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EDITORIAL

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in whatever way to the contents of this issue. For the first time since I took over as Editor, I have had to hold some articles over for the next issue - just too many to put in!

I was a little disappointed with the number of entries for the photography competition, but those who did send in their entries will all have their photos on front covers this year. Congratulations to Nigel Raybould for the stunning shot of the Little Dart which appears on the front cover of this issue.

If you have any articles or photos you would like to put in the magazine, please let me know - the more the merrier!

Deadline for articles the next issue will be 5th April.
Jill Horwood, Editor

Advertising in Witheridge Voice

Advertising rates, to include the next 4 quarterly issues of the magazine starting Winter 2017, are: Full page £102, ½ page £56 ⅓ page strip £42, ⅙ page box £26.
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LOOKING FORWARD AT THE REST-A-WHILE

What a fantastic year we have had! Lots of new people visiting us plus new volunteers to swell the existing merry crew to make the Rest-A-While a happy, vibrant place in which to enjoy one another’s company and to have a delicious cup of tea or coffee. May this continue as we build up to our 25th anniversary celebrations in October 2017.

In my last article I wrote about our wish to gather ideas from you on how we may continue to improve the Rest-A-While and encourage even more people to use the facilities it has to offer.

I would like to thank everyone who have already submitted their ideas which we are now in the process of implementing. One suggestion was to have a seating area outside the Rest-A-While, thereby enabling dog walkers to stop and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with us.

We are sure there are plenty more good ideas still to come. If you have not been in touch with us so far there is still time for you to do so; we would be most happy to hear from you.

In particular, we are keen to hear from people who do not currently come to the Rest-A-While and learn what we may need to do to encourage you to do so.

We would be most grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire. We are happy to accept your thoughts on a separate sheet of paper if you prefer not to cut the coupon out of the Voice.

Replies may be handed into the Rest-A-While or dropped off at the newsagents in the village. Alternatively, if you would like to phone me on 01884 861053 to discuss your ideas I would be very pleased to hear from you.

June Turner Secretary

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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WITHERIDGE COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

It is with regret I have to tell you that the Witheridge Community Composting function will cease to collect green garden waste from January 1st 2017, due to lack of helpers and a reduction of 50% in our funding from N.D.D.C. We will, however, have compost to sell for a few months in 2017 to clear our stocks from material collected in 2016 - this will be on a first come first served basis priced at £1.00 per bag delivered in the village.

SHORT HISTORY

Our little group was first formed in July 1995, when grants were obtained from N.D.D.C. (£300.00), Rural Action (£205), Shell Ltd (£500.00), and a loan of £100.00 from the Gardening Club. Devon Community Composting Network loaned a trailer and shredding machine, a site was obtained outside the village, where bins were built and the composting process was started. In 1996, the first year of operation, 127 collections were made from 59 customers, and 136 bags of compost were produced.

In 1997 we transferred our production to West Yeo farm, to a site offered to us by Mr Fred Woollacott, more bins were built giving us more capacity, and a sieving machine was constructed giving us a better end product. A shredder was also purchased, after having a coffee morning and Bingo evening to help raise funds.

In 2000 when Mr Woollacott sold his farm, we moved further out of the village where the site had some old sheep sheds which enabled us to carry out our operations under cover. We were also able to put in hard standing thanks to a generous grant of £2,900.00 from N.D.D.C. In 2003 we purchased two new shredders, helped with grants of £500.00 from D.C.C, £400.00 from N.D.D.C, and £500.00 from our own Parish Council.

In 2004 we peaked when we collected from 174 households, making over 2300 pickups, and sold over 850 bags of compost, this meant working in excess of two mornings a week, and involved over 1500 hours of O.A.P. labour!!!

Harry Richardson Treasurer 860522
100 YEARS OF WITHERIDGE GARAGE - PART 2

Dobles original workshop was demolished and St Maughans House was built on the site. Car repairs continued in the car workshop and the Bus Depot became a tractor sales and repair building. New Ford tractors were sold from 1970 to 1974, and then new Deutz tractors and farm machinery between 1974 and 1986. Fred Rippon was later joined by a young school leaver, John Burd who, when Fred retired in 1988 after 50 years in the same workshop with 4 different garage owners, took over running the car workshop.

In 1984, with agricultural sales expanding, Highfield Yard at Nomansland was purchased to store large machinery and provide parking for an articulated lorry and trailer – not possible at Witheridge. 1983 saw the first supermarket open in Tiverton called Key Markets (now Morrisons), which sold cheaper petrol and a quarter of petrol sales disappeared overnight. The second blow to petrol and forecourt sales came in 1988 with the opening of The North Devon Link Road (A361) from Tiverton to Barnstaple, which took all the through traffic away from Witheridge.

The final but gradual drop in sales was the surge in diesel vehicles. We sold Derv, but farmers could store Derv (unlike petrol) in an overground tank. They installed a second tank beside the “Red” agricultural diesel tank, and Derv was delivered to them with their “Red” diesel. Nowadays, virtually every farmer buys road diesel in bulk and has no need to visit a petrol station. Most bigger diesel cars and 4 x 4’s will go 500 miles on a single tank.

In 1997, the Old Market Field Industrial Estate was built. John Burd decided to have a go at business as his own boss and rented a unit. When John left, most of the car repair business went with him.

The James family were more interested in tractors, and as the yard...
at Nomansland was not fully utilised, it was decided to sell Witheridge Garage as a going concern. After 12 months with no serious interest in a rural garage business, Development Planning Permission was sought and granted in 1998 for housing development. The garage buildings were demolished, the tanks dug up and the site was fenced off awaiting a developer in 1999. The site was sold to Guy Langworthy in 2000 and eight new houses were built in 2001/2002. The old garage house, by now known as Tween Moors, was sold in 2003 and that was the end of a garage in Witheridge.

The name “Witheridge Garage Ltd” still lives on as a business, operating from Nomansland, buying and selling modern tractors, combines and agricultural machinery. Nowadays we do business all over the world – we sell right across Europe, as well as exporting as far as Canada, New Zealand and even Venezuela. In a good year, we can sell up to 160 tractors.

So there it is, “The first 100 years of Witheridge Garage.”

Kit James

COMMUNITY NEWS

In memory of

7th November  Funeral of Roy Hageman

9th January  Funeral of Laura Cockram

Baptism

9th October  Isabelle Megan Boyles

9th October Deseree Hana Twomasi
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VETERINARY SURGEON.
The day starts at 8.30am and the first job for myself and my vet nurse is to check
the patients and any new admissions made overnight by the duty vet. The nurse
takes dog patients out for a quick walk, if they are able, and cleans out the
kennels whilst I read up the clinical notes and assess the status of the hospital
patients. Any medications needed are given. Either myself or the vet nurse will
ring the patient’s owners to update them. Consultations are from 9am to 1pm,
and then again from 2pm until 5pm. We are one of the few practices in the area
open for routine business on a Saturday afternoon. On a Saturday, my
consultations can be for anything from routine booster vaccinations and annual
check-ups to minor ailments, sick pets and emergencies rushing in from dog
tests, accidents and road traffic injuries.

Our first patient of the day was an emergency admission of a cat that had been
struggling to urinate for a day or so and didn’t seem to be passing any urine this
morning. The owner was very worried so was told to bring the cat straight down
to the surgery. On examination the cat was a large, rather over-weight tom cat.
We admitted him immediately for treatment as
his bladder would need emptying urgently. As
this is an emergency we started straight away and
my colleague, the duty vet, came to assist so we
could continue the morning routine consultations
as well. The cat was started on intravenous fluids
(a drip) and then sedated so that we could pass a
urinary catheter into his bladder to empty it. The
catheter will normally stay in place for 24-48 hrs
until we are happy the cat will be able to urinate on his own. I examined a
sample of his urine to look for a reason for his blockage (often urinary stones and
infection) and a blood sample was taken to check his kidney function and general
health. He would stay in the hospital over the weekend so we could keep him on
fluids, pain-relief and make sure his urinary catheter didn’t re-block.
After discharge we would book the cat in to see the nurse at a weight-loss clinic,
as well as treating the bladder problem; being overweight is a risk factor for
future urinary tract blockages.

Today’s consultations were a mixture of vaccinations and minor ailments -
diarrhoea, itchy skins and sore ears. The duty vet at South Molton is responsible
for the farm and equine calls on a weekend but is able to help with the small
animal emergencies when needed in this way.

At about 1pm we stop consulting and try to get some lunch ourselves. There are
generally some phone calls to make, reporting lab results and getting updates on
patients, dealing with telephone enquiries and drugs to dispense for repeat prescription requests. Lunchtime is a busy time as people often pop in on a Saturday to pick up flea and worm prevention medications and repeat prescriptions and if they need to chat to a vet about the treatments I will be called down. At some point during the lunch break I will check on hospital patients and catch up with the nurse who is looking after them. Today it was just our catheterised cat who was recovering nicely from his earlier anaesthetic.

After about 3.30pm during our afternoon consultations, we sometimes get a lull in work which can be a welcome opportunity to catch up with phone calls, paperwork and repeat prescription requests. Today a springer spaniel was rushed in to us, having torn itself badly on some barbed wire and needing stitches in a large gash in the skin on its flank. I admitted the dog immediately and as we had no consultations booked for an hour or so we started the operation straight away. The dog was sedated with a quick acting sedative and the skin wound was prepared and cleaned before being sutured back together. Thankfully the wound today was a simple straight-forward skin wound and once the operation was over we reversed the sedation. The dog was ready to go home on medication an hour or so later.

By 5.15pm, I had seen the last patient of the day. Our only hospital patient was now the cat with the catheterised bladder. After checking his status and his drip and other medications, I rang his owner to let him on how he was doing and what the plan for him would be for the next day. I then contacted the duty vets who would be looking after him over the weekend to update them on what his status was and what treatments he needs. The duty vet would pop in several times overnight to check him and administer medications.

At 5.30pm the practice is closed and our telephones are put through to the emergency service. By 5.45pm, after tidying up, we can go home, safe in the knowledge that we are leaving our patient to the care of our colleague, the duty vet. If you were wondering about what happened to the cat he went home after a couple of days in the hospital, having recovered enough to be able to urinate normally again. We put him on a special diet to prevent similar problems in the future.

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Veterinary Surgeon at Market Veterinary Centre,
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**FIRE FIGHTERS**

We had a busy few days helping to deal with the incident at the Royal Clarence in Exeter. The fire started in The Well House just after 5am on the morning of 28th October 2016.

We were sent to Tiverton station on standby at about 10am. We had only just arrived when we were sent to Exeter. It was upsetting to see that the fire involved some of the historic buildings that survived the bombing of the city in 1942.

Our job initially was to stop the fire from spreading to the High Street. We were working in the area of Martin’s lane where the buildings back onto the Clarence. It was a difficult fire to get under control because of the construction and proximity of the buildings. The fire was able to spread through voids and spaces behind walls.

At the height of the incident 27 pumping appliances were actively involved in firefighting operation with 150 firefighters actively involved. This presented a logistical challenge to our control room who need to make sure fire cover is maintained across the whole of Devon and Somerset.

We were there on and off over the period of about a week. This was the most significant building fire in Devon and Somerset for many years.

On a lighter note we held a successful charity disco on the 12th November. We raised £628.18. Thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation and attended on the night. £500 went to St Johns Fair and £123.18 to The Firefighters Charity.

We are planning another community event later this year.

Hannah Hawkins
Firefighter
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**MONDAY CLUB**

Three cheers for The Monday Club,
What a lovely year we have had, touring around our beautiful countryside and visiting the Coast, all in the comfort of Powells Coaches. We have laughed and joked, drank endless cups of tea and coffee, not forgetting all the plates of food, and we have made new friends.

We have had some excellent speakers at our meetings held in the Day Centre and we have learnt a lot about our gardens, our pets, how to protect ourselves in our own home, we heard about training puppies for the blind, we have had films to watch, we discovered what the Free wheelers did, we even understood and enjoyed The Sky at Night; George came and told us about his work in Broadmoor, then came again another afternoon and told us about his Walk around Britain with his dog, this was so entertaining that he is coming back next year with part two.

We heard about the Witheridge Composting Scheme, a very down to earth talk. We held a Harvest Service and a Beetle Drive; Paddy came to tell us about a book she had written, what a life she has had, Paddy is also coming back next year for the next exciting chapter.

Hip, Hip Hooray.

If you would like more details on how to join the Monday Club just give me a call on 860709.

Hope to hear from you.

Val Dickinson, Chair

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**UNITED CHURCHES LUNCH CLUB**

There was no meeting of the Lunch Club in January as it was so close to the New Year. We next meet at 12 noon for 12.30 pm on 7th February, 2017, when the meal will be Cottage Pie. Anyone wishing to join us should contact one of the following people a week or more before that date to book their place.

- Yvonne Childs 860012
- Annis Stone 860398
- Val Dickinson 860709

We would like to wish everyone a happy New Year.

Yvonne Childs
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ALLOTMENTS

It's been a reasonably mild start to the winter, let's hope that it will stay fairly dry with some cold weather to knock back the nasties! We have vacant plots that need to be filled so please don't hesitate to inquire.

Contact Sam 01884 861 527

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
New ringers always welcome, we meet at 8.30 am in the belfry on Sunday mornings.

WITHERIDGE MUSIC SEASON
AT ST JOHNS PARISH CHURCH

Wednesday 15th February  7.30pm -
A Concert for Organ and Flute.  Tickets: £12

Saturday 11th March  3.30pm
“A Blast From the Past”  Part Two.  Tickets: £7

Sunday 2nd April  6.00pm -
The Salvation Army Devon and Cornwall Youth Band and Choir.  Tickets  £5.
Box Office for the above Events:  Val Dickinson, 01884 860709

Wednesday 12th April  7.00pm -
The Easter Concert
Tickets: £15 Reserved,  £12 Unreserved
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Sunday 30th April  6.30pm  -  Exeter Male Voice Choir, Evensong Service
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**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

I am running the Brighton Marathon on April 9th 2017 - it is my first marathon, and I am doing it for MacMillan Cancer Support. My twin sister has been diagnosed with breast cancer and MacMillan have been fantastic. I live in the village, and many people may have seen me running around the lanes, they'll see me a lot more over the coming months as I up my mileage. If you would like to help, this is the link: 

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Macmillan-Brighton](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Macmillan-Brighton)

or you can go to justgiving and search on my name: Elisabeth Hipkins.

Thank you very much

Lis Hipkins

Lis, on the left, and her twin sister

**ART GROUP**

We now have a newly decorated parish hall committee room with wonderful lighting which is great for our Art Group.

If you would like to join us we meet there every Wednesday at 7.30pm until 9.00pm. We are a small group of people who have painting and drawing as a hobby and find a meeting with friends a happy and productive experience.

We have facilities for disabled people, tea and coffee available and a cupboard full of materials if you would like to try us out without spending too much. We also exhibit our work at St. John's Fayre in June each year and all of us have sold pictures.

Dave Dickinson

We had a lovely night out with dinner at the Thelbridge Cross Inn for members and their partners before Christmas and we have another dinner together in the summer.

The subscription is merely £1.50 per week and £5 annual membership.

Please contact Eileen Curtis on 01884 860564 or just come along and see us.
Would you like to reduce the price you pay for your heating oil?

Then join us and receive your discounted oil through your local oil buying co-operative when we order in bulk on behalf of our membership every month of the year.

For further information and a membership form either:

- e-mail us at: wopecnet@aol.com
- go onto our web site at: www.wopec.net
- or telephone for a friendly chat: 01884 861186
**COMMUNITY POLICING**

Please think about the road surfaces and the weather conditions. Whilst the main roads will be gritted the minor roads will be icy.
Set off on your journey earlier and keep your speed down. Please also make sure your lights are working and your number plates are clearly visible.
Speeding within the village remains to be a concern for many. Please keep to the speed limit of 30mph within any village or populated area unless there is 40mph sign.

Sheep worrying at Lakeside Farm is a concern as it also happened last year. One sheep was savaged and this time another was attacked and will now, not be in lamb. Potentially the other sheep in the field may well have also lost their lambs due to being chased. Dogs should be kept under control especially around livestock. Farmers are within their right to shoot any dog chasing or attacking their sheep. Please be careful and considerate.

The Post office in Witheridge has kindly agreed to hold some police information/leaflets for anyone to pick up should they wish. There are in particular, booklets about scams and how to deal with a whole host of issues. Also there are scam leaflets at the Rest a While centre in Witheridge.

I attended the Youth Club in December at the Church rooms and was very pleased to meet the leaders and the children in attendance and hope to visit from time to time for the young people to get to know me and build a relationship with their local Police on a very positive level.

Finally, may I bring to your attention another way of contacting the Police other than calling the 101 Non Emergency number. There will be posters placed on notice boards around the village in due course.
WHY CALL WHEN YOU DON’T HAVE TO?
Ask the police/Report crime online/Email 101
OR GO TO dc.police.uk/clickB4Ucall

PCS0 30103 Beverley Bray
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We are extremely proud to have been awarded the Trip Advisor certificate of Excellence for 2016, for the second year running.

Our popular Sunday Roast Lunch is £8.95 for a choice of two meats or a vegetarian nut roast. You may add one of our delicious desserts for only £4.80.

We cater for weddings and buffets for many different occasions, from savoury or sweet buffets to a set two or three course menu in the restaurant, seating up to 34 people with additional seating in the bar. Please contact us to find out exactly what is available for you.

We are now taking bookings for Valentine’s Day.

Takeaway meals are available, including beer battered cod and chips and homemade 1/2lb beefburgers. Please always pre-order in busy periods.

Bed and breakfast starts at £55.00 per night for a single room and £65.00 for a double.

Please call us on 01884 861263 or email the.mitreinn@mail.com

www.themitreinn-witheridge.co.uk

Like us on Facebook to take advantage of offers and events
Our members had a great end to the year with more competition wins and grading successes.

Congratulations to Phoebe Pennells and Jess Waters for their recent promotion to Black Belts. Congratulations to Jess Curtis, Jamie Curtis, Harry Shere, Millie Phelan, Nic Perera and Lily Perera for all gaining their yellow stripes, with special mention to Jess Curtis for an ‘A’ pass and winning the grading award!
Well done to everyone who took part in the British Championships.

Congratulations to Phoebe Pennells for winning bronze in Black Belt Cadet lightweight sparring, Joe Webber for bronze in Red Belt Boys middleweight sparring and Ven Perera for silver in Mens Black Belt Patterns.
Our Tigers (4yrs+) have been working hard with their own mini-tournaments and competitions. Most recent Tigers of the Month have been Joseph Phelan and Jamie Curtis.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas meal and awards ceremony, it was lovely to see so many of you there. All Tigers were presented with certificates of awesomeness that highlighted their individual strengths and contributions. Tiger of the Year, as voted for by the instructing team, went to Jessica Curtis who always shows great focus and determination to improve.

Assistant Instructor of the Year, as voted for by the Tigers, went to Jake Curtis. Overall Student of the Year 2016 was awarded to Sam Spurway, not only is she an awesome Tae Kwon Do practitioner she is also unstintingly generous with her time and knowledge.

Thank you to everyone in the club for a wonderful first year and now let’s make 2017 even better.

Ven Perera
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WITHERIDGE ROCKS

2016 was a busy year for Witheridge Rocks!

On 29th January we had a joint meeting with young people from Copplestone, Black Dog, Chulmleigh and Morchard Bishop. Over 35 young people enjoyed an evening of team games with a 'newspaper' theme, in our Parish Hall. Other inter-youth evenings were held at Black Dog and Copplestone throughout the year, and we had a fab time in May, at Morchard Bishop, with Jozzy, a christian rapper.

Some of us headed to Exeter Cathedral for 'Upload', which saw thousands of young people bopping to christian bands, playing video games, pampering themselves and having fun on the inflatables.

July saw 65 young people and leaders from the above youth groups head over to Shobrooke Park, Crediton, for an amazing fun-filled, action packed, weekend with 1100 others, where we also had the opportunity to learn some more about God.

We have also managed to find the time to make some pretty cool crafts, some of which were sold at St John's Fayre and at the church Christmas Craft Fayre, and to hold a cake sale outside the newsagents, which helped to raise some funds for the youth club.

In September we welcomed some new members, all of whom appear to have settled in well.

We currently meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 7pm - 8.30pm, and young people from Year 6 upwards are welcome to come along.

If you wish to volunteer to help on a regular, or an adhoc basis, then please speak to Andrea, in the newsagents, or to Heather Westcott. We would also like to hear from anybody who has a particular skill which they feel they could share with a group of enthusiastic, loud young people.

I would like to thank Paula Cole, Denise Reed and Nick Mayes for all their help during 2016, as without their help it would not be possible to run the group.

Andrea Court
Witheridge parish church

Songs for the Season

Cooler days are here and every evening we seem to put the lights on a little earlier and leave the heat on a little longer! With the prospect of the darker, colder months, people adjust to a different programme. The lawnmower and barbecue are stored away in the shed and we start thinking more of indoor activities. For many, the simplest option is to curl up in their favourite chair with a cuppa and watch T.V - others enjoy a quiet read, or the crossword.

The autumn and winter months tend to be busy in churches, with our loyal volunteers busy running a program of activities for all ages - Men's meetings, women's meetings, uniformed organisations - there's hardly an evening when there's not something going on.

When I get in at night in the house I'm not a huge TV fan. I prefer to relax by playing the guitar, trying to remember old tunes and perhaps attempting to figure out some new ones.

I'm told that years ago, in the days before all the piped entertainment and multimedia gadgets we have now, people used to go "rambling" and gather in friends' homes for a bit of company and a chat. Maybe someone had a musical instrument - they would strike up a tune and others could join in. Hence was born folk music. Sounds right up my street!

Music is a universal language which transcends borders and communicates on many levels. Occasionally while travelling on the continent I've been drawn into impromptu jam sessions with strangers of various nationalities and language has never been a barrier - we've just let the music do the talking!

Music is such a powerful vehicle for human expression in a host of different ways. Take for example, the intimidating beat of the drum of war. Or the soothing strings of an orchestra playing a lullaby or backing a romantic song. What about the exuberant up tempo swing of a dance band?

It seems we have a music style suited to just about every emotion we humans experience.

Re told by Pauline Brooke
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

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**Events at The Chapel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 2nd March</td>
<td>Women’s Fellowship with Kaye Woollacott</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 9th April</td>
<td>Palm Sunday, Chapel Anniversary</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30th April</td>
<td>Churches Together Ecumenical Service</td>
<td>11:00:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Saturday of each month</td>
<td>Prayer Breakfast - everyone welcome</td>
<td>8:30am - 9:30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 12th February</td>
<td>Plough Sunday Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7th February</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1st March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 4th March</td>
<td>Mad March Sale</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7th March</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 26th March</td>
<td>Mothering Sunday Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 4th April</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 9th April</td>
<td>Palm Sunday walk with branches from Church Rooms</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.25am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10th April</td>
<td>Annual PCC Meeting</td>
<td>Church Rooms</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12th April</td>
<td>Easter Concert</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 13th April</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14th April</td>
<td>Ecumenical Good Friday Walk of Witness, 9.30am Meet in the Square</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 16th April</td>
<td>Easter Day, Holy Communion</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30th April</td>
<td>Churches Together Ecumenical Service, Methodist Chapel</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.00am</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
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Crossword Clues

Across
4. A mill stream
6. What TV truckers use
8. Col. George Armstrong ??????
9. Board game with 256 squares
10. Lady in the garden
11. Female sheep
13. Horse with coloured patches
14. Closer than before
16. Burglars iron pole
17. Baby Kangaroo
19. ????? Coast, near Ghana
20. Insurance Company
22. We’re leaving it
23. Afro music from Louisiana

Down
1. UK town and US President
2. A sibling
3. 5p plastic
5. Treatment with essential oils
7. Batchelor of Arts
9. Garden plant
12. Plural of “I”
15. Nautical ‘yes’
17. Musical car
18. Type of lock
21. Victoria Cross

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NEW YEAR RAFFLE

A “pop up” raffle was arranged and drawn on New Year’s Eve at The Mitre Inn, a Hamper was donated as the prize by The Pound House. The generous patrons raised an astonishing £612 with all proceeds going to local charities, Rescue Hounds and the retired Greyhound Trust.

The local organiser of these, Mrs Marion Crane is a regular supporter of the St John’s Fayre where she annually has a stall raising money for this good cause, and it was decided that these two, often overlooked organisations, could greatly benefit from the raffle proceeds. The winner was Mr C Wray, Cannington Rd.

Andy and Barbara thank all those patrons who showed their kindness and concern for animals by very generously supporting this event.

In previous years a New Year’s Eve “pop up” raffle has raised funds for causes such as the Parish Hall rebuilding fund account, among others, and other suggestions for local causes for this “one off” event are always welcome.

Robert Brown

TUESDAY REST-A-WHILE BINGO.

We have had a good year, ending with a super Christmas bingo, with mince pies, topside of beef for the full house and over forty draw prizes. Great enjoyment was had by all.

The dates for the following months are as follows;

April Tuesdays  4\textsuperscript{th} and 26\textsuperscript{th},
May Tuesdays  2\textsuperscript{nd} , 16\textsuperscript{th} and 30\textsuperscript{th}
June Tuesdays  13\textsuperscript{th} and 27\textsuperscript{th}
July Tuesdays  11\textsuperscript{th} and 25\textsuperscript{th}

Marion Crane. 01884 860530.
WITHERIDGE AT CHRISTMAS

[Images of Christmas decorations and events]
“Alternative Christmas Fairy!”
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CHARITY KNITTING
We continue to work on all our projects, but are delighted that the bed socks are proving to be so useful to our local care home. Hats for the fishermen are also much appreciated. As always, a big thank you for the contributions of wool we receive from time to time.
Eileen Haynes 860212

WITHERIDGE LADIES CLUB
In October once again Yorkie delighted us with his delicious food and also some cooking tips.

In November Paul from Cove Garden Nursery answered all our gardening queries and told us how to manage some of our garden pests and diseases.

Our Christmas lunch in December took us to a new venue, the Tiverton Hotel, where we partook of our lunch and enjoyed excellent company.

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 in the Parish Hall 2 - 4 pm.

Coral Simmonds

WITHERIDGE GARDEN CLUB
Farmer John Greenslade came to us in October and explained how he went from livestock farming to conservation. It was nice to see his work rewarded with an MBE in January.

November was our AGM. Amanda Williams resigned as Treasurer, Stephen Smith was elected to the committee and then elected as Treasurer. The rest of the committee was re-elected.

Our programme for the next few months is as follows:

February 22nd - Paul Fonnereau, Cove Nursery “Plants for a Winter Garden”
March 29th - Gwyn Barlow “Safe Gardening”
April 8th - Spring Show
April 26th - Mervyn Burd “Textiles”

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Witheridge Brownies

Last term the Brownies earned their Disability badge. They enjoyed meeting Guide Dogs UK, learned the finger spelling alphabet and made up a game that a disabled person could take part in. This term they will be working towards another badge and are hoping to go on some days out.

Brownies meet every other Tuesday (Term time only) at Witheridge School Hall, from 6pm until 7:30.

Brownies work towards making a simple promise.

Witheridge Guides

Last term the Guides worked towards their GFI badges. At the end of term the Guides and the Brownies joined together for a Christmas Party which the Bumble Bees Patrol organised for their Party Planning badge. This term they will be working towards more badges and are hoping to go on some days out.

Guides meet every other Tuesday (Term time only) at Witheridge School Hall 6:45- 8:15 pm.

If you are interested in starting Brownies (Girls aged 7-10 yrs) or Guides (Girls aged 10 – 14yrs) then please don’t hesitate to contact me or you can register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk

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The Parish Hall had a good 2016. In April the results of the in-depth survey confirmed that, with good maintenance, the Parish Hall has a life of “at least 30 years”, this was great news and means that we have more time than we thought to put funds aside for the future re-build. We would like to assure everyone that any donations made towards the building of a new hall are kept in a completely separate account from the general funds.

As everyone knows the committee has put on all sorts of events to raise money for the hall. We have been very successful and with the help of donations have been able to make many improvements. For example, the floor was re-surfaced last year and we have finally decorated the committee room, which is looking fantastic, so please think about using it for small parties and get-togethers, as well as meetings. Now that this is done the whole hall has been decorated. Thank you to everyone who has made these improvements possible.

It is also incumbent upon the committee to provide for the community as well organising fund-raising events. Putting on any event is always a risk and there is never any guarantee that it will be profitable, that being said over the last four years we have put on six events, which have made an overall profit of over £2000.00. The two Shakespeare performances by Oddsocks are a prime example of the hall providing fantastic and popular entertainment, which doesn’t necessarily make a profit. Despite the torrential rain, the support from the village and surrounding area was amazing and the brilliantly funny production of Much Ado About Nothing was enjoyed by about 250 people.

We have provided a new basketball hoop, it is a magnificent bit of kit and we hope very much that it will be popular with the more active among us once the weather warms up.

The committee will continue to work hard in 2017. Our aim is for the hall to be at the heart of the village, by providing a well maintained and attractive environment, and by putting on diverse entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Some dates for your diary: Rackhouse Pilfer a wonderful Irish band on April 1st. The (fabulous) Bootleg Swing Band on May 20th: Oddsocks, brilliant production of Macbeth on August 25th.

Last but not least, please support the hall by coming along........?

Joining the committee.....?

Clare Spicer (Chair) Helen Moore (Vice Chair)
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Witheridge childcare @ the hive

As usual this term seems to have flown by with the usual flurry of traditional activities towards the end of term. We have a very young cohort of children at the moment so we were all extremely proud of how well they behaved and performed during their Nativity performance.

We were all excited to have a visit from Victoria of ‘Pyjama drama’ who worked alongside the staff and children in a theatre workshop supporting the development of the children’s imagination and emotional well-being. We went on a wonderful journey to the North Pole after receiving a telephone call telling us that Arthur the penguin was lost! Great excitement all round as we slid over the ice, bumped on our bottoms and eventually found Arthur.

We held a successful Christmas Fayre with many children meeting Father Christmas for the first time, a lovely way for children and parents to experience this locally. The Christmas Fayre raised approximately £500 which will be a good start towards our new project of resurfacing the outside play area immediately outside the main preschool room. Our annual Sleigh Ride around the village just before Christmas was once again enjoyed by many, young and old, it is lovely that some of our older residents are now ‘looking out’ for us. The milder weather meant that some older residents came out for a chat rather than a quick wave from the window. Although not initially started as a fund raising activity this year it received donations of £107. Many thanks once again to all those who continue to support our fund raising events.

Personally I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to my leaving presents, the flowers that filled my house with their beautiful fragrance and the Pandora bracelet and beads that I will be able to take on my travels with me to remind me of my 16 years involvement with the children of Witheridge. Over the years the people of Witheridge have been continually supportive of me and have become like an extended family; supporting me through many difficult times and I will miss you all.

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WITHERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB

1st Team
After a complete player overhaul, which resulted in only a couple of last seasons team remaining, the current squad are keeping up with our objectives of avoiding relegation and rebuilding. After the Christmas period they were sitting 3rd from bottom 15 points above the team below and only 5 behind mid table so with a few good results we should be far enough ahead to start planning next season.

2nd Team
The 2nd team have continued to improve and are sitting mid table in a competitive league and have also reached the quarterfinals in the Devon Senior Cup where they face Lakeside Athletic, so fingers crossed they can get a result and get a home semi-final tie.

3rd Team
Well how do I start? After this being only the 2nd season together since forming, the 3rds have gone from strength to strength. At New Year they are sitting top of the table with only 2 losses and a healthy points advantage over 3rd place, which just shows what hard work and team work can do plus a very good team spirit. Between the 3 teams we generally have a home fixture every weekend so come along and support any of the teams, and maybe catch a game on Sky while you are there, as we should be proud of our teams who will only continue as long as the support does.

Paul Rich

TENNIS CLUB
Not played tennis for years?? Winter can be a great time to start again so that you are back into the swing of things for the summer! Just give me a ring and I will arrange a game for you. We play all year round – weather permitting – and it is very exhilarating and great fun!

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**WITHERIDGE SPORTS CLUB**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00 - 11.00 pm (skittles at home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.00 - 11.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7.00 - 10.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>7.00 - 11.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>7.00 - 12.00 midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>12.00 - 9.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>12.00 - 7.00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

We meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6.30pm for a 6.45pm 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**

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Bumps and Beyond

The Witheridge Parent and Toddler Group had a great autumn term as we enjoyed a couple of visits from the children centre staff from Tiverton who put on a “Bounce and Rhyme” session for us which included singing for babies and toddlers. They also made an appearance at our Christmas party where we enjoyed making special Christmas cards as well as a special guest appearance from Santa!

We planned a group outing to the library at South Molton to change our books and join in with a song time there. We have selected a lovely range of books for us all to enjoy over the next half term, so please do come along and see what’s on offer.

Moving forward into 2017 we will be looking forward to more visits from both the South Molton and Tiverton Children’s Centre as well as planning another outing back to the library and maybe even the Honey Farm and soft play centre.

We have especially enjoyed welcoming 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 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 healthy snacks and drinks for children and hot drinks and biscuits for adults.

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During November and December, Class 3 have been reading ‘Danny the Champion of the World’ by Roald Dahl. We have been doing so much learning linked to this book including finding out all about pheasants! We were lucky enough to be able to visit a local pheasant farm at Gidley Cross. Thank you very much to Alan Hatherington for showing us the pheasants and telling us how to look after them and keep them safe.

In the story, Danny and his father live in a gypsy caravan. We were lucky enough to be able to go and visit a gypsy caravan in the village! Thank you to Dave for allowing us to look round his beautiful caravan.

We have enjoyed learning reading Danny the Champion of the World, now we are looking forward to learning all about rubbish and recycling which will include a trip to the Carymoor environmental Education center in Somerset.
**WITHERIDGE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA**

Following on from our very successful Jumble Sale and Fayre, Witheridge School PTFA will be holding an evening of Ferret Racing at the Parish Hall on Saturday 11th March. This will be a Family Friendly event, and will be lots of fun!! Please come along and support us, all monies raised go towards Witheridge Primary School.

Helen Johnson, PTFA Secretary

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**EAST WORLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA**

**Children in Need**

After running a total of 211 miles between them, the final amount raised by the children was £631.30.

Our first jumble sale of 2017 is booked for Saturday 4th February at Witheridge Parish Hall, doors open 2pm. As well as jumble, we will have books, toys, bric-a-brac, cakes, etc.

Plans for activities that the PTFA can fund for the children this term include an African drumming workshop, a Mosaics workshop and of course some Easter fun!

*Donna Webber*

www.worlingtonptfa.org

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WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY

Remarkably mild weather greeted the players for the Christmas Trophy at Waterbridge on the 7th December and resulted in a win for the team of local players Graham Clarke and Keith Jenkins together with Keith’s son Michael Jenkins. The wooden spoon was awarded to Brian Burgess, Michael Pinchcombe and Rob Walker. The traditional Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be held at Waterbridge Golf Club for the Spring Trophy on Wednesday the 8th March.

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS
Unlike some foreign countries, we can follow our chosen lifestyle and faith and still live in peace with our neighbours who follow a different path. Here are some wise words from the Sioux tribes of the Dakotas to consider.

**WE ARE ALL RELATED (PART 1)**

The plight of the non-Indian world is that it has lost respect for Mother Earth, from where we all come.

We all start out in this world as tiny seeds – no different from our animal brothers and sisters, the deer, the bear, the buffalo, or the trees, the flowers, the birds. Every particle of our bodies comes from the good things Mother Earth provides. Mother Earth is our real mother, because every bit of us truly comes from her, and daily she takes care of us.

The tiny seed takes on the minerals and the waters of Mother Earth. It is fuelled by the sun, and given a spirit by God.

This morning at breakfast we took from Mother Earth to live, as we have done every day of our lives. But did we thank her for giving us the means to live? The old Indian did. When he drove his horse in close to a buffalo running at full speed across the prairie, he drew his bowstring back and said as he did so, “Forgive me, brother, but my people must live.” After he butchered the buffalo, he took the skull and faced it toward the setting sun as a thanksgiving and an acknowledgement that all things come from Mother Earth. He brought the meat back to camp and gave it first to the old, the widowed and the weak. For thousands of years great herds thrived across the continent because the Indian never took more than he needed. Today, the buffalo is gone.

If we wish to survive, we must respect Mother Earth. It is very late, but there is still time to revive and discover the old American Indian value of respect for Mother Earth. She is very beautiful, and already she is showing us signs that she may punish us for not respecting her. Also, we must remember that she has been placed in this universe by God. But a few years ago, there lived on the North American continent people, the American Indians, who knew a respect and value system that enabled them to live on their native grounds without having to migrate, in contrast to the white brothers and sisters who migrated by the thousands from their homelands because they had developed a value system different from that of the American Indian. There is no place now to which we can migrate, which means we can no longer ignore the red man’s value system.
We, the American Indian, had a way of living that enabled us to live within the great, complete beauty that only the natural environment can provide. The Indian tribes had a common value system and a commonality of religion, without religious animosity, that preserved that great beauty that the two-leggeds definitely need. Our four commandments from the Great Spirit are:
1. respect for Mother Earth
2. respect for the Great Spirit
3. respect for our fellow man and woman, and
4. respect for individual freedom (provided that individual freedom does not threaten the tribe or the people or Mother Earth.)

We who respect the great vision of Black Elk see the four sacred colours as red, yellow, black and white. They stand for the four directions: red for the east, yellow for the south, black for the west and white for the north. From the east comes the rising sun and new knowledge from a new day. From the south will come the warming south winds that will cause our Mother to bring forth the good foods and grasses so that we may live. From the west come the life-giving rains. The sun goes down and we will sleep. From the north will come the white winter snow that will cleanse Mother Earth and put her to sleep, so that she may rest and store up energy to provide the beauty and bounty of springtime.
All good things come from these sacred directions. These sacred directions, or four sacred colours, also stand for the four races of humanity: red, yellow, black and white. We cannot be a prejudiced people, because all men and women are brothers and sisters and because we all have the same mother – Mother Earth. One who is prejudiced, who hates another because of that person’s colour, hates what the Great Spirit has put here. Such a one hates that which is holy and will be punished, even during this lifetime, just as humanity will be punished for violating Mother Earth. Worse, one’s conscience will follow into the spirit world, where it will be discovered that all beings are equal. This is what we Indian people believe.

Part 2 will appear in the Spring Issue
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In October last year, 3 brave ladies, Emma, Sonia and Mandy, from Witheridge Medical Centre did a Skydive to raise an incredible amount of over £1500 for Hospiscare - congratulations to all of you.

**SKYDIVE**

Up, up and away to 15,000 feet, For Hospiscare we must complete, With bated breath and hearts a-pumping, One by one it’s our turn for jumping.

With G-force speeds and gaping mouths, Descent is fast heading south, The cords are pulled, the chutes go up, With smiling faces, we’re in luck!!

Now we can enjoy the view, With fields below and sky so blue, Our tandem jump is near complete As land we find below our feet.

Adrenaline pumping, our hearts beating fast, The parachute down, completing its task, With smiles and cheers from family and friends, This is where our journey ends.

**GRANDMOTHERS**

(By an eight year old schoolboy)

A Grandmother is a woman who has no children of her own, so she loves the boys and girls of other people.

Grandmothers have nothing to do, they only have to be there.

If they take you for a walk, they go slowly past beautiful leaves and caterpillars. They never say “Come along quickly” or “hurry up for goodness sake.”

They are usually fat, but not too fat to tie up my shoelaces.

They wear spectacles and sometimes take out their teeth.

They can answer any question, for instance why dogs hate cats and why God is not married.

When they read to us, they never leave anything out. They do not mind if it’s always the same story.

Everyone should have a grandmother, especially those who do not have a television.

Grandmothers are the only grown-ups who have plenty of time.

*This is a well known article from many years ago, but still relevant today, and I was pleased to be asked to put in The Witheridge Voice.*

Editor
Parish Meeting - Public Toilet Block Refurbishment

The December meeting of the council offered an opportunity to hear a short presentation followed by questions from those attending.

Following this consultation the council will proceed with the proposal and submit an application for a borrowing approval to the Secretary of State. The proposal document and minutes of meetings are available in full on the website.

2017/18 Precept

It’s the time of year for the council to determine the level of precept it needs to raise to fund the budget for the coming year. The precept was frozen from 2012/13 to 2015/16 inclusive, with a 2% rise in 2016/17. The council has continued to take up the slack in services cut by District & County Councils.

For 2017/18 the parish council’s precept will increase from £28,484 to £30,762, approximately 11p per week on a Band D property in the parish. The full budget can be reviewed in the minutes of a series of meetings held during the Autumn online.

Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) Landing Facility in Witheridge

Currently the Recreation Field football pitch is used for daytime landings to attend medical emergencies. This is to be extended to night time landings thanks to the use of the Football Club lighting and funding obtained by the Parish Council to allow remote switching of the lighting by DAAT when required for local emergencies.

Parish Clock

The council would like to thank John Chapple for his many year’s taking care of the parish clock. Since John stepped down it has become clear how much time his dedication to duty has cost him, continually adjusting it’s time keeping! The council has now identified and ordered a Pendulum Regulator which the Cumbria Clock Co. will be installing this spring.

Parish Noticeboards

Due to rot in the legs of the Tourist Information Board shelter it has had to be removed. The noticeboard has been recycled and used to replace the Council noticeboard opposite which was at the end of its life. This relocated noticeboard will now serve both purposes.
4G Mobile Coming to Witheridge

Shared Access and Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd have obtained planning permission to extend mobile coverage on the O2 & Vodafone networks. Telecoms antennae will be added to an existing flood light tower at the Recreation Field football pitch. Once installed this will provide 2G / 3G / 4G coverage for O2, Vodafone, plus all the virtual mobile operators who use these networks.

Development Proposal on Land South of Butts Close

A proposal for up 65 dwellings has come forward on the site allocated in the emerging Local Plan south of Butts Close. Alder King recently held a public consultation in Witheridge providing the public and council to have its say on their proposals. The next stage will likely be a planning application sometime in the coming months which will be advertised through the council agenda on the parish council’s website & noticeboards at the time.

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.

2017 Meeting Schedule

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Oct - Mar  M-Fr  9- 4:30  Sat & Sun 10- 4:30

SEE HEAR ON WHEELS

The See Hear Centre’s accessible mobile service brings sight and hearing support into the heart of our rural communities. The See Hear Bus visits Witheridge every other month:
Witheridge Square, 10-12 noon on 23rd February, 27th April, 22nd June, 24th August and 26th October

Further details can be obtained as follows:
Email: seehearnd@livingoptions.org
Website: www.livingoptions.org
Phone: 01271 373236  Mobile: 07831 515809

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