

# Whimble News

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Christmas 2022

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[www.whimplenews.uk](http://www.whimplenews.uk)

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THIRSTY**



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DINNER: 5.30-9pm  
DRINKS 10.30am - 11.30pm
- SUNDAYS:** SUNDAY ROASTS AND FARMERS TABLE 12-6pm  
DRINKS 12-10pm

Normal menu available WED-SAT 12-2.30pm/5.30 - 9pm SUN 12-6pm

**!! MICHAEL BUBLE TRIBUTE NIGHT THURS 22nd DECEMBER !!**

Band Nights 9pm: **Dec 2nd: K2 Dec 9th: Under The Radar  
Dec 16th: Stiletto.**

# Ed the Ed

Don't panic I have been invited back to the editorial seat for the Christmas 2022 issue – it is two years since I did my last editorial before leaving Whimble for the heady excitement of Exeter. The team have continued to produce a great magazine for the village - thank you!

In this edition, you will find Sarah Thackeray's exclusive interview with Santa – how did she manage that? - and a challenge to hunt through the magazine and find the images of Secret Santa hidden throughout, (clue on page 39!). Post your answers on the address mentioned, to be in with a chance to win a special sweetie parcel.

Sarah has used a Christmas image by Keith Harris in her article, and she wanted to say thank you to him for allowing that.

Talking of Santa, the kind folk at Broadway House are collecting letters to Santa in the old post-box with replies to be collected from Whimble Stores – this will be available from 10th - 22nd December. What a lovely thing to continue to do for the village – thank you!

It is heart-warming to see all the wonderful village activities going on throughout the year – especially the great success of the Firework Night at the Cricket Club – well done to James and his team! And not to forget the regular clubs and groups that meet, providing activities and company throughout the year. Well done and thank you to both Jo Walrond-Smith and Jessica Knee for driving the Christmas Day lunch at the Victory Hall – it has gathered a lot of support which is fantastic. What a lovely idea!

I do miss the gossip in the shop and my chats with a wide range of villagers – I really enjoyed my time with Jenny and Mark. It is sad to see that the Post Office is closing, but even when I was there, it seemed to be a very poor business model for any shop owner to depend upon, especially after the very public Horizon system disaster.

It is wonderful to see that the New Fountain has been rescued by Kevin Wheaton – having spent several years looking out from Dairy Cottage at a closed and deteriorating lovely pub, we are looking forward to seeing it back. I was hoping that we could start the Wassail next year from there – at least the car park. I have been 'booked' by Roger Smith to lead the Wassail on Tuesday 17th January 2023 so please come along and keep a wonderful village tradition alive – and then try to explain it to other people! Jim Causley will be leading our music (and will also be at St Mary's Church on 10th December with the Tale Valley choir).

If you would like to contribute to the first edition of the Whimble News in 2023, then please send your contributions to Bob Scanlan by 12th January – note his new email address of bob@bobscanlan.co.uk.

On behalf of the Whimble News team, have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

## EdH

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# What's On In Whimple

## December

6th, 11th and 20th Advent Quiet Space 7.30 – 8.15pm in St. Mary's Church  
10th Heritage Centre Christmas Opening from 11.00am to 3.00pm.  
10th Christmas Special Soup'n'Sarnie Lunch 12noon in the Victory Hall  
10th Christmas Concert - Jim Causley and Tale Valley Choir, 7.30pm in the Church  
11th Christingle Service, 10.00am in St Mary's Church  
11th YFC Christmas Bingo, 7.00pm eyes down 7.30pm in the Victory Hall  
13th WI Christmas party 12.45pm in the Hub  
17th Front Row Club 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Victory Hall  
18th Carol Service, 6.30pm in St Mary's Church  
24th Christmas Carols 7.00pm in the Square  
31st New Year's Eve 11.30pm in the Square

## January

10th WI Meeting - Devon Air Ambulance talk, 2.00pm in the Hub  
17th Wassail starting from the Heritage Centre 7.00pm. Rehearsal at 6.30pm.  
Refreshments later at the Cricket Club  
27th Simon Dell, on behalf of the History Society, will present a talk about The Murder of PC Potter at Whiteway's Factory Whimple. All are welcome.  
Non-members £2.  
27th Talaton – a War-time Refuge - Video screening, 7.30pm in Talaton Parish Hall,  
28th Soup'n'Sarnie Lunch 12.00noon to 1.30pm in the Victory Hall  
31st Gardening Club AGM 7.00pm in The Victory Hall

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENT AT THE THIRSTY FARMER!

WELCOMING BACK LUKE HINGLEY'S MICHAEL BUBLE TRIBUTE EVENING ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22nd.

Look out for more details on Whimple What's On and The Thirsty Farmer website



# WHIMPLE STORES



It has been over a year now since we purchased Whimple Stores from Mark and Jenny and what a tumultuous year it has been for us since! We have been made very welcome by the people of Whimple and have learned that Whimple is very unique both in the origins of its population and its strong social cohesion and active community involvement.

We have been blessed with very good present and past staff members in Karen, Sarnia, Rebecca, Karina, Judith and Lynn who, bar one, are also Whimple residents. They all reflect our ethos of making our customers feel welcome and going the extra mile to be friendly, helpful and informative. We would like to thank them for their support and dedication over the past year.

Since February, we have faced new challenges that all small shop owners are experiencing with accelerating wholesale prices of products, downturn in sales as a result and the tripling cost of electricity to power the lights, fridges and freezers.

Despite these challenges, we have tried to keep our prices down and to be reasonably competitive with the big supermarkets to avoid customers having to drive to Ottery St Mary, Honiton or Exeter. As a result, we have a lot of regular customers, know most of them by first names and have a regular chat or joke with them, making this a real community shop.

We have supported Whimple events by selling tickets and by advertising in our windows and have a rotating charity box area on the counter. We have a “temptation” table near the entrance with bargains or new lines and have a free children’s books and toys box on the floor so please watch out for these on your way in.

The Post Office has been a significant challenge for us both financially and in the time commitment needed to fulfil their demands without sufficient remuneration. We consulted with the village on how the cost of retaining and running a Post Office counter could be met and only one helpful suggestion was made which would require fundraising across the community. The suggestion was made unfortunately at the same time when a clerical error by the Post Office resulted in a demand against us to compensate the loss that did not exist. We had to spend an unacceptable amount of time demonstrating their error and removing their financial demands. This was the final straw and we have terminated our contract with the Post Office and will be closing the counter on January 6th 2023.

We plan to have a Payzone Terminal for bill payments, electricity and phone top-ups and will support cash withdrawals at the shop counter for up to £50 with a small fee to cover our costs. We will also stock the main types of stamps.

We are planning to run a parcel service for sending and receiving but the companies concerned have not yet provided a firm commitment despite months of discussion so there may be a gap in service.

The nearest Post Offices to Whimble for other services are in West Hill, Ottery and Cranbrook, and an Outreach Post Office arrives in Talaton on Wednesdays.

In the run up to Christmas, we will be open every day at the usual times except on Christmas Day. On the following public holiday days we will be open but the Post Office counter will be closed. Please see the centre spread of Whimble News for the full opening times.

Don't forget that we have Christmas Cards, wrapping Paper and postal boxes.

We will provide pre-ordered Christmas food as usual and can also bring in bulk packs of drinks from our wholesalers if you need. We also have access to catering size frozen foods such as large cakes and frozen meats such as duck and lamb. Ask for prices and quantities if you are interested.

Finally, we wish everyone a very relaxing and sociable Christmas and thank all our customers for their support over the last year.

Sharon, Rory, Sabrina and Team

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Sundays	09:00 to 12:00	Closed
Public Holidays	08:00 to 12:00	Closed

## Poppy Collection

Today I have banked £1386.92 for Whimble a sterling effort all round, a little down on last year but in these austere times very commendable.

Noticeable amounts by the school of £148.60, Stores £193.30 and my general collection of £363.17. Together with Church collection of £361.37. A good effort all round. Thank you to all who donated so generously.

Fiona Clarke





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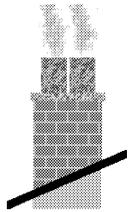
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# Tuesday 17th January 2023 - Wassailing

This year's wassailing will start at the Heritage Centre at about 6.30pm for the usual 'rehearsal'. We'll then move off at 7.00pm towards the rear of the Heritage Centre where the first Wassail ceremony will be around the Society's Whimple Wonder tree.

The procession will then head up Church Road to Lower Woodhayes Orchard for the second wassail ceremony.

We'll then move back to the Square, via Dince Hill Close, where the procession will gather near the tethering stone to remember the Society's first Chairman, John Shepherd.

Onwards then along Town Lane and Broadclyst Road to the orchard adjacent to Knowle Cross Farm for the third and final ceremony of the evening, courtesy of Jim and Mary Chard.

The last port of call will be at the Cricket Club for traditional Wassail refreshments.

We would urge everyone to enter into the spirit of the evening by wearing traditional dress and bringing 'instruments' that will make sufficient noise to waken the trees and ward off any evil spirits in the apple trees.

Wassailing Mugs and T-shirts will be on sale on the evening.

A-wassail, a-wassail! The Moon she shines down;  
Our apples are ripe and our nuts they are brown,  
Whence thou mayest bud, dear old apple tree,  
And whence thou mayest bear, we sing unto thee.

Chorus.....

With our wassail, wassail, wassail!  
And joy come to our jolly wassail!

O apple tree prosper, bud, bloom and bear,  
So we may have plenty of cider next year.  
And where there's a barrel, we hope there'll be ten,  
That we may have cider when we come again.

Chorus.....



# New Year's Eve 2022

This New Year's Eve we are hoping, once again, to meet in the Square as we did every year for 20 years before the pandemic struck

We will hear the church clock chime midnight and the church bells will be rung to welcome the New Year

**Come and join us**

Keep an eye out for posters nearer the time



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## WHIMPLE CHURCH

<http://churches4all.org/>

Steven Spielberg was once asked “What do you hope God will say to you when you finally see Him?”

And Spielberg thought for a moment and smiled. He replied: “Thanks for listening.” -  
Thanks for listening.

It’s a good answer. So much of the Christmas story is, truly, about listening. When Gabriel arrives to bring Mary the news that she will bear a child...she listens. When the angel tells Joseph in his dreams what is about to happen...he listens. The shepherds listen when the angel announces the “good news of great joy’ then they go out and tell the world what they have seen.

And the world listens.

Two thousand years later, we confront this stunning message – “tidings of comfort and joy” as the carol describes it – and our hearts swell with the sentiment of the season.

We hear. But are we paying attention? Are we listening?

Christmas invites us to listen.

To listen for God’s messengers. To listen for His good news.

And what good news it is: that God is with us! That we are no longer alone. That He has come into our lives, and into our world. “The grace of God has appeared,” Paul writes. Or as Isaiah puts it so beautifully: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

This is the news we have been waiting for.

The news all of humanity has been listening for.

Think of how Christmas comes to us – if only we listen for it.

It comes to us with angels singing and a baby crying.

It comes to us with the clang of bells, a blare of trumpets. The rip of wrapping paper. The laughter of loved ones around the table and into that, unexpectedly, comes Christmas. Quietly. Gently. Whispering with the angels: “Rejoice. Rejoice, because we are not alone. God is with us. Emmanuel.”

My friends, on this miraculous night, the message I want to leave with you is so simple: Listen. With your ears. And with your heart.

Our salvation has been announced. What will we do with it?

**Rev Marc**

## Advent quiet space



**Tuesdays in Advent: 6th, 13th and 20th December 2022, 7:30-8:15pm.**

In a year full of tremendous strains and stresses for everyone, and amidst all the Christmas rush, I am convinced that we all need to take time to be silent - to take some time out from what can be a pressured, confrontational, shouty world and to escape from social media.

On the three Tuesday evenings of Advent from 7.30pm until 8.15pm, I plan to sit in Whimple Church, enjoy some quiet space in the sacred surroundings of this beautiful village church, and simply wait. Would you like to join me?

Nothing will be expected of you other than to sit quietly. We will light some candles; we might listen to a piece of music; we might hear a short poem or a verse or two from the Bible. But mostly, we'll be quiet. And, in doing so, while the world roars around us, my hope is that we'll recover a sense of perspective, come home to ourselves and find some joy and peace in simply 'being' and waiting in the presence of God.

**Ian Spicer**, Lay Minister, St Mary's Whimple



### Whimple Church Christmas Services



**Sunday 11th December 10am.  
Christingle Service.**

We hold a Christingle Service every year in aid of the Children's Society. You may have been before. It is the service where the children are given an orange with a candle in it, surrounded by sweets on cocktail sticks. Come and find out more! Families and children especially welcome. Please note that it is in the morning this year, not the afternoon.

**Sunday 18th December 6:30pm.** Carol Service.

Please come and join us for our Carol Service, accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.

**Saturday 24th December 11pm.** Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.

**Sunday 25th December 11am.** Christmas Day

Christmas Day short family service followed by Holy Communion for those who wish to stay.

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Equilibrium [ek.wɪ'lib.rɪ.əm] noun: a state of balance



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Ideally, the successful applicant will bring experience of administration, being well organised and able to manage your own workload and deadlines.

Meetings are ordinarily in the evening in school, with the remainder of work undertaken flexibly at home

Whimble School places the highest priority on safeguarding. An enhanced DBS check will therefore be required, prior to confirmation of any appointment.



Whimble & Broadclyst  
YFC presents

# CHRISTMAS BINGO

Sunday 11th December  
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Refreshments available  
Turkey and chicken dinners to be won,  
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THE BIG

# RACE NIGHT

fun in the evening at the Victory hall

What a great night we had, very nearly a full house, with lots of cheering on of horses creating a great atmosphere. (photos on next page). The bar was kept busy and hot dogs were enjoyed by all during the interval.

Tony Bickel did a great job as MC, one of the highlights of the evening being the auctioning of the pigs for the last race of the evening. This saw Billy Bloomfield taking ownership of the winning pig and picking up winnings of £108.

If you sponsored a horse from us whilst we were outside the shop, you will by now have received your winnings of £8. Every little helps as they say.

A big thank you to our wonderful sponsors for their support; due to their generosity we made a profit on £800. This money will be put towards the launch of Whimble Fest.

I think we can safely say that this will be on the starting blocks again next year.

Thank you to everyone that joined us on the evening.

Suzanne Rothwell  
Race Night Coordinator

Thank  
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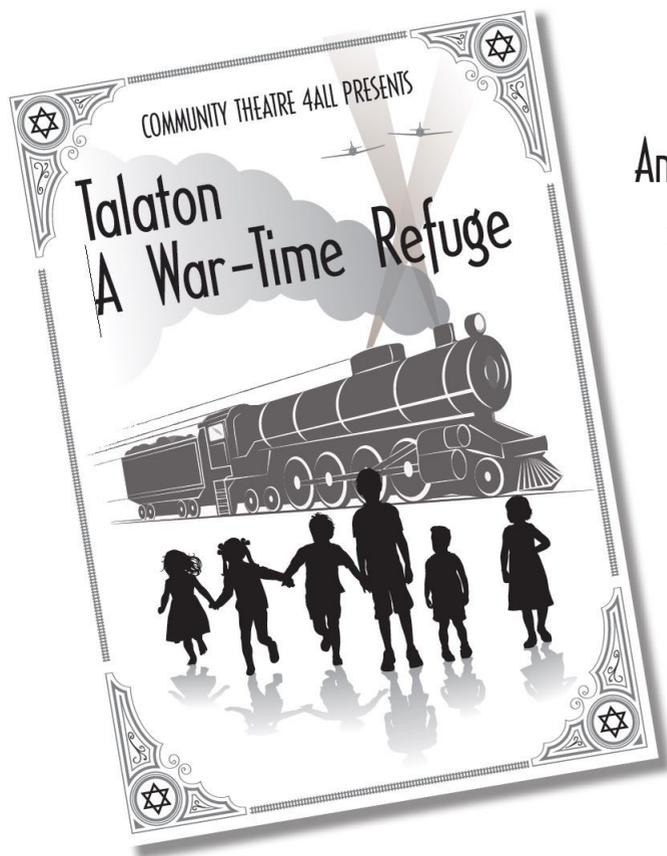
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All proceeds, after costs, will be donated to Ukraine

# Whimble History Society



It's been lovely to see the Heritage Centre open again over the summer and many thanks to Sarah Johnson and all the wonderful stewards for organising that. We could do with more stewards next year so if you feel able to offer some support, please do get in touch via [info@whimble.org](mailto:info@whimble.org). No experience required.

Apple pressing was also a huge improvement on last year when attendance was frankly a bit dire with people presumably still anxious about Covid. However, this year Alan Smith worked through all the apples on the Whimble Wonder tree and many people were able to go home with some delicious juice. Thanks to all the people who made apple cakes for visitors.

History Society talks have been popular this year. We had one on *Exeter Floods* and close to Halloween, Janet Dowling talked about *Ghostly Tales of Devon* which provoked quite a bit of discussion and an idea to collect ghostly tales of Whimble for a display next year. Tales are coming in so if you have a contribution to make, please do get in touch. Last night's talk was about the medieval mural of St Christopher found in Whimble church; unfortunately, the mural was destroyed in 1845 but at least a copy was made by the architect who had it removed and now, if you pop into the church, you will see a large copy in the original position on the north wall.

Our first talk of 2023 will be on Friday 27th January by Simon Dell discussing *The Murder of P.C. Potter at Whiteway's factory in 1938* at the Victory Hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Members free and non-members £2 entry.

On Saturday 10th December, we'll be opening the Heritage Centre for Christmas shopping from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Come along and get something a little special for a loved one.

The Wassail will be on 17th January, Ol' Twelvy Night, starting with a rehearsal at 6.30pm then leaving the Heritage Centre at 7.00pm and weaving through the orchards to end up at the Cricket Club for refreshments and music. Don't forget to bring something noisy to wake the trees.

Finally, over the winter myself and the Display Team (no, not the Red Arrows) will be preparing exhibitions for next year. Hopefully, there'll be something on the Congregational Chapel, something on Ghosts and something about Whimble in the Middle Ages. I could really do with more help on the team, researching and putting together displays. If you feel you could help, please contact me on 371433 or use [info@whimble.org](mailto:info@whimble.org).

In the meantime, have a lovely Christmas and we'll look forward to seeing you next year.

**Louise Walmsley** (Curator)

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Following our very successful Flower and Craft Show, our last coach trip of the year was a trip to the National Trust gardens at Stourhead. This was another well supported trip and everyone on the trip said how much they had enjoyed the day and how good the gardens were in their autumn finery. Fortunately, the weather stayed fine throughout the time which was perfect for the trip. Our thanks to Doreen Staddon and Brian Nelson for organising this.

By the time this edition is circulated we will have staged our last event for the year which was our Quiz Night. If previous years are anything to go by this will no doubt have been another highly entertaining evening. Full report in the next edition.

Our first meeting of the new year will be our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 31st January in the main hall of the Victory Hall commencing at 7.00pm. In order to make the most of the evening, following the AGM, we are very grateful to one of our Photography Judges, Paul Sharkey, who has very kindly agreed to give a slideshow of the wildlife images he has captured around Whimple. Paul is a very talented photographer and this promises to be an excellent presentation. All members and anyone else will be very welcome to attend.

Early in the new year we will be looking at the classes for the 2023 Flower Show and hopefully we will have a schedule out by the time we run our annual plant sale in May. So, for those of you who enjoyed the experience of exhibiting this year, the date for next year's show is Saturday 12th August 2023.

However, as in previous years, in order to help all our keen photographers, we have put our thinking caps on and have already come up with the Photography Classes for next year's Show. All photographs can be either colour or black and white and have a maximum size of 6'x8' (150mm x 200mm). The titles for 2023 are as follows: 'Silhouettes', 'Clouds', 'Pond Life', 'Bark', 'Laughter', 'A Gateway', 'Mischievous', 'A Non Flowering Plant Subject' (eg Ferns, Fungi, Mosses Leaves, etc), 'Sunset' and 'A Landscape'.

Hopefully those are topics which will appeal to you all and we look forward to seeing the results with your entries at next year's Show!

Information on the Gardening Club and reports on previous events can be found on our website which can be found at [www.whimple-vpa.co.uk](http://www.whimple-vpa.co.uk)

**Paul Wilson,**  
Chairman, Whimple Gardening Club





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## PLEASE BE AWARE:

We are unable to quote an advanced 'price per litre'; as the 'number of drops ordered' (on that day) PLUS the '*price per litre' (on that day)* determines the '*end price' (on that day)*'. However, we can assure you, past experience tells us that our prices have consistently beaten any individual household prices over the past 16 years.

**Please note:- Our last order date for 2022 was on the 17th October**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023:



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MONDAY 27/03/23

MONDAY 26/06/23

MONDAY 16/10/23

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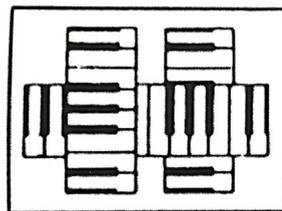
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# A Merry

## Christmas and New Year

(as notified)



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Saturday	December 24th 2022	11pm Midnight Mass	9am - Noon	9.
Sunday	December 25th 2022	11am Holy Communion and Family Service	Closed	
Monday	December 26th 2022		Closed	8.
Tuesday	December 27th 2022		Closed	8.
Wednesday	December 28th 2022		9.00am - 2.00pm and 3.00pm - 5.00pm	8.0
Thursday	December 29th 2022		9.00am - 2.00pm and 3.00pm - 5.00pm	8.0
Friday	December 30th 2022		9.00am - 2.00pm and 3.00pm - 5.00pm	8.0
Saturday	December 31st 2022		9.00am - Noon	9.
Sunday	January 1st 2023		Closed	9.
Monday	January 2nd 2023		Closed	8.
Tuesday	January 3rd 2023		9.00am - 2.00pm and 3.00pm - 5.00pm	8.0

# From the Whin

# Christmas

## New Year Opening Hours

(Normal if blank)

Whimple Stores	Ottery and Whimple Surgeries	The Jack in the Green	Thirsty Farmer
10.00am - Noon	Closed	Food 12noon - 9pm Bar 11am - 10pm	Open 10.30am - 11pm Food 10.30am - 6pm
Closed	Closed	Closed	Drinks only 11am - 2pm
10.00am - Noon	Closed	Closed	Drinks only 2pm - 8pm
10.00am - Noon	Closed	Closed	Open 12 noon - 11pm Food 12 noon - 2pm and 5.30pm - 8.30pm
10.00am - 6.00pm		Closed	Open 12 noon - 11pm Food 12 noon - 2pm and 5.30pm - 8.30pm
10.00am - 6.00pm		Closed	Open 12 noon - 11pm Food 12 noon - 2pm and 5.30pm - 8.30pm
10.00am - 6.00pm		Closed	Open 12 noon - 11pm Food 12 noon - 2pm and 5.30pm - 8.30pm
10.00am - Noon	Closed	Closed	Open 12 noon - late Food 10.30am - 2pm and 5.30pm - 8.30pm
10.00am - Noon	Closed	Closed	Open 1pm - 7pm No Food
10.00am - Noon	Closed	Closed	Open 5pm - 10pm No Food
10.00am - 6.00pm		Closed	Open 5pm - 10pm No Food



## Whimple News Team

## A Window on Whimble's Weather – September/October 2022

Welcome to the fifth instalment of weather summaries for 2022, from Whimble's two weather stations; Slewton Crescent and Cobden Lane. This report presents data collated from both sources.

Slewton Crescent Weather Station: <https://bit.ly/35qwR9K>

Cobden Lane Weather Station: <https://bit.ly/3bt3FTf>

Live and historical data sets are available for each station, through the links, above.

**September** – Started with the very warm and sunny weather seen at the end of August but quickly gave way to thunderstorms and very heavy showers on the 4th and 5th. One shower in Slewton Crescent registered a downpour rate of almost 170 mm/hour making the 5th the wettest day of the month with over 17 mm rain. Total rain for the month was 77 mm, above the average of 60 mm; however, half of this fell in the 3 days of 4th- 6th. Though average sunshine was recorded, September was generally a warmer month than usual, with an average high temperature of nearly 20°C (18°C being the long-term norm for September). However, the cold second half of the month delivered night time low temperatures only slightly below average, despite the very cold night of 18th (2.2°C).

**October** - Like September, October was also an extremely warm month with day time temperatures regularly 5°C above average, the warmest day registering 20°C, on 1st of the month. The average maximum temperature was nearly 18°C as opposed to the more normal 15°C for October, with slightly above average sunshine. The 11th was the coldest night with a close-to-freezing minimum of 0.6°C. The end of the month saw the side effects of Storm Claudio bringing very blustery weather to Southern England, with winds in excess of 38 kph recorded by Whimble's weather stations on 31st. October was wetter than normal, registering 104mm of rain (the average being 90mm) and there were 16 rainy days recorded, as opposed to an average of 12 for October.

2022	September	Date	October	Date
Warmest Day	24.7 °C	01/09/2022	20.1 °C	02/10/2022
Coollest Night	2.2 °C	18/09/2022	0.6 °C	11/10/2022
Windiest 24hrs	29.1 km/h	26/09/2022	38.5 km/h	31/10/2022
Wettest 24hrs	17.5 mm	05/09/2022	23.1 mm	23/10/2022
Av. Maximum	19.9 °C	N/A	17.8 °C	N/A
Av. Minimum	9.7 °C	N/A	9.2 °C	N/A
Total Rain	77.0 mm	N/A	104.6 mm	N/A
Total Sunshine	92.8 kWh/kW	99.9% of Av.	81.2 kWh/kW	109.5% of Av.

Note: Wind data is from Cobden Lane, while other data is from Slewton Crescent.

**Phil Dominy and David Brewer.**

Please send any comments / questions to [dominypr@hotmail.com](mailto:dominypr@hotmail.com)

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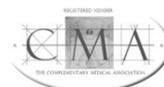
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# Just Ten Questions for Christmas

I have a very exciting interview for you in this edition, with an extremely busy gentleman. He doesn't actually live in Whimple, but if I tell you he lives at The North Pole and will be dropping by on Christmas Eve, then you might guess who he is. So children and parents, snuggle up and find out more about ... .. **Santa Claus**

**Thank you Santa SO much for finding time on Zoom for these ten questions. So, firstly how do you prepare yourself for the big night?**

Well I try to get plenty of sleep, though this is difficult when I'm SO excited. I do a bit of moon bathing. Mrs Claus provides some healthy snacks such as *Energy Snowballs*. I even do a spot of yoga to stay calm when things get a little hectic.

**It must have been very difficult for you the last two years with the global pandemic. Are you looking forward to this year's deliveries?**

Oh, Yes, I hated wearing face masks. They got stuck in my beard, and the hand sanitizer made me sneeze. I couldn't really eat any of the delicious goodies the children left for me either, so I was ravenous when I returned to the North Pole. This year will be much more like normal again

**As such a prolific traveller, are you making any specific changes with a view to climate concerns and global warming?**

I most certainly am m'dear. I have been feeding the reindeer with lower methane producing feed, to reduce their 'emissions'. The sleigh bells have always run on wind power, since we travel so fast. The fairy lights are charged by star power and of course I have no need of fuel because of my splendid team of reindeer. You might say that with regards to my carbon footprint I have been ahead of most people for years.

The world is struggling isn't it? Many children are suffering. Sadly many young people are displaced and separated from their families at the moment. We are making extra special deliveries to many countries, such as Ukraine this year. I'm trying out my new SANTANAV which locates any children who are not living in their usual homes. They'll ALL get a present, don't you worry.

**You must have a large workforce of Elves, how do you make sure they stay happy and motivated in their work?**

Well I provide them with a very comprehensive 'ELF Insurance, in case they are poorly. They have their own online group called ELFCHAT. Also, they love jokes, so I'm running 'ELFLINE' a joke writing competition, with the best jokes being in your crackers this year. Of course we always watch their favourite film at the Christmas Party. I'm sure you know what that film is. It begins with E and ends in F!

**We are all needing to make a few cut backs this year with inflation rising and the price of fuel etc. Do you have any suggestions?**

YES I DO! Buy local. I saw some festive cards in Whimple Stores in aid of the school (featuring me I do believe). Use plain wrapping paper or recycle old. Or try making your own gifts. Mrs Claus has been using old balls of wool to make scarves. Recycling items is a super idea, and do you know one of the best presents I had last year was a poem written by a young girl. It brought tears to my eyes. Lovely gifts don't have to be expensive.

**I've often wondered, how do you find our village of Whimple?**

Oh that's easy, *Courtney's apple orchards* guide us in. There are some special landmarks to look out for too, such as your delightful *church in The Square*, the delicious smell of food drifting up from *The Thirsty Farmer*, and your smart *Station*, just to name a few. But really my reindeer couldn't miss Whimple, as they love calling in to *Cotley Farm* to see their reindeer friends *Snowflake* and *Holly*.

**Do you have a special Christmas message for the children of Whimple?**

Be kind and considerate to your family and friends. Be very thankful for what you have. Be well behaved, as the S.E.B. will be watching and listening for all those children being good. Oh, and post your letters to me by 22nd December at The Old Post Office in The Square. This is a great help to the S.E.N.D.

**I'm confused, what are S.E.B and S.E.N.D?**

'The Secret Elf Branch' of course, highly trained young elves. My 'Special Elf Note Deliveries' take some of the pressure off the Post Office at this busy time of year. Every little helps.

**Finally, any plans for after Christmas 2022?**

Well I did hear 'I'm a Celebrity...' had tried to contact me, but I'm not interested. I'll leave that to other silly politicians or ageing performers. I am just looking forward to putting my feet up and having a very.... long .... sleeeeeep!

**Thank you Santa, just another quick ques.....**

Oh he's gone! With a twinkle in his eye and a HO HO HO his image faded on my screen. So all there is for me to say is -

Be Good, Take Care and Have Lots of Fun.

Happy Christmas Everyone

**Sarah Thackeray**



P.S. Don't forget to count all the Secret Santas in this edition. Post your answers along with your name and address through my letterbox at Honeysuckle Mews, Coopers Dray by 20th Dec. A name will be drawn and there is a special Sweetie Parcel for the lucky winner.

A date for your diary  
The Soup'n'Sarnie Christmas Special  
will be on 10th December



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Hi...my name is Nick Jarrold and I am the Creative Director of Me the Leader, a Social Enterprise based here in Whimple. My mission in these challenging times, is to help people to improve their own and others' Mental Health and Wellbeing. I am launching Connect 5 to kickstart this within the community of Whimple. You can take part in Connect 5 by booking your place on Module 1 by calling me on 07736-727209 or email me at [nick@metheleader.co.uk](mailto:nick@metheleader.co.uk)



Connect 5 is made up of 3 half day modules (Module 1, 2, and 3). If you do Module 1 and find it useful, you can then book yourself onto Module 2 and 3.

Connect 5 gives you practical skills, tools and techniques to use in everyday conversations so you can:

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I am offering **10 free places** on a first come basis to help kickstart Connect 5 in Whimple....so book early to get a **free place!**

I charge **£40 per person per module** and I also offer an affordable rate for anyone struggling to make ends meet at the moment. Call me to discuss what you can sensibly afford.

You can take part in Connect 5 by booking your place on Module 1 by calling me on 07736-727209 or email me at [nick@metheleader.co.uk](mailto:nick@metheleader.co.uk)



Connect 5 is made up of 3 half day modules



Connect 5 is being run from **Whimple Hive. EX5 2TS.** (Build Consultants opposite The Thirsty Farmer, Whimple)

**First dates for Connect 5:**  
Module 1: Monday 9th January 2023  
Monday 16th January 2023  
Monday 23rd January 2023



Mod 2: Thursday 19th January 2023  
Thursday 2nd February 2023

Mod 3: Monday 6th February 2023.

All modules will be from 0900-1230hrs.

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We live in interesting times. Such is the state of the country at present, but this is not the first time, as one remembers the ‘omnishambles’, which was first used in the House of Commons in April 2012, as Ed Miliband noted that *“even people within Downing Street”* were referring to the ‘omnishambles budget’ - the word first appeared in TV’s, The Thick of It. In October this year a new word has been entered into the Collins English Dictionary - ‘permacrisis’ - describing the feeling of living through ‘an extended period of instability and insecurity’. With the war in Ukraine, inflation hitting a record high, the cost of living increase and political instability, it is certainly a poignant phrase.

Collins's lexicographer Mr Beecroft stated, *"Language can be a mirror to what is going on in society and the wider world, and this year has thrown up challenge after challenge. We are living through upheaval caused by Brexit, the pandemic, severe weather, the war in Ukraine, political instability, the energy squeeze and the cost-of-living crisis"*.

There is, on the positive side, the place, our village, our community where we come together, because by the strength of our common endeavours we can achieve so much more, than we achieve alone. POW+R Group reflect this virtue, as we are currently examining the EDDC Local Plan and its impact on our village as well as writing the first draft of our Neighbourhood Plan alongside the Parish Council.

### **Proposed consultation draft local plan**

Since December 2021, the District Council's Strategic Planning Committee have been meeting to consider a new Draft Local Plan. This plan sets the suggested policy approaches to a range of subject matters and it has now produced its consultation draft plan. The Consultation on the emerging new East Devon Local Plan 2020 to 2040 started on the 27th October 2022, which includes a series of face-to-face exhibitions to outline the EDDC intentions. Whimble’s meeting was held on the 29th November. However, there is another chance nearby at Feniton, Youth Centre on Tuesday the 13th Dec, 3pm to 7pm. The consultation closes on Sunday, January 15th 2023, so please take a look at the plans, including the possibility of large-scale developments bolted onto Whimble. Your comments are vital if we are to preserve our village. POW+R Group believes in the importance of ‘localism’ (decisions taken at community level) and that through our own Neighbourhood Plan, we indicate what we need, what we want and what we are prepared to accept. The EDDC link is [Have Your Say Today - East Devon Local Plan - Commonplace](#).

The emerging proposals include substantial levels of development on the western side of East Devon, with these including a second new town and also employment growth. Proposals provide for 'modest' growth, a vague term to describe development levels in other parts of East Devon. This will focus on development being directed to the towns and villages with the greatest range of services and facilities.

## **The New Fountain Inn**

As at the time of writing, in early November the New Fountain is slowly being redeveloped into a pub for the next generation of villagers. It seems there is still some way to go, as there was a lot more work than Kevin, the new owner, had expected on the inside. The projected opening will be realistically sometime in March 2023.

## **Cranbrook Expansion**

After the long awaited Planning Inspector's report on the Examination of the Cranbrook Plan, which critically affects the parish of Whimble, there were a large number of amendments and significant modifications, including safeguarded land for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGS) to provide a 'buffer zone' between Cranbrook and Rockbeare and Whimble.

The expansion of Cobden's areas of Cranbrook and their general location were, according to the Inspector, already established in the 2016 Local Plan. The Cobdens Area will have around 1495 new houses with types of property to reflect the location of development. The national agenda is to raise the bar on design standards. This is critical, as it gives us the right to challenge the design and layout when details are submitted for those properties built in our parish. There are proposed clusters of houses, being in the north-west of Lower Cobden Farm, of approximately 500 dwellings within our boundary, and clearly contrary to the wishes of local people. POW+R Group will monitor and challenge, if necessary, any development likely to affect our villages.

## **Whimble Neighbourhood Plan**

Having gathered the evidence from various sources, including the village consultation weekend, questionnaires and letters, plus the original 2018 survey, group members and key parish councillors, the task of evaluation is now being worked on in detail. Some of the categories within the Plan have already been written up based on the evidence gathered in the consultation.

We aim to have our Draft Neighbourhood plan, available for village consultation by mid-February 2023. There will be further information in the next Parish Mag, with full appraisal and details of the draft proposals which will be observed by the Planning Officer for NP's at EDDC.

If you want to be part of the process to 'Protect our Whimble and Rockbeare' we'd love to hear from you! The Neighbourhood Plan will be achieved by: Ambition, determination, cooperation and you. Let's make this work for our future rests on the 'We love Whimble' NP.

**Alan Lascelles** - Press and Publicity

Date: 11th November 2022



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### Booking Appointments and Ordering Medication

We have been running our flu clinics since October, and in that time our wonderful team of nurses and GPs have administered more than 2300 vaccinations to eligible patients! We have plenty of flu vaccination clinics set up, so please do contact us to book your appointment.

Due to the volume of patients who need to book their vaccinations we would like to thank everyone for using the automated telephone system and text message booking service to book, cancel and check their flu vaccinations and other appointments. Using these services helps to reduce the queues that build in our phone system.

Patients can also access appointment booking options, their medical records and repeat prescriptions through the NHS App and SystmOnline.

We kindly ask our patients to order any repeat prescriptions when they are due, not too early and to not leave this too late either. For quality and safety reasons our Medical Administrators are not permitted to interrupt other patient consultations to organise an urgent prescription. Repeat prescriptions can be ordered via the NHS App, by completing a request slip in practice, at your chosen pharmacy, or by speaking to a Medical Administrator on the front desk. The surgery will accept a prescription request up to 10 days prior to the due date. Once the practice has received your repeat request, please allow 2 working days for the practice to process it and send it to your chosen pharmacy. Your pharmacy will require time to make up your prescription, and this time can vary between pharmacies so please be aware of this.

Our staff have many talents and, if you haven't already seen it, we would encourage those with access to watch our 'Day in the Life of a Medical Administrator' video on our Facebook page.

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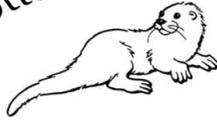
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## The Whimbletons Update!



Hello everyone

I wanted to update you on what the Whimbletons are doing. It has been a long time since we have been able to have a panto and unfortunately I have to say that there will be no panto in February. Please don't despair as we will be hosting a Murder Mystery instead on Saturday the 4th March at the Victory Hall. More details will follow but put the date in your diaries. There will be food and a bar and the theme will be a jazz club so there will be entertainment as well. We will have to limit the numbers and it will be a ticket only event. Tickets will include food. We are really excited about this event and I know that you will all enjoy it too.

Please rest assured that we will be back with a panto in 2024 and a little bearded bird (Neil) tells me it will be Dick Whimbleton!

We are looking for actors and musicians so if you would like to join our happy band please get in touch with either myself or Neil Walker.

So, get your deer stalkers out, dust off your magnifying glasses and prepare yourselves for some fun, entertainment, food and drink. See you all in March.

**Cathy Bartlett-Horwood**

### Devon Historic Churches Trust 'Ride & Stride'

A big "THANK YOU" to all those who cycled or sponsored in support of the Devon Historic Churches Trust 'Ride & Stride day' on September 10th.

Four intrepid cyclists set off from Whimble and travelled via Talaton, Clyst St Lawrence, Clyst Hydon, Payhembury, Broadhembury, Buckerel and Gittisham before returning home to Whimble. What a route! Well done to all of them.

It is with delight I am able to say £428 was raised through their participation and your generosity. Several of our local churches

have been given grants by the DHCT recently to help with structural repairs proving it to be a very worthy cause.

**Jane Clements**



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# Whimble Cricket Club

Thank-you to all of you that attended and supported our Bonfire and Fireworks night. It was a fantastic night and an outstanding fireworks display. We know we ask a lot of the village for a few hours on this night of the year. It is a sizeable event and there is some inevitable disruption. It has become by some margin our most important fundraiser for the club and we deeply appreciate your support. If you do wish to provide any feedback to us about the event, please email: [whimblecc@gmail.com](mailto:whimblecc@gmail.com), or contact me directly at [jameswoollam@gmail.com](mailto:jameswoollam@gmail.com) or on 07989 234372. We are always happy to listen and look to improve.

Of course, the event is made possible by the volunteers and support from club members and the wider community, including the Scouts helping to marshal traffic and people walking up to the club. Thank you to all of you who helped on the night for your hard work. We were delighted to make a financial donation to the Scouts, and in future are always happy to work with community groups who can benefit from being involved in Fireworks night.

Although the club is now bedded down for winter to some extent, there are still things going on. Look out on social media for event dates, including free-to-air sports such as the Football World Cup and other one-off events such as our quiz nights. Also, a reminder that the club is available for hire at competitive rates. Club hire can include a bar service when required.

Cricket is not completely forgotten, however. A group of players have entered a Friday night indoor league at Exeter University and we will soon be turning our attention to winter nets. If you are interested in getting involved in cricket, as a player, a junior, an umpire, scorer, or in any other capacity, please feel free to contact us.

With this being the Christmas edition, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the club to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2023.

**James Woollam**

Chairman, Whimble Cricket Club



## Were you a member of Whimble Congregational Church?

Did you attend the Sunday School? If the answer is yes, then the curators at the Whimble Heritage Centre would like to hear from you!

Next year it will be 50 years since the Congregational Church in Whimble closed, and we are putting together an exhibition to commemorate it. If you have any photos or other memorabilia that you would be prepared to donate or lend to us then please get in touch. We are also interested in hearing your memories about it. Please leave a message at [info@whimble.org](mailto:info@whimble.org) or on 01404 822499 and we will get back to you.

**Tina Kelly**

### Barbara Lambert

By the time this issue comes out, we will have celebrated the life of our Mum, Barbara Lambert, who died peacefully in October. Many thanks for all the lovely comments and cards.

Many in the village, won't have known Mum, she'd had mobility issues for many years and dementia for over six, so was out of general circulation for some time. However, Mum was known in Whimble for a couple of noteworthy things.

A keen and knowledgeable plants-woman, Mum could regularly be seen at the Produce Association's annual plant sale, selling a variety of hardy perennials which she'd grown either from seed or from cuttings. She also entered flower arrangement and homecraft classes at Whimble Flower Show and received cups several times over many years.

Mum's other, even longer passion was music. She trained as a primary school teacher, specialising in music and taught at Feniton until retiring (early) in 1983, after which, she taught recorders at Whimble School and was involved in a local music centre, based in Ottery. In about 1975, Christmas Eve Carols in the Square took place for the first time, led by Geoffrey Brace, a local musician who lived in Whimble at the time. Geoffrey moved out of the village after that 1st year, and Mum took it on, writing out music, mustering musicians and encouraging people to join in. As you probably know, I still run this very popular event, with a band who turn up and play every year, sometimes with about 18 musicians of all ages. It soon became *the* way to start Christmas for us and many other families.

We regularly collect for the Devon Air Ambulance, at the carols, but in memory of my Mum, I'm planning to collect for Dementia UK this year. I hope you'll be able to help us to support this charity who help families facing Dementia.

**Emma Palmer**

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A miserable, albeit mild, November day provides a good opportunity to write my article. A dull morning but also the opportunity to reflect on speakers over the past few months and into the early new year. We have really benefited from meeting up together and have experienced some interesting speakers.

September saw Kathryn Kelly speak about her family of lighthouse keepers. It was such a fascinating insight into history and family life during those times.

In October, we welcomed the return of Janet East with stories about her local b&b. Such a warm and engaging speaker, we are looking forward to visiting her farm in springtime to enjoy a cream tea in their recently opened farm shop.

In November we were entertained by Jane Brunt and her reminiscences of her life in Saudi Arabia in the late 1970s. Entitled 'One woman, one harem and 1000 cows', she spoke of impressions of life in a harem (as an onlooker) where the prince felt he was in charge but in reality, it was the ladies who organised their life and to a great extent, the prince's access to the harem too. She spoke warmly and with humour of a different time in history and a different world.

We are gently moving towards our Christmas party in December where we will enjoy a 'bring and share' lunch followed by musical entertainment kindly provided by Julia Green. We are grateful to Julia as we had to cancel last year's party due to covid.

January 2023 we will be welcoming a representative from Devon Air Ambulance to speak about their incredible work and vital role within our community.

February will see the Justin Lascelles estate manager from Gittisham estates explaining his role and responsibilities.

March will be a homespun afternoon with pudding tasting and a quiz. What's not to like?

We try really hard to engage a variety of speakers throughout the year, which we hope will be of interest to our members. We also arrange social lunches, theatre outings, summer outings, summer and Christmas parties. We've gone well beyond Jam and Jerusalem! If you feel inspired to learn more then please contact our secretary/treasurer Marilyn on 821860.

May I wish you all a peaceful Christmas  
and a healthy and happy New Year.

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October was a busy month. Our traditional apple picking took place before half-term. Many of them were taken to Courtney's for cider making, however, we were lucky enough to have Mr Dave Palmer bring an apple press into school in November so the children could see and be involved in the process of apple pressing and get to taste the lovely juice.

Our Forest School sessions continue to be popular with the children, each class participates in two sessions per term, run and organised by our fabulous Forest School Leader, Mrs Wall. Den and shelter building as well as 'cookie-people' made from sawing wood into circles and then drilling and using pipe cleaners to add features. Fridays have also included some yoga and origami sessions – a great way to end the week.



You may have seen the Year 6 children out on their bikes around the village completing their Bikeability training. These are important skills to have in order to keep our children safe when they are cycling around the village and no doubt further afield as they get older.

November is a month with two significant National events in which we always support here at school. On Remembrance Day, after hearing the local rocket maroon at 11am, the whole school stood and observed the 2 minutes silence. It is a great privilege to acknowledge and remember the service and sacrifice of those who have defended our freedoms.

Then we head in to December, where we have our traditional Christmas events – the fair, nativity and our Christmas Carol service.



## Children In Need

This year, the School Council decided that we would raise funds by wearing bright colours which included spots and collect loose change to cover a Pudsey Bear outline. We had so much change, it is going to take us all a while to count it!



## Killerton Chapel Christmas Tree

We have been asked again this year to decorate a tree in the chapel at Killerton for Christmas. The theme is 'Nature' and the children have been busy collecting and making things from natural materials. The tree, along with others, can be seen from November the 26th until early January.





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<b>East Devon District Councillor:</b>	
Richard Lawrence	07703 350285
<b>Parish Council</b> (whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com)	
<i>Chairman:</i> John Griffiths	823480
<i>Clerk:</i> Claire Rayner	812570
<b>Primary School</b> (admin@whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk)	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Carole Shilston	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Linden Best	822595
<b>Whimble School PTA</b> (Whimple.pta@gmail.com)	
Alisonshorer@hotmail.com	
<b>St. Mary's Church</b>	
<i>Parish Priest:</i> Rev. Marc Kerslake	822525
<i>Impact Cell:</i> Helen Bowker	823193
<i>Belringers:</i> Marianne Randall	07834 809270
<b>Book Group</b>	
Tanya Mooney	823326
<b>Cricket Club</b> (jameswoollam@gmail.com)	
<i>Booking Secretary:</i> James Woollam	07989 234372
<b>Football Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Victoria Kendrew	07966 550260
<i>Secretary:</i> Lee Wheaton	077341 52120
<b>Front Row Club</b>	
<i>email:</i> frontrowclub@gmail.com	
<b>History Society</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> David Rastall	822486
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Over Sixties Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Arthur Iball	822905
<i>Secretary:</i> Beryl Iball	822905
<b>Pre-School &amp; Toddler Group</b> (www.whimplepreschool.com)	
<i>Chair:</i> Joe Pearce	823512
<i>Information:</i> Jo Sibley 07794 652549 or admin@whimplepreschool.com	
<b>Recreation Trust</b>	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground:</i> Roger Smith	822244
<b>Scout Group</b>	
<i>Group Scout Leader (and Marquee Booking):</i> Alex Spry	822844
<b>Table Tennis Club</b>	
Chris Beer	07787 544192
<b>Tennis Club</b>	
<i>Secretary:</i> Viv Brown	07876 653264
<i>Treasurer:</i> Glenn Starkey	07967 698600
<b>Victory Hall</b>	
<i>Chair:</i> Sue Ayres	823082
<i>Secretary:</i> Di Wilkins	758459
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Ali Tierney	822724
<b>Village Week</b>	
<i>Contacts:</i> suzannerothwell123@gmail.com/sarahthackeray9@gmail.com	
<b>Whimble and District Gardening Club</b>	
<i>Chairman:</i> Paul Wilson	822744
<b>Whimpletons</b>	
Cathy Bartlett-Horwood	823944
<b>Womens Institute</b>	
<i>President:</i> Sarah Hogg	822886
<b>Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers:</b>	
<i>Vice Chair:</i> John Down	07580 938109

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WN141

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Financial Services **01392 34 64 64**

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