### Deadlines For Future Issues

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<th>Deadline email and handwritten</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2011</td>
<td>Sat May 14th</td>
<td>1st week June</td>
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<td>Autumn 2011</td>
<td>Sat Aug 13th</td>
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<td>Winter 2011</td>
<td>Sat Nov 12th</td>
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**How to send in Articles :**

1) Email editorwitheridgevoice@hotmail.co.uk  
2) Handwritten and handed in to the Newsagent.

ALL articles and changes of contact details to the Editor please.

**Word Limit :** Clubs 200 maximum (much less if possible), general articles no more than 1 page which is approx. 300 words.

**Advertising :** contact the Treasurer

This is the last issue of our first year and we would like to thank all our advertisers for their patronage. We will be contacting you soon about next year’s adverts.

The editors reserve the right to edit any article to fit the space available and to refuse any material deemed to be inappropriate. The content of an article reflects the views of the author not the Witheridge Voice. While every attempt is made to ensure accuracy, no guarantee can be extended.

**Witheridge Voice Current Team:**

**Editor** Carole Campbell  editorwitheridgevoice@hotmail.co.uk  860773
**Treasurer** Jim Campbell  voicetreasurer@hotmail.co.uk  860773
**Publisher** David Taylor  david_c_taylor@btinternet.com  861151
**Secretary** Helen Prince

**Proof Readers:** Carol Prynn and Jess Campbell

**How to get the magazine**

Copies are delivered by volunteers to the immediate village area. If you live in the Parish but outside the village, you can pick up a copy from the Newsagent, village shop, Ted’s Farm Shop and Rackenford Store. Copies are given to the Doctor’s Surgery for you to read while you are waiting. Occasionally we have a few copies remaining but we cannot afford to post this free magazine. Editor

Cover picture: The Old Pound House Witheridge Historical Archive
Editorial Spring 2011

After a hard winter, Spring should be underway when our 4th edition of the Witheridge Voice reaches you. We are settling into a pattern and finding something of our voice now. In addition to the Club updates there are several regular features, not least Class 4 who did Kids Corner and Space poems. We have several new articles which we hope you will enjoy.

I would appreciate your help to keep up ‘In Memory of’ and ‘Welcome to the Village’ up to date. The ‘Welcome to the Village’ page is on trial this issue as I need input from you. Please send by email, phone or on a bit of paper so we can include loved ones who have passed on and newcomers to the village.

Thank you to those who gave of their time to tell me their stories. I hope you all enjoy reading them as much as we have enjoyed doing them.

Please don’t feel you have to be asked to contribute to the magazine, far from it. ALL contributions are very much valued and everything you send will go in if we can possibly find room.

We have had an increasing number of requests for a piece to be published as an article free of charge when the article advertises a small business. Our policy is that it will incur a charge.

Lastly: a tribute to Frank Housam who is moving on after many years in the village. Not every village has its own Town Crier and Frank’s contribution to the community is much valued. Carole Campbell

Deadline for the Summer 2011 issue is: Sat May 14th

Witheridge Voice 1st AGM: Tuesday 29th March
Parish Hall Committee Rooms 7:30pm

Winter 2010 Sports crossword ANSWERS

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You can find us on the crossroads in the centre of the village on the B3137 Tiverton to South Molton road, two miles east of Witheridge.
I was born in Church Street in a cottage on the corner, next door to the slaughterhouse and part of where Peter Tout’s house now is. Then we moved to 16 West Street, the cottage on the corner by the Pound House. We were 3 children – Kath born 1929, me 1930 and Les 1935.

The cottage in West Street was primitive – kitchen, scullery, 2 bedrooms. The kitchen floor was cobbled with an open fire to cook and heat water, no sink, outside tap. Water was carried in a bucket to fill a tin tub. Mum did the washing and we bathed once a week in front of the fire in this tub. We sat on a form (bench) in the kitchen or on stools. Only Dad had a chair and only the bedrooms had lino.

Dad was a quarryman at Coombe Quarry. He started work at 7am so Mum was up early to light the fire and make Dad’s bottle of tea (wrapped in paper and an old sock) which he took with bread and cheese or a rabbit leg.

I went to the Church of England school on Church Street from age 5 to 14. We had 3 classes and 3 teachers, Miss Alford, Mrs Joe Churchill and the Headmaster Mr Dryer. When the evacuees arrived in the war, the school doubled in size. We sat on benches. The desks had ink wells and we used a pen with a nib dipped in the ink. I could write really well with it- much better than with modern pens. The senior boys did woodwork, girls needlework and we all did gardening, bee keeping and rabbit keeping. The garden was where the bungalow is now next to the Industrial Estate.

We went to school in whatever we had- most boys in short cord trousers, a thin jumper and nail boots. Each class had a tortoise stove fired by coke and the teacher would boil a saucepan to make a drink at lunchtime. I went home for lunch (bread and cheese or jam) but there was no food for the children from outside the village.

We moved to a cottage by the Chapel, then to Bow Cottage (now Swift) to get a bigger garden for growing food. We kept 2 pigs and at least a dozen chickens. Like all families, we were brought up to poach and until we had our own animals, this was our source of meat- rabbits, trout and eels.

In The Square, Gunn’s owned the General Store and Archie Nott, the quarry owner, had a section of Black Dog pub as an office. Bill Gold the Wheelwright was round to the left and at the bottom was his workshop.
From age 6 or 7, I spent a lot of time with Bill. He would send me to the Blacksmith’s (Stoneman’s) to get metal dowels to pin the vulleys together - wooden sections making up the wheel rim. I went with him to the wheel banding at the Blacksmiths. When it was banded he hung the wheel by a spike in the durn (door jam) so I could paint it – always red. Houses were usually brown or green, wheels red and the cart body was blue.

Sunday dinner was special. About 10am we took a tin tray of spuds, meat (rabbit or pork if you had your own pigs) and suet pudding to Whitfield’s Bakery. He didn’t charge much to cook it, probably 2pennies, but we always said he took a bit from each tray. They would fire the ovens, rake it down and slide the trays in. The smell was wonderful when they took it out.

Bert Whitfield would send for me when he had wood delivered. The drayman pitched the wood up to the top floor, I raked it across to Bert and he stacked it. When we finished he gave me a V shaped bag of pear drops. I don’t think I ever got paid in money for anything. Dad later worked for Hutchins the builder and part-time as a grave digger and Church Sexton, maintaining the grounds, firing the boiler (where the kitchen is now) and winding the clock and I would have helped him quite often.

I left school at 14 and worked for Ernest Hutchings as an apprentice mason – 7 years. As soon as I finished, I did 2 years’ National Service but that’s another long story.
“Cut off, but it’s really rather beautiful” Dec 2010

In 1947, all across Britain blizzards cut transport links between the North and South. As power stations ran out of coal, there were power cuts for five hours a day leaving the nation shivering in the dark. Buses and trains were buried in snowdrifts up to 30ft deep.parsnips had to be dug out of the ground using pneumatic drills. In Witheridge the snow was 2-3 feet deep in The Square but drifted up to 30 feet against the trees. The Mill was still operating but the road down to it was completely filled up with snow.

1963 - Bill Buchanan of the Angel Hotel got his car stuck just outside the village. He walked to the garage and back by which time the snow had drifted and the car was no longer visible. (Courtesy The Book of Witheridge)

1978 – Photo the snow cleared from across The Square. Queenie Pyne

I don’t have any memories of the 1947 winter, but I do recall 1963 when the snow was higher than our front door. So perhaps 2010 wasn’t so bad, but if you walked across the fields you would have seen it was really rather beautiful. By Jim Campbell
Complete with open log burning fire for those cooler evenings!

A wide range of draught beer and lager including Exmoor Real Ales

A good affordably priced menu is available lunchtimes and evenings
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A Very Special Town Crier

Frank Housam came to the village in the early 1980’s and worked as a herdsman on Cannington Farm. He immediately involved himself in the community. For the last 20 years he has been an active member of the St John’s Fayre Committee and our Town Crier. He was employed by the Parish Council as a caretaker for the village keeping it looking clean and tidy and was a Church Warden until recently. He currently sings in the Music group.

Frank is one of those ‘salt of the earth’ characters who always has a joke to crack and who has brought a lot of happiness and mirth to Witheridge. He is present at every possible occasion where Raffle tickets can be sold - getting past Frank without buying isn’t easy because he asks so nicely!

Our very own Town Crier is going to be very difficult to replace, not least for his booming voice which has introduced so many village occasions. He will be sadly missed, but we wish him well in his new life down in Tiverton. He will always be welcome back in the village amongst his many friends.

G Manning

Information

Children’s Centre at Witheridge

The Children’s Centre will be the base for the team covering Chulmleigh, Witheridge, Morchard Bishop, Lapford, East Worlington, Burrington, Kings Nympton and High Bickington.

Open Session: watch for posters to meet the team.
We need a NAME for our centre. Ideas? phone 01769 579615.

STARTING SOON: Dad’s Workshop
Dads getting together to make toys for their children
Interested? Contact Beth on 01769 579615

Time to Talk: Improve your child’s language through play and home routine
Witheridge Children’s Centre, 6 week course
contact Sue on 01769 579615
Our Village Community

In the recent severe weather, like everyone else, we were struggling home with shopping. On returning with heavy bags, a young woman with her son said ‘Can you manage?’ The next thing we knew her son was carrying the heavy bag home for us. Bill and I would like to express our thanks to these two, who in these times when we are all rushing about, came to help us. What a lovely thought!

Even though it was difficult to move around, there wasn’t one person who didn’t smile and speak. Perhaps towns are more convenient, but our village is great. Mr and Mrs B Bullivant.

The Knights of Witheridge

Activities to come: 19th March Golf Day: very poplar Keith Greenward 861335  16th April Paintball: Get a group together. Fred Hanbury 860578

18th June The 'longest day' bike ride: Land’s End and back. Get sponsorship for a ‘worthy cause’. Piers Jones 861714.

17th July Fun Games Day: A repeat of last summer’s joint venture with The Friends of Witheridge. Maria 861335 or Fred Hanbury.

28th August Tractor Push: We hope this will be a well attended race from Nomansland to Witheridge with teams of 6 from local clubs, companies, pubs or friends. Win money for charity or a cash prize. Pete Bradford 860629

Lastly, having seen the dedication of the ‘fairer sex’ in the village, we are asking ladies to join us. Can you offer your skills? Fred Hanbury 860578.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

As a result of fund raising, we have money available for distribution within our Parish for: Local Organisations, Village Amenities, Individual Grants

Individual Grants can be applied for at any time of the year. All other applications for funding must be received no later than Saturday 30th April 2011 Fred Hanbury 860578
The Angels of Mercy

In Witheridge we are quite used to the beat of rotor blades as a sleek red helicopter lands on the edge of the village and the Devon Air Ambulance arrives to take someone to hospital. For a rural and sometimes snowbound community like ours, time is critical and the helicopter takes only 7 to 8 minutes to reach Exeter.

This service was set up in 1992 and has two aircraft, one based in Exeter and the other in Umberleigh. The chopper is usually manned by three or four people- the pilot, a couple of paramedics, sometimes a doctor and if a child is being airlifted, there’s always room for a parent. Under 16’s can join the Junior Crew Club which has magazines, competitions and regular opportunities to see the helicopter and meet the crew. A nice birthday present perhaps.

Devon Air Ambulance is a charity which needs to raise about £4 million a year to operate. The helicopters have flown nearly 17000 missions since the service began. This is something the village really appreciates, reflected in the fact that the collection boxes in the shop and lottery tickets sold by the newsagent raised over £2200 last year. After all, the next time the helicopter drops into the village it might be here to help you.

Cancer Research

We are organising a Coffee Morning on 2nd April at the Rest-a -While from 10am until 12noon with a Bric-a-Brac stall, cakes and a raffle. We are asking the good folk of Witheridge to make us some lovely cakes and donate some raffle prizes. Please do come to support our charity.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big "Thank You" to Frank Housam for all the help he has given our small group over many years in organising several Variety Concerts and raising a lot of money for our charity. May we wish him the all the best for his future in Tiverton. We will miss him very much! ! Lastly, thank you to Jean Bryant for agreeing to take Frank’s place on the committee. Angela Pearce (Chairperson)
Mid Devon Medical Practice

Please note that the surgery is now located in our new premises in Cannington Road.

Our telephone number and opening hours remain unchanged.

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Two Moors Centre Project

As you probably know, the Witheridge Community Task Group has been working on a project about community facilities. The working name for the project is the Two Moors Centre, and its aim is to have facilities that will serve Witheridge, and nearby communities, for the future.

The feasibility study for the project is well underway and I am one of the independent consultants involved in this project. The team include an architect, a quantity surveyor, structural and drainage engineer, a legal advisor and a business planner. We investigate the options available, provide the community with information, listen to your views and develop the preferred option, assuming that there is one.

I am aware that this has been a contentious project at times. I have been heartened by the willingness of individual groups to see that the aim is about a better future for the community as a whole. By the time you read this, we hope that many of you will have come along to the Community Event on Friday 4th March.

Affording new facilities and making sure that they will be financially viable in the longer term is challenging for any community. There will be different options to consider at the Community Event and an opportunity to ask questions of all of the consultants involved in this project.

This feasibility study is a significant investment for Witheridge and we want to make the best use of this for you. It is then up to you, the community, to decide the best way forward.

Lorna Turner Business Planning Consultant CEU Ltd
(Editor- article as sent)

East Worlington Parent & Toddler Group

Calling all Toddlers! Come along and join in the fun every Tues 2- 3.30pm (during term time) in the Pre-School room at East Worlington Primary School. Children from birth to 4 years are welcome at a cost of £1 per family. It is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones: in fact we try at least once every two months to have a ‘Mum’s Night Out’, giving us time to relax and chat. Michaela Webb 860913
If you been into The Square recently you will have noticed the goings on at the Parish church. As I write work has just begun on the installation of a new heating system. Any of you who have spent much time in the church this winter will know how badly this is needed and whilst the church will never be as cosy as your living room, we hope that when the work is finished you will no longer need to wrap up as if you were setting out on an arctic expedition!

If things stay on schedule, the work should be completed by the time you read this article, but right now we’re at the messy stage. Carpets, floorboards and slabs are being lifted up and dust and noise is filling the church as the heavy components of the long-dead old system are removed.

As I look around what appears to be destruction, I’m reminded of the fact that new beginnings cannot happen without endings. As we near Lent, traditionally a time when people give things up, it’s worth remembering that original purpose of giving things up was to make space for other things.

This Lent, amongst other events, we will be inviting people to come and just sit quietly with others – in a warm church, we hope! No preaching, no talking, just the opportunity to rest and be still, to enjoy some space in which new things may begin to grow. Reverend David Prestcott

St. John's Pastoral Visiting Team and Prayer Chain

Visiting The pastoral visiting team reaches out to Parishioners and local people who are lonely, unwell or distressed. Team members visit people at their homes, hospitals or nursing homes. If you know of anyone in need of support or who would welcome a visit please contact Yvonne Childs 860012.

Prayer Chain We also have a Prayer Chain in place for emergencies. If anyone knows of a situation where prayer may bring comfort to those ill or in distress, please contact Yvonne 860012. Requests and prayers are treated with strictest confidentiality. Diana Manning Benn
St John’s Parish Church Special Services

Tues 8 Mar - 19 Apr Quiet Space Parish Church 2-3 pm
Wed 16 Mar - 13 Apr Lent Course Parish Church 7:30-9pm
Fri 25 Mar - 15 Apr Frugal Friday Lent Lunch Parish Church 12:30-2pm
Wed 9th Mar Ash Wednesday Service Parish Church TBA
Sun 3rd Apr Mothering Sunday Parish Church 9:30am
Tues 5th Apr Luncheon Club Parish Hall
Sun 17th Apr Palm Sunday Service Parish Church 9:30am
Mon 18th Apr St John’s PCC AGM Church Rooms Parish Church 7:30pm
Wed 20th Apr Easter Concert St John’s Church 7:00pm
Thur 21st Apr Churches Together Parish Church 7:30pm
Sun 24th Apr Holy Communion Parish Church 9:30am
Sun 24th Apr Churches Together Methodist Church 6:30pm
Tues 3rd May Luncheon Club Parish Hall
Sun 29th May Churches Together Methodist Church 11:00am
Sun 12th June Churches Together Parish Church 6:30pm
Sun 27th June St John’s Festival Open Air The Square 9:30am
Sun 27th June Patronal Festival Parish Church 4:30pm

Witheridge Methodist Chapel
Services each Sunday at 11am Women’s Fellowship meets fortnightly

Special Services

Sunday April 10th 11am Chapel Anniversary Rev Jonathan Budd
Sunday May 15th 11am The Bulgarian Orphanage Mr Brian Glover
Sunday May 29th 11am United Churches Together Mr David Worden

In Memory of
Holly Sweetland
Alan Hosegood
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Tel: 01363 770099 Email: parishclerk@witheridgepc.org
Web: www.witheridgepc.org

(The Clerk is available Wed am 9:30-10:30 at the Parish Hall)

Scheduled Parish Council Meetings 2011:
Mar 3rd  Apr 7th  May 5th  Jun 2nd  Jul 7th
Aug  Recess  Sept 1st  Oct 6th  Nov 3rd  Dec 1st

Your Councillors  Contact
Claire Goodwin (Chair)  860711
Gerald Manning (Vice Chair)  860557
Jackie Bradford  860629
Chris Kershaw  860208
Vic Loose  860386
Edward Martin  861011
Kate Palmer  861269
Mary Stanbury  861375
Stuart White  860270
Alan Thompson  860611
County & District Councillor
Jeremy Yabsley  860605
Public Rights of Way Co-ord.
Vacancy

Freedom of Information:
The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you the right to request information we hold. When responding to requests, we have to follow a number of set procedures. A publication scheme is a commitment by a public authority to make certain information available, and a guide to how that information can be obtained. All information is available from the Parish Clerk, and will be charged at 10p per sheet.

Web:  www.witheridgepc.org

Playgrounds and Public Toilet
Operated by the Parish Council
Please report any issues to the Parish Council

Council & Committee Meetings
The Parish Council meet at the Parish Hall Committee Room, North Street, Witheridge. Un-Scheduled meetings will be advertised separately to this notice. All meetings are open to the public, and start with public questions. Agendas (generally including planning applications to be considered) are published at least three days in advance on the Parish Council notice boards and web site at www.witheridgepc.org together with minutes of all meetings. Paper copies of the agenda are available on request from the Clerk.
Finances: During November the Parish Council set the budget for 2011-12. The precept (parish council part of the council tax) is frozen for 2011-12. The following grants will be paid by mid-May.: see www.witheridgepc.org

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<td>Rest-a-While Day Centre</td>
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<td>Witheridge Cricket Club</td>
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<td>Witheridge Parish Hall Comm.</td>
<td>£400</td>
<td>Witheridge in Bloom</td>
<td>£250</td>
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<td>Tiverton &amp; District Comm Transport</td>
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Winter: The Parish Council are considering the various hazardous areas, with a view to installing additional grit bins once issues with funding are resolved.

Youth: The Youth Shelter installed in the Parish Hall grounds, thanks to a grant from Devon County Council and the Youth Club Legacy Fund, has been well received and is being used by our young people as a place to socialise. Shortly we will provide a new litter bin at the shelter following a request by the young people. There will be an official opening soon.

Shelters – Church Street: to be installed on the 15th/16th February.

Community Task Group: The Community Task Group has been granted funding from Community Builders for a Feasibility Study which is researching the various options for a new community building for Witheridge. The findings will be presented to the village on the 4th March.

Best Kept Village: Witheridge is once again entering the Best Kept Village Competition. Please do your bit to keep the village clean and tidy. Judging will take place in May, June and July.

District and Parish Council Elections May 5th 2011 We hope many of you will put your names forward to become councillors. We need more than 10 nominations to have a contested election. Make sure your name is on the electoral role at North Devon Council to be eligible to vote.

Public Rights of Way – Footpaths We would like to thank Peta France for her time as our Public Rights of Way Footpaths Warden. Peta is now standing down so we are looking for a new warden. Contact the Clerk 01363 770099

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Twenty-Four Hours
Fill in the grid so that each row, column and box contains the digits 1 to 4.

By Joe Boyles and Alex Webster

Space puzzle by Class 4

Across
1. , the final frontier
2. The dwarf planet
3. Ours has a single brilliant star
4. Named after the Roman god of the sea
5. We live here!
6. The planet with 18 moons
7. Nice and bright, they come out at night

Down
1. The planet which spins on its side
2. The planet with the stormy red spot
3. Fiery, hot ball of gas
4. There are 9 in our solar system
5. Shares its name with a liquid metal
6. The second planet from the sun
7. A chocolate bar!

Riddles,
By Oscar Sutherland, Aaron Ayre, Ed James and Sam Cole
1. I was born in a forest but can be used in an office
2. I’m bright and flashy; you use me once a year.
3. I bring chocolate in April.
4. I’m in space, I’m round and yellow and bright.
5. What’s black and white and red all over?

Catching Sheep - try this
www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sleep/sheep/reaction_version5.swf
Quick and Easy Cooking - Stir together cakes

( CUPS- Tesco sell a jug cup measure for about £1)

Andrea’s Chocolate cake

*Melt and add together
250 g margarine
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 cup water

*Sift and mix the following and add to the melted mixture:
2 cups sugar, 2 cups cake flour, 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda, ½ tsp salt

*Stir in 2/3 eggs, ½ cup buttermilk/ milk, 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla

*Pour into a greased 15inch x 10inch pan

*Bake 180C, 40-50mins.

ICING: melt 2 tbsp butter + 3 tbsp butter-milk, add 2 cups sifted icing sugar. Pour over cake while still hot, cut into squares when cool. This makes a large, moist chocolate cake that is very very yummy!

-------------------------------------------------

Friendship Cake

*Add together and mix
1 cup sugar, 2 tsp baking powder, 2 tsp vanilla, ¼ tsp salt, 2 tsp cinnamon,
1-2 chopped apples, 2 eggs, 2 cups plain flour, 1 cup oil,
½ cup each: walnuts, sultanas, cherries (or similar)

*Bake in lined cake tin, 180C 350F gas mark 4 for 50-60 min
*Sprinkle with sugar when cooked.

-------------------------------------------------

Carrot Cake

(ml - use a measuring jug, 5ml = 1 tsp)

*Sift together: 375 g flour, 10ml baking powder, 10ml bicarbonate of soda, 5ml cinnamon, 5ml salt, 375g brown sugar.

*Make a well in the centre and stir in:
4 beaten eggs, 375ml sunflower oil,
5ml vanilla essence, 750ml grated carrots, 250ml chopped nuts

*Bake: 180C 55-60mins Icing -optional.
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<td>EX16 8BP</td>
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<td><strong>Mobile</strong> 0770 4652118</td>
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As I write this, we are a few weeks into the new term and looking forward to Spring. Although the snow in December was nice to look at, it certainly didn’t make a long, hard term any easier! Many thanks though, to all who turned out to our Christmas Service in the church and to those who contributed to our collection for Cancer Relief that night and the following evening when the children went out carol singing. Well over £200 was raised for a cause which is particularly close to our hearts and to many of yours.

This term we have had four student teachers from Exeter University. It has been a real pleasure to help develop the next generation of teachers and is a great opportunity for our children to work with some new people.

We currently have 98 children in the school, only a few less than our peak of 103 last summer term when we said “goodbye” to 20 of our Year Six. This is a very healthy number and must be the highest the school has been for some years. Numbers are important, as schools receive funding based on the number of children they have. 98 children bring enough funding to maintain four classes, so we thank the parents of Witheridge who are supporting their village school by sending their children here. Finally, I would like to invite you all to our **Open Day** On **Monday 23rd May from 9am-1pm**

---

**Friends of Witheridge School**

Just before Christmas, the whole school went to see Aladdin in Barnstaple and had a great day out. We had a very busy Christmas Fair with wonderful donations for the cake stall.

Thank you.

We have almost completed phase 1 of the garden landscaping and already there’s a huge difference. When the planting is complete, it will look great. We are now raising funds for the Outdoor Classroom and Wildlife Pond.

Nick Hawkins (a parent) is running in the London Marathon on April 17th and fundraising for the Friends of Witheridge. We wish him lots of luck and energy for this gruelling race. To sponsor him, contact the school office.

**Shopping online**: go via easyfundraising.org.uk, to raise funds for the school.

**Auction of Pledges** - Fri. 1st April at the Sports club. We’ve had some amazing pledges already, but keep them rolling in. Please support the school and have some fun on what should be an enjoyable evening.

**Maria Greenwood**
Witheridge & District Gardening Club

At our January meeting Chris Smith from Pennard Seeds and Plants, Shepton Mallett, came to talk to us. We all found his talk most interesting especially his methods for taking cuttings, in particular the use of oasis.

On Sat. May 14th we will be visiting the Malvern Spring Show. A deposit of £10 is needed asap please. For Club members admission is £14.50 and £24 (including the coach) for non members who might wish to join us. The cost of the coach is £380! Please phone me if you are interested.

Arrangements are well under way for the Spring Show. Jean Bryant is Secretary, Sheila Manley has found the judges and the schedule is agreed. We are hoping for good entries from the new allotment group especially at the Summer Show in August.

At our meeting we discussed what might be a suitable memorial for Millie Williams. It was decided that a flowering cherry with a base plaque would be what Millie would have approved of. We need to find the right site where it would be noticed by all villagers and her family too.

Chris Kershaw 860208

Spring Show Apr 9th, Plant Sale (Greenfly) May 21st, Summer Show Aug 13th

Christmas Services at The Firs

I would like to extend a big thank you to the carers and staff, the cook and all those helpers who could reach us through the snow and ice, to make our Christmas so enjoyable. The weather was so bad and some relations couldn’t get to us, but our Christmas dinner was lovely. When we got to Christmas week, some of us were delighted that Rev David Prestcott brought Communion to us. That was a great blessing.

Also, we wish to say a heartfelt thank you to Mr Gary Bond who leads us in a sing-along on alternate Fridays. So we now have a Churches Together Service on the 4th Wednesday in the month and a singsong every other Friday -it is all much appreciated. Doris Cooper
Megan E J Findon

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Police report Spring 2011

Your Neighbourhood policing team for Witheridge is PC 6798 Adrian Micallef and PCSO 30418 Rozputynski (known by all as ‘Yorkie’).

We are pleased to see the new Youth shelter installed next to the Parish Hall is being well used by the youths in the village.

There is a new website, www.police.uk which, if you enter your postcode, will list the crime figures in your area. Please remember these figures are for the entire parish and not just the village. The ‘violence’ category includes those of a domestic nature.

As most are probably aware, the police have to make cutbacks in order to save money. A decision has been made that South Molton Enquiry office will close around May 2011 and the rural enquiry points will cease from March 2011. The nearest Enquiry Office for Witheridge will then be Tiverton.

Until early March Station Enquiry Officer Bob Redwood is present at the Rest-a-While Wed 0930 -1030 and Thurs 1100-1200. Until May S. Molton Police Station is open Mon- Friday. (01769 575053)

Contacting the police in future:- To report incidents 08452 777 444. For an immediate response 999 (life threatened, people are injured, offenders nearby or immediate action). Adrian Micallef

STOP PRESS :  Witheridge Pre-school Open afternoon

We are having an OPEN AFTERNOON on Tuesday 1st March at 2pm to show you all our newly finished garden and outside area. Refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you. Paula Hallett

Badminton Club

The Badminton Club meets in the Parish Hall on Mondays from 2-3:30pm, cost £2.50 per session. We can provide rackets if needed. We welcome all ages and abilities and are looking for new members.

For safety reasons children are not allowed. Les Daniel 861109
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A day in the life of a West Ridge Vet

One of the most frequent questions asked of a farm animal vet is “what’s it like to put your hand up a cow’s bottom?” and the honest answer is that on a cold day it’s one of the warmest places to be! As a country vet I get to see the beautiful countryside, meet lots of different people and see a large variety of clinical cases. No two days are ever the same. There are 5 surgeries from Witheridge across to Winkleigh but we also travel as far afield as Bude, Taunton and Sidmouth. At least 2 of us are on duty for out of hours emergencies. We open at 8am Mon- Sat and unless we are already out on early calls, we go into the office for 8.30am to see what is booked for the day.

Mornings are the busiest time as farm clients ring early to book in calls, especially dairy farmers whose day can start at 5-6am. We see a wide variety of cases, from routine fertility visits, calvings, lambings and sick animals to lame cows. TB testing makes up a fair proportion of our workload.

Winter is busy as farmers are calving or lambing and there are many illnesses associated with housing of stock, e.g. calf pneumonia. We are out and about all day and try not to let snow hamper our progress!

In the evening we have small animal consults from 4.30- 6.30pm with a vet and nurse assistant to examine and treat unwell pets. We close at 7pm then the phones divert to the overnight service. It can be a long working day (8am -11pm or worse) but the variety of animals and people you meet make it all worthwhile! Best part of job - successful calving/lambing, worst part - TB testing on top of a hill in the pouring rain!  

Claire Davies

WithArt Group

We meet on Mondays 2- 4 in the village hall. All ages and abilities welcome. We work in all mediums including watercolour, pencil and oils. Following the success of our 2010 and 2011 calendars, we are currently putting together another calendar for 2012 featuring the group’s work. We also hold an exhibition each year at the St John’s Fayre. Come along for informal sessions where we learn from and help each other. We pay £1 per session with no membership fee. Thomas Lea
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All Roads Lead to Witheridge: the first of several tales.

I left school at 15 and went into the Mill in Salford. After 7 years Courtauld’s bought it and I was made redundant when they closed it down. I worked part-time in a bar and had a couple of other jobs but couldn’t settle. My cousin put me in touch with the owner of the Narracott Hotel down in Woollacombe and I decided to apply.

It was a long journey down by coach and I didn’t arrive until about 10pm but he had overbooked staff and as one of the last to arrive, the jobs were taken. So he got me a job at the Watersmeet- a much smaller family run hotel with only about 52 bedrooms, whereas the Narracott had over 300.

I had never done waitressing but I absolutely loved it - took to it like a duck to water. Then the owner of the Narracott asked me to go there because some of his summer staff had gone. I said NO, I was very happy where I was, thank you very much. All my friends worked at the Watersmeet and we used to go to the Narracott dances. That’s how I met John- he was playing in the band.

At the end of the season I was actually going to Germany but John persuaded me to come to Witheridge. I came in October, got a job at Heathcoat’s in January 1973 and 37 years later........ It became a joke within the village that I started the incomers into the village.

So was it fate? I believe there is a plan for us. If I had arrived in the morning, I would have been offered the job at the Narracott. Had I worked there, Narracott staff weren’t allowed to go to the dances and I wouldn’t have met John and my road wouldn’t have led me to Witheridge. Jean Bryant
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Witheridge Food & Craft Fayre

Robert James and Debbie White are pleased to say that the Witheridge Pre-School committee have agreed to take over the running of the fayres to help with their fundraising. They plan to hold an Easter Fayre and a Christmas Fayre in 2011. Since 2007, the following donations have been made:

Parish Hall £52  Pre-School £330  Brownies £150
Luncheon Club £150  Guides £180  Devon Air Ambulance £180

Robert and Debbie thank everyone who has supported the fayres in the past and hope you continue to support them and Pre-School in the future.

Monday Club

Welcome members to the year 2011 and to new members who have joined. May it be a healthy and happy one for all. Our year began with the AGM which was well attended. Val Dickinson has taken over as Chairperson with our committee, who have been aboard for a long time, doing a great job.

We have many interesting speakers who are going to give us entertaining afternoons. We start with Sanderson World and Street, then Falmouth, Newton Abbott/Torquay, followed by Lynton and Lynmouth. What a great agenda has been put together- we have much to look forward to. Don’t forget to fill the piggy bank for our spending sprees.

June Don.

Brownies

Witheridge Brownies have a fun packed term ahead working towards the World Cultures Badge and thinking about Guides from around the world on World Thinking Day.

We will be looking at folk tales, making kites and didgeridoos, celebrating the Chinese New Year (year of the rabbit) and cooking pizzas and pancakes.

We are having a pack holiday at The Wembworthy Centre on March 25th – 27th, in a joint venture with Chulmleigh Brownies, for three days full of activities. Look for a full report in the next edition.

Our pack is thriving. We currently have 28 Brownies and a healthy waiting list. Brownies is for girls aged 7 -10 years but we add girls to the waiting list from age 5. Contact: Jacqui (Brown Owl) 860145
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Our Witheridge surgery provides veterinary services for small and large animals, although at Witheridge we deal mostly with farms in the region. We are extremely busy now, as this part of Devon has one of the highest densities of cattle and sheep of anywhere in Europe. Their health, welfare and productivity are paramount to the farmers that depend on them.

We spend a lot of time on dairy farms ensuring that the cows get back in calf at the right time, so maximising their milk production efficiency. With milk prices low and production costs high, the economic survival of dairy farmers depends on being efficient. We can pregnancy test cows from 30 days after conception using ultrasound scanners. We treat cows that have difficulty conceiving with techniques similar to those used in humans except we do it on a bigger scale. It is not unusual for us to see fifty to a hundred cows for fertility examinations at a single farm visit.

With the lambing season about to start, we expect regular visits from sheep farmers bringing ewes that require help lambing. Most shepherds are now expert in delivering lambs, but there are occasions when they require our assistance. Many of the ewes will require caesarean deliveries which we do under local anaesthetic quickly and economically, so our back yard becomes a maternity unit each afternoon for the next few months! Dick Sibley

Witheridge Allotments Society.

Work on the allotments has been a bit quiet due to the bad weather and heavy frosts, however with most of the allotments being turned over, the frosts will help to kill off some of the weeds and break up the soil ready for the spring planting. Preparations are underway to obtain planning consent to erect a larger shed on the site to be used by the majority of the allotment holders. This will contain a toilet and somewhere to sit when it rains, reducing the need for several smaller sheds on individual allotments and making the site look better. I have one allotment available due to the illness of one of the members. If you are interested in renting call 860819.

Greg Henderson.
Welcome to Witheridge

New singles, new couples, new families, new babies.

New babies:
- Blake Eastman, brother for Ben, Lily and Ashley
- Owen Tonkin, brother for Dylan and Jack
- Amy Prince, sister for Jack and Ellie Nov. 2010
- Caitlin Boyles, sister for James and Archie Jan 2011
- Tiamii Reed sister for Hugo Jan 2011
- George Nicholas Boyles Jan 2011

New families:
- Tegan -new to class 1- loves colouring and drawing.
- Cassandra and family. Harry likes PE and Daniel loves maths. All settled well in school and pre-school.

We welcome:
- Stephen -new to the village from Barnstaple.
- Sandra -new to the village from Barnstaple.

East Worlington Pre-school

Our new website is www.eastworlingtonpreschool.co.uk. We welcome Kerry and Scott who joined us in January.

The theme for this term is Planet Earth. The role play area is set up as a Chinese Restaurant as we celebrated the Chinese New Year, changing to a garden centre at half-term. The playhouse is a "Funnybones" haunted house. Our Partnership Unit with the school opened up a whole new range of resources and space for the children to play.

On 19th January we joined the Primary school children for a trip to Lapford School to see a performance of “Peter Pan”. The children especially enjoyed the part when Peter Pan flew out of the window!

Easter Bingo is Sat 2nd April Games, a raffle and refreshments. Prizes include chicken dinners and Easter eggs. Donna Webber 860346
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Community Composting Section

We will still collect trailer loads during the winter months (£10.00 for members £15.00 for non-members) and deliver compost of which we now have good stocks and the time to deliver it.

**Contact Greg 860819 or Harry 860522**

Although we do not make much profit from our endeavours, for Christmas 2010 we donated £250.00 to Children’s Hospice S.W. and £100.00 to the Parish Hall Building fund.  **Harry Richardson Treasurer 860522**

Compost collections 2011

**First Collection:** Thursday 31st Mar : **Last Collection:** Thursday 3rd Nov
Compost £1.00 per bag

The Ringers

We are now ringing fairly regularly on Sunday mornings. Although conditions are not perfect we are able to take learners. Please meet us in the Bell Tower at 8.45 on Sunday mornings to see what goes on, then we can arrange to start practice evenings once again. Learning has been made easier since John Chapple installed a practice bell for anyone who wishes to start ringing. We are also practicing once again with the hand bells.

Experienced ringers new to the village are welcome as we only have seven ringers and eight bells! We meet before the Sunday Service at 9.00am in the Bell Tower. **Harry Richardson Secretary 860522**

Witheridge Football Focus

At the moment the first team is struggling to find it's form and is currently sitting in the lower half of the table, not helped I am sure by a change of manager in the early part of the season. Let’s hope they find it soon. The second team are not in their usual place at the top, but have several games in hand, so just a couple of wins, would put them where they belong.

Planning consent is being sought for the erection of a covered seating area at the site which, given our Devon weather, should be a welcome addition to the facilities. Everybody is welcome, so why not come and give Witheridge Football Club teams your support? **Greg Henderson**
Witheridge Golf Society

We met at Waterbridge on 8th December for the Christmas Golf Trophy on a day of fine weather for Golf. We had an excellent turnout of 19 members. It was particularly good to welcome new members Phil Canning and Mike Dudgeon. The winning team comprised John Avens, Jim Steele and Mike Dudgeon from the Alswear/Meshaw area who birdied two and parred four out of the nine holes. We have 9 hole Texas Scramble so that all standards of golf can be accommodated. New members are always welcome.

Dates 2011: 9th Mar, 11th May, 13th July, 14th Sept. Christmas Trophy Dec 7th. Contact Andrew Clark 860612 astonguy@tring92.f2s.com. Andrew Clark

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‘A Grand Day Out’: The Incomer’s Guide to places to go in Spring

National Trust Houses and Gardens: Knighthayes, Arlington Court, Killerton – lovely magnolias and azaleas-entrance fee to garden + house. Cafe. Access to the outer woodland all year free (dogs allowed).
Dulverton: lovely pubs, cafes and little shops. Parking near the shops and behind municipal offices (turn left in front of the Bridge Inn).
Tarr steps – 4 miles from Dulverton on B3223 to Withypool - a clapper bridge (pile of stones). Opinions vary on age from 1000BC to 1400AD! NT car park. Toilets. Short, steep hill to the river, disabled parking by river. Cafe- good cream teas. Circular walk: car park to the river, along the riverbank for about 1 mile to a footbridge returning on the other side. Lovely spot to take kids and dogs paddling!
Dunster (A398 past Dulverton) with its quaint streets it is like going back in time. Good cafes. Sweet shops!

Dunster Castle - goes back to 1066 if not before. Shop, no cafe. Lots of parking.
www.visitdunster.co.uk
Days Out with Kids:
www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk
A few Special Events: National Trust – see website, lots.
Arlington Court 15th May Fun Dog Events, 1st June Country Skills
Knighthayes: Murder Mystery Fri 10th June, Masterclass Pruning 18th June

Finch Foundry: Vintage Car Rally 16th April, Motorcycle Rally Sat 21st May
Great Torrington Mayfair: 1st Thursday in May – maypole dancing
Crediton Folk Weekend 15th-17th April – Cheriton Fitzpaine. Ticketed and free entertainment. www.poppyrecords.co.uk/crediton/cred.htm
2011 Golden Horseshoe Ride - Exford Sat May 11th – Tuesday May 14th
Competition: Mon and Tues See website: www.goldenhorseshoe.co.uk
Witheridge Sports Club- come and join us

Mon: 7-11pm Men’s skittles
Tues: 7-11pm Pool and 2\textsuperscript{nd} team football training
Wed: 7-10pm 1\textsuperscript{st} team football training
Thurs: 7-11pm Women’s skittles
Fri: 7- midnight Darts
Sat: 12 noon - 9pm Football
Sun: 12 noon -7pm Live Premiership football

Saturdays ‘Music til midnight’ by Ruby &Colin Pike (last Sat in month) music for all ages. We have a wide range of activities for all ages. Children under 11 must leave by 9 except on family nights. **Chris Cole**

**Short Mat Bowls**

You are welcome to join us on Tuesday and Thursday evenings each week at 7.00pm for a 7.15 start with a welcome cup of tea or coffee after two games. Club woods and shoes are available for the use of those who would like to give it a try. The first three visits are free, then a green fee of £2.00 per evening and a subscription of £20.00 per annum is payable. Membership is available to residents of Witheridge and surrounding districts. Children over 10 and under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For more information please give me a ring. **Harry Richardson 860522**
Witheridge Parish Hall

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The Christmas Firework Display

On 18\textsuperscript{th} December we held our first Firework Display to raise funds for the re- construction of the Parish Hall in North Street. We would like to thank all those who braved the snow and -8\textdegree{}C temperature to see what was probably the best firework display this village has ever witnessed. On paying out all costs, we raised £305 towards the proposed new Parish Hall. Our thanks go to the ladies from the Rest-a-while, to the Music Group and to members of the Knights of Witheridge who gave their time and energies. Thanks also to Roy and Wendy Cox who supplied, installed and ignited the fireworks. They travelled down from the far Southeast and the only cost was for the fireworks themselves- a much appreciated gesture towards our Village. Sincere thanks to all who helped raise monies for our village hall. We care, so let’s see what can be achieved this year. \textbf{Andy Collidge, Steve Lea}

St John’s Fayre, Saturday 25\textsuperscript{th} June 2011

As the days grow longer, we look forward to Witheridge in bloom in June, with all its bunting and summer sunshine. Subject to ongoing discussions with various parties, we are planning to make this year’s Fayre an event with a difference and one to be remembered. Depending on a number of issues, it might set the pattern for future years.

We anticipate the involvement of a whole range of village groups, especially the school children, who bring much charm and colour to the parade, which will take place as usual with the addition of a marching band or two. We are trying to persuade local groups and businesses to enter carnival tableaus in the parade to revive the old Witheridge carnival atmosphere. On Saturday evening there will be a licensed bar and live music from local Band, The Hoodlums. Once again the theme is medieval dress for stall holders, children and adults, with good prizes in each category.

\textbf{Sun June 19\textsuperscript{th}} Father’s Day Lakeside Clay Shoot Dart Raffe \textbf{Gerald Manning}

Calling all Pond Owners:
If any of you have a little frog spawn to spare, please phone 860512
Thank you, Ray Thorne
Worth waiting for: Canada and Alaska

Our 3 week trip across Canada for our 30th wedding anniversary with Jetsave truly was the trip of a lifetime as it was our honeymoon 30 years later! The first part took 2 weeks – Air Canada to Toronto, coach to Montreal, Niagara, Ottawa, back to Montreal, flight to Calgary, bus to Vancouver taking in the Rockies, Banff, Jasper and Sun Peaks, then train to Whistler and back to Vancouver for our 3rd week – a cruise to Alaska.

We flew out at the end of May so it was still quite cold for much of the time. Toronto- we went up the CN tower which has a glass floor and outside lift. Our courier Max (who was excellent) stood against the glass for those of us who couldn’t look down. Montreal- we went to an IMAX theatre but as my eyes don’t do 3D, I wondered what the fuss was about. In Niagara the boat trip is well worth it as it goes right up to the falls. Dinner at the top of the Skylon tower which was great fun as by the time you had got drinks from the centre, your table had moved – not easy to find it again!

We stayed briefly in Ottawa - very olde worlde buildings and a lovely place, then back in Montreal for a ‘day of leisure’. It’s very easy to get around. One ticket takes you on the train, bus, monorail and water taxis. We took the underground to Olympic Park Tower for a beautiful view of the whole city.

We flew to Calgary (too far by bus) which is really a cattle station although it was out of season for the cattle trail and rodeo. All across The Rockies you come across queues of traffic stopped because a black bear is crossing. We saw black bears (10 adults, 4 babies) caribou, moose, coyote (right by the bus), a beaver lodge but no beavers, hundreds of chipmunks and black squirrels. Bears – they give you a ‘Safety Guide to bears in the Wild’. From here we crossed the Rockies to Banff National Park which is beautiful. We took the helicopter ride here. I sat in front with just glass in front of me while Terry was at the back (with the camera). I loved it, he hated it.

Next was the Columbian icefields which was fabulous. The ice is blue and it crunches and cracks. At Lake Louise we had sun, snow, and hail all in an hour. It was snowing while a man played Amazing Grace on an alpine horn - a bit strange in a nice way. Jasper – a truly beautiful place. In one of the hotels we were right down by the river and waited 40mins for a freight train to go by. I counted 120 carriages. At every town they have to blast and we had just got into bed one night when it sounded off so near it seemed like it was
coming in the room.

As the bus pulled into Sun Peaks Ski resort, we were met by cowboys on horseback with guns blazing – a touristy thing. They had hot tubs but I wasn’t walking across snow to get in. I’m a coward. Back in Vancouver we visited Stanley Park (lots of totem poles) and China Town (gas clock running on steam to chime the hour) then my friend Lorna (who lives in Canada) joined us in Vancouver for a paddle steamer dinner cruise.

We took the train to Whistler (a big skiing village), where we took a ski lift up Blackcomb mountain and a gondola up Whistler- a beautiful place. In one of the hotels we were right down by the river and waited 40mins for a freight train to go by. I counted 120 carriages. At every town they have to blast and we had just got into bed one night when it sounded off so near it seemed like it was coming in the room.

For our 3rd week, we boarded the cruise ship Norwegian Wind – not the best as you had to hold onto the rails on both sides to walk down the corridors. The 1st day we arrived at Juneau, capital of Alaska and one of the 1st gold strike towns – very olde worlde with a lot of Russian domes and churches. Next was Skagway, a Klondike Gold Rush town, then Ketchikan which had lots of totem poles of the Tlingit tribe and wooden boardwalks. We had a lovely meal in a fish restaurant on the boardwalk overlooking the river.

Haines was just beautiful scenery then Glacier Bay – the highlight of the trip. THIS was what we went for. Imagine a big bay with all the ice around. The boat pulls into this silence but pieces of ice fall off and you hear it crack but no other sounds- magical. We came back to Vancouver through the Inside Passage and to our delight we saw a grizzly bear swimming across in front of the ship. They said it was too lazy to walk around. Our trip was fabulous and if I had the money I would do it again tomorrow! Carol Prynn
From the Firs: Spring

Kathleen Spring is lovely. I think of weddings, daffodils and beautiful spring flowers.

Doris Spring makes me think of Easter and daffodils. The United Churches people sing with us and bring the donkey to The Firs when they go round the village on Good Friday. I like it that they include us and when the children come as well. I always used to have daffodils for my birthday in March and I’ve got some on the windowsill just starting now. My grandfather was a baker in Portsmouth and he always sent my family an old-fashioned dark rich fruit cake for Easter, no icing or marzipan. He went to a lot of trouble to send it to us.

Barbara Spring reminds me of Easter and the flowers a friend brought me when I was working for BOAC in London. We had a lovely Chapel at my boarding school and we would all would go there on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. When I think about the trees just opening their buds in Spring, I see myself rowing on the river in Cambridge and all the beautiful chestnut trees.

The little things make the difference.

Litter picker: Why anyone, adult or child, should think it’s acceptable to drop drinks cans, bottles, sweet wrappers or tissues is beyond me. Whenever there is even a single item of litter within view from my home I go out, pick it up and dispose of it for recycling or waste. If every able resident did that as one of those big society activities, Witheridge would be completely litter-free all the time.

Dog walkers: Considering how many dogs and dog walkers there are in Witheridge, most people do pick up after their dogs. However, right now there is at least one owner regularly leaving dog mess on the pavements where our children walk to school and this isn’t even a one off. I love dogs and don’t enjoy picking up after one, but if you choose to have a dog, it’s just something you do, NO excuses.

Take it home please: This beautiful village is being spoiled by sweet wrappers, crisp packets and plastic bottles. The path from Brooke Road to The Square is invariably ruined by 4 or 5 shiny wrappers. In desperation I’ve found myself picking them up! Put it in your pocket and take it home please. (Editor: from 2 villagers)
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If you would like to come and stay on the farm, on our campsite, B&B, or in one of our two self catering log cabins you can e-mail us at: stay@westmiddlewick.co.uk, telephone us on 01884 861235, or visit our website at: www.westmiddlewick.co.uk

Witheridge Rest-a-While

I have my rule of ‘don’t mention individuals’ but all rules have to be broken. We have a good group where everyone plays their part but there are those whose contribution is exceptional - first Millie, and now Frank Housam.

As many of you know, Frank is leaving Witheridge in February. I believe the whole village owes Frank a huge vote of thanks and on behalf of everyone at the Rest-a-While, I would like to thank him for all he has done for many years. He will be greatly missed and very hard to replace. In fact it will probably take several people to do all Frank has done. In my 60 years experience in Witheridge, I can’t think of anyone who had given more.

Hopefully Frank will often find his way back to Witheridge. I’m trying to persuade him to buy a little car, so he could be here so often we wouldn’t know he had gone. Perhaps you could try to persuade him as well. Well done Frank. You leave the Rest-a-While in good condition. We now need someone to call at Bingo. If you can help please contact Peter 860207 or Val 860709.

Peter Tout
**Witheridge Cricket Club**

With Spring looming, we have been busy preparing for the season ahead. With the club's excellent new facilities comes the need for further fundraising. Much thought has gone into this to ensure a calendar of fun and exciting events, open to everyone!

We have 2 events coming up in April and May. See ‘What’s on Mar-June’
Pre-season net sessions are indoors at Blundell's School on Sunday mornings 9:30- 11:00. Current and prospective members, welcome. Outdoor nets and training will start at the new ground on Mon April 11th. Colts coaching runs from 6pm – 8pm: senior members from 7pm.

Contact James Hope james@island-sports.co.uk 860289. Russell Hilton

**Witheridge Ladies’ Club**

We are all looking forward to the better weather! At our AGM in January one of our members, Yvonne Childs, gave a delightful illustrated talk of her visit to Oberammergau and the Passion Play. We were given the history behind the event and details of how the whole village is involved in the production which takes place every ten years.

Our forthcoming calendar of events includes talks on dowsing; the St John Ambulance Brigade; walking around Great Britain; microwave cooking; South West Water; cosmetics; plants and Christmas flower arranging.

We also have a book club, craft club and luncheon club. If you would like to join us, we meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. You will be most welcome. Coral Simmonds 861366

**The Music group**

We are a small group who enjoy music and singing. Some of us read music, and some learn by ear, so all that is needed to join us is a love of music. We practice on Thursday evening at 7:30pm in the Parish Church and lead the singing on the 4th Sunday in the month there. We are looking for new members so if you love singing, please join us.

John Harris 861084
Witheridge Pre School

After the excitement of Christmas, the Spring term can seem a little flat, especially with the cold weather and dark nights. At Witheridge Pre-School we are pleased to say we have something exciting to look forward to.

Having had problems with a very soggy outside play space for some time, we have had new drainage installed and an artificial surface so our children have full indoor/outdoor access. We purchased storage for the outside area so the children can access more of the resources themselves and we will be buying some all weather suits for the children. All this has been achieved with fund raising by committee members, families and other supporting parties and to top this off, we will at last to be able to spend the grant given some time ago specifically for the addition of a new playhouse.

We are pleased share these resources with the Foundation Stage children in the primary school during our ‘shared session’ times. The shared sessions have proved very popular with the children as well as helping with a smooth transition when they start school. We will have an open afternoon soon when you will be welcome to come and see the children enjoying their new space. We hope to see you there. Paula Hallett

Luncheon Club

It does not seem possible that the Luncheon Club has been running for two years and the Luncheons are still very well attended. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas dinner and the carol singing afterwards. We try to have different entertainment each year.

We applied for and received, a Grass Roots grant last year, which enabled us to update our equipment and also helps the Parish Hall. All the ladies who are involved with the cooking took the Food Safety and Hygiene Exam in January. It involved an all day training ending with an exam paper of 1 hour. We will receive our results at the end of February. Thank you to all our ladies who gave up another day to become fully qualified. A very special thank you to everyone involved in making the lunches a success. Mavis Huckle
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Witheridge Parish Hall Committee

Here will be no Parish Hall update in the Spring Edition of the Witheridge Voice. Given that there is currently a Feasibility Study in progress, it would not be appropriate to write anything that may be deemed as trying to influence opinions on the way ahead.

May I however, remind everyone of the importance of attending the Community Event on **FRIDAY 4th MARCH in the Parish Hall from 4-8pm** where we will have the results of the feasibility study undertaken by independent consultants and will be asked to express our opinions on the options available to us as a community.  

David Taylor (Chairman)

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<td>Committe Meetings March to July : Last Thursday on Alternate months</td>
<td>March 31st, May 26th <strong>AGM</strong> July 28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULAR Car Boot Sale</strong> : Parish Hall Last Sun in every month 10am - 12noon</td>
<td>March 27th, April 24th May 29th, June 26th Cars £5, lorries £10 Carol P. 860685</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Witheridge Art Group (WAG)**

WAG is still going strong. We are a non instruction group who learn from each other and enjoy our hobby. We meet 7.30-to 9.15pm Wednesdays in the Parish Hall Committee Rooms - £5 / year and £1 a week.

We are always delighted to receive new members, so if you have always fancied joining an art class do try us out. We welcome any age group and any ability. Bring your own materials -any medium. Oil paint is difficult to transport of course, but several of us use water colours, pastels or pencil. We have no tutor but a wealth of experience should you feel you need guidance or advice.

I know the weather is bad at the moment and you maybe feel you don't want to go out in the evening, but we will still be here when you do! **Eileen 860564**
KEVIN STONE
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Safe Driving For life
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Stonehouse Electrical Services
SIMON UNDERWOOD
Electrician
Fault Diagnosis & Repair Inspection
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Witheridge
EX16 8AE
Phone: 01884 860713

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East Worlington Pre-school
Welcomes children aged 2½ to 5 to
their sessions now running five
mornings a week
Monday to Friday 9.05 am – 12.05 pm
with optional daily lunch club until 1 pm
Mother & Toddler Group
Tuesdays 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm
Contact Donna Webber
01884 860346

Sarah the Barber
The Square
Chawleigh
07981 121842
* Children of all ages welcome
* Special chair for toddlers
* Books & colouring to do
* 'First Hair Cut' Certificate
* Lollipop after hair cut
Witheridge Pre School

We offer places for 2 1/2 - 5 year old children in a small 16 place friendly pre-school, 9-3.30, 5 days a week. Our highly qualified staff ensure children are receiving the best care whilst both having fun and meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

For more information or to arrange a visit please contact Paula Hallett, pre school manager, Tel: 01884 861784, wpssupervisor@hotmail.co.uk

Art On The Hoof

Stuart Fowle – Fine Artist

- Pet and Animal portraits in Pencil
- Horses
- Dogs
- Cats
- Wildlife
- Farm Animal
- Original art work
- Commissions
- Illustration Work

Web: www.artonthehoof.co.uk
Email: artonthehoof@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: 07891502785

West Yeo Farm

www.westyeofarm.co.uk
Telephone: 01884 861269