

Christmas 2024



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WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE NEW FOUNTAIN INN . 01404 643730 newfountaininn.com.

Merry Christmas, Whimple News Readers!

As the holiday hustle and endless to-do lists surround us, let's pause and remember that the true magic of Christmas lies in the simplest of moments. It's in the tiny hands decorating cookies, warm hugs by the fire, cold morning walks with your pet, and sipping hot chocolate with friends. In a world that often focuses on material things, it's easy to lose sight of what truly matters. These are the memories worth cherishing - the sweet, imperfect moments that fill our hearts with joy. So, this holiday season, let your home be filled with laughter, love, and the warmth of togetherness, one beautiful moment at a time.

Diary. It seems like an action-packed edition this time with lots going on throughout the month—turn to page 5 for a comprehensive list of what tickles your fancy this festive season!

New Emails Alert! If you would like to advertise your business or send in your written article for your establishment, please send all information to:

whimplenews@gmail.com.

If you would like to add any events to the Whimple diary, please email:

whimplediary@gmail.com.

Heads up! As we head into winter, please keep a vigilant eye on your surroundings around the village. Devon County Council has reminded us of how to contact them if we need to report any issues such as potholes, faulty streetlights, blocked drains, and other items—check out page 8 for those details.

Dog Mess Alert! A polite reminder: I'm sure that all of us who own dogs are more than responsible by cleaning up after them. However, I did witness an incident where someone allowed their pet to foul outside someone's doorstep and 'forgot' to clear up after them. Please, be a responsible dog owner and ensure you keep our village clean. Remember to be courteous and not leave mess outside people's homes or driveways.

Bill? I, like many others, have wondered where Bill has gone. During this summer, we saw him many times sitting on the bench outside the shop reading his book. Please turn to page 18 for a more in-depth article on where he has gone—we all wish him the very best in his new home.

Christmas! Fancy some Christmas carolling or visiting a reindeer this year? Turn to pages 22 and 23 for information on village carols and Cotley Farm festive events. Maybe a film followed by coffee with friends on Thursday, 19th December—turn to pages 45 and 46 for more info.

Opening Hours. For the festive opening hours at all our favourite village establishments, turn to pages 32 and 33.

Thank you! And with that, I will leave you to read through our wonderful magazine. Thanks to our wonderful Whimple News Team for volunteering your precious time to keep this going throughout the year.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sam x

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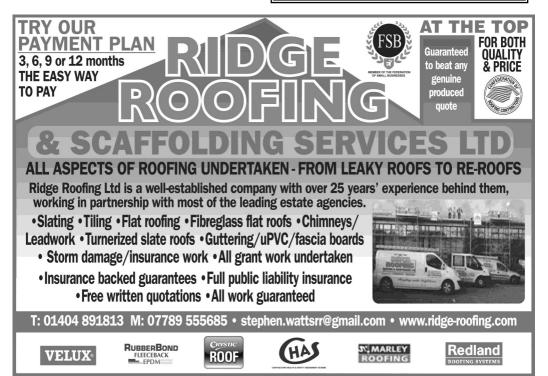
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What's On In Whimple

December:

- Sat 7th: History Society Christmas lunch at the Cricket Club ay 12md.
- Sun 8th: Holy Communion at Whimple Church at10am.
- Sun 8th: Christmas Cash Bingo at the New Fountain at 7.30pm.
- Sat 14th: Front Row Club at the Victory Hall at 7 for 7.30pm.
- Sat 14th: Live Music at the New Fountain Inn by Nikita.
- Sat 14th: Christmas Special Soup n' Sarnie in the Victory Hall at12md.
- Sun 15th: Christingle Gathering in Whimple Church at 4pm.
- Sun 15th: Christmas Quiz at the NFI in aid of Whimple School at 7.30pm.
- Mon 16th: Parish Council meeting in the Victory Hall at 7pm. Public welcome.
- Tues 17th: Candlelight Yoga in the Victory Hall from 6.30 8pm.
- Thurs 19th: Community Film and Coffee morning in the Victory Hall: Opens at10am, 11am film The Holdovers.
- Sun 22nd: Carols by Candlelight. Whimple Church at 6.30pm.
- Tues 24th: Christmas Eve Carols in the Square at 7.00pm.
- Tues 24th: Midnight Mass in Whimple Church at11pm.
- Wed 25th: Family Service and Holy Communion. Whimple Church at 11am.
- Wed 25th: Xmas lunch at the Victory Hall from 12 until 3pm. Free for those in need of company or a meal. To book ring 07525278864.
- Tue 31st: New Year's Eve at the New Fountain with Livvy Hilton-Smith.

January 2025

- Sat 4th: Young Farmer's charity Xmas tree collection. Ring Jack 07724 390839.
- Sun 5th Holy Communion in Whimple Church at 10am.
- Mon 6th: HS volunteers' get-together at the New Fountain from 11am -12noon.
- Thurs 9th: Quiz Night at the Thirsty Farmer at 8pm.
- Sat 11th: Front Row Club in the Victory hall at 7.30pm.
- Sun 12th: Common Worship and Holy Communion in Whimple Church -10am.
- Tues 14th: WI Social afternoon in the Hub at 2pm.
- Tues 14th: HMS Pinafore rehearsal at the Whimple Cricket Club. 7.30 9pm.
- Fri 17th: Whimple Wassail starting from the New Fountain at 6.30pm.
- Sun 19th: The Gathering at Whimple Church Coffee, cake, chat and music 4pm.
- Tues 21st: HMS Pinafore rehearsa at the Whimple Cricket Club from 7.30 9pm.
- Sat 25th: Soup and Sarnie in the Victory Hall from 12md to 1.30pm.
- Sat 25th: Traditional hedge-laying skills with Devon Ranger at the MUGA.
- Sun 26th: Morning worship in Whimple Church. at 10am.
- Tues 28th: HMS Pinafore rehearsal at the Whimple Cricket Club from 7.30 9pm.
- Fri 31st: History Society talk *Times of Change: A Brief History of British New Towns* by Alan Lascelles in the Victory Hall at 7.30pm.

February 2025

- Sat 1st: Quiz and curry in aid of Whimple Rre-school in the Victory Hall at 6.15. Sun 2nd: History Society volunteers' get-together at the New Fountain from
- Sun 2nd: History Society volunteers' get-together at the New Fountain from 11am -12noon.
- Tues 4th: HMS Pinafore rehearsal at Whimple Cricket Club from 7.30 9pm.
- Thurs 6th: Quiz Night at the Thirsty Farmer at 8pm.
- Sat 8th: Front Row Club at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm.

WHIMPLE STORES 🙈

Whimple Stores will be looking for new owners

We appreciate that this headline will cause alarm across Whimple Residents that use and are dependent on the Stores but after considerable discussions between us, we will be listing the shop and its attached buildings with a Commercial Agent in the New Year.

As a background for this momentous decision, Sharon and I purchased Whimple Stores and its buildings three years ago with the intention that my daughter Sabrina would manage the business and live in the house, and I would travel weekly to Whimple from our home in Buckinghamshire to work on improvements to the property. Sharon and I had a longer term plan to move permanently to Devon several years later when Sharon reached retirement age to be closer to our children and grandchildren.

It became clear very quickly that running a village shop requires a significant time commitment and a very diligent eye on expenditure and stock control to ensure that the shop remained successful. We lost a considerable amount of money subsidising the Post Office. To ensure the shop remained in place, Sharon and I closed down our respective self-employment businesses and moved to Devon earlier than planned.

Since then, and over the last year, I have been receiving treatment for cancer and I am not convinced that it is working. Despite external appearances, I am unable to physically cope with the demands of running this form of business and I also feel that having worked virtually non-stop for 56 years, it is time I should be taking life easier.

Sharon has done a marvellous job in taking on the shop and improving its efficiencies, stock management and staff morale. She cannot do this alone however and we cannot envisage a future where one of us is 'taking it easy' while the other is working long days and covering for staff absences.

We know that a sale will take some time to find a buyer through to completion, so we will be around for some time. Our optimum position is that a buyer will be interested in the complete package of the buildings and the shop, but the agent will also forward enquiries from interested parties who wish to lease just the shop part of the property. We will keep you up to date.

Christmas is getting closer

We do think that some supermarkets who started pushing their Christmas stock at the end of summer is a bit ridiculous, so we have held back until after Armistice Day to put our stock of Christmas Cards, wrapping paper, gift tags, money wallets and other items on sale.

If you are sending Christmas presents, we can process pre-paid parcels but would advise getting parcels to us early to ensure that Royal Mail deliver them on time.

We can take advance orders for Christmas food and have access to fresh and frozen meats from our Wholesalers as well as fresh vegetables. Please ask for an order form when you come into the shop.

We will be closed Christmas Day and open from 08:00 to 12:00 on all other public holidays with the usual hours on other days.

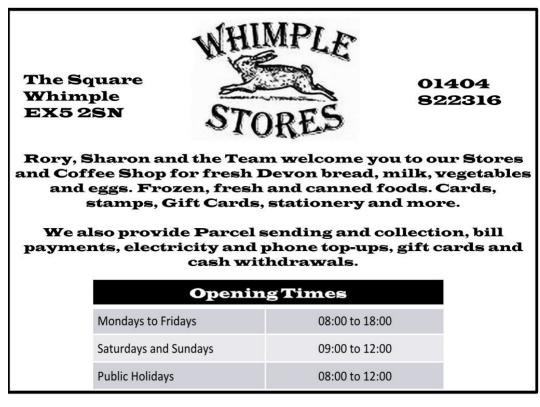
Christmas Carols

As last year, we will be open late and will be selling Mulled Wine and Hot Chocolate on Christmas Eve for people attending the Christmas Carols in The Square.

 ± 1 from every cup sold is donated to the Devon Freewheelers Charity. We will also have a facility in the shop where you can make a donation to the Devon Freewheelers using your credit or debit card. We look forward to seeing you.

We would like to thank all of our customers for supporting Whimple Stores and repeat our request to all of Whimple to support your village store wherever possible. A village store is only sustainable if enough people in the village use it.

Sharon, Rory and the team at Whimple Stores



Parish Council



Dince Hill footpath

Following the Council liaising with Devon County Council Highways and Cllr Iain Chubb, works have been carried out on the Dince Hill footpath to repair the damage caused by the roots from the fallen tree.

We are continuing to work to get in touch with the responsible landowner to request that they deal with the part of the tree on their land.

Reporting a problem

As we head into Winter and possible periods of inclement weather, the Parish Council thought it would be helpful to remind people how to report any problems.

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

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 What3words website or app:

https://what3words.com/

Neighbourhood Plan and Budget/Precept for 2025/26

The last Parish Council meeting of 2024 takes place on Monday 16th December at 7pm at Whimple Victory Hall. At this meeting the Whimple Neighbourhood Plan and the budget and precept for 2025/26 will be discussed.

The Council will be considering a report outlining the current status of the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as a number of options as to the next steps.

The draft budget and precept was discussed at the meeting on 26th November 2024 but will be returning to the 16th December meeting to finalise income and expenditure for 2025/26, and setting the precept, which forms part of the Council Tax bill each household will pay from April next year.

Community Speedwatch Initiative

As reported in previous editions, enough volunteers have come forward meaning that training with the Police can now be scheduled. If anyone else is interested in volunteering, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Councillor co-option

The Parish Council currently has five vacancies so if you are interested in joining the Council please get in touch.

Website Domain name

The Council is moving across to the gov.uk platform, making everything more secure. So very shortly, the website address will become :

www.whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Amy Tregellas

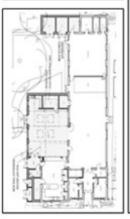
Whimple Parish Clerk Website: www.whimpleparishcouncil.org Email: whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com We are also contactable on Facebook



WHIMPLE VICTORY HALL Registered Charity 291496 Extension Plan Update







I am pleased to report that the Victory Hall Trustees have made significant progress on our ambitious extension project. The new extension will provide a versatile space available for hire yearround, enhancing our community's capacity to host events, meetings, and activities.

Over the past two years, our fundraising efforts have yielded excellent results. Thanks to the generosity and support of our community, we now have £180,000 in our Building Fund, nearly halfway to our goal of £400,000. This achievement is prominently displayed on the fundraising thermometer at the front of the hall, serving as a constant reminder of our collective effort and commitment. We are deeply grateful to the organisations and individuals who have contributed with generous donations and fund raising efforts.

With funds secured, we have taken the next crucial step by engaging an architect to draft the plans for the extension. These plans are currently being prepared for submission as part of our planning application. Securing planning permission will strengthen our position when applying for grant funding.

The proposed extension will not only increase the hall's capacity but also provide modern, flexible spaces that can be adapted for various uses, ensuring that our hall remains a vibrant hub for all.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us thus far, particularly those who have joined the 250K Club. Your contributions, whether large or small, have made a significant impact. Together, we are building not just an extension, but a better community space for future generations to enjoy. Let us maintain the momentum and make our village hall the best it can be!

> If you would like to contact us, Email: <u>victoryhall.friends@outlook.com</u> or call Sue Ayres on 01404823082



Second Se

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A Window on Whimple's Weather - September/October 2024

After a relatively cool and unsettled summer, the weather in Whimple continued with a mix of warmth and rainfall throughout September and October, maintaining an autumnal feel but with notable events.

Slewton Crescent Weather Station: <u>https://bit.ly/35qwR9K</u> Cobden Lane Weather Station: <u>https://bit.ly/3bt3FTf</u>

September – The month began with warmth and rain, highlighted by the hottest day on the 19th, when temperatures reached 24.2°C, well above the South West September average of 18–20°C (UK Met Office data). Despite the mild start, the coolest night fell to just 1.1°C on the 13th. Rainfall totals reached 161mm–more than twice the South West's September average of 75mm. This was largely contributed by a downpour on the 5th (35.1mm), which set a wet tone for the month. Sunshine levels were slightly below average, reaching just 89% of the typical amount.

October – Temperatures dropped with autumn's arrival, though the warmest day still reached 18.2°C on the 3rd, near the regional average maximum of 15–17°C. The coolest night fell to 1.9°C on the 11th. On the 8th, several intense showers resulted in flash flooding around Whimple, with the day's rainfall reaching 23.4mm, marking it as the wettest day of the month. This led to some roads becoming temporarily impassable. Later in the month, Storm Ashley intensified, exhibiting explosive cyclogenesis on the 20th, producing gusts up to 51.5 km/h and contributing to the month's total rainfall of 142.7mm–significantly above the October average of 92mm. Sunshine levels showed a slight recovery, reaching 91.9% of the monthly average.

2024	September	Date	October	Date
Warmest Day	24.2 °C	19/09/2024	18.2 °C	03/10/2024
Coolest Night	1.1 °C	13/09/2024	1.9 °C	11/10/2024
Windiest 24hrs	37.0 km/h	29/09/2024	36.7 km/h	20/10/2024
Highest Gust	48.0 km/h	29/09/2024	51.5 km/h	20/10/2024
Wettest 24hrs	35.1 mm	05/09/2024	23.4 mm	08/10/2024
Av. Maximum	18.8 °C	N/A	16.3 °C	N/A
Av. Minimum	10.3 °C	N/A	8.4 °C	N/A
Total Rain	161.0 mm	N/A	142.7 mm	N/A
Total Sunshine	82.7 kWh/kW	89.0% of Av.	68.1 kWh/kW	91.9% of Av.

In summary, both months recorded above-average rainfall and occasional storms, marking a varied and occasionally extreme early autumn for Whimple.

Phil Dominy & David Brewer.

Please send any comments/questions to dominypr@hotmail.com



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Contact Christine on: Tel: 01404 813315. Mob: 07984 150696 Email: ottercareservices@hotmail.com





Dear neighbours,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, and a joyful and prosperous New Year. I hope you all find time to switch off, rest, and spend time with family and friends. My surgery will be happening as normal on December 16th, but I will not be checking emails over weeks beginning 23rd and 30th December. If you need to contact me over that time for any **genuinely urgent** matters, please use my mobile – otherwise I will pick up any issues raised by email in the new year.



By now, you are no doubt aware that the East Devon Local Plan process has allocated 83 homes in Whimple over the plan period to 2042. 33 of these on the Old Cricket Pitch, and 50 on part of the field behind Bramley Gardens. I've spoken to many of you about the reasons for this over the past few weeks and am happy to continue to do so but I wanted to make one thing absolutely clear: a policy allocation on these sites does **not** mean that the die is fully cast. For either site to be built on, a planning application would have to come forward from the landowners or developers that complies with policy around highways safety, ecology and tree protection and enhancement, flood risk and drainage, and a plethora of other issues – and at that stage there would be significant opportunity for us all to review and scrutinise those proposals and raise any issues that result. It is also entirely possible that neither site actually ends up coming forward – both have significant issues with flood risk, for example, that are not necessarily straightforward to resolve.

While it may yet be some time before any such planning application is forthcoming, if these sites do come forward while I am still your District Councillor I will be working hard, together with the Parish Council, to make sure that whatever comes forward is as sensitive and well-designed as possible, properly taking into account local issues and concerns – and if for whatever reason any application doesn't do that, I will be objecting and asking for that application to be amended or turned down.

In other – positive! – news from East Devon, work started on the replacement of various public toilets in Exmouth, Budleigh, Seaton, and Honiton a few weeks ago. The result of a review commissioned by the current administration, the Democratic Alliance – formed of Lib Dems, Greens, and Independents. This will see new, robust toilet blocks installed that are much easier and cheaper to clean. I know many folks in the village who visit our coast regularly have been keen to see this come forward, so I'm really pleased that this is now happening. I also understand that the project to replace the play park equipment at Slewton Crescent, which went out to consultation in Summer of this year, will be carried out during 2025.

That's all for this edition. As always, if you'd like to discuss any of this with me, please do come along to my regular surgeries – ongoing at The Hive, opposite the Thirsty Farmer, where I'm available 4pm-7pm on the first Monday, and 8am-12pm on the third Monday, every month – no appointment needed.

Alternatively, contact me at **todd.olive@eastdevon.gov.uk** or on 07925 847933 and I'll be happy to arrange an alternative time.

Season's Greetings and a very Merry Christmas,

Cllr Todd Olive

Ward Member for Whimple & Rockbeare Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning East Devon District Council



Where's Bill?

Did you know Bill Jordan who lived at No.3 The Square? A lot of people come into the shop and ask why they have not seen him for some time, so I thought I would use Whimple News to provide everyone with an update.



Bill was sunning himself out side of his house on one of the warmer days earlier this year and got up to move, but immediately fell over injuring his arms. One of the local residents dressed his wounds but Bill found it extremely painful to walk and needed to be taken to hospital for a scan. He had cracked his hip bone requiring an operation and subsequent physiotherapy.

As he lived by himself and access to the bathroom and bedroom were via the stairs, he could not return home. He decided, after discussions with his daughter Sally, to move into a care home near Worcester where Sally lives and has since been there being looked after, fed and entertained.

Bill has decided to sell his house in The Square and it will shortly be on the market with Hall and Scott.

Bill is very well known around Whimple and has lived here for over 30 years, initially in Periton Farmhouse and latterly in The Square. He is well known mainly for his fitness helped by running around Whimple even into his 80's. He would participate in the annual Whimple fun run despite his age and there is a rumour that he abseiled down the Church tower one year. Bill was, in an earlier life a very keen cricketer, plaving initially in South Africa where he spent his younger years and then in the Devon Minor Counties league and also for Whimple 2nd XI in the late 1990's.

I first met Bill when he needed to perform a bank transfer and thought this could be done via the Whimple Post Office, but we had limited operations which did not include money transfers. He was very derogatory of his bank and was reluctant to use their services, but we managed to sort it for him in the end. His low tolerance of large institutions and the way they treat their customers did not stop at his bank, particularly due to the way they are happy to abandon the non computer-literate population who have to resort to the unanswered help lines (HMRC being the worst!). Bill used to come into the shop regularly with his laptop to sort out some payment or query!

Bill was a Professor of Social Policy at the University of Plymouth and had authored 27 books, mainly on Social Policy using his experiences gained while working inside social services. His most contentious book was 'Paupers' written in 1973 which examined the drift towards an unequal and unjust society, detailed the emergence of the 'New Claiming Class' and how the poor are becoming locked into benefit dependency.

I am glad that he has settled near his daughter and his son and that he is being looked after, but we will miss him in the village.

Rory Maguire with thanks to Roger Smith.

You can read an interview with Bill in our October 2022 issue available on the Whimple News website. 18



Race Night is back for 2025.

The date for your diary is Saturday 29th March

It will be a great fun night at the Victory Hall. Bar, pasty supper and lots of laughs. Hope to see you there.

Suzanne Rothwell 07836 634 848



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Friday 17th January 2025 Wassailing

This year's wassailing will start at the Heritage Centre at about 6.30pm for the usual 'rehearsal'. We'll then move off at 7.00pm towards the rear of the Heritage Centre where the first Wassail ceremony will be around the Society's Whimple Wonder tree.

The procession will then head up Church Road to Lower Woodhayes Orchard for the second wassail ceremony.

We'll then move back to the Square, via Dince Hill Close, where the procession will gather near the tethering stone to remember the Society's first Chairman, John Shepherd.

Onwards then along Town Lane and Broadclyst Road to the orchard adjacent to Knowle Cross Farm for the third and final ceremony of the evening, courtesy of Jim and Mary Chard.

The last port of call will be at the Cricket Club for traditional Wassail refreshments.

A-wassail, a-wassail! The Moon she shines down; Our apples are ripe and our nuts they are brown, Whence thou mayest bud, dear old apple tree, And whence thou mayest bear, we sing unto thee.

Chorus...... With our wassail, wassail, wassail! And joy come to our jolly wassail!



O apple tree prosper, bud, bloom and bear, So we may have plenty of cider next year. And where there's a barrel, we hope there'll be ten, That we may have cider when we come again.

Chorus.....



Chrístmas Eve Carols In The Square <u>7.00 pm</u>

(In the church, if the weather is bad) <u>Musicians always wanted, let me know if</u> <u>you'd like music in advance:</u>

<u>empalmusic@gmail.com</u> Mulled wine & hot chocolate available from Whimple Stores from 6.30pm, £2 each, £1 of which will go to the charity. Collection in aid of



Devon Freewheelers -

Blood Bike Service

Please bring cash for the collection buckets, donate by card in Whimple Stores or use the QR code







WHIMPLE CHURCH

http://churches4all.org/

Hello my friends,

I may be typing this in November but as you read it, in the words of Noddy Holder from Slade, 'Its Christmassssssss!

And as Andy Williams sang, "the most wonderful time of the year"; an opportunity to have a rest from the daily routine, spend precious time with family and friends, give and receive gifts and maybe, just maybe, partake of a small glass of sherry or two. It's a period most of us really look forward to.

But it is not like that for everyone. On these long and cold nights, it is not surprising that we seek bright lights of Christmas to ward off the winter. But for those who are lonely Christmas can be an even harder time of year.

This is where the Christian message of Christmas becomes so relevant because Christmas doesn't just mark a Godless celebration of eating, drinking and merriment; it has at its roots the commemoration of the birth of Jesus, God becoming one of us, living amongst us and dying for us. It is that wonderful, inspiring message of hope and light that can dispel even the darkest of misery and suffering and be the gift, that really does keep on giving.

Christmas answers three great needs which all of us have: to be loved, to have a purpose, and to belong. It provides a relationship with a loving God, a purpose in life in following His teachings, and belonging to a family of Christian believers in a local community and worldwide.

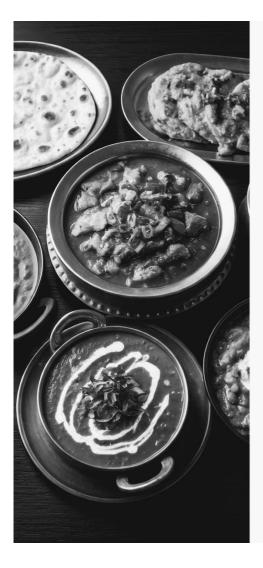
Over recent decades the Church of England has seen a slow and steady decline in numbers in their congregations, and this was accelerated by Covid. At the same time, we see a rise in loneliness, isolation, and mental illness, with individuals feeling that they live purposeless lives. These two trends cannot be unconnected.

Human beings are social animals; we require to have regular contact with others. The church has always provided a welcoming environment, with an exercise in collective worship that brings people together and a programme of social outreach which helps glue communities. Our weekly coffee mornings are an example of that. These things are not just an offshoot of what we believe, they are a foundation of it. Journeying together along life's bumpy road.

There is, across our society, a hunger for meaning and truth in life, people really are looking for a purpose. For those who have turned their backs on Christianity, the void is often filled by other belief systems – not just militant atheism, but other causes such as environmentalism or nationalism. As the writer GK Chesterton put it, "when men choose not to believe in God, they do not then thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything". None of these alternative ideologies can bring the love, purpose and sense of eternal belonging that faith can, because, what Christianity offers literally required a miracle.

There will be folk reading this who, like Richard Dawkins, will dismiss it all as outdated nonsense. Yet there are many millions of people finding direction, love and purpose in the message of Jesus Christ, so however you spend your Christmas, my prayer for you is that you will hear a message of love, purpose and belonging.

God bless. Rev Marc.





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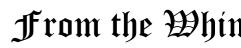
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A Merry

Christmas and New Y

(As best we know. If in doubt contact

and the second s	-	St Mary's Church Services	Whimple Stores	Milestone Gar
Sunday	December 22nd 2024	6.30pm Carols by Candlelight		
	December 23rd 2024		8am to 6pm	Normal Hou
Tuesday	December 24th 2024	Midnight Mass starting at 11pm	8am to end of Carols	Normal Hou
Wednesday	December 25th 2024	Family Service and Holy Communion - at 11am	Closed	Closed
Thursday	December 26th 2024		8am to 12pm	Normal Hou
Friday	December 27th 2024		8am to 6pm	Normal Hou
Saturday	December 28th 2024		9am to 12pm	Normal Hou
Sunday	December 29th 2024		9am to 12pm	Normal Hou
	December 30th 2024		8am to 6pm	Normal Hou
	December 31st 2024		8am to 6pm	Normal Hou
	January 1st 2025		8am to 12pm	Closed
Thursday	January 2nd 2025		Normal Hours	Normal Hou



Christmas

ear Opening Hours

the organisation for confirmation)

age	Ottery and Whimple Surgenes	The Jack in the Green	New Fountain Ion	Thirsty Farmer
	Open usual hours 8am to 6.30pm	Normal	Normal Hours - Drinks Only	Normal Hours
	Open usual hours 8am to 6.30pm	Open all day Food 12pm - 4.30pm and 5.30pm - 8pm	Normal Hours including Curry Evening	Normal Hours
	Closed	Closed until 10th Jan	11 to 1.30pm for Drinks and then 2pm to 6pm pre-booked meals only	Bar 12pm – 3pm Food pre-booked tables only
5	Closed	Closed until 10th Jan	12pm to 8pm Drinks Only	11am - 6pm Food 11am - 4pm (Brunch menu)
5	Open usual hours 8am to 6.30pm	Closed until 10th Jan	Closed	Normal Hours
5	Closed	Closed until 10th Jan	Closed	Normal Hours. BAND NIGHT
5	Closed	Closed until 10th Jan	11am to 10pm Food 12pm to 6pm	Normal Hours
5	Open usual hours 8am to 6.30pm	Closed until 10th Jan	11am to 11pm Drinks Only	Normal Hours
s	Open usual hours 8am to 6.30pm	Closed until 10th Jan	11am to 1.30am Drinks Only	12 noon - 1.30am
	Closed	Closed until 10th Jan	Closed	11 - 6. Food 11 - 4 (Brunch menu)
5	Open usual hours 8am to 6.30pm	Closed until 10th Jan	Normal hours resume	Normal Hours

nple News Team



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SUN

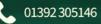
Open: 12:00 – 22.30 Food served: 12:00 – 20:00



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In the words of that great culinary oracle, Sir Terry Wogan, "it's time to get the brussels on". We've done Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night and so we are set fair for Christmas.

Speaking of which, our members' Christmas party is on 10th December from 12noon. Last year we made a Christmas table decoration, enjoyed a bring and share lunch, endured the Marmite quiz and drew our fabulous Christmas raffle. All in one afternoon! This year will be along the same lines.



King's School Christmas fair has not fared so well. It's been cancelled as a suitable date could not be found which did not clash with other events to be held by the school or within Ottery itself. Ah well, there's always next year.

Our entry into the WI County skittles competition took an unexpected twist. The team we played on 8th November could only field five of the required six players. They are a very small institute, Whimple magnanimously suggested that each of their players had an extra go. Little did we know at that stage that several of them were blooming good and so we lost by 12 points! Hilarious. Some of us (me really) were relieved to be eliminated. Our opponents then declared they would withdraw from the competition and so we were declared winners by default. Round two beckons. Oh joy.

Earlier in the year we asked members for their support by knitting poppies which would be used to form a Whimple WI wreath for this year's Remembrance service. We were heartened by the response and Sarah having sourced the base for the wreath and covered it in hessian then spent a productive morning with Marilyn, assembling and arranging the poppies on the wreath. Grateful thanks to all those ladies who made our respectful offering possible and a delight to behold.

As we look forward to the new year, our programme for 2025 is finalised and eagerly anticipated. Just our November meeting left where, would you believe it, our booked speaker has let us down (yet again). One speaker cancellation in a year is a disappointment, two cancellations are frustrating but THREE is not a problem! We're very good at last minute improvisation now.

Our replacement 12th November speaker spoke about training medical detection dogs (super sniffer dogs) to detect the odour of human diseases and also dogs to be partnered with individuals who have no awareness of an impending life threatening event. It was a really interesting talk. Every dog has 300 million receptors in their

nose compared to a human's measly 10 million and each disease has a different odour. Such valuable work carried out by such a small charity.

Finally, on a lighter note, If any ladies would like to know more about Whimple WI, the amazing speakers, enjoyable outings, scrumptious lunches, endless opportunities and wonderful company therein, then please contact Marilyn on 821860 for more information.

With warmest wishes for the forthcoming festive season and genuine hope for a peaceful new year......



DI Eden

Whimple Community Choir Is Born!

On Wednesday 25th September 43 members of our community nervously stepped into St Mary's Church for the launch of Whimple Community Choir. There was an air of expectation, excitement and terror!

By the end of the evening at 8:30pm - there was laughter, fellowship and a real sense of achievement, having learnt five songs, some of which we were singing in three part harmony! What joy that was.



The choir is going from strength to strength -

there is a real sense of community and fun every Wednesday evening, as we challenge ourselves with learning new songs and enjoy singing old favourites.

Sessions will end for this term on Wednesday 27th November but will resume on Wednesday 8th January 2025 for four sessions.

Everyone is invited along on Wednesday 29th January at 7:30pm for a 'Show and Tell' event. Come and see what we have been up to and experience the very special bond this group is forming.

And finally in the words of our members:

"Uplifting evening" "It's such a joy to sing with you all" "If you want an uplifting evening, this is the place to be" "I was made to feel very welcome "

Julia Green, Director - Whimple Community Choir



WARTS DATES FOR 2025:

13th January, 24th March 14th July, 13th October

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Payhembury Church, with Payhembury School Choir Sunday 8th Dec, 3pm

Church of St James the Great, Talaton Friday 20th Dec, 7pm

Refreshments Retiring collections





Although the Whimple Heritage Centre is closed during the autumn and winter months, we have a packed schedule of events to keep us busy. The next is our members and friends Christmas lunch on 7th December 2024 from 12noon until 4pm at the Cricket Club – always an enjoyable occasion.

People often complain that once Christmas is over, the next couple of months can be a bit flat. Well, not in Whimple, where we have the Whimple Wassail to look forward to on 17th January each year. If you are travelling to Whimple from outside the village, please note that there is almost no public parking in the

village, and the roads leading to the village are not suitable for pedestrians being narrow, unlit, and bounded by high hedges. We strongly recommend that you consider travelling into the village by train. The New Fountain car park will be closed for two hours for the wassail. The ground in the orchards can be uneven and muddy, so suitable footwear is a must; high visibility clothing and a torch are also advisable. Bring something to bang to make a noise and join in the fun! Please see our full-page advert for the wassail night itinerary.

Our next talk is *Times of Change: A Brief History of British New Towns* by Whimple resident, Alan Lascelles, which takes place at 7.30pm on Friday 31st January 2025 at the Victory Hall. Many of you will be familiar with Alan's tireless work on local planning issues through his articles in the Whimple News. He has a professional background in town and country planning, with new towns being a particular interest – he tells us that he has visited most new towns in the country, some more than once! With our very own East Devon new town, Cranbrook, taking shape on our doorstep, this subject is of relevance to us all.

Alan's talk will examine why and where new towns have been built, and the key figures involved in their development. Although spanning the last two thousand years, the talk will focus particularly on the 19th and 20th centuries, looking especially at the insanitary conditions in Victorian industrial areas which prompted the establishment of new towns, and the impact of the Second World War. It promises to be an enlightening evening, so do join us. Non-members are very welcome for a small charge of $\pounds 3$ – entry is free for members.

In other news, we are very pleased to welcome Jenny Fells onto the Whimple History Society committee. Jenny has kindly agreed to take on the role of secretary vacated earlier this year by Roger Smith.

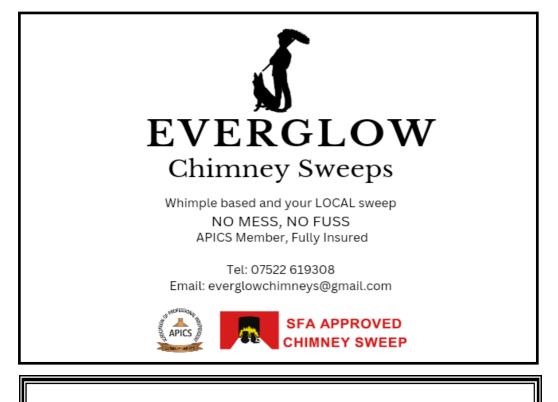
And finally, a reminder to our members that subscriptions become due on 1st January 2025 at the rate of £12 for a single person or £20 for a couple. Members receive a regular newsletter and get free entry to all our talks. If you are not already a member then please consider joining to support our work.

Tina Kelly, Curator

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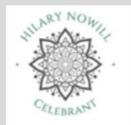
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Saturday 14th December Saturday 11th January Saturday 8th February



Monthly film nights at the Victory Hall Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm BYO drinks and glasses All welcome. Non-members £5 on the door or pay £20 for the whole season

Winter Film and Coffee Morning

The Victory Hall will be opening its doors to the community on the morning of Thursday 19th December for a film and coffee morning.

Taking advantage of a school non-pupil day, this event will be completely free to attend. Donations will however be gratefully accepted for the refreshments, and we will be selling tickets for a prize draw to win a Christmas hamper. All proceeds will be donated to the hall's extension fund.

Doors will open from 10am for tea, coffee, cakes and savoury bakes. The film will start at 11am. We can't publish the name of the film here (instead you'll need look at the posters outside or inside the hall) but we can say that this is a recent release and can give you some clues:



Nobody likes teacher Paul Hunham – not his students, not his fellow faculty, not the headmaster, who all find his pomposity and rigidity exasperating. With no family and nowhere to go over Christmas in 1970, Paul remains at school to supervise students unable to journey home. After a few days, only one student holdover remains – a troublemaking 18-year-old named Angus, a good student whose bad behaviour always threatens to get him expelled.

> "Hilarious and Heartfelt." ★★★★★ Daily Telegraph

> > "A Triumph." ★★★★ Empire



This promises to be a fun event which we hope will be well supported. To help with the planning for refreshments we'd be very grateful if those intending to come could let us know either via the signup sheet inside the hall foyer or via 01392 982 658 (leave a message) or via email to <u>frontrowclub@gmail.com</u>

> We look forward to seeing you there! Rob Davis (Front Row Club / Vice Chair, Whimple Victory Hall)



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Protect our Whimple & Rockbeare Group

December 2024

To challenge, to protect and to inform

Henry Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Company, famously stated in 1916 that "*History is bunk*". This, to the casual observer, implied history is all rubbish, not worth the time or bother to study. As in many examples, especially in History, Geography and Archaeology, you need to dig below the surface to find out what was going on. What Henry Ford was 'on about', as he opened Greenfield Village, an 'outdoor history museum' in Dearborn, Michigan, was that history was written by the establishment, and usually about politicians and military heroes. In the UK you could add Kings and Queens (especially Tudor). Ford wanted history to celebrate inventors and farmers, the creators of wealth and work, plus those who fed and clothed the nation. Clearly, there has been a considerable shift in the study and teaching of history over the last few decades.

Whimple's place in history is very much with the farmers and the entrepreneurs that invested in the future. They laid out orchards and built a factory and its infrastructure to create Whiteway's Devon Cyder. This cyder was exported around the world, and also helped to slake the thirst of Whimple farmers.

Today, our farmers carry on feeding the nation but in addition have evolved into the custodians of the natural environment and the visual impact of the landscape. You only have to see the neatly trimmed hedgerows as you drive down Church Road.

This farmland, this open countryside, this green belt that separates Cranbrook from the core village of Whimple is vital to protect. It's there to do what it 'says on the tin', "protect our Whimple and Rockbeare." The Parish lost approximately 37 hectares by ceding land to Cranbrook in 2016. It was accepted that it was ceded on the condition that Cranbrook would not be developed east of Cobden Lane. This has been ignored by Cranbrook Consortium, EDDC and the Government Inspector.

In August 2022, the Planning Inspector issued her report on the examination of the Cranbrook Extension Plan. The Inspector concluded that subject to Main Modifications, the Plan is sound and can be taken forward by East Devon District Council for formal adoption.

After some considerable time re-jigging the plan, East Devon District Council (EDDC) granted planning permission for the first expansion of Cranbrook in April 2024. It is the largest planning permission since permission for the new town was issued more than 13 years ago. The expansion at Cobden allows up to 1435 additional homes and 10 permanent pitches for gypsies and travellers to be created. Critically, it includes approximately 500 houses north of Cobden Farm.

The next issue is the Local Plan, which covers the entire district. At the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), held on Tuesday 1st October 2024, district councillors agreed with the recommendations of planning officers and rejected all the suggested sites. 48

However, Site No 11, Land at Station Road (the Old Cricket Ground) was approved. At the meeting a statement was read out on behalf of Whimple Parish Council indicating that the Parish Council consider none of the sites being suitable for development, but thought that a site on Church Road should be reconsidered. Our local district councillor Todd Olive spoke from the floor. He outlined local responses to the consultation and commented that on balance, the local community felt the site was sustainable.

In the emerging Whimple Neighbourhood Plan, as at the 19th February 2024, the following is evidenced:

Section 7.5 Green Spaces, included Richard Whiteway Memorial Land east of Slewton Crescent - an area which should be accessible to the public and where possible, be enhanced with trees and plants to improve the landscape.

Section 10.4 Potential use of the 'Old Cricket Ground' for a village park.

In **Appendix V** Consultation April 2022 and **Appendix VI** derived from Post-IT notes from the public gathering at the Victory Hall in Feb 2022, both indicated additional comment in support of protecting the site.

Appendix II provides a clearer view of village opposition:

EDDC - Local Plan Common Place Feedback. Consultation period – 7th November 2022 until 15th January 2023. (Spread sheet data)

Whim <u>11</u> - Station Road (Old Cricket Ground) - Extracted from EDDC Speed sheet

Dissatisfied	Unhappy	Neutral	Нарру	Satisfied	Total Responses
15	49	8	2	6	80

Todd Olive did not voice either support or objection to the site being included for allocation, but preferred another site in the village. At the Strategic Council meeting no specific reference was made to the Whimple Neighbourhood Plan.

However, in the Final Site Allocations undertaken by the SPC held on the 1st November, Site 8 - land west of Church Road and Bramley Gardens was discussed. Simon Coles, speaking for the development, provided inaccurate information to the committee which does not contribute to effective decision making. He was promoting that part of the land could be used for housing purposes. Cllr. Geoff Yung (Woodbury & Lympstone) and Cllr. Jessica Bailey (West Hill) pushed hard in favour of using the north east part of site 8. It was outlined that this part should be added to the boundary of the 'built-up area' of Whimple. The proposal was made by Cllr. Todd Olive for this part of the Site to be used for development of approximately 50 houses, however this was vague in respect of the boundary, and precise housing numbers were not being defined. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Yung and it was agreed by the Strategic Planning Committee Members.

Feelings of the villagers were very much against this green wedge site being developed and it was almost unanimously opposed:

EDDC - Local Plan Common Place Feedback. Consultation period – 7th November 2022 until 15th January 2023. (Spread Sheet data)

Dissatisfied	Unhappy	Neutral	Нарру	Satisfied	Total Responses
9	77	0	0	1	87

Whim_08 - Land west of Church Road and Bramley Garden

It is a tragedy that councillors are making major decisions without fully appreciating the evidence that has been gathered by the citizens of Whimple concerning what development is acceptable and what is not. Localism matters, but this has been steamrollered by the inadequately informed. POW+R takes the view that it might have helped if the Whimple Neighbourhood plan had gone beyond the draft version, so that a greater level of protection could be afforded. Whilst POW+R is fully aware that a Local Plan will always take precedence over a Neighbourhood Plan, the local authority must still take the views of the parish into consideration when making planning decisions. It would therefore make good sense for the Neighbourhood Plan to state the wishes of its residents and make it clear where development can reasonably be carried out and in what form. It is regrettable that the NP is not yet past its draft form and that the Parish Council no longer required POW+R's assistance and expertise in pushing this important document forwards.

It is also worth noting that the Government is updating the National Planning Policy Framework, so, there may be factors that affect the emerging Local Plan. The final draft of the revised Local Plan will be made available for formal objections and other responses early next year. POW+R Group will be ready to critically analyse what is set out for Whimple and then take appropriate action.

 $\mathsf{POW+R}$ Group will continue to challenge, to protect and to inform, as 'We love Whimple'.

Alan Lascelles MA

Dated: 30th November 2024

POW+R Group - Press and Publicity Officer

Hedgelaying Volunteer Day Saturday 25th January 10am to 4pm

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Our penultimate event for the year on Friday 20th September was a talk by Mick Street who was a former Chairman of the Club. His talk was about "The Ten Plants I Could Not Do Without". It was a very entertaining talk and fascinating to hear what plants he favoured especially when there are so many to choose from!

Our annual Quiz was held on Friday 9th November where the little grey cells were put to the test with another batch of challenging gardening and general knowledge questions! This year we had a record attendance and once again it was a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks to Brian and Sherril for putting all the questions together and to Colin for operating the technology.

Our first meeting of the new year will once again be our Annual General Meeting which will be on 27th January 2025 in the main hall of the Victory Hall commencing at 7.00pm. In order to make the most of the evening, following the AGM, we hope to have another illustrated talk. All members and anyone else interested to see the presentation will be very welcome to attend! We would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join our Committee as we really do need some new people with fresh ideas to help promote the Club.

Early in the new year we will be looking at the classes for the 2025 Flower Show and hopefully we will have a schedule out by the time we run our annual plant sale in May. Following our appeal for help, we have a number of ideas from various people for the classes so that has been a great help. So, for those of you who enjoyed the experience of exhibiting this year, the date for next year's show is Saturday 9th August 2025!

Paul Wilson, Chairman, Whimple & District Gardening Club





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Race Night is back for 2025. The date for your diary is Saturday 29th March.

It's a great fun night. Bar, pasty supper and lots of laughs. Hope to see you there. **Suzanne Rothwell** 07836 634 848

Poppy Appeal 2024

Yet again a successful year for the poppies. As things progress and more payments are made using QR codes I am pleased to say that we made an exceptional £1390.35 which is the total I banked at Lloyds this morning, on top of that is the extra in QR payments. I agree that it makes life a great deal easier if there is a good internet service.

After last year when the cashless did not work too well in the square. It is far easier dealing only in cash but I realise that we are becoming a cashless society. Alternatives are easier and more direct.

I would also like to thank the scouts for their part in the service. It was lovely to see so many military uniforms and medals on show. It certainly made it all seem fitting for those who have or have not endured conflict.

Thanks to all.

Fiona Clarke Poppy Appeal Organiser

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In all the time I have been teaching, I cannot recall a wetter start to the school year. Despite the weather, the children have all had Forest School sessions over at the orchard.



We are going to hold a community session on Saturday 25th January at the orchard which will include learning how to lay a hedge alongside other tasks. Please look out for more information – it would be great to see you all.

Reading continues to be a pivotal part of the school day – through class readers, group and individual reading and writing sequences, books play an integral part to each and every day. It is well-known that people who read more fluently and widely, have better life chances and tend to have better-paid jobs. Sadly, with more technology and other things available to children, there has been a steady decline in reading at home. This is where extended families and friends can support – reading a book to or with a child can benefit all parties – it supports good mental health and can be a great way to spend time on a cold miserable day.

Each class chose a country to celebrate European Language Day at the end of September. This involved learning more about the country including its language and culture.

Our annual apple pick and then apple pressing day went down well with all the children and we took over half a tonne of apples to Darts Farm just before half-term.

The focus of this half-term, as always, is Christmas. Children are busy making Victorian items to decorate our tree at Killerton. There will be two Carol Services, a nativity, Christmas fair and dinner, and of course our Elf Run to look forward too.

The children and staff at Whimple Primary School would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs Carole Shilston, Headteacher

To start the term the school has been focusing on Remembrance Day, apple picking and apple pressing.

We did apple picking on the 18th of October. Willow class (Yr 5 & Yr 6) went with Elm class (Reception & Yr 1), Beech class (Yr 4 & Yr 5) went with Oak class (Yr 3 & Yr 4) and Ash class (Yr 1 & Yr 2). We all went throughout the afternoon. Afterwards, on the 8th of November, Mr Palmer brought the apple pressing machine to make the apples into apple juice. It was delicious, we loved it!





Four children from Willow class have gone every other week to Clyst Vale school to do some maths challenges. Last week we did the 4 fours challenge where we had to use 4 fours to make the numbers from 0-20 for 1 hour. We all enjoyed it with children from another school named Clyst Saint Mary.

On Friday 15th November, the whole school wore spotty, stripy, sporty, multi coloured, or PJs for children in need. We did some challenges with everyone taking part and the focus was wheels. We each brought in a donation from 50p to £1 or more.



On Monday

we did the 2 minute silence as well as selling poppy related items. We would like to thank the children in Willow class for staying behind for 10 minutes to sell poppies. We raised over ± 130 pounds for the Royal British Legion.

By Eleanor Butler, Amelie Handley and Maisie Knowles. (Year 6)









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Chairman: Arthur Iball	822905					
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Chair: Hayley Seldon	07736 272668					
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Chris Beer	07787 544192					
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