

Whimble News



Christmas 2007



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MUSIC DATES

Discos

Fri 7th December
Sat 8th December
Fri 14th December
Mon 24th Dec (Xmas Eve)
Mon 31st Dec (New Years Eve)

Live Music

Fri 25th January

WHAT'S ON IN WHIMPLE

December

- 2nd Advent Carol Service, Whimple Church, 6.30pm
- 4th Christmas Floral Decorations Evening, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 7th Over 65's Christmas Party, Victory Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm
- 8th Christmas Fun Day for Children, Victory Hall, 10.30am-3.30pm
- 8th Orchard Harmony, St Mary's Church, 7.30pm
- 9th Christingle Service, Whimple Church, 3.00pm
- 15th Special Lunch by Soup & Sarnie Team, Victory Hall, 12.00noon -1.30pm
- 16th Christmas Celebration Service, Whimple Church, 11.00am
- 17th School Christmas Fayre, Victory Hall, 2.00 -3.20pm
- 23rd Carol Service, Whimple Church, 6.30pm
- 24th Carols in the Square, 7.00pm
- 24th Midnight Communion, Whimple Church, 11.30pm
- 25th Christmas Day Service, Whimple Church, 11.00am
- 29th Cardboard and Plastic Collection, Village Car Park, 11.00am-2.00pm
- 31st New Years Eve in the Square 11.45pm

January

- 14th VPA AGM, Committee Room, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 19th Soup & Sarnie Lunch in the Victory Hall, 12.00noon to 1.30pm
- 26th Curry and Quiz Night, details tbc

February

- 7th VPA Talk and Demonstration, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 14th Valentines Candlelit Dinner, Victory Hall
- 21st Panto, The X, The Bad and the Ugly, Victory Hall, 6.30pm
- 22nd Panto, The X, The Bad and the Ugly, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 23rd Panto, The X, The Bad and the Ugly, Victory Hall, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church

For Christmas Services see page 12

Monthly Programme of Services

1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Celebration Service
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	S club11/Impact in the Scout Hut
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Service
4th Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	S club11/Impact in the Scout Hut
5th Sunday	11.00am	Joint Benefice Communion

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Ed the Ed

Welcome to our Christmas edition. You will see that the village has many events planned for the next few weeks, so go out and enjoy them to the full!

I am delighted to see that the Carols in The Square are continuing, as that is my signpost to Christmas (see page 39). The collection will be for the Neuro Unit at Derriford where Tom Lambert received such excellent care following his recent illness, and we are all delighted that he is making such progress on his return home. I see that the Wild Woman of Whimble Wailing, that Julia Green, will be getting amongst it at the Carols, so the evening will certainly have enthusiasm, energy, and fun. Anyone caught singing out of tune is automatically offered a role in the pantomime.

I regret that we have included a page in this edition that will shock, stun and cause outrage, offence and fear. I refer of course, to the panto advert warning you of perilous times at the end of February.

The News team would like to thank the VPA and the Thirsty Farmer Quiz teams for their kind donations – help like that keeps the magazine going.

Alex Spry has shared with us his very interesting plans for a DIY shed. I just hope that this does not lead to a spate of door thefts in the village – it could be the start of true open plan living! (question – if the shed is made out of old doors how do you know which one to come in and out of?)

On Christmas Day, the current Mrs H and I like to have a quick perambulate, and that reminded me that a couple of years ago, we had reached the giddy heights at the top of Woodhayes Lane by the phone mast. As we were taking oxygen and Kendal mint cake, the current Mrs H suddenly asked “Did I turn the potatoes off?”. What started as a gentle leg stretch suddenly turned into a frantic “Oh my goodness” or words of that kind and a gallop (in my world it was a gallop) back down the hill, dashing past a couple we had only just overtaken on the way up who gazed at us in bemusement (as many people do anyway). We got back to a dry saucepan and manky potatoes but were unable to enjoy the sauna in the kitchen as neither of us could breath!

I would like to thank our team of deliverers for all their hard work over the past year, and their invaluable help with the distribution of the Village Plan updates. See page 41 for a rare opportunity to join this band of fearless Logistical Support Solution Providers.

If you would like to contribute articles for our next edition, please leave them either in the Post Office with young James or the fragrant Alison, or direct to Roberto Di Scanalloni the famous Italian soup maker, on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk by Monday 14th January.

The Whimble News team wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2008.

Ed H (Downhill Runners-R-Us)



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Whimle Post Office News



What a year it has been, with our ongoing threat of closure and the strikes, it has certainly been an eventful one. We would like to thank all of you who have given us your support over this difficult time. The strikes may well be in the past now but our future is as uncertain as ever. One thing is for sure each and every time you use one of the services we offer, you are making a difference.

We are particularly grateful to those who pay bills and utilise their bank accounts through us.

We also sell a large selection Christmas Cards and gift wrap and packaging materials.

'Christmas Greetings from Whimle' cards remain as popular as ever and are the same prices as last year. Special 'Topsy' Marmalades will also be available soon - just as soon as I've found the Whisky that Jim keeps well hidden.

Now for those all-important posting dates for the Christmas period.

Date

International AIR Mail

Friday 7th December	South and Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, Asia, Far East (except Japan), Australia and New Zealand.
Monday 10th December	USA, Canada, Japan .and Eastern Europe.
Thursday 13th December	Western Europe.

and for the UK

Friday 14th December	Standard parcels
Monday 17th December	Second Class
Thursday 20th December	First Class
Friday 21st December	Special Delivery/Saturday Guarantee
Saturday 22nd December	Special Delivery

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas
Thanking you all for your continuing Support.

Jim & Alison

Whimle Post Office 822359



FROM MY WINDOW IN THE SQUARE

Edith Marie-Louise Grout

Roast the Turkey, decorate the tree,
Jesus born in Bethlehem, joy for you and me
Trudge the Winter's snow, merry carol sing
Jesus born in Bethlehem, God's little Saviour King
Bitterness and strife, this world must cast away,
Jesus born in Bethlehem, This Happy Christmas day!

In his play 'Twelfth Night, Shakespeare said "If music be the food of love, play on, give me excess of it, Oh! It came over my ear like the sweet sound that breathes upon a bank of violets". I would even go one better "If music be the food of LIFE and LOVE". Can you imagine what a sad world it would be if we would never hear the sound of music? In nature there are so many sweet sounds, the enchanting twittering and songs of our birds, the sound of the murmuring brook, the sound of the breeze rustling the leaves, the sound of church bells - music is all around us every day. What is more enthralling than the sound of human voices expressing joy and hope! We are very fortunate in England that the great tradition of church music is still upheld in our cathedrals. Our cathedral choirs are second to none, the sound of choristers is heavenly and it is obvious when you see them singing how happy they are to perform. We are lucky to have such talented choir masters and organists and the quality of their music will blossom at Christmas, when Carols old and new will resound. What Joy!

Of the many, lovely Christmas stories and legends I have come across, the one I have discovered lately enchanted me by its simplicity, the story of a very humble spider. When Mary and Joseph were fleeing to Egypt to protect their newborn son Jesus from the cruelty of a Roman emperor, they were pursued by a company of Roman soldiers and, in despair, sought refuge in a cavern on the hillside. A spider noticed them and took pity on them and, to make their refuge a bit safer and warmer, spun a thick and most intricate web across the opening so that the soldiers could not find them. Indeed they hurried past and so the Holy family was saved.

When they journeyed further, they rested under a maple tree which to this day is known as a tree full of grace. As they stopped and were thirsty a well sprung up and the water refreshed them. If you remember when the angels announced the good news to Mary they called her 'Mary Full of Grace', and the angels burst into sound with trumpets and voices.

Evening dawns to a peaceful close
Time to wend our homeward way
Sure that after a night's repose
We'll wake to a brighter smoother day

Have you ever wondered why Christmas Turkeys are called Turkeys? When, in fact, they originated in North America. When travelling Europeans first discovered wild turkeys in the United States they thought they were the same birds as the ones called the African helmeted guinea fowl. These were known in England as the Turkey cock because it was imported from Africa through Turkey and the name stuck. In France turkeys are called dindon for the male bird and dinde for the female. The wild turkeys are still found in most of the states of North America. They are very different from the domesticated which were bred from the wild ones which were good flyers and are called gobblers as they gobble their food. Apparently Benjamin Franklin would have preferred the wild turkey to have been chosen as the national emblem of the United States of America rather than the bald eagle. He wrote this to his daughter in a letter stating that the bald eagle was a bird of bad moral character because it was too lazy to fish for itself and stole from fish hawks. He went on to write "The turkey is a much more respectable bird and a bird of courage who would not hesitate to attack Grenadiers of the British Guard".

And to finish my Christmas message this is the story of the Innkeeper in his own words:

"How could I tell?" the Innkeeper asked
"How could I have known t'was he?
There were just a carpenter and his wife
Come up from Galilee.
I would have bade them enter
And found them food and wine;
If only they'd explained to me
If only there'd been a sign...."

In our own County of Devon in the year 2001 when the foot and mouth crisis was at its peak, the despair of our farming community was great and a big service was organised for all the county for a day of prayers at Exeter Cathedral.

People from the Tor Valley who saw pyres of cattle burning on the surrounding hills were in despair and yet when they saw the flames soaring towards heavens and projecting such a beautiful scenery, they were inspired to bring hope out of despair by organising a music festival, and going from place to place. They made an appeal to raise money to buy a piano and collected enough money to go to an auction in London to acquire an instrument worthy of their cause. The piano travelled to the West Country and everyone was so excited and then disaster struck. It fell off the lorry and was broken to pieces. Imagine the despair. But hope came their way when a reputed piano builder in Vienna saw the news and invited the group to Austria and offered them a brand new piano free of charge. It arrived safe and sound and concerts were organised. Out of despair came this great hope due to kindness of perfect strangers.

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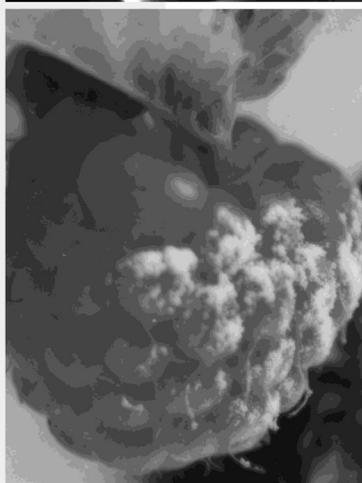
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WHIMPLE CHURCH



We would love you to join us this year at one of our many special Christmas services and events, when we remember and celebrate the coming into the world of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are having a **Christmas Fun Day** on Saturday 8th December for primary school aged children. It will be held from 10:30am to 3:30pm in the Victory Hall and will be free of charge. There will be Christmas crafts, songs, games, stories and lots of fun! Meanwhile parents can do those important pre-Christmas jobs that they want to do without having children in tow! Booking forms are available from the back of church and the village shop.



Our **Advent Carol Service** is on Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm and our **Christmas Carol Service** is on Sunday 23rd December at 6.30pm. Both are traditional in style with readings and a mix of congregation and choir sung carols.



Our **Christingle Service** this year is at 3.00pm on Sunday 9th December. This is an informal service particularly suitable for children when we celebrate Jesus as The Light of the World. Our December **Celebration Service** is at 11.00am on Sunday 16th December which is another informal style service designed to appeal to all ages.

There will be a **Midnight Communion** service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day at 11.00am we have our **Family Service with Carols**. There are also a variety of other services at Talaton and Clyst St Lawrence and the United Benefice magazine for December lists the full details.

Please welcome our **Carol Singers** again this year as they sing through the village on Wednesday 19th December from 6.30pm. If you would like to join them to sing or play a musical instrument please contact Gerri Turner on 822587.



As we go into the new year we are excited as a church about implementing our recently launched **Mission Action Plan**.

This is a summary of what we are about and what we hope to achieve as a group of churches (Whimble, Talaton, Clyst St Lawrence, and in due course also Clyst Hydon). We are planning for growth in the life of our churches, with a particular emphasis on welcoming new individuals, families and younger people. If you have suggestions as to how we can appeal to newcomers and serve better our community, please do let us know (see contact details for Revd. Rob Wilkinson at back of magazine).

Finally, we would love you to join us on Thursday 14th February for our **Valentines Candlelit Dinner** in the Victory Hall. Come with your partner, by yourself or with friends and enjoy each other's company over a delicious meal.



The Parochial Church Council on behalf of Whimble Church wish you a joyful Christmas and new year.

A new Whimble Church website is being launched on 1st January 2008 at: www.whimblechurch.org. Do check it out!

Traidcraft



This year's Traidcraft evening in the Church was a great success - again we were able to try different wines, chocolate, coffee, tea and snacks while browsing through the Christmas catalogue. There was also a wide variety of jewellery, Christmas decorations and gift ideas as well as cards to buy.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us, - enjoyed the wine and bought some great gifts. It was great fun and it was even suggested that we should have a "Happy Hour" on a more regular basis ...Watch this space!

Just to remind you - we have a Traidcraft stall in the Church on the Celebration Service Sunday (usually the 1st Sunday but the Christmas one is on the 16th—but you can also find out more or order by contacting:

Maggie Spicer(823640) Dy Beedell (823675) Sarah Smith (822123) or Aubrey Curry (822295)



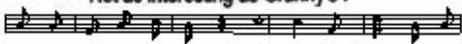
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Whimble Pre-School Playgroup is a non-profit-making organisation, which provides the opportunity for groups of pre-school children (age 3-5) to come together on a regular basis and meet others of their own age in a stimulating and secure environment.

This term has been very successful with the children celebrating Harvest Festival, Halloween and Bonfire Night.; not to mention raising money towards Children in Need. As we head towards Christmas, the Really Wild Show will be providing entertainment for the end of term Christmas party. On the 21st of December, we will also be bidding a fond farewell to the youngsters who will be moving up to Whimble Primary School. Mums and Dads bring the tissues!

We wish them the best of luck and enjoyment.

The Playgroup recently held their first successful committee meeting, since the new committee were formed.

Funding & events - We run on a tight budget and rely on fund-raising to balance the books and to buy new equipment. We welcome any contribution to our events and wish to invite you to the following:

- 1 Floral displays and Christmas Wreath making.** Come and enjoy a drink and mince pie and get some fantastic ideas for table decorations and gifts on December 4th in the Victory Hall
- 2 Curry and quiz night** January 26th 2008 - back by popular demand. This time it will be a joint event with the PTFA. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment

We would like to say a big thank you to Postman Paul who has volunteered to wear his shorts to deliver the post until Christmas what ever the weather! It would be great if you could donate a few pennies to support him as he makes his way around the village. There will also be collecting boxes in the Thirsty Farmer and of course the Post Office in support of his bravery. All monies raised will be donated to the Playgroup so please give generously.

Watch this space for many more fun and exciting events during 2008!

Finally it just remains for us to say a big thank you to Sally Young and all the other retiring committee members for all their hard work over the past years. We endeavour to continue the good work and take the Pre - School forward to another dimension. We hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Cathy Bartlett-Horwood; Chairperson and Samantha Thompson; Vice Chairperson

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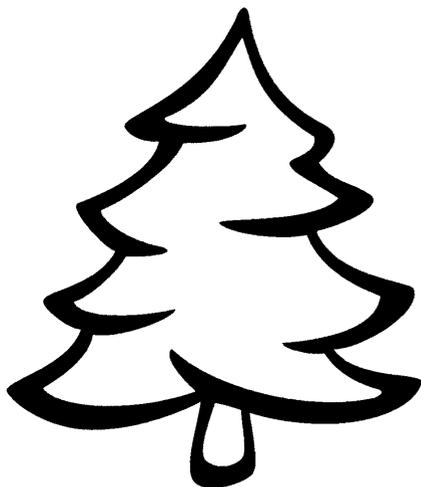
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Whimple Parish Council

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England Best Kept Village Competition 2007

At the October meeting of East Devon District Council, the hard work, dedication and community effort of the participating villages was praised by the Chairman. He presented awards to villages which had scored highest in the above competition within East Devon. East Budleigh with Bicton scored the highest number of points in East Devon in the Large Village Category with Sidbury, Upottery and Dunkeswell as runners up. Offwell scored the highest number of points in East Devon in the Small Village Category with Branscombe as runner up. Special congratulations were extended to Kilmington as the winner of the Devon-wide competition in the Large Village Category.

South West Britain in Bloom

East Devon had magnificent success in the South West Britain in Bloom competition this year. South West awards were won by Sidmouth, Exmouth, Seaton, Budleigh Salterton, Beer, East Budleigh and Littleham. Sidmouth also won a Silver Gilt in the Achievement Award category in the National competition.

Employment Land Provision in East Devon

The Council has now set up a Task and Finish Forum to look in detail at land availability within the District. The Work Forum will identify potential shortfalls in provision prior to the development of the strategic employment sites to the west of the district.

Concessionary Fares Scheme 2008

The Council is currently considering Government funding options for the extension of the Concessionary Fares Scheme in April 2008. It will give free off-peak bus travel anywhere in England for people aged 60 and over and eligible disabled people who are resident in England.

Gerri Turner, Clerk to the Parish Council



Please use the Whimple Diary held in the Post Office for checking the availability of venues and booking events.

If your Association has an event which you would like listed in 'What's On' please contact **Nicky Hitchcock** on 823194 or e-mail nickyjhitch@tiscali.co.uk

WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

At our October meeting we were able to reflect on another successful Flower Show, and again our thanks to all of you entered. Particular thanks must go to Tom Lambert for the excellent job he did in producing our new set of niches to display the flower arrangements.

At the end of October we had a very well attended meeting where we had an excellent illustrated talk from Secret Seeds who are based at Cove. They explained how they went about finding, collecting and then propagating seeds from all over the world. This was a excellent talk and was much enjoyed by the large number of members and friends who came along.

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting which will be held in the Committee Room in the Village Hall on Monday 14th January 2008, starting at 7.30pm. If there is anyone who would like to join our Committee, you will be very welcome. You will also be very welcome to come along just to listen or give us any ideas you may have with the Classes at the Flower Show.

Following the AGM, we have another interesting talk and demonstration planned. Hugh Roberts has very kindly agreed to give us a practical demonstration on Soil Conditioning using a 'No Dig' technique. This will be a very much 'Hands on' experience for some, but please come along to listen and learn. This meeting will be on Thursday 7th February 2008 at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

So make a note of these dates and we look forward to seeing you all then.

Paul Wilson, Hon. Secretary.



Hospiscare
EXETER, MID AND EAST DEVON

On behalf of Hospiscare I would like to express a very big 'thank you' to everyone who supported the coffee morning on 13th October.

Whimble has earned a tremendous reputation for its whole hearted support and this year was no exception - the sum raised totalled £707!

Members of the Women's Institute again formed the backbone of the team and a special word of appreciation must go to them. There was much hard work and also a lot of fun. It was good to hear so many people comment on the lovely atmosphere.

Thank you all.

Rosemarie Burrows

WHIMPLE FIREWORKS

3rd NOVEMBER

Well done and thanks to Graham and his team for another very professional display on that Saturday evening – both in supplying the fireworks and in running the evening itself. The weather held off so that was a relief, plus the fact that the suppliers actually got the fireworks to Graham in the nick of time, having ‘lost’ the order. That is the sort of news that you don’t want to hear when you phone to find out where they are!

There were some ‘bigguns’ this year, with amazing colours, patterns and noises. We also had the benefit of watching another display just opposite the cricket field, I guess somewhere up the top of Woodhayes. Whoever it was, thank you!

Last year we were lucky enough to win a huge tub of sweets in the raffle that Graham ran; this year we were again, ‘lucky enough’ to win an inflatable sofa. Well, if you look on the bright side, come the flooding that follows climate change, the current Mrs H and I will float off in comfort, clutching our cocktails.

Ed H



HDR

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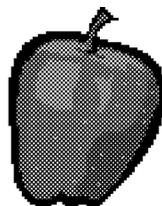
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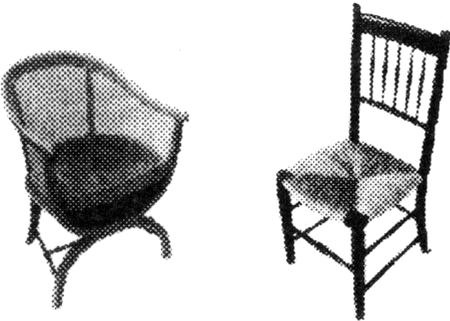
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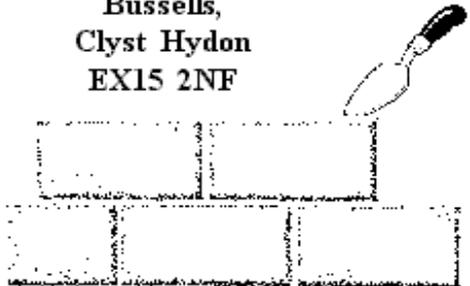
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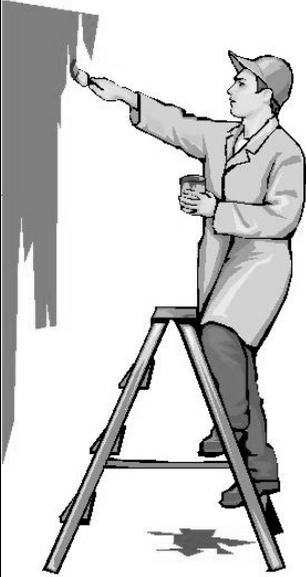
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How to Build a Shed

As promised I was going to share my plan/ instructions for a rough garden shed/ log store in the Christmas Issue of the "NEWS" so after a phone call from my wife to tell me I must submit my plans to Ed & his team within 48 hours! , here it is -

Materials required -

13 Standard House doors + 1 narrower one (ie off an airing cupboard) . The flat standard interior type are easiest to work with. Try to find varnished or well painted doors as these will last better outdoors. Exterior (front/ Back) doors are OK but vary in size / design and make construction more difficult. Ideally all 6' long, 30" wide. Louvre doors are OK in a sheltered location as these allow air to circulate if seasoning logs etc. I try to avoid doors with glass, as we have young children, but that is down to individual choice as it then gives natural light. **At this stage remove all handles/ hinges & lock barrels for ease of construction.**

4 Good Quality heavy pallets of 4' x 3' each. Usually these are painted blue or have EURO stamped on them.

Dexion/ angle iron - 10 short off cuts with holes already drilled for ease.

6 pieces of **Stripwood** : 2 - 4 " wide & 6' long

Various lengths of **2"x1"** to use as **strengthening batten** .

Good selection of phillips/ posidrive 1", 2" & 3" screws (all '8' thickness) and a tin of felt nails

Some old bits of hardboard/ plywood - suitable to cover the floor area

Old Kitchen Lino/ Vinyl floor covering - Ideally 9' x 7' to allow for tucking in but otherwise strips of 9' long will suffice as they can be overlapped.

A good time to collect these materials together is in the spring/ summer when people are having work done and there are plenty of skips about (always ask first before taking!) and the recycle yards are full of bits & pieces.

Screws are the only item which are necessary to buy new unless you find them at the tip etc. but tend to be cheap now anyway.

To Construct :

Making sure the area is level, lay the 4 pallets down to give an area roughly 8' x 6'.

With the help of your wife/ partner/ mistress or mother - in -law (not necessarily in that order of preference) , line two doors up to left hand edge at right angles on top of the pallet and secure to each other . At this point secure to pallets with a couple short bits of dexion and some 1½" screws along the base edge.

Carry this on around the base working clockwise, remembering to leave out a door in the centre front so you can get in! (and out!)

Using lengths of 2" x1" batten the top of the doors together to give extra strength. it is important that these pieces overlap door joins to hold everything together.

You should now have a shed minus roof and doors with a inside sq. area of about 7.5' x 5.5'. This will give a nice overhang on the roof.

Using steps and someone you trust to hold them now slide the doors remaining onto the roof . 9 should have gone into the sides and 4 are required for the roof (3 + 1 narrow). Fix these down leaving a suitable over hang each side. I always put the narrow one in the middle somewhere.

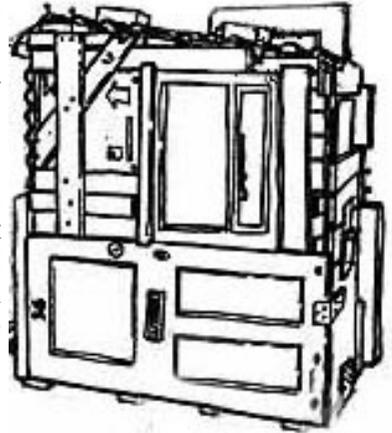
You should now have a complete shed with holes in the floor and a roof that needs waterproofing.. Cover the floor in with plywood/ hardboard scraps and nail or screw down . Then cover the roof with the lino and tack down around the side edge with felt nails. Trim up as necessary. If overlapping odd strips make sure you allow plenty of overlap and use some sealing mastic between each join to keep the rain out.

Your shed is now minus a door(!). If storing logs/ firewood this isn't nessesary but if you wish to add one for security - hang it so it opens outwards with two of the hinges removed and secure with an aspen staple.

To finish off run your 6' stripwood pieces vertically over each join & secure with small screws.

On a dry day paint to your own choice of colour.

You will see I have mentioned 'sealing mastic" This is not normally found second hand in tubes as it tends to go off but you often see old tins of aqua seal or gutter seal being chucked out. If using this with a brush to apply wear protective gloves as its a job to get off yer hands after!



Cheers

AMPS

PS. Maybe as an addition to Wassailing we could start a Village Shed Building Contest for October each year. (Prize for over 18's, Under 18's & Under 5's**)

** Under 5's would be allowed to use Kitchen Unit Doors as an alternative and the annoying plastic road mat that curls up in the corners/you slip up on in the kitchen as a roof covering.**

VIEWS / OPINIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS IN THE JAN/FEB "Whimble News" 2008

The Lamberts - Barbara, Tom, Helen & Emma, would like to thank the many people who have sent their good wishes to us over the last few weeks, during Tom's illness. We have been touched by the concern shown by so many and overwhelmed by the offers of help, whether for shopping, transport or picking up boys from school and feeding them!

Tom is now home and continuing to make good progress. You will, no doubt, see him around very soon.

Barbara, Tom, Helen & Emma

PETER COSSLETT

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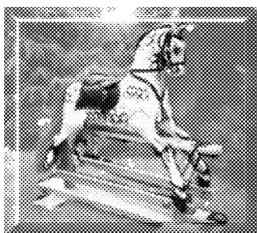
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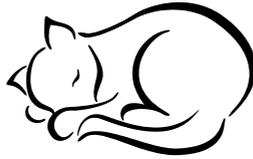
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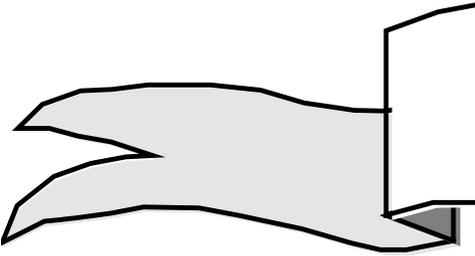
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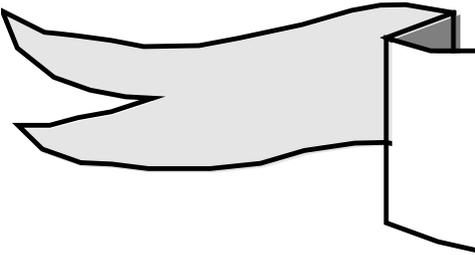


Merry C

Christmas & New Year

(as normal)

		St Mary's Church Special Services (see page 17)	Post Office	Whimple Stores
Monday	December 24, 2007	11.30 pm Midnight Communion	9.00am-12.30pm	7.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday	December 25, 2007	11.00 Family Service with Carols	closed	closed
Wednesday	December 26, 2007		closed	closed
Thursday	December 27, 2007			8.00am-6.30pm
Friday	December 28, 2007			8.00am-6.30pm
Saturday	December 29, 2007			8.30am-6.30pm
Sunday	December 30, 2007			8.00am-11.00am
Monday	December 31, 2007		9.00-4.00pm	8.00am-5.30pm
Tuesday	January 1, 2008		closed	closed



and a Happy

Christmas

Year Opening Hours

(if blank)

Whimble Surgery	Ottery Surgery/ Pharmacy	Vale Veterinary Surgery	New Fountain Inn	Milestone Garage	Thirsty Farmer
		8.45am-1.00pm		8.00am-8.00pm	
	closed	closed	Noon-2.00pm	closed	Noon-2.00pm
closed	closed	closed		8.00am-8.00pm	closed
					Noon-11.00pm
		8.45am-5.45pm	Noon-2.30pm 6.30pm-12.30am	8.00am-8.00pm	Noon-1.00am
	closed	closed		9.00am-8.00pm	closed

Happy New Year

Whimble Victory Hall

Just a reminder!

Some time ago the Hall Trustees asked for your views on the sort of activities that you would like to see taking place in the Hall. One matter that arose was a concern that daytime activities in the main hall were not possible because the school were using the main hall every weekday for most of the year.

In order to meet that concern, the school agreed to change its timetable so that the hall could be made available to the local community for at least one afternoon a week. This was then publicised here in Whimble News.

In practice little or no use has been made of the available time since then. However, in the recent consultations for the Parish Plan the same concern was raised again, so it is clear that we have not got the message across to potential users that the Hall is available every Thursday afternoon for use by the local community.

If you, or a group you belong to, would like to make use of this time on a Thursday afternoon, please speak to the Booking Secretary - Ali Tierney on 822724.

Bob Scanlan



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WHAT TO DRINK, WHAT TO DRINK (as if you need telling!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

It may surprise some of you that Christmas will again be falling on the 25th December this year; if you plan to be eating at this time, you may be wondering what to do about liquid refreshment to complement the food on the table. As I unselfishly drink my way round Mr Christopher Piper's wine emporium in Ottery, I have picked up some useful ideas (I think!) in that food/wine connection and I offer them to you. The following thoughts are not exhaustive, and will not be followed by lots of 'wine babble'. They are wines that the current Mrs H and I have tried, and we are very aware that choices of wine are like choices of holidays....all down to personal taste, which, thank goodness, are different for all of us.

You may want to start the run up to the Christmas meal with Bucks Fizz, and you don't have to spend a fortune on good champagne to mix with orange juice. Cava is an excellent substitute and about £5-£6 a bottle. If you do want champagne, there is a supermarket that begins with 'T' that does its own label which has been blind tasted against the great and the good, and stood up to them very well. I am not a fan of the branded champagnes in that you often pay over the odds whilst a lesser known producer will be less expensive, but still have quality. You can now buy champagne stoppers to keep the fizz in, on those rare occasions when you do not finish the whole bottle...and we know who you are...I was never too sure about dangling a silver spoon in the neck of the bottle to keep the fizz!

If you do Bucks Fizz, you can control the amount of champagne to orange juice mix, so that the chef is not discovered on the floor asleep, having been overtaken by the bacchanalian pleasures. Alternatively you may like to add cassis to champagne/cava and make a Kir Royale.

If you want to do something a little different, try chilling a white port and treating it as an aperitif. If you have sherry left over from last year, because Auntie Ethel didn't finish the bottle, then put it in a trifle. Sherry is not for keeping and needs to be drunk within 2-3 months. I think my parents may have owned a bottle that was so old it had birthday parties.

When looking to put wine with food, you are looking to support the flavours, not overwhelm them. A simple rule is that for mild flavours, go for light wines; for richer flavours, go for heavier wines.

So with turkey (if there are any this year!), a pinot noir is a light red that will support the flavours of the meat. New Zealand, South Africa and Australia all do various prices for this wine. Rioja is an alternative, plus if you really want to be whacko, a sparkling Shiraz. Yes, there is such a thing as a red sparkling, and it is great fun.

You may be going for salmon (not the smoked style), which will love a Chardonnay but make sure it is light on the oak, or it will clash.

We still find some Chardonnay's that appear to be the recipients of an entire wooden chalet house. These wines are to be sliced, not poured.

If you are having beef, then a red wine will help here - a cabernet sauvignon from Australia or South Africa will be bonza, as we say in Devon. Don't forget Chile or Argentina here, either, or even a Cabernet and Shiraz blend.

If you actually make it to Christmas pudding - I have to admit that we often have that another day as it was getting too expensive to hire a crane to lift us out of our chairs in the dining room to move us into the lounge to watch The Great Escape - then accept another challenge and try some amazing dark sherry, from the Pedro Ximenez grape. (pronounce the X as an H, or just call it PX!). It goes well with both Christmas pudding, and poured over ice-cream. Very decadent!

A final suggestion to go with the turkey/beef curry you may create after Christmas - try a Gewürztraminer white wine. You may see it a light white, but it goes surprisingly well with Indian food.

And an Christmas present for people interested in matching food and wine - I always buy Matthew Jukes' book each year - he nominates his top 250 wines of the year and offers a full food and wine matching section which is written in plain English. Hurrah! He is not producing a 2008 version, but the 2007 version is still full of good information.

Enjoy!!

Ed H

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WAC4Y update

We were all a bit fed up in September after a disappointing turn out to an open meeting we held to discuss ideas and cycle track plans for the Parish field.

However there was such enthusiasm from the many youngsters who attended that we will now be attending a Parish Council meeting in November to put forward ideas.

We know from the results of the Parish Plan, that many of you feel that a Cycle track / Trim Trail would be a good start to developing the Parish Field for leisure, so please if you are one of these people, please let us know what you would like to see.

Now we need to say a huge thank you to Gordon Podbury for his time and material. The basketball stand is now secure in the ground, and the new shelter and picnic bench surrounded by bark, which is a huge improvement on the mud!

Also well done and thank you to Ethan, Karl, Chad and Sean who dug the necessary hole! You were all brilliant.

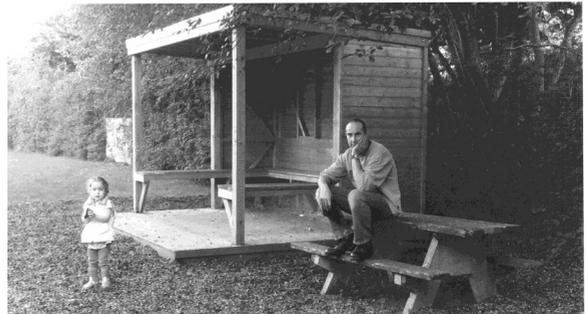
Bye for now and lets hope that during 2008 we will start see to our plans becoming a reality in the Parish field.

Liz Silk



Ethan, Karl, Chad and Sean

the new shelter



Christmas Eve Carols

Weather permitting, the Carols will once again be held in the Square at 7.00pm. Any instrumentalists should contact me for music, (please bring a stand). Julia Green will be officiating (shouting out the numbers!), and there will be a charity collection. If it is wet, we will be in the Church.

All welcome.
See you there,

Emma Palmer - 823083



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Whimble Parish Plan

The Whimble Parish Plan was adopted by the Parish Council at its meeting on 15th October. It is in four parts, an introduction, a description of the parish, a summary of the survey results (as circulated in the leaflet earlier this year) and an action plan. The full action plan is contained in a leaflet circulated with this issue of Whimble News, and thank you to the distributors for delivering this and the previous leaflet.

As stated in the leaflet, whilst many of the actions will inevitably be parish council led, success in implementing the plan will be dependent upon engagement by the community and it is encouraging that work is under way on a number of actions. The action plan however is not cast in stone and will be subject to periodic review and amendment where appropriate, and the parish council will monitor the plan and report annually on progress.

For anyone who would like to read the full plan it is hoped that it will shortly be on line at www.whimble.net and once the printed copies are received there will be a reference copy in the Post Office. Copies will also be available on request from the Clerk to the parish council

Preparation of the plan has taken longer than anyone had envisaged, and I would like to pay tribute to the members of the steering group who volunteered at the start of the process and have remained actively and enthusiastically involved at every stage, determined to ensure that the action plan both reflected the views of the community and was realistic. - Annie Bassett, Richard Betts, Fiona Bowyer, John Griffiths, Jenny Sanders, Liz Silk, Alex Tooze and Adrian Williams.

Mike Ellingham

Whimble News needs your help!

Liz Roberts has done a sterling job over the last few years delivering the Whimble News every two months, to Chard Avenue, the houses up from Chard Avenue towards the Thirsty Farmer, and on the right hand side up to the old corner shop. Liz now wants to hang up her delivery bag and give someone else the opportunity for self development. Our grateful thanks to Liz for all her support to the News.

So after this edition, we would love to have a brave person contact us to take over this round and deliver 20 copies of the News to your fellow villagers.

If you can help, please contact us on 823194. Thank you.

Ed and Nicky H

Wasters of Whimble

A new group has been formed to tackle the practical issues of recycling and doing our bit to help the environment. There's a lot we can all do but for now here are a few seasonal ideas.

Packaging - Cardboard and plastic bottles can be recycled at the recycling centres in our area but doorstep recycling may not happen in Whimble for 18 months.

A group collection of cardboard and plastic bottles will take place in the car park, behind the Vets in the Square on Saturday 29th December from 11am - 2pm. We will organise trailers, etc to take to the recycling centre. Save these items and bring them suitably crushed and separated to the car park.

Green Boxes - The kerbside box collection takes **Old clothes and textiles** which are unsuitable for Charity Shops and **Household Batteries** - 6V, D, C, AA, AAA and button batteries can be recycled in your green boxes. You can get battery bags by phoning 01395 517528 or we hold a small supply.

Christmas cards - You can send an ecard on your computers (www.recycle.devon.org or many others). Regular cards can be recycled at the Post Office - courtesy of Jim and Alison together with **Postage stamps**.

Food - Most shops, including our Village Shop are only closed for a few days over the festive period, so take a risk and buy less food. Try to buy local and unpackaged goods or try group ordering from veg box schemes. This saves a vehicle just supplying you. Talk to your friends and neighbours. Remember most kitchen waste can be composted.

Ideas for your action

**Save and crush your cardboard/plastic bottles and bring to group collection on
29th December 2007**

Use your green box to its full potential

Food - Buy local and buy less

Buy unpackaged produce and reuse your carrier bags

Group order veg box schemes

Take Christmas cards and stamps to the Post Office

Don't forget to use Charity Shops/collections for unwanted goods

Unwanted CD's/DVD's can go to the Blue Peter Appeal at any Lloyds TSB branch

We hope you all have a great Christmas and look forward to receiving your cardboard/plastic on the 29th December or seeing you at our next meeting which will be on Tuesday 8th January 2008 - phone for details.

You ask us

If you have any specific areas you would like information on, please contact us and the group will investigate.

Alison Betts 823967 alison.betts@yahoo.co.uk

Jenny Sanders 823015 barnum.sanders@virgin.net

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Whimble Branch Surgery

Whimble branch surgery is now open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 09.30am to 11.30am by appointment. Practice Nurse clinics are also available by appointment during these times. Please telephone 01404 814447 to book your appointment.

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

The Coleridge Medical Centre will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Please remember to order your repeat prescription early, allowing 48 hours for us to process your request. If you have an urgent medical problem when the surgery is closed, please telephone us on 01404 814447. Your call will automatically be transferred to the out of hours service. Doctors from Coleridge Medical Centre, along with other doctors in the area, provide this 24 hour service for patients.



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Why would anyone want to leave Whimble?

A few weeks ago we had a visitor from Cheltenham. Now I've always considered this to be a nice town, after all it has Dean Close School and Cheltenham Ladies College. There was no room to park in the Square so I accompanied our guest to the Car Park to show her where it was. She was quite concerned at leaving her vehicle all night in the Car Park and wondered if it would be safe there. With fingers crossed I assured her that it was as safe there as anywhere. She was not convinced and insisted on removing anything of value and her car radio. We returned, laden, to the house and she adjourned to her room. Ten minute later she came back downstairs and said that she had left her glasses in the car and asked if it was safe for her to return to her car on her own. Once again, now somewhat bemused, I told her that there would be no problem. She returned, safe and unharmed a few moments later.

This incident had been pushed to the back of my mind, only a short distance I admit until this morning when there was a knock on the door and Graham from the shop asked if we had someone visiting as there was a red car with a brief case behind it. Our guest was having breakfast and said that it was his car and he had put it down and forgotten about it - at eleven o'clock the previous night. He was delighted that he was staying in Whimble as the brief case contained his life. He is a trainee pilot and his flying log, which is irreplaceable, was in the case which was unlocked.

Whimble is not perfect with some minor anti-social parking in the Square, the odd, usually alcohol induced disturbances, and the occasional youthful exuberance getting a little out of hand but what a wonderful place to live.

Who would choose anywhere else?

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Whimble History Society



100 Years of Whimble Scouts

2008 is the centenary of the Whimble Scouts and the History Society is planning to mark this with a display in the Heritage Centre for next years season. If anyone has any reminiscences of their time in the scout group, any items of scouting equipment or in fact anything to do with the scouts (and as old as you like) please contact **Alan Smith** on 822977



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Whimble Womens Institute

The topic for our October meeting was 'Women in Saudi Arabia'.

Pauline Fox gave us a wide ranging and fascinating picture of women's lives in Saudi.

The Annual General Meeting was held in November, when the existing committee and officers were re-elected for another year.

In October several members attended a group social at the invitation of Escot WI where they enjoyed taking part in some light hearted quiz competitions, followed by afternoon tea.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas party and to the opportunity of welcoming guests from our neighbouring institutes of Escot, Ottery St Mary and West Hill.

Whimble WI meets at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. New members and guests are welcome

For further information contact Ann Bowden (823450).

Rosemarie Burrows



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New Year's Eve 2007

**Come and join us in the Square at around 11.45pm on New Year's Eve
Bring candles to light your way, Hear the church clock chime midnight**

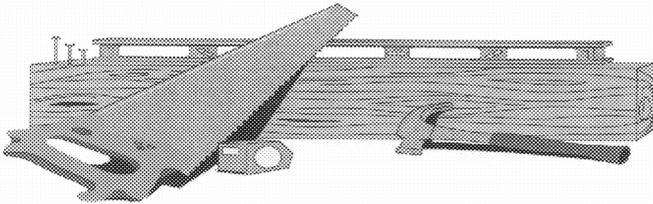
The church bells will be rung to welcome the New Year

Mulled wine will be served in The Square

We will sing 'Auld Lang Syne' together

(The church will be open)

Jan and John at The Jays will be serving the mulled wine on New Year's Eve to help see in the New Year! Any donations of wine will be gratefully accepted!



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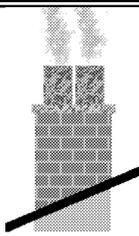
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A wonderful silver cup with a story behind it has emerged from the past. It is the Whiteways Cup, initially presented for the 'Open Tug of War'. It bears three team names, including the Royal Marines Lymptstone, 1949. Represented by Whyteways Cyder Co. Ltd to Whimble Tennis Club juniors, this elegant trophy might again find a home. How about a challenge to the tennis players of today? Would anyone like to start a tournament, which would feature this cup as its prize?

§

Jane Hughes, long serving treasurer who handed over to Adrian Williams this year, reports:

We have now received confirmation that Whimble Tennis Club has been registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club, backdated to 29th March 2007. This means we should now be able to persuade Scottish Widows to pay the club's interest gross...

Well done for persevering and finally getting this status granted, Jane! How are we going to spend all that money?

§

We hope you are all enjoying the new surface - but strangely, moss has already appeared. Does anyone have a solution for this?

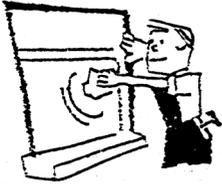
§

Finally, a list of this year's members will shortly be up at the club house. It's very late, the secretary apologises, but there has been a steady flow of people joining the club, even now! On this subject, how would members feel about the posting of telephone numbers and rough level of play, on individual consent of course, next year? This way people looking for opponents could contact other players. Juniors likewise could get together to start eyeing up the competition..... Members will be asked about this in a future circular, but meanwhile any feedback can be sent to:



Judith at danyimbo@btinternet.com,
or to Miles Leonard or Adrian Williams.

Judith Imbo, Whimble Tennis Club secretary



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But don't forget it's bonus time for thieves, so keep everything out of sight, especially in your car and on view in your home.

MOBILE PHONE providers are moving quickly to prevent stolen phones being sold on, according to a report by The Mobile Industry Crime Action Forum (MICAF).

Through tests conducted during September, it found all mobile phones reported as stolen were blocked on their home network within 24 hours and 98 per cent of handsets reported stolen were barred by all other UK networks within 48 hours.

The MICAF said the number of phones blocked so soon after they had been stolen had more than doubled from two years ago. It said this showed the 'ongoing commitment by the industry to ensure that when a mobile phone handset is reported stolen it is barred'

The Home Office also welcomed the findings, claiming: "These results send a powerful message to anyone thinking of stealing, or buying, a stolen mobile - that it will not work."

This is because once a phone is reported stolen it is put onto a national blacklist database, which is checked by all service providers and manufacturers who will not be able to legally unlock a phone listed on there

To check the legitimacy of a second-hand mobile phone, users should ask the seller for the IMEI number, a 15-digit code used to identify an individual mobile telephone. This number is often printed on the phone underneath the battery.

Typing it into the Home Office recommended global stolen property database Check Mend, will show whether it has been stolen and blocked.

<http://tiny.cc/qtis8i>

Lets hope you don't need to, but to report an incident to the police at any time:

999 in an emergency - otherwise 08452 777 444 *John Munslow*

Christmas Trivia

Santa Claus has many different names around the world including Father Christmas in the UK, Pere Noel in France, Kriss Kringle in Germany, La Befana in Italy, Julinisse in Denmark, Dedushka Moroz (meaning Grandfather Frost) in Russia and the Three Kings in Spain and Mexico.

The typical image we have of Santa Claus dressed in red clothes with white fur trim, is an amalgamation of cultural input over many years. Some people claim the image of Santa we know today is from Coca-cola advertising, but this simply isn't true. The standard Santa garb was well established by the 1920s and it wasn't until the 1930s that Coca-cola first used the Santa Claus design in their advertising.

The word Christmas comes from *Cristes maesse*, or "Christ's Mass." There is no set date for his birth in scripture and it wasn't celebrated on any particular day. However Christmas was first celebrated on the 25th of December in Rome in 336AD with an aim to replacing the popular pagan winter solstice celebrations

The first Christmas card was designed in 1843 by J.C. Horsley

The twelve days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and Epiphany (6th of January) and represent the length of time it took for the wise men from the East to visit the manger of Jesus after his birth.

Popular belief holds that three wise men visited Bethlehem from the east bearing gifts. However there is no mention in the bible about the number of wise men who visited. Three gifts were brought - gold, frankincense and myrrh, but names commonly attributed to the wise men - Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar were added some 500 years later.

The 26th of December is traditionally known as St Stephen's Day, but is more commonly known as Boxing Day. The reason it was called this is either alms boxes in church were opened and the money distributed to the poor, or alternatively it was named from the practice of servants receiving boxes of gifts from their employers on this day. Boxing day is NOT named after the practice of throwing out large numbers of boxes after Christmas!

English Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas between 1647 and 1660 because he believed such celebrations were immoral for the holiest day of the year.

The first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued in Austria in 1937



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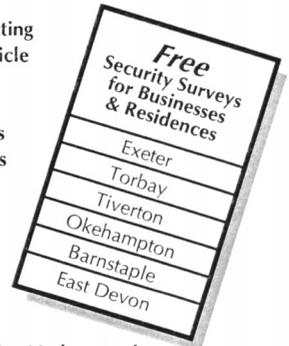


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St. Mary's Church	
<i>Contact:</i> Rev. Rob Wilkinson	822521
SClub11, Impact & Contact	
Phil and Rebecca Dominy	822163
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Andrew Dinnis	850363
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<i>Headteacher:</i> Mrs. S. Langley	822584
<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Mrs Pam Scanlan Albecq, The Green	822262
<i>P.T.F.A. Chair:</i> Mr R.Camp	823392
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<i>Chairman:</i> Richard Webber	822038
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough Gateshayes Farm	822257
Whimble Pre-School & Toddler Group	
<i>Chair:</i> Cathy Bartlett-Horwood, 57 Grove Rd	823944
<i>Playleader:</i> Jo Westney Glencroft, Church Road	822168
<i>Toddlers:</i> Sam Walker, 6, Slewton Cesc	822649
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Mrs. Ann Bowden, Bradcott House, The Green	823450
Whimble Over Sixties Club	
Mrs B. Iball, 11 Rectory Close	822905
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<i>Knowle Cross Sports Ground.</i> Mr P. Garraff, Luppit	891206
Whimble Village Produce Association.	
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Whimble Football Club	
<i>Chairman:</i> Geoff Delves	823258
<i>Secretary:</i> Karen Delves	823258
Whimble Tennis Club	
<i>Secretary:</i> Judith Imbo	823240
<i>Treasurer:</i> J. Hughes	822659
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WN51

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