

# *Whimble News*

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April/May 2002

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# What's on in Whimple

## April

6th	Easter Bingo	Victory Hall	7.30pm
6th	Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir	Ottery Church	7.30pm
9th	W I meeting	Victory Hall	7.30pm
13th	Scouts Jumble Sale	Scout Hut	2.30pm
17th	Annual Church Meeting	Victory Hall	7.30pm
20th	WI Coffee Morning	Victory Hall	10-12pm
23rd	WI Open meeting	Victory Hall	7.30pm
26th	History Society, Railways in E Devon	Victory Hall	7.30pm
27th	Conservative Association Coffee Morning	Victory Hall	10.00am
27th	Judas Maccabeus	Ottery Church	7.30pm

## May

3rd	Wine Tasting	Cricket Club	8.00pm
10th	VPA Plant Sale, Coffee Evening	Victory Hall	7.30pm
12th	Working Party	Tennis Club	10.30am
11th	Plant Sale, Coffee Morning	Furze Hill	10.30am
16th	VPA outing to Rosemoor		
18th	Morning Coffee (and every Saturday)	Whimple Church	10.15am
26th	Summer Social Evening	Tennis Club	6.30pm

## June

1st	Jubilee Barn Dance	Victory Hall	7.00pm
2nd	Parish Picnic	Cricket Club	12.15pm
3-4th	Golden Jubilee Exhibition	Victory Hall	
3rd	Lighting Jubilee Beacon	Knowle Hill	
11th	WI outing	Victory Hall	
15th	Church Fete	Dince Hill House	2.15pm

## July

7-14th Village Week

## August

10th VPA Flower Show Victory Hall

## St Mary's Church

### Monthly Programme of Services

1st	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	Family Service
2nd	Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
3rd	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Service with a Smile
4th	Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
5th	Sunday	11am	Joint Benefice Communion

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

## **From the Editor**

Spring has come and it's good to be able to be able to enjoy the flowers and lighter evenings. I'm sure many of us will also be looking forward to being able to get outside more as summer comes. This edition of Whimble News gives details of quite a few Village events which are due to take place over the coming months – a keen sign of the active community life we enjoy in Whimble.

We would like to welcome Annie and Lynda who joined the "News" team from this issue. Do please let me or another team member know if you might be interested or would like to find out more. We aim to serve the Whimble community but are also keen to have fun in doing it!

We need lots of differing items – news, views, events or items of community interest – for our next issue covering June and July. Please could contributions be left at the Post Office or sent by email to [bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk) by 13 May.

with good wishes

**Peter**

Whimble 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)  
Articles are published in good faith but do not necessarily express the views of the News Team who seek to ensure but cannot be responsible for their accuracy.  
The Team reserves the right to edit articles and will not accept anonymous contributions.

# FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Grout

I sing of our brook, of blossoms, birds and bowers  
Of April, May and June and July flowers  
I dream of maypoles, orchards, wassails and wakes  
Of bridegrooms, brides and their bridal cakes

It is just twenty years since Jack and I bought The Square and moved here in March. We left our beloved Huntisbeare smallholding in Aylesbeare with heavy hearts. I think in many years it was the first time I saw Jack cry. To us it had been like the garden of Eden after many years of hard but gratifying work as hoteliers. As Jack's health was deteriorating, we could no longer manage our small estate with cattle, chickens, geese, cats, dogs and all that went with it. We had to find something in the centre of a village where there was transport, trains and buses, for the days in the future when we could no longer drive. Whimpe offered everything we wanted, as well as the fact that we had already quite a few friends living here. The Square was ideal, with one shop, a butcher of good quality, a friendly Post Office and a second shop at the other end. We also had an artist's gallery which was very charming. Strange enough, soon after we arrived there was a rail strike and the buses no longer came to the Square or to the Station.

We were very charmed by the rural and bucolic atmosphere of the village and The Square was enchanting, with hardly any cars parked. What we liked too was the fact that it was a working village with the Whiteway cyder factory, the abattoir and acres of magnificent orchards. The Square was like a stage, always something interesting happening. Vic, the head-shepherd, had a lovely dog, Bluey, who would drive sheep from end to end. I still have photos of the many events which took place here.

Getting married in church was still the fashion and what a delight to see bride and groom and their guests all beautifully attired and looking radiant. We had plenty of christenings too, with proud parents carrying their babies like a precious gift. Then the funerals with people gathering to pay their last respects to villagers. Webber's the butchers always offered their own car park on these occasions and we had a Special Constable, the charming Bob Walker, who made sure that there was no parking in The Square except the hearse and mourning family cars. I was so very saddened when I heard that his dear widow, Maevie, died this week almost ten years after Bob. I was very fond of the Walkers and I vividly remember sitting next to Maevie in church for the dedication of the hymn books she offered in memory of her husband Bob, unfortunately hardly used now.

There was John Norman working at Webber's and people used to come from far and wide to be served by him. He was always singing opera. He also sang in the choir and carried the cross.

Derrick Webber from Brook House organised a party each year to clean up the brook, cut the grass and trim the great trees. And there was the coal yard, now Henry Lewis Close. Eric Smith next door had to make sure the lorries could negotiate the bend. We had two milk ladies, Marian the milkmaid and Mary from the dairy, our ex neighbour in Aylesbeare. There was a large garage attached to Ivy Dene where the hearse was kept. We had two funeral directors who were also the

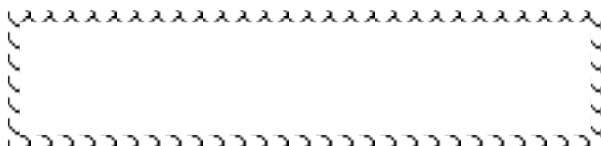
local builders and who used to take it in turn to look after the fabric of the church.

And then we had a rector, and what a rector he was! – remembered and beloved to this day. Reverend Harold Tucker and his charming wife Mary (who alas died very recently) used to live at The Rectory at the top of Church Road midway to the A30. These were the days when our priests were in charge of one parish only. He was called either Rector or Reverend Tucker and he called us by our surnames. He had one charming habit, remembering our telephone numbers by hymn numbers. He was the very first visitor to greet us and welcome us in the village. I will never forget the day. The first question was “Did either of us play the organ?”. Unfortunately we could not oblige, but when asked whether we could house the Sunday School for half an hour before the children were taken to the service to learn what the communion and services were all about, the answer was yes.

There was the memorable Rogation Sunday when Reverend Tucker, fully robed, came to bless the children, dogs and cats, us and all our garden which has grown so well ever since being blessed. The Rector was very much a one-man band. He directed an excellent choir, played the organ, took the service. We had three services on Sundays. Eight o'clock communion. He always rang the bell to call the faithful to early church and Jack and I knew when to leave The Manse on the one but last dong, to be in our seats when Reverend Tucker was fully robed and started. The steam engine fairs also had special services, so did sportsmen. He was very much part of village life, as a School Governor, interested in the Scout movement, cricket, Mothers' Union. We were invited to The Rectory to go and listen to a wonderful old pianola. It was such a happy life, far less stressed than it is today, and I will never forget the great kindness of village people when Jack was so ill.

Now when I look out from my window in The Square I see a glorified car park. Although we have a perfectly good official car park nearby, nobody uses it except the post vans. What's more, quite a number of drivers leave their engines running when they go to the shop and leave their loud radios on too. It is then that I dream of the village we came to twenty years ago. I have lived forty years in East Devon and have seen changes which were unthinkable then. Luckily, like Shakespeare, I can truly say “I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends”.

Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time future  
And time future contained in time past.



## NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER



Valentine's day gone (not one card!), we have had a holiday and you all enjoyed the wit and wisdom of John - our relief - and by the time this comes out Easter will have passed and the clocks will have been put forward - it's all go here in Whimble!

On the business side I forgot to remind you in last edition's "Services Available at the P.O." that we have a fax machine and also a photocopier.

Well - we are 'on the net'!! Yes we have one of these ridiculous e-mail addresses and can "surf" and all the other stuff - well maybe not 'all' the other stuff but just some of it. Heather put her first order into Tesco for delivery to the house - great service - even if it would have been quicker to drive to the store, walk every foot of it and take the goods home - than it was to place the first internet order! However it does get quicker. The most fun I am having is with the photographic facility; being able to store up to 108 shots on the camera, see them, delete them, save them and print any or all as required is superb, so that you can take stacks and it does not cost a penny - you don't have to pay someone to develop them all for you. I know this is all old hat to you experienced users but it is good fun to newcomers like me!

Now the final quote taken from the true accounts of court stories - remember the scene is in court with a barrister asking not necessarily intelligent questions and he has come across a witness with the perfect put down - I doubt whether it has been bettered:-

Q. - "Doctor, before you performed the autopsy did you check for a pulse?"

A. - "No"

Q. - "Did you check for blood pressure?"

A. - "No"

Q. - "Did you check for breathing?"

A. - "No"

Q. - "So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?"

A. - "No"

Q. - "How can you be so sure, Doctor?"

A. - "Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar"

Q. - "But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?"

A. - "Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law somewhere..."

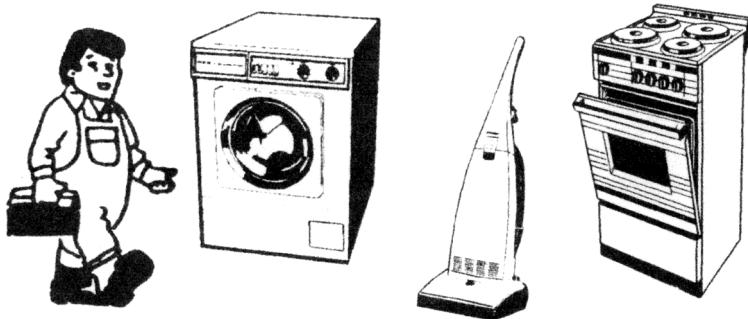
That's about your lot, best wishes to all, from

**GO&HO@PO**

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# 1982 - 2002

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES 20TH BIRTHDAY

2002 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Neighbourhood Watch Movement in the UK.

Neighbourhood Watch has come a long way since its humble beginnings in Mollington Cheshire, when in 1982 residents decided to group together to take action against a spate of burglaries. Working with the police, they arranged to watch over each other.

The local crime levels fell substantially, news travelled quickly and further schemes were set up.

Neighbourhood Watch is now the largest voluntary movement in the UK, with over 155,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes covering 6 million homes.

NB there are still homes in WHIMPLE with no Neighbourhood Watch group, so lets try and make our village 100%. Contact the East Devon Neighbourhood Watch Support Team (Tel: 01395 226156) for details of how to set a group up.

NW has also been expanded into a variety of specialist schemes, such as those covering farms, businesses, horses, schools, shops, churches and pubs.

More recently the movement has been working with a range of partners within community safety, including Fire Service, local and national Government, and other voluntary organisations.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS AND THIS HOPEFULLY WILL CARRY ON FOR THE FUTURE SAFETY OF COMMUNITIES IN **WHIMPLE** AND THE UK.

### **BEST NEIGHBOUR AWARD**



In Jubilee year, the search is on to find the winner for the Kleeneze Award for **Britain's Best Neighbour**. Last year 10,000 neighbours were nominated for the awards, for acts of bravery, kindness and caring. This year the overall winner will receive a holiday of a lifetime, with cash prizes for **REGIONAL WINNERS AND THOSE WHO NOMINATE WINNERS**.

If you know someone who deserves to be recognised as Britain's Best Neighbour, then contact KLEENEZE to request a nomination form on telephone 0870 333 66 88. (choose option 6 when you get through).



*John Munslow (01404 823456)*



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# Whimble History Society



On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June the Society will be holding an exhibition in the Victory Hall with the theme of 'The Golden Jubilee'.

On the evening of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June the Society will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee with the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon on the top of Knowle Hill. The event will be visible from the Cricket Field where the Society will be having a social event to mark the occasion. Further details of the Jubilee events will be published nearer the time.



## Come and find out about the WI



The Whimble Womens Institute invites you to come and find out about the WI.

In April we have arranged are two events that are open to all. Please come and join us.

On Saturday 20th April we are holding a Coffee Morning with stalls - cakes, plants, bric-a-brac etc. and a WI information stand. The entry charge of 50p includes coffee and biscuits.

On Tuesday 23rd April come along to our evening meeting where Sarah Pepper will give a Flower Arranging Demonstration. The cost will be £1.50 and will include refreshments.

**Ann Bowden**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Awarded

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# THE JACK IN THE GREEN INN

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## CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA



The new play area, just off Manley Close, was opened by Sara Randall Johnson, Chairman of Whimble Parish Council, on Saturday 2nd March. It consists of several pieces of low-level, robust, agility equipment for young children, plus Roger the Ram Rocker to add a bit of colour! This bit of the village is now looking good, with the locally-crafted BMX track on one side

of the footpath, and the new play equipment on the other (with a fence between the two!)

Funding for the play area has come from East Devon District Council, Awards For All, and the Rural Development Programme.



Thanks to Norman Seward for donating and transporting loads of topsoil for the BMX track, to Matthew Curwood for shifting it to the right places with the digger, and to the local youth design-and-build team who worked so hard last summer.

Teri Lang, Pauline Reed and Peter Bowden (Parish Councillors)

## WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that several cars are parked long-term in the Square. Please use the Parish car park for long-term parking. The parking in the Square should be for short visits to the Shop and Post Office.

A number of complaints were made at the recent Parish Council Meeting about dog fouling. Could dog owners please clean up afterwards to make it pleasant for everyone.

Thank you.

**Amanda Newman** Clerk to  
Whimple Parish Council



## FENITON BOWLING CLUB



With the new outdoor season just beginning we look forward to hearing from anyone living around Feniton and neighbouring villages who would like to join us for the coming summer. Whether young or not-so-young, lady or gentlemen, complete beginner or experienced bowler you will be very welcome.

There are no heavy initial costs for equipment; we have bowls available to borrow and the only special clothing required initially is a pair of completely flat shoes. Also there is no annual subscription to pay in the first year for beginners or for bowlers recently moved into the area. We have excellent facilities, in a beautiful setting and a friendly band of members. If you are interested don't hesitate to call our General Secretary **Peter Godsell** (01404 851259) or myself (01404 813049).

**Richard North**



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Taken from PARISH NEWS at St Mawgan in Pydar with St Ervan and St Eval,  
October 1999

### THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

There is a band of happy folk, the finest to be seen, and they are all devoted to THE PARISH MAGAZINE

And first there is the Editor, whose eye is ever keen, to keep the tone immaculate of The PARISH MAGAZINE.

There's those who write and distribute, collate like a machine, or type, or chop, or count the cash for THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

If you're in Business, all the years, the fat ones or the lean, the folk will know just where to go, FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

There's those that wait, and those that pray, and some don't give a bean, so long as round about the FIRST, comes THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

So here's to all the Merry "Men", who monthly take the scene, and raise the curtain on the news, in THE PARISH MAGAZINE !!

With our best wishes for the future,  
**Mike and Antoinette Welch.**

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## Jubilee Celebrations

To start the Jubilee weekend the Church is organising a Barn Dance in the Victory Hall, on June 1st which we hope will appeal to all ages, commencing at 7.00pm. Repeating the successful event held in the run-up to the Millennium we will again be under the instruction of, and dancing to, the music of Malcolm Mace who is very popular for similar functions in Wiltshire. Please see the Church Magazine and posters in due course for details.

The following day there will be a 'Parish Picnic' following the special Family Service, commencing at about 12.15pm at the Cricket Club.

## Church Fete

Our annual Fete will take place on Saturday 15th June at the usual venue in the garden of Dince Hill House at 2.15pm. If wet it will be at the Victory Hall.



# WHIMPLE TENNIS CLUB

Chairman: Miles Leonard

We're an informal, friendly Club! Members can use the tennis court any time.

## Membership fees:

Senior: £20 Junior (under 18): £10 Family: £45 Fees for the year are due now, and there'll be a 10% discount for those paying their subs before 31st May.

Treasurer: Jane Hughes, 23 Rectory Close.

Club Nights will be Wednesday evenings from 7p.m. starting at the beginning of May. Just turn up!

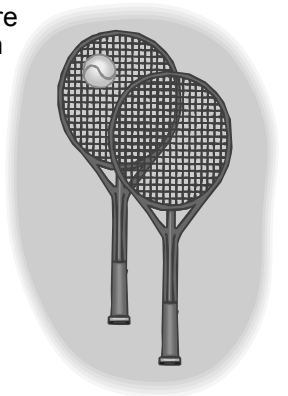
There'll be a Working Party on **Sunday, 12th May at 10.30**. This is to tidy up the court surrounds - the more help there is the quicker the job gets done! Please come and help. Useful to bring secateurs, shears, spades and gardening gloves.

Our usual Summer Social, which takes the form of a mini tournament plus food and drink (maybe a barbecue this year?), will be **Wednesday, 26th June, at 6.30 p.m.** Again - just turn up!

We may well be offered tickets for **Wimbledon**. If you are interested, please phone Miles on 822415 well in advance. There'll be a draw if there are more takers than tickets available. We'd like to encourage more youngsters to take up tennis, and we'd be happy to try to organise coaching if enough people are interested.

Do contact either Jane on 822659 or Teri on 822512.

**Teri Lang - Club Secretary**



## St Mary's Bellringers

Would you like to try your hand at this ancient art?

New ringers are always welcome

Ring **Judith** on **822873**

or come along to St Mary's Church at 8pm on any Monday evening

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# PLANT SALE

A sale of bedding plants and coffee morning will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30am until 12.30pm at Furze Hill, Church Road (at the top of the hill on the right as you leave the village towards Hand and Pen). This is the fourth year of our plant sales - I love the time spent in the greenhouse with my radio on wet and windy days in March pricking out seedlings though there is never enough space for all the trays of plants. This year there will (hopefully!) be lots of trailing lobelia, rudbeckia, stock, marigolds, tagetes, phlox, zinnia, petunia and more ... oh for a bigger greenhouse.... so do come and buy them! We have always been lucky with the weather and been able to serve coffee and cake in the sunshine but if it does rain this will be indoors and we will have the plants under cover. All proceeds will be divided between Whimple Church and CHRISTIAN AID. **Sarah Smith, Furze Hill**



## Whimple Scout Group

Since taking on the role of Group Scout Leader (GSL) in November 2000, the Group has grown considerably. We now have all three sections open again, and they are all thriving, with good leader to children ratios – apart from in the Scout section where we could do with a couple of extra pairs of hands!

Anyone interested, don't hesitate to call me.....

Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) meet on a Tuesday from 6 to 7 pm  
Cub Scouts (9-11 years) meet on a Monday from 6.30 to 8 pm  
Scouts (11-16 years) meet on a Friday from 7 to 9 pm

All sections are now open to both boys and girls right the way through, so if you think your son/daughter might enjoy a range of indoor and outdoor activities and pursuits, call either myself or:-

Karen Salter (Cubs) 823218  
Val Bond (Beavers) 822473  
Derek Marriot (Scouts) 813286

**Alex Spry (GSL) 822844**



# ALADDIN THE PANTO FROM BEHIND THE CURTAINS

Two years ago I had written a report on Cinderella that the Whimbletons had put on in 1999. I had thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and the idea of taking part had fleetingly passed through my mind, only to be discarded because of work and travel commitments. So it was in November 2001 when I heard that the plans of a panto for 2002 were in jeopardy because of a lack of willing people to make a complete fool of themselves in front of their peers in the village. So, dear reader, I went along to what I perceived to be an explanatory meeting at the Thirsty Farmer in mid December, for this said panto. Within 10 minutes of joining a group of like minded people at a table, Peter Bolwell, the man wot writes it, pointed at me and said those immortal words, "Widow Twankey". Whilst trying to decide if he was throwing an insult at me, I realised that I had just passed the 'invisible audition'.

Nevertheless, in early January, a mixture of hardened panto professionals, and several panto 'virgins' (me included), gathered in the Victory Hall for a read-through of the 2002 offering. I am still amazed at the creativity of Peter, in putting such a thing together. As I was to discover, the members of the cast are expected to be flexible as some parts proved more difficult to fill than others. I won't say that things were tight, but if you happened to be walking past Victory Hall on a Monday evening in January, chances are that you would have been dragged off the street and a script thrust into your hand, with the instructions, 'Here, you can read this'. Miles Leonard ended up being both PC Pling-Plong and the Emperor, whilst Carolyn Craig became both genies.

The major hurdle for me was the task of learning my lines – I hadn't done anything like this since school, and the grey cells were very lazy. My method was to lock myself away, and repeat each chunk of script until I could build up an entire scene. I then combined exercise and line repetition by walking round the lanes of Whimble with my wife Nicky, and spouting my lines whilst she clutched a copy of the script. My apologies to those of you that might have overheard some strange conversations as we processed around the village!

Peter had put my mind at ease about remembering all of my lines by saying that it was expected of us to forget them....no problem there !!! The thing that made me go pale was that I was expected to sing a song. My vocal talents are zero. Those of you who came to the panto will have appreciated how desperate times force the creative juices to flow – I sang, but without any regard for notes, tempo, reputation or anyone else.

So every Monday night throughout January and February, we would rehearse and rehearse, passing through the pain barrier of Peter's instruction 'No scripts next week' which was very frightening!

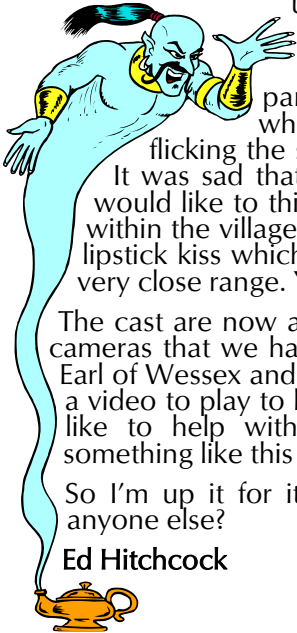
It wasn't until the dress rehearsal that we saw how the whole thing bolted together as one production. I knew all my lines, but not necessarily in the order in which they appeared in the script. Plus we all knew what to do when we got on stage, but sometimes forgot WHEN we had to be on stage, resulting in some very fast sprints to catch up with the flow of dialogue on stage. You can't beat a great collection of enthusiastic



amateurs – and we were all having a lot of fun doing it! One of the skills you need in panto is the ability to take a subtle prompt, and on Friday I was able to demonstrate this to its full extent by physically taking the script from the story teller (Pauline Hatfield) and reading from it during a blank spot in the old memory bank. This was based on the premise that forgetting lines is expected, it is OK to do it, so do it in style! I was really impressed by Pauline, who although she had the script in front of her in her dual role of prompt and storyteller, knew all her own words anyway.

The rehearsals all paid off, and the 3 nights that we presented the panto were all great fun.

Each night was different, with various pieces of script being either forgotten or moved around the running order, or additional bits of 'business' being included on stage without warning. My favourite night was Saturday night, because things had just got better and better as we relaxed into our roles. It was helped enormously by the presence of Ian and Julie Reynolds who were stalwarts of the Whimpletons until they moved to Cornwall last year. From the moment the curtain opened at 7.30, we could hear Julie enjoying the panto and she continued to whip the audience into a frenzy with all the usual banter that you would expect. They made it even more fun for the cast with their enthusiasm and banter.



If there was anything that disappointed me during this panto, it was the thoughtless behaviour of some people who would turn the lights off in the Hall as we rehearsed, by flicking the switch in the outer entrance hall and then running away.

It was sad that they did it again on our first night as we performed. I would like to think that there was some respect for what we were doing within the village. Next time I will give them a lovely Widow Twankey red lipstick kiss which will need some explanation, and I will sing to them. At very close range. You have been warned!!

The cast are now anxiously awaiting the editing of the tapes in the 2 video cameras that we had running on the Saturday night – I understand that the Earl of Wessex and Ardent Productions may be interested...something about a video to play to his mum, or along those lines. He said that his wife might like to help with the publicity for the 2003 production. She's done something like this before, apparently. They seem a nice couple.

So I'm up it for it in 2003... anyone else?

**Ed Hitchcock**

**WHIMPLE VILLAGE WEEK  
2002**

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> July  
TO  
SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**EVENTS TO INCLUDE**

**IT'S A KNOCKOUT!**

**BEETLE DRIVE**

**WALKING TREASURE HUNT**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**WORM HUNT**

**COW PAT GRID**

**SUMMER FAYRE**

**FOOD AND BEER FESTIVAL**

**CONTACT VICKY 823682**



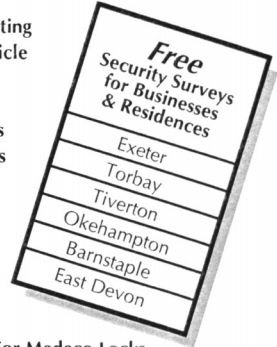
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# WHIMPLE CRICKET CLUB

Hello, my name is Ben Silk, and I have just been given the pleasure to Captain Whimple Cricket Club for the 2002 season. I am just writing a short piece to let people know about the cricket club and our aims for this year.

The club is currently running two league sides on a Saturday and two friendly teams on a Sunday. I think you will find that we cater for all standards from the budding test player to the player who likes to keep his trousers up with a bit of bailer twine!

We also run three youth teams, U15's, U13's and U11's which play at a good league standard and are looking for girls as well as boys.

This year we also have the exciting prospect of gaining an overseas player from Australia, who we all hope will bring us good fortune on the pitch as well as lots of helpful tips off it. We are hoping that he will create a strong link with the youth teams, and not very many people can say that an Australian has coached them!

There are also a lot of social events planned for the forthcoming season so keep an eye on this magazine and posters around the village for an up-to-date guide. An excellent example of these social events is happening on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 8.00 p.m., at the cricket club. It is a Wine tasting evening and admission is by ticket only (£5 per ticket). You can get these from either Sarah on 822664 or from the Post Office.

If you would like to become a social member this year for only £1, please contact Sarah on 822664. For those who are already members, it will soon be time to renew your memberships!

I am hoping that with all the new development in the village that it will bring a lot of new players to the club, and continue to develop even closer links between club and village!

Looking forward to seeing some more of you soon, and hoping the weather stays good for a great season!

I can be contacted on 07786 361719, and Colin Fildew, the Youth Development Officer is on 01392 662583.

## **Dates for nets are -**

### **Men's teams**

**11 April Exeter University 6-8 p.m.**

**18 April Exeter University 6-8 p.m.**

### **Youth teams**

**7 April Broadclyst Sports Hall 12-2 p.m. (Sunday)**

**14 April Broadclyst Sports Hall 12-2 p.m. (Sunday)**

**21 April Broadclyst Sports Hall 12-2 p.m. (Sunday)**

**28 April Broadclyst Sports Hall 12-2 p.m. (Sunday)**

Any questions on the youth teams arrangements, please contact Malcolm/Julia on 01884 33761

## **Saturday morning cricket training** – commencing 27 April

Under 8 years 9.00-10.00 a.m.

Under 11 years 9.30-11.00 a.m.

## **Friday evening cricket training**

Under 13 years 6.00-8.00 p.m.

## **Summer camp** – members only

Both boys and girls, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>. 10.00-4.00p.m.

Includes cricket matches, fun games, skills training and competitions. A BBQ will finish off the last day. Please bring your own packed lunch and drink. Only £5 per day!! Places are limited – phone Malcolm/Julia on 01884 33761



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## THOUGHTS OF AN OLDER PERSON

Remember that we old folks are worth a fortune.

With silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs.

While I have become a little older since I saw you last,  
I have become quite a frivolous old gal,  
having two gentlemen with me all the time.

Will Power helps me get out of bed  
and Arthur Ritis never leaves me alone.

The Preacher came to call the other day, he said at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter.

I told him I do that all the time. No matter where I am.  
In the living room, the study. in the kitchen or upstairs,  
I always ask myself - "What am I hereafter.?"

**Ottery St Mary  
Choral Society & Orchestra present**

# **JUDAS MACCABEUS**

by **G.F.Handel**

in the Parish Church, Ottery St Mary

**On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at 7.30pm**

**CONDUCTOR: MALCOLM MATTHEWS**

Admission by Programme: £7.00

Programmes on Sale at

**STAGE-STRUCK, OTTERY ST MARY, 01404 811311**

## RING AND RIDE TRIPS FROM WHIMPLE

Once again we have been 'chauffeured' from our front doors on most Monday mornings by the most experienced mini-bus drivers you could possibly want, organised by the office of 'Trip' (reg. Charity no. 1001932) in Honiton who co-ordinate these outings.

I wrote this after a lovely country run for shopping and lunch in Sidmouth on a beautiful sunny, early spring morning - shining on a calm and still sea. Our driver - Brian - was astonished to spot a gentleman in trunks swimming alongside the Front, but wasn't encouraged to take a dip himself in the freezing water.

Our usual driver, Angie of M.B.E. fame for her many years voluntary driving with the Ring and Ride service was away unwell, so Brian was called in as a relief driver and had to find his way around Whimple, the office having suggested he asked for directions to passengers homes from myself. Of course, it would happen that a new passenger had booked in from the surrounding area. So out came the 'mobile' and he tracked her down in next to no time - who says mobiles are a nuisance?

Any way, more short trips are planned ahead on various Mondays to Honiton (calling at Tescos), Sidmouth and Otter Nurseries. The charges from your door vary from £2.50 to £3.00 return, with a wheelchair lift and support if required from your driver. I try and give details to all our new passengers from Whimple and attend most trips, but please phone the 'Trip' office at Honiton (01404) 46529 for full details and bookings.

I'm sure you will enjoy your outings and company as I have done for the last ten years. This service is mainly for the senior villagers plus the disabled (of any age) and their companions. Long may the Ring and Ride continue to serve our village and surrounding areas.

**Pauline Rogers**

### **Whimple Conservative Association**

All are welcome at a

## **Coffee Morning**

at 10.00am on **Saturday 27th April** at Whimple Victory Hall  
to meet and talk with Angela Browning M.P.

ad

ad

# Whimble Victory Hall

Registered Charity: No. 291496

In my last report I was pleased to announce the building of the new notice board. This time I must apologise to Kevin Wheaton who I failed to mention. He designed the flower garden and built the whole thing for us to his usual high standard. Kevin has done a lot of work for the Hall and his efforts on our and your behalf are much appreciated.

We held a Table Top sale recently and this was well attended with twenty-two tables sold. It was a beautiful day and a lot of fun was had by a lot of people. Although well attended we will restrict the hours of operation next time and work in the morning only. For my own part, I don't want to see another bacon butty for some time!! A lot of hard work went into the organisation and Pam Scanlan deserves great credit for her efforts. We are holding another one in September so keep an eye out for the advertisements.

There was a disappointing response to the Suggestion and Comments form in the last Whimble news but the Committee are looking at introducing new activities in the near future. Again keep looking to see what is in store.

We are carrying out a spring clean on 13<sup>th</sup> April and will be redecorating the entrance hall, the toilet areas and generally sprucing things up for the summer.

We are also in the process of updating the electrical system and hope that further changes will be made to enhance the appearance of the Hall.

**John Discombe**

## **Ottery St Mary Hospital League of Friends**

We have these fund-raising events coming up, and would be grateful of your Support.

**Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

### **Concert by the Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir in the Parish Church, Ottery St Mary.**

We would like to welcome the Choir with a full Church.

It will be the first Saturday after Easter and we hope many people will come along.

Tickets £5.00 available from Stagestruck (19 Broad St, OSM – tel 01404 811311)

**Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8.30am to 1.30pm**

We are providing a Cake Stall and light refreshments at  
the **Farmers Market** in the Hind St car park, Ottery St Mary.

If anyone would like to donate cakes, or to help on the day,  
please contact Barbara Buckley on 01404 812814, or Myrtle on 822667.

See you there on the day.

Myrtle

# WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

There was a good turn out for our winter coffee evening last February when Geoff Banks, our photography judge at the flower show, gave a talk. We were given very useful information on the basics of taking good pictures ranging from how to keep the camera dead still to advice composing pictures and how to select the correct type of film to use for different purposes. Details of the photography classes for this year's show can be found on page 45. We look forward to seeing the results of this talk with an even better quality of pictures this year!

Our next event will be the spring plant sale and coffee evening on the evening of Friday 10 May in the Victory Hall commencing at 7.30. Entry will be only 50p and will include coffee. As usual we hope to have a variety of plants on offer and if anyone has any surplus stock they want to pass on will gladly do our best to find it a new home. So don't get too carried away at the local garden centres as we hope to have something for everyone!

This year, back due to the huge demand for its return, we are going to run another Sunflower Competition. We will have plants available at our plant sale and there will be an adult prize and a children's prize. So let's see who can grow the biggest plant this year, full details of the competition when you collect your plant.

Our coach outing on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June is now confirmed as being a return visit to Rosemoor where we have a free entry being affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society. Apparently there is a very good Bonsai display there this year which will be well worth seeing. We will then go on to visit the Living History Exhibition at Torrington which should prove very interesting. Tickets for this outing are £9.00 per seat and can be obtained from Pauline Rogers at Lyndon, Church Road, or see her at the coffee evening in May. Early booking is advisable, as this trip has been very popular in the past. The coach will leave The Square at 09.30.

Members are reminded that their membership fees are due and at only £1.00 per family it represents very good value. Money to Pauline Rogers at Lyndon please or to her at the May plant sale/coffee evening.

Details of the classes for year's Flower Show on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August will soon be finalised and we will have full information available at the plant sale. So if you want to know anything about the Show, just come along and ask.

**Paul Wilson,**  
Hon. Secretary.









# Organisations in Whimble

## **Whimble Parish Council**

*Chairman:* Sara Randall Johnson 822524

*Clerk:* Mrs. Amanda Newman, Council Office - Torno 823385

## **Royal British Legion, Branch and Womens Section.**

*Chairman:* Mrs. F. Pratt, Sandfords 822451

## **St. Mary's Church**

*Contact:* Rev. Rob Wilkinson 822521

## **Devon County Councillor**

Mr. R. Giles, 14 Winters Lane, OSM. EX11 1AR 813387

## **Whimble County Primary School**

*Headteacher:* Mrs. D. Brice 822584

## **Whimble History Society**

*Chairman:* Richard Webber 822038

*Secretary:* Roger Smith 822244

## **Whimble Mothers Union**

Mrs. S.Benton 2, Strete Raleigh House 822909

## **Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group**

*Chair:* Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road 822168

New admissions/Playleader: Sue Solf 1, Hillside, Talaton 822981

## **Whimble Womens Institute**

*Secretary:* Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green 823450

## **Whimble Over Sixties Club**

Mrs S. Tuck 10 Bramley Gardens 823553

## **Whimble Youth Club**

*Chair:* Alison Lawry 822292

## **Whimble Recreation Trust**

*Knowle Cross Sports Ground.* Mr P. Garraff, Luppit 891206

## **Whimble Village Produce Association.**

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Bratt, Rockwell, Talaton 822437

## **Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club**

Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm 822257

## **Whimble Football Club**

*Chairman:* B. Weeks, Briar Cottage, Church Road 822674

## **Whimble Tennis Club**

*Secretary:* T. A. Lang 822512

*Treasurer:* J. Hughes 822659

## **Whimble Cricket Club**

Mr. R.J.Smith 822244

## **Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee**

*Secretary:* Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green 822262

*Booking Sec:* Penny Wienreb 3, The Square 823064

## **Whimble Post Office**

Gordon & Heather Owen 822359

## **Whimble News**

Peter Smith, Lawn End, Church Road 822828

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

John Munslow, 44, Slewtton Crescent 823456

## **St. Mary's Bellringers**

Captain: Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road 822873

## **Whimble Scout Group**

*Group Scout Leader :* Alex Spry 851290

*Marquee Booking Sec :* Mrs. Mary McConnell 822729

# Wassailing in Whimble

From the Whimble History Society

The literal meaning of the word 'Wassailing' is a festive occasion or a drinking bout (or perhaps a combination of both?). Its origin is believed to be from the Norse "ves hell" meaning "to be in good health". At a more local level, it has taken on yet another meaning, more intimately concerned with the livelihood of many of the local people.

On 17<sup>th</sup> January each year, old 12<sup>th</sup> night, the villagers of Whimble observe their annual 'Wassail' ceremony. The justification for this event today may be somewhat hazy, but the purpose of it is clear - the cider apple trees need all the encouragement they can get to produce a good crop later in the year. This is done by 'waking up' the trees early in the New Year. For a community that depended largely on the success of the cider apple crop, this was an important part of the annual cycle of cultivation of the cider apple orchards.

Sadly, Whiteways - the world famous cider producer based in Whimble - ceased production some years ago. There is now all too little evidence of the largest employer in the village for 100 years, and of one of the major producers in the country. Mr Eric Whiteway, a descendant of the firm's founder and the last Chairman and Managing Director, is a member of the society. Several of the village's street names reflect the history of cider production here, and there are orchards remaining. The few reminders that remain will, it is hoped, be augmented by the annual Wassail ceremony for a long time to come, thereby helping Whimble to remember its proud heritage. We must of course remember that cider was made before Mr Eric Whiteway came along in the 19<sup>th</sup> century - in fact cider (cyder) has been known in England for over 700 years.

Back to the central theme - how does Whimble recognise this once-essential event in the year's calendar? The most important factor is, of course, the cider apple tree. Well - as already stated - these still exist, and in fact the tree reputed to be the last Whimble Wonder in the village is in a garden very close to one of the main outlets for the final product, the New Fountain Inn. The central character in the ceremony is the 'Wassail Queen' of who is chosen by Whimble History Society and who has to recite her verse at each tree visited.

Having previously selected three trees, the good folk of the village are invited to gather at one of the local hostleries in Whimble. At somewhere close to a previously announced time, they are addressed by the leader - at the present time Bob Roberts who is the treasurer of the Whimble History Society. With voices hopefully already well lubricated, a rehearsal of the 'Wassail Song' takes place. He then leads the assembled crowd, which includes a goodly number of children- decked in colourful caps and accompanied by a traditional village band, off to the first tree.

When everyone has formed a circle round the tree, the two verses of the Wassail song are sung, starting with verse 1 .....No? Oh sorry - the chorus first, then verse 1. All are of course familiar with this, thanks to the prior rigorous rehearsal.

The Wassail song runs thus.....

Apple tree prosper, bud, bloom and bear,  
That we may have plenty of cider next year.  
And where there's a barrel, we hope there are ten,  
That we may have cider when we come again.

Chorus:  
With our wassail, wassail, wassail,  
And a joy come to our jolly wassail.

Thoroughly exhausted by this, the participants then become the audience as the ceremony continues with the Wassail Queen reciting her verse:

“Here's to thee, old apple tree,  
That blooms well, bears well;  
Hats full, caps full,  
Three bushell bags full,  
All under one tree”.

This recitation is followed by three cheers from the assembled crowd and reinforced by the loudest possible blowing or banging of all the instruments with which they have been exhorted to equip themselves.

The Wassail Queen and her Princess then place cider-soaked toast in the fork of the tree, and throw baked apples at the trunk of the tree. The young incumbents do a good job by and large, but those standing on the opposite side of the tree from them need their wits about them! Now comes the real wake up time! - shots are fired into the air through the branches. If you have never experienced repeated volleys of blanks from double-barrelled shotguns at very close range - well, I don't know what it does for the trees, but it's certainly make sure that nobody nearby goes to sleep!

Recovery from this is assisted considerably by the appearance of the 'Wassail Bowl' in a suitable dark condition. The contents cannot be identified as all present are invited to dip their 'Claven Cup' into the mulled cider. We make one final circle beneath the tree, making even more noise with instruments and voices, in order to 'wake up the tree'.

If a stop is made outside a homestead, rather than a cider apple tree, the third verse of the wassail son is rendered:a

“Oh Mistress and Master, our wassail begin  
Please open your door and let us come in;  
Besides all on earth you'll have apples in store  
Pray let us come in for 'tis cold at the door.

The band leads the procession to the next tree, where the ceremony is repeated. And so, after the selected trees have been paid their proper respects, around 100 people make their weary way back to.....yes, the second hostelry of the village. There they are invited to partake of mulled cider, bread, cheese, pickle and local apple cake made by the ladies of the village. Everyone is happy with the job well done, confident that this autumn's crop of cider apples will be the best ever.

(with Thanks to Chris Saunders of the Ottery History Society)

# **Big Night In!**

## **successful for 3 years and looking to the future**

*"You can book them again any time"*

*"Absolutely brilliant"*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed it, quite mesmerised"*

*"My sister has hardly put her flute down since"*

*"Great music made all the more enjoyable by Nicki and Justins warm and informative style"*

These are just some of the comments received after the most recent Big Night In! event - Nicki and Justin Woodward's concert a few weeks ago in the church. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> event so far. They have been well supported, very enjoyable and often much talked about afterwards...some will never be forgotten! There have been 3 musical events; 2 theatre performances; 2 children and family shows and 2 audio-visual events and not forgetting the event we started with, "Make a Puppet Show in a Day" - and a good show it was. So thank you to everyone who has got involved both by turning up as a member of the audience and to all the many people who have done all the work behind the scenes.

### **HOW WE CHOOSE WHAT TO PUT ON?**

In a few weeks time we will be choosing the events for this Autumn and Spring 2003. Big Night In! provides a menu of about 30 pre-selected shows plus, now, a variety of arts workshops. We aim to offer a range of events to appeal to differing interests. Some dance and theatre events we can't choose due to the size of performance space required.

One factor that has restricted our choice so far is the need to provide overnight accommodation for some of the performers. Some of the shows require accommodation for 3 or more (One company needed 12 or was it 16). To be able to consider those events, we need to find more people willing to put the performers up. Could you support Big Night In! events by offering hospitality once in a while? We can't pay B&B rates but could offer free entry to the event in exchange.

### **WAYS YOU COULD HELP?**

We would welcome people to join the pool of helpers. Would you be able to come occasionally to help:

- ◆ Make tea and coffee?
- ◆ Wash up?
- ◆ Set up the chairs in the hall?
- ◆ Offer a bed for the night? (see above)
- ◆ Take leaflets to a meeting or class you attend?
- ◆ Remind your friends and neighbours that a show is coming up?
- ◆ Put up a poster or two somewhere you go?

If you offer to do one thing we won't ask you to take on everything. If you can help please call Louise on 822008

### **ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE.....**

We are teaming up with Whimble History Society to put on a show that has been extremely popular in other villages. Using excerpts from their massive archive of local film, video and TV footage, TSW will create a show about Whimble and East Devon. No doubt this will be a very popular evening with old and new Whimbleons alike.

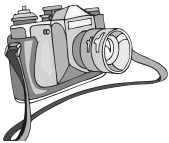
### **CALLING ALL WHIMBLE ORGANISATIONS**

We would like to put on more jointly organised events. So if your organisation would like to

find out more about putting on a show or a workshop with us then please get in touch with **Louise on 822008.**

### **WHAT? WHY? WHO? HOW?**

Big Night In! is a scheme which helps to bring professional arts events and participatory events to rural communities at prices they can afford. It now works in conjunction with Villages in Action and is supported by East Devon District Council and Devon County Council.




## **VPA Photograph Competition**

These are the VPA's Photography classes for their next show:

- Class 0701 Print (Coloured) - "Reflections"
- Class 0702 Print (Coloured) - Child or Children at play
- Class 0703 Print (Coloured) - An Aspect of Rosemoor
- Class 0704 Print (Coloured) - Portrait (Head and Shoulders - Human Subject)
- Class 0705 Digital or Computer generated picture - "Futuristic Fantasy"
- Class 0706 Print (Coloured) - Depicting a humorous scene, with or without caption
- Class 0707 Print Black and White of an ancient building or monument
- Class 0708 Coloured Slide of any subject

Please note that the maximum size in every print class is 6" by 8" or 150 mm by 200 mm.



I would like to give a special 'THANK YOU' to Karen and Geoff for my lovely 'Surprise 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday party' held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cricket Club - such a well kept secret!!

Also many thanks to all who came - family, friends (old and new) and for all the lovely cards - and Jeremy for the music.

Once again, many thanks; I will not forget that party - I could not speak for a week after.

**Pam Brooks**



### Calling Whimble Women!

Are you interested in singing?

Do you like a challenge?

Can You read music or have good ear for music?  
Would you like to sing unaccompanied music ranging from madrigals to popular close harmony?

Would you be interested in forming a female singing group in the village?


If the answer is Yes - give me a ring on 01404 823585.  
Hope to hear from you.

**Julia Green**



### Coffee Mornings in the Church

From the 18<sup>th</sup> May until 14<sup>th</sup> September coffee and a selection of homemade cakes, scones and biscuits are served on Saturday mornings from 10.15 am until 12 noon inside the Church and you will be assured of a warm welcome. All proceeds go to Church funds (Please note that, as there is a wedding on the 10<sup>th</sup> August there will not be a coffee morning in the Church on that day). **Sarah Smith**



Commiserations to Alex Spry for being knocked out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of 'The Weakest Link' shown on television, Friday 22 March. Alex had been the strongest link for the first round and then stumbled to be one of 3 low scorers. The lady who was the strongest link from Round 2 then selected Alex on the purely subjective view that her postal deliveries on some far flung Scottish island were always late and this was an opportunity for her to have her revenge on a representative of the postal service. I hope that she holidays in Whimble soon!

**Ed H**

# The Whimble News Team

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## **Production**

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Vivienne Leonard 822415

Anni Hindle 822025

## **Delivery**

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## **Advertising**

Miles Leonard 822415

Pam Scanlan 822262

## **Community diary**

Angela Smith 822828

## **Treasurer**

Miles Leonard 822415

Lynda Trevena 822876



# *The New Fountain Inn*

*Whimble, Devon.*

*As recommended by Camra,  
the Good Pub Guide and the Good Beer Guide.*

*Real Ales*

*Home Cooking*

*Lunchtime & Evening Meals 7 Days a Week*

*Sunday Roasts etc - Vegetarian Choices*

*Handmade Desserts*

*Children's Menu & Toddler Portions*

*Special Menus available for Large Parties*

*Lounge, Bar & Beer Garden*

*Join us for a Friendly Drink,*

*Bar Snack or A La Carte Meal*

*Bookings are advisable*

*Especially at Week-ends*



*A Traditional  
Olde Freehouse  
Village Inn  
Tel - 01404 822350*