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# *Whimble News*

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## **Christmas 2000**

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## What's on in Whimble

### December

|  |                   |              |
|--|-------------------|--------------|
| 1st Over 65's Christmas Party                | Victory Hall      | 7 for 7.30pm |
| 2nd OSM Choral Society - Vivaldi's Gloria    | OSM Parish Church | 7.30pm       |
| 3rd Advent Carol service                     | St. Mary's church | 6.30pm       |
| 8th Whimble Primary School Christmas Auction | Victory Hall      |              |
| 7.30pm                                       |                   |              |
| 9th Goldilocks - puppet show & party tea     | Victory Hall      | 3.00pm       |
| 10th Christingle service                     | St. Mary's church | 3.00pm       |
| 15th Christmas Bingo                         | Cricket Club      | 7.30pm       |
| 21st Youth Club Christmas Disco              | Victory Hall      | 8.00pm       |
| 24th Christmas Eve 'Carols in the Square'    | Village Square    | 7.30pm       |
| 31st Chef's Carved Buffet (Tickets)          | Thirsty Farmer    | 8.30pm       |
| 31st New Year's Eve in The Square            | Village Square    | 11.45pm      |

### January

17 Wassailing - watch out for details from History Society

**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 Vicky Stewart on 823374.**

### St Mary's Church Monthly Programme of Services

|     |        |         |   |
|-----|--------|---------|---|
| 1st | Sunday | 8am     | Holy Communion                                |
|     |        | 11am    | Family Service                                |
| 2nd | Sunday | 11am    | Parish Communion                              |
| 3rd | Sunday | 8am     | Holy Communion                                |
|     |        | 10.30am | Service with a Smile                          |
| 4th | Sunday | 11am    | Parish Communion                              |
| 5th | Sunday | 8am     | Holy Communion or<br>Joint Benefice Communion |

for Christmas services see centre pages

## The Whimble News Team

### Editor

Peter Smith 822828

### Production

Bob Scanlan 822262

Vivienne Leonard 822415

### Delivery

Nicky Hitchcock 823194

Ed Hitchcock 823194

### Advertising

Miles Leonard 822415

Jill Wilson 823339

### Community diary

Vicky Stewart 823374

### Treasurer

Miles Leonard 822415





**Coffee Morning for Diabetes UK**

A huge thank-you to all those smashing people who braved the showers and helped raise £106 For Diabetes UK, on Friday 17th November at Knowle Cross Cottage. A special Thank-you to those who baked cakes and helped out on the day.

**Antoinette Welch**

**Ruth Brown**

Ruth Brown wishes to thank all her friends and the people of Whimble for their prayers, visits, cards, letters etc subsequent to her accident and stay in hospital. Everyone has been so kind. Thank you and God Bless you All.

Many thanks to all those residents who bought tickets in the Raffle and all those who sold tickets. The sum of £650 was raised for the Whimble Heritage Centre Building Fund.

It was sad to learn that our village school has been broken into twice recently and cash and computers stolen.

The police are still investigating but as yet there is no news on who the culprits may be.

**LOST**

**White cat called 'Buffy' Shorthaired with odd patches of grey tabby micro chipped**



**Editorial**

I hope you enjoy this issue of Whimble News which, including our valued "regulars", has a seasonal flavour. I'm looking forward to the carol singing on Christmas Eve and the get together on New Years Eve in the Square. Christmas and New Year opening times are shown in the centre pages.

Since the last edition, we have said goodbye to Fred and Pat running the shop (although it's good that they are still part-time in the village) and to Keith and Janet Feltham who are shortly moving to Plymouth. I'm hoping we will be able to include an interview with Keith in the next issue. We are grateful for the valued contribution they have all made to our life in Whimble.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for your support for Whimble News over the past year and to wish and yours a Christmas full of joy and a peaceful New Year.

Please do continue to let us have your news and views. Articles for the next issue should be with Gordon at the Post Office or sent by e-mail to Bob (bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk) by 22nd January.

Peter Smith

## FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Heap on more wood the wind is shrill  
 But let it whistle as it will  
 We'll keep our Christmas merry still  
 England was merry England, when  
 Old Christmas brought its sport again  
 T'was Christmas brought in mightiest ale  
 T'was Christmas told the merriest tale.  
 Sir Walter Scott

The Christmas log was one of the most important events of the festive season celebrations when England was merry England. The Scandinavians observed the festival of Juul during the Winter solstice (21st December). Like so many of the ancient pagan customs in celebration of the beginning of winter, the burning of the log was continued by Christians to celebrate the nativity. The burning of the log was a symbolic gesture of linking the old and the new, one year with another, the past and present. Once the log was lit it had to be kept burning.

At the centre of almost every family in England stands a richly decorated fir tree at Christmastide. It stands there proudly until Twelfth Night, the Feast of Epiphany, when the Three Kings brought their gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh, to the stable when the infant Jesus lay.

Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
 Incense doth their God disclose  
 Gold the King of King proclaimest  
 Myrrh his sepulchre foreshows

Have you ever stopped in your thoughts and wondered how we came by our Christmas trees? and how the custom began? I remember so well as children when our dear mother had us spellbound and enthralled by the legend of the Christmas tree.

Once upon a time, a Devon-born monk from Crediton who, as a missionary, travelled Europe to proclaim the Christian faith, and was ultimately martyred and proclaimed a saint, Wilfred of Crediton was travelling with his fellow missionaries in a very thick forest in Thuringen Germany. He strode like a patriarch of the Old Testament when he suddenly discovered a pagan holy place where he witnessed an act of idolatry which incensed him. Under a great oak tree, an

## Organisations in Whimble

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <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, Branch and Womens Section.</b>         |              |
| <i>Chairman:</i> Mrs. F. Pratt, Sandfords                       | 822451       |
| <b>St. Mary's Church</b>  |              |
| <i>Contact:</i> David Rastall, Killigarth, Church Road          | 822486       |
| <i>Contact:</i> Raymond Burrough, Gateshayes Farm               | 822257       |
| <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>                                  |              |
| Mr. R.J. Shepherd   | 822076       |
| <b>Whimble Mothers Union</b>                                    |              |
| Mrs. D. Rastall, Killigarth, Church Road                        | 822486       |
| <b>Whimble Pre-School &amp; Toddler Group</b>                   |              |
| <i>Chair:</i> Mrs. Sarah Griffin, Hillcroft, Church Rd.         | 823265       |
| <i>New admissions/Playleader:</i> Sue Solf 1, Hillside, Talaton | 822981       |
| <b>Whimble Womens Institute</b>                                 |              |
| <i>Secretary:</i> Mrs. Rosemarie Burrows, Higher Slewton        | 822422       |
| <b>Whimble Over Sixties Club</b>                                |              |
| Mrs. Lin Carder, 18 Dince Hill Close                            | 822538       |
| <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 Youth Club</b>                                       |              |
| <i>Chairman:</i> Pam Scanlan Albecq, The Green                  | 822262       |
| <i>Leader:</i> Alison Lawry, Willowbrook, Whimble               | 822292       |
| <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 Committee</b>                |              |
| <i>Secretary:</i> Cathy Bartlett-Horwood, 57 Grove Road         | 822965       |
| <i>Booking Sec:</i> Mrs. P. Weeks, Briar Cottage, Church Rd.    | 822674       |
| <b>Whimble Post Office</b>                                      |              |
| Gordon & Heather Owen   | 822359       |
| <b>Whimble News</b>   |              |
| Peter Smith, Lawn End, Church Road                              | 822828       |
| <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> John Spencer                        | 822788       |
| <i>Scout Leader:</i> Adam Bird                                  | 813923       |
| <i>Cub Scout Leader :</i> Rachel Hutt                           | 01395 267846 |
| <i>Beaver Scout Leader</i> Valerie Bond                         | 822473       |
| <i>Marquee Booking Sec :</i> Mrs. Mary McConnell                | 822729       |

Jan Keslake

I.T.E.C. M.I.P.T.I.



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or telephone Val, Angela or Cathy on 01392 466643

**One Day Workshops**

Saturday 10th February

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3D Decoupage          | Feng Shui             |
| Furniture Restoration | Intro to Spreadsheets |
| Mosaic                | Psychology of Sport   |
| Quilling & Embossing  | Reflexology           |
| Style & You           | Surfing the Net       |
| Tai Chi               | Silk Painting         |
|                       | Yoga                  |

assembly of men were ready to sacrifice a young boy to appease their pagan gods as was the custom in their rites of idolatry. Wilfred now known as 'Boniface doer of Good' always travelled with a great axe and at the view of that sacrifice of a young life was so upset that he cut down the great oak tree with tremendous force and thus saved the life of that poor trembling lad. To Boniface's amazement, he saw a small fir tree with its dark glossy needles and according to the legend told his followers that this small tree would become the symbol of an important Christian festival and would herald the birth of Christ. In years to come he also predicted that this tree would adorn every Christian home to celebrate the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. So if amid the celebration and rejoicing at Christmas, you have a moment of peace and quiet, spare a thought for that monk from Crediton who later became St. Boniface

I often wonder who wrote the first Christmas carol. No one seems to know. All we can be certain of, is the first book of carols was published by Wynkyn de Worde, a pupil of Caxton, who carried on the business of printing when the father of English printing died in 1491. Silent Night, a carol which many of us will be singing this Christmas might never have been written if mice had not decided to invade the organ loft of a church in Hochburg Austria. The year was 1818 and Father Joseph Nohr had written words for a new carol. But when he came to set it to music, he found that mice had nibbled through the organ bellows. Disappointedly, he told the schoolmaster Franz Gruber of his problem with mischievous mice. Being a guitar player Gruber appreciated the dilemma of not being able to try out a tune on the keyboard, so he quickly produced a tune on his own instrument, setting Father Mohls words. And so Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht - Silent night was born. Perhaps had he known of the sweet legend of the cat who by his purring made little boy Jesus go into a peaceful slumber, he would not have had mice nibbling at the organ bellows. The legend goes on saying that Mary, his dear mother still exhausted from the long journey in search of a place of confinement, was so grateful to the cat that she caressed his forehead. Ever since then all cats have a mark on their forehead: an M for Mary. It is quite visible.

Peace on earth and good will to men  
From Heavens all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

I send heartfelt wishes to all my readers, hoping they will have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Edith M.J. Grout



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING DON'T LET THE THIEF GET FAT!

East Devon has an very enviable record for the incidence of burglaries - last year there was only a 1 in 200 chance that your property would be stolen. But let's see if we can all do even better in 2001 by taking a few steps to make our property and goods more secure.

We all know that by simply making our homes unattractive to a thief we decrease the chance of being burgled. When away from home, windows and doors should be secured, with valuable items locked in sheds and garages. At night curtains drawn and a light on and a radio left on tuned to Radio 4 is a good idea.

Even taking all precautions you can still be unlucky and be the victim of a burglary, so **have you taken all the steps necessary** to hopefully get your belongings back if the thief is caught?

**CONTENTS INSURANCE** - so many people have either insufficient or no cover for their contents. With Christmas coming there could also be valuable presents in your home ready for Santa to deliver on Christmas night. **Would you be able to describe the items to the police or insurance company if they were stolen?**

**INVENTORY** - make a New Year's resolution to update/take an inventory of your valuables, noting any serial numbers, make and model numbers, colour, size, other features etc that would help to identify your goods.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC/VIDEO RECORD** - Furniture, paintings, jewellery and other goods that have high value, antique or sentimental value should also be recorded by camera/camcorder and stored in a safe place.

**POSTCODING MARKING** - Hard items like bicycles/lawnmower etc should be postcode marked. So EX5 2QA-44 enables the police to identify that the property comes from 44 Slewton Crescent, Whimble. Did you know that stamping die sets are available for loan from the Devon Library Service?

**ULTRA VIOLET PEN MARKING** - Invisibly marking items with an ultra violet pen is very useful, using the postcode **plus the house number or name**. It is very helpful to the police in trying to return stolen goods. The pens are widely available through stationers and Gordon at the Post Office has a small stock for sale at 30p each. (*First come first served*).

I hope the above prompting does not worry you, and I would re-emphasise that we do live in **a relatively safe area**, but everything can be improved?

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.**

John Munslow 01404 823456

Secretary 4 Area Neighbourhood Watch Forum  
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## WHIMPLE W.I.

Question: Who has a screwdriver, a piece of carpet and a key to all the disabled toilets in England in their bag?

Answer: Members of the W.I. who travel prepared for anything!

This we found out after the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday November 14th in the Village Hall. Reports were read on the past years activities, and thanks proposed to Mrs Y Roberts, the Treasurer, and Mr Beard for Auditing the accounts. The President, Mrs Lucy Smith, and the Committee were thanked for their enthusiasm and hard work. Mrs Smith was re-elected as next years President, but she suggested that members should consider someone else for the following year.

The December meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th and will be a Bring and Share Buffet. A New Years meal was proposed for January.

It was announced that there was to be a small rise in the Annual Subscription but it still proved excellent value for all the opportunities it provided including the monthly W.I. Newsletter.

The evening closed after tea and biscuits with handy home hints such as going to work to avoid cleaning the home! and the aforementioned unusual handbag items.  
H.O.

## Whimble pre-school play school

The Whimble pre-school play school, based at the Victory Hall, has been praised by Ofsted for the quality of its teaching staff who, said the report, provided excellent coverage of the six areas of learning.

It said "The quality of teaching is excellent. It is a happy and friendly atmosphere, children are encouraged to take turns, show independence and have high self-esteem".



Well done!

## NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER

Well it is nearly here - so Heather and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that all your wishes for 2001 come true.

Computer - electric supply thereto - two men from Cleethorpes - one hole half way through the wall - thats it - no cable yet installed - so still the boxes are unwed - but they still say we will have the equipment installed in January.....we'll see!

Re: Christmas - the Post Office will be open all the usual hours

EXCEPT we will be CLOSED Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th December AND Monday 1st January 2001.

On our hols we went to the Dome (yes we did..) and to the Tate Modern - entrance to the dome cost money and entrance to the Tate was free - the Dome was better value (in my Philistinian opinion) but you really must go to the Tate Modern where you will find things to entrance and enthral you - oh not the exhibits (which are utter rubbish) but the description alongside each which describe both the artist and the work - the most pretentious balderdash it has been my privilege to encounter!

Did you know there is a facility on some computers for a PING - a packet internet groper (its true believe it or not). I dare not guess what it does!

Tuesday October 31st we said farewell to Fred and Pat running the shop. The collection made over £220 and we were able to present them with a beautiful Waterford Crystal vase engraved 'Pat & Fred from the village of Whimble 31.10.2000' and also a suitcase (no hint intended), a model of a Sheltie dog and a bunch of flowers. All in all I think they were touched by your generosity and hope to enjoy their retirement between here and Australia.

Don't forget you can carry out Lloyds, Barclays, Cooperative, Alliance & Leicester, Smile and Cahoot private account banking transactions in the P.O. .save your feet from the Exeter crush and cash in (or out) here!

The common cormorant or shag  
Lays eggs inside a paper bag.  
The reason you will see, no doubt,  
It is to keep the lightning out,  
But what these unobservant birds  
Have never noticed is that herds  
Of wandering bears may come with buns  
And steal the bags to hold the crumbs.

Finally to bring a smile - a poem from that most prolific of poets - Anon.  
Well I like it!

All the very best from GO at the PO



## The History of 'Whimble'

Whimble is perhaps over two thousand years old. According to some sources the name is Celtic from Gwynpwl, Gwyn being white or holy; pwl being pool or stream. Another source gives the derivation as the Celtic Gwypwl loosely interpreted as Fair Stream. Looking at the Square with its stream running under the road it is not difficult to imagine a pool or watersplash [too shallow to be a ford] by the Church standing as it does on higher ground.

In the Domesday book of 1085, in Latin, reference occurs to Winpole. owned from 1066, together with some 500 acres, by Baldwins wife. Other places mentioned in the Domesday book were Larkbeare, Strete, Churchill, Cobden, Southbrook and Beaudport which is a no longer existing hamlet. The History Society has a hand-made notebook dated 1745 of the Reeve who wrote "in Beaudport is a dwelling built over a former chapel in which whoever lives would have no good fortune".

Although a history is not recorded, it is reasonable to suppose that Whimble had a small wooden church on the existing site in Saxon times. A pleasant spot on the western slope of a ridge dividing the Otter and Clyst valleys watered by several streams, beside which they built their huts, and on a slight ridge between the two streams they built a little two cell church.

Farming has been the lifeblood of the village for centuries. Flax was common at one time, followed by Hops in the early 1800s. Whimble in the 19th century had a Brick and Tile works at Strete Raleigh, where the Brick cooling building still stands in its new position by the new A30. There was also a Tannery, referred to as a Tan Pit on the Tithe map of 1857. Latterly Cyder making predominated. Now, as machinery is replacing men in agriculture, Whimble is becoming urbanised with growing housing developments.

Cliff Benton

## BRAINTEASER

One to ponder over Christmas except for the clever ones who will get it in minutes:

"An insurance man knocks on the door of a home in a housing estate. When a lady answers he asks "How many children do you have?" She replies, "Three." When he asks "What are their ages?" she decides that he is too cheeky and refuses to tell him After he apologises for his apparent rudeness, he asks for a hint regarding the children's ages.

She says, "If you multiply their ages together you get 36." (Their ages are exact numbers.) He thinks for a while and then asks for another hint.

When she says, "The sum of their ages is the number of the house next door," he immediately jumps over the fence to determine this number. This done he returns to the lady and asks for one last hint. "All right," she says, "the eldest plays the piano!" He then knows their ages." Do you?

Answer to the last brainteaser:

Alice = 'A', Bob = 'B', Charlie = 'C', Deirde = 'D'

|                        |            |            |          |
|------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 'A' & 'B' cross time - | 2 mins. -  | total time | 2 mins.  |
| 'A' returns -          | 1 min. -   | total time | 3 mins.  |
| 'C' & 'D' cross* -     | 10 mins. - | total time | 13 mins. |
| 'B' returns -          | 2 mins. -  | total time | 15 mins. |
| 'A' & 'B' cross -      | 2 mins. -  | total time | 17 mins. |

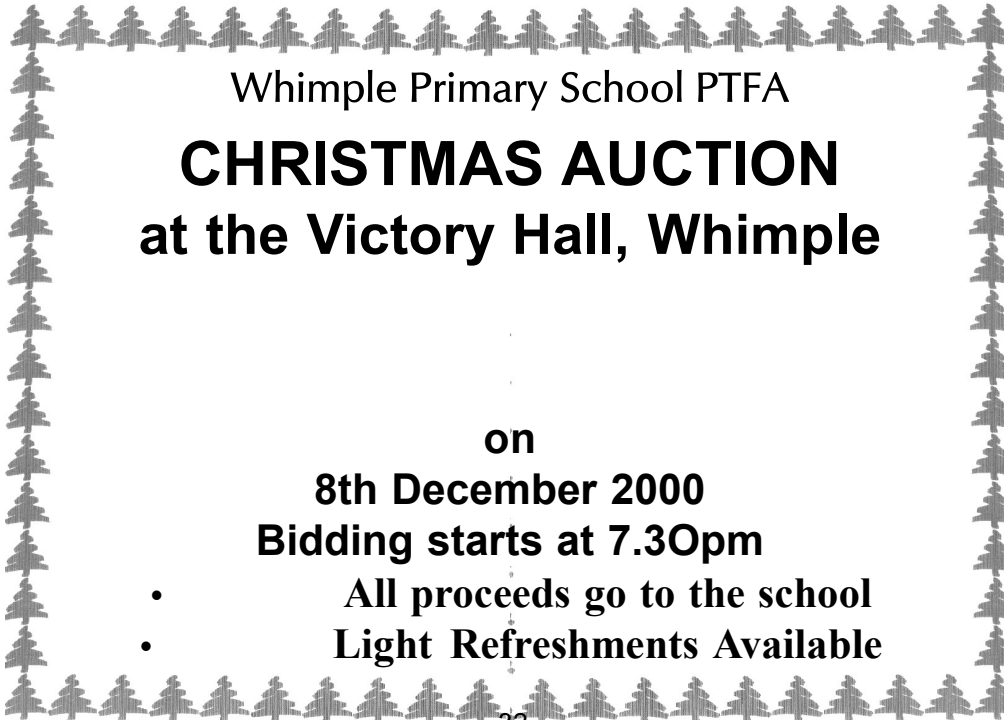
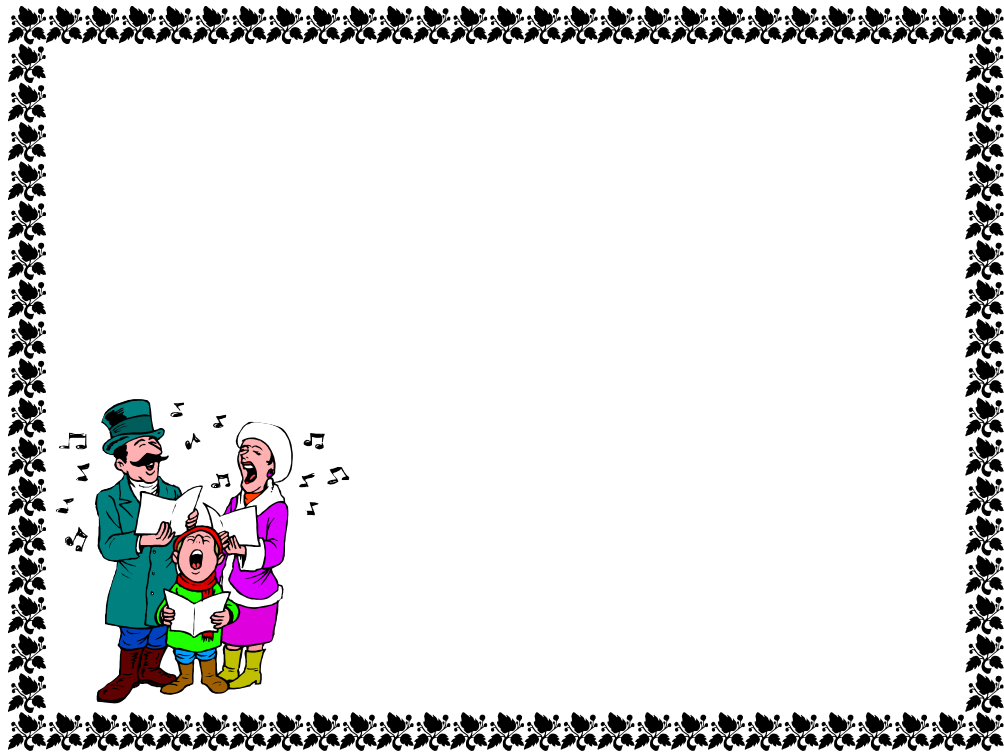
(\* usually, it is seeing this move that is the problem)

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Whimpe Primary School PTFA

# **CHRISTMAS AUCTION** **at the Victory Hall, Whimpe**

on  
**8th December 2000**  
**Bidding starts at 7.30pm**

- **All proceeds go to the school**
- **Light Refreshments Available**



Give your children, friends, aunts,  
uncles,  
parents, grandparents a treat  
and bring them to

## **Goldilocks** **and the** **Three** **Bears**

*Followed by*  
*a Party Tea*

**On Saturday 9th December at 3.00pm**  
**at Whimpe Village Hall**

This well known story gets a twist in the tale from Frank Muir's re-telling of the story of a small bear, a medium sized bear, an enormous bear and a girl with problem hair. Actors, puppets and live music combine in Ken Haines new show that is a guaranteed crowd pleaser.

Tickets (includes Party Tea): £3.50 (Child £2.00),  
Family £9.00 (£7.00 conc - (2 Adults + 2 Children, or 1+3))  
Get your tickets at Whimpe Post Office.

## Help With Your New Year's Resolution

### 10 Rules on how to combine a successful diet with life as a normal human being!

1. If you eat something and no one sees you then the food has no calories.
2. When you eat with someone else, the calories do not count if they eat more than you do.
3. If you drink a diet cola with a chocolate bar, the diet cola cancels the calories in the chocolate.
4. Broken biscuits contain no calories - the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
5. Food used for medicinal purposes never counts; e.g. hot chocolate for relaxation; brandy for fortification; toast and cheesecake as antidepressants.
6. It is recommended that you fatten up everyone around you so that you appear slimmer.
7. Food licked off cutlery or out of a bowl has no calories if you are following a recipe e.g. butter icing on a cake; the remains of scone mixture; cream for the top of a trifle.
8. T.V. and cinema food contain no calories as they are part of the whole entertainment package.
9. Foods of the same colour have the same number of calories, e.g. spinach and mint ice cream; mushrooms and white chocolate; water and a large gin and tonic.
10. Athletes eat huge amounts of pasta before races like the marathon. It's a myth that you have to run 26 miles to work it off. One brisk trot round the settee is quite sufficient to wipe out one bowl of spaghetti. Twice round the living room will use up so much energy that a chocolate bar is required to supplement your sugar level and rebuild your strength.

## Rubbish Collection




### Revised dates over Christmas and New Year

| Normal collection day   | > Revised collection      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday 25th December    | > Wednesday 27th December |
| Tuesday 26th December   | > Thursday 28th December  |
| Wednesday 27th December | > Friday 29th December    |
| Thursday 28th December  | > Saturday 30th December  |
| Friday 29th December    | > Tuesday 2nd January     |
| Monday 1st January      | > Wednesday 3rd January   |
| Tuesday 2nd January     | > Thursday 4th January    |
| Wednesday 3rd January   | > Friday 5th January      |
| Thursday 4th January    | > Saturday 6th January    |
| Friday 5th January      | > Monday 8th January      |
| Monday 8th January      | > Tuesday 9th January     |
| Tuesday 9th January     | > Wednesday 10th January  |
| Wednesday 10th January  | > Thursday 11th January   |
| Thursday 11th January   | > Friday 12th January     |
| Friday 12th January     | > Saturday 13th January   |

Monday 1st January - back to normal

## Recycling Collection starting after Christmas

The normal fortnightly pattern for all collections will change as follows:

-  There will be no collections during the week Monday 25th December to Friday 29th December inclusive.
-  If your collection was due on the above week it will be collected instead during the week beginning Monday 1st January on the same day as usual and then fortnightly after that.
-  If your collection was due on the week beginning Monday 1st January it will be collected instead during the week beginning Monday 8th January and then fortnightly after that.

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## Old Whimple Tales

Times have changed, and nowadays the main road has been re-routed. But the Hand and Pen crossroads still exist and it was in the years just after the first World War, that some rather odd behaviour could be seen.

In the area known as Strete there lived two wealthy spinster sisters. As witness of their period they continued to wear long dresses, but as a sign of their more modern outlook they ran a car. It was an open type with folding hood. Frequently one or other, alone in the car, on the way to the village square would stop as they reached the crossroads. Then, in complete contrast to even today's behaviour, the driver would get out of her car, walk to the main road and carefully look both ways. Satisfied that the road was clear, she would then walk back to the car and drive straight across with no hesitation.

Around the same time a local farmer was blessed with a baby son and received from the ladies a potted plant by way of a present. It was placed in the hallway of the farmhouse. Sometime later, after a pig wandered into their front garden, one of the sisters came over to complain and without any discussion picked up the plant and left. On another occasion the elder sister stormed into the schoolhouse and demanded of the headmaster, Mr Lewis, where her car was, not being in the schoolyard. The sister had the car keys in her hand and insisted she came in the car. It was not in Whimple Square either, and so she finally walked home in high dudgeon, only to find the car had not moved from the house in Strete.

Cliff Benton

## Interested in Art?

Is anyone interested in an informal art group in the village, in the New Year?

No tuition planned or available, just an inexpensive local venue mid-week for all and any wishing to paint, draw, or use any other medium. It will be in the Victory Hall, on Wednesdays, 19:00 - 21:00. Bring your own materials.

Refreshments available.

Contact Graham Gibbons, Beam Cottage, Church Road (tel. 822534)

## New Year's Eve in the Square

Last year, on the Millennium Eve, many villagers gathered in the Square to see in the New Year together, by candlelight. This event, with the ringing of the church bells, the attendant fireworks, mulled wine and good cheer, was enjoyed by all and was an unqualified success.

Following those tremendously successful Millennium celebrations, a number of people have said that they thought it a good idea to repeat the event this year and perhaps in future make it a regular feature of our village life, so:

Come and join us in the Square  
At around 11.45pm on New Year's Eve  
Bring candles to light your way  
Hear the church clock chime midnight  
The church bells will be rung  
to welcome the New Year  
We will sing 'Auld Lang Syne' together  
There will be mulled wine and fireworks  
(The church will be open if wet)

A coin collection is being made to provide fireworks for this event. With this in mind there are a number of collection jars placed in local facilities. We are not looking for large donations but any small change you would like to drop into the collection boxes would be appreciated.

Jan and John Discombe will be providing mulled wine at the Jays. I think that they would welcome some bottles to add to their supply.

Much of the appeal of last year's event was its spontaneity so it is not intended to make this a highly organised occasion, simply to build on the success of last year.

**Bob Scanlan**

## 2000 - The Wettest Autumn Ever?

Several meteorologists have suggested that the autumn (September/October/November) rainfall this year has been the heaviest, probably since records began. Of course this may be so in some areas but how about here in Whimple?

In Whimple, on 25th November when this is being written, with 5 days of November remaining, 15.96 inches (399mm) of rain has been recorded for the three month period September, October and November compared to the same period in each of the last three years:

|      |              |          |
|------|--------------|----------|
| 1999 | 14.08 inches | (352 mm) |
| 1998 | 14.40 inches | (360 mm) |
| 1997 | 11.40 inches | (285 mm) |

Incredibly, the wettest autumn rainfall in Whimple over the past 30 years took place in 1976, the so called 'year of the drought'. For the five months period from April to August only 3.7 inches (92 mm) of rain was recorded to be followed by September, October, November with 18.06 inches (451 mm).

With five days of November remaining and rain forecast, autumn 2000 may well become the wettest in Whimple, but it will require something over 2 inches.

We have seen some very heavy rain this autumn. The heaviest days rain occurred on Guy Fawkes day, November 5th, when 1.64 inches (41 mm) fell. This however is well short of that which occurred on the day of the floods three years ago. On August 7th 1997 a full 3 inches (75 mm) fell in just one day, and resulting severe flooding in the centre of the village, Lower Woodhayes, Lillypond lane and along the Green.

For the year to date a total of 36.60 inches (915 mm) has fallen

|              |      |       |          |
|--------------|------|-------|----------|
| Compared to: | 1999 | 35.78 | (894 mm) |
|              | 1998 | 38.92 | (973 mm) |
|              | 1997 | 33.96 | (849 mm) |

for the same period.

Although there is no doubt that we have had a very wet autumn, it is far from sure that this year go down in the record books as the wettest ever.

Ken Burrows

## WHIMPLE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

You are probably aware that the Rev. Keith Feltham, Parish Priest, has retired from the ministry and in due course will be leaving Whimple. His last service, the Remembrance Day service, was held on Sunday 12 November.

At the Family Service held on the previous Sunday he was presented with an engraved Dartington glass fruit bowl and his wife Janet, with a floral tribute.

It is sad that ill health forces Keith to retire early but we understand that he will continue living in the village for a while longer yet. We wish both Keith and Janet a long and happy retirement.

Services will continue as normal during the interregnum (see frontispiece for monthly programme of services and the Benefice Magazine for more detailed information).

Enquiries normally directed to the Rev. Feltham should for the period of the interregnum, be directed to the Churchwardens, David Rastall (822486) or Raymond Burrough (822257) who will advise or redirect as appropriate.

Hopefully, we may not be too long without a parish priest. Discussion has recently taken place between Clyst St Lawrence, Talaton and Whimple PCCs, the Archdeacon and Rural Dean, so the wheels are already turning.

Those living close to the church will have noticed that the clock has not been chiming. The pivot on the striking hammer had become worn and to keep it operational would have prevented the bells being rung. Repairs have now been carried out and we have a chiming clock again!

Additional quartz heaters have been installed throughout the nave and chancel and so all heaters in the centre of the church now match and provide much more warmth. Cupboards are being constructed and fitted in the north west corner of the church. These are being built from the wood from pews removed to create the display area. Funding of these projects has been possible as we have been holding gifts from benefactors to be used for purposes

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# Whimble History Society



The Whimble Heritage Centre is one step nearer to reality with the signing of the contract to purchase a property in the grounds of The New Fountain Inn on Thursday 26th October, 2000. Our grateful thanks are due to everyone who has helped us to raise sufficient funds over the last four years to enable us to make this acquisition.

Lockyears Linhay was originally erected around 140 years ago by the Landlord of the Inn at the time, John Lockyear. The building, which is within the conservation area, is to be restored and eventually extended to house the parish archives and provide an area for displaying the wealth of material which has been donated for preservation by Parishioners over the years.

Having already received outline permission, the next step is to apply for full planning consent and then set about raising funds to carry out the restoration work. The Auction Evening on 27th October raised £829 which is a welcome boost to our bank balance and once the Architects plans are approved we shall be able to set about applying for grants. The Heritage Lottery Fund has given us no grounds for optimism with a verbal NO to our request for funding when they were approached by telephone. Perhaps a domed roof on the top might be the key to releasing a few coppers for our Good Cause!!!

Once the plans are complete it is our intention to have an open exhibition of the model and plans in order to explain the project in detail. This is likely to be in the New Year and everyone will be invited to attend.

**John Shepherd, Chairman**

## Whimble Parish Council

Please could you let the Parish Council know if you would use or find more convenient an hourly bus service into the village. We are wanting to request that the hourly service to the Hand and Pen is extended to pick up in Whimble Village.

The Parish Council would also like to invite organisations in the village to apply for small grants from the Parish Council. Please provide us with details of your organisation and what the grant is to be used for.

The Parish Council are looking for a volunteer to be the Honiton Ring and Ride representative - will involve attending meetings (usually in Honiton at lunch time) and reporting back.

Contact Amanda Newman on 823385

## Whimble Youth club

I am happy to report that the Youth Club is going very well. Alison, our new leader, has bought some new equipment, and the young people now seem happy with the new regime.

We have been fortunate in having two volunteers come forward to help out regularly, but we still need help from parents willing to help occasionally. Please let me know if, and when, you can help.

We are also extremely short of committee members and I would be grateful for more parents to come forward to join the committee. It is not an onerous commitment, we only meet about once a term. However it is essential that we have a full Management Committee in order to qualify for our grant from the Devon Youth Forum without which there could be no Youth Club.

This term, Youth Club will finish on Thursday 14th December and will re-open on Thursday 4th January 2001.

There will be a Christmas Disco on Thursday 21st December from 8.00pm til 11.00pm. This is open to all young people aged 12 - 19. You do not have to be a member. Watch out for posters giving you further details. Any parents who would like to help please phone me on 822262.

Happy Christmas to you all and let's hope for a prosperous New Year for the club!

**Ram Scanlan, Chairman**

