Witheridge Voice

Issue 11

Winter 2012

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Editorial: We would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

This issue is jam packed: the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Rest-a-While, Witheridge at the Olympics, Highfield Pharmacy (which came to me via Gordon Pyne), ‘A Life with horses’ - the 2nd in the series of ‘In Another Life’ and Plover’s Barrow, which is the first of ‘Witheridge Historic Houses.’ This was harder to do than I expected, but fascinating.

Talented kids is by Ryan Chapman and Witheridge vet Stephen Powles sent the first article from Mid Devon Natural History Society. Life before the NHS is by John Corfield…plus news, Ted’s recipe, clubs and lots more.

I have used most of the outstanding articles so MORE needed. Please email or phone if you are willing to contribute or talk. Your voices make all the difference.

Carole Campbell

Website:
https://sites.google.com/site/witheridgevoice/home

NEXT Deadline
Sat 10th February

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Articles to editorwitheridgevoice@hotmail.co.uk
or to the Newsagent.
Advertising: voicetreasurer@hotmail.co.uk

Phone     01884 860773
Editor     Carole Campbell
Treasurer & Advertising Jim Campbell
Chairman   Carol Prynn
Secretary  Jess Campbell
Advisor    Gill Manning

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Witheridge was full of shops:
Highfield Pharmacy
From Henry Harris
By the late Margaret Harris

William Thomas Williams, was born around 1886 in Newport, Wales. The son of a herbalist, Tom helped his father gather herbs from a young age and when WW1 started, he was apprenticed as an apothecary. His job meant he was exempt but he overheard a few jibes and volunteered. In the trenches, his eyes were badly damaged by chlorine gas in the seconds it took to take his glasses off to put on his gas mask.

Around this time, Emily Palfreyman from Ebrington’s Row, Witheridge was working for a local family. Girls went ‘out to service’ in those days, so when they moved to Newport, she went with them. It wasn’t long before Emily and Tom met and later married. Tom and Emily loved walking on the Brecon Beacons. He took his books to study and Emily would read them to him. He said Emily’s pronunciation fixed the Latin names in his mind. For years magnesium trisilicate was ‘Mag. Trisick’

He qualified in 1929, opening Highfield Pharmacy that year. Not a single person came in during the first 3 weeks – they just stood outside wondering if any of the stuff would be any good! One man ventured in then came out shouting ‘You should see all they there bottles in there.’ After that customers started to come.

In 1949 Tom had a stroke and a locum took over for a while, lodging at The Angel, until Tom resumed his post. I left school in the same year. I went for interview at Boots in Tiverton but couldn’t be employed until I was taller! So I started work for Mr Williams on November 20th 1949.

Chemists were only paid quarterly by the National Health Service. The shop opened from 9-6pm, half day closing on Thursday, 9-8pm on Saturdays, prescriptions only after 6pm. People found the back door! For those living within a one mile radius, prescriptions were dispensed at the shop. The Doctor dispensed out of area.

The shop had beautiful shelves and drawers, constructed by Tom’s brother-in-law, Bert Palfreyman,
which filled the length of the main wall. Coarser wooden shelving and drawers held farm products: Epsom Salts, Copper Sulphate, Derris powder, moth balls and yellow ochre, louse powder, dysentery serum and warblefly remedy. Disinfectants were on the shelves above - good old Jeyes fluid was 1/6d and 2/6d a bottle. The L shaped counter had drawers and cupboards underneath.

Glass display units were on top of the counter: ointment, hand creams, shampoo and setting lotions nearest the windows with perfumes, Pond’s vanishing cream, face powders and lipsticks in the centre – no eye-shadow or mascara. Mr Williams didn’t encourage people to ‘mess about with their eyes’. The corner cabinet held plasters, thumb and finger stalls and eyeshades. Cottonwool rolls (1 oz up to 2 lb), gauzes, lints and bandages were in great demand.

There was a fireplace and a fire in cold weather, sometimes an oil heater too. In the 50’s Bill Rowcliffe added a glass fronted cabinet with sliding doors to the mantelpiece above the fire.

The dispensary counter was tucked in the corner with its old but perfect dispensary balance. Shopkeepers took their scales for testing to the Church Rooms annually when the ‘Weights and Measures’ men came. There was an Avery weigher operated via a penny in the slot at the top. It went up to 20 stone but I don’t remember anyone that heavy in those days.

The dispensary had all manner of stuff - Phil. Rhei.Co (head and stomach pills), surgical spirit and Aqua Dest (distilled water). Mr Williams' was famous for his own prescription Burn Ointment, sold at 4d an oz. The box had to be filled right up with a fancy swirl so 1 oz was nearer 1 ½ oz. It was an effective remedy and you dare not run out.

He also made his own Influenza mixture, sold in 6 oz bottles for 1/6d (please return the bottle!). Raymond Reed bought Veno’s Lightning Cough Cure and drank the lot saying, ‘There’s your empty bottle!’

In the summer we stocked up on Keating's Flea powder for the youngsters holidaying at the WMCA. A lady tramp came in around Easter each year for a quarter of moth balls. She was never charged.

The labels were kept in a ‘Materia Medica’ cabinet which was mahogany with many divided drawers with tiny knobs. It would have been used to store herbs originally.

In the late 50’s Doctors took over dispensing and trade slowed. I left in 1962., Mr Williams died 4 or 5 years later and Mrs Williams ran the shop as a drug store until it closed in the late 70’s, but for many years that little Chemist was a great asset to Witheridge and its surrounding area.
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Congratulations on
The Birth of         Lily Mogford          Aoife Uffendall
Mr Duncan’s daughter Jessica
Mrs Halsey’s daughter Claire-Louise

Welcome to the village
Miss Suchacki Class 2
Mr Radley Class 4
Anna and Tom Drury to Class 3

Farewell and Welcome: Burridge Litho (now Burridge Printers) moved to Sampford Courtenay in September. They will still be printing the magazine for us. Ian and Helen Stoneman (FIS Engineering) have taken their place on the Industrial Estate. We might hear more about their business in a future issue.

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Francis Venner’s vision was to have a Day Centre in Witheridge. So, when Pam Ford offered to sell 5 garages on Fore Street, he just needed to find a committee and the finance.

Lots of people helped with fundraising but substantial donations also came from Age Concern, Help the Aged, North Devon Council and Heathcote Trust.

The whole project was going to cost about £50,000. We had a target thermometer on the wall showing how far we still had to go. Money came from all over but many local people put in donations, large and small. Frank and Beryl Beer wrote asking celebrities for things to auction and Lady Stevens was very helpful for contacts. The Queen Mother’s Lady-in-Waiting sent a teapot and a photo with a letter, Henry Cooper a tie and Ladybird Bush send a certificate from the inauguration of the President. Age Concern funding was restricted for 10 years after which it became the property of the members.

Norman Payne altered the garages and Harry Anderson equipped it with tables and chairs. The official opening was on 3rd October 1992 by Lady Stevens.

The ethos: We wanted it to be kept in good order and inviting. We always have 2 people serving so that at least one can actively talk to people and new helpers pick up the way it’s done. It’s been nurtured by the people who use it.

Possibly the biggest plus is for newcomers to get to know people. Anybody who goes in will soon meet people, who they will meet again. They then know a few friendly faces, feel more comfortable and are more likely to get involved in the village.

‘Rest-a-While’ means ‘a place you can call in for a rest a drink and a chat after your shopping.’

Francis Venner wanted Witheridge to be a place where no-one need ever be lonely and that’s what we want as well. Don’t sit at home feeling alone: the Rest-a-While is for everybody and it’s something quite special.  

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Police  Can I just remind people to take care out on the roads as the night have drawn in and road surfaces are becoming hazardous.  

‘Have your Say’:  3rd Monday 11am in the Rest-a-While .

Witheridge Parish Hall
The doors and the patio have been completed and the committee would like to thank everyone who was involved for their hard work. It has all been worth it. The whole thing is fantastic.

We had a family fun Barn Dance in October thanks to Margie Cosker and her wonderful family. Everyone who came seemed to have a whale of a time.

The ever popular Stage Five Discos are starting up again; the next one a "Christmas Cracker" will be on the 15th December and is in aid of the Parish Hall. Thanks to all involved with that. * Parish Hall is half price for children's parties.  Clare Spicer

Knights of Witheridge  Four people answered our plea for volunteers to assist us at events so we can continue to make money for individuals and organisations in our village.

Our next event is a Puzzle & Games Night at the Cruwys Arms in Pennymoor on Sat. 1st December.

Next year the Tractor Push will be re-scheduled to July. One organisation made well over a £1000 this and last year for an entry fee of £50, with all the tractors, admin, insurance & organisation being carried out by the Knights. We have three teams already and hope to get twelve. Contact: 01884 860578 or fhanbury@aol.com.

Tractor Push Winners  Cheffing Chaps

DOG MESS  : People of Witheridge , please PICK UP after your dogs. The village was looking a lot better, but just recently it is a MESS. The path through from The Square to Brooke Road is particularly bad. You are WITH your dog when it does this and there is a DOG BIN close by.  Concerned parent
Katherine Hayball

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Marie Curie Cancer Care
On October 14th my family and I trekked 13 miles across Dartmoor, beginning and ending at Widecombe in the Moor. It was an absolutely stunning day and when I wasn't gasping for breath I was able to admire the views! I did this to commemorate my husband's death a year ago and to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. We raised £390 and I am very proud of us all. Half of the money was donated by the goodly folk of Witheridge! Thank you Margie Cosker

Ride & Stride - Historic Churches:
Jean Bryant was accompanied by Jackie Bradford and her dog on a walk that took them from Chawleigh to Cheldon, East and West Worlington, Thelbridge and Witheridge and raised £405. Proceeds were divided equally between the Parish church and the Devon Historic Churches Trust.

Rowathon for Cancer Research
258 miles rowed non stop, 80 people, old and young took part with fantastic community spirit, a massive £2700 raised for Cancer Research UK. THANKYOU to all.

Pamper Day at Newhouse Farm Cottages, organised by Witheridge School PTFA raised £1000 for school

Walk& Talk Tiverton Canal walk raised £126 for the Royal British Legion funds.

Harvest Festival auction raised £275 and the Church Rooms Autumn Fair raised £147.

Barn Dance raised £50 each for Devon Air Ambulance and Cancer Research.

NEXT Barn Dance Dec 15th P. Hall funds.

11th November Remembrance Day was marked by a service in the Parish Church. After the 2 minutes silence, the names of those killed in conflict from this area were read out and wreaths laid
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Moving Country with Kids
We are finding our feet here in Canada: lots of ups and downs but altogether, a positive move. The first month at home without our belongings was challenging at times, but it forced us to be creative and discover the pleasure in simple things - like a million and one uses for a cardboard removal box! The weather has been spectacular, so we've been able to kill lots of time down at Lake Ontario. We found a farm show nearby, very small compared to the Mid Devon, but it did the trick for withdrawal symptoms - everyone feeling a bit homesick at times and missing the landscape and warm spirit that comprises the community of Witheridge. You hold a very special place in our hearts.

Pavanne, Henry, Quinn & Lynton Hawkes xxxx

St John’s Fayre AGM
Gerald Manning took the chair at the AGM and welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He congratulated the committee and helpers for their efforts this year which produced another fantastic Fayre. The Treasurer reported a healthy balance at the bank.

Gerald paid thanks to the retiring committee - Jane Devonshire, Vic Loose, Debbie White and himself; and to the retiring officers - Gill Manning (Publicity) and Claire Goodwin (Treasurer). Several new members joined the committee and the following were elected as officers: Lisa Lea (Chair), Gill Manning (Treasurer), Eva Wood (Secretary) and Cassandra Yabsley (Publicity).

❖ Sat. 22nd June 2013 St John’s Fayre
A very big THANKYOU to all the outgoing committee who have worked so hard to make SJF a celebration of Witheridge. (Editor)
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An interview with Ryan Chapman

You do a lot of things Ryan. Tell us a little bit about them and how you got involved.

Discos: I do a lot of kids’ discos, parties and some adult parties and just recently I did a wedding. I practice in my bedroom or at Chulmleigh Youth Centre and do DJ-ing all the time. I got my Devon Music Award last year for DJ-ing. I get paid for some discos. People can make me an offer.

Devon Youth Centre: I got involved when I went to my first Chulmleigh school disco. While I was looking at what the DJs were doing, they asked if I wanted to go up on Monday and Wednesday lunch times and have a go. ‘Yes!’ And that’s how I got started on the Music award for DJ-ing.

School Productions: I started doing school productions at Witheridge Primary school and when I went up to Chulmleigh, they had a Drama Club where they will teach you lighting and sound. I go there Tuesday lunch times. I learned a lot from doing it and now I teach school kids how to work the lights.

Computer technology: I learnt from a family friend and when I was little, I used to watch him taking computers apart and put them back together. My Mum said I’ve always been technically minded ever since I was 1. I go up to Witheridge school and help out with the ICT and I sort the laptops. At home I like to work out new things and take apart computers and put them back together.

Do you see yourself making a career of any of this? Yes. I would like to carry on with the ICT work I do.

What do you enjoy the most? DJ-ing and ICT

How has doing all of this helped you? It has given me an idea of what I want to do when I’m older and it helped me boost my ICT skills.

How can other children get involved? The best way to get involved is by going to clubs at school or asking someone to help them out.

Ryan
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**Monday Club**

Since the last report, we have had 3 talks and been on some interesting trips. The Exmoor Ranger talked about conservation and wildlife on Exmoor, Alan showed 3 interesting short films from a Film Club and we had our usual Harvest Auction. On our trips we visited Darts Farm and Exmouth, Minehead, Newton Abbott and Torquay. It has been a good year so far, but we do need a lot more members to go on the outings as the cost of the bus goes up each year.  

Carol Prynn

---

**Gardening Club**

There isn’t much to report in this issue as the Summer Show made it into the last issue and we are all preparing our gardens for the winter. At the October meeting, Chris Kershaw announced that she will stand down as Chairman at the AGM in November. We thank her for her hard work over the last 12 years.

The Garden Club produces 2 wonderful shows per year in addition to having regular speakers. New members are very welcome as are people who are willing to speak on any topic connected with gardening, however loosely and people who can be called upon to speak at short notice.

❖ Last Wednesday in the month 7:30pm Parish Hall

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**Witheridge Community Composting**

Green garden is collected in the village on Thursday mornings from the beginning of March to the end of October.

The cost of this service is £8.00 per year. We will collect trailer loads of garden waste £10.00 for members, £15.00 for non members. We also sell finished compost at £1.25 per bag delivered in the village, or you can collect at £1.00 per bag.

Contact Greg Henderson 01884 860819 to buy compost.
Witheridge Historic Houses: Plover’s Barrow

It’s not difficult to be fascinated by the historic houses in the centre of Witheridge, so where better to start than Plover’s Barrow, 18 West Street, a 3 roomed through-passage hall house built in the late 1400’s/ early 1500’s and one of the oldest dwellings in the village.

Black Dog was built at about the same time and down the hill, Primrose and Lantern cottages (20 & 22 West Street) were constructed a little bit later in the 1500’s.

Jacky and Steve Page showed me round and told me what they know.

To understand the through passage hall house design, they suggested we look at Marker’s Cottage, Killerton. Next day the sun was shining brightly, so off we went. The display explained, what I hadn’t been able to visualise. So, here goes... (I am no historian).

A hall house is really a barn with cruck roof beams and separated into 3 rooms by head height plank and muntin screens. From the front door there would be a ‘through passage’ wide enough for an animal to pass through to the back.

Doorways in the wooden screens opened into a lower room, a central hall and an inner room through the hall.

After the granting of the Charter Fair to Witheridge in 1247, the village became a centre for a thriving market and some traders would have lived in the village. This substantial house with a stone base, thick cob walls and thatched roof, was probably built for a merchant.

His wares (eg wool, cloth, skins) were stored in the lower room, food cooked in the central hall and the inner room was where he entertained guests. A central fire in the middle of the hall blackened the rafters.

Marker’s Cottage: plank & muntin screen
Plover's Barrow: One original screen remains, although a second might be underneath plaster. The doorway into the inner room is there but blocked off as it leads to No 16. The inner passage was lost, possibly when the staircase was added in the 1800's. The cruck roof beam can still be seen in the main bedroom.

The lower room was always floored over as jetty beams go right across the through passage and into the wall of the hall. The central hall gained a fireplace in the 1500’s. The arch of the fireplace disappears into the ceiling so the upper floor was added later. Ceiling joists in the far corner show the position of the ladder into the loft.

Nothing is known of the changes in the 1600’s and 1700s, but the staircase, windows and panelling dividing the loft into bedrooms all date to 1800’s.

It’s not clear when the door to the Inner room was blocked off. The deeds refer to one cottage in 1835 and 1879, but by 1947 Mr S Boundy’s deeds describe the property as ‘2 cottages situate in West Street Witheridge.’ Gordon Pyne lived in no 16 in the 1930’s and remembers they were called ‘Gunn’s cottages.’

At some point the 2 rooms of Plover’s Barrow were separated into two houses. The lower room would have had the through passage to the back and the hall had a doorway to the front. Both had fireplaces and access into the roof via a ladder. The outside door into the hall was made into a window in the C20. The division makes sense as by 1879 these
Kathie Gregory  
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houses were rented to much poorer households.

**Who owned Plover’s Barrow?**
It is difficult to match names on the census as cottages in small villages often took the name of the owner. Fore Street probably continued down what is now West Street and the bottom end was called Coombe Road.

1853: **Henry Pullen** paid £25 for ‘that cottage with the small plot of garden in front, pigsty or woodhouse at the back, plus 25 perches of land, part of ‘The Acre.’

Henry was an influential man: a Draper, Grocer, Insurance Agent, Stamp Distributor and Druggist and he built Pullen’s Row in 1840 to house the poor of the parish. According to the deeds, he owned the cottage and land for the term of his natural life and his wife didn’t inherit if he died first!

1879: **William Gunn** paid Henry Pullen £40 for ‘that cottage and fifty perches of land, part of ‘The Acre.’

William Gunn, the innkeeper of Black Dog, rented the cottage to James Pickard, a labourer until at least 1891.

**Who lives there now?** The house was sold again in 1963, 1971 and 1980 when **Mr and Mrs Elton** bought it. They did a lot of work on the cottage. When they took the wooden panels off the walls, they found orders for candles written on the walls. So at one time this part of the house was a candle maker’s. The small window at the front of the house hides a blocked off doorway, possibly the entrance to the shop.

**Steve and Jacky Page,** bought the house in 2005. They always wanted to move to the West Country, so when their daughter left home, it was the right time. They rented in Buckland St Mary and looked at houses all over Devon. They knew what they wanted- an old house, small garden and a view. They bought a VERY old house, no garden and no view! They haven’t regretted it for one minute.

**What’s in a name?** Its not known who named the house but Plover’s Barrow was John Ridd’s house in Lorna Doone and R.D. Blackmore went to school in Tiverton.

Jacky sums up
‘It’s a privilege to be here. We are just part of it’s history for a short time.’
South Coombe Country Cottages

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South Coombe is the perfect location for a quiet getaway. Its tranquil rural setting and country charm make it an idyllic place to stay. With its indoor swimming pool complex (comprising sauna, gym and games room as well as a 10m x 5m pool), guests can relax and take some healthy exercise inside or out.

South Coombe offers high quality cottages that sleep from two to six people with one cottage having wheelchair access. The cottages are less than a mile away from the pubs and shops in Witheridge village.

---

**South Coombe Farm**  
**Witheridge**  
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Email: stay@southcoombe.co.uk  
Web site: www.southcoombe.co.uk
**Witheridge Art Group**  We are a happy band of like minded people who enjoy an evening drawing or painting and sharing a hobby which many of us never seem to have time to do at home. We are self taught: some of us have had tuition way back and we all help each other when asked.

We are always pleased to see new members. Membership is £5/year, £1.50/week.

❖ **Wednesdays Parish Hall Committee Room 7:30pm**

Eileen Curtis

---

**Charity Knitting Group**

Our group continues to grow and we are kept busy with our projects. Thank you to Ivy and District Nurse Jan for their kind donation of wool.

At the beginning of October Janet Spiers and I went to Amigos Headquarters in Barnstaple to deliver 90 baby jumpers and 29 beanie hats, ready for despatch later in the month to Uganda.

Amigos trains young people in sustainable agriculture, tailoring, carpentry, catering and even mechanics. Based at Kira Farm, they have outreach projects to surrounding villages and the baby clothing will help these families living in poverty.

❖ **Alternate Thursdays in the Rest-a-While 2:15 – 4pm**

Eileen Haynes

---

**WITHERART**

It is with great sadness that I write the group’s entry this time, as we have lost one of our staunchest members, Susan Archer. Sue passed away on the 21st of September and will be greatly missed by us all.

Sue was an inspiration to everyone: always first to arrive and the last to leave, we admired her courage and resolve, as much as her art work and have decided to dedicate our 2013 calendar to her, any profits going to her chosen charity, Cancer Research.

The painting is one of Sue’s favourites.  ❖ **R.I.P**

Roy Houghton

---

25
Witheridge Parish Hall

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More-ish Medley of Meats with Mash

As winter approaches thoughts turn to warming stews and log fires, not only the warmth and comfort but also the wonderful smells that pervade the house. Use Pork, Beef, Lamb, Venison or anything you have to hand!

You need
- 500g of lean mixed meats, cubed.
- 1 onion sliced in rounds
- 3 carrots
- Pint of good stock
- Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme.
- Teaspoon of curry powder
- Handful of Chestnuts
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- Olive oil

What to do
- Brown the meat then add the onion and fry for a few minutes.
- Add all the ingredients to a closed casserole dish.
- Add sweet potato, swede, parsnips or use up odds and ends.

Cook in the oven 175C for at least 2 hours preferably longer

Serve with mashed potato. Liven up your mash by adding some Fennel seeds. Low cholesterol- use good olive oil rather than butter.
To be very healthy indeed add some local garlic for good measure.
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It was with great sadness that we lost Sue Archer after such a brave fight. She was a staunch supporter of our branch who made loads of cakes for our Coffee Mornings, collected for us in Drayford Lane and raised a tremendous amount of money each year. Sue was so proud to receive a Certificate of Service last year in recognition of her work. Our thoughts are with Henry and her family. We will always treasure memories of her.

Congratulations to Mary Barlow for arranging the 12 hour Rowathon in The Square in aid of Cancer Research UK. **See her report on the news page.**

Our House to House collection raised £885.40 Thank you to our collectors and to the village for coming up trumps again. We hope to have a Coffee Morning in the New Year. The new logo will appear on our stationery soon.

*Angela Pearce*

**Witheridge Ladies’ Club**

In the past months we have experienced more excellent speakers on such diverse subjects as Boy on the Farm, Lip Reading and Carers.

We look forward to 2013 with speakers on subjects including gardening, community transport, frozen meals delivered to your home, walk around Britain, the weather, age UK, living options and street pastors. We will also have a summer outing and our popular cream teas and stalls in August. The Ladies’ Club also has a book club, craft club and luncheon club. Why not come along to see what we are up to! A warm welcome awaits you.

◇ **2nd Tuesday in the month. Parish Hall 2 - 4 pm.**

*Coral Simmonds*

**Bingo at The Firs**

Bingo is held every other Tuesday at The Firs Care Home, which is next to the old Doctor’s Surgery. We have an assortment of prizes as well as a raffle. Everyone is welcome. Look for the Bingo information board outside the Firs which will give you the time of the next meeting. We look forward to seeing some new faces.

◇ **Every other Tuesday at The Firs Care Home 7:30pm**

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Witheridge Explorers
Explorers aim to help children make sense of the Bible through stories and activities. More helpers are always welcome. Please contact Heather 860744
❖ 1st & 3rd Sunday Church Rooms 9:30am

The Little Dart Singers  We are a Witheridge based singing group and we would like to invite you to join us. To be able to read music is not a requirement, just a love of singing in a friendly environment.
Our main commitment is at Witheridge Parish Church on the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month, but we also sing with other local churches.  John Harris
❖ Practice Tuesdays 7:20pm Witheridge Parish Church

Bell Ringers St John the Baptist Church Witheridge
The group are in need of people willing to learn. If you would like to see what goes on, come along to a practice night one Friday. There is no commitment in just looking.
Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
❖ Friday evenings 7:15pm in the Belfry

United Churches of Witheridge Luncheon Club
The lunch club, for people who live on their own, meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Good home cooked food and a chat in good company has been appreciated and enjoyed throughout the year and only £3 a meal. When I arrived at the Hall last Tuesday, I thought a party was taking place, there was such a happy noise coming from within.
The Christmas meal with all the trimmings will be held on Tuesday 4th December at 12 for 12.30 in the Parish Hall. Admission is by invitation which can be got from the Day Centre or by ringing myself on 860012, Val 860709 or Annis 860398. We hope to see some new faces in 2013. Yvonne Childs
St. John the Baptist Church
David and Susan Prescott have settled in happily at Warminster. They call back from time to time to see catch up with people. If you wish to keep in touch, they will be pleased to hear from you. See one of the Churchwardens or myself.

The appointment of a new Team Vicar is going through the motions and it is hoped it will be completed by Easter 2013. Your prayers to this end would be much appreciated. Meanwhile, Rev. Roderick Withnell, Rev. Prebendary David Rudman and the Local Ministry Team all keep the wheels turning.

For weddings, baptisms and funerals contact Roderick on 01769 580537 or David on 01769 580457. For other matters see one of the Churchwardens or myself.

The Pastoral Care Team has been extremely busy visiting people wherever the need has arisen and the Emergency Prayer Chain is very busy indeed. Contact me if those you know and love need our prayer.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas. Yvonne Childs Lay Reader

Jigsaw Puzzle & Story Tape Library: large selection to borrow from Hope House, 6 The Square, Sat. 9.30-12 or phone 860012. Membership: £2 pa Yvonne Childs

The Two Moors Festival Comes to Witheridge
A lunchtime concert was held in Witheridge Church as part of the Two Moors Festival. The two artists, Hyeyoon Park on the violin and Nareh Arghanyan on the piano, brought outstanding talent to a performance of works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Ysaye.

These two young performers were equal to the challenge of such demanding scores and they brought a standing ovation from an enchanted audience. Rosie Brook

Images of Majesty: This talk, by Richard Kay, covered the last 500 years of royal portraits from Henry VIII to Elizabeth II. It was a very honest and humorous talk which went into great detail on each monarch keeping the audience enthralled. Val Dickinson
The Church Rooms available for hire for children’s parties, film shows, meetings etc. Small kitchen with china and kettles, tables and chairs, toilet. £10 per session; morning, afternoon or evening. Mike Childs 860012.

### Methodist Chapel:
**Minister Rev Jonathan Budd**  
01363 877281 or thebudds@cantab.net

SERVICES start at **11am** unless stated
- Dec 2 Mrs H Castle
- Dec 9 Mrs F Budd
- Dec 15 North Molton Carollers 7pm  
  Supper to follow.
- Dec 16 Rev J Budd and Communion
- Dec 23 Mr R Steer
- Dec 25 Church Churches Together  
  Parish Church 9:30
- Dec 30 Church Churches Together  
  Parish Church 9:30
- Jan 6 Mr B Glover
- Jan 13 Rev J Budd and Communion
- Jan 20 Mr M Hockridge
- Jan 27 Mr C Hutchings
- Feb 3 Mr K Grant
- Feb 10 Rev J Budd and Communion
- Feb 17 Mr R Sambles
- Feb 24 Mr C Rice

### St John the Baptist Parish Church
**Morning Worship and Communion Services start at 9:30am**

*Note: All dates are subject to change. Please check church notice board*

- Lighting Christmas tTree in The Square 1st week in December all being well (P. Council)
- Dec 4 Tues United Churches Luncheon Club, Parish Hall 12:00
- Dec 9 Sun Witheridge Carol Service with Tiverton Town Band 6:00pm
- Dec 16 Sun Christingle Service, Parish Church 4:00pm
- Dec 17 Mon Churches Together Carols around Witheridge, The Square 7pm
- Dec 24 Mon Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service, Parish Church 11:00pm
- Dec 25 Tues Churches Together Family Service, Parish Church 9:30am
- Dec 30 Sun 5th Sunday Churches Together Service, Parish Church 9:30am
- Jan 8 Tues United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall 12:00
- Feb 10 Sun Plough Sunday Service Parish Church
- Feb 13 Wed Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service

**Women’s Fellowship** Alt. Thurs. 2.30pm  
Next meeting: 15th March 2:30pm

‘The Women of France’ Mrs Amy Eaton
A Life With Horses
by Frank Housam

Waggoner

Born at Hills Farm, in Lincolnshire, I was milking, scuffling tatties, harrowing, carting and harvesting from an early age. I learned to plough with a pair of Shire horses when I was 11 and left school at 14 to work at Markham’s Low Field Farm. Wage Board Rate for age 14 was 15/- (75p) a week but I got an extra 5/- as I could work mostly unsupervised. You paid your way, even if you were living at home. Board and lodging was 15/- so a 14 year old did extra jobs to have any money. One morning in 1945, Sam Markham and I were out fencing. He went home for dinner, had a massive heart attack and was dead by 4pm. The new boss, Harold Markham, asked me to take over the stable of 4 pedigree Shires and Dolly the pony. So at 16, I was a Waggoner and on a good wage!

We started at 5:30am, feeding grooming and checking the horses before breakfast. Then the teams were harnessed for the day- usually 2 or 3 horses in harness, 2 or 3 spare. Unyoking at midday took too long, so lunch was at 10:30, we worked until 2:30pm, fed the horses and had our dinner from 3-4pm. Then we did stable jobs until time to feed the other horses at 5pm. Their last meal, (supping up) was at 9pm, when they liked a freshly chopped wossle and fresh hay.

On a cold winter’s night, with the sweet smell of hay and the warmth of five happily munching horses, that stable was a grand place to be. I loved the work, but by 1950 tractors were taking over and I wanted to stay with horses.

National Thoroughbred Stud

I answered an advert in the paper for a stud groom at the National Thoroughbred Stud and worked under Mr Fred Clare with top race horses.

Stallion Man

In the 1950 stud season, I worked for the Hunters' Improvement Society as a stallion man, travelling the Holderness region of Yorkshire with Bodney Boy for W.E. Wharton of South View Stud, Hatfield.

We covered over 120 miles a week walking from one farm to another. When Bodney Boy fell lame after a nail caused an infection, I had to continue the round with the only available stallion, William IV- a horse with a nasty reputation. The driver gave me his stout cane with sound
advice to carry it at all times. On the road to Driffield, William attacked me! I managed to get out of the way of his feet and teeth, struck him hard and sat on his head. He was down and I was ‘boss’. When I let him get up, he was trembling and so was I. I said ‘Come on boy’ and away we went.

When we stopped for the night at Beverly, he tried to get loose by smashing his head collar. I borrowed a rope, formed it into a halter and tied him to a railway sleeper. I gave him food, water and a good bed and left him. He wasn’t going to shift that and he didn’t.

Next morning the head collar was repaired just in time to parade William in front of Mr Wharton, who was so worried, he had taken a taxi to see how I was getting on. On Monday, as we set off on our weekly route, he was a different horse and I had no more trouble with him. (The photo is me, but not William, as he was a grey)

For some reason, Mr Wharton put industrial stamps on my card instead of agricultural and made me eligible for military call-up. When William was sold to stud in Australia, I was asked to travel with him, but the army got me first and I missed an opportunity which would have changed my life.

In The Army

I went to Hull for the medical and they failed me! It seems I was a semi invalid with rhinitis from dust and hay! ‘But, I walk more than 120 miles a week….. I got my green card but with a low score so I couldn’t go abroad, so they sent me to Animal Transport, Aldershot, to learn animal management, military style. I then taught a 3 month course on pack pony management ie how to get supplies up to the frontline across country mostly in Far East. conflicts.

We had some fun though. My team (Puffin and Buffer) pulled a GS wagon at military tattoos and we formed the wheel pair of the gun carriage for regimental funerals. I left the army after 2 years National Service and went full circle, back home on the farm, until the start of the next stallion season.
Class 3 and 4: Our Visit to the Roman Baths

On the 11th October key stage two took a trip to the roman baths in Bath. We left school at 8:30am and got back at 6:00pm. We travelled by coach and mini-bus and it took three and a half hours to get there! We were at the baths for three hours.

First, when we got there we were given audio guides, these were electronic guides that you hold up to your ear like a phone and it tells you information and where to go next. To use them you type in numbers which are dotted around the museum and it will tell you about the exhibits you are viewing. Then we split off into our groups to see the exhibits.

The first exhibit was the great bath. This was one of the main baths and was 1.6m deep! Above the great bath was a terrace, you could walk around it to see from above. Along the terrace there are statues of roman governors of Britain, roman emperors and military leaders.

Later, we saw the sacred spring. This was at the heart of the roman baths and is filled with water 46 degrees hot! It was very mysterious. We also saw a statue of what is thought to be the head of the ‘Gorgon’, only some of the pieces were found so they use a projector to show what it would look like in roman times with all the pieces.

After looking at some exhibits we had lunch in a church hall at about 12:30pm. The church hall was quite big so we all ate happily!

After lunch we looked at the spring overflow, the spring overflow is where surplus water from the spring flows out to a roman drain. The spring overflow may have looked nice but it smelt horrible! Then, we saw the temple. The temple is where the cult statue of the goddess sulis Minerva was housed. After that we saw the temple courtyard. The temple courtyard is the sacred place surrounding the temple.

Later, we looked at the heated rooms and plunge pools which are in the wettest parts of the museum. We saw a cold circular pool which was 1.6m deep. Did you know that the roman baths were in use for over 400 years?

Finally, we travelled home. The bus journey seemed long and boring, but after three and a half hours, we were home.

Amber Summerhayes
Our Trip to the Roman Baths
On Thursday 11th October class 3 and 4 went to the roman baths in bath. The first place we went to was the terrace. The terrace overlooks the great bath; the view from the terrace is the first view you have as a visitor to the baths. It has statues of important people lined around it.

The next place we went to was the great bath. It is lined with 45 sheets of lead and filled with hot spa water. The great bath is 1.6 metres deep and has steps leading down from all sides.

We also went to the temple courtyard. This was where worshippers gathered to pray and make sacrifices to the goddess, Sulis Minerva.

At the very heart of the site is the sacred spring. The 46 degree water rises at 1,170,000 litres a day and has been doing so for thousands of years.

The king’s bath, although modified upon the building of the grand pump room, was still used until the middle of the 20th century.

The spring overflow was another place we went to. It was beautiful. The wall behind it was orange because of all the minerals in the water. The roman plumbing and drainage system is still largely in place today. Lead pipes were used to carry hot spa water around the site using gravity flow.

The western range of baths includes a sequence of pools and heated rooms with good surviving hypocast pilae showing how their heating system would have worked. The cold circular pool is 1.6 metres deep; that is the same depth of the great bath. All in all, it was a brilliant trip.  

Calista White

Headmaster’s Report
By the time you read this, we should have our biomass boiler up and running, which is a great boost to the School’s green credentials as it uses wood pellets - a renewable energy source as opposed to kerosene oil which our old boiler uses.

This future-proofs the School against ever-increasing fossil-fuel prices and we also benefit from the Government’s Renewable Heat Incentive scheme paying us an index-linked amount for every unit of energy for the next twenty years (similar to the Feed-In Tariff for solar panels).

In the Easter break we look forward to expanding the heating system to include the outside classrooms of Class 3 and Pre-School, which are currently expensively heated by electric storage heaters. It’s great to be able to put something in place that not only benefits the children we have here now, but children for the next couple of decades.

Steve Duncan
WITHERIDGE NEWSAGENTS

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New Buildings - work has started.

Year 11 results: 62% 5A*-C with English and Maths which like many schools, do not reflect the results expected based on previous grade boundaries. Our year 11’s are rising to the challenge of the new exam.

Chairman, Chulmleigh Academy Trust Gary Barlow has stepped down after seeing the Academy through its first year. Our new Chairman is Steve Baber.

Michael Wall Barn Opening: Mr Wall spoke of his pleasure at seeing a farming course on the curriculum. From September Ed Lowe from Bicton College will teach Year 10 adding to our expertise and knowledge.

Nick Griffin retires. It was Nick’s vision to develop the farm. Without Nick we would not a successful GCSE Science course based on farming.

Chulmleigh Community College

Witheridge C of E Primary School PTFA

Pamper Day was a great success, raising just over £1,000.

New name: At our AGM on Thursday 25th October, it was decided that the name would be changed from Friends of Witheridge to Witheridge C of E Primary School PTFA, in line with other PTAs/PTFAs and to better represent our organisation. It was also agreed to donate £2,500 towards the purchase of much needed new books for the School Library.

Committee members for 2012/2013: Chair/Secretary Sonia Doughton, Vice Chair Julie-Anne Foster, Treasurer Justin Ogden. Members: Miranda Cole, Mandy Chapman, Steve Duncan, Sarah Boyles, Emma Evans, Cassandra Yabsley, Viv Pulford and Tracy Lake.

Fri 14th Dec School Christmas Fair: Raffle tickets will be available shortly. 1st prize £100, 2nd prize £50 and 3rd prize £25. The draw will take place at the Christmas Fair. Please see a member of the committee to purchase tickets.

Sonia Doughton
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**East Worlington Pre-School**

We welcome 3 children: Otta Bradley, Reuben Gillbard and Harry Shere. The topics this term were Day, Night & Space and Fire and Festivals so the role play area changed from a space station to a fire station! We had a lovely festive evening at the Christmas Fair on 6th November which raised around £450 for the pre-school. The children are already getting excited about the Christmas Play and party on the last day of term and parents and staff are looking forward to their night out at Thelbridge on 15th December. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Donna Webber 860346

**Mums & Toddlers** in E.Worlington Preschool. We are a really friendly bunch, so why not come along for a hot drink and a natter. £1 per family. We also have a Mums’ night our each term. **Tues. 2-3:30pm in term time** Chanelle 861680

**School PTFA** [www.worlingtonptfa.org](http://www.worlingtonptfa.org) Thankyou to all who supported the Jumble Sale at Witheridge Parish Hall, which raised £605 and the Bag2School collection raised a further £475, both breaking the previous records. The PTFA organised a Halloween Disco for the children and funded the space odyssey trip, which were greatly enjoyed. ✨ **Christmas Coffee**: Tu Dec 11 E.W. Parish Hall 11-12:30.

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**Witheridge Pre-School**

Yet another busy half term and with the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), there have been many changes that affect the staff, while the children carry on happily playing and learning. We enjoyed walking around our local environment to identify the sounds around us. It’s not all hard work though and there are many rewarding moments when a child achieves something new eg a painting or experimenting with water. We are fortunate to have good outside play space in use daily. With the weather this year, the investment in drainage has paid off.

As part of the partnership, we are running workshops to cover aspects of Early Years Foundation. Please come along: details are on the website.

Once again we entered 2 teams in the Knights of Witheridge Tractor Push. The ladies significantly reduced their time, but the men’s team was pipped to a win by seconds. With some of the money raised, we bought a fantastic resource to support letters and sounds activities; the remainder going to our ‘new building’ fund. Many thanks to the Knights for their support.

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Ploughing Match 2012

This year’s Ploughing Match was held on land at Menchene farm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs S Cole and the Cole family. There were 36 tractors and ploughs, but the highlight of the day was the 3 teams of horses ploughing.

It was a good site just out of Witheridge and people were able to walk to it and the weather was very kind to us. Mrs Sylvia Lee presented the prizes. Class 2 from Witheridge School visited us and it was lovely to see them wandering around looking at everything. They patted the horses, learned how a plough works and about the farm produce and enjoyed seeing everything in the tent.

There was a wonderful lot of cakes, jams, photos etc and considering the summer we have had, a good entry of vegetables and flowers. There were good entries in the children’s classes which is always pleasing.

This was our 105th match and we hope it will continue for many years.

Sheila Manley
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Anthony Johnson

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Mob: 07545056229
Life before the NHS

I’d had earache for some time before my mother phoned Dr. O’Brian. He arrived within minutes and diagnosed mastoid - a life threatening infection as this was 1932 and antibiotics wouldn’t be available until the 1940’s.

Dad drove me to Walsall Manor Hospital while Dr O’Brian phoned for the nearest surgeon with radical mastoid experience. At 11pm Dr Clayton took me on an exciting trolley ride to the operating theatre. I was placed on a table next to a boy who was having his tonsils out and was a bit scared to see all that blood. Then a thick cotton wool mask covered my face and ice-cold liquid was poured on it. It felt as though my head was going to burst and if I could have escaped, I would have done.

Next morning, I awoke to find a curved dish under my chin and a very large cavity behind my right ear. The hole had to be packed with gauze pushed in using 2 large metal needles (and the old gauze dragged out) every four hours, day and night. Ouch! Several weeks passed before the wound was dry enough to be closed and stitched.

All this time, I was in a ward with men and children of all ages. It sounds terrible now, but some were brought there to die. Each morning I would see bodies being removed and I remember a young man in the bed next to me screaming. A few hours later, it was I who called the nurse after he died. I was just six years old.

John Corfield
Witheridge at the Olympics

Donna, Alan Webber & children: We went on 6th August to watch the sailing because it was local, even though we don’t really know anything about sailing. It was too good an opportunity to miss for the girls to get some Olympic atmosphere.

Hawtrey family  Friday 3rd August we saw finals day at Eaton Dorney rowing lake. The whole excitement for Sean and Chloe had built to a crescendo. To see Katherine Grainger finally get her gold medal, hear the national anthem and see the union jack flying high, was the pinnacle of a wonderful day- an experience we will remember for the rest of our lives.

Carole & Gill  Gill invited me to Weymouth to watch the sailing- not that I know anything about sailing. We saw Australia get gold and GBR silver in the men’s 47 and New Zealand gold, GBR well behind in the women’s final. It was HOT and sunny all day. We sat on the grassy knoll next to the big screen and cheered every team out and in true British spirit.
Peter Tout and family  We went on the 1st Saturday of the athletics so saw Usain Bolt in the 100m heats, Jessica Ennis do the long jump and javelin but not the hurdles, and Andries Pistorius in the 200m heats. Then I went again the following Tuesday and saw the 1500m final.
It was totally and utterly amazing. With all the drama, euphoria and tears, the nation had changed and people even talked to us on the tube! It was very emotional but a great celebration of being British. People said travelling would be a nightmare and security would take forever, but I went in from 2 different directions and it was easy and we were through security in minutes. They were all cheerful and smiling. 90% of the crowd in the arena were British but everybody got a cheer. One guy was a lap behind and everyone stood up and cheered him on his last lap. I felt proud to be British. The photos were taken by my grandson, Tom Spencer, using my long lens.

Greenwoods  We went to the Paralympics on Friday 31st August and saw sitting volleyball. After that we went up the Orbit tower and to the Athletics. We saw David Weir in the initial heats, Hannah Cockcroft win her first gold medal, Jason Smyth from Ireland in his first heat and lots of other great stuff. It was a fantastic day!

More photos on Gallery 2 on the Voice website
Witheridge Sports Club

Weekly opening times

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00 – 11.00 (skittles at home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.00 – 11.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>12.00 – 9.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>12.00 – 7.00</td>
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Witheridge AFC

The first team is a third of the way through the season with new manager Chris Vinnicombe and things have been going really well. We are in the top ½ of the league and into the 1/4 finals of the St Luke’s Bowl. Our opponents will either be Ivybridge Town or Plymouth Argyle. It would be really exciting to entertain Plymouth Argyle. The Reserves hope to be near the top of the table challenging for promotion by next May.

The Veterans Team: newly formed for players over 40 but we can also use 4 over the age of 35. We are in a group of 4 teams of which the top 2 go through to the next phase. So far we have played 2 games at home and even though we lost 1-0 against Bideford and 5-2 against Barnstaple, it’s been a very enjoyable experience. Martin Pennells had the honour of scoring our first goal in the competition. With 4 games left we aim to improve and search for our first win.

U11 Training: Following interest from youngsters in the village, Paul Rich and Mark Couzens set up a training session on Friday nights for under 11’s. They recruited Ben Payne, a qualified coach, to take the sessions which are proving very popular. We intend to join some mini tournaments so the youngsters can develop further.

Billy Roberts & Chris Cole

Sports Club Children’s Christmas Party

- Saturday 22nd December
- Tickets £2 from The Sports Club and the Village Store
- Contact Bridget Morris 07564 372001

Witheridge Sports and Activities
Badminton Club

The Badminton Club meets in the Parish Hall on Mondays from 2-3 pm, cost £2.50 per session. We can provide rackets if needed. We welcome all ages and abilities. For safety reasons children are not allowed.

Greg Henderson 860819

Short Mat Bowls

We meet in the Parish Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings each week throughout the year at 7.00pm for a 7.15pm start. Club shoes and woods are available for those who have not played before. Children over ten and under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

The first three evenings are free, then a green fee of £2.00 per session and a subscription of £20.00 per annum, is payable. This facility is available to residents of Witheridge and surrounding villages.

Greg Henderson

Witheridge Golf Society

We met at Waterbridge on 12th September for a 9 hole Stableford competition as a change from the usual Texas Scramble. On the winning team were farmers Rob Walker and Michael Pinchcombe together with John Avens. The wooden spoon trophy was won by Andrew Clark, Norman James and Bob Woodall!

New members are always welcome. The format will be varied but the emphasis will still be on a team game.

Contact Andrew Clark 01884 860612 or astonguy@tring92.f2s.com.

- Christmas Golf Trophy on Wednesday 5th December
- Spring Trophy on 13th March

Table Tennis

We are a friendly small group. All equipment is supplied and we offer tea and coffee too. Come along and pass an enjoyable hour. All levels of ability from beginners to Olympic contenders most welcome.

You must be over 16 years of age for this club, but the equipment is available for a parent to start a club for under 16’s.

- Friday mornings 11:00-12:00 Parish Hall £2.50
**Witheridge Tennis Club**

You may have wondered about playing tennis. We can help you to find tennis partners. Phone **Vine Spragg 01363 866 033.**

Fees are £2 pp/hr, children under 16 FREE. An annual subscription of £30pp or £50 per family, allows you to play at any time all year round free of charge. Cheques to David Body, Lower Park, Witheridge EX16 8PZ, pay Witheridge Tennis Club.

**Tennis Club Fun Day**

- Book the court at W. Newsagents 01884 860815

**Walk and Talk**

On a glorious Wednesday in September, 6 of our group including 2 grandchildren, were joined by Royal British Legion standard bearer Sheila Plummer and her friend, who was on holiday from Tenerife, to take part in the sponsored walk along Tiverton Canal in aid of British Legion funds. Lucky for us, Rackenford Ladies’ Club was having a trip on the barge, so we rattled our tins and they gave generously. We then walked about 2 miles, had a picnic and got back just as the barge was setting out, so we rattled our tins again, then sat by the barge for tea and ice-cream. We raised £125.59 and were very pleased. Otherwise our walks are just 4 or 2 people as weather and illnesses have been a problem, but we are not going to give up as we really enjoy it. It mostly road walking as the fields and footpaths are waterlogged, but it’s good exercise both our legs and our lungs with all the talking. So come and join us. 

**Norah McTeague**

**Dance Fit with Jason**

Great fun, great music, come and keep fit! Everyone welcome! No class on 28th Nov as Jason is on a course.

- Wednesday in the Parish Hall 7pm – 8pm only £3.

**Yoga**

Join us for yoga in the Church Rooms on Wednesdays £6 per session. Improve your posture, coordination, balance, strength and flexibility through gentle movements, postures, breathing and relaxation techniques.

**Pat Bell**
A ‘Nobel’ Sport

Clay Pigeon Shooting is a popular sport especially around here. It developed from game bird shooting, which was a huge pastime in Victorian and Edwardian days. To practise and out of season, pigeons were released from a basket or ‘Trap’. Much of the terminology comes from those days eg ‘kill’ and ‘bird’. ‘Pull’ comes from when a string was pulled to open the door of the basket. In the 1900 Olympics, live pigeons were used with nearly 300 being killed. The winner received 2000 Francs as well as his medal. The use of live birds was later banned.

Around 1860 as an alternative to live birds, glass balls were used which were about 5.7cm in diameter and were sometimes filled with feathers to give a more realistic effect. They were often just thrown up in the air, but left shattered glass all over the place. Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill both used them in their Wild West shows.

The first clay was introduced in the early 1880’s. The idea of the saucer shaped target came to George Ligowski after seeing boys skimming flat stones across a lake. Some of the original names were Inanimate Bird or Terracotta Pigeon. A standard clay today has a diameter of 11 cm.

Other targets were tried out such as potatoes. One famous Victorian shooting match involved cricket balls launched by a fast bowler. It sounds like a sport worth resurrecting to me - perhaps a form of 20/20, with each team having 4 shooters who try to hit the ball before it reaches the boundary.

In the 1920’s many competitions were sponsored by Nobel Industries UK (Yes that Nobel), so competitors were shooting for the Nobel Prize in Clay Pigeon Shooting. Neither Einstein nor Martin Luther King managed to win that one, however, one of the winners was Gerald (Dart Raffe Farm) Manning’s grandfather who shot 497 out of 500.

In 1928 Nobel Industries helped set up the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association which formed the rules that are used today.

If you’ve never tried it but think it might be fun, Eastway Farm on the road to Nomansland have a shoot every month on a Sunday. Grahame, Kevin, Alan or Stuart will be happy to explain how you can get started. The next shoots are Dec 16th and Jan 20th (860271). St. John’s Fayre Shoot in June, is also a good day out.

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VET NEWS: Virus diseases  Our farm animals get viral diseases just as we do. New diseases are appearing all the time and the latest problems may be connected to the changes in the climate. Some viruses and other pathogenic organisms, are transmitted between animals by vectors such as insects.

Schmallenberg Virus (SBV) and Bluetongue Virus (BTV) are the latest diseases to come to the UK, carried by midges. SBV is spreading rapidly, and is causing a variety of problems for cattle farmers, including abortions and sick cows.

When sheep or cattle are infected during their pregnancy, the virus can affect the development of the unborn lamb or calf causing congenital deformities. When the midges are about, the virus spreads, so the very cold weather may be a blessing for the health of our pregnant sheep through the winter.

New vaccines will be developed to combat SBV just as BTV was stopped in its tracks by an effective vaccination campaign. New viruses come along all the time and there’s a limit to the number of vaccinations that can be used.

Dick Sibley

Mid Devon Natural History Society: A Bad Harvest:

The cold, wet spring and summer have been disastrous for farmers and gardeners with the yield of most crops well down this year. Many of the seeds and berries in our woods and hedgerows are in short supply, so our wildlife is likely to struggle over the coming months, especially if we have a hard winter.

Acorns (a favourite with jays and squirrels), beech mast (eaten by wood mice and pigeons) and sloes (bitter to us but enjoyed by blackbirds, mistle thrushes and fieldfares) are virtually absent. The crop of hazelnuts is well down so dormice, wood mice, bank voles and squirrels will have poor fat reserves to see them through the winter. As wood mice seek out food supplies more may appear in your house!

With the supply of food in the wild being so poor this winter, we are likely so see more wildlife in our gardens feeding on garden berries and seeds, as well as the food we put out for them. Try to supply as wide a variety of foods as possible both in feeders and on the ground. For Mid Devon Natural History Society meetings and field trips, see www.middevonnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk Stephen Powles 01884 242965
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Incomer’s Guide:
Braunton Burrows - Crow Point & Boardwalk

Getting there
Distance from Witheridge 30 miles
Time: 58 mins approx.

Directions: Witheridge to S.Molton then A361 Barnstaple. As you come into Barnstaple at 1st roundabout take 1st exit A39/A361. Follow Braunton A361 across the bridge and left onto Braunton Rd. Continue for 4 miles to Velator. Take 1st exit off the roundabout signposted Braunton Burrows, Velator Industrial Estate. Follow Braunton Burrows looking for sharp left turn (TOLL ROAD CROW POINT) over narrow bridge. £1.50 per car. Gates close at 7pm.

About 2 miles to Broadsands car park (Free. NO cafe, NO toilets. Lots of parking. Walk through to the main parking area. Left for estuary, straight on for the dunes.

Dunes Boardwalk: where the path meets the American road (this leads to where US troops trained for the D day landings.). Go straight across to the boardwalk. Easy walk across the dunes, views across the estuary, LOTS of wildflowers. Dog friendly. Buggy friendly except last few metres. Path comes out at the north end of 4 miles of sandy beach all the way to Saunton Sands. Sand, rock pools.

Either retrace your steps along the boardwalk or turn right along the dunes and look for a track that emerges onto the beach. This is the end of the American road and will take you back to the crossroads and the car park.

MORE Braunton Burrows walks here: www.explorebraunton.org/downloadable-walks.aspx
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1. What goes "oh, oh, oh??
2. What goes red white red white red white?
3. What does Santa Claus' cat want for Christmas?
4. What do you call a snowman on rollerblades?
5. How can a snowman lose weight?
6. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
7. How does Jack Frost travel to work?
8. What game do cows like to play at Christmas parties?
9. What do vampires put on their turkey at Christmas?
10. Why is Prancer always wet?

Wordsearch:
- chimney,
- Jesus, Santa,
- star, baby,
- family, snow,
- presents, tree,
- Bethlehem,
- fun,
- reindeer,
- snowman
- turkey

Answers on page 65
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ACROSS
1. ........... Trust saves trees
3. Air pressure measured in ......
5. Large lizard
7. Baby elephant
8. Edgar Allan .................
9. Hi, young person
10. ............... Dion
11. Eager to go.
13. ‘It’s ........... you’ panto speak.
14. Game or sporting event
16. To walk
19. An American
20. And ........... on

DOWN
1. Cat hairs
2. County - think sausages
3. Half of Brazil
4. Ask the people ,yes or no
6. United
7. Another name for mobile
12. Type of fish
13. Blunt end
14. Inlet or recess
15. A globe
17. Play ‘........... you like it’
18. ................. or die

Answers p 65
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Meetings are held at the Parish Hall Committee Room, North Street, Witheridge. Un-Scheduled meetings are advertised separate to this notice. Residents can make representations in writing to the clerk or in person verbally during the public session at the start of a meeting. Agendas (with planning applications for consideration) are published at least three days in advance on the council web site at www.witheridgepc.org together with minutes of all meetings. Planning applications received after agenda publication will be dealt with owing to a 21 day limit on the council responding to consultations from the Planning Authority. The parish council is only a consultee, and does not determine applications. Paper copies are available on request.

**Contacting the Council**

Councillors and/or the Clerk are available by appointment, please telephone to arrange a mutually agreeable time and venue. Contact details below.

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<tr>
<th>Your Councillors</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Committee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claire Goodwin (Chair)</td>
<td>Dart View</td>
<td>860711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Manning (Vice Chair)</td>
<td>Dart Raffe Farm</td>
<td>860557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Bradford</td>
<td>Newland Lodge</td>
<td>860629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Hanbury</td>
<td>860578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Kershaw</td>
<td>Trafalgar House</td>
<td>860208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Martin</td>
<td>Grist Mill</td>
<td>861011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Stanbury</td>
<td>4 North Street</td>
<td>861375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Yabsley</td>
<td>1 Pullens Row</td>
<td>861304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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**County & District Councillor**

| Jeremy Yabsley            | 15A West Street | 860605 |

**Public Rights of Way Liaison**

Vacancy

FPC Finance and personnel  CTG Community Task Group  JF St John’s Fayre
HA Historical Archive  PH Parish Hall Committee  CP District Crime Prevention Panel
SFMC Sports Field Management Committee

**Clerk:** Peter Dunn  3 Drakes Meadow, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Crediton, EX17 4HU
Tel: 01363 460046  Email: parishclerk@witheridgepc.org
Web: www.witheridgepc.org

**Scheduled Parish Council Meetings**  Dec 6  Jan 3  Feb 7  March 7
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Dec 10 Jan 7 21 Feb 4 18 Mar 4 18
E.Worlington: Village Hall 11:50-12:10
Drayford: Drayford Cross 12:15-12:35
Witheridge: Square 14:00-15:00 School 15:05 – 15:50
**Contact 01392 384315 for details of WRVS Home Library Service. This is run by volunteers for anyone confined to home or physically unable to reach a library.

Help, Advice & Devon Services (source Connect Winter 2011)
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Sweeping The Square Dec- March 2013
Sweeping Dates: even weeks Fridays
Dec 14 28 Jan 11 25 Feb 8 22 Mar 8 22

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  ❖ Public meeting: 3 December 6.30pm South Molton, Filleigh Village Hall OR Tell us what you think at www.devon.gov.uk/localchoices or go to the meeting.
The Hilton

FIVE STAR

HOME CARPET SERVICE

COMPLETE RANGE OF CARPET & FLOORING SAMPLES DOMESTIC OR CONTRACT QUALITY
Brought to your home or business, daytime or evening without obligation.

MEASURING AND ESTIMATING SERVICE
Advice given acquired from over thirty years in the trade.

FITTING SERVICE
Highest standards guaranteed in the price.

CURTAINS OR BLINDS
Made to measure curtain service to complete your room

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED

PHONE TIVERTON (01884) 254865

We aim to maintain highest standards of service at lowest prices!
Things I might go to: Dec 2012 to mid March 2013

**Local One off events**

Christmas Tree Lights On in The Square - 1st week in December all being well (P. Council)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Knights of With. Games &amp; Quiz Night Cruwys Arms Pennymoor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Golf Club Christmas Trophy Waterbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Food and Craft Fayre in aid of Witheridge Preschool Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Carol Service with Tiverton Town Band Witheridge Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Carol Service Thelbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Christmas Coffee Morning E. W. Parish Hall in aid of EW School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>SANTA at Oakmoor Children’s Centre Games &amp; Fun 0-5 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Carols around Witheridge Meet in The Square</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>Sports Club Children’s Christmas Party Tickets £2 from village shop/club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service Witheridge Parish Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>Churches Together Witheridge Parish Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 25</td>
<td>Golf Club Spring Trophy Waterbridge</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Witheridge Recurring**

Every 2nd Sat Forest School Oakmoor Children’s Centre 10-12

3 monthly last Sunday Car Boot Sale With. Parish Hall NEXT Feb 24 860685 10-12

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Christmas Jokes

1. Santa walking backwards
2. Father Christmas rolling down the hill
3. Some new claus
4. Snow mobile
5. He waits until it gets warmer
6. Snowflakes
7. By icicle
8. Moo-sical chairs
9. Grave-y
10. Because he's a rain deer

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65
Food Served 7 days a week

*English breakfasts*
*Morning coffee*
*Lunches*
*Bar snacks*
*Real Ales*
*Afternoon teas*
*Cream Teas*
*Evening meals*
*Sunday lunches*
*Functions*
*Wedding receptions*
*Birthday parties*
*Buffets*
*Discos*

A warm welcome awaits you
Tel: (01884 860316)

www.thelbridgexinn.co.uk
Witheridge Farm Shop  
www.WitheridgeFarmShop.co.uk  
EX16 8QA  
01884860313  
Open Wednesday to Saturday  
9 to 5.30

Celebrate Christmas with our  
Free range Turkey, Dry Cure Ham  
Free range Sausage and Bacon  
Pies, Salad  
Cheese, Veg  
Olives etc  
All you need  
for a really  
tasty time  

AS LONG AS THEY HAVE NOT ESCAPED!!

The Delicatessen in the Middle of Nowhere