

# Draft

## *Whimble News*

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Picture by Kevin Thompson

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April/May 2010

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# WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

## April

- 19th Annual Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall Committee Room, 7.00pm.
- 24th Churchyard working party - 9.30am

## May

- 1st Village Tidy Day 10.00am The Square.
- 8th VPA Spring Coffee morning and Plant Sale, Victory Hall, 10.00am.
- 24th Annual General Meeting and Re-election of members, Parish Council, Victory Hall Committee Room, 7.00pm.

## June

- 12th Church Fete at Hindstrete, Church Road, - 2.30pm. In Victory Hall if wet
- 21st Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall Committee Room, 7.00pm.

## July

- 3rd to 11th **Village week**
- 19th Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall Committee Room, 7.00pm.

## August

- 14th VPA Annual Flower Show, Victory Hall.

## September

- 11th Ade Edmondson and the Bad Shepherds at the Cricket Club (See page 49).
- 20th Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall Committee Room, 7.00pm.

Please use the Whimple Diary held in the Post Office for checking the availability of venues and when booking events.

If your Association has an event which you would like listed above please contact **Nicky Hitchcock** on 823194 or e-mail [nickyjhitch@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nickyjhitch@tiscali.co.uk)

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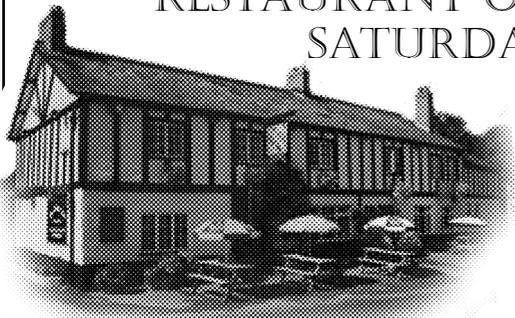
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## News from Whimble Post Office



The 'Bank Holiday' season has arrived, hopefully along with some decent weather. If your benefit / pension day is on a Monday, you will be able to access your money on the previous Friday. Please note we are always closed on Bank Holidays, newspaper customers can arrange to have their papers delivered on Bank Holidays, just ask us and we will arrange this for you.

On 6th April the postage rates were increased, however any 1st, or 2nd class stamps purchased before the increase can still be used, in fact any 'old' stamp that you may have left over from Christmas is still legal. If in doubt please ask us.

Some of you may have had the experience of receiving a 'underpaid letter card' from the sorting office at Sowton, it asks you to put on the extra cost in the form of stamps and to post the card back to them. This is a new way of royal mail claiming back any money due to them by the sender not putting sufficient postage on the item originally, it also includes a handling fee. We are cut out of the loop with this system, and I'm afraid that the cards come directly from Sowton, we cannot intervene and can only advise you that if you wish to see what you are being asked to pay for you will need to go to the Sowton offices.

Most of these incidences are caused through confusion regarding the sizing of letters. Remember if you use an envelope larger than a piece of A5 paper (that's the size of Whimble News) or if the contents are thicker than 2 x 50ps on top of each other then it will need extra postage. We have a size guide in the post office, and are selling plastic rulers with the guidelines clearly marked if you are still unsure.

Have you seen the second hand book basket outside the Post Office ?

At the moment we are raising money for the scouts by simply recycling books and asking for a donation. The turn over of books in the past couple of weeks has been really encouraging with everyone benefitting from this, we would ask that books are in good condition and on subjects that are not too obscure !! If you are an avid reader do have a look, and if you wish to donate please leave your books in the post office, mainly so Alison can have a look first !

The sponsor forms are now available for those of you who would like to support Ruby on her Walk the Wight challenge. It is a 14 mile (and very, very hilly) hike halfway across the Isle of Wight, and with the occasional bunny to chase she could easily clock up more. In hot pursuit will be her owners - probably more of a hindrance than a help. We are hoping for dry weather this year, the memory of last year's monsoon will never leave me. All money raised will go to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice in memory of Alison's brother.

Our grateful thanks for your support

**Jim and Alison Creasy**

Whimble Post Office Tel 822359

# FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

## OH! TO BE IN DEVON WHEN APRIL IS HERE

And fairey month of making mirth  
From whom our joy ensures  
Thou early gladder of the earth  
Thrice welcome here anew  
With thee buds unfold to leaves  
The grass greens on the lea  
And flowers their tender boom  
To bloom and smile with thee

John Clare

When our capricious month of April opens the curtains on the new growing season off to a characteristic start with April fool's Day, it is renowned for unpredictability, showers that beautify rainbows, bright sunny moods and sudden changes. They say that if it thunders on Fool's Day it brings good crops of corn and hay. Proverbial April weather to farmers. April brings forth May. I remember well my Latin lessons years ago, the verb *aprire* meant opening and April derives from it. In French - *Avril* comes from the verb *ouvrir*. All this really shows how important learning is. What always amazes me is to find that those people who know a lot want to learn more and those who know little think they know it all best. Learning also enhances memory.

This year Easter Sunday is on the 4th April, it is always with great joy that we greet Easter. It is a time of resurrection when the whole nature around us bursts into life. There is a sense of renewed HOPE. It is a time for rejoicing and singing. For years I have helped to decorate churches which is very much part of the rejoicing and singing. After weeks of austerity, all the flower ladies and some flower men come with armfuls of beautiful greenery, garden flowers and the traditional Easter lilies.

Something one hardly hears of in our modern society is the Grand Spring cleaning. That was a grand occasion and being Swiss, we did it most thoroughly, nothing slapdash about it. What's more, it was fun and we had a day off from school. Big carpets on the line thoroughly beaten with special beaters, mattresses aired in the sun, windows cleaned, and floors polished with nice smelling wax. In addition, there was a lot of singing; we did it as a family, staff and all. When all was done, we had a great supper and feeling of a 'job well done', with all participants happy to be there. We also have a few prayers of thanksgiving. The smell which wafted through the house was indescribable it was so sweet. In an amazing way, it also cleared the clutter accumulated in our minds. What a tremendous renewal it gave you and sense of freedom.

She laughs through raindrops as we pass, And touches us through little things  
Soft tender leaves and tiny wings, Then hides with violets in the grass  
She sings with blackbirds at day break, And dances in the morning breeze  
Pink apple blossoms on the trees, Is icing on her birthday cake  
Young April starts off with a smile, And laughs at us on All Fool's Day  
Be happy now she seems to say, I stay for just a little while

I find May in Whimble particularly enchanting with all the orchards in full bloom. It is as though nature wants to look her best for our greatest joy. We also enjoy the early morning chorus - what an explosion of singing. Everyone likes a quiet spot to dream the hour away and sometimes to share it with a special friend. We all have our little Eden; for Jack and I it was our beautiful small holding the unforgettable Huntisbeare which we called our Bucolic Eden. When we bought that elegant 14th century long house a feeling of great happiness and freedom came over us and we had lovely orchards. Always interested in place names we assumed that Huntisbeare meant Hunters wood as bear in Devon is wood. To our amazing surprise, we discovered that Alexander de Huntibar owned it and the property had been part of Torre Abbey. Near us were two other farms - Great Houndbeare and Little Houndbeare and we became very good friends with our neighbours. The village of Aylesbeare also had a wonderful good neighbour group and the kindest postal worker, who had such big rounds as we lived in the middle of nowhere with a superb wild Common nearby. There was plenty of wild life to explore there. As Jack's health was deteriorating fast, we had to contemplate a move to the centre of a village and that is when we discovered the Old Manse in Whimble Square with such a wonderful garden. When we left Huntisbeare, it was the first time ever I saw Jack cry. It was such a wrench but certainly the right thing to do in the circumstances.

With shining light of daffodils, With soothing green of wood and hill  
With grasses and the cuckoo song, May tells the winter has gone  
Now everywhere through once bare earth, Small tender shoots have thrust birth  
And manifest in May time flowers, Fulfilments of the happy hours

I am not surprised that both April and May spring into life by a festive day. On May 1st when pagan ceremonies were, and still are, performed symbolising the turning cycle of the year heralding in Summer, various religious festivals appear in May. In villages, the priests went out into the fields to bless cattle and crops. I well remember Reverend Tucker coming to the Old Manse where we ran the Sunday school and all went into the garden to be blessed. It was so very simple and so touching because our dear Airedale Mister Blaze (also known by the children as the Teddy bear dog who was their great favourite) was there too.

It is also a good time to assess the number of the bird population by counting the singing males usually perched on the highest branches. On the roof of Brook Cottage there is a very melodious blackbird that regales us during daily visits to our welcoming Post Office. For some mysterious reason the blackbirds disappeared in the autumn, but thank God are back now in good numbers.



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# Whimpe Panto

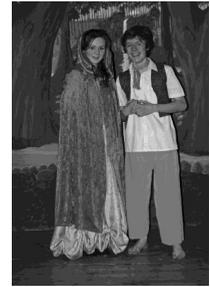
This year's panto – Little Red Riding Hood – was enjoyed a little bit more by the Thompson Family due to the addition of the bar and the radical move to allocated seats. Congratulations go to Jim & Alison for managing the ticket sales, as this must have made the job a bit more complicated. Needless to say, after enjoying a pint or 3 of the O'Hanlons that was kindly donated, Kev seemed to find the 2nd act a lot funnier than the 1st!

There were some great performances from a whole host of characters. It's nice to see new additions to the Whimpeletons each year, and plenty of younger members who are now taking lead roles. Sally's sets and Gordon's props looked fantastic, and the costumes were very effective.

A special mention must go to Josh Podbury, who I understand was a last-minute stand-in to play the Chair of the Parish Council's dopey son, Hugo (there were heavy references to the Vicar of Dibley throughout the panto) – I can't understand what made them think of Josh! No, but seriously .....

....Well done Whimpeletons! I understand Emma is stepping down as Chair of the Whimpeletons, so I'll end by saying a special thanks to Emma for all her hard work over the years.

**Brigid Thompson**



# Whimble History Society



Another exciting season starts at the Heritage Centre on Saturday 3rd March. The Society has worked hard during the winter on a new exhibition related to Whimble School, which promises to be very interesting and informative. The Ann Daniels' exhibits have been updated to reflect her latest achievements, and we should be very proud of our resident explorer living in the village. So we have a great mix of old and new history for your interest.

The Heritage Centre will be open every Saturday and Wednesday afternoon, throughout the summer, plus Bank Holidays. There is always a need for more stewards to act as 'meet and greet' hosts, and to explain the layout for new visitors. You do not need to be a local history expert – there are ways of involving the 'experts' who are always happy to contact the person making the enquiry. If you are able to help, please leave a message on the Heritage Centre ansaphone (822499) for David Smith, the curator who will be delighted to contact you – one or two dates to help are fine, we are not looking to have you do stewarding every week!

On Friday 16th April, Ivor Heady will be talking to the Society in the Victory Hall about 'Cigarette Cards' – it starts at 7.30pm. and all are welcome.

On Thursday 13th May, Martin Horrell has kindly offered, via the History Society, to take a guided tour round St Mary's Church, starting at 7.00pm. in the Church. Places are limited, so please contact Roger Smith on 822244 to book your place.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to the Society and have just redesigned the Joining Form, a copy of which is next to this article. Please complete it, and along with your payment, leave it at the Heritage Centre.

## Marian Daniel

What an unexpected tribute! My sincere thanks to Nancy for nominating me for the Express & Echo Bouquet of the Week; Alison & Jim for letting some of my customers in on the secret who were all seen 'lurking' around the Post Office corner. It was certainly well orchestrated! A fantastic surprise.

Thank you.

Marian

# WHIMPLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Application for membership - please complete the form below and leave at the Heritage Centre (By the New Fountain Inn) with a cheque for either £12.00 per double, and £8.00 for single – cheques made payable to ‘Whimple History Society’ please. We will deliver your membership card .

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**Address** .....

.....

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**Signature** .....

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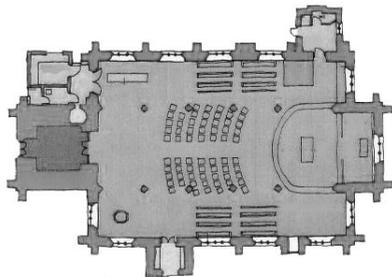
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Tim Wright

# St Mary's Church Re-ordering

The proposed changes to the interior of the church and its new extension have attracted a great deal of interest in the village, and beyond. The church was full for the open consultation with many speakers both for and against the proposed improvements. The Parochial Church Council are now considering the views expressed at the meeting and the written responses they have since received.

The following two articles sent to Whimple News reflect those differing views on the proposed changes.



## An Open letter

Dear Reverend Wilkinson,

Firstly, let us state at the outset that we are not Whimple residents and have never been. Just a middle-aged couple with friends in the village, hence with the opportunity to visit regularly. This we have done over many years now, from which we have a strong affection and fondness for Whimple. As the centre-piece of the village, its magnificent church cannot help but be a significant part of that, hence our interest in the plans to change it.

I have no idea if our outsider status excludes us from the debate and would understand if it did. However, our strength of feeling on this has prompted us to write, regardless.

We believe that the proposal consigns irreplaceable history to the skip, metaphorically and also literally, and that the retention of 12 of the middle pews does not alter that fact when put beside what will not survive : the other 12 middle pews (c. 500 years old), the side pews (c. 150 years old and the last to have been installed in a Devon church), the pulpit and choir stalls (dating back to the 1890's and 1900's respectively). Of course, the church's mission is to know Christ and to make Him known but, as with any mission, it cannot be pursued in a vacuum. Although you, and many of us, may consider that mission all-embracing, it should surely include an obligation to the wider community. In this case, an absolute recognition that at all times, and regardless of what the title deeds may say from the narrow legal perspective, the Church (large 'c') is merely the custodian of this church (small 'c') and its history and that it is your responsibility (some, we among them, would say duty) to deliver that, 100% intact, to future generations in perpetuity.

Of course, over the centuries changes have been made to the interior design of St. Mary's, churches in general and indeed (and inevitably) to ANY building that has been around for so long. We find it hard to believe, however, that any such changes can have been quite so radical as this or so irretrievable once executed. Contemporary life is characterised by such increasingly radical transformations made at an ever-quickening pace. In our view it should be the Church's policy to step out of this rat-race for change, especially where the changes countenanced are as inappropriate as we believe they are in this case.

Fashions come and go. Can you be sure that the a current preference for "open plan" is not just that ? When it comes to casting aside a heritage of 500 years, that demands not just a pause for thought but, after the thought, its rejection. Once done it will never be able to be undone, and what is at stake is much too precious to remove from the inheritance of future generations, long after we have all passed on from this world.

As well as the question of historical heritage there is also an issue concerning the social fabric of the village and how the alternative to the 're-ordering' may actually better serve the interests of the wider village. We note the uses that the 're-ordering' is intended to help : breakfasts, Valentine's dinners, jazz suppers, children's holiday clubs, Mothers' Union meetings, coffee mornings. We have attended your coffee mornings several times ourselves and have never encountered any problem with space or any other feature of it. But even if we had, life is all about weighing priorities, isn't it ? The foregoing list may be "nice to have" (and certainly hardly "essential") but if the only way of having them is at this huge cost to the church's history, then making do with the facilities as they already exist is preferable. We presume it's probably not the case either that the very existence of these activities is at stake, simply where they take place. An alternative would be to make a virtue of necessity and share the church's good fortune in its burgeoning numbers with the facilities available at the nearby Victory Hall, the scouts' hut and Whimble Cricket Club. In our view, a 'sharing' (and very Christian) solution that would be to the wider good of the village. It is important that ALL those other locations, not JUST the church, not simply survive but thrive and St. Mary's could be doing its bit in enabling them to do so rather than turning in on itself in this rather insular way.

This letter is in no way personal, just an attempt to give our views on an issue that we feel very strongly about, with hopefully food for thought on how abandoning the 're-ordering' may save the village as well as the church. To that end, you will see I have sent a copy of this e-mail to your Exeter Diocese colleague, the village magazine and the History Society.

Our heart-felt plea is "Please abandon this ill-conceived plan".

Yours Sincerely,

**Gary Donely & Janet Nithsdale**



# History versus Comfort

a personal view on the proposed Re-ordering of Whimple Church

by Stephen Godsiff

Along with nearly 200 others, I attended a consultation meeting on 3rd March on the proposed re-ordering of Whimple church i.e. proposals to change certain features inside the church to make it lighter, warmer, more welcoming and the space more flexible to meet the perceived practical needs of the church in the medium to long term. To say the proposals met with a certain amount of hostility from many of those present is perhaps an understatement. As an issue for the village it seems right up there with the closure of the village stores and the railway timetable, although like with these issues, a few of the most vociferous contributors were those who do not use the facilities on a regular basis.

Rob, our vicar, outlined the reasoning behind the proposals and the rather tortuous process that must be followed before any changes can be made. He also explained why the wider public consultation process is taking place now rather than earlier when the PCC were first investigating possibilities for change and consulting with other interested authorities who have advised on and facilitated similar changes to other churches. I may have been in a minority of those present, but I was generally impressed with the presentation and the slides that showed what had been achieved in other churches.

At this stage I must declare an interest in the outcome. I regularly sit in church on the medieval pews that are the subject of much of the emotion surrounding the proposed re-ordering and I find them excruciatingly uncomfortable. I sit there rather than in the box pews in the side aisles, which are magically less uncomfortable, because my wife sits there and I feel duty bound to sit alongside her. However when entering church my predisposition is invariably one of "this is the penance for my sins" and also perhaps "I wonder how long Rob's sermon is going to be today" rather than "I am here to celebrate God's love for me" and to listen to and understand His word preached by Rob. Hence I am in favour of moving the pews to a peripheral position and providing something more comfortable on which to sit.

It struck me while I sat there (uncomfortably) and listened to the issues and comments (some rather strident and barely stopping short of calling our vicar a liar) that the situation in the church is very similar to that which I encounter on a daily basis. I have lived in one of the oldest, if not the oldest, house in the village for 24 years. It is grade 2\* listed and I need consent to carry out any work on the property that is more than simply cosmetic. At times this is exceedingly frustrating. It seems everyone has a view on my ancient building, yet to me it is home and I require it to have modern facilities and be fit for my purposes. Many of the comments from those consulted about changes appear ill conceived and no doubt those making them would object most strongly if such things were said about their home.

For example, I recently applied for listed planning consent to re-thatch the rear elevation of my property in water reed rather than wheat reed - the front elevation was done about 10 years ago because then, as now, I had been advised that water reed lasts longer and is more cost-effective (NB. I pay the bills, not those consulted). When this went to the Parish Council, the minutes record "No objections, but the Parish Council prefer to see locally grown wheat thatch used to support English industry rather than water reed imported from Poland". There was nothing in my planning application that mentioned Poland. I have yet to conclude a contract with a thatcher for the work and hence do not know from where the reed will come. When the front thatch was replaced the reed came from Norfolk. I can only assume, therefore, that perhaps Poland annexed Norfolk when it joined the EU and no-one told me! It seems that some people extrapolate facts to suit their own agenda.

If some historical zealots had their way, I am sure they would require my house to be returned to how it was in medieval times with a hole in the roof to let the smoke out and a fire in the middle of the sitting room floor. Luckily all they can require me to do is not make any further changes to the structure and the key architectural features. However, the only reason the house has survived this long is that in the past it has been allowed to adapt to prevailing circumstances and requirements. If the house had remained in a time warp of some past century it would, slowly but surely, have become less fit for purpose and, while of undoubted curiosity value, would not have been a place where people would wish to live in the modern world. Consequently, the fabric of the house would probably not have been maintained and it would have slowly decayed.

Similarly, I believe the church building is home to the church community and it must be fit for their purpose otherwise it will become little more than a historical monument and a memorial to Christianity.

It was mentioned at the meeting that Christianity has survived for 2000 years so no change is needed. However in this country atheistic, secular sentiments and the forces of modern multiculturalism are attacking it as never before in the 1100+ years since it was introduced to these shores. Perhaps it will survive in Whimple, but it would be complacent to assume that we do not have to actively encourage it and the church building provides a focus for the work needed to maintain and build our mission community.

The existing building has survived because it has been allowed to change and adapt in the past to meet prevailing circumstances. The Victorians recognized that and pushed through the re-orderings in 1845 and 1902 - perhaps there wasn't as much consultation in those days! I believe the requirement now is that the building needs to be more light, warm, comfortable, flexible and welcoming so that it can be used more frequently than just one day a week for services. It is currently a very expensive building to maintain for such relatively little use. It may then facilitate the growth of our congregation and particularly appeal to those younger members in our community who generally respond more positively in less formal surroundings. It is notable that virtually everyone directly involved with

youth work within the church is in favour of a significant re-ordering.

Having said that in principal I agree to a re-ordering, I consider the key elements not covered in any of the presentations were the costs, assurance that the money can be found without inhibiting other church activity, and assurance that the work can be carried out without unduly disrupting the normal workings of the church during any refurbishment period. Before I apply for consent to change anything in my house I cost the changes and do small cost/benefit analyses to confirm in my own mind that what I am doing will both enhance the property and be good value for money. I also ensure I have money available and plan for possible disruptions. Perhaps the next stage of this process could be to look at the various costs; both initial capital costs to carry out the work and also ongoing costs associated with proposals such as upgrading the heating. It may be that when these are properly explored the project as a whole may not be feasible. In which case, perhaps a less ambitious plan may need to be considered or an incremental approach to the changes.

The bottom line seems to be that we can change either radically or by evolution, or leave everything as it is, effectively in a time capsule. Whether we like it or not, change is part of the world in which we now live and most people have an expectation of reasonable standards of comfort. I know that my wife's late mother, who lived in an annex to our property for over 20 years, would have been very excited by the prospect of being warm in church! The secret is therefore to manage the change to meet our needs while still preserving what is worthwhile from the past. However, just because something is old, it does not necessarily follow that it is worth preserving.

Paradoxically perhaps, if a no change option is imposed, I believe this may prove more costly to both the church and the community in the longer term. The building will continue to become less fit for purpose in a modern context and hence I can speculate that over a period of time various things may happen. The church i.e. the people, could move elsewhere to a building that better suits their needs. If that happens those concerned only with the history may need to consider whether they can maintain the existing building to preserve in situ what they believe to be significant features. A much worse alternative, in my opinion, would be if a number of the younger and the more active members of the church eventually become frustrated at the thwarting of their efforts to make the church a more vibrant, living space at the heart of the community, and hence they choose to worship elsewhere. That, in my view, would be the beginning of the end of the church in Whimple.

Something else said was: "In order to ensure the church's future, we may need to sacrifice a little of the past". I agree, but I also consider it is not a simplistic choice of "Are you for or against the changes" as some posters around the village would have us believe. I pray that the emotion associated with change can be suppressed and a suitable solution reached for the benefit of both our church and the wider Whimple community.



# **Ain't Misbehavin' (Again)**

A Concert of Light Music

**Whimble Parish Church**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

7.00 p.m.



# **Cantilena**



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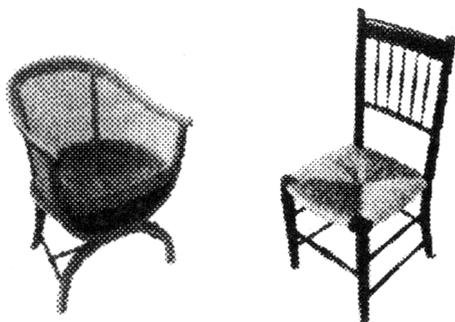
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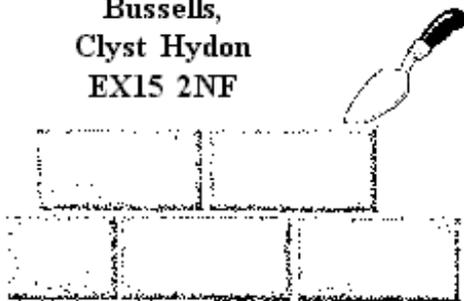
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# W.A.R.T.S. – UPDATE - January/February 2010

Hello and welcome to all new and existing members of W.A.R.T.S (Whimble Against Rising Tariffs).

As you will now be well aware our aim is to periodically secure the services of the cheapest oil provider that we can to deliver to our members in the village. We are very pleased to announce that our membership has risen to more than 130 households.



Our last order was made on 8th February 2010. We ordered 40,250 litres of heating oil for 60 drops in the village and by and large everything went smoothly. Please remember to add the dates below to your calendar/diary for future orders. Please remember that payment is required upfront if you have not purchased from the nominated supplier in the past.

## Intended Order Dates for 2010:-

**24th May      23rd August      29th November**

We would kindly remind you that all orders for oil should be placed at least one week before the order date (Allowing a further 10 days for delivery).

There is a minimum order requirement of 500 litres

Existing members (and any potential new members) without e-mail are invited to contact John Aiton on 01404 823155 to place their order or register their details (name/address/postcode/phone number).

All others with access to e-mail may contact Graham Batten with their order/registration details at [utilitiesgb@btinternet.com](mailto:utilitiesgb@btinternet.com).

\*Don't forget :- You can also call either Graham or John to obtain cost reductions on your electricity, gas, telephone, mobile and broadband either at home or at your place of business.

\*HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON ENJOYING THE SAVINGS THAT GRAHAM AND JOHN HAVE ACHIEVED FOR YOU ON THESE UTILITIES?

## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2010**

Help get Whimble underway by joining in with the Village Tidy Day on Saturday 1st May 10am in The Square  
Equipment will be provided and EVERYONE is WELCOME.

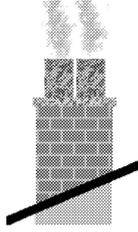
We can all do our bit by keeping our gardens and roads free of litter.

Judging can happen anytime from May to August.

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# Whimble Surgery

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Work on the improvements to the new surgery is proceeding apace with the building work now two weeks ahead of schedule. The outside of the building is nearing completion and work is due to start shortly to knock through into the new extension. When this happens and while the internal works take place it will not be possible for us to make use of the surgery.

The surgery will therefore be closed from 14th April until early July. The exact re-opening date will depend on how quickly the work can be completed. Hopefully we will be able to let you know in the next edition of Whimble News.

Until then surgeries will be held as usual at The Coleridge Medical Centre . We are sorry for this inconvenience but believe you will find a much improved local surgery later in the year.

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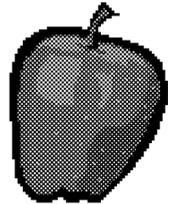
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# Barn Dance in the Blossom

Saturday May 8th

In the Afternoon!

In the Orchard!!

In the Sunshine!!?

New Start Time of 3pm

Maypole Dancing is back!

Live Band, Roast Pork Rolls, Beers and Teas

New This Year –

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Proceeds in aid of National Debt Advice Charity,  
Christians Against Poverty  
and Friends of Whimble School



# WHIMPLE TENNIS CLUB NEWS

1. **Membership**, Whimple Tennis Club situated in Knowles Cross Road is always keen to welcome new members of whatever standard. There is also a separate Junior Section which has regular coaching sessions.

The season officially starts on 1st May and annual fees are as follows:

<b>Adult</b>	-	<b>£22.00</b>
<b>Junior</b>	-	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	-	<b>£47.00</b>

Application Forms including renewals are available from an envelope at the Club pavilion or from the Treasurer (tel 823276) or Secretary (822057). Fees are payable by 1st May to ensure a full season's tennis.

Keys for the court are only available on payment of the membership fee or the Visitor fee (see below).

2. **Key Dates**

Sun 28th March and Sunday 11th April - Court Maintenance/Tidy Up by members from 10.00am - 1200noon. All are welcome to lend a hand.

Mon 12th - Fri 16th April - Junior Coaching Week.

Saturday 1st May - Start of season.

Thursday 6th May - First Club Evening Tennis and every Thursday evening thereafter. Starts at 7.00pm.

Thursday 24th June - First Club Social Evening of more "laid back" tennis and refreshments.

3. **Appointments**

<b>Chairman</b>	-	James Terret (822315)
<b>Secretary</b>	-	Roddy Bridge (822057)
<b>Treasurer</b>	-	Adrian Rushworth (823276)
<b>Juniors</b>	-	Nikki Harris (823873)

4. **Guests and Visitors** Fees for Guests accompanied by Members and for Visitors are **Adult £1.50 and £1 per Junior per booking**. The maximum number of times a Guest/Visitor can play is four after which they are to join as Members. Payment (and collection of a key for Visitors) is to be made in the first instance to the Secretary at The White House in Knowles Cross Road, just down from the court or from the Treasurer at Bridgefield, Whimple.

# Whimble Tennis Club

## ALL WELCOME

**with LTA Level 2 Coach Andy Barker**

My name is Andy Barker and I have been teaching tennis in and around Exeter for four years now. Largely, I am based at **Broadclyst Sports Centre**, teaching tennis to juniors aged four to sixteen. I have also been involved in the tennis program at **Exeter University** and also Multi-Sports Camps there in the holidays for juniors of all ages.

In the second week of the Easter holidays I am holding a week's coaching, at **Whimble tennis club**. **No prior experience** in the game is needed, just enthusiasm to perhaps try something completely new! The emphasis is to have fun and enjoy the sport and learn a few new skills.

### **Mini Orange - (7-10 years) 9 – 10.30 AM**

This session is for **beginners/improvers**. Using reduced court, net and racket sizes. Low compression balls are also used to slow down the pace. This allows for greater improvement and enjoyment.

### **Mini Red – (4 – 6 years) 10.45 – 12.15 PM**

A Session for **complete beginners**. The main idea is to have fun, whilst learning some fundamental hand-eye coordination skills. Sponge balls are used to create a friendly environment to aid enjoyment and development.

### **Mini Green/Junior - 10+(or proficient younger players) 12.30 – 2.00 PM**

A session for improvers. Players should be able to sustain a rally over a full sized tennis net and on a full sized court. The emphasis here is on improving on particular areas of the game.

**£4 per session OR £16 for whole week (7.5 hours)**

**IF YOU SIGN UP FOR 4 DAYS YOU GET THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY FREE!**

Each session holds a maximum of 10 players.

Contact Andy Barker on **07779011723 / 01392 466418** or **barker12@hotmail.co.uk** to book.

### **Foundation years and KS1**

Wednesdays from 5.30 - 6.00pm, first session free for those trying out, thereafter £1 per session (Initial trial for the first month to encourage younger children in the area to have a go and play)

### **KS2 children**

Wednesday session warm up 5.45 pm with parent help, with play from 6.00-7.00pm, £2.50 per session.( includes 50p towards new equipment balls/ nets etc)

Please phone for details Nikki Harris on 823873 or e-mail [justinandnikki@talktalk.net](mailto:justinandnikki@talktalk.net)

Join the tennis club, treasurer Adrian Rushworth on 823276 or e-mail [rushworth.adrian@btinternet.com](mailto:rushworth.adrian@btinternet.com)

At present membership: Adult £22 ,Junior (17 and under) £10 ,Family £47

Guests/Visitors - £1.50 per adult and £1 per Junior.

# WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

By the time this edition is published we will hopefully be seeing some semblance of Spring in our gardens as this winter seems to have gone on for ever! So, no doubt everyone's thoughts are turning to what plants to put out this year, and there is no better way to sort that problem out by coming along to our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 8 May 2010 in the Village Hall starting at 10.00. Hopefully, with as many plants as last year, there will be plenty for everybody.

The Annual Flower Show will be on Saturday 14 August 2010 again in the Village Hall. We will shortly be looking at the schedules so we can the necessary information on the various classes out to you for those that need time to prepare. We are hoping to get details out for the photograph sections ahead of the schedules to give people more time to get their entries sorted. The themes for the various classes should be available at the Plant Sale, so there is an opportunity to get the information you will need.

We are still looking to hold an Open Gardens Day this year but we are having a problem finding a suitable date. We have found a few more people prepared to have their gardens inspected for which we are very grateful. Once we have established a date details advertising it will be posted in the village.

As mentioned in the last edition of the News, our Village Challenge is a Scarecrow Competition and judging by the interest so far, it is looking like it is going to be a keenly contested competition. We have heard that additional security is being arranged for a number of premises so exhibits are kept secret!

So make a note of these and events and dates and we look forward to seeing you at some if not all of them.

Paul Wilson,  
Hon. Secretary.



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## WHIMPLE VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION'S FUTURE EVENTS

The VPA has arranged for a "behind the scenes" trip to Otter Nurseries on Thursday 15th April. This will enable visitors to get an insight into how Herbaceous plants are propagated, brought on and prepared for sale. It will also give a chance to ask questions of the experts!

If you wish to come on this trip please let Mick and Ann Street know on 823277 or e-mail at [annstreet@btinternet.com](mailto:annstreet@btinternet.com). Cars will leave the Victory Hall car park at 1.30pm. There is no charge for this trip.

On Friday 23rd April the VPA are presenting a talk and demonstration by Mr. Keiron Buwes on the "Making beautiful hanging baskets" and "Summer Bedding Plants". Following the demonstration and questions the basket made by Mr. Buwes will be raffled and Mr Buwes will also be bringing plants for sale. The talk will be held in the Victory Hall starting at 7.30pm. There is no charge for VPA members but there is a charge of £2 for non-members.

NB You can of course join the VPA on the night and gain free entry to talks, the Plant Sale in May and the Flower Show in August. Mrs.M Dockings is The VPA membership Secretary.

This year's Plant Sale will be held in the Victory Hall on Saturday 8th May starting at 10.00am.

The VPA's biennial OPEN GARDENS will take place over a weekend in June and we are hoping to have at least ten gardens for you to visit. Further details will be in the next edition of the Whimple News.



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## Christian Aid Week in Whimple - 9th -15th May

Christian Aid Week is coming to Whimple. Organised locally by a group of volunteers from the church congregation and supported by the generosity of the people of the village, who last year donated over £1200.

Christian Aid works worldwide to end poverty. Currently, Christian Aid and its partners are helping almost 150,000 people in communities affected by the Hurricane in Haiti. They are distributing food parcels and daily meals; plastic sheeting; hygiene kits and baby kits; blankets; medical supplies and clothes.

Christian Aid is helping people to resume their ways of earning a living – for instance through farming and trading. The charity is supporting savings and microcredit schemes. In addition, its partner organisations continue to work on HIV/AIDS.

Christian Aid has also campaigned for changes at an international level that will help Haiti recover, such as the cancellation of the country's remaining debts.

At the beginning of Christian Aid week most households in Whimple will receive a donations envelope, which will be collected by a volunteer a few days later. Everyone who pays tax and who signs a Gift Aid declaration on the envelope is giving Christian Aid 28 per cent extra - in other words they get money for nothing!

In these difficult financial times, the world's poorest people need our time, prayers and financial support more than ever. Please give as generously as you can this year.

To find out more about the work of Christian Aid, visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).

**Rob Davis**



### **WANTED!!**

Do you have any spare time to be a volunteer at Honiton Oxfam Shop?

Help needed to keep the shop running. Just a few hours one or more days per week or more if you want. Usual opening hours apply Monday to Saturday.

We are a friendly group of people with a desire to help make a better world.

Relevant training given so go on, learn some new skills and make some new friends! Travel expenses are paid by Oxfam. Please ring the Manager Mrs Alison Gear on 01404 46844 or 01884 243203 if you are interested and want to know more.

**Monica Vickery**

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# Wasters of Whimble

## Cardboard/plastics volunteer collections

We have now ceased our regular monthly collections but still hope to offer support to those who need help getting their recycling to the centres. Contact either of us on the contact numbers below and we will do our very best to offer you regular assistance and advice. We also hope that you will get together with your neighbours to share journeys.

We would still encourage you all to recycle as much as possible and for most of us the cardboard and plastic recycling has made a huge difference to the amount we are throwing into landfill. If you aren't already recycling, try it. It isn't that difficult and makes a real difference to how your waste is reused. Full details of what can be taken to the recycling centres is available on the EDDC or Devon County Council websites.

## Return of Fashumble

Many people have asked us to repeat the Fashumble and we have set a date of Friday 21st May 7.00-10.00pm.

There will be some changes but the format of selling **quality** clothing with a Fashion Show display will be the same.

Sellers Packs will be available from the Post Office or School by Monday 3rd May. Sellers can sell quality Ladies clothing, scarves, bags and also quality children and teenager clothing. We are concerned about the quantity of children's clothing we could receive and would ask for a maximum of ten items per household for girls and 10 for boys. Sellers will be required as last year to write up their labels and have clothes ready for display (i.e. clean and on hangers).

**Changes** We will be charging a commission of 20% of the selling price

Items for sale need to be brought to the Victory Hall  
on 21st May between 2.00-6.00pm

Unsold items need to be collected from Victory Hall between 10.00-11.00pm

Admission price is £3 (All profit will go to Friends of Whimble School)

There will be refreshments but no alcohol

A lot of fun was had at this event last year and many people found something wonderful that was 'new to them'. Last year the best sellers were quality daywear items although we did sell some suits and evening wear.

Our emphasis is very much on quality and last year we had a great range of sizes to offer, so please help us to do the same this year. Tickets will be limited and will be on sale from Friday 7th May. Even if you don't find a bargain, we hope you should have a fun night out.

### **New project**

We would like to work on something for the Village that would investigate alternative energy supplies. We would very much appreciate any ideas you have or any expertise or knowledge you could share with us.

### **Next Events**

Local produce swap 10th July

Village Garage Sale Saturday 25th September

**Next meeting** Thursday 22nd April 8.00pm New members always welcome

Contact:

Jenny Sanders

01404 823015

[jls.sanders@btinternet.com](mailto:jls.sanders@btinternet.com)

Alison Betts

01404 823967

[alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk)

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# Whimple Primary School

A message from the governing body

Thank you to those of you who have returned the community questionnaires which were in the last edition of Whimple News. Your responses will be a great help as we assess how the school can continue to strengthen its involvement with our community. It will also be very useful to know if there are any of the school facilities that you would benefit from using outside of the school day. So if you haven't completed the questionnaire yet then please do and drop it into the school office or post office as soon as possible.

For those of you who are interested to find out more about the school, we are currently planning the next Open Evening. This will coincide with an exhibition at the Heritage Centre to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of part of the school building. The Open Evening will be on May 26<sup>th</sup> and will provide an opportunity for those of you who wouldn't normally come into the school to come and have a look around.

As governors we are always looking out for new recruits to join our team of volunteers and at times we have vacancies for community governors. You don't need any particular skills or experience to be a school governor. The main requirements are an interest in children's education as well as a commitment to Whimple School and its place in our community. If you would like more information, then please contact me on 01404 822948.

Helen Penney (Chair of Governors)

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## WHIMBLE CHURCH

[www.whimblechurch.org](http://www.whimblechurch.org)



Thank you to all who attended the **open evening meeting** in early March. It was good to see so many people there and to hear the comments and suggestions that were made.

Your written responses are still coming in but what we can say at this stage is that all aspects of the proposals will be reconsidered in the light of those responses. This is not a matter that can or will be rushed so please do not expect an immediate response.

Further information will be given over the course of time in the church pages of this magazine as well as in The Link church magazine.

We hope you will join us at our various special **Easter Services** and activities. On 31st March at 6.45pm a local family of Christian believers with a Jewish background will be leading a traditional **Passover Supper**, taking place in Talaton Parish Hall. On the morning of Good Friday, 2nd April, we are planning an **Easter Garden** children's activity morning, taking place in the Victory Hall. To book a place at either of these events please contact Kate Hamilton (823201).



The choir is preparing to sing **Olivet to Calvary** at 6.00pm on Good Friday. This is a fine example of music written for the late Victorian/early Edwardian Anglican church. Described as a sacred cantata, 'Olivet to Calvary' recalls the scenes which mark the last few days of Christ's life on earth. Part 1 starts with Christ's jubilant journey to Jerusalem and ends with the scene on the Mount of Olives. Part 2 begins with the Feast of Passover with Christ's commandment to his disciples to 'Love one another' and end with the Crucifixion at Calvary. It is interspersed with congregational hymns which reflect on the scenes.



Our **Easter Day family communion service** is at 11.00am and you are all warmly invited to join us as we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead and consider what that extraordinary event over 2000 years ago means for us today.

Our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, when we review the past year, look ahead to the future, and elect a number of officers for the coming year, will be held on 26th April in St Mary's Church building.



Thank you for your generosity in previous years in supporting **Christian Aid Week**, which this year will be 9th–15th May. We would invite you again to support the work of this relief agency, which works to relieve poverty, working wherever the need is greatest, irrespective of religion or race. A speaker from Christian Aid will be talking about their work at our next **Women’s Breakfast** on 9th May at 8.30am in Talaton Parish Hall.

On Thursday 13th May Whimble Church is hosting a special event **“Songs from the Heart”**. We will enjoy a 3 course meal and performance by talented singer songwriter David Edwards. These events are always a sell-out so do book up a table early. Bookings from mid-April.



On Wednesday 9th June Ottery Deanery group of churches is hosting a **Songs of Praise in Connaught Gardens, Sidmouth**. This will be a great event for all the family, being led by Bishop Bob Evens and taking the form of personal stories of faith, songs and hymns accompanied by a band, and an address by Bishop Bob. The event starts at 7.30pm, with picnic suppers in the park beforehand.

Further information about services and events in the life of Whimble Church as well other interesting articles can be found in **The Link** church magazine. Sample copies can be obtained free of charge from the back of church, and monthly home delivery can also be arranged - please contact Kate Hamilton (823201) / admin@whimblechurch.org for further details.

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

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Celebration Service
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	S club11/Impact in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Worship
4th Sunday	11.00am	Morning Worship
	10.45am	S club11/Impact in the Scout Hut
5th Sunday	11.00am	Churches Together Service

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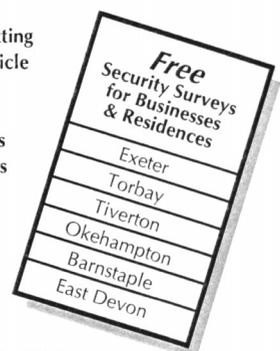
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# WHIMPLE

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Here we are coming towards the end of another busy term with many things happening. As you can see below the play 'The Wizard of Oz' finally happened and despite some hiccups was a great success. We have been lucky to have a selection of assemblies including recycling and mad science.

## Recycling

At the beginning of March, Gordon le Rotter came to give us a session on Food Waste. He encouraged us to re-cycle and compost things that we would have probably thrown in the bin otherwise.

A week or so later, a lady came to tell us some more things about re-cycling, re-using and reducing our waste at home and in school. Afterwards the eco-team had to sort out the rubbish of the past 2 days, lucky them! (it was very yucky) The waste that we had produced the most was uncooked food and garden waste.



Todd (Year 6)



March the 1st is Saint David's day. The day we can wear leeks and daffodils.

We made clay love spoons but the real ones we carved out of wood.

The welsh flag has a red dragon on it and the real one is very big. Also the daffodil and the leeks are the emblems of Wales.

By Grace, Charlotte and Sam (Year 3)

## All About wales.



# *The Wizard of Oz is finally performed*

The wizard of oz was finally performed on the 28th of January. It was a complete sell out as every single ticket was sold to parents and children. Everyone was running around backstage frantically trying to get the costumes, props and the makeup ready. Unfortunately the lights went off but we turned the main lights on and kept on going. In the end everything went really well and everyone had a great time

By Dylan Fielding and Josh Brown (year 4)



## Year 6s trip to clyst vale community college

Last term Year 6 went to clyst vale community college to learn about bubbles, people from a London Science museum came down to talk to us about bubbles. At the start they were using different shaped utensils to make the bubbles come out, they even made us touch our hearts to make a promise that we would keep a promise. Later in the show 2 people from our class, James and Jessica had to go in a big frame. A big bubble was pulled over them, they told me it was like being in a new world. The people from the science museum blew bubbles in the air we had to blow them and swing our arms up and down left and right but we all had a great time.

By Jamie Parker and Sophie Camp Year 6

On Tuesday the 5th of January was the first day school from Christmas and we had an amazing pantomime. It was called peter pan

There were only 5 people in the cast. It was brilliant and it got you wanting to join in. I love the bit when the shadow was copying what the dad did!!

I think it was one of the best ones EVER!!

Thank you for reading By Freya Westney and Indy Carpenter year4 class3

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# INTRODUCTION TO BEADMAKING COURSE IN AID OF WHIMPLE SCOUT HUT ROOF FUND SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2010 1.30PM TO 4.30PM AT THE SCOUT HUT

This is a course to learn various techniques to make your own jewellery using chain, wire and recycled materials.

The course will be run by Sherril Olive and all the proceeds will go to the scout hut for their roof fund. The cost is £20 and all tools and materials required for the projects are provided.

This is an excellent introduction for those of you who would like to learn a new craft, and you could incorporate the basics you will learn to refashion old pieces of jewellery hiding in your box or drawer at home. Afternoon tea will be provided.

If you would like to join me, please fill out the application form below and return it by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Places are limited to twenty, so please book early.

If lots of you are interested and there is a big take-up we will run this again a couple of weeks later.

**Sherril Olive** : 822564

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# Whimble Womens Institute

Our first report for 2010 is shorter than usual as there was no January meeting due to the weather conditions. In February we welcomed Audrey Ellis who spoke on the work of the Cinnamon Trust, an animal charity which cares for pets for the elderly. The speaker in March was Mary Andrews, who demonstrated and taught members something of the skills of tea bag folding. A very successful coffee morning was held at the home of the President, combining a pleasant social occasion with some necessary fundraising.

One of the area rounds of the WI County Quiz was held at Whimble, when some of our members provided tea and a superb selection of cakes for the competitors.

The regular craft afternoons continue, in addition to our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. We are always pleased to welcome new members and anyone interested should contact Ann Bowden (823450) or just come along to a meeting at the Victory Hall.

Rosemarie Burrows



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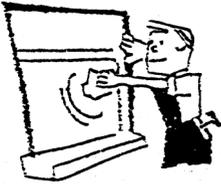
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## Its a family affair

It was when I was giving a lick of paint to our new office, showroom and workshop that I reflected how good it was that our family company had moved to Whimble. In fact, just as Adam, one of our workforce who had volunteered to help me, and I had finished and were standing admiring our hard work that my wife's cousins, Jan and George Begent drove up. It really was like the last piece of the jigsaw had fallen into place.

It was in October 2006 that the journey began when my nephew, Andy Brooker, a master stonemason and hand letter cutter, decided to move his young family from London to Axminster. He had been trained by his Grandfather who had been anxious to pass his skill to a family member after he had found that his son, my brother-in-law did not have the aptitude or indeed the patience to become a letter cutter. Andy attended letter cutting college and art college and went on to hone his skill as a "journeyman" letter cutter in London.

Having moved to Axminster, Andy went to see an old friend of his grandfather. Tony Langmead who had a memorial masons business in Exeter; another family firm that had been established for over 100 years. Tony was happy to give Andy his hand cut work as none of his staff had this skill but he also told Andy that he was selling the business. After a little detective work it was discovered that the whole business would have been moved away from Exeter which, as it was the last working monumental masons in the area would have been a great pity. It was then that Andy, my brother-in-law Bob, my wife and I decided to try to buy the business. We were successful and took over in December 2006.

In October 2008 we moved our main showroom onto Exeter's Pinhoe Road and turned our attention to the workshop which had been in the same location for 100 years and was unsuitable to modern working. We set about trying to find a new location where we could establish a new production unit, open another showroom and have a purpose built area for Andy's hand cutting. We were keen to stay near to Exeter and really wanted to go to Whimble as Jan and George now lived in the village and it was perfectly positioned for us. After looking for a long time we found an excellent unit at 'Country Estates' on the old A30. 500 yards from Hand and Pen! So here we are, it's a great feeling to be working together as a family in such a traditional craft industry.

### **Some dates for your diary**

**Saturday 12th June - Church Fete** at Hindstrete, Church Road, -  
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**Village Week** will be from **Saturday 3rd July to Sunday 11th July**

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Playstation 3, bought 2007	2 hours on	Around £20 per year	Around 80kg
Laptop, bought 2007	4 hours on	Around £4 per year	Around 20kg
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Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
<i>SClub11, Impact &amp; Contact</i> Phil and Rebecca Dominy	822163
<b>Devon County Councillor</b>	
Peter Bowden	823450
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Andrew Dinnis	850363
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<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. S. Langley	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Helen Penney	822948
<b>Whimble History Society</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Whimble Mothers Union</b>	
Margaret Burrough	822257
<b>Whimble Pre-School &amp; Toddler Group</b>	
<i>Chair:</i> Samantha Walker	822649
<i>Playleader:</i> Tanya Chitty	
<i>Toddlers:</i> Louise Fenner	822272
<b>Whimble Womens Institute</b>	
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<b>Whimble Over Sixties Club</b>	
Beryl Iball	822905
<b>Whimble Recreation Trust</b>	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Mr P. Garraff	891206
<b>Whimble Village Produce Association.</b>	
<i>Chairman,</i> Adrian Williams	822430
<b>Whimble Football Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Geoff Delves, <i>Secretary:</i> Karen Delves	823258
<b>Whimble Tennis Club</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> Adrian Rushforth	823276
<b>Whimble Cricket Club</b>	
<i>Booking Secretary:</i> Karen Delves	823258
<b>Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee</b>	
<i>Chairman;</i> John Discombe	823614
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Emma Palmer	823083
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John Munslow	823456
<b>St. Mary's Bellringers</b>	
<i>Captain:</i> Liz Silk	822389
<b>Whimble Scout Group</b>	
<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
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