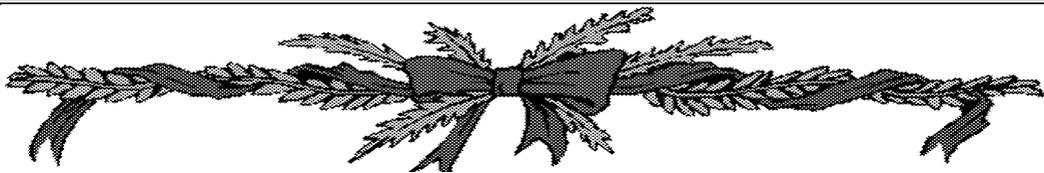


Whimble News



Christmas 2005



What's on in Whimple

December

- 3rd - Heritage Centre Shop open 11.00am - 3.00pm
- 3rd - Orchard Harmony in St. Mary's Church 7.30pm tickets £5
- 4th - Christingle Service in St Mary's Church at 3.00pm
- 4th - Hank Wangford appearing at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm
- 7th - Christmas Craft Ideas at the Victory Hall at 3.00pm
- 10th - Impact Christmas Safari Supper @6pm
- 11th - Scub 11/Impact 10.45am in the Scout Hut
- 13th - Over 60's Christmas Lunch at the Lord Haldon leaving the Square at 11.15am
- 13th - W.I. Christmas party in The Victory Hall @7.30pm
- 17th - Special Christmas Celebration Service 11am in Church

January

- 1st - United Benefice Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church at 11.00am
- 7th - Soup Kitchen in the Victory Hall at 12.30pm—see page 60.
- 8th - Scub 11/Impact 10.45am in The Scout Hut, 2nd Birthday Party
- 22nd - Scub 11/Impact 10.45am in The Scout Hut
- 24th - Midnight Communion in the Church at 11.30pm
- 25th - Family Service and Holy Communion in the Church at 11.00am
- 28th - Over 60's trip to the Pantomime. Dick Whittington at Tiverton
- 28th - Big Night In! Italian Film Night in the Victory Hall at 7.30pm

February

- 7th - Over 60's New Year Party and slide show
- 12th - Scub 11/Impact 10.45am in The Scout Hut

St Mary's Church

See above for Christmas services

Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	All Age Service
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Scub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Service
4th Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Scub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
5th Sunday	11.00am	Joint Benefice Communion

Ed the Ed

Welcome to our Christmas 2005 edition. Thanks for the generous donation of £61 from the Thirsty Farmer Quiz Night, which included a very kind addition of winnings from the 'stinker' question. We are grateful for such regular support from the Thirsty team.

This edition includes some new contributors –which is great - including an interesting article on what is happening to the Station House. The award for international contact goes to Veronica Krauesslar, who appears on pages 28 and 29 with memories of Whimble all the way from Malaga in Spain. Veronica was taken a copy somehow, and sent us her article via Kevin Thompson's business address – there's commitment!!

The long awaited advert for the Panto next year appears in this edition. I am now gazing at the script..."what script? What learning of lines?" I hear the seasoned attendees cry...the script that I always forget, that script!!! Apologies to people who live on our regular walks as I practice my words.

I see that the Thirsty Farmer New Years Eve party has a panto theme....oh what to wear, what to wear!!! To cross dress or just be mildly irate....

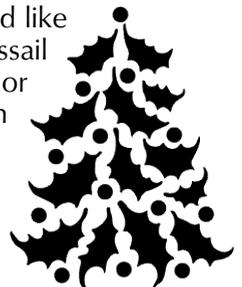
Those who know me are aware of my romantic and generous nature, which was clearly demonstrated on the occasion of an anniversary when I took the current Mrs H to the Parish Council meeting recently... she doesn't get out much, and it proved, as ever, to be a fount of information about the proposals for the traffic calming measures, which however, does not include cups of tea for the highly stressed cars and the opportunity for some counselling. I will ask a PCC rep to put something together for the next magazine. It was good to see a couple of new Councillors at the table plus a few more members of the public.

I hope that you enjoy the picture quiz on pages 46 and 47, put together by Julie and Naome from the News Team – something to tease your minds over the Xmas period.

If you can put pen to paper/fingers to keyboard, we would like your articles for the next edition by 17th January, (Wassail Day!). Please leave articles with Alison and Jim at the PO or direct through the red wine fumes to Bob on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk.

The Whimble News team wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year.

Ed H



FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old
From angels bending near the Earth, to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on Earth and goodwill to men, from Heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing

Recent months have offered us many examples of conflict and violence. So many of those events reveal the vulnerability of the poorest section of society, so many maimed and so many lives destroyed. And yet, the sun still rises every day on the evil and the good and the rain still falls on just and the unjust. To find healing and PEACE ON EARTH, we have to think again and change. We all need peace of mind, peace in our communities and now that the season of goodwill has arrived let us try to do little kindnesses – one a day. It can start modestly amid the irritants of daily life. For me Advent and Christmastide have always been a source of great joy. The messages of love that drop through the letterbox each year are a great joy and balm. Last year I came across an anonymous poem called...

THE CHRISTMAS CARD LIST

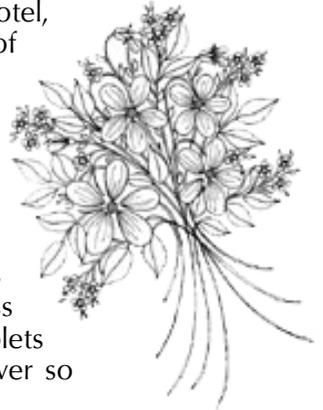
There is a list of folks I know, all written in a book
And every year at Christmas time, I go and take a look
And that is when I realise, that these names are a part
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.
For each name stands for someone, who has touched my life sometime
And in that meeting they have become, the "rhythm of the rhyme".
I really feel I am composed, of each remembered name
And while you may not be aware, of feeling quite the same
My life is so much richer, than it was before you came.
Whenever you have known someone, the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word, or of a friendly face.
So never think my Christmas card, is just a mere routine
Of names upon a dreary list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card, that is addressed to you
It is because you are that list; "Folks I Am Indebted To!"
And whether I have known you, for many years or few
In some way you had a part, in shaping things I do
And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew,
One of the best gifts that God can give, is knowing someone like you.

I think this is about the best message that has come my way and it was so lovely to get so many messages back saying that that poem made their Christmas and could they use it?

Now that darker days are upon us, the shortest day (which marks the Winter Solstice) is on the 21st – just before Christmas Day. In the garden I still find a few pickings, bedraggled roses, bergenias, the lovely tassels of Garrya Eliptica and a few delightful stylosa iris. I have also spotted a few violets and managed to make a small posy to bring indoors.

I remember so well when we were at the Gypsy Hill Motel, every lady in the house received a lovely bunch of sweet smelling violets on their breakfast plate on Christmas Day. In the days of walled gardens the garden boy picked and bunched the buttonholes for the ladies to wear on the lapel of their elegant side-saddle coats on hunting days.

All through history, violets have held a very special place for their scent. The Greeks and the Romans appreciated them in their own ways. Best of all Empress Josephine had her wedding dress embroidered with violets for her marriage to Napoleon. I don't think any flower so small has been held in such high esteem.



Winter is a time of food shortage for birds and many lose their natural shyness. If you set out food in the morning you must supply tit-bits regularly. Before the age of gardening the robin was a shy woodland bird, but it has become almost tame. The robin enjoys human company more than any other bird. He will follow you, knock in the window and even get adventurous enough to pop in the door. They say it is extremely lucky to hear a robin early on Christmas Day. A nation-wide survey has revealed that the robin is our favourite bird and the reason is not too difficult to find. When many other songsters have deserted our garden, the winter robin is still there faithfully.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

Craft Fayre

Michelle, Mike and Alison worked very hard to make this event a success. There were lots of lovely stalls and most of us went home with more than we intended.

Many thanks to Michelle and her team and everyone who helped and provided cakes. Just over £200 was raised for the PTFA and £140 pounds for the pre-school.

Jenny Sanders

Waves of Whimble

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Tim Wright

GOINGS ON AT THE STATION HOUSE

Anyone catching a train or trying to park in Station Road cannot miss the building site which has grown outside our front door, and we apologise to all those inconvenienced, especially our long-suffering neighbours. One day the skips will stop coming.



We fell in love with the Station House as soon as we saw it, inevitable when one of us is a Southern Railway buff. Richard and Marion Styles had done so much to make it a comfortable dwelling, so we thought we would just add one or two improvements, returning where possible to the original plans and materials. As everyone in the building trade told us, anything is possible **if** you have the money, so we are juggling restoration, mod cons and cost. Thus started the Saga. First the roof: covered in deteriorating black “turnerising”, it had to be replaced. No-one knew what was underneath, or its condition. The roofer revealed Delabole slates which would have just needed re-pinning, had it not been for the turnerising. In that state, it had no re-sale value and had to be thrown away. We could not afford new or even second-hand Delaboles, so Welsh Blues will have to do. In old pictures of the building you can see that each gable had a parapet. These had been removed (does anybody know when?) and the house looked rather bare, without eaves. Again, the cost of replacing the parapets was prohibitive, so we decided to have barge-boarding. Next question: what sort of design? At this point, the Good Luck Fairy came back in the shape of Kevin Staddon, who arrived on our doorstep literally as we were about to go to the joiners, and offered to show us the length of awning which had graced the old waiting room on the other side of the track. The same pattern can be seen around the edge of the platform canopy in old photographs, and this is what we have copied. Although it is in a different place, we hope you find the end result pleasing. Finally, the roof has been topped off with ridge tiles, as near as possible to the ones which can just be seen in the photograph at the Heritage Centre of the Whiteway family assembled in front of the main door.

We are doing a lot of other work to the house and garden. Some of it has come as a surprise, and the saga of Water in the Wrong Place can wait for another edition. In the meantime, we must express our gratitude to the History Society for their help and advice, Kevin Staddon, and our wonderful builders and roofers who have risen magnificently to the challenge. Could we also ask anybody who has memories of the old building to tell us about features they recall? We would be particularly interested in finding out what the fire surround looked like in the main entrance hall (or was it a waiting room?) and can anyone remember a pitched roof on the annexe next to the platform gate?

Marion and Martin Gammell

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Whimble School Walking Bus



Whimble School is launching its first "Walking Bus" service on Tuesday 6th December. The bus allows children to be dropped off at designated bus-stops at specific times and walked to school under the supervision of the "Driver" and "Conductor" (volunteer parents).

Everyone using the service is required to wear a high-visibility waistcoat, therefore increasing the safety of the children.

The aims of the bus are;

- * To promote walking to school as a healthy activity,
- * To teach road safety, and keep practising it,
- * To make traffic more aware of children walking by making a concentrated, highly visible group rather than lots of individuals,
- * To reduce congestion at school and in the Victory Hall car-park by encouraging parents to park in the Thirsty Farmer car-park and join the bus.

The initial routes will start on Station Road, by the footpath sign, and in Chard Avenue by Manley Close.

We hope to introduce other routes for other areas in the future.

Walking buses have been successfully introduced at many other schools, so we are looking forward to getting ours 'up and running'!

Thanks must be given to the volunteers for running the buses, and to Tanya and Vicki at the Thirsty Farmer for allowing parents to use their car-park at the ends of the school day.

Emma Palmer



Whimble Over 60's Club

Dec 13th - Christmas Lunch at the Lord Haldon. Leaving the Square at 11.15am.

No Club during January.

Jan 28th - Pantomime. Dick Whittington at Tiverton – not many seats left

Feb 7th - New Year Party and slide show



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Carols in the Square - Christmas Eve

Yes, I know - the leaves are still on the trees, we've been walking around in shirt-sleeves - much too soon to think of Christmas. Sadly, the time has flown even more quickly, this year, and Santa is already grooming his whiskers.

As in the past, we plan for community singing of Carols in Whimple Square and would like to see as many as possible come to join in. If, again, the weather does not permit an outside event, Rob Wilkinson has kindly agreed to allow us the use of the Church. Apart from all you lusty singers, we would love to be joined by more instrumentalists - those still at school especially welcome. If you play an instrument and would like to take part, please give me a call on 822344 so that I can arrange to have appropriate sheet music. I shall be happy to help anyone with their part before the event.

So now is the time to run up and down a few scales each morning as you do your pressups, and don't forget to have a packet of throat lozenges to banish any huskiness on the night - we want you all in good voice. But come anyway!

There will be a collection for Devon Air Ambulance again this year.

Barbara Lambert



Can you separate fact from fiction in the Christmas story?

Test your knowledge by answering "True" or "False" to each statement.

1. There are no records of Joseph speaking in the Christmas story.
2. Mary rode a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
3. They went to Bethlehem because of a decree by Caesar Augustus.
4. The wise men were three kings from the orient.
5. They followed the star as it moved from their eastern land to Israel.
6. The wise men arrived on the night of Jesus' birth
7. But the star did not appear above the manger.
8. They found Jesus lying in a manger in the town of Bethlehem
9. A choir of cherubic angels announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds
10. Shepherding was considered a noble occupation.

See page 42 for the answers

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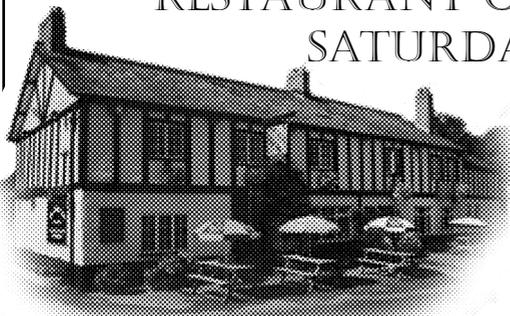


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Bonjour Tous le Monde!

How are you all? We don't hear very much, so we assume all is well in the 'wetlands' Here it has been 'dry lands', as apart from a few days torrential rain, the weather has been bone dry. In fact today the 6th of November I spent some time this afternoon watering the garden as several plants were positively flagging...

Two weeks ago we went on a mushroom hunt . What is that? I hear you cry.... Well in France there are actually many places left where mushrooms of all shapes and sizes can be found. To us this is a rare thing, as many varieties have been wiped out in Devon, and where I came from in the Netherlands, by over eager farmers with sprayers. Well... we subscribed to this mushroom hunt with a Crocodile Dundee type figure, which turned out to be a Yorkshire man with a very funny accent. Who upon arrival asked us: "do you want to cummmm ur guuuu???" After a minute's digesting of the question, we gathered that he thought perhaps we wanted to go back home as the weather had been drizzly during the night which made it wet underfoot. (We were in the Black Mountains for this you see, and very very high up). The views were stunning, the lake, which we were meant to scour for mushrooms around, was unbelievable, and the appetite for mushrooms real great by now. So we decided to Cummmm.

This is the thing about where we live, we can be either very high up in the Pyrenees within one hour's drive, as well on the opposite side of the Black Mountains, the other way same distance, or...we can be on the most gorgeous beaches in about 50 min, or in the lovely towns of Toulouse, Carcassonne, Canal du Midi, the other way. Each with its own characteristics, views, different cultures, culinary treats, and different stunning countryside and to top it all up, NO traffic jams!!!

Back to the Mushroom hunt. Before this trip I would never cut a toadstool or fungi, as I was always afraid to cut a particular toxic one. This trip showed us at least 25-30 different varieties, of which we could eat at least 10 different ones. So now we feel more confident to go and scour our local woods for the varieties we now know. We learnt that the French pick different ones than the Brits, as they pick mostly the varieties which their parents have taught them to pick. Well the Brits and Dutch (of which there are quite a few in this area) pick the varieties which they have known since childhood, and they are different again. This way no-one steps on another one's patch and everyone is happy...We saw some wicked Magic mushrooms, you know the red with white spots on top. In fact we saw a whole forest of them. At the end of 6 hours scouring the lakeside and surrounding woods, a great picnic by the lakeside, we had more than we could carry. I never knew that mushrooms could be so heavy when they are full of rainwater.

Would I have been doing this in the UK? Probably not! I would have been joining everyone else by getting 'ready' (where did this expression actually come from in the UK of 'are you ready for Christmas???; and soon is Christmas over and we get drowned to death with Easter Eggs; then barely over this, we have a couple months reprieve; and by end August the whole nation seems to have to get ready for the next sorry saga - for Christmas, joining the endless queues in Exeter High street, overspending on credit cards, and wondering if it was all worth it as no-one seemed to like the Christmas dinner, as they had already had Works 'do's dinners, Nanny's Christmas dinners, Friends dinner's, ex's dinners, presents from everyone and his wife, and Christmas cards, enough to save the planet , and I haven't started about the bizarre amounts of Booze everyone seems to have to consume (only joking...I loooooove English Christmases). No sorry, not one person here speaks about Christmas here yet, the shops are slowly getting some Christmas gear and decorations in stock, the supermarkets are starting to have more toys on the shelves, but that is it! And cards, well I have not seen one to buy yet! How lovely.

So yes give me a good Mushroom hunt any day, without crowds, nor traffic, just the silence of nature. We sat on our patio today having our lunch overlooking our village on a Sunday afternoon, (we live high up in the village you see). Now not a sound could be heard, you could hear a pin drop. The only sound was of birds singing. No cars driving around, no lawn mowers, no arguments, no motorbikes and the tops of the Pyrenees covered in snow, the vines a fantastic array of reds, orange and yellow, the garden still in full bloom as if it is mid summer, flies everywhere, and it seems like most people were just calmly having their Sunday lunch with their families. How peaceful.

Remember our chickens? The 2 Silkies and the 2 hens which were acquired after the Silkies? Well the eggs have not arrived yet! In fact not one egg has arrived as per yet!!! However, one of the 2 hens which we acquired after the 2 Silkies,...turned out to be a cockerel as 'she' started to crow one day and developed a comb..., so the sex-change 'hen' is now a lovely bouillon in our neighbour's freezer...

There have been 'to do's' in our village. In other words rumblings... It all started with an AGM of the Heritage (Heemse) committee. Well when all the pleasantries and financial countdowns were read, it was time for the mayor to say a few words. Oh dear... the wrong thing was said by someone, which resulted in a huge argument, with people walking out, and people standing up, pointing fingers at each other, shaking fists and making other hand movements...which were not friendly, and to me, very funny comments. It was hugely entertaining, a bit scary because I seemed to be sitting in the firing line of people shouting over my head, and it reminded me of French comedy programmes like 'Allo Allo'. Life is never dull here in Saint Laurent!

On this note I say 'Tara, Au revoir, Tot ziens, Good bye and all that'.

Janine Peryer

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WHIMPLE FIREWORKS

On Saturday 5th November, villagers gathered to watch Graham Fowle and his team present their Fireworks display at the Cricket Club. The display was sponsored by local businesses with contributions from the village itself over the year, and of course from Whimple Stores themselves. The numbers of people were down on last year as the weather was not in our favour that week, and rain had been expected. However it stayed dry for the evening and we all had a splendid view of the firework display.

The Whimpletons were pleased to help out during the evening as Graham wanted to split the 'excess' from the collection between funding next year's display and making a contribution to the pantomime group! The Stores teams were there in abundance, looking after the raffle and 'gate' duties, and they all did very well.

The evening ended in the Cricket Club itself, so it was good to see the tills ringing for a local cause as we quenched our thirst. The raffle seemed to have hundreds of prizes...everyone a winner.

Our Health and Safety expert did spot young Graham arriving early for the display, with his car full of the fireworks, and then watched him park up and calmly light a cigarette...in the car. Now that would have been a display and a half...Graham would have been recovered from Exmouth, Broadclyst, Newton Pop and all stations west!!!!

Well done and thanks to Graham and his team, and thanks to all the generous villagers who kindly contributed to the collection on the night. **Ed H**

Helping our Youngsters

Do you feel that the village, or perhaps more importantly the 'youngsters' of the village, are in desperate need of some sort of recreational facility? - Perhaps somewhere to cycle or skateboard? If so I would like to hear from you.

If there is enough interest and support, I would like to know as soon as possible so that an informal meeting can be arranged during January or February to discuss whether this could be achieved.

Please contact Liz Silk on 822389.

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Italian Film Night

Il Postino (The Postman) cert U

Whimple Village Hall
Sat. 28th January 7.30pm

Pizza and glass of wine or juice (included in ticket price) served from 7.30. Film starts 8pm.

Escape the British winter for one evening of sun and romance.

The film tells the story of the unemployed son of a fisherman who is hired as an extra postman to cope with the increase of mail generated when a famous Chilean poet is exiled to his island. When he suddenly falls in love, the new postman turns to the poet for help. Poetry, politics, humour, and love are brought together in this beautiful piece of cinema.

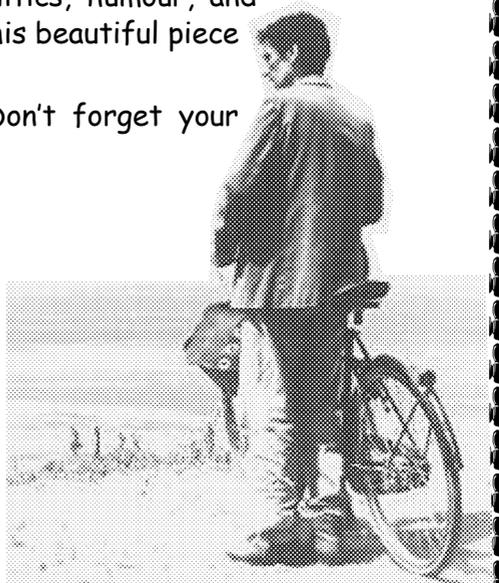
NB. This film is subtitled. (Don't forget your spectacles!)

Film length: 1hr 4mins.

Ticket prices £5.50
or £4.50 (child/concessions).

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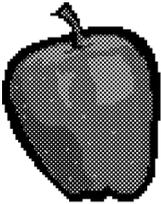
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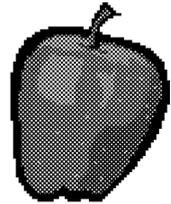
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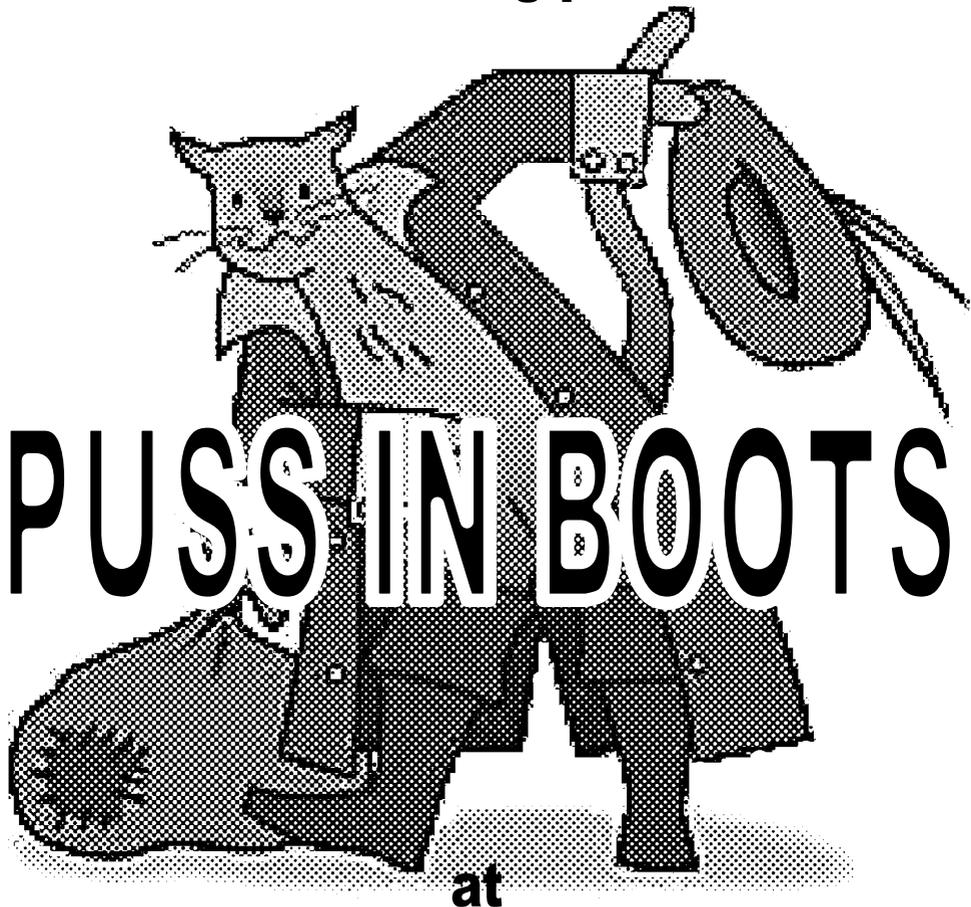


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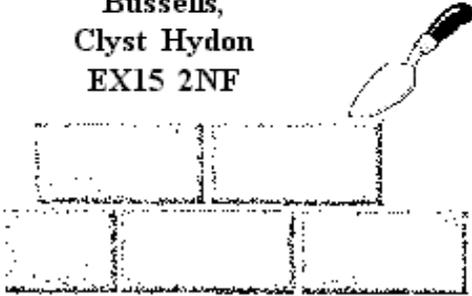
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Memories

It's taken me a long time to make a decision of whether or not to write to your magazine. With some encouragement from my work colleague/friend to just share my thoughts with the past.

I no longer live in Devon but in Spain, my friend visited her family that reside in Whimble, slightly amazed at hearing the name mentioned we shared a conversation of "my many memories" of Devon.

One reason is, I have not been to the little hamlet of Whimble for such a long time, having lived there as a small child, I was born in Exeter City and my family moved frequently around Devon with the work available. I went to school at Thoverton, Bramford Speke, Yeoford, Bow, Sandford and Crediton.

I also went to school in Whimble, I have quite a few memories of the area. The year of the Coronation in 1953 - remembering the celebrations and seeing television for the first time of the Coronation in the village hall (Whimble Victory Hall). All our clothes, socks and shoes were red white and blue, In fact everything was decorated with red, white and blue. I also remember the train stopping in Whimble on that special day to meet with relatives that I never ever saw again. I remember the smell of the cider factory where the girls threw apples to me for lunch (to this day I still like the sharpness of an apple). I can well remember picking up apples for tanner a bag.

I can still picture the railway station, school, village hall, and group of what was at that time the first council houses. Because the school was less than three miles away I had to walk to and from school, my lesson in being punctual and often late, occasionally getting a lift with a guy who worked as a repairman for a local garage and getting into trouble for dropping my dinner money in his car.

On the way home I had to call and collect from a lady who lived in a bungalow near a T junction on the left, bottles of orange juice for the younger children were allowed this as an allowance plus chocolate vitamin pills and cod liver oil (entitlement from the National Health Service). Often I would drink the juice before arriving home and getting into trouble because it was meant for the younger children.

I can remember one particular summer being so hot and seemed a very long walk that I sucked the juice from the bottle without removing the lid. My mother did not punish me because the lid was still intact. I still smile to myself at that thought.

The memory of hedgerows which always appeared huge loaded with various wild flowers such as foxglove, dog rose, buttercups, celandines, dandelions, in the spring we busily collected small wild strawberries in a clean white handkerchief, in the autumn the hedgerows were laden with blackberries, which we picked copious amounts for mother, armed with crooked walking sticks and milk cans carting it all home for mother to make jam.

of Whimble

True of all country ways she made all the fruit jams and bottled fruit, all the chutneys and pickles, bread and sometimes depending on the milk availability her own butter. Next to the house was an orchard, which supplied us with copious amounts of apples and I vividly remember the flowers of meadowsweet and cuckoo-pint, often picked and placed into an empty jam jar for mother.

She carted all the water from the well to the back of the house to do the washing and I helped her to wind the clothes through the mangle often squeezing my fingers. Mother entered most of what she made for various competitions. At the village hall where she would attend whist drives etc; as she was always busy knitting, crocheting and sewing mainly to clothe us all quite proudly turned out and scrubbed on a Sunday for our walk to the village. I think everyone walked everywhere in those days, later on father did acquire a bicycle.

I loved the countryside the smell of hay making in the spring, the harvest with straw being gathered the autumn when the potatoes were packed away for the winter and the smell of rotting apples as they lay on the ground.

When the ploughing season began and Devon's red earth coated everything. What's really a coincidence maybe, is that where I live now there is also red earth which maybe is some of the reasons that I feel so at home.

I also live out in the wilds similar to the way that my mother lived mainly because there is the slowness of life that appears lost, with a quiet-ness, as everyone is rushing around chasing material things, losing the real quality of life just to be happy with what you have.

I lived a little way outside of Whimble as my stepfather worked for a farm and I guess that the cottage was supplied with the work. As the work became available or better paid we moved, surprisingly even though I attended so many schools and churches for that matter, I had a varied education of religion attending whatever church was nearest, I still have a fondness for the Salvation Army, although my choice has placed me in life's rich tapestry of knowledge so that I am open to all faiths.

I still have a fondness of thatched roofed cottages, which still remain with me today. I often take out my watercolour paints and produce a picture of a thatched cottage with a flower garden. Often made into a birthday or Christmas card for a family member, my love for the countryside remains with me.

Thank you Whimble for the little bit of tapestry that has woven the colour in my life.

Veronica Krausslar



Among the angels;

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born.

The child asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"

God replied, "Among the angels, I'll choose one for you. Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you.

The child further inquired, "But tell me, here in heaven I don't have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy..." God said, "Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you every day. And you will feel your angel's love and be very happy."

Again the child asked, "And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language?"

God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you to speak."

"I've heard that on Earth there are bad people. Who will protect me?"

God said, "Your angel will defend you even if it means risking its life".

At that moment there was much peace in heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked "God, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel's name."

"Her name is not important. ... You will simply call her 'Grandma'".

HDR

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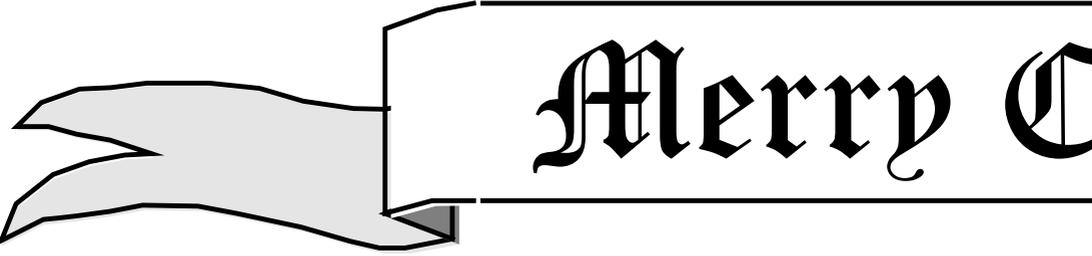
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Winter Breaks



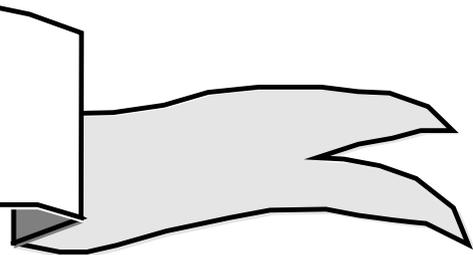
"Enjoy the peace and quiet of the Devon countryside space for the children to play"





Merry C

Christmas



Whimble and Broadclyst YFC

Charity News



Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers situated in East Devon have recently been awarded a community award from Noel Edmunds the patron of Exeter Leukaemia Fund in recognition of the £2,000 pounds which they presented to ELF at the end of September.

ELF supports the work of the Haematology centre at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (RD&E). The Centre treats the area's blood cancer victims, performs bone marrow transplants and conducts research into the causes and treatment of the disease.

The club was introduced to the charity when a local farmer's wife was diagnosed with the disease, but her enthusiasm for the staff and the Yarty ward at the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital encouraged the club to nominate ELF as the charity of the year

Initial fund raising took the form of a dung sale (they say where there's muck there's money), carol singing (squawking), coffee mornings and donations from local bingos. The club aimed high and set their target at a minimum of £1,000. Soon sights were raised higher, 10,000 ft higher in fact as 6 members took to the skies for charity. With the aid of the 'Jump for ELF' day at the Devon and Somerset School of Parachuting 6 members completed a magnificent tandem parachute jump. One member was quoted as saying that she would not go down a local adventure park's death slide but she would jump from a plane if it made a difference to Elf. The parachute jumps raised around £1800 which was fantastic. In addition to the jumps three members tirelessly trained in local fields for the South West half marathon. The runners completed the gruelling course in just over 2 hours which was a great achievement, and made their £400 even more deserved.

The amounts raised by the different events exceeded the club's initial expectations and was seen as a credit to the club's commitment to the local community.

To top the fundraising achievements the club were nominated by ELF to receive the first prestigious Community Award, presented in recognition of groups who have managed to raise more than £1000.

ELF's patron is local resident Noel Edmunds and it was fitting that he should present the award to the club on the 6th October in Broadclyst.

He said that he was delighted to be associated with ELF and that there are many people in the area who owe their lives to the research and facilities provided by ELF. He congratulated the YFC for their fantastic efforts and awarded the trophy to the Chairman Andrew Fry who thanked him on behalf of the club.

Claire Fry

Whimble History Society



Trafalgar Day Celebration

The History Society held an evening at the Cricket Club on 21st October to remember the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

The evening was well attended and many people came patriotically dressed in red, white and blue, or in seafaring costume, and the ladies were "all at sea" when John Aiton made a grand entrance in full Naval uniform!

The cricket club was beautifully decked out with Union Jacks and red and white carnation displays on every table.

The evening included a Trafalgar-related quiz which was kindly compiled by Katie Howard - we were all fascinated to find out that Nelson lost one of his arms whilst in Tenerife (I hope he complained to his holiday rep!) and many other interesting facts.

We also sang some sea shanties (one of a risqué nature). We were all entertained by the sudden appearance of a lady-tramp at the bar, who suddenly broke into a song about her home under Nelson's Column. Thanks to Nancy Giles who acted the part and sang so well.

At the end of the evening there was a prize draw presided over by Richard Webber.

Many thanks go to all those who helped organise this enjoyable evening especially Roger Smith and the ladies of the History Society led by Beryl Boyd who prepared a lovely array of tasty food that we enjoyed throughout the evening.

Naome Glanville



Simon Turner

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Whimble Post Office News

As I write this article for the Whimble News it occurs to me that it is exactly one year to the day that Jim and I had our first day behind the post office counter, we did indeed wonder how we were going to cope!

In fact this past year has been really fun, and we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you all.

We are both very grateful for your support as every single transaction counts, and proves that this service is essential to our community.

Now those all-important last recommended posting dates.



International Air Mail

Friday 9th December

South and Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle east, Far East, (Except Japan), Asia, New Zealand and Australia.

Monday 12th December

Japan, USA, Canada, and Eastern Europe.

UK Last Posting Dates

Wednesday	14th December	Standard Parcels
Saturday	17th December	Second Class
Tuesday	20th December	First Class.
Thursday	22nd December	Special Delivery

Our Opening times over Christmas and the new year can be found on the centre pages Benefits that are due on 26th December can be collected on 23rd December, and those due on 2nd January can be collected on 30th December.

Wishing you and your families Peace and Fun this Christmas and Health and Happiness throughout the New Year.

Thanking you all for your continuing Support.

Jim & Alison

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 4 December at 3.00pm Christingle Service

Sunday 11 December at 10.45am S-Club 11/Impact Christmas Special in the Scout Hut

Sunday 18 December at 11.00am Christmas Celebration Service at 6.30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

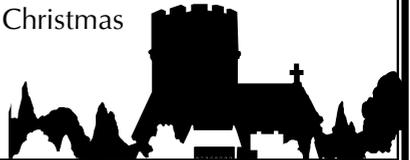
Christmas Day at 11.00am Family Service followed by Holy Communion

We do hope that you will be able to come and join us for some of the celebratory services taking place at St Mary's over the Christmas period.

Especially attractive is the Advent Carol Service which takes place by candlelight, candles being gradually lighted around the church as the service progresses until the whole church is aglow with light and colour, thus signifying Jesus' coming and his bringing of light into the world. The choir leads us in the singing of well-known and well-loved carols.

Children love the Christingle Service when carols are sung as they process around the church holding their Christingles (an orange encircled with a red ribbon, decorated with sweets and topped with a lighted candle). The orange representing the world, the ribbon the blood of Christ, the sweets God's blessings and the candle denoting Jesus as the 'Light of the World'.

Members of the PCC wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year and look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas services.



Church Tower Roof

The existing church tower roof is in poor condition and for some considerable time it has been our intention to have it renewed. I am therefore pleased to say that on the 5th December work to renew it will commence.

Ellis & Co Ltd are the main contractors and scaffolding is being erected during the week before the roofing works commence.

In addition to the new roof some stone work to the tower will also be undertaken.

It is anticipated that the period of works will last a total of fifteen weeks, which includes a two week Christmas break.

Rob Wilkinson

WHIMPLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the October meeting we had an extremely interesting talk on "The Work of a Magistrate", giving us a much better idea of our local justice system.

November, our Annual Meeting, is the time to review the past year and elect a new committee. Rose-Marie Burrows stood down as President after 4 years in that position, the new President is Ann Bowden.

2004/05 has been our 85th birthday year and the secretary's report reminded us what a busy year we have had. Apart from our own meetings, members have attended numerous county events such as a croquet day, a river cruise, Northcott theatre day, a Dutch lunch, International day and a farm walk. We also travelled to West Buckland School to visit an exhibition celebrating the 85th birthday of our County Federation.

Delegates had also attended two council meetings. At the Spring meeting Pam Ayres was the main speaker, and in the Autumn Ann Daniels talked about her amazing polar journeys. After the serious part of the evening, we ended with a light-hearted quiz.

We are always happy to welcome new members to our meetings, which are held at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month.

For information please contact **Ann Bowden** tel. 823450



Answers to the Christmas story quiz on page 12

1. True - He must have said something, but there is absolutely no record.
2. False - No donkey appears in the Biblical account. She probably walked.
3. True - Luke 2:1-5.
4. False - The number of wise men is not mentioned.; and they were not kings.
5. False - The wise men saw the star in the east (Matthew 2:2) and set out for Jerusalem where they asked for directions. Once leaving Jerusalem the star appeared again and led them to the house in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:9).
6. False - The wise men arrived sometime after Jesus is born (Matthew 2:1). Jesus is called a child, rather than a baby (Matthew 2:11). He may have been as old as two (Matthew 2:7,16).
7. True - It appeared above the house where Joseph's family was living rather than the stable (Matthew 2:9-11) .
8. False - Actually God sent an army of warrior angels. See Luke 2:13. "Company" and "host" are military terms.
9. False - In first century B.C., shepherding was a very lowly occupation. Shepherds were unable to remain ritually pure according to Pharisaic laws and so were considered unclean.



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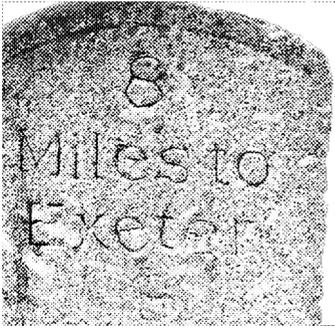
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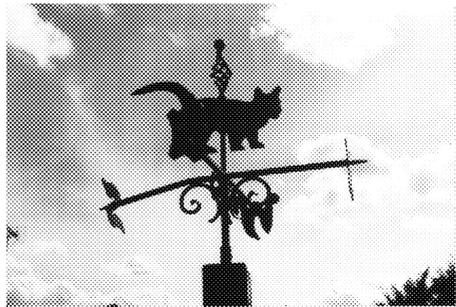
Where in Whimple?

Just when you thought it was too cold to go out, here's an excuse for you to wrap up warm, go out for a walk and do some sight-seeing.

How many of these Whimple views can you identify? No prizes, but we'll tell you where they can be seen in the next edition of the Whimple News.



1



2



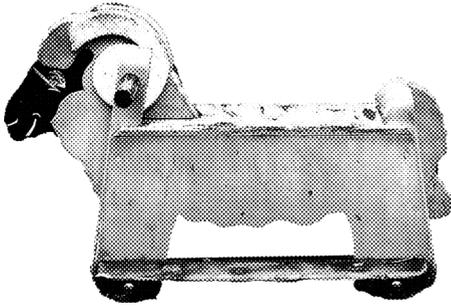
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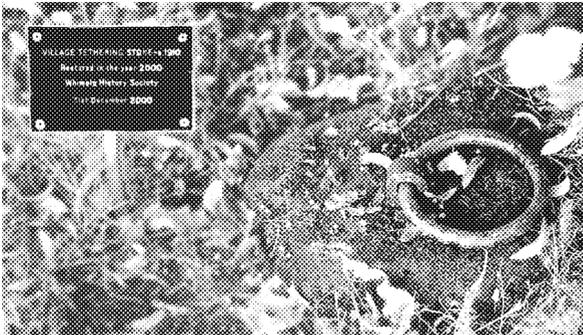
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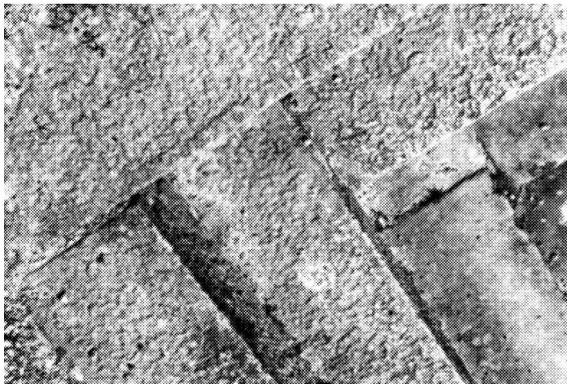
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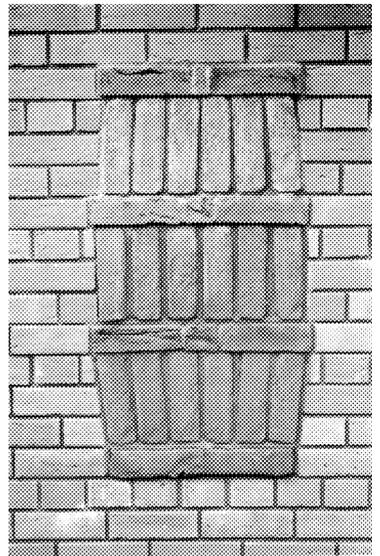
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7



8



11

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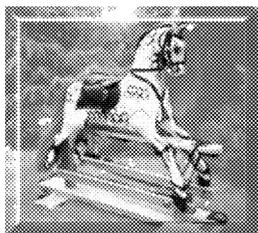
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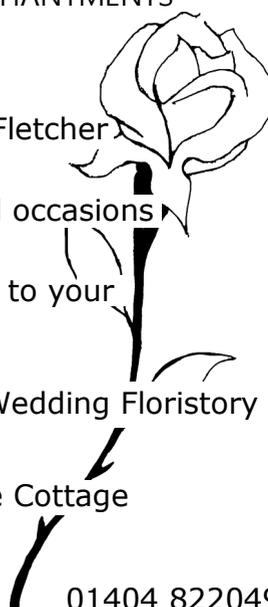
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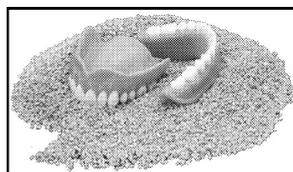
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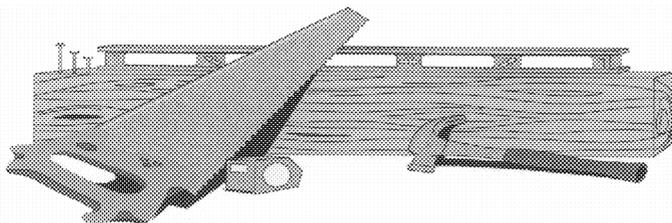


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At this time of year there is naturally very little to report. But now that autumn is with us, and no doubt winter by the time you read this, I expect the onset of the autumn rains has got you all wondering just which type of rice crop to grow. I expect you have all been reflecting on the success of what you have grown, and for those of you who entered our flower show, still congratulating yourselves on the prizes you won!! We offer our grateful thanks to those of you who have supported our events throughout the year and look forward to your support next year.

The Annual General Meeting for the VPA will be held on Tuesday 17th January 2006 in the Committee Room at the Victory Hall. Everyone is welcome especially if you feel you want to contribute to our now very active Committee. The meeting will start at 7.30pm and not only will we be reflecting on the success of this year, but we will certainly be planning ahead for bigger, and hopefully better, events next year.

We look forward to seeing you all at our events next year, and as usual, they will be published here in the Whimble News.

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary.



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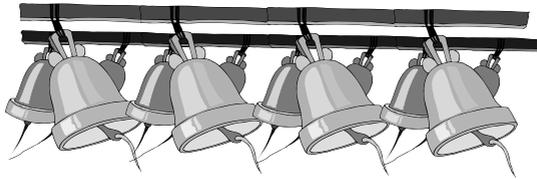
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New Year's Eve 2005

**Come and join us in the Square at around 11.45pm on New Year's Eve
Bring candles to light your way, Hear the church clock chime midnight**

The church bells will be rung to welcome the New Year

Mulled wine will be served in The Square

We will sing 'Auld Lang Syne' together

(The church will be open)

MOTHER MOLLY'S HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Alternative uses for a potato masher:-

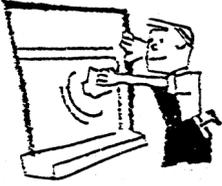
Rather than chop up hard boiled eggs to make sandwich filling, use the potato masher - it's quicker and easier. Add salt & pepper and mayonnaise - yummy.

When making a cheesecake, use the potato masher to tamp down the base mixture of digestive biscuits, butter & sugar. It makes a nice flat tool which goes right to the edges.

When making vegetable soup, liquidise half the mixture and then mash up the remaining mixture with the potato masher. It makes a more interesting texture than if it is all liquidised.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE !





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ID WATCH

Identity fraud is the UK's fastest growing type of fraud!

There is one case of identity theft committed every four minutes and it is costing UK consumers more than £1.3 billion each year. Fraudsters are able to steal an identity by simply getting hold of personal details – from documents such as bank statements, credit card receipts and bills. A common way of gaining this information is through 'bin raiding' – the simple act of delving through household waste to find personal documents.

How can you avoid becoming a victim?

- Shred paperwork which reveals personal information such as letters from your bank or shopping receipts.
- Always keep important personal documents, plastic cards and cheque books in a safe and secure place. Keep cheque books and cards separately.
- Don't share personal information unless you are entirely confident you know who you are dealing with.
- Always check bank statements, and check receipts against your statements carefully.
- Contact your bank or building society immediately if you are concerned about an expenditure you do not recognise.
- Be aware that your post is valuable information in the wrong hands.
- Guard your cards.

If you move house make sure you contact your bank and all other organisations to give them your change of address (the Post Office can redirect post on request).

A very safe and happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

John Munslow 01404 823456

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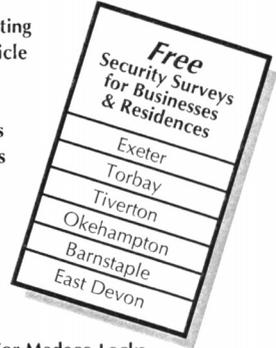
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Jan and John at The Jays will be serving mulled wine in The Square on New Years Eve to help see in the New Year! Any donations of wine will be gratefully accepted!

John Shoebottom

Fay and family would like to give heartfelt thanks to all the friends and neighbours who have offered their sympathy and shown such kindness and support over the sad loss of John.

FREE TO GOOD HOMES

I have a number of 2, 3 and 4 ring binders from a previous career - I am happy to give them away singly or in batches - just ring me on 823194 to view! Ed Hitchcock

Whimpe Victory Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Victory Hall took place on 24th of October. Despite a poor attendance it was pleasing to welcome one member of the community who is not a Trustee. This is the first time that I can remember when someone other than the Trustees attended.

Following the AGM the Executive was voted in to Office for the forthcoming year. Very little is changing with John Discombe elected Chair, Arthur Iball Vice Chair, Pam Scanlan Secretary, George Begent Treasurer and Fiona Randall as Booking Secretary. I am pleased to say that Fiona has agreed to continue this year as she took over at short notice when Teresa Daniels went on her travels and is growing into the position with every passing week.

Work is continuing with our programme of improvements and the ceiling in the kitchen has been stripped and repainted and we are now in a position to satisfy Environmental Health. Two of the Trustees have attended a food handling course and we will be introducing a Saturday Soup kitchen in the New Year. Look out for notices in and around the village but the first event is provisionally booked for Saturday 7th January from 12noon to 1:30pm. Book early to avoid disappointment on 823614 or 822262.

The drapes will again be going up for the Christmas period and we are grateful to the ladies of the village for the decorations.

Have a good Christmas and every good wish for 2006.

John Discombe

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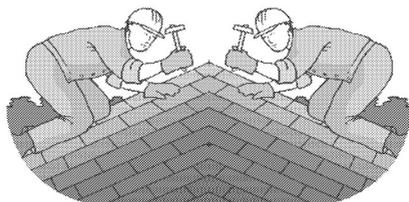
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<i>Clerk:</i> Mrs Gerri Turner, Penraddon, Hand and Pen	823385
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Contact:</i> Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
Devon County Councillor	
Mr. D.Button,	
East Devon Councillor	
Andrew Dinnis	850363
Whimble County Primary School	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. D. Brice	822584
<i>P.T.F.A. Chair:</i> Jenny Sanders, 1 The Croft	823015
Whimble History Society	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group	
<i>Chair:</i> Sally Young 11 Chard Ave	823228
<i>Playleader:</i> Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road	822168
<i>Toddlers:</i> Helen Penney, 14 Rectory Close	822948
Vicky Clough, 15 Rectory Close	822800
Whimble Womens Institute	
<i>Secretary:</i> Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green	823450
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
Mrs B. Iball, 11 Rectory Close	822905
Whimble Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground.</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
<i>Chairman:</i> Mr. A. Bratt, Rockwell, Talaton	822437
Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club	
Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Geoff Delves, 10 Elizabeth Close	823258
Whimble Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> J. Hughes	822659
Whimble Cricket Club	
Mr. R.J.Smith	822244
Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee	
<i>Secretary:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Fiona Randall	822793
Whimble Post Office	
Alison and Jim Creasy	822359
Whimbletons	
Emma Palmer	823083
Neighbourhood Watch	
John Munslow, 44 Slewtton Crescent	823456
St. Mary's Bellringers	
<i>Captain:</i> Liz Silk	
Whimble Scout Group	
<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
Otter Rotters	
Hugh Roberts	822651
Whimble Book Group	
Katy Howard, 9 Whiteways Close	823038

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