

Whimble News



Christmas 2003

What's on in Whimble

December

5th	Ottery Fun Day and late night shopping		
5th	Over 65's Christmas Party	Victory Hall	7:00pm
6th	Heritage centre open	Heritage Centre	10:30-12:30pm
7th	WI Christmas Party		
10th	Over 60's Christmas lunch	Honiton Motel	
11th	OrchardHarmony's Christmas Collection	St Mary's Church	
21st	Advent Carol service	St Mary's Church	6:30
24th	Carols in the Square	The Square	7:00pm
24th	Midnight Communion	St Mary's Church	11:30pm
31st	New Year's Eve in the Square	The Square	11:30pm

January

24th Over 60's trip to the pantomime at Tiverton

February

3rd	Over 60's Club meetings resume	Victory Hall	2:30pm
17th	Over 60's The wonderful world of water	Victory Hall	
19/20/21st	Dick Whittington by the Whimbletons	see page	

St Mary's Church For Christmas services see page 36

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 Whimble 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

Editorial

With Ed the Ed away on holidays, the challenge of filling in has fallen to me.

As far as a theme for this bit goes, there isn't one, just a collection of random thoughts bundled together and laid out for your consideration.

It is approaching Christmas so I feel obliged to mention the festive period. We've put together the pull-out guide to who's open and what's on over the holiday period. As you'll see as you go through the magazine, when it's time to think about Christmas it's time for Peter Bolwell to get the cast together to rough-out the pantomime. Dick Whittington this year – February half term. Good news for all those fans of quality acting; Ed H will be treading the boards again this time.

Looking back, I would like to thank some people without whom the News would not be what it is. Firstly, and close to my heart, the advertisers – they pay for the News to be produced so if you can support them with your business please do. Contributions from local people make up the bulk of the content of the News. Thanks to our regular contributors and to those who have also put pen to paper from time to time. You may be surprised to hear that we actually produce 750 copies of the News. These arrive through your door thanks to a chain of deliverers, overseen by Ed and Nicky. If you happen to see someone dropping your copy through the door, say “thank you” – it will be appreciated and help to top up the goodwill we all rely on. Monetary donations are always appreciated and help to balance the books. Alongside there are many people who give freely of their time to keep the News ticking along. Of all of these people, I am always amazed at the dedication of Bob Scanlan. He gives several full days every edition to make sure the already high standards set are regularly improved upon.

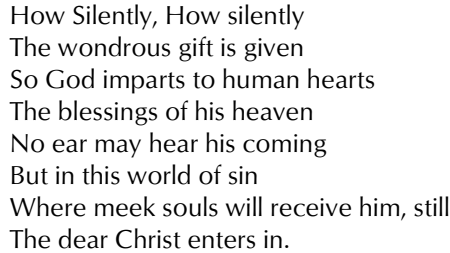
I feel I ought to close now.

Next edition (Feb/March) will have a deadline for contributions of 12 January please. These can go by hand to G.O. at the Post Office, or via the ether to Bob bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk

My last thoughts take me back to where I began, Christmas. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and relaxed time over the coming weeks. As normal, there will be plenty of organised events in the Village over the next month or so. I'm certainly ready for 2004 and all that that year will bring. Until then, enjoy the remainder of 2003 and if the opportunity presents itself to do something kind for someone, even if there may be no benefit to you, take it. That is what makes us who we are.

FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout



How Silently, How silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven
No ear may hear his coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

How easy it is to forget all this as we are taken up with the magic and excitement with which we are surrounded when Christmas comes. The glory and wonder were there at Bethlehem in full measure on that Christmas morning when the Shepherds came to worship and wonder in the stable. The message of the heavenly host as they sang their song of Peace and Goodwill towards men, must have filled the heart of our Lady and St. Joseph as they gazed on the child with indescribable awe and thanksgiving, but before this had happened, what anxiety and heart-searching had been endured. What pain and uncertainty had been suffered. As those first weeks went by in exultation, they must also have given place to periods of doubt and fear. Had she really seen that angel? What did this message mean? Joseph was so wonderful, patient and kind, but did he really believe what had happened? What was going on in his mind as he gazed at her? And then came the news of a census and the compulsory journey to Bethlehem -in winter on a donkey. Oh God aren't you asking too much? And then after the nightmare of a ride, with every part of her body aching with pain, with the fear that her baby might be born at any minute, no one at Bethlehem wanted to know. No room, no room, it was the same at every place. Panic was not far away when the friendly innkeeper offered his stable.

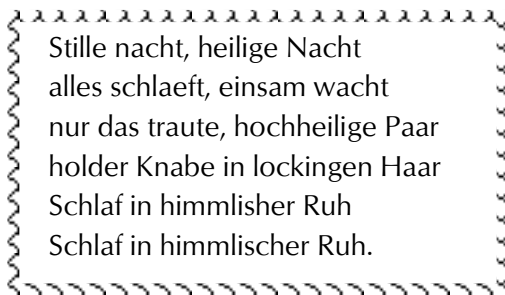
I am sure there will be in many a home this Christmas feelings of anxiety and uncertainty about the future, unemployment, fear of redundancy, disillusioned young people who looked forward to leaving school and now find the future bleak. But we must not despair because to be the object of affection and *in* return to have affection is surely the best happiness life can offer.

I have had more than my share of affection and of love and I find it curative and to express it softens us .It also closes the distances knowing that we love and are loved. It gives us strength and makes our existence special in moments of crisis. In life we all need each other. Love gives us courage and lessens our burdens.

I shall always remember the magic and mystery of Christmas when I was a child. They were hard winters in the Swiss Mountains. Snow would fall for days.

Quietly it would come down from heavy low skies. It would clad the mountains, the hills, the forests and the village in layers upon layers of virginal white.

The chalets which creaked and sighed under the heavy burden seemed to shrink in the backdrop of mountains. The poles marking the roads had vanished in the mounting snowdrifts, Nature was getting ready for Christmas for which we had waited in happy anticipation for the last few weeks. In Switzerland it is Christmas Eve which holds the mystery and suspense. Swiss tradition it is then when Christkind comes down to earth from heaven. This was the time of perfect contentment, all the family were gathering. At midnight tired but happy we walked through the crisp snow to the small church. The clouds had lifted, it had stopped snowing and a few stars were in the sky. Everything was quiet only the faint crackling of a winter's night. We met the whole village with lanterns and torches as they stepped out of the frozen darkness. From the snow-blanketed church the bells rang out into that wonderful Christmas night when I was a child and the air was filled with singing voices.



Stille nacht, heilige Nacht
alles schlaeft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar
holder Knabe in lockigen Haar
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Silent night, Holy night all is quiet.

From East to West, from North to South let every heart awake and sing:

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

NEWS FROM P.O. CORNER

"The Virtuous Man"

I am described by my friends as an exemplary man. I do not drink, seldom smoke, do not go around with women. I go to bed early and get up early. I work long hours and take exercise regularly every day. I get no financial reward for this self-denial.

All this is going to change when I get out of prison.



Now - a couple of points for the forthcoming season of goodwill to all persons (- pc or what!): Monday 15th December is likely to be the busiest day of the year in the Post Office - you have been warned;

Last suggested dates for Christmas posting are:

Western Europe 15th Dec; Inland **2nd Class 18th Dec.** and **1st class 20th Dec.**

New service - if you buy postal orders to give to charity they are now printed on the back with an area for you to complete which will enable the charity to claim income tax back and make the gift worth to them considerably more than it cost you to buy! It makes good sense and is worth more to the charity than a straight cash donation.

We now offer top ups for mobile phone charge cards -swipe card type top ups for all mobiles including Tesco (- and I didn't even know Tesco had one!).

Remember (with all that spending you are now doing) if you bank with Lloyds/TSB, Barclays or Alliance & Leicester, you can get cash from the P.O. using only debit card and pin number; or cash a cheque for Cooperative, Cahoot & Smile -all free of charge; then -if you have any cash left -you can pay it, and any cheques, in at the P.O. for all these banks. New things lined up for the P.O. -sometime in the future u n s e c u r e d personal loans (decision within 10 minutes -current bank account not necessary) and credit cards, and a lot more banks tied in as are our current partners, Lloyds, Barclays & Alliance & Leicester. It appears that the loans and credit card initiatives are due to a tie up with the Bank of Ireland who have put up a massive amount of cash.

As Heather & I come towards our tenth Christmas in Whimple (- hah! hah! you thought you would have got rid of us by now) I wonder about how the village has been ageing me, not gracefully I fear, but am I near that age as defined by Clement Freud who says that you feel your age if when asked by a young lady to come upstairs and make love to her you have to reply 'I can do one or the other dear but not both'; Sadly, I have not been so invited thus am not sure how I'm doing!

I look forward to the result of the Hutton enquiry and to hear what was the true reason our leader sent troops to die in Iraq -as it appears not to be WMD. I wonder if he sleeps well at night.

Finally -welcome to all village newcomers - those at Met Office etc (I know how to crawl when possible P.O. business is in sight); our congratulations to Edith on the production of her book (a lot of work successfully accomplished, well done) - and to all the villagers that have achieved the (near impossible) dream of opening a Post Office Card Account into which pensions and benefits will be credited - together we will beat the b.....! (I have just heard about the new ill card - that will be fun!)

We send our love to you all, hope you have a truly happy Christmas and that in the coming New Year you find all you wish for yourselves -and that we may be still around at the end of it!

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to avoid disappointment**

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.

Ali & Mike

Whimble Over 60's Social Club Activities

Dec 10th Christmas Lunch - Honiton Motel
Jan 24th Trip to Panto at Tiverton at 1pm
Feb 3rd Club meetings start again at 2.30pm
in the Billiard Room of the Victory Hall
Feb 17th Dorkings speaker—the wonderful world of water

For full details ... Contact	Secretary	Beryl Ball	812905
	Outings secretary	Ena Northcott	822228
	Membership secretary	Rachael Owen	823223

CAROLS IN THE SQUARE.

Once again, this "al fresco" event, whose darkness (in fine weather) affords comforting anonymity to those whose vocal prowess might not quite match Pavarotti's in his prime, will take place in Whimble Village Square at 7.00pm on Christmas Eve.

In the event of rain, snow or high wind, we normally assemble in the Church - facing the rear. It has been traditional for many years to make a collection for Devon Air Ambulance, and at last years carols an impressive £91-63 was collected. The Charity sent their grateful thanks to all those who contributed.

The carols will be "led" by a collection of assorted instrumentalists including some members of Whimble's own "Slack ma Girdle" folk band. Others, particularly children learning instruments, will be very welcome. If you are interested please phone Barbara Lambert on 822344.

Royal Mail - International Mail

Last Posting Dates for Christmas

Airmail:

Western Europe..... 15th Dec
 Eastern Europe.....12th Dec
 Canada, USA & Japan... 12th Dec
 All except above 8th Dec

Surface Mail:

All except below..... 2nd Oct
 Far & Middle East.....16th Oct
 Canada, Hongkong, S. Africa & USA.....30th Oct
 *Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, MaJta, & Turkey.....26th Nov
 *Eastern Europe.....26th Nov
 *Western Europe, except any above.....3rd Dec

*Note there is no surface mail service to European destinations for letters, postcards or greetings cards

B.F.P.O.

Surface letters, cards, small packets..... 5th Dec
 Airmail ditto..... 12th Dec

Inland Second Class 18th Dec. First Class 20th Dec

WHIMPLE WI

October was quite a busy month for us. At our monthly meeting we had a cookery demonstration encouraging the use of seasonal and local produce. We also had a Fair Trade stall which was well supported and made £95. During the month, two members attended the County's Autumn Council meeting at Exeter Great Hall, and four members went to a craft class in Awliscombe to learn "tea bag folding".

November saw the end of our financial year and the Annual meeting. Financially we are maintaining a healthy balance and socially we are very busy and friendly, we now have 47 members. In order to keep the meeting light-hearted, we had some readings from "A History in Rhyme", a wonderful selection of cakes to go with our tea, and finally a hilarious drawing game which gave everyone a chance to show their artistic talents.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 9th December will be our Christmas Party, as usual we would be pleased to welcome any new members.



Ann Bowden 823450

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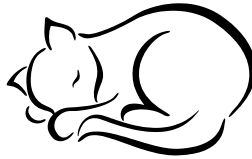
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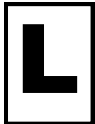


(now also looking after small animals)

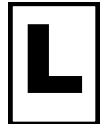
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Post Office opening hours

Changes:

Wednesday 24th 9:00 -12.30

Thursday 25th closed

Friday 26th closed

Wednesday 31st 9:00 -16:00

Friday 1st Jan closed

Royal Mail Postal

Changes:

No deliveries

25th, 26th 27th, 28th Dec & 1st Jan

No collections

25th, 26th, 27th Dec & 1st Jan

All other days as normal

Air Traffic Control

While taxiing at London Gatwick, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming:

"US Air 2771, where the hell are you going?! I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!"

Continuing her rage to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically: "God! Now you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?"

"Yes ma'am," the humbled crew responded. Naturally, the ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to chance engaging the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. Tension in every cockpit out in Gatwick was definitely running high. Just then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking:

"Wasn't I married to you once?"

***** Ottery Christmas Fun Day and Late Night Shopping *****

***** Friday 5th December is the date for Ottery St Mary's Victorian Christmas shopping event. There is a Farmers' Market in Hind Street car park from 8.30am until 2.00pm and a Christmas Market in The Institute, Yonder Street from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The evening activities in The Square start at 6.00pm with school choirs, Morris Dancers and other entertainment, and many shops remain open offering Christmas goodies. From 6.45pm you can listen to festive tales for the young and not so young in a Victorian atmosphere at the Library. Further information is available from the Tourist Information Centre in Broad Street

YOUR DOG

The Parish Council has invested in 5 additional dog waste bins. Why have we done this?

Two reasons :-

- 1) We all want a clean and safe village.
- 2) To help dog owners keep within the law.

Byelaws are now in place that could result in dog owners being prosecuted if their dog fouls within the speed limit of the village.

Now, we don't want such draconian action. Help yourselves and us by using the bins. Scoop it up and bin it.

So we are asking, " Are the bins in the right place?"

Church Road – corner of Bramley Gardens

Webbers Close - entrance

Chard Avenue – by roundabout

The Green – opposite footpath from The Square

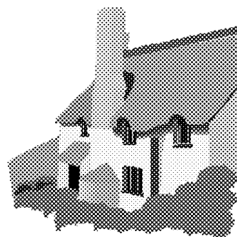
Perriton Cross – by Talaton Road

Cemetery EDDC

Slewton Crescent playground EDDC

Don't forget it doesn't have to be just dog pooh, use them for all your litter. Help us keep Whimble a litter and dog pooh - free village.

Let us know. Call 01404 823385.





Veterinary Clinic, Whimble.

New Surgery Arrangements

In our continuing effort to improve the service we offer to our clients, we are pleased to announce that we are now equipped to perform routine surgical operations at the Whimble surgery.

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Saturday 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

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A TALE OF A TRAINEE AUCTION DISPLAY ASSISTANT (second class)

So, gentle reader, as I was becoming accustomed to the heady power politics of the Whimble History Society as a new committee member, Col. Bob approached me in the Heritage Centre after one of our meetings, placed an arm around my shoulder, and whispered 'It is time for the test, are you ready for it?' Lots of things flew through my mind such as 'is it a secret initiation ceremony like running across hot coals in the dead of night?' But no gentle reader, I was to be given the weighty responsibility of being a trainee display assistant at the History Society Annual Auction on Friday 31 October. However, as a trainee, I would not be allowed to wear the famous white coat, which is, even at this moment, being washed clean down at the stream by the ever-industrious Yvonne, ready for Wassailing in January. My job was to hold up the various lots as they were offered for auction – anything from statues, CDs, books, bikes and plant pots! It was excellent exercise for the old arm muscles by the end of the evening!

There was a very good turnout of potential buyers on the night, and the items for auction (we professionals call them 'lots') were laid out on three sides of the hall – so there was a fair few to get through. Never underestimate the speed and agility of David Williams who was the auctioneer on the night, and even if you don't want to buy anything, it is always entertaining just to see David in action. The prize for Most Frequent Successful Bidder went to Pam Scanlan for 2003, taking over from the one and only Alex Spry. Obviously that abseiling as reported in our last edition, has gone completely to her head, as Pam was throwing caution to the winds and bidding for everything, or so it seemed. I know than Pam had bought a large number of items because they needed 2 cars to take away all her spoils!

Alex was very well behaved during the evening and didn't repeat his normal bidding frenzy from previous years. I can only assume that either last year's purchases are not moving that quickly on Feniton station, or that Shelley has refused to have any more in the house.

It wasn't quite as I expected; there were no mysterious people on mobile phones to anonymous clients in New York, suddenly shouting '10,000 is the final offer!'. In Victory Hall that night, in some cases, lots were tumbling at 10p or 20p!! (and some went for a lot more!) But we all had great fun.

All credit must go to the History Society team for their effort and enthusiasm in putting this event together – I am now certainly more aware of the tremendous efforts that go on behind the scenes in preparation, so well done to the team and I hope that the evening raised more funds for the society.

Advertisers

As we approach the half way mark for this year's advertising arrangements, I thought I ought to remind anyone still to pay to let me have payment please. The year runs from the edition in August to the June copy. The cost to advertise was the same again this year £60, £40 and £25 depending on the advert size.

Hopefully I will have the chance to 'phone round those still to pay, but if you want to contact me first please do – I'm on 822415.

Budget wise, we will start thinking about the next year shortly. One idea is to give the back page to a 'sponsor' who's advert would take that space and who would pay a little extra for the privilege of that key space. Does anyone have any thoughts or perhaps details of any potential sponsors? Again let me know.

Thank you. Miles Leonard

Talaton Inn

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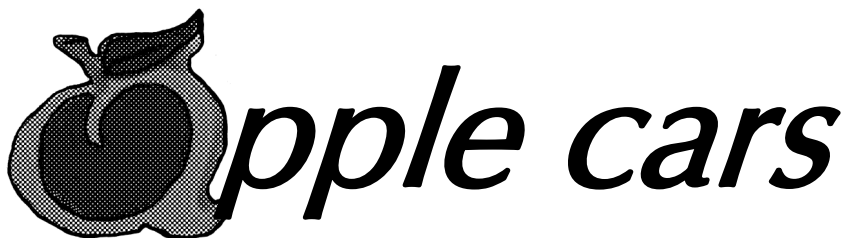
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FROM THE CROSSING KEEPER'S HUT

At present I receive on average, 5-10 phone calls a month to the tune of 'Can my boy/girl go to Beaver Scouts. He/she is 6 years old and I don't seem to be able to find a place anywhere'. These calls aren't that often from parents in Whimble. They phone from Tipton St John, West Hill, O.S.M, Payhembury, Broadclyst, Whipton and Pinhoe. I tell them - 'There's a waiting list of 24 but if you're willing to lend a hand for a couple of hours a week I will help you start a second Beaver colony. They normally just say ' I'll think about it and phone you back.' And I never hear from them again.

I wonder if I said it was £20 for an hour's session and they can start tomorrow, I'd get a bigger/better response. A bit sad really when you think about it.

Somebody said to me once 'Alex, you could make a fortune running an after school club like they've got all over Plymouth. Some places let them stay till 8.00 p.m. They've had their tea and are all ready for bed when you pick 'em up'. Great, I thought, and they wonder why there are so many problems with children these days. They may as well be orphans, I thought. Any way, enough of me rambling on - give us a call on 822844 and we'll get a second colony up and running. Only patience and a good sense of humour needed with 5-8 year olds! The ideal time for the meeting is 6-7 p.m. but it can be open for negotiation.

Well it's 0650 on a Thursday morning and good to know that my long weekend starts tomorrow. Sorry the appearance of The Knees was shortened at the Auction but we had a night turn together (The Tardis never shuts!) and we had to get the tea brewing! The Knees bought some fine items including a shopping trolley which I hasten to add, was still in the back of my car until an old lady poked me in the back at the station and said 'Would you give an old lady a trolley for her shopping - my one's just broken, the wheel's fallen off', to which I gladly offered to assist for the sum of £2.50. To which she said 'Sure, but you can take the old one away for that as well' and there I was left with a shopping trolley with one wheel and the zip on the lid didn't work!

Now I understand why a forecourt owner asked me to leave the premises when I tried to part-exchange one of our cars for a newer one for Shelley recently. It said they did on the sign outside?

Anyway maybe The Knees will repair the trolley with a curtain pole, some lampshades and a stainless steel tea service - who knows! Well, the 0706 looks like it's running on time so 'better get those barriers down and the signals off '(but don't tell the wife!).

See you soon.

Alex

The First Four Seasons

(From my Window on the Fields)

Spring

During the second week of March, Spring danced in just when our spirits really needed it, and what a spring it was! The wonderful weather, with day after day of clear blue Devon skies, stretched through until Easter. There had been hardly any rain at all, and everyone seemed to be out and about. Frequent visits to Otter Nurseries and plenty of backbreaking hours in the garden have given rise to satisfying results. The garden had suffered neglect since we had moved, as we had focused first on making the house our home.

The fine weather also encouraged us to go for days out exploring Devon's glory. Armed with a National Trust family membership card, we visited numerous beautiful houses and gardens – often even warm enough for picnics. (The mercury reached the mid-70s in Easter week!) - and shod with sturdy walking shoes, we clambered along breath-taking coastal paths between Seaton and Exmouth: around Branscombe, Weston, and Sidmouth was favourite.

One of Whimble's 'institutions' took place as ever on 'Palm Saturday' in the Woodhayes orchards – the Easter Egg Hunt. Although the kids seemed to have fun, it did seem a bit of an unholy mad rush! By arriving late, we were at a distinct disadvantage!

With light evenings and dry days, the Whimble Tennis court became a regular attraction. Coaching the children was a real challenge with all the dense undergrowth round about. Balls were mysteriously swallowed up by the 'Triffids'! The cricket season was also with us: mellow sounds of leather on willow and cries of 'Howzat?' drifted through my window.

With warmer weather and sunnier days, the fields' crops were greening the landscape vigorously, while cows appeared from their winter sheds to graze. The only drawback of Spring was the gradual disappearance of my view: the trees' foliage being the culprit!

The new Met Office buildings in the Exeter Business Park were also growing vigorously and we were given another chance to go on-site. Since last Autumn, much progress had been made, and the whole site was taking shape quite nicely. I even got to see where I will be sitting in September!

As our first year in Whimble draws to a close, we have been pleasantly surprised by the warm welcome that the Met Office employees have received. We had feared that we would be viewed as outsiders coming to rob Devon of its houses! But that certainly hasn't been the case, if our experience in Whimble is anything to go by. Thank you Whimble!

Roll on Village week...

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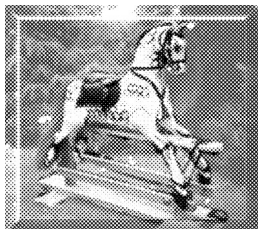
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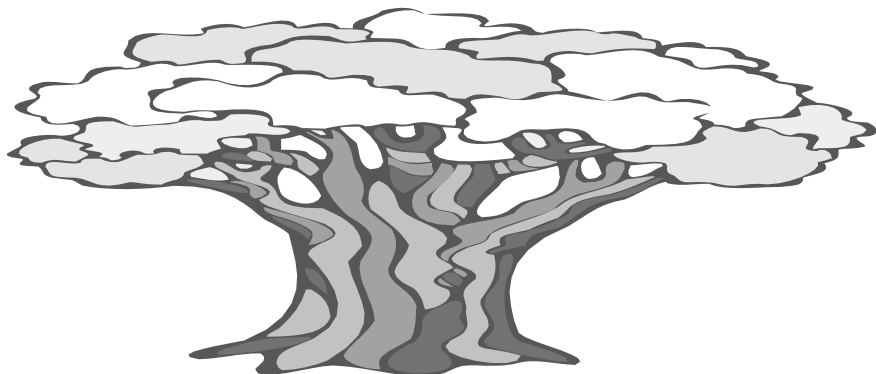


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Not as interesting as Granny's!



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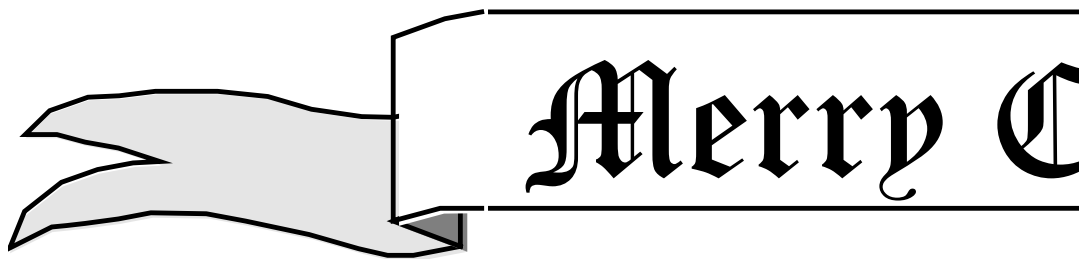


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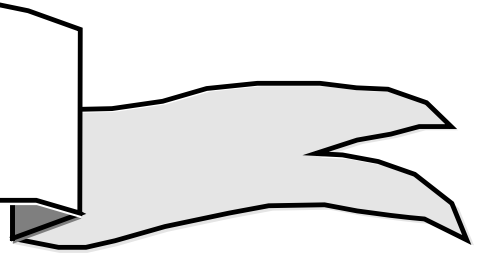
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Christmas



St. Mary's Church Whimple



There has probably been a church building in Whimple since Saxon times. The present building dates from the 15th century, standing as a witness to the Christian faith and as the focal point for worship in the parish. In recent years the south front has been restored and the nave and aisles have been re-roofed, funded by grants from English Heritage and the generosity of church members and the community at large.

We are now facing Phase 3 of the restoration which is primarily work on the tower and a series of minor works elsewhere. The tower is probably older than the date 1571 which is inscribed above the west door, and it houses a ring of six bells, three of which date from about 1400, 1450 and 1600. The tower needs re-roofing and extensive repairs to the stonework, and we estimate that the total cost of Phase 3 will be in the region of £40,000. After grants and existing resources we are likely to have to raise a further £20,000

We hope that the village will again support our efforts to raise the necessary funds to ensure that Whimple's most historic building is handed down to future generations in good order and available for the whole community whenever it might be needed. If you can help in any way, financially or in kind, or have ideas for fund raising, please contact one of the co-ordinators of the Friends of Whimple Church.

Avril Ellingham 01404 822945 Pam Scanlan 01404 822262

Sarah Smith 01404 822123



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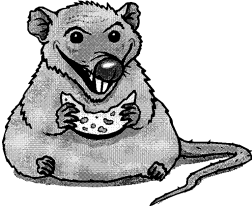
On Thursday 11th December St Mary's Church

7.30pm - 9.0pm followed by Coffee & Mince Pies

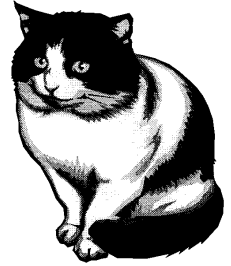
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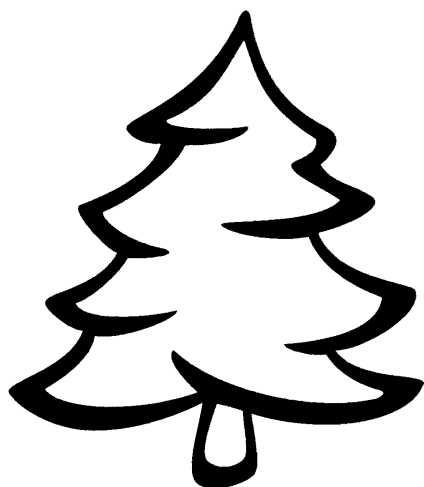
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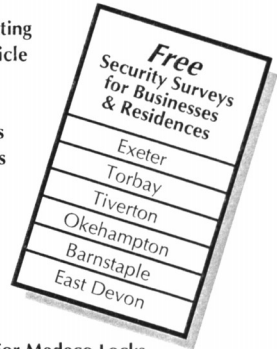


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WHIMPLE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The following services will be held at St Mary's Church over the Christmas period:

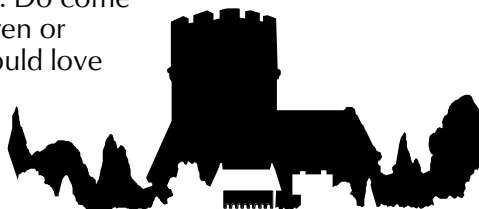
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|----------------|---------|---|
| 30 November at | 11.00am | United Benefice Service |
| | 6.30pm | Advent Carol Service (with choir) |
| 7 December at | 3.00pm | Christingle Carol Service |
| 21 December at | 10.30am | 'Service with a Smile' (with a Christmas flavour) |
| | 6.30pm | Service of Lessons and Carols |
| 24 December at | 11.30pm | Midnight Communion |
| 25 December at | 11.00am | Christmas Day Service followed by Holy Communion (for those wishing to participate) |
| 28 December at | 11.00am | Holy Communion. |

We do hope that you will be able to attend some (or all!) of these services. Bring your family and friends along -you are assured of a warm welcome.

The Advent Carol Service, the first of our Christmas services and a fairly new innovation, has become very popular. As well as containing much traditional fayre, i.e your favourite carols, bible readings and music, it is visually a very beautiful service. It takes place by candlelight, the candles being gradually lighted as the service progresses until the whole church is aglow with light and colour, thus signifying Jesus' coming and his bringing of light into the world.

The Christingle Service is probably the most popular service held during the year. Many children attend to sing carols and process around the church holding their Christingle (an orange encircled with a red ribbon, decorated with sweets and topped with a lighted candle). The orange represents the world, the ribbon the blood of Christ, the sweets God's blessings and the candle denotes Jesus as the 'Light of the World'. The children love this service and it is very special to see the wonder and concentration on their faces as they process around the church. Do come along and enjoy it too. If you have children or grandchildren, bring them along - we would love them to participate.

The PCC members wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.



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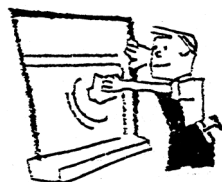
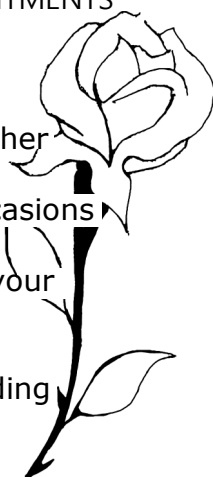
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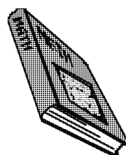
Brush up your
maths

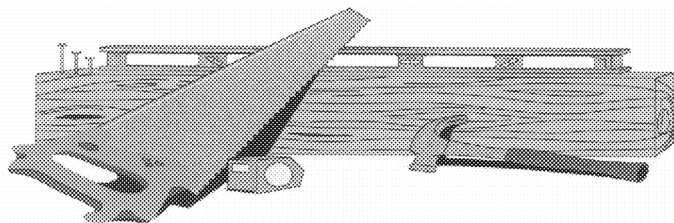
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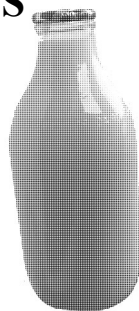
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Improving your home security does not need to make it more difficult to escape in an emergency. It is a good idea to have a fire escape plan and make sure everyone in the house is aware of what they should do in the case of a fire. This is especially important if you are having visitors over the festive season.

Early warning of a fire is essential and the most effective safeguard is a correctly fitted smoke alarm which meets British Standard 5446 Part 1. At least one detector should be fitted on every level of the house or flat, fixed horizontally on the ceiling. Check your alarm is working properly once a month and replace the battery every year.

If a smoke alarm keeps going off, don't disconnect it: it's doing its job. Ask the fire brigade for advice on the best location for your smoke alarms so they will not go off unnecessarily, such as when you are cooking.

People who are unable to hear a conventional smoke alarm can obtain a device such as a vibrating pad or flashing light.

It is a good idea to disengage the mortice lock on the front door while you are asleep so you can get out quickly if visibility is reduced.

At night close all doors opening on to the staircase as this will delay the rate at which the fire spreads, giving you additional time to escape.

Before you go to bed, switch off as many electrical appliances as possible, check gas appliances and put a guard in front of open fires. Also, make sure cigarettes and candles are properly extinguished and always keep matches and lighters away from children.

The fire service recommends keeping a punch hammer suitable for breaking double glazed windows if there are no opening windows upstairs, these are available at good hardware shops.

For more information on fire safety contact your local fire service.

Don't forget that in the run-up to Christmas, sneak thieves are at their busiest, Christmas presents are a big temptation!!!!!!!

Keep your property secure and take all steps to deter the thief.

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

John Munslow 01404 823456



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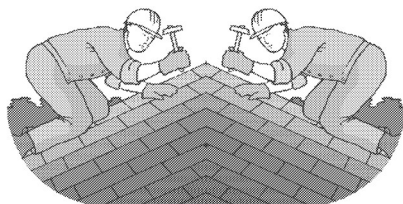
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Planning Application for the New Community

On Monday 17th November the Parish Council arranged a public meeting to seek our views on a planning application for 2900 dwellings between Broadclyst and Whimble that had been submitted by the consortium of builders. About 40 villagers were there. I have tried to summarise the views of those present.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Peter Bowden who made it clear that the consultation that evening was not on the principle of the new community in the Local Authority's Structure Plan but was confined to seeking views on the particular planning application that had been received.

The foremost concern was that of flooding. It was felt that the risk to Whimble would increase as a consequence of the development, and that the proposed attenuation ponds were not adequate to prevent this.

It was also felt that transport to and from Whimble could suffer as a result of the new development. The new station could present a threat to ours and it was essential that our station was kept open. The extra traffic on the old A30 was likely to become a problem. Access to Exeter at peak times is already becoming difficult and the A30 would become even more congested with our lanes becoming 'rat-runs' to avoid the jams.

Concerns were expressed about the availability of sufficient places at both primary and secondary schools as the new community developed. The present primary school is vital to our village community and must not close when the schools on the new development are established.

The plans did not appear to include a church and it was feared that other community welfare facilities such as a medical centre and community hall would not be provided in time. This raises the danger that existing facilities such as Ottery Hospital would not be able to cope.

The proposal was for a high proportion of 'affordable housing' in one relatively small area. It was felt very strongly that this did not meet the needs of the wider community. It failed to allow young families to remain in the communities they grew up in. This is to the detriment of communities elsewhere in Devon. It concentrated less expensive properties in one development, running the risk of creating an area where social problems could arise.

The word 'coalescence' was used to reflect the danger that, in time, the new development would grow to encompass Broadclyst, Rockbeare and Whimble to form one single, massive residential area. The current proposal claims to set out to avoid this by showing a 'Green Wedge' between the new houses and Whimble. In principle this seems to be a good thing. However the Green Wedge shown on the plan covered only part of the area between the new development and Whimble suggesting that there was scope for future development in the gap. It was felt strongly that the Green Wedge should reach from Whimble all the way to the edge of the development shown on the plan.

There were aspects of the new development that some people welcomed. However, the overwhelming feeling was against it.

Bob Scanlan

Coming Soon to Whimple...

S-Club-11!!

A new, fun, and exciting kids' club is starting in Whimple on January 11th. S-Club-11 (Sunday Club at 11 o'clock) will be for 5-12 year olds, meeting between 11-12:00 on alternate Sunday mornings.

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The club is being run by Whimple Church at the Scout Hut.

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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

There was another full house when we held this year's Annual General Meeting which, due to our Show Secretary recuperating from an operation, was held at Perro by kind permission of our treasurer. We were able to look back on a very successful year particularly our 50th Annual Flower Show, which was a superb day all round. Great weather, colourful exhibits all added to making the flower show the highlight of the year.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our Committee, Zena and Jim Calverly. If anyone else has an interest in helping on the Committee, they would be more than welcome. Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due and it was agreed at the meeting that subscriptions should be £1 per person for the year. Monies to Pauline Rogers please.

A full programme of events is being planned for next year and these will be discussed at our next meeting which will be Monday 19 January 2004 at the New Fountain – Committee Members please note date! Details of all the events will follow in future editions of The News.

Paul Wilson,

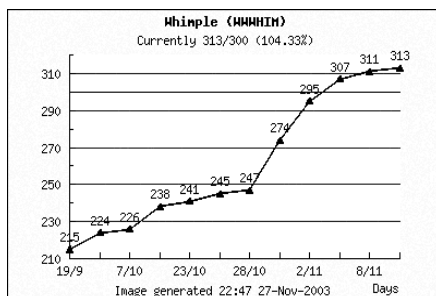
Broadband 4Whimple

Since our last edition I am pleased to let you know that our Broadband4Whimple campaign has succeeded.

The graph alongside shows how the registrations jumped up following our appeal in the last news. We hit our target at the beginning of November and have now been told that our exchange will be enabled for broadband on 3rd March next year.

The website had over 600 visitors since the article. The final number of pre-registrations was 411.

Well done Whimple!

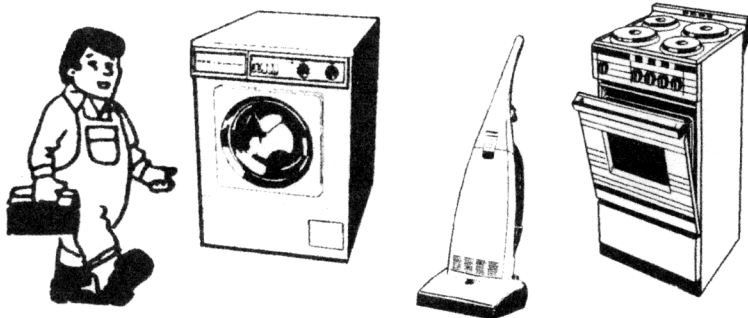


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THANK YOU

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who so kindly and sincerely gave me friendship, kindness and wonderful support over the past 2 years when Eddie's health began to deteriorate, especially at his passing.

Thank you for all your cards of sympathy and contributions to Hospice Care.

Both Eddie and myself have been so happy since coming to live in Whimble. Thank you all for making us so welcome.

Thank you.

Doris Ford

WHIMPLE HERITAGE CENTRE

The Centre will open on Saturday 6th December from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This will include its shop which has many items with local connections suitable for Christmas gifts. These include Christmas cards and 2004 Calendars.

WHIMPLE HOLIDAY GROUP

During October 2001, a small group of Whimble residents joined up with a coach party from Exmouth on a short trip to Ghent and Bruges in Belgium. Having enjoyed this trip so much, they decided to see what interest could be generated from other villagers for more short break holidays to promote local community spirit. The response was enthusiastic and has resulted in door-to-door trips to Eastbourne, the Isle of Wight, Llandudno and Falmouth. From the original five people the number now has risen to thirty-three, all of whom returned from Falmouth feeling well-entertained, and over-fed! Another holiday is in the process of being arranged, details of which will be displayed in the Post Office window.

Any 'new faces' wishing to join in will be welcomed by contacting **Robin Tuck** on 823553.

Pam and Bob Scanlan want to say a big thank you to everyone who joined them at their 'coming of age' party. We had a great time and raised an amazing £710 for the Exeter Kidney Unit.

Organisations in Whimble

Whimble Parish Council

Chairman: Sara Randall Johnson 822524

Clerk: Mrs Gerri Turner, 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

East Devon Councillor

Andrew Dinnis 850363

Whimble County Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. D. Brice 822584

P.T.F.A. Chair: Adrian Hewitt 1 Church Rd 823459

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 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, Gateshayes 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 (and Marquee Booking): Alex Spry 822844

The Whimble News Team

Editor

Ed Hitchcock 823194

Production

Bob Scanlan 822262

Vivienne Leonard 822415

Anni Hindle 822025

Delivery

Ed & Nicky Hitchcock 823194

Advertising

Miles Leonard 822415

Pam Scanlan 822262

Community diary

Angela & Peter Smith 822828

Treasurer

Miles Leonard 822415

Lynda Trevena 822876



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