

Whimble News



Feb/March 2009

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MUSIC DATES

6th February: Kiss This

27th February: Ocean 6

27th March: Thick as Thieves

WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

February

- 14th Louise Parker Quartet, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 19th Panto, Beauty and the Beast, Victory Hall, 6.30pm
- 20th Panto, Beauty and the Beast, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st Panto, Beauty and the Beast, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 23rd Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00pm
- 24th Talk on all things recyclable, Victory Hall, 7.00pm
- 28th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, 12.00noon - 1.30pm

March

- 14th Family Breakfast, Victory Hall, 10.00am - 12.00noon
- 17th Shamrock Supper, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 18th Tennis Club AGM, Willowbrook House, 7.30pm
- 23rd Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00pm
- 28th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, 12.00noon - 1.30pm
- 30th FOWS Easter Bingo, Victory Hall, 5.30pm, eyes down 6.00pm

April

- 4th Easter Egg Hunt, 2.00pm, watch for posters
- 10th The Crucifixion, St Marys Church, 6.30pm
- 27th Annual Parish Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00pm

May

- 18th Parish Council AGM & Re-election of Members, Victory Hall, 7.00pm

June

- 22nd Parish Council Meeting, Victory Hall, 7.00pm
- 28th Whiteways Employees Reunion, see article

August

- 8th VPA show

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

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

PETER SALTER A.I.R.T.E.

MOBILE MOTOR ENGINEER

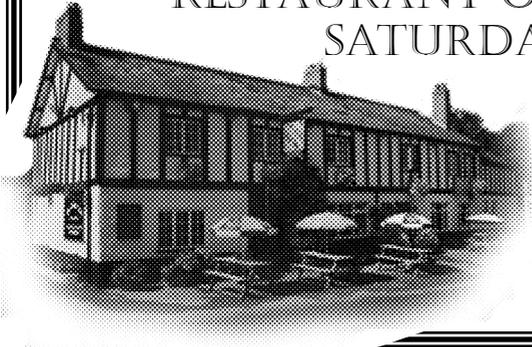
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Ed the Ed

Welcome to our February/March edition, which in my humble view, is one of our best yet, in that we offer not only a wide range of locally produced articles, but some information about proposals concerning Cranbrook that demand our attention **NOW** (see pages 32 and 33.) We cannot be complacent here about a five year delay in the building of the new town. Major decisions still need to be taken and the article in this edition highlights proposals that eliminate the gap that we once thought would exist between Whimble and Cranbrook. If that concerns you, then please contact the Planning Policy section of East Devon Council before 13th February. I am sure that our County and East Devon Councillors would also want to understand our concerns on these proposals.

We have also included a page from the Sustainable Ottery Group that wants to challenge the planned Tesco store; we acknowledge that there will be people who would welcome such a store - we all have a choice here.

We owe the Milestone garage and some of its customers an apology in that we included incorrect opening times for the garage in our centre page spread in the Xmas edition. We had a technical gremlin at work, so sorry for any inconvenience.

We have included a Wassail report from the pen of the gallant Leader of the Wassail, who failed to wear his wet suit, mask and snorkel on the night. Were we disheartened? It takes more than that to dampen the spirits of a few men in smocks with hats covered in ivy!! Well done the brave people who turned out to support us.

I was honoured to be invited to Joy Little's birthday party just before Christmas - a mere 99 years old! It really came home to me when I casually asked Joy "So how long have you been in the village?" and Joy calmly said "93 years." What can you say after that? But was I lost for words? Gentle reader, have you ever seen me in the panto lost for words?

Talking of panto, I apologise in advance as my normal method of learning my lines whilst perambulating around the local lanes has been thrown into total disarray by the current Mrs H signing up with the Bra Babes as I call them. It is impossible to read the scripts when you are speeding around the lanes at the minimum recommended speed of 4 mph for the Moonwalk (see 2 articles later in this edition from the Bra Babes). So gentle pantomime goer, there may be moments when my normal professional approach falters as I search for the next word. I am sure that you excuse these momentary lapses which are so out of character for me. Don't forget to get your tickets from either the PO or the shop. I see that the Primary School also had 'Beauty and the Beast' performed for them recently, and the children liked it because it had a happy ending. With any Whimbletons performance, all our audiences are delighted when the panto comes to an end.

If you would like to contribute an article for the News, then please send it via Email to bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk , or via Small Outlet Jim at the PO (waiting for yet another photo opportunity in the Echo when a European 5 axled lorry tries to bounce its way through the village). Later in this edition, you can share John Discombe's delight when exactly that happened to him and his humble dwelling.

Ed H

**THE WHIMPLETONS PRESENT:
THE LONG-AWAITED
2009 PANTO...**

BEAUTY & THE BEAST

OR SOMETHING LIKE IT!



**VICTORY HALL ON FEBRUARY 19th AT 6.30pm ,
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Weekdays	11.10 am. And 5.10pm
Saturday	Earliest official time 10.10am (However usually approx 12.00 mid day)

No collection Sundays or Bank Holidays

If you need to catch the post, please leave plenty of time. The collection postman is unable to delay beyond these times as he is on a tight time schedule.

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Other useful numbers for you.

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Royal Mail Customer care	08457 740740
N S & I Customer Services	0845 9645000
East Devon Council Customer Services	01395 517528

Why not cut out and keep for your information?

FRANCES PRATT

I am sure that everyone who knew Frances Pratt was saddened at her death recently, and my intention was to ask a couple of people who knew her well, to offer a tribute to her life and contribution to our village. Mike Mallett and Alex Spry have both kindly offered these words below in memory of a wonderful village character who gave so much to Whimple. Frances Pratt will be remembered with great affection.

Ed H

FRANCES MARY PRATT by Mike Mallett

Mrs 'P' moved to Whimple about 50 years ago from Thornfalcon/Henlade near Taunton, following the sudden death of her husband, Henry. She had already experienced a busy life as a Land Agent, and with the British Red Cross, but she was not one to dwell on past achievements.

On arriving in Whimple, she soon became involved with village life, whilst still retaining her association with previous societies, including Somerset Cricket Club. 'Mrs P' was still committed to supporting the clubs and associations in the village, which she had joined in the early 1960's. Even last November she organised the Royal British Legion Poppy Collection, as she had done for numerous years. Nearly 50 years of untiring work was devoted to the Whimple Flower Show, which was recognised when she was appointed President.

She supported many local events and organisations, which included the VPA, Cricket Club, Conservative Association, Whimple branch of the Royal British Legion, the History Society, the Scouts, Womens Institute, Mothers Union and the Parish Council. Who can forget the Sandfords Surgery which the Coleridge Medical Centre doctors used for 38 years, in her home, before the new surgery was opened?

Mrs 'P' was a local character who will be sadly missed.

MM

A TRIBUTE TO MRS PRATT by Alex Spry

A wise lady who was always interested in what young people were doing today, right up until the end, Mrs Pratt gave over 60 years of her life to Scouting and Guiding. Prior to 1962 she was heavily involved with Scouting and Guiding at Hatch Beauchamp in Somerset and, on arriving in Whimble in 1962, got involved as Treasurer to Whimble Scouts, a position she held until 2002.

Being born during the First World War, and with her birthday being the 8th May (VE Day), Frances Pratt was very prudent with monies raised and was strict with us when we came to spend it! I'm sure, and know this has come up in many conversations I have had with Leaders past and present, that was one of her best known qualities! Frances (although I always addressed her as 'Mrs Pratt') would tell me stories of how the scout hut was built by fundraising, which came in the form of pancake races from the New Fountain Inn to the New Inn (now the Thirsty Farmer), jumble sales and waste paper collections - with Fred Bastyan and Arthur Thompson pushing a hand cart around the village.

I got to know Mrs Pratt when I joined the Whimble Scouts in 1988 aged 13, from Feniton which had closed, but it always felt like she had known me since I was born! The best thing I remember about her was that she always looked forward to people visiting her and loved to see the children. In the 1990's, when, as Scout leader, I would take the Scouts around the village to collect waste newspapers (some things stay the same!), Mrs Pratt was a scheduled stop and if we were to forget, we'd be in trouble! On many an occasion the Scouts would not get back from paper collecting until after dark in the winter months and parents looking worried would say to them "Where have you been?", and they would say "Alex got talking to Mrs Pratt"!

On one occasion, Shelley and I took Graham our eldest, who was a couple of weeks old, round to see her. Graham was asleep in his car seat and as soon as we sat down in the front room by the three bar fire, we all started to nod off (a combination of me doing two rounds in the Post Office that day and plenty of sleepless nights) when Mrs Pratt suddenly shouted "Well that's alright, lets all go to sleep for an hour!"

What would be 'popping in' for five minutes would always end up as an hour, or even an hour and a half! But I wouldn't have wanted it any other way to be honest. It was like time didn't really matter, and, there wasn't a clock in her house that told the right time anyway! A welcome quality that many of us could do with introducing into this busy-busy life that we all lead now. I know that it is something I will try to continue, even if it doesn't quite suit the needs of my current employer!

It will be some of the sayings she used that I'll never forget - things like "Dig me out" for when we shouted through the door when visiting and "You'll do" when remarking about any of my DIY activities at the Scout Hut, or when repairing one of her many sheds and outbuildings!

Thanks Mrs Pratt - it was great to know you. Rest in peace.

AS

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7.30pm

Licensed Bar

Victory Hall, Whimble

With a Jamaican mother and jazz-obsessed father, Louise Parker was born to create the sort of soulful jazz she is rapidly gaining a reputation for. Louise began performing with main-stream jazz band Woza in 1998. By 2005 the band became the Louise Parker Quartet. In 2006, Louise was tipped by Evening Standard critic Jack Massarik as the most promising new jazz singer. With influences including Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday and a mix of funk and gospel, Louise combines an easy rhythmical style with a sweet warm tone to create a performance which really stirs the soul. The Quartet usually includes Craig Milverton on piano and “Coach” York on drums. The late, great musician Humphrey Lyttelton was a fan of Louise’s and she has recorded a CD with him.

Tickets available from Whimble Post Office

Adult £6.50 Child/OAP £4.50

“This year’s next big thing” London Evening Standard

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FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

by Edith Marie-Louise Grout



My garden is a haven
From the world of weary care
There is always utter freedom
And sweet contentment there

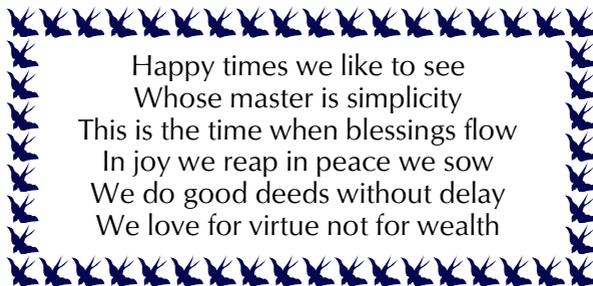
My garden is a gallery
Of infinite delight
Displaying many pictures
That are classics in their right

As I venture into my garden at this time of renewal and new life, I discover several pictures in nature's art gallery, all framed prettily in green surroundings. The first sight, under a shrub, is a charming group of snowdrops also called February maidens, nodding their white bells in the morning breeze. I am sure the fairies can hear sweet melodies like a peal. As I walk further up the path where my robin resides, I hear him calling and, as I look down, he is sitting on some dried birch leaves surrounding a group of sunny coloured winter aconites - it gladdens my heart. I usually come back into the house with a posy at any season of the year, which now creates an indoor picture.

Many people may be surprised to learn that Christmas - at any rate the ecclesiastical one - ends on 2nd February, Candlemass Day. It is marked with church processions of lighted candles. I remember so well when I was a young girl growing up in the splendour of the Swiss Alps, we all processed through the village with our lighted candles walking quietly to the churchyard where some of the special candles would be put by the graves of loved ones. Then we would return home with glowing cheeks from the frost, and eyes shining with joy. Candles have such a soothing effect and every morning I light a candle and think of my family and friends and send messages of love through the air.

I vividly remember that on coming home after our procession in the snow, a delicious meal was ready for us, called in French, Crepes de la Chandeleur, which, translated into English, is Candlemass Stuffed Pancakes, and I thought it would interest young budding cooks to prepare this very easy dish baked in the oven. For six people, make six pancakes in the ordinary way, place them in the bottom of a slightly buttered dish on which six slices of ham will be laid sprinkled with grated cheese; roll the pancakes neatly and pour a previously prepared tomato sauce over the dish and sprinkle with a little more cheese. Bake in a medium pre-heated oven for 15 -20 minutes, and hey presto, serve hot. It is yummy, and as they say in French, 'Bon appetit'.

They say March roars in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Probably as it was known to the Anglo Saxons as the stormy one. There are a great number of feast days. 1st March is St David - Patron Saint of Wales, and people either wear a daffodil or a leek. Then comes St Patrick on March 17th - Patron Saint of Ireland. The Spring Equinox falls on March 21st when night and day are of equal length. This year as Easter is in April, Mothering Sunday falls on March 22nd, celebrated since Victorian times with church services when children offer little posies of garden flowers to their mothers. You will be quite surprised to know that originally it was the Sunday on which all the parishioners from all over the diocese came to visit the mother church – the Cathedrals. Exeter is still known as the mother church and in 2009 there will be great celebrations to mark the 1100th anniversary of the first bishop of the Diocese being installed in Crediton. In the summer a pilgrimage is being organised from Sherbourne Abbey to Crediton and the Archbishop of Canterbury will be there.



Happy times we like to see
Whose master is simplicity
This is the time when blessings flow
In joy we reap in peace we sow
We do good deeds without delay
We love for virtue not for wealth

Each morning I wake up and enjoy the shapes of light coming through my window. As every day unfolds I feel the old rhythm of time ticking away relentlessly which I find comforting. The seasons follow each other and with Spring coming, new life surges forward, buds turn into leaves or blossoms, birds start finding mates and are busy building nests, children play by the brook. Our Square will look lovely with groups of daffodils gracing the brook edges, birds singing sweetly. Oh to be in Devon when Spring is here... and don't forget on Sunday 29th March British Summertime begins. We put the clock forwards for something nice to come, days are longer, more time to be spent in the garden.



How sweet a hedge that hides a cunning nest
And curtains off a patient bright eyed thrush
With five small worlds beneath her mottled breast



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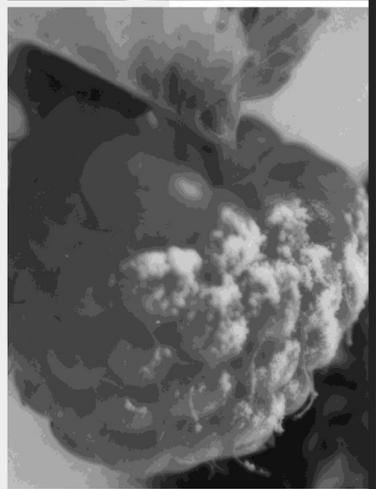
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WHIMPLE WEATHER - 2008

	2008	2007
Rainfall	44.52 inches	40.16 inches
Rain fell on	177 days	156 days
Snow fell on	2 days	-
Gales/strong winds	34 days	75 days
Days 32 ^o f or below	79 days	45 days
Thunder heard on	1 day	7 days
Wettest month	Aug & Oct (5.30 inches)	February (6.22 inches)
Driest month	February (1.38 inch)	April (0.66 inch)
Wettest day	29th Oct (1.8 inch)	27th May (1.28 inch)
Hottest day	10th June (83 ^o f)	9th June (83 ^o f)
Coldest night	17th Feb 25 ^o f	23/24 Nov 22 ^o f

My records now span 39 years, but it must be emphasised that they are the result of weather details taken in a garden in Whimble - two miles down the road it may be different.

2008 was the third highest rainfall following years 2000 and 1974.

A very heavy storm during the night of 29/30th October caused serious flooding in Ottery St Mary, where rainfall was said to be 3 to 4 inches. Also there was much flooding in the surrounding villages of Tipton St John, Feniton and, of course, Whimble.

I recorded 1.8 inches falling between 1.00am and 2.30am.

Ken Burrows



WARTS – NEW YEAR UPDATE 2009

Hello, and welcome, to all existing and new 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 find to deliver to our members in the village.



Our last order was made on the 8th December and we organised 45 drops in Whimble for in excess of 30,000 litres in total. This achieved a discount against the average price for just 500 litres of 13%. Amounting to an approximate £1500 saving for all WARTS members to share!

My apologies however, that the delivery (from Southern Fuels on this occasion) did not run as smoothly as expected. About half a dozen of our members had to wait until Tuesday 16th December to receive their oil. Such was the demand at this time of year on all of the providers. We have learnt from this experience and do not plan to order so close to Christmas this coming year, to avoid this happening again!

We are very pleased that our membership shot up from some 37 to 66 members in the fortnight before this last order!

Of course, everyone is still free to buy oil from wherever they choose and at any other times, as needs be (which has always been the case).

We feel we are now able to publish a schedule of intended order dates:-

WARTS - Intended Order Dates for 2009

23.02.09		27.07.09		30.11.09
	27.04.09		28.09.09	

We would kindly remind you:

**ALL ORDERS FOR OIL SHOULD BE PLACED AT LEAST
ONE WEEK BEFORE THE ABOVE ORDER DATES!**

(Always allowing a further 10 days for delivery)

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/post code/phone number).

All others **with access to e-mail** may contact **Graham Batten** with their order/ registration details at **gkbatten@btinternet.com**.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY POLICE

Whimble is routinely policed by me, Police Constable Jim Tyrrell, and, as of this week, I am being assisted by a new Police Community Support Officer Steve Trail. He has recently arrived at Ottery St Mary Police Station, taking over from PCSO Jo Carter, who some of you may have met. She has now moved to pastures new in North Devon.

Steve and I both cover a number of Parishes surrounding Ottery St Mary, stretching from Talaton and Clyst Hydon across to Tipton St John and Aylesbeare - and a good number in between. We will be doing our best to give every Parish equal attention.

Should you have any issues which you wish to discuss with either me or Steve Trail, you can contact us at Ottery St Mary Police Station on 08452 777444 and leave a message for us if we are not on duty at that time.

or you can email me at James.TYRRELL@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or Steven.TRAIL@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Many thanks, Jim.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE WHIMBLE NEWS

We have two opportunities to help with the preparation of the Whimble News –

1. **PROOF READING** – once the magazine has been assembled, the News team proof read the draft copy to hunt out the odd spelling mistake, and missing words; also to help with the clarity of the articles, and to generally overview how the whole magazine appears. The timetable is tight, so you need to be able to complete the proof reading within a couple of days, and have an eye for detail, and be able to show/explain what needs to be changed. You do not need to attend any meetings, you just need to be able to give an hour or two of proofreading time. Every two months.
2. **ADVERTISING ADMINISTRATION** – we need to keep a firm control on the payment process involving our advertisers, so that we know exactly where we are with our income. We need someone to act as a ‘contact point’ for future and current advertisers – you will need to be a careful and methodical administrator and it would be an added bonus if you had creative ideas about improving/maintaining our process and basic computer skills.

If you would like to get involved with either of these activities, please contact me on 823194. Thanks!

Ed H



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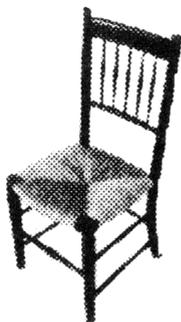
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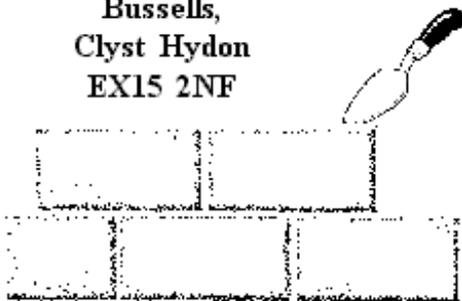
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WHIMBLE CHURCH
www.whimblechurch.org



There are several great events and special services at Whimble Church to look forward to in the next couple of months.



On Tuesday 17th March, St Patrick's Day, at 7.30pm, we are hosting a **Shamrock Supper** in the Victory Hall. Come by yourself or with friends and enjoy great Irish food and live music. Be sure to purchase your tickets in advance at a cost of £8 from Sarah Smith tel. 822123.

The next in our series of **Women's Breakfasts** will be on Saturday 7th February when Ann Pangbourne will be speaking on the theme of "Listening to God - Is hearing God speak part of the normal Christian life?". Please telephone Sarah Smith to reserve a place.



The church choir will be leading the singing on Good Friday, 10th April, 6.30pm in **The Crucifixion**. This work by the English composer J.S.Stainer is a most beautiful setting to music of the account of Christ's passion. Do come early to get seats, as it is sure to be popular again this year. Our **Easter Day Family Service**, when we celebrate the risen Jesus, will be on Sunday 12th April at 11.00am. As always we hope you can join us.



There is lots going on at Whimble Church for all ages of children and youth. Under 5s are always welcome at the crèche during our morning services. **S Club 11** (5 - 9) and **IMPACT** (10 - 13) meet at 10.45am each Sunday morning at The Scout Hut/Brook House, and Impact also has regular Saturday evening Clubnights. **CONTACT** (14+) meet at 6.00pm at Picardy on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in every month. New members are always welcome - come and try it out! Please telephone Phil Dominy for further details: 822163.

A reminder too, that every month several folk from Whimble Church get together to **pray** - for global issues down to individual concerns. If there is anything you would like a prayer for please do put details on a slip of paper and place it in the box on the welcome desk in church, or email admin@whimblechurch.org. If desired, requests can be made anonymously.

Further information about services and events in the life of Whimple Church, as well other interesting articles, can be found in the United Benefice 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) 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	Sclub11/Impact in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Service
4th Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sclub11/Impact in the Scout Hut



Shamrock Supper

Tuesday 17th March 2009
 Victory Hall, 7:30pm

Celebrate St Patrick's Day with great food and live music.



Hosted by St Mary's Church, Whimple
 Tickets (£8.00) and table reservations available from
 Sarah Smith (822123). Licensed Bar.

Recycling

Have you ever wondered what happens to your recycling once it has been collected?

- Where does it end up, and what sort of products is it turned into?
- Why can some kinds of plastic be recycled but others can't?
- Is it really worth bothering to sort our rubbish when we hear in the media that it is being stockpiled in warehouses or sent straight to landfill?
- What is the best way of turning vegetable waste into compost?

**COME AND FIND OUT AT WHIMPLE VILLAGE HALL ON
TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY AT 7pm**

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WAC4Y

As 2009 COULD be a very exciting year for WAC4Y, (I really hope I'm not tempting fate!) I felt I should update you on recent events. Last year we submitted a Grant Application to The Community Spaces Programme and received provisional approval for a substantial Lottery Grant, which would enable us to provide our long awaited Cycle Track, including BMX humps and bumps and Wooden Adventure Trail Equipment in the Parish Field.

This led to many more meetings, and much form filling, to take us to the Second Stage. The final forms were completed and sent off before Christmas and since then we have been nervously awaiting the outcome! Coming back down to earth, if for any reason we are not successful on this occasion, it won't have been for the lack of hard work and dedication from a very loyal committee. I'm sure they will agree with me when I say that Sue Ayres, who represents us on The Parish Council, has been quite amazing. She has worked tirelessly making sure we sent off a First Class Application.

So from everyone behind this Project, especially the young people in the village, thank you Sue. Any youngsters who happen to be reading this, we'd love to hear from you and your friends with any thoughts and ideas, so please get in touch. We will especially need your help positioning the track and BMX humps and bumps! Fingers crossed everyone.

Bye for now **Liz Silk** Tel.822389



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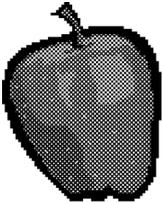
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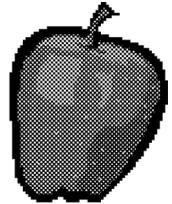
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White Pool - A Short History of Whimble

By Caroline Ried

For hundreds of years, a small village has been hidden, tucked away between Exeter and Broadclyst, little more than a speck on a local map. But Whimble is in fact, a shining gold coin glinting brightly in a historical gold mine.

The name Whimble is believed to derive from the Domesday Book where it is listed as WHIMPLA, a Celtic name meaning white pool or stream. Perhaps so named because of the thin stream which runs all the way through the village eventually joining with the River Exe.

Whimble has also been documented as GWYMPWLL - A Welsh word believed to mean 'white stream' as well as the Celtic GWYMPPWLL which is translated as 'fine stream'.

It is quite apparent that Whimble gets its long running name from the rather unimpressive stream which might once have been the life blood of the village but is now little more than a trickle, easily stepped over and forgotten.

It is possible to date the village back as far as 1001 when Exeter was besieged by the Danes who retreated to Pinhoe before moving East and passing through and burning Broadclyst and Whimble along their way.

The history of Whimble is quite clouded. However it was discovered that in the 19th century, the village had a booming agricultural business (which is still apparent today, farms being the main source of income) turning out flax and hops as well as a brick and tile works at Strete Raleigh. A tannery also turned out a profit in the early 18th century, but in 1857 it ceased to function.

The church of Whimble is the focal point of the village Square. In Saxon times it began its life as a small wooden two cell church on the current site. By 26th April 1846 the church that can be seen today was all but rebuilt, save the clock tower. W.B.Hoskins once described it as 'having little of interest except for a few carved bench ends'. But the local people of Whimble would disagree because the church has always been a place where family and friends congregate and it holds deep meaning for all those who dwell there.

In the late 20th century, cider making predominated the village when the Whiteway's factory began its trade and apple orchards popped up all over Whimble to keep the factory going. In its hey day Whimble boasted the largest cider apple orchards in the world. However, Whiteway's Cyder ceased to trade in the early 1990's and has been replaced by a new housing development, as has many of the orchards.

Throughout the years. Whimble has had many traditions such as Village Day which is celebrated every summer, but one tradition, which is perhaps the oldest, is Wassailing.

Wassailing is an orchard-visiting ceremony which gives prayer to the cider apples. It begins with the first Wassail song starting at the New Fountain Inn and the group then wassails one of the last 'Whimble Wonder' trees, finally ending at the cricket club where the full song is sung and mulled cider is consumed.

Wassailing is celebrated every year on 'old twelvey night' which is 17th January and it was first documented by Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould in his book 'Devon Characters And Strange Events' which was published in 1908. The wassail tradition carries on even to this day.

Whimble, White Pool or Fine Stream, is an old village with a long past but it is still thriving with its two pubs, village shop, Post Office and vets surgery.

Perhaps not as important as it once was to society, it is still safe to assume that this hidden treasure will be here for many more years to come.

DOG GONE HAIR

Having been brought up for fifteen years in a family business in Exmouth, I decided that one day I too would take the opportunity of starting a small one for myself. For the past ten years I have lived in Talaton and being a dog owner have now become very familiar with the wonderful surrounding area. It was after regularly meeting and talking with other locals who enjoy lavishing attention and time on their much loved pet that I decided to start up Dog Gone Hair.

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I will be opening the 'kennel doors' on the 1st of March giving introductory offers to my new customers for a limited period. So if you would like to know more about what's on offer as well as the grooming tariff - please feel free to ring or call in and see me.

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Whimple Womens Institute

The December meeting seems a long time ago. It is customary for our Christmas meeting to be a bit different from the usual pattern. This year was no exception and took the form of a fashion show, albeit with a difference, staged by five of our members. Each played two roles on their respective trips along the catwalk. We had the rugby supporter, animal lover, cook, Member of Parliament, belly dancer, explorer, dog walker, WI husband, keep fit enthusiast and a WI president. Some of the fashions had to be seen to be believed and, of course, all the models carried the appropriate accessories. The show was narrated by another WI member. We certainly have some very talented members who presented us with a fun evening of light entertainment. The other part of the evening was a bring and share supper which lived up to its usual high standard - I don't think anyone went home feeling hungry!

The new year began with an excellent talk about Dream-A-Way, a local charity for sick children, given by Jeff Merrett MBE. Although mainly helping to make dreams come true for sick children, Dream-A Way also provides caravan holidays for children and disabled adults and their families.

A team from Whimple entered the WI skittles competition but, unfortunately, were knocked out in their first match. Craft afternoons have recommenced, when we meet in various members' homes for an afternoon of a little needlework and lots of chat. For further information contact Ann Bowden on 823450.

Rosemarie Burrows



WHIMPLE TENNIS CLUB

AGM

on Wednesday 18th MARCH at 7.30 PM

at

Willowbrook House, Knowle Cross Road, Whimple

The club is looking for a new secretary

Contact Judith Imbo on 823240 for information.

Cranbrook

The October issue of Whimble News under the heading 'Help us find the sites for a massive expansion of housing' (East Devon Council's words) anticipated publication of the 'Issues and Options Consultation Report' on the levels and locations of housing to go in the Local Development Framework (LDF) which will replace the East Devon Local Plan.

That report is now available for consultation until 5.00pm on **13th February**, and it contains at least one issue which could have a major impact on Whimble and its inhabitants. The most significant section is that part dealing with the Expansion of Cranbrook. Cranbrook is currently planned to accommodate 2,900 dwellings with supporting facilities and infrastructure although current policy recognises that it will grow beyond this size. The proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy (with which the LDF has to confirm) propose 7,500 dwellings by 2026.

The report sets out eight options for expansion of Cranbrook - to the east, south, west and north-west - although no one of the locations would provide all of the 4,600 additional dwellings. The two options of most significance for Whimble are described in the report as follows -

Option 7 - Expansion to the east of the stream running between Hand and Pen and Southbrook - a gross area of 45 hectares, excluding the Knoll above the 50 metre contour accommodating up to 1,100 dwellings. With Option 5 this general location scored highly in the Exeter Sub-Regional Study. The Knoll and the land to the north is currently allocated in the Local Plan as a Green Wedge to protect Whimble's landscape setting and avoid coalescence with Cranbrook.

Option 8 - To the east of the lane between Little Cobden and Crockernhayes - a gross area of 77 hectares accommodating up to 1,900 dwellings. This area is currently allocated in the Local plan as a Green Wedge to protect Whimble's landscape setting and avoid coalescence with Cranbrook.

It should be noted that the eastern boundary for Option 8 runs from Hand and Pen along Church Road and the boundaries of properties along the western edge of Whimble down to Webbers Cottages, effectively merging Cranbrook with Whimble. Whilst the existence of the current Green Wedge is recognised, most of the other options similarly have constraints such as the Rockbeare Green Wedge, expansion of the airport or distance from the centre of Cranbrook.

Respondents are asked to indicate preferred options for expansion, if Cranbrook has to expand, to accommodate an extra 4,600 dwellings, and to provide comments to justify the response.

The report also contains a section on Promoting Vibrant and Sustainable Communities and asks whether the locations for future village development should be on a 'Facilities Based Approach' (ie in those villages with the greatest range of facilities and good transport links), on a 'Wider Issues Approach' (taking into account locally identified needs) or on an 'Alternative Approach' if neither of the other approaches is appropriate.

The full consultation report can be viewed on-line at www.eastdevon.gov.uk/planning-local-development-framework-2 where there is also questionnaire for either on-line replies or for printing off for mailing. The map showing all of the expansion options is on page 43 of that document. A paper copy of the document can be read in Ottery Library. You can also write or email comments to :

Planning Policy Section, EDDC, Council offices, Knowle, Sidmouth EX10 8HL, email ldf@eastdevon.gov.uk by **13th February**

As reported previously, only three individuals in Whimble submitted comments on the consultation for the current East Devon Local Plan. **This consultation is hopefully one on which many more people will wish to make their views known.**

WHITEWAYS EMPLOYEES REUNION SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2009

Chris Webster and Nick Pring have been in contact with the History Society to ask for help with the above reunion day. The purpose of this article is to let all ex-Whiteways employees know that it is happening, and for them to keep the 28th June free. It is still early days for the arrangements, but the basic idea is to use the Cricket Club as somewhere to meet up with old friends and catch up, with suitable refreshments, and the Heritage Centre will be open, with specific Whiteway memorabilia on show. The plan is that the 'day' would run from 11.00am until 6.00pm.

We understand that Green Valley Cider at Darts Farm will be creating a special cider in recognition of this reunion day, which is great news. Other things may be added to the day as more people get involved.

Your contacts are Nick Pring on 01392 367967, Chris Webster on 01884 277454 and Bernard Little on 01404 47305 – you may want to offer help or ideas.

It promises to be a splendid day!



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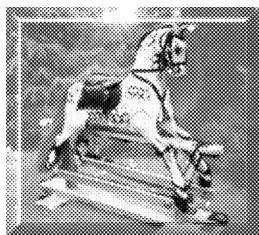
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Whimble History Society



WHIMPLE WASSAIL 2009

This was the wettest Wassail that I have experienced – but we still didn't cancel! The weather forecast for the Wassail night was 'dire', and it delivered dire. I had watched, via the BBC Devon weather site, this belt of rain threatening to sweep in over Exeter from about 6.00 pm, and it joined us about 6.30, just as we would have gone outside the New Fountain to practice our singing. So we practised indoors, and then did a shortened Wassail.

On behalf of the History Society, I would like to thank all the 100 or so good people who turned out on a windy and wet Saturday night when they could have been at home, warm, snug and dry! Thanks to their efforts, we can hope for a good crop of apples later in the year. We were delighted, as ever, to welcome Jim Causley to lead us in our singing. Jim bravely faced the elements, playing his accordion protected by a black plastic bin bag (the accordion, not Jim). He was accompanied by Emma Palmer, direct from her stunning success at the Christmas Carol Concert in the Square, and from the Scout's Wassail earlier that morning (but not involving cider!), and a brave drummer.

Unfortunately we had to cut out our normal visit to Peter Bowden's orchard because of the weather, so apologies to Peter and thanks for your kind offer. We did one 'proper' Wassail in Jim and Mary Chard's orchard, and then did a fast walk to the Cricket Club for some lemonade and food. Later in the evening, Jim and fellow musicians entertained us with some great music, including several brave people who sang unaccompanied.

It was an excellent evening, and thanks to all involved, including the good officers of the History Society who organised and 'managed' the event, the hawk-eyed gun party, everyone who supplied the food for the Wassailers, the team who toiled away in the kitchen on the night, the team who manned/ personned (!) the bar at the Cricket Club, Margaret Burrough for the cider, the mulled cider warmer-uppers (technical term), the Hardcastles and Chards for the loan of their trees, and young Ray Horn for his help with the illuminations. And special thanks and well done to the Wassail Queen Katie Yeomans, and her Wassail Princess, Elisha Salter. Thank you all and well done!

Ed H

EASTER EGG HUNT



Come and join in the fun and support Whimble Primary school.

Saturday 4th April 2pm

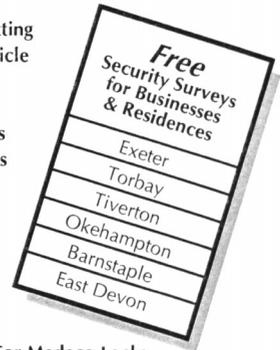
Make your own basket - there will be prizes for the best. Watch out for posters nearer the time

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Further processing of the digital images can transform them in other ways. It is possible to add colour to a Black and White photograph in order to add more realism to the image. Another option is to 'remove' unwanted objects from an image. For example, if any of you still have the initial Parish Plan leaflet, you may see that the picture of the Post Office has no clutter (phone wires, TV aerial etc) – and looks much better for it, in my opinion! See the before & after images below.

If your kids are anything like mine, it is impossible to get them both smiling at the same time in a single photograph. However, maybe you have a decent picture of each of them that you'd like to combine into a single image. The Post Office photo below was taken on an overcast day. However, a bit of digital trickery can add a ray of sunshine!

If you are interested in having any of your own photos restored or fixed in other ways, please give me a call on 01404 822800 to discuss your requirements. It can be much cheaper than you think.



Alex Tooze.

A Message from Whimple Flower Show secretary

On the second Saturday in August (that's the 8th this year) we hold the Village's Flower, Vegetable, and Craft Show. Last year you may have come and seen the superb quality of the entries by the schoolchildren. If you didn't visit us you may have seen the splendid scarecrows in the car-park outside being lashed by one of last summers regular gales!

The organising committee put a great deal of work into organising the Show and it costs a considerable sum of money (nearly £600 which we raise from our plant sale each May).

Therefore, we are really keen to involve even more members of the Village in what is a great day. Last year a record number of people entered something in the Show (138). Can you help us to get to 150 this year? This will be the first Show for around 45 years that Mrs. Pratt hasn't been involved: it would have warmed the cockles for her if we could get to that number.

Over the next six weeks we prepare a list of all the classes that people can enter. Now is the time to let us know if there are any classes you would like to see, or to give us any ideas that would help to make 2009's Show the best ever! Don't worry if you are not sure what we have on offer already – just give me a ring on 822437 or email me at andy.bratt@virgin.net and I will get back to you if I don't answer the phone myself.

The Show belongs to this community – please get involved by entering something in August, or by making suggestions to me now. If you felt like helping with the Show which is FUN, and rewarded with lots of lovely food on the day, that would be even better!!!!

Andy Bratt.



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Large Vehicles Driving through Whimple - or the Joys of Satnav

There has been a new development to life in the village over the past nine months. A plague of five axled vehicles are under the misapprehension that the shortest route from the A30 to Silverton is down Church Road and through to Broadclyst. There is a height restriction signed at the top of Church Road of 13' 3" but many of the drivers bringing these lorries along this route are from Lithuania, Belgium or other European countries and 13' 3" means very little to them as they do not use imperial measurements and many of these vehicles are under this height. They are not, however, able to navigate the road between the Church and the Post Office as it is too narrow and the bend is too sharp so they never even get to the bridge.

What fun it is getting them to turn round in The Square and return from whence they came. How exciting it is to see if they are able to turn round without removing part of our listed building. If we wanted to make any alterations to our building we would have to get permission from the District Council and, if history is anything to go by, we would have to wait for some time for the wheels of bureaucracy to grind their way to a decision. However, these lorries are able to remove roof tiles, guttering, rearrange the rendering and change the appearance of the building without recourse to listed building consent and at no cost to themselves. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for us as we have to find the insurance excess and the increased premiums caused by these crashes.

We can approach Highways at Devon County Council for help in ensuring that the situation is sorted out. We can, and did, and have received a beautifully worded but inaccurate Council non-statement statement informing us that they cannot do anything to redress the problem without putting restriction signs along all the roads leading off the old A30 and not just at the end of Church Road. This seems somewhat unnecessary as even drivers unfamiliar with British roads would realise that they cannot get down Cobden Lane or Southbrook Lane. The decision to do nothing is arrived at on the grounds of cost. I cannot help but think that I should withhold the excess from my Council tax until they make a decision based on need and not cost. But then, maybe, I am a cynic.

We will continue our battle to get proper signage at the entrance to Church Road informing drivers that the road is unsuitable for long vehicles. If anyone feels as strongly as us that these vehicles should be kept out of the village we would greatly appreciate your support. Please contact me at the Jays in the Square.

John Discombe





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Say NO! to Tesco

Letter of objection to Tesco on the old Cutley Hammer factory site in Ottery St Mary

**Chief Planning Officer
East Devon District Council
The Knowle, Sidmouth EX10 8HL
Email: planningcentral@eastdevon.gov.uk**

Dear Chief Planning Officer

I am writing to formally object to the development of a Tesco store in Ottery St Mary. I object on the following grounds:

- Traffic congestion
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The Moonwalk London May 2009

Early last year Viv Leonard told me about an event called the Moonwalk, which involved walking the streets of London at night in a bra. She asked if I fancied giving it a go – I cannot remember if it was wine or bravado but it seemed like a good idea at the time so I agreed. I understood that entry was like the marathon – you apply but do not necessarily get in, this suited me fine, I rarely win raffles and have never won the lottery, lady luck does not shine upon me so I thought I am bound to be unsuccessful in entering as well.

Well, shock and horror, the email came through ‘your entry has been successful’, so it is on with the trainers and pounding the lanes of Whimble with Viv to make sure we are able not only to complete the course but also to do it in a decent time.

We are walking for a charity called Walk the Walk that is dedicated to raising money for vital breast cancer causes. It started in 1988 with 65 women walking and now 15,000 men and women take to the streets of London to raise money to help battle this terrible disease. Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in the UK affecting 46,000 women and 300 men each year (yes, men can and do get breast cancer). Very few people reading this will not have known someone who has been affected by cancer. The Walk we are doing predominately supports breast cancer, but research into breast cancer ultimately helps all cancer research and leads to treatments for all cancers, which could benefit everyone.

Nicky Hitchcock



The Moonwalk Training Begins.....

It seemed such a good idea at the beginning of 2008, let's try and get a place on the London Moonwalk in May 2009. A power-walk of 26 miles through London, during the night in our bras with 15,000 other men and women to raise money for cancer research – no problem!

Suddenly it's only 5 months away and we now realise 26 miles is a long way to walk (should take us between 7 and 8 hours if we can average a speed of about 4mph) 24 hours is a long time to go without a nap. Walking 26 miles through London for 7 to 8 hours in your bra with no top is going to be just a little scary!!

We also have a good understanding of why marathon runners are slim and toned to the extreme and it has nothing to do with fitness but all about how you look in sportswear!

There is nothing flattering and nowhere to hide in any garment designed for running and power walking. When out training I now bear more than a passing resemblance to Max Wall and have been sorely tempted to dig out my horse riding fluorescent tabard asking that motorists pass 'wide and slow'!

There is a good chance that you will now see us out walking on a regular basis, as according to our training plan, we need to clock up a certain amount of miles each week. Having had a sneak preview of the training plan for April we are both wondering how we are going to fit in food, work and sleep as well as walking the required 42 miles.

We would both, ably assisted by our support team of Ed and Miles, welcome any donations or sponsorship so will be carrying our sponsorship forms at all times. There will be tins and sponsor forms at various locations in the Village and we will be rattling a bucket at the panto performances. We will also be setting up a web page on the 'Just Giving' website and of course please feel free to accost us at any time with money! Thank you.

Viv Leonard

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WHIMPLE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Production of 'The Little Angel'

On the last week of the autumn term we did a Christmas production called 'The Little Angel'. Eva Penney played the part of the little angel who had to find out what Christmas was all about. She came across Carol singers, Santa and his elves, Frosty the snowman, children decorating a tree, people having a party with lots of scrumptious food, and finally she follows a star and comes across the baby Jesus to find out what Christmas is all about.

A collection was taken and we raised £243.33 for the church and the school.



By Matthew and Ruben, Year 4

Beauty and the Beast

On Tuesday 6th January, all the pupils of the school watched a pantomime called 'Beauty and the Beast'. We all agreed we liked it because it had a happy ending. There were 5 people in it and they changed their costumes many times pretending to be other members in the show. It was very funny.



By Sam, Robbie, Peter and Max, Year 3

The Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair was run by the F.O.W.S. on the last Monday of term.

We all liked seeing Santa and having a go at the lucky dip. There were many stalls for us to buy things from including presents for our mums and dads.

We loved it!

Year 2

Happy New Year to everyone, from the pupils and staff of Whimble Primary School. We had a happy, but hectic, end to our Autumn term and, for those who managed to see our Christmas production, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

This term the children are looking at traditional tales – a topic young and old love. It's amazing how many versions there are when you start looking.

By the time you read this all children will have taken part in Adventure Challenge activities (no doubt the children will want to report on this in the next issue). We are holding a music assembly in school on March 24th at 2.00pm.

For more details and information please look at the website, which is being added to constantly. Many thanks for all your support.

Carole Shilston

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JOY TO THE WORLD - JOY TO WHIMPLE VILLAGE

Christmas Eve in The Square was the most joyful ever, and I would like to congratulate the organisers and especially Emma Palmer for her dedication. Two hundred people turned up, singers, instrumentalists, families; even dogs came too, to join the joyful throng.

Carols in The Square started life with the Brace family who lived in the White Barn. I think Mr. Brace was Head of Music at King's School and his family was involved in music. The Reverend Tucker, no mean musician himself, was there too and I remember the most beautiful voice of Frank Coleman, one of our church choristers. Delightful Betty and Alan at the village shop put up such good lighting and a beautiful Christmas tree which Jack and I decorated.

When the Brace family left to open an excellent bookshop in Paternoster Row, Ottery St Mary, Tom Lambert, well known oboeist, and his wife Barbara, a talented choral singer, took over the organising and it went from strength to strength. As traffic became more intense, it became dangerous to have the singers on the corner of The Square, and that is when John Griffiths from Number 3 and Richard Betts of Ivydene offered help, and it is an ideal place.

You can well imagine how delighted I am to be so near, to enjoy those heavenly sounds. Lead us in our music making today and for many years to come! Community spirit is well and alive in our village.

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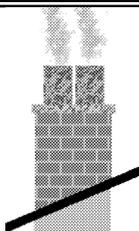
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A Great Night

The Pre-school Quiz and Curry Evening

25th January



I just wanted everyone to know how well the Pre-school Quiz and Curry evening went last night and say some very big Thank You's. We completely sold out our 90 tickets and even managed to squeeze a few last minute teams in. It was great to see such a great turnout from the people of Whimble and thanks to you all for showing your support.

As an early estimate we raised in the region of £800 which will be put to match a grant we received and purchase some new outside play equipment for the children. It is an amazing achievement. Congratulations to the winning team 'West Whimble Willows' - also last year's winners I believe - next year for the hat trick guys.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Jenny Sanders and Julie Bowden who spent hours shopping, preparing and slaving over hot, steamy ovens to produce two wonderful curries, which were delicious. Also thanks to 'The Thirsty Farmer' who let us use their kitchen for cooking, lent us some pots and later two burly lads to carry them over to the Hall.

Our new quiz master Ross Thomson was simply brilliant, his acting out of the roles from 'The Village People' was particularly memorable - I think he's missed his vocation and would do well on the Stage - in fact rumour has it that he has a part in the next Whimbletons panto, so catch his performance this Half Term.

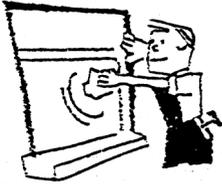
Also a huge Thank You to everyone else who was involved particularly Lorraine Tandy for all her organising, Jo Sibley for rounding up such great prizes and all those who helped on the night. You are a great team. A special mention to Bob Scanlan, George Begent and Alison Tierney from the hall committee who sorted out the Hall for us after a really unfortunate accident with a bag of plaster.

Finally a heart felt thank you to all our kind benefactors who donated the prizes - Chris 'n' Chips, O'Hanlons, Escot, Pecorama, The Otter Inn, Otter Nurseries, the Play Dome, The Black Horse, Clyst Honiton, The Taste of Bengal, Bicton Park, The Oriental Promise, Georgie Porgie Puddings, Cricket St Thomas Wildlife Park and Joshuas Harvest Store.

Ok enough now as this is becoming longer than an Oscar acceptance speech.

Many Thanks

Sam Walker (Pre-school & Playgroup Chair)



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This will enable you to get your stolen or lost phone blocked across every network, and help stop mobile phone crime.

On Sunday 29th March we put the clocks forward (British Summertime begins). So we all lose an hour's sleep.



To give information anonymously, Crimestoppers' is there for you any time of the day or night.

Lets hope you don't need to, but to report an incident to the police at any time: **Ring 999 in an emergency** - otherwise **08452 777 444**. Our Beat Manager is PC 2883 **Jim Tyrrell**.

John Munslow 01404 823456

Whimple Victory Hall

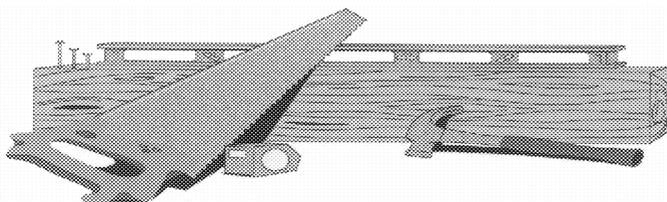
As you are probably aware, there has been a tremendous amount of activity at the Village Hall with renovations to the toilets, the entrance foyer, the layout of the corridor and accessibility to the kitchen and the committee room. These alterations are nearing completion and we hope that they will be well received and beneficial.

I would like to thank everyone who has been working in the Hall over the period that these alterations have been in operation. On the whole, everyone has been very understanding regarding the disruption to their booking and this has made it much easier to get the work completed in the time we have.

We envisage the work being concluded in the next few weeks and want to invite everyone to an Open Evening to see what has been achieved, meet the Trustees and discuss our hopes and aspirations for the future of the Hall. We would also like you to give us some ideas on the way forward. We particularly want to hear from the youth and from those people with young families who we hope will be able to benefit, for many years to come, from any changes we make in the future.

Please keep an eye out for the date of this evening where coffee and cakes will be on offer. Notices will be placed around the village, in the shop, the Post Office and in The Jays. We hope you will be able to find time to join us.

John Discombe Chairman of the Trustees



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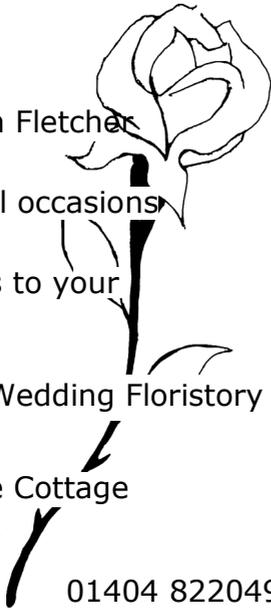
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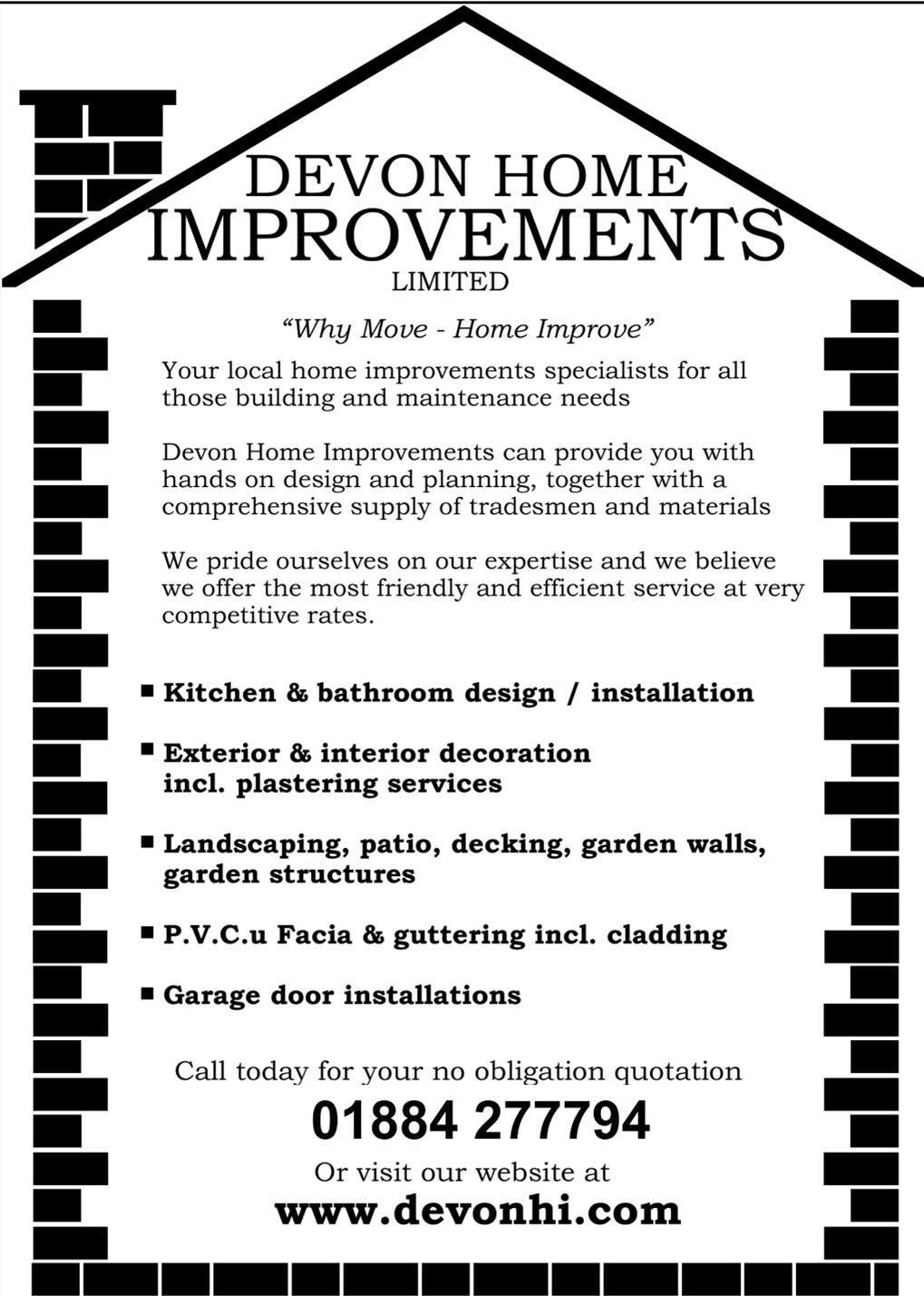


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