plants that are suitable for Whimple Gardens and the latest developments in flowers and plants. He will also have a stock of plants for sale. Following the talk there will be an opportunity to ask him and other "Experts" any questions that you may have on flowers, plants, vegetables and fruit trees. If you have any questions on exhibiting at our Flower Show we will be pleased to answer those as well. It should be a very interesting evening. Entry will be free to VPA Members, and yes you can join on the night, and there will be a charge of £1.00 to non members. Light refreshments will be available after the talk.

We are proposing to run an "Open Gardens" day in June and we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in offering their garden up for viewing. We have a number we will be using, but, if there is anyone who has a garden of interest and would be prepared to show it off, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you all at our events during the year, and as usual, they will be published here in the Whimple News.

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary.



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TALATON PANTO 2006 – Jack and the Wizards of Sozz

And so, dear reader, the current Mrs H and I gathered ourselves together in the middle of January and set off on the dog sledge to Talaton, to see their world famous panto. As ever, the script was home grown and the man wot writ it, had a starring role as the Innkeeper, with some superb makeup, warts and all – or was it makeup? The quality of the makeup was the great change from last year, so well done for that. The Talaton panto is rapidly turning into a Rolling Stones-like tour, with a cast/team of helpers, of thousands, but only just lacking the 70 lorries needed for equipment! The cast always have my admiration, as they are brave enough to do a matinee and an evening show on the Saturday, something that would lead to either burn out or a blow out if it were the Whimbletons!

Trish Lenehan (one time star of the Whimbletons as well) was Muscadet, and was brilliantly evil. Trish had also taken on the role of Director – brave lady – obviously not enough to do - and there was another Whimbleton link in the shape of Paul Colin, playing Merlot, a Wizard. Saturday night was packed, and it was good to see that Whimble's answer to Russ Conway, our very own Reg Porley, was tinkling the ivories for the panto. Obviously no one in Talaton can play the piano, so Reg had to cancel an evening of his world tour and fly in especially.

I was deeply hurt when they included comments about the Whimble pantomime, and was in floods of tears on the evening – but revenge is best enjoyed cold, so I am sure things can be included in Puss in Boots for any Talaton visitors (assuming they can find their way out of the village.) Beware!!

Ed H

Whimble Tennis Club AGM

will be held on Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm at

The Gate House

Rull Farm

Whimble

Tel 823240 for directions.

ALL WELCOME, whether member or not.

We are open to new ideas and questions and of course help!



Whimble Book Group

December saw the 1st Anniversary of Whimble Book Group. (The occasion was marked by the consumption of even larger amounts of chocolate biscuits and wine than usual). We all agreed that the group had succeeded in making us read more, and in encouraging us to read a greater variety of styles and authors than we otherwise would have. It has also provided an excuse for regular evenings out of chatting and drinking, while at the same time giving friends and partners the illusion that we are intellectuals. To give people an idea of the sort of books we have been reading, here is a list of the past year's titles:

The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency, by Alexander McCall Smith
The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood
The Photograph, by Penelope Lively
Small Island, by Andrea Levy
The English, by Jeremy Paxman
Memoirs of a Geisha, by Arthur Golden
The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists, by Robert Tressell
Good News, Bad News, by David Wolstencroft
Her Father's Sins, by Josephine Cox
Five People You Meet in Heaven, by Mitch Albom
Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day, by Winifred Watson
The Poisonwood Bible, by Barbara Kingsolver



We are now looking forward to spending our Christmas book tokens, and another year of reading.

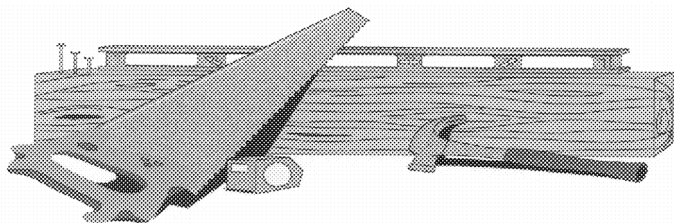
Katy Howard

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PTFA News

The children had lots of fun at the Christmas Fayre which is run by us and is aimed at providing games and affordable gifts for the children to buy. They also had the opportunity to visit Santa in his wonderful grotto.

Many thanks to all PTFA helpers, especially Geoff Gardner, Adrian Hewitt, the dinner ladies, teachers and school staff. It was very kind of the older children to help with the setting up and great to see Aaron Dominy, Emma Camp, Naomi Clapp and Lucy Daniels - who came and helped even though they were on holiday. I hope they had as much fun as we did.

We were delighted to substantially contribute to the annual pantomime again this year which took the whole school to see Dick Whittington at the Northcott Theatre on their first day back at school.

We are planning future events this year, so watch out for bingo, the easter egg hunt and the fashion show.

We are also considering Maypole dancing and would appreciate any information anyone has about such a project.

Planning has also started for Village Week 1st July 2006 and helpers or ideas are very welcome. If you have an organisation that would like to run an event, please contact me as soon as possible.

Jenny Sanders 823015

Answers to 'Where in Whimble' Quiz

(Whimble News Christmas 2005 Edition)

1. The milestone on the pavement by Milestone Services
2. Weather vane in Westview Close
3. Angel on Grave in Grove Rd Churchyard
4. Sign on wall of Bridge House, just past the Church on the way to the Thirsty Farmer
5. Upstairs window of the Whimble Heritage Centre, Church Rd
6. Ram in Children's playground between the Square and Elizabeth Close
7. Tethering Stone by the stream in the Square
8. Church Steps
9. Sign on house gate between Dince Hill Close and Westview Close
10. Pillar at entrance of Bramley Gardens, Church Road
11. Brick Barrel pattern on wall by entrance to Slewtown Crescent, Broadclyst Rd.

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COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SMELLY ONES

It's when four inches of grass cuttings have been compressed into the bottom of the bags, rained on a couple of times, and left for a week or two - that it gets interesting! As the last bits slop out into the lorry I usually pick up a glob or two between my fingers, and proceed to transfer most of it to my face and glasses, and as it says in the brochures, your hair guaranteed to grow thick and strong again. Mine hasn't, but the aromas of surf-splash for men? mmmmmmm.

On dry days it's a good time to prune back over prominent vegetation to expose fresh planting sites for spring, and generally re-connect with your garden, if you cannot home compost then consider the OR service. We need a variety of material to mix in with West Hill leaves, and incidentally you can include pet litter and vegetable peelings also. Not bad huh!

Following an East Devon Survey last year, we are developing a wood recycling arm to the service, and hope this summer to start with sawmill slab wood, construction waste wood, timber yard wood, and pallets. The idea is to rent a workshop in Ottery and from it retail prepared timber and a range of garden furniture. You may well be interested in the collection service, time swapping for use of the workshop, or other general supervisory or practical work, or perhaps slimy grass cuttings may have a greater attraction!

Meanwhile book your compost early this year, a bag is £3.50 delivered, (£12.00/4bags) Bulk is £15.00/tonne (£11.75/m³) + delivery.

And lastly our continued thanks to both shop and PO for helping with tags and bags.

Hugh Roberts 82265

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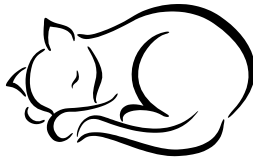
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WHIMPLE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday this year falls on 26th March and a celebratory service will be held at St Mary's during which the children will present posies to their mothers. The service commences at 11.00am.

Mums (and Dads) do please come - and don't forget to invite Gran and Grandad along too!

EASTER SERVICES

9th April Palm Sunday. Service at 11.00am

13th April Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm

16th April Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 8.00am

Family Communion at 11.00am



In the coming weeks you may see articles in the press about this and hear about it on the radio or television, but what is it all about?

Over ten Wednesday evenings, from 26th April, churches of all denominations from across Devon and beyond will be inviting thousands of people to consider the relevance of the Ten Commandments to their lives today, in a series of talks of interest to everyone, whether or not they are a regular churchgoer.

The series of talks, called "Just 10", is presented by J. John who is considered one of the most relevant, incisive and thought provoking Christian communicators in the country today. He has an appeal that transcends gender, age, culture and occupation. His much loved art of story telling helps people to discover spiritual meaning in a way that makes sense of everyday life.

Last September 1500 people heard him speak in Exeter Cathedral at the launch of Just10 Devon and those of us who went from Whimble are looking forward to inviting our friends and family, neighbours and colleagues - adults and young people of all ages and backgrounds - to come to the presentations which will take place at Crealy Adventure Park. You are, of course, free to go on your own, but if you would like to hear any more about it or would like to go with someone else or in a group then do speak to **Rob Wilkinson** (822521) or the co-ordinator for St Mary's church, **Sarah Smith**(822123)

WHIMPLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The December meeting was in the true spirit of the Christmas season and we were delighted to welcome guests from the neighbouring institutes of Escot and West Hill. We started the evening with quiz games to get us into the party mood. Everyone took part in a 'bring and share' supper and we all enjoyed the excellent food provided by our members. The highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by our small group of thespians. As usual, their performance was of the highest standard and had the audience rocking with laughter.

At the January meeting we had a demonstration of belly dancing – and some of our braver members did try it out! It was very interesting and we were surprised to learn that belly dancing was originated in women providing entertainment for women.

Whimble entered a team for the county quiz and although we did well we did not go through to the final.

At our meeting on 14 February David Williams will talk on 'Life as an Auctioneer'. We are always happy to welcome new members to our meetings held at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

For information please contact Ann Bowden (tel.823450).

Rosemarie Burrows



Charlie Hearnshaw Quartet

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Bonjour tout le monde!

Well first of all a very happy 2006 to all of you. (I can still say it, as it is January apparently.)

Not too much to report this time (Thank goodness for that I hear you sigh..)

A major event took part during December...We got our road re-surfaced. What is so special about that I hear you cry?...Quite a lot actually, If you had seen our 'road', if you can call it that even, it was more like a track, especially after lightning struck the road back in September and several rain-torrents further, (more about these later...). Our road resembled something of a moon landscape by early December, and we think that someone in the Marie's office took pity on us mere mortals in Le Cabirou as lo and behold, the road closed one December morning. In typical French fashion, nothing was said, and ...as we live in a cul-de-sac, of course no one could get out this day, but hey who cares, as we got our new road.

This event commenced with the arrival of a huge digger, who immediately started to scrape the surface level. This in itself was a huge task, as the road had a gully of about 50cm deep after the huge torrent we had early November, and after the now famous lightning attack back in September, furthermore was the road 'enhanced' by about 50 potholes or so, some so deep that one of the local inhabitants took it upon himself to concrete the worst of them in a while back (without much success). Then a contraption arrived which resembled something out of the olden days. The only way to describe it is as an old fashioned cross between a fire engine and fumigating vehicle, which we witnessed fumigating house basements in Turkey once.

Anyway this thing started to spew out some kind of glue. This vehicle was followed by a tipper lorry full of gravel, which was spread on the 'glue'. Nothing unusual, except for the fact that this lorry was going up quite a steep little hill, tipper bucket straight up and yes...you guessed it, on top of all this gravel, a man, shovelling the gravel out...Health and safety here we come!!! At any moment we were expecting this pile of gravel to come shooting all down the back with man and all buried within. Only a small, no huge, miracle saved this man from an early grave. And, voilà, the road was finished. How long it will last is any ones guess, (a small shower recently washed a considerable amount of it away down the hill, but hey, it looks good for a bit!).

We had the mother of all storms back in early November. It nearly resembled the huge flood that took place in this valley in 1999, during which 22 bridges were washed away, along with several houses en route. I have never seen so much rain in 2-3 days. Incroyable! The rivers locally broke their banks, took away huge trees, roots and all, washed away allotments, gardeners sheds, even a section of road got washed away, tarmac and all, in the next village, along with a smallholding with goats, chickens, turkeys etc. The family where I work have a house next to the river.

Well they lost a considerable amount of his garden in the river, along with several huge trees and shrubs. It has left their garden looking like a moon landscape with huge craters in the former lawn.

During this event we suddenly had waterfalls coming out of the hills, which weren't there before and in the middle of the night the village went from being on orange alert to red alert. Quite scary it even caused our telephone line to come down. Quite entertaining when the France telecom repairman arrived. It was a freezing cold day with very chilly wind. Up the ladder he climbed, muttering 'shit shit shit' to himself (yes, the French do like 'something' about the English. It is the word 'shit', used at every opportunity).

Anyway after assembling a cable and several more 'shits', he slammed shut his van door and was about to disappear. Non! Paul ran out the door and said: 'pardon' but the phone is still not working. This was clearly too much for one day as this poor man threw down a spanner on the floor and amongst too many 'shits' to count, threw his ladder off his roof rack again and went of in a huff, back up the post, more 'shit' 'shit' and even more 'shits', rigged up yet another cable, and ...you guessed it...it still didn't work. SHIT!!! Now he was getting really mad as in amongst the 'shits' 'Merde', suddenly appeared in the vocabulary. This was the signal...if he was reverting to his mother tongue, this could only mean one thing...more failure..., yes,... it didn't work the second time around. To cut a long story short, we did have our phone reconnected in the end, but we were left with a very, very unhappy repairman...and... we learnt a new word,... it is 'SHIT'. C'est la vie en France!

This is what it is all about! During January the whole village, and I mean all 730 inhabitants of our village, (yes we have increased in numbers since the last census), were invited. This event took place during a Sunday and the mayor says a few words, wishes everyone a happy New Year, thanks a few locals (a bit like the honours lists really), and then there was this fantastic buffet with more food than you could eat in a week, and desserts to die for.

This is what village life in France is like. Fantastique! Certainly never dull, like for instance next week we have been invited with the mayor from Montredon to a dinner from a printer's??? Say no more...

Today, Saturday we had snow, lots of it, so much that we could not get our car out as the hill was too dangerous to drive down, couldn't cycle to work today so had to walk. Looked like the incredible snowman by the time I got to work. Very rare here in our village to have so much snow, but then everything is 'pas normal' here recently apparently...including the weather.

Well that was about it from 'sunny' south of France, au revoir à bientôt, et bonsoir à tout...

Janine and Paul

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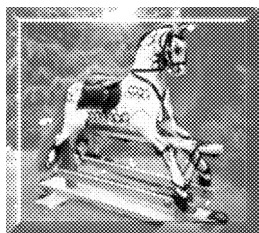
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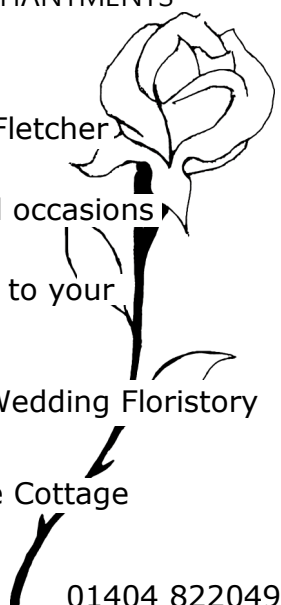
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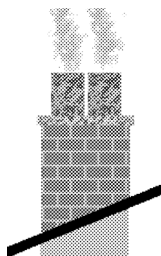
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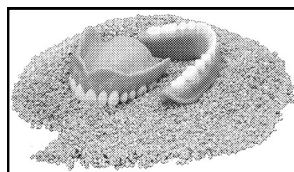
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WASSAIL 2006

When Roger Smith asked me to lead the Wassail this year, and take over from our beloved Col Bob, I felt very honoured, and strangely nervous. Never having done anything like it before, it is always so much easier to take part rather than play an active role. I was really pleased to have been invited to do it, and loved the promotion to Wassail Smock Wearer...something else for my dressing up book!!!

We had a brilliant turn out of villagers on a dry Tuesday night – I estimated some 120 brave souls. I was even more pleased with the musical support – we had Slack ma Girdle in full strength, plus Jim Causley who has recorded the Whimble Wassail song on a CD (available from the Heritage Centre shop). Jim had brought a few more musical friends from the Dartmoor Pixie Band, and he had been asked to lead the singing. If I had been asked to lead the singing, lawd knows where we would have gone!!!

We had 2 brand new girls for the Queen (Natasha Katz) and Princess (Katie Yeoman) and they had learned their lines, delivering them with total confidence and brilliant volume. They can be very proud of what they did. By the end of the 3rd wassail round a tree, they were both asking to do it again next year...that's tremendous!!

It was great that so many villagers turned out, and we succeeded in making a lot of noise as we processed around the village. We just about managed to have enough Wassail Cup to go round. Thanks to all the people involved in the preparation of the Wassail Cup.

We finished up at the Cricket Club where lashings of bread, cheese and a grand variety of apple cake awaited us – thanks to all involved in that, and thanks to the History Society for organising the whole thing. The musicians then played some really good music to entertain us as we had our lemonades – thanks to them for making the evening a success.

It is great to keep this tradition going, and John Shepherd would have been proud of us.

Ed H

Blood donor sessions will be held on Tuesday the 21st of February 2006.

At Feniton C of E ,primary school, Station Road, Feniton

From 1:30pm until 3:15pm
and 5.00 pm until 7:15pm

Scout News



We are still soldiering on here at Whimble now minus a Scout section 10 ½ -15 years (boys and girls) with Elaine running both Monday and Wednesday Cub packs with her gallant helpers Jean and Tom.

Melanie Morris and Jane Souter-Frost are doing a grand job with the Beaver Scout section. So if you'd like to, or know of anyone else who would be keen to join us please let one of us know.

Cubs are busy again this term with a visit to Caddihoe Cottage for a sleepover planned for Feb/March, swimming, making dragons to celebrate the Chinese New Year and so on.....

Beaver Scouts (boys and girls aged 5 ½ - 8) meet Thursdays 6 - 7.15pm

Cub Scouts (boys and girls aged 8 -10½) meet Mondays 6 - 7.30pm and Wednesdays 5.30 - 7pm

Come and see us and see the fun the kids are having

Cheers

Alex Spry

Helping our youngsters - update

There was a very positive response to our article in the Christmas edition of Whimble News, so a further meeting will be held in the Victory Hall Committee Room on:

Monday the 13th February at 7:30pm.

Anyone and everyone is welcome so, hopefully, we can make a play/sports area a reality.

Liz Silk 822389

P.S. many thanks to Paul and Gill of the New Fountain Inn for their generous donation from the Christmas draw towards this project.

Saturday Soup and Sarnie

After the successful launch of this venture in The Victory Hall and, filled with the euphoria of this success, we will be repeating the event on Saturday 18th February from 12.00 noon to 1:30pm. A new and exciting selection of Soups will be on offer so make sure you do not miss out this time.

Further dates are planned so please keep an eye open to the notices displayed around the village.
John Discombe

Thanks to the Village Hall team for an excellent and well organised soup and sarnie lunch-time session on 7th January. The waitresses were working their little socks off to keep the customers supplied with a lovely choice of soups and bacon butties. I was pleased to see that it was so well supported, and all for a good cause.

Well done team!! Ed H

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THE YEAR'S BEST [actual] HEADLINES:

Crack Found on Governor's Daughter [Imagine that!]

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says [No, really?]

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers [Now that's taking things a bit far!]

Is There a Ring of Debris around Uranus? [Not if I wipe thoroughly!]

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over [What a guy!]

Miners Refuse to Work after Death [No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-sos!]

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant [See if that works any better than a fair trial!]

War Dims Hope for Peace [I can see where it might have that effect! !]

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile [You think?]

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures [Who would have thought!]

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide [They may be on to something!]

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges [You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?]

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge [he probably IS the battery charge!]

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group [Weren't they fat enough?!]

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft [That's what he gets for eating those beans!]

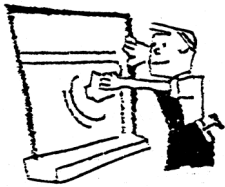
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks [Taste like chicken?]

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half [Chainsaw Massacre all over again!]

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors [Boy, are they tall!]

And the winner is....

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead



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Did **YOU** make any resolutions for 2006?

One I plug every year is to **prompt** all residents to get involved in a Neighbourhood Watch Group. It makes very good sense.

I am often asked by residents if they can join a Neighbourhood Watch group in the village. The first question I ask them is, do they or their neighbours receive any news regarding Neighbourhood Watch circulated to them at their homes

If they do not, then it is very likely that they live in an area of Whimple **not covered by a Watch**. Understandably, for safety and data protection reasons the areas NOT covered by Watches are not disclosed to the general public or other coordinators in Whimple.

So if you are concerned that you are **not covered** by a Watch, you should in the first instance contact Julia Ryder the East Devon area watch development officer on **01392 451731**.

Also East Devon NHW Support Group is there to help.

The NHW office is part of Exmouth Police Station and is manned by volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10am to midday.

Telephone: **01395 226156** (on voicemail outside office hours)

Email: **nhw.eastdevon@virgin.net**

A few reminders:

- Have you noted down the model and serial numbers of recent purchases or presents, also have you marked them with your post code?
- Have you checked your smoke alarm battery/batteries and vacuumed the unit/s as advised by the fire and rescue service?
- 26th March 2006—Beginning of British Summer Time (clocks go forward 1 hour and we lose 1 hours sleep.)

John Munslow 01404 823456

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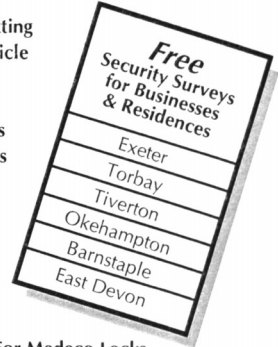
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Hospiscare — Otter Vale Friends

The coffee morning and sale of Christmas cards held in the Victory Hall on 22nd October again proved to be a resounding success, raising the magnificent sum of £723. Our warmest thanks to everyone for their generosity and to each of the willing and hard working helpers. All money raised goes to support the work of the two Hospiscare nurses based at Ottery St Mary and to further the work of the Exeter & District Hospice. With deepest gratitude,

Rosemarie Burrows



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Rota for arranging the flowers behind the altar in St Mary's during 2006 is now in the church. It is to be found by the hymn books as you come in. If you would like to remember a particular date or would just like to help to make the church look attractive, please fill in the dates that you would prefer, or contact me for more information.

We would be very pleased to welcome anyone who has not previously been involved in putting flowers in the church and I would be happy to help in any way I can.

Rosemary Horrell 01404 822013.

Whimple News Over 65's Christmas Party

The ladies of the village would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make this party such a success. Having the gentlemen along to help with the heavier work was received with grateful thanks.

So many people sent cards and messages of thanks – not just for the lovely party, but recognising the good food and entertainment given by the Ottery St. Mary Silver Band.

All was very much appreciated.

The next party will be held in The Victory Hall on Friday, 1st December 2006.

Lucy Smith

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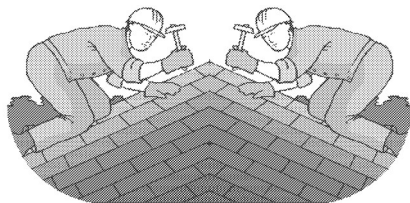
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Andrew Dinnis	850363
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Vicky Clough, 15 Rectory Close	822800
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Whimble Over Sixties Club	
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Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground.</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
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