

Whimble News



Feb/March 2007

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BOOKINGS TAKEN FOR VALENTINE'S DAY



LIVE MUSIC DATES

**Fri 9 March - Marnie
Fri 23 March - Thick as Thieves
Fri 6 April - Plan B**

WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

February

- 11th SClub11 & Impact, Scout Hut & Brook House, 10.45am
13th Village Week Meeting, New Fountain Inn, 8pm
17th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, 12noon-1.30pm
17th Impact Club Pancake Party 6pm venue TBA
contact Maggie & Ian for further details on 823640
19th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall,
22nd Panto 'Sinbad the Sailor', Victory Hall, 6.30pm
23rd Panto 'Sinbad the Sailer', Victory Hall, 7.30pm
24th Panto 'Sinbad the Sailor', Victory Hall, 7.30pm
25th SClub11 & Impact, Scout Hut & Brook House, 10.45am

March

- 4th 'Celebration Service', Whimple Church
9th Live Music 'Marnie', Thirsty Farmer
11th SClub11 & Impact, Scout Hut & Brook House, 10.45am
17th Soup and Sarnie Lunch, Victory Hall, 12noon-1.30pm
23rd Live Music 'Thick as Thieves', Thirsty Farmer
25th SClub11 & Impact, Scout Hut & Brook House, 10.45am
29th Tennis Club AGM, The Gate House, Rull Farm, 7.30pm

April

- 1st 'Celebration Service', Whimple Church
6th Live Music 'Plan B', Thirsty Farmer
16th Blood Donor Session, Feniton School, see advert for times
22nd SClub & Impact, Scout Hut & Brook House, 10.45am

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
5th Sunday	11.00am	Joint Benefice Communion

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

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

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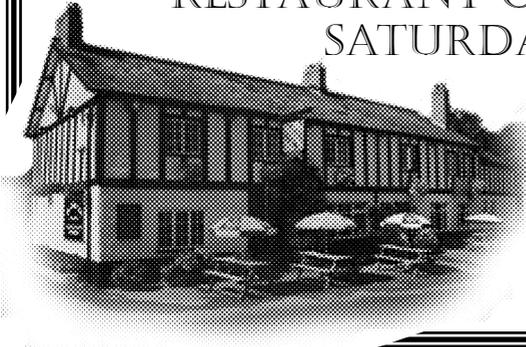
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Ed the Ed

I really didn't know how to start this editorial, as I wanted to reflect the sad December this village had, with the untimely deaths of Raymond Burrough (always Mr Raymond to me) , Graham Hansford and Ron Northcott. I am sure there were other sad losses in the village, and if you would like them to be remembered in this magazine, please contact me.

Much has been written about Raymond, and he deserved it - it was an amazing funeral. I have never seen so many people in Whimple for such an event. I was very touched by Margaret's courage in reading the first lesson, and by Helen's very moving address for her Dad. The auctioneer made us smile about Raymond and his quirks of bidding at auctions. I always thought that Raymond had a twinkle in his eye, and it was pleasing that other people mentioned this 'twinkle' which gave him a slightly mischievous look. By the end of the service, I felt that we had celebrated his life and that we were proud to have known him. There was a wonderful photo of Raymond on the back of the Order of Service, and I know that I will keep that as a fond memory of a 'big' village character.

Raymond and Margaret were always great supporters of the Wassail procession, and this year was no exception, with Margaret supplying the cider for the Wassail cup. . I had the great honour to lead the wassail (obviously didn't do anything too bad last year!) and it was great - lots of singing with splendid support from Jim Causley and his musical friends, and that made such a tremendous difference to the evening. I hope that you all enjoyed the wassail.

The panto is next up for a village get-together, so get your tickets now before they are all on E Bay. Just to whet your appetites, you will have the excitement of seeing me as Sinbad's mother ...and as you know, I never cross-dress. Never, ever.

I thought that the carols in The Square were lovely this year and the musical players did very well - but please read Barbara Lambert's plea for other people to take over the organisation of the evening. It would be sad to lose it. As it would be sad to lose the Over 65's Xmas party - that Lucy Smith thinks that after 43 years she would like to pass on the mantle of organising it. That is a tremendous achievement which Lucy has carried out quietly, and with the minimum of fuss over all the years - well done and many thanks to Lucy for all her superb work.

In fact, the magazine is full of requests for help from a variety of organisations - the Tennis Club, altar flowers, giving blood, Village Week, the History Society, even sponsoring the local vet Martyn Whitehead in the London marathon. That is what makes Whimple different - we choose to get involved and keep this village alive. If you value what this village represents, please think what time you can offer to any of these very worthy causes - and I appreciate that we all have different things pulling us this way and that, but if we live in a village, it deserves something back.

If you have a contribution to this worthy organ, then please send your epistle to the Bearded Monster of The Green, on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk, or direct to the Post Office with Jim and Alison, by Monday 12th March.

And don't forget - ask not what Whimple can do for you, but what you can do for Whimple!

Take care

Ed H

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Whimble Post Office News



We would like to thank all of you who supported the Post Office during the Christmas period. We were kept very busy, and especially in lieu of the very disturbing news from the Government we were too busy to let it concern us too much. It is now time to face reality - we have no idea whether we are one of the estimated 2500 that are due to close, but rather than to wait for the axe to fall we are determined to make a massive effort to increase turnover- **but we can't do it without you.**

We have been inundated with requests from our customers as to what they can do to ensure that a Post Office remains in Whimble and despite a pledge of a rather attractive lady to chain herself naked to the railings with a large banner the simple fact remains Whimble must use its Post Office all year through (we are not here just for Christmas) in order for us to stay - We have to make a profit .

One comment that we did take seriously was that some of you might be uncertain of what services and products that we are able to provide you with in order for you to do your bit. Therefore over the next few months we will be concentrating on some of the few key services that I am sure each household in Whimble could use.

The first of these are Bill payments. If you have just changed supplier or just moved house reconsider, which bills you could pay at the Post Office. Most companies these days encourage direct debit and whilst that method is a cheap way of them to collect their money, it is not always the first choice of customers who wish to remain in control of their own bank accounts. Always ask if it is possible to pay at the Post Office. Some companies such as BT prefer to keep quiet about the fact that you can pay your bill with us and do not include it on their 'methods of payment' on the reverse of their bills - if you are not too sure please ask.

Here are some of the more popular bills that can be paid here at no extra cost to you.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Electric inc. EDF | Phone inc. BT |
| Water | Rent |
| Council Tax | Mail Order |
| Income Tax | National Insurance Contributions |

Choose how you want to pay; Cash, Cheque, Post Office saving stamps, and for certain bills, direct debit.

On a much brighter note, we were both thrilled to be promoted to a 'Euro on demand Branch '. This will mean that we will keep a supply of Euros in the branch allowing us to issue them immediately. This is due entirely to the sales of foreign currency through out 2006.Well done Whimble, and a great big thank you to all of you who purchase your euros through this Branch.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year.

Thanking you all for your continuing Support.

Jim & Alison

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

May the sun always play on your window pane
May the rainbow chase every spot of rain
May the hand of a friend always be near you
May God fill your heart with gladness and cheer you

This very lovely Celtic Blessing was sent to me last year and I kept it to start my first article of the year 2007, in my eighty ninth year. I must say that I had many hands of friends near me, and what was so wonderful, friends I did not know I had. So many messages of love, joy and warmth were like rays of sunshine radiating. I will never forget the kindness of Alison and Jim from the Post Office, they are a God sent to this village. I sincerely think that the village would be lost without the Post Office and I would like to encourage everyone to go there as often as possible. If the Post Office goes, the shop will go. Do we really want this to happen?

It is not only sunny days that make for memorable and sometimes unexpected sights when the eye is taken by surprise. I will again be able to walk round my garden. February can be a most dreary month but the sight of the Fair Maids of February, the delightful snowdrops, can gladden every heart and so do the golden Winter aconites with their green delicate colerettes, as if impatient for a warmer sun. I also enjoy patterns man-made and natural and as I look round they are everywhere. The tapestry of the tree skeletons silhouetted against the sky, trees without leaves. Some people, including me, are far more sensitive to light than others and are at their happiest when there is plenty of sun and we can again open windows to let the sunrays in. We are all affected by seasonal changes. If Candlemass day be fair and bright, Winter will have another flight, but if Candlemass day be clouds and rain Winter is gone and will not come again.

Soon Spring will be with us and as the days start to get longer so our spirits should be lightened too.

Valentine's Day is an occasion for so many to show love and appreciation by sending red roses to those we love, another heart warmer.

In some corners of the garden I always love to see the first primrose. When I go out early in the morning, and spot a space free of frost and I strew it with stale bits of bread and sunflower seed, crowds of birds arrive, blackbirds, my robin, sparrows and tits. The possession of the coconut is quite funny because there is always the one defiant to all others who seems to say "I am the king of the castle, try to get me". The willows are showing their downy white catkins, very small as yet. In ancient times the willow-muse or willow-tree faerie was sacred to poets for the sound of the wind in the willows influenced inspiration. It also has the great ability to ease rheumatism and other conditions aggravated by damp weather. Eventually the willow's medicinal and religious qualities fused and it gained the name 'witch's tree'. It is thought that the saying 'touch wood' came from the age-old act of

knocking a willow tree to avoid evil and bring good luck. Willow has always been used to protect against diseases caused by damp conditions. The bark and leaves contain salicylic acid which is a good pain killer and the source of aspirin.

And the Spring, arose on the garden fair
Like the spirit of love felt everywhere
And each flower and herb on earth's breast
Rose from the dreams of its dark wintry rest
The snowdrop and the violet
Arose from the ground with warm rain wet
And their breath was mixed with sweet odour sent
Prom the turf like the voice and the instrument

Shelley

We cannot live without optimism and I always feel that during the festive season and in particular the one just gone, you can genuinely feel a sense of peace on earth and goodwill towards all men. Laughter is also good to boost optimism, and especially when you can laugh at yourself it is so therapeutic.

As I look out from my window in The Square, I am delighted to see the pied wagtails, such lovely birds, which seems to be a master of the tarmac surface and flat roofs where they dance for insects. The Italians call them ballerinas and they have a graceful flight undulating in the sky and when they do so they sing at the top of their voices 'chiswick, chiswick'. A

nother moment of delight which brings a necessary touch of optimism is when I hear the first song thrush singing each song twice over to recapture the first fine rapture. It is such a cheerful and heart-warming way to introduce and announce a long awaited Spring with more bright days of light. The great tits and blue tits are all back doing their acrobatic turns on the hanging birdfeeders and their song sounds like 'teacher teacher'. My robin is following me around; what would we do without robins? There are plenty of them not only on the many Christmas cards I received. I also have the occasional woodpecker, I had more when we came here. He has a loud 'chack' call which can be heard clearly and he chooses to make this call sitting right on the pinnacle of my rowan tree so that the sound carries. It looks fine and fearless with its black and white markings and the bright red stain under its tail. Its song to attract females is not really vocal music it is more a loud drumming. However there are slight individual variations in the drumming, a sound a female can recognise her male.

Amazing!

Hark when my blossoming pear tree in the hedge
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover
Blossoms and dewdrops at the bent spray's edge
That's the wise thrush singing his song twice over
Lest you should think he never could recapture
That first fine careless rapture.



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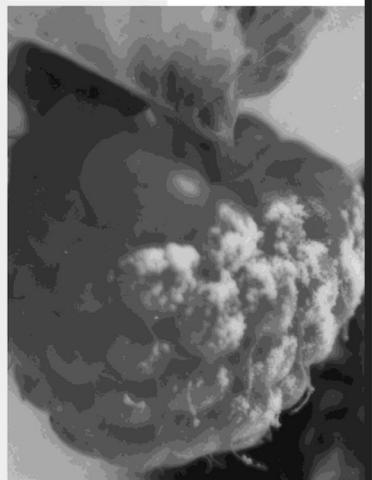
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A Thank you from Raymond's family

Margaret, Helen, Diane, Mary, Katie & all their families wish to express their gratitude for the great kindness that has been shown by so many since Raymond's death. We have been overwhelmed by the hundreds of cards, letters & tributes received.

We would all like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those involved in the local community who made everything run smoothly on the occasion of Raymond's funeral. So many of you helped in so many ways and please forgive me if I fail to mention everyone by name. We would also like to thank everyone in the village for their tremendous moral support.

My particular thanks are due to the Rev. Rob Wilkinson for his friendship, support and for leading the service so well. Thank you for allowing us to erect a marquee and sound system, so that all might be included. Thank you to the Church Wardens, David Rastall and Mike Boyd, our organist Reg Porley, the bellringers, the ladies who decorated the church so beautifully and to all those who helped distribute hymn sheets and took names. Thank you also to the cricket club, especially Roger Smith, for allowing the venue to be used after the service, and the young farmers for controlling the parking so well.

It took our breath away to turn the corner at Knowle Cross, and again as we came into the square to appreciate for the first time that day, the true scale of the number who had come to pay their last respects. As we stood at the churchyard and heard the muffled peal of bells from the church, I could not help but feel that Raymond would have felt proud, but humbled by the response from those he knew and cared for. Thank you all so very much.

Margaret Burrough

GRAHAM HANSFORD

Joyce, Mandy, Kevin, Conner and Shannon, family of the late Graham wish to thank all kind friends and neighbours for their cards and letters of sympathy.

Thanks to everyone who attended the funeral service and for the donations kindly given to Whimble Church and Ottery Hospital League of Friends.

Also, thanks to Reverend R. Wilkinson, as well as neighbours and friends for their very kind help during our time of coping with this sad loss.



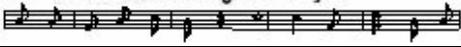
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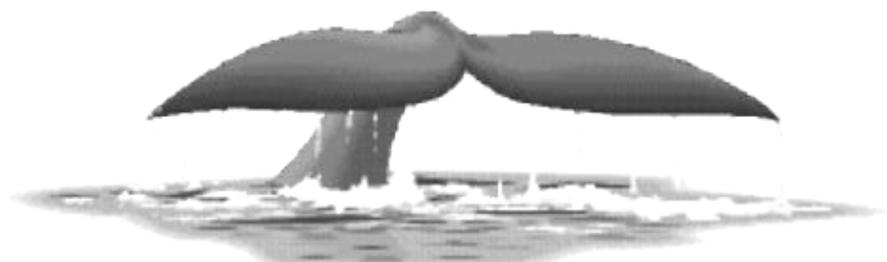
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Micro Renewables

Micro Renewables is the term given to small-scale renewable energy technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines that are suitable for domestic properties. B & Q, amongst others, are selling such installations for home use and EDDC Planners have published guidance on the need for planning permission.

Solar Panels installed on the roof of a house.

You may require planning permission if

- You live in a conservation area or other planning controlled area.
- The installation projects more than 10 cm above the roof
- The installation fronts onto the highway
- It is visible from public areas and/or
- It affects the appearance of the house.

Free standing installations do not require planning permission provided they are not located closer to the highway than your house (unless you have 20 metres of free space between house and highway) and do not exceed 3 metres in height.

Wind Turbines.

If the installation is physically attached to the house, it would require planning permission if any part of it extends above the highest part of the roof or it projects closer to the highway than 20 metres (see above). If free standing, planning permission is required unless no part of the turbine is higher than 3 metres. In practice this means that most domestic turbines will require permission as it is desirable (in order to achieve maximum efficiency) to have the turbines as high as possible.

EDDC strongly advise that anyone intending to install such equipment should seek written confirmation from the Council as to whether or not permission is required. This is done on a 'Household Enquiry' form obtainable from the Council. Use of the form will help to determine the validity of '*permitted development rights*', which do not apply in all cases.

Please accept that this note is for guidance only and should you be in any doubt please contact EDDC for further advice.

Cllr **Peter Bowden** (Whimble Parish Council)

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Tim Wright



Orchard Harmony Nelson Mass



Having attended and enjoyed several musical events organised and directed by Julia Green, I expected the performance of Haydn's Nelson Mass, in St Mary's Church on December 9th, to be good. In fact it was not merely good, it was little short of magnificent.

The fairly recent addition of male singers to Orchard Harmony gave depth and volume to the proven ability of the ladies, and their many weeks of rehearsal resulted in a blend of sound which obviously delighted the audience.

A small chamber orchestra of skilled musicians and a superb organist, Robin Davis, complemented the singers in an exemplary manner. The four guest soloists all performed admirably, in particular the glorious soprano, Heloise West, who had given us such pleasure in last year's concert.

Following the interval, the short programme of carols included two for the audience to join in, and five lovely but lesser known pieces from several centuries ago.

Certainly a memorable and inspiring concert which was greeted with prolonged applause from well over one hundred listeners. Many congratulations and thanks to Julia Green in particular and to the Orchard Harmony singers and guest musicians for their achievement.

Trevor Canham

S Club 11

&

IMPACT

S Club 11 & Impact @10:45am in the Scout Hut & Brook House,
Feb 11th, 25th, Mar 11th, 25th, Apr 22nd.

'Celebration' services in Whimble Church:
Feb 4th, Mar 4th, Apr 1st.

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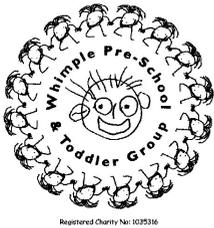
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WHIMPLE PRE-SCHOOL & TODDLER GROUP

TODDLER GROUP NEWS

Calling all Babies & Toddlers (0-3 years), are you looking for something to do on a Wednesday afternoon during term time between 2pm-4pm? Why not come along with your Mum/Dad/Carer & have some fun at Toddler Group. This is an informal session run by volunteers in the Billiard Room at the rear of Whimple Victory Hall. We have lots of toys, puzzles, occasional craft activities, special events (Christmas Party, Easter Egg Hunt, & Village week event), snack time, song/story time & tea/coffee for adults. It only costs £1 per child per week & the first week is free. If you want to bring along your siblings you are welcome to do so for an extra 25p per sibling. We welcome siblings of any age if they want to come along & join in. Please support us; we desperately need more children to attend in order to continue to operate. Toddler Group runs from the same room as Pre School so is an excellent stepping stone to starting Pre School. If you would like any further information, please contact Karen Bell Taylor on 01404 823443.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all those who supported our recent fundraising events (Willow Chair Day & Xmas Craft Demo), the money raised from these events will go towards the purchase of math's equipment for Pre School.

We are still looking for someone to take up the position as Treasurer on our committee. If anyone thinks they might be able to help us and spend approx half an hour a day logging receipts, writing cheques, preparing a report and attending meetings about once termly, please contact Sally Young (Chairperson) on 01404 823228, thank you.

Once again, thank you very much for your continued support.

Vicky Clough (Vice Chairperson) 01404 822800

Lost and Found

Lost - Misplaced on Friday 11th August at the Cricket Club, a small white plastic photograph album of Olga Potters home in Canada. If found please return either to Whimple Post Office or to Lucy Smith in the Square.

Pamela Pridham (nee Elliott)

Found - Bracelet - all enquiries please to Whimple Post Office



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CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

With Christmas now well behind, the new bikes muddied, all those boxes of chocolates consumed and forgotten and the odd overlooked piece of tinsel looking distinctly seedy, it seems untimely to be talking about Carols in the Square, especially as the spring bulbs come into bloom. For the record, however, we need to say that the event took place outside with perfect weather. Perfect, in this context, means that it was reasonably mild, dry and there was no wind to blow our music off the stands.

The numbers attending seemed to be slightly down on some previous years outside but it is quite difficult to judge and it is this very informality of people gathered in darkness to sing which is so attractive. We had asked for help and various people responded magnificently. Richard and Alison Betts had set up the lighting and traffic cones. The lighting equipment had been generously lent by Richard and Alison's neighbours and the cones by the Church. Jenny Sanders did a terrific job organising the Devon Air Ambulance collecting boxes which resulted in a princely £125.65 being raised for that charity. Young musicians joined the band of seasoned players, including some members of your very own and indefatigable Slack ma Girdle.

To all of those, and others who helped in different ways, we say "Thank you". Last year a number of people expressed their preference for the event to take place outside - well, we made it and we would love to hear how it was for you. Finally, we say "Well done" to all of those who came and sang lustily. Keep those voices in trim....and a Happy New Year.

Tom and Barbara Lambert



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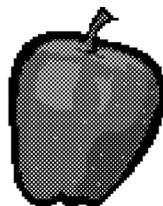
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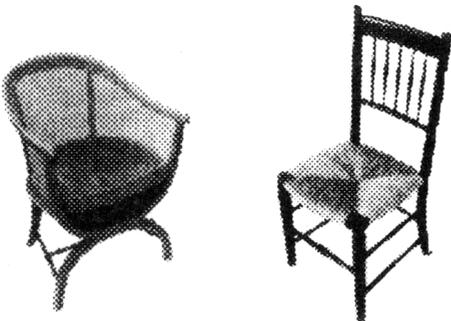
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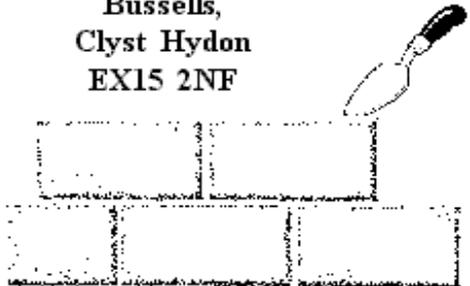
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1ST WHIMPLE SCOUTS



As Scouting approaches its Centenary year and 1st Whimble boasts being open for I estimate 99 years though some would reckon 96 years!, we have some important personnel changes to announce:-

Jane stood down as Beaver Section leader at Xmas after 3 years at the helm (thank you Jane!) and Shelley & myself will commence running this Section on Saturday 6th January 2007 from 10.00-11.30am at the Hut. If anyone has a child aged 5-8 and thinks they would like to try Beaver Scouts on Saturday mornings please speak to Shelley or myself on 01404 822844 and we will give you more details.

Akelea (Elaine) continues with Joan to run our strong Cub Pack and they meet on Mondays from 6pm-7.30pm. If you have a child interested in joining Cubs and is aged 8-10 please contact Elaine for more details (01404) 823293

At the moment our Scout Section (11-14yrs) is still shut but there are Scout Troops in the District close by and details of these can be found on the Devon / East Devon Scout Website. (just type in "Devon Scouts" and apparently you'll find it!).

That's all for now folks but needless to say if anyone out there is willing to help in any of the open sections or feels ready for the challenge of re-opening the Scout sections, don't hesitate to ring either myself or our acting Group Scout Leader Paul Gadd, on (01404) 44903.

Cheers **Alex Spry**

WHIMBLE OVER 65's CHRISTMAS PARTY

Firstly, I would like to thank all the people who contributed to making last year's over 65's Christmas party such a success.

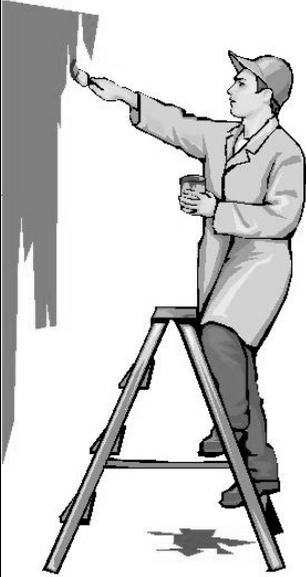
It is with regret that after 43 years of being involved and organising the over 65 s Christmas Parties, which I have enjoyed throughout, the time has come for me to step down. Consequently, I am hoping that someone will step into the breach so that this successful event can continue. I am quite happy to pass on any information etc. required to stage the event.

If anyone is interested in taking on the organisation of the event please contact me at 2, Clarence Villas, The Square, Whimble EXS 2SS (tel: 01404822266).

Lucy Smith.

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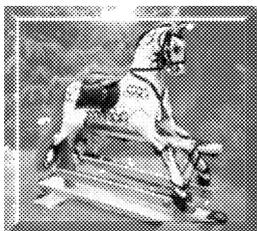
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WHIMPLE HISTORY SOCIETY - THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Whimple is proud of its heritage, and the History Society helps to record and conserve it for the future generations as well as providing lots of opportunities for its members to socialise. As a member of the History Society you can enjoy:

- * A programme of fascinating free talks throughout the year
- * Organised group trips to places of local interest for a very reasonable cost
- * Free assistance to research historical Whimple records at the Heritage Centre
- * Access to special events organised especially for members, with good company, good food and good fun at minimal cost

Of course, your membership helps to pay towards the activities which are laid on, as well as maintaining the upkeep of the Heritage Centre which is a great place to visit for villagers and visitors alike.

Annual membership is a very reasonable at £8.00 for single membership or £12.00 for a couple.

If you would like to join, please contact **Dr Roger Smith** on 01404 822244.

Coleridge Medical Centre

Practice Questionnaire

The results of the patient survey, undertaken in September, are back.

Amongst the feedback is an indication that patients are finding it difficult to get through on the telephone. We are working very hard with our receptionists to ensure that the telephones are fully manned during busy periods and that calls are answered and dealt with quickly.

We are reviewing our telephone system and hope to bring you news of an updated system which will handle calls more effectively. We ask that patients telephone later in the day for results, prescriptions, and to book routine appointments.

The Practice has a suggestion box on the reception desk. We are always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions from our patients.

Vet on the Run!

Martyn Whitehead from the Vale Veterinary Clinic, Whimble is running the London Marathon this year.

This may seem a little unlikely, but it is true! I am running the marathon on Sunday April 22nd while I am still young enough!

I will be running for Cancer Research. Over the past few years, I have come across several people who are dealing with cancer. Perhaps this should not be surprising, as one in three of us will get cancer at some point, and 250,000 people a year are diagnosed in the UK. But the treatment success rate is increasing thanks to research by charities such as Cancer Research.

So you may see me out training. If you see me running, give me a wave (but don't offer me a lift!) I promise to be out there whatever the weather!

I am aiming to raise at least £2000. If you would like to support me, please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/MartynWhitehead> or pop into the surgery where there is a sponsorship form, if you prefer.

The VETERINARY GROUP

P.S. Look out for me in April. I'll be the big bloke at the back! But I'll be smiling!

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2006

The amount raised in Whimble was £1531.35 made up as follows:

Sale of poppies	£936.18
Church collection	£158.17
Whimble Scout Group	£ 12.00
Donations	£425.00



A sincere thank you to everyone who made this remarkable total.

Frances M Pratt

Poppy Day Appeal Organiser for Whimble

Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Village Week 2007

The Whimple School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association propose holding the 2007 Village Week commencing Saturday 30th June 2007 with Village Day on Saturday 7th July 2007.

We have set up a Village Week committee to organise these events and the next meeting is on the 13th Feb 2007 @ 8:00 in the New Fountain Inn. We would like to invite everyone to this meeting who would like to help with this event. You do not have to be connected with the school.

If you would like to help with the running of Village Week but are unable to attend meetings please contact me.

The size of this year's event will be determined by the amount of support and offers of help that we get at this early stage.

Justin Harris 01404 823873

PTFA Village Week Committee Secretary e-mail: justin@justnikki1.freeserve.co.uk

SPRY & SON & DAUGHTER 2ND HAND EMPORIUM *UNLIMITED*

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Just some of the many exciting items for sale this month! :-

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Cheers & a Happy New year to all the Whimple News team & its readers



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A Case of AAAHD?

I decide to wash my car. As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is post on the hall table. I decide to go through the post before I wash the car. So I put my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the rubbish bin under the table, and notice that the rubbish bin is full! So I decide to put the bills back on the table, and take the rubbish out first. Then I think, since I'm going to be near the post box anyway when I take the rubbish out, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my chequebook off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left.

My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk, where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide it should go to the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye - they need watering. I set the Coke down on the counter, and then discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water when I suddenly spot the TV remote control. Someone has left it on the kitchen table. I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the lounge where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I splash some water on the flowers, but most of it spills on the floor. So I set the remote back on the table, get some paper towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the kitchen worktop, the flowers aren't watered, there is still only one cheque in my chequebook, I can't find the remote control, I can't find my glasses, and I can't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired.

Don't laugh - if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

Remember

Growing older is mandatory.

Growing up is optional.

Laughing at yourself is therapeutic!

A Familiar Tale?

Recently I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. - that is Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests itself!

Zanzibar

Last January I applied to go on a 2 week trip to build a few houses in Kenya with the charity Habitat for Humanity. This led to me organising a fund-raising barn dance in May in our orchard, which was brilliantly supported and I raised £1700 for the charity. Later on I had to change the trip from Kenya to Tanzania and actually ended up going to Zanzibar in November – how jammy was that?

The trip was great; I was in a team of 13 and we worked on 6 houses in a village in the south of the island and completed two. The Village was about the same size as Whimple with groups of mud houses set in groups in a sort of woodland setting of coconut palms, mango and banana trees. There was piped water and electricity in the village but not in the houses as hardly any households could afford to have their own supply. The work we did was block work, cement mixing and pointing and we worked with the villagers who were going to own the houses.

During our stay we had the chance to swim with dolphins in the lovely warm Indian Ocean and spend one night in a game reserve seeing the beasts of Tanzania. Several people asked me if it was hard work and I have to say it was like a holiday compared with coming back and organising my daughter's 7th birthday. All in all it was a brilliant experience – nothing beats seeing things first hand. So thanks again if you supported me.

Sue Wilson

PS The Barn Dance in the Blossom may be happening again – May Bank holiday!

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You do? Then read on:

Ottery St Mary Hospital League of Friends needs more volunteer drivers and escorts to man their ambulance - a 15 seat mini-bus with a tail lift for passengers who can't manage the steps.

It is used regularly to transport elderly or disabled people in this area. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week it transports people between their homes and the Day Centre in Ottery St Mary. It is also used for a variety of other good causes at different times.

Volunteers can offer to do as many sessions as they wish. Some do it once a month, others once or twice a week. A morning or afternoon session means a commitment of about two and a half hours, and because everyone has personal commitments too, the Day Centre Manager, Sue Culley, is adept at juggling the schedule to accommodate those. That's why it's so useful to have several volunteers to call upon.

Drivers need only a valid and clean car driving licence. Escorts help passengers on and off the ambulance and see them safely to their front doors.

What's in it for you? - an enjoyable and satisfying couple of hours as often as you wish, with the opportunity for most pleasant chats. A free tea or coffee and a bun at the Day Centre! Mileage Costs between your home and the hospital (where the ambulance is kept) are paid well.

Why not come for a "FREE - NO OBLIGATION" trip with us to see it it's for you?

Interested? Ring Sue Culley at the Day Centre on 01404 813 539 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday or, to talk to a current volunteer, ring **David Claridge** on 823780.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Rota for arranging the flowers behind the Communion Table in St Mary's during 2007 is now in the church. It is to be found by the hymn books as you come in. If you would like to remember a particular date or would just like to help to make the church look attractive, please fill in the dates that you would prefer, or alternatively contact me for more information.

We would be very pleased to welcome anyone who has not previously been involved in putting flowers in the church and I would be happy to help in any way I can.

Rosemary Horrell 01404 822013.

WHIMPLE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday this year is on 18th March and a celebratory service will be held at St Mary's during which the children will present posies to their mothers.

We look forward to welcoming you to the service which starts at 11.00am.

EASTER SERVICES

1st April Palm Sunday Service at 11.00

5th April Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm

8th April Easter Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Communion



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Your Vision For Whimble

By the time you read this you will hopefully have completed your Parish Plan questionnaire and it will have been collected, and thanks are due to those Whimble News distributors who have undertaken this task. The success of this exercise does depend on a good response rate and for those of you yet to fill in the form or the collector has not been able to contact you, there is still a limited time for you to take completed forms to the Post Office where there is a box in which you can leave them in the envelope which came with the questionnaire.

The sealed envelopes will all be sent to Devon County Council who are analysing them for us and they will prepare a report. The steering group will then begin to prepare a draft action plan and there will be a further consultation event in The Victory Hall before it is finalised. The eventual Parish Plan will be adopted by the Parish Council and lodged with the District and County Councils as a policy document.

Mike Ellingham



Whimble Victory Hall

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*12.00noon until 1.30pm
on Saturday 17th February
And Saturday 17th March*

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for further details ring John 823614 or Pam 822262

WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

By the time you read this edition of the News we will have had our Annual General Meeting and the new Committee will have been elected in. From the meeting that we had at the beginning of December, it is unlikely that there will be many changes. Full details of the events for the coming year will be included in future editions of the News but some dates we have already agreed are as follows.

Our first event will be our Winter Coffee Evening which we are hoping will be in March. We have a speaker in mind but have yet to confirm details with them. We will circulate information on this as and when it is all confirmed. In May we will be staging our spring plant sale. This event has become so popular in the last couple of years that it is imperative that you get there early so as not to miss out on the many bargains! Date and times will be in the next edition. The annual flower show will, as usual, be on the second Saturday in August, which this year is 11 August. So that is one date you can all pencil in.

Sadly, just before Christmas one of stalwarts of the VPA and Flower Show, Graham Hansford died. Graham had been a member and supporter of the VPA for many years. He was a regular exhibitor in the show and over the years had won most, if not all, of the trophies in the flower and vegetable classes. I am sure many of you will have seen his magnificent exhibits in the Arts and Crafts Section where his wood working skills were displayed for all to see. He also helped us out by being one of the Flower Show stewards and he was always willing to give practical help where he could. He will be greatly missed by us all.

On Boxing Day not just the VPA, but the village lost one of its great personalities, Raymond Burrough. Raymond was prominent in many aspects of village life and had supported the Flower Show for many years. He also will be greatly missed.

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

Paul Wilson,

Hon. Secretary.



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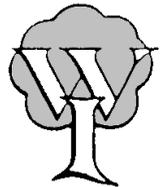
Whimpe Women's Institute

At the December meeting the Vice-President, Rosemary Horrell, welcomed members and also guests from West Hill, Escot and Ottery St Mary Institutes to our Christmas party.

A welcoming drink was enjoyed, followed by quizzes and a lovely display of Scottish country dancing by a team of eight members. The team of 'professional' dancers then invited the membership to join them in the Dashing White Sergeant - an activity which took everyone's breath away! Our usual 'bring and share' supper lived up to the usual high standard and was much enjoyed by all.

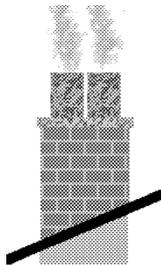
Our Vice-President also presided at the January meeting when the speaker was Dr David Holt. The title of his talk was 'In a class of my own' which gave us a glimpse of the amusing side of primary teaching.

In January we were able to welcome some new members and guests. If you are interested do come along to the meeting on 13th February when the subject of the talk will be 'Behind closed Doors' - prison visiting. For further information contact Ann Bowden (823450).



Rosemarie Burrows

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or by post - Longfield Whimble EX5 2TF



WHIMPLE WEATHER - 2006

	2006	2005
Rainfall	34.92 inches	43.26 inches
Rain fell on	155 days	159 days
Snow fell on	2 days	9days
Gales/Strong winds	39 days	33 days
No of days 32°f or below	52	57
Thunder heard	12 days	7 days
Wettest month	October (7.04 inches)	October (8.36 inches)
Driest month	April (0.84 inch)	February (1.12 Inches)
Wettest day	23.6.06 (1.32 inches)	18.10.05 (2.28 inches)
Hottest day	19.7.06 (90°f)	13.7.05 (92°f)
Coldest night	4.3.06.06 & 20.12.06 (24°f)	28.12.05 (21°f)

I now have 36 years of weather statistics in Whimple. As before, it must be emphasised these details are taken from records kept in a garden in Whimple and may not agree with others even 2 miles away but is thought to be reasonably relevant to the village. I have heard that 2006 was a wet year, not so in this garden where 34.92 inches is below the average of 38.42 inches.

Ken Burrows



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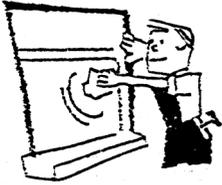
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When you answer the phone, **simply say 'hello'; don't give your number.** If the caller claims to have a wrong number, ask him or her to repeat the number required. Never reveal any information about yourself to a stranger and never say you are alone in the house.

Use only your surname and initials on the doorplate and in the telephone directory. That way a stranger won't know if a man or a woman lives there.

If you see signs of a break-in at your home, like a smashed window or open door, don't go in. **Go to a neighbour and immediately call the police.**

If you receive an abusive or threatening phone call, put the receiver down beside the phone, and walk away. Come back a few minutes later and replace the receiver; don't listen to see if the caller is still there. **Don't say anything** – an emotional reaction is just what the caller wants. This allows the caller to say what he or she wants to say, without causing distress to you. If the calls continue, tell the police and the operator and keep a record of the date, time and content of each phone call. This may help the authorities trace the caller.

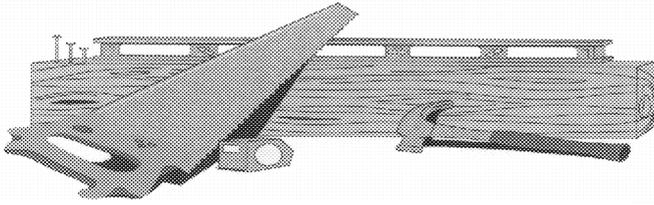
Carry your bag close to you with the clasp facing inwards. **Carry your house keys in your pocket.** If someone grabs your bag, let it go. If you hang on, you could get hurt. Remember **your safety is more important than your property.**

If you think someone is following you, check by crossing the street – more than once if necessary – to see if he follows. If you are still worried, **get to the nearest place where there are other people** – a pub or anywhere with a lot of lights on – and call the police. Avoid using an enclosed phone box in the street, as the attacker could trap you inside.

If you regularly go jogging or cycling, try to vary your route and time. **Stick to well-lit roads with pavements.** On commons and parklands, keep to main paths and open spaces where you can see and be seen by other people – avoid wooded areas. If you wear a personal stereo, remember you can't hear traffic, or somebody approaching behind you.

Don't take short-cuts through dark alleys, parks or across waste ground. **Walk facing the traffic** so a car cannot pull up behind you unnoticed.

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Whimble Tennis Club

2007

Nestling quietly at the foot of a hill, cows munching noisily as the balls fly over their heads, a quaint club house with newly mended veranda after the secretary made a hole in the boards; an obsolete, possibly symbolic three-sided structure - covered in ivy, home to a nest of robins...

All that and some great games!

If you would like to play tennis or in any way be involved in Whimble Tennis Club, join us for our 2007 season.

The forthcoming AGM will be held on:
Thursday 29th March at 7.30 pm
at The Gate House, Rull Farm Tel 823240

Club officials are needed. Any help – unofficial too – is appreciated. Members, heed the constitution! It's up to all to help out at weeding/pruning time (though no-one will ask you to go near the privy – rather like Cold Comfort Farm in there).

NEW for this year! A **summer tournament** is to be arranged for anyone who would like to join in. This will culminate in Village Week with refreshments. And the finals. Juniors, Seniors and Veterans invited.

More news to come.

OLD stuff sought – if you have any tennis **memorabilia** related to tennis over the last 50 years, local or general, e.g. a white tennis ball, a story, a photograph that you could loan or give to the club, we hope to make a small display to celebrate the anniversary of the club (we are hoping the History Society will tell us which anniversary it might be).

CONTACTS: Miles Leonard (Chairman) 822415
Jane Hughes (Treasurer) 822659
Judith Imbo (Secretary) 823240 email:
danyimbo@btinternet.com

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Whimble School HAT day



On Friday 30th March we will be holding our first HAT-"Health and Travel" day at Whimble school. Pupils will spend a fun filled day with games, quizzes, exercises and other activities that will all carry important messages about health and travel.

Staff, Governors, The Travel Plan Committee, and outside experts will all be involved.

Before the day pupils will be asked to make a hat with a health and travel theme. The hats will be judged on the day and prizes awarded to the winners.

Everyone on the committee is very excited about the day and we really hope that the children will learn and remember the important messages.

Travel Plan Committee

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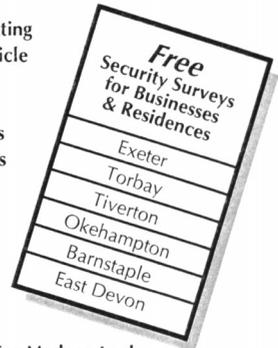


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<i>Clerk:</i> Mrs Gerri Turner, Penraddon, Hand and Pen	823385
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Contact:</i> Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
Devon County Councillor	
Mr. D.Button,	
East Devon Councillor	
Andrew Dinnis	850363
Whimble County Primary School	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. D. Brice	822584
<i>P.T.F.A. Chair:</i> Mr R.Camp	823392
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> Karen Bell 5 Lower Woodhayes Court	823443
Whimble Womens Institute	
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> Adrian Williams, 47 Slewton Crescent	822430
Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Ben Silk	822389
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<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> J. Hughes	822659
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Mr. R.J.Smith	822244
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<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 Slewton 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

The Whimble News Team

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Ed Hitchcock 823194

Production

Bob Scanlan 822262

Naome Glanville 823167

Vivienne Leonard 822415

Delivery

Ed & Nicky Hitchcock 823194

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