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This issue is literally bursting at the seams! Thank you to everyone who has contributed items and articles - please keep them coming. Welcome to some new advertisers, and our thanks go to all our advertisers for their support.

If you could let me know of births, deaths and marriages in the Village, I would be most grateful.

We are launching a photographic competition to find some great photos for the front covers of the Voice, all the details are on page 50 and we are looking forward to seeing them all.

The next issue covers November, December and up to early January, so please let me have reports of all your Christmas activities by 4th January at the latest.

Jill Horwood, Editor
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LOOKING FORWARD AT THE REST-A-WHILE

The purpose of this article is to ask you to let us know how to take the Rest-a-While forward, what should we be doing to improve our value to the village.

We’ve had a great 24 years (which is fantastic) but we do not want to rest on our laurels and live in the past. How do we go on from here to ensure that the Rest-a-While continues to serve Witheridge for the next 25 years? In my last article I mentioned the generous donations we had received from the Easter concert and also from the Pincombe family. We thought it was important to do something special and worthwhile with this money. It was decided to have a meeting with all the users of the centre to come up with some thoughts and ideas about how to put this money to good use.

The well-attended meeting was very positive and lively, and there was a strong feeling that the Rest-a-While should look more welcoming and appealing. There were lots of ideas about how we might do this including new curtains, new tables and redecoration in warmer colours to make the room seem cosier. Most talked about was the signage outside. We asked ourselves what message does it give out? Does it make people look and want to come in, or think that the Rest-a-While is just for the elderly?

It was decided that we should re-vamp the signage, making the entrance more welcoming to convey the message that the Rest-a-While is there for everyone. People were invited to come up with ideas about what the new sign should look like so now everyone is busy with paper and crayons designing it.

We would really value your ideas. At the bottom of this article there are some questions asking for your views. Please send your thoughts to either the Rest-a-While (open 10-12 Monday to Saturday) or to me - June Turner at 5, Shortridge Close, Witheridge. Please don’t forget it’s our 25th anniversary in October 2017. Do you have any old photographs of the Rest-a-While or anything else about the village that we could display? I would be most grateful to have them, either to borrow or keep, by bringing them to the Rest-a-While, or call me on 01884 861053 and I will be pleased to pick them up.

June Turner

I/We do not use the Rest-a-While because .................................................................

What can we do to encourage you to use it?.................................................................

I/We do use the Rest-a-While because .....................................................................

What can we do to improve your visit?.....................................................................
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Christmas Lights

Christmas Tree Lighting – Witheridge Square - Saturday 3rd December – 6pm

All are welcome for the annual lighting of the Witheridge Christmas Tree, kindly donated by the Parish Council. There will be carol singing in St John’s Church, before the lights are to be lit by two Witheridge Primary School children. Thereafter there will be a present from Father Christmas for all children aged primary school and below.

The Mitre Inn generously serve mince pies and mulled wine – so do not miss the event!

Photography Disclaimer: Access to this public event in publicly accessible areas is not restricted. The Committee of St John’s Fayre therefore considers that any person who is present at these events is considered to have given implied consent to appear in the background of any image or film, which may be published.

The young people of Hele Lane Methodist Church, Black Dog present a

Barn Nativity

on Friday 23rd December 2016 at 6.30pm

Come along and join us at Northwood Farm, Morchard Bishop, EX17 6RF. A wonderful family evening with music, carols and lots of live animals.

Soup, turkey rolls, mince pies and hot drinks.

Children coming along to the event are very welcome to come dressed as an angel or a shepherd and be part of the action if they wish.

Venue will be signposted. Contact 01363 827787
The Witheridge Garage which closed in 1999, was an amalgamation of two old Witheridge businesses. In the early 1900’s, Mr Doble started a cycle business in a shed in Fore Street where “St Maughans” House now stands, and a few years later he began selling motor cycles as well as cycles. Within a year or so, the first petrol cars were appearing, so Mr Doble installed two petrol pumps in what is now the dining room of Tween Moors – these were fed by two 300 gallon tanks sunk in the floor inside the room. Each pump had an overhead gantry to swing over a car so it could be filled from either side while parked on the pavement and were used for around 50 years.

In 1932 a large Bus Depot was built a few yards away on the Tiverton side by Greenslades Tours of Exeter. This was on the site where numbers 2 and 3 Ansteys Court now stand. Two petrol pumps were put outside to fill the buses and lorries as Greenslades also ran livestock haulage lorries. These two premises were separated by a Drang (alley way) with a hedge either side to allow access for animals to the fields behind owned by Winston Maunder. These fields are now Chapple Road.

In 1937, Bill Cox bought Dobles Garage, and he built a new 50ft by 20ft garage, timber framed with a tin roof on the site where 8 Ansteys Court is now. In 1938, he recruited two mechanics – Fred Rippon to work on cars, and Bill Mann to work on Fordson tractors – all in the one building.

Bill Cox sold Austin cars and Fordson tractors as well as shot guns and cartridges, and ran a wholesale tobacconists supplying tobacco to all the surrounding villages in a 5-mile radius.

Petrol continued to be sold over the pavement from the room in Tween Moors, which had by now become a car showroom for 1 new Austin car. Although Bill had no competition from Morrisons selling petrol, he did have plenty of other competition – within 5 miles petrol was sold from 16 places - all of which are now closed.
In 1946, Bill Cox sold the garage to Batten & Thorne who had garages in Tiverton, Bampton and Blue Ball. Bill went to manage their Tiverton garage, and Bill Humphrey was hired to manage Witheridge. Around the same time, service buses were nationalised and the Bus Depot became Devon General. The Devon General not only carried people, but was also the parcel carrier for anything and everything from Exeter and Tiverton to Witheridge. Parts for repairs to all makes of car always came to us by Devon General until as late as 1980. In 1960, Batten & Thorne sold the bottom garage to their manager, Bill Humphrey, and with the dismantling of nationalised buses, the Bus Depot was sold to Doug Venner who ran Tour and School Buses from there. In 1966 the two premises were joined together when Doug Venner sold the Bus Depot to Bill Humphrey and moved the coaches to Minehead, where he ran Scarlet Coaches. The two hedges between the garages were removed and the track tarmacked over, although the right of way for animals remained until 1972. The Feed Mill, which stood right across what is now Chapple Road – at the Fore Street end – was demolished and Chapple Road was developed with housing, ending the animal right of way.

A new 3 petrol pump island was built In 1967 midway between the two sites, and the two pumps in the room of Tween Moors were removed, although the underground tanks were not filled with liquid concrete until 1974. The Bus Depot was virtually unused for the next 2-3 years.

In late 1969 the James family moved from Monmouthshire to buy Witheridge Garage – George, Nora and their son Kit. Bill Mann was retired by now, but Fred Rippon remained as car mechanic with his fourth employer. The new owners put in a 5,000-gallon petrol tank and a canopy over the pumps. A new building was erected beside the Bus Depot for stores, forecourt shop and 2 offices. Dobles original workshop was demolished and St Maughans House was built on the site.

Kit James

*Part two will appear in the Winter issue*
**KNIGHTS OF WITHERIDGE**

The Knights of Witheridge were formed 7 years ago by like-minded gentlemen who wanted to give back to the community a little something to help groups, organisations and individuals who needed help. This band of men has provided help to various groups and people in Witheridge during this period and will continue to do so for the forthcoming years ahead.

Anyone can apply to the Knights via our web site address witheridgesirs@aol.com as long as they meet the following criteria;

- Organisations based within the village
- Groups within the village
- Individual living within the village

The Knights welcome all to apply and in the past we have helped the following;

- Witheridge Cricket Club
- Witheridge Pre-School
- Witheridge Gardening Club
- Witheridge Primary School
- Worlington School
- Numerous Individuals (Names kept confidential)

We hold a number of events during the course of the year to raise the funds to help these groups and people, ranging from stalls at St John’s Fair to a Tractor Push. Each and every event is organised and run by the Knights in their spare time. We are a non-profit organisation with every penny going to support the Witheridge Community.

Special mention should be given to the Chairman and founding member of the Knights Fred Hanbury, who after 7 years, has retired from the Chair of the Knights, Fred has worked tirelessly in this role in making the Knights the success they are and the current members wish to place on record their thanks for all his hard work. As recognition of this feat the Knights have made Fred their President. There a number of events coming up in the near future listed below that people may want to get involved with;

- Quiz Night 12th November in the Village Hall
- Paint Balling day at Crealy Park on 20th November

If anyone is interested in these please contact witheridgesirs@aol.com

**Steve Lea**
**Chairman Witheridge Knights**
**EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HEDGEHOGS BUT WERE TOO AFRAID TO ASK**

It gets its name from its habit of moving through hedges and making pig-like grunts. Before it was given that name it was known as the urchin, later giving its name to the spiny sea creature. They live for 2 to 7 years. They have about 5000 to 6000 spines. The spines, which are hollow and springy, last about a year then drop out and a replacement grows. Around the world there are 15 species of hedgehog, though they aren’t native to Australia or the Americas. In some states of the USA it is illegal to keep them as pets.

They have poor eyesight and rely upon excellent hearing and smell. They are nocturnal and hunt small creatures such as insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs, and snakes. They are not affected by adder venom. A group of hedgehogs is called an array, but they are usually solitary, pairing up only to mate. When they mate, the male circles the female, sometimes for hours, to persuade her to mate. I know the feeling! They then separate and the male takes no part in rearing the family. The young are born in litters ranging from one to eleven. The young, called hoglets, are born blind and without any quills. They remain with their mothers for only four to seven weeks before heading out on their own.

In cold climates they hibernate. Their body temperature drops and their breathing rate slows dramatically. When they emerge from hibernation, hedgehogs have often lost half their body weight and they must find large quantities of food quickly. It’s thought that there are now fewer than a million left in the UK.

**Some quite interesting hedgehog facts**

The Romans raised hedgehogs for quills and meat. Apparently the preferred method was to wrap the hedgehog in wet clay before roasting or stewing. As the clay hardens it adheres to the hedgehog’s quills, and pulls them out when removed. This is still the preferred method used by hedgehog eaters today. In New Zealand the McGuillicuddies Serious Party once tried to get a hedgehog elected to parliament.

Hedgehogs are lactose-intolerant, so don’t give them milk. Lastly, the Fichtelhill Hedgehogs are a German ice-hockey team.

Jim Campbell
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Please Note: Before blasting, engines must be disassembled and all internal components removed including bearings & valves.
**Ploughing Match**
The Witheridge and District ploughing match was held on Tuesday 27th September at Tree Farm, Black Dog by kind permission of the Burrow family. Over 40 ploughmen took part, including some younger entrants, which is good to see and will help the ploughing matches to continue in the future. Ploughmen came from Dorset, Somerset, Launceston and Okehampton, as well as many local entries. After the previous day’s rain, the ground ploughed well, with only a couple of showers on the day. Good ploughing is a great skill and everyone takes pride in their work with the judges marking them on different elements of their work. In the tent, the lady judges had a difficult job choosing the winners because they said the standards were so high. The Victoria Sandwich class was the best they had ever judged and every one of them deserved a first. There were lots of cakes, photos, handicrafts etc., and some excellent flower arrangements and pew ends. There were some lovely garden flowers and vegetable classes – the judge said our Chairman’s beetroot were as big as mangels!! The competitors ranged in age from 5 years to 92 years, (and she did very well), with 3 generations from several families showing in the classes.

**Sheila Manley**

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**Ploughing Trophies – Best Work**

*Of the day*  Bill Tonkin, Michael Pincombe
*Local*  Michael Pincombe
*Reversible Plough*  Sam Reed,
*Reversible Plough Open*  Thomas Gillbard
*Under 25 years*  Ben Perryman
*WYFC member*  Bill Tonkin
*Using a Ford Tractor*  Graham Henson
*Class 3*  W. D. Jenkins
*Class 5*  R. Heaman
*Class 6*  Colin Heard
*Class 7*  Tim Webb

**Farm Produce Most Points**

*In classes 9-18*  Francis Nott
*In classes 14-18*  Francis Nott and Alan Bickley
*Best Exhibit 9-18*  Roderick Hayes

**Domestic, Vegetables and Flowers Most points**

*In classes 25-41*  Joyce Rowcliffe
*In classes 42-55*  Joyce Rowcliffe
*In classes 25-55*  Joyce Rowcliffe

**Witheridge Young Farmers Most pts classes 25-55**  Jess Powell

**Children**

*Most pts classes 19-24*  Reuben Gillbard and Phoebe Govier
*Runner up in classes 19-24*  Tom Ayre
Winter 2016 Events

Christmas Parties: Throughout December
Our midweek Christmas Party menu starts at just £13.50 per person for two courses. Three-course menu is £22 per head. All menus include tea/coffee, and Christmas crackers.

Sat 10th & Sat 17th: Christmas Disco Nights
Perfect for your Christmas office get-together. Enjoy our 3-course Christmas Menu followed by a party in Dukes Function Suite, with disco & dancing until 1am. £27 per head.

Christmas Day Lunch
Our highly popular Christmas Day Banquet Lunch includes a sumptuous 4-course menu, tea/coffee, luxury crackers and a small gift for every diner. All for £57.50 per adult or £25.00 per child under 12.

New Year’s Eve Party
A dinner menu with all your favourite dishes, followed by a party in Dukes Function Suite to welcome in the New Year. £25 per head. Disco finishes at 1am.

2-for-1 Main Courses: Jan & Feb 2017
Our hugely popular 2-for-1 main course promotion is back in January & February 2017. Book your table early as we get extremely busy when this offer runs! Not available on Sundays.

For details of all of our events and offers, please ask a member of staff, or contact us on admin@thelbridgexinn.co.uk or 01884 860316

Find us on Facebook
The Last Shall Be First

Ray Thorne has had the following piece of work accepted for publication in *The Great British Write Off – Words on Fire!* The publication will come out on 30th November.
Congratulations Ray!

The Last Shall be First

*The year is 2025 and here is the news.* Shopping is now extremely difficult with only home-grown food being available. Foreign countries have banned food exports as it is all needed to help feed themselves. The Ebola virus is still spreading worldwide – estimated deaths 3 million. Hot baking summers and warm wet winters continue. Our fields are either turning to dust or being permanently under seawater. On a brighter note, the wealthy can still vacation by the seaside where ice cream salesmen enjoy global warming.

*The year is 2225 and here is the news.* As our ancient nuclear power plants are shutting down we should be grateful for our wind farms. The have been spreading for over 200 years including on farmers’ fields. “They spoil the view” complaints have now vanished. Belatedly, the Government has forbidden families from having more than two children because too much farmland has been used for housing. Also, dairy farmers can keep their cattle intensely farmed in enormous buildings. Third World populations are now extinct.

*It is June 2500 and, regrettably, here is our final news bulletin.* The surviving space engineers working on ‘Operation Noah’ are ready to send a small group of selected people on a one-way flight to Mars. There they hope to establish a new community. Down here on Earth, small isolated communities are being created in, hopefully, suitable locations to restart colonising the planet. Luckily, they will be better equipped than the cavemen.
May your god go with you.

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Breakfast: Drop-in 8:30am
Booked 7:45am
After School Club
Holiday Care every holiday except between Christmas & New Year

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ALLOTMENTS

After a good summer the plots are now being made ready for next year with plenty of work still to do! Let's hope for a cold and dry winter and warm early spring. For enquiries about plots call Sam on 01884 861527

LITTLE DART SINGERS

We are a singing group based in Witheridge. We need members who enjoy singing and can commit to one evening a week and to the 3rd Sunday each month. We occasionally sing with other local churches.
John Harris.
Practice Tuesdays 7.20pm Witheridge Parish Church

BELL RINGERS

St John The Baptist Church, Witheridge
The Bell Ringers meet every Friday evening at 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Belfry

WITHERIDGE MUSIC SEASON

Organ Concert
Wednesday 9th November, David Halls, Musical Director of Salisbury Cathedral will be playing a selection of suitable pieces to show the organs musical range. Something to suit everyone’s taste. Possibly including a Handel overture, some Nigel Ogden, Dubois, Bach and the Boellmann Gothic Suite. Further details to follow.
A service of Christmas Carols at the Parish Church on Sunday 11th December, with The Tiverton Town Band starting at 6.30pm.
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**WITHERIDGE LADIES’ CLUB**

In **July** our speaker was Sarah Swadling who demonstrated the **Bowen** technique, a different approach to pain. Several members were treated.

In **August** we enjoyed our annual garden party (albeit in the Parish Hall!) with cream teas and the usual stalls. **September** saw a visit from Jeremy Savage, ably assisted by Vicki, who gave an illustrated talk on his trip to Nepal in 2015 as part of a medical research expedition. His return was delayed by the earthquake disaster.

The Ladies’ Club also has a book club, craft club and luncheon club. Why not come along to see what we are up to! A warm welcome awaits you. 2nd Tuesday in the month. Parish Hall 2 - 4 pm.

**Coral Simmonds**

**CHARITY KNITTING**

Our group has been busy during the summer with a variety of items made. We have been given a simple pattern for bedsocks. There is no complicated heel shaping, yet when worn, the socks fit comfortably and cosily, knitted in chunky weight wool. They will be useful for the residents of care homes. In fact, several of us are thinking we’d like some for ourselves!! As always, a big thank you for the donated wool we have received.

Pinnex Moor Care Home in Tiverton were very appreciative of the twiddlemuffs they received from us. Thanks to everyone who made them.

**Eileen Haynes 860212**
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- go onto our web site at: www.wopec.net
- or telephone for a friendly chat: 01884 861186
**Memories of Witheridge in 1965**

It was very small then - The Angel was a flourishing pub, and there were 8 shops plus the garage. The Post Office is where it is now (in Central Stores) and the newsagents is also in its original place. Lloyds Bank came in from South Molton two days a week, and on Fridays there was a queue waiting to pay in cheques and withdraw money. Mr and Mrs Tout had the butchers shop, and animals were killed right behind – they also had the farm by Thelbridge Church. Dr. Morton lived in the Firs, and a passageway was the waiting room. The school was where the engineering division of Mole Valley Farmers is now, and there was also another school higher up in the village. The Village Hall had just been built and the first wedding reception was held there. The Vet was Mr. Malseed who had a new bungalow and surgery on the lane to Rackenford. John Usmar lived in a bungalow by Engine Park – he was so clever with the history of Devon. Cows used to walk through the village after being milked at The Mitre. The Mill at the top of Mill Lane was no longer working, but the leat could be seen as well as the miller’s cottage – all so altered now. Mr. Reed was a wonderful baker getting up at 4.00am to bake, and two days a week doing a round to the farms outside the village. His son Paul continued the business and still makes excellent cakes, which can be bought in the Village Shop. So many shops are now private houses. The Police Sergeant lived in The Stone House in the Square; another old Ale House was shortly afterwards turned into 2 houses, and of course the Pound House is still intact even if it has no straying animals to impound! One of the oldest farm houses is Pilliven on the Rackenford Road.

**Muriel Green**

**Witheridge Community Composting**

Green garden waste will be collected again from March to October. The cost of this service is £8 per year. We collect trailer loads of garden waste, £10 for members, £15 for non members. We also sell finished compost at £1.25/bag delivered in the village, or collect at £1 per bag. **Volunteers still needed.** We meet on Mondays and Thursdays 9.00am - 12.00. You need to be fairly fit, but most of us are in our late 60s, some in their 80s and still going. Tools and training provided plus coffee and sometimes cake! To order compost phone [Greg Henderson 860819](tel:860819). Green garden waste collected **Thurs mornings from March 2017**
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WITHERIDGE GARDEN CLUB

Henry Cruwys came to talk to us in July on Growing and Presenting Vegetables for Showing. He brought with him some examples of his crops and explained how everything has to be very clean with no “wildlife” on any part of the exhibit! Henry grows most of his crops in large raised beds, deep enough for the plants to grow downwards. When asked where he bought his seeds, he would only say that they were not local!

August was the Summer Show, and in September Judi Binks gave us an excellent illustrated talk on “The Effects of World War 1 in mid-Devon”. In a rural area, the impact was mainly on farming and women took over the running of the farms when their menfolk went off to war. Judi had found extracts in the North Devon and Exeter papers relating to the area. Belgian refugees were taken in by Witheridge people, Food Controllers were brought in to set food prices; horses were bought for use by the Army and soldiers were billeted in many local villages. Judi ended her talk with a very amusing rendition of an interview given by Mary Lees in 1974 of her experiences in training to be a Land Girl and placement on a South Devon Farm in 1914.

Next Meeting:
26th October, John Greenslade will be talking on “Farming and Conservation”
30th November AGM

Jill Horwood

Gardening Club Programme February - May 2017
22nd February Paul Fonneraeu, Cove Nursery “Plants for a Winter Garden”
29th March Gwyn Barlow – Safe Gardening
8th April Spring Show (Saturday)
26th April Mervyn Burd - Textiles
13th May Plant Sale
31st May Evening trip to Ashmoor

All meetings start at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall on the last Wednesday of the month.

Contact Kit James, Chairman, for more information  01884 860666
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WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL
Mondays: Juniors & Seniors 8-9pm
Fridays: Family & tigers (4+yrs) 6-7pm
Juniors & Seniors 7-8pm

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Interior/Exterior
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EX16 8AJ
Tel No 01884 861092
Mobile 07713545772
Email: alanthomas.decorator@yahoo.co.uk
**MONDAY CLUB**

The Monday Club members would all like to say a big thank you to Tony Charman, who has been our treasurer for the past few years. We were very sorry when his wife Ann said that due to ill health Tony can no longer continue in this role, we wish both Tony and Ann all the very best for the future and thank them both for their hard work in making our club the success that it is.

We are very pleased and grateful that Steven Smith has agreed to be our new treasurer. Thank you Steven. Our club member numbers are very good. We are a lively group of young over sixties, who enjoy our club meetings and our coach outings.

If you would like any information about what we do or where we go please phone me for a chat.

You do not need to be a member to join us on our outings but you do need to book a seat, just phone Shelia 860227 or me on 860709, you will be made very welcome. See you soon,

Val Dickinson. Chair

**UNITED CHURCHES LUNCHEON CLUB**

A lunch club for people who live on their own in the Witheridge area providing a dinner, pudding and tea or coffee in a friendly atmosphere for a small charge of £4. Transport is available to those who need it. The United Churches of Witheridge warmly invite you to join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 12 noon for 12.30. **There will be no Luncheon Club in January.** Ring Annis Stone 860398 or Yvonne Childs 860012 to book a place.

We look forward to meeting new people.

Yvonne Childs, Chairman.
A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “yes.” The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

“Now,” said the professor as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — God, your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions — and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else — the small stuff.”

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children and your grandchildren. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. “I’m glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there’s always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.”

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 cups of coffee.

Retold by Adrian Wells
Methodist Chapel
Rev John Wiltshire 01363 877281

Sunday Services 11am
(Except Churches Together service -see noticeboards)

Women’s Fellowship

- 1st Thurs in month  from March - December 2:30pm

Events at The Chapel

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 30 October</td>
<td>Churches Together</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 November</td>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 1st December</td>
<td>Carols with Ad Lib</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 18th December</td>
<td>Carols and Lessons</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>10.30am-11.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Saturday of each</td>
<td>Prayer Breakfast - everyone welcome</td>
<td>8.30am - 9.30am</td>
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<td>month</td>
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St John the Baptist Parish Church
Morning Worship and Communion Services start at 9:30am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 1st November</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 9th November</td>
<td>Organ Recital by David Halls of Salisbury Cathedral</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 13th November</td>
<td>Remembrance Sunday Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 3rd December</td>
<td>Christmas Craft Fair</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 6th December</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 11th December</td>
<td>Witheridge Carol Service with Tiverton Town Band</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16th December</td>
<td>Christingle Service with Witheridge School</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 24th December</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Holy Communion</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>11.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 25th December</td>
<td>Christmas Day Family Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Witheridge Church Rooms - small functions, classes or meetings. Kitchen and toilet. £10 per am/pm/evening. Contact Mike Childs on 01884 860012
West Middlewick Farm

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NEW
YOUTH
CLUB

I’m hoping to start a Youth Club in Witheridge for the over 15s, and I would like to thank the Knights of Witheridge for their kind donation. Would anyone like to volunteer to be our named Level 3 Safeguarding Officer for the Youth Club?

Margie Cosker 01884 861695

MARGIE COSKER’S FUNDRAISING

I raised £60 for the North Devon Animal Ambulance, the charity who 'found' me Bailey, and they are very pleased with our efforts. Thank you everyone. Thank you to everybody who bought from my stall at St John's Fair. I raised £70 for donkeys in Israel!

Margie Cosker
Although my day job as an Optometrist running the Jeremy Savage Optical Practice in Tiverton is very interesting and rewarding, I have always had a passion for mountaineering. I have spent many years walking and climbing in Scotland and more recently ice climbing in the Alps with my eldest son Ben.

Ben works as an anaesthetist in Bristol, he was asked to be the chief medical officer of a medical research expedition to the Manaslu region of the Himalayas in March – April 2015. Being a competent climber and having been to Everest base camp in 2012, I was lucky enough to be invited along to be part of the expedition. As part of the advanced party, our task would be to travel ahead of the main research group and establish base camp. The trip was to take five weeks, my wife Sheryl, who also runs the practice in Tiverton with me, was very supportive and encouraged me to take the opportunity.

Kathmandu is home to some ten million people, the streets are narrow and have no pavements, and goods from the shops spill into the street. Cars, mopeds, rickshaws and throngs of people fill the roads. Cows also wander at will on the roads, and being sacred in Nepal, have right of way. They will sit quite contentedly in the middle of the road where road users just treat them as a mini roundabout.

With rucksacks packed the day came to head into the hills, a bone shaking six hour coach ride brought us to our start point at the village of Argrat. At only 500m the temperature was more than 35 degrees centigrade and very humid. Final checks on bags and medical supplies were made, making sure they were secure and waterproof. Our lead Sherpa (Sirdar) called Neema then shared out the loads to the porters, some loads were as heavy and tall as they were. Interestingly most of the Nepali’s are named after the day of the week on which they were born - I would be Saturday Savage!!

Our daily routine would start at 6.30am. We would be woken with a cup of black tea and a bowl of warm...
water to wash with. Breakfast consisted mainly of porridge, bread, jam, peanut butter and more black tea. At about 8:00am we would break camp and start out for the day, walking along tracks, sometimes only six feet wide or less with an almost vertical drop of several hundred feet down to the river. Lunch would be around midday and was again a very high carbohydrate diet, pasta, lentils, rice, bread, curried potatoes and again more black tea. The porters were able to travel faster than ourselves and at around 5.00pm we arrived at the overnight camp. Tents would have already been set up, black tea was ready and waiting for us, supper would be on the go. The menu was again carbohydrate based including pasta, curried potatoes, lentils, rice and if we were very lucky a slice of spam. Tinned fruit was to finish washed down with more black tea! Over the next two weeks we travelled through this very rural and rarely trodden part of Nepal. We passed subsistence farming communities on the way, they still use Oxen and a metal tipped wooden plough on terraced fields. Crops mainly consisted of wheat, maize and potatoes. Sometimes there was the opportunity to visit a local monastery or school. The team arrived at base camp at an altitude of 5100m. The camp was set up on a flat snow field with several large research tents. There were three international teams conducting experiments into high altitude medicine, the French team have uploaded a video of their work onto YouTube “HYPOXIE – La science au Coeur de l’Himalaya”. The narration is of course in French, but it gives an excellent account of their earlier work in the Alps, the pre-trip base line data collection in Bangor, Wales and some excellent footage of the Himalayan trip. One of our aims was to climb Larkia peak at 6219m. The weather patterns around the world are becoming increasingly unpredictable and the weather in the Himalayas that season was particularly bad. High winds and snow arrived most days after midday causing numerous avalanches down the steep mountain faces. It was deemed too dangerous to climb beyond base camp. Research completed we packed up base camp. The expedition aimed to have a minimal impact on the environment and every last trace of our presence was removed. During our descent from base camp to the high village of Bimtang several of our porters developed snow blindness, with my expertise in eye care I supervised their treatment over the several days it took for their symptoms
to settle down. It then took us just five days to descend to the final village where we would be taken by coach back to Kathmandu.
Being back in Kathmandu was quite a change from the peace and tranquillity in the mountains. We had three days before our flights and used this time to catch up on a bit of sightseeing and shopping.
On the morning of departure we sat in the hotel reception waiting for the coach to take us to the airport. At about 11.00am I remember hearing a grumbling noise rather like a lorry parked outside, then all of a sudden the building started shaking violently and the receptionist shouted “Earthquake” - as one we all bolted for the door. As I ran towards the door the ground was moving up and down so much that when I went to put my foot down the floor was either lower or higher than I expected. We all stumbled out of the front door and had to dash through a shower of tiles and other debris falling from the roof.
Fortunately no one was hurt and we were lucky enough that the hotel was only about 20 metres away from a wide road and were able to congregate there away from the buildings that may collapse. The earthquake had seemed to last forever but probably only lasted thirty to forty seconds.
It was very sobering to realise that a moment ago you were a rich westerner with a mobile phone, credit card and Internet access; following the earthquake you just had the clothes you stood up in, no phone signal, no Internet access and only the cash you had in your pocket. I had ten Nepali rupees (6p) - all cash machines were off line.
We decided to make a quick dash back into the hotel to collect our bags, my heart was in my mouth in case an aftershock brought the badly damaged hotel down around us. We made a dash for the airport to see if we could make our flights. Unfortunately the airport was closed and we had to accept the fact we would have to spend another uncomfortable night in Kathmandu.
The next day it was chaos at the airport it took me eight hours to move fifty metres to the check in desk. Until the aircraft left the tarmac we were not convinced we would actually leave Nepal, and when the wheels left the tarmac we all cheered.
I returned home dirty, unshaven and over a stone lighter then when I left. My dear wife greeted me at the airport saying I looked like a scrawny chicken! Back at work my wife and I decided to raise money for the disaster relief
effort in Nepal. We raised over £3000 which was donated to Shelter Box, their excellent work helps to provide immediate help and shelter for victims of natural disasters.
I will always remember the honest, hard working and generous Nepali people with great affection

Jeremy Savage

COMMUNITY NEWS

In memory of
Ena England died 1st May 2016 aged 102

Congratulations on their marriage
3rd September Natalie Ball and Mark Arthur

Baptism
11th September Albie Arthur Seward

COMMUNITY POLICING

Over the past few months there has been one crime which was theft of wheels and tyres from the mechanics at Old Market Field Industrial Estate, Witheridge, on 15/09/2016. The Police crime reference number is CR/065564/16.

There have also been several reports of speeding vehicles around Witheridge. Police have carried out several speed checks and have spoken to several motorists who have exceeded the 30 MPH speed limit.
If there are any further issues within your area that are of police interest then call us on 101 non emergency and 999 if you require the emergency services.
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**WITHERIDGE ART GROUP**

If you would like to join us, you will find us in the parish hall committee room every Wednesday evening from 7.30 to 9.00. A group of people who have painting and drawing as a hobby and find a class with friends a happy and productive experience. We have facilities for disabled people, and a cupboard full of materials if you would like to try us out. The subscription is merely £1.50 per week and £5 annual membership.

Please contact **Eileen on 860564** or just come along and see us.

---

**FIRE FIGHTERS**

Witheridge fire station took part in The Firefighters charity carwash on 24\textsuperscript{th} September. The weather was really nice, we had a very good turnout for it and raised a total amount of £403.75 for the charity.

The aim of the Fire Service Charity is to help members of the fire and rescue community who put their lives on the line every day to save others, whilst providing support for their families.

It costs over £9 million every year to keep the Charity running, and we are completely reliant upon donations and fundraising, so your support is very much needed.

As well as washing cars we also gave out home fire safety advice, If you would like a home safety visit and are eligible then please call 0800 05 02 999 to arrange one.

**Wayne Keenan**

Watch Manager Station 46 Witheridge & Assistant Local Risk Manager
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18 Hole Pay and Play Course

- No need to book a tee time
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website www.chulmleighgolf.co.uk   Email chulmleighgolfcourse@outlook.com
**CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES**

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<td>Witheridge School</td>
<td>1st and 3rd</td>
<td>Tuesdays 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guides</td>
<td>Witheridge School</td>
<td>2nd and 4th</td>
<td>Tuesdays 6.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>6.00 - 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Club</td>
<td>Church Rooms</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd</td>
<td>Thursdays 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WITHERIDGE GUIDES AND BROWNIES**

**Witheridge Brownies**
The Brownies are working towards their Disability Awareness Badge this term. So far they have made Paralympic posters, Guides Dogs UK have been in to give them a talk about how they train the Guide dogs, they even brought in a Guide dog for them to see. The Brownies will be having a Halloween disco and fancy dress competition which will include some apple bobbing! In November the Brownies are going to be learning how to sign their name using the finger spelling alphabet.

**Witheridge Guides**
The Guides have been working on their GFI badges. Some of the Guides are working towards their Party Planning Badge and are planning to hold a Christmas Party for the Guides. Other Guides are working towards their Experiment Badge, having already made slime, they will attempt sherbet next. The Guides will be joining the Brownies in November for a camp fire with hotdogs, marshmallows and hot chocolate.

Brownies meet every other Tuesday at Witheridge School hall from 6-7.30pm.
Guides meet every other Tuesday at Witheridge School hall from 6.45-8.15pm.
If anyone is interested in their daughter joining Brownies aged 7-10, or Guides aged 10-14, then please do not hesitate to contact me or visit the Girl Guiding website. [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

**Kim Howard** 01884 860311    k.vhoward@hotmail.com
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Tel: 01884 860266     Email: info@newhousecottages.com
or visit our website at www.newhousecottages.com
The performance of Much Ado About Nothing which Oddsocks put on at the end of August was fantastic. It rained and it poured and then it really rained but hardly anyone left in the interval. The actors were absolutely amazing in their fortitude but so was the audience! The show was quite simply brilliant and everyone loved it. We will look forward to seeing Oddsocks in Witheridge again one day.

Nik Skorecki has come on to the Parish Hall committee to help with fundraising and has taken on the task of obtaining a basketball hoop for the area behind the Parish Hall, it is going to be a wonderful sturdy one and will therefore be fairly expensive. Please would anyone like to give us a donation to help with the cost? Any donations may be given to Nik, Chris Kershaw or to me and we would be very grateful.

Just in time for winter we have put in some picnic tables! Hopefully they will be very useful next summer and add to everyone’s enjoyment of the hall.

We are thinking of putting on a storyteller in the hall again as a Christmas present from the hall for the children of the village. Is there any interest in this?

Any comments, ideas, offers of help or contributions can be emailed to me spicerclare@gmail.com.

Clare Spicer

BINGO

Thank you to everyone for their support. We have managed to Donate £100 to four Charities - Devon Air Ambulance, Rest-A-While Centre, Blue Cross and People 4 Ponies.

A very big thank you to all our Bingo Players.

The Tuesday dates for the next 5 months are November 1st, 15th and 29th, December 13th; January 10th & 24th, February 7th & 21st, and March 7th & 21st.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Marion Crane  01884 860530.
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South Coombe Farm
Witheridge
Tel: 01884 860302
Email: stay@southcoombe.co.uk
Web site: www.southcoombe.co.uk
Further to our previous report concerning the Bumbles outside play area we are pleased to be able to say that the sun shone on our official opening performed by Fred Hanbury of behalf the Knights of Witheridge, we remain indebted to them for their continued support. The older children were delighted to be able to explore the area at the same time as it was a special occasion.

Elsewhere in the setting we are focusing on ‘ourselves’, who we are, where we live which has been supported with a walk around the village looking at different types of houses that are our homes. This will then link in to our theme of habitats linking to hibernation.

We have an aerial photograph of the village prior to the new houses in Cannington Road being built and we can link this to the children’s homes, however if anyone has a recent shot with the Doctor’s surgery and the new build on it we would love to be able to show it to the children please.

Our potato harvest was once again successful so along with Jayne’s produce the children have been able to make vegetable soup.

We have a busy fund raising time ahead with our Halloween Party, Christmas Fayre with Father Christmas and elf in attendance. Hopefully if Father Christmas has time he will also be making a visit to the village with his sleigh on Christmas Eve!

Thank you once again to everyone from the wider community who supports all our fund raising efforts. it really is appreciated.

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INCOMER’S GUIDE: 
BRAUNTON BURROWS - CROW POINT & BOARDWALK

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

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

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

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

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

Carole Campbell

MORE Braunton Burrows walks here: www.explorebraunton.org/downloadable-walks.aspx
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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

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

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

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 11.00am - 12.00 in Parish Hall
Greg Henderson
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**WITHERIDGE TAEKWONDO CLUB**

Congratulations to Jake Curtis and Joe Webber for a fantastic performance at the South West Championships.

Witheridge TAGB club members have had a busy and successful summer with gradings and competitions. Ed Whitwell, Joe Webber, Jake Curtis and Ven Perera all represented the club at the World Championships, they did really well competing at the highest level, and club Instructor Ven Perera won a bronze medal in black belt patterns.

The South West Championships saw club members shining again with 3rd for Jake Curtis in patterns, 3rd for Joe Webber in sparring and 1st for Ven Perera in black belt patterns. Awesome results and fantastic to see their hard work paying off.

The British Championships are coming up and we hope to have another strong club performance.

Congratulations to Matt Waters, Ed Whitwell, Joe Webber and Jake Curtis on their recent promotion to red belts, and special mention to Ed for getting a plus pass. Good luck to Phoebe Pennells and Jess Waters who are both going for their black belts soon.

All our Tigers (4yrs+) are fantastic and every month we have a difficult task selecting a 'Tiger of the Month' who has worked exceptionally hard and shown great improvement, attitude and focus. This quarter the Tigers of the Month have been: Jessica Curtis, Harry Shere, Lily Perera, Finley Raybould and Jerome Mantle. Keep up the good work all of you.

I want to thank all our members and their families for all their help and support since I took over the club. We have a fabulous friendly membership who really make this club a community. Come and see for yourself and get your first month free!

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**TENNIS CLUB**

Invasion!  Help!  The Young are taking us over!

Who would believe it and what a great problem to have?  Young players are increasingly dominating play and driving down our average ages. It’s been another busy year for Witheridge Tennis Club.  On Saturday July 16\textsuperscript{th}, we enjoyed yet another highly sociable one-day Open Tournament and once again, young members made their presence felt.  In the picture Joseph Court and his partner Pat Dodds are seen receiving the Dodds Trophy, while ever more younger players between five and 16 are attending our local coaching sessions.

So whether young or ‘not so young’ help keep momentum and join us now (01363 866 033)

Vine Spragg

**WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY**

Warm sunny weather greeted the players for the Autumn Trophy at Waterbridge on the 7\textsuperscript{th} September and resulted in a win for the team of local players Alistair Collinge and Mick Cole plus Chulmleigh players Mike Merrigan and Mike King, the team scoring a remarkable eagle 2 on the difficult 9\textsuperscript{th} hole. The wooden spoon was awarded to John Avens, Jim Steele and Terry Hawkins.

The next meeting will be held at Waterbridge for the Christmas Trophy on Wednesday the 7\textsuperscript{th} December.

New members are always welcome. The emphasis will be on enjoyment through a team game. Contact Andrew Clark on 01884 860612 or e-mail at astonguy@tring92.f2s.com.

Andrew Clark
**WITHERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB**

Witheridge AFC has had an overhaul of the club over the summer. Andre Pike has stood down as chairman and Graham Pilsbury has taken over the running of the club. Everyone is grateful to the drive and ambition that Andre has put in over the past 10 years in taking the club to the level of football at which it is now, and the facilities it provides for its members. We are now looking forward to establishing a sound footing for future members to enjoy and build upon the level achieved. Graham has already brought a new outlook on the club and has introduced a new band of helpers. The first team manager also changed over the summer with Pete Buckingham, an experienced manager in our level of football, taking charge. Both the seconds and thirds are improving every season and will mount challenges for promotion so football is looking bright.

If you would like to get involved please come along.

**Paul Rich**

**PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

We are looking for some great photos to go on the front of The Voice, so now is your chance to send in photos that show our lovely Village in all its glory. They could reflect the seasons, or a building, animals – whatever you think would look good on the front cover.

You can email them to me at voiceeditor@btinternet.com; or give me a ring on 01884 861323 and I’ll come and collect them. Whichever way you choose, please include your name, contact details and where the photo was taken. If your photo includes people, please make sure you get their permission for the photo to be printed. **Closing date: 3rd January 2017**

The Voice Committee will judge all entries with the best ones taking pride of place on the front cover of future issues starting with January 2017. One entry per person, please.

**Jill Horwood**

**Editor**
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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
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www.mpli.ltd.uk
**EAST WORLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA**

Our latest project has been a new cover for the school pond, designed and made by Bradley Engineering. This now makes the pond area a safe outdoor learning environment for the children. Although the September jumble sale was a bit quieter than some, we still raised a fantastic £556.50 plus a further £104 from the Bag2School collection the following week. The next jumble is booked for 4th February. Plans are underway for a Halloween Disco, a Theatre Alibi production of ‘The Boy who climbed into the Moon’ and a trip to the Queen’s Theatre for the Christmas Pantomime, Aladdin. The PTFA are also funding a Roman Day workshop, an E-Safety drama workshop for KS2 and of course some Christmas fun! Following the recent AGM I am continuing as Chair, with Alison Skinner as Secretary and Nina Phillips taking on the role of Treasurer.

Donna Webber  
www.worlingtonptfa.org

**WITHERIDGE SCHOOL PTFA**

Witheridge School PTFA have been really busy, with a new Committee voted in. The Summer Fete in July was very successful, despite the weather, and we raised over £500.

Our Christmas Fayre is on December 1st, at the School, 3.30-5.00. There will be stalls, games, cake competition, refreshments, raffle, and a special visitor if we are lucky!!

Please come along and support our events. All money raised goes towards activities and equipment for the children. The PTFA paid for the children to go on a beach trip last term, and this term we hope to raise enough to send the children to the Pantomime, and purchase some benches for the playground.

Helen Johnson, PTFA Secretary
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 C of E Primary School

The federation between High Bickington C of E Primary School and Witheridge C of E Primary School has been in place for just over a year now and has brought many positives. Staff have been able to work collaboratively on planning, assessing and moderating children's work, we have also shared expertise across the 2 schools, and the children have had many opportunities to work together and expand their friendship groups.

Building on from this positive start we are now looking at working together with other schools and ultimately to become part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

We do, however, want to ensure we work with other schools which are a good fit with us in terms of their ethos and their rounded, primary led approach to the education of our children.

With this in mind the school’s Governing Body has been proactively looking at different MAT options over the past year. We have received presentations from several MATs, had in-depth discussions with leadership teams, and visited many schools to get a really thorough picture of possible future opportunities.

As a result of this process in September we entered into a 'Management Partnership' with TEAM Multi Academy Trust. They have a Church of England connection and are very similar in their ethos and approach with a strong track record of supporting and working with small village schools. The Management Partnership will run for the Autumn term and is a no commitment trial time giving all parties the opportunity to explore the possibility of a future, long term partnership, and determine whether that is the path which is in the best interests for children at all the schools involved.

Mr. Mulligan, current Executive Head of TEAM, has taken on the additional role of Head of both Witheridge and High Bickington and Mr. Norton has moved back into a Head of School role in High Bickington. Other staffing and our Governing Body will continue unchanged. Any future decisions to make a more permanent move into a MAT would only be made after a consultation period involving parents and other stake holders.

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**BUMPS AND BEYOND**

The Witheridge Parent and Toddler Group has had a great start to the autumn term. We ended the summer with a special session from the Children’s Centre where they “brought the beach to Witheridge” with sand and water play. September has been a fun packed month which has included our group joining the South Molton library which means we now have access to up to 30 books each half term and we are looking forward to visiting the library soon as a group too for some bounce and rhyme fun and to choose some new books for the rest of the term.

During one of our usual Wednesday mornings (every week from 9:30-11:30am) we held a special MacMillan coffee morning and raised over £60 for this great charity – thank you to everyone who took part by making and eating cakes and for the generous donations.

Looking ahead to the end of term we will be holding our Christmas party on Wednesday 14th December from 11am to 1pm (later time than usual so that we can have a bring and share lunch).

We have loved meeting some new families so please do come along and join us – all carers of babies and pre-schoolers are more than welcome and you can find us on Facebook under Witheridge Parent and Toddler Group to keep up to date about all our special events.

Bumps and Beyond meet at the Parish Hall in Witheridge every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30am. £1.50 per session per family to include snacks and drinks for children and hot drinks, biscuits (and sometimes cake!) for adults.

Contact Denise on 01884 861 365 or denisehenson@me.com for more information

Denise Henson.
News in Brief (Full details on the website www.witheridgepc.org)

**Audit 2016**
The Audit for the year ending 31/03/16 has now been signed off by the External Auditors Grant Thornton with no qualifications. It is available on the website for your review. Any queries please contact the clerk.

**Parish Meeting - Public Toilet Block Refurbishment**
Scheduled for Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} December 19:00 at the Parish Hall. There will be a short presentation followed by an opportunity to raise any questions you may have on the proposal. For more info. read full article.

**Christmas is around the Corner** – The council is currently arranging this year’s tree in the Square to be installed the week prior to Saturday 3\textsuperscript{rd} Dec, the official switching on of the lights organised by St John Fair.

**Councillor Vacancy** – If you are interested in co-option please contact the clerk.

**Council & Committee Meetings**

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 – Tel: 01363 460046 Email: parishclerk@witheridgepc.org

Please telephone or email to arrange a mutually agreeable time and venue. Contact details below, a full list of councillors and their responsibilities can be found on the website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Meeting Schedule</th>
<th>Chairman: Cllr J Harvey Tel: 860629</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Feb</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Jul</td>
<td>Aug</td>
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<td>RECESS</td>
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Have Your Say – Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} Dec 19:00 - Parish Hall

The toilet block in the Square continues to serve residents and visitors, however the building does need some maintenance undertaken. As part of a review of works required, the council feel the space could be better used by the community.

The council has made enquiries and had plans drawn up to refurbish the building, creating a modern uni-sex public toilet and baby changing facility to one end. In the middle a new office / small meeting room for the community. And finally a small store at the opposite end.

The proposals’ cost will need to be met by the parish and any grants the council can secure. To manage the financial impact on the parish it is proposed to take out a loan which would be repaid over 5 to 10 years from the parish precept (the parish council part of the Council Tax).

Let us know your thoughts on the proposed changes and funding. You can do this at the meeting or by contacting the clerk (details in the contacts web page).
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## Community Information N Devon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library 2016</th>
<th>RECYCLING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>South Molton Recycling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge</td>
<td>Station Rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates Nov 21; Dec 19</td>
<td>R at junction into S Molton, 1st left</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge The Square 14:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>Apr- Sept Sat &amp; Sun 10-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge School 15:05 - 15:50</td>
<td>Oct-Mar Sat &amp; Sun 10-4:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRVS Home Library Service. For anyone physically unable to reach a library. Phone 01392 384315</td>
<td><strong>Tiverton Recycling</strong> Approx 2 miles from Tiverton on A396 Bickleigh on RHS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Advice Bureau 01884 234926</td>
<td><strong>Apr - Sep</strong> M-F 9- 5 Sat &amp; Sun 10-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon Council</td>
<td><strong>Oct - Mar</strong> M-Fr 9- 4:30 Sat &amp; Sun 10- 4:30</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.northdevon.gov.uk">www.northdevon.gov.uk</a> 01271 374 776</td>
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## News from South Molton and District Children’s Centre

**Under 5’s stay and Play and Child Health Clinics**

**Witheridge Clinic** - runs on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month 9.30am – 11.30am at the Parish Hall. This group is for all under 5’s and their carers. There will be a range of fun activities for you and your children to explore together. There will be health visitors in attendance to weigh your babies and for you to discuss any concerns you may have.

If you would like information on this or any of the groups that Children’s Centres deliver please contact Northern Devon Children’s Centres on 03300415493 or 01769 579615.
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Sun 7.30 am-1.00 pm
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**Thank you for your continuing support**

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16a The Square

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Thank you for your continuing support
The Mitre Inn, 2 The Square, Witheridge

Andy, Barbara and all our staff at the Mitre Inn welcome our customers old and new to our 18th Century Christmas Inn, situated in the village of Witheridge, which is nestled within the heartlands of the beautiful county of Devon.

We are extremely proud to have been awarded the 'Trip advisor certificate of excellence for 2016' courtesy of our customer reviews.

**Christmas Menu**
Our Christmas lunch/dinner menu is available from 1st to 23rd December 2016, (except Sunday lunch). Main course includes Turkey breast, English lamb shanks, Sea bass fillet, Mushroom, cranberry and brie Wellington, and Nut roast.
2 courses £17.75 or 3 courses £22.75

**Christmas Day**
On Christmas Day, we have a 5 course lunch with a choice of main courses: Exmoor beef, Turkey breast, Home cooked gammon ham, Salmon fillet and Nut roast.
£55 per person  (children under 10 - £27.50 per person)

Both menus must be pre-booked. Please book early.

**Christmas Day Evening - Closed**

**New Year’s Eve**
Fancy dress, food, drink and, back by popular demand, Dave Gale with lots of 60’s and 70’s music

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

To book a table, room or for any other enquiry please telephone 01884 861263 or email us at: the.mitreinn@mail.com
www.themitreinn-witheridge.co.uk
Like us on Facebook to catch us early when we post special offers and events.