

# **Whimble News**

**Oct/Nov 2025**

---



Help the Heritage Centre plan its future  
See the centre pages

**Find Whimble News online:**

**[www.whimblenews.uk](http://www.whimblenews.uk)**



**St Mary's Church, Whimple**

invites you to its traditional

**Harvest Festival**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

12pm service followed by a

**bring & share lunch**

**in the church**

Please join us & bring your own  
plate, bowl, cutlery & glass



Everyone is welcome. We ask that anyone who wants to come, to please let me know as we need to decide how many tables and chairs to put out. You can either sign up at the back of the church or email me at:

[jane.e.clements@gmail.com](mailto:jane.e.clements@gmail.com).

Remember, there will be no Coffee and Cake that day

# Hello Whimpe News Readers,

I hope you're all keeping well and had a glorious summer filled with sunshine, cider, and maybe a few too many cream teas. The first leaf has fallen, the apples are beginning to be picked, and autumn has officially strutted into town wearing its finest muddy boots.

I celebrated my 40th birthday in *Viva Las Vegas!* - because what better way to mark the start of midlife than with neon lights, slot machines, and 25,000 steps a day trying to find the exit to the hotel lobby? I swear, the moment I hit 40, my knees started creaking like an old pub door. Ageing is real, folks. But as dazzling as Vegas was, nothing beats coming home to our peaceful, leaf-strewn village.

I left in 35°C heat and landed in 15°C drizzle—classic British welcome! Here's my favourite snap from the trip.



## So, what's happening this season in Whimpe?

- 🍂 **Harvest Festival** at St Mary's Church – Saturday 11th October, followed by a service and possibly a few rogue pumpkins
- 🔥 **Bonfire Night** at the Cricket Club – Saturday 1st November (page 13 for tickets and marshmallow strategy)
- 📖 **Whimpe Boundary Update** – Cllr Todd Olive spills the beans on page 15
- 🎬 **Front Row Club** – Monthly film nights continue (page 17 for popcorn intel)
- 🎭 **Pantomime Open Evening** – Monday 20th October, 20:00–22:00 at The Thirsty Farmer. If you've ever shouted "He's behind you!" in public, this is your moment (page 18)
- 🎄 **Christmas Already?!** – Yes, we said it. Tale Valley Choir performance dates are on page 29 - consider this your festive warning
- 🏠 **Men's Shed** – A brilliant space for men to connect, share stories, and maybe build something that doesn't wobble. See pages 26–27
- 🍇 **Whimpe Fest Needs You!** – Our beloved festival is under threat. If you can lend a hand, turn to page 40 and become a local legend

Let's embrace the season with muddy walks, warm jumpers, and enough apple crumble to see us through till spring. 🍏

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind - and make it local."

Sam x

*The New*  
**FOUNTAIN INN**

Olde Worlde family run Free house in the heart of Whimple.

Real Ales.

Local Ciders.

Good Food.

Open 7 days a week 11am -11pm.

Serving food from Wednesday through to Sunday.

Lunch is served from 12pm – 2:30pm Wed – Sat.

Evening meals are served from 5:30pm – 8:30pm Wed –Fri.

Evening meals are served from 6pm - 9pm on Sat.

Sunday meals are served from 12pm – 6pm.

Bookings can be made via the phone or through our website.

Tel 01404 643730 [www.newfountaininn.com](http://www.newfountaininn.com)



See our over 65s Menu  
on the next page



A LOCAL PUB FOR ALL



Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for info on upcoming events, such as quiz nights, open mic and live music.

# OVER 65s

2 Courses for £12

## MAINS

### **Devon Red Cider Battered Haddock <sup>+</sup>**

Served with chunky chips & Chef's own tartar sauce

### **Vegetable Curry <sup>(M)+</sup>**

Served with basmati rice & a poppadom

### **Chicken Curry <sup>+</sup>**

Served with basmati rice & a poppadom

### **Steak & Ale Pie <sup>+</sup>**

Served with creamy mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables

### **Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni <sup>(M)</sup>**

Served with garlic bread

### **Home cooked Ham <sup>+</sup>**

Served with chips & a brace of eggs

## DESSERT

Please see our Specials Board for today's options

**The Square  
Whimble  
EX5 2SN**



**01404  
822316**

**Sharon and the Team welcome you to our Stores and Coffee Shop for fresh Devon bread, milk, vegetables and eggs. Frozen, fresh and canned foods. Cards, stamps, Gift Cards, stationery and more.**

**We also provide Parcel sending and collection, bill payments, electricity and phone top-ups, gift cards and cash withdrawals.**

### **Opening Times**

Mondays to Fridays	08:00 to 18:00
Saturdays and Sundays	09:00 to 12:00
Public Holidays	08:00 to 12:00

# What's On In Whimple

## October

- Mon 6th History Society (HS) volunteers' get-together at the New Fountain Inn (NFI) 11am-12noon
- Mon 6th Surgery with District Councillor Todd Olive at the Hive, opposite the Thirsty Farmer (TF), 4-7pm.
- Wed 8th Short Mat Bowls every Wed in the Victory Hall (VH) at 7pm. All welcome.
- Fri 10th HS talk A bottled History of Whiteway's and it's advertising by Jo Yarwood at the Victory Hall. 7.30pm
- Sat 11th Traditional Harvest Festival. St Mary's Church. 12noon
- Sat 11th Front Row Club in VH. Film begins at 7.40pm following brief AGM. The Ballad of Wallis Island
- Sun 12th Cash Bingo. New Fountain. 7.30pm
- Tue 14th WI. The end of Romanov Russia - Stewart Raine. 2pm
- Sat 18th Live Music at NFI with Roger Styles
- Sun 19th Harvest Gathering St Mary's Church. Informal nibbles at 10.15 then service 10.30 - 11.30. Non-perishable food gifts optional.
- Sun 19th Quiz Night. New Fountain. 7.30pm
- Mon 20th Whimple Parish Council meeting. Victory Hall. 7pm. All welcome.
- Mon 20th Whimpletons Open Evening. Thirsty Farmer 8-10pm. All welcome.
- Fri 24th Talk arranged by Whimple Gardening Club at the Hall. Caradoc Doy on How to fit gardening into a busy lifestyle. 7.30pm.
- Sat 25th Soup and Sarnie in the Victory Hall. 12md to 1.30pm. All welcome.
- Fri 31st Live music at the Thirsty Farmer

## November

- Sat 1st Bonfire Night with a Halloween theme at Whimple Cricket Club. Tickets now on sale online.
- Sun 2nd Open Mic Night. New Fountain. From 7pm.
- Sun 2nd HS talk RAF Exeter during 1937 - 45 by Chris Wiseman. VH at 3pm.
- Mon 3rd HS volunteers' get-together at the New Fountain 11am-12noon
- Mon 3rd Surgery with District Councillor Todd Olive at the Hive, opp TF, 4-7pm.
- Tue 4th Meeting EDDC Strategic Planning Committee. Meetings can be viewed on EDDC YouTube
- Wed 5th Whimple Community Choir restarts. St Mary's Church 7pm. All welcome
- Thurs 6th Quiz Night at the Thirsty Farmer. 8-10pm.
- Fri 7th Whimple Gardening Club Quiz night.
- Sat 8th Front Row Club in VH. Film begins at 7.30pm. Mission Impossible The Final Reckoning.
- Sun 9th Cash Bingo. New Fountain. 7.30pm
- Tue 11th WI. An illustrated talk about East Devon Lace - Carol McFadzean. 2pm
- Fri 14th Gardening Club Quiz night in VH at 7.30pm.
- Sun 16th Quiz Night. New Fountain. 7.30pm
- Mon 17th Whimple Parish Council meeting. Victory Hall. 7pm. All welcome.

- Sat 22nd Cotley Christmas opens until 24th December. Book online.  
 Fri 28th HS talk. I bought a Church The Story of the Sidmouth Toy and Model Museum by Ian Gregory at the VH 7.30pm.  
 Fri 28th Live music. Thirsty farmer  
 Sat 29th Soup and Sarnie in the Victory Hall. 12md to 1.30pm All welcome.  
 Sat 29th History Society Christmas Fayre. Heritage Centre 1.30 – 4.30pm.  
 Sun 30th Christmas Wreath making courses in VH. 2 Sessions. Awaiting details.

## December

- Mon 1st HS volunteers' get-together at the New Fountain 11am-12noon  
 Mon 1st Surgery with District Councillor Todd Olive at the Hive, opp TF, 4-7pm.  
 Thurs 4th Quiz night at the Thirsty Farmer 8-10pm.  
 Sun 7th Open Mic Night. New Fountain. From 7pm.  
 Sat 13th Soup and Sarnie in the Victory Hall. Xmas Special.  
 Sun 14th Cash Bingo. NFI at 7.30pm. Book table.  
 Mon 15th Whimble Parish Council meeting. Victory Hall. 7pm. All welcome.  
 Tues 16th Candle-night Yoga 6.30pm in the Victory Hall  
 Wed 17th Tale Valley Choir. Talaton Church. 7pm  
 Sat 20th Live Music with Club Classics Experience at NFI

## Whimble 250k Club – Autumn Update

Thank you for your continued support of our monthly lottery. Since starting in April 2024, the 250k club has grown to become the single largest source of fundraising income for the Victory Hall. It is now contributing approximately £400 a month to our restoration fund.

Draws continue to be held monthly. Prizes vary based on the number of players but, at the moment, they are approximately £80 and £55 for the first and second drawn numbers respectively. Winners are notified directly, and the winning numbers are posted in the hall foyer.

Your support has supercharged the trustees' efforts to secure the fabric of the building and to progress our extension plans. Over the last few months, we have been working on the following:

Roof strengthening works in the main hall (completed over May half term)

New insulated roof for the main hall (completed over the school summer holidays)

Planning permission for the proposed extension (submitted earlier in the Summer; outcome expected soon)

If you know anyone who would like to join the lottery, then please ask them to pick up a form at the hall or email: [whimble250kclub@gmail.com](mailto:whimble250kclub@gmail.com).

Similarly, please contact us if you have previously joined but your payments have lapsed, and you wish to continue.

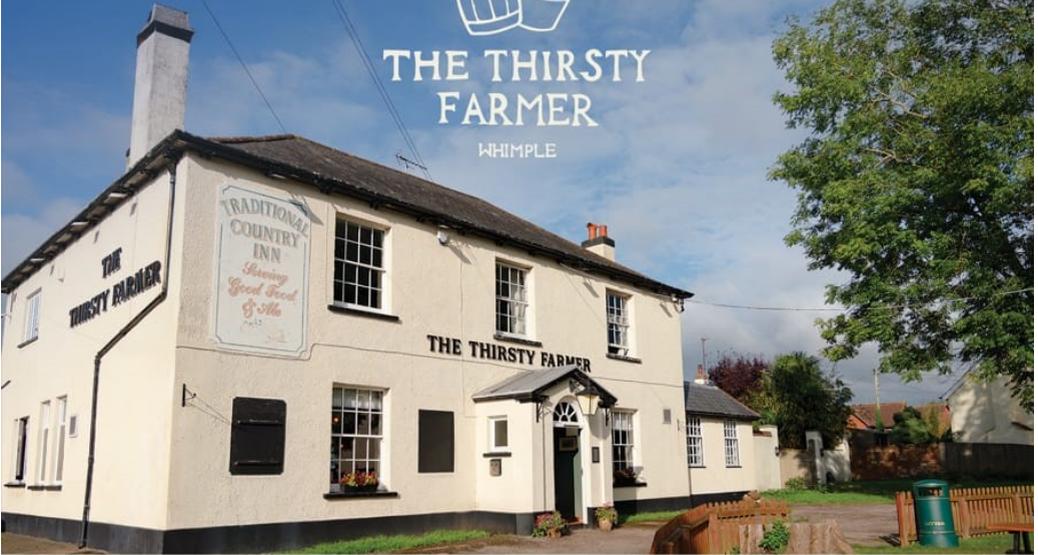
**Rob Davis.** Vice Chair, Whimble Victory Hall





# THE THIRSTY FARMER

WHIMPLE



- Live music last Friday of the month
- Pool table and darts
- Quiz night first Thursday of the month
- Dog friendly
- Tasty menu with weekly specials
- Large pub garden and children's play area

## OPENING HOURS

### MON – THU

Open: 12:00 – 22:00

Lunch served: 12:00 – 14.30

Dinner served: 17:00-21:00

### FRI – SAT

Open: 12:00 – 23:00

Lunch served: 12:00 – 14.30

Dinner served: 17:00-21:00

### SUN

Open: 12:00 – 22.30

Food served: 12:00 – 18:00

**Keep up to date**



@thethirstyfarmerwhimple



01392 305146



www.thethirstyfarmer.com

The Thirsty Farmer, Whimple, EX5 2QQ

I'm writing at the request of Revd Marc Kerlake.

The purpose is to let you have early news of a 'Harvest Gathering' on Sunday 19th October at 10:30am, at St Mary's Whimple, with very informal drinks/cake/biscuits beforehand at 10:15am.

As well as celebrating Harvest, there will be a baptism, traditional hymns as well as contemporary music. We'll aim to keep the 'service' part of the Gathering to an hour, finishing close to 11:30am, enabling you to leave promptly for family lunches etc!

Children (or adults) who want to carry a harvest gift up to the altar rail will have the opportunity to do so during one of the songs. This is entirely optional. If you do bring a harvest gift, it would ideally be non-perishable food so that it can be donated to the Cranbrook Food Hub (see below #).

Hoping very much to see you again on 19th October, if not before!

Mark Beedel



The poster is for the Cranbrook Food Hub, located at the Cranbrook Education Campus. It features a red circular graphic with the text 'Cranbrook Food HUB' and a yellow arrow pointing to the right. The top right corner has the 'EX5-ALIVE Cranbrook Community Support' logo and the text 'New hub at the Campus'. The bottom left corner has a yellow box with the text 'WHAT WE DO:' and a list of services. The bottom right corner has a yellow box with the text 'WHY WE ARE HERE?' and a list of reasons. The bottom of the poster has a yellow bar with the text 'AT THE CRANBROOK EDUCATION CAMPUS EX5 7EE'. The poster also includes contact information for Aynsley Jones and logos for Wellbeing Cranbrook, foodbank, and Ex5-Alive.

**CRANBROOK EDUCATION CAMPUS**

**EX5-ALIVE**  
Cranbrook Community Support  
New hub at the Campus

# Cranbrook Food HUB

**What we do:**

- Food for anyone feeling the pinch
- A friendly place to have a cuppa
- Signposting to support within the community
- Access to the Cranbrook Wellbeing Team

**WHY WE ARE HERE?**

- To support people through the cost of living crisis
- To ensure everyone has equal support within our community

**OPENING TIMES:**  
**Every Thursday**  
**5PM - 7PM**

**Steps to accessing food**  
- Just come along with or without a referral as everyone is welcome.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

PHONE AYNsLEY JONES 01404 823293 EXT 263  
EMAIL: AYNsLEY.JONES@CRANBROOK.EDUCATION

WELLBEING CRANBROOK  
foodbank  
EX5-ALIVE Cranbrook Community Support

AT THE CRANBROOK EDUCATION CAMPUS EX5 7EE

The Cranbrook Food Hub say the items they most need are:

- Small jars of instant Coffee
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Vegetarian meals
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- Shampoo

At the moment the Food Hub does not need pasta, soup or baked beans

# Whimble Parish Council

## Grant and donation applications

The Parish Council is happy to receive applications from local community and voluntary organisations with a maximum limit of £300 and one application per year. Applications are subject to the criteria set out in the Council's Policy (which is available on the website) and includes the following:

- Only one application for a grant will be considered in each financial year
- Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made
- A limit of £300.00 per organisation will be applied except for exceptional circumstances.
- The organisation must be non-profit making (and not an individual)
- Grants are not made retrospectively
- The organisation must be one that, in some way, benefits the local community
- The organisation may be asked to demonstrate a clear need for financial support by providing a description of the project / activity for which a contribution is needed



Applications will next be considered at the November Council meeting and applications must be with the Clerk by 31 October 2025.

If you would like more information, please get in touch.

## Community Speed Watch Initiative

This is a final call for volunteers and a new co-ordinator for the Community Speed Watch (CSW) Initiative.

The Council receives lots of complaints regarding traffic and speeding in the village and is liaising with Devon County Council Highways to try to improve the situation. However, it is unlikely that Highways will be able to do anything without an evidence base showing the scale and consistency of the problem. Parish Councillors are volunteering but we need help from volunteers to run this initiative.

If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch.

## Webpage for the Whimble Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has set up a page on the website which contains useful information and the evidence base for the Whimble Neighbourhood Plan. The page will also include updates and frequently asked questions. Please visit:

[www.whimbleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.whimbleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **Next Parish Council meetings**

The remaining Parish Council meetings for 2025 will take place on:

Monday 6th October – Planning Meeting\*

Monday 20th October – Council Meeting

Monday 3rd November – Planning Meeting\*

Monday 17th November – Council Meeting

Monday 1st December - Planning Meeting\*

Monday 15th December - Council Meeting

Note \* - If no planning applications are received from East Devon District Council by the Tuesday before the Planning Meeting, the meeting will be cancelled.

## **Improving the way we communicate with you**

The Council wants to improve the way it communicates with you. To do this we are looking to do the following:

- Add a QR code to each agenda so that members of the public can scan it and be taken to the full agenda pack on the website
- Continue to post details of important items on the Council website and both the Whimple Parish Council and Whimple What's On Facebook pages
- After each meeting (Planning and Council) publish a list of decisions that have been made – on the website, Facebook pages and noticeboard. On the noticeboard copy add a QR code to take people to the full minutes.
- Do a regular update on what the Council is working on, on the Whimple Parish Council and Whimple What's On Facebook pages
- Continue to do a regular column in Whimple News.
- Produce articles on projects that the Council is working on setting out what is involved in delivering them
- Do updates to explain what the Parish Council can and can't do, and how the Council works

If you have any other ideas about how the Council can improve the way it communicates with you, please get in touch and let us know.

## **Councillor vacancies**

We currently have two vacancies on the Council. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please get in touch.

## **Contacting the Council**

If you have any questions on any of the above information or anything else, please do get in touch.

**Amy Tregellas**

Whimple Parish Clerk

Website: [www.whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Email: [clerk@whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We are also contactable on Facebook



## CARPENTER, KITCHEN FITTER JOINER

INNOVATIVE.COMPETITIVE.REPUTABLE  
EXCEPTIONAL STANDARD OF COMPLETION  
FLEXIBLE TO ALL CLIENTS PRECISE NEEDS

**HENRY TETLEY**  
**07868658421**

EMAIL: [buildwithtetley@gmail.com](mailto:buildwithtetley@gmail.com)

SCAN QR CODE TO ACCESS MY ONLINE  
PORTFOLIO OF WORK



**Could a Personal  
Assistant make life  
a little easier?**



The affordable alternative to home care,  
where you choose who supports you

Hub Personal Assistants can help with:

- Companionship
- Domestic tasks
- Meal preparation
- Personal care
- Shopping
- Respite
- Live-care
- Assistance to appointments



Call us today for a friendly no obligation chat.

01392 982 832  
[www.hubcaresupport.co.uk](http://www.hubcaresupport.co.uk)



**PEK BUILD**

BRICKWORK&MASONRY

New build-extend-refurbishment-renovate  
alteration-barns-hard landscape-repairs

Your friendly, reliable local tradesman

No job too small.

Telephone Mark on

822913 or

07817097721

Email - [mproberts@live.co.uk](mailto:mproberts@live.co.uk)

3 The Signals  
Talatton Road  
Whimble  
Exeter  
EX5 2QL



City and Guilds  
Qualified

## Lamb Hill Garden Machinery

• Sales • Repairs



• Servicing

Andrew has over 20 years experience  
in the garden machinery industry.  
Previously at Otter Nurseries & more  
recently at P.J.Flegg.

FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN MACHINERY NEEDS

**CALL ANDREW TODAY**

**01404 823100/07773 579072**

Moorview Industrial Estate Straightway  
Head Whimble Devon. EX5 2QT

Email: [lambhillgardenmachinery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lambhillgardenmachinery@hotmail.co.uk)

# Bonfire Night



**SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER  
WHIMPLE CRICKET CLUB  
HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!**

Sponsored by  
**PORTER  
DODSON**

**GATES OPEN 4.30 • BONFIRE 6.30 • GATES CLOSE 7 • FIREWORKS 7.30**  
**Adults £8, Children £6, Family £25 (2 adults, 2 children)**

**Tickets Online via  
[www.whimplecc.co.uk](http://www.whimplecc.co.uk)**

**SONIC  
FIREWORKS**

**INDOOR AND OUTDOOR BARS • BBQ •  
COURTNEY'S CIDERS, RUM AND GIN • FOOD STALLS • TEA &  
COFFEE • KIDS ENTERTAINMENT • LIVE MUSIC FROM ANDY  
ELLIS AND MUCH MORE!  
FREE BUSES TO AND FROM CRANBROOK  
HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS!**

## **Important Stuff . . .**

In order to make this event as successful as possible, and to follow our strict health & safety instructions we would appreciate you all to adhere to the following:

- No sparklers or your own fireworks allowed
- No entrance through the parish field (the entrances will be cordoned off)
- Carparking is extremely limited, please walk via Broadclyst Road or use public transport if coming from outside the village



## Dear neighbour

I hope this update finds you well as we head towards Christmas. There's been significant progress on several fronts that I'm pleased to report on, alongside some important developments that will affect our community.

### Local Plan Updates

At the last Strategic Planning Committee meeting, I was able to secure additional protection for the visual separation between Cranbrook and Whimble that is so important to maintaining the character of our village. Specifically, I ensured that the Green Wedge policy now includes an explicit requirement that any housing on site Whim\_08 must not breach the ridge atop the slope to the west of the site. This provision will help preserve the landscape views that are so valued by residents.

Given the many questions I've received about the site allocations and the planning process more generally, I have also established a new Local Plan FAQ page at [toddlive.mycouncillor.org.uk/local-plan-faq](http://toddlive.mycouncillor.org.uk/local-plan-faq). This resource aims to provide clear answers to the most common queries I receive, and I'll be updating it regularly as new questions arise.

By the time you read this, we will have published much of the detailed work that East Devon has been doing to ensure that our new settlement – now named Marlcombe following the public vote – learns the lessons of Cranbrook. This includes a comprehensive plan for what facilities need to be included in the new settlement and, crucially, how we are going to make sure they are actually delivered. I firmly believe the council has much to prove in this field, having allowed private developers to make such a mess of Cranbrook, but I'm genuinely proud to have been involved in this work and confident it will deliver not only new, affordable homes, but also a genuinely great place to live.

We will also have published – or will imminently be doing so – the full Infrastructure Delivery Plan accompanying the new Local Plan. This document details the investments needed to accompany new housing developments across East Devon, covering schools, roads, healthcare, and more.

### Major Housing and Infrastructure Commitments

I'm pleased to report that East Devon has signed off on a £100m plan to deliver five hundred new genuinely affordable homes for local residents over the next five years. This represents a significant step up in the council's ambitions for social housing delivery and will put a big dent in the list of over 2000 families on the housing waiting list.



East Devon's Cabinet has also committed to a £2 million investment in developing detailed plans for a new leisure centre in Cranbrook Town Centre. The facility will include a full 25m swimming pool, learner pool, modern gym, and spin studio, and is expected to be delivered within the next three years. This represents exactly the kind of up-front infrastructure investment that was so lacking in Cranbrook's early development.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

You may have seen that Exeter City has now published its proposals for Local Government Reorganisation, which would see large parts of East Devon – including Whimble – absorbed into a new city-dominated council. As I have made clear previously, I will be strongly opposing any proposal that would see our rural area subsumed into an "Exeter+" authority dominated by urban concerns and priorities. You can find out more about these proposals and read my full statement opposing them at:

[toddlive.mycouncillor.org.uk/exeter-lgr-response](http://toddlive.mycouncillor.org.uk/exeter-lgr-response).

### **A Note on Facebook and Getting in Touch**

Finally, I wanted to address an issue that has unfortunately affected how I communicate with residents. I've mentioned before the threatening voicemails I had been receiving from an anonymous caller. These have continued in recent months, almost exclusively coinciding with times I've engaged with people on Facebook – on my own page, on Whimble What's On, and in other groups. Having discussed this with appropriate people and taken advice, I was advised over the summer to discontinue using the platform for my own safety. As a result, I have ceased using Facebook.

This isn't what I'd like to do – but I'm tired of feeling like I can't safely use my office at The Hive alone into the evening, or even just check my voicemails. I will still receive messages sent directly to my Councillor page and, as always, I am very happy to speak via email, on the phone, or at my monthly surgeries – or indeed to arrange other times to meet, in person or virtually. If you have a question or issue, or if you want to discuss something you might not agree with me about or ask me to explain a decision, I remain – as ever – happy to engage via these other channels.

As always, you can find me at my Monday evening surgeries, 4pm to 7pm on the first Monday of every month at The Hive, by email at [todd.olive@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:todd.olive@eastdevon.gov.uk), or on 07925 847933. It'd be great to hear from you.

### **Cllr Todd Olive**

Ward Member for Whimble & Rockbeare

Portfolio Holder for Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning

East Devon District Council



By the time you read this the Heritage Centre will have closed for the winter after a glorious summer of seemingly endless sunny days, which have probably enticed more people to the beach than to museums. Nevertheless, we are pleased to report that our visitor numbers have held up and were roughly the same as last year.

We are now turning our thoughts to our winter programme of talks. Last year we were given a large quantity of documents relating to the Whiteway's Cyder Company.

One of our committee members, Jo Yarwood, has been assisting me with the sorting, cataloguing and digitising of these documents – a lengthy job which is not yet finished! However, it has inspired Jo to put together a talk about the history of Whiteway's with particular emphasis upon its advertising. Her talk will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 10th October 2025. Those of you who came to Jo's talk about 'the history of infectious disease and immunisation' last year will know what an accomplished speaker she is, so please put this date in your diaries and come along for what we are sure will be an entertaining and informative evening.

For our second talk of the season, we are experimenting with a different time slot. It will take place at 3pm on Sunday 2nd November 2025, and we are keen to know if the different time slot makes it easier or more difficult for you to attend, so please do give your feedback on which you prefer to our committee members or by sending us an email.

The subject of the talk is the history of Exeter Airport during World War Two, and the speaker is Chris Wiseman. Chris spent his career working for the Devon Ambulance Service, having been forced to give up on his wish to join the RAF owing to colour blindness. He is now spending his retirement researching the history of Exeter Airport, and gives talks about it across the local area and, occasionally, further afield. Chris is also the area manager of the Devon branch of the Battle of Britain Historical Society. He has told me that it is his ambition to get premises at the airport to house his collection of airport memorabilia in a small museum.

Our final speaker of 2025, Ian Gregory, has already achieved his ambition of starting his own museum. His talk is about an appropriate subject to get you in the mood for Christmas – toys! *I Bought a Church: The Story of Sidmouth Toy and Model Museum* tells the story of the museum which houses the collection of toys and models built up by Ian and Rebecca Gregory over the course of many years, together with some others which are on loan or have been donated. This talk will take place at the usual time of 7.30pm on Friday 28th November 2025.

On a different subject, we have a small room at the rear of the Heritage Centre which is little used. Would there be any demand from groups within the village to hire it by the hour? The room is approximately 12ft<sup>2</sup>, and tea and coffee making facilities would be available. Please contact us if you would be interested.

Tina Kelly, Curator  
01404 822499

[www.whimple.org](http://www.whimple.org)

[info@whimple.org](mailto:info@whimple.org)

Tel:



The Front Row Club allows you to see the pick of the current releases, along with some classic favourites, in relaxed surroundings and on your doorstep. We try to show a broad range of films including those that you may have missed in the cinemas. In September we had a full house for the very funny and moving 'Penguin Lessons'. Coming up we have comedy ('The Ballad of Wallis Island'), tense true-life drama ('September 5') and the latest instalment of the 'Mission Impossible' franchise. Please check out the notice boards outside and inside the hall to find out exactly what's showing when or download our latest newsletter using the links on this page. We hope to see you very soon.



Our October film will be preceded by a very short (10 minute) AGM, where we will share the current financial position of the club.

### **Monthly film nights at the Victory Hall**

**Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm**

**BYO drinks and glasses**

**All welcome. Non-members £5 on the door or £25 for the whole season**

**Upcoming dates: Saturdays 11<sup>th</sup> October; 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**<https://tinyurl.com/JoinFRCToday>**

# The Whimbletons -



Hello ye merry folk of Whimble, I wanted to share with you all on behalf of the long serving members of the Whimbletons committee. As you are aware the Whimbletons Pantomime group have been quiet in recent years, in fact for three long years!

We have tried to say that we were resting in between engagements, but in fact, the current committee have decided that it is time to close the curtains.

With this in mind we are looking for new people to join and take over the running of the Whimbletons.

For over 25 years the Whimbletons has been a big part of the village, not only putting on pantomimes, but also murder mystery nights, quizzes and the unique (only in Whimble) Panto Dame Racing!

The uniqueness of the Whimbletons has been that it has attracted a wide variety of people, from primary school age to the more..... mature. We have had children growing beanstalks (Jack and the Beanstalk), visits to the school by the panto camel, lots of men in dresses and a Wild West Panto.

We would love for the Whimbletons to carry on but feel as a very loyal and long standing committee we would like to take a step back (not completely exiting stage right)!



# - Your stage call

We are looking for people who can bring their own spin and breath new life to the Whimbletons. Cathy, Neil, Sally, Sue, Alex and Andrea are happy to give support to anyone who wants to get involved and even some of us stalwarts are staying on and keeping our hands in perhaps just being on stage .

On MONDAY 20th OCTOBER we are going to hold an open evening in the Thirsty Farmer between 20:00 and 22:00 and if you feel you would like to get involved in any capacity come and meet us have a chat and see what it is all about!

There are already plans afoot for some suggestions of the next chapter!

We are sure those of you who have enjoyed or endured our performances over the many years would love to keep the group running but with new and exciting ideas and a fresh thinking committee, so please do come along and meet us, ask questions and get involved. We can't have the Whimbletons without you!

If you would like to know a little bit more please do give Cathy a call 01404 823944, or drop over an email [cathybh57@btinternet.com](mailto:cathybh57@btinternet.com).

Thank you for reading and hope to see you soon.

Cathy Bartlett-Horwood on behalf of The Whimbletons Committee.....exiting slowly through the audience.....still forgetting our lines .

With kindest regards

**Cathy Bartlett-Horwood**, Secretary

Tel: 07400 085121 email: [Cathybh57@btinternet.com](mailto:Cathybh57@btinternet.com)



- blockages
- jetting
- CCTV surveys
- repairs
- lining
- drain tracing
- pitch fibre reforming
- pipe bursting

- septic tank/treatment plant installation
- soakaway problems
- water leak detection
- water leak repairs
- moling
- renewals
- Patio, Driveway & Decking cleaning

Tel: 01392 461670

Mobile: 07834 712345

[www.drainwizard.co.uk](http://www.drainwizard.co.uk)



DAN PLANK

Master  
Thatcher

T: 01404 823081

 M: 07881 942516

[daniel.plank@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel.plank@yahoo.com)  
[djmpmasterthatcher.co.uk](http://djmpmasterthatcher.co.uk)



The Devon Ceilidh Band For All Occasions

See our new website: [slackmagirdle.net](http://slackmagirdle.net)

Find us on Facebook

for more details or to contact us:

01404 823083 [empal1@icloud.com](mailto:empal1@icloud.com)

New look, same great band!

# PEST CONTROL DIVISION



**KIERON 07977 648791**



email: [greenrockgap@gmail.com](mailto:greenrockgap@gmail.com)



**Gary's private hire  
and airport transfers**

**Gary Townsley**

**Tel 07458660111**

[townsleygary67@gmail.com](mailto:townsleygary67@gmail.com)

## Window Cleaner

High reach hot water system

Frames and doors all in

Gutters/Fascias Cleaned

For that personal service

**Sean**

**Harris**

**814963**

**07737 419077**



© Dave Cliff.com



## WHIMPLE CHURCH

<http://churches4all.org/>

### **Celebrating Abundance: Harvest Festival in Whimple.**

*'As the first crisp winds of autumn blow across the fields and the trees begin their slow transformation into golden flame, the simple country folk of Whimple will gather once again to celebrate one of its most cherished traditions – the annual Harvest Festival.*

*Held in the quaint stone church that has stood at the heart of the village for centuries, the Harvest Festival brings together farmers, families, and friends to give thanks for the year's bounty and to celebrate community spirit. Like every week the church will be packed but at Harvest a very special atmosphere of joy and contentment will fill the smiling villagers, drawn from every generation of country folk, the congregation will give thanks for another full and happy year.*

*The church nave will be filled with the rich scent of apples, fresh hay, and baking bread. Woven baskets overflowed with local produce – carrots, potatoes, beets, and beans – lovingly donated by the farming families, arriving by tractor and trailer and even by hand pushed wheelbarrow and arranged by the church's large team of ever-dedicated flower arrangers. Hand-tied wheat sheaves will stand proudly near the altar, a traditional symbol of the season's abundance.*

*Children from both the church choir and the school choir will fill the air with their voices, performing hymns like "We Plough the Fields and Scatter" and a spirited rendition of "All things bright and beautiful" Dressed in hand-made crowns of leaves and sunflowers, and drawn from our village brownies and guides, cubs and scouts, the children will be beaming as they bring forward a huge array of fresh foods and canned goods for the poor and needy– and for many parents and grandparents in the pews, there will not be a dry eye in sight.*

*Rev Marc, one of our priests will lead us through another fascinating piece of scripture and no doubt one of his several curates will lead prayers; following the service the congregation will make its way joyfully to the village hall where the church refreshments team will have been busy preparing a hearty feast for one hundred plus rumbling stomachs; long tables will be groaning under the weight of homemade pies, casseroles, and jams. There will be hot mugs of cider, pumpkin scones, and blackberry crumbles still warm from the oven. The children will no doubt dash about with sticky fingers and flushed cheeks, while the older generations swap stories over cups of tea.*

*This year's Harvest Raffle – featuring prizes like a hamper of homemade preserves and a voucher for Mrs. Jennings' famous carrot cake – will be in aid of the church roof fund.*

*As the sun dips low over the fields and the laughter slowly fades into the dusk, there will be a shared sense of peace and an expectation for another wonderful year ahead'.*

That, my friends, is what you get if you ask ChatGTP to write you an article about a harvest festival; a sepia-toned image of what happens in church at Harvest. Of course, it isn't totally wrong, but it is also a fair way from being right as well.

It is wrong because it sets the celebration of harvest in a remote 'Vicar of Dibley' halcyon dream like world of full churches and country bumkin villagers, a picture like one of Turner's masterpieces of a world which never really existed, except in our imaginations, and in doing so highlights one of the challenges facing the modern church: how do we celebrate the hope of our faith at Harvest whilst also acknowledging how complicated the real world is, that there is scarcity and hunger, how difficult people's lives can be and how tricky being a Christian is today. And how do we continue to honour ancient and much-loved rural traditions but also appeal to younger generations.

Well, we are going to have a crack at it this year in two different ways.

On Saturday 11th October we are going to be hosting a Harvest Brunch at the church - details on page 2. We have never done this before but are trialling it as lots of folks have asked for it. If it proves popular it might become an annual event and you are going to need to book as the wonderful Jane Clements is organising things but even she cannot organise catering if she has no idea who is coming! – sign up at the back of the church or email Jane at [jane.e.clements@gmail.com](mailto:jane.e.clements@gmail.com). It is due to start at noon, which is brilliant as it means folks could come along to our churchyard clear-up at 9.00am to help us get things looking ship-shape before winter and then stay for the brunch. There will be a bible reading and a short reflection on it, plus some prayers and it is intended to be relaxed and informal. Further details to follow.

Then on Sunday 19th October at 10:30am we will be having a harvest festival combined with a farming family baptism at church. If you have been to one of our 'Gatherings' on a Sunday, you will have an idea of how this celebration is going to run. Good coffee, cake and time for conversation before the start, our live band (with both traditional harvest hymns and some more modern), an interview with some of our young farmers, a short reflection on a Bible passage, plus a baptism, and generally a lot of fun. It is going to last less than an hour and be a totally family friendly event grounded in the reality of parish and farming life.

God bless. **Rev Marc.**



**PLANET SAL FOR  
GIFTS AND CARDS  
WHICH ARE A BIT 'UNUSUAL'**

(Like the owner..)

3, BLACK LION COURT,  
HONITON EX14 1ES

01404 45777



OPEN MON 11 - 3

TUES-SAT 10 - 4.30

[www.planetsal.co.uk](http://www.planetsal.co.uk)

[info@planetsal.co.uk](mailto:info@planetsal.co.uk)

**COMPASSIONATE HOME PET  
EUTHANASIA for dogs and cats  
by Woodbury vet Sara Dunne**



Book online

[rainbowbridgevets.co.uk](http://rainbowbridgevets.co.uk)

or call 01392 240608

*'Your pet's final  
goodbye at home'*



## Seasoned Logs

**Full load £220**

Loose tipped approx. 2.5m<sup>3</sup>

**Half load £120**

Loose tipped approx. 1.25m<sup>3</sup>

**Bulk Bag £70**

approx. 0.625m<sup>3</sup>



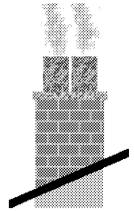
**Martin Newbery**

**07967 219559**

[martinjohnnewbery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:martinjohnnewbery@hotmail.co.uk)

[Newberyfirewood.co.uk](http://Newberyfirewood.co.uk)

## Chimneys Wood Burners Fires



Swept, Installed, Repaired,  
Lined and Built

"All your chimney needs"

**Alf Butler**

**Tel: 01404 811843**

A fully insured and HETAS  
registered Company

Experts in planning, heritage and archaeology, our advice and advocacy ensure our clients' projects are a success.



**Avalon**  
PLANNING & HERITAGE

The Generator  
Kings Wharf  
Exeter EX2 4AN  
**01392 581150**

[avalonplanning.co.uk](http://avalonplanning.co.uk)  
[murray@avalonplanning.co.uk](mailto:murray@avalonplanning.co.uk)

## Reiki Healing

An alternative, holistic form of healing



Reiki may help you with

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Being overwhelmed
- Chakra balancing
- Pain management
- Spiritual connection
- Relaxation



**1 hour session £50**  
**30 minute session £30**  
**Distance Reiki £30**  
**Reiki training available**



To book contact Kerry: 07791 171821  
[kerry@chi-quilibrium.com](mailto:kerry@chi-quilibrium.com) [www.chi-quilibrium.com](http://www.chi-quilibrium.com)  
40 Slewton Crescent, Whimple, EX5 2QA



## Tarot Readings



Tarot Readings can give you a different perspective on life

Sometimes we feel a bit stuck, feel like we are at a crossroads, or are looking for guidance.

Whatever your question, I work with you, often creating a unique tarot spread to see what the cards reveal for you!

**1 hour Tarot Reading £40**  
**Rapid Read £15**  
**Tarot Party (for up to 6 people) £120**



**Chi-quilibrium**

Chi [chih] noun: the stimulating life energy  
Equilibrium [eh-uh-lib-ri-uh] noun: a state of balance

## HEARD OF MEN'S SHEDS?

Some of you may not be familiar with Men's 'Shedding'. *It started in Australia around the 1980s as a way to improve the health and wellbeing of older men. Now, the movement has grown up and out across the world, some Sheds including anyone regardless of age or gender. Men's sheds are found in the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada, Finland, Estonia, New Zealand and Greece.*

The journey to a Men's Shed is, for some men, marked by a life-change such as retirement; redundancy; health challenges. There could be a change in their family circumstances such as the loss of a spouse, divorce or relocation. A purposeful and friendly environment like a Shed has the potential to improve general wellbeing and challenge social isolation.

An initial idea from the RVS and Ottery Help Scheme fired a few enthusiastic men to open our own Ottery Shed back in November 2016 and, with the help of the Town Council, we rented a large portacabin in the old Station carpark. There quickly arose a cry from our members that it was not big enough! A long search for a place where we could build our own Shed then began.

A piece of land was hard to find, but we had our big break four years later when we were actually offered a defunct business space in Hind Street - all 110 square metres of it - some five times the size of our portacabin! Funds squirreled away for building could then be channelled into some meaningful pieces of workshop machinery and safety equipment.



Having been given a carte blanche to organise our new home, we set to work at the time of the second Covid lockdown. Our *bubble* of volunteers adapted the layout to our specific needs which, of course, included that most important social area where we spend a deal of time drinking tea, eating biscuits and indulging in good-natured banter. Alongside this, work hums along in a positive and busy atmosphere. Projects, repairs and pieces for us to sell are worked on, both personal and for organisations and members

of the community.

Men's Shed Ottery is now firmly established and is recognised as being a great benefit both to Members and to the Ottery St Mary area. Our membership list is over one hundred, with fifty currently paid-up members, including a number of ladies who come to 'Community Shed' on Saturdays.

<https://menssheds.org.uk/>

**Alex Tooze**



# **MEN'S SHED OTTERY**

**Hind Street  
Ottery St Mary  
(opp Sainsbury's Car Park)**

**01404 623144**

**Working Hours Only**

**[www.mensshedottery.co.uk](http://www.mensshedottery.co.uk)**



***Open 10.00am to 4.00pm***



***Tuesday, Thursday & Friday***



***Community Shed - Women &  
Men - on Saturdays 10.00-4.00***



***Remarkable array of workshop  
machines and facilities***



# *Christmas Eve Carols In The Square*



We believe that this Christmas marks 50 yrs, since my parents took over running this event.

One of the band last year, suggested we aim for a band of 50 for the 50th!

While that may be a bit ambitious, we'd love to have more musicians.

Now is the time to dust off that recorder, flute, clarinet, trumpet etc, let me know if you'd like the music in advance. I have music for C, Bb & Eb instruments, with simplified versions for the less confident.

See you there!

Emma Palmer

[empalmusic@gmail.com](mailto:empalmusic@gmail.com)



Musical Director  
Emma Palmer



## **Christmas Performances**

**Killerton Chapel, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 11am & 12 pm**  
Limited places, subject to National Trust conditions of entry.

**Clyst St Lawrence Carol Service,**  
**Mount Pleasant Farm, December 7<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm**

**Payhembury Church, joined by Payhembury**  
**School Choir, December 12<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Killerton Chapel, December 17<sup>th</sup> 11am & 12pm**  
Limited places subject to National Trust conditions of entry.

**Talaton Church, December 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

# Whimple Community Choir

We are BACK!

Not until **Wednesday 5th November** (due to other commitments) - 7pm - 8:30pm St Mary's Church. New members are very welcome - we would love to see you.

We shall be immersing ourselves in fun Christmas music, ready to spread the Christmas joy in the local community over the festive season.

For further information contact Julia Green:

07779 139251 / [julia2sing@gmail.com](mailto:julia2sing@gmail.com)

LOVELY VENUE  
with  
PARKING  
&  
UNDERFLOOR  
HEATING

## YOGA

WITH SARAH



**TUES 6.30 - 7.40pm** (evening unwind)

**THURS 9.30 & 10.45am** (morning flow)

at

**THE HUB, WILLOW VIEW PARK,  
STRAIGHTWAY HEAD, WHIMPLE**

**Suitable for all levels**

**£9/class or 6@£48**

Contact [reviveguernsey@gmail.com](mailto:reviveguernsey@gmail.com)

**07591 599162**



## Rochelles' Curtains, Blinds and Foam

[Phil-kendall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Phil-kendall@hotmail.co.uk)

07525 618286 (Phil)

We come to you

for measuring, quoting and fitting

Made to measure Curtains and Blinds  
Wide selection of fabrics  
Tracks and poles  
Fitting service  
Free measuring service  
In-house making service  
We also make with your own fabric  
We make covers for foam cushions

FOAM cut to size for upholstery/caravans/boats etc.  
Revive old furniture  
Upholstery foam/Closed cell foam/Memory foam toppers  
Polystyrene bead for bean bags



# Business Development Plan

## Whimple Heritage Centre 2025

After twenty years we are in the process of re-evaluating, what we have achieved and the future path of the History Society and Heritage Centre, so we can effectively plan ahead. For this we would like your help. We are in the process of writing a Strategic / Business Plan for the Heritage Centre to cover, with a deeper focus on, the next five years. We want to know how you see the History Society and Heritage Centre, as we all have a stake in its future.

*“History forms the structure of our present and guides our future path.”*

**A few questions – It should not take you too long to complete the questionnaire.**

Whimple History Society			
1) Are you a member?		2) Are you a volunteer?	
Yes		Yes	
No		No	
Used to be		Used to be	
3) Would you describe yourself as interested in History?			
Very Interested		Moderately Interested	
Neither Yes / No			
Moderately lacking interested		Not interested	
4) Are you a member of			
The National Trust	Yes	No	
English Heritage	Yes	No	
Historic Houses	Yes	No	
Another Heritage Organisation	Yes	No	
5a) What do you think Whimple History Society does?			
5b) What do you think the Whimple Heritage Centre is?			
6) Have you ever been to a Whimple History Society Talk			
Yes		No	
7) What sort of subjects would attract you to attend?			

8) What discourages you from attending. e.g. subjects of talks don't interest me, venue, time, technology.

--

### The Whimble Heritage Centre

9) Have you ever visited the Whimble Heritage Centre?

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

10) If yes, how long ago?

This year		Last year	
In the last 5 years		In the last 10 years	

11) How many times have you visited the Heritage Centre in the last 5 years?

Once		Twice		Three times	
4 – 10 Times		10 - 20 Times		Over 20 times	

12) What is the reason for you visiting the Whimble Heritage Centre?

--

13) If you have visited the Heritage Centre in the last two years, what displays did you find very interesting and what did you find least interesting?

Very interesting
Least interesting

14) What was the last museum you visited and why? (This could be anywhere in UK)

--

15) If you are visiting a museum, what did you hope to get out of it?

--

16) If you have never visited the Whimble Heritage Centre, please specify why?

--

17) What would make more people engage or visit the Heritage Centre?

--

19) Moving to the future, what do you think the key aims and objectives should be?

--

20) On a scale of 1 – 10, how important do you feel the Heritage Centre is to Whimble? (1 being of very little importance, 10 being of great significance importance)

--

**Finance**

21) How do you think the Whimble Heritage Centre is funded? Tick all you think apply

Government grants	<input type="checkbox"/>	East Devon District Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial donations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Devon County Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bequests	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sale of merchandising	<input type="checkbox"/>	Members subscriptions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whimble Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gifts	<input type="checkbox"/>

22) How much do you think that it costs to keep the doors open to the museum open?

Less than £1,000 p.a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Between £1,000 - £2,000 p.a.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Between £2,000 - £5,000 p.a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Between £5,000 - £10,000 p.a.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Between £10,000 - £20,000 p.a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Between £20,000 - £40,000 p.a.	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than £40,000 p.a.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

23) How do you think the Whimble Heritage Centre is staffed? Tick the relevant box

Paid employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	All volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixture of the two	<input type="checkbox"/>
----------------	--------------------------	----------------	--------------------------	--------------------	--------------------------

**Forward Planning**

24) Thinking about the museum / heritage centre, what do you think are its strengths?

25) What do you think are the aspects where you think improvements should be made?

26) What do you see are the external factors that could benefit or hinder the museum? e.g. funding opportunities, collaboration, volunteers, interest in collections, tourism economy.

27) Is there anything else, apart from what is being done, that you would like to see / experience at the Heritage Centre?

**User Experience**

28) What type of activities would engage more effectively with group visits?

29) How would you 'sell' the museum as a visitor attraction and learning experience?

**The Future**

30) This question relates to the long-term strategy. If you returned to the museum in 2035, what would you expect to see / experience?

--

**About You**

Are you a resident of Whimble, for this we mean living in the Parish of Whimble?

Whimble resident	Yes		No		East Devon Resident	Yes	
------------------	-----	--	----	--	---------------------	-----	--

**Whimble Heritage Centre** wants to meet the aims and commitments set out in our equality policy. N.B. The information in this section of the form is for monitoring purposes only.

**Age - Which group applies to you?**

18 or under	
19 to 29	
30 to 39	
40 to 49	
50 to 59	
60 to 69	
70+	
Prefer not to say	

**Disability - Do you have a disability impairment or health condition which your day-to-day activities?**

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

**Gender**

Female	
Male	
Prefer not to say	

**Ethnicity****Religion or belief**

--	--

On completing this questionnaire, please post or deliver by hand to:

**Whimble Heritage Centre**, Lockyers Linhay, Church Road, Whimble, East Devon, EX5 2TA

**Thank You, for your input in helping us to plan our future.**

If you would rather not tear out the centre pages from your magazine you can download a copy of the questionnaire to print from either:

the Heritage Centre website:

[www.whimble.org](http://www.whimble.org)

or from the our website:

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



## Longfield Cattery

heated single and double chalets  
personal care and attention

**Highly Recommended**

01404 822275

[stephen@longfieldcattery.co.uk](mailto:stephen@longfieldcattery.co.uk)

[www.longfieldcattery.co.uk](http://www.longfieldcattery.co.uk)

Longfield ~ Church Road ~ Whimble ~ Exeter ~ EX5 2TF

Gas & Oil boiler repairs  
Safety certificates  
Servicing  
Installations



## FlameFix™

A local company providing  
a personal service

Call Jules

**07883 037667**

Visit us at [www.flamefix.co.uk](http://www.flamefix.co.uk)  
and read why customers say  
we're highly recommended

Oftec registered  
Gas safe registered



## FIRE SECURITY

UK LIMITED

### Fire detection and alarm systems

**INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING  
& SERVICING**

Maintaining all types of fire alarm systems

- Domestic, commercial & industrial
- 18 years of experience
- Emergency repairs and fault finding
- Fire certificates
- Design and supply complete systems
- Schools, lets, small/large properties

Contact Chris for a free quote

**07875 841288**

[info@firesecurityuk.co.uk](mailto:info@firesecurityuk.co.uk)  
[www.firesecurityuk.co.uk](http://www.firesecurityuk.co.uk)

# **Community Theatre 4All**

## **A new play for Whimble**

**I am in the early stages of researching material for a new play that will tell Whimble based stories.**

**We all know of the importance of Whiteway's to the village and also of the training centre for the Women's Land Army.**

**BUT**

**What other Whimble based stories are there that deserve to become part of a future play entitled**

**“Whimble to the Core”**

**I'm interested in gathering human interest stories – both serious and comic. If you think you might have a story that you would like to share please contact Tom Samson at Community Theatre 4All.**

**Mobile: 07979 876211**

**Email: [communitytheatre4all@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:communitytheatre4all@yahoo.co.uk)**

## **Young Community Theatre 4All**

**A Drama Group for young people  
from school years 4 to 9.**

**An opportunity to make new friends**

**Gain in confidence**

**Learn new skills**

**and**

**work towards a public performance.**

**Young CT4A is lead by Tom and  
Frances Samson both of whom  
have enhanced DBS clearance for  
all group activities.**

**A small termly participation fee is  
charged to cover hall hire fees and  
production costs.**

**First meeting Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 4.30pm to 5.30pm  
in Talaton Parish Hall.**



I usually start with a weather update and this article is no exception. The long hot summer is but a distant memory. The crispy lawn and dust dry flower beds which we endured over the summer months have been pebble dashed with heavy showers now that autumn, according to the Met Office, has arrived. A baby seagull has entertained us by plundering the fallen golf ball sized apples and over ripe unreachable plums although I'm not sure they are part of the preferred seagull diet. That would be our pond fish, late last year.

We enjoyed a wonderfully warm day for our summer garden party at the beginning of August, held in Sarah's lovely garden. For once we could enjoy organising the event without the prospect of rain disrupting our plans. Such a luxury! As always, our sincere thanks to Sarah and Alan for their generous hospitality.

Jane organised a social skittles catch up with Feniton WI ladies and although I was unable to attend ( too many plums - say no more) I'm sure they had a lovely lunch and chat and of course threw a few skittles here and there. Apparently we beat Feniton - not that we're competitive or anything.

We're due another social lunch and I know that Jane will have something in mind. We are, as always, so grateful to Jane for organising these events which are so well attended and appreciated.

Michael Rendell was our September speaker on the History of Gin. There was a good turnout this month in view of the subject and no one seemed disappointed although samples failed to materialise. Gin predates the Romans and known infusions include coriander, bearded Iris (that's a flower not a woman), angelica and citrus peel. I don't think these were used all at the same time! Trendy hipster types have infused candy floss and lemon curd. Yummy!.

We have a visit to Fursdon House planned with a tour of the house and garden with the customary cream tea. A few weeks ago I didn't think about the weather when every day was hot and dry. Now I'm hoping for just one more for our outing.

It's programme planning time and we're looking to complete next year's programme. It's never easy trying to secure speakers over a wide range of topics, for specific dates which we, as the committee, think will be of interest to our members. We have now sorted the speakers for next year and we are sure there will be something for everyone.

I'm sure our October speaker will be extremely interesting as he takes us back through Russian history to the end of the Romanovs.

Late October we host three other local institutes for our annual group meeting. It's our turn to host. We have the date and we have an amazing speaker booked. We just need a hall which is sizeable, available and with a large kitchen and wall screen plus ample car parking.

We're organising refreshments for upwards of 45 ladies plus an enticing raffle. This has proved to be a bigger task than anticipated but we are confident that on the day, an enjoyable afternoon will be had by all.

In November, when we have dusted ourselves off, on a lighter note we will be treated to an illustrated talk on the lace of East Devon. The speaker's booked and we only provide tea and biscuits, thank goodness.

I will leave mention of the festive season until my next article although my local garden centre is already clearing the shelves in readiness even before we've enjoyed/endured Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes night. No change there then.

I'm exhausted just thinking and writing about all our plans in place for the autumn and if I've sparked your interest then please contact Marilyn on 821860 who will be pleased to tell you all about Whimble WI.

DI Eden



**PLANNING & PROPERTY EXPERTS**

07896 665903

[randall@buildconsultants.co.uk](mailto:randall@buildconsultants.co.uk)

**Building Design & Planning Permission  
Commercial and Residential**

Hot Desks for rent daily  
Co-working Space

*Apsleys*

CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS

---

Accountancy  
Taxation  
Payroll  
Probate Services  
R&D Tax Credits  
Corporate Finance  
Company Secretarial

[tiverton@apsleys.com](mailto:tiverton@apsleys.com)  
01884 257725

Whimble Fest 2026  
will NOT be taking place  
unless .....  
We ALL make it happen.

More organisers needed for the following;-

Kids Zone Activities  
Raffle  
Community Hub  
Fun Run  
Publicity  
Site Management Assistant

If you are interested in taking responsibility for one of these areas and can commit time energy and ideas, the team would love to hear from you.

Please contact. [sue.turner1@sky.com](mailto:sue.turner1@sky.com)

# NEIGHBOUR DISCOUNT



**Professional, reliable  
septic tank emptying**

Enjoy a discount when you and  
your neighbours book together!



eventhiresolutions.co.uk | 01392 422666  
info@eventhiresolutions.co.uk



## Your Mortgage Specialists

Experts Since 2007

### We can help you with...

- ✓ Residential Mortgages
- ✓ Equity Release & Later Life Mortgages
- ✓ Commercial Finance
- ✓ Critical Illness Cover
- ✓ Buy to Let Mortgages
- ✓ Self-Build Mortgages
- ✓ Life Assurance
- ✓ Income Protection

5\* Reviews | Google & Facebook

📞 01404 813050

✉ info@exemortgages.co.uk

🌐 www.exemortgages.co.uk

7 Broad Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon, EX11 1BS

Your property may be repossessed if you do not keep up payments on a mortgage or loan secured against it. Exe Mortgages Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). We are registered under the Consumer Credit Act & Data Protection Act and hold the appropriate licenses. Exe Mortgages is entered on the Financial Services Register under reference 705340.

# Windows from Whimble

## On the right track, but there are barriers ahead

It was in May 1964 that a group of 80 Children with their teachers travelled from London Waterloo to Paignton in Devon. It was the annual two week "School Journey" of Torridon Road School, Catford SE6. To keep us occupied we all had workbooks which included questions about what we would see on the way. One was about a Bill Board proclaiming, "You are now approaching Strong Country". We also learnt how to calculate the speed of our train from little posts every ¼ of a mile by the track. My recollection is that the train was a West Country or Battle of Britain Class locomotive, apparently know as a 'Spam Tin' (Pre. Monty Python) or 'Flat top'. However, to my eyes it was modern and streamlined with a friendly train driver. So, the first time I encountered Whimble was at about 85 mph at the age of 10 and I had no idea of the impending demise of steam trains. I also did not appreciate that in 1967 the line from Salisbury to Exeter would become only single track with a few passing points on the way. An extra loop was added at Tisbury in 1983 and at Axminster in 2009.



Past Times – Whimble Station  
London to West Country Main Line

It was considered by the 'decision makers' of the day that railways were in decline, that they were 'old' technology, and there was little need for long-term planning. Politically, the future was the car and the internal combustion engine and the new direction was for more motorways. It was clear that Western Region management at the time wanted to ensure the Waterloo route to the West Country was permanently downgraded, some say it was a kind of sabotage. When we look back at local rail history one could reasonably argue that 'our' railway is still downgraded and 'here we are in 2025'.

On 5th November 1993, John Major's Tory government passed the Railways Act soon after the general election. It has been calculated that vast amounts of money were leached out of the railway network. There was a lack in infrastructure and rolling stock as profits and shareholders dividends became the priority. Today's train passengers are still living with the consequences of privatisation. This was part of the overall political ideology of selling public assets including energy, water, and buses, but even Thatcher thought the railway was 'a privatisation too far'. The public agreed, but it did not stop John Major.

It's fair to say there has been some investment in new trains, but it has not been shared equally across the nation. Our fragmented network has been hugely detrimental to customer service.

There have been rising costs, timetable chaos, a profusion of different fares, cancellations, service reductions, attempts to cut staff from trains and stations and, most recently, the wildly unpopular and unsuccessful attempt to close all ticket offices in England, and, of course, the perennial “leaves on the line”. The fundamental desire is to cut the number of staff servicing the needs of customers even down to killing off the snack trolley on the Waterloo train. It is no surprise that public opinion shows overwhelming support for the re-nationalisation of railways. YouGov tracker shows 64 percent in favour of public ownership, 11 per cent opposed.

Privatisation was an experiment which is now coming to the last chapter, albeit a long one. The planned programme for Great British Railways is for a single, integrated, publicly owned railway company which would save money, cut fares, and encourage more people back onto Britain’s railways – to become a public service, not for private profit, but for the public good and, significantly, to be good for the environment. Various companies will be involved.

Previously, as services deteriorated, SERUG (Salisbury to Exeter Rail Users Group) was formed in 2016 to lobby for further improvements. The group is affiliated to Railfuture, a non-political, not for profit organisation, campaigning for a better railway service for Britain. Some progress has been made through investment in better infrastructure and a few more trains. Our Whimple line was operated by South Western Railway (owned by First Group plc). It is now nationalised and is the first franchise to become part of Great British Railways. There have been critics that call it the ‘snail-track’ due to the average speed between Waterloo and Yeovil of just 53 mph! There are few areas of similar population and distance from London with such a slow service. Capacity west of Yeovil is restricted and insufficient to cope with such a basic timetable, especially when diversions on Great Western Railways are in operation. In essence we need more passing loops, extended sections of double track and upgraded signalling to support improved timetable resilience and frequency, notably two trains per hour from Axminster to Exeter as part of the Devon Metro Strategy. This goal will need substantial funding. Plans were set out in November 2022 for a dual section between Whimple and Cranbrook, but in September 2025 there is still only a single track disappearing off towards Exeter.

Our line currently uses the Class 159 South Western Turbo, diesel multiple units of the Sprinter family, which came into service between 1989 and 1992. These are some of the oldest trains still in use on a main line. The route is electrified from London to Basingstoke only, leaving a stretch not electrified of 122 miles to Exeter. So, current thinking is a proposal to modify redundant suburban electric units to bi-mode electric / battery power utilising short electrified sections to top-up the batteries. It is understood SWR and Siemens are working on the concept using their Class 450 EMUs an idea which is reported to have found favour with the Department for Transport. The Railway Industry Association’s (RIA) decarbonisation proposals, published in April 2025, suggest electrification of the route as far west as Yeovil, with battery power used for the remaining distance to Exeter.

The RIA proposes fast charge stations to top up power in on-board batteries at selected points. It will be a long-term project to get brand new trains on our line, estimated to be the early 2030s. Perhaps we shall see more station roofs with solar panels or solar farms exclusively for the railways. The future looks to be relying no longer on diesel trains as part of the new programme of decarbonization. Future decarbonisation policies should give consideration to towns with over 10,000 inhabitants and that they should have a Railway Station connecting to the main line, e.g. the re-instigation of the Chard Line, (Two miles short of the main line) with a population of 13,000 (2021 Census).

In a case study, South West Trains 2017 the company ordered 90 Class 701 Alterio Trains in 2017 by Bombardier Transportation and Alstom at Derby, to update their aging stock for its commuter services in Greater London, with a roll out in 2019. But only five of the 90 trains are currently in use, due to delays in training drivers. Apparently, SWR was unable to release drivers to attend training programmes because it had too few staff to maintain the existing services. These new trains are parked up in Clapham Junction. It does seem implausible that these brand-new trains [are](#) sitting in a depot while commuters are left crammed onto outdated, overcrowded carriages like tinned sardines. Eventually, the first Alterio train carried passengers in January 2024, only to find extensive faults, mostly to do with software and the design of the driver's cab.

Other problems facing our railway are associated with geological weakness. Loss of moisture in ground formation below the track, made worse by long dry summer weather, which leads to potential collapses in embankments and subsidence in cuttings. This leads to speed restrictions and congestion on the line leading to fewer trains. Network Rail has undertaken some repairs, but it all goes back to the lack of investment under privatisation. The announcement on the 1st August 2025 signifies the scale of the problem west of Salisbury and has led to a four-hour journey from Whimple to Waterloo.

Hope was raised following the successful reopening of Okehampton station in November 2021 by the Department for Transport. Two rail projects in the west have been given the green light following July's Spending Review. The rail line between Bristol city centre and Portishead – which was last used six decades ago – will be reinstated. In our area two new stations will be built, one at Wellington in Somerset the other at Cullompton in Devon. These will improve transport links to Exeter and beyond and significantly help the new housing developments in those areas. Another date affecting our area is the 25th June 2028 when the Great Western Railway contract awarded in June 2022 is due to expire. However, we will need to wait a little longer for the Arriva Cross Country National Rail contract due to expire, this will be 12th October 2031. It links Plymouth to Scotland, via Exeter.

There is now a consultation with key stakeholders to leverage the best of both the public and private sectors, working in close partnership with private companies from freight and leasing rolling stock, to ticket retailing and the rail supply chain. One of the potential problems is to avoid Rolling Stock leasing companies charging excessive amounts to Train Operators, this being the Government body set up to run the trains, known as DFTO and branded as Great British Railways.

The consultation is due to be published at the end of the year.

Lastly, and most importantly, it is appropriate to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Friends of Whimple Station group whose aims are to coordinate project ideas to enhance the visible appearance of the station and promote projects. The Cider displays are great. What is clear is that despite many promises, strategic reports, regional forums, parliamentary questions and a plethora of campaign groups we still have a downgraded service. Good news? Well, with a four hour train journey from Exeter St Davids to London Waterloo one could always buy a Penguin paperback to read on the train.

Reference Sources: SERUG, RMT, Devon Metro Forum, Network Rail. Friends of Whimple Station, South West Railway, Modern Railways, The Standard, Office of Rail and Road, Rail future, Roger Algate, JP.

**Alan Lascelles MA**

## Billy Bloomfield Whimple Handyman

Window Cleaning, Lawn Cutting, Strimming, Hedge Cutting, Garden Clearance, Shed Erecting, Fence Erecting, Erection of Wooden Lean To, Fence Staining, Patio Laying, Patio Cleaning, Decking Cleaning, Decking Assembly, Jet Wash Driveways and Paths, Painting (Inside & Out), Gutter Cleaning, Gutter Renewal, Facias and Roof Repairs (10 Years Roofing Experience)

Home: 01404 822345  
Mobile: 07759 466671





# East Devon Legal Hub

Visit our East Devon Hub @  
Finnimore Trading Estate, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1NR

☎ 01404 81 22 28 ✉ [law@gilbertstephens.co.uk](mailto:law@gilbertstephens.co.uk)

or visit [gilbertstephens.co.uk](http://gilbertstephens.co.uk)

Ottery St Mary / Sidmouth / Budleigh Salterton / Exeter / Okehampton / Cridton



Liv Gullidge

07507824736

Parr's Farm, Matford, EX2 8XT

[livinlavish44@gmail.com](mailto:livinlavish44@gmail.com)



# PF&A

PREMIER FENCING & ASTRO

QUALITY FENCING & ARTIFICIAL GRASS  
AT PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD

**EXETER • 01392 341 315**

**EAST DEVON • 01395 205 563**

[info@premierfencingandastro.co.uk](mailto:info@premierfencingandastro.co.uk)

[www.premierfencingandastro.co.uk](http://www.premierfencingandastro.co.uk)

FENCING ■ DECKING ■ GATES  
ARTIFICIAL GRASS ■ LANDSCAPING

Looking after your trees and  
gardens for over 25 years

# Sid Valley Tree Surgery & Landscapes

TREE SURGERY  
HEDGE CUTTING  
STUMP GRINDING  
GARDEN CLEARANCE  
FULL LANDSCAPE SERVICE  
FREE QUOTATIONS



Tel: **01395 519856**  
Mobile: **07880 797613**  
[www.sidvalleytreesurgery.co.uk](http://www.sidvalleytreesurgery.co.uk)



## Aerial Services (Mike Cummings)

- Same Day Service Available
- 7 Days A Week
- Sales, Service, Installation
- Repairs & Reception Problems
- Digital Aerial Upgrades
- CCTV Systems
- WI-FI Hotspots
- TV Wall Mounting

**01392 279513**  
**07836 641635**

[www.aerial-services-mikecummings.co.uk](http://www.aerial-services-mikecummings.co.uk)

**NO CALL OUT CHARGE - FREE ESTIMATES**



Freeview



## darren peek plastering contractor

plastering and rendering,  
dry-lining, coving,  
cob and lime specialist,  
floor-screeds,

mobile 07786514172  
tel 01404 41211  
[darrenpeek2@aol.com](mailto:darrenpeek2@aol.com)



Your Personal Assistants

A niche group of personal assistants set up to provide top quality care and support.

Mobile: Poppy - 07786392480

Email: [saskialayburn@poppycare.org](mailto:saskialayburn@poppycare.org)



### Care, Compassion and Commitment

Dedicated farm and companion animal vets and nurses,  
caring for your livestock and pets  
24 hours a day



Cullompton  
01884 35558  
Tiverton  
01884 258585  
Honiton  
01404 44095  
Uffculme  
01884 841317



[www.valeveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.valeveterinarygroup.co.uk)

Join us for the magic of  
**Cotley Christmas**

22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER - 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS TREES \* REAL REINDEER \* NATIVITY BARN  
FESTIVE FARM SHOP \* REFRESHMENTS  
\* STUNNING VIEWS OVER WHIMPLE \*

[WWW.COTLEYCHRISTMAS.CO.UK](http://WWW.COTLEYCHRISTMAS.CO.UK)

**Tickets from £6.50 per car.  
Tickets Refunded if you buy  
a Christmas tree.**

**Or park in the  
village and walk  
up for free!**



**Cotley Farm,  
Woodhayes Lane,  
Whimble,  
Exeter,  
EX5 2QR**



**BOOK ONLINE**



# Whimble Cricket Club

Inevitably, the quality and enjoyment of any cricket season are inexorably linked to the weather, and this summer has been a bumper one. We played 66 home games across all our teams and 124 games in total, with very few cancellations. Some great cricket has been played by all our teams from our youngest juniors at Under-10 level through to our senior league and women's teams. The 78th recorded season of Whimble Cricket (and the 34th at the current ground) has been one to remember.

## **Women's Super 8s Hardball Winners**

The headline story of our summer has to be the success of our women's hardball cricket. It's hard to believe that women's cricket is only in its third year of existence at Whimble. On the back of last year's success in softball cricket, this season saw us enter a women's hardball team into the regional Super 8s tournament. With a near-flawless record of five wins from six in the group stages, we made it through to the Super 8s Plate Final against Cornwood Cricket Club. A fantastic display with bat and ball, and contributions across the team, saw Whimble through to victory. Special mention goes to two junior cricketers, Holly Walsh and Megan Drury, who both scored 30 retired in the final. With softball cricket continuing too, we now have opportunities at all levels for women and girls to participate in the game.

## **Whiteways Cup Win**

The past two seasons have seen the Whiteways Cup won by Bradninch/Kentisbeare and Ottery St Mary, so it was a delight to see Whimble take victory in the final this year over a talented Devon Medics and Cranbrook side. Having won a tight semi-final against Bradninch/Kentisbeare, Whimble were always on top in the final after a strong bowling display. Having just missed out on league promotion, this was a fitting reward for a team that has played some very competitive cricket.

## **End of Season Celebrations**

By the time this edition is delivered, we will have celebrated our junior and adult cricket with their respective awards nights. Well done to all our cricketers for a great season, and a special thanks to all of the volunteers who make everything at the club possible. We also bid farewell to Mitch Brooker, our 2025 overseas cricketer, who has made a fantastic contribution with bat and ball and has been a pleasure to have at the club. We wish Mitch and Jess all the best for the future.

## **Winter Cricket**

While everyone takes a brief and well-earned break in the early autumn weeks, it won't be long until we are starting again and looking ahead to 2026. We have junior winter training dates from November and indoor leagues for our senior teams. The club remains open to anyone interested in getting involved in the game—please do get in touch. Dates for our AGM will be published soon, so keep an eye on social media or member emails for details.

## Bonfire Night 2025 – Saturday 1st November

We are excited to once again be running Bonfire Night and Fireworks at the club, with this year's event taking place on Saturday 1st November. The proximity to Halloween means we'll be running a Halloween Special, so please come in fancy dress. Tickets are now on sale online via our website at [www.whimblecc.co.uk](http://www.whimblecc.co.uk). This event has sold out every year, so please do get your tickets early. Due to very low demand for printed tickets, sales are now online only.

We always appreciate the support of the village on Bonfire Night. We know it causes some disruption, with increased vehicle and foot traffic through the village for a short period. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during the few hours the event runs. It is our most important fundraiser and a night we know many people in the village enjoy attending.

James Woolham

**AT THE TOP**

**RIDGE ROOFING**  
**& SCAFFOLDING SERVICES LTD**

**FOR BOTH QUALITY & PRICE**

**Contact Steve**

**T: 01404 891813 M: 07789 555685**  
**stephen.wattsrr@gmail.com**  
**www.ridge-roofing.co.uk**

**VELUX** Full Public Liability Insurance

**CONFEDERATION OF ROOFING CONTRACTORS**

**FSB**  
MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESS

**HAS**  
Accredited Contractor

## SHORT MAT BOWLS



We play Short Mat Bowls every Wednesday at 7.00 pm. We are looking for new members to join us please. Come along to the Victory Hall.

You will be very welcome. Bowls can be provided.  
David Rastall.

Always FREE delivery  
to Whimble  
(no min. order value)  
#supportlocal



SAVE THE DATE  
20th & 21st September  
- Courtney's Orchard  
Open Weekend -



Traditional, Cloudy, Fruit and Low-Alcohol

**CIDER** - available in bottles,  
3L pouches and 20L bag-in-boxes.

**APPLE JUICE** - still and sparkling

From our ancient  
**Whiteways Orchard in Whimble**

**THE EXE GIN**  
**Grumblebee Honey Spiced Rum**  
70cl, 35cl and 5cl gift sets



Order online:

[www.courtneysdrinks.co.uk](http://www.courtneysdrinks.co.uk)

01404 890093 (Mon-Fri / 9am-5pm)

Also available at:

Jack in the Green, New Fountain Inn,  
Whimble Cricket Club and Whimble Stores

**'Whimble's very own drinks producer'**



Scan to order

# A Window on Whimble's Weather - July/August 2025

So, it's official, the Met Office has declared that the summer of 2025 was the hottest ever for the UK! (At least since records began in 1884.) About 1.51 °C above the long-term mean, apparently, but it felt like more than that! Persistent high pressure systems and the very dry spring were key contributors.

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

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

**July** –The month started very warm, with 4 sunny days before 2 cloudier and relatively cooler days, one of which being Whimble Fest on the 5th, but it stayed dry and was a better temperature for the runners! It then hotted up again for a long sunny spell until the 18th. The hottest day (10th) reached 29.9C, 86F in old money, and all through this period it remained virtually dry. The spell ended with 3 very humid and cloudier days 16th-18th, before the weather broke on the 19th with two showery days as low pressure temporarily took over. After that brief blip, the weather improved again for the rest of the month, dry, very warm and fairly sunny. Overall, the month was very dry, only 21.4mm and 12% sunnier than average, building on the dry and sunny spring.

**August** – This month continued in the same vein, being generally very warm and sunny. Apart from very slight showers on 4th, 14th and 19th, it was completely dry until the 26th. This meant our lawns became brown and crisp and our farmers began to struggle with feed for cattle. The heatwave peaked on the 15th with a very hot 31.1C, 88F. A cold front moved down from the north-east early on the 21st lowering overnight temperatures to a cool 5.9C, but pressure remained high and the sun kept shining! We had a glorious long bank holiday weekend 23rd to 25th. Then the long summer sadly came to an abrupt end with 36.8mm of rain in the last 6 days, with a very wet night 28th / 29th. It was over.

2025	July	Date	August	Date
Warmest Day	29.9 °C	10/07/2025	31.1 °C	15/08/2025
Coollest Night	7.5 °C	03/07/2025	5.9 °C	21/08/2025
Windiest 24hrs	33.2 km/h	14/07/2025	34.3 km/h	31/08/2025
Highest Gust	42.2 km/h	20/07/2025	38.5 km/h	31/08/2025
Wettest 24hrs	7.0 mm	19/07/2025	14.2 mm	29/08/2025
Av. Maximum	24.6 °C	N/A	23.7 °C	N/A
Av. Minimum	12.9 °C	N/A	11.2 °C	N/A
Total Rain	21.4 mm	N/A	40.2 mm	N/A
Total Sunshine	128.5 kWh/ kW	111.7% of Av.	119.4 kWh/ kW	107.9% of Av.

*Phil Dominy & David Brewer. Please send any comments/questions to [dominypr@hotmail.com](mailto:dominypr@hotmail.com)*

It hardly seems possible that the annual Whimble Flower and Craft Show has just celebrated its 70th Anniversary! We had hoped that it would be a bumper show but although not quite being that, it was nevertheless, another very successful show. As usual, there were some initial challenges but having overcome those, the day went very well. The one constant feature of the Show is the very high standard of all the exhibits and this was endorsed by the judges after they had completed their deliberations. As with last year, we were very much indebted to Andy and Gail for the time they spent with the Primary School to encourage the children to enter some of the Classes in the Children's Sections. This again proved a very successful mission as we had a very good entry from them in some of their classes. Although there were two less exhibitors this year, there was an increase in the number of exhibits. This year we had 35 exhibitors in the adult classes and 121 in the Junior Classes giving a total of 156 exhibitors. This then resulted in a total of 450 exhibits which, although not a record entry, was 29 more than last year.

We were very pleased to see that, with only one exception, all the Junior classes had entries this year. With the two age groups that the school children were able to enter, the Judge certainly had her work cut out going through all the exhibits in these classes. Once again, there were some very impressive exhibits, so congratulations to all the children who entered this year. And so to the results! First of all, in the classes for the under fives, the Owen Cup was won by Ben Bowker and in the classes for the five to eight year olds, it was Lucy Shaw who won The Basildon Award. For the classes in the 9 to 11 years age group, it was Alice Shaw who won The Fletcher Cup and in the 12 to 15 years age group, the Children's Challenge Cup was won by Emily Shaw.

The Photography classes always produce some excellent exhibits. Despite a lower entry than usual for this Section, the judge once again commented on the very high standard. After some very difficult decisions, Marilyn Mills came out as the overall winner winning the Paul Henry GC Memorial Cup. The Arts and Crafts section once again demonstrated what skilful residents we have in the village. The overall winner in this section was Vicky Clough who won The Len Rose Memorial Cup and Vicky also won The Whimble Craft Cup for the best exhibit in this section. The Homecraft section never fails to deliver a wonderful display of mouth watering exhibits and with a significant increase in the entries this year, the judge had the unenviable task of deciding which exhibits were the best. However, after all the sampling was over it was Julie Hosgood who was the overall winner and received the Sir Henry Imbert-Terry Cup.

And so to the flower arranging classes where the standard was as high as ever. The overall winner in this section was Julie Hosgood winning The Frances Pratt Memorial Cup. The Roy Horsburgh Trophy for the runner up was shared by Melonie Bolden and Margaret Bucknell. When it came to the best exhibit in these classes, which was voted for by everyone who came to the show, The Marie Louise Grout Cup, was won by Julie Hosgood whose exhibit received the highest number of votes.

Last, and by no means least, we have the Classes for the Vegetables, Flowers and Pot Plants. For those of us who entered these classes, we seem to get even more challenging growing conditions every year and this year was certainly no exception! Despite that, we were very pleased to see an increase of some 71 exhibits in these three sections, with only three classes not having any entries. Considering the challenges of the very warm growing conditions, the judge was very impressed with the high standard of the exhibits. In the Pot Plants Section, and for the fourth year running, the winner of The Briar Shield for the most points was Paul Wilson. In the Vegetable Classes there were some wonderful entries. As with last year, we had a number of new class winners which was good to see. It was no surprise that, after gaining no less than eighteen first prizes in the vegetable classes, Mike Hawkins was once again the winner of the Slewton Cup for the most points. The runner up in this section, winning The Cranny Brook Cup was Donna Baker. The Flower Classes did not disappoint and there were certainly some outstanding exhibits to admire. In this section, it was a much more evenly contested, but Mike Hawkins was the eventual winner of The Win and Bob Shepherd Cup for the most points in these classes. The runner up with the second highest number of points was Paul Wilson who won The President's Cup. The Otter Nurseries Rose Bowl for the best exhibit in the Flower Section was awarded to Mike Hawkins for one of his dahlia exhibits. Now, when all the points in these two sections were added together, we eventually came out with the winner of the Whimpe Folk Cup and once again it was Mike Hawkins who took the honours, so many congratulations to him. A full list of cup winners is included with this edition of the News.

We were very pleased that Malcolm Randall took up our invitation to present the prizes this year. We have been very grateful for the support that he and Marianne have given the WGC. So we were very pleased that he was able to do that for us. On behalf of the Show, Sherril Olive presented him with a suitable gift from the Committee for carrying out this role for us.

We would congratulate all the cup winners but most of all we are very grateful to everyone who took the trouble to enter the Show, especially those of you entering for the first time. We are, as always, extremely grateful to all our judges who give up their time to come to the show to judge all the classes. The judges and show stewards were very grateful to Sherril Olive and Marianne Randall who did the catering for their lunches and to Vicky Clough who very kindly served the afternoon teas for us. This was very much appreciated by the Committee. We would also like to thank all those people who so kindly helped to clear the hall after the show, it was very much appreciated. We hope you all enjoyed it, particularly those of you participating for the first time.

On Saturday 6th September, a nearly full coach made the trip to the National Trust property, Cotehele. This was a very successful trip and although the weather wasn't perfect, the trip was enjoyed by all those who went. Once again we are very grateful to Brian Nelson and Doreen Staddon for arranging the trip.

In October we will be welcoming back Caradoc Doy to give us another talk. The talk will be on Friday 24th October in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm.

His talk this time will be on “Lazy Gardening – avoiding the unnecessary and shortcuts learned over the years”. Hopefully this will be a topic that appeals to a lot of gardeners!

November will see us run our ever popular Quiz night. This will be on Friday 14th November and will be in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. This event is only £1.00 per person to enter and teams of up to six will be very welcome to join us for this very entertaining evening! You don't need to be a gardening expert to join in as we will have some general knowledge questions as well! You can bring your own refreshments to help make it a very sociable evening!

Finally, at our show wash up meeting, a number of key members of the Committee indicated that they will not be available next year due to other ventures they wish to pursue. As these are key members who are very much “hands on” Committee Members their contributions will be missed. This means that, unless we can find some new committee members who can carry out these important roles, then there is a possibility that our activities next year will be very limited. Events such as the plant sale in May and the Flower and Craft Show next August may be at risk. We will be discussing this further at our next committee meeting so we can report more fully at our AGM which will be in January. So if there is anyone in the village who feels they can fulfil these roles, then the AGM will be the ideal time to find out what is involved.

**Paul Wilson**, Show Secretary and Chairman, Whimble Gardening Club.



# EVERGLOW

## Chimney Sweeps

Whimble based and your LOCAL sweep

**NO MESS, NO FUSS**

APICS Member, Fully Insured

Tel: 07522 619308

Email: [everglowchimneys@gmail.com](mailto:everglowchimneys@gmail.com)



**SFA APPROVED  
CHIMNEY SWEEP**

# WHIMPLE FLOWER AND CRAFT SHOW 2025 TROPHY WINNERS

## **SECTION 1 – Vegetables and Flowers**

The Whimple Folk Cup	Mike Hawkins
The Sleuton Cup	Mike Hawkins
The Cranny Brook Cup	Donna Baker
The Win & Bob Shepherd Cup	Mike Hawkins
The President's Cup	Paul Wilson
The Novice Cup	NO ENTRIES
The Otter Nurseries Rose Bowl	Mike Hawkins

## **SECTION 2 – Pot Plants**

The Briar Shield	Paul Wilson
------------------	-------------

## **SECTION 3 - Homecraft**

The Sir Henry Imbert-Terry Cup	Julie Hosgood
--------------------------------	---------------

## **SECTION 4 – Floral Arrangement**

The Frances Pratt Memorial Cup	Julie Hosgood
The Roy Horsburgh Trophy	Melonie Bolden & Margaret Bucknell
The Marie Louise Grout Cup	Julie Hosgood

## **SECTION 5 – Arts and Crafts**

The Len Rose Memorial Cup	Vicky Clough
The Whimple Craft Cup	Vicky Clough

## **SECTION 6 - Photography**

The Paul Henry GC Memorial Cup	Marylin Mills
--------------------------------	---------------

## **SECTION 7 – Children under 5**

The Owen Cup	Ben Bowker
--------------	------------

## **SECTION 8 – Children aged 5 to 8**

The Basildon Award	Lucy Shaw
--------------------	-----------

## **SECTION 9 – Children aged 9 to 11**

The Fletcher Cup	Alice Shaw
------------------	------------

## **SECTION 10 – Children aged 12 to 15**

The Children's Challenge Cup	Emily Shaw
------------------------------	------------

## **FLOWER ARRANGING & CAKE (MEN ONLY)**

The Sandfords Cup	Branco Love
-------------------	-------------



## September 2025

As we start another school year, we welcome 19 new children into reception – many of them have older siblings in school already, and it is lovely to see them walking their ‘new recruit’ into Elm Class.

Our children got involved in entering into Whimble Produce Show by producing some sketched pictures and handwriting some poems. Their entries added a wider variety into this great show that has been going now for 70 years.

The children in Willow Classes have started their swimming lessons at Sidmouth and Year 6 will be out and around the village on their bikes early in October improving their cycling skills and road awareness.

Our orchard area is in the process of being cleared and Forest School sessions have started. Plans are in place for our annual apple pick, it looks like a good crop despite the hot weather.

Over the summer, we were pleased to received two awards.

## Eco-Award

Our Eco Committee members have worked on a number of projects over the past two years to achieve Green Flag status for Whimble Primary School in 2025-2026. The assessors from Keep Britain Tidy were...

“...delighted by your school's absolutely superb waste reducing and recycling initiatives where you not only set up battery recycling facilities with The Pod but held a Xmas jumper swap shop for your Xmas market, a book swap for World Book Day and also took part in the Packed Lunch Waste Challenge, promoting both re-usable



bottles and containers, with Recycle Devon and hosted both their waste workshops and Marine plastics workshops.

Marvellous Eco projects that can really help to raise awareness and make a difference."

## Skills Builder Gold Award

We have continued to develop the eight essential skills for our children, and families.

In the autumn term, a workshop was held for parents and their children to see the skills in action and appreciate how they benefit all. Each class completed a Skills Builder project linked to a particular theme. Some of these involved designing and producing things to sell and raise funds.

Thank you to the PTA for funding 50% of this great resource for us for the next school year. It benefits all children.

## Gardening

We have had one wonderful volunteer to help with gardening last year who would like to continue but ideally along with another adult so it can be a more productive session. If you know of anyone who is interested, please send them our way.

## Forest School

We are really lucky to have our Forest School and MUGA area over at Slewton Crescent. However, because it is off-site, we have to have higher adult to child ratios to ensure everyone's safety. If you know of someone who enjoys those types of activities and would be interested in volunteering to help us, please ask them to contact me via the school office. Our sessions for Forest School tend to be on a Friday afternoon and all volunteers are subject to DBS and reference check.

## Reception Starters 2026

If you have a child due to start school next year, please contact the office on 01404 822584 or email [admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk) to find out more information.

**Mrs Carole Shilston**

Headteacher





**SARAH JANE'S**  
UNISEX HAIRDRESSERS • WHIMPLE

Open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 9am

To book an appointment ring **01404 823400** or **07494 365547**  
or book through my Facebook page

New Inn Cross, Whimble EX5 2TT. Tel 01404 823 400



## **O'DELL PLUMBING & HEATING**

**[jasonodell.plumbing@gmail.com](mailto:jasonodell.plumbing@gmail.com)**

**07974 818833**

FOR ALL TYPES OF GAS AND OIL HEATING INSTALLATIONS.

BOILER SERVICE, REPAIR & BREAKDOWNS.

BATHROOMS & SHOWERS.

UNVENTED HOT WATER  
SYSTEMS.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING.



# Organisations in Whimble

**Devon County Councillor (Ward member for Whimble and Rockbeare)**

Cathy Connor (cathy.connor@devon.gov.uk)

**East Devon District Councillor:**

Todd Olive (toddolive@eastdevon.gov.uk)

07925 847933

**Parish Council** (www.whimbleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Contact Parish Council: Amy Tregellas (clerk@whimbleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Primary School** (admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Carole Shilston

822584

Chair of Governors: Jackie Enright

**Whimble School PTA** (Whimble.pta@gmail.com)

**St. Mary's Church**

Parish Priest: Rev. Marc Kerslake

822525

Impact Cell: Helen Bowker

823193

Bellringers: Andrea Young

07833 552855

**Book Group**

Tanya Mooney

823326

**Cricket Club** (jameswoollam@gmail.com)

Booking Secretary: James Woollam

07989 234372

**Football Club**

Chairman: Victoria Kendrew

07966 550260

Secretary: Lee Wheaton

077341 52120

**Front Row Club**

email: frontrowclub@gmail.com

**History Society**

Secretary: Jenny Fells

822104

**Over Sixties Club**

Chairman: Arthur Iball

822905

Secretary: Beryl Iball

822905

**Pre-School & Toddler Group** (www.whimblepreschool.com)

Chair: Hayley Seldon

07736 272668

Information: Jo Sibley 07794 652549 or admin@whimblepreschool.com

**Recreation Trust**

Knowle Cross Sports Ground: Roger Smith

822244

**Table Tennis Club**

Matt Hilling

07720 838003

**Tennis Club**

Secretary: Viv Brown

07876 653264

Treasurer: Glenn Starkey

07967 698600

**Victory Hall**

Chair: Sue Ayres

823082

Secretary: Di Wilkins

07974 468513

Booking Sec: Ali Tierney

07778 681280

**Whimble Fest**

Contact: Sue Turner

sue.turner1@sky.com

**Whimble and District Gardening Club**

Chairman; Paul Wilson

822744

**Whimbletons**

Cathy Bartlett-Horwood

823944

**Womens Institute**

President: Sarah Hogg

822886

**Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers:**

Secretary: Jack Tucker

07724 390839

**Whimble Scouts**

Group Scout Leader: Paul Lambell (paullambell03@gmail.com)

Scout Hut and Marquee Booking: Alex Spry (alexspry@yahoo.co.uk)

## The Whimple News Team

[whimplenews@gmail.com](mailto:whimplenews@gmail.com)

### Editor

Samantha Upton

### Advertising

Jenny Fells

### Production

Bob Scanlan

Tommy Tooze

Sarah Thackeray

Alex Tooze

### Delivery

Cathy Sharkey

### Treasurer

Miles Leonard

### Community Diary

Louise Scanlan

[whimplediary@gmail.com](mailto:whimplediary@gmail.com)

## Why not Advertise in Whimple News?

It is cheap, local and delivered six times a year to around 800 homes around Whimple.

For details email Jenny at:

**[whimplenews@gmail.com](mailto:whimplenews@gmail.com)**

with the subject line:

'FAO Jenny - Advertising Request'.



**TIME  
TO  
DREAM  
BIG**

[HALLANDSCOTT.CO.UK](http://HALLANDSCOTT.CO.UK)



CONTACT OUR OFFICE  
TODAY FOR A  
**FREE VALUATION**  
AND MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT OUR SERVICES

**CALL: 01404 812000**  
**VISIT: HALLANDSCOTT.CO.UK**

# the Jack *in the* Green

COMING UP AT THE JACK...

## **ACOUSTIC OCTOBER**

Join us every Saturday afternoon throughout October as we throw open the doors to the Otter room for live music from a talented local artist (12.30-2.30pm)

4th October - Andy Ellis

11th October - Nikita

18th October - Phil Smyth

25th October - Scott Phillips

## **CHRISTMAS AT THE JACK**

Celebrate with us! Whether it's a big party with your colleagues or a family get-together, we have a choice of menus for everyone. Enjoy a glass of Prosecco on arrival when you book online between the 1st and 31st of October for a December booking.

## **THIRSTY THURSDAYS**

Every Thursday, enjoy 3 courses for just £30! With the option of meat, fish and vegetarian courses, you'll be spoilt for choice. Served lunch 12-2pm and dinner 6-9pm.

**[www.jackinthegreen.uk.com](http://www.jackinthegreen.uk.com) | Tel: 01404 822240**