

# Whimble History Society

REG. CHARITY NO. 1051725

## NEWSLETTER



## SEPTEMBER 2020

### Government Grant

We are pleased to report that our Treasurer applied for a Government to help us through the lockdown etc and we were successful and received the full amount of £10,000 this will go a long way to help the Society with its annual running costs which are normally in excess of £6,000, but these are usually off set by £3,000 annual income gained from events; but in 2020 and 2021 events income will be drastically reduced due to lockdown etc.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020

#### Subscriptions and Lottery Subscriptions for 2020/2021

At a recent Committee it was unanimously approved that any Member's Subscription paid for the current year (2020) will now be carried forward as their subscription for 2021.

Payment would be welcomed when convenient!!

If Members would prefer to pay on-line the Society's Bank details are:-

Barclays Bank

Sort code : 20-30-47 a/c : 10865389

### Hundred Club Lottery Draws

The final Heritage Lottery Draw for 2019/2020 was made by the Treasurer and Secretary under strict Covid social distancing requirements. The winners were:-

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £40 Viv Worthy

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £20 Pauline O'Neill

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 David Rastall

The first of this year's Heritage Lottery Draws will take place at the next Committee meeting. So if you haven't already applied for your draw tickets (£5 each) now is the time to do so.

### Future Events

Sadly due to the Covid 19 outbreak we have had to cancel all the events up until the end of the year (The September Talk, Apple Pressing, The Auction, Jim Causley's Christmas Concert and Christmas Lunch). The Wassailing on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 is still obviously at risk of cancellation (a decision will be made later).

However, the Committee has pencilled in Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March as a possible date for the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee would welcome any ideas that members may have for possible online activities over the winter months.

### **Obituaries**

It is with great sadness that we report the passing, during these challenging times, of two stalwarts of the Whimble History Society, Lt. Col. Roberts and John Aiton.

#### **Lt. Colonel 'Bob' Roberts**

Col. Bob joined the Society almost as soon as he arrived in the village. He became an active member of the Committee and was soon persuaded to be the Treasurer. He was instrumental in the Society gaining Charity status.

However, in January 2001 following the tragic and untimely death of Chairman John Shepherd, Col. Bob stepped into the breach as acting Chairman and Chairman of the Building Sub Committee. The efforts of this Sub Committee under his guidance maintained the momentum of raising funds for the Heritage Centre Project. He oversaw stage 1 of the project which culminated in the opening of the Heritage Centre in May 2003. At this point he also undertook the role of Curator of the Centre using the expertise he had gained in his work with Army Museums.

Col. Bob and the Building Sub Committee then embarked on raising funds for stage 2 (The Whiteway Wing), working closely with Mr. E. V. M. Whiteway. The Whiteway Wing was completed and opened in May 2005, a remarkable feat.

Col. Bob was also an active member in many other spheres, he took on the onerous task of running the Annual Auction and sorting all the lots and often the disposal of lots that did not sell. His model of the Station and the Goods yard was an excellent display. His organisation of the Village Millennium Photograph at the Cricket Field was a tribute to his organisational skills. His portrayal of Winston Churchill at our Forties Night will long live in everyone's memory.

#### **John Aiton**

#### **(Helicopter John)**

John joined the Committee in 2002 and immediately became actively involved with the Building Sub Committee. He was instrumental in obtaining our glass display cabinets and later in upgrading the display lighting to use L.E.D s, thereby saving us money.

The Society's impressive website was set up by John and consequently he became our I.T. adviser. He also designed our logo (see top of newsletter)

He also took on the role of Health and Safety Officer for the Heritage Centre.

His flair for setting up displays of photos artefacts was much appreciated by our Curators.

His dry wit and ready, often wicked, sense of humour often provide light relief at our Committee meetings. In the latter years his illness became increasingly restrictive on his activities. Nevertheless, despite standing down from the Committee he was always available as a co-opted member of the Committee and continued to run the Society's website right up until the end.

His opinions, knowledge and frankness will be enormously missed by all. He has left a large hole that we will struggle to fill.