

Whimble News



April/May 2003

What's on in Whimple

April

5 th Haydn's Creation	Ottery St Mary's Church	7.30pm
8 th WI Meeting	Victory Hall	7.30pm
12 th Wine and Savoury Evening	Ottery Cricket Club	7.30pm
O-s-M League of Friends		
17 th Blood Donor Sessions	Feniton School	1.30-3.15pm 5.00-7.15pm
25 th History Society - Mr Beard on Dartmoor	Victory Hall	7.30pm
26 th Bingo	Victory Hall	7.30pm
Whimple and Broadclyst Young Farmers		

May

9 th VPA Sale of Plants & Coffee Evening	Victory Hall	7.30pm
10 th Sale of Plants & Coffee Morning	Furze Hill Church Road	10.30am
in aid of Whimple Church & Christian Aid		
26 th Official Opening by Mrs A Browning MP	Whimple Heritage Centre	11am

June

14 th Church Fete		
15 th History Society – Outing		
22 nd VPA outing to Rosemoor	The Square	9.30am
27 th Big Night In! - Old Rope String Band	Victory Hall	7.30pm

St Mary's Church

Easter Services

17th	Maunday Thursday	7pm	Holy Communion
18th	Good Friday	2-3pm	Talaton - The Last Hour
20th	Easter Day	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	Family Service & Holy Communion

Monthly Programme of Services

1st	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	Family Service
2nd	Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
3rd	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Service with a Smile
4th	Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
5th	Sunday	11am	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 Angela Smith on 822828 or e-mail Angela1smith@aol.com

Ed the Ed

Our thoughts are with Rob Wilkinson, Hannah and Rachel on the sudden death of Wendy. It was heart-warming to know that so many people attended the funeral to express their support at such a sad time, and to give thanks for her life. Geoff Gardner has written a separate article for us that gives a personal view.

Well, the panto is now cleared away and all the costumes stored for another year, scripts are discarded and I got my voice back two weeks after the Saturday performance! Nicky says that was the best bit about the whole pantomime! We all had a lot of fun and we have a couple of articles on the pantomime in this edition. Alex Spry can now take comfort that his knees and shorts have entered village folk lore, having them starring in a tribute role within the panto, attached to Jenny Sanders' legs

So what is happening up the old A30? Is it the largest sand pit play area in East Devon? And who left their giant sized Lego pieces out? According to a phone call made on my behalf by a highly skilled operative, the sand etc. has come from the Sowton Park and Ride extension and is a creative way to reduce the width of a road that no longer needs to be that size. The earth/sand etc. will be grassed and become a green and verdant bank. Hats off to the council for being so creative!!

I can hear that summer is on the way...the merry roar of the lawn mower and the sight of the balloons over Whimble and the lighter evenings...get those barbecues out and ready!!

Dates for contributions into the Post Office and the warm, nimble but caring hands of GO at the PO, or for emailing direct to our star production operative, Bob 'hold the front page' Scanlan on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk by Thursday 15 May 2003, please.

Ed Hitchcock

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

"Soon o'er their heads blithe April airs shall sing;
A thousand wild flowers round them shall unfold
The green buds glisten in the dews of Spring
And all be vernal rapture as of old" John Keble

Of all the months, April is the most capricious and cannot be relied on: one minute we have heavy showers, the next minute it is all smiles and sweetness. It is so easy to be fooled because one so longs for the warmth of the sun and the lengthening of the days and light. I find that the days are full of excitement. It is perhaps a case of wishful thinking. With the approach of Easter, a time of great expectation and rejoicing, after the austerity of Lent, April is stepping out in sharp contrasting colours and sounds.

The song thrushes who fell silent during the cold spell we had lately, are mostly back in their territories singing their sweet melodies over and over again. The young lambs are bleating in the surrounding meadows. The young birds are chirping in the nests they have built in the trees and shrubs of The Square. The children too like the outdoors and are attracted by the water in the babbling brook and it is so charming to see them on the little bridge throwing Pooh sticks in the running stream. Unlike Shakespeare in his Spring poem "when daisies pied and violet blue, the cuckoo then on every tree sings cuckoo".

I cannot claim to have heard the cuckoo sing from every tree. Those I used to hear always seemed to be in flight or far away. In recent years I have not even heard them at all. They usually start singing just before St. George's day 23rd April. Even in the letters to the editor of The Times, I have not seen a single one mentioning the song of the first cuckoo in Spring which in the past was always such a feature. Are we getting less romantic or have those birds disappeared altogether?

The Old Manse stands proudly in The Square and I was very pleased when a few years ago I received an elegant slate plaque stating that this was "An English listed buildings featuring the lovely Tudor rose emblem of England. Two years ago, on St. George's day the local History Society unveiled a plaque under the Linden tree near the house stating that the stone and ring were the tethering stone for the Post Office and Telegraph which was originally housed in The Manse. Before The Manse was built, two thatched cottages belonging to the Glebe stood there, but unfortunately were burnt down.

The local builder Granger bought the plot from the Church and built this house just before the mid 1800s and called it Victoria Villa, and it then became the Post Office. It seems strange to think that the house was almost built before the church was enlarged and rebuilt in 1845 with the exception of the tower, a building of stone in the perpendicular style.

The reredos was erected in 1883. I cannot say that I find it particularly elegant because it hides the beautiful stained glass window with the figures in the upper lights of St. James, St. Paul, St. Jude and St. Peter, whereas the four lower lights feature St. Mathew, St. Mark, St. John and St. Luke and in the headlights are various symbols and designs.

What I find so elegant at The Old Manse is the four panel front door with an overlight and a flat roofed porch with panelled posts and moulded entablature including a modillion cornice. The interior of the house is equally elegant and spacious. I feel that I am more of a custodian than the proprietor.



The whole community and villages who belong to the benefit were very saddened indeed by the untimely death of the beloved wife of our Vicar. She will be sadly missed and I for one will miss her frequent little visits to The Manse. always smiling, always comforting and kind to everyone.

The national survey carried out this last week stated with great conviction that Devon was the best place to live in the whole of England and I could not agree more with that finding. Being Swiss by birth, English by marriage, I have also become Devonian by adoption and I find that the mixture of the three elements is rather special. This is my home.

In April the hedgerows look misleadingly lifeless but come May they are predominantly white, the bees start making their sorties, the birds and the dawn chorus are in full swing.

"Hedgerows all alive
With birds and gnats and large butterflies
Which look as though the Mayflower had caught
life And palpitated forth upon the wind"
E.B. Browning.

NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER

Thought for the day.... 'A wife-the woman who stands beside you through all the troubles you would not have had if you had remained single'.

and just for balance..... 'A husband - a man who hangs around hungrily when a meal is cooking - then disappears when it's served'.



Payments of pensions, benefits etc - sorry to keep on about this subject --

Firstly - don't worry if you have not received anything from the Government yet - it may be next week but it may not be for up to two years - you will get a letter sometime - when you do bring it in and I will talk you through the options.

From the Post Office long term survival point of view the most important thing is that, whatever option you choose **continue to come to the Post Office as regularly as you do** now to collect cash and **pay bills - this is what matters. If you can convert those that currently do not get their money in the P.O. to do so it will greatly help.** There are many young mums who must get child benefit and also many people somewhat older with state pensions who are regularly in the village but who get their state monies paid into current bank accounts and who neither collect cash nor pay any bills at the P.O. This is business the P.O. needs.

Remember - the P.O. not only means getting pensions, buying stamps etc but also means mail sorting and postmen - if there is no P.O. you will have to go to Exeter to collect any parcels the postmen tried to deliver when you were out; holding mail while you are on holiday will not be here in Whimble - (and you will have to pay!); no P. O. boxes will operate in Whimble ---i.e. have a good think about when and how you rely on the P.O. - maybe more than you immediately think - and ask yourself - "could I use it more?" If the answer is 'yes' and you do then there may be hope for the P.O. after those currently behind the counter have gone - hopefully only into retirement!

Don't forget we now sell printer ink cartridges - and the price is right!

With the new Council Tax Rate about to be announced I thought the following topical ----

"The attractive buildings to your right are the offices of E.D.D.C.." a guide told a coach full of tourists.

"How many people work there?" a woman wondered.

"Oh, one in 50, I should say," said the guide.

At the time of writing this I'm still too stunned to sensibly understand what the loss of Wendy means to her family and the village and I am sure others will be able to express our sorrow elsewhere in this edition, so I'll merely sign off with best wishes to you all, from

HO&GO@PO

ad

ad

WENDY WILKINSON

Put these personal qualities together:-

- giving herself to others
- building a loving home and family life
- a close daily walk with Jesus
- generous hospitality in opening her home
- a warm and welcoming smile
- an ever-listening ear
- a caring for the needs of the church's children
- a capacity for sheer hard work
- impressive artistic abilities
- an assurance of life after death.

These qualities added together give a picture of our dear Wendy Wilkinson.

Wendy sadly passed away during the morning service on 2nd March. She was playing a part in that service, and had answered the question, "Do you have friends here?" with the words "Oh, I have lots of friends here," with a bright smile as she looked round at the large gathering of adults and children in church. They were the last words she spoke, the last sight she saw.

The Bishop of Exeter came to lead our worship the following Sunday morning, to encourage us in our time of loss. He came again the next day to lead the funeral service, when nearly 400 people crowded into the church to give thanks for Wendy's life and ministry, and to express our sympathy to the family.

We have had the privilege of knowing her and being greatly enriched by her, here in Whimble, in Talaton and Clyst St Lawrence. We can show our appreciation of her by carrying on her work, and also by giving our warm sympathetic support to her husband, the Rev Rob Wilkinson, in his on-going ministry among us, and to their two daughters, Hannah and Rachel, who are very precious to us.

Geoffrey Gardner.

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Sir,

Whilst many people would decry the efforts of Mr Ken Livingstone and the implementation of the London congestion charge, I believe that there are valuable lessons here for a village such as ours. If we introduced such a charge, the revenue raised could be put towards vital village projects and ease the burden on the taxpayer, both local and national.



**Congestion
charging...**

My proposal would be to put barriers up across the road at the Thirsty Farmer end of the village, and at the New Fountain, between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00. The car would stop at the barrier, where a group of paid volunteers, and here I had in mind the Scouts and the W.I., both of whom appear to have bags of energy, would escort it through the village with a representative carrying a red flag – the safety within the congestion zone would be increased a thousand fold and both organisations would benefit by an increased level of fitness amongst their members.

The car driver would be able to take in the beauty and splendour that is our village, at a leisurely pace. We may need some form of bumper protection for the rear end of the flag carrier in case the car driver suddenly hits the accelerator and the flag carrier – I believe there are a number of tasteful cushions left over from the last jumble sale, and combined with some attractive agricultural twine, could prove to be the fashion accessory of 2003.

An interesting add-on to this scheme could be the creation of drive-in facilities at both the Village Stores and the Post Office. Whilst waiting at the barriers, drivers could place their orders with a fleet footed runner/skateboarder/roller-blader who would hasten to the Shop/PO, and place the order. With a little architectural licence, both establishments could install sash windows from whence the completed order could be passed to the passing customer by either a smiling Graham or Gordon. In slightly cooler weather they would be permitted to wear one sleeve from a thick coat on the exposed arm. If golfers can wear one glove, why not this?

It would be important to have a safety barrier system in front of the church to stop any errant skateboarders who may get out of control (and here I worry about the possibility of the over 65 Club helping out) and I would suggest something similar to the arrestor wire on flight decks that aircraft carriers use. I believe it would bring the runaway skateboarder to a safe but rapid stop – a short sit on the village seat would be enough to sort out any after effects before they girded their loins to rejoin the other helpers.

I commend the idea to the village.

Yours, aye,

Major Dis Aster

A New Classroom for Whimpe Primary School



There has been considerable interest in the future development of the school. We thought you would like to know something of our plans.

In due course we look forward to having a new purpose-built school on the site next to Slewtan Crescent on the Broadclyst Road. The Education Authority recently purchased the site with this in mind. However there are a number of other schools that have a higher priority so it is unlikely that the new school will be built within the next five years.

In the meantime we need to add another classroom for the children who are moving from year 2 to year 3 next year. This new classroom will be constructed on a mezzanine floor above the original school hall.

Other improvements will include a Design and Technology food area and a bigger library. We will also be creating a new reception at the front of the building which will greatly improve the school's security. This has been of concern to the Governors for some time.

Work on this exciting project will begin in June and be completed by September. Needless to say there will be some disruption which we will keep to a minimum.

As an important next step we plan to develop PE and Games facilities on the new school site.

We have been assured that these improvements will in no way diminish our case for a new school.

Pam Scanlan
Vice-chair of Governors

Di Brice
Head Teacher

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The Whimble Panto 2003

As I sat in the audience last year, gazing up at Ed making a fool of himself (as usual) in a big dress and bright red lipstick, I realised my ambition: to be part of the Whimbletons Panto.

This year, I joined the crew for yet another crazy Whimble panto, this time performing ROBINSON CRUSOE.

Included in the cast were the usual suspects (Ed, the Collins family, Peter, Emma etc) plus a few newcomers to the scene. As a newcomer, I didn't really know what I was letting myself in for and got in touch with Ed. I was promoted to Minnie Mainmast, the captain's daughter, my sister was Mermaid 1 and my mum was stage manager! (poor woman!)

The rehearsals were great fun and an excuse to have a good laugh too! We spent the whole of January / February practising once every week and had an occasional song practise at the Collins' house.

The actual performances were brilliant fun and the audiences were great. Loads of people turned up this year (even on Thursday!) and we were all pleased / surprised at the outcome. Of course, everyone went wild on the Saturday night and Ed and Miles stitched everyone up!

We couldn't have done it without some certain people so a big thank-you to Peter, Slap me' girdle and you, our audience!

See you next year!

Becky Thompson

JOIN THE WHIMBLETONS!!!!

See the world of Whimble from the stage of the Victory Hall!!

If you saw the pantomime this year and were enthralled and want to join in with such exciting thespians, please contact us.

If you saw the pantomime and were not enthralled, then please join us and raise the standards.

We would welcome more acting bodies (especially younger men as the current lot are nearly past it) as well as practical skills for stage construction, and other support jobs. Please ring Emma Palmer on 823083

Whimple WI

It has been a busy few months for Whimple WI. In late January thirty five members attended a belated Christmas meal at The New Inn at Broadclyst. It was a most successful evening with good food and good company.

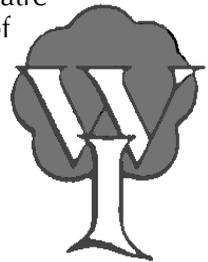
Our February talk was provided by The Devon Fire Service. It was a most interesting talk (and video) explaining the role of the Fire Services in Devon. Fire precaution is seen as a vital role of the fire services, and members were given the opportunity to have a smoke alarm installed in their homes free of charge.

Lace making in Honiton was the talk in March. Mrs Perryman gave a synopsis of the history of lace making in Honiton, its rise and decline. Members saw a display of lace made in Honiton through the ages. It is interesting to note that The Speaker of The House of Commons wears Honiton lace. A demonstration of lace making was shown during the coffee break. Members were also able to make purchases from a Fair Trade stall.

A group attended HMS Pinafore at The Northcott Theatre - a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was the view of those attending!

Our April meeting will be "Costume Making in the Theatre" presented by Dawn Canham. We welcome any visitors and prospective new members to the Victory Hall at 7.30pm on April 8th.

Jan Discombe



Ottery St Mary League of Friends Wine & Savoury Evening

Ottery Cricket Club

April 12th 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00 including wine

Tickets from Myrtle Dockings

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Larkbeare Farmhouse, Larkbeare

Charlie and Julia Hutchings opened their farmhouse bed and breakfast last spring. Whilst the house has been transformed to meet 21st century expectations, it still has plenty of character. The three rooms available for B&B each have their own bathroom with walk-in shower and bath, Molton Brown soaps and even heated



mirrors. Egyptian cotton linen, goose down duvets, bathrobes, king size beds and all the usual facilities ensure your stay is really comfortable. For those wishing to keep in touch with their office, each room has two telephone lines, so you can connect to the internet. Guests can enjoy a leisurely breakfast with homemade bread and other locally sourced products.

Instead of reading all about it, why not go and see for yourself? Charlie, Julia and, of course, Joanna are having an

Open Day on Monday 5th May from noon to 6pm.

Don't forget to look at the Drawing Room, which may be booked for small meetings. If you can't make it, call 822069 for more details or look at their website: www.Larkbeare.net



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MOTHER'S DAY OR ENGLAND'S MOTHERING SUNDAY

On the Continent of Europe and also in the whole of the United States, Mother's day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May. It is a way to show our mothers our love and admiration. It is not a religious festival. On the other hand the English Mothering Sunday celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent is religious and over the years I made quite a study of it.

It goes back a long long way. In the 1600's mother earth and mothers in general were honoured. As Christianity spread throughout England, the celebrations started to honour the Mother Church, the spiritual power that gave Christians life and protected them from evil. Over the years it then became a religious festival always celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent. People began to honour their mothers as well as the church.

One must not forget that in those days many of England's poor worked as servants for the gentry and the wealthy. Most jobs were far away from the family home and they would live in servants' quarters in their employers houses. Days off were few and far between. However, on Mothering Sunday the employers very generously gave the staff the day off and they were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers. As transport was almost non-existent the girls used to walk part of the way home and pick primroses and wild flowers to make little posies. It is the fashion now in churches to make posies and the children offer them to their mothers in a special church service. Actually it is not the children who make up the posies but the ladies of the parish.

There are all sorts of cakes baked to celebrate Mothering Sunday, the best known is the simnel cake; a very rich fruit cake. The Lenten fast ordained that the simnel cake had to be kept until Easter. It was boiled in water, then baked and was often finished with almond icing. Sometimes it was even made of flour and water coloured with saffron. Furnmety was also served made of wheat grains boiled in sweet milk.

Of course in modern times this festival has been high-jacked by commerce and is widely advertised on television and radio and in the papers to encourage you to spend as much money as possible on perfumes, flowers, chocolates and baubles.

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

Whimble Her

Since the publication of the last News, members of Whimble History Society have been very busy carrying out self-help work on the interior of Lockyer's Linhay, the Heritage Centre. Much carpentry, joinery, painting etc. has been done to complete the installation of the show cases and display boards. At the same time a lot of research has been going on to complete the details needed for the displays.

The Society's archives (over 20,000 items) have been moved into the Linhay from the home of Mr and Mrs D Rastall, where they have been stored for the past twelve years. The work to maintain them and access new items acquired almost daily, can now be done in the Centre's archive area.

In April the artefacts held by the Society will be moved into the Centre from the eight places in the village where they are presently stored. Then will come the lengthy and detailed task of sorting and labelling them for display.

The timetable the Society set itself is being adhered to and there is confidence that the planned date of opening on Monday 26th May will be met.

Meanwhile funds are continuing to be raised for the second phase of the project - an extension to the rear consisting of another gallery, larger archive storage area, office and toilets. The cost of £110,000 has already been reduced by the £10,000 raised in the past four months.

11am Monday 26th May
Official Opening of
Whimble Heritage Centre
by Mrs A Browning MP

Heritage Centre



Whimple Heritage Centre – Request for Artefacts

In preparing for the displays in the new Heritage Centre, Whimple History Society are conscious of not having many items pertaining to parts of the Village's history or life.

They are short of items connected with the following:

- Farming
- The Railway including the goods yard
- The Church/Chapel
- The Schools
- Builder's businesses
- Baker's businesses
- Clubs/Groups/Sports etc.
- World Wars

If you have any items connected with the above or any other village connection, which you are able to donate to the Society, please contact any of the following:

Mr R Webber 822038, Mrs D Rastall 822486, Mr R Roberts 822311

Thank you

TALE OF A PANTOMIME WIDOW

Christmas was over and it was the start of the New Year when I heard those dreaded words 'will you help me with my lines' ...yes, the panto season in Whimble had started. Being the wife of a performer has its moments as I found out this year.

The morning of my well-deserved day off started normally enough and I had my plans for the day - or so I thought. On leaving for work Ed asked if I would buy a parrot – an inflatable one would do! This got me thinking – where would one buy an inflatable parrot in the Exeter area. I got out the Yellow Pages, no listings for inflatable parrots there so I thought I would start with the fancy dress shops. I subsequently found out that there is not a lot of call for inflatable parrots in Exeter! I started to feel like I was in the middle of a bad Monty Python sketch when I extended my search to Exmouth and a very nice lady in response to my question as to whether she had any parrots replied 'of course'. Little did I realise at this time what a starring role it was going to play in Friday and Saturday nights performances due to the behind the scenes antics of Helen Webber.

My problems, however, were not yet over. I was foolish enough one morning to mention that I was going into Exeter and could I get Ed anything while I was there? A pair of tights, the louder and more brightly coloured the better, came the reply. Seeking hosiery for my husband was not the shopping I had in mind when I planned my trip, but I rose to the challenge. Bright coloured tights have not been fashionable since the 70's so I wasn't sure where to begin. I started in the department stores and found fish nets, support tights, thin ones, thick ones but all in muted colours. I thought one of the smaller accessory shops might be better so I entered one of these shops and started searching. A young assistant came over and I explained I needed some bright tights. As there was a separate children's rack she asked whether the tights were for myself, I replied "no they are for my husband"exit one sales assistant. My search came to an end in the fancy dress shop, when I hesitantly asked if they stocked bright tights - the man straight away said "yes.... for a man or woman?"

I always thought that pantomime was a show for children, but as I looked round the audience on Saturday night it appeared the audience consisted mainly of the more mature (no, perhaps not, after the performance of the audience, no one there could be described as mature) people of the village. The back row, for instance, were old enough to know better, not a child amongst them, just a large bag of sweets – all they were missing was the popcorn and hot dogs.

The Whimbletons put another excellent show this year, it was debatable who was having the most fun, the cast or the audience. It is difficult to pick out any members of the cast, as they were all superb. I was pleased to see plenty of budding panto talent from the younger members of the cast, playing such roles as mermaids and other underwater creatures. However Maddie Colin put in another great performance as Robinson Crusoe. It is also hard to believe that this was Becky Thompson's first panto as she made an excellent Minnie Mainmast and Jenny Wrenny. The villains of the piece – Captain Blackbeard and his cohort Mr Patch - turned into a comedy double act. Ideal casting of Ed and Miles Leonard behaving much as they do during the rest of the year anyway. The singing was excellent. Even Ed, not renowned for his voice, made a brave attempt at the Pirate King.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the Whimbletons and we look forward to next year.

Nicky Hitchcock

Whimple Village Week 2003

6th - 13th July 2003

Spring has finally arrived, and summer will soon be here, which means Village Week is only 3 months away. Look out for our full programme in the June/July issue of Whimple News.

Many village organisations are already involved and this year we have been approached to include some new events and organisations.

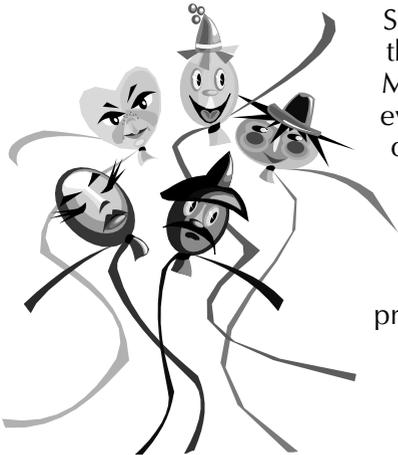
Last year we introduced the 'Annual Worm Charming World Championships' and Cow Pat Competition to the week. With prior consent from the Worms and the Cow we hope to run this again.

We also ran our first Food and Drink Festival, which was a relaxing end to the week. After years of wanting an event like this back in Village Week, I was lucky enough, with co-organisers to be able to put my ideas to work.

So many people put a lot of hard work to make the Village Week a success. The P.T.F.A. Members coordinate the week as well as running events. We also receive a lot of help from outside of our organisation such as other Village Organisations running events, Villagers who are willing to help, and Local Companies who give us donations or give us sponsorship.

If you would like more information, or are prepared to help, or perhaps donate towards or sponsor an event, please contact me on 01404 823682.

Vicky Kendrew-Welton (P.T.F.A. Member)



LASHBROOK FARM SHOP

We are sorry that we are having to leave Lashbrook. Consequently and sadly this means that **the Farm Shop has now closed**. We thank everybody for their tremendous support which has not only helped us survive through Foot and Mouth but has given inspiration to other farmers. Thank you all again.

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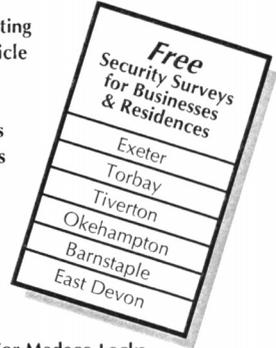
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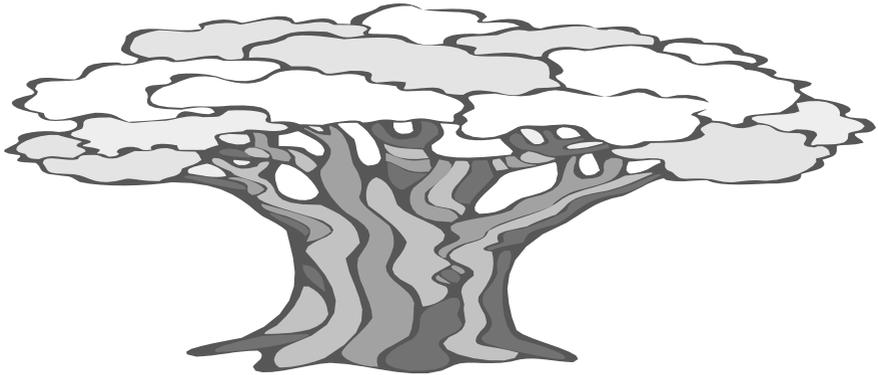
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PLEASE CALL AND LEAVE A CONTACT NUMBER ON:

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Big Night In!

Another Big Night In! event for your diaries... The Old Rope String Band will be performing at the Victory Hall on Friday 27th June. Their crazy extravaganza of excellent mainly traditional music spiced with acrobatics, jokes and slapstick make for a great night out for all the family.

See next Whimble News for further details

Are you over 50?

Fit - or not-so-fit?

Like to swim and gain confidence in the water;

Enjoy the benefits of the hydro pool;

Maybe do some aqua-aerobics?

**Join, the Ottery St. Mary and District
LATER LIFE FORUM weekly swimming group
at the Flamingo Pool in Axminster**

**On Mondays Cost: £ 3.60 including transport
pick-up point within Whimble**

The coach leaves Ottery St. Mary at approx. 10am
(swimming 11 am - 12 noon; coach returns approx. 1pm)

for information/booking please telephone.

Sophie Langford: 01392 250085; Veronica French: 01404 814695

This swimming group is available to anyone from age 50 onwards in Whimble;
it is NOT restricted to members of the Later Life Forum.

Bingo
At Whimple Victory Hall
Held by
Whimple and Broadclyst Young Farmers
Saturday 26th April
Eyes down at 7.30pm

FENITON BOWLING CLUB

If you have ever thought about playing bowls on a lovely summer afternoon or evening in a beautiful setting, now is the time to take that first step. The new bowling season begins at the end of April and we are always keen to welcome new bowlers to our very friendly club. We have a very good green and an excellent clubhouse and facilities. Our membership numbers about ninety at present and we would be very pleased to hear from potential new members who would like to join us.

We try to make it as easy as possible for new bowlers to find out if they like the sport without too much financial commitment. We are continuing to waive the annual subscription for the first year for people who are just starting to bowl or who have recently moved into the area and we have plenty of bowls for borrowing and coaches ready to help you get started. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to ring our Club Secretary Peter Goodsell (01404 851259) or me (01404 813049).

Richard North (Chairman)

Blood Donor Sessions
will be held on Thursday 17th April 2003
At Feniton School, Station Rd, Feniton
from 1:30pm until 3:15pm and 5:00pm until 7:15pm

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OVER £300 MILLION IS SPENT EVERY YEAR ON STOLEN CREDIT CARDS.

In addition to stealing a credit card, "skimming", has made keeping hold of your credit card even more important.

Skimming happens when someone copies the magnetic stripe on a credit or debit card by swiping it through a small card reader. This can happen in shops, restaurants or anywhere where you might pay with your card, and it results in your card details being used to make a counterfeit card.

Guard your card and never let it out of your sight when making a transaction, and don't carelessly discard receipts as they carry information about your card that a fraudster could use to buy things over the phone or Internet. Check your receipts against your statements carefully, and if you don't recognise a purchase, contact your card issuer immediately.

Sign new cards as soon as they arrive and make sure you cut up your old card as soon as the new one becomes valid. Don't keep your cheque book with your cards, look after all your personal possessions properly. And report lost or stolen cards to your card issuer immediately, **a 24-hour emergency number is usually shown on your statement. It is worth making a note of this number and keeping it with you when you are out shopping.**

Mark Bowerman of the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS), which manages the main networks allowing UK banks and building societies to exchange payments on behalf of customers, explained what to do if your card is stolen: "If someone else uses your card before you tell your card issuer it has been lost or stolen the most you will have to pay, in theory, is £50. The same applies if you warn them that someone else knows your PIN."

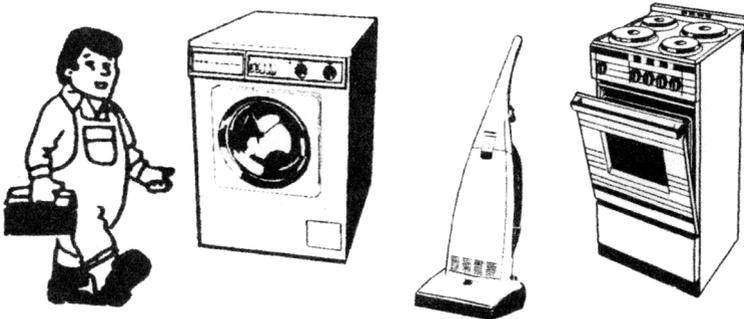
"In practice, the bank or building society will usually refund the full amount lost, but if you the cardholder were negligent, for example, by keeping your PIN with your card, you would have to meet all the losses. If your card is used fraudulently but you still have the card, as with skimming, you will not be liable to pay for any part of the losses."

John Munslow 01404 823456

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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

I must start with an apology for an error in the December issue regarding some dates for the Flower Show. One of our eagle eyed judges spotted the deliberate mistake and recently took me to task for it!! With the Show being on Saturday 9 August, entries must be in by Wednesday 6 August and exhibits can be staged on Friday 8 August and on the morning of the Show, the dates in our special centre spread were incorrect.

There was a good turn out for our winter coffee evening in February when we had a talk and demonstration by Jill White, our Flower Arranging judge at the flower show. A separate full report on this has been done by Andy Bratt as there were many useful tips and ideas that we wanted to share and will hopefully encourage more entries in what is one of the more colourful classes at the Flower Show.

Our next event will be the spring plant sale and coffee evening on the evening of Friday 9 May in the Victory Hall commencing at 7.30. Entry will be only 50p and will include coffee. As usual we hope to have a variety of plants on offer and if anyone has any surplus stock they want to pass on will gladly do our best to find it a new home. So don't get too carried away at the local garden centres as we hope to have something for everyone!

Our coach outing this year will be on Sunday 22nd June – please note that it is not on Father's Day this year. We will be going to Rosemoor as it will be "Rose Sunday". There will be a display tent, guided walks round the Rose Garden and there is even a demonstration on Rose Pruning together with general advise on growing roses. Tickets for this outing are £7.00 per seat (which includes entry) and can be obtained from Pauline Rogers at Lyndon, Church Road, or see her at the coffee evening in May. Early booking is advisable, as this trip has been very popular in the past. The coach will leave The Square at 09.30 am prompt.

Members are reminded that their membership fees are due and at only £1.00 per family it represents very good value. Money to Pauline Rogers at Lyndon please or to her at the May plant sale / coffee evening.

Details of the classes for this year's Flower Show on Saturday 9th August will soon be finalised and we will have full information available at the plant sale. So if you want to know anything about the Show, just come along and ask.

Paul Wilson,

Hon. Secretary.



Demonstration of

Unfortunately this event on March 3rd was not very well attended - in fact I think only about six people, over and above the committee, attended. I think the weather and other events in Whimble were responsible for this and we were only sorry for Jill White, our judge and demonstrator, who had clearly gone to a lot of work to get ready for the evening.

Anyway those of us who were there thoroughly enjoyed the evening and learnt a lot. I for one am determined to do at least one flower arranging entry in August and I really hope some other novices will take me on. We listed the titles for this years classes in the New Year edition of the Whimble News. We'll publicise them again in due course but feel free to ring me on 822437 if you want to know now.

I will try and summarize some of the advice Jill gave us. Because I'm a beginner I remembered the more basic stuff so I don't know if the following will be much use to the flower arranging experts in the village.....but it will give you an insight into what our judge thinks is important!

1. Always read the schedule very carefully. Most entries are beautiful so one way the judge can choose between them is how well they have followed the "rules".
2. Points are awarded (5 points for each) for different aspects. One is the quality of the material so leaves and petals with holes or disease on will lose marks.
3. The measurements given are important. Keep comfortably within them. Generally its not a bad idea if it says 24 inches all round to aim for about 21 inches all round.
4. Accessories should never dominate the plant material and, if you use them, incorporate them into the plant material. If you set them a few inches away they lead the eye away from the flowers.
5. Use colours that complement each other (consult an artist's colour wheel if you are in doubt about this).
6. The shape of your material is ideally varied - some people talk about using material that is pointed, rounded and flat all in the same design although this isn't a firm rule.

Flower Arranging

7. Some people also follow the “odd numbers rule” of having say 5 blooms of one type rather than 4 or 6 but again you can break this rule if you are sure it looks right. Usually your blooms will be at different heights in the arrangement.
8. Try and have some features (such as a bright flower) recessed, or set deep, into your arrangement. This encourages the eye to look into the arrangement rather than just skimming over the surface.
9. Remember all the arrangements will probably be good and the people who visit the show will enjoy them ALL. But if you want to score high points try and think of an original twist if you can. Jill gave us several ideas on 3rd March such as artificially curling some large leaves and stapling them into position.

Well, we responded to members views and have tried to come up with some really imaginative titles for this year based on different landscapes around the world. Our Flower Show has been justly famous for the number and quality of its flower arrangements but we have lost some loyal entrants over recent years. Now it is up to you - please have a go on August 9th this year!



Andy Bratt

Plant Sale

On Saturday 10th May there will be a Sale of Bedding and other plants at Furze Hill, Church Road (the home of David and Sarah Smith). There will be a variety of plants on sale but if you are not a gardener then come and enjoy a cup of coffee and delicious home made cakes in the garden (or indoors if wet!). All proceeds will be divided between CHRISTIAN AID and WHIMPLE CHURCH. Furze Hill is on the right hand side at the top of the hill as you leave the village for the A30 and at the time of writing the bank is adorned with daffodils.

Organisations in Whimble

Whimble Parish Council

Chairman: Sara Randall Johnson 822524

Clerk: Freya Binns, Council Office - Torno 823385

Royal British Legion, Branch and Womens Section.

Chairman: Mrs. F. Pratt, Sandfords 822451

St. Mary's Church

Contact: Rev. Rob Wilkinson 822521

Devon County Councillor

Mr. R. Giles, 14 Winters Lane, OSM. EX11 1AR 813387

Whimble County Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. D. Brice 822584

Whimble History Society

Chairman: Richard Webber 822038

Secretary: Roger Smith 822244

Whimble Mothers Union

Mrs. D. Rastall Killigarth Church Road 822486

Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group

Chair: Liz Camp, Brook House, The Square 823392

Playleader: Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road 822168

Whimble Womens Institute

Secretary: Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green 823450

Whimble Over Sixties Club

Mrs B. Iball 11 Rectory Close 822905

Whimble P.T.F.A. and Whimble Youth Club

Chair: Mrs V.Kendrew -Welton, The Old Goods Yard 822292

Whimble Recreation Trust

Knowle Cross Sports Ground. Mr P. Garraff, Luppit 891206

Whimble Village Produce Association.

Chairman: Mr. A. Bratt, Rockwell, Talaton 822437

Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club

Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gathshayes Farm 822257

Whimble Football Club

Chairman: Geoff Delves, 10 Elizabeth Close 823258

Whimble Tennis Club

Secretary: T. A. Lang 822512

Treasurer: J. Hughes 822659

Whimble Cricket Club

Mr. R.J.Smith 822244

Whimble Victory Hall Management Committee

Secretary: Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green 822262

Booking Sec: Teresa Daniels 823169

Whimble Post Office

Gordon & Heather Owen 822359

Whimbletons

Emma Palmer 823083

Neighbourhood Watch

John Munslow, 44, Slewton Crescent 823456

St. Mary's Bellringers

Captain: Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road 822873

Whimble Scout Group

Group Scout Leader : Alex Spry 822844

Marquee Booking Sec : Mrs. Mary McConnell 822729

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