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Bookings are advisable
Especially at Week-ends

A Traditional Olde Freehouse Village Inn

Whimble News



Aug / Sept 2001

What's on in Whimble

August

10	Whimble History Society guided walk around the village For details ring Bob Roberts on 822311		6.30pm
11	VPA Flower Show and Produce Sale	Victory Hall	3pm & 6pm

September

7	Meat Bingo raising funds for over 65's party	Cricket Club	7.30pm
8	Sponsored Bike Ride		
23	Harvest Festival followed by lunch in the Victory Hall	St Mary's Church	11am

October

13	Big Night In! Comedy - 'Love and Money'	Victory Hall	8pm
26	Whimble History Society - Annual Auction	Victory Hall	7pm

November

10	Singers and Ringers Catelina Chamber Choir and Clyst Vale Handbell Ringers	Church	
23	Whimble History Society talk "Ghosts" by Chips Barber	Victory Hall	7pm
24	Big Night In! Comedy - 'Komedy of Errors'	Victory Hall	3pm

**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**

St Mary's Church Monthly Programme of Services

1st	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	Family Service
2nd	Sunday	11am	Parish Communion
3rd	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Service with a Smile
4th	Sunday	11am	Parish Communion
5th	Sunday	8am	Holy Communion or Joint Benefice Communion

Whimble News is published bi-monthly and run by local volunteers.
Articles of local interest can be e-mailed to Bob at bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk or handed in to Gordon at the Post Office by 17 September

The Whimble News Team

Editor

Peter Smith 822828

Production

Bob Scanlan 822262

Vivienne Leonard 822415

Delivery

Nicky Hitchcock 823194

Ed Hitchcock 823194

Advertising

Miles Leonard 822415

Jill Wilson 823339

Community diary

Vicky Stewart 823374

Treasurer

Miles Leonard 822415



Les Carter

Roger, Linda, Brian and myself would like to thank all the kind people who sent sympathy cards (113 in all) and we would like to thank all who attended the funeral.

A special thank you to Mrs Grout for reading the lesson and also a big thank you to Rev Geoff Gardner for taking the lovely service for us. The collection for the British Heart Foundation was £454.60

Thanks everyone

Irene Carter

Blood Donor Sessions will be held on
Thursday 9th August at

FENITON SCHOOL; STATION
ROAD; FENITON

from 1.30pm-3.15pm and 5pm-7.15pm

Mrs D. Higginson

I wanted to say how beautiful the flowers were in the church during village week the colours were magnificent, and the designs very creative. The arrangers had obviously gone to much trouble, and it was good to see so many people enjoying their work. Thank you and well done to all involved.

Ed H

Many thanks are now very overdue from the Exeter Committee to all the Whimble residents who gave so generously in support of our Spring House to House Collection and to the people who collected, raising the magnificent sum of £ 3 81.90 for our charity. This was the first event of the year in support of our committee, getting it off to a splendid start in fund-raising. Our little team included four people collecting for the first time in place of others who used to help, but have now left the district. So many thanks to all who helped in any way.

Editorial

This edition of Whimble News shows how busy it's been in our Village over the past month or so with a number of plans "coming together".

Many will be interested in Herbert Brayley's article about the possible new community at Clyst Hayes - since announced as the most likely East Devon option - which will have some impact on Whimble even though it's not as near as other possibilities. Closer to home, we have an article from Caroline on Village Week, one from Ed about renovations at Dairy Cottage and an update on the Heritage Centre. It was also good to be one of the many people at Rob Wilkinson's Licensing in the Church at the end of July.

Thanks also to our regular contributors and to many of you for your generous contributions towards keeping Whimble News going. Special thanks to Mike and Ali for the support of the Thirsty Farmer quiz night when about £80 was raised. I'd also like to express my appreciation for all the members of the Whimble News team and thanks for their continuing hard work and commitment as we move into our third year of production.

Please keep the articles coming!

Items for the October/November issue can be left at the Post Office or sent by email to bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk by 17 September.

I hope that you are all able to enjoy this holiday season.

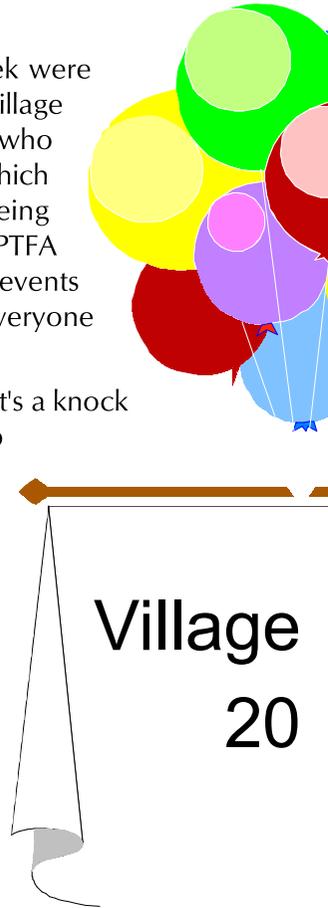
Peter

Very early on when the preparations for Village Week were being discussed by the PTFA it was decided that Village Week must be opened up to other organisations who were also in need of funds. Letters were sent, which resulted in at least three other organisations being involved and their proceeds went solely to them. The PTFA organised programmes, posters and notices for all the events and regular up-dates during the week to make sure everyone knew about our Village Week.

Our Village Week started on Sunday 8th July with an 'It's a knock out' theme at the cricket club, run by the cricket club social committee. It was a lovely sunny day with much hilarity as the numerous teams tackled the giant sack race, apple bobbing, sponge throwing, to mention just a few of the fun games. The games were followed with a bar-b-que and ice creams, which completely sold out so you can tell what a success it was. One of the teams had two French gentlemen in it and they certainly thought we were the mad English even though they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Monday, yes that's the day when the Victory Hall was invaded with children, parents and grandparents, all armed with dice and pencils ready for the annual Beetle Drive. As usual in Whimple, 5 minutes before the start the hall was empty but for the teachers who were organising this wonderful event. Five minutes later the hall was full and we were putting up extra tables. Everyone had a great time, the dice were being thrown so quickly it was a job to see if you were going to get a leg or an eye. When I looked around at all those people having such fun at such a simple event it gave me a great feeling and I got an even greater one when I saw all the past pupils of the school, now at Clyst Vale, supporting us.

Tuesday the History society put on a wonderful walking Treasure Hunt which started in the Square and proceeded down to Webbers Close through the car park, past the Scout Hut up to Elizabeth Close, into Manley Close, Chard Avenue and then into the Thirsty Farmer for a well earned drink and of course a clue. We then proceeded up to the station, down Station Path and back to the Fountain via the church yard. Not only were clues looked for, we had to find leaves, litter, dandelions and even a penny, not for the loo but as a clue.



Renovations Hitchcock

a blocked up doorway in one wall. We could also see that where rain had seeped into the front wall under the window, that the cob could be picked out with your hands where it was so damp almost like very pliable putty! We were pleased that we had decided to fix the problem this year, and not waited. Luckily the weather was sunny during this time I kept having nightmares about sudden downpours that would wash the cottage away, sweeping a mass of mud and water down into the Square, leaving us with a very open plan set of foundations!

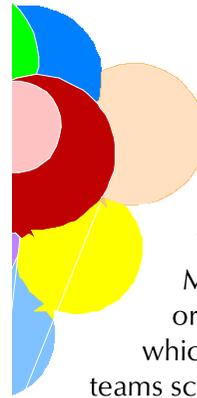
The builders (Chris Brookman, Chris and Ben) then filled in the areas where cob had fallen out during the removal of the render, giving the cottage a patchwork quality for a few days. Once that had dried, the final smooth coat of lime plaster was added, and the cob was hidden again. All in all, 6½ tons of lime plaster went on those walls so we were closing doors very gently as it dried! Even as it dried on one wall, we could still see where the dampness in the cob existed from ground level up to about 6 feet, and that will take at least 6 months to dry out. The walls were then scatted, which means that a watery mix of mortar is thrown at the walls, to give it that rough texture. All the new lime plaster would allow the cob to breathe and dry out in the following months, thus preventing dampness and the resulting instability.

Then came the best bit - the walls needed painting with lime wash which is just like coloured water, and needs something like 5 separate coats applied over a number of days. Because the limewash is so thin and goes everywhere as it is applied, our windows were covered with black plastic bags, which gave the cottage a distinctly spooky air, especially inside which was permanent gloom for 5 days as they painted. We were very impressed with such a cheap idea for curtains, but decided to remove them when the painting was finished. After that, it was just a question of tidying up (!!!) and removing the scaffolding. ...and rebuilding the porch where one post has completely rotted....and planning when to tackle the inside walls now that the exterior has been sorted out. At least the cottage is good for another couple of hundred years, unlike the owners!!!



Dairy Cottage

by Ed



Those of you that have driven up Church Road past our cottage will have seen evidence of tremendous building activity over the last few weeks. So many people have asked what it is all about, that we thought that a short article in the Whimble News might assist with the explanations!

The bulk of our cottage is made of cob, a mixture of clay and straw, with added vitamins from any cattle that had been used to mix the two together. The cottage has been estimated at between 200-300 years old, and sometimes bits need replacing. It had all started last year when we called in a specialist cob company called Back To Earth to look at what appeared to be a simple crack in the render that covers the cottage. We had started our cob education i.e. nothing is that simple; when cob gets wet you are in trouble; you need to book these builders 12 months in advance! Cob has to be able to breathe, otherwise it gets damp and unstable and the ground floor wall was taking in water from a redundant chimney, losing its strength and sagging creating a crack in the wall and in the bedroom above.

The builders rebuilt the section of damp wall, and added some new render that would allow the cob to breathe. They also came back in the winter and totally replastered two rooms that were showing signs of damp on the inside. We learnt another lesson in cob education once you start, you have to finish. Which is why the builders came back this summer!! We could see proof of damp inside the cottage and wanted to fix the cause of the problem, which meant removing all of the render around the cottage. Luckily we were on holiday for the week that they did that work, and so we

returned to a nude cottage, that looked very embarrassed, hiding behind what appeared to be a scaffolding replica of the Forth Bridge. We had never realised how major this work was going to be!

However, the scaffolding gave us excellent views of Church Road, and several times I was able to have very grand conversations from this vantage point, with people stood on the road.

Without the protective cover of the render, the cottage gave up a couple of its secrets a long lost window on the front corner, and

When I got back to the Fountain there seemed to be an army in front of me and I am sure that is what Roger and his team were thinking as they tried to mark all the answers. Another wonderful turnout, I am sure the History Society were delighted.

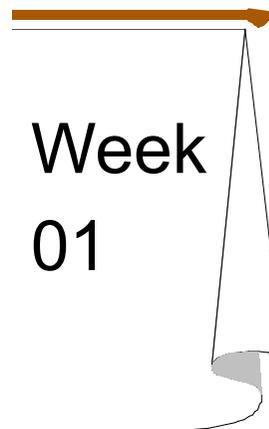
Wednesday night it was time for the quiz at the Thirsty Farmer. Michael and Alison gave the PTEA a little help with this by organising the questions and Alison being the question master which was harder than usual as the microphone failed. There were teams scattered all around the pub trying to get clues from the other tables and the French Gentlemen turned up again. I hope they did better than my team. We were very lucky to have our first prize donated by a new brewery in the area, O'Hanlons.

Thursday saw a welcome return to the community of the Young Farmers who have been out of action for a long while due to the foot and mouth. They organised a Meat Bingo. I didn't realise so many people played Bingo. When asked how many books I wanted, I took two. Then I realised I was a real novice when everyone else in the room had at least five. The prizes were excellent. I had to look in envy as again I hadn't won. Well that's not quite true - I won a draw prize.

Friday saw the opening of the flower festival in the church. What a display, the flowers were excellent and what imagination. The ladies involved must have been very proud of themselves when they saw the final result.

Also the final of the football skittles were held at the Thirsty Farmer.

Saturday, and what a flurry of activity everywhere. The sun was shining. There were stalls set up around the square and the line up for the fun run was ready. They were started by Nick Evans whose company Frank Tucker sponsored the race this year. As usual there were people mingling around looking for a bargain but most of all looking to have a chat to someone that you may have not seen since last year. The fun runners returned and it was a family victory for the Brights. Richard won the senior male and Adam won the under 13's well done! We were then entertained by the Majorettes who



put on a wonderful display until the rain came. The stalls in the square were organised by the Victory Hall committee who sadly missed Paulette Weeks who has organised this event for a great number of years.

Twelve o'clock the question was 'Do we set up in the hall or outside?'. The sky was getting blacker and then the sky opened up. I was in despair; I went home to change hoping that my last year as chairman of the PTFA wasn't going to be a washout.

Well we were lucky the sun came out - as so did the people. Angela Browning had the very difficult task of judging the fancy dress which in my opinion seems to be getting better every year. The children then walked from the Square to the Hall (sadly missing our mayor John Shepherd who normally leads them up) ready for the Village Day fair to be opened.

The fair was opened by yours truly and we were flooded with people all afternoon. It was a wonderful sight and we had our local fire engine, a bouncy castle kindly loaned to us by Kwik Save, who also helped us with our tombola stall. There was a whisky draw, a plant stall, cake stall, face painting, numerous games, cream teas, bar-b-que, pony rides and of course the childrens games - boy do they like custard! Three years down the line the sight of our balloons going off still makes the most wonderful sight. As the afternoon was coming to an end we announced our draw winners and all the various competitions and the hall committee then drew their draw. Our day was over all but for the cleaning up and the tally up. What a day! The support we received this year left me speechless (no, just joking). It's good to see old faces but it's even better when you see them bringing a new face with them.

The day wasn't quite over as the Thirsty Farmer had entertainment in the evening for those of us who had any energy left.

Sunday the church closed our village celebrations with a Songs of Praise.

We as the PTFA made a grand sum of £2145. We are delighted with this result and would like to thank everyone for their support. I as chairman would like to thank everyone who helped make this such a success, it's



Organisations in Whimple

Whimple Parish Council	
<i>Chairman:</i> Sara Randall Johnson	822524
<i>Clerk:</i> Mrs. Amanda Newman, Council Office - Torno	823385
Royal British Legion, Branch and Womens Section.	
<i>Chairman:</i> Mrs. F. Pratt, Sandfords	822451
St. Mary's Church	
<i>Contact:</i> Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
Devon County Councillor	
Mr. R. Giles, 14 Winters Lane, OSM. EX11 1AR	813387
Whimple County Primary School	
<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. D. Brice	822584
Whimple History Society	
<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	82????
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimple Mothers Union	
Mrs. D. Rastall, Killigarth, Church Road	822486
Whimple Pre-School & Toddler Group	
<i>Chair:</i> Mrs. Sarah Griffin, Hillcroft, Church Rd.	823265
<i>New admissions/Playleader:</i> Sue Solf 1, Hillside, Talaton	822981
Whimple Womens Institute	
<i>Secretary:</i> Mrs. Rosemarie Burrows, Higher Slewton	822422
Whimple Over Sixties Club	
Mrs S. Tuck 10 Bramley Gardens	823553
Whimple Recreation Trust	
<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground.</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
Whimple Village Produce Association.	
<i>Chairman:</i> Mr. A. Bratt, Rockwell, Talaton	822437
Whimple and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club	
Mr. R. J. Burrough, Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimple Youth Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Leader:</i> Alison Lawry, Willowbrook, Whimple	822292
Whimple Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> B. Weeks, Briar Cottage, Church Road	822674
Whimple Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> T. A. Lang	822512
<i>Treasurer:</i> J. Hughes	822659
Whimple Cricket Club	
Mr. R.J.Smith	822244
Whimple Victory Hall Management Committe	
<i>Secretary:</i> Pam Scanlan, Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>Booking Sec:</i> Mrs. Penny Wienreb 3, The Square	823064
Whimple Post Office	
Gordon & Heather Owen	822359
Whimple News	
Peter Smith, Lawn End, Church Road	822828
Neighbourhood Watch	
John Munslow, 44, Slewton Crescent	823456
St. Mary's Bellringers	
<i>Captain:</i> Judith Canniford, 22 Grove Road	822873
Whimple Scout Group	
<i>Group Scout Leader :</i> Alex Spry	851290
<i>Marquee Booking Sec :</i> Mrs. Mary McConnell	822729

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Sponsored Bike Ride 8th September

This annual national event raises funds for the rider's own church and for the Devon Historic Churches Trust which has in the past given us a grant for restoration and will hopefully do so again when we commence work on the tower. Entrants are asked to find sponsors who will agree to pay so much for every church or chapel visited between 10.00a.m. and 6.00p.m. on Saturday 8th September and you can go on your own, choosing your own route to visit as many or as few churches as you wish, or in a small group. It helps to know at which churches you can get refreshments - one not too far away even gives every rider a lunch!

This is a fun and very friendly day, meeting cyclists of all ages -sometimes meeting the same ones several times - travelling in different directions. Further details and sponsor forms are available from Mike Ellingham, tel. 822945.



Whimble Victory Hall - Village Day Prize Draw

The winners of the three main prizes in the Village Day Draw made on 14th July were:

£100 - Graham Gibbons

£ 75 - Joan Bellamy

£ 50 - Tracey Bunkum

Other Prize winners were: M.Ireland, Carolyn and Alan, Mr Canham, Tony Jackson, Bob Roberts, Mr Hawksworth, B. Salter, Mrs Pratt, Jill Wells, P .Rodger, R.P.Wood.

The Victory Hall Committee thanks everyone for their support.

Pam Scanlan Draw Promoter

From My Window in the Square

I dreamt
Of my sweet birthplace, and the old church tower
Whose bells, the poor mans only music rang
From morning to evening all the hot Pair-Day
So sweetly, that they stirred and haunted me S.T. Coleridge

When I read our July edition of the Church Magazine and saw our new Vicar's letter of introduction, expressing so movingly his dream for this rural parish, it struck a very strong note in me, especially this week when we have staged our own Church Flower Festival. When I gave up organising flower festivals, Paulette Weeks followed me and her inspiration over the many years has always been the most original and enthusiastic. The last time we met to organise this years village day, Paulette too had a dream, she said "Let's call it Alphabetically Floral". We all just fell for it. In her memory and also to greet our new Vicar and his family, all the flower arrangers who took part tried to make this dream come true and what a glorious and magic sight it was, just an explosion of colours.

Our Parish Church - O come and let us adorn it

By decorating our church and using the skills of the flower arrangers, we follow in the footsteps of the artists and craftsmen of the Middle Ages and yesteryears who created such lasting beauty to the Glory of God. By being 'Alphabetically Floral' we too created great beauty - albeit of a more fleeting nature, passing like summer clouds. By doing arrangements, the Flower Ladies enhance the beauty of the fabric of our ancient building and attract people to come and share in our joy, and the floral interpretations of a dream. Furthermore it is also a means of raising money to enable us to keep and preserve our village church for posterity.

Just as a portrait painter will pose his subject in an attitude or a light which is most flattering and will enhance the final artistry of the painting, the flower arrangers are inspired by the same artistic spirit. This year, the displays were of the highest artistic calibre, the interpretation of each letter of the alphabet was sheer genius of imagination. The explosion of colours, the subtle details and choice of flowers and complementary objects makes it a most moving experience, both for the creators and the viewers who come to admire. What is so very special in our village is the fact that each arranger has a very personal way of expression. There is nothing pretentious or stiff and pompous it is just full of enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is one of my favourite words, it comes from the Greek 'En theos' meaning moved by a divine spirit. Let us hope that all our visitors gained something by sharing our dream and vision of a magic world. I would have liked to describe each arrangement but it would have taken up the whole of Whimble News. Personally I have gained a great deal from taking part and admiring the grandiose final effect.

My life has been a tapestry of rich and royal blue
An everlasting vision and ever changing view

Edith Grout

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DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

ADVICE TO VICTIMS OF VEHICLE CRIME

I received the following advice at the end of July, and hope that it will not be needed by you – but, however vigilant one is vehicle crime does happen and we all want to do the right thing. Forewarned is forearmed.

To assist Police with their investigations, please ask yourself these questions and be prepared to provide the answers to Police when the crime is reported. Consideration of these issues will assist in the proper advice and response being made.

- Has the vehicle been moved from the scene of the crime?
- Has evidence been destroyed by cleaning/tidying the vehicle after offence discovered?
- Is there any evidence left at the vehicle by the offenders? e.g. paper, cassettes, CD cases handled by offender. Drinks containers, cigarette ends, bloodstains, fibres etc. left.
- If there is evidence, is the vehicle in a secure location?
- Can you wait with the vehicle?

You may be asked to preserve evidence – advice will be given at the time.

Remember – if the vehicle is yours, you may be asked to provide fingerprints etc. for elimination purposes.

When ringing in to report such an offence, or advising another who is to do so, please ensure that the above points are covered even if the person taking your call does not ask for them.

This information helps the police to target crime scenes where there is an increased chance of forensic evidence being available.

John Munslow 01404 823456 'Conway House 44 Slewton Crescent Whimble
Secretary 4 Area Neighbourhood Watch Forum **Mailto:** jcm@globalnet.co.uk

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WHIMPLE WOMENS INSTITUTE

An "alternative" committee held the Members Evening on Tuesday 12th. June. "President" Mrs. Pam Scanlan, imposing in her large hat, demanded respect and obedience, and we sang "Jerusalem" at her bidding. The "Secretary", Mrs Avril Ellingham, read her reports... a New W.I. calendar is to be produced with photographs by Mrs. M. Burroughs - Whimble's answer to David Bailey. The "Treasurer", Mrs. Iris Brown, was confused by her "accounts", and all in rhyme too.

We were then whisked by car to a member's home for scones cream and tea,(all of traditional W.I. standards).

Now that we had recovered our spirits our next task was to identify photographs of tiny details to be found in the village, notices put up years ago, seen but not observed, stained glass windows,details in thatch, etc..

The winner was Mrs. Daphne Rastall, who has an eye for detail. The "alternative" committee was warmly thanked for entertaining us so splendidly.

H.O.

GARDEN WASTE

This is a very important time of year to be careful with garden waste.

We should all take care to ensure that our garden waste is disposed of in a responsible way. This means not fly-tipping or dumping grass cuttings, or the like, along riverbanks or in public areas. Lets all try hard to keep our beautiful village looking its best

Miles Leonard
Slewton Crescent

News from Post Office Corner

First - is it a con?

For some considerable time now mail has been delivered to many addresses with printing on the envelope that arouses ones curiosity and leads one to believe that wealth unbounded is yours... just a few of many examples include:"Disbursement Department", "Notification of Unpaid Award", "Official Guaranteed Notification" "Senior Registrar - US Awards ommission", "Guaranteed £40,000 prize" and the latest I have seen - "Television - International Merchandise Offers". They come from all over the place - Netherlands, Canada, U.S.A., U.K., etc.

It appears that all request money (£9.99 and £14.95 in the first two cases) usually in very small print The last one above wants £33.49 and guarantees you a T.V. but when you read the detail you see that there are two sets worth over that amount and 5000 (yes 5000) 5 1/2 inch Black & White portable T.V.s.

Now all the above and the others may be perfectly genuine 'something for not much' -get rich quick' offers but I have my doubts. So if there is anyone reading this that has sent money in response to this sort of offer and has received goods or anything worth more than the money sent (and not just a 50p necklace of the type given away at fairgrounds) please contact me and my cynicism will be proved unfounded! Indeed please let me know if you have sent money and nothing has happened so others may be warned. I will let you know next time how many responses I have received.

Now to FOREIGN CURRENCY - our sales have increased dramatically recently due to two new offers -

firstly - **NO COMMISSION** charged for the foreseeable future - on anything other than £sterling travellers cheques, and the exchange rates are highly competitive I am told; also there is no commission charged on buy-back of currency bought through us. secondly - **SWITCH, DELTA, SOLO debit cards** - now accepted (with the proviso that either passport or driving licence is brought in for identification)

As before, payment with order is needed, foreign stuff takes max 4 days to arrive and of course you can still pay with cash, cheque up to guarantee card limit or building society cheque up to any amount payable to P.O.C.Ltd.

Well I am now off to consider the garden - I recently read this quote of a certain learned gentleman - "Every garden no matter how small should have two or three acres of woodlandand" - I have to work out where to start planting our's.

Finally - look after yourselves - remember the quote of Brooke Shields in 1977 'Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life.'

www.GO&HO@PO.noncomposmentis

Whimble Big Night In!

Events for the autumn.

Love and Money

Comedy Theatre from **The Ms Fits**

Wish on the moon, I dare you! Its midnight, Susie MacGregor is all alone chopping onions in the Blue Moon Café and wishing for a better life. Business is bad, her daughters deserted her, her husband ran off with a lollipop lady. Shes nothing but wishes to keep her warm. But what if wishes came true?

Fiona Knowles solo performance as Susie is a highly-charged comic tour-de-force. Written by award-winning playwright Rona Munro, *Love and Money* is full of comic, compassionate, razor-sharp observations on life from womans point of view. *Terrific performance* The Guardian

Sat 13th October 2001 Whimble Victory Hall 8 pm

Tickets: £4 (£3 OAP/14-16s/means tested benefits)

Suitable for age 14 and over

Komedy of Errors

Circus Comedy from **Circus Berzercus**

As local favourites, Ben Cornish and Steve Eldridge continue to develop their show, this latest version achieves new heights of hilarity with extraordinary stunts and riotous comedy.

Both highly experienced and talented performers, they display their comic versatility in expert juggling, monocycling, balancing and illusion in a fun filled family show which is thoroughly entertaining for all ages. Members of the audience are sometimes brought in to help with the stunts as Ben and Steve amaze everyone with their skill and brilliant comedy.

Saturday 24th November 2001 Whimble Victory Hall 3 p.m

Tickets: £3.50 adult (£2.50 children/OAP/means-tested benefits) Family £10

Suitable for all the family

Tickets for both shows available from Whimble Post Office.

For further information about either of these events please phone Louise Barchard on 01404 822008

Memories

There has been much talk in the Whimble News about thatched roofs and fireworks. It brought back many happy memories.

When I was very little and living near the village, one of the greatest excitements of the year was Bonfire Night. We were barred from going into the Square but my sisters and I managed to creep out while our parents were busy. As we turned the Church corner a huge bonfire just to the right of the little bridge confronted us.

Four large men with sticks would be standing around to keep it safe and to keep the children back. The flames were really, really high and fireworks would be racing to the sky. It was magical. It was great to get between the men and light twigs that we had picked up, spinning them and pretending they were sparklers!

The village cottages were mostly thatched at that time and not once did they catch fire. Times have changed, could it be that we have lost some of the magic of living?

Such memories are priceless and how thankful we must be that we have them.

Molly Power

Over 65's

Christmas Party 2001

The Cricket Club are once again helping us to provide money for this year's party. A Meat Bingo will be held at the Cricket Pavilion on Friday 7th September, eyes down at 7.30pm. Prizes for the draw will be gratefully accepted. Your invitation to the party will be in the next edition of the Whimble News so look out for it.

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WHIMPLE YOUTH CLUB

The club has had another successful year under the leadership of Alison who has been ably assisted by Vicky. We are very grateful to both of them for their commitment, enthusiasm and energy, giving the young people of Whimble a regular club night and several extra events, often with very little or no help.

However Alison is unable to continue the present arrangement so we are once again without a leader. She is happy to take over as the chairman of the management committee, and Vicky is willing to continue as assistant leader.

We desperately need a new leader. At the moment no-one has come forward. Without a leader the club cannot re-open in September.

If anyone who reads this is interested in finding out more details please telephone me. The leader does not have to come from the village, so please pass on our plea to anyone who you think may be able to help us.

We do not want the club to close. We are now very well equipped and have money in the bank!

Without a leader we cannot function so PLEASE think seriously about our situation. The young people of Whimble need a youth club. We will do our best to provide one, but we need your help.

Pam Scanlan

Management Committee Chairman.

Telephone: 01404 822262.

Whimble Alpha

Have you been watching ITVs Alpha: "Will it change their lives?" with Sir David Frost on Sunday evenings? This 10-week series follows a group of people taking part in an Alpha course. A course is also starting in Whimble at the end of September and offers the opportunity for people to find out more about the Christian faith and raise questions in a relaxed, unpressurised setting. Supper is provided and doing the course is a great way to meet and get to know others in the village.

If you are interested please ring Helen Bowker 823193

Old Whimble Tales

Word has it that we are to have not only a new pastor, but also a new policeman in the village.

In the past, from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, each village had a resident bobby or so. In fact, in 1900 Ottery St Mary had four constables!! (overworked at flaming barrel times no doubt.)

The forces in each area increased to an Inspector, a few sergeants and more constables. In Whimble in 1938 the village policeman, one J.T.Potter was attacked by two intruders at the Whiteways factory late one night. At the funeral later, pictured in the local press, the coffin was borne by policemen through rank upon rank of fellow officers. Over one hundred from Devon itself. Representatives from Somerset and Cornwall were numbered among the crowd outside the Church. Relatives, Fire Service Personnel and the crowd of local people filled the square.

Being 1938 the boys in blue rapidly became part of the British forces; and the policing situation, after the war, changed considerably. The widow of P.C.Potter, in 1988, emigrated to Canada to family, at the age of 95.

There have been books written about the early days of policing in Devon.

One of these written by ex-policeman Grahame Holloway 'Copper's Devon', appeared in 1995, the other by ex-P.C. O'Connor was reported in the Express and Echo only last year.

Cliff Benton

LOST ANYTHING - ASK AT THE P.O.

Found items are occasionally handed in and quite often unclaimed. At the time of writing we have:

Pair of reading glasses found in village hall lawn area; mobile phone found on station platform; pair of keys found in Square (not car keys) - these may all have gone by the time you read this but if you have lost something we may have it!

G.O.

St. Mary's Church Bellingers Ringers' Outing 2001

Until his death nearly four years ago George Conway was the leading light in Whimple's bellringing team. George rang the bells in St. Mary's church tower for over 50 years, and had many years as tower captain. He would be pleased to know that his tradition of an annual bellringers' outing still thrives and an enjoyable time is still had by everyone on the Annual Bellringers' Outing, now thanks largely to our current captain Judith.



The bells of St. Mary's

This year it took place on Saturday 23rd June when 11 ringers were joined by approximately 35 villagers, visiting 4 churches in Somerset: Creech St Michael, Lyng, Moorlinch and last but by no means least Huish Episcopi. Fortunately, we soon discovered we had a multi-talented coach driver, who not only managed to drive us around safely, but actually joined in the ringing in one of the towers, and then finished up in the engine of his coach, repairing one of the parts, when it refused to start for the journey home!

It has to be said that, although the ringing wasn't up to our usual standard with the unfamiliar bells, we did excel ourselves in the last tower, Huish Episcopi, when we rang 8 bells for the first time ever, almost perfectly (could it have been something in the air at Glastonbury when we stopped for tea? We'll never know!).

After arriving back to Whimple at around 8p.m. the ringers then enjoyed a well earned drink and meal at the Thirsty Farmer.

Liz Silk

Food for thought

As someone who enjoyed the friendly and social atmosphere of Whimple some twenty odd years ago and returned last year for this reason, to find it still a very active and social village, I find myself a little saddened by the underlying tensions. It obviously follows that within an expanding village like Whimple there will be a cross-section of views, the old and the new, but both should have the ability to amicably come together. Many of the older active participants have sadly either passed on or are unable to provide the level of input they achieved in the past; therefore the input from newcomers is essential if the momentum of the village is to be sustained. It does appear that a number of newcomers have a genuine desire to maintain this momentum and it would be a shame if this was discouraged by adverse comment. At the same time change has to occur by mutual agreement with an understanding of both points of view. I have always thought that understanding and an ability to forgive others for their possible misunderstandings are a formula for harmony and happiness.

R. I.

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Whimble Victory Hall

Registered Charity: No. 291496

Village Day has been and gone and the morning activities in the Square were extremely successful. We changed the format for payment of tables this year and each of the organisations involved greatly increased their profits. This should ease some of the burden on them to raise funds. Despite charging less for the tables we were still able to make a healthy profit for the Hall and much of this is down to the hard work of Roy Ilingworth who was responsible for filling the Square and for organising the Majorettes. It was his first attempt and he will be sorely missed when he finally sorts out his move.

The raffle was also extremely successful and again a healthy profit was made which we will be able to plough back into continuing to improve facilities within the Hall. Toni Welch, Pam Scanlan and Jan were instrumental in organising prizes and promoting the draw and they worked very hard to ensure its success.

Paul and Gill Mallett provided a hearty breakfast for the early risers and have made a very generous donation to our funds and we thank them for this contribution. The committee would also like to express our thanks to The Thirsty Farmer, Waves, The Station Tea House and The New Fountain for their donation of raffle prizes. It was very pleasing that local people won all of the prizes, bar one. I hope that they are all enjoyed.

Those using the Billiard Room, and the playgroup, will have noticed the new hot water system. Hot water facilities will soon be available in the main toilets. This has been possible with Grant Aid from The Community Council of Devon, The Parish Council and EDDC. This has meant that less than a third of the money has had to come from our funds and this means we will be able to carry out other essential works for which further grants will be sought.

For those wishing to book the Hall, booking forms are available in the Village Shop and these should be returned to Penny who has already got to grips with her role of Bookings Secretary. Her phone number and address appear elsewhere.

John Discombe



Work has started on the first stage of the construction of Whimble Heritage Centre. The Linhay, recently purchased by the Society, has been cleared inside and out so surveyors and builders can examine it to produce estimates for its conversion as Phase 1 of the Centre Project.

Full planning permission was obtained in early July for an extension to the rear, a car park and approach track. The conversion will start soon with the replacement of the roof and other works will follow as the Society raises the funds to carry them out. They have £15,000 at present towards the conversion costs of £30,000.

The "Find the Treasure" competition was won by J. Calverley who won the flagon of cider donated by the late John Shepherd. The answer was The New Inn.

The Society's next events are guided walking tours around the Village on the evenings of 8th and 10th August. At the time of writing a few places remain. To find out details contact Bob Roberts on 822311.

The Society's new venture, a calendar for 2002 with village scenes, went on sale on Village Day and sold very well. Anyone wishing to buy a copy (£2.50) should contact Yvonne Roberts on 822311.

Bob Roberts
Acting Chairman

The Linhay

WILCON PRESENTATION

Clyst Hayes 6th JULY 2001

On the 6th July 2001, in the Victory Hall, Wilcon Homes Limited gave a presentation of their proposals for the development of a new community at Clyst Hayes.

As people are aware, the East Devon District Council will take a decision on July 20th as to which of the two sites, Southbrook or Clyst Hayes, the new town of 3000 dwellings will be built.

The presentation was given by two members of Wilcon homes, a representative from planners David Lock Associates, and an Engineer from WSP Developments.

It was clear from the presentation that the consortium has had discussions with such organisations as the Environment Agency, Railtrack, South West Trains, English Nature and the National Trust. It was quite evident that they have, for some months, been in lengthy discussions with the officers of the East Devon District Council and now felt that they could meet the requirements of the council.

In the presentation they outlined the way they wished the community to develop, including meetings with the community. Presumably this would be with the communities in the surrounding area as well as the developing community in Clyst Hayes. If successful with their application, they would need to commence work in 2003 in order to complete by 2011.

The talks by the Wilcon team were given uninterrupted. However, the audience raised a number of matters covering such issues as employment opportunities, travel, the proposed railway station at Broadclyst somewhere near to the existing Kwiksave (Somerfields) food store, schools and as the old A30 was proposed to go through close to the centre of the new town, what effect would this have on people driving to work in Exeter from areas away from the new town, but did not wish to travel on the new A30.

The Wilcon team said that it would be necessary for traffic calming measures to be introduced but as the site developed alternative routes may be made possible.

Questions were raised as to the responsibilities of the developer as regards the infrastructure. The Wilcon team said that they would make agreements with the planning authority. However, the audience referred to Policy 56 of the Devon County Structure Plan which states Developers will be expected to contribute to or bear the full cost of such new or improved infrastructure and facilities where it is appropriate to do. On 4/11/98, the then Whimble Parish Council in their response to the Devon County Structure Plan, said that the policy should be re-drafted in stronger and more positive terms, as there was evidence that such a policy in the past has failed to the bitter resentment of the local people involved. The Devon County Council thought otherwise.

A matter of prime concern to Whimble parishioners is that of land drainage on the Clyst Hayes site. The speaker from David Lock Associates referred to the matter of land

drainage in the East Devon District Issues Report. It was pointed out by the audience that his statement was somewhat misleading as the Report states that developments should not be carried out in areas where increased risk of flooding may occur elsewhere as a result.

The audience referred to the very serious flooding in Whimble some four years ago and the two less severe floodings since. There was much concern that the enormous increase in the surface water run off from 3000 dwellings, together with streets and pavements would greatly increase the chances of flooding in Whimble. The engineer from WSP said that the drainage proposals for the Clyst Hayes development had been submitted to Professor Pratt who is Professor of Stormwater Management at Coventry University. The Professor had replied that he was pleased to commend the stormwater drainage system proposed for the site.

It would appear from what was said by the Engineer that the strategy was to increase the capacity of the flood plain beneath the site by the construction of a second flood plain beneath the site. The surface water so stored, would be released at intervals into the river Clyst downstream, thus avoiding flooding of the Clyst and flood risks further downstream.

This is fine as far as flooding downstream from the site is concerned. The speaker was less positive when asked about possible flooding upstream in the river Cranny and the Rockbeare stream. As the Professor said in his report, with all infiltration and storage systems there must be regard to the possibility of overflow in extreme rainfall situations. It has to be borne in mind that the Clyst Hayes development will extend up to Crannaford. The Professor said in his report that in order to provide flood protection for the river Clyst/river Cranny catchment at Southbrook/Whimble in the absence of significant infiltration drainage, more extensive use would be required to be made of attenuation ponds. However, the Wilcon development proposals for Clyst Hayes seem to satisfy the Environment Agency as stated in their letter of 22 January 2001 and the East Devon District Council in their letter of 13 June 2001. However, the problem of flooding remains a matter of concern to the parishioners of Whimble.

The presentation was of much interest though it leaves one with the feeling that developers propose to build a new town nearly twice the size of Ottery St Mary with little thought to the possible changes which could be brought about in 30-40 years time as a result of climate changes from global warming.

The reaction to the presentation was one of less worry that that given by Persimmon, Redrow and Prowtings some weeks ago, but then the proposed site is further away.

The above are my reflections on the presentation plus a little on the discussion after the meeting when the presenters were still trying to allay my fears on flooding.

Herbert Breyley

