



# Whimple News

## February/March 2026



**Find us online:**

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

## Dear Whimble News Readers,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. And just like that... it's February! Anyone else feeling a bit *over* the endless rain and grey skies? ☁️ I'm pretty sure this time last year I said I didn't mind the clouds—well, I've definitely changed my tune this year! With my little pup Marley in tow, the constant storms have made getting out so tricky. It's funny how you realise how much something means to you when you can't do it. My daily walks are everything to me. 🐾🐾

If you've been feeling isolated, low, or simply worn down by the weather, please do reach out to us via email. You're never alone, and I'm always happy to help however I can. ❤️

To lift my own spirits, I'm heading off on a snowboarding trip this month. 🏂❄️ I absolutely love the mountains—it's one of my happy places. I know holidays aren't possible for everyone, but however you find your own little escape or moment of joy, I hope you get to enjoy something that lifts you up too. Even a small change of scenery, a warm drink with a friend, or a good book can work wonders.

A new year always brings a fresh sort of energy. ✨ Do you have any goals or hopes for 2026? Maybe it's something for your health, a new hobby, reconnecting with people, giving back to the community, or simply slowing down and being kinder to yourself. Whatever it is—you deserve to go for it. Life is short, and little changes can make such a big difference. 🌱💡

## What's On Over the Next Couple of Months?


- **New Health Centre Incoming**

Cllr Todd Olive explains the approved plans for a new health centre to help relieve pressure on the surrounding practices. See pages 14–15.

- **Valentine's Day** 

Feeling romantic... or just fancy a cosy film night? Check out what's on at the Village Hall on page 17.

- **A New Reverend in Town**

Rev Gudrun introduces herself in her first article on pages 22–23. Why not pop in for a coffee and a friendly chat? 

- **Theatre Night** 

*Vanity* is now showing at Talaton Parish Hall. Doors (and the bar!) open at 7pm. Dates on page 27.

- **Whimble Victory Hall Updates**



Find out what's been happening behind the scenes to improve the facilities—page 31.


- **Whimble Wassail 2026** 

A brilliant turnout on Saturday 17th January—photos and highlights on pages 32–33.

- **Repair Café** 

Feeling like a clear- out? Before you toss anything, read page 44 to learn how the Repair Café team can help fix broken or damaged items for free. A lovely way to save money *and* the planet.

That's a wrap for this month! Enjoy your February, and here's to March bringing brighter skies, daffodils, new life, and that spark of hope that always comes with spring.  

**Remember to be kind—to yourself and to each other.** 

Sam x



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



**St Mary's Church,  
Whimble**

invites you to its  
**Celebration of  
Spring**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
12pm service followed by a

**bring and  
share lunch**

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

# What's On In Whimble

## FEBRUARY 2026

- Sun 1st: Open Mic Night. NFI. From 7pm.  
Mon 2nd: Surgery with DC Todd Olive at the Hive, opp TF, 4-7pm.  
Thu 5th: Quiz night at New Fountain. 7.30pm.  
Sun 8th: Cash Bingo. NFI at 7.30pm. Book table.  
Sat 14th: Valentine's Day Front Row Club in VH at 7.30pm. Film – Something's Gotta Give, a classic romantic comedy with Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson.  
Sun 15th: Quiz night at New Fountain. 7.30pm.  
Wed 18th: Ash Wednesday service. St Mary's Church 7.00pm.  
Thu 19th: Movie Matinee at the Victory hall with tea and cakes. Doors open 1.30pm – free admission.  
Wed 25th: Whimble Community Choir Restarts. St. Mary's Church 7.00pm – 8.30pm.  
Thurs 26th: Community Theatre for All presents Par for the Course, a play by Peter Gordon at Talaton Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets available soon.  
Fri 27th: As above.  
Sat 28th: As above.  
Fri 27th: History Society talk Festival of Britain 75 Years on: Impact and Legacy by Alan Lascelles at the Victory Hall 7.30pm.  
Sat 28th: Soup and Sarnie in the Victory Hall. 12md to 1.30pm. All welcome.

## MARCH 2026

- Sun 1st: Open Mic Night. NFI. From 7pm.  
Mon 2nd: Surgery with District Councillor Todd Olive at the Hive, opp TF, 4-7pm.  
Thurs 5th: Quiz night at New Fountain. 7.30pm.  
Sun 8th: Cash Bingo. NFI at 7.30pm. Book table.  
Wed 11th: Whimble Community Choir. St. Mary's Church 7.00pm – 8.30pm  
Fri 13th: History Society AGM 7.30pm in VH followed at 8.15pm by An Eggcellent Adventure a talk by Tina Kelly.  
Sat 14th: Spring Celebration & Lunch St. Mary's Church 12.00noon  
Sun 15th: Mothering Sunday – The Gathering service St. Mary's Church 9.30am  
Wed 18th: Whimble Community Choir. St. Mary's Church 7.00pm – 8.30pm  
Wed 18th: Young Community Theatre for All presents 'Vanity'. A play inspired by The Red Shoes and other fairy tales. Talaton Parish Hall 7.30pm  
Sun 15th: Quiz night at New Fountain. 7.30pm.  
Wed 25th: Whimble Community Choir. St. Mary's Church 7.00pm – 8.30pm  
Sat 28th: Soup and Sarnie in the Victory Hall. 12md to 1.30pm. All welcome.

## APRIL

Wed 1st:	Whimble Community Choir. St. Mary's Church 7.00pm – 8.30pm.
Sun 5th:	Open Mic Night. NFI. From 7pm.
Mon 6th:	Surgery with DC Todd Olive at the Hive, opp TF, 4-7pm.
Sun 12th:	Cash Bingo. NFI at 7.30pm. Book table.
Sun 19th:	Quiz night at New Fountain. 7.30pm.
Sat 25th:	Soup and Sarnie in the Victory Hall. 12md to 1.30pm. All welcome.

Diary entries for the next 6 months can be found on the Whimble News website and also on Whimble What's On – check the top menu and click on 'Featured'.



## 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)

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

## 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**



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# Whimble Parish Council



## Budget and Precept for 2026/27

The Parish Council has set its budget for the 2026/2027 financial year which is £32,084.

This is an increase of £2,491 compared to the 2025/2026 budget of £29,593.

The key factors leading to the increase are increased salary costs, National Insurance Contributions, moving to Cloud hosted systems so that the Council improves security and no longer has to provide a laptop for the Clerk. Inflationary increases have also been added to the budget with a figure of 6% used (based on September 2025). A 20% increase has been factored in for water bills.

The Precept has been set at £30,347 which is an increase of 8% when compared to the 2025-2026 Precept of £28,443. This equates to £41.16 Council Tax (the portion for the Parish Council) based on a Band D property. This is £3.43 a month and £0.79 a week.

Full details of the Budget and Precept can be found on the Council website.

## Play Areas

The Parish Council has been working with East Devon District Council (EDDC) to ensure that four pieces of play equipment that could not be incorporated in the Slewton Crescent play area refurbishment will not be lost to the village.

EDDC are donating the equipment and paying for it to be installed (along with the safety matting) in the Parish Field. The equipment will sit alongside the new play area that the Parish Council will be installing in a few months' time.

The Parish Council is finalising the plans in February and then a further update will be given.

## Trees in The Square

The National Grid have arranged for Hi-Line to cut back some of the trees in The Square which have started to interfere with the overhead power cables. The work will take place in approximately three weeks' time (as at 20 January 2026) and will focus on the trees on the side of the river with the houses on it.

The cables on the road side of the river are the responsibility of BT to cut back. The Parish Council is contacting BT to arrange for this work to take place.

### Allotments waiting list

If you are interested in having an allotment please get in touch so that you can be added to the waiting list. We have a number of vacant plots and are looking to fill them.

### Reporting a problem

Devon County Council is the organisation to contact for any of the following issues:

- Potholes (of a certain size)
- Faulty street lights
- Flooding or blocked drains
- Hazardous or fallen trees
- Blocked access and trip hazards on a public right of way, including footpaths, pavements and cycleways

To make a report, visit the Devon County Council website:

[www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem](http://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem)

In the event of an emergency that is likely to present an imminent threat to life or serious injury, or serious damage to property please telephone 0345 155 1004.

When making a report it is really appreciated if a precise location can be given. The best way to do this is to use the What3 words website or app -

<https://what3words.com/>

### 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**

Whimble Parish Clerk

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

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

We are also contactable on Facebook

COMMUNITY THEATRE 4ALL PRESENTS

# Par FOR THE course

A COMEDY BY PETER GORDON

## Talaton Parish Hall

Thurs 26th, Fri 27th, Sat 28th February at 7.30pm

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Look In Your Next Issue of  
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PAR FOR THE COURSE by Peter Gordon

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## Whimble Community Choir Returns!

What fun we had singing in the Community over Christmas - fancy joining us?  
We are starting again on Wednesday 25th February 7pm - St Mary's Church.

Here are the dates until Easter:

**Wednesday 25th February:** 7pm - 8:30pm. Bring (a friend) for a Sing!  
An inclusive session for current and potential new members where we will just SING! Songs we know and have always wanted to sing - think Abba - Queen - Musical Theatre .... and much more.....AND - every member who brings a friend will get a raffle ticket for guess what??? A box of chocolates!!!

(no session on 4th March as we are away )

**Wednesday 11th March** 7pm - 8:30pm

**Wednesday 18th March** 7pm - 8:30pm

**Wednesday 25th March** 7pm - 8:30pm

**Wednesday 1st April** 7pm - 8:30pm



EVERYONE is welcome! It's YOUR choir Whimble - COME AND SING!

*Julia Green*



Join us for a mid week film with tea and cake.

Doors open at 1.30. Admission is free.

Bring your friends and relax for a couple of hours.

The film to be decided.

# Dear neighbour

I hope you are enjoying a positive start to the New Year. Some big updates below from me this month – but first, please could I remind everyone that on account of the threats I had been receiving I am no longer reading or posting on Facebook; if you need to raise an issue with me or ask a question, please either drop me a direct message to my Facebook page, or preferably send me an email or give me a call – details are below.



## Local Government Funding

Hot off the press in December was the government's so-called 'Fairer Funding Review', which has looked at how different councils across the country are funded – and in the government's view, sought to redress "imbalances" and "unfairness". Because East Devon, as an area of relatively high economic growth compared to other rural areas – particularly around Exeter Airport and the Sky and Science Parks – it has benefitted significantly from more income from business rates than predicted by the last review around a decade and a half ago, which has therefore kept that 'extra' money in the area. The government, in its wisdom, has decided to do what's called a "rebasings" of those expectations – effectively taking away the 'extra' rates earned within East Devon and putting them instead into HM Treasury's coffers, with no say given to local authorities in this process. As a result, our budget has been hit to the tune of £5m a year – about 20% - on top of significant real-terms cuts since 2010. East Devon's proposed budget for this year, and our projections for the next, nearly-completely avoid service cuts as we have been able to rely on funds set aside for this eventuality – which should keep things stable until the introduction of the new Unitary Council through Local Government Reorganisation in the next few years.

## Commuter Rail Services

A large number of residents have been in touch in the last few months regarding regular issues with the 8:03am train service into Exeter. I have raised these issues with my contacts at South Western Railway and been advised that these have been due to issues with lots of carriages being out of service at the same time – due to a combination of weather-related wheel damage and issues with the quality of replacement parts from the sole large-scale supplier. I understand three units of three carriages have been returned to service from the repair backlog, and that the rest should be back online from the beginning of February.

I have asked what more can be done to improve communications when services will only be three carriages – and thus likely to not stop at Whimble at 8:03am due to overcrowding – or outright cancelled, and await a response.

### Cranbrook Neighbourhood Health Centre

In September, I reported on progress made with Cranbrook Leisure Centre – this month, I'm pleased to share there is positive news regarding the Neighbourhood Health Centre planned for an adjacent plot in the town centre. The Health Centre would bring with it – among other facilities yet to be confirmed – much-improved availability of GP appointments for Cranbrook and surrounding areas, including Whimble, alleviating some of the strain on existing practices in Ottery and elsewhere. After over a year of delay, the NHS has identified funds to transfer to East Devon to allow progress through design and planning for the facility, and I am working to secure a special budget to enable us to take on the project. In the context of cuts I discuss above, this is not straightforward – but as a critical issue for our area of East Devon, I'm confident we will be able to make the numbers stack up.

### National Planning Policy Revisions

It's becoming a regular theme of my early-year updates that I report on the latest nonsense coming out of central government regarding planning policy. Their latest "innovation" is to introduce a new presumption in favour of development within a certain distance of a railway station – a catch-all measure that threatens to take us back to the days of the Conservative-led Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, which would have seen over two thousand houses built here in Whimble. I will be calling for strong push-back to the government's consultation on this unhelpful change – but it highlights the importance of getting the new Local Plan in place to protect East Devon from the brunt of Labour's wrecking-ball planning policy moves.

As always, for any questions or issues, you can find me at my Monday evening surgeries, 4pm to 7pm on the first Monday of every month at The Hive or you can get in touch 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

# VALENTINE'S DAY FILM AT THE VICTORY HALL

**Doors open 7:00pm  
Saturday 14th February**

## Refreshments

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, sweet and  
savoury nibbles, Devon ice creams, BYOB



Join us for one of the  
best romantic  
comedies of the  
century

See hall noticeboard for more details

Front Row Club members Free

Non members - £5 on door



## Valentine's Day Film at the Village Hall



Spend **Saturday 14th February** in good company at the Victory Hall, where we'll be marking Valentine's Day with a cosy community film night.

Instead of going out of the village on one of the busiest evenings of the year, come and enjoy a much-loved 2004 romantic comedy – widely considered one of the best of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It features an outstanding, Oscar-nominated performance and a beautiful score by Hans Zimmer. We can't mention the name of the film here, but it's posted on the noticeboards outside and inside the hall. Alternatively, scan the QR code below to see our latest newsletter.

Whether you're coming as a couple, with a friend, or simply fancy a relaxed Saturday outing, it's a perfect chance to settle in, watch a good film, and share the evening with neighbours.

Doors open 7:00pm; film starts 7:30pm.

**All welcome - non-members £5 on the door**

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, and a few sweet and savoury nibbles will be available. As always, local Devon ice creams are available in the interval. You're very welcome to bring your own bottle. So, wrap up warm, wander down to the hall, and join us for a friendly evening that should brighten up a winter's weekend.





This year's Whimble wassail was, once again, a magical evening, when even the heavens were kind to us, with the much anticipated rain holding off, although it was rather squelchy and slippery underfoot. You can read all about it in our separate article elsewhere in this magazine.

Meanwhile, onto our plans for the next couple of months. Our next event is a talk by Whimble resident, Alan Lascelles, at 7.30pm on Friday 27th February 2026 at the

Victory Hall. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Festival of Britain held in 1951 to boost morale after the Second World War and celebrate the reconstruction of the nation. Alan will be reflecting on the Festival itself, its impact and legacy. All are welcome and entry is free, although we respectfully ask for a donation of £4 per person (£2 for under 18s) from those who are not History Society members.

On Sunday 15th February a quiz will be held at the New Fountain Inn at 7.30pm. Funds raised from this event will be donated to the Whimble History Society. You are invited to come along in teams of up to six people. If you wish to book a table, please contact the NFI on 01404 643730.

This year's AGM will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 13th March 2026 in the Victory Hall. There is no charge for entry and all are welcome – we especially encourage members to attend. It is a great way to find out about what has been going on in the previous year – and there is no need to worry – you will not be roped into doing anything! Following the AGM, at 8.15pm, I will be giving a short talk called “An Egg-cellent Adventure!” about one of our new 2026 displays. If you want to know what that is all about then you will have to come along!!

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available at both events for a suggested donation of £2 per person.

Are you a collector? Many people amass collections – coins, stamps, and model cars are popular things to collect, but some people have much more unusual collections, sometimes of seemingly everyday objects such as staplers. Whatever you collect, we are keen to hear from you. We would like to establish a “Collectors’ Corner”, where each year we can display a different collection belonging to a Whimble resident or one of our members. Please contact me if you have a collection that you would like to have displayed. It needs to be small enough to fit in a display cabinet measuring W125cm x D57cm x H19cm at the back and sloping down to H9.5cm at the front.

Finally, we would like to extend our very grateful thanks to Tozers LLP, solicitors of Exeter, who have donated some office furniture to us, including a really lovely meeting table with twelve matching chairs for our committee room. As a small charity we would never be able to afford to buy such good quality furniture, and we really are very appreciative of Tozers’ generosity.

Tina Kelly  
Curator



Whimble History Society



# *The Festival of Britain 1951*

A celebration of achievement – Its History and Impact. Reflections over 75 years



An illustrated talk by Alan Lascelles MA

At Victory Hall, Whimble, EX5 2TS

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 7.30pm

**Tea/coffee and biscuits available – suggested donation £2pp.**

Non-members welcome – suggested donation £4pp (under 18s, £2pp)

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

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# Whimble Church

## News from St Mary's Church, Whimble



It's lovely to get the chance to send greetings to the people of Whimble and introduce myself.

I am Rev Gudrun Thomas and for the last two and half years I have been a Team vicar for the East Clyst Churches mission community (a group of local churches which includes Whimble church). In December Rev Marc Kerslake began a three-month sabbatical. It has been my privilege to step up to be Interim Team Rector for the group of churches, which has seen me lead services regularly at Whimble.

I had a wonderful time leading services over Christmas and loved meeting and beginning to get to know the people of Whimble.

So I thought I would tell you a little about myself.

I came to faith in later life after taking my children for Baptism. I had no church background but as I learnt more about Jesus from my church family I had a great sense that he was with me in my everyday life and that it was not too late to let him into my life. I pray that through my ministry I can offer that chance to others, whatever stage of life they are at so they can meet with Jesus in the ordinary day to day parts of their lives.

When not involved in parish ministry I can often be found pounding the lanes around Rockbeare training for various short races or half marathons. When not running, I am often to be found on the terraces as a season ticket holder cheering on my beloved Exeter City. Before training to be a vicar I was a primary school teacher and then the children and families lead worker for St Michael's Church in Alphington. In 2019 I was ordained and then spent 3 years as a curate in the Culm Valley mission community living in Uffculme, Mid Devon. I am married to Darryl and I have two grown up sons.

## **Recently at church**

Change is not easy and with Rev Marc taking some time away from ministry, we have had to look at how it is possible to cover the many services we wish to maintain in the group. This meant that I often have to cover three services in one day (two in the morning and one in the evening). This meant that as several of our services clashed at 10am we have had to make some difficult changes. One of those is that Whimple Church now meets at 9.30 am on a Sunday morning. This does not change so keeps each Sunday consistent.

1st Sunday – 9.30 Morning Worship  
2nd Sunday – 9.30 Sung Eucharist (with Choir)  
3rd Sunday – 9.30 Morning worship  
4th Sunday - 9.30 Holy communion (No choir)

## **Coming soon.....**

18<sup>th</sup> February 7pm @ St Mary's Whimple  
Ash Wednesday service  
Come along and start Lent with a traditional reflective service.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Spring Lunch (in church)  
After the success of the Harvest festival lunch in church in October the team have decided to have a celebratory Spring lunch. This will be the same format, Bring and Share. 12noon in church for a service then lunch. See poster for details.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am  
The Gathering service - Mothering Sunday  
Come and join us to celebrate with worship songs, activities and a chance to hear about the original tradition to go "amothering"  
This friendly relaxed service is open to all. Look out for more details.

**Rev Gudrun**

[rector@eastclystchurches.org](mailto:rector@eastclystchurches.org)

<https://eastclystchurches.org/>



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YOUNG COMMUNITY  
THEATRE 4ALL PRESENTS

# Vanity



## Talaton Parish Hall

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# Community Theatre 4All

Reflecting on ten years of community activity.

The company was formed in September 2015 when Julia Green and I came together to begin the rehearsal process for “Godspell”. CT4A had ‘accidentally’ been created because of a casual conversation between myself and Chris Martin who, at the time, was the priest in charge of the Churches 4All Mission Community. Chris had opened the 2014 Advent Service with the song, “Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord” from the musical “Godspell” and following the service. I had casually said to Chris what a great way it had been to start that service. Chris agreed, saying that he had been in that show as a teenager. Without thinking I said ‘Well why don’t we do it?’ to which Chris replied, ‘Yes, go for it’ and ten years of very varied theatrical productions, presented in many different venues, followed on from that moment! Godspell performed in St Mary’s Church in March 2016.

The company has, while retaining its roots within the church, grown to encompass the Talaton and Whimple village communities as well as welcoming participants from the wider area.

The company’s second presentation was the original play entitled “In Remembrance of a Lost Generation”. This was a First World War drama that told the stories of the men whose lives are commemorated on the Whimple, Talaton and Escot war memorials This production performed in both Talaton Parish Hall and the Whimple Victory Hall in November 2016.

Subsequent productions have performed in many different venues and have included an open-air “A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream” October 2017, “Christ in the Concrete City” a modern Passion Play, March 2018, “An Evening of Victorian Melodramas” touring village halls in November and December 2018, “The Farndale Murder at Checkmate Manor” March 2019, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” February 2020, “Talaton a War-Time Refuge” (the story of Talaton’s Kindertransport children) April 2022, An Evening of Two One Act plays (“The Bear” and “The Laboratory”) November 2023 and most recently an open-air “Toad of Toad Hall” in July 2024. The company’s next production, is the comedy “Par For The Course” performing on 26th, 27th and 28th February in Talaton Parish Hall.

### **Looking to the Future**

The company's next production will be an adaptation of Thomas Hardy's "Far From The Madding Crowd". Rehearsals for this will commence in the autumn for performances in 2027. Plans are also in the early stages of development for a Whimble based historical drama for performance in 2028. Both productions will be large cast plays with a wide range of different sized parts and we are eager to welcome new members to join the regular performers in both these ventures. If you would like to be informed about participation in future productions please email your details to:-

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

Beyond these next two ventures no plans currently exist but what we do know is that if the group is to continue to be a vibrant creative community theatre company, providing good entertainment for the local community, then new members need to join us to keep the group fresh, active and moving forward. On a personal note I can't imagine that in another ten years' time, when I will be in my mid 80s, I will want to be as fully committed as I currently am! A new driving force needs to come forward to help shape the next ten years!

### **Young Community Theatre 4All**

Following the success of "Joseph" when the adult company of 30 were joined by 20 Primary School children a youth group was formed. As well as joining forces with the adult group for the production of "Toad" this company has undertaken its own productions. These have included a devised drama inspired by the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak. The musical "Rats!" – a modern retelling of the story of The Pied Piper of Hamelin. "The Little Prince" adapted for the stage from the book of the same name by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry and "The King of The Golden River" adapted for the stage from the book of the same name by John Ruskin.

Young Community Theatre 4All is in the final stages of rehearsal for their latest production, a piece entitled "Vanity" which explores the theme of vanity within Hans Christian Anderson's cautionary tale "The Red Shoes" as well as in other well-known fairy tales, legends and contemporary settings. "Vanity" performs in Talaton Parish Hall from 18th to 20th March.

**Tom Samson**



## **WHIMPLE VICTORY HALL** **at the heart of the community**

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I wanted to take a moment to share what we've been doing at the Village Hall, and to tell you what lies ahead. It's also a good opportunity to remind everyone that the hall is a volunteer led charity. Our Trustees give their time freely, working behind the scenes to keep the hall in good condition and open to all.

### **Who keeps the hall running?**

#### **Management Team:**

Sue Ayres, Rob Davis, Chris Olive, Ali Tierney, Di Wilkins,  
Viv Brown, Glenn Starkey, Harry Trimblett

#### **User Trustees and volunteer:**

Arthur Iball, Paul Wilson, David Rastall, Helen Bowker,  
Lynda Patrick, Jim Allwood, Zena Calverly.

#### **Support Team:**

Sue Thorne (Caretaker/Cleaner), Andy O'Brien (Garden Maintenance),

### **I am grateful for everything they do.**

**A great deal has been achieved over the past four years.**

#### **What have we done outside?**

- Two diseased trees were removed, and the overgrown foliage along the fence was cut back.
- The Red Telephone Box was refurbished and transformed into a Book Exchange, thanks to Parish Council grant funding, community donations, and Ali Large's excellent interior refurbishment.
- The garden side exterior wall has been repainted and new lighting installed.
- A new bin shed keeps all waste bins tidy and together.
- We now have a green- waste bin and a grit bin.
- Old trellis and other redundant items were cleared, greatly improving the appearance of the site.
- A wooden shed was installed to store the Gardening Clubs equipment.
- And finally, Arthur Iball kindly planted a wisteria in the garden and donated a bench for everyone to enjoy.

Our gardener, Andy O'Brien, and long- standing volunteer, Zena Calverly, continue to keep the grounds and flowerbeds looking wonderful. We are extremely grateful for their work.

#### **What have we done inside the hall?**

- The kitchen mould problem has been addressed and is now less of an issue.
- Grant funding enabled us to install new hand dryers in several toilets.
- Further funding allowed us to replace the green baize and cushions on the billiard table, which is used every week.
- Additional grants supported the installation of a new AV system and screen.

- The ancient boiler was replaced with a modern, efficient model with remote thermostat control.
  - Outdated lighting in the main hall was upgraded to LED strips and spotlights.
  - Under-stage storage was created, making better use of an underused space.
- And finally, the main hall has been redecorated and now looks fresh and inviting.

### **But the biggest improvement is the new roof:**

Last summer, with support from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant, we replaced the old single skinned metal roof, which offered almost no insulation and left the hall cold in winter and overheated in summer, with a modern, triple skinned insulated roof. The difference is noticeable. Even in this first winter, the hall feels much warmer and our oil consumption has already reduced.

### **So what is next? Solar panels.**

With support from the EDDC Carbon Fund we are preparing to install solar panels on the hall roof. Although the hall's older wiring has created some challenges, we are confident these can be resolved before the August deadline. Watch out for them.

### **But the best is yet to come – an Extension**

Work is also progressing on our planned extension on the north side of the building. This new space will provide a flexible, year-round daytime venue for community use. As our fundraising thermometer shows, we still need to raise over £200,000 of our £400,000 target before we can proceed.

### **How you can help**

We ask that you please continue to support our village hall – whether by donating, organising a fundraising event, or simply spreading the word. Every contribution brings us closer to creating a modern, accessible space for the whole community.

For more information, contact Sue Ayres on 01404 823082 or email [victoryhall.friends@outlook.com](mailto:victoryhall.friends@outlook.com).

And don't forget – the hall is available for clubs, groups, private functions, and summer garden events at very competitive rates.

### **PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR LOTTERY DRAW – called the 250K Club.**

Join the 250K Club and support the hall while getting a chance to win every month! For just £6 per month, the price of one coffee and cake, you can make a difference.

Sign up today!

Registration forms are available at the hall, or you can use the link below. If you have any difficulties, feel free to message me – I'm happy to help.

<https://tinyurl.com/whimble250kclub>

On the mild, dry evening of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, people of all ages came in droves and gathered at the Whimble Heritage Centre for an authentic wassail experience.

The wassailers were led by The Master of the Wassail (Jeremy Wilson) and the assembled crowd sung the Wassail song to the apple trees led by local folk musician Jim Causley. Emma Palmer assisted the Wassail royalty (Esme, Sully, Alice and Max) to put baked apples, toast and cider in and around the apple trees and to recite the incantation. These six people dressed the part in cloaks, smocks and leafy hats and crowns. The ceremonies were accompanied by gunfire and a lot of noise generated by the crowd using homemade instruments. Any evil spirits were well and truly driven out of the trees by the cacophony of noise. We finished it all with more singing and refreshments at the Cricket Club.





We would like to express our thanks to everyone who helped to make the wassail such an enjoyable evening. We would especially like to thank the New Fountain Inn for closing their car park while the crowds gathered at the start of the evening; Jim Causley, Emma

Palmer, and all of the musicians for adding to the atmosphere with their music and for entertaining us all at the Cricket Club afterwards; Whimple Cricket Club for allowing us to use their facilities; the orchard owners for allowing us to wassail their trees; Whimple Stores for supplying the pasties, pies and sausage rolls; Sandford Orchards for donating the cider; our team of volunteers who led the proceedings, marshalled the crowds, provided refreshments, fired the guns, lit the fires, ran the souvenir shop and generally contributed to the evening; and not forgetting, of course, all those who attended and made the whole thing worthwhile. All funds raised go towards the costs of running this event and the Whimple Heritage Centre. Thank you everyone!

Tina Kelly and Jenny Fells



January begins and the new year beckons with all the anticipation, excitement and apprehension that entails. It's also full of opportunities too for new friendships, fun and a feeling of belonging. That's the WI for you.

We've already enjoyed some incredibly beautiful, bright sunny days with spectacularly cold and frosty evenings. I haven't ventured far on foot as I am keenly protective of my valued and appreciated NHS replacement hips. Him indoors and the dog seem to have been quite content to play throw and fetch with a ball on the lawn. It was not always the dog doing the fetching, I noted.

It reminded me of the WI county skittles competition. We played Axe River WI before Christmas, a keen bunch it has to be said. I was pretty confident we would be knocked out but by some inexplicable turn of fate, we weren't! Yours truly was top scorer and contributed to Whimble winning the match. So we're set fair for the next round. Honestly! You couldn't make it up!

At the beginning of December, the torrential rain dampened spirits and affected footfall for the King's School Christmas fayre where we had a cake stall (we are the WI after all). Sarah, Maggie and I were so proud of our stall and the contributions so generously baked by our members. This year we will concentrate on large cakes, small cakes and traybakes, plus chutney which all sold well in spite of the weather.

No time to rest as on 9 December saw us headlong into the Christmas party. With a considerable amount of planning, mainly by Sarah and myself, 29 members were able to construct a festive door wreath to take home. They all looked amazing and will be a hard act to follow this year. Did I mention the scrumptious bring and share buffet we all enjoyed and the fabulous raffle?

Our first meeting of the year, was supposed to be about the History of Vaccines by Jo Yarwood, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled as the projector was broken. We were fortunate in managing to get a replacement speaker: Dr Jenny Moon, who spoke to us about the History of Nursery Rhymes. This talk was very interesting and brought back many memories.

We are all looking forward to our post Christmas lunch at an esteemed local hostelry, just outside Whimble, in mid January. The food is delightful and there's always a warm, attentive welcome. Just how it should be.

We have a full programme of speakers lined up and outings, events, lunches, skittles in the pipeline. If you are interested then please contact Marilyn on 01404 821860 for further details.

Happy New Year everyone!

**Di Eden**



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## **The Session: Cardio + Functional Bodyweight Moves**

This circuit blends heart-pumping cardio with strength-building exercises using just your bodyweight. Each move is followed by a lap around the field to keep your heart rate up and enjoy the scenery.

### **Warm-Up**

- Gentle jog around the field (1 lap)

### **Main Circuit**

Repeat each exercise followed by **1 lap around the field**:

1. **Bodyweight Squats** – 10 reps *Strengthens legs and glutes*



2. **Walking Lunges** – 10m out and back *Targets thighs and improves balance*



3. **Push-Ups** – 10 reps *Builds upper body and core strength*



### **Rest for 1 minute**

4. **Walk-Out Burpees** – 10 reps *Full-body activation without the jump*



5. **Jumping Jacks** – 10 reps *Boosts cardiovascular endurance*



6. **Plank Hold** – 20 seconds *Engages core and stabilising muscles*



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- Oats or porridge
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### **Lean Protein Sources**

- Eggs (boiled, scrambled, or in an omelette)
- Greek yogurt
- Cottage cheese
- Chicken breast or turkey slices
- Tinned tuna or salmon
- Plant-based options like lentils, chickpeas, or tofu

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## Windows Beyond Whimble



### The Incomplete Highway to the Sun

In the small village of Whitwell on the edge of Rutland Water, a very significant event took place in 1980. As one villager put it, “we may have more ducks than people, but now we have a very special European partner”. Whitwell, population 41, had been twinned with Paris, the capital of France. How this ambitious and somewhat quirky idea came about is not recorded, but it was nevertheless achieved. It may well have had something to do with the consumption of large quantities of beer but, one night, a small group decided to write to the then Mayor of Paris - and future French President - Jacques Chirac, saying that if he did not reply within two weeks, they would assume that Paris accepted their offer of twinning. No response was forthcoming so the self-styled committee duly organised a French-themed parade which took place to mark their twinning accession. A local French teacher - and the only French person to attend - was dressed in a Napoleon-style hat and driven to the pub in an open-top Citroen. “a historic day in the development of a united Europe” said the village mayor to a gathering of hundreds of people.

Eventually, the French did reply with a firm "Non". They pointed out that it was not possible because they were already twinned with Rome. But, by then it was too late! The sign had been put up! ‘Whitwell. Twinned with Paris’ - a local legend had been born and the last time I went past in late 1990s, the sign was still there. As at March 2023 (Google Maps) it remains in place.

Whimble may not be twinned with a European Capital City officially, but it does have (almost) direct links to Rome. A clue to this is the name of the road to the south of our parish – London Road. What’s that got to do with it? Well, 1600 years ago our London Road was the main road, or ‘Chariot Way’, from Exeter (Isca Dumnoniorum) to London (Londinium), which was the capital city of the Roman Empire province of Britain. Construction of the road began shortly after the Roman invasion in AD 43.

If, after taking the London Road to Londinium, you then travel on Watling Street to Dover (Dubris) and cross the Channel, as history tells us, ‘All roads lead to Rome’. Hence, Whimble’s link to Rome.

The London Road later became the A30 which passed through the Parish of Whimble. The ‘new’ A30 has been rerouted as a continuation of the Honiton Bypass with dualling up to the M5. The old London Road, old A30, is now known by the somewhat less romantic title, namely the B3174.

One gets an idea of Roman roads around the country from the fact that they are invariably extremely straight. The A303 'Trunk Road' is a 93 mile stretch of road, west of Basingstoke to its junction with the A30 near Upottery. Where it suddenly, without fanfare, just after the roadside café, becomes the A30 once more.

The Honiton Bypass extension link to the M5, also has history. In particular, the activities of Swampy, Animal, and Muppet Dave who tried to impede its construction. The new A30 was eventually opened on the 6th August 1999 by John Prescott, Transport Secretary, just 5 days prior to the 'almost' total eclipse of the sun.

Historically, the A30 is one of the most famous and iconic roads from London to the West Country, running from Hounslow in West London to Land's End. It is a major route for commerce and trade, and the route for millions of holidaymakers over the years bound for 'hopefully' sun-soaked golden beaches, cream teas, pasties and waving palm trees. In more recent times for cultural pursuits, swimming, surfing, festivals and much, much more.

By the early 1930s, it was already struggling to cope with summer holiday traffic. So, in 1934 a collection of back roads and B-roads running slightly to the north were reclassified as the new main road, heading west. The bit in the middle, the rather 'cobbled together' alternative to the A30, became the A303. Badged as a new improved route, it was actually a centuries-old coaching route to the South West. In the late 1950's it became an official Trunk Road. When the M3 opened in 1971, the road spilt after Basingstoke with the M3 going down to Southampton, and the A303 re-affirmed its status as the main route to Devon and beyond.

One could certainly argue that the A303 is more than just a road, more than just a route from A to B. It has a complex story of change, hope, despair and of government failures. It is the story of the impact of the geography, rich ancient archaeology, decades of modest road improvements and persistent traffic jams. Many would say it is not just a road, it's a journey, an experience, not simply about getting there but a motoring adventure. The A303 provides the chance to see the great bluestones of Stonehenge, drovers' tracks, tumuli, turnpikes, tollhouses and wide-open vistas of Salisbury plain. However, it must be said that it is still a road that is not quite fit for purpose and has been consistently let down by governments of the day.

In Tom Fort's book "The A303 Highway to the Sun", also an acclaimed television documentary, he gives voice to the many stories the road has to tell. Not just the prehistoric paths dating from 2000 BC around Stonehenge, but the Roman roads, medieval tracks and stage coaching, the decline when railways arrived and then the revival in the 1930's, leading up to the creation of the new 'A' road. He tells also of the people, the mad vicars, solstice seekers and wicked earls. It's our history,

geography and culture wrapped up in one road and exemplifying the English way of life.

The contentious issue regarding the A303 is still the Stonehenge stretch that has been debated for years. The Tories unveiled plans for a 1.8-mile tunnel, to which the Planning inspectors said “no”, as it would cause “permanent, irreversible harm” to the site. In 2020, the Minister overruled the inspectors and gave the go-ahead. In 2021, the Stonehenge Alliance took the government to the High Court and the Minister’s decision was found to be ‘unlawful’.

On the 14th July 2023 – the Secretary of State for Transport approved the A303 Stonehenge ‘solution’ of a longer tunnel. Good news for alleviating congestion, bad news for environmentalists. The next stage was to seek a judicial review, arguing the plan should go back before the inspectors. The chair of the Stonehenge Alliance, said, “We’re up against the might of the Department for Transport, National Highways.”

The Druid King, Arthur Pendragon, who was outside the High Court stated, “It’s arrogance from the government. The inspectors have said it’s a bad idea, but the government has just ignored them and decided they’ll bloody well do what they want to do.” In May 2024 the Court of Appeal upheld the campaigners’ case against the tunnel scheme and as such it is now indefinitely delayed.

Whilst there have been improvements to the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester, the Ilminster By-Pass is still a dangerous three lane highway. The improved link to the M5 at Taunton, which meant dualling the A358 from Southfield, was cancelled being deemed poor value for money and of limited economic benefit. Now, it’s no longer having a Route Protection, which effects planning decisions that would have allowed for road widening.

Currently, it looks like nothing much is happening to improve this famous A30 and A303 ‘highway to the sun’ route. Being realistic, the journey time for a beautiful West Country holiday is likely to take longer for those in the Home Counties, and a continuous dual carriageway from London to Exeter remains a dream.

Alan Lascelles MA – Feature Writer

Reference sources: Simon and Shuster (Publishers) A 303 Highway to the Sun – Tom Fort, Keep Left, BBC, New Civil Engineer, National Highways, National World, Guardian, Motorway Services, JP.

WN Production Note:

AI-generated artwork created by Microsoft Copilot (2026). Custom prompts: “clipart-style Roman chariot silhouette” & “clipart-style Victorian carriage silhouette”



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# A Window on Whimble's Weather

## November/December 2025

A wet autumn certainly seems to be making up for the spring and summer's drought! Though even November and December had dry spells, especially in the second halves of each month.

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

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

November – The first 15 days of the month were mild, wet and often windy, contrasting with a much cooler and more settled second half to the month. Temperatures peaked at a balmy 17.4C on the 6th but apart from some sunshine on 2nd and 8th, most days in the first fortnight were cloudy, with some rain. The wettest days were the 9th, 11th and 13th-14th – with almost 30mm, over an inch on these last 2 days, coinciding with Storm Claudia. But strongest winds were during the afternoon of the 9th, when gusts reached 46 km/h. Pressure rose strongly 15th to 16th as a sunny, cold northerly set in for 10 days. Sharp frosts occurred on most days, including -5.2C early on the 21st. The month ended milder from the 27th and wetter again.

December – This month followed a similar pattern, with a wet, mild first half and drier, cold second. Overall it was the wettest month (145.4mm) since January, which had 147.6mm. Storm Bram peaked in Whimble as a cold front moved through early pm on the 9th bringing damaging gusts to 58.7km/h. The wettest day of the month was on the 15th with 24.4mm, just under an inch, due to a wriggling cold front across Devon! The 3rd week was less mild and a little less wet (apart from the 18th) – but the main change occurred on Christmas Eve when it became noticeably colder, as high pressure built and a bitter north-east wind picked up, making carols in The Square decidedly chilly! Then the Christmas / New Year week was completely dry, cold and with alternating sunny/cloudy days. New Year's Eve was bitterly cold with temperatures down to -5.4C, heralding a cold start to 2026...

2025	November	Date	December	Date
Warmest Day	17.4 °C	06/11/2025	14.8 °C	07/12/2025
Coolest Night	-5.2 °C	21/11/2025	-5.4 °C	31/12/2025
Windiest 24hrs	34.3 km/h	09/11/2025	43.1 km/h	09/12/2025
Highest Gust	46.0 km/h	09/11/2025	58.7 km/h	09/12/2025
Wettest 24hrs	18.2 mm	14/11/2025	24.4 mm	15/12/2025
Av. Maximum	12.7 °C	N/A	10.4 °C	N/A
Av. Minimum	5.1 °C	N/A	3.5 °C	N/A
Total Rain	127.9 mm	N/A	145.4 mm	N/A
Total Sunshine	49.3 kWh/kW	111.5% of Av.	40.9 kWh/kW	131.3% of Av.

*Phil Dominy & David Brewer*

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Sustainability is a worthy—and important—aim, but even if you're committed to it, it can be difficult to translate its goals into everyday actions that genuinely make a difference.

In 2009, Martine Postma decided to do something about this challenge and founded the Repair Café. Repair Café is a charity that aims to reduce the amount of stuff we throw away. To give you an idea of the scale of the problem: the UK ranks 2nd in the world for the amount of electrical waste ('e-waste') produced per person. The concept behind Repair Café is simple: people bring faulty, broken, or damaged items, and volunteers repair them - free of charge.

The temptation to throw things away is made all the greater because many items, especially small white goods, are relatively cheap, not designed to be repaired, and often costly to fix (if it's even possible). As a society, we've become less inclined to repair things, and many of us have lost the required skills. Yet the success of this simple idea has been remarkable: from a single café in 2009, there are now more than 3,800 worldwide.

Beyond reducing waste and saving money, Repair Cafés offer unexpected secondary benefits. Many of the items brought in hold sentimental value, and there's a real 'feel good factor' in hearing the stories behind them from the people who bring them in. You can't help but smile when seeing the look of joy in the face of someone when they see their 60 year old toy doll back together again after so many years. And there was a look of relief with the realisation of how much a fully working riser chair would ease the lives of them and their elderly relative.

The rewards extend to the volunteers too. Repairing a rocking horse, a child's toy, or someone's ancient Hoover gives a great sense of satisfaction. There's also a great pleasure in the mental challenge of diagnosing a problem and working out how it can be fixed—often requiring a great deal of ingenuity.

There is almost no limit to the variety of items that come through the door: stereos, keyboards, toys, lamps—making it difficult to know what tools to bring. And it's not only mechanical and electrical items; clothing repairs are often needed too, including replacing zips, buttons, patches, and more.

There are a number of Repair Cafés in Devon, and their locations can be found on the Repair Café Organisation website. Our one operates in School Lane, Honiton, and has been running for about a year. It opens on the 3rd Saturday of every month, from 9.15am to midday.

So if you have something that you'd rather not throw away or that needs a little TLC, bring it along. We'll do our best to fix it for free—though we wouldn't say no to a contribution towards our running costs. You can try our excellent home-made cakes while you wait.

John Bullard

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## 25 years ago

Looking back to Whimble News in February 25 years ago a few things caught my eye. One was a report of the passing of John Shepherd – the self-appointed Mayor of Whimble. John was a great character and a driving force in the History Society. Here is the tribute to John as it appeared in that edition:

“

Robert John Shepherd or John as he was known to many, was born in January 1934 and lived all his life, and sadly died on 30th December 2000, in the same house in Grove Road. He attended the village school, was in the local Scout pack and a choirboy. John first went to work at Howards TV business in Exeter. Most of his working life was, however, spent with the Water Board. On retirement he embraced the new technical age being the first person in Whimble to have a computer. He used it to good effect compiling the accounts and records of many local businesses. He answered the call of his country and served in The Royal Air Force for his National Service. He joined the village branch of The Royal British Legion and at his death had been Chairman of the men's branch for a number of years.

John took over leadership of an embryo youth club and transformed it. Firstly, changing the name to White Arrow Youth Organisation. He decided it's function was educational as well as fun. He engineered the taking over of a cottage at The Hand and Pen junction and, with the willing help of the youth of the village, converted it into a first class club with many facilities modern day clubs would envy. But the club was only a base; he organised year after year trips away and many other activities. One offshoot from the youth organisation was the first village newspaper, produced by the members under his direction.

He was one of those who established the village Tennis Club. To raise funds for the court and clubhouse he took a leading part in the fund raising 'Star Spangled Review'. He helped in many other aspects of the fund raising and was also a leading member of the enthusiastic band who dug the foundations, trenches for drainage and erected fencing.

His performing talents were also to the fore in a duo with the late Ken Stone, of Devon Talks and Dialect. For 34 years he ran a Christmas Club.

He was a patriot, and English through and through.

A staunch member of The Society of St. George. He was a leading organiser in the village celebrations of Her Majesty The Queen's Silver Jubilee and the wedding of The Prince of Wales.

Stallcombe House at Woodbury was also one of his charitable interests and he devoted much time and patience supporting the residents.

Although not a gardener himself, he became very much involved with the VPA and it was he who used his computer to cope with recording entries and statistics each year.

John was a familiar visitor to the village school, playgroup and Scouts where he gave many a talk. To help give these talks he accumulated a lot of information about the history of the village. In 1989 it was his idea to gather together interested residents to form a formal organisation to safeguard that history. His drive and enthusiasm resulted in the formation of Whimble History Society. His ability to enthuse others has resulted in that society now having nearly 150 members. 4½ years ago he thought that the society ought to have a permanent home. Last year a suitable one was found - Lockyear's Linhay in the grounds of The New Fountain Inn. Meanwhile, his enthusiasm and drive had infested the society, and its members, and fund raising led by him had produced £40,000, enough to buy the Linhay and much of the adjoining ground for future expansion. He instituted a number of events in the society to mark millennium year. The last of these was to restore The Tethering Ring

outside the Old Post Office, by the stream in The Square in front of The Manse. He was to unveil it on 31st December. The previous morning it was set in the ground. We now know it was being done at the time of his heart attack.

Many readers have sat in the church to watch and listen to the many wonderful 'Son et Lumiere' performances telling the history of the church. They were John's idea. He wrote the script, recruited the actors, rehearsed them, recorded sound and music and directed the performances.

He was well known for two uniforms. A red one trimmed with white - Father Christmas. Two Christmas's ago he toned down his appearances to only those in Whimble. Prior to then, for over 30 years, he appeared at 25 other schools, homes and charity events in Exeter, Honiton and East Devon. His second uniform was, of course, that of Mayor. He revived the age-old post and graced many village events in his flowing cloak and coloured waistcoat.

John was a faithful friend to many, a sincere man, someone who was happy and jolly, with bags of energy, enthusiasm and keenness in everything he did. I am sure you can think of your own plaudits, all will be well deserved.

It was fitting, and a great compliment to him, that nearly 300 persons crowded into the church for his funeral. His Mayoral Insignia were taken in, the local British Legion Standard was paraded and the Cross of St. George flew from the tower.

The congregation joined in saying a Farewell from Whimble:

John we salute you

Whimble thanks you



Bob Scanlan

Vigø Presses





# Whimble Cricket Club

With the days getting longer and the weather beginning to brighten, we can start to look forward to a new cricket season ahead.

The club has wintered well. Dog walkers and other visitors will have noticed that the outfield is looking better than ever for the time of year, thanks to the efforts of our robot mower (nicknamed Mowin' Ali!), which has kept going through much of the winter. You may also have seen advertising at the club for foodservice, as we have been renting the kitchen and pavilion to a local catering company.

We are looking forward to a bumper summer of cricket across all our teams. We expect to be competitive on Saturday afternoons with our 1st XI and 2nd XI sides; our women's 1st XI will be taking the next step by entering the T20 Plate competition; and our social and friendly cricket calendar is coming together nicely. Junior cricket will see us field teams at Under 11, Under 13 (two sides), and Under 15 hardball age groups. For our younger cricketers, we will be running both the ECB All Stars and Dynamos programmes. There will be a lot going on between April and September!

Our winter training programme is now under way, and this is open to cricketers of all ages and abilities. If you would like to get involved, please contact us. We are also on the perennial lookout for extra help during the summer, in the form of administrative assistance, cricket coaches, umpires, scorers, BBQ helpers, bar staff, and all of the usual roles that come with running a cricket club. We welcome anyone interested in getting involved.

Please do follow us on social media for the latest news. Summer fixtures and dates will be available soon at [www.whimblecc.co.uk](http://www.whimblecc.co.uk). League fixtures are already confirmed, with other dates to follow shortly.

James Woollam

# 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.



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By the time this edition of the News reaches everyone, January will have come and gone and we will have had our first meeting of the year which once again was our AGM and was held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 in the Village Hall. It was good to be able to report on a year with an interesting programme of events which included three talks, two coach trips, our quiz night, the plant sale and of course the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Flower and Craft Show. All in all, it was a very good year.

Regrettably, we have now reached a situation with the Club where it has reached something of a crossroads in its existence. For many years we have been very fortunate in that we have had a succession of people to join the Committee who have carried out a lot of the important roles for us. Unfortunately over the last few years we have been unable to attract new members to join our Committee and take on these roles. A number of people have very kindly helped us from time to time but it is active Committee Members that we urgently need. We learnt at our last meeting that some six members of the Committee were standing down and these were key members who carried out a number of important roles for the Club. This has left us with just four members to run the Club. Whether we will have some new members come forward at the AGM to take on some of these roles we will only know at the meeting. However, without any new members coming forward, it will be difficult to see how we can run any events this year. We shall have to try to recruit people throughout the year.

Hopefully we will get some response at the AGM and we will see what we can do for this year. Having run so many successful events over the years, the last thing we would wish to do is to try and run any event without the necessary resources to do so.

Paul Wilson,  
Hon. Chairman



**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Whimble Garden Safari**  
**June 6th & 7th 2026**

*Keep it free: more information to follow*

# **Whimble Garden Safari 2026**

## **Put the date in your diary!**

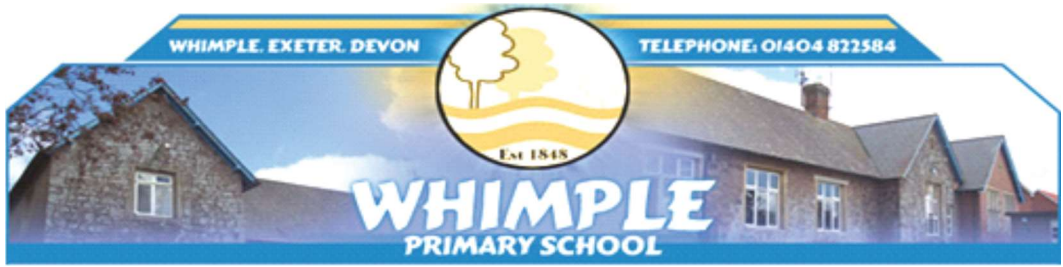
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**Sue Bellamy: 07778 129804**

**If you love your garden, no matter how big – so will others**



January 2026

Happy New Year from everyone at Whimple Primary School!

Our Christmas events were a great success, with the church packed out for our Nativity and Carol Service. A number of children in our Rock Steady Bands performed to the school and their parents, really putting us in the festive mood. It was lovely to see and hear how their skills have developed and improved over the past term.

### Sponsored Event for Charity



We held our sponsored 'Three-Legged Marathon' back in December. You may have seen or heard a lot of laughter as you passed, luckily on one of the few sunny days we had. A minimum of four pairs of children walked around a circuit in the lower playground from 9.15am until 3.15pm. Every class was allocated a slot and there were often more than four pairs making their way around the circuit - some even managed to run together! A total of 3503 circuits were completed which is equivalent to 140km - the same distance as Whimple to Stonehenge! We are really proud of the children and all that they achieved.

A grand total of £1000 was raised from this and a cake sale, which was be split between Children in Need and Exeter Leukaemia Fund.



## Dreams and Goals

As we start a new calendar year, our Personal, Social, Health and Economic focus is 'Dreams and Goals'. This also links in well with our skill focus, 'Planning' (previously Aiming High) and 'Listening'. The weekly lessons and assemblies develop knowledge and opportunities linked to:

- Staying motivated when doing something challenging
- How to keep trying even when it is difficult
- How working with a partner can help
- Having a positive attitude
- Helping others to achieve their goals
- Working hard to achieve our own dreams and goals



Children will be given time to decide on their goals and work on developing them. As adults, we often need these reminders and some support with these things, despite our best intentions.

“The distance between dreams and reality is called action.” Brian Tracy

## School Wassail

Following on from our apple picking and pressing, the school went on their annual Wassail on Friday 16th January; it was led by our visitors: Mrs Palmer and Jim Causley. We would like to thank them for coming and teaching us the song, leading us to the orchard and guiding us through this tradition. Then the four royals, from year 6, put apples and toast in three different trees while asking the trees to wake up and be ready to have buds and blossom. We shouted hurrah, sang the wassail song really well and then made lots of noise - which we all enjoyed.



Continued over side...

## Design Technology

Textiles was a theme across many classes at the end of last term. Children had to research, plan, design and make something linked to a chosen theme. The needles were out and the sewing skills put to the test. A great variety of things were made, with resilience, patience and perseverance put to the test.



Bags were made by our oldest children in Willow Class, whilst 'Elf' shoes were the focus in Beech Class. Purses for Oak Class and Christmas decorations for some in Elm Class. Some lovely products were made.



## WHIMBLE FEST 26 SAVE THE DATE

Our wonderful village community event will be taking place on **SATURDAY 4 JULY 12-5.30pm** on **THE PARISH FIELD**. However, we still do need help urgently for the following positions -



<b>CO-ORDINATOR for KIDS' ZONE</b> 	One or more persons to head up this important area. Various fun activities are already booked - inflatables, face painting, Craft Cabin, face in the hole boards, Mr Bubbles etc. So someone is needed to add to this & head up activities on the day.
<b>ORGANIZOR of TUG of WAR COMPETITION</b>	Basically one or more persons to recruit teams and run the event on the day 
<b>GENERAL HELP</b>	As always, volunteers for an hour or two to help SET UP, SET DOWN & HELP ON THE DAY are SO welcome.

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



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## **East Devon District Councillor:**

Todd Olive (toddlive@eastdevon.gov.uk)

07925 847933

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

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

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

*Headteacher:* Carole Shilston

01404 822584

*Chair of Governors:* Jackie Enright

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

## **St. Mary's Church**

*Parish Priest:* Rev. Gudrun Thomas

01404 823394

*Impact Cell:* Helen Bowker

01404 823193

*Bellringers:* Andrea Young

07833 552855

## **Book Group**

Alison Betts

07779 631638

## **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

## **New Whimble Book Club**

Melissa Ironside (melironside@yahoo.co.uk)

07789 957475

## **History Society**

*Secretary:* Jenny Fells (jennyfells@btinternet.com)

01404 822104

## **Over Sixties Club**

*Chairman:* Arthur Iball

01404 822905

*Secretary:* Beryl Iball

01404 822905

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

*Chair:* Hayley Seldon

07736 272668

*Information:* Jo Sibley (admin@whimblepreschool.com)

07794 652549

## **Recreation Trust**

*Knowle Cross Sports Ground:* Roger Smith

01404 822244

## **Table Tennis Club**

Matt Hilling

07720 838003

## **Tennis Club**

*Secretary:* Viv Brown

07876 653264

*Treasurer:* Glenn Starkey

07967 698600

## **Victory Hall**

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01404 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

01404 822744

## **Whimbletons**

Cathy Bartlett-Horwood

01404 823944

## **Womens Institute**

*President:* Sarah Hogg

01404 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)

whimblenews@gmail.com

Editor  
Samantha Upton

Advertising  
Jenny Fells

Production  
Bob Scanlan  
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Sarah Thackeray

Delivery  
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Treasurer  
Miles Leonard

Community Diary  
Louise Scanlan  
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## **W.A.R.T.S OIL ORDER DATES for 2026**

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**Monday 23rd March**

**Monday 13th July**

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## **CHARITY MUSIC BINGO**

Join us on Friday 27th February for a night of live music, laughter, curry and feel-good vibes as we raise money for FORCE. Host Alex Dobson will guide you through two rounds of music bingo, slotted between a Thai green curry and our famous sticky toffee pudding. £35pp with all proceeds going to FORCE Cancer.

## **JITG BREAKFAST CLUB**

It's back and tastier than ever! Swing by on the first Saturday of every month for the perfect full English, breakfast stack or whatever you fancy - there's always plenty of choice. Book online for Saturday 7th February or just turn up!