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Editorial

There are 8 features in this issue which is jam packed as usual. ‘A House Worth Saving’ records a year of hard work until the day the scaffolding came down, Jim Campbell’s ‘War over Witheridge’ tells the lighter side of war in rural Devon and ‘Talented Kids: Climbing’ shows another good outlet for Witheridge children’s energy. ‘People4Ponies’ was done after St John’s Fayre last year and has finally made it into the magazine.

To pay for colour, the magazine will reduce to 64 pages from next issue. The priority will be on features and community news relevant to Witheridge and surrounding areas.

More stories needed. It takes 2 hours of your time- you talk, I scribble. I have a couple of things for the future but that’s not a lot. Please email/ phone if you are willing to contribute. More on historic houses, small businesses, talented kids, ‘In Another Life’ .... All ideas welcome.

Advertising Thank you to all who have confirmed that they will advertise with us through 2014 and 2015. Many local businesses advertise purely to support the magazine and for that we are very grateful. We keep adverts on file. They go in on a first come, first served basis but the space isn’t allocated until we receive your advert. We offer a one off advert for events or new businesses. Adverts can be in colour at no extra cost. In consideration of other advertisers we cannot accept an advert on a dark background.

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A House Worth Saving  
by Ian & Hilary Bostridge

The first contact I had with the house was when I was approached as they needed a thatcher. Rain had got into the base of the chimney and where the bricks met the cob, so hard bricks were onto softened cob. One side was on good medium but the other side was on liquefying cob with the chimney leaning in. When it collapsed, it took the roof, 1st floor ceiling and the 1st floor with it. The open roof was covered with a tarpaulin but the house is Grade 2 listed and sometime later Listed Buildings took over to prevent further deterioration. The middle of the building was braced and winched to make it a firm structure. It was fully enclosed to allow the building to dry out but the structure enclosing it was only meant to be there for 6 months. In 2012 the building went up for sale. We bid for it and paid the market value.

Why take it on? I enjoy it. Everything associated with this building was stuff I had done before. When we bought the house we live in now, it had 2 ½ walls. We lived in 2 caravans with 4 children and a dog while we rebuilt it.

Thatch Ing
I got into building when I was 14 but I remember seeing a thatched cottage in Hampshire and I wanted to build one like that. I trained with Thatching Advisory Services. One job I worked on was the Globe Theatre in London. We thatched it then they put a copper tube all around the top ridge with holes in it for a sprinkler system should they ever need it.

The first day Nov 2012
When we walked in you could stand in the front room and see the scaffolding up to the sky but apart from that hole, it felt intact.

The Chimney was the first job. I was thatching elsewhere, so could only do it late in the evening and weekends. There was an element of powdery cob so I had to chase it all back. Chimneys have to comply with modern building regs and that means lining it.

The first thing is to put in the base plate, ready for the liner. You come down to the lintel and add the liner as you go up, building cob blocks up, liner, cob up and liner up to eave height. The blocks are 9”x18”x4”. The chimney was built into
the wall to chimney height then brick from the eaves. It took about 2 months.

**Making good**
The top layer of thatch had gone, leaving the base coat 3” thick. The cob was damaged on the back and the side wall near the chimney. The back window lintel was gone and was replaced with oak.

**Repairing the cob skin**
The damaged cob was replaced with cob blocks. The idea is to get the structure ready for the roof so once the first 3 jobs are done we can put a timber wall plate to hold the roof timbers.

![Image of cob damaged near chimney](image)

**The roof**
The timber wall plate runs on the outside edge of the cob wall. All the structures for the roof are off the timber wall plate, so everything underneath has to be secure and sound to put the roof on. It needed all new rafters across the back of the house. The best pitch is 47° which is just right to shed water off the thatch.

All the ceiling joists had to be replaced. The rafters are braced by ceiling joists but the front ceiling had gone and the back ceiling had rotted because of the rotten cob and in some areas, the base coat cob was so far back that water was running down the inside of the walls. So once the roof was done and the ceilings in place to stop the outward splay of the walls, I could start thatching!

**Thatching**
Normally I would scaffold when I needed it and cover with tarpaulin but there was scaffolding everywhere. I remember the first bundle of thatch, threading my way from front to back across scaffolding and stepping over braces. I started thatching next to the new cob on the left hand side, then all the way round. A whole bale is ¼ tonne and 100 bundles to a bale. It took 11 bales for the house and 9 bales for next door, 20 bales or 5 tonnes altogether then 2 tonnes of wheat reed for the ridge. (Hilary points out that she carried a considerable tonnage of that reed!)

I redid all of the thatch from the new cob on the left hand side round the back and down the right hand side. Then I put up scaffolding to do Ted’s roof. It was an opportunity not to be missed as you can blend the two together. I thatched all of Ted’s then the front of ours.
When it was raining too hard, I put in the first floor and the windows. Dave Chapple made all the windows double glazed and approved by Listings. He was really helpful with advice and supplied everything we needed.

**Ridging**
When I got to the top lane (top line of reeds), I could take the scaffold enclosure down to ridge it, making it watertight. You map the pattern out for the block ridge to fit in definite places on the roof. They are all traditional patterns but the template is mine. Other thatchers have theirs and we know each other by our pattern. In Hampshire they are very angular, while in Devon they are more rounded.

**Redressing:** When the ridge is done you go over the whole coat work again, clean down and redress. When you put it up you are working over where you’ve been, so there will be foot marks and boot marks, so you go back and make it smooth. To dress it you swing a legget, (a plate on a handle), that knocks the reed back so it is smooth. You start at the bottom and work up, walk up the ladder and work about 1 metre to the right, move the ladder …

**Finished** The day I finished it was BRILLIANT. It was a great relief for everyone when the scaffolding came down. All the neighbours have been really helpful. So next will be the doors and interior - a year and counting.

Ian and Hilary Bostridge

---

Strangely fitting 1851 Census: William Bulled and his son William lived in this house. They were both thatchers.

*(The title is how I envisaged it from the very first day. Carole Campbell)*
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Congratulations on
The Baptism of
Phoebe, Isabel, Megan and Oscar Pennell
Ryan, Brandon, Casey, Aimee-Louise and Sky Chapman

Welcome to the village
Peter & Andrea Court
Peter & Carol Beal

Rest-a-While  GOOD NEWS The Rest a While is open again and we offer a warm welcome to you all when you call in for a chat along with your cuppa. Our grateful thanks go to the Methodist Chapel for allowing us to meet up there while we cleared up after the water came in, to all our helpers for carrying on with the rota and to those that helped us with the cleaning so we could re open. See you all soon. Val

❖ Open daily Monday to Saturday 10-12

Ofsted Inspection: At the end of November South Molton and Oakmoor Children’s Centres were inspected by Ofsted, with our overall effectiveness rated as Good. Thank you to all the parents and carers who spoke to the inspectors and helped us achieve this excellent result.

Changes to the Health Visiting Service in Witheridge
The Child Health Clinic will now operate at Oakmoor Children’s Centre in Witheridge on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month between 10.00 and 11.30.

Stay and Play will continue to run weekly from 9.30 – 11.30.
The Health Visiting team provide ante-natal visits, new birth visits and health and development checks as well as information and support.
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Community News

Witheridge School  The Disco raised £97 for Children in Need and the ‘Christmas Jumper Day’ raised £74 for Save the Children. The PTFA Christmas Fayre raised £518 for school funds of which Mr Radley and Class 4 raised £80 with their games.

Lighting the Christmas Tree & Santa organised by SJF committee

New people at the Newsagent: Peter & Andrea Court took over in November from Brian who retired after running the shop for 25 years.

To My Witheridge Customers
Thank you for making the last 15 years really great. Unfortunately I am leaving the Witheridge delivery due to changes within our Tiverton Office, Hope to see you again soon.

Sandy

Witheridge Preschool raised £181 from the Jumble Sale and £157 from Santa’s Sleigh round the village. Thank you to all who kindly donated.

E Worlington School ‘Onesies for a Day’ raised £148 for Children in Need and the Christmas Jumper Day raised £41 for Save the Children.
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St John’s Fayre 21st June 2014

Preparations for this year’s Fayre are well underway, with a full schedule of events planned, including the Grand Parade and the funfair. There will, as usual, be lots of activities in the Parish Hall field, including the dog show, culminating in the evening with a free gig in the marquee. Go to our website for the latest news: www.stjohnsfayre.btck.co.uk

We welcome stallholders (especially from village organisations). Previous participants will shortly receive a booking form.

We need a few extra members to join our committee. Phone 861304 or 860557 if you can volunteer to help organise the Fayre and/or help on the day. We also need to raise funds to keep the Fayre going. Please join us for a lively evening of BINGO. Cassandra Yabsley, Chair

✈️ Sat 1st March BINGO Parish Hall 7:30pm
✈️ Meetings Th 27 Feb & Th 20 March P. Hall Meeting Room 7:30pm

World War One Centenary

Do you know anything about these people?
A. Bodley  H. Boundy  E.F. Burridge
P. Card  F.G. Crooke  C.H. Facey  W.R.E Facey
W.H Ford  H. Hill  F.A. Kingdom  C. Matthews
S.W.P Partridge  H. Phillips  A. Roberts  J. Rowcliffe
S.R Selley  J. Tarr

These are the names of the World War 1 servicemen who lived in Witheridge and who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Their names are inscribed on the War Memorial outside our Church. In August 2014, it will be 100 years since the outbreak of World War 1. We hope to commemorate that day by holding an exhibition to include local memorabilia, photographs, postcards and medals.

With the help of the local school, we are also going to research all the names on the Memorial. Please get in touch if you are related, or know someone who is, or have information that may help us. Sheila Plummer, Royal British Legion 860298

The Witheridge Branch of Cancer Research UK has now disbanded. The House to House Collection and the emptying of collection boxes in retail outlets has now been passed to the South Molton Cancer Research UK committee.

We would like to thank the members of our group and the army of collectors who have raised several thousand pounds over the years. George & Angela Pearce
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I started climbing because of my big brother John. I couldn’t wait to turn 7 to join the Youth Climbing Squad at The Mill in South Molton (now Rock and Rapid).

My first instructors were incredibly inspirational and two are still my coaches. Right from the start I learnt the basics of knots, belaying and climbing techniques for the National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme (NICAS) qualifications. NICAS ensures you learn to climb to a safe and high standard.

I have NICAS levels 1, 2, 3 and am working on level 4. How quickly you progress depends on you. There is no tight schedule. A climb is graded level 2-9 according to difficulty. I took only a few months to qualify for levels 1-3 but Level 4 is taking longer as you have to improve by 2 climb grades. For me that’s from grade 6/7 climbs to grade 8/9.

Top roping: a rope hangs from the highest point. You tie in on one end and the belayer ties in on the other end. The belayer is responsible for taking the rope in so it’s neither too slack, nor so tight it inhibits climbing. They secure the rope if you fall off the wall and pay it out to descend. The top rope ensures you don’t fall too far if you come off the wall. I have now moved from top roping to lead climbing.

**Lead climbing** means you clip the rope in as you climb. If you fall between clips then you fall further. It is far more challenging and I love it.

**The Quay Squad:** I was lucky to be invited to join the Quay Squad at The Quay, Exeter. They train people who are dedicated to climbing and who have been recognised for their climbing ability. I train 3 or 4 times a week when I’m doing competitions but you can climb just for fun or fitness.

**Where can people learn to climb?** There are centres in the south West in Exeter, Plymouth, Dartmoor, South Molton, Gloucester and Bristol.

**The Quay Climbing Centre** 01392 426 850 or www.quayclimbingcentre.co.uk They offer taster sessions and you can join NICAS and get a training folder. They also have Clip and Climb, which is an easier version of Sport Climbing with lots of quirky climbs. If you aren’t keen on heights, try bouldering. This offers a challenge without the ropes and fewer holds.

**What do I need?** You can start at Quay without equipment as they will lend shoes and harness as part of a youth course. I started with the centre’s
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equipment then saved up for my own. A harness is about £50 and shoes £35.

**Competitions** In my first Open Lead competition I came 4th. It was the first time I had competed against adults and I was very nervous. The great thing is you climb against your personal best and everyone is supportive. My friends’ cheers when I reached the top of a difficult 7b climb, made me push myself further.

I have competed in the British Youth Climbing Series and represented the South West three years running. I have won and been placed in several competitions and love representing Devon nationally.

Competition climbing is tough and sport climbing is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. It is physically and mentally demanding. Route reading is every bit as important as agility and strength.

**Outdoor Climbing:** I’ve done some routes on Hartland and Dartmoor. The techniques are the same, but the conditions are very different. The rock can be slippery and it’s often cold and rainy.

**Injuries:** I have picked up a few injuries, but that is part of trying hard. You try to avoid injuries by pacing yourself and by making sure you develop muscle pairs equally. You are more likely to injure yourself where one strong muscle is working opposite a weak muscle. Training days with the British team and the Squad teach you other things to look out for. You should always take it easier if you are in a growth spurt as the joints loosen up and are vulnerable to injury. It takes discipline to be sensible and rest between competitions.

**Why sport climbing?** It’s not just a competition. I love the friends I have made all over the country through climbing and how strong and confident my climbing has made me.

Climbing is a great sport, but if climbing doesn’t appeal, try another sport. Doing something with determination makes you stronger as a person and surer of your own abilities. **Ann Stone**
What would you like to do in the Parish Hall

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Police Report

**Speed survey:** We will be conducting another speed survey by the Fire station with the Primary School. The Speed results from that day will be given to the Parish Council at their next meeting. It gives a chance for school children to use police equipment and if people are speeding we, (the Police), will pull the vehicle over and the children will ask the driver questions.

This helps to educate motorists and most important, it teaches the children about the hazards on the road and how to stay safe. This is purely an educational exercise and members of the public are more than welcome to join in and ask us questions.

To find out more please contact the South Molton Police Station or ask the staff at the Primary school when the event will be. **PCSO Jerzy Rozputynski (Yorkie)**

**Parish Hall**

The Parish Hall has been redecorated and looks wonderful. Thanks to Pete and his team for a brilliant job. We just need to get the new curtains and the interior make over will be complete.

We are still aiming to put up a football wall at the far end of the Hall, but the costings for the netball court are fairly daunting and there just doesn’t seem to be enough enthusiasm in the village to warrant the expense. So for now, the idea has been shelved.

**March 21st** Sheelanagig are playing in the Hall. They are a brilliant band and well known on the festival circuit. Look out for the posters around the village.

**Car Boot Sales:** last Sunday Feb, April, June, Aug & October. Clare Spicer

**DOG MESS AGAIN** by Gill Knight

Walking my dog around the village this morning, I was thoroughly ashamed of the amount of dog faeces everywhere. It was all large dogs, huge piles- you couldn’t not notice it. In the alleyway by the shop, there was a pile right in the middle of the path and along the grass next to the children’s play area, almost the whole verge had dog poo. Another dog owner said when she asked an adult male to pick up after his dog, he gave her a mouthful of abuse then said ‘It’s not my dog, it’s my friend’s.’

As a Witheridge resident I don’t want to have to look at this? Do you? If you are walking a dog, **you** pick up.

*Editor: Best Kept Village competition report 2012 says ‘little evidence of litter or dog poo’. May or January- NO excuses.*
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On September 30th 2013 James Yabsley was born 9½ weeks premature. He was delivered weighing just 3lb 3oz (quite a good weight for his gestation) and was otherwise thought to be well. It very soon transpired that our sweet little boy was starting on a life fighting journey.

After suffering breathing problems a routine x-ray showed that James had a right sided CDH (only 20% of CDH are on the right).

Richard and I were not aware of this condition so it all came as a very big shock. James was transferred to Plymouth Hospital as he needed a higher level of care and surgery which he would need to go to Bristol for. Once at Plymouth James received a very high level of care. We couldn’t have asked for a better team and neonatologist for our son. Richard and I barely left his side and got very involved with what was going on and how he responded to things. Children with CDH break so many of the standard rules when it comes to care. Unfortunately for James he lost his battle on day 8 of his little life, in my arms with Richard at my side.

**What is a CDH?** A CDH is a hole in the diaphragm which occurs when the diaphragm fails to form correctly. It happens in about 1 in 2500 live births. The hole in the diaphragm allows the abdominal organs to move (herniate) into the chest cavity which can affect the development of the baby’s lungs and heart.

Over 80% of hernias are on the left side and depending on the size of the hole, can allow varying amounts of the bowel, stomach, spleen and liver to move into the chest. In right sided hernias, it is usually only the large bowel and/or liver.

It can be difficult to diagnose a CDH and confirm which organs are involved until after the baby is born. Once the baby’s breathing and heart function is stable, an operation is needed to repair the hole.

The survival rate for babies with a CDH is currently 50% but each case is different and some babies with extremely good prospects before birth fail to do well and some with a poor outlook will do extremely well.

**Cassandra Yabsley**

Your help is needed to fund research and support families affected by CHD

**CDH Fundraising Event**

Tea, Coffee, Cake, Sandwiches, Raffle, Jumble, Children’s Fun Corner

**SAT 29th March 10am-2pm**

Witheridge Parish Hall
War over Witheridge

On the 23rd of June 1942 when Britain had been at war for nearly 3 years, a young Gordy Pyne, Winston Maunder and several others were working in a field alongside North Street when they heard the rat-a-tat-tat of machine gunfire.

Looking up they saw the end of a dogfight, with one plane spiralling out of control and its pilot dangling from his parachute. Little did they realise that they had just witnessed one the most famous aerial incidents of the war.

One of the planes was a new variant of the Focke-Wulf 190 whose improved performance was of such great concern to the RAF that they were desperate to get their hands on one to learn its secrets. They were even planning a commando raid on an airfield in France to steal one. The Luftwaffe didn’t want one to fall into the hands of the allies and there were orders from Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering which stated ‘No Focke-Wulf fighter was to cross the Channel and must turn back to France on reaching half-way’.

On this particular day, the German pilot Armin Faber and his squadron were sent to intercept a group of British bombers when he came under attack from a Spitfire flown by Czech pilot Frantisek Trejtnar.

The dogfight lasted some time, with Trejtnar forcing Faber further and further north until they found themselves above Witheridge. Here, Faber had the sun behind him and finally got the better of Trejtnar. His plane crashed just outside of Black Dog but he bailed out and parachuted to earth, breaking his leg on landing.

At first he was mistaken for a German by the pitchfork brandishing farmers, but when he persuaded them that he was Czech, they quickly fashioned a gate into a stretcher and carried him to the road.

Meanwhile Faber must have become disorientated and knowing that he was running short of fuel, he made an unbelievable error. He mistook the Bristol Channel for the English Channel and flew north then, thinking he was
over France, he landed at Pembrey airfield in South Wales, even giving a victory role before he touched down! Faber must have been a gentleman of the old school. When he heard that his opponent was in Exeter hospital, he sent him his regards and best wishes on his recovery and on the night of his capture, there was a party in the Officers’ Mess to which he was invited!

However, the RAF now had its prize and when they put the F190 through its paces they realised just how good it was and hastened the introduction of the new Spitfire Mark 9.

The story doesn’t end there. Faber was sent to a prisoner of war camp in Canada where he somehow convinced the authorities that he was suffering from epilepsy and in 1944 he was repatriated on health grounds. On his return to Germany he was promoted and once again became a front line fighter pilot. Both Trejtnar and Faber survived the war. Today for £100, you can buy a model of Faber’s 190 with a little model Faber to go with it. Now that’s what I call fame.

**Not the only incident in Witheridge**

In the Battle of Britain, a Bristol Blenheim night fighter on patrol crashed at Bradford and all 3 crew were killed. A German fighter plane was shot down near Gidley Cross. One of the crew was killed and the other was given breakfast by a local farmer!

A young evacuee called Wally Sullivan was returning to the village having just delivered the milk, when he heard the noise of a spluttering engine. The plane, which he identified as a Lysander, came down in a field by Stretchdown. The pilot asked him to guard the plane while he made a phone call and a transporter quickly arrived and took it away. The Lysander was often used by SOE to land agents in occupied Europe. Had he just returned from dropping someone off in France? It would be nice to think that he had.

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Charity Knitting Group

We knitted hats, scarves and gloves for the Salvation Army for their Christmas care boxes. These were gratefully received. Hats were also knitted for soldiers in Afghanistan, who wear them off duty. The Apostleship of the Sea (a welfare agency of the Catholic Church offering practical and pastoral help to seafarers who often work in difficult and dangerous conditions. They welcomed with thanks the hats we knitted for them.

Jan Ragless thanked us for the blankets knitted for the people in the villages in Moldova. Knitting for the premature babies is ongoing. Thank you to those who have given us yarn and to the ladies whose work blesses the lives of others.

Alternate Thursdays in The Rest-a-While 2-4pm  

Eileen

Devon’s Best Kept Village Competition 2014

Competition Judges Needed

• No experience of judging necessary.
• Work with a partner and choose the area.
• Travel expenses paid
• Judging in April/May/June

March 18th 1/2 day Training Workshop  Chudleigh Town Hall
Contact: Diana Moyse  Devon Best Kept Village Organiser
Tel: 01626 853021  Email:diana@moyse.org.uk

Witheridge Community Composting

Green garden waste 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 collect at £1.00 per bag.

Volunteers still needed  We meet on Mondays and Thursdays 9:00 -12:00.

You need to be fairly fit, but most of us are in our late 60’s, some in their 80's and still going! Tools and training provided plus coffee and sometimes cake!

For more information or to order compost phone       Greg Henderson 860819

❖ Green Garden Waste Collections resume on THURSDAY 20th March

Charity Knitting Group

We knitted hats, scarves and gloves for the Salvation Army for their Christmas care boxes. These were gratefully received. Hats were also knitted for soldiers in Afghanistan, who wear them off duty. The Apostleship of the Sea (a welfare agency of the Catholic Church offering practical and pastoral help to seafarers who often work in difficult and dangerous conditions. They welcomed with thanks the hats we knitted for them.

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❖ Alternate Thursdays in The Rest-a-While 2-4pm  

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**Gardening Club**

Our meetings have started again with an excellent talk by Gill Hazell about Gladioli. Our first meeting was well attended but new members are very welcome. Membership is £5 a year.

We have shows in March/April and August, a plant sale in May and an annual outing.

Schedules for the shows are available at the Garden Club meeting, the Newsagent and Post Office. You don’t need to be a gardening expert, give it a try. To enter the shows, contact Jean Bryant *(contact number see p64)*

**Witheridge Ladies’ Club**

In December we had an enjoyable time at the Thelbridge Inn for our Christmas lunch.

Our January speaker was Helen Fonnereau who gave an informative talk and demonstration on leaded glass and copper foiling. Helen showed us examples of her work and we were able to look at her many books on the subject. She invites commissions and is to be found at Cove Garden Nursery 01398 331946. 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.

**See our separate list of speakers for the rest of the year.**

\[2nd Tuesday in the month. Parish Hall 2 - 4 pm\]

-- Coral Simmonds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Witheridge Ladies’ Club</th>
<th>Garden Club</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 11 Helping with Alzheimer’s</td>
<td>Feb 26 Propagation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8 Foodbank</td>
<td>March 26 Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13 ‘The Greyhounds’ Story</td>
<td>April 5 SPRING SHOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10 Summer outing (TBA)</td>
<td>April 30 Herbs in Containers/ Baskets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8 A Journey Round Britain</td>
<td>May 10 Annual Outing - Malvern Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 12 Annual Cream Tea &amp; Stalls</td>
<td>May 17 PLANT SALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9 The Perfect Fit</td>
<td>May 28 Evening Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14 A Policeman’s Lot</td>
<td>July 30 Gardening Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11 Quickes Cheese Farm &amp; Dairy</td>
<td>Aug 9 SUMMER SHOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 9 Christmas Luncheon.</td>
<td>Sept 24 Houseplants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 29 Introduction to Bonsai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 27 AGM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**Monday Club**  Are you over 60 years of age? Would you like to join our young Monday Club? We meet every other week, sometimes in the Rest-a-While and other times, we have a coach outing. We are a very friendly group and would welcome new members. At the moment we have a waiting list to join so put your name down for your place.  

**Contact Val 860709.**

**Bingo at The Firs**  
We need **NEW FACES**. Bingo at The Firs is open to EVERYONE and you will get a warm welcome. We have an assortment of prizes as well as a raffle.  
Look for the Bingo information board outside the Firs which will give you the time of the next meeting.  

* Alt.Tuesdays 7:30pm at The Firs Care Home.  

**The Witheridge Art Group**  
We are a happy band of like minded people who find it enjoyable to spend an evening drawing or painting, 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 had a lovely time at our Christmas Dinner at the Thelbridge Cross Inn.  
We charge just enough to cover expenses: £5 per year membership, and £1.50 a week subs. We have facilities for the disabled. Please come along.  

* Wednesdays Parish Hall Committee Room 7:30pm  

**Witheridge Allotment Society**  
The seed catalogues have been read, (several times), seeds ordered and plans made. The seed potatoes are chitting, the propagators dusted off and first seeds started. Oh, the joy of seeing the first green shoots appearing.  
After the wettest winter on record, we can only hope for a good spring and an even better summer. Happy gardening.  
To go on the waiting list for an allotment please contact 861650.  

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The Bell Ringers, St John the Baptist Church Witheridge

The Bell Ringers meet every Friday evening at 7:15pm for 7:30pm in the Belfry.

The Little Dart Singers

We are singing group based in Witheridge. To be able to read music is not a requirement, just a love of singing. Our main commitment is to Witheridge Parish Church on the 1st Sunday of the month. We occasionally sing with other local churches. On the 8th March several members of the group will be taking part in the service at St Andrew’s, Tiverton.

MORE VOICES NEEDED.

❖ Practice Tuesdays  7:20pm
Witheridge Parish Church  John Harris

Do YOU live on your own?

Do you
• like fresh home cooked food
• like a rest from cooking
• like someone to talk to

Are YOU free at lunch time on the 1st Tuesday of each month?

If you answered ‘YES’ you might enjoy the

United Churches Luncheon Club
Transport is available if required. Contact Annis 860398, Val 860709 or Yvonne 860012

We hope to see some new faces and look forward to meeting you.

Witheridge Explorers

Explorers aim to help children make sense of the Bible through stories and activities.

More helpers are always welcome.  Heather 860744

❖  1st & 3rd Sunday  Church Rooms  9:30am

Explorers’ Christmas

On the 4th Sunday of Advent, the bells were ringing as we entered the church with our daughter and grandson but this was no ordinary service as the church was full of children; some running around while others rehearsed their roles. The Explorers played a major part in the service and the readings could be heard clearly.

Near the end of the service, a prayer was read while the congregation were invited to join the children round the crib and to take a strip of fabric to line a crib ready for the coming of the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

The atmosphere was relaxed as the children could walk around, watch or take part so parents and grandparents could enjoy the service. It was wonderful how interested even the very young were in what was taking place which added to the joy of the occasion. Everyone made us feel welcome. Thank you.  Anne Ellson
St John the Baptist Parish Church

We live in a fast moving frenzy of activity, always starting the next task before we finish the current one and certainly without a pause to reflect, take stock or even breathe. We are constantly doing two or more things at the same time. I am aware that stress goes to my shoulders as they can become knotted. We need to find ways of releasing this stress and relaxing from time to time. I thought I would share the Knot Prayer with you.

Dear God

Please untie the knots in my mind, my heart and my life.
Remove the have nots, the can nots, and the do nots that I have in my mind.
Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.
Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.
And most of all,
I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the ‘am nots’ that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen

I hope you enjoy the new growth of Spring and can take time to release a few knots in your life. May God bless you. Adrian Wells

THE EASTER CONCERT

‘SWEET HARMONY’

The Purcell Singers with Sarah Walker
Director Mark Ford

Wednesday 16th April at 7.00 pm

St John the Baptist Church, Witheridge

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Methodist Chapel
Minister Rev Jonathan Budd
01363 877281 email thebudds@cantab.net

Sunday services are at 11am unless it is a Churches Together service. Information for these will be on the notice boards at the Chapel and at St John's.

Fri. April 4th Sankey Evening with supper to follow 7:30pm
Wed. May 14th Cream Tea, Craft & Bric a Brac 2.30 – 4pm

Women's Fellowship Meets on the first Thursday of each month from March until December. The first meeting is on Tues March 6th: Speaker Mrs Janet Welch. All are welcome.

St John the Baptist Parish Church Rev Adrian Wells
Morning Worship and Communion Services start at 9:30am

Sa March 1 Mad March Sale, Church Rooms 10-12
Tu March 4 United Churches Luncheon Club, Parish Hall
W March 5 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service, Parish Church 7:00pm
Fri March 7 Safari Supper Contact Diana 840252
Sun Mar 30 Churches Together Mothering Sunday Family Service 9:30am
Tu April 1 United Churches Luncheon Club, Parish Hall
Sun April 13 Palm Sunday Service E.Worlington processing to Parish Church 10:45
Mon April 14 PCC Annual General Meeting, Church Rooms 7:30pm
Wed April 16 Easter Concert, Parish Church 7:00pm
Thur April 17 Maundy Thursday Passover Meal & Communion Parish Church TBA
Fri April 18 Good Friday Walk of Witness from Parish Church 9:30am
Fri April 18 Meditation on the Cross Parish Church 2-3pm
Sa April 19 Service to build Easter Garden + Light the 1st fire of Easter TBA
Sun April 20 Easter Sunday Dawn Service and breakfast Venue TBA 6:15am
Sat April 26 Churchyard Working Group. Tidying the Churchyard All welcome
Tues May 6 United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall

Note: All dates are subject to change, please check church notice board.

Fundraising
Witheridge Church: The Christmas market in the Church Rooms raised £246 and the stall at the Christmas market in the Parish Hall stall raised £75.
Theelbridge Church: Bingo raised £193.70, the Service of Light raised £242 of which £142 was donated Hospiscare and £100 to the British Legion.
2013 A Year in Pictures
Ofsted Report 2013

Just before Christmas the School was visited by Ofsted and once again recognised as Good. This is quite an achievement as the bar has been raised several times since the School’s previous inspection of October 2010.

The key points from the report were:

- All groups of pupils achieve well. Attainment is rising in both key stages as a result of faster progress in all subjects.
- Most pupils are making good progress in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Pupils benefit from teaching that is consistently good. Teachers are particularly effective at questioning pupils to develop their understanding and at devising learning activities that capture pupils’ interest.
- Reading is taught well so that most pupils are making strong progress. Pupils quickly become fluent readers and develop a keen love of books.
- Pupils are motivated in their lessons and enjoy their learning. They behave well and feel safe because the school provides a secure learning environment.
- Leadership and management are good. The very effective Headteacher has taken firm steps to improve the quality of teaching through well thought out training and the rigorous monitoring of teachers’ work.
- Well informed governors give good levels of support and challenge to the school’s leaders. They have a clear view of how well the school is performing and manage the School’s finances effectively.

The full report is on the school website www.witheridge.devon.sch.uk

Hard copies are available on request. We should not underestimate the judgement of Good and the many positives in the report. A lot of work has gone into achieving this and much credit should be given to the School’s hard-working staff, the governors and the children.

Steve Duncan Headmaster

Mr Duncan  After joining Witheridge C. of E. Primary School almost eleven years ago in 2003, Mr Duncan has been offered a job at a larger primary school in Somerset, starting this September. He will remain with us until the end of the summer term and help to ensure a smooth transition for the autumn term. The Governors hope to appoint by Easter or early in the summer term.
Class 3
Finding out about Forces

The highlight seemed to be when they were given some apparatus and given 5 minutes to play! Education doesn’t stop there though. They then had to tell us what they had found out and try to explain it. Some brilliant scientific thinking came out of ‘playing.’ Mrs Halsey & Mrs Campbell

Magnets If you hovered the magnet over the paper clips, the paper clips jump up to the magnet and if you put the same colour ends together, they push away.

Magnetic materials We tried lots of things in the classroom. The ones made of metal were magnetic (iron and steel) but not all metals were magnetic. It was surprising when the magnets stuck to the pegs in the cloakroom. The most fun thing about magnets was you found materials that you thought would attract the magnet but didn’t.

Forces We tried out push, pull, twist forces. The most fun was push because it moved the car the furthest. Twist made me think about it the most because there was less things that you twist compared to things that you push and pull.

To get the car to move without touching it, we used the ramp, one group lifted the table up and tilted it and several of us blew on it.

Friction We found that the car went further when it came off the ramp onto the bin liner because the plastic bag is smooth. When it ran onto carpet it didn’t move as far because the carpet is bumpy and provided grip for the car. We found out that the ramp can’t be too steep or have any gaps in it for the car to go down it smoothly.

Why does a road surface need to be a bit bumpy? So the car tyres can grip onto it.
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Sessions from 8am – 6pm, open to ALL children aged 2-11 yrs
April 8th, 9th, 10th and 15th, 16th, 17th

PRICES - £15 for up to five hours or £25 for a full day (ie: over five hours)

Contact Paula Hallett : 01884 861784
wpssupervisor@hotmail.co.uk

Further details can be found at:
www.witheridgepreschool.btck.co.uk

Reg Charity: 1027702
November: The Rugby Team watched England v Argentina on their annual trip to Twickenham. (Aaron Ayres. It was amazing. The stadium was huge). The Uganda Trip Fundraising to redecorate Busu School reached £1,571.

December: KS4 presentation evening: the Cup for Citizenship was awarded to Adam Clewer. Year 8 saw Glynebourne’s opera ‘Hansel and Gretel’ at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth and Year 9 students worked with trainee teachers from Exeter University. (Peter Westcott- we learned a lot about land use).

January: N. Devon Badminton Finals Chulmleigh will be in the finals of at least 3 of the 4 categories. New Buildings- ground floor and roof complete, first floor, underfloor heating and plumbing in progress.

Witheridge Pre-School
The Autumn term flew past culminating in a hectic couple of weeks with very excited children. They busied themselves preparing gifts for parents and loved ones whilst learning about the Nativity story and why we give gifts and celebrate Christmas. The whole group gave a very well received performance of the Nativity in a packed school hall. Many thanks to all who kindly donated to the Christmas Sleigh when we toured the village.
This term we are looking forward to learning about a whole range of animals, domestic, native, wild and fantasy! Hopefully the weather will be kind enough to let us go in search of some locally.

Paula Hallett

East Worlington Pre-School We are now part of the Partnership Foundation Stage Unit (PFSU) at the School. We are enjoying the benefits of a larger, stimulating space shared with the Foundation Stage children and sharing the resources and activities both indoors and out. The children can put on their boots and waterproofs and learn outside in all weathers. Since January we have been learning about ‘Our World’ and just today we celebrated Chinese New Year with food tasting and dragon dancing. Visit our website or phone 861563
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**Walk and Talk** We started walking again in Mid January after the Christmas break. We try to do about 5 miles, weather permitting. We are a small band of 4 regulars at the moment and would really welcome new walkers. Come along any Wednesday and give it a try. Norah McTeague

- **Walk & Talk** Wednesdays. Meet outside Witheridge Parish Hall 10am

**WITHart**

One one of the beauties of the Art Club is that once you sit at your easel, the world can be whatever you want it to be and you can be anywhere in that world. This painting is of the Rockies. The photo was taken during a driving trip from Winnipeg to Vancouver in September and painted in December.

At our last meeting, I was surprised at the variety of subjects our members are working on. There were a couple of summer cottages, a bouquet of flowers, a family portrait and a bird of prey, to name just a few. So you can see that being a member of WITHart can ease the winter blues. If you feel like escaping the winter blues for a couple of hours, come and find out more.

- **Mondays 2-4pm Witheridge Parish Hall** Roy Houghten

---

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Best Kept Village in DEVON Competition Report Sept 2013
Small village category: **Witheridge Final Mark 89**

**Positives:** On the whole Witheridge is a clean and well kept village with little evidence of litter or dog fouling. Private properties and gardens are well maintained, clean and tidy. The bus shelters, phone box, public open spaces and car parking areas are clean and generally well maintained. The planters around The Square improve the look of the village centre and those provided by commercial premises are well watered. The pub looks well cared for as does the Newsagent and village shop which has a good range of produce and extended opening hours. The Primary School grounds are attractively planted with shrubs and trees. The churchyard is in good condition and the grass is well cut round the graves and benches well positioned. The War Memorial is in good order. The equipment in play areas is varied, clean and safe. Amenities and footpaths are well signposted and well looked after. Noticeboards are up to date and show up-coming events. The allotments are well cared for. The Industrial Estate is clean and tidy. The Little Dart River is very clean and clearly full of life. Holiday cottages are attractive, well signed and in a pleasant location.

**Community spirit thrives here.** Several groups cater for older members of the community and St John’s Fayre and the Tractor Push bring all ages together to have fun. A Community Composting scheme is run by the village. The Sports Club caters for children and young people and is well used. The Preschool offers out of school hours amenities. The village website is very informative and Witheridge Voice Online gives a clear view of activities in the village as well as local services.

**Negatives:** The telephone box needs a coat of paint, the Parish Notices are faded and the glass needs cleaning. The Two Moors Way sign is obscured by the bus shelter. The map needs the compass direction and the location of the allotments. The Village Hall looks drab. The building on the main road with boarded up windows looks ugly. In the churchyard several plants were dead or looked scruffy.

**Witheridge is a strong contender but these areas need a bit more effort:** Brightening up of the village hall and environs; attention to the Parish noticeboard and the board at the bus stop; clearer instructions for using the toilets; improvements to the map and to the Two Moors Way sign and attention to the planters in the churchyard. The competition is won by attention to small details.
Situated on beautiful Witheridge Moor, we offer a range of horse riding activities, such as pony days, off road hacks, and lessons for children age 5 and over. Beginners, novice and experienced riders welcome! Our lessons are given by experienced and qualified instructors. Witheridge Moor Livery and Riding School is licensed by North Devon Council. Please phone Lisa for more details and bookings.

Witheridge Moor Livery & Riding School

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Tel: 01884 861624
www.witheridgemoorlivery.co.uk
The Mystery of the Firs

Today we know the Firs as a residential care home, but for many years it was a doctor’s home and surgery. Older villagers remember it being surrounded by fir trees. It was built about 1902 and bought by Dr Richard Leach. It is a distinctive building being an example of the Arts and Crafts style and it must have caused quite a stir in the village when it was built. It first appeared on the 1905 O.S. map, but it was called The Bungalow and it retained that name on all subsequent maps until 1971 when it was at last shown as The Firs.

It’s likely that Dr Leach (being the first owner) named it, as he put it as his address on his marriage certificate in 1904. The fir trees were planted later. So why was it originally called The Bungalow and why did it keep that name on the maps when it was always known in the village as The Firs?

Logic dictates that it was called The Bungalow because that’s what it was and that it was either extended upwards or perhaps knocked down and rebuilt. That quandary was soon resolved when my wife suggested that perhaps the word had a different meaning in those days and of course it did. The term comes from a Gujarati word for a single story building, but the British in India adopted it to describe a substantial detached building.

That meaning became popular in Britain in the latter part of the 19th century. The second part of the mystery is also simple. When it was built and the details sent to the Local Authority, it was called The Bungalow and it kept that name on their list until 1969/70, when it was eventually changed to the Firs. Mystery solved!

However when doing the research something else interested me. Dr Leach graduated from Oxford University in 1902 and came from a rather affluent and influential family. His father was a high up official in the Chancery Courts of Law, while his Great Uncle, apart from being a judge, had been an MP, then Chancellor of the Duchy of Cornwall, then Vice-Chancellor of the High Court of England and confidential adviser to George IV.

Mrs. Leach’s father was a ‘gentleman of independent means’ and was one of the founder members of the Automobile Association. In 1903 he founded Fiat Ltd UK and drove in the world’s first motor track race at Brooklands in 1907.

So why did the good doctor and wife decide to live in sleepy old Witheridge? Perhaps that is the biggest mystery of all.

Whatever the reason, they were here until 1907, when they moved across to Suffolk and the practice was taken over by Dr. Archibald Brown. Another story......

Jim Campbell

Map Crown Copyright
**Witheridge Sports Club**

Weekly opening times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00 – 11.00 (skittles at home)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.00 – 11.00</td>
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<td>Wed</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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</tbody>
</table>

**Witheridge AFC**

This season is likely to be the best to date for Witheridge Football Club. The 1st Team look on course for their best ever finish in the League, having spent many a week at the top of the table over the course of the season. They are through to the semi finals of the St Luke’s Challenge Cup against Tiverton Town after beating Torquay Utd 2-0 in the 1/4 finals. Hopefully we are now looking forward to the Final. Things are going just as well for our Reserve side. They too find themselves fighting it out at the top end of the table. There is still a lot of football to be played between now and May so why not come over and support both our sides in what could be an exciting end to the season for both teams. **Website** [www.witheridgefc.co.uk](http://www.witheridgefc.co.uk)  **Twitter** @WitheridgeAFC  
**Facebook** Witheridge Football Club  
**Billy Roberts**

Witheridge AFC’s charity weekend in aid of Hospiscare ‘Caring in Devon’ included a Race Night with Mole Avon and a football match against Exeter City Legends and raised £1976.

---

**Table Tennis**  Come and join our friendly small group for adults aged 16 or over. 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, are most welcome.  
**Friday 11:00 - 12:00 in Parish Hall**  
**Greg Henderson**

**Badminton**  The Badminton Club meets in the Parish Hall on **Mondays from 2-3pm**, £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 twice a week throughout the year. Club shoes and woods are available for those who have not played before. The first three evenings are free, then a green fee of £2.50 per session and a subscription of £20.00 per year.

Short mat bowls is open to residents of Witheridge and surrounding villages. Children over 10 and under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

**ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS**

- **Tuesday & Thursday** 7pm for 7:15pm start
  
  Greg Henderson

**Witheridge Golf Society**

The Christmas Trophy was contested at Waterbridge on 4th December for a 9 hole Stableford competition. On the winning team were Chulmleigh residents Terry Rowland, Paul Scales and Mike Williamson. The wooden spoon trophy was won (again!) by Witheridge team Andrew Clark, Norman James and Bob Woodall. New members are always welcome. The format may be varied but the emphasis will still be on a team game.

Contact Andrew Clark 01884 860612 e-mail astonguy@tring92.f2s.com

- **Spring Trophy** Wed 12th March
- **May Trophy** May 14th 18 hole Texas Scrambles

**Tennis**

We look forward to a fun-packed summer of tennis with 1-day tournaments, coffee mornings and coaching for children in the summer term in conjunction with the Primary School. Coaching during the holidays will be available for any child, so please let me know if you are interested.

We hope to further improve the clubhouse and the maintenance of the court and are investigating fundraising to resurface the court and renew the perimeter fence. The subs haven’t changed for 3 years, but sadly we have to increase them this year to £40 pa. The cost of the court for non members is £2.50 per person per hour.

Children under 16 FREE. **Bookings** at the Newsagent 860815

**Contact** Vine Spragg 01363 866033 evelyn.spragg@btinternet.com
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Children’s Activities

Youth Football
The U15s have had a mixed bag of results and sit midway in the League. They are showing a lot of promise so could have a good last 3 months of the season. The U11s won their 1st league game against SAS and narrowly lost 2 other games. Playing time has come to a standstill with all the rain we have had. We are looking for players from 7-11 years old, boy or girl, as sometimes we are playing with no subs. Anyone welcome.

 Fri 17.30 Witheridge Sports Club
Contact Paul Rich 860547

Brownies’ 100th Anniversary
We are doing the Big Brownie Challenge because Brownies are 100 years old this year. We are having a campfire, making celebration cupcakes and finding out about Brownies from another country.

Catherine aged 9 Being a Brownie is an amazing experience. You get to make good friends and meet people you don’t know. My favourite activities are cooking, craft, games and outdoor activities. When you start you might be a bit nervous but as soon as it starts, you will be fine.

Rosie aged 8 I started Brownies a long time ago. My Six is Foxes. I like being a Brownie because we do lots of badges. In the old times the uniform was a dress. Now we wear trousers and a T shirt. The colour is yellow and brown.

Shannon aged 7 I have just started Brownies and I love it because I get to meet new friends. The activities are very exciting. The Brownie promise is ‘I promise that I will do my best to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the Brownie Law.’

Taekwondo
Monday 8-9 Friday 6:30-8pm Tigers Fri 5:30 Witheridge Parish Hall
Nov 2013 Successful students in the assessment and grading.
All About People 4 Ponies

People4Ponies (p4p) is an equine charity based just outside Witheridge which specialises in helping wild and traumatised ponies.

**How did it start?** Paul and Cilla King set up p4p to help a farmer with herd of 53 wild ponies. They grazed his land after he lost all his cows to Foot and Mouth in 2001. By 2003 he was ready to stock and hoped the ponies could be re-homed. Paul developed techniques to work with them using his natural talent and knowledge of horse whispering.

**Who runs P4P?** Faye Stacey took over when Paul and Cilla retired with help from a dedicated group of volunteers (several from Witheridge). No-one receives a salary so all the money raised goes towards looking after the ponies.

**Where do the ponies come from?** The majority were the farmer’s herd from just outside Chulmleigh but we have taken ponies from the RSPCA, re-homed a herd from Dartmoor and helped private owners. We have helped ponies from Exmoor, Dartmoor and Bodmin.

**What is wild and traumatised?** A pony that is wild and completely untouched can be accustomed to people quite quickly but many have had a bad first experience of people. The tradition was to cut parts of their ears out and/or burn them with hot irons. What takes just a few seconds to inflict can take a lifetime to undo.

We tend to get the worst cases. It’s like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and while some ponies recover, others will always question whether a human is trustworthy.

When you are the first person they trust, it’s a huge step forward and very rewarding. We use techniques based on equine body language, time and patience. It’s a balance between pushing boundaries to make progress and not taking the ponies too far out of their comfort zone.

**How do you look after them?** Ponies that we are training, or who have particular health issues, reside at our main base. They have a big yard area, fields with a shelter and a free access barn, so they can choose whether to be in or out of the rain. All our ponies live in a herd.

If they are traumatised or newly arrived, they are only handled by Faye. As trust develops, they start interacting with other volunteers.

Some can live ‘out on loan’ with families across Devon although we still own and home-check them every year.

Some that we can handle, but are too traumatised to re-home, live out on
conservation grazing: one group graze for the Devon Wildlife Trust. They are checked every day then once or twice a year we do a ‘round-up’ to do hoof trimming.

What do they need? They do take a lot of looking after! The volunteers will tell you they spend the majority of their time poo picking, moving fences, or soaking hay.

The ponies are almost permanently on a diet. It’s a balancing act between having the right nutrition, being on a diet and having lots of fibre (such as hay). If their diets are right and they are healthy, that keeps vet visits to a minimum and by keeping them moving over different surfaces, they wear their hooves down so do their own hoof trimming.

We always need to fundraise though to keep up with costs – bedding, feed, wormer, vet bills.

Is there more to p4p?

There is very much more. We are known for our campaigning work for wild ponies. The best thing would be if the ponies were not traumatised in the first place.

In 2010 we were able to stop the ear-notching, tagging and ear cutting of horses. We helped to get hot branding banned in Scotland and our MP Neil Parish supports our campaign to get a ban in England.

The last 3 years we have patrolled the autumn wild pony markets as we discovered that welfare standards at some were extremely poor and we’ve seen huge improvements since then.

We are members of the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare and as such attend Parliament to contribute to discussions of equine welfare and we train the Animal Rescue Unit at our local Fire Service!

Faye

Thank you to the Knights of Witheridge for their donation towards our running costs.

News: www.people4ponies.co.uk.
Or people4ponies@yahoo.co.uk
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Email: sallybainborough@yahoo.co.uk
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Ted’s Farm recipes

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Breakfast

Omelette - fry chilli and cheese, or olive, red pepper and chorizo.

Poached Wilt some spinach. Put eggs on top. Cover in mustard and tomato sauce.

Potato cake - egg, salt, pepper, mashed potato, oats. Mix with milk and fry in olive oil. Top with poached egg.

Fried eggs: on top of toast, ham, cheese, tomato sauce or on a bed of spinach, kale or grilled tomatoes.

Scrambled - classics like smoked fish/cheese. Serve with potato crisps or inside a slice of ham.

Lunch

Cold boiled egg + chick pea salad
chick pea salad - red onion, chick peas, mayonnaise, spring onions, grated cheddar

Cold scrambled egg
smoked trout, black pepper and salad.

Dinner

Souffle
Quiche
Carabana
Egg pasta

Egg fried rice - onions, garlic, cooked rice, anything else you have, fried with an egg added near the end.
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productive kitchen garden.
Come rain or shine, there is always
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Members and under 5s go free.

0 1 8 8 4 2 5 4 6 6 5
nationaltrust.org.uk/knightshayes

Knightshayes
National Trust
The Cows Knew Where They Were Going
By Angela Pearce

My Dad was Winston Mauder and I was born in No 3 Lawn House. Dad’s, Mr Selley’s and Mr Tarr’s cows on occasion met in The Square which would be so full of cows and cow pats that it quite ‘hummed.’

Dad brought his cows up from old market field (now the Industrial Estate) to the back of The Lawn on North Street where our farm was. Here they met Mr Ralph Tarr’s cows coming down North Street on the way to Muxeries while Mr Selley’s cows went the back way to Cannington on West Street and they ALL met in The Square!

Somehow they all went to the right owners and ended up in their own stalls or field. Our cows all knew what stall to go in: they could have done it on their own.

WITHERIDGE YFC

Our club’s 80th anniversary was celebrated with a very entertaining Dinner & Dance. Thank you to guest speaker John Greenslade, H & R Discos and Witheridge Farm Shop who did the catering.

Our annual fun skittles match was good fun even if the Advisory won again! To get us into the Christmas spirit, we headed into Exeter Livestock Centre for our Christmas Ball and yes the farm boys scrub up quite nicely. We raised money at the Carol singing for the National Kidney Foundation and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Now we are into the New Year, we are holding a Skills for Life course in First Aid then our next big thing is the Exe Valley YFC Entertainments! This is always a lot of fun in rehearsals and we feel pleased with what we achieve.

Fundraising: Sat 1st March Charity Dung Sale Witheridge Square 9am-1pm
To come - Quiz night, Disco, Big Breakfast Car Wash Please support us.

❖ 1st & 3rd Monday of month Black Dog village hall 7:30pm  Anna 07972040899
Witheridge Pre-School offers places to 2 -5 yr olds from 9am-3.30pm five days a week.

Breakfast Club 8 – 9am if pre-booked.
Drop-in Breakfast Club 8.30 – 9am – just £1 per day including breakfast.

After School Club 3.30-6pm open to ALL children aged 2-11 yrs.

Holiday Activity Club during the Easter and Summer holidays. Sessions from 8am – 6pm, three days a week.

Contact Paula Hallett on:
01884 861784
wpssupervisor@hotmail.co.uk

Further details can be found at:
www.witheridgepreschool.btck.co.uk

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01884 820839  07766168162
Slips and trips can lead to serious skeletal injury, such as dislocation of the hip or fractures of the femur. These are difficult, if not impossible, to repair in cows weighing over 700kg. Less serious injuries can take time to heal and can require a long time on analgesics and time in the hospital pen.

The cow in the photograph was tipped into the feed trough by another cow that seized the opportunity to win a short battle. Luckily, the farmer noticed quickly and we managed to lift her out before any damage was done. If she had remained there for anything more than a few minutes, she may have been unable to eructate (burp) and would have died of bloat.

Dick Sibley
Welcome to the Mitre Inn, 2 The Square, Witheridge

We have a fabulous cosy log burning fire for those cooler Devon evenings!

We stock local Exmoor Ales & our Twiglet Ale
plus a good selection of bottled & house wines
Affordably priced lunchtime & snack menu - including our own home-made
1/2lb beef burgers

Excellent choice of starters, main meals & desserts – mostly home-made
including our famous bread & butter pudding & caramelised ginger banana
pancakes

Frequently changing specials board with local meat (Steve Forester of
Chulmleigh) & fish
Vegetarian & vegan dishes
Specific dietary needs catered for – gluten or dairy free

Sunday roast with local meats & a very good selection of
fresh vegetables (Simmons of South Molton)
Main course £7.25 / main & dessert £11.00
Bed & breakfast from £30.00 pppn
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Let us organise your smaller weddings, christenings or birthday celebrations

Telephone 01884 861263
Email the.mitreinn@mail.com
www.the-mitre-inn.com
Incomer’s Guide: Short Walk to Newhouse Farm Cottages

Stay on the path / field margin.
Keep dogs under control.
Keep dogs out of the crops.

A lovely walk at any time of year

A) Via Mill Hill ½ hour wellies or trainers.
Nice walk if its too muddy to go across the fields.

Starting from the church towards S Molton, take 1st right down Mill Hill -very steep lane down to the Little Dart River. Cross the bridge and take the right hand fork towards Newhouse Farm Cottages. Walk up the lane and past the cottages ( steep bit doesn’t last long). Continue along the lane as far as you wish.

Retrace your steps up Mill Hill coming out at the Church. It’s very steep, but not for long. (Photos taken in January)

B) Via Two Moors Way and the Woods ¾ hour wellies needed most of the year

From The Mitre towards Tiverton, take the 1st left (North Street), left into the gate beside Parish Hall (sign Two Moors Way). Down right hand margin of the field, through the gate, between high hedges and across the middle of the field ( Two Moor’s Way). Down RHS of next field and into the woods.

LEFT fork along the river, then the lower path onto Mill Hill. Right to the bridge, right to Newhouse Farm cottages. Retrace your steps to the river then UP Mill Hill to the church.
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**Library 2014**

*Monday 4 weekly from Mon 31st March 2014  Witheridge Week 3*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Stop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Witheridge</td>
<td>Square</td>
<td>14:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>15:05</td>
<td>15:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butterleigh</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>16:30</td>
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**Village Stop**

**Arrive Depart**

**Witheridge Square** 14:00 15:00

**Witheridge School** 15:05 15:50

**Butterleigh Village Hall** 16:30 17:00

**01392 384315** WRVS Home Library Service. For anyone physically unable to reach a library

---

**Mobile Library Service Consultation**

Following the results of the consultation questionnaire:

**From Monday 31st March**

- the mobile library will be every 4 weeks.
- 65 out of 69 underused stops will be withdrawn.

The decision was based on 1523 replies of which 1,472 said they would use the library 4 weekly, 6 would use a static library and 45 would stop using the library altogether. 62 people using a stop threatened with closure replied, of which 19 would continue to use the library in some form, 19 would use another stop, 1 would use a static library and 9 would use the Home Library Service.

**Home Library Service** – for those of advanced age/disability. Ask for a leaflet.

**E books** for e-reader, tablet or smartphone. Ask for a leaflet.

**A spare vehicle** will be available to cover maintenance and public holidays.

---

**Devon Air Ambulance**

LOTTERY A special thank you to Brian Wheeler who was one of our Lottery Agents for many years. He and the members at Witheridge News raised over £10,000. Peter and Andrea Court continue where Brian left off.

**Volunteer Drivers Needed** to collect / deliver stock between shops. Are you between jobs, looking to get back into work or retired? You need to be relatively fit and have a friendly and professional approach. **Other roles available:**

- volunteer admin assistants at DAAT offices in Exeter,
- shop volunteers urgently required in the 13 charity shops

**Call 01392 466666** for an informal chat / email r.oakes@daat.org
South Coombe Country Cottages

Set in a beautiful location with an indoor swimming pool

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
Tel: 01884 860302
Email: stay@southcoombe.co.uk
Web site: www.southcoombe.co.uk
Notice of 2014 Parish Council Meetings - Parish Hall 19:30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
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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](http://www.witheridgepc.org) together with minutes of all meetings.

Paper copies of the agenda are available on request from the Clerk.

Your Councillors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Tel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claire Goodwin (Chair)</td>
<td>860711</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Martin (Vice Chair)</td>
<td>861011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Bradford</td>
<td>860629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Eastman</td>
<td>Via Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Hanbury</td>
<td>860578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Kershaw</td>
<td>860208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Prynn</td>
<td>Via Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Roberts</td>
<td>Via Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Stanbury</td>
<td>861375</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Yabsley</td>
<td>Via Clerk</td>
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**County & District Councillor**

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<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Tel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeremy Yabsley</td>
<td>860605</td>
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**Public Rights of Way Coordinator**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fred Hanbury</td>
<td>860578</td>
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**Playgrounds & Public Toilet**

Operated by the Parish Council, (toilets open 0730-1730 daily). Please report any issues to the Clerk.
We have five spacious log cabins, with fantastic views available all year round.

We welcome visitors for a week booking or short breaks subject to availability.

Each log cabin sleeps six people, including a double room with en-suite and all the home from home comforts. Warm and cosy with central heating and an added log burner.

Pets welcome in three of the cabins with enclosed gardens.

Also available: B&B, camping, caravans, log pods

West Middlewick Farm
Nomansland

web: www.farmholidaysdevon.co.uk
e-mail: hello@farmholidaysdevon.co.uk
Tel: 01884 861235
Poetry Corner

Where you lead I can't follow.
You must go on alone.
I'll be with you tomorrow
You can welcome me home.

Your way is not mine.
I must follow my own.
I'll be with you in time.
You will welcome me home.

When my journey's done
There will be verses unwritten.

And songs yet unsung.
I may well be old
But you will be young.
So wait but a while
Then gather me home.

Where I go you can't follow.
I must travel alone.
I will see you tomorrow.
You can welcome me home.

To my Father, who died on Christmas Day.

Raymond Parfitt
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
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www.thelbridgexinn.co.uk
Witheridge Farm Shop
@ West Yeo Moor Farm
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Open Wednesday to Saturday
9 am to 5.30pm

Award winning local food

2 miles from Witheridge heading towards South Molton, take the right hand turn towards Rose Ash we are 200yards up the road on the left