

Whimble News



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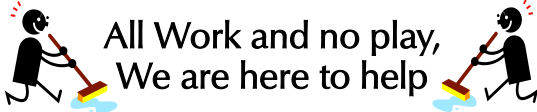
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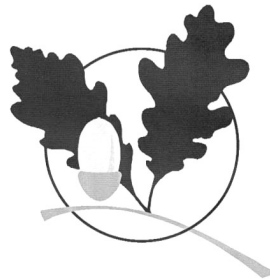
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Friday 29th May: Audius Maximus

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What's On in Whimble

April

- 1st Heritage Centre opens – details page 52
- 11th Front Row Club – Victory Hall 7.00pm 'The Hundred Foot Journey'.
- 18th Villages in Action present Alaw Trio at the Victory Hall – details page 13.
- 18th Whimble School Choir 7.00pm St Mary's Church – details page 19.
- 24th Whimble History Society Talk at the Victory Hall 7.30pm 'The medieval cathedral in Exeter' with Conrad Donaldson.
- 25th Soup and Sarnie lunch at Victory Hall 12.00 noon until 1.30pm.

May

- 2nd VPA coach trip to Marwood Hill gardens – details page 34.
- 9th VPA Spring Coffee Morning and Plant Sale - Victory Hall – details page 34.
- 9th Front Row Club – Victory Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
- 13th Post Office services start at Whimble Stores from 1.00pm – see page 11.
- 30th Soup and Sarnie lunch at Victory Hall 12.00 noon until 1.30pm.

June

- 13th Whimble Church Fete 2.30pm – details page 25.
- 13th Front Row Club – Victory Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
- 21st VPA trip to Rosemoor Gardens – details page 34.
- 27th School Summer Fair - Whimble Primary School
- 28th Exeter Gauge O Group (model railways) Open Day 10.00am - 4.00pm Victory Hall – details page 43.

July

- 5th-12th Village Week .
- 7th Walking Treasure Hunt, starting at the Heritage Centre – details to follow.
- 11th Village Day.
- 27th Children's Fun Day 10.00am – 1.00pm – see page 29.

August

- 8th VPA Annual Flower Show Victory Hall – details page 34.

September

- 19th Front Row Club – Victory Hall CinemaLive simulcast of 'Aida' from Sydney Harbour
- 24th Whimble History Society talk – Victory Hall 7.30pm - Sue Ayres and 'A social picture of Whimble in the Great War years'.

October

- 23rd Whimble History Society talk – Victory Hall 7.30pm – Mike Richards and 'Executions in Exeter'.

November

- 20th Whimble History Society talk – Victory Hall 7.30pm – Reuben Ayres and 'Dr Peter Hennis – the last man to die in a duel in Exeter'.

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Ed the Ed

The News team hope that you enjoy this April/May edition, which will have been delivered to your door by our wonderful volunteer deliverers who will be packing away their snow shoes and thermals ready for the warmer summer days that are on the horizon. Thank you to them for their valuable help.

Meanwhile, in the retail hub of Whimble, the Stores team are poised like coiled springs in readiness for the Post Office training. Jenny and Mark have done a great job in moving all the chillers and freezers (for the last time hopefully!) in readiness for the PO arrival. We can see the confusion on our customer's faces as they come in and wonder if they are in the right shop! The new layout certainly gives some new space to the shop which is useful. Jenny has explained what is happening in the Stores on page 11. I have been really impressed with the wide range of items that we now stock – where else could you find a bottle of herbal schnapps called 'Messer Schmitt'? Whoever buys it has to promise to open it in the shop and give the staff a taster.

Sally has written a report about the 'Pop Up Restaurant' that came to Whimble recently – what a great night that was for the village and adds to the wide range of activities/events that this great village hosts throughout the year. Just have a look at the 'What's on in Whimble' page, plus of course, all the regular meetings of the variety of clubs/societies we have.

The Heritage Centre re-opens on 1st April (honestly!) and page 52 invites us to support the History Society and the new displays for 2015 – please take your family and friends to see these displays.

A warm thank you to Jim and Alison (the small outlet that we know and love) for their hard work in the Post Office in the last ten years and we wish them a happy retirement. Does this mean that the Stores team have to take on the mantle of dressing up for Comic Relief Day? You'll never catch Jenny and me dressing up and looking silly!!!

And a STOP PRESS item that we have managed to squeeze in – details of the closing date of the New Fountain under the Mallett flag, and the opening date under the new team. It is a big day for Gill, Michelle and Chris who have worked so very hard at running a great pub for the village – and its visitors. Many thanks to them for all their hard work, the long hours and the support they have given to many events. I look forward to seeing Gill taking a very well-deserved rest

If you would like to submit an article for this great magazine, then please send it direct to Bob on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk, or leave it in our post box at Dairy Cottage (opposite the New Fountain) by Monday 11th May. Thank you!

Ed H

823194 or email to edhitch@btinternet.com

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



Whimble Post Office News

Here are opening times for the Post Office over the Easter period, including the first Bank Holiday in May.

Good Friday 3rd April	Closed
Easter Saturday 4th April	Open as usual
Easter Monday 6th April	Closed
Monday 4th May	Closed

Any benefits and pensions due on a bank holiday can be accessed on the previous working day.



One of the many benefits of the Post Office moving to the Shop will mean longer opening hours, including Bank Holidays.



This is our last contribution from the Post Office for Whimble News, we would like to thank everyone for supporting us during the past ten years. We could not have done it without you.

We wish Jenny, Mark and the crew in the shop the very best of luck.

Thank you.

Jim and Alison Creasy.

Tale Valley Choir

Rehearsal dates;

April 15th and 29th, May 6th and 20th

Talaton Church, 7.30-9.00 pm

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Stop Press! - The New Fountain Inn

As we go to press we have just received the following email from Gill Mallett:

I have just had a meeting with the new owners and consequently it has been agreed that the pub will change hands on April 24th.

However, in order to give us time to move out and hand over the pub will close after the evening of Friday 17th April. Lunches will be served as usual that day but the evening will be devoted to a leaving get together with anyone who wants to pop in for a drink and nibbles.

The pub will re-open on May 1st when your hosts Dominic and Steve will be waiting to welcome you all back.

May we quickly take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank-you to the village and those from further afield for their huge support over the last 25 years. Also a big thank-you to all our staff for all their hard work.

We will remain in the village, so its not really a goodbye, just a new chapter in our lives.

Gill, Michelle and Chris

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News from Whimble Stores

The countdown for the Post Office relocation is on and we are due to start serving on Wednesday 13th May at 1.00pm. Apparently they need the morning to ensure everything is running properly so there will be a short gap between the Post Office closing at lunchtime on the Tuesday and us starting at lunchtime on Wednesday.

We will have a little bit of training in the Post Office products but the main training in using the system will happen in the first ten days when a trainer will be with us in the shop. This means that in the first ten days we can only process Post Office transactions in their working hours. We believe this will be 9.00am - 5.00pm weekdays and 9.00am - 12noon on Saturday. After that the Post Office will have the same opening hours as the shop.

We understand that we will be able to offer 98% of the services currently available. At the current time the request to transfer the lottery machine has been declined but it is going to appeal so it may happen.

We have started to move things around to accommodate the Post Office counter and to make things easier for us. The counter is now next to the sink and we have more space behind it. All the fridges and chillers are against the wall, which makes the shop feel much lighter and more open. Thank you for bearing with us whilst we have moved things. It was an exhausting weekend despite all the help from our friends and family and before that Ed was invaluable in helping us to make small changes in anticipation of the move. There are still things that need doing but we are trying very hard to keep the shop open as usual.

Sue has agreed to take on more responsibility at the shop and we have enjoyed a weekend off already, which was lovely. All who work in the shop are very much appreciated and we value their support and hard work so we are really sad that Lynn is retiring. She has been a joy to work with and has always found little jobs to help us out with. We hope she has a lovely retirement and we thank her for being part of our team.

Lots of you have generously emptied change into the jelly man on the counter. Since we have been in the shop you have raised £31.88 for Scouts, £27.44 for NSPCC, £8.51 + £28.44 for Movember, £44.26 for Friends of Whimble Primary School, £19.20 for Children in Need, £29.38 for Sport Relief and £26.25 for Mind in memory of our friend Fiona.



Shop Local

Easter opening hours:

Good Friday 9.00am - 11.00am

Easter Saturday 8.00am - 1.00pm

Easter Sunday 9.00am - 11.00am

Easter Monday 9.00am - 11.00am

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Whimble Villages in Action presents

ALAW TRIO

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Alaw is Welsh for melody, and it is a love of melody that is at the heart of this group. The band unites the talents of three exceptional musicians whose subtle interplay is a joy to watch. Drawing on a wealth of experience, they take their audiences on a musical journey

– a tune brought back from a tour in Bulgaria or collaboration in India – but at the heart of their set is a passion for the old tunes of Wales. From sublime slow airs to dazzling dance tunes and storming songs, Alaw promise a performance of joyful and life-affirming music.

Dylan and Oli have performed in Szapora and The Ian McMillan Orchestra. Oli and Jamie are well known throughout the folk world as the frontline of Jamie Smith's Mabon.

"A top band led by one hell of an accordion player" - Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2.

Tickets £8 from Whimble Post Office

or phone **823321**

Richard William Webber

1925 - 2015



Richard was the eldest son of Richard and Florence (nee Hansford) Webber. He was born at Brook House above the Butcher's Shop. Initially, he was educated at Whimble County Primary School before transferring to Allhallows School. He was one of the few pupils who were taught at the school in Honiton and the school at Rousdon. At 15 years of age he left school to join the family butchery business due to the large number of workers enlisting to fight in the Second World War.

Richard worked in the business learning the trade until 1943 when, at the age of eighteen, he joined the Royal Artillery Company. In 1944 he was involved in the D-day landings, Richard went in on D2. However, he was only in France for a month before he was shipped home due to illness. On recovering from his illness, Richard was posted to India. The journey to India fascinated Richard so much that he wrote a travelogue about his experiences (the History Society has a copy of his letters and they make interesting reading).

After Richard was 'demobbed' together with some friends he set up a small dance band, called the Victors, which played around the local area. Richard played the drums!

At the same time, Richard re-established his links with St. Mary's Church. He was a member of the Church Choir for many years as well as a bell ringer.

In 1951, Richard joined the Fortescue Lodge of the Masons in Honiton. He was the longest serving member of that Lodge prior to his sad demise. He also joined the Special Constabulary and rose to the rank of Inspector.

In the summers of the 1960's Richard could be found at Hand and Pen directing the 'log jam' of traffic on the old A30, so that the villagers of Whimble could either cross the road or join the queue.

On the 12th April 1952 Richard married Mary Read in St. Mary's Church Whimble to the accompaniment of music from a record player as the new organ was still being installed. Mary and Richard lived in Brook House. They had four children Richard, Peter, Anthony and Elizabeth (who sadly died from leukaemia at the age of seventeen).

In 1953, Richard's younger brother, Derek, returned from London with his wife, Margaret, to work in the family business. On the death of Richard (senior) the company became Webbers of Whimble. The brothers saw the business thrive with a new abattoir and pens as well as a fleet of delivery vans.

Eventually, Richard and Mary moved out of Brook House and lived at Ringstead for 38 years before finally moving to Bramley Gardens for the last 15 years.

Richard was a keen sportsman and in his early years played football for Whimble before his father stopped him, in case he broke his leg. In later years he supported Plymouth Argyle and had a box in which he regularly entertained his friends.

Richard was an enthusiastic supporter of rural life and rode regularly with The East Devon Hunt for many years. He even formed his own skittles team that played in the East Devon Hunt Skittles league.

In later life Richard served on the Parish Council and as consequence became The Parish Council's representative on the Whimble Recreation Trust on which he served for over 20 years. At the same time he joined the fledgling Whimble History Society and in 2001, following the untimely death of John Shepherd became Chairman for the next ten years. These were memorable years and he oversaw the building of the Whimble Heritage Centre. In 2011, he stood down due to failing health and was promptly made President of the Society, a post he held until his death.

In conclusion, Richard Webber will be remembered as one of the mainstays of Whimble village life throughout his lifetime. He was a village character who was a reliable, gentle, generous man with a ready sense of humour. He enjoyed other people's company and was always there if anyone needed him. He will be sadly missed by the whole village.

Roger Smith

Mary Webber and family would like to thank all who attended Richard's funeral and for their kind donations and messages of sympathy

They came, they saw (and almost ran away) and they conquered

On 21st March, brave or foolish, mums and dads from Whimble School took on the challenge of 'Rock Solid' at Escot. There was mud (lots of it), tears (mostly of laughter) and some amazing team work. We did it in aid of Whimble School and raised over £1500 which is fantastic so huge thank you to all who supported us.

If anyone would still like to donate they can do so online:

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Sam Walker





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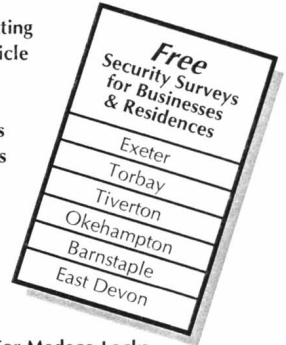
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From Peter Bowden

I am very conscious that we are in a period of political purdah which restricts what election candidates can do and say in public until after the election. I can, however, report that serious discussions are taking place about the threatened closure of local hospital beds and the increasing pressures on green fields posed by the Local Plan process.

The future of the quarry application at Straightgate remains a concern and the risk of further planning applications for large solar farms has not gone away. Nevertheless, Council Tax rates have been set at historic low levels, the future of the Post Office is secure and it seems that our pubs will also survive.

All this has been achieved only as a result of your support and involvement in village affairs. Thank you

Peter



Whimble Victory Hall

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or sausage sandwiches
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District Councillor's Report



I have very much enjoyed the experience and the privilege of being your District Councillor for the last four years. During this time I feel that I have learned an awful lot about both the workings of the Council and the role of the District Councillor. In addition, I have made a lot of good friends in both Talaton and Whimble and had a great deal of fun writing my blog in your local magazines.

Two things that are particularly clear in my mind as a result of this experience are firstly, that I will be standing for re-election in May as I wish to continue to serve the local community and secondly, I have a great deal of sympathy with Megan Armstrong's plea for local government not being run on party political lines and agendas but by individuals who wish to serve and contribute to their local communities (See her letter below).

Some small items from the Council Site

Council takes the lead in looking out for dogs.

A dogged determination to encourage responsible pet ownership has led East Devon District Council (EDDC) to publish a canine newspaper entitled 'The Dailey Wag'. The paper is a four page broadsheet that publishes heart-warming stories about pets, tips to owners on training, puzzles and competitions. A useful little publication that, it is hoped, will encourage the responsibility of owners in controlling their animals and reducing mess. I wish it success.

Increase in district electoral roll numbers.

The new electoral roll system seems to be working very successfully with a good increase in the number of registered electors. The numbers have, in addition, been increased by a new doorstep canvassing routine which has swollen the electoral register by five per cent, (second highest in England and Wales in terms of percentage). The doorstep registerers are calling at every household in EDDC to check the accuracy of the information being supplied by post and email and picking up voters who have failed to register. Thus, the doorstep registerers service is contributing to this highly successful result.

As an aside on registering to vote I must also comment upon the increasing success of the Council's Speed dating sessions with the sixth formers of our local schools. These sessions involve District and Town Councillors meeting with and being quizzed by sixth formers about the role of the Councillor in the community. These meetings allow us to meet the latest generation of voters and also allows them to meet Councillors and find out how local government works. Personally, I feel that it is extremely important for us old fossils to have this experience of meeting our up and coming electorate.

And now for a wider comment from letters to local papers

Heritage - Questions about local heritage consultation.

Consultation Campaigners aiming to protect historic landmarks in the Otter valley have defended the project, saying homeowners will be consulted. The Otter Valley

Association's Local Heritage Asset Project is currently considering a list of around 300 nominations from the public, which could go on to make the final list and be considered by EDDC when deciding on planning applications.

Exmouth Journal, 5th March, pg24.

Delays to our Local Plan are 'not inevitable or acceptable'.

'I write to you following your article 'Further delays to district Local Plan' (February 17). Contrary to what council bosses say at EDDC, further delays to the East Devon Local Plan are not inevitable, nor are they acceptable. The long awaited SHMA report, a key ingredient to completing the final version of the Local Plan, must be made public as soon as it is available. This must happen at the earliest opportunity'

Ben Ingham, Leader of East Devon Alliance

'I refer to your article in the Journal of February 12th regarding the East Devon Alliance and its intention to be an 'umbrella' body for Independent EDDC candidates in the May elections. This is a new departure from the usual old predictable way of electing representatives in local government, and one which I wholeheartedly applaud. It does not depend on individuals being members of a political party, but solely on their commitment to their local communities...'

Megan Armstrong, Prospective Independent EDA candidate for EDDC, 158 Exeter Road, Exmouth – Exmouth Journal, 5th March, pg10.

Cardboard Recycling.

The good news is that householders in E.D.D.C. could soon be able to recycle cardboard waste – but not until at least March next year. The bad news is that EDDC's recycling service lags behind the rest of Devon – it is the only one of the county's eight district authorities that does not already recycle cardboard. The current delay in getting this service going is, partially, that a new waste management contract is being negotiated at the moment and partially because new vehicles will need to be purchased to deal with kerbside cardboard collection - which all takes time. This service cannot come soon enough in my opinion.

Council-tax is not to rise, whilst efficiencies keep vital services running.

Council tax is not to be increased for the next financial year. This was announced at the budget meeting in full council on the 25th of February 2015. Members were informed that a rare increase in government grant of 2.7 % was allowing this freeze to occur for the 5th successive year. E.D.D.C apparently has the lowest council tax in Devon and amongst the lowest nationwide. Full details of council tax and budget are to be found on line at the website. Front line services continue to be protected despite the freeze which, in reality, means a decrease in spending power equivalent to the annual rate of inflation.

The Council wants to hear from anyone who feels that Council tax will impose a difficult burden on their household budget. The earlier they talk to someone the better as there may be the possibility of a reduction in the amount demanded or the date it is to be paid. There is also free and independent help and advice available. They are very nice people at the Knowle and they are eager to help.

Martin Gammell

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WHIMPLE CHURCH FETE
Saturday, 13th June 2015 at 2.30 pm
Venue: "Ferndale",
Hindstrete, Church Road, Whimble



Plans are being made for our annual Whimble Church Fete which will be held on Saturday, 13th June 2015 at 2.30pm. Please make a note of this date in your diary.

It would be lovely to see you.

The Ottery St Mary Silver Band (Brass Class) will be entertaining our guests. There will be a large number of stalls including plants, toiletries, cakes, books, bric-a-brac, bottles, toys, crafts together with produce and other amusements for all the family. We will serve delicious cream teas, ice creams, pop corn and other refreshments and there will be a Pimm's bar. There will also be a raffle.

At the time of writing our Planning Meeting has yet to be held so we cannot confirm all the details for the afternoon. We would be most grateful to receive quality items for the Bric-a-Brac stall as well other goodies for any of the stalls mentioned above. All donations will be gratefully received. Items can be left at the Church for our collection.

With thanks,

Mike and Tamara Snell (Co-ordinators) Tel: 822565

DEVON AIR AMBULANCE TRUST



£112.92

Christmas Eve Carols

The collection for Devon Air Ambulance raised £112.92,
which is more than some recent years.

Thank you.

The Whimbletons: ROBIN HOOD

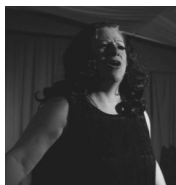
The 2015 pantomime was another great success for the Whimbleton Players. This year saw the gallant Robin of Whimble Woods with his band of merry Whimbletons pitch their considerable wits against the evil and ruthless Sheriff of Cranbrook. Robin and the Sheriff were rivals for the love of the beautiful Maid Marion but luckily with the help or hindrance of his men and especially Whalebone the camel (camels being native to a certain part of Whimble Woods). Robin finally won the day and the hand of Maid Marion. As always, the players seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the audience.

I have helped with the front of house for six or seven years and have come to appreciate just how much hard work and dedication goes into the production of the annual show, both by the actors and those behind the scenes. The excellent script was written for the 2nd year by Neil Walker, who also directed, ably assisted by Cathy Bartlett-Horwood. There were very good performances by all the cast who all appeared to be word perfect. However the accolade has to go to Cathy B-H who, as Friar Tuck, stole the show - what a talent, she was superb. As always Slack Ma Girdle ably provided the music, Emma Palmer proving just how versatile she is.

Much hard work goes on behind the scenes also - props, costumes, make-up, lighting and sound etc. The bar and kitchen provided welcome refreshments. Two people deserve special mention. Firstly, Sally Wilde, who labours long and hard to produce such marvellous scenery which seems to get better each year. Secondly Ed Hitchcock who has given up his starring role on the stage to organise his unruly front of house crew, which, because of his hard work, seems to run like clockwork.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the production. I am already looking forward to next year's show.

Joy Whiteley



Photo's courtesy of Sue Draycott



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REVD HAROLD TUCKER

1922-2015

Revd Harold Tucker was Rector of St Mary's Whimble, for 13 years from 1973 to 1986. During all that time, I was a member of his P.C.C., and Raymond Burrough was his Churchwarden from 1975 onwards, with Arthur Thompson from 1978. He lived with his wife Mary, at the Old Rectory in Church Road. He was a typical country parson and enjoyed many countryside pursuits supporting the local East Devon Hunt and Whimble and District Young Farmers Club.

He was very keen on traction engines and fairground organs and I remember he organised for them to come to Whimble on several occasions. He often went to the local agricultural shows to see them and would take his turn playing them. He was instrumental in organising the annual Banger Racing Meeting in aid of St Mary's Church funds, which went on for most of his time in Whimble and raised many thousands of pounds over the years.

He was a keen cricket supporter and was scorer for the Whimble and Whiteways Cricket Club. He was an exceptional organist and had a large organ in the Rectory which I remember hearing him play on several occasions (accompanied by a tot of whisky to help things along). We sometimes did not have a regular organist for the Church services and he would play the organ as well as leading the service.

He was not very good at remembering names and would associate people's telephone numbers by hymn numbers. After he left, he kept in touch with people in Whimble and wrote regular letters to several, and over the years still made regular visits to Whimble to see his old friends. It was clear from the eulogy at his funeral that he and Mary spent many happy times here.

David Rastall

Whimble Parish Council

In November last year children from the primary school went into the East Devon District Council offices for a 'Takeover Day' to experience the kind of work done by different officers. They took part in a kitchen inspection with Environmental Health officers and found some fairly yucky things! They played recycling games with Waste Management and took part in the debate over a planning application with Councillors. They also planned a community event for their area.

As a thank you for the children taking part there will be a free Funday in Whimble on July 27th from 10.00am to 1.00pm with circus equipment, large games and arts and crafts.

If any community groups would like to join us in hosting the event please contact Victoria Robinson on 07875 280339 or vrobinson@eastdevon.gov.uk.

More details will be available nearer the date. We look forward to seeing you!

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Please visit our website –

www.whimplepreschool.com for more information and to find out what we have been up to!

Dates to Remember...

Baby & Toddler Group Every Wednesday 2-3.30pm, in the Pre-School Room (term time only)

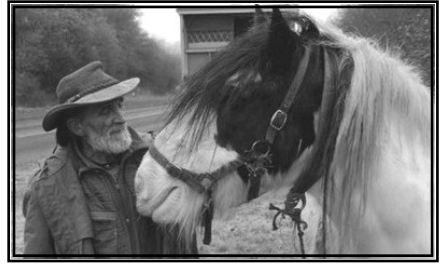
Easter Holiday March 28th – April 12th, Pre-School will close at 1.30 on the last day of term



www.whimplepreschool.com

John Treagood

Many of you will have followed John Treagood's story in the local papers and TV after he had to have his faithful horse, Gildor, put down in late February. It was wonderful to see that the general public all contributed to a fund to replace Gildor, in a campaign started by Richard Horsfield in Cornwall. Such was the generosity of the donors, that John was able to purchase a new horse, Misty, and a new wagon and harness with the bulk of the £10,000 that was raised. John has travelled and stayed in the Whimble area many times over the past years and, in August 2006, our roving reporter, Julie Milward, went to chat to him, to find out more about this 'man of the road', who would appear, set up camp, then move on after a few days and continue with his travels round the South West. We are republishing that article below, and wish John and Misty many more journeys together.



"Gotta Dream Boy - Gotta Song? Paint Your Wagon and Roll Along"!

You know what; every time I see that guy with the wagon and horse parked neatly up on the verge at Devon Smithy this song comes to mind. I wondered if his life was as idyllic as it looked - well, no harm in asking...

With a love of nature and deep rooted scepticism of society, John Treagood turned his back on 'normal' life and took to the roads some thirty seven years ago in his native home of Kent. Having spent thirty years on foot (the last thirteen being in Devon) John decided to turn to horse and wagon some seven years ago when he'd saved enough money to buy the materials himself. It took him three months to build the wagon based on a Kentish bow-top design.

Horse husbandry was learnt as a boy on the family farm so the move to take ownership of one didn't faze him at all. Gildor is around ten years old and being part Welsh cob is thick in stature and stubborn in nature. When on an uphill incline John has appealed to folks passing in cars to please not slow down in front of the horse and take photos as Gildor loses momentum and grinds to a complete standstill. Whereby John has absolutely no alternative but to sit..... and wait..... till Gildor recovers and makes his own decision when to be on the move again! Gildor can anticipate traffic light flows and knows to stop at white lines, in fact the only thing that freaks him out is braying donkeys so no visits to the Donkey Sanctuary of late! Gildor is in the peak of health with a diet mainly consisting of grass and clover along with whatever else suits growing on the roadside. His hooves are unshod as John (having a BA in medieval history) tells me shoeing horses only came about when going into battle ensured a lethal fighting weapon. A happy and healthy Gildor is John's main concern and you can be sure that he endeavours to keep the horse this way.

He wakes at first light, followed by a regime of feeding, grooming, tidying the camp and completing any repairs. On mobile days John aims for three or four travelling

hours aiming to stop at about 11am.

A suitable kerbside would have been chosen where he is legally allowed to park offering plenty of good grazing and shade for Gildor. John says his life would be complete if he could have a water bowser attached to the back of the wagon! Not only is it necessary for Gildor and Gizmo (the dog) but John drinks three pints of water a day as he believes it “gets rid of impurities” - as well as all the other obvious uses for water that we take for granted.

Gizmo a Staffordshire bull terrier cross is sixteen years old (though you wouldn't know it)! His contribution to the camp is bringing in the odd rabbit or bird that John deftly turns into a stew for that day's meal. He also prepares and cooks any road kill he comes across admitting it to be tough but he's used to it - throwing in any wild herbs or vegetables he finds to 'beef' it up.

From time to time kind lorry drivers drop off items of food rather than take back to the depot undelivered. John never expects anything from anybody but I would suspect he is quietly thankful when people do think of him. He is allergic to nuts however and is still pondering what to do with a tin of chestnut puree found in recent offerings from a kind donor!

John is intelligent and well read having attended boarding school and in later years becoming a University lecturer having a PhD in Environmental Studies. He is still an avid reader but remembers fondly *The Snow Goose* as the book that most influenced him when he was five years old: “I believe every child should read it as it teaches not to judge people just by their appearance”.

He can't understand the ignorance and selfishness of people who knowingly destroy the countryside by dumping rubbish, fridges, mattresses and wheelbarrows. He's seen it all, often being disgusted by 'others' purporting to be travellers or gypsies parking illegally and leaving their filth for others to clear up - so please don't lump him in with them.

He admits to a stress free life, disregarding occasional obscenities or people shouting “get a job you lazy *****”. He is over seventy and neither asks nor expects anything from anyone other than to be allowed to go about his business in his own quiet and unobtrusive way. Not drawing a pension (and fully aware he has not contributed in order to receive one) he lives frugally from money he has saved from occasional talks on the environment or items he has made and sold over the years.

He's certainly not complaining about his lifestyle; he is rarely ill, finding wild comfrey in the hedgerows the main 'cure all' for stomach upsets, sores and sprains - failing that Culpeper's Herbal book is at hand for any other remedies. When he dies “well, that'll be the end of it” he says, “it won't worry me I'll not know a thing about it!” And as for being buried “oh just toss me into the hedgerows so I can at least give back a little of what it has given to me!”

I enjoyed my chat with John - he's sparky, the couple of hours sitting on the front of his wagon passed far too quickly. Am I envious of his lifestyle - no, but not wishing to sound too sycophantic (which he'd hate) I certainly do admire him.

Julie Millward

WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

By the time this edition goes to press we will have had our first event of the year. Unfortunately this was not in the last edition of the News as the event had not been organised. We were very pleased to welcome back Mick Street, a former Chairman of the VPA, who gave us a fascinating talk on 'The Importance of Bees In The Garden'. The talk gave us a wonderful insight to these busy little creatures and we were very grateful to Mick for coming over from Sidmouth to give us the benefit of his knowledge on this fascinating subject.

As mentioned in the last edition of The News we are planning a coach trip to Marwood Hill Gardens on Saturday 2nd May. This magical and very special 20 acre private garden with three lakes is set in a valley tucked away in North Devon only four miles from Barnstaple. Created by Dr. Jimmy Smart VMH in the late 1950's the gardens are a wonderful haven in which to relax and enjoy the impressive collection of plants, shrubs and trees and also to be able to experience the views and peaceful atmosphere. The view across the valley from the Garden Tea Room is spectacular, the food served is delicious and the Plant Sales area is sure to tempt you with a variety of unusual plants. This is a joint venture with the Ottery St. Mary Garden Club so if you haven't booked your tickets yet, you need to get in touch with Doreen Staddon very quickly by email on doreenstaddon@btinternet.com or by telephone on 823594 leaving your name, number of places required and a contact number for future contact. The cost will be £13.00 for Members and £14.00 for others.

Plans are well advanced for our annual Plant Sale and coffee morning on Saturday 9th May in the Village Hall. This has been a great success in recent years and we will be looking for the same success this year. Hopefully we will be able to provide the usual wide range of plants. Entry will be free to VPA members and £1.00 for others.

We can now confirm that there will be a visit to Rosemoor Gardens on Sunday 21st June to see the magnificent roses and this again will be a joint venture with the Ottery St. Mary Garden Club. As a Member Club of the RHS we can take 55 members so the only cost will be for the coach. If you want to book a seat, then please contact Doreen on the details above.

The Annual Flower and Craft Show will be on Saturday 8th August 2015. We hope to have the schedules out by the plant sale, but they will also be available from the website as soon we have finalised all the classes. Hopefully we will have the Show Schedules out by the Plant Sale in May. For the benefit of all you who like to enter the Photography Classes, here again are the subjects. 'Nooks and Crannies'; 'Inn Signs'; 'It Wasn't Me!'; 'A Market'; 'Bridges'; 'Curves'; 'A Botanical Subject'; 'The Spirit of Christmas'; 'Daffodils'; and finally 'Through The Farm Gate'. All photographs are to be either in colour or black and white and not to exceed 8'x6' or 200mm x 150mm and must be unmounted.

We look forward to seeing you at all these events as well as any others we can arrange during the year. All these details are on the VPA website:

www.whimplevpa.org.uk

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary.



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Held in Whimble
Village Hall
on March 21st

Whimble Grub Club was an evening organised by The Pickle Shack Pop Up Restaurant Group. It was a really well-attended event and a huge success.

Michelin trained chef Josh McDonald introduced each dish before it was served and emphasised their policy of using locally sourced products, which are also sustainable and free range. Their advertising describes the food as 'sumptuous', and it certainly was. They were able to cater for all diets and I had the veggie choice. Each dish was full of flavour with loads of perfectly cooked ingredients, and all served piping hot by their lovely waiting staff. Quite a feat in an unfamiliar kitchen.

Pudding consisted of rhubarb served in various ways, including a rather suggestively wobbly pannacotta. I am sure you can imagine some of the heckling that received!

It was BYO and so a jolly and boisterous time was had by all, even more so by those that had been watching the rugby all afternoon..

Josh came round to chat to us all afterwards and I hope he was persuaded by all the praise he received that it would be a good idea to do it all again one day! Thanks for a brilliant night.

Sally




Welcome to the first Whimble Grub Club!
Here's what you will be eating tonight...

- Wholemeal bread and butter
- Pressed chicken, pickled cauliflower and herbs
(V- Vegetable fritter, pickled cauliflower and herbs)
- Slow cooked lamb shoulder,
crushed potatoes, kale and lamb jus
(V- Roasted butternut squash crumble,
crushed potatoes, kale and herb emulsion)
- Roast rhubarb, pannacotta, nutmeg sponge
and rhubarb syrup

Enjoy!

If you choose to tip, you will be pleased to know that
50% will be donated to Whimble Pre-School.

A full list of the allergens present in this menu is available, please ask us for more details.

'Godspell'

A Churches4All Community Theatre Production

**Wanted: Performers,
Actors and Singers**

**This is your opportunity to
become involved in an exciting
new Community Theatre event.**



About this project

This production of 'Godspell', while initially aimed at the residents and church communities of Whimple, Talaton, Clyst Hydon and Clyst St Lawrence is also open to interested actors and singers who live in the wider locality. "Godspell" will be launched on 5th September with a full day workshop to be held in the Victory Hall Whimple and St Mary's Church Whimple. The workshop will be lead by Tom Samson, the Director and Julia Green, the Musical Director. There will be an opportunity to enroll for this production at the end of the workshop. Casting will take place between the 7th and 26th September. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday evenings for two hours, with the first rehearsal commencing Tuesday 29th September. Performances will take place in St Mary's Church Whimple in March 2016, shortly before Easter. Further information regarding this production can be obtained from the parish clergy or from Tom Samson on 822234 or Julia Green on 823585. Anyone wishing to take part in this production must attend the one day Drama and Music Workshop on the 5th September and should register their contact details, by the end of August.

by email, to the following address:- churches4allcommunitytheatre@yahoo.co.uk

This registration, while not committing you to attend the workshop, will enable us to keep everyone who is interested fully informed regarding the development of the project and arrangements for the day workshop.

About the Direction Team

Tom trained in Drama and Theatre Arts at Dartington College of Arts in the early 1970's. He completed his professional training at Rolle College Exmouth, subsequently teaching at Exmouth Comprehensive for five years, before moving to Hampshire. In Hampshire he worked widely in all levels of education as well as leading community Youth and Adult theatre work. Tom has wide experience of directing major stage musicals. He returned to Devon in 2002 and worked in a number of local schools before retiring in 2007. Tom continues to be active in a range of local performance activities. Julia also trained at Dartington and Rolle, a few years after Tom. Julia has wide teaching experience both within the secondary system and beyond it. Julia leads many local choirs, most notably in Tedburn St Mary and her own village of Whimble. She also has extensive experience of working as a Musical Director for a wide range of shows, such as 'Oklahoma', 'Half a Sixpence' and 'Jesus Christ Superstar', to name but a few. Julia has also worked extensively as a performer in a large number of musical shows.



Gold Diggers
Ladies' Christian growth groups
in Whimble

Mondays 8pm (alternate weeks)
Tuesdays 9.15am

All are welcome
For further information please contact:
Kate Hamilton on 07588 817590 or
Rachel Povey on 0775 4437917

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Monday 27th July 2015

Monday 2nd November 2015





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*Thank
you*

Billy Bloomfield

The Whimble History Society would like to publicly express their thanks to Billy Bloomfield for his generosity and the excellent work that he has carried out in the construction of our new lean-to store. The new store will allow the Society to free up the larger store and allow it to be used for a wide range of activities.



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Exeter Gauge O Group (Model Railways)

Open Day, Sunday 28th June 2015, 10-4pm, Victory Hall, Whimble.

The Exeter Gauge O Group has been meeting in Whimble for nearly five years, please come along and see what we have been getting up to at our monthly meetings. Working Layouts on show, static model displays, modelling demonstrations etc.

Light refreshments available, and a friendly welcome."



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r.green2@virgin.net

Whimple WI was well represented in the local round of the Devon County Quiz earlier this month with two teams entering the competition. It is quite a big event with ten venues around the county, and both our teams did well. Last weekend four members took part in the county whist drive, no prizes were brought home but they all had a good time.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Tom Coleman was our speaker at the March meeting, he told us about his trip to Peru learning about the history of the Incas. It was a very interesting talk accompanied by some excellent slides.

Our lunch club has proved very popular with 20 or more members meeting every couple of months to eat out at one of the local hosteleries.

We will also be having a friendly evening of skittles next month playing against Ottery St Mary WI at the Talaton Inn.

The Devon WI Spring Council meeting takes place in Torquay in April, the guest speaker will be Dr. Alice Roberts. Several of our members will be attending.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Victory hall; next month's speaker will be talking about the gardens at Killerton. If you would like more information please contact our president **Pam Scanlan** on 822262, or the secretary **Ann Bowden** on 823450.



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Front Row Club

Front Row Club Film Nights

Sats 11th April & 9th May

7.30pm

Victory Hall, Whimble
Temporary Membership £4.50

See hall noticeboard for film titles
www.frontrowclub.wordpress.com

All welcome
BYO Alcohol



Save the date: Saturday 19th September

We are excited to announce that Whimble Front Row Club has teamed up with CinemaLive to participate in a national simulcast of 'Aida' from Sydney Harbour, filmed exclusively for worldwide cinema audiences.

The Verdi opera is being shown on an outdoor water stage with the backdrop of the Opera House and harbour. Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is Australia's number one theatrical event and is an irresistible cocktail of fireworks, high drama, international stars, and spectacular sets.

Over the coming months we expect to bring a season of theatre, concerts, ballet and opera to the hall from some of the world's top producers.

"Run - don't walk - like an Egyptian, to Sydney's opera event of the year".

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Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour



As I write this we are heading towards the end of the spring term (no we can't believe how short it has been!) The children have continued to participate in a range of activities linked to all areas of the curriculum. Everyone had a great day dressing up for Red Nose Day and baking cakes for the 'Bake-Off Competition.

Chinese day



On Friday 20th of February, class 5 had a Chinese day. We had the option to come dressed like Chinese people and to learn more about them. In the morning we wore our Chinese conical hats that we had made throughout the week. We had our pictures taken depending on what we had come dressed up as. Then we started to make our Chinese dragons.

At lunchtime, we all got to try some Chinese food that Mrs Vanstone had kindly cooked for us. It was delicious! Some of us struggled to use our chopsticks, which we had brought along with bowls and spoons. Those with enthusiastic appetites went up for seconds, thirds, even fourths!

After lunch we carried on making our dragons, which were looking fabulous! Once we had cleaned up, we looked at some photos that Mrs Smith had taken from when she went to China. Full of food and excitement, we left school to go home.

Lily and Freya (Year 6)

The Fire Service

The children in Reception were lucky enough to borrow a resource box from the fire service; particularly popular were the fireman's outfits! With the help of the ELFS (early learning fire safety) characters they learnt how to keep themselves safe if a fire broke out or their clothes caught fire, what a smoke alarm sounded like and where they should be located in their homes and also how to keep safe both as a pedestrian and a passenger in a car.



Ancient Egypt

Our topic this term is Ancient Egypt, we were learning about Tutankhamun's famous death mask so part of that was making our own!

Our first step was to cut and measure, so if it went wrong it would effect what it the finished project would look like. After that, we put some freaky white masks through a hole then made the beard. Then we had to paper Mache our masks lots of times to make them really strong and we had to leave them to dry overnight. The next day, we painted them white, left it to dry and then we painted our mask with lots of contrasting colours. We had some straight stripes running down the hat and down the sides and then left them to dry.

This is what the finished projects looks like:



Travelling with your pet

Now is the time of year when we look forward to the summer holidays and for lots of us, that can mean taking our furry friend along. Since 2000, the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) has allowed cats, dogs and ferrets to enter the UK from certain countries without being placed in quarantine. Animals resident to the UK can now travel to most European countries as well as more distant destinations. From 1st January 2012, the PETS travel scheme changed such that dogs and cats can move freely between PETS-scheme approved countries provided the following conditions are satisfied:



The pet must have a permanent microchip implanted, which lots of animals already have.

The pet must be vaccinated against rabies after micro-chipping. This can be done any time over 12 weeks of age using a licensed vaccine. Boosters are given according to manufacturers recommendation.

The pet must have a PETS passport signed by an official veterinary surgeon, confirming the above conditions have been met.

Some destinations require an additional export certificate. It is important to check with DEFRA for specific conditions requested by the country you wish to travel to.

There is a 21 day wait after rabies vaccination before travel abroad and/or entry into the UK is allowed. This is to allow time for the vaccine to take effect.

There is a requirement for a veterinary certified tapeworm treatment 24-120 hours before return to the UK. Travel companies and ports will often help you locate a veterinary surgeon for this.

If you are travelling to a country not listed on the PETS scheme, additional conditions must be met. This means starting this process at least 4 - 5 months before you expect to travel. A blood sample must be taken a minimum of 30 days after rabies vaccination. If the test is successful, a 3 month wait must be observed following the date of the blood sample before your pet would be allowed back into the UK. If the blood test does not prove adequate antibody levels, your pet would require a second vaccination and blood test. It is also important to contact DEFRA and check for any additional requirements of travel to specific countries.

We recommend making sure your pet is protected against ticks and sandflies during their period of stay outside the UK as these can carry a variety of disease which we rarely encounter in this country.

It's also important to consider whether your pet enjoys travelling, changes in environment and temperature or whether they may prefer to stay at home. If you have any questions, please contact your vet. Above all, enjoy your holiday!

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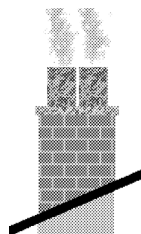
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Every Saturday and Bank Holidays 10.00am - 4.00pm**

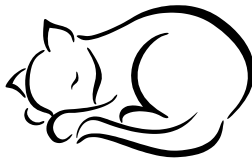
Very few villages can say they have such an important community asset on their doorstep. The History Society has been collecting material for nearly 40 years. Within the next decade we will have documented nearly 200 years of village life, giving future researchers a record of Whimple from the 19th to the 21st century and beyond. **However**, we are a small charity run by Whimple volunteers and we need your help to maintain the Heritage Centre and it's valuable community archive.

You can support us in three ways

- Become a member - call Mike Rovira 01404 822526
- Become a volunteer - call Jan Discombe 01404 823614
- Bring your family and friends to visit the Heritage Centre.

If you have weekend visitors and don't want to travel too far, take a walk around the village and country lanes, On the way visit the Heritage Centre, the church, the parish field and the cricket ground then finish with a drink or lunch at one of the pubs – what a great way to spend a couple of relaxed hours.

**email us on info@whimple.org.
call 01404 822499 and leave a message.
Look forward to hearing from you.**



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Don't miss this opportunity to come and explore the Gardens of Talaton, large and small and wonder at the exotic flora that is to be found so close to home!

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WHIMPLE CHURCH

www.whimplechurch.org

The PCC AGM will be held on 27th April in the Church at 7.30pm. Please come along to find out what has been happening over the last year.

On Sunday 31st May the Mission Community is holding an Awayday. This event will take place at Christow Community Hall. Details are yet to be finalised but there will be lots of fun activities. More information will be found in The Link nearer the time. Another important date for your diary is the Annual Summer fete. This year's event will be on Saturday 13th June. . Please come along to help us make this popular event a success. Contact Mike and Tamara Snell for further information.

Whimble Church will again be hosting Saturday Morning Coffee and Cake from mid-May through to mid-September. This facility is welcomed regularly by many in the village and we would like to ensure that it will be available every week during this period. Unfortunately there are still a few Saturdays where help is needed, if you are able to help on one Saturday morning please contact Avril Ellingham (tel. 822945) for further information as soon as possible.

There are also a number of other informal get-togethers happening on a regular basis. Around a table and a pint is a very popular discussion group for men and now, the ladies have set up a similar group meeting on the first Monday of every month in The Thirsty Farmer. There are also groups who meet on Monday and Friday mornings in the Church for coffee and chat.

We also have a number of Home Groups who meet regularly to pray and discuss the Bible. Details of these can be found in The Link and on the website:

www.churches4all.

Thanks for the great send-off!

Ellie and I would like to thank everyone who came to our leaving do at the New Fountain Inn on Saturday 28th February 2015 before we head 'down under'.

We had a great night filled with amazing music from Steve Waters, a lovely buffet that everyone had contributed to but most importantly a room filled with great friends and family!

Thank you all for an amazing send off and your generosity! You will be missed a lot and we will see you soon.

Lots of love, **Camilla Dodd**

WHIMPLE VILLAGE WEEK
5th-12th JULY

and on the Parish Field
VILLAGE DAY and FUN RUN
SATURDAY 11th JULY

Fun Run

Birds of Prey

Exeter Cheer Leaders

See a horse from Riding for the Disabled

Fancy Dress

Mini Olympics

Bouncy Castles

Egg Catching

Tea Tent, Beer Tent, BBQ

Stalls, games and competition.

and more still being arranged.

Whimple Village Day on the Parish Field Saturday 11th July.



**This year's Village Day is going to be bigger than ever
Two opportunities to raise funds for you or your organisation.**

Would you or your organisation like to have a stall?

If so please contact Sue Draycott on 01404 822969

Are there any youngsters (12 years+) out there who would like to host a 20p or 50p game? We have the ideas and offer support – you run it and earn some pocket money. **Contact Sue Ayres 01404 823082.**

Calling all budding Mo Farahs

The WHIMPLE FUN RUN will take place on

VILLAGE DAY SAT 11TH JULY at 11:30am.

The race will be approx. 1¼ miles, starting & finishing on the parish field.

Medals for category winners & post race refreshments for all entrants

Registration on the day, see forthcoming posters for details.

If you want to get training: 3 loops of the parish field = 1km, 5 loops = 1 mile

So it's Ready.....Steady.....FUN RUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



I still need a few helpers on the day to make this event a success, so if you can spare an hour please get in touch.

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Ottery Choral Society Annual Dinner

In February, members of the Choral Society went to the Tumbling Weir Hotel for their annual dinner and social evening. As well as the delicious dinner, members and guests enjoyed a great evening of entertainment organised by Vivienne and Michael Gascoigne-Pees.



The theme of the evening was *All Things British, Winning two Wars, the Monarchy and the Music Hall during the War Years*. The restaurant was suitably decorated and there was a themed quiz

For the musical entertainment, David Glennie (in uniform) sang 'Coming in on a wing and a Prayer', Annie Bassett and Libby Staples sang 'Two Little Girls in Blue'. Chris Startup then donned a tin helmet to sing a parody of 'They Didn't Believe Me.' Jamie Aylward performed a Monty Python sketch then Kyle Hayes (complete with fairy wings, head-dress and wand!) sang 'Nobody loves a Fairy When She's Forty'. The final item was a sketch called 'All at Sea' performed by David Glennie and Vivienne Gascoigne-Pees. Lastly came a rousing finale with all present singing topical choruses such as Tipperary.

The raffle raised an amazing £216 for Hospiscare, our designated charity.

For more information regarding OSMCS please contact:

osmcs@hotmail.co.uk or **Annie Bassett** - Chairman - 823331

www.otterystmarychoral.org

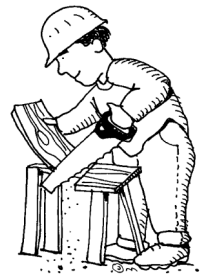
I live in Whimple and I am hoping to secure an Apprenticeship in Carpentry when I finish school in July.

It will be alongside my Carpentry course which I will attend one day a week.

For my work experience I spent a week learning bench carpentry which I found interesting.

At the present time I work at Otter Nurseries on a Sunday. This has helped me gain good people skills and confidence in the work place.

If any local carpenters are thinking about employing an apprentice I would be very grateful if you would consider meeting me. I am happy to gain work experience on a Saturday or in my school holidays to start with.



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<i>Parish Priest:</i> Chris Martin	822427
<i>Impact Cell:</i> Helen Bowker	823193
Devon County Councillor (www.peterbowden.org.uk)	
Peter Bowden	823450
East Devon Councillor	
Martin Gammell	823535
Whimble Primary School (admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk)	
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<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Maria Wallis	823992
Whimble History Society	
<i>Chairman:</i> David Rastall	822486
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough	822257
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group (whimblepreschool.weebly.com)	
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<i>Playleader:</i> Jo Sibley	822183
<i>Toddlers:</i> Linden Best	822595
Whimble Womens Institute	
<i>President:</i> Pam Scanlan	822262
<i>Secretary:</i> Ann Bowden	823450
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Arthur Iball	822905
<i>Secretary:</i> Beryl Iball	822905
Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
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