

Whimble News



Feb/March 2014

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What's On in Whimple

February

- 8th Front Row Club presents 'Love is all you need' 7.00 for 7.30pm Victory Hall.
- 20th The Whimpletons Panto 'Snow White' at the Victory Hall 7.30pm.
- 21st The Whimpletons Panto 'Snow White' at the Victory Hall 7.30pm.
- 22nd The Whimpletons Panto 'Snow White' at the Victory Hall
Matinee 2.30pm.
- 22nd The Whimpletons Panto 'Snow White' at the Victory Hall 7.30pm.
Panto details see page 19.
- 28th Whimple History Society talk – Victory Hall 7.30pm- The National Coastwatch Institution. Details see page 27.

March

- 8th Front Row Club presents 'Captain Phillips' 7.00 for 7.30pm Victory Hall.
- 21st Whimple History Society AGM 7.30pm Victory Hall followed by readings and poetry about WW1. Details see page 27.
- 22nd Whimple Scouts Jumble Sale 2.00pm Scout Hut – details see page 18.
- 22nd Whimple Pre-School Pre-Loved Sale – details see page 12.
- 25th VPA talk Victory Hall 7.30pm Mary Benger of Burrow Farm Gardens.
- 28th French special 'Women on the Edge of a Nervous Breakdown' 7.00 for 7.30pm Victory Hall.
- 29th Soup and Sarnie 12.00noon – 1.30pm Victory Hall.

April

- 12th Front Row Club presents 'Philomena' 7.00 for 7.30pm Victory Hall.
- 25th Whimple History Society talk – Victory Hall 7.30pm– Yvonne Bell on 'Love and Marriage Edwardian style'. Details see page 27.

May

- 3rd VPA Coach trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan – details see page 22.
- 10th Front Row Club presents 'To kill a Mocking bird' 7.00 for 7.30pm Victory Hall.
- 17th VPA Spring Coffee morning and Plant Sale – details see page 22.

June

- 14th Front Row Club presents 'Blue Jasmine' 7.00 for 7.30pm Victory Hall.

August

- 9th VPA Annual Flower Show.

September

- 19th Whimple History Society talk – Victory Hall 7.30pm– Dr Anthony Saunders on 'The evolution of Trench Warfare'. Details see page 27.



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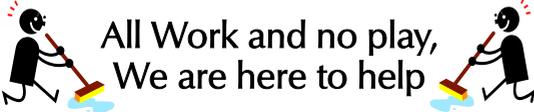
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Ed the Ed

Welcome to your February/March edition of the Whimble News, packed with lots of useful information so that you know what is going on in Whimble. Martin Gammell has updated us with all things local government and there are some important details of a change to the Coleridge Medical Centre appointment booking system on pages 38 and 39, and that seems very sensible and straightforward. We have a very useful article about debt management and where to go for help when you realise that your financial problems need someone from 'outside' to offer a different view. That is even more valuable when that 'outside help' has relevant experience to offer.

There are three pleas for help in this edition – the Scouts are looking for young blood to help with the Cubs; the annual Fun Run needs an organiser/several organisers, and the Over 65s Christmas Party committee led by Ann Bowden have decided that it is time for new people to take over. If you are able to offer help to any of these three worthy causes, please contact the relevant people. I would like to thank Ann and her team for taking on the Party when Lucy Smith 'retired' – they have organised this well loved event ever since, and is part of the fabric of Christmas in the village.

Panto tickets are selling well, and Saturday night is well nigh sold out; other nights and the matinee are also being snapped up, but I have yet to see them being offered on eBay! The script this year is very clever and funny and will appeal to all ages

The Front Row Club have an excellent mix of films for this 'season' and I am particularly impressed with the title of a French film 'Women on the edge of a nervous breakdown'. I hadn't realised that the current goings-on with the French president and his ladies had reached the silver screen. If you look at the 'What's on in Whimble' page you will see why we have such a great reputation for community spirit and village activities – so many things to do and to get involved with.

If you would like to submit an article for the News, then please either pass it to our Post Master/Mistress – (also offering advice on camper vans and route planning with fashion accessory hints especially the age old question, 'To onesie or not to onesie?') – or send it direct to Bob on bob.scanlan@eclipse.co.uk by Monday March 10th.

The Whimble News team would like to say "thank you" to both our dedicated teams of deliverers but also to our invisible team of proofreaders who plough through the draft edition of each Whimble News and help us to present a professional magazine to the village of Whimble.

Ed H

If your Association has an event which you would like listed in 'What's on...' please contact **Ed Hitchcock** on 823194 or e-mail edhitch@btinternet.com.

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Whimble Post Office News

In this article Jim and I would like to pay tribute to Gordon Owen.

It's been nearly 10 years since Jim and I, on a bit of a 'whim', drove down from Reading with the details of Whimble Post Office clutched in our hands, looking for something different to do. Having arrived a bit early we parked in The Square, looked at the gently running stream and the beautiful surroundings and thought how idyllic it all was. Heather explained how supportive the village had been throughout Gordon's spell of ill health. It was clear that they were so well respected and we worried that they would be a hard act to follow. Gordon would often pop in and ask if we were 'happy'. It was clear to us that he loved being the Post Master of Whimble and wanted the same for us. We shall miss him.



The 'Book Exchange' has re-opened, and we would like to invite you to take advantage of the great range of books that we have at the moment. If you have a book that you no longer need, please leave it in the basket for someone else to enjoy and at the same time you could pick up another one. Just leave a small donation each time you do this and you will be helping a charity at the same time. We do seem to have more books coming in than going out, so from time to time we may ask you to not donate if we get too many.



A reminder that we stock the food recycling bags, the price of which remains at £4.25 for a roll of 52 which represents very good value.



'Johnsons the Cleaners' still call in three times a week, which means we can offer a quick turn around on dry cleaning, at a very reasonable price. They also hire out the Rug Doctor, an excellent carpet cleaning machine that is easy to use and the end result is amazing.



Remember that many banking transactions can now be completed over the counter at the Post Office as well as cash withdrawals for which there is no charge.



A very happy New Year to our existing and new customers alike.

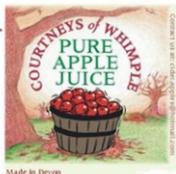
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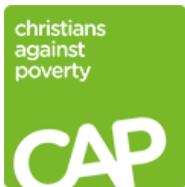
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CAP is an award winning national charity that operates through a growing network of debt centres opened in partnership with local churches. Widely respected by the finance industry and creditors alike, Christians Against Poverty will work with you to set budgets, liaise with your creditors, and set up a repayment schedule that you can afford.

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The number to ring to book an appointment is 0800 328 0006, or for more information visit our website www.capuk.org Making the first call can be hard but the sooner you ring, the sooner you will have peace of mind.



Phil Dominy



The Whimble News Team welcomes input to the magazine and encourages local traders and businesses to advertise with us.

However the views expressed in Whimble News articles are those of the contributors and not of the Whimble News Team and, similarly, we cannot endorse the goods and services that are advertised in the magazine.

The Latest News From Your Local Pre-School



WHIMBLE
Pre-School
& Toddler Group

How Your Money Has Helped...

We would first of all like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support at our various fund raising events including the now famous Quiz & Curry Night. This year we have spent some of the money by astroturfing a large area of our garden. This has not only made the garden look a lot smarter but more importantly has ensured that the children can go outside all year round, which of course they love.

Christmas 2013...

In December the children went on a school trip to Cotley Farm to meet the Reindeer, Helen & Lester Bowker gave us all a warm welcome and it was a wonderful lead up to Christmas and our Nativity. Due to the large number of children we currently have, for the first year ever the children performed their Nativity on stage in the Victory Hall, and what a brilliant job they did.



Growing Numbers...

We now have 27 children on our books for Spring Term 2014. It is great that so many local parents are supporting Whimble Pre-School, we still have some places available and welcome all children from 2 years 9 months, so come and have fun with our professional, caring, experienced staff who all love their jobs and all our children.

Information...

For more news, term dates, etc please check our website www.whimblepreschool.com or call 07794 652549.

Dates to Remember...

Pre-Loved Sale
22nd March 10.30-1pm
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Half Term
17th Feb - 21st Feb

Last Day Of Term
Friday 4th April

Whimple Victory Hall

The Hall was originally established in 1920 to celebrate victory in the First World War. The History Society and other village organisations are planning various celebrations to mark one hundred years from the outbreak of that War. The Hall Trustees have also been considering whether we should mark the centenary in some way, bearing in mind the reasons for the hall being built in the first place.

Our thoughts are still at an early stage and we would welcome suggestions from the village for a suitable form of celebration, or a project, that would be appropriate.

If you have a comment, suggestion or a proposal, please tell me about it.

Bob Scanlan 822262
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Gordon Owen

Gordon's funeral was held at St Mary's on Tuesday 7th January, and the church was full of family and friends, many from Whimple. Gordon was held in great affection, based on the time he and Heather ran the Post Office for several years before he was forced to give it up because of his stroke. I always used to look forward to his articles and musings entitled 'GO at the PO' – always good for a smile and something different to think about. Gordon was still keen to play a role in the village, and one way he did that was to help deliver the Whimple News in fair weather and foul. The News Team are grateful for his assistance over the years.

There were some moving tributes to Gordon from his best friend, Roy Smith who had joined the RAF at the same time in 1939, and that had been the foundation for a life-long friendship. Roy shared some wonderful memories with us. His sons, Paul and Mark also shared their very personal memories of their Dad, which were very heart warming to hear, and we learned a lot more about Gordon 'the man'.

Our thoughts go out to Heather and the family at this sad time.

Ed H

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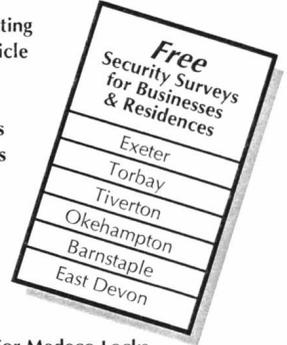
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WASSAIL 2014

Last year I thought that if the rain continued during 2013, we would be touring the paddy fields of Whimble in 2014, and this is exactly what we did on January 17th. We had a good turnout of 'Wassailers' and the New Fountain was doing hearty business just before we set off on our epic adventure round the orchards of Whimble. There was a table of 6 or so having an early 'family meal' in the pub and they must have been surprised to be suddenly surrounded by men in smocks, men with guns over their shoulders and lots of people dressed for a night out in the cold. And after half an hour we left as suddenly as we had arrived, leaving them in peace. The joys of coming out to a nice quiet country pub! Thanks to Michelle and Gill for opening early. (Later on the fish and chip man in The Square must have thought that he had a mad customer rush as these 200 or so people descended on The Square to take part in the Wassail stop to give 3 cheers for John Shepherd).

I thought that the History Society had a great idea in selling Wassail mugs at the start and they were all soon snapped up – in fact they could have sold even more. If you missed out, then you can get them when the Heritage Centre re-opens for the new season after Easter.

The numbers for the Wassail were up to last year...certainly nearer the 200 mark which I think is great. A number of faces from outside the village I think, and that is good for Whimble as it will keep this weird and wonderful pagan ceremony alive! It was good to also see a number of 'Wassail virgins' who had lived in Whimble for many years, but who had not 'done' a Wassail before. We did our usual route through the village and thanks to Margaret Burrough for the cider, Ian and Ann Hardcastle, and Jim and Mary Chard for letting us use their orchards. Plus a big thank you to the Pyrotechnic King of Whimble, 'Torchy' Ray Horn who set up some wonderful small bonfires in the Woodhayes Orchard. That has to be my favourite orchard because of the space and setting. Thanks also to John and Jan Discombe, and Dominic and Tony who prepared the Wassail cups – most people managed to get a cupful of cheer to help them on their way.

Connor Thompson was promoted to Wassail King this year, having been the Prince last year, and he was ably assisted by Sam Walsh as the Wassail Prince. Jim Causley and his strolling band provided the music as we made our way round the village, and then they took part in the usual 'jam session' back at the Cricket Club, plus more guests. Thanks to them.

Well done to the hardworking team up at the cricket club who prepared and served food to the Wassail army, and thanks to valiant Matt and Gemma who were doing the bar (believing that they were 'helping' only to discover that they WERE the bar for a mad hour or two! Thanks to Geoff Delves who turned up to offer assistance).

And thank you Whimble for joining us and making Wassail such a success! See you next year and fingers crossed for another bumper crop thanks to our efforts.

Ed H



ASK

**What can Scouts do for you?
and
What can you do for Scouts?**



About Whimble Scouts

The village is fortunate to have a thriving Scouting troop based just off The Square with the following packs for both boys and girls

Beavers (6 to 8 years old)

Cubs (8 to 10½ years old) Temporarily closed while we look for new leaders

Scouts (10½ to 14 years old)

Explorers (14 to 18 years old)

New Cub Leaders Required

Many thanks to Shelley, Chris and Mandy for running Cubs up until Christmas. We now need to broaden our search for new leaders who will take over the running of this pack. As a new leader myself, who has had no previous Scouting experience, I would like to say that there is all the help and training that you need both within the Whimble group and the Scouting organisation generally. I would like to suggest that, along with us Mums and Dads, younger individuals would be fantastic for this position as they bring the fun and enthusiasm that kids love. The training and experience could enhance your CV and count towards external qualifications from The Open College Network, The Institute of Leadership and Management and The Institute of Training and Occupational Learning.

Helping Local Events, Organisations and Individuals

We are always looking out for ways for Scouts to help out locally. Many of you will remember "bob-a-job week" which, although it had its shortcomings, did get Scouting involved within the community. We would welcome suggestions for projects that we could be involved in, such as stewardship of an aspect of the community or just helping out. While donations to the Scout Group are always welcome, this is not the main criteria as we consider that it is important for young people to get involved without always looking for money.

Scout Jumble Sale

We will be holding a jumble sale in the Scout hut on Saturday 22nd March at 2:00pm. There will be **teas and cake available**. **We will be collecting good saleable items on Thursday 20th March** and items can be dropped off at the hut on Friday evening and Saturday morning. While we do appreciate your donations, could we emphasise 'good sellable items' required.

Justin Harris Assistant Scout Leader 01404 823873

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Ladies Coffee Morning

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Why not come and join us on Friday mornings between 10.30am and 12.00noon in St. Mary's Church and have the opportunity of coffee and biscuits and chat with others in the same situation.

You all will be very welcome.

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LUCY SMITH

We reported in the last edition that Lucy had taken a tumble and spent some time in hospital. We are delighted to report that Lucy is now back home, and she would like to thank all her kind friends for their visits and cards during this time. Lucy is now making a steady recovery and hopefully we will see her around the village again.

Ed H



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WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 13th January 2014 and it was good to see yet another full house! The reports reflected on another good year for the VPA with all the events being well supported and very much enjoyed by all who attended. Our Membership Secretary had excelled herself once again and the year showed another increase in membership of four on last year's previous record number of paid up members. Our membership Secretary, Myrtle Docking, was duly thanked for achieving such a magnificent number of members for the year. The many events were well supported, particularly the plant sale in May and of course our annual Flower Show. The plant sale is now a well established annual event in the Village and the funds raised go to finance the Flower Show. As the Flower Show costs just over £1,000 to stage, this event goes a long way to support it. The VPA were pleased to make donations to both the Scouts and the Whimple News as part of its ongoing commitment to put something back into our community. There were no major changes to our Committee, but we did welcome two new keen members, Emma Palmer and Jane Tancock. I am sure they will be a welcome asset to ensure we have another very successful year!

The first event this year will be a talk by Mary Benger of Burrow Farm Gardens. These gardens have steadily been developed over the years and are now a very popular place for garden enthusiasts to visit. The talk will be on Tuesday 25th March in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Following that, we are planning a coach trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan. This will be on Saturday 3rd May and is being arranged in conjunction with the Ottery St. Mary Garden Club. Doreen Staddon is making all the arrangements, so if you want to reserve your seat on the coach, please contact her by email on doreenstaddon@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01404 823594. The coach will be leaving The Square at 8.45am.

Our annual Spring Coffee morning and Plant Sale will be on Saturday 17th May in the Village Hall. This has been a very popular in recent years and we will be looking for the same success this year. Hopefully we will be able to provide a wide range of plants but if there are any specific ones you would like us to grow, please let us know and we will see what we can do!

In June we are hoping to stage our Open Gardens weekend where some ten to twelve gardens will be available for people to look round. It is intended that one ticket will cover both days to avoid people having to sprint from one location to another! Although we have a number of gardens on our list, if anyone else has an interesting garden they wouldn't mind people exploring then please let us know.

Our annual Flower Show will be on Saturday 9th August 2014. We hope to have the schedules out by the plant sale in May, but they will also be available from the website as soon as we have finalised all the classes.

If anyone has any ideas for classes particularly in the photography, craft and children's classes then please put your ideas down and drop them in the suggestion boxes in the Post Office and Whimble Stores.

We look forward to seeing you at all these events as well as any others we can arrange during the year. All these details are on the VPA website, www.whimblevpa.org.uk

Paul Wilson,

Hon. Secretary.

Whimble Victory Hall

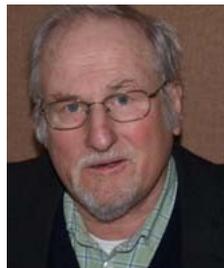


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***There will be no Soup 'n Sarnie in February
(because it's Panto time)***

District Councillor's Report



Welcome to the New Year, traditionally a time to look forward to a new and bright future full of hope and cheer so I wish you all a happy and prosperous year in 2014. Personally, I am glad to see the end of 2013 as it has been a year of funerals for me so I look forward to 2014 with some hope.

Pithayes Farm, Whimble:- a Lesson for all Parish Councils.

As you probably know, there have been several planning applications for Solar Farms in the Whimble area this year which have all been approved by the planning committee. However, I have noticed as the year has progressed that there has been a movement in the thinking of the planning committee members against this proliferation of Solar Farms. This movement in thinking appears to have culminated in the rejection of the Pithayes application at the Chairman's delegated meeting at the end of October, meaning that it did not have to go through Planning Committee scrutiny. From the number of queries that I am still receiving about this application it is obvious that not everybody in the ward has heard that it has been rejected, for which I apologise.

Whimble is not yet out of the wood on this one however, because there is always the possibility that the application will go to appeal where our decision could be overturned by the inspector. So watch this space for any updates. What I hope that this planning decision means, in a wider East Devon context, is that it shows that it is possible to challenge the current torrent of solar farm applications.

The Sudden Rush of Housing, Planning Applications in the Ward

Talking to a Talaton resident just before Christmas about the sudden appearance of two separate proposals for quite large housing developments in the village of Talaton, compels me to mention that no hard and fast maximum number has been established for any community in E.D.D.C. by the Local Plan. The numbers established are merely the current minimum that every community must establish. Thus, for Talaton the number five is merely the minimum number that the plan has proposed between now and 2026. Similarly the number twenty is only the minimum.

You may remember that last year the Council asked landowners to indicate parcels of land that they may wish to develop in an attempt to create a bank of possible building land in the individual parishes. At the moment, the N.P.P.F. (the National Planning Policy Framework - whose dominating principle is to encourage and facilitate the development of housing) dominates the local plan and until the Council's new plan has been accepted it will continue to do so (See my comments upon this later). In addition, do remember that the Planning Committee may propose acceptance or rejection of a particular proposal but, in reality, our decisions to reject plans can always be overturned on appeal. Finally, remember that in the

second half of 2013 the government has been changing the framework of controls on building by introducing a variety of measures that increase the number of houses being developed at the expense of office accommodation and other categories of non domestic buildings.

The consequence of all these innovations has been that the democratic function of the electors becomes more important in attempting to prevent excessive housing development occurring.

The Experience of Feniton, an example of more than the Minimum Number

An article in the Honiton Pullmans reminds us just how much more than the minimum number the planning process can throw up. The 'super inquiry' into potential housing development at Feniton (where developers are appealing against rejection of their plans to increase the size of the village by 40%) is a grim reminder of how planning can get out of control. This meeting was scheduled to be held at the Bowling Club but as the date has drawn near it has been realised that this is too small to accommodate the numbers of interested residents intending to attend. The new site is going to be the Flybe Training Academy near Exeter Airport, which raises some questions about accessibility as the only transport available will be private car so some villagers may not be able to attend

A Rumour about the possibility of development in railway provision on the Waterloo to Exeter line.

A fellow councillor in conversation with me last week mentioned that he has heard that serious talks are taking place between the County Council, Network Rail and the engineering firm that carries out the bulk of its rail engineering work. The gist of this rumour is that another doubling of the track at the Exeter end of the line is being seriously considered to enhance the number of trains that our line can carry. Remember, this is not official but a very tenuous comment and is not to be treated as a concrete fact yet.

The Local Plan Inquiry

The timetable for the inquiry into the Local Plan has been announced and is available on E.D.D.C's website at www.eastdevon.gov.uk/progofficer where details of the inspection dates and subject matter are laid out. Lasting just under a month the inquiry will start on February the 11th and will cover all aspects of the draft plan which we are all now so familiar with. These include housing, affordable homes, employment, tourism and retail, climate change and the natural environment. In addition, there will be sessions on East Devon's seven towns.

The job of the Inspector will be to consider whether our Local Plan meets the requirements of the 2004 Compulsory Purchase Act as well as with the guidance laid out in the N.P.P.F. Let's hope that this time round the plan is accepted and we can regain some control over the process of planning locally.

Cllr Martin Gammell

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Whimble History Society



Our talks programme for 2014 starts on Friday 28th February with a presentation about the National Coastwatch Institution and should give us an insight into the valuable work of volunteers who try to keep our coast safe for all of us.

The remainder of our talks are dedicated to the commemoration of the centenary of the Great War and will support the work being undertaken by the Society and villagers to research the names on our War Memorial, as well as the numerous local and national events being held live and on TV.

On Friday 21st March, following our AGM, members of the committee will present readings and poetry with a WW1 theme.

On Friday 25th April we will host Yvonne Bell, a renowned speaker and authority on all Edwardian matters, and she will entertain us with her talk 'Love and Marriage Edwardian Style'. This is a humorous but well researched look at aspects of life leading up to the War and will be a perfect scene setter for more serious talks to follow.

On Friday 19th September Dr. Anthony Saunders will explain 'The Evolution of Trench Warfare' and help us understand how and why soldiers of both sides lived (and died) and fought in these vast systems that epitomise this terrible episode in history.

On Friday 21st November Lt. Col. Tim Courteney will inform us of the role of our own Devonshire Regiment in WW1. I can assure you that no one has more knowledge and experience in this field and we are privileged that he has agreed to talk to us.

All our talks are held in the Victory Hall and generally start at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome, although there is a small charge of £2.00 to non members to help cover our costs. We do hope that you support the talks which we believe will be both entertaining and informative.

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News from Whimble Stores

Thank you to everyone who supported us over the Christmas period. We hope those who ordered provisions for Christmas Eve found it a nicer experience, to pop into the local shop for a mince pie and everything packed ready for you, than visiting the supermarkets. Some of you do order from us during the week and weekends and we are always happy to do this.

We are delighted that so many of you are enjoying the excellent quality and flavour of the Dartmoor Beef. They did have a problem with the vacuum packer on their burgers but they have assured us this has now been sorted and they will soon be adding lamb to their supply. We keep some frozen joints, etc in the freezer and can order in any special requirements – let us know by Friday for delivery the following Tuesday – meat is vacuum packed for a longer life i.e. beef usually comes to us with a seven day shelf life. Some of you are also enjoying the wonderful fresh fish from Frank Houldin. You can phone him on a Tuesday night 01823 277669 to place an order and he will deliver it to the shop for you to collect on Wednesday.

A delivery from Little Pod is expected soon. They produce an excellent high quality vanilla paste and they are based in Farringdon. A teaspoon of paste gives a great flavour to a Crème Brulee and wonderful black flecks you would expect from a vanilla pod. If you like cooking and use a lot of pods, you may find this a cheaper and easier alternative.

As you can imagine we have been forced to do the majority of our shopping at the shop and we have found this to be beneficial to how we eat and how much we spend. We buy what we need, and no more, and we know many of you like to pop in for a handful of mushrooms or one parsnip. This means that our cost of food has gone down even though some things are obviously more expensive in the shop. Of course, this only works if you have time to pop in every day or so but we have less waste at home from food and packaging.

To avoid too much waste in the shop we try to buy little and often but this sometimes means at the end of the day stocks run low and we did have a few blips over the Christmas period when orders were missed either by ourselves or suppliers. We try to stock a good supply to service what has previously been demanded but sometimes demand fluctuates and we are left with too much or too little. We reduce the price of bread if it has been on the shelf for 2 days but this should still have a good few days freshness as we bag it as soon as it is received. We are much happier to have little on the shelf at the end of the day and if you know you can't get to us until later in the day, feel free to call us on 01404 822316 and we will keep things back for you.

As always feel free to make requests for us to stock items and we will try to source things. We are still working on the Fresh & Green veg box scheme. If are you interested in a weekly or fortnightly box, please let us know. Produce will be local and seasonal costing £9 or £12 a bag.

Our charity man has collected £8.51 for Movember (donation to be made to Prostate cancer UK) and £31.88 for Whimble Scouts (this includes nearly £15 from the sale of community produce). We haven't yet counted out the December/January collection for NSPCC .

Thanks for all your support.

Mark and Jenny.

OVER 65'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 6th December last year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Over 65's Christmas Party. It had been started in 1963 by the ladies of the WI, but over the years it became a separate committee so that anyone could become involved. Until 1994 the invitations were delivered by hand to anyone who was eligible, but once the Whimble News came into being, the invitation was incorporated in each October issue which made everything a lot easier.

In the early days there were over 90 people attending, but more recently we have been catering for around 65-70. It has always been provided completely free. Fund raising has been done by various groups, notably the cricket club and the two pubs. In Whiteways days, the brewery donated whisky to give the party-goers a 'warmer' before going home. A three course meal was served, followed by an entertainment and the evening finished with a raffle.

Many ladies were involved with planning, cooking, serving and clearing up. Lucy Smith was the leading light of the event and actually organised it for 40 years with a hard working team of ladies from the village, Anne Hardcastle and Ena Joyce were also involved from the beginning. I took over the running of the event when Lucy retired, with a small committee, and of course all the usual helpers on the day.

The current committee and I are now giving up. It is time for someone else to take over.

I do hope that someone out there will feel like taking this on. It would be such a shame if this historic village event went out of existence. The hall is provisionally booked for the first Friday in December and we are leaving a very healthy bank balance so you wouldn't have to worry about fund raising. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Ann Bowden. 823450

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A reflection on CRAMBROOK



I expect that we all have different feelings as we drive cycle or walk around Crambrook, but for me it is just a huge disappointment of such a wasted opportunity.

In the early days, when the hype from DCC and EDDC was at full throttle, I was cautiously optimistic that something really special was about to be created, the much used syllable 'Eco' and that really overworked buzz phrase "sustainable development" spattered every web page and Newspaper, we were being battered by the green promises, and the refreshing novelty of it all!(sic)

Well what is it? For me just the same old sprawl of Persimmon no 3s, Bovis 8s, and Wain 6s, shoehorned in by a computer.

It amazes me how so many **Professional Planners**, having spent five or six years in University education, and undoubtedly having had a holiday or two in France....can simply approve the same mass housing blotch.

Do you think that they might have collapsed under the usual greed machine?

Mr Bovis and the rest must be toppling off their wallets....again....and , again..and to add just a serious point, were they not taught about

Garden Cities , a wonderful British design concept,

and weren't they dragged screaming to go and see a few?

These can accomplish all the objectives of boring mass housing and be immersed in beauty so ecologically diverse that it can outstrip the surrounding countryside, and our lot had a pretty clean sheet to start with!

Oh well,

Hugh Roberts

Visit:www.sidmouthindependantnews.wordpress.com for a wisp of hope....

New Years Eve in The Square

It was good to see so many people in The Square to see in the New Year. Jan and John Discombe have asked me to thank everyone who donated wine.

I also thank them on behalf of all of us who enjoyed a cup of their mulled wine that evening. Long may the tradition continue.

Bob Scanlan

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THE FUN RUN DESPERATELY NEEDS SOME HELP

We need an enthusiastic person or group of people to help arrange the Annual Village Fun Run – and you don't have to be a runner to be just the person we need. The Fun Run is currently part of our Village Week events and if you agree to take it on you will be offered help and support from the Village Week Team. However, you will also be free to make your own organisational changes including the date, the route and the distance. It's a great fund raiser for any organisation.

As it stands we don't have an organiser, so this popular event may not happen this year. So please give it some thought and let me know – Sue Ayres 823082 or sue@reubenayres.com

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Do you have any photographs, memorabilia or stories relating to Whimble or Devon from the time of The Great War 1910-1920?

Do you have any stories of family members from The Great War?

If you do, we will be very pleased to hear from you and perhaps your family history and artefacts can become a part of our Exhibition – opening in the Heritage Centre this Easter.

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or speak to any member of the History Society Committee



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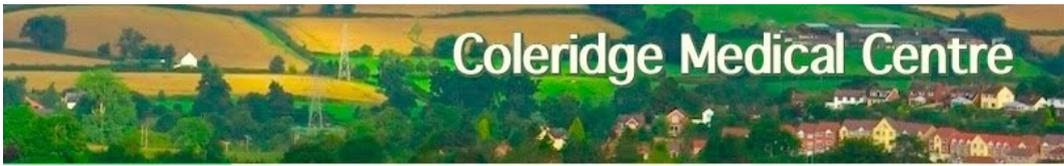
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NEW APPOINTMENT SYSTEM By Dr Sam Cole

Our appointment system has been operating at maximum capacity for the last few years. We have all been working very hard to provide enough appointments yet we realise that some of you have found it difficult to make an appointment with your own doctor within a reasonable time frame.

As we reported back in the summer we have all been involved in looking at ways to improve your access to our services. Our patient numbers are increasing and our patients' problems are becoming more complex. More work traditionally done at the hospital is being done by your GP or practice nurse. We have tried to take all of this into account as we designed the new appointment system.

Our new system will encourage you to see your own registered GP. This is by far the safest, most effective and efficient way for both patient and doctor. It means that, when you see your own doctor, the appointment will be about you and your current problem rather than being asked to go over your past problems with a doctor who does not know you.

We realise that your own doctor may not always be available. To ensure that you can usually get an appointment with a doctor who knows you (and in some cases will get to know you) our GPs are going to work in teams. Therefore, if your own doctor is unavailable, you can see or speak to another doctor within the same team. Behind the scenes this doctor may already be reviewing your test results, signing your repeat prescriptions and reading your own doctor's post.

For routine, non urgent appointments we would like you to book appointments two to three weeks in advance. This enables us to manage our urgent appointments more effectively.

For times when you need to see a doctor within the next few days, perhaps you are not getting on with your new medicine or you are having a flare up of a problem you have already seen your doctor about, you may be offered a telephone consultation. Your doctor will then be able to deal with your problem over the phone or find you an appointment to see them.

For times when you feel very unwell and need to see a health professional today PLEASE phone our receptionists who will ask you some questions about the nature of your illness. The receptionists will then be able to find the right appointment for you. This may be with our excellent team of nurse practitioners who will be managing most minor illnesses, freeing up the duty doctor to deal with more critical episodes of illness or it may be that the duty doctor will call you back and see you themselves.

As many of you already know there is not much a doctor or nurse can do about viral coughs, colds and sore throats. We would encourage you to self treat your minor illnesses at home. Your pharmacist will always be able to give you advice if you need it.

Our highly skilled, experienced and caring practice nurses, health care assistants and phlebotomists will continue to offer a comprehensive range of services to support your health and well being. We also offer a limited number of 'nurse on the day' appointments for urgent nursing requests.

Our fantastic team of community district nurses are available to treat at home our housebound patients. Please only request a home visit if you are too unwell or frail to come to the surgery. If you think you need a doctor to visit you at home please call the surgery before 11.00am. You can often be more appropriately treated and investigated at the surgery rather than at home. Through the HELP scheme we offer transport to and from your doctors surgery for appointments Please ask the receptionists for more information.

To get ready for the new appointment system during January our GPs will be offering appointments outside their usual availability to clear any backlog of patients who need to be seen.

By changing our system we hope that you and your doctor will be able to return to a more personalised service with your own GP managing their own patients.



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Fleas and Worms

Fleas are not only uncomfortable for your pet, but also for you! Fleas rapidly multiply in your house and cause painful bites. Fleas also carry a range of other diseases that affect your pet and can also cause a fatal anaemia in young animals. Regularly treating your pet for fleas with an appropriate medication can save you and your animal a lot of discomfort. REMEMBER - NEVER apply a dog spot-on treatment to your cat, it can be fatal.

Worms can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and malnutrition especially in young puppies. Some worms can cause serious health problems in humans, especially during pregnancy and for young children. Worming your pet every three months with an appropriate medication is recommended.

Tooth decay

We always clean our teeth, but have you ever thought about cleaning your pet's teeth?? Nearly all animals over seven years have some form of tooth decay. This leads to infections and bad breath, and can make heart problems worse. This may result in your pet needing an anaesthetic to remove teeth which can be a very lengthy procedure for an elderly animal. Fortunately cleaning your pet's teeth even weekly can dramatically reduce the risk of tooth decay.

Pyometra (womb infection)/mammary tumours/testicular cancer/prostate problems.

Animals that are not neutered can get a range of hormone related problems including womb infections, mammary tumours, testicular cancer and prostate problems. Neutering your pet at an early age can reduce the risk of contracting these problems sometimes by 100%. Neutering also prevents unwanted litters, straying, scent marking and aggression.

Infectious diseases

Vaccination against many of the more common fatal diseases (including parvovirus, leptospirosis and kennel cough), is usually annually and is relatively inexpensive.

Many veterinary practices now run schemes that allow you to budget for your preventative health care. This generally involves paying a monthly fee which allows you to pick up all your flea/worm treatment and vaccinations without paying at the time. These schemes usually come with added benefits including discounted neutering/dental care/food and out of hours fees. Visit your veterinary practice today to help promote a happy and healthy life for your pet!

(with thanks to Vale Vets)

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The annual Wayfarers Lunch will be held on Saturday February 15th from 12.00noon - 2.00pm at the British Legion Hall in West Hill.

As usual there will be a choice of three main courses (meats/fish/quiche, etc.,) and lots of delicious desserts, all homemade.

This is a popular event, so it's advisable to buy tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.

The ticket price remains at £8.50, and can be bought from -

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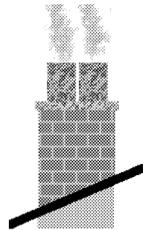
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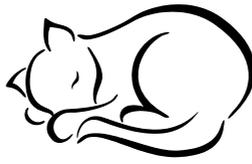
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INSPIRING WOMEN

In December we enjoyed our usual Christmas Party and a good time was had by one and all. Unfortunately our scheduled speaker for the January meeting was unable to fulfil the advertised engagement, so we had an interesting talk on fashion using recycled clothing instead.

An informal lunch was hosted by Ann Bowden and the profit was sent to 'Send a Cow' to go towards the purchase of a sewing machine to be used by African women.

There was an informal skittles match against Ottery St Mary - played at Talaton and Whimble WI enjoyed a social skittles evening at Broadclyst.

There is usually a variety of activities during the month and if you are interested in becoming member please contact our President, Pam Scanlan, (822262) who will give you further details.

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WHIMPLE CHURCH

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It doesn't seem that long since Christmas but already we are looking forward to Easter. Ash Wednesday is on 5th March and we will be holding a 'Service of Penitence and Healing' at 7.00pm at St James the Great in Talaton. Lent is a special time for prayer. During Lent there will be a series of special Lent Lunches held in Clyst Hydon and Talaton. Further details will be found in March's edition of The Link.

The 7th to 14th February is National Marriage week. To mark this there will be a special marriage theme to the service on 9th February. During this service there will also be a Dedication for the new Mothers' Union kneeler.

We have also got a number of other special services planned for Mothers' Day on 30th March and over the Easter period. Full details of these will be in The Link.



If you are aged 11 or over would you like to join our Impact Group. We meet twice a month on Sunday evenings and every session usually involves Cake! For more information contact **Helen Bowker** on 823193

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Changes to charitable giving at St Mary's Whimple

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has decided to alter the way in which it gives to the charities it has chosen to support. Rather than sending cheques from PCC funds, the PCC has decided to give to the work of the local, national and international charities it supports in the following ways:

Firstly, the third Sunday Celebration service each month will focus on a particular charity and an offering will be taken at that service to support their work.

Secondly, there will be periodic events (for example, coffee mornings), to raise funds for these specific charities as well as providing opportunities to bring community folk together.

Thirdly, we will continue to invite speakers from these charities to speak at the Men's and Ladies' breakfasts that take place two or three times a year.

The charities that the PCC will seek to support in these ways are:

January: St Petrock's, the Exeter based charity which works with the homeless. St Petrocks also benefits from the proceeds from our village carol singing and the gifts of Harvest produce.

February and March: El Shaddai, which works with street children in India. The PCC has a standing commitment to support a child's education through this charity and this will continue.

April and May: Exeter Street Pastors, an inter-denominational Church charity which responds to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue.

June and July: Mothers' Union Overseas Fund, helping families in adversity all over the world.

Sept and Oct: Tear Fund, the international Christian charity which seeks to alleviate poverty and to transform communities through local churches

Nov and Dec: Christians Against Poverty, a national debt counselling charity working through a network of centres based in local churches

We will continue to donate the offerings from the Remembrance Sunday service and the Christingle service to the Royal British Legion and The Children's Society respectively.

The PCC hopes that these steps will not only help to alleviate some of the financial pressure that the church is facing at present, but will also help us to be more proactive in promoting and raising the profile of the charities it supports.

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Christmas Concert

The annual Ottery St Mary Choral Society Christmas Concert took place on December 14th. There were two main works, the Great Organ Mass by Haydn and Mozart's "Linz" Symphony, as well as some excerpts from Handel's Messiah. The Parish Church, beautifully lit and looking at its best, was filled to capacity.

The Haydn Mass was probably new to most of the audience but is a piece ideally suited to a Society such as Ottery St Mary. The title "Great Organ Mass" is somewhat misleading, for this is not a great piece in the sense of being either long or grand. Michael Gascoigne-Pees gave an excellent account of the tenor solo in the melodic *Et Incarnatus Est*, and this was followed by good and accurate singing by the semi-chorus in the *Benedictus*; Kyle Hayes, Libby Staples, Pauline Belton, Pip Gascoigne-Pees, John Maybery, Chris Startup, Jamie Aylward and David Batty.

The choir also performed three lesser-known carols, including the delicate unaccompanied Coventry Carol. The congregational carols filled the church with beautiful sounds, especially when the ladies of the choir launched into their soaring descants. The evening ended with a sociable glass of wine and mince pies and the retiring collection for Hospiscare raised the wonderful sum of £360.

Classics Galore Concert

On 9 November 2013 the Ottery Choral Society were delighted to be part of the biennial Classics Galore Concert in Exeter. A choir of more than one hundred voices, the Lypstone Band and the Classics Galore Symphony Orchestra entertained an audience of over one thousand with a wide selection of music culminating in a Last Night of the Proms finale. The sum of £15,000 raised for the Force Cancer Charity brings the total raised by the series of four concerts to £50,000.

Easter Concert

The next concert will be on **Saturday April 13th** at 7.30pm in Ottery Parish Church, where you will have the opportunity to hear Mendelssohn's Oratorio "St. Paul." A glass of wine and light refreshments will be offered after the concert as usual.

Tickets will be available from Stagestruck in Ottery St. Mary (811311) or from Society members. We would like to thank all of you who supported us at the Christmas and Classics Galore concerts and we look forward to seeing you again at the Easter Concert.

For more information regarding OSMCS please contact: osmcs@hotmail.co.uk or **Annie Bassett** - Chairman - 823331

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Advice and treatment for hair and scalp disorders

Having spent the last two years commuting from Whimble to London for monthly tutorials, I graduated from The Institute of Trichologists as an Associate Member in September 2013. I then set up Exeter Trichology, a dedicated clinic specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the hair and scalp. This is only the second trichological clinic in Devon. I first became interested in trichology some twenty years ago after suffering a diffuse hair loss and scalp condition and sought the advice of a trichologist in Gloucester. Having previously trained as a registered nurse, I took a career break when I had my children, and it was only when my youngest child started school that I was able to fulfill my ambition.

With so many sources of information available today it can often be overwhelming for anyone suffering from hair or scalp disorders. Television, newspapers and the internet may give misleading advice to people who are often curious and sometimes vulnerable to find the latest products and treatments for “miracle cures”.

Hair loss

Whilst many men anticipate age related hair loss, hair loss in women is usually unexpected and unwelcome at any age. 45% of women experience some type of hair loss by the time they are 50. Female pattern hair loss is the commonest cause of hair loss in women and prevalence increases with age.

Male pattern hair loss or androgenetic alopecia is an inherited condition accounting for 95% of cases of hair loss in men. Around 40% of men show noticeable hair loss by the age of 35! The rate of hair loss is extremely variable, some men go completely bald in under five years but most take fifteen to twenty five years to progress. Of course male and female pattern hair loss is only one type of hair loss and there are many other reasons why we lose our hair, from hormone changes during pregnancy or the menopause, nutritional deficiencies, poor hair dressing techniques, periods of illness, medication and scalp damage or disease or any combination of these factors.

The most important thing about hair loss is to seek advice from a specialist. There are currently only two FDA approved products for treating androgenetic alopecia, Minoxidil (Regaine) and Finasteride (Propecia), the later only being approved for use in men. Results differ with each individual and are not guaranteed. Early diagnosis and treatment is desirable as treatments are often more effective at arresting progression of hair loss than stimulating regrowth. There are no over the counter treatments that are going to grow hair, despite their claims! However there are measures that can optimize hair growth and improve the appearance of your hair with the right diagnosis and treatment.

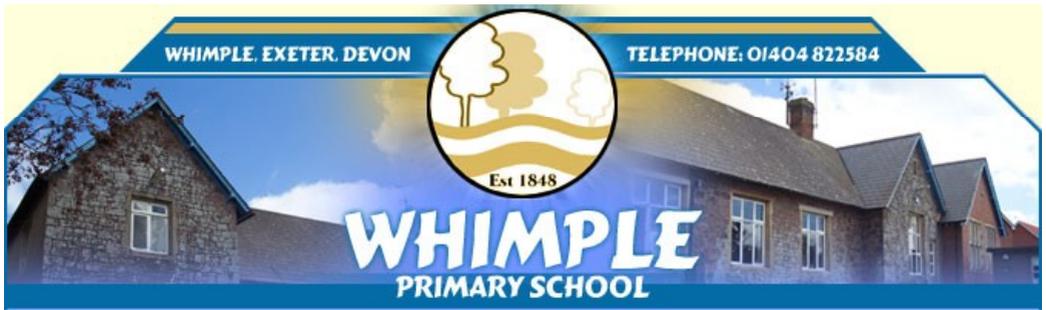
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Nicola Hemsley Trichologist

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E-ON DRAMA WORKSHOP

We thought it was going to be a normal day at school, but it was not.

This is how the day started; Alan came down from the Victory Hall to have a private chat with Mr Brown. Then Willow Class walked up to the hall and, to our surprise, we realized Alan had organized a play in a day for us.

We started off with the electricity quiz. The winning team was a group of four people, but the team that came second were very close.

Next, after break time (and a little bit before) we started to learn an electricity song about turning electrical objects off.

After lunch our class (Willow Class) started to rehearse the play, so we know what you are thinking; what was the play about? It is actually about an evil Lord Electrify trying to take over planet earth by sucking out all the electricity from earth but the E-onators were there to stop him.

In the afternoon the play was performed and to our surprise it actually went very well.

By **Max, Sam W, Megan M and Joseph T** (year 4)



IMPISI

On the 14th of November, Clive Essame, a playwright, came into school and worked with class 5, seeing how well we could interpret African animals. Soon we found out we were going to be in a play.

(We also learnt that Impisi means hyena in Zulu) The characters ranged from huge animals to really tiny ones – like the fly!

Mrs Killen and us worked REALLY hard practising on the play - We also made great masks which we painted ourselves. Although our actions were good, we needed them!

We performed the play on Friday the 6th of December to the whole school and parents and it went really well!

Afterwards we received lots of very lovely comments from Mr Brown's class. All of the comments included great words including:

"Spectacular, Epic, Extremely Amazing, Cool, Magnificent, Awesome, Brilliant, Fantastic, Amusing and Love It!"

Morgan Wrote: "I am commenting on Beech classes play, Impisi. It was very funny. When Dylan (my brother) was the vulture he said "watch out I'm coming in, clear the decks!". It was all very good. I think the play was supposed to teach you not to make fun of disabled people, even if they are hurt or ill. I also liked the ostriches because they came into the audience and pecked us."

This was the first time Impisi was performed in England!

By **Eva Penney**



Jack and the Beanstalk.

On Tuesday 7th January we all went to see a pantomime in the Victory Hall. It was great fun. The characters were Jack, his mum, Squire Bogey, Jill, the Giant, his baby, Humpty Dumpty, Old Mother Hubbard and Tiddles the cat and Buttercup the cow.

There was lots of singing and dancing and the funniest bit was when Mr Brown put on a long green wig and pretended to play the guitar. We all laughed. Everybody had good time and we would all like to say a great big THANK YOU to FOWS for giving us the money to pay for the show.

By **Lizzie and Sam** (Year 3)

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St. Mary's Church	
<i>Parish Priest:</i> Chris Martin	822427
<i>SClub11 & Impact:</i> Maggie and Ian Spicer	823640
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Peter Bowden	823450
East Devon Councillor	
Martin Gammell	823535
Whimble Primary School (admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk)	
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<i>Chair of Governors:</i> Maria Wallis	823992
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<i>Chairman:</i> David Rastall	822486
<i>Secretary:</i> Roger Smith	822244
Whimble Mothers Union	
Margaret Burrough	822257
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<i>Playleader:</i> Tanya Chitty	823549
<i>Toddlers:</i> Caroline Rowe	07968 120255
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Whimble Over Sixties Club	
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Whimble Book Group	
Katy Howard	823038

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