



Whimble News

Aug/Sept 2026



Find us online:

www.whimplenews.uk

Dear Whimble News Readers,

Well, what a summer we've been having.

I can't remember a year when the warm weather has stuck around quite so stubbornly. Usually, we're peering out of the window wondering if it's ever going to stop raining. This year, it feels as though someone has accidentally moved Whimble a few hundred miles south.

I returned from a few days away in June expecting things to be a little cooler at home, only to be greeted by 35°C temperatures, a chest infection and no internet. Somehow, Whimble was hotter than where I'd been. Add all three together and it's fair to say I was a little grizzly!

Like many of you, I've found the heat a bit of a challenge. Dog walks have become a military operation requiring an early-morning start before the pavements get too hot, and sleeping without air conditioning has felt like an endurance sport. I love summer, but once we creep much beyond 25°C, you'll probably find me loitering near the freezer aisle at Tesco pretending to compare prices.

Talking of modern-day hardships, we've also included a note from Voneus regarding the recent internet outage on page 27. I appreciate not everyone uses the same provider, but for many of us it was a reminder of just how dependent we've become on being connected. Work, television, banking, shopping, keeping in touch with family, and, of course, settling important village debates. I managed to survive with a good book and a glass of red wine, although I did catch myself checking the router every ten minutes just in case it had miraculously fixed itself.

One thing that certainly wasn't affected by the outage was the community spirit on display at Whimble Fest. A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising, volunteering, exhibiting and attending. Although I wasn't able to make it this year, I've heard wonderful things and seen some fantastic photographs. You can read all about it on pages 30-33.

The Whimble Fest team has decided to take a well-earned fallow year in 2027, meaning there won't be a festival next year. Events like this don't happen by magic. They require an enormous amount of time, effort and dedication from a relatively small group of volunteers. If Whimble Fest is something you enjoy and would like to see return in 2028, perhaps consider lending a hand. Many hands really do make light work.

Whimple Parish Council also has several updates this month on pages 10-11, including news on the parish field play area, allotments and grounds maintenance. These projects may not always grab the headlines, but they play an important role in keeping our village a wonderful place to live.

I also found the article on Exeter Airport particularly interesting. You'll find it on pages 38-41. The airport's new owners have ambitious plans for future growth, and I must admit I'd be delighted to see more destinations available from Exeter. The convenience would be fantastic. More importantly, it might save us all from taking out a second mortgage to pay for airport parking elsewhere.

I'd also like to thank Jack in the Green for their contribution to this month's issue. They've provided a delicious recipe on pages 48-49 which is perfect for enjoying during these sunny days, preferably in a shady spot with something cold close at hand.

Before I sign off, I'd like to give another mention to our new Community Corner on pages 16-17. The idea behind the page is simple. In a world that often seems full of complaints, division and bad news, we wanted to create a space that celebrates kindness, community spirit and the small things that bring us together. Whether it's thanking a neighbour, congratulating someone on an achievement, sharing good news, offering help or asking for a helping hand, Community Corner belongs to everyone in Whimple.

The only challenge is that I can only write about the things I hear about. There are countless acts of kindness taking place across the village every day, but unless someone tells me about them, those stories remain untold. So please don't think your story is too small. Often it's the smallest gestures that make the biggest difference.

If you'd like Community Corner to continue to grow, please keep the emails coming. Together we can help celebrate the people, achievements and quiet acts of kindness that make our village such a special place to live.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, stay cool, and if you're one of those people who genuinely enjoys 35°C temperatures, please do write in and share your secrets.

Sam x

Editor, Whimple News

the Jack *in* *the* Green



WHAT'S NEW AT THE JACK....

CASUAL | SUMMER | DINING

‘Hello small plates & sharing slates’

ENJOY OUR RELAXED COURTYARD

Bring the dog, meet up with friends, spend the evening chatting. Graze on spicy chicken wings and cod cheeks, share a deli slate, dig into chorizo and honey baked Camembert.

Enjoy a cold pint in the sun, soft drink or try something from our new Spritz menu.

OUR COURTYARD MENU IS AVAILABLE THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS (LUNCH & DINNER) AND ALL DAY SATURDAY

Don't forget - our summer party is on Saturday 22nd August!

www.jackinthegreen.uk.com

Jack hotline: 01404 822240

ALL DAY
Entertainment
CIDER BAR..
HOT FOOD..
PIZZA VAN..
and
PLENTY OF FUN!

'THE BIG PICK'

& Cider Fest *Family Weekend*



19th & 20th Sept 2026
10.00am - 5:30pm



Apple Picking,
Juicing,
Chilling out.

'Soaking in' the
Natural
Environment..

plus a few nice
Surprises!



A GRAND DAY OUT at the
'COURTNEYS OF WHIMPLE'
CIDER ORCHARD

MAKE
MEMORIES!

..Live Music all day..

Leave your troubles behind...Sup Cider, Juice or Cocktails.
Dance in the Cider Yard or relax in the Orchard.



Book early...Tickets are limited

* Scan the QR Code to book your tickets.
or search 'Eventbrite The Big Pick 2026'



What's On In Whimple

August

- Sun 9th: Cash Bingo. NFI at 7.30pm. Book table.
- Sun 16th: Quiz night at New Fountain. 7.30pm.
- Sun 23rd: WGC 'Rosemoor Garden Festival' trip.
- Sat 29th: Soup and Sarnie 25th Anniversary in the Victory Hall. 12md to 1.30pm. All welcome.

September

- Thu 3rd: Quiz Night Thirsty Farmer, 8pm.
- Sun 6th: Open Mic Night. NFI. From 7pm.
- Mon 7th: WHC Volunteer's Coffee Morning, NFI, 11-12md.
- Mon 7th: Surgery with District Councillor Todd Olive at the Hive, opp TF, 4-7pm.
- Sat 19th: 'The Big Pick' & Cider Fest, Courtney's Cider Orchard, 10am-5:30pm.
- Sun 20th: Harvest Service, St Mary's Church, 9:30.
- Sun 20th: 'The Big Pick' & Cider Fest, Courtney's Cider Orchard, 10am-5:30pm.
- Tue 22nd: 'Ruddigore' community sing, Whimple Cricket Club, 7:15pm.
- Fri 25th: 'Life on a 17th Century Farm' talk, Heritage Centre, 7:30pm.
- Sat 26th: Bring and Share Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12pm.
- Sat 26th: Soup and Sarnie 25th Anniversary in the Victory Hall. 12md to 1.30pm. All welcome.

October

- Thu 1st: Quiz Night Thirsty Farmer, 8pm.
- Sun 4th: Open Mic Night. NFI. From 7pm.
- Mon 5th: WHC Volunteer's Coffee Morning, NFI, 11am.

Welcome to Whimble Tennis Club



A friendly place to play, right in the heart of the village!

- ❖ Affordable membership for all
- ❖ Enjoy exclusive access to our court in a lovely rural setting near the village centre
- ❖ A well-kept, all-weather tarmac surface
- ❖ Fun but competitive social tennis sessions on Thursday evening and Sunday morning
- ❖ Easy online court booking
- ❖ Coaching available for all ages and abilities

Come along, meet new people, and enjoy tennis at your own village club

Contact Viv Brown on 07876653264 or email whimbletennis@gmail.com for more info

Website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/WhimbleTennisClub

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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

**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

A promotional poster for Short Mat Bowls. The background is a green lawn with a white line, set against a blue sky with colorful triangular bunting. The title "SHORT MAT BOWLS" is prominently displayed in the center, with "SHORT MAT" in blue and "BOWLS" in large green letters. Below the title is a blue banner with the text "FUN • FRIENDLY • FOR EVERYONE!". To the left is a yellow circular badge that says "ALL WELCOME - NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!". To the right is a blue circular badge that says "COME ALONG AND GIVE IT A GO!". In the center, below the banner, is the text "A GREAT WAY TO MEET PEOPLE, HAVE FUN AND ENJOY A FRIENDLY COMPETITION!". At the bottom left, there are several bowling balls (black, yellow, and blue). At the bottom right, a white box contains the text "WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:00PM AT THE VICTORY HALL £3 per session". Below this box is a blue banner with the text "YOU'LL BE SURPRISED HOW ADDICTIVE IT IS!" followed by a smiley face icon. At the very bottom, there is contact information: "Just turn up on the night or contact David :- 01404 822486 or Guy:- 07941 091570 for more information."

Whimble Parish Council

Parish Field Play Area

Some exciting news! The installation has started on stage one of the new Play Area and goal mouth in the Parish Field. If all goes to plan this will be open and ready for children to play on, by the end of July 2026. We will announce the date of opening on Facebook.



Stage two of the project is the installation of the four pieces of equipment being donated by East Devon District Council which could not be installed at the Slewton Crescent Play Area. At the moment, it is anticipated this will be installed in the Autumn. We will keep you updated on this.

Whimble Fest

The Parish Council expresses its thanks to all of the organisers and volunteers that worked so hard to make Whimble Fest a success again this year.

Local Government Reorganisation in Devon

The Government's Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced what the structure of Local Government in Devon will look like from 1 April 2028.

The proposal put forward by Exeter and Plymouth City Council's is the option selected by the Government, which creates four new unitary authorities for the county, as follows:

- An expanded Exeter – Exeter plus 49 surrounding parishes from Teignbridge, East Devon and Mid Devon
- An expanded Plymouth – Plymouth plus 13 parishes from South Hams
- An expanded Torbay – Torbay plus 21 nearby parishes
- Devon Coast and Countryside – a new council designed for rural and coastal communities

Whimble will become part of the expanded Exeter Unitary Council, which will replace Devon County Council (DCC) and East Devon District Council (EDDC) which are being abolished.

Officers and councillors across Devon will be working together to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangement. Elections for the new shadow authorities are due to take place in May 2027, with the new authorities becoming fully operational in April 2028.

From now until 31 March 2028, DCC and EDDC will continue to deliver existing services to local residents.

If you have any questions please get in touch.

Inviting quotations for the new Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Council is required to regularly test its contracts to ensure that local taxpayers are getting value for money.

We are about to invite interested parties to express their interest and submit quotations for a two year Grounds Maintenance Contract (with an option to extend for a further year). This will cover the period of 1st April 2027 to 31st March 2029.

If you are a local contractor that would like to find out more please get in touch.

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 few vacant plots and are looking to fill them.

Councillor vacancies

We currently have three 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

Email: clerk@whimbleparishcouncil.gov.uk

We are also contactable on Facebook

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We will be launching our next project

GREAT MUSIC

RUDDIGORE

MAD PLOT

On 22nd September 2026
at Whimple Cricket Club 7.15 to 9.15pm
Performances: 30th Apr/1st May 2027

CLEVER WITTY
WRITING

Come and join us for a great
community singing experience

No music reading ability required

Email: empalmusic@gmail.com for more
details

NO FANCY COSTUMES, JUST APPROPRIATE HATS

**Did you know that there was a
Youth Group in Talaton that is
open to Whimple children?**

Well there is and it is

Young Community Theatre 4All

**The perfect opportunity to have fun, make new friends,
gain in confidence and finally perform in a play specially
written for the group. The group, which meets on a
Tuesday during term time in Talaton Parish Hall, is open
to all children in school years 4 to 9 irrespective of
experience.**

**The first session will be on Tuesday
22nd September from 4.30 to 5.30.**

**Young Community Theatre 4All is led by Tom & Frances
Samson both of whom are retired teachers and have fully
enhanced DBS coverage for all the group's activities.**

**The group is nearly full and this year places are limited.
Once all 20 places have been taken a waiting list will be
created. If you would like your son or daughter to
participate you should register their name with Tom
Samson as soon as possible by emailing the group on:-**

communitytheatre4all@yahoo.co.uk



Dear neighbour

The political roundabout goes around again! While government plays musical chairs with the levers of power once again, and both sides of the parliamentary aisle show themselves to be hypocrites in equal measure, life and work at East Devon goes on as usual...

Recycling and Waste Services

Keen readers will recall that I have reported previously that East Devon has taken a decision to end its outsourced recycling and waste contract with Suez and to instead move its services to be delivered by a new company wholly-owned by East Devon – with the advantages of being fully in control of services going forwards in an environment of constantly-changing government regulations, while avoiding the cost of fully ‘in-house’ delivery by the public sector.

That decision was originally planned to be implemented from 1st July, following the end of the contract with Suez at the end of June. However, due to the government’s decision to introduce Local Government Reorganisation in late 2024 – very shortly after the decision to end the Suez contract was originally made – that timetable ultimately proved to be too much of a stretch to be able to deliver services safely, legally and effectively if it were to go live on 1st July.

We have therefore pushed back the launch of the new recycling and waste service, by East Devon Environmental Services, to the end of September at latest – with the delay covered by an extension of the existing deal with Suez under a continuation of existing billing arrangements, reflecting good value for money and the strength of the council’s relationship with Suez, built over many years. The aim is that no-one should notice a difference in their collections and I am working to hold the council to that position.

Local Government Reorganisation

As the Parish Council reports, the government has decided that Whimble Parish is to be subsumed into a new “Greater Exeter” authority, which will stretch from Whimble down to Budleigh and Exmouth, over the estuary to

Dawlish, and as far North and West as Rewe and Crediton. That will mean all local government services provided by Devon and East Devon – from children’s care, highways, and education to bin collections, council housing, and planning – are instead provided by a single authority covering only that region.

I’ve written previously about my steadfast opposition to what I see as a flagrant land grab by Exeter City Council – indeed, the government themselves have been clear that the decision has been taken in the interests of making the expansion of the city through new development easier.

Financial modelling has indicated that the new Greater Exeter authority will be bankrupt on day one. Because Council Tax increases are capped by government, that would almost certainly mean significant service reductions across the board – and because delivering services in rural areas is significantly more expensive than in cities like Exeter, that more than probably means parishes like ours will be hit much harder. This decision not only abrogates responsibility for those financial consequences, but also for the inevitable and hugely-damaging impacts on whole-of-county services like children’s care, and the destruction of any semblance of local accountability and the voice of rural villages like ours.

As a councillor I must be careful not to put myself in a position where I have ‘predetermined’ decisions – or in other words I must avoid making my mind up before any meeting to discuss something. I will therefore conclude this part of my update by saying only that I will be looking carefully at every single opportunity to challenge the government for this appalling decision, as well as to deliver the ‘least worst’ result from it.

Local Plan

We are now expecting the full Local Plan to come before Strategic Planning Committee at its meeting on 22nd September for final signoff, or otherwise, before it can be considered for submission to Examination-in-Public by the Planning Inspectorate at Full Council later in the year. That committee meeting, Full Council and Examination-in-Public all represent further opportunities should anyone wish to make new or re-iterate prior representations.

That’s all for this month. As always, I’m available on 07925 847933 and at todd.olive@eastdevon.gov.uk, or at The Hive from 4pm until 7pm on the first Monday of every month, if there’s anything I can help with.

With best wishes,

Cllr Todd Olive

East Devon District Councillor for Whimble & Rockbeare

Community Corner

This is your space to share the important things, the joyful moments, and the everyday happenings that bring our village together. Whether it's a celebration, a thank you, an achievement, a helping hand, or a remembrance, we'd love to hear from you.

If you have something you'd like to share, big or small, please email whimplenews@gmail.com, marked for Sam, and we'll include it in a future edition.

Please don't be shy about writing in. Community Corner thrives on your contributions and the stories that make Whimple such a special place to live. Have you welcomed a new baby, celebrated a retirement, started a new job, reached a milestone, received help from a neighbour, or simply have something positive to share? We'd love to hear from you.

Have You Seen These Plates?

Jane's melamine dinner plate set, which helped serve refreshments at the Church's Celebration of Summer, appears to have extended its summer holiday a little longer than expected!

It's likely that the plates have simply found their way into the wrong cupboard after the event. If you discover them amongst your kitchenware, please could they be returned to Jane.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day such an enjoyable community event.

Nature

Tawny Owl Encounter

A village resident was recently woken in the middle of the night by a rather dramatic screech. On investigation, they discovered a beautiful tawny owl perched in a nearby tree and managed to capture this photograph.



In Memory

We remember those in our community whom we have recently lost:

- Sylvia Laurel Heywood

Our thoughts are with their family and friends.

Thank You Messages

Strawberry Fairy

A huge thank you to the mysterious "Strawberry Fairy" who has been making the rounds of the village, delivering fresh strawberries to neighbours. What a thoughtful gesture and a refreshing treat on a warm summer's day. P.S. Shhh... Sam knows who it is! 

Neighbourly Heroes

Jeremy and Alison at The Paddock deserve a heartfelt thank you for watering a neighbour's plants while they were away and for safely returning an adventurous dog after an unscheduled village expedition!

A Helping Hand

A huge thank you to Finn from The Paddock for helping to move a washing machine and tumble dryer, as well as removing a radiator during a home project. Support like this is a wonderful reminder of the kindness and generosity that exists within our village.

Offers of Help

This space is available for offers of support to residents who may be facing illness, reduced mobility, or difficult circumstances. If you can spare an hour here or there to help a fellow resident, we'd love to hear from you.

Spare Time to Help?

We're always looking to grow our network of volunteers for occasional tasks such as shopping, dog walking, lifts to appointments and other practical support.

Tip Runs

Jenny is planning a trip to the tip and has some spare space available. If this would genuinely help you, please call her on 07875 782974.

Dog Walking Support

If you are unable to walk your dog due to illness or temporary circumstances and need a helping hand, please contact Sam via whimplenews@gmail.com or 07375994204.



Requests for Help

Sometimes we all need a little support.

If you need assistance with shopping, dog walking, cleaning, lifts to appointments, collecting prescriptions, tip runs, or other practical tasks, please contact Sam on 07375 994204, and we will do our best to connect you with someone who can help.



Community & Get Involved

Village Clean-Up

Whenever you're out and about, if you're able to pick up a piece of litter or keep an eye on our shared spaces, every little bit helps keep Whimple looking its best.

Gardening Club

The Gardening Club is always happy to welcome new members. No experience is required, just enthusiasm and a love of gardening. Please turn to page 54 for more information.

Interested in Making a Difference?

Have you ever considered becoming a parish councillor? It's a rewarding way to give something back to the community and help shape the future of our village. Please turn to page 11 for contact details.

★ *Sometimes we all need a little help—and sometimes we're able to give it.*

Pro Lawn Garden Services

- Hedge Cutting • Lawn Care • Tree Work
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Liv Gullidge

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Billy Bloomfield Whimple Handyman

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The Heritage Centre is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 noon – to 4pm, as well as on August Bank Holiday Monday from 10.30am – 4pm.

Group visits to the Heritage Centre

This year we welcomed the 1st Ottery Brownies to the Heritage Centre in May and the 1st Cranbrook Brownies in June. The Ottery Brownies were working towards their Archaeology badge and the Cranbrook Brownies were working towards their local history badge. We were so pleased that the Heritage Centre was able to help them in this way. We are looking forward to welcoming two more groups in August; the Topsham History Society and the Sidmouth U3A. Occasionally groups visit when the Heritage Centre is open on a Wednesday or Saturday afternoon, but all of the above groups have wanted to come on their usual meeting day.

Facilitating Group visits

The Heritage Centre is run entirely by volunteers; namely the Whimble History Society Committee, the curator, the archivist, the shop manager and a team of stewards. We are now looking for volunteers to help out on an ad-hoc basis when we have group visits. We always have two volunteers on duty for group visits, with at least one of them having a good knowledge of our local history. Volunteering occasionally to help with group visits could prove to be a rewarding and not too onerous role, so if this appeals to you, then please get in touch.

Raising the profile of the Heritage Centre.

Some of our volunteers did a shift in the foyer at Morrisons in April, where we had our photo display and gave out our flyers. We also had a stand at the Whimble Fest in July to further promote the centre. If you haven't yet got around to visiting the Heritage Centre, it is well worth a visit and I don't believe that you will be disappointed. If you are researching matters to do with local family members, your home or local organisations (eg Whimble Cricket Club), then you can make an appointment with our archivist if you would like to see some of the records filed upstairs at the Heritage Centre (we do require a donation for this service). Entry into the museum itself is FREE, but donations are of course appreciated.

The September and October Coffee mornings for volunteers

If you volunteer (in any capacity) at the Heritage Centre, or you are thinking of volunteering in future, we hope that you will join us at the New Fountain Inn at 11am on Monday 7th September and/or Monday 5th October. Hot drinks will be available from the bar for the discounted price of £2.

Our next talk is entitled

Life on a Seventeenth Century Herefordshire Farm

by Rebecca Giffard and will take place on Friday 25th September 2026 at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm. Many of you will know Becky, who lives in the village, but what you may not know is that she is studying for a PhD in History at Exeter University. We are thrilled to have a real live historian living in the village, and even more thrilled that she has agreed to come and talk to us about her research. Why a farm in Herefordshire, we hear you ask? Well, Becky has explained that this particular farm is unusual in that a lot of records have survived about it. We doubt that life on a farm in Herefordshire will have been massively different to life on a farm in East Devon in the seventeenth century and we are very excited to hear what Becky has to tell us. We hope that you are too and look forward to seeing you at 7.30pm on Friday 25th September 2026 at the Victory Hall. All are welcome – we respectfully suggest that any non-members attending make a donation of £4pp towards History Society funds. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available – suggested donation £2pp.

Jenny Fells

Whimble History Society Secretary
jennyfells@btinternet.com or 07875782974

Tina Kelly

Curator and Talks Booking Secretary
curator.whimbleheritage@outlook.com

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Find us on Facebook

for more details or to contact us:

01404 823083 empal1@icloud.com

New look, same great band!

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Sean

Harris

814963

07737 419077





Whimble Church



News from St Mary's Church, Whimble

As Summer ends and the Autumn nights begin, I would like to thank you all for the continued support I receive as I attend events in the village, lead funerals and more recently weddings. It is so lovely to begin to feel part of the village life. I always love an opportunity to chat to you and get to know the community in which I serve so please feel free to invite me to any of your groups or events.

Sadly, in June we received the news that Rev Marc Kerslake had decided to take up a new position as Interim priest in charge in Dunkeswell Mission community. We wish him well as he starts a new chapter in his life journey. I shall remain as Interim Team rector and will be licensed very soon as permanent Team Rector.

As you read this article we will be moving into the Autumn season, a time of new beginnings as the school terms starts again. I get excited as a new football season starts and it feels like a fresh sheet as my team attempt to play better each season. (always the hopeful as an Exeter City season ticket holder).

We also look towards new seasons in the church calendar.

Harvest is one of my favourite times in the church year as the summer nights draw in and the colours of nature change from rich greens into shades of orange and brown. When I had my allotment I loved picking the last runner beans and then clearing the plants, digging over the soil and putting the beds to rest. It always felt good to end the season and leave the land to rest before starting all again in January to prepare the ground. Harvest also gives us a chance to look around as the fields around us are cleared and the thoughts turn to resting the land and preparing planning for next years growth. Harvest festival gives us a chance to thank those who work so hard all year round to produce our food and those who get the food to us. Harvest festivals also give us the chance to stop and thank God who created all of this and to celebrate the enormous variety of life we see around us, especially living in this rural area on the edge of a city.

Coming Soon.....

On **Sunday 20th September** the **Gathering team** will bring you a Harvest service and we would love it to be supported by all generations. Harvest is a great time to celebrate life to the full together. This service is suitable for all ages, so if you are a family looking to come to church or simply an individual it doesn't matter just come along and join us.

We are excited to host another Bring and Share Lunch with our **"Celebration of Harvest" on Saturday 26th September** which will be the usual format. Look out for details nearer the time.

Service times

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)

Rev Gudrun rector@eastclystchurches.org



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Statement from Voneus

We'd like to thank everyone in Whimple and the surrounding villages for their patience during the recent broadband outage. We know how vital a dependable internet connection is for work, education, healthcare and everyday life, particularly in rural communities where mobile phone coverage can also be limited.

The disruption, caused by damage to a third-party network, lasted far longer than anyone would have wanted and we're truly sorry for the impact this had on our customers.

Throughout the repairs, our teams worked closely with network engineers to restore services as quickly as possible while keeping affected customers updated wherever we could. The feedback we received from residents was invaluable, helping us better understand the impact on the community and raise individual concerns with the relevant teams as quickly as possible.

We're pleased that services have now been restored, and we'd like to thank the community once again for its patience and understanding throughout the disruption.

Supporting communities like Whimple remains an important part of what we do, and we were delighted to support this year's Whimple Fest. We look forward to continuing to work with local organisations and being part of village life in the months and years ahead.



Whimble Gardens Safari 2026

The Whimble Garden Safari, held at the beginning of June, was a great success, raising £1,900 for the Victory Hall Extension Fund despite very poor weather on the Saturday.

A few days before the event, participants who were available met at the Hall for refreshments and a final briefing, giving everyone the chance to resolve any outstanding questions. Afterwards, the group was able to visit one another's gardens — a pleasure not always possible during the weekend itself while hosting visitors in their own gardens.



This year, we were delighted to welcome several new gardens. Although almost the same number were unable to take part for a second year, we still had 17 open gardens across the village.

Opening a garden to the public can feel a little daunting at first, but once the first few visitors arrive and conversation begins, it quickly becomes a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Visitors travelled from as far afield as Tiverton, Taunton, Sidmouth, Exmouth, Okehampton, Crediton and Newton Abbot. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive: Whimble was described as a lovely village with warm, friendly residents and a wide variety of attractive, inspiring gardens. We even welcomed visitors from Lichfield, who were staying in Ottery St Mary and looking for somewhere local to visit.

There was tremendous support at the Hall. A huge thank you to everyone who helped, baking cakes, serving teas or selling maps, their efforts made such a difference. A special thank you to Oak Park Dairy for donating 12 litres of milk; it was hugely appreciated. We were also joined by Stan, from Men's Shed, Ottery, who had two very sociable days and by Paul and Lizzy from Voneus.



Saturday's weather was extremely poor, but some of the gardens in the centre of the village still received up to three dozen visitors. Sunday was much brighter, with nearly five times as many people arriving by car, bicycle and on foot to enjoy the full range of gardens on offer.



Although only a small group organised this year's event, none of it would have been possible without the support of The Village Store in selling tickets, and the volunteers at the Hall who provided rolls, cakes and drinks. We are very grateful to them all.

Feedback from both visitors and participants was clear: there should be another Whimble Garden Safari next year. Planning is therefore already underway for the 5th and 6th June 2027.

If you would like to include your garden next year but are unsure what would be involved, please do speak to one of us. Thank you.

Contact Sue Bellamy on 01404 822578 or Barry Goodman on 07866 724242.

WHIMPLE FEST 26 - ANOTHER GLORIOUS VILLAGE DAY WITH A RECORD AMOUNT RAISED

The Team were a little concerned that the ongoing heatwaves would stop people coming to Whimple Fest this year. Perhaps the beach would be more appealing, or the temperature might be just too much to venture out. But as Saturday 4th July arrived our worries melted away (and thankfully not our icecreams from *The Udder Stuff*!) as the weather was a little cooler than previous days. The sun still shone but there was plenty of shade in our marquees and around the site. There was a lovely chilled atmosphere as families and groups relaxed under the trees, enjoyed the fabulous music (*Whimple Community Choir, Bradley Cowtan, Rowan Stuart, & Mrs Jones*) and dance performances (*JW Dance*), whilst enjoying cool refreshments from the bar.

As always, children were well entertained in The Kids' Zone. Harleo's Inflatables provided something different this year and a big thank you to Whimple Scouts & Cubs, alongside our Pre-School and Whimple School PTAs for providing a whole range of fun games. Our Face Painting team just did not stop all day. There were cheeky faces and World Cup flags everywhere you looked. The Craft Cabinets stand was always active and the children's yoga class went on an imaginary 'walk in the woods'.

We had over 25 stallholders selling local produce, crafts, jewellery and high quality products. Rural skills were celebrated with stalls ranging from willow weaving, wildlife and even a forge. The Community Hub area really took off this year (thanks to Jenny Fells). You could try bell ringing, table tennis or skittles, or support our local hospice, history society, village hall, churches, and sports clubs. Also the raffle gave out cash, hampers, vouchers and luxury items.

If you wanted to chill, there was reiki & tarot reading, energy balancing and dance classes. You could buy a book, beauty products or even join a gym. Many people relaxed in the Tea Tent with a cuppa and cake or grabbed a burger from the BBQ or a pizza. There were classic cars and tractors to wander through and hay bales to recline on.

We can't really mention everybody by name in this article but if you look back at Whimple News June edition you will see the huge list of all the providers. We had some generous sponsorship this year too (East Devon Crem, Exe Mortgages, Voneus, and Avalon) which really helped to fund our annual costs which enabled us to put on the whole event. And as always to the many volunteers who help us over the three days and ALL who supported us on the day - THANK YOU.

So, with a drum roll WE MADE OVER £4000 THIS YEAR!!!! A disbursement meeting will be held soon and money paid out to all our groups who got involved. We will still have funds to provide something else for the village. IDEAS PLEASE TO sue.turner1@sky.com

FINALLY, The WF team have decided to have a fallow year in 2027 to regroup and re-energise (if Glasto can do it, so can we!) but WHIMPLE FEST will be back in JULY 2028. DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED? We will need new members. Contact one of the team. We'd love to hear from you.

THE WHIMPLE FEST TEAM

TIM ADKINS

JENNY FELS

CAROL GOODMAN

SARAH HOGG

SHERRIL OLIVE

SARAH THACKERAY

HARRY & MARTIN TRIMBLETT

SUE TURNER

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Thank you
for a
fabulous
day'



event'

'Awesome Musicians'



26



ch a lovely afternoon'



The heatwave continues and so it's still unbearably hot. Inside again and the old adage of 'if it gets too hot then stay out of the kitchen' has never been more appropriate. Him indoors has taken that literally and as head chef decided not to spatchcock his chicken today. A relief for everyone I say!

On a more temperate day recently I managed to dislocate my shoulder. I would like to say with a nonchalant air that I did it hang gliding over the Grand Canyon, or trekking in the Himalayas but actually I tripped over the garden rake which I had carefully set down on the lawn. Fortunately I am right handed and now that the pain is subsiding from excruciating to plain incessantly uncomfortable, here I am writing my article one handedly. Suffering for my art. As always my sincere and grateful thanks to the RD&E. Long live the NHS.

Our charity coffee morning in aid of Devon Air Ambulance in Sarah's lovely garden was heartwarmingly successful in raising £257 for the cause. We received a thoughtful letter of thanks from the charity, recognising our efforts.

In the dim and distant past, when we had rain, it sometimes caused events to be cancelled. This was true of our planned trip to Sidmouth to learn how to play croquet, I don't think their committee relished the ideas of their pitch/court/grounds/lawn/green being cut up rough by the ladies of Whimble WI. It's rescheduled for the end of July,

Paul Rendell came to our June meeting and spoke about curious Dartmoor. He gave a fascinating insight into peat cutting on Dartmoor, a practice no longer acceptable today. He shared many aspects of Dartmoor life and may well be invited back next year with another of his insightful talks.

We spent a lovely day at Mapperton House near Bridport in glorious weather and a worthy venue. Thanks to Lynne for organising this event. Plans are in place for a late summer outing and Hestercombe near Taunton has been mentioned.

In the absurd heat of early July, Whimblefest loomed large. The footfall was down, probably due to the heat but the indomitable ladies of the WI and church dug deep and provided refreshments for the day. Sincere thanks to everyone in support in whatever capacity. Without their willingness to commit their time and energy, nothing would ever happen in Whimble. Volunteers are always needed and perhaps that could be you for the next event.

Early August will see us back in Sarah's garden for our annual members' summer party. Bring and share lunch, lots of relaxing and lively chatter in a sylvan setting. Fabulous!

Back to business in September when we welcome Brenda Loosemoore with Mayhem, Mystery and Murder to our monthly meeting.

Jane will be organising another social lunch and at some stage another round of social skittles. Never a dull moment in Whimble WI and if you have been encouraged by my ramblings then please contact Marilyn on 821860.

Stay cool and avoid garden rakes!

Di Eden

Thank you for supporting us
There are other fund raising events throughout the year



Whimble Victory Hall

Events to help raise money for our new extension

**Sat/Sun
June 6/7** Garden Safari : Garden's open 11-6

**Fri
June 26**

Mama Mia, sing-a-long picnic: Doors 7pm

**Sun
July 19**

Quiz at the FOUNTAIN INN

**Wed
Aug 26**

Midweek Matinee: Doors 1.30 Film 2pm

**Mon
Sept 7th**

AGM: The Extension Project

**Wed
Oct 28**

Midweek Matinee: Doors 1.30 Film 2pm

**Sat
Nov 21**

Murder Mystery: Afternoon Tea

**Sat
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The Big Christmas Jumper Quiz 7pm

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Firstly, the windows I am referring to in this article are small and circular. From parts of Whimble we frequently see sleek low flying aircraft over the southern part of our parish coming in to land at Exeter Airport or having just taken off. Its planes fly you to 28 destinations in 10 countries including year-round international routes to Alicante, Lanzarote, Malaga and Tenerife. Year-round flights also go to Dublin, Edinburgh, Guernsey, Jersey, Manchester and Newcastle. All of this from our very own Exeter Airport only ten minutes' drive from Whimble.

The airport is now in Summer Season mode flying to Paphos, Faro, Majorca, Belfast, and the Scilly Isles joining with the Isles of Scilly Skybus running regional flights From May. TUI's expanded summer programme began in May and continues to October. It will see the start of flights to Corfu, Crete, Kos, Rhodes, Zante, Ibiza, Menorca and Dalaman. However, commercial flying is only one part in the story of Exeter Airport.

The New airport /New flying start.

In 1932 Exeter Corporation, the local transport company, discussed constructing an aerodrome for the city. The nearest airfield at the time was Haldon Aerodrome, which had been around since 1928 but was too far from the city centre. Having undertaken a survey to find a suitable site, a piece of land 180 acres in size was identified to the east of the city and was purchased from the farmer for just over £10,000 (approx £55 per acre!) This was not straightforward due to land disputes causing delays in construction. After a public enquiry in 1934, the land was compulsorily purchased.

After levelling the site and using tents for terminal buildings the airfield opened on May 31st, 1937. Jersey Airways immediately scheduled regular services to the airport, flying eight times per week from Jersey using its De Havilland DH84 Dragons. Railway Air Services also commenced services of connecting flights to Plymouth and Bristol using the De Havilland Express DH86 which was the four-engine version and capable of 160 mph. It played an important role in the growth of the British passenger aircraft industry with destinations including Edinburgh, Amsterdam and Lanzarote.

Exeter Airport was far from complete but eventually a purpose-built terminal building was constructed to replace the tents. A Flying Club was also formed and within two years had nearly 300 members. 57 pilots who learnt to fly at Exeter Flying Club served as pilots during WW2.

As with most early UK airports the facility had always been intended to be available for use by the military in times of war. On September 3rd 1939 the Air Ministry commissioned John Laing & Sons Ltd to construct new asphalt runways and extend the airport facilities.

RAF Exeter

Jersey Airways continued to fly into Exeter in 1940 but was now

operating evacuation flights. In June 1940, the RAF's 213 Squadron was based at Exeter and was joined by No 87 Squadron the following month. Hurricanes flew out of Exeter and were heavily involved initially as escorts protecting Royal Navy and Merchant Navy shipping. The Hurricanes helped defend the channel ports from the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain and over the next two years played a key role in defending the cities of Plymouth and Exeter during the Blitz. Exeter Airport was also an emergency landing strip for our damaged bombers returning from missions in the same way that Manston was in Kent and was regularly visited by Lancasters, Wellingtons, American B17s and many others types of aircraft.

The first operational unit to arrive on site was a department of Royal Aircraft Establishment Farnborough, known as '02'. It was equipped with a variety of aircraft which deliberately flew into cables hung from barrage balloons to test wire cutting devices.

June 1940 saw the formation of the Gunnery Research Unit at Exeter from 'A' Flight Armament Testing Squadron. It was employed in experimental flying using a variety of aircraft including Spitfires, Defiants, Hurricane and a Gloster F.9/37 to test various types of guns and turrets. In 1942 RAF Exeter was used by fighter aircraft including the Polish Air Force 307 Squadron. The Czechoslovak 310

Squadron was stationed at RAF Exeter from May 1942 to June 1943, equipped with the Supermarine Spitfire Mk VB and VC.

Reach for the Sky
- In memory to
those that served.



Americans in Devon

The United States of America Air Force, the USAAF, used Exeter alongside the RAF, with two squadrons of P-38s in October 1942 for operations over France. In April 1944, the RAF units were withdrawn and the airfield taken over by the US 9th Air Force as Station 463.

On the 18th April the 440th Troop Carrier Group comprising 70 Douglas Dakota C-47As and their 70 CG-4 gliders, arrived at Exeter Airport in preparation for D-Day. The four Squadrons of the group parked on the grass as there was insufficient hard standing.

The Third Battalion 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment 'Screaming Eagles' arrived in Exeter from Hungerford by train on 27th May. They were briefed for Operation Neptune, as D-day was coded, which was due to commence on 29th May. The battalion was on standby to depart on the 4th June but bad weather in the Channel postponed the operation until the 6th June. On the night before, the first troop carrying aircraft took off at 23.20.

After take-off, the four squadrons, totalling 45 aircraft, carrying 723 men and 2 platoons from C/326th Airborne Engineers also of the 101st Airborne headed for the assembly area at Portland, joining aircraft from other southern airfields for the journey across the Channel. Their story was immortalised in the television series 'Band of Brothers' in 2001

The unit moved to Rheims in France in September and the RAF returned



6th June 1944

to Exeter, but in smaller numbers than before. As the Allies fought their way across France and Belgium to the German border, the need for defensive units lessened and the airport transferred to 23 Group of Training Command in January 1945. No 3 Glider Training School relocated to Exeter also using Culmhead airfield as a landing ground.

Post War

Back in 1940, before the Battle of Britain had begun, the newly created Civil Aeronautics Administration issued a 10-year plan for national airport development. One on the list of proposed locations was Exeter. There were only a few airports on the seacoast, including the Portsmouth Municipal Airport. Exeter would be a small Class I port with a runway of 1,800 to 2,700 feet but it would have to incur some of the proposed costs. However, the plan never happened.

After the war, it wasn't until 1952 that Jersey Airways restarted scheduled services to the Channel Islands. At this point in time the airport was jointly run under the combined military arms when it was taken over by the Ministry of Defence in 1958. It was then run by Air Holdings Ltd for ten years until 1972. A consortium of Devon County Council, Exeter City Council and Torbay Council ran it until 1974 when Devon County Council took control of the facility. In 1981 the main runway is extended and strengthened to allow for increasing airport growth.

Since then, it has been a somewhat bumpy ride. It became the home of Europe's largest regional carrier Flybe (originally Jersey European), from the mid-1980s onwards. It celebrated Exeter Airport's 50th birthday with the arrival of a very special guest, not royalty, not a pop group, but that star of aviation, Concorde. It landed at Exeter Airport and took passengers on a joy ride over the Bay of Biscay – a very fast joy-ride. In 1999 the new Arrivals building was opened by the Princess Royal and in 2003 the new £950,000 Departure Lounge opened.

In 2007 Exeter Airport was sold by Devon County Council to Regional and City Airports (Exeter) Ltd, a sub-company of Balfour Beatty - in a deal worth £60m. In the same year it passed the 1 million passengers per year milestone. Mike Rutter, Chief Commercial Officer for Flybe, said: "Flybe has been responsible for nearly three quarters of the passengers that have made up the million and we congratulate the airport on attaining this landmark figure in its growth." The airport got a boost in 2011 when nearby Plymouth Airport closed.

In 2013 it was sold again to Exeter Airport Regional & City Airports (RCA), the airports division of Rigby Group PLC for an undisclosed sum. Airlines serving the airport today include Aer Lingus, Aurigny, Blue Islands, Isles of Scilly Skybus, Loganair, Ryanair, and TUI Airways. It was a time of optimism and the new owners had plans for improving the passenger experience. The most popular internal destinations at this time were Edinburgh, Newcastle and Manchester. European destinations included Paris and Amsterdam, the latter of course being a major global aviation hub.

In 2019 passenger numbers peaked at over 1 million but then nosedived with the Covid Pandemic, which led to the collapse of Flybe. The airport correspondingly took a 'nose dive' as Flybe was its biggest operator

handling 75% of their flights. In 2020/21, just 27,000 passengers passed through the airport, but its recovery had begun with a rise in passenger traffic to 170,000 in 2021/22. In 2022, a re-established Flybe served key regions across the UK and EU but its operations were now based at Birmingham Airport. In 2023 Ryanair came to Exeter adding flights from the airport, including a new route to Portugal. In 2025, passenger numbers rose to 450,112. Last year KLM introduced daily services and TUI added a second aircraft which doubled its flying capacity. Also, in 2025 Exeter Airport was voted "Best in the UK" by Which magazine! In the latest figures passenger numbers increased by 32% to 582,347 in the year to 31 March 2026

In August last year, ICG Asset Management Company bought Exeter Airport alongside two other English regional airports in a £200m deal. They have stated that the airport's passenger and cargo operations will be expanded with its acquisition of RCA Airports, opening up another new chapter in the Exeter Airport history.

This brings Exeter Airport under the control of one of Europe's leading infrastructure investors and has been flagged up as a sign of long-term confidence in the airport's potential and its role within the region's transport network. On the agenda is accelerated investment to enhance passenger facilities and strengthen its position as a key gateway for the South West including cargo operations. This is linked with the acquisition of Bournemouth and Norwich Airports. It is recognised that Exeter Airport provides hundreds of direct and indirect jobs for people in the South West during the peak season and associated businesses benefit from the success of the operation.

Future

It has been indicated that Exeter could handle up to 1.2m passengers annually, before requiring major infrastructure upgrades. It would seem entirely logical to have a rail link to Exeter Airport, as part of local authority sustainability pledges and to underpin the local economy. However, being logical does not necessarily achieve the desired outcome. Next time you see an aeroplane above Whimble you will better appreciate the role of Exeter Airport as being one of the "Gateways to the World".



Exeter Airport Terminal
– Gateway to the World.

Alan Lascelles MA,

20th July 2026

Reference Sources: Bailey J. Simple Flying, South West Airfields Heritage Trust, Airparks, Rimkunas B. Exeter Historical Society, Exeter Airport, Routes Online, Morris J (2025) BBC South West, World Airline News 28 Apr 2026, JP.

A Window On Whimble's Weather - May/June 2026

The Heat Is On! After the exceptionally wet start to 2026, Whimble's weather completed a remarkable turnaround during late spring and early summer. England recorded its warmest meteorological spring since records began, while two separate heatwaves brought record-breaking temperatures nationally. Between them came a brief return to much cooler Atlantic weather before high pressure re-established itself, culminating in an exceptional late-June heatwave. Our weather station recorded 36.9°C on 24 June—higher than the official Met Office maximum recorded anywhere in the UK that day. Whether that briefly made Whimble the hottest place in the country is open to debate, but it certainly illustrates just how exceptional the heat became.

Slewton Crescent Weather Station:
Cobden Lane Weather Station:

<https://bit.ly/35qwR9K>
<https://bit.ly/3bt3FTf>

May - began rather unsettled, with a mixture of sunshine, showers and some surprisingly chilly days. The coldest night fell to just 1.1°C on the 11th before high pressure became firmly established from around the 21st, bringing a prolonged spell of warm, dry weather. Temperatures climbed rapidly during the final week, peaking at an exceptional 31.8°C on the 26th as the first significant heatwave of the year affected much of England. Despite the cooler first half of the month, May finished warmer than average with only 39.0 mm of rainfall (well below the normal 59 mm) and sunshine around 7% above average.

June - Meteorological summer opened with a complete change in the weather. The first week was noticeably cooler, wetter and windier as Atlantic weather systems returned, bringing most (41mm) of the month's rainfall and a Met Office wind warning on the 6th. By mid-month a persistent heat dome developed over western Europe as high pressure rebuilt, allowing temperatures to climb rapidly during the third week. Rare Red Met Office heat alerts reflected the severity of an exceptional four-day heatwave, with Whimble exceeding 30°C on five consecutive days and reaching 36.9°C on the 24th. (Exeter Airport officially reported 35C.) High humidity made the heat particularly oppressive, especially overnight, before thunderstorms on the night of the 27th finally brought fresher air and a welcome return to more typical summer conditions.

2026	March	Date	April	Date
Warmest Day	31.8 °C	26/05/2026	36.9 °C	24/06/2026
Coolest Night	1.1 °C	11/05/2026	6.7 °C	10/06/2026
Windiest 24hrs	28.0 km/h	19/05/2026	32.3 km/h	06/06/2026
Highest Gust	42.2 km/h	13/05/2026	48.0 km/h	06/06/2026
Wettest 24hrs	12.0 mm	02/05/2026	14.2 mm	01/06/2026
Av. Maximum	20.4 °C	N/A	23.0 °C	N/A
Av. Minimum	8.3 °C	N/A	12.8 °C	N/A
Total Rain	39.0 mm	N/A	55.2 mm	N/A
Total Sunshine	132.3 kWh/kW	106.6% of Av.	124.6 kWh/kW	105.5% of Av.

*Note: Wind data is from Cobden Lane, while all other data is from Slewton Crescent.
Internet issues in Whimble prevented Slewton Crescent data collection for most of 24/6/26
so Cobden Lane data was used for that day;*

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Craig's Chili Pork Belly

This lip smackingly good South American classic has become a summer favourite at the Jack. Both smoky and juicy it is a really tasty and tender treat using what is often considered to be a cheaper cut of meat. Cooked long and slow, ideal for a BBQ, this dish is a real winner and could be pulled apart with forks or fingers.

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 1.2kg piece boneless pork belly, rind scored
- 2 garlic cloves, smashed
- Few sprigs fresh thyme and/or sage
- 2 bay leaves
- 1.5l fresh chicken stock
- 50g fresh root ginger, chopped
- 2 sticks of lemongrass
- 5 tbsp dark soy sauce
- 5 tbsp honey
- 5 tbsp tomato ketchup
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- Salt and pepper
- 150g chilli roasted peanuts
- 2 tbsp oil

Method:

Pre-heat your oven to 160°C. Season the pork belly well with salt and pepper.

Place all the ingredients (except the pork, chilli nuts and oil) in a flameproof pan that will fit the pork snugly - a large rectangular casserole dish is ideal. Whisk well until smooth.

Add the pork - it should be totally submerged. If it isn't top up with water. Cover the dish with a lid or tight tent of foil and place it in the oven for 2½ - 3 hours. When the pork is cooked, leave it to cool in the stock.

Line a flat baking tray with cling film. Carefully lift the pork onto the tray and be sure you get rid of any bits of vegetables or herbs as they will end up pressed into the pork. Cover the pork with another sheet of cling film and cover with a flat tray - the tray must be completely flat as any indentations will be pressed into the pork.

Weigh the pork down with something heavy and leave to cool in the fridge overnight. Then strain the cooking juices through a fine sieve into a saucepan, cover and chill.

The next day, unwrap the pork and place on a board. Trim the uneven edges so that you have a neat sheet of meat. Cut the pork into four equal pieces and set aside until ready to cook - for a really neat finish I always use a hot knife.

Sieve off any bits of fat from the reserved cooking juices and then reduce it down by about two thirds until it starts to become a slightly syrupy sauce.

When ready to serve, heat the oil in a large frying pan until hot then turn the heat down. Add the pork to the pan skin side down – be careful as it has a tendency to spit.

Crisp the pork for 5 minutes until the cooked rind has crisped. Flip it over and cook for 3-4 minutes until browned on each side. Add the chilli nuts to the sauce and coat each piece of pork liberally with the nuts and sauce. Return briefly to the oven to make sure everything is hot (approx 5 minutes).

Place a piece of pork on each plate and drizzle over and around any remaining sauce. Perhaps serve with some skinny fries, hearty coleslaw and a few sprigs of fresh coriander.

Craig Griffin

*the Jack in
the Green*



Whimble Cricket Club

By the time this edition is published, another bumper summer at the cricket club will be drawing to a close. The hot weather has allowed us to play almost every game as scheduled, including our Friday evening training sessions. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm from our youngest group of 5-8 year old All Stars, right through to our Under 15 junior teams.

The club has once again competed well in Saturday league cricket and, at the time of writing, our 2nd XI are challenging for promotion. Our women's softball and hardball cricket continues to go from strength to strength. In July we were pleased to host the first annual club memorial match, allowing us to remember former players and members who are sadly no longer with us. This event replaces the fixture that had been played for several years in memory of former player Chris Cowell.

Attention now turns to the winter. Our Bonfire and Fireworks event will take place on Saturday 7th November. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased via www.whimblecc.co.uk. The event has sold out every year so far, so we encourage everyone to book early. We greatly appreciate the village's support in attending this event, and your patience on what we know is a particularly busy evening.

A reminder that the clubhouse is available to hire throughout the winter for both daytime events and evening functions, with a bar available if required.

Finally, we have now launched our fundraising campaign to redevelop the pavilion building. More information can be found on the noticeboard at the club and on our website. The project aims to improve accessibility and disability facilities, provide better changing accommodation for all cricketers, including when we have mixed male and female teams, enhance our hospitality space and make a range of other improvements. It is an exciting project that will help secure the future of the cricket club for the next generation, and we are grateful for the support we have already received as we begin this fundraising journey.

James Woollam, Chairman



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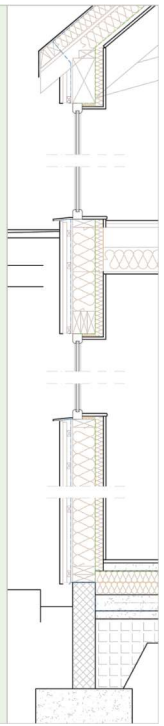
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In previous years, this is the time when we would be looking forward to another of our Flower and Craft Shows. Sadly we have not been able to stage it this year but we are hopeful to return next year!

Thanks to Brian Nelson and Doreen Staddon, another coach trip has been arranged. Once again it will be to visit the RHS Rosemoor Garden Festival on Sunday 23rd August 2026. This is a special event that is being held there with much to see and there are talks and demonstrations to enjoy. Knowing how popular our trips to Rosemoor have been over the past few years, early booking is essential! A booking form is included below and can also be obtained from the Whimple Stores and we are very grateful to Sharon for accommodating this for us.

It is good to report that a few people have expressed an interest in joining our Committee and hopefully we will be able to stage our main events next year.

**Paul Wilson,
Chairman, Whimple & District Gardening Club**

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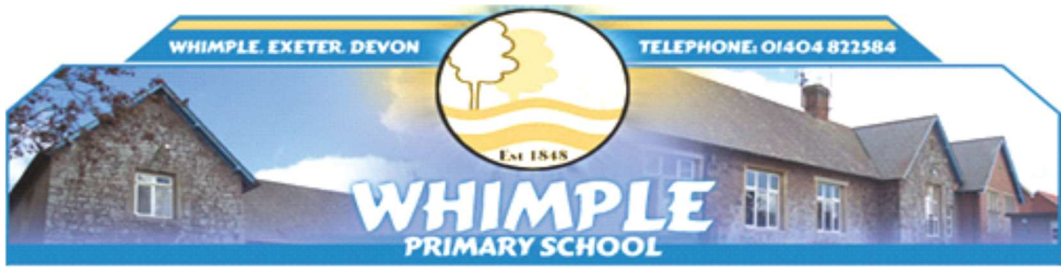
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823594 and for Ottery Brian Nelson Tel. 07929190078**



July 2026

As we finish our school year, it has been another busy one, particularly the last two months.

Towards the end of May, our Year 6 children completed their SATs in reading, maths and SPaG. In early June, Year 1 undertook their Phonics Screening and Year 4 the Multiplication Tables Check. All children are also assessed either formally or informally to ensure they are making good progress and to help support those who are facing some challenges with their learning. The children have all done well, and we are all extremely proud of their achievements.

As well as the academic achievements, there have been many occasions this term, where children have been able to demonstrate the school values and their associated skills.

All of our Year 6 children achieved the Devon and Torbay Civic Award this year. This award includes a number of elements aimed at developing children's skills and awareness of their school and wider communities. Activities includes completing some community work in school and beyond, raising awareness of a charity, making a pledge to the planet and participating regularly in two hobbies throughout the year.



Many of our children have learned to play two pieces of music either on recorder, glockenspiel or boomwhacker to participate in a Clyst Vale Transition Orchestra Project. Over 100 children from a number of local

schools took part in this lovely event. Hearing so many different instruments play a piece of music together was incredible. Some of the other events children have participated in are detailed below.



We have also had a number of visitors into school, including Guy, a lifeguard from Sidmouth Lifeguard Service, to remind us about sea safety and the rules and things in place to help keep us all safe. A lady from Ottery Library also introduced the summer reading challenge for the children to take part in. Our Rock Steady bands also performed to the children and parents too. Finally, a group of parents came into talk to our KS2 children

to raise awareness of allergies and the use of Epipens – really valuable information for everyone.

Year 5 and 6 Residential

In June, our year 5 and 6 went on a wonderful three-day residential to Bristol and Bath. After leaving Whimble, we visited Easton Jamaï Masjid Mosque on the outskirts of Bristol and then went onto British Aerospace. We stayed at Bath Youth Hostel along with two other Federation Schools. Thursday involved walking into Bath and visiting the Royal Baths and Royal Crescent. In both venues the children participated in a selection of small workshops to develop their knowledge. We then took a bus back to Bristol to go to the theatre to watch Matilda the musical. The children absolutely loved it. Being a late night when we got back, also meant they were all soon asleep! Friday morning, we set off to visit SS Great Britain, a fabulous finish to a great few days away.



Sporting Events

Two mixed groups of Year 3 and 4, Year 5 and 6 entered into the EVF Football competition held at Newton St Cyres Primary School. The teams did well, with one of our children achieving the player of the match for his sportsmanship.

All children took part in our annual Sports Day at the Cricket Club. The weather was hot but the children all did amazingly well completing Team Challenges, Year Group running races, a long-distance race, and the children's favourite – Year Group Tug of War.

Two boys and two girls from year groups 2 to 6, participated in the EVF Cross Country Championships held at Blundell's School. Again, the weather was hot, and all children ran their hearts out to complete the 1.2km run.



School Trips

Elm Class visited Drakes Farm and got to meet and greet a number of farm animals. Ash Class went to Escot. They made wooden pendants and then explored the Wild Wood to find and learn about the animals there.



Oak Class took the train into Exeter and visited the RAMM, walking around the museum discovering all sort of facts and information, whilst Beech Class travelled to the Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth and learned how to read the donkey's emotions from the position of their ears.



The PTA have been working hard this term, organising and running our School Fair and helping to run the children's area at Whimble Fest.

Our new reception children, along with a few others in different year groups, spent a morning in their class for September meeting their new teachers. It was great to meet all our new staff too.

Finally, we wish a heartfelt goodbye to a number of staff whom have worked at Whimble for many years. Class teachers, Miss Norton, Mr Brown and Miss Corwood, and teaching assistants Mrs Vanstone and Mrs Wall are either retiring or moving on to pastures new. This will also be my final contribution to the Whimble News as head at Whimble. The staff, children and community have given us all a fantastic send-off, for which we are all extremely grateful. It has been a pleasure to be part of a school that is held dear at the heart of a lovely village community. Thank you to all of those who made it to the Cricket Club to wish us all on our way – it was lovely to see you all.

Mrs Carole Shilston, Head of Whimble Primary School.

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

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Chair of Governors: Jackie Enright
Whimble School PTA (Whimble.pta@gmail.com)

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Information: Ian Spicer (ian@eastclystchurches.org)
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Secretary: Lee Wheaton (whimblefc@gmail.com) 077341 52120

Front Row Club
email: frontrowclub@gmail.com

New Whimble Book Club
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History Society
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Arthur Iball 01404 822905

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

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Whimble Community Choir

Julia Green 07779 139251

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Womens Institute

President: Sarah Hogg 01404 822886

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Group Scout Leader: Paul Lambell (paulambell03@gmail.com)

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

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