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Editorial
Thank you to all our advertisers and contributors.
Adverts: contact Jim (Treasurer). Spaces do arise throughout the year and new adverts go in on a first come first served basis. New businesses can have one ‘starting up’ advert if we have space.
After several people requested a ‘Letters to the Editor’ page, I have allocated ½ page on a trial basis- max 80 words. Political or derogatory content will not be published.
A theme runs through many of the club reports: they need more members and volunteers. Witheridge has a thriving community but it needs more people to get involved. With more people, ideas and enthusiasm we will continue to thrive, but leave everything to a few and we can lose out.
We have a good selection of main articles: Witheridge Born and Bred from Colin Leach, Witheridge Fire Service, Margie’s trip to Kenya with Mission Direct and Sue Wells’ travelogue to Disneyland, Florida written a year ago. Thank you for your patience, Sue.
All contributions are much appreciated and go in if there is space but we concentrate on articles relevant to Witheridge, the area and its people.
The next 4 issues might be a bit earlier or later in 2015 than usual to fit in with our commitments. It helps me a lot if clubs reply soon after the 1st reminder.

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Witheridge Born and Bred
By Colin Leach

When I was born in 1936, we lived in one of the cottages on West Street. My father Frank Leach started off as a cattle lorry driver then he drove buses for Greenslade Tours and later for Devon General.

A few years ago we were on a bus trip to Skegness and got talking and Shelia Darch asked if I was from Witheridge. When we went to see her in Bideford, she gave me this photo of Sheila with me in 1937.

Mother heated water in the boiler in the outside shed. It was cast iron with a huge lid and about 3 foot high. It was raised on bricks with a log fire underneath. We had no gas or electric. Mother tipped the hot water into a galvanised bathtub in the front room. There were 6 of us so we went in one after the other. The boiler was down the steps on the right, toilet on the left. When you went to the toilet the rats would run between your legs.

School 1941 I went to the Church School and enjoyed it. Mr Dyer was the Head and Mrs Churchill was one of the teachers. Her husband was the barber in The Square who would stop cutting hair to go for a quick cider in the pub!

West Street fire 1945
It started at 9am in Tracey Green, just as we were going to school. When we came back for lunch the road was closed off. I remember the 5 houses in West Street just burning inside.

6 Pullen’s Row 1941 All my younger memories are of the house on Pullen’s Row. I think we moved out because the cottages in West Street were getting beyond repair. The rent was about half a crown a week. There was a well and hand pump just outside the front door. The bit that comes out of the well is still there.
10 Butts Close 1947 We moved to Butts Close and in September I was one of the first to go to Chulmleigh Secondary Modern School. Before that children went to the village school until 15. The Headmaster was a little short chap, George Jennings. It was quite a good school. John, me and my sister went there. Venner’s coaches took us to school and back. Like most boys I grew up with, I was in the army cadets. We met in a round asbestos shed behind Stoneman’s television shop. The prisoner of war camp at Cruwys Morchard had loads of these sheds. My uncle bought 3 of them for his small holding.

1951 Starting work I left school at 15 and went down on the farm for a few months then to Heathcoats in Tiverton threading bobbins for the big machines. My first pay packet was £4 15 shillings. I gave mother £2. It was expected that when you started work, you paid towards your keep.

Social life 1950s I was a good darts player and was allowed in at 16. We went to The Angel where Bill Buchanan was the landlord and to The Hare and Hounds run by Jack Stone. We were underage for drinking but we did get away with ½ a cider now and again. I went with Lesley Pyne and Roy Manley, the lads I grew up with. We had some good dances and bands at The Angel.

Football Mad I started marking the football pitch for Witheridge when I was 13 or 14. I picked up 3 bags of sawdust from Ernie Hutchins on Saturday morning and pushed it up to Chapner field. That was in the days of Peter Tout, Gordy Pyne, Les Bourne, Francis Venner, Bert Tucker, Bill ‘Banana skin’, Peter and Tommy Boax. I started playing odd matches from 16 and I was still playing at 44. In the early days our changing room was in The Angel. We ran up to the field and back to The Angel after the match for a drink. I played on all 5 pitches- Chapner, Merryside, Wiriga, parish hall and the sports field.

Into the Building Trade 1956 Gordy and me were working for CP Unwin. Two vans left the village full of workmen for Unwins. Gordy was a qualified mason and John Bryant was there after Hutchins closed. I did an improvers’ course, the next thing to an apprenticeship. I went to college one evening a week and learned on labourer’s rate. I took a couple of years to get the qualified rate.

When Unwins went bust, I went with R.P. Mayne in Tiverton then after 4 years I went subbing, paid by the metre or the hour and working for myself.

In 1960, I got married and we moved into Cypress House with Mary and Bob Pincombe until we were allocated 33 Butts Close. In those days you put your
name down and if you were from the area your name moved up the list.

**What do you remember of Witheridge?**

Witheridge was much smaller - no Lakelands or Appletree Close but a lot more shops. On the left side down Fore Street was the garage, Greenslades (which sold just about everything), Winston Maunder’s farm buildings and Charlie Meyer’s Corn stores. Charlie had the waterwheel at the Old Mill. I used to watch them grind the flour, then Selley’s dairy, the baker on the corner and Kerslake’s grocery in West Street.

From 2 Brooke Road, where I am sitting now, there was a field belonging to Winston Maunder as far as the big oak tree and our back wall on the right was part of the hedge up to the top row of council houses. So there was nothing except Fore Street. These houses on Brooke Road are all 1974. Chapple Road is a bit earlier. The road was built in 1973.

We left Witheridge for 7 years when my wife’s father needed looking after in Barnstaple. We came back to 50 Butts Close. In 1984 I was still working and the accountant suggested I buy our council house. He helped me get a 100% mortgage which got me where I am today. In 1985 I started work for Mid Devon Council doing council house maintenance and stayed there 10 years.

I was at Uffculme school and we were taking off skirting boards. I said to the lad I was working with that if he came across a threepenny joey, it’s mine. Mother would put just one in the Christmas pudding. Its a small silver threepence and I’ve still got one.

**What did you enjoy the most?**

The brick laying and making it look good. There was nothing I didn’t like about my job and I had a family to keep so I needed steady work. I had to take early retirement in 1995 as I had one hip replaced and then the other one. I think it was years of working in the cold and the wet. My son Steven has taken over from me now but I’ve just added a bit to my house to make it a 3 bedroom bungalow and I’m pleased with the way it turned out.

**Self employed builder** I worked all over. I did all the brickwork for a 17 bed dormitory at St Aubyn’s school. I worked on 4 bungalows in Greenslade, 7 in Benson Close and the footings for 5 past Benson Close.

Colin Leach

Photos: Witheridge Historical Archive, Carole Campbell, Colin Leach.
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In Memory of
Mike Barnes    Fay Daniel

Welcome to the Village
Adults       Mary Davey
Children    Grace James   Matthew Henson
Ruby & Josh Moule

Witheridge Parish Hall
The Hall is looking wonderful. It soaked up the Sadolin, thrown off the old chipped green gloss and been rejuvenated by Pete and his team.
Another brilliant evening was had when Mike Sanchez came to the Hall. It was very exciting to have him here.
The fabulous Sheelanagig are coming back on the 5th December. Tickets are on sale in the Village Stores. They are a fantastic band which headlined at Chagstock festival. Don’t miss them: tickets sold out last time.
We are still hoping for more representatives to come on the Parish Hall Committee from organisations that are involved with the children and youth of the village.
Anyone who would be interested? clarespicer@talktalk.net  Clare Spicer

Police Report
Recently Chulmleigh, East and West Worlington, Crediton and Witheridge were subject to a total of around 20 shed burglaries. Lawnmowers, chain saws and other various petrol driven items were taken. Witheridge had a sit on lawn mower stolen, which we think was linked to the other crimes in the area. A male has been released on bail regarding the crimes.
Winter is now upon us and nights are drawing in so remember stay visible especially the children when walking home from school. Don’t forget to check your car screen wash, lights and tyre tread including the spare.

Knights of Witheridge  Unfortunately this year we didn’t accumulate as much money as we normally do, due in part to insufficient ‘boots on the ground’ to assist, torrential rain curtailing our activities at the 200th Anniversary of the opening of the Tiverton Canal in May and illness stopping our annual Tractor Push.
We will still be able to help financially next year. Look for signs in April inviting organisations in our community to apply for funding. We desperately need individuals who can give us one Saturday a year to assist with activities, particularly if you are a skilled builder, electrician or plumber.

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Community News

Mystery tour
When TV South West announced that the road through Witheridge was closed due to a burst water main in Fore Street and a sign appeared just past the church diverting traffic down Mill Hill, there were more than a few mutterings of ‘Buses up and down that hill.’ So it came as no great surprise when later that day, the 155 double decker got well and truly STUCK in the trees going past Dart Raffe Farm causing major damage to the bus and the trees and shock to the driver and his one passenger. In fact the diversion sign didn’t need to be there at all as the problem was 2 miles up the road.

Witheridge Preschool
MacMillan Coffee Morning
Thank you to all who came along to support this event. You helped us raise an amazing £136.94.

East Worlington School’s
Jumble Sale raised £647 for school funds.

Church Rooms The church rooms are available for hire - parties, meetings and small group activities. There is a kitchen and a toilet as well as the main room. Contact Mike Childs 860012.

Introducing Myself
Hi, I'm Zoe and I'm a trainee Families and Community Worker. This year I'm working for both Hele Lane and Emmanuel Methodist Churches, in Black Dog and Morchard Bishop as a SWYM trainee. This role also includes attending some of Witheridge Church of England Primary School’s Collective Worship.

Witheridge Young Farmers Car Wash & Big Breakfast
We made just under £175 and served around 60 breakfasts despite the bad weather. Thanks to all the helpers and to everybody who supported the club.

Parish church fundraising
The fete (which was just a few days too late for last issue) raised £1800. The harvest festival service, lunch and auction raised £536 of which £100 was donated to Save a Cow. Devon Historic Churches Ride and Stride raised £509 and the Autumn book sale £140.
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This summer Luke Devonshire, Richard Manning and Shaun & Connor Gowen took part in ToughMudder Southwest and raised £1750.

The day started early as they had to be in Cirencester for a 10am start. It was a challenging course and although tough going, they all enjoyed it and said that the camaraderie of all participants was very good and the team work helped to get them home safely. In fact they were so enthused that they are hoping to do it all again next year.

Toughmudder is specially for those who relish challenges like Kisses of Mud, Mud Mile, Everest (steep hill), Fire in Your Hole (a very steep slide), Hero Walls (vertical) and a lot more. You have to be strong and very motivated. It’s 11.5 miles, uphill 705 feet, mud pools, slides, ice and MUD but it’s a very worthy cause. Well done boys.

Thank you all for helping to raise money for a horrible disease which desperately needs more research to enable treatment in the future. The Devonshires
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St John’s Fair June 20th 2015

A day of fun and merriment bringing the whole parish of Witheridge together for a super special day. As well as providing fun for the community the Fair provides opportunities for local groups and charities to raise money and awareness.

The event is managed by a friendly team of local volunteers meeting one evening a month. We would welcome anyone with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to make June 20th the best fair ever. There are opportunities to join the committee and help is also needed with the preparation and on the day.

If you are interested please call Naomi 01884 860394 or email Gill gill@dartraffe.eclipse.co.uk We look forward to hearing from you. Naomi

The Witheridge Art Group

We are a group of like minded people who enjoy spending an evening drawing or painting and sharing our hobby. We are self taught. Some of us have had tuition and we all help each other when asked.

We charge just enough to cover expenses: £5 per year membership, and £1.50 a week subs.

Please come along. We have room for new people and would welcome new input.

Wednesdays Parish Hall Committee Room 7:30pm Eileen Curtis 860564

By Dave Benn

Witheridge Community Composting

Green garden waste is collected in the village from the beginning of March to the end of October. The cost of this service is £8 per year.

We will collect trailer loads of garden waste, £10 for members, £15 for non members. We also sell finished compost at £1.25 per bag delivered in the village, or to collect at £1 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!

To order compost phone Greg Henderson 860819
Reg Charity: 1027702

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
Witheridge Fire Service
by Hannah Hawkins

We have 10 retained fire-fighters all local to Witheridge as we have to be able to get here in 5 minutes. I’ve been a fire fighter now for 12 years. I saw an advert in Safeway, (now Morrisons) for retained fire-fighters and went for an interview then did the maths and English tests followed by a practical test in the drill yard. I had to climb the ladder and take a leg lock through the ladder and hang upside down (they don’t do this anymore because of an EU directive) then grip strength and lung capacity. These basic things do matter.

After that I had 6 or 7 weeks of Thursday drill nights from 7:30- 9:30 pm. After I got through all of that, I was accepted on the 7 day residential recruits’ course where we did basic pumps and ladders. It was quite fun. Then you get your pager and can ride on the pump to a call out but you have a red dot on the helmet until you do the breathing apparatus course. This was the way it was when I joined but it has changed a bit since.

The job
We are contractually obligated to be on call for 120 hours a week. We get a monthly retainer for on call plus an hourly rate for callouts, drills and training and National Insurance and pension contributions. A retained fireman on a quiet station tends to be self employed so they can do other work. Some people on our team are employed locally and have very understanding employers, for which we are very grateful.

Call out
We carry pagers so if there’s a ‘shout’ where our pump is required, everybody gets paged. I live the furthest away at Nomansland. If I’m on call and get a shout, I need to make sure my husband is at home. There have been occasions when I’ve really appreciated the flexibility of the after school club. There was one time I was cycling down Mill Hill and got as far as Dart Raffe when there was a shout and I had to get back to Witheridge in 5 minutes.

When we get to the station, the people on call are on the monitor and the print out tells us where the shout is. We have a routine but the first person in opens the door and can get the kit on the appliance while someone looks at the map. We bought a map centred on
Witheridge and usually someone will know where the shout is. Appliances have been damaged when crews are a bit keen to drive out before the door has fully opened. We are a quiet station but we get about 60 – 70 shouts a year. There’s no pattern so you can go for 6 weeks with nothing and then 3 in a day. We go on standby in Tiverton quite a bit. If both their pumps are out they can call us in, especially if it’s for a big thatch fire. Our control room will call in pumps from where they can without compromising fire cover for the brigade as a whole. We also get called on relief crews. If they need 20 pumps, they have to come from somewhere, so they call us in. We went to the other side of Bideford once and not long ago we went to standby at Danes Castle in Exeter.

**Seasonal differences**

In winter we get chimney fires (so sweep your chimney!) and in summer its tractor fires, barn fires and thatch. We get some thatch fires in the winter if they have a log burner. If the chimney liner starts to break down inside you can get a hotspot in the roof and you won’t even know it’s there. From the outside you can’t see it. By the time you can see smoke the fire is quite advanced. Thatch is difficult because it’s designed to shed water. Our usual line of attack is to put in a fire break. Teams wearing breathing apparatus manually strip the thatch off. If it is too far advanced the focus is on protecting surrounding properties. Sometimes we have to salvage people’s property. We don’t often have to go in and rescue people especially now they have smoke alarms. I’ve never had to take anybody out except one person who had carbon monoxide poisoning.

After we have dealt with a fire, the fire investigation officers are called in. We get the occupier or homeowner to sign the handover form and any advice goes on there. We send regular information to our control room on the radio so they know what’s going on- they want to know if there are any persons reported, the size of buildings, location of the fire and what equipment we are using.

**Training and Development**

RTC (road traffic collisions): techniques to extricate people from vehicles. We’ve often taken the roof off a car because even after an accident at low speed, you have to be careful of the neck and the safest way to get them on a long board is to take the roof off.

**Water safety** This is for our own protection. It’s very important that the crew is safe and properly equipped. You can’t help other people if you are at risk yourself. It’s no good if you fall in and the focus is lost on the other person.
We wear safety harnesses and attach to lanyards to work on thatched roofs and work restraints for fast moving water or in slurry.

**Fire Service College**
I recently went for a women’s training and development weekend with girls from Chulmleigh and Bideford. It’s a huge site built on an old airport. There were lots of things to choose from.

I did multi-pump scenarios. The first one was on a mock up of a railway level crossing. A car had been shunted under a train by a fuel tanker coming behind it. We turned up and had to deal with what we saw. There were real police cars and ambulances there with people acting as police and ambulance staff. It was good because we got experience of scenarios we don’t normally meet. It was fascinating working with other brigades. We all work to a National Framework but there are some things that different brigades do differently eg some brigades wearing breathing apparatus move down stairs forward and we go down backwards.

**Recruiting**
We need people now in Witheridge. We have 10 retained firefighters and could go up to 12.

If anybody is interested in joining us from Witheridge or the immediate area and can get to the fire station in 5 minutes, go to Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue [www.dsfire.gov.uk](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk), Working for Us, Current Vacancies, Retained (on call) fire-fighter.

We need people particularly in the day time. You must be over 18 and able to pass the medical and training. There’s no upper age limit. Flexible hours and contracts are available.

**Visits:** The pre-school and class 1 came at the end of June. They were so excited. The photo was taken on a visit to East Worlington school. It’s nice to show people round.

**Why a fire fighter?**
I enjoy it. It’s nice to feel you are doing something for the community but people don’t really do it for the money as being on call can be a bit of a bind. It can be a good excuse to not do things like shopping.

For me, the main thing is working in a team eg four people working together to get the ladder up.  

*Hannah Hawkins*
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HELLO Witheridge! Does anybody have a couple of hours to spare a week, a fortnight or a month to serve drinks and welcome people into the Witheridge Community Coffee shop? We want everyone to feel that this centre belongs to us all, young and old, singles and couples, adults and children. The Rest-a-While was the brain child of Francis Venner and Frank Beer 25 years ago so that ‘no-one in Witheridge need ever be lonely.’ What we have here is very special but we need new blood and contrary to what most people think, the coffee shop isn’t just for ‘old people.’

New to the village? Need a change of scene? Come in and make some friends. Most of all we offer a friendly face and someone to talk to even if just for a couple of hours. Let’s revitalise Witheridge with a community centre used by all of us.

- First we need you to come in and try it.
- Second we need MORE HELPERS. Contact Eirene Allinson 860163

Open Monday – Saturday 10-12 (Closed only Christmas Day!)

Bingo at The Firs  We need NEW FACES. Bingo at The Firs is open to EVERYONE. You will get a warm welcome. We have an assortment of prizes as well as a raffle. The information board outside the Firs gives the time of the next meeting.

- Alternate Tuesdays 7:30pm

Ken 860825

Witheridge Ladies’ Club  In August we had a great time at our annual Summer Garden Party with cream teas and various stalls. In September we were fortunate that one of our members, Sheila Plummer, stepped in when our speaker cancelled at short notice. Sheila told us about a recent exhibition she had staged about the men named on the Witheridge war memorial. She researched a potted history of them all.

In October we welcomed Rob Curtis who gave an informative and amusing talk on ‘A Policeman’s Lot’ which we very much enjoyed. 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.

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**WithArt Art Group**

We meet every Monday *(bank holidays excluded)* in Witheridge Parish Hall Committee Room from 2pm to 4pm. We are a small friendly amateur art group who enjoy their hobby – any medium. If you are interested and would like to join us, contact Jean Wiltsher on 01363 877641 or Joan Lakeland on 01884 860510 or just pop in on a Monday afternoon.

![China Cat by Jean Wiltshire](image)

**Allotment Society**

What an amazing year it has been, masses of beans, albeit a bit late, huge cabbages and a year of plenty of everything. Now it is time for the hard work to begin, putting the plots to bed for the winter. The seed catalogues have arrived for next year, so begins the cycle again, oh, what to buy and grow?

If you would like an allotment, we have a waiting list of 1. Call Valerie Abell 861650

![Allotment plot](image)

**Witheridge & District Garden Club**

In September Michael Smith talked about House Plants and in October we had an excellent introduction to Bonsai by John White. So this year we learned a bit about gladioli, plant propagation, orchids, herbs, houseplants and bonsai plus the Spring Show in April, Plant Sale in May and Summer Show in August. The annual outing was to the Malvern Flower Show and the evening trip was to BBC Gardeners’ Question Time at Tiverton College. The quiz was a great success probably because you didnt need to be a gardening boffin - a relief as some of us know when a plant is ‘happy’ and that’s about it.

This brings to an end our programme for the year. **AGM Wed Nov 26th.**

The Garden Club is for everyone interested in growing plants. You don’t have to be an expert to enter the shows. Sometimes entering what you have on the day works wonders. Come and enjoy the social occasion. In June next year we have our local celebrity Johnny Kingdom coming to talk about Exmoor wildlife. Membership is only £5 a YEAR! Why not join us?

❖ **Last Wednesday in the month Witheridge Parish Hall**
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!

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Mission Direct to Kenya
by Margie Cosker

Well, we went to Kenya and what an experience it turned out to be.

Many months ago, my family suggested to me that we all go to Kenya with Mission Direct, a Christian organisation, to help build a refuge for young girls who had run away from their families to escape an arranged marriage and the horrors of FGM. I had known about FGM for many years and I was really enthusiastic to join this mission. Little did I realise the realities of these awful practices.

When we landed in the capital of Nairobi, it wasn’t long before we left the bright lights of the city and drove for four hours until we reached Narok. Narok was the town in which we were based. This town comprised row upon row of tin shacks housing people, shops and poverty. We were taken to a hotel with no door and complete access to the outside world. However the hotel needs another story! I cannot describe the noise and clamour and filth surrounding this hotel. Cows, goats and sheep were shepherded by men with sticks through the streets to forage in rubbish and the general detritus. The men were Maasai who dominate their society and are proponents of FGM and forced marriage. However Pastor Ben, who had asked for our help and support for this project, was a Maasai, but had happily rejected completely FGM and young marriage.

The next morning we were taken to the site where the refuge was being built and were disheartened at quite how much there was left to do. We all got stuck in and painted and plastered and wheeled barrows full of bricks.

During the latter part of our second week we did meet 12 girls who had run away and they seemed pleased and happy to be there. With some of the
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money you and I raised I bought some wardrobes for the girls and the matron to store their belongings.

These girls are financed by Pastor Ben’s church sponsorship and family contributions. He was also hoping to let the accommodation out when the girls are at school. They are aged between 12 and 20 and some of them are already at university. They are cared for by a live-in matron who also did the cooking. We helped tile three loos and showers and they hope to have a water tank delivered soon. It is very much a work in progress, but there is hope there.

My saddest day was a visit 2 hours away to Malot. We swayed along on unmade roads then walked for an hour to reach a group of huts. There were so many children running about and they were intrigued by our white faces and cameras. This place is run by a Catholic organisation and is called Home Base Care.

In the first house there was a very old lady who looks after 13 children. Some are HIV positive. She had no mattresses, blankets …absolutely nothing. She owned no land so couldn’t even grow food or keep chickens. I think she relied on the generosity of others.

I felt so helpless just handing out sweets to the children and blowing up balloons. However, in Narok the following day, I spent more of our money and bought mattresses and blankets for her. I have since heard that she was moved to tears and so thankful.

We also met Helen who suffered FGM and was married against her will at the age of 13 to a man of 79. She summoned up the courage to leave and now lives in Narok with her 3 children making and selling jewellery, shoes and bags.

To end on a more hopeful note, people are trying to help. The pastors, who have little themselves, take a very active role and I met a lovely couple running ‘Mission with a Vision’ who take in girls and have recently increased their number by another 10. We spent a lovely afternoon with them, playing games, making bracelets and just listening to their stories.

Arranged marriages and FGM require a huge amount of work and dedication. Education and money are the keys. This is ongoing, but progress is being made.

Finally, thank you to the people of Witheridge and my Chapel for their generosity and support.  

Margie
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**Charity Knitting**  The Baby Bear project (hat, boots, mitts, jumper, blanket and teddy bear set for St. Mary’s Hospital, Durban) is going well with eleven sets already completed. Other projects are being worked on, including items for the Salvation Army. We miss Christine from our group. She kept us all entertained with her marvellous stories. I called her our ‘glove lady’ and when the items are taken to the Salvation Army soon, the last of Christine’s gloves will go. That will be a bittersweet occasion.

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

**United Churches Luncheon Club**  This meal is for anyone who lives on their own and would appreciate a home cooked meal in pleasant company. It is not just for ‘church people’, nor is it run by just ‘church people’.

It has been running now for 5 years and was the brain child of Mavis Huckle, who together with a few other Christian people, planned it together along the same lines as Chawleigh Church. Very little has changed since we started – the price now £4 instead of £2.50 for a main course, sweet and coffee or tea and good fellowship. Birthdays are acknowledged as well as extra special occasions. Extra helpers, cooks and drivers are always welcome. Our numbers are down a little at the moment due to illness so we would welcome some new members. Ring me on 01884 860012 for more information.

- **1st Tuesday every month Witheridge Parish Hall  12 noon for 12.30 pm start.**

  - **Eileen Haynes 860212**

**Monday Club**  Another successful year for the Monday Club. We are a busy club, always looking out for interesting speakers and different destinations for our coach trips. Member numbers are up, but although we are squeezing in as many people as we can, we could do with a few more joining us on our trips out.

Look out for posters and give Sheila 860227 or Val 860709 a ring to book your seat and phone Val for your membership form. We look forward to seeing you.  

- **Val Dickinson Chair.**

**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.
St John the Baptist Parish Church

The Wisdom of Geese  We might like to consider how geese work together and support each other for the benefit of the whole group. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V formation, the flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who share a common direction and sense of community, can get where they are going more quickly because they travel on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those heading the same way we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies point. It's sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, particularly if you see the leader tiring.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind? Do we encourage our leaders?

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick or wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay until it is able to fly or it dies. If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like this.

The sense of community in this village is good and encouraging. My prayer is that this will continue as we support one another in so many ways.  

Adrian

TWO MOORS FESTIVAL 2014

It was a delight to step from a stormy morning into the warmth of St John the Baptist Church and later enjoy the outstanding music of Notus Winds. The five musicians from the Royal Academy of Music, Charlotte Ashton (flute), Jordan Black (clarinet), Eleanor Tinlin (oboe), Carys Evans (horn) and Jonathon Davies (bassoon) all came from London to give us a strong and accomplished performance. Debussy’s La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin had the most poignant, lilting phrases whilst the crescendo and pace of Piazzola’s Libertango was an exciting finale.

We thank them for coming and are indebted to John and Penny Adie for enabling such quality performers to enchant us here in Devon. We should also not forget the church members who produced a buffet lunch for the audience with tea and cakes following the ‘Everyman at War’ by Clive Aslet.

Gillian Henson
Dear Friends, I've been asked to introduce myself. I'm Rev John Wiltshire, the 'new' Minister at Witheridge Methodist Church as well as Copplestone, Black Dog and Morchard Bishop Methodist Churches. I'm married to Judy and we're looking forward to celebrating our 25th later in the year. We have one son Josh aged 16, who is enjoying Exeter College.

We moved down from Highworth, Wiltshire where we spent 10 happy years. Prior to that we were in Doncaster for 9 years and 5 in Tyneside. We are very much looking forward to getting to know the Witheridge community, having received a warm welcome. I'd like to extend a welcome to Worship at Witheridge Methodist Church at 11.00 on a Sunday morning and to any other activities at Chapel.

My 'life-verse' is John Ch. 3 v.16, with which I close: ‘For God so loved the World that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ With best wishes and love in Christ,  

Rev John Wiltshire

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sa Nov 29</td>
<td>Christmas Mini Market  Church Rooms</td>
<td>10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Su Nov 30</td>
<td>5th Sunday Churches Together  Methodist Chapel</td>
<td>11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tu Dec 2</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club  Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Su Dec 14</td>
<td>Witheridge Carol Service with Tiverton Town Band</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>M Dec 15</td>
<td>Churches Together Carols around Witheridge  Meet in  Square</td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Dec 17</td>
<td>Nativity &amp; Christingle Service  with the school Parish Church</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Dec 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service  Parish Church</td>
<td>11pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th Dec 25</td>
<td>Christmas day family Service  Parish Church</td>
<td>10am</td>
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**2015**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu Jan 6</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tu Feb 8</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Su Feb 8</td>
<td>Plough Sunday Service  TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Feb 18</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service, Parish Church</td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>T Mar 3</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall</td>
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**Note**: All dates are subject to change, please check church notice board
| WW1 Centenary: We Shall Remember Them |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Battalion/Unit Description</th>
<th>Memorial/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francis Crooke</td>
<td>(34)</td>
<td>9th Battalion Devonshire Regiment. Devonshire Cem. France.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Facey</td>
<td>(21)</td>
<td>1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. Buried in Cabaret Rouge, Souchez, France.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ford</td>
<td>(30)</td>
<td>1st/4th Devonshire Regiment. Kirkee Memorial India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Gard</td>
<td>(30)</td>
<td>8th Battalion Devonshire Regt Killed in the Battle of Loos 25th Sept 1915. Loos Memorial, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Hill</td>
<td>(32)</td>
<td>9th Batt. Devonshire Regiment. Tyne Cot Memorial Belgium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Kingdom</td>
<td>(25)</td>
<td>OX &amp; Bucks Light Infantry. Granezzaa Bristol Cemetery, Italy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Phillips</td>
<td>(37)</td>
<td>5th Battalion Devonshire Regt Baghdad War Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Partridge</td>
<td>(31)</td>
<td>1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment. Killed 13th May 1918. Buried in Cabaret Rouge, Souchez France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Roberts</td>
<td>(19)</td>
<td>8th Battalion Devonshire Regt Wounded Le Havre July 1915 died 3 Oct 1915. Buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Rowcliffe</td>
<td>(26)</td>
<td>10th Battn Devonshire Regt Doiran Memorial Greece</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidney Selley</td>
<td>(24)</td>
<td>8th Battalion Devonshire Regiment Died Battle of Arras 8th May 1917. Arras Memorial, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tarr</td>
<td>(36)</td>
<td>2nd Battalion Devonshire. Took part in the Christmas Truce 1914. Killed in the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Buried in Le Trou Aid Post Cemetery, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Matthews</td>
<td>(26)</td>
<td>Aus. Light Horse Regt. Killed Battle of Passchendaele. Menin Gate Memorial</td>
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| WW2 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Battalion/Unit Description</th>
<th>Memorial/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percy Chapple</td>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>1st Battalion Devonshire Regt Died aged 23. Rangoon Memorial Burma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederic Hartnell</td>
<td>(21)</td>
<td>King’s Regiment Liverpool. Died aged 21 Rangoon War Cemetery Burma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Len Tidball</td>
<td>(21)</td>
<td>RAF Volunteer Reserve, rear gunner 10 Squadron Bomber Command. Missing in action (aircraft lost over the sea, no survivors. Nov 1942 )</td>
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Lest We Forget

Many of you will have seen Sheila Plummer’s excellent display of the biographies of the soldiers on the war memorial. One of them, Charles Matthews, proved difficult. His early life was fairly easy to find but she could not discover anything about his war service. It seemed a great pity to have this one record missing. I began my search for him and soon came up with the same 17 Charles Matthews that Sheila had found.

I managed to whittle them down to a possible 6, but was unable to link any of them to Witheridge and was about to give up when I decided to do one final old newspaper search. On page 5 of the search was a line about Lt Charlie Matthews of the Australian Light Horse being killed in action. What was an article about an Aussi doing in a Devon newspaper? He was one of the original 17, but both Sheila and I had discounted him because he was Australian (or was he?)

I then did a search of the Australian armed services and there he was. He must have emigrated sometime after 1911 and was working as a draper’s clerk in Melbourne until he volunteered on Christmas Eve 1914. He died on the 12th of October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele and is commemorated on the Menin Gate. His younger brother Jack, who joined the Devonshires, survived the war and was awarded the Military Medal a few days after Charlie died. He was also fighting at Passchendaele. Charlie, Jack and the others are now part of Witheridge history. Rest in Peace. The stories of those who survived wait to be told.

If you have ever looked at the names on the war memorial, you may have noticed there’s only one woman’s name. Dorothy Jean Keith. She was the daughter of Gordon and Mary (nee Palfreman) Keith and helped her parents run the village Fish & Chip shop. Although her mum was a Witheridge lass, Dorothy was born in Wales, but had spent most of her life in the village and was well liked. On the outbreak of war in 1939, she volunteered for the Auxiliary Territorial Service. They provided a wide range of support services including clerks, drivers, radar operators, searchlight and anti aircraft gun crew. Though they were not allowed to fight, they were to be found in combat areas and in 1940 the ATS in France were amongst the last troops to reach and be evacuated from Dunkirk.

She was based in the Exeter area when she died. At her funeral her coffin was draped with the Union Flag and there was an honour guard of her ATS colleagues. She was only 19, a brave girl.

Jim Campbell
Headmaster’s Report  It has been a very busy start to the new year at Witheridge Primary School and work on the topic 'Splish, Splash' has seen children pay a visit to the Grand Western Canal as well as undertaking river studies on Exmoor. We have a focus on writing and number work as we begin the new National Curriculum and we have several exciting after school clubs up and running.

Over the next few months you should notice some further changes to the outside environment as Mrs Halsey continues her mission to improve the school site. We have already enhanced the outdoor provision for KS1 and Miss Suchacki’s pupils are loving their new surroundings. Miss Bull is about to start a collaboration with Exeter Cathedral Choir that will culminate in some of our children taking part in a performance at the Cathedral on Saturday 22nd November.

---

Class 3 and 4 at Tiverton Canal

When me and Jasmine went to feed Taffy some Polos, I was too scared. I let Jasmine feed him then he nearly bit my finger. **Alysha Folland**

Before we got on they had to bring the canal boat across the canal to us. We went up the canal for about an hour. When we got to the other end I went for a walk to the aqueduct with Mr Radley. **Jack Tonkins**

The canal ride was slow because the horse was going slowly with the lady too. Taffy was a boy horse, he was gentle and kind and soft and snuggly and warm too. We went under five bridges. We stopped for eight minutes walking and to see Taffy. Taffy had a fat and long tongue. We went back to the boat and ate our lunch then we sailed off again. We got off the boat and fed the ducks and swans. **Ruby Moule**

---

Simonsbath Residential

**Tuesday**  It was an amazing trip and we learnt a lot. I remember looking out across the valley. You could very faintly see the deer out at the very top of Exmoor.

As soon as we got there, the dog Bramble came running out and barking at us, whilst Mr Lake unloaded our bags from his truck. We took our bags into the dorms then went to the common room where Louise the manager talked us through the rules of Simonsbath Hotel.
We had 20 minutes to make our beds then we played on the assault course to let off energy from being in the bus for ages. After lunch we walked to the woods and up a rocky hill where we sat to sketch the River Barle and name the parts of the river.

On the way back we did pebble grading and ‘speed of flow’ at the river. Back at the hotel one group were on duty to make tea for 5.45pm. At 7 we had a puzzle evening. There was this puzzle called Abraham’s Tower which is pretty hard to do, but Louise can do it in 2 minutes. At 8.15 we had a hot drink with biscuits then 20 minutes to lights out.

**Wednesday** At 8.15am we had breakfast. You can have cereal and a cooked breakfast if you want. Afterwards we went to our rooms to tidy up for a dorm inspection by Mrs Banks. We made our lunch and left it at the hotel for later.

In group 1 we walked up on the moors to the source of the River Exe. We wanted to walk a bit further, so Mr Radley took one group further whilst Paul took some people to the gate. On the way back we saw loads of sheep and rams. After lunch group 1 had a tour of the cellars and the saw mill followed by a challenge on the assault course. After tea we went up to the playground. At 7pm we had a man coming and teaching us how to do the drums which was really weird.

**Thursday** Breakfast was really nice. We put our lunch into a rucksack because we were going to Lynmouth to follow the river. First we went up to the woods to find a place to build a shelter then we started our walk. We saw some amazing waterfalls and there was this amazing one that went from the top of a hill all the way down. It must have been at least 6 metres long and it was just outstanding. We kept on walking for ages until we stopped to have lunch. Everyone was really hungry.

In Lynmouth we rode to the top of the funicular railway. It was really fun! After that we had a look round the museum. It had a model of the river and all of Lynmouth. At 3.30 we went back to the hotel but Mr Radley had the key for the dorms so we sat in the Yurt for 10 minutes. After tea we had a night exploration but we didn’t have a camp fire because the wood was all wet.

**Friday** In the morning we needed to take all the stuff off our beds and sort it all out. My group did the Indian tracker first, which was the best of all. After that we did archery and that was really weird. You had to wear a pad to protect your arm. We had a wonderful time!

_Bethany Samuelson_
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**Witheridge Pre-School**

We have all enjoyed the extended good weather which enabled our children to make the most of the outdoor facilities. Through our shared sessions with Class 1 we are fortunate to have continued contact with our previous cohort so can see how well they are all enjoying school life. Our shared topic of ‘Pirates’ has given us lots of opportunities for exploring floating, sinking and hunting for treasure and pirates hiding in the wildlife area! Thank you to all those from the wider community who continue to support our fund raising efforts for both pre-school and National Charities.  

Paula Hallett

---

**Witheridge Parent & Toddler Group**

Every Wednesday 9:30-11:30 inc. school holidays  
Witheridge Parish Hall £1.50 per family  
Tea & biscuits for grownups, drink & snack for little ones  
Mums, dads, grandparents, carers all welcome  
Newborn – school age (and siblings in school holidays).  
We have seasonal activities, visits from Oakmoor Children’s Centre, a Christmas party, trips and even the occasional evening out.  

Contact Kayleigh 861390

---

**Oakmoor**

**Tums To Tots**

* A fun group for you, your bump or your under 2

*Tums to Tots* is an informal parent-led group for mums who are pregnant or have a child under the age of two (older siblings welcome). The group gives pregnant and new mums the opportunity to meet friends, share ideas, and advice.

It’s an informal, friendly and relaxed group who welcome new parents and mums to be. Drop in for a cuppa and a chat.

**Friday mornings at Oakmoor Children’s Centre Witheridge 9.30—11.30 am**

---

**East Worlington Primary School**

The new school year got off to a busy start with lots of curriculum enriching opportunities for the children, including specialist gymnastics coaching and training from Exeter City Football Club, as well as trips to the theatre, space dome and Rosemoor.

On 14th November we supported World Diabetes Day and Children in Need and we will be taking the children to the pantomime in Barnstaple and for a Christmas party to end the term. The PTFA put on a Halloween Disco and will be busy again with the next jumble sale on Saturday 7th February 2015.

Happy Christmas and New Year everyone!

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Witheridge & District Annual Ploughing Match Sept 23rd 2014

The match was held on a lovely sunny day at Hele Barton by kind permission of the Gillbard family. 40 ploughmen competed on an excellent site and lots of people came to enjoy watching the ploughman’s skills and the tent was full with cakes, flowers, photos, crafts, veg and children’s entries - a successful day.

Ploughing Classes
1 Open Digger
1st Ricky Attrill 2nd Bill Tonkin 3rd R Hill
2 open Under 26  C R Hayball
3 Open 3 or more Furrows
1st A Heywood 2nd Graham Henson
3rd Alan Bickley
4 Open Reversible
1st Sam Reed 2nd Paul Pincombe
3rd M Pincombe
5 Classics Pre 1976
1st Peter Ovens 2nd Tom Walliny
3rd Raymond Govier 4th Alan Eustace
6 Vintage Tractor & Trailer pre 1960
1st Martyn Smale 2nd Paul Mancini
3rd R Heaman
7 Vintage mounted pre 1960
1st C L Heard 2nd Leon Vanstone & Kelvin Phillips 4th P. Phillips
8 Ferguson T2 20 Ferguson plough
1st R Jury 2nd Tim Webb
3rd Pete Gilbert

Ploughing Best work
Of the day Sam Reed
3 or more furrow plough Alan Bickley
Reversible plough, local Sam Reed
Under 26 M Pincombe
Open , local 1st time M Pincombe
By a local man Alan Bickley
Using a Ford tractor Ricky Attrill
Class 3 A Heywood
Class 5 Peter Owens
Class 6 Martyn Smale
Class 8 R Jury

Farm Produce
Most pts classes  9-18 Paul Gillbard
Best exhibit classes 9-18 James Hayes
Most pts classes  14-18 Paul Gillbard

Domestic, Veg and Flowers
Most pts classes  25-41 Doreen Leat
Most pts classes  43-55 Ken Webber
Most pts classes  25-55 J Greenslade

Witheridge Young Farmers
Most pts classes 25-55 Clive Jones
Children classes 19-24
Most pts Reuben Gillbard
Runner up Isabel Govier
Emma Manley
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www.devonphysiotherapyathome.co.uk
Ted’s Farm recipes

Roast Pork

You need

- Joint of good free range pork cut into 2 inch slices (crackling removed)
- Some of those apples you have picked from your overloaded tree!
- 1 onion
- 2 cloves of garlic
- Cumin and coriander
- Cider or White wine.

What to do

- Slice the onion and apples into the bottom of an ovenproof pan.
- Lay the slices of pork on the top
- Sprinkle with cumin and coriander,
- Season with black pepper and salt to taste.
- Add a little cider to the pan to just coat the bottom of the pan
- Cover with a tight fitting lid.

Cook in a moderate oven, 175 to 180C for 90 minutes, checking that the liquid does not boil dry.

Remove from oven and reduce the liquid. The meat should be cooked through and so tender you can serve it in large lumps.

Roast potatoes Whilst cooking the meat put the crackling in a roasting tin with some par boiled Maris Piper potatoes, basting the potatoes often. If needed crisp the potatoes and crackling under the grill.

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Travelogue: Disneyland Florida

Our exciting holiday in October last year was a return trip to Walt Disney World, Florida. Every holiday starts with a journey and travelling to Florida is long and tiring especially as Devon is a four hour journey to even reach the transatlantic airports when the real travelling starts.

We were a party of 7 with 4 adults, a teenager and 2 children. From previous experience we were staying in a villa about 20 minutes from the parks which gave us the freedom to cater, our own pool and space and bathrooms for everyone instead of trying to fit adults and children into two rooms for a fortnight. Hiring a car again allowed us to not be tied to public transport at the beginning and end of the day.

Walt Disney World, for those of you who haven’t been lucky enough to visit, isn’t just about Mickey Mouse although, because of his magical ability, he can be found everywhere. The ultimate admission ticket covers 4 theme parks, 2 water parks and Disney Quest (computer games), Disney Sports and Downtown Disney (shops).

Two Water Parks have their own themes - a snow blizzard in Florida (!) and a shipwreck caused by a tornado (much more realistic). October is at the end of the hurricane season and the parks are quieter than in the summer and also cooler with a more bearable humidity.

The water parks have always counted for us as a rest day. It is possible to spend the whole day playing on the water slides and sitting in a big rubber ring while floating around the lazy river. The typhoon park has water coasters where the water powers you up and down like a roller coaster and then throws you out of the flume and into the pool.

The Magic Kingdom has all the Disney favourites including the Peter Pan flight and Dumbo ride. There are always opportunities to meet the characters and have a hug, photograph and autograph. There are shows to see, some live and others in 3D or 4D (taste, smell, touch and often get wet!)

EPCOT (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) is probably my favourite and is much more science based. Half of the park looks at the
world from an ecological view point and the other part has architecture, culture and food from 11 countries around the world.

**Hollywood Studios** As well as the rides there’s time to learn more about film production. There are shows where you learn how stunts are put together, how animation drawings are done plus lots more shows and films.

**Animal Kingdom** is the newest park. Imagine Longleat with sunshine, rides and roller coasters. The biggest Disney coaster is in this park, although quite small compared to the others in this area - Everest with a scary Yeti.

We had a wonderful time. Benjamin enjoys all the rides, as high and twisty as possible. Adrian enjoys the shows and films with stimulation of all the senses. I am really useful to have on holiday, I don’t enjoy the rides and am always happy to volunteer to look after the bags and coats and take photographs!

Other highlights of the holiday would be the stunning night time shows and fireworks, something to entertain every night if you want. Disney is unreal, it can be described as plastic and that is true but sometimes it is wonderful to suspend reality and just play.

Did we see the real Florida or experience true American culture? No. Would I recommend it as a holiday and would I go again?

Unequivocally YES. **Sue Wells**
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**Children’s Activities**

**Taekwondo** In October, 7 students took part in the SW Championship competition in Swindon. Emma Bird got bronze in red belt patterns and Louisa Jones bronze in yellow belt sparring. Congratulations to Emma Bird for passing her 1st Dan black belt at the recent grading in Bristol. She is the 3rd member of Witheridge Taekwondo Club to reach black belt standard. The minimum age is now 8. **Wayne Sibthorpe**

**Youth Club** (from year 6 )
1st and 3rd Thursday Church Rooms 7-8:30pm
A new club with table tennis, pool, table football, refreshments, occasionally crafts, games nights -very informal, a safe place for friends to meet. Everyone welcome.

**Explorers** (3-10 years)
2nd and 4th Sunday Church rooms 9:30 –10:45
A fun way to learn about God through stories, painting, crafts, games and music.

**Explorer Helpers** (from 10 years)
2nd & 4th Sunday in church 9 -10.45am
The young people help with the service in church as well as having their own activities. New helpers welcome.

**Witheridge AFC Youth Football**
The u16s continue to improve with every game and are sitting mid table but a few good results could make all the difference. The u12s have had a much better start to their season. They have played 4 and won 1 but finally seem to be finding their feet against other teams, so things are looking up. We are always looking for more support for all our teams so feel free to come along to a game. See www.witheridgefc.co.uk **Paul Rich**

**Witheridge Brownies** In October we went to the Milky Way Adventure Park for a sleepover. We rode the rollercoasters and Dodgems and had fantastic night on the indoor death slides and ball pits until bedtime, topped off by tasty bacon and sausage baps for breakfast. We look forward to next year!

**Witheridge Guides** Are you aged 10 – 14 years old? If you want to make new friends, have fun and learn through great activities then Guides is for you. Recently we have done cooking, first aid and football and we are learning how to look after our bodies through healthy eating, exercise and a little pampering!
Witheridge Parish Hall

What would you like to do in the Parish Hall

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Chris Kershaw on 01884 860208
(weekdays between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm please)
Witheridge Sports Club

Mon  7:00 – 11:00 (skittles at home)
Tues 7:00 – 11:00
Wed  7:00 – 10:00
Thurs 7:00 – 11:00
Fri  7:00 – 12:00
Sat  12:00 – 9:30
Sun  12:00 – 7:00

Witheridge AFC

Senior Teams: Since the last edition the 1st team won their 1st game in the FA cup with a very good 1-0 win over Barnstaple in the 1st round of qualifying but unfortunately they lost 4-1 away to Bodmin in what was a very flattering score line for the hosts. In the FA vase, Witheridge faced Brislington away which ended in a 2-2 draw so had to be replayed the following Tuesday. Witheridge lost 3-2 on penalties in a very competitive game.

So far in the League it has been a mixed bag of results with the club currently sitting in 10th position. The 2nds have had a very good start to their season currently sitting in 3rd place having only lost 2 of their 9 games. Well done Darren and Daryl.

Paul Rich

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. Greg Henderson

Friday 11:00 - 12:00 in Parish Hall

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
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43 Gold Street, Tiverton, EX16 6QB
Monday - Wednesday 10.00 - 17.00
Thursday - Saturday 10.00 - 22.00
Witheridge Golf Society

The Autumn Trophy meeting was held at Waterbridge on 10th September for an 18 hole Texas Scramble competition. On the winning team were Witheridge resident Graham Clarke and Chulmleigh Golf Club players Terry Rowland and Paul Scales. The Ken Leneveu Memorial Wooden Spoon Trophy was won by Dave Owen, Brian Burgess and Michael Pinchcombe.

New members are always welcome. The emphasis will still be on a team game with all abilities catered for. Phone 01884 860612 or email astonguy@tring92.f2s.com

❖ Next meeting Wed. 3rd December

Andrew Clark

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

Tennis

This summer tennis turned out to be better than ever and in spite of the wet and chilly August weather, the younger children had their lessons in the Parish Hall when it was raining! Our one-day tournament, which included a sociable buffet lunch, was a lot of fun as usual with Feather and John winning the cup this year. Chris & Penny Harvey kindly lent us their court to cope with larger numbers and we have offers of the use of other courts for the future. Next year we look forward to running several tournaments so that we can have many more contestants.

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Sally, who is 5 months old, was brought to us because she managed to find some rat bait on a farm. Rat bait contains an agent that stops blood clotting. Sally ate one of the most powerful poisons available and within 24 hours she appeared to be off colour and her red blood cell count had dropped to 14% as a result of internal bleeding. She was promptly given a blood transfusion by our vet Alix: the blood was kindly donated by her springer spaniel, Alfie. We started Sally on an antidote and she has made a miraculous recovery.

Please remember if you need to put down rat bait, always put it in a rat bait station to avoid ingestion by other animals. Ideally, don’t use it around inquisitive dogs. We are always looking for new blood donors: Call us today 01884860236

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*Pet Health Care Plan: Save an average of £22.78 for cats and £24.56 for dogs on your vet bill per year! AND each additional pet registered free in October.*

**“Wednesday Discount Day”** 10% OFF! when you pay on the day for dental work, vaccinations and neutering.
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For details contact Angela 01884 861371

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**Trafalgar Square**
Strange as it may seem, not everyone knows that Witheridge has its own Trafalgar Square even though many of us pass through it every day. It’s where the four roads meet outside of Trafalgar House. However, did you know that the first Trafalgar Square was to be found not in London but in Bridgetown, Barbados and dates from 1813? It even had its own statue of Nelson.

Trafalgar Square in London was originally to be named ‘The King William the Fourth’s Square’ but in 1832, the King agreed to name it after the famous sea battle of 1805 and the square itself wasn’t opened until 1844, along with Nelson’s Column, which was not part of the original design.

So when was Witheridge’s Trafalgar Square named? It couldn’t have been before 1861, because before then, it wasn’t a square. There used to be 2 cottages on the end of what is now 1 Fore St, but in August 1861 they were destroyed by fire and when they were demolished, it left the space we know today.

As to the name, local memory tells us that Samuel Partridge, a Witheridge lad, had returned from working in London and was living in 1 Fore St. To make it easier for friends to find him, he told them to look for Trafalgar Square. Why he chose that name is uncertain. Perhaps he admired Nelson.

Another possibility is that the way the roads converged reminded him of the London square. (This being the reason for another village’s Trafalgar Square). However you won’t find a name plate anywhere as its not official, just a local one.

It’s difficult to date anything which doesn’t appear on official documents, but the earliest reference I can find is 1883. Trafalgar House then took its name from Trafalgar Square.

**Jim Campbell**

Information: Tithe map c 1840, Angela Pearce, local maps and directories and Witheridge Historical Archive.
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One Sunday morning, after cleaning my motorcycle, I went for a spin. Travelling towards South Molton, through Alswear I headed onto the straight and opened the throttle. After about 500 yards I found myself and the motorcycle in the air. I throttled back to no avail and carried on skyward with South Molton and the surrounding countryside well below me. I was surprised that I felt at ease. I could see the Earth far below while the moon was getting closer. I went into some kind of orbit and landed safely. I was aware that I wasn’t alone but the beings seemed friendly, not hostile in any way. I could see the Earth in the distance and gestured that was where I came from.

They beckoned me to follow them and led me to a small village (for want of a better description) where they made me welcome. We entered a building with a sign hanging above the doorway depicting a crescent Earth — their equivalent of a pub. It resembled a grotto with stalagmites which they broke off to eat. To my amazement there was a picture of Wallace and Grommit on the wall! Perhaps they had been here!

When I indicated that I wanted to sleep, they led me to a side room leaving me to reflect on my own Grand Day Out.

Diwali

If you visit a major town or city in October and you think that the Christmas lights are going up early then the chances are that there is a major Sikh or Hindu community.

From October through to November there is a celebration called Diwali; otherwise known as The Festival of Lights. During this festival it is traditional to exchange gifts, light bonfires, set off fireworks and many other traditions that can be interpreted as having Western values.

In many ways The Sikh religion is a peaceful one believing in protecting the oppressed, militarily if needed, regardless of religion.

I lived in Gravesend, Kent for a few years. They have a major Sikh temple or Gudwhara, in which each stone and carving was imported from their spiritual home in India. It is an interesting religion practising charitable values.

Raymond Parfitt
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Incomer’s Guide: Tarr Steps to Withypool Circular Walk

Distance to Tarr Steps approx 20 miles  Parking Park & Pay at Tarr Steps £2
Toilets Tarr steps & Withypool  Food - Tarr Steps & Withypool.
Directions From Witheridge drive to Dulverton then take B3223 Simonsbath
After 5 miles turn left following the signs to Tarr Steps and car park (about 2 miles)

WALK 8 miles From the car park (public toilet) walk down the hill and just past the inn and before you reach the steps take the path to the left ‘Circular Walk’.
The path follows the river all the way to Withypool and can be a bit muddy in a couple of places. It eventually climbs up to the road where you turn left and walk can retrace your steps back along the river or cross Landacre Bridge and follow the road to the left towards ‘Hawkridge’.
Keep following this road for about 2 miles and just past Westwater Farm turn left onto a path ‘Public Bridleway Tarr Steps’.
At Parsonage Farm keep left on the path for ‘Tarr Steps’ reaching a gate at the top of the field. Keep to the edge of the field. Descend and take a right turn through the woods until you reach Tarr Steps again.
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<tr>
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<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Goodwin</td>
<td>Dart View</td>
<td>860711</td>
<td>FPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Martin</td>
<td>Grist Mill</td>
<td>861011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Bradford</td>
<td>Newland Lodge</td>
<td>860629</td>
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<td>Kelly Eastman</td>
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<td>Fred Hanbury</td>
<td>Rockhaye Cottage</td>
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<td>Chris Kershaw</td>
<td>Trafalgar House</td>
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<td>Carol Prynn</td>
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<td>Mary Stanbury</td>
<td>4 North Street</td>
<td>861375</td>
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County & District Councillor

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeremy Yabsley</td>
<td>15A West Street</td>
<td>860605</td>
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Public Rights of Way Liaison

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<tr>
<td>Mr &amp; Mrs Hanbury</td>
<td>Rockhaye Cottage</td>
<td>860578</td>
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Council Information

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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<th>Month</th>
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19/12/13

Peter Dunn - Clerk to the Parish Council.
Relish  The good food company.
Highly recommended local outside caterers

Weddings, Cocktail parties, Birthdays, Hog roasts and Summer balls

A personalised event management service, equipment hire, Waitress service and licensed bar.
Please contact Sally or Suzie on 01769 550513 or 07729408629
www.relishcatering.co.uk
email: relish.goodfoodcompany@gmail.com

Need to rejuvenate old metal?
We provide a variety of services ranging from powder coating to hot zinc spray and shot blasting. We keep a range of about 100 colours in stock, and most are exterior polyesters, which provide excellent durability and colour retention on gates, railings and garden furniture.

Telephone  01884 34506
Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 8 am to 5 pm or Friday 7 am to 1 pm
Email: coatingsupplies@aol.com
www.industrialcoatingsupplies.co.uk
Units 1 + 2 Simmons Place, Kingsmill Industrial Estate Cullompton EX15 1BH

Steve Rolfe
Oil Fired Heating Services
Over 20 years experience of providing a quality service

* Service and maintenance of boilers, Aga’s and Rayburns from £58.00 + VAT
* Installation of boilers and Central Heating systems
* Oil tank replacements
* System Power Flushing
* System updates and sealed system conversions

Tel: 01398 351471  Mob: 07894080143
Highly recommended local outside caterers

A personalised event management service, equipment hire

**Things I might Go To**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W Nov 26</td>
<td>Witheridge Garden Club AGM Witheridge Parish Hall</td>
<td>Witheridge Parish Hall</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sa Nov 29</td>
<td>Christmas Mini Market Witheridge Parish Church</td>
<td>Witheridge Parish Church</td>
<td>10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th Dec 4</td>
<td>Carols led by Tony &amp; Warwick of AdLib Methodist Chapel</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Dec 5</td>
<td>Sheelanagig Returns with Parish Hall 7:30pm Tickets from Village Stores</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sa Dec 6</td>
<td>Lighting the Christmas Tree organised by SJF committee &amp; Parish Council TBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Dec 10</td>
<td>Christmas Carol Concert Witheridge Parish Church 7pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sa Dec 13</td>
<td>Witheridge Pre-School Food and Craft Fayre Witheridge Parish Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Dec 17</td>
<td>Nativity &amp; Christingle Witheridge Parish Church 6:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sa Feb 7</td>
<td>East Worlington Spring Jumble Sale Witheridge Parish Hall 2-4pm</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sa Jan 24</td>
<td>SJF Fundraiser Ferret Racing Witheridge Parish Hall 7:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 7</td>
<td>East Worlington School Spring Jumble Sale Witheridge Parish Hall 2-4pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 11</td>
<td>Garden Club Spring Show Witheridge Parish Hall 2:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat May 9</td>
<td>Garden Club Plant Sale Witheridge Parish Hall 2:30pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sa June 20</td>
<td>Witheridge St John’s Fair 11am - midnight</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sa June 27</td>
<td>Duck race and Dog Show East Worlington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sa Aug 8</td>
<td>Garden Club Summer Show Witheridge Parish Hall 2:30pm</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Car Boot Sale**

Witheridge Parish Hall Last Sunday in January & March

**Help, Advice & Devon Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Advice Bureau</td>
<td>Town Hall Tiverton 01884 234926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Helpline</td>
<td><a href="mailto:customer@devon.gov.uk">customer@devon.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon County Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northdevon.gov.uk">www.northdevon.gov.uk</a> 01271 374 776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon Council</td>
<td><a href="mailto:customerservices@northdevon.gov.uk">customerservices@northdevon.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Library 2014 - 2015**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Stop</th>
<th>Arrive</th>
<th>Depart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Witheridge</td>
<td>Square</td>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>15:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witheridge</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>15:05</td>
<td>15:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Where can we go**

www.wherecanwego.com

**Hospiscare**

Th Dec 4 Light up a Life Crediton P Church Fri Dec 5 Tiverton St Pauls 7:30

**Exmoor Pony Centre**

Su Dec 7 Foals’ Open Day 12-3pm + Santa Sundays Su Dec 14+21

**Knighthayes:**

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knighthayes Santa, lights, concerts, lunches.

**Use email:** customerservices@northdevon.gov.uk

**61**
Welcome to
The Mitre Inn, 2 The Square, Witheridge
www.the-mitre-inn.com

We have a fabulous log burning fire in the main bar,
perfect for wintery Devon evenings.

We stock Exmoor ales plus an excellent selection of bottled and house wines
Affordably priced lunchtime menu:- home-made 1/2 lb beefburgers,
Specials board frequently changed - Venison, duck, fish pie, beef and ale pie, risotto
Sunday lunch ever more popular with beautiful Exmoor park beef.

Christmas Menu  1st Dec – 23rd Dec
Available lunchtime and evenings ( except Sunday lunch)
2 course £15.95          3 course £19.75
Main course  includes turkey breast, lamb shank, salmon & king prawn pie,
mushroom, cranberry and pistachio bake.

Christmas Day  5 Course Lunch
Includes Exmoor beef, free-range turkey breast,
home cooked gammon ham, salmon fillet poached with white wine or homemade
nut roast and mulled wine.
Both menus must be pre-booked . Please book early.

Christmas Day Evening  CLOSED

New Year's Eve
Live music from Dave Gale, by popular demand and medieval fancy dress.

Opening Hours  as usual throughout the entire Christmas period
Bed and Breakfast  available over the entire holiday period.

Telephone 01884 861263  Email the.mitreinn@mail.com
THE MOUNT PLEASANT INN
Nomansland Tiverton Devon EX16 8NN
The Mount Pleasant Inn has been a popular meeting place since the 1700’s when the weary traveller would stop for a rest. The pub was once an ostler’s house and the restaurant was a blacksmith’s forge. Anne and her family have been opening the doors at The Mount Pleasant for 28 years this year. So if you are travelling by foot, car, bike, tractor, horse or steam engine you are all welcome to rest and refuel as many have always done.

Food is served all day every day
From 12 noon to 9pm
For all enquiries call
01884 860271
www.mpli.ltd.uk

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS
Christmas Day
12 til 2pm drinks only.
Boxing Day Closed
New Year’s Eve Kitchen closes 3pm.
Drinks only in the evening
New Year ‘s Day 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Jan CLOSED
Open as normal on the Monday 5th January