

# Whimble News

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Photo by Sue Draycott

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## Aug/Sept 2020

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Our new website address is [www.whimblenews.uk](http://www.whimblenews.uk)

THE  
THIRSTY



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# Ed the Ed

This edition is officially the 'Thank you to Jenny and Mark' edition – which is why they are on our front cover with Harry and Dulcie, and some silly old fool who has photo-bombed the event – my apologies! After all the secret planning and distribution, we were delighted to make the presentation to them, on behalf of Whimble, on Friday 31st July – see the article on page 11. This was the best thing that I have had to do in Whimble - ever! We felt that we were able to listen to the vibes from you, the great villagers, about a form of 'thank you' to Jenny and Mark. Thank you to everyone who donated, and to those who added such wonderful messages to their donations, which I know Jenny and Mark really appreciated. As a team we tried to deliver our leaflet to as many houses in the village as we could reach, and we had a few kind helpers as well. I know that some people in the outlying areas didn't get a leaflet – but not because we don't love you, but just down to our little legs (see picture on page 11 for little legs!)

What a great village this is!

In this edition we offer a rare picture of the empty shop with its new flooring – certainly looks very smart now. Please cross this flooring maintaining an altitude of three inches so it can be kept clean and pristine!

Sally has been rummaging for the history of the shop and has presented some interesting information on pages 8-10. Thanks to Gill Smith from the History Society for her help with that.

We have also more information about the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (see pages 28-33) including an update from Protect our Whimble and Rockbeare Group. Please read it and submit your opinions. Kathy Mclauchlan has also submitted some more information for us (see pages 36-38). This really shows how important this planning proposal is and I hope that our opinions are listened to.

We had a great afternoon at the Courtneys – see pages 42 and 44 – good to see an alternative type of 'get together' for the village. The next entertainment will be the open-air cinema – very creative planning here from the Front Row Club. Well done to them!

Good to hear that the Farmer is doing so well with the Monday - Wednesday reduced price deal... and of course we have so many wonderful pubs and restaurants around us where we can enjoy even more fine food. Donna and Marc continue to come up with wonderful ideas to offer to the village in these unusual times – thank you to them!

If you would like to contribute to the October/November edition, then please send your article to either me or Bob on [bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk).

Thank you!!!

**Ed H**



## Note from The News

THE WHIMPLE NEWS TEAM PRESENTED JENNY, MARK, DUCLIE AND HARRY WITH THEIR COLLECTION CHEQUE FOR JUST OVER £3,100 ON THE EVENING OF JULY 31st. A LITTLE MORE TO FOLLOW FROM LATER DONATIONS. THEY WERE QUITE OVERWHELMED! FULL PICS AND DETAILS FURTHER ON IN THIS ISSUE.

Lovely Whimple. Thank you so much for our very kind, thoughtful and generous gift. We are very touched by your kindness, and the timing is perfect. We are pretty exhausted and we will take the opportunity of time away whilst the floor is being installed and also, in the Spring, at Sally's lovely cottage in Padstow.

It has been physically and mentally tiring so some rest time will be much appreciated, and made all the more sweet, knowing that it comes with so much love and kind thoughts.

Whilst writing we are preparing for the floor installation. A little scared at removing everything from the shop in a couple of days and getting it back in again. Not worried about the professionals installing the flooring, but nervous about taking fittings down and getting them back in. We will be putting things back slightly differently. Hopefully, this will make the shop a little easier to use whilst social distancing is in place but, also, it will allow us to prepare to make the shop and store room all part of the same space.

This will give us a much more practical space to work from and allow us to separate off the current store room for use as a commercial unit or residence, depending on planning. Either way, it will help to keep the shop viable financially if we are using our space wisely.

We will continue to keep providing good quality produce, whilst keeping you as safe as possible through the coronavirus outbreak. Our new floor should make it easier for us to stay clean and safe. Ourselves and the staff will do everything we can to keep standards high but, if you have any concerns, please let us know.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September we hope to be reopening to normal hours. We just need to make a few tweaks to our usual working routines to make this possible. August for us is usually a quiet month, so it feels like there is no need to rush at a complete reopening just yet. A few more weeks will give us some time to sort out practicalities and allow us to spend some time on the shop layout, without any further closures.

The Post Office is continuing to be busy. We offer most services except those that require forms such as passports or DVLA. We are a paperless office so don't keep any forms. We are always happy to give advice on your posting or banking needs so please feel free to pop in or email [whimplestores@gmail.com](mailto:whimplestores@gmail.com)

**Mark and Jenny**



New Flooring now in!

Mark, Jenny and Team



Welcomes You



During the pandemic we are open:  
**8.00am - noon Monday to Friday**  
**and 9.00am - noon on Saturdays and Sundays**

This helps us to stay well stocked so we can continue to supply you with essentials.

We have good stocks of fresh produce, toilet rolls, eggs, milk and bread and dried goods. Some fruit and veg is noticeably more expensive but we are trying to keep the prices low and buy wisely.

The **Post Office last collection will be at 11.30am** but full services will still be available.

pm

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**The Square, Whimble, Exeter, Devon EX5 2SN**  
**01404 822316**

A banner image showing a rural landscape with rolling green hills, a winding road, and a small village with houses. The text 'Coleridge Medical Centre' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font at the top right of the image.

# Coleridge Medical Centre

Coleridge Medical Centre has been working hard behind the scenes to begin to open our doors safely and appropriately for our patients as we cautiously step back into the new 'normal' way of life. We would like to thank our patients for their adaptability and stoicism over the lockdown when there was such a massive shift in the way we delivered our services. The use of video consultation, telephone consultation and online consultation has rocketed, limiting exposure for both staff and patients, and has largely been well received. Our community teams have been working tirelessly to deliver care to our vulnerable, housebound, sick, elderly and frail patients, along with sterling support from the voluntary sector.

We have been fortunate in Devon to have had low levels of COVID 19 and this was in no small part due to people being safe and sensible during lockdown. But we shouldn't be complacent and we must remain vigilant. We also recognise that for certain individuals their livelihoods have been threatened and their support networks removed. These factors, amongst others, have led to a massive surge in mental health issues, which we are trying to address. If you are struggling to cope, feeling low, anxious or overwhelmed by your thoughts and feelings, you can contact TALKWORKS Devon on 0300 555 3344. They are a free, confidential, NHS talking therapy service for people in Devon.

We will be sending invitations out over the forthcoming months for routine health screening, long term condition reviews and our annual flu vaccination programme. We intend to keep you safe when you visit us and social distancing measures and infection control measures are in place. There will be some physical changes you will notice to the layout of the practice. We ask that you wear a mask when you come to the surgery. These can be homemade and the Government has produced helpful guidance for how to make your own face covering at home.

If you do need to visit us, there will be plenty of information and signposting about how to stay safe and we will make this as efficient as possible for you and our staff. We are here to guide and support you if you have any queries or concerns.

Keep safe and stay alert.

Remember our website address:  
[www.whimplenews.uk](http://www.whimplenews.uk)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020:

Monday 26th October



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**4094**



## A brief history of Whimple Stores - with huge thanks to Gillian Smith for digging out some files from the Heritage Centre

Firstly, my sincere apologies for any glaring omissions or mistakes in this article. I have only lived in Whimple since 2004 so have had to rely on the info I could collate. Please feel free to send us any additional articles for future publication - we always welcome any local stories and pics.

### Snippets from the Heritage Centre files:


There were two Bakeries in The Square at one point - J. Grant's (where The Pea now is) and Read's Stores, on the current Whimple Stores site. Grant's seemed to be more of a general food store, too. There are some amazing receipts from this shop in the Heritage Centre files, dating back to 1915, when 5 fruit cakes cost 7s/6p.

In 1979 Grant's was an Antique Shop and, later, a Toy Museum, then a Gallery. In 2000, it became a private dwelling and B&B, The Jays.



Meanwhile, Read's looks to have become Powleslands Stores and Steam Bakery from the 30's to the late 50's. There is a receipt in the files for the paper deliveries (including the Radio Times) to Mr Whiteway, in January of that year, totalling £6 19s 6p.





January 1958

M. Whitway  
**W. POWLESLAND**  
Baker, Confectioner and Grocer,  
Tobaccoist and Newsagent  
The Stores and Steam Bakery,  
**WHIMPLE**  
TELEPHONE 316

Papers from March 30 <sup>th</sup> to December 31 <sup>st</sup> 1957. Daily Mail & W.M. News Parker & Stockbridge Rad. Times - Western Times Deliver by 7 wks @ 3/5 to Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> 12 wks @ 3/11 to Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	2 6 6 6 2 3 4 4 12 3 2 7 0 I 6.19.3
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Received  
with thanks  
T. Powlesland

RECEIPTS.									
DATE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	DATE	PARTICULARS	PAID INTO BANK	PAID BY CASH	PAID BY CHEQUE	PAID BY OTHER	TOTAL
1	SUNDAY								
2	MONDAY	5 16 4							
3	TUESDAY	15 13 7							
4	WEDNESDAY	7 17 5							
5	THURSDAY	5 5 2							24 48
6	FRIDAY	11 8 4							
7	SATURDAY	19 7 8							
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68 5 8</b>						

1958 PAYMENTS.									
DATE	AMOUNT PAID FOR GOODS TO BE SOLD	AMOUNT PAID FOR RENT	AMOUNT PAID FOR EXPENSES	AMOUNT PAID FOR OTHER PURPOSES	TOTAL				
Sec 21 <sup>st</sup> Amish Thomas		5 3 9							
1 <sup>st</sup> 19 Spillers Flour	11 17 0								
2 <sup>nd</sup> 19 Welfin	4 0								
1 <sup>st</sup> 19 Wright Flour	12 2 0								
2 <sup>nd</sup> 19 British Bone Tea	18 9								
1 <sup>st</sup> 19 Willich yeast	3 0				2 0				
2 <sup>nd</sup> 19 Willich yeast	10 3								
3 <sup>rd</sup> 19 W. M. News	19 3				1 0				
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Gazette	1 11 8								
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Argon & Dorr	12 2								
3 <sup>rd</sup> 19 Anglo Press Ltd	15 7								
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Buckley Printing	16 5				3 11				
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Pelman & Millard	5 10								
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Rogers & Co	14 7 9				2 11 7				
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Welfin	9 15 5				2 4 1				
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Veales	4 3 5				15 0				
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Avery Scales	13 6								
4 <sup>th</sup> 19 Peck & Fraw	2 8 4								
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51 7 7</b>						

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	
Less Expenses	Balance
5 17 7	8 5 8
102 2 4	79 1 8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68 0 4 5 3 9</b>

A Mr E. Pettipierre appeared to take it over at some point and donated the Account Books he found to the Heritage Centre, dating back to 1936.

By the 70's, it seemed to belong to Anthony and Monica Smith, then Clive and Ruth Bennett by the end of that decade.

The licence was transferred again in 1981 to Alexander and Betty Scanes-Johnson, still in the same premises. In 1984 they advertised the hire of a Rolls Royce as an additional service!

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However, in 1985, the licence for Whimble Stores was again transferred, this time to Fred and Pat Fowle, who moved down from Enfield. They had added video hire to their list of products by 1989....teabags were listed at 62p (decimal now) in April 1990.

Continued....

## Whimble Stores history cont...



FREDERICK and Patricia Fowler hand over the running of Whimble Stores to Karen, Joshua, 7, and Graham. Photo by Paul Smith and GTC Ltd.

The business changed hands again in 2000, when Fred and Pat retired and handed the business over to their son, Graham, and his wife Karen. Graham had previously been running a store on the New Inn (now Hive) site.

Graham also arranged an annual firework display at the Cricket Club, which was the first social event I attended as a 'blow-in' in November 2004. It was a great night.

Graham and Karen temporarily closed the business in 2008 and there was a lot of concern about this in Whimble, with a community shop being considered. However, they reopened and ran the Stores until 2014, when our current owners, Jenny and Mark Sanders took over.



What a long history the shop has had - over 100 years now.

Jenny and Mark have been great custodians in their years behind the counter, even taking on the Post Office when our village one was sold as a private home.

The difficult and, let's face it, scary, times we are experiencing at the moment have been made so much easier for our village by the dedication and help provided by the whole Sanders family (and team, before lockdown). They have been amazing and deserve every minute of the lovely break they will have, courtesy of wonderful, generous, grateful Whimble.

# PRESENTING THE DONATION CHEQUE

Photography by Sue Draycott

Friday 31st July 2020

Ed did the honours and handed over the amazing cheque, along with many cards, messages, notes and emails which came to us along with the donations



**From Jenny:** "It is a bit overwhelming that people have been so kind and generous.

We knew people were grateful and that was enough for us. We had lots of cards and lots of gifts during lockdown, all of which were really lovely to receive and helped to keep us going. It has been hard. At the start we were as scared as everyone else but we were grateful that we had the option to keep our business running, which wasn't the same for everyone. It feels wrong for us to be given so much when so many other people haven't had the security we have had and so many others have been working hard as key workers also. Having said that, we are really touched by the kindness, and so grateful for such lovely thoughts. By the time this goes to print, we will have taken a night in The Burgh Island Hotel - a massive treat which definitely will help us to relax and we will raise a glass to Whimble for giving to us something that we have always wanted to do. Our longer break in Spring will be something to look forward to and, if all who donated wanted us to know we are loved and appreciated, then we feel that and are very, very grateful for it. It still makes me feel teary thinking about how lovely people have been. We are both very moved by this. Thank you all so much".

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**Hilary Nowill**

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# Village Week Update

So, Saturday 11th July 2020 dawned with a stunningly clear blue sky and all looked set fair for the perfect day – but unfortunately it happened without any of the events we had planned for Village Day. No Fun Run, no Dan the Hat, no Egg Catching, no Dog Show, Pony Hoppers, bouncy castles, stalls, raffle, tea or bar and more. Of course, we also lost all the events that should have happened throughout the week such as Race Night (that's new!), the Treasure Hunt, Quiz and a variety of other sporting and heritage opportunities. For the first time since its revival 20 years ago, Village Week had to be cancelled to keep everyone safe; a disappointing but very necessary consequence of the pandemic.

However, the committee is now looking to the future and beginning tentative preparations for next year with the optimistic expectation that Village Week 2021 will be able to go ahead. We'll be planning to put on all the old favourites with one or two surprises – nod to Race Night again.

As always, we would welcome new members to the committee. We meet about one evening a month from October, traditionally in the pub but we'll have to take a bearing on that nearer the day. Sadly, Heather Pye our Fun Run organiser has to step down for the time being due to other commitments, so if anyone feels they would be able to take on that particular role we would be delighted to hear from you. Heather is very happy to explain how it all works – in an appropriately distanced sort of a way.

The intention is that Village Week next year will begin on 4th July with Village Day itself being **Saturday 10th July**. We all need something to look forward to so block out the date in your diary now – frankly, if we can't go ahead because of Covid19, then you are unlikely to be doing anything else on the day!

Anyone who would like to join us, would just like a chat about what we do or ideas they have, please give me a call on **371433** or email [walmsley\\_louise@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:walmsley_louise@yahoo.co.uk).

**Louise Walmsley**

# The Changing Face of Village Day

As soon as Village Day is over, the Village Week Team begins planning for the following year. This has to be done right away as entertainment, bouncy castles, marquees, portaloos and many other things need to be booked well in advance.

Whoever would have foreseen this year's Village Week having to be completely cancelled? It was specially disappointing for Louise and her team who had already worked so hard with preparations. Much of their work had already been done.

## Village Day in The Square 2010



Over the years Village Day has had to adapt to changing circumstances.

It has been held in various locations including The Square to the Thirsty Farmer and the Parish Field.



Egg Catching at The Thirsty Farmer 2014

In 2012 Village Day in July was a complete wash-out. Continuous rain turned the Parish Field into a quagmire.

Luckily, the gods of the weather were kind to us later in the year and the re-arranged Village Day in September was a success.



Flooding near the Parish Field 2012



In the Parish Field 2013

As if to prove how variable the weather can be, the next year's Village Day was on one of the hottest days on record. Special care was needed to keep everyone safe and well hydrated

Bar sales also reached a record that year!

So, let's look forward to Village Week 2021 in the Parish Field and hope for perfect weather on 10th July.

**Bob Scanlan**



Pony Hoppers in the Parish Field 2019



What a wonderful afternoon the Front Row Club arranged for us at the Outdoor Cinema in the Parish Field.

Sunshine, ice cream and two great films - perfect!  
Thank you Rob, Richard, Gail and the rest of the team.



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# Our Heartfelt Thank You to the Whimble Community

From Thelma Aiton and Family

Although our hearts may be heavy as we grieve for John, the warmth and incredible amount of support which we have received from so many people in this wonderful village has truly made this difficult time a whole lot easier.

Although John was housebound for a long period of time and exasperated with being confined, there was never a dull moment in our house during that stage. His many friends all took the time to come by and visit him. Their company brought some respite and relief from the frustrations and instilled some normality again. So many people were on hand to offer assistance with various jobs which John would typically have carried out and this was a huge help to me and a relief to us both.

John wrote a short message to the village which was read out at his funeral and reads as follows: "I have to leave a big thank you to Whimble and its residents, particularly those I had the honour to call friends. The village has all the foibles of most villages but its community spirit is a constant winner!"

There genuinely are too many people to mention in this message but each and every kind-hearted gesture and act of good will has played its part in easing some of the burden along the way.

That being said, there are two very special people who I would like mention and to say a huge thank you to, from myself, my family and from John too. Chris and Kathy next door have been an incredible tower of strength and support for both John and I throughout the darkest of times and we truly can not thank them both enough for all that they have done and are still doing by just being there for me in my time of need.

Simply knowing that there are so many good people taking the time to help me through this grieving process, was a relief for John and continues to be a relief for my family members who aren't able to just call in on me. So, to all of you compassionate and generous friends, we'd like to say a huge "THANK YOU" for being here for us.



John will be much missed.

*Whimble News Team*

# Hair today, gone tomorrow fundraising haircut, 20th June 2020

A huge thank you to everyone who supported my fundraising haircut on 20th June, both through donations and by encouraging me (and first time hairdresser Steve) on the day! As I have had long hair for most of my life, and had recently let it grow down to my waist, it was quite a big thing for me to cut it all off, but it really has been worthwhile. With your help, I raised over £1000 for ShelterBox, which is an amazing amount and will fund at least one Shelterbox (which on average cost £590). And that's not all. My half metre of (mainly) brown hair has also gone to a good cause and is now in the possession of the Little Princess Trust, who will use it (along with up to nine other hair donations) to make a real hair wig that they will give to a young person who has lost their hair.



I wanted to raise funds for ShelterBox as they do amazing work to support the most vulnerable people in practical ways – providing tents as well as tools, tarpaulins and other equipment that enable people to build or rebuild durable shelters. ShelterBox also provides other aid items such as mosquito nets, water filters, water carriers, solar lights, cooking sets, blankets and mats. Through my work in international development and specifically, weather and climate services, I know only too well that natural disasters are not waiting for the pandemic to be over. In May, people in Eastern India and Bangladesh were trying to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan.

At the same time, in East Africa, where I have been working since 2014, communities in Kenya were trying to salvage crops damaged in floods whilst also fighting to control the country's worst invasion of locusts for more than 70 years. Meanwhile, in the informal settlements (slums) of Kibera in Nairobi and Kigogo in Dar es Salaam, the residents that I have been working with live in overcrowded, make-shift buildings with no electricity, running water or toilets. Sadly, for many communities, COVID-19 is the least of their worries as they struggle to find food, safe water and shelter. ShelterBox is meeting their most basic needs, providing emergency shelter to families who have lost their home to disaster, enabling them to rebuild their lives. Thank you for helping me to raise urgently needed funds for this fantastic charity.

**Becky Venton**

Becky's fundraising page is still open if you would like to donate at:  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/becky-venton](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/becky-venton)



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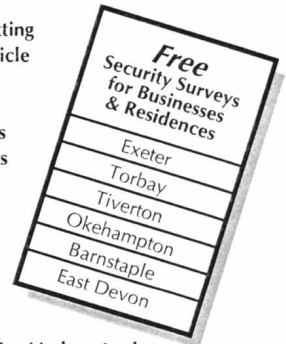


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## Planet Sal's journey through lockdown (so far!)

As most of you know, I live in Whimble, but have a small shop in Honiton, called Planet Sal. I celebrated the shop's second birthday in lockdown, so it is still a new business.

Just after Christmas, I was thinking how far I had come, that I had begun to 'turn a corner' and was becoming a well-known little business in the area. So, everything that has happened afterwards was probably my fault! Never rest on your laurels, as my Mum used to say.

Along with many others, I think, I started out in February thinking that we may be lucky and escape the worst of this awful virus. But it soon became clear that things were escalating in Europe and I decided to scale back on my buying and see what happened. The week up to Mothering Sunday is a very important one for me, so it was a tough call not to order as much as usual, just in case. However, it did seem that lockdown would happen at about that time. In some ways, this was one of the saddest parts of it all for me. Families were coming in to buy cards and gifts that would fit through the letterbox of their Mums and Grandmothers, because they could not even go in and give them a hug.

When the announcement was made that non-essential shops would close, customers were so supportive on that last weekend and a lot just popped in to ask me to 'please be there afterwards'. It was very emotional.

I decided to board up the shop completely, for safety, and lovely Justin Harris from Whimble did this for me. Once he had gone I just stood outside and sobbed for two hours - I just couldn't stop. Not just for me, but for everyone closing down that weekend.

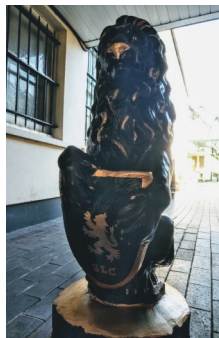
At first, it was unclear what help might be available, if any. Various announcements were being made, but I wasn't sure whether I would qualify. Our local EDDC representative, Kathy McLauchlan, was very helpful and kept me updated.

In the end, I did receive the government grant for small retailers and it was a huge relief. I knew then that I could pay my landlord for as long as it took, and also my suppliers - most of whom are small businesses themselves.



Lockdown time for me was made so much easier by the fact that I live in such an amazing village. Daily walks were a lovely way to have a distant chat and catch-up and the volunteers were doing a fabulous job. Quite a few people in the village also bought cards from me, which I could deliver to their door.

When the news came that we could reopen in June, I was a bit nervous. It had been so long and I was worried that people may no longer need the small shops, having bought online for so long. I also needed to get the 'love' back for my shop and its surroundings in Black Lion Court, which was looking a bit unloved.



So I ordered a load of Rustoleum paint (a revelation!) and a few of us set about painting all the gates, noticeboards and the famous lion statue, which ended up with a golden mane and being called Clarence!

This all really helped. Justin had returned and taken my boards down, so I set about the shop then, deep cleaning everything and putting all the safety signage and equipment in place.

I finished at 11pm on the Sunday, totally exhausted after being away from it so long.

With some trepidation, I opened the doors on Monday 15th June and waited...but then all my regulars started coming in! They were so lovely and glad to see me back!

It was Father's Day that weekend, so I had spent the very last of my grant on quite a lot of stock and cards, which was a big gamble. It did pay off though, and my first week was great, and very heartwarming.

It did get quieter after this until the cafes and pubs opened though, which was bound to be the case.

Now that we are six weeks down the line, I have to say that the 'shopping local' support has been amazing. Honiton does actually have a very wide diversity of shops, and the market has been extremely popular. Nearly everyone who comes in has a familiar face (many from Whimble) and I have been so grateful for the support.

We now have the visors and obligatory masks, which is another challenge, but, so far, my customers have been very respectful and kept within the guidelines.

I do feel lucky to have received the government support, when so many self-employed people did not qualify. It definitely saved my business from immediate closure.

Who knows what the future will bring us now? I really hope that the 'Support Local' message and feel-good factor continues, as it has been so appreciated. We live in a beautiful part of the world, which is a massive plus, but these times can be very frightening for those with health worries and the elderly amongst us. I see this in the shop on a daily basis and there are some sad stories out there.

I hope my little shop continues to help cheer folk up and feels safe for them. It is all I can ask for.

'Be kind' may sound like a cliché now, but those two words mean so much x

Sal



# Whimble Victory Hall

Since the beginning of lockdown, only the primary school and preschool have been allowed to use the hall. This was to ensure the children's safety and to meet our legal obligations.

You will see from the head teacher's report on page 58 that the number of children attending the school increased significantly in June.

As lockdown has now eased, we are able to look forward to opening again.

We have recently received guidelines on the opening of halls such as ours. We have already carried out considerable work on preparing a risk assessment although this has proved difficult because of the wide range of activities that normally take place in the Hall.

As soon as we have completed that risk assessment, and the changes to our terms and conditions that will be needed, we will share them with all of our regular users.

Our priority is, and remains, the safety of all users of the Hall and we will only re-open when we are sure it is safe to do so.

We are hoping to re-open in September. This relies on us having obtained the appropriate equipment with all other safety measures having been put in place and users having agreed to the new terms and conditions.

We will announce details of events on our website, on the Whimble News website, and on Whimblewhatson as soon as we can. We will also include an update in the next edition of this magazine

**Maria Wallis**, chair.



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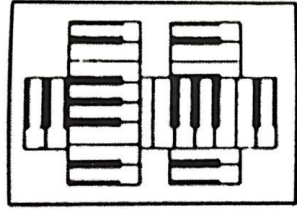


# Whimble Victory Hall

## Annual general meeting

We intend to hold our AGM  
via a Zoom meeting on the  
**7th of September 2020**  
at 7.00pm

If you wish to join us please  
contact our secretary  
Di Wilkins on 07974 468513  
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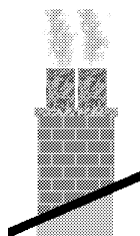
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# Whimble Parish Council

**Parish Councillors Resignations** – Cllr Peter Sibley and Cllr Paul Walsh have both regrettably resigned from the Parish Council due to their own increasing work and family commitments outside of their Parish Councillor duties. Both Peter and Paul have offered whatever support they could provide to the Parish Council moving forward. The Parish Council would like to thank Peter and Paul for their outstanding commitment during their time as Councillors and wish them and their families every success in the future.

**Parish Councillor vacancies** – As a result of the two resignations there are two Parish Councillor Vacancies to fill and formal notices of the vacancies have been posted by the clerk and EDDC. There has been a good response from residents with several expressions of interest received and I hope to be able to provide an update of the two new Parish Councillors in the next edition of Whimble News.

**Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) – Whimble Parish Council will strongly object to the proposals ‘proposed’ for Whimble in the Document. The Parish Council would also expect EDDC to support the objections to the proposals for Whimble. The consultation period for all responses including resident responses opens in September and the Parish Council would urge all residents to read the document and submit their own responses to GESP in the consultation period.**

1.1 The local authorities of East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, and Teignbridge are working together, engaging with stakeholders and communities, to prepare a new joint plan (in partnership with Devon County Council). The plan area is called Greater Exeter and it covers all of the four local authority areas, excluding Dartmoor National Park.

1.2 The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) will be a formal statutory document, providing the overall spatial strategy and level of housing and employment land required in the period to 2040, together with key aspirations for the environment, infrastructure and digital communications. The document will provide the high level strategic planning policies for the area.

1.3 Local plans for each of the councils will continue to be prepared. They will contain more localised policies and allocations for smaller scale development. Communities are also still able to prepare neighbourhood development plans, looking even more closely at their local area. The timetable is to have the GESP adopted by 2023.

Once adopted the plan will supersede specified strategic parts of the existing development plan documents of East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge.

**Content from pages 184-185 of the document have been copied here for information.**

**Whimble Site - Reference SA-ED-12**  
**Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment**  
(HELAA) sites included - 3m137yy o814040, 2j13ay8

**Parish(es) Whimble**

**District(s) East Devon District Council**

Site size 242 hectares

Number of homes considered in Sustainability Appraisal Report - 4,360 – 5,813 homes

Indicative number of homes factoring in sensitivities and requirements (see below) - 2,500 homes

Potential for employment use - it would need to provide a mix of employment uses alongside housing

Relationship with existing allocations and other potential GESP sites - fairly close to Cranbrook

Planning status - None

Summary description of the site - 337ha of predominantly agricultural land to the north and east of the village of Whimble, located on both sides of the railway

### **Opportunities**

This site is identified for consideration in the GESP because

- It is close to Whimble train station.
- Whimble includes a number of essential services already which could be enhanced
- Planned jobs growth at the West End is reasonably nearby
- It could potentially help to address existing issues of flood risk
- Sensitivities - The site has a number of sensitivities which development would need to take into account, including:
  - It may impact upon the Pebblebed Heaths which are Natura 2000 protected wildlife sites sensitive to an increase in the number of visitors
  - Parts of the site is affected by flooding
  - Access from the A30 and across the railway insufficient for strategic scale development
  - Frequency of train and bus services in Whimble is poor. Some distance from Exeter and could increase pressure on the already at capacity Junction 29 of the M5

- A number of Listed Buildings exist within and nearby the site. Development could have the potential to impact upon the setting of Whimble Conservation Area
- Local primary school provision at/approaching capacity. Clyst Vale Community College lies a significant distance away and the school has limited scope for expansion
- Topography and landscape sensitivity/visual prominence in some parts of the site
- A large proportion of the site is high grade agricultural land
- Site includes and borders multiple County Wildlife Sites and may contain Great Crested Newts and other protected species It may be visible from the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Requirements

- Planning requirements for the site will aim to create a great place to live and work, providing well designed new neighbourhoods with appropriate and well managed public open space and safe walking/cycling routes.
- All sites will need to provide a mix of homes (including affordable and custom build), investment in low carbon energy and transport, high speed internet and wildlife enhancements. More detail on these can be found in the policies within Section B of this document. Other emerging requirements include:
- Funding of measures to reduce the impact on the Pebblebed Heaths including provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)
- Measures to address the risk of flooding on site
- Rail infrastructure improvements to enable half-hourly train service frequency
- Significant improvements to vehicular access from the B3174 plus railway crossings
- Pedestrian and cycle connectivity to jobs and services at Cranbrook and the West End
- On-site primary school provision including early years and on-site secondary school provision
- High quality design and layout to reduce the impact upon heritage assets
- A variety of amenities and services including a small amount of convenience retail, local employment,
- sports, recreation and healthcare provision
- Development will need to respect the privacy of existing dwellings located nearby

**Parish Meetings** – Although there has been a relaxation of some of the Covid-19 restrictions with business and Village Halls starting to re-open current legislation is in place for Parish Councils to hold Parish Meetings virtually (currently up to April 2021) instead of ‘face to face’ meetings. Therefore, until there is a relaxation of the policy the Parish Council will continue to hold virtual Parish Meetings and publish the dates and times of these in its Website and on EDDC website. As always members of the public are welcome to attend.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – With Covid-19 legislation now permitting virtual meetings and on completion of the appointment of two new Parish Councillors the Parish Councillors are keen to progress the NP through to completion. The clerk has already made contact with the members of the NP steering groups and more details will follow shortly.

**S106 – Play/Sport Equipment** – Following on from the consultation and residents vote that took place the Parish Council are going to tender to obtain quotes and plans to provide a multi surface area suitable for bikes, scooters and skaters aimed at residents of all ages along with a new small play area that would be more suitable for children. The project is limited by the s106 budget and clearly the size of the track will reflect this

Town Lane Recreation Ground became the preferred location for some of the following reasons:-

a. A specialist made a site inspection and recommended Town Lane Recreation Ground over the Parish Field due to the site being more level and having better drainage. To level the area and install drainage, at a suggested cost of up to approximately £20k in the Parish Field to cater for the track would make the project unviable. There would be insufficient funds left after any amount of drainage/levelling costs to complete the project.

b. S106 funds are split into two parts – sports and play. EDDC determine that part of these funds - Play can only be spent in the Town Lane Recreation Ground. The sport element which would relate in this instance to the track can be spent in either site. This makes Town Lane Recreation Ground the only viable option for the whole play/sport project.

c. Town Lane Recreation Ground has always been, and remains, a designated Play area but has been neglected for many years due to lack of funds. The facility needs to be improved and the location in the centre of the village is less remote for many users compared to the Parish Field which is located on one far edge of the village.

d. Town Lane Recreation Ground already has lighting nearby with a potential in the future to add additional lights subject to planning and costing. There are no plans currently to add additional lighting due to a lack of funds. The Parish Field has no lighting where the track would need to be placed and the cost of bringing electricity and lights to the site would be prohibitive. The trees along the bottom of the Parish Field screen the light from Slewton Crescent and in the winter the Parish Field is in almost total darkness. Town Lane Recreation Ground should therefore be a safer area for children and residents.

There have been significantly less incidents of ASB/vandalism in the Town Lane Recreation Ground than the Parish Field over the recent years and particularly in the last 12 months where in the Parish Field for example benches have been vandalised, sprayed with graffiti and thrown down by the stream. With the existing lighting Town Lane Recreation Ground could be used at more times, particularly in the winter.

e. The public car park in the centre of the village is underused and would be close to the new facilities. There is no off-road parking near the Parish Field. The Cricket Club now keep their gate locked at their entrance due to recent instances of ASB and only open the gate for cricket/football maintenance purposes.

I will keep residents updated on any progress with the tendering process. When the tenders are received the Parish Council will discuss the tenders in Parish Meeting which, as always, members of the public are welcome to attend. Currently due to Covid-19 restrictions Parish Meetings remain 'virtual' but as we know the situation changes almost daily!

**Kevin Finch**, Whimble Parish Council Clerk

POW&R



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In the world of Town and Country Planning, nothing is going to stop developers trying to build on more of our Devon Green Fields. In fact it feels like 'open season' as most people have other matters on their minds. Members of the **POW+R group** are keeping an eye out for local planning applications and local press. We have learnt that McDonald's will not be serving burgers at Daisy Mount. Critically, it's also open season for local government sneaking out the biggest planning change in history for Devon- in the Coronavirus pandemic haze.

**POW+R** Group's last campaign was the proposed development of land west of Gribble Lane for 200 homes, adjacent to The Grange Hotel (Planning application reference 19/1798/MOUT). Currently it is 'awaiting decision'. A big thank you to all those local residents who submitted representations regarding this proposed development. We now await the outcome with bated breath!

The Cranbrook Master Plan is now dealing with Stage 14 - The Cranbrook Plan Examination Statements. **POW&R** has made representations in documentary evidence and in verbal statements, having provided submissions on ALL nineteen MATTERS to the Inspector. Since the final examination session was postponed in mid-February due to unresolved matters pertaining to the viability of the proposed development, East Devon District Council have been working to update their viability appraisal and explore whether mediation is appropriate in bringing the parties together on the issue of viability. We are also awaiting the publication of an update to the Sustainability Appraisal in relation to site allocations for gypsy and



traveller provision, prior to the hearing sessions being reconvened hopefully in the Autumn, although we await news of a date in due course.

Cranbrook Town Council has asked residents to vote in an online poll about the future of the town centre. From the very beginning back in 2010, a town centre was considered a priority as part of the original outline planning permission for the first 2,900 homes, according to East Devon District Council. Residents are being urged to choose between two proposals for the town centre vision; one proposed by the consortium of developers that is less ambitious but could be delivered sooner, or one proposed by EDDC that aims to be more ambitious in its delivery, but could take longer to come to fruition with no timescale currently proposed. To find out more about the proposals and to vote visit:

**[www.cranbrooktowncouncil.gov.uk/town-centre-2/](http://www.cranbrooktowncouncil.gov.uk/town-centre-2/)**

The other major planning issue is the **Greater Exeter Strategic Plan**. The local authorities of East Devon, Exeter City, Mid Devon and Teignbridge are currently in the process of taking reports to the four Local Authority committees to consider whether to begin the next round of consultation on their Strategic Plan. The plan includes draft planning policies and large-scale development options across all four Council areas up to the year 2040. The proposals are vast and if approved, will signal enormous changes for the Greater Exeter area, including Whimble and Rockbeare.

Each local authority planning committee will be asked to agree the 'draft policies and site options' document and agree the procedure for a public consultation to begin in September. The East Devon Strategic Planning Committee discussed this on the 23rd July 2020. More details are available online under **Greater Exeter Strategic Plan - [www.gesp.org.uk](http://www.gesp.org.uk)**.

Subject to agreement on the procedure for public consultation, members of the public, organisations, developers, local authorities and parishes will be able to comment on the planning material from 21st September until the 16th November by following the prompts on the website.

Neighbourhood Plans have been increasingly used in the planning process and give the opportunity for the local community to contribute towards shaping their area. In creating the GESP, consideration of Local Neighbourhood Plans should be taken into account. Whimble is still struggling to get its own Neighbourhood Plan actioned, and social distancing restrictions due to Covid 19 are not helping in getting this very urgent process underway. POW+R urges Whimble Parish Council to find a way to move forward with this extremely urgent business before it is too late.

The GESP proposes an area of land designated for housing development of 242 hectares joined to the East of Whimble for circa 2,500 homes, with a mix of housing and employment uses. More detail is certainly required and **POW+R** will be working hard to protect our beautiful village from becoming a new dormitory town for Exeter. The character, vitality and sense of community of our attractive village would no longer exist in a landscape of soulless mediocrity of urban development and of poor architectural merit.

**Alan Lascelles** - Press and Publicity, POW&R Group



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# From your District Councillor

## The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. What will it mean for Whimble?

Keen followers of planning within East Devon will know that four councils (East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Teignbridge District Council and Mid-Devon District Council) have been working closely for some years to produce an integrated plan for housing development within the area around Exeter.



The purpose of working together on the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) has been to speak as one voice at Westminster to achieve the levels of funding required for infrastructure, mostly notably on the rail and road networks.

Government policy calls for ever increasing numbers of houses (full market and affordable housing) and employment land. Housing numbers are 'handed down' to districts from national Government and it is impossible to argue against the numbers in an effort to reduce them.

Planners working on GESP issued a 'call for sites' (basically by contacting landowners to see if they were willing to put their land forward for development) for sites of 500 homes or more.

Within East Devon, development is constrained by two-thirds of the district being protected landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty of the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB), which inevitably means that the 'northwest quadrant' of the district is the most suitable place for development.

In addition, transport corridors are a factor – in particular communities benefitting from a railway station were identified, the thinking being that people travelling to work can use the most sustainable means of transport possible. Obviously within the hierarchy of sustainability working from home is the most sustainable, then walking, then cycling, then train or bus and finally the car.

GESP was discussed at length at **Strategic Planning Committee on Thursday, 23 July**, The meeting was also aired on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/eastdevoncouncil1>) and can still be viewed.

I have argued, and will continue to do so, that Whimble (and indeed Feniton) are not the most sustainable locations because the train service is infrequent. Plans are being formulated to build the 'Whimble passing loop' which would theoretically increase the number of trains using the Exeter to Waterloo line and provide a half-hourly service.

However, there are two significant issues with the passing loop, and until these are resolved I cannot see that Whimble can be considered a sustainable location. Firstly, is the cost. This is absolutely eye-watering.

Despite this project having been on the drawing board for well over a decade, with questions having been asked in the House of Commons, sources of funding have not been identified and, given the huge amount the Government has committed during the Covid crisis, it is to be wondered if it'll be a priority. Secondly, the current proposal envisages that trains would not necessarily stop at all stations ... in other words, Whimple is unlikely to benefit to any considerable extent from the new passing loop.

However, despite all of the above, Whimple is vulnerable, there will inevitably have to be some development in Whimple, probably through the Local Plan process, rather than GESP. The GESP plan ([www.gesp.org.uk/](http://www.gesp.org.uk/)) runs to 2040 so can be considered to be a high-level, long-term plan. Running alongside GESP, each of the four Councils has a Local Plan. The current one for East Devon runs to 2031.

Meanwhile, the four councils, with their new administrations in place, are seeking agreement of Councillors to progress the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan by putting the plan out for consultation in September. If this is agreed, it will be another opportunity to make views known.

The Strategic Planning meeting took place and GESP was voted against, however it was the full council (before my time as a councillor) who originally voted to join GESP. And therefore it can only be stopped by a full council voting to reject it. The date for that meeting is yet to be chosen. The meeting of the Strategic planning committee was 4.5 hours long and consisted of 15 councillors, there will be 60 councillors at the full council and I think the complexity of this will take twice as long to decide.

A press release by East Devon District Council.

### ***Councils to consider Greater Exeter Plan proposals***

#### ***East Devon District Council's Strategic Planning committee will meet on Thursday 23 July to discuss plan***

*East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge councils are all considering whether to begin the next round of consultation on the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). Exeter City Council is the first of the authorities to discuss the proposals at a meeting next Tuesday 7 July and they published the GESP document today. (Monday June 29)*

*Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the first opportunity for East Devon District Council's Strategic Planning committee to meet and view the proposals is on Thursday 23 July. The council has committed to nothing more than deciding whether to take part in the consultations on the plan which would take place from September.*

*The GESP proposals include draft planning policies and large scale development options across all four council areas for the next twenty years up to 2040. It will tackle big planning issues affecting the Greater Exeter area, of which East Devon is part. The GESP will also identify possible development sites across the area, including large regeneration sites in Exeter.*

*Cllr Paul Arnott, East Devon District Council's Leader, said: "The last councils of 2015-19, and 2019-20, took part in an internal discussion with other councils about co-operating as a joint planning entity.*

*"With a new administration for 2020-21, this is to be considered at the Strategic Planning committee on 23rd July in the emerging post-Covid-19 context and we will need to assess it anew in light of the possible changed shape of housing need and the economy.*

*"Our friends at Exeter have begun to discuss the GESP document analysing the call for sites, but of course, until our own Strategic Planning committee discusses the next steps the district council's position on going out to consultation is not yet decided."*

*Teignbridge District Council will discuss the proposals on Tuesday 21 July, and Mid Devon District Council on Thursday 6 August.*

*The councils have been asked to carry out the consultation from September, which was originally planned for June, following Government advice that planning authorities should continue despite Covid-19. The consultation would ask for the public to have their say on the draft policies and site options, which would influence the next stage.*

*Further information about the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan is available on the GESP website which is [www.gesp.org.uk/](http://www.gesp.org.uk/)*

**Cllr Kathy McLauchlan, Whimble and Rockbeare Ward,**

Email: [KmcLauchlan@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:KmcLauchlan@eastdevon.gov.uk), Tel: 07811138177



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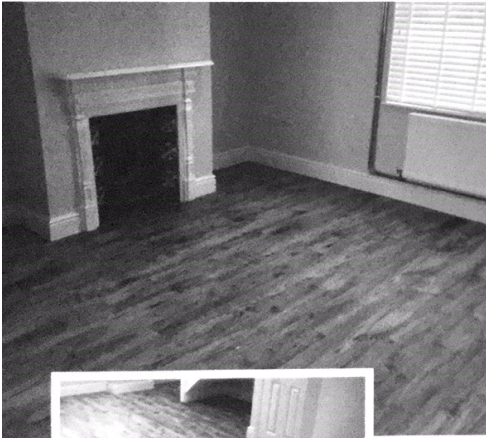
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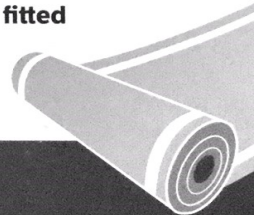
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750g New Potatoes  
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300g Mushrooms [CUP]  
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200g Green Beans  
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- Excellent transition to Whimple Primary School



For more information or to arrange a visit please call Jo Sibley  
On 07794 652549 or email [admin@whimplepreschool.com](mailto:admin@whimplepreschool.com)  
[www.whimplepreschool.com](http://www.whimplepreschool.com)

## Strange Times..

When Richard and I bought our old Whiteway's Orchard many years ago, we never really saw it as a 'refuge'.. It was a place of relaxation, work, and a good natural environment to surround our house.

Every Autumn we've picked tons of apples for our Cider, every Winter we've had the chore of pruning the trees. Then THIS Spring arrived.. with a BANG! The World shook, Corona Virus arrived!! The blossom still flowered, the bees still buzzed, but for 'humans' the World stopped, we were in 'Lockdown'.

When things started to move again, many places were crowded and not safe. I kept saying how lucky we were. Having so much space to ourselves.

"Why don't we have an open day in the Orchard?" said Paul!

I must say at first I had visions of people gate-crashing, spreading the virus, having a rave etc.....but, after reading and complying with all the licences, rules and regs, keeping it low key, showing a preference for locals coming on foot or cycle, pre-booked families and 'Bubbles'. He did a brilliant job organising our first ever 'Courtney's of Whimple Open Orchard'. Well done Paul and your team.

Well done to all the beautiful people who came to our Orchard in brilliant sunshine, you were the BEST... We will definitely have 'safe' outdoor events here again. P.S. (\*Sorry to the many people who couldn't get in when we stopped taking bookings) Don't miss the next event, follow Courtney's of Whimple Facebook page or look at courtneys.online!

**Jill Courtney**



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## COURTNEYS OPEN DAY 11th JULY 2020

What an excellent day for the Courtneys, our local cider growers and producers!

I was already impressed with the admin when we had to go on-line to get our tickets – very easy system to use. The current Mrs H and I chose to cycle over, and on arrival, we were ushered into a part of the car park where bikes could be left under the watchful eye of young Linda Courtney. Everything was clearly signposted, and we had a short stroll to the main gate where another Courtney, young Paul, checked our tickets and welcomed us. There was a bar selling cider... (what else!!!) and of course, gin and rum from their own brands. The team had obviously been very busy and the queue for the bar had all the markings needed for distancing, and the bar team had all the PPE gear to keep us safe, so very impressive.

We got our drinks and pasty and sat in a small meadow/area of seats and tables sipping and just people watched. There was a steady trickle of people arriving, but what we noticed was that despite lots of people coming into the event, they just disappeared into the large orchard and were all spread out under the trees either sitting at the tables or on their own picnic rugs. We saw lots of Whimble peeps who had made the enormous journey, and they all appeared to have a good time!

The weather was perfect and warm without being too hot, and we were duty bound to check out the ice creams which were great. It was interesting to see their lovely orchard having drunk their 'Silly Cow' for some years – and having sold a lot of 'Silly Cow' in my Whimble shop days. We know that Jill has been magnificent with the making of many face masks for Covid19, and kindly donating the proceeds to the Whimble Village Hall – thank you Jill!!!

Already I believe they are talking about repeating the event which would be excellent – so well done for this and fingers crossed for the next one!

Ed H



## 👁️👁️ Note on Advertisements 👁️👁️

The advertisements that appear in this magazine relate to normal times.

We do not know for sure which services are available at the time of going to press, or how that will change over the days and weeks to come.

When you need to respond to an advertisement, we suggest that you either email or telephone the advertiser to find out whether or not they are open for business.

The News team.


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Chris

At this time of the year we are usually looking forward to our Annual Flower and Craft Show. Sadly, as we all are now aware, this is not to be for this year. No doubt all those of you who would normally enter the Vegetable and Flower Classes will have what would have been numerous potential prize winning exhibits! At least those of you who have been busy in your gardens will now have some very colourful displays to admire and hopefully also some lovely home grown vegetables to enjoy!

We had planned to have four events for the autumn after the Flower Show. However, with the uncertainty of the use of the Village Hall, we have decided to postpone the talk scheduled for the 4th of September to next year. We are hoping to go ahead with the talk we have planned for 9th October on "Climate Change and the Impact on Agriculture, Horticulture and our Gardens". Look out for our posters if we are able to go ahead with this. Also, there is a potential trip to Castle Drogo planned for Saturday 17th October, so look out for that as well. As in previous years, our last planned event will be our very popular Quiz Night on Friday 8th November. If we are able to go ahead with these events, we will do our best to get the information out to everyone.

**Paul Wilson**, Chairman, Whimple VPA



## Community project to get involved with.

Christmas 2020 will hopefully see a wonderful display of handmade decorations in the Church. The hand sewn felt stars and hearts will be decorated with stitch and beads. Each one will have a name of someone in our village or a word reflecting covid-19 and the community spirit which shone through these last few difficult months.

We are hoping lots of men, women and children will get involved with this Whimple project. Workshops are tailored for absolute beginners, so don't be shy about taking part.

Contact Hilary Nowill at The Pea, The Square or on 01404 822581 for dates of workshops which will run up to mid December. Hilary also provides packs with written instructions with pictures.

The stars and hearts will be displayed in the church at Christmas, and then each person will be able to keep their items and hang them on their own tree in years to come.

**Hilary Nowill**



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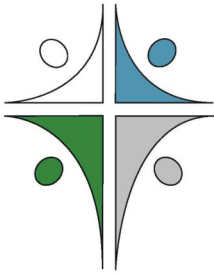
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## WHIMPLE CHURCH

<http://churches4all.org/>

It would seem that life is slowly returning to normal. But then what is normal?

For the churches in the Mission Community it means that there will be a service each Sunday but it won't be the same as before. The plan is to hold a service each week in one of the four churches. This one service will rotate around the three larger parish churches. There will also be a BCP Prayer service at Clyst St Lawrence twice a month, one morning service and one evening service.

We will be organizing the practicalities of these services to allow for social distancing and with other measures in place to keep all of us as safe as possible:

There will be hand-cleaning facilities before people enter the church.

Sidespersons will be on hand to direct people to their seats.

There might be music played but no singing at the MC services.

There will be a retiring collection so no plate will be passed around.

People will be asked to leave in a controlled fashion at the end of the services.

There will be no refreshments served.

We will be recording who attends so we can update folks if anyone who has attended then shows any virus symptoms.

We will be asking you inform us in advance if you plan to attend so we can keep track of numbers we need to plan for.

NB No one should feel under pressure to attend services if, for instance they feel uneasy about the risks to themselves or those they care for.

Please remember we also have a number of telephone services available.

Mission Community Prayer meeting in the evening on the first Tuesday of each month. These are simple to join and open to absolutely everyone so people do not need to feel put off by praying over the phone. You do not need to have a smart phone

Thursday Morning prayer services – anyone can ring in and it's simple to use.

Monthly Mission Community prayer service – Tuesday 1st September at 7.45pm.

The meeting will be by teleconference, starting at 7:45pm and will last about 45-60 minutes. Please dial in about five minutes before the meeting is due to start – dial 0333 011 0616.

When requested enter the access code 2673601 followed by # (referred to as "pound sign" by the automated voice). When requested say your name followed again by #. You have now joined the meeting.



We are also continuing with our online services. Don't forget to find and subscribe to our YouTube channel, called From the Curate's Study. We have 188 subscribers so far, that is folks who have decided they like what we are doing and so have joined our online parish.

Please remember that things are changing constantly.

,A weekly newsletter entitled "From the Curate's Study" is available on the website  
[www.churches4all.org](http://www.churches4all.org)

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Have you felt a need to pray during these unique times?  
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(Or contact Jude via email: [judecarter70@gmail.com](mailto:judecarter70@gmail.com) or [Rev'd Marc.](#))

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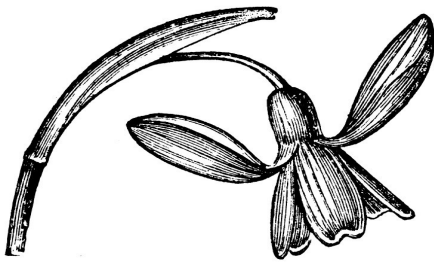


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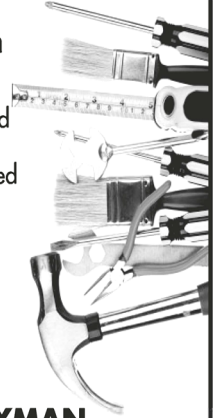
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# Whimble Cricket Club

**I'm delighted to report that cricket has returned to Whimble.**

It came as something of a surprise when it was announced that we could restart, having been told it would be no earlier than 1st August. I'm pleased to say that we were able to complete our risk assessment and prepare the ground and pavilion facilities to allow play on the very first weekend restrictions were lifted. A combined Saturday side just lost out to Ottery St Mary in a friendly game, while 18 players took part in a Sunday interclub game that was very much enjoyed by all.

Things are moving on so quickly that it is likely this update will be out of date by the time it is published. We remain committed to getting as much cricket played as possible, at all levels and standards. If you have an interest in the club as player or spectator then I'd encourage you to follow our social media feeds for latest updates, look out for our emails or pay attention to the various WhatsApp groups used for team communication.

Like all organisations and venues, we have had to understand and apply new regulations. This includes a requirement for registering attendance, restrictions on the use of facilities and various new playing rules. Ultimately our game is played and watched in a large open, outdoor, space and I feel very confident that we can provide a safe environment for players and spectators. Although we chose not to open the bar initially, we have plans in place to be able to do this in a safe way going forward.

We are hard at work arranging fixtures for all of our teams and will publish these when they are available. Friday night junior training will also restart on a week-by-week booking system, albeit with limited places. As a spectator, you can expect there to be cricket being played most weekends for the remainder of the Summer. I hope to see many of you up at the ground watching and cheering on the Whimble teams.

For any cricket club questions, you can email [whimblecc@gmail.com](mailto:whimblecc@gmail.com) or contact me on 07989 234372.

**James Woollam**, Chairman

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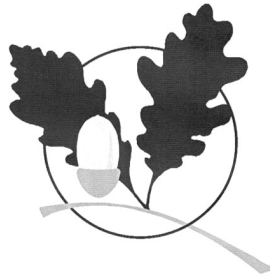
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On the 11th July 2020, Whimble WI was 100 years old and we have a certificate to prove it! No doubt our members over that time would have gone through many trials and tribulations but I doubt any of them could have predicted that we would have to suspend our meetings for such a long time, due to a virus! We hope to resume in the autumn and will of course let our members know as soon as we feel it is safe to meet up again in the Victory Hall to finally celebrate our centenary. In the meantime, here are a couple of tales from two of us to hopefully make you smile.



### **Barbara Ackland - My love of Spotted Woodpeckers – NOT!**

At our home we have two bird nesting boxes – one on the back wall for the blue tits and the other on the front side of the house. This one was built with three compartments for the sparrows, but for some reason they have shown no real interest in it. Over several years it has been used by great tits, blue tits and one year by tree bees!!



This year the great tits are again in residence, as are the blue tits in the back garden. They have all been a source of great interest and delight during our forced isolation, so you can imagine our horror when we noticed a spotted woodpecker attempting to break into the great tit box in order to steal the chicks!! My husband, ever resourceful, fixed a piece of plastic from an old petrol can over the hole to reinforce it. We were concerned the great tit parents might be put off and abandon the chicks inside, but no it didn't faze them at all. It does seem to have stopped the woodpecker hammering at it thankfully – I don't think it fancied getting its beak stuck!

We were astonished to see what happened next ..... the woodpecker then turned its attention to the blue tit box in the back garden. The cheek of it! A similar protection repair was quickly fitted and seems to have done the trick – the blue tits have taken no notice of the new entrance at all and continue to feed the chicks. Again, the woodpecker does a daily inspection but hopefully cannot now break through. SUCCESS! 10 days on from the repairs the great tits have fledged – unfortunately we didn't see them go so we have no idea how many there were. We have a camera trained on the blue tit nest so hopefully we may catch sight of the little ones venturing out into this crazy world.

The woodpecker then turned its attention to the garden fences and tried to knock chunks out of them, presumably looking for bugs (we had just painted them too!). I know it must have young of its own to feed but must be desperate if it is brave enough to come into the garden, as they are usually such nervous birds.

On the 27th May, a single blue tit fledged. My husband said it fell out of the box! It gradually fluttered its way over to the garden shed and sat underneath for a while, with the parents feeding it. It was probably contemplating how to negotiate the front fence and reach the stream and woods beyond.

I decided to give a helping hand and opened the gate. With a bit of encouragement from me and its parents calling, it eventually made the crossing. I hope it survives but there are so many dangers ahead like cats and hungry woodpeckers!

### **Di Eden - The lowdown on my lockdown!**

I'm not the most gregarious person and I'm quite happy with my own company, perhaps less so, after lockdown. When the call came to lock down, I hunkered down and threw myself into being super industrious. That was the way forward, or so I thought!

On sunny days I attacked the garden with gusto, strimming and hacking everything in sight. I spent the next three days on paracetamol because my back was in shock from so much activity. I sowed some cosmos seeds and put the tray on a bedroom windowsill to germinate. Not sure where I went wrong, but they are straggly and leggy and may not have appreciated being shoved into my cold garden soil. I bet Monty Don never has this trouble.

I also sowed lots of seeds in my flowerbeds: delphiniums, poppies, marigolds and stocks; quite impressive and so proud of my efforts. Next morning when I went out to admire my handiwork, I found that next door's cat had also appreciated my industry by using my newly tilled bed as a toilet. Labels unearthed and seeds scattered, I am now hoping to recognise which are weeds and which are flowers. Catastrophe!!

I decided to delve into cupboards, the contents of which have not seen daylight for years. In the first, I found long forgotten cards and photos. That was the morning gone, reminiscing. By the second cupboard, I was hopelessly bored of tidying and then it happened! I found the start of a rag rug, not touched for at least 15 years. I found the peg too. What I didn't have was the requisite rags and so set off in search of my quarry. Every slightly worn T shirt was dismembered including anything of my husbands' not worn in a while!

I have now finished the rug and would like to say how lovely it looks, but I can't. It's gaudy and brash and clashes with everything in sight, but hey, it's finished. As my supportive husband says, the dog will love it. Result! I also found some dress fabric that I can't remember buying and don't like. I also found a pattern, which I didn't know I had. So, I've made a dress which fits me fine, but may never wear and I look like my granny in it. Just remembered I am a granny! I made a face mask but may have to rethink the fabric as I couldn't actually breathe with it on. I always say that I can do a lot of things, but none of them very well. I rest my case.

My solace in amongst all this mayhem has been my early morning dog walk along our verdant lanes, to birdsong. Making the most of it before the A30 and airport return to drown out such pleasures.

I appreciate that I am privileged to be at home in these surreal times. I am so grateful to everyone out there, saving lives or working to keep our wonderful country ticking over. With my tangible lack of talent and success in most areas, it's probably better that I stay at home anyway.

For more information on Whimble WI, please contact Marilyn Mills on 01404 821860

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I don't think any of us would have predicted what has happened and how our lives have changed in the past few months. I think, initially, we all thought it would be for a couple of weeks and then we would return to normal. How wrong we were and what a range of challenges we have had to cope with, both personally and professionally.



Schools were asked to reopen to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children at the beginning of June as well as maintaining provision for keyworkers. I have been really lucky to have such an amazing set of staff and governors who support each other and want the best for all the children at school. This has meant that not only have we had over 60 children in school regularly, we have been able to have all of our other children who have wanted to, back in for a week. We have seen and taught 87% of our pupils, that is 122 children during the second half of the summer term.



Whilst there has been a focus on key skills like reading, writing and maths, lots of other activities have taken place.

Reception have looked at minibeasts and enjoyed their outdoor provision.



Year 1 have travelled around the world finding out about various animals and their habitats. They have dressed in saris and, in RE, they have explored Buddhism, learning the story of the Buddha and the significance of the lotus flower, the Bodhi tree and the wheel of life.



Lego characters have been designed and made along with a variety of science experiments.

Returning groups of children in each bubble were really creative during their week and they took part so well in all of the activities they were asked to do, including daily writing challenges, 3D model making, Beebot programming, scavenger hunting, PE tasks, painting, pastel, collage and more.





Year 6 have also been involved in lots of activities including completing their Civic Award and being interviewed and questioned by some of our governors.



We say goodbye to Mrs Sally Terrett, who started with us, initially, as a parent, then as a teaching assistant and more recently as our Early Years teacher.

Mr James Terrett has also finished his time as a parent governor as his youngest child now leaves the school. He has been a governor for 14 years and has brought a wealth of expertise and experience to the team. They will be greatly missed.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone - staff, governors, parents, children and all those who support us in the village community. It has been the most challenging school year yet and your support and faith in us has been greatly appreciated.

We will see you all in September.

**Mrs Carole Shilston.** Headteacher



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# Organisations in Whimble

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<b>East Devon Councillor</b> (kmclauchlan@eastdevon.gov.uk)	
Kathy Mclauchlan	07811 138177
<b>Parish Council</b> (whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com)	
<i>Chairman:</i> John Griffiths	823480
<i>Clerk:</i> Kevin Finch	823385
<b>Primary School</b> (admin@whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk)	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Carole Shilston	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Linden Best	822595
<b>Friends of Whimble School (FOWS)</b> whimplefows@gmail.com	
<i>Chairperson:</i> Ali Large	823863
<b>St. Mary's Church</b>	
<i>Parish Priest:</i>	
<i>Impact Cell:</i> Helen Bowker	823193
<b>Book Group</b>	
Tanya Mooney	823326
<b>Cricket Club</b> (jameswoollam@gmail.com)	
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<b>Football Club</b>	
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<i>Secretary:</i> Lee Wheaton	077341 52120
<b>Front Row Club</b>	
<i>email:</i> frontrowclub@gmail.com	
<b>History Society</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> David Rastall	822486
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Mothers Union</b>	
Margaret Burrough	822257
<b>Over Sixties Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Arthur Iball	822905
<i>Secretary:</i> Beryl Iball	822905
<b>Pre-School &amp; Toddler Group</b> (www.whimplepreschool.com)	
<i>Chair:</i> Joe Pearce	823512
<i>Information:</i> Jo Sibley 07794 652549 or admin@whimplepreschool.com	
<b>Recreation Trust</b>	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Scout Group</b>	
<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
<b>St. Mary's Bellringers</b>	
<i>Captain:</i> Roger Algate	822480
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Chris Beer	07787 544192
<b>Tennis Club</b>	
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<b>Victory Hall</b>	
<i>Chair:</i> Maria Wallis	823992
<i>Secretary:</i> Di Wilkins	758459
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Ali Tierney	822724
<b>Village Produce Association.</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Paul Wilson	822744
<b>Whimbletons</b>	
Cathy Bartlett-Horwood	823944
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