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Olde Freehouse  
Village Inn*

*Tel - 01404 822350*

# **Whimble News**

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**Feb/March 2002**

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## What's on in Whimble

### February

12th	W.I.	Victory Hall	7.30pm
21-23rd	Aladdin	Victory Hall	7.30pm
27th	VPA Coffee Evening	Victory Hall	7.30pm

### March

9th	Big Night In	St Marys Church	7.30pm
12th	W.I.	Victory Hall	7.30pm
16th	Car Boot/Table Sale	Victory Hall	10am-4pm
20th	Tennis Club AGM	23 Rectory Close	8pm

## St Mary's Church Services

### February

3rd	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
	Sun	11.00am	Family Service
10th	Sun	11.00am	Holy Communion
17th	Sun	10.30am	Service with a Smile
24th	Sun	11.00am	Holy Communion

### March

3rd	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
	Sun	11.00am	Holy Communion
10th	Sun	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Service
17th	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
	Sun	10.30am	Service with a Smile
24th	Sun	11.00am	Holy Communion
28th	Thrs	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
31st	Sun	11.00am	Easter Day Family Service with Communion

### St Mary's Lent Course

A Lent Course, to help us grow and understand more about the Christian faith, will be held in the Victory Hall on the following Wednesdays: February 20th and 27th, and March 6th, 13th and 20th.

**Please use the Whimble Diary held in the Post Office for checking availability of venues and booking events.  
If your Association has an event which you would like listed above please contact Angela Smith on 822828**

## The Whimble News Team

Editor	
Peter Smith	822828
Production	
Bob Scanlan	822262
Vivienne Leonard	822415
Delivery	
Ed & Nicky Hitchcock	823194
Advertising	
Miles Leonard	822415
Pam Scanlan	822262
Community diary	
Angela Smith	822828
Treasurer	
Miles Leonard	822415

#### WHIMPLE TENNIS CLUB

The Club AGM will be held on Wednesday, 20th March, at 8.00pm at 23 Rectory Close.  
All welcome!

I am sure that all Whimple will join me in wishing "Good Luck" to Ann Daniels and the other two girls heading for the North Pole - the very best of good fortune, God speed and come home safely.

I would like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their kind wishes and offers of help to Zena and myself after my accident just before Christmas, especially to Dave, Jennifer and Paul for managing to get me home after my fall, and to Zena for putting up with a not very patient patient! It is very nice to know that we have such lovely neighbours.

Jim Calverley.

#### Ottery St Mary Medical Trust

Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas goods, dolls and cushions. A cheque for £1021 was given to the Ottery St Mary Medical Trust. The money will be spent on Nebulisers.

Also many thanks to Barbara and Joyce (from Ottery St Mary) for all their help.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

It does not seem like two months since the Senior Citizens Party but what a party! The food, the band, with its Christmas music and carols, all excellent, everyone happy, what a joy, and even a visit from Father Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this a success.

The date of your party for 2002 is Friday December 6th see you there!

#### From the Editor

I do hope you enjoy reading the first issue of Whimple News in 2002 that includes articles from most of our increasing number of "regulars". We are very grateful to the people and organisations who contribute in this and other ways. Our thanks also go to our many distributors and particularly to Fred Finch, who is now standing down, for his help and support over many years.

It was good to be at the recent packed and lively public meeting in Victory Hall held to consider the East Devon Plan covering the period to 2011 as outlined in two articles later in the magazine. The Council have asked for views on the proposals which will have a major effect on Whimple and the surrounding area over the years to come. Some people will support the proposals and others will have varying degrees of concern particularly about the planned New Community. It's important for the future of our Village that we all let the Council have our views by the closing date on February 15. Please also let us have your opinions for inclusion in Whimple News.

We need lots of differing items - news, views, events or items of community interest - for our next issue covering April and May. Your contribution would be most welcome via the Post Office or e-mail direct to Bob by 19 March.

With good wishes

**Whimple News is published bi-monthly and run by local volunteers.**

Articles of local interest can be e-mailed to Bob at [bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk) or handed in to Gordon at the Post Office by 12 December

# Whimble Victory Hall

## FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Grout

The Old Manse by the linden  
 Stands silent in The Square  
 And on the gravelled pathway  
 The light and shade do play  
 The birds sing in the branches  
 With sweet familiar tones  
 The little brook that babbles  
 Is music I inhale.

The saying "There is no place like home", is a feeling I experienced with such joy when I came straight back from hospital without having to go first for recuperation and convalescence somewhere else than home. Although I had to cope on my own mainly, it was sheer bliss. At first, I could not manage to light my open fire, but some kind neighbours lent me an electric one which fitted so perfectly into my hearth and it simulated the flames. That plus the central heating made me feel very cosy and helped me no end in the healing process. To be back in The Square, find familiar faces, be greeted by my favourite robin, have friends just popping in to see if they could be of any help. What more could I ask for, it was a wonderful feeling.

Then came November and my birthday, which made me want to turn the page and face a new year with trust and hope. This was followed by the lovely feeling of looking forward to Christmas; the period of Advent is a period of sweet anticipation and preparation for a very special festival. To put up the Christmas lights is an integral part of our Northern winter darkened season. The 6th December, St Nicholas Day (patron Saint of Children) is, in Switzerland, the beginning of the month long festivities until the Feast of Epiphany on 6th January. Each year since Jack died, a dear friend comes to help me to put up the lights and the tree. It is the season of great light, but who created the light in the first place?



As you pass the Village Hall, you may have noticed some recent changes. The wall from the car park to the school has, at last, been built and, I am sure you will agree, improves the appearance of the area considerably. This was built at no cost to the Hall as the money came from an initiative from East Devon District Council for which we are most grateful.

You will also have noticed that the old notice board has been replaced. The original board was dedicated to Mr and Mrs Kingdon and I have spoken to their daughter who was happy for the new notice-board to be erected and the old one removed. For those who are not aware, the new notice-board will be dedicated to the memory of Paulette Weeks who served the Hall for some 25 years. It was designed by her daughter, Teresa and will be a fitting and lasting memorial.

The Committee are conscious that a number of villagers get a great deal of use and pleasure from the Hall but there are many who have still not used the Hall. With this in mind we are providing a Comments and Suggestions form for you to fill in and return so that we can attempt to provide what the people in the Village want to use. We have a number of ideas of our own but would like your input.

Please return the forms to The Jays, in the Square.

Many thanks - John Discombe

## Whimble Victory Hall

Registered Charity: No. 291496

To enable the Committee to provide the facilities that the community wants could you please fill in the details below and return them to; The Jays, The Square, Whimble.

COMMENT.....

.....

SUGGESTION.....

.....

DETAILS.....

.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

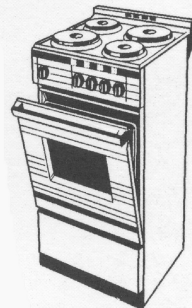
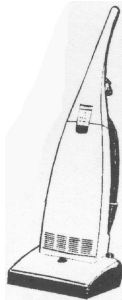
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# EXETER

# 437533

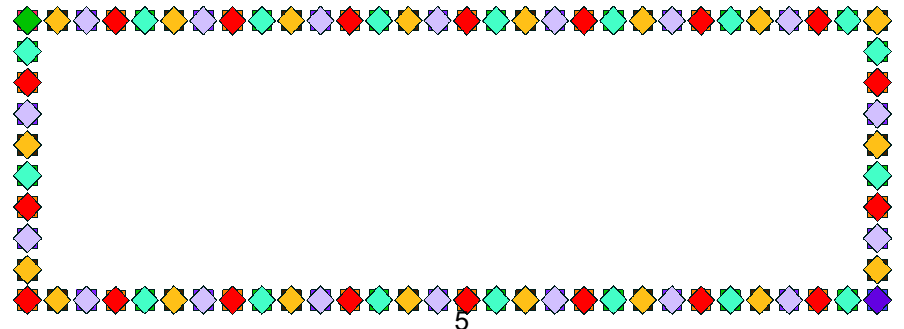
1 LADYSMITH ROAD, EXETER  
40 Years Electrical Experience

All the hype and glitzy commercialism does not really touch me. For me, it is the warmth of friendship, the keeping in touch with all those far away I love and who love me. I love receiving cards and letters from all those I don't often see and who live all over the world. I also love the preparation of giving presents to family and friends. Being less mobile than usual, I was lucky to find all I wanted here in The Square, in the shop and post office, plus those delightful calendars and cards produced by the local History Society. I can't tell you how my simple presents were appreciated; fudge with a picture card of The Square, the calendar with pictures of The Old Manse reminding my family and friends of the happy holidays spent with us when Jack was alive. What I could not get here, the traditional Devonshire comb honey I usually give, was purchased for me by very kind friends who did my shopping. So all in all Christmas was a source of great joy to me and others.

Today is the Feast of Epiphany, a new year has started. For most of us the last was a mixture of joy and sorrow. I am sure if we jotted down our happy experiences, they would outweigh the hours of pain and sorrow. I took all my cards down and read them all again with even more pleasure than the first time. What warmed my heart is that of all the hundreds of cards they all had that magic word LOVE, with love, with much love, with lots of love, with fond love. What a wonderful start for the New Year. It made me realise that happiness is not created it is released from within every person. Other words used were PEACE and JOY which brought a smile to my face.

So now is the time for me to wish you all in the village a very old toast I have learnt years ago when I came to England.

Here is a health to all those we love  
Here is a health to all those who love us  
Here is a health to all those that love them that love  
those  
That love them that love those that love us.



# Organisations in Whimble

## NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER

Well it has come and gone - many weeks of deep, head scratching thought, detailed planning and untold expenditure - all climaxed in one brief moment - I bought Heather a book - and they say romance is dead! I hope you all had a super Christmas and that 2002 has got under way in promising fashion..... and hopefully you missed the many bugs freely available around Whimble this winter .... by the time you read this it must be near Valentines day, so ..."Who loves you, baby?"

After my words of gloom and despondency in the last Whimble News (re P.O. survival) there appeared an article in my daily paper in which the following words appeared-

"The deal the Post Office has brokered with the banks means that people will still be able to get their benefits in cash after April 2003 by using a simple Post Office card account, which will be operated with a swipe card at the post office counter."

If the above comes to fruition we may well be in with a chance of survival. One snag would appear to be that the claimant will not know for certain whether the benefit has gone into the P.O. card account on time until an attempt is made to draw the cash - but let's have less of the downside and assume that a good system will appear at the right time - like it does with all government projects!

Interesting facts - well maybe just facts:

Stamp sales in Whimble P.O. - Nov 19th to Dec 24th 2001:

1st class approx 5000 & 2nd class approx 15000 stamps, plus 450 1st & 2nd class books and over £4000 worth of other postage - no wonder it seemed a bit busy in the run-up to Christmas! Now if half of you sent your cards after Christmas it would remove the crush before it and make life so much less stressful!

Now I promised you some more genuine courtroom quotes

- 1Q. Were you present when your picture was taken?  
 2Q. She had three children, right? A. Yes.  
 Q. How many were boys? A. None.  
 Q. Were there any girls?  
 3Q. How was your first marriage terminated? A. By death  
 Q. And by whose death was it terminated?  
 4Q. Do you recall the time that you examined the body?  
 A. The autopsy started around 8.30p.m.

Finally - the promised list of what we can do for you in the 'little ole P.O.' - hopefully you will find it elsewhere in this Whimble News.

That's about that for now - best wishes to all.

www.daftasabrush.GO&HO@PO.com

<b>Whimble Parish Council</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Sara Randall Johnson	822524
<i>Clerk:</i> Mrs. Amanda Newman, Council Office - Torno	823385
<b>Royal British Legion</b> , Branch and Womens Section.	
<i>Chairman:</i> Mrs. F. Pratt, Sandfords	822451
<b>St. Mary's Church</b>	
<i>Contact:</i> Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
<b>Devon County Councillor</b>	
Mr. R. Giles, 14 Winters Lane, OSM. EX11 1AR	813387
<b>Whimble County Primary School</b>	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. D. Brice	822584
<b>Whimble History Society</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Whimble Mothers Union</b>	
Mrs. S.Benton 2, Strete Raleigh House	822909
<b>Whimble Pre-School &amp; Toddler Group</b>	
<i>Chair:</i> Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road	822168
<i>New admissions/Playleader:</i> Sue Solf 1, Hillside, Talaton	822981
<b>Whimble Womens Institute</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green	823450
<b>Whimble Over Sixties Club</b>	
Mrs S. Tuck 10 Bramley Gardens	823553
<b>Whimble Youth Club</b>	
<i>Chair:</i> Alison Lawry	822292
<b>Whimble Recreation Trust</b>	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground.</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
<b>Whimble Village Produce Association.</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Mr. A. Bratt, Rockwell, Talaton	822437
<b>Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club</b>	
Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm	822257
<b>Whimble Football Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> B. Weeks, Briar Cottage, Church Road	822674
<b>Whimble Tennis Club</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> T. A. Lang	822512
<i>Treasurer:</i> J. Hughes	822659
<b>Whimble Cricket Club</b>	
Mr. R.J.Smith	822244
<b>Whimble Victory Hall Management Committe</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Penny Wienreb 3, The Square	823064
<b>Whimble Post Office</b>	
Gordon & Heather Owen	822359
<b>Whimble News</b>	
Peter Smith, Lawn End, Church Road	822828
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	
John Munslow, 44, Slewton Crescent	823456
<b>St. Mary's Bellringers</b>	
<i>Captain:</i> Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road	822873
<b>Whimble Scout Group</b>	
<i>Group Scout Leader :</i> Alex Spry	851290
<i>Marquee Booking Sec :</i> Mrs. Mary McConnell	822729

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# WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

It was standing room only last November when we held our AGM at Sandfords. Another successful year was reported with all our events being well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Particular mention was made to the support given to the Flower Show and we hope that this will be repeated this year. The Officers were re-elected for another year but we would welcome anyone who feels they would like to be involved with the VPA. Come along to our Winter Coffee evening to find out more about us.

Our first offering for the new year will be our Winter Coffee Evening on Wednesday 27th February in the Victory Hall, starting at 7.30pm. We have invited our Photography Judge from the Flower Show, Mr Banks, to come along and give us a talk. As this is a well supported Class in the Show we felt it might be helpful for those of you who enter these classes to have a chance to hear what the judge looks for and of course to ask him questions. There will be no charge for this event so we hope the chance to find out more about taking pictures will entice you along.

We hope to run a coach outing on Sunday 16th June and this year we will be doing a return visit to Rosemoor where we have a free entry being affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society. We will then go on to visit the Great Torrington 1646 Exhibition which should be very interesting, more details in the next issue! So for all of you who enjoyed last years trip to Kinston Maurwood Gardens, keep this date free for what will hopefully be another equally enjoyable trip.

We will also be having our spring plant sale and coffee evening on the evening of Friday 10 May. More details of this in the next issue. The highlight of the year will of course be our annual flower show in August. As usual it will be on the second Saturday which this year is 10th August. We hope to build on last years extremely successful show and further information and reminders will appear in subsequent editions of the News! We look forward to seeing you all in February.

Paul Wilson,  
Hon. Secretary.



## EAST DEVON PLAN

About 150 Whimple residents attended a lively meeting on January 24 held by the Parish Council in Victory Hall to consider the East Devon Plan for the period to 2011. The consultation period ends on Friday February 15 by which time all views should be with East Devon District Council. The meeting covered two main areas: Whimple itself and the proposed new community.

### Whimple

For Whimple, the Plan recognises the importance of the railway station and specifies the new primary school at the end of Slewtton Crescent where the land has now been bought by the County Council. There would be only very limited extra housing within a proposed Built Up Area Boundary which effectively means only infill houses unless there is a special need. Land at Slewtton Field, Hayes Bank and the Recreation Ground has been recognised as having local amenity importance.

### The New Community

A New Community of 2900 dwellings is proposed within the boundaries of (north) the railway line, (south) the old A30, and (east) parallel with the high voltage cables closest to Southbrook. The floodplain is not to be developed other than to provide a highway connection and possibly for a new railway station. The full plan is available at Council Offices and libraries.

A number of differing views were expressed at the meeting. Herbert Breyley's article, which starts on page 13, provides more detail. The views included one very much opposed to the siting of the new community who can be contacted at the internet site [www.saveeastdevon.co.uk](http://www.saveeastdevon.co.uk).

Whatever your views, its important to make them (and suggested alternatives) known by 15 February to Planning and Technical Services Department at East Devon District Council, Knowle, Sidmouth EX10 8HL. or local.

**Peter Smith**

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The Whimbletons present

# ALADDIN



AT



THE VICTORY HALL, WHIMPLE



ON

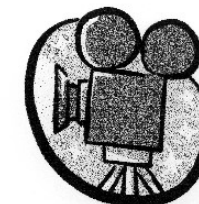
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002

at 7.30pm



Tickets available from  
Whimble Stores

Children - £1.00  
Adults - £4.00



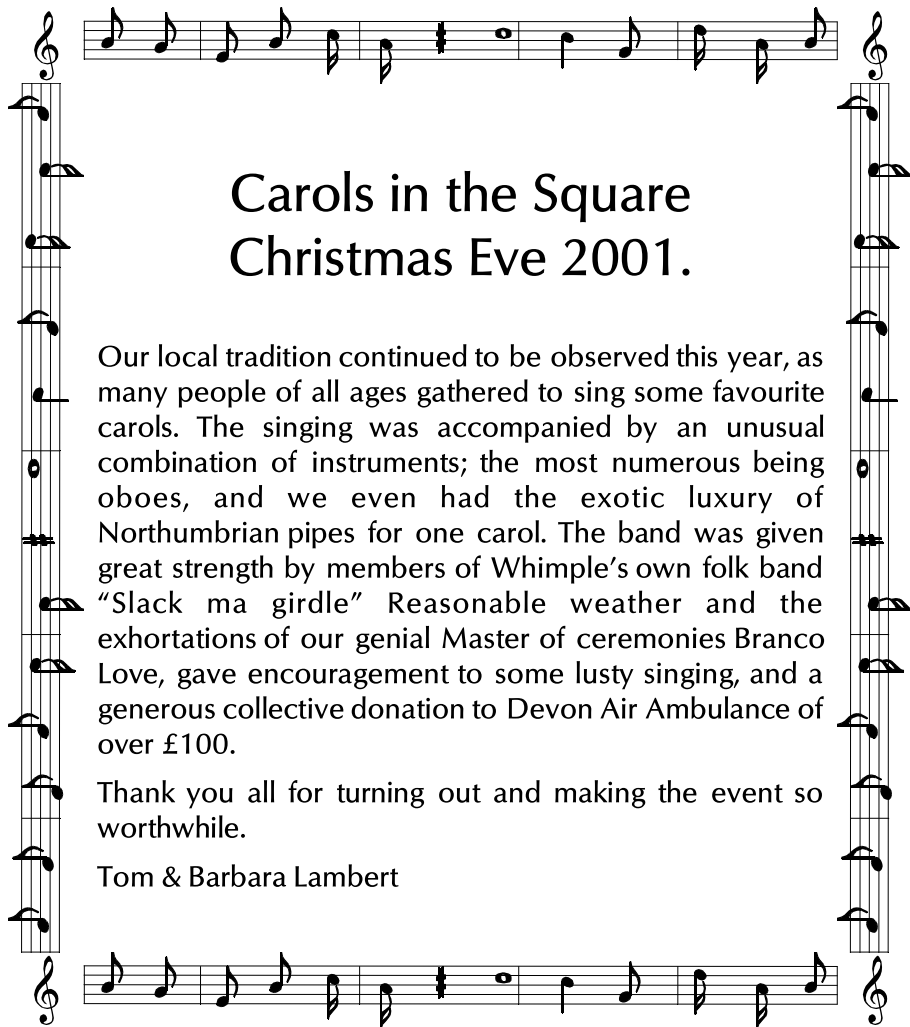
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## Carols in the Square Christmas Eve 2001.

Our local tradition continued to be observed this year, as many people of all ages gathered to sing some favourite carols. The singing was accompanied by an unusual combination of instruments; the most numerous being oboes, and we even had the exotic luxury of Northumbrian pipes for one carol. The band was given great strength by members of Whimble's own folk band "Slack ma girdle" Reasonable weather and the exhortations of our genial Master of ceremonies Branco Love, gave encouragement to some lusty singing, and a generous collective donation to Devon Air Ambulance of over £100.

Thank you all for turning out and making the event so worthwhile.

Tom & Barbara Lambert

### **Senior Citizens Roast Lunch with three veg and sweet for £4-50**

Every Thursday from 12noon to 2.00pm

01404 812827

Sorry, but pre-booked tables only

**The Fairmile Inn**

## Village Meeting

by Herbert Breyley

Thursday 24th January at 7.00 p.m., Whimble Parish Council fulfilled their undertaking to arrange a meeting to discuss the East Devon Local Plan 1995 to 2011 before the closing date for comments.

The Village hall was packed and Sara Randall Johnson, the Parish Council Chairman and the Leader of the East Devon District Council stated that the meeting would be in two parts. She would chair Part 1, which dealt with the statement regarding Whimble. As an employee of British European, she had received dispensation from the Secretary of State that enabled her to speak on that part of the Plan related to the New Town but not to vote. She had decided that in the best interest, she would neither speak nor vote. Consequently, Part 2 of the meeting would be chaired by Tony Wilkinson, the Ward representative.

Sara welcomed John Maidment Head of Policy and the Environment (East Devon District Council) who would be the spokesman for the council. Appreciation was expressed from the audience of the fact that in the statement regarding Whimble parish, it laid much emphasis on the value of the railway station and that it was important that it remains open. Its future could be in jeopardy or at least a reduced service as a result of a new station to be built for the New Town. Another early issue raised was the lack of affordable housing involved in the Bovis development. The response being that Government policy now laid great emphasis on the issues.

The Built Up Area Boundary for Whimble was shown on the screen and it was explained that the policy was now that no sizeable development would be permissible within the Built Up Area except for a single dwelling to meet specific needs. Outside the area, which is now considered countryside, no development would be allowed. However, if a parish considered a need for further housing development they could recommend that the Built Up Area Boundary could be extended. It was strongly recommended that if parishioners did not wish any change in the Built Up Area Boundary for Whimble, they should make it clear in their response to the Local Plan.

Following comments from the audience about the overcrowding in the school, the Chairman said that the Devon County Council had now taken up their option and had purchased the ground for the new school. At this point the subject was now going to be the New Town and Tony Wilkinson took over the chair.



John Maidment said that he would explain the background to the New Town proposal. The East Devon District Council had objected to the New Town and had taken a deputation to the Prime Minister. Unfortunately, he did not accept their arguments and told them to get on with it. This left them with no alternative but to do just that. John Maidment went on to explain why the proposed site boundary was moved eastwards from Station Road, Broadclyst to the site Flowerlands just beyond the road to Southbrook; the other boundaries being the railway line and the old A30. As a result of further study the Council had to accept that the noise from the aero engine testing would be unacceptable to the housing development and the ensuing problems would be unacceptable to the Airport. It also meant that the revised plan reduced the degree of floodplain involved, and much of the floodplain area could be constructed into parkland and open space.

Ruth Burrows made a passionate plea for the proposal for a New Town to be rejected. She asked members of the audience to support her by stating their objections to the District Council before the closing date of 15th February. This could be done by letter, completing the form for objecting, or responding by using the website. She went on to say that if the rejection was to be successful at least 10,000 refusals were required and she was doing her utmost to achieve this goal. Some members of the audience expressed their appreciation of her efforts and said they would submit their objections.

John Maidment outlined the difficulties which could arise if the proposal for a New Town was rejected. It could mean that developers could submit their plans for the New Town, an Inspectorate Enquiry would follow and if the developer won, and there were signs that they would win, the East Devon District Council would lose control and Section 106 agreements (which would attach conditions such as the provision of amenities) would be meaningless.

The audience then raised the issue of the proposal that 40% of the total housing of the New Town would be of affordable housing. Questions were asked as to how the figure of 40% was arrived at and what was meant by affordable housing? The response was that the Council had commissioned Fordham Research to carry out a detailed housing needs assessment. The assessment was submitted to the District Council in June 2001. As a result, it was considered that 40% was appropriate. It was considered by Council that affordable housing will be built by the developer to an agreed standard and upon completion the freehold ownership of such housing will be transferred to a registered social landlord e.g. Housing Association. Housing provided to registered social landlords under this policy must remain available in perpetuity as affordable housing.

## WHIMPLE WEATHER - 2001.

Again this year Ken Burrows has been keeping a weather eye open on Whimple. Ken writes:

The weather figures for our village last year are these:

	2001	2000
Rainfall	33.14 inches	45.48 inches
Rain fell on	172 days	203 days
Snow fell on	2 days	3 days
Gales/Strongwinds	35 days	54 days
Thunder heard	3 days	8 days
Wettest month	March (5.78 ins)	December ( 8.12 ins)
Wettest day	7.10.01 (0.94 in)	5.11.00 (1.62 ins)
Hottest day	3.7.01 (88 f)	21.7.00 ( 87 f)
Coldest night	22/31.12.01 (23 f)	29/30.12.00 (22 f)

My records now span 31 years, and 2000 rainfall was a record for those years. The average over 31 years is 34.73 inches so 2001 was drier, especially than the years during the 90's when the average during those 10 years was 39.27 inches.

Another most recent point of interest (weather-wise) in October/November/December 2001 8.92 inches of rain was recorded compared to the same months in 2000 of 21.28 inches.

Again I must emphasise these details were recorded in a garden in Whimple. They will not agree with that on Dartmoor, Woodbury Common nor, for that matter, probably a 'mile down the road'.

Ken Burrows



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- It's so simple. The car owner attaches two stickers that are difficult to remove and fully reflective to the front and rear screens of their car. These act as an invitation to patrolling police officers to stop that vehicle if seen driven by ANYBODY between MIDNIGHT and 5AM.

No tools required and can be fitted in seconds.



To join the VEHICLE WATCH SCHEME please complete below and send with a stamped and self addressed envelope to the address as stated.

I want to join the VEHICLE WATCH SCHEME. Please use Block capitals and send to:- **Devon and Cornwall Constabulary (Vehicle Watch)**

**ORRV, Room FE7, HQ Middlemoor, Exeter EX2 7HQ**

Send me ..... set(s) of 'Vehicle Watch' stickers @ £1.00/set Total £.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... payable to:

**Devon and Cornwall Constabulary (Vehicle watch)**

Name .....

Address .....

.....Postcode.....

Signature .....

**Do not send cash. Allow up to 28 days for delivery.**

**Also send a STAMPED ADDRESSED envelope (6" x 9") with your order.**

**John Munslow 01404 823456**

It was suggested by a member of the audience that Whimple would die unless further houses were built and he said that the Built Up Area Boundary should be amended to allow for this. This produced strong opposition to the idea as it is well known that developers are waiting to submit planning applications to develop land at Hindstrete. Again, it was stressed that if parishioners wanted to retain the current Built Up Area line they should state so in their response to the East Devon District Council.

The matter of Green Wedges was raised. Concern is expressed in the Local Plan that if left unchecked, one of the potential results of creeping development could be coalescence of adjacent or neighbouring settlements, villages or towns. It was suggested that a Green Wedge should be adopted from the proposed New Town area to Whimple. It was further suggested that that it needed to be extended as far as the Honiton boundary. Again parishioners should make their views known on this matter.

Concern was also expressed regarding the sewage and flooding problems which could arise especially with the two main developers involved. Agreement was expressed with Policy EN24 of the Plan which states the new development will not be permitted unless a suitable foul sewage treatment system of adequate capacity and design is available or will be provided in time to serve the development. As regards flooding, the question was asked as to the long-term policy of retention ponds, grass swales, soakaways and filter strips used. When the developer had moved on, who would be responsible for the maintenance of such systems? There was no clear answer but it was assumed it would be the Environment Agency. Building a New Town on a floodplain is going to create problems never thought of and whilst the New Town is not affected, the surrounding area for a number of miles could be very much affected. It is much appreciated that the East Devon District Council have decided to appoint a flood consultant.

Finally I expressed my opinion that the East Devon Local Plan is a well written, first class document which deals in an excellent way with the many problems created by the Devon County Structure Plan and I considered that all those concerned with the production should be congratulated.

Herbert Breyley.

*Another Big Night In! event.....*

## *Nicki & Justin Woodward.*



*This charming brother and sister duo studied at the Royal College of Music and tour extensively with the late Yehudi Menuhin's "Live Music Now!" scheme, even performing for both HRH The Prince of Wales and the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Although they perform mostly on flute (Nicki) and marimba (Justin), they also play piccolo, alto flute, panpipes, quena, Irish whistles, bottle and bucket. Their wide repertoire includes Vivaldi, Roderigo, Bartok as well as some jazz, folk and fun items. They combine their contrasting musical backgrounds to create performances that are dynamic, varied and informative.*

*Saturday 9th March at 7.30pm  
St Marys Church, Whimble*

*Tickets: £4*

*(OAP £3.50; under 16s/means-tested benefit £2.50)*

*From Whimble Post Office*

*Or phone 01404 822008*

## Poppy Appeal 2001

The Poppy Appeal in Whimble realised the sum of £1181.41, as follows:

Church Collection	£ 150.71
House to House	£ 750.00
Poppy Wreaths	£ 54.00
Jumble Sale	£ 126.70
Donations	£ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1181.41</b>

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Appeal, in particular The Rev R Wilkinson for conducting the Service on Remembrance Sunday, Mr Arthur Thompson, The Scouts and Beavers with their leaders and Mr Michael Mallett  
Frances M Pratt  
Poppy Day Organiser - Whimble

**Whimble History Society** would be pleased to give a good home to any Whimble photographs or memorabilia you may be considering disposing of. If you have any such items, please contact either Mr R Webber (tel 823038) or Mrs D Rastall (tel 822968) who will arrange for

### MEMORIES OF WHIMBLE STATION

What a pleasure this was for me to read the article in the Christmas edition. How true it all was. My father also worked at the station as a porter with Mr Toze. I can just remember it.

Thanks for the memories.

Lucy M Smith

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## P.O. - SERVICES AVAILABLE - or what we can do together!

**Personal Bankin2:** Cash cheques, pay in cash and cheques to personal accounts **free of charge** for all the following: **Lloyds/TSB, Coop, Alliance & Leicester, Barclays, Smile and Cahoot;** there is a hefty charge for cashing all other banks cheque - however it is hoped that this will change during the coming year.

**Travel Services:** Foreign Currency (commission free), even Euros! Also American Express Travellers Cheques commission free for all currencies except sterling. Payment with order by cash, building society cheque payable to Post Office Ltd., personal cheque or Debit Card (Switch with no charge from your bank, but with Delta & Solo your bank may charge), also credit card BUT you will be charged by the CC company. If paying by Debit or Credit cards bring passport or driving licence in when ordering.

**Travel Insurance** almost certainly a bit cheaper than your travel agent, and of course your **EI 1 1** free of charge.

For use nearer home the **Concessionary Bus Pass** for cheaper Devon travel for those eligible

**Phone Services:** As well as the well known

**BT phone cards** for use in telephone boxes the P. O. now offers its own

**P.O. Telephone Card** which will save a lot of money on calls made from your own phone to places abroad (e.g. Australia, U. S.A., Europe all at 5p/minute anytime of day), This card can be used from any phone including mobile and Phone boxes but really comes into it's own on use from your or anybody else's home phone.

and also **Pay-as-you Go Home Plan** which works like many others whereby you dial in a four figure number before the number you want and you get charged a lot less than you would by B. T. - for use on your home phone only.

**Bill Payment:** Those payable **free of charge** at the P. O. include: the bills of **B.T., SWEB, B.Gas., T.V. Licence, S.W.Water** (with payment card), **A.A. Insurance & Membership, E.D.D.C. Rent, Income Tax, also Empire, Littlewoods, Janet Fraser** home shopping, and many others.

Others where there may be a charge include Council Tax (25p charge), S.W. Water without payment card (30p charge), and many more such as Sky, Store Cards, T.V. Rentals, Insurance etc.

Note that if the Bank Giro Credit / payment slip says **GIROBANK TransCash** in the top left corner you can pay it at the P. O., and if you look immediately above or below the box where the payment figure is entered it will say 'Fee payable at P.O. is ??' If it says 'Standard Fee payable' the standard fee is now £1.15 which is a lot but you do get an instant receipt with no doubt as to when the posted cheque might get there! Somewhere on the payment form it usually states whether payment can be made at the P.O.

**Savin2 Stamps & Cards:** to help save towards their bills you can get B.T., S.W.Water, T.V., Magna Housing, Motor Vehicle Licence and many other savings stamps and/or payment cards which allow you to pay any amount you feel you can afford at any time so saving having to find a big sum all at once when the bill arrives. Also **SWEB Key Recharging** facility is here.

**National Savings Bank:** Ordinary & Investment Accounts - to save readily available cash at low interest, Premium Savings Bonds - no interest - but you may get lucky, Childrens Bonus Bonds - fair interest - a guaranteed and safe way to put something aside for the youngsters, Pensioners Bonds - same as the last but substitute 'oldsters' for 'youngsters'! then there are Index-Linked Bonds, Capital Bonds etc - there must be somewhere suitable with the N.S.B. to put your cash that is guaranteed safe.

**The Regular Stuff.** Stamps, Fishing Licences, Postal Orders, Payments of Pensions, Allowances and Green Giros, postage including parcels, Special Delivery, Recorded Delivery, International ordinary and registered mail, Aerogrammes, International Reply Paid Coupons and not forgetting Redirection of mail.

## from Ruth Brown's Notebook

The following incident happened soon after I arrived at Songa Hospital leprosy compound, way out in the African bushland of the Belgian Congo (now the republic of Congo). Everything was new and strange to me. I was asked to teach nursery students, and my French was very elementary so you can guess, like many others before me, it wasn't easy - but with the help and kindness of the Congolese people, and God's love and care, one can cope.

In one of the remote bush villages many miles from Songa a little boy of about five years old was taken very ill. His mother wanted to take him to a hospital but his father wouldn't hear of it, and said "we will take him to the witch doctor". So to the witch doctor they went and had to pay with a hen for a potion which was a mixture of all sorts of things that only witch doctors know about!

The little boy got worse and his mother argued with his father that she wanted to take him to a hospital. The father apparently told her to be quiet. He said that the hospital was too far away and that they should go back to the witch doctor, but the boy's mother insisted. She said that she had heard that there was a mission hospital where children were treated with good medicines and that the nurses were kind and they prayed to a God who helped to heal them. In the end the father agreed to go to the hospital, and they set off early in the morning. It was a long hot weary journey, and the father was complaining most of the way about the many kilometres they had to walk in the heat of the sun.

He was walking in front without any loads, his wife walking behind, not only carried the little boy on her back, but also carried a grass mat, a blanket, an earthenware cooking pot and possibly some bananas and manioc too, all balanced on her head. That was the custom at that time. The men had an easy time, there was no women's lib! The mother continued plodding along with the father continuing to grumble all the way.

At the end of the day as the sun was setting they arrived hot and exhausted at our Songa Seventh Day Adventist hospital. The male nurse in charge received them, and as there was no bed available they had to sleep on a grass mat on the floor. The little boy had a lot of difficulty with his breathing; we had no oxygen at that time. He was examined by the doctor who diagnosed that he had pneumonia, and prescribed antibiotics, but during the night his condition deteriorated and the night nurse called the doctor who said that he could do no more, but to go back and pray for the little boy with his parents. The nurse knelt on the floor beside the mat on which the boy lay and prayed.

The next morning, when the doctor did his early morning rounds of the



# Old Whimble Tales

Years ago when Whimble was more self-contained there was, in addition to the Post Office/grocery functioning in the house near the tethering stone in the Square, three bakeries (one where the present Post Office stands), a blacksmith, a saddler, a cobbler, a tailor and butcher's shop. The butcher's shop, now a Veterinary Clinic, was in the far corner of the Square and changed hands from the Chard to the Webber family. It was this latter owner who, frustrated by the small foot bridge over the stream, had constructed a wider bridge by the lane leading to the Scout hut. Also in the lane was the then undertaker's premises. The new bridge was used by them both. But unfortunately the bridge had an uneven surface with a small hump which forced any carriage over it to tip abruptly. It was used by the undertaker to convey coffins across to the road. No doubt in the years between the two World Wars the hearses changed from being horse-drawn to motor vehicles. These were the days before television and "Top of the Pops". Popular music was played on the radio for weeks, even months, so everyday folk whistled the tunes and sang the words as they worked. Humour and laughs were often localised. So it was that an incident in the village is remembered to this day by the butcher's son. He was present when a coffin tumbled off its trolley on his father's bridge.

Cliff Benton



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# WHIMPLE W.I.

## CHRISTMAS MEETING

"Look behind you!" There goes Whimple's wicked fairy(Sue); around the corner you might meet the King and Queen (Avril & Ann), and perhaps that is the Sleeping Princess (Pam) still asleep. They are still at large together with other members of the W. I. pantomime cast, the good fairy, Jan and the Prince, Toni, who might give you a kiss. These people much amused the W.I. audience at the close of the Christmas meeting.

The new President, Mrs. Rosemarie Burrows, had opened the proceedings on the 13th December and welcomed guests from Talaton & West Hill. We were treated to 3 Christmas demonstrations:- Mrs. Ann Bowden showed us how to make gift bags from Christmas wrapping paper, and Mrs. Toni Welch gave us plenty of ideas for table decorations using mainly greenery from the hedges with candles and coloured balls for extra effect. For really professional decoration of cakes see Mrs. Liz Roberts - she showed us how to make Christmas roses from marzipan, easy and tasty, another idea was snowmen with hats and gloves and just as tasty!

Next came refreshments with members bringing delicious food to share - and finally we laughed and sang with the 'Pantomime Group' - a really 'fun' evening!

HEO

The January meeting speaker Angela Paddy gave us a very light-hearted but fascinating talk about her life in the WRAF in the 60's. The competition for the funniest New Year's resolution was won by Avril Ellingham with "I must try to remember what I did yesterday" - a slightly worrying admission from our treasurer! Over 30 of our members had a belated Christmas meal at the Thirsty Farmer on January 15th. Many thanks go to Aliso n and Mike for laying on such an enjoyable evening.

Our informal craft afternoons continue to take place most weeks in members homes. Our February meeting will be on Dough Craft and the March meeting a talk on Corn Dollies.

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month in the Victory Hall. Anyone interested can turn u p to a meeting or contact Ann Bowden, secretary - tele phone 823450.

## MANY SAVED BY DEATH OF ONE PERSON

John Griffith was the controller of a great railway drawbridge that crossed the Mississippi river in America.

One summer's day in 1937 he took his eight year old son Greg to work with him. At noon John raised the bridge to allow ships to pass and then sat down on the observation deck with his son to eat lunch. Suddenly he was startled by the sound of a distant train. It was one o'clock and the Memphis Express with four hundred passengers on board was speeding towards the raised bridge.

He ran from the observation deck to the control tower. Before operating the master lever that would lower the bridge he glanced down to check if there were ships below. There were none, but to his horror he saw that his son Greg had fallen into the gearbox that operated the bridge. Greg's left leg was caught in the cogs of the two main gears.

John tried to devise a rescue plan, but the train was fast approaching the bridge. His only and much loved son was down there, yet there were four hundred passengers on the train. John buried his head in his left arm and pushed the master lever forward. The massive bridge lowered into place just as the Memphis Express began to roar across the river.

When John looked up, his face wet with tears, he saw the passengers in the train. Some were asleep, others were reading their newspapers, eating their meals or drinking their drinks. No one looked at the control tower and no one looked at the gearbox.

In agony John Griffith screamed out, "I sacrificed my precious son for you people - don't you care!" But the train rushed by and nobody heard the father's words.

How will we respond to the death of The Father's Son this Easter?

Revd Rob Wilkinson

## KATHLEEN STONEMAN'S WHIMPLE MEMORIES

I remember the early autumn sun of 1936 bathing the orchards across the lane with a gentle golden glow as I stood at the window of Hazel Cottage, where until then, I had spent most of my life. I remember that year especially because it was the last autumn that I would ever live there. Great clusters of cider apples, now falling and almost ready for picking up, had brought rich colour to the trees and would shortly bring much needed work for the local people who were employed by the Whiteway cider factory, either on a regular basis, or as extra hands when needed. The wages for this was about one shilling for every large hessian sack that was filled.

The work was hard and back aching, but the sound of cheerful voices calling to one another and of tunes being whistled, was very lifting. Then the lanes would be bustling with horses and carts loaded with sacks of juicy apples for the press, and many a child, myself included, would run behind, hoping to catch a stray apple or two to eat or to take home to share. Great stacks of empty cider barrels would be neatly piled both in the field opposite to our home and in just about any available space and the aroma of apples filled the air.

At its beginning, the firm of Mr Henry Whiteway would buy most of the apples from local farmers, but as demand for his lovely cider increased, so too did his orchards, and the blossoming trees surrounding Whimple were a beautiful sight to see in the spring. Many of the cottages in the village were owned by Whiteways, and I can remember groups of Italian workers coming over in 1930 to help build the cider wells. The firm was always very kind and caring to their employees. My sister Dorothy (Doll) and her husband Norman Jamieson, worked there for many years.

My mother, Rose, was born at Railway Cottages at Slewtown, in 1887, the daughter of Sarah, nee Darch (whose family were well known wholesale greengrocers) and my grandfather Wheaton, who worked as a ganger on the railway. They had six children, and later moved to Hazel Cottage near The Green. Attached to the cottage was a large linnhay, which must, I think, have previously been a slaughterhouse. I can remember when I was a child, the red stains still there, tracing a path out into a gutter, though happily, my father only filled it with freshly chopped sticks and logs for the fire. At one period, an ashfelt apron was laid in front of the cottage to accommodate a post box.

My father, George Browne, worked for the Post Office, and although originally from Moretonhampstead, his job brought him to Whimple where he worked as sub post master. The post office, then, (in 1905) was also a saddler's shop called Breyley's. It was here that he met, and later married my mother, Rose. He joined The Durham Light Infantry to fight in the 1914-18 war, leaving my mother with three small children and

myself on the way. It must have been a very worrying time. However, he returned home unharmed, and continued to run the post office until 1931. I remember how we children used to run or cycle in and around the village and surrounding area to deliver telegrams. (No mobile phones in those days!)

Towards the end of the First World War, my brother Bill took on the delivery of the Express and Echo paper. As I recollect, he braved the task for about two weeks, after which time it somehow became my mother's responsibility, and stayed as such for the next 45 years until one winter, failing health prevented her from making further deliveries. The papers would arrive at the railway station in those early days. We called it the Paper Train, and I well remember the long kitchen table in the cottage heaped with Echos for workers at Whiteways who lived outside of the village. They would open the little door (which was never locked), walk in and help themselves or stay for a chat if we were home. When mother retired, an article in the Echo referred to her as 'The lady with the lamp', describing how she would often take a candlelit lantern with her as she trudged across the fields, sometimes accompanied by my father, who, it says, would stop at one of the farms, for a welcome glass of farmhouse cider!

I remember Bertie Kenwood the blacksmith, hammering away; Webber's the butchers; the multi talented Mr Henry Lewis who managed to be not only the coalman and local builder, but also the funeral director. When our shoes needed repairing, we took them to Lew Baker but it was the real bakers' shops I liked best and we had three of them in those days, where we could buy seven lovely sticky buns for 6d!

The church on Sundays was well attended, and I recall proudly wearing my Sunday best marina blue coat to listen to the Rev. Jullyan's weekly sermon, the colour being very fashionable the year the Duke of Kent married Princess Marina.

I have fond memories of the village school, and the happy years I spent there with my best friend, Betty Coleman (later Chard) who was a farmer's daughter, and several of my Wheaton cousins. The headmaster was Mr Perry, and later when he retired, Mr and Mrs Trott, who were both teachers, took over and lived in School House. There were quite a lot of children at the school in those days, though not all of them from our village. Some came from as far away as Talaton. I remember our first shaky attempts at cookery, which were always taken in the Victory Hall, and our proud offerings which found their way to the tea-table at home, or perhaps even the stalls at the annual village fete. The fete always boasted a marvellous band, which I especially loved to listen to. There was also a gymkhana, various races for dogs on leads, as well as for children. It was held at different places, Aller Grove and the cricket field ~~to name but two, and it always seemed to be sunny!~~

Before he left school, my brother Bill used to help Mr Pyne who delivered the milk. He also became a great friend of Mr Coles, the local gamekeeper, who taught him how to call a wild buzzard to come to him,