WITHERIDGE VOICE

Serving the Village and Parish of Witheridge

Spring 2017
Issue 28

Serving the village and Parish of Witheridge
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EDITORIAL

Thank you to all contributors for this issue of the magazine.

The Voice Committee have decided to discontinue the Facebook page and renew the website. See page 39 for further details.

St John’s Fayre takes place on the weekend of 23rd - 25th June - read all about it on pages 13 and 14.

My thanks to Gerald Manning for his picture of the spring lambs - adorable aren’t they?

Our AGM is on Thursday 25th May, 2.30pm in the Committee Room - all welcome.

Deadline for articles the next issue will be 3rd July.

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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A fire appliance formerly based at Witheridge has been delivered to a remote part of Romania for use by its volunteer fire crew.

The appliance was used twice within three weeks of its delivery to extinguish serious fires in Carand, Arad County.

The charity Community Action Romania (CAR) purchased the appliance with help from the people at Tidcombe community church, Tiverton.

Safe Southwest helped with personal protective equipment for the local volunteer firefighters and financial assistance for flights and accommodation for the crew from the Service who delivered the vehicle. Firehawk provided 300 carbon monoxide alarms for the local community.

The volunteers from the Service gave their own time to train the Romanian crew on the use of the appliance, pumping equipment, ladder, light portable pump, how to set up an improvised dam, and how to deal with chimney fires and set up safe systems of working.

Fire safety technician Gelvin Williams, based at Tiverton, who has been on a previous charity mission to Romania, was one of the crew who delivered the appliance. He said: “There had been a number of fires in the town and the response from the nearest fire service was more than 50 minutes, leaving devastating effects to the property and the community.

“Our focus was to prepare the volunteer firefighters with fire prevention knowledge and to deal with fires from the outside, not entering the risk area but reducing the risk of property loss and prevent occupants taking life risks to save their own property.

“There are many people and organisations I need to thank for their help, guidance and support, especially my family for their support throughout and allowing me to miss yet another birthday, this time my partner Alison.”

(Continued on p7)
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The team drove through France and Germany, spending the night at Alcatraz Prison, which is now an hotel, Austria, Hungary and into Romania on day four.

The training took place in 35-degree heat as Gelvin and Adam Edwards, based at Bampton, went through the process of using chimney rods and ladder drills. They were grateful for the support of Danny Ispas, who is one of the volunteer firefighters, for his interpretation skills.

Fire authority member Cllr Brian Greenslade met up with Gelvin, Steve Gardner of Community Action Romania, and members of Tidcombe community church at the local primary school before their departure to see them off.

For more information do visit our new website www.comactrom.com and stay in touch via our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/200681983374737

Steve Gardner, Community Action Romania
A Day in the Life of an Artist

Winter. Cold.
I lay in bed, it is still dark and the wind is in the trees. I make tea and snuggle back under my quilt for 10 more minutes. Roxy, my tabby cat, appears and requests breakfast, so I rise and feed her.

I survey the outdoors. Dawn is breaking, a red flash across the sky and golden clouds light the day. As daylight appears I see the garden and beyond to the fields are covered in white hoar frost. Glistening in the early light, so white and in the shadows of the hedges the ground seems to be coloured blue with the cold.

Could I capture a little of this beauty? I feel inspired to try and reach for some paper and my pastels. Stillness fills the air, a faint mist rises above the fields. The bare branches of the trees stark against the sky. My fingers are cold as they race across the paper. I must hurry to capture something of the moment. Soon the sun, weak but warm melts all this cold beauty leaving only the edges of the fields white.

My work is done. Is it any good? I will never be satisfied with it but the need in me has been satisfied for now.

Gail Rose
COMMUNITY NEWS

In memory of

6th April memorial service John Leach
11th April Funeral Cyril Blackford
18th April Funeral John Usmar

Baptism

23rd March Baptism Lola Rose Dibble

Welcome to the Village

David and Sue Jeffs
Ken and Eleanor Ramsbotham

Congratulations on their marriage

Charlotte Vinnicombe and Lee Radford were married on 25th March on a beautiful spring day. Charlotte is the Health Care Assistant at Witheridge Medical Practice, and she and Lee are pictured with their dog Willow.
We, the Indian people, also believe that the Great Spirit placed many people throughout this planet: red, yellow, black and white. What about the brown people? The brown people evolved from the sacred colours coming together. Look at our Mother Earth. She, too, is brown because the four directions have come together. After the Great Spirit, God placed them in their respective areas; God appeared to each people in a different manner and taught them ways so that they might live in harmony and true beauty. Some men, some tribes, some nations have still retained the teachings of the Great Spirit. Others have not. Unfortunately, many good and peaceful religions have been assailed by narrow-minded zealots.

Our religious beliefs and our traditional Indian people have suffered the stereotype that we are pagans, savages or heathens; but we do not believe that only one religion controls the way to the spirit world that lies beyond. We believe that God loves all of his children equally, although the Great Spirit must be disturbed at times with those children who have destroyed proven value systems that practiced sharing and generosity and kept Mother Earth viable down through time. We kept Mother Earth viable because we did not sell her or our spirituality!

Brothers and sisters, we must go back to some of the old ways if we are going to truly save our Mother Earth and bring back the natural beauty that every person seriously needs, especially in this day of vanishing species, vanishing rain forests, overpopulation, poisoned waters, acid rain, a thinning ozone layer, drought, rising temperatures, and weapons of complete annihilation.

We will have to divert our obsession with defence and wasteful, all-life-ending weapons of war to reviving our environment. If such weapons are ever fired, we will wind up destroying ourselves. The Armageddon of war is something that we have all been very close to and exposed to daily. However, we have seen some positive steps toward solving this horror. Maybe some day, two-leggeds will read this book and missiles will no longer be pointed at them.

Continued on page 11
The quest for peace can be more efficiently pursued by communication and knowledge than by stealth and unending superior weaponry. If the nations of the world scale back their budgets for weaponry, we will have wealth to spend to solve our serious environmental problems. Our home planet is under attack. It is not an imagined problem. This calamity is upon us now.

© “Mother Earth Spirituality” by Ed McGaa

This article has been submitted by Ray Thorne and is permitted under the Copyright terms.

**REFLEXOLOGY**

They say it is never too late to learn! Turning 50 in December, I decided to put my long term interest in complimentary therapies to good use by studying for a diploma in reflexology. This fascinating subject works with pressure point therapy on reflex points on the hands and feet, restoring balance and helping the body to relax deeply. As well as learning the techniques, I have to study anatomy, physiology and pathology in order to understand the body systems and their effects on each other. I am thoroughly enjoying myself and would recommend it to anyone.

Whilst completing my studies I am offering reflexology sessions at a student rate - either come to my place in Witheridge or I can come to yours!

Helen Ashton

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Ladies & Gentlemen, Boys & Girls:
This year’s Fayre is fast approaching. You may have heard whispers that we are planning a super-sized event this year, once again holding events over all 3 days granted in the original Charter. There is also a distinctly Medieval theme to the events we have planned. The Medieval Combat Society will be attending, and demonstrating many aspects of Medieval life – from weaving, cooking & carpentry to archery, music & fighting. Many of their demonstrations are interactive, and they will welcome your participation throughout the day.

We hope the rest of the Stall holders will join in the fun & come in costume – we will be awarding prizes for Best (Homemade) Costume in various categories. Obviously the theme for the Parade and the School Art Competition will be Medieval Life in Devon.

Also new for this year is a Photography Competition. This is open to all ages, with prizes across 3 age categories.

Juniors: 4-11 “My Family”
Seniors: 11-18 “My Pastimes”
Adults: 19+ “My Devon”

Entries need to be emailed to witheridgesjf@gmail.com with your contact details & age category. There is plenty of time before the closing date, so dust off the old box Brownie if necessary & get snapping!

As ever, we are looking for plenty of volunteers to run stalls & generally help out over the weekend. We have taken on board concerns about the cost of some of the children’s activities over the last few years, so we are planning on some free & cheap things to do. These will be things such as a crockery smash, catch the rat, skittles, and the old favourite – stocks & a wet sponge (although if we are getting technical, it will actually be a pillory!) We will need people ‘volunteering’
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as targets, so why not make a hit list? We will do our best to oblige, but we need your help as well! Please start saving your broken & chipped crockery, as we will need them soon.

We will be kicking off the weekend with a Tea Dance on Friday afternoon in the Parish Hall. We will finish as we did last year, with a Children’s Tea Party & Best Dressed Ted (Medieval Style of course!) on Sunday afternoon, and the Witheridge Bake-Off competition. Last year, we only had 4 entries in the Bake-Off, so we can definitely do better this year. Posters are going up & flyers being delivered shortly, so keep an eye out for them. In between is a fun packed weekend which should have something to please everyone, from local food & drink, craft & charity stalls to an evening of music with 2 local bands performing, as well as a disco & bar.

We also need to mention the flying visit by Father Christmas on 3rd December. Due to a technical hitch, our review of the Christmas events was missed out of the Spring Edition of the Voice, so here is a snippet of what happened:
Following a wonderful Carol Service in St John’s Church, he kindly handed out Christmas gifts donated by the St John’s Fayre Committee to all the village Primary School Children – Thank you Santa! We hope you manage to put your feet up for a few weeks before you start work on the next batch of toys and look forward to seeing you again next Christmas. We must also thank the Parish Council for the beautiful tree & lights once again.

And last, but by no means least, a big thank you to Wayne, the Fire Crew & Sports club for their disco night fundraiser. They donated a total of £500 to the St John’s Fayre committee towards the cost of the free entertainment at the Fayre.

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**ALLOTMENTS**

Spring is here and its time to get planting! The daffodils are out and the bees are loving them! Let's hope for a good growing season. To enquire about vacant plots Call Sam on 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**

April 30th Sunday 6.30pm

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**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.

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

More pictures from the Witheridge Art Group. If you would like to join us, ring 860564 or 860709

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**UNITED CHURCHES LUNCH CLUB**

This continues to function on the first Tuesday of every month at 12 noon for 12.30pm in the Parish Hall, for retired people who live on their own.

If you enjoy good home-cooked food then why don’t you try us?

Ring Yvonne Childs on 860012, Val Dickinson on 860709 or Annis Stone on 860398 to book your place.

The next meal is on Tuesday 2\(^{nd}\) May, followed by 6\(^{th}\) June, 4\(^{th}\) July and 1\(^{st}\) August.

Yvonne Childs
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or telephone for a friendly chat: 01884 861186
CHARITY KNITTING

At the recent coffee morning and sale at St. John’s Church, we raised £22.00 for Tiverton Hospital League of Friends. They were very pleased to receive it. Our group has been operating for sometime now, and as I look at the record of work done, it is amazing just how much we have made. It’s good to know that our hobby, and something we love to do, can help others.

Eileen Haynes 860212

THANKS TO WITHERIDGE MEDICAL PRACTICE

I would like to raise three hearty cheers for our medical practice here in Witheridge; particularly as there is so much negative comment in the media, month after month, concerning the NHS.

We are in our mid-80’s, my husband and I, and have been retired here for 21 years, during which time we have been cared for magnificently by the wonderful team of dedicated doctors and nurses in our surgery. They have never made us feel that we are “a burden”, although we know that we must be at our age! The staff in the Pharmacy and Reception are kindly, caring souls, who take really good care of us too... bless ‘em!!

We certainly appreciate all the care and attention we have received over the years - we certainly wouldn’t still be here without it! And I am sure that there are a great many more among the residents here who will agree with me wholeheartedly, and who realise how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful village. My husband calls it “God’s own Country”!

So again I say, three hearty cheers for our medical practice, and the dear souls who take care of us. They are real “saints.”

Catherine Andersen
The Mitre Inn, 2 The Square, Witheridge

Andy, Barbara and everyone at the Mitre would like to welcome you to our traditional village inn; or as stated more than once by customers - ‘The way pubs used to be.’ We serve an excellent selection of homemade food, sourcing local produce and fresh ingredients wherever possible, including Exmoor beef and steaks, Somerset free-range Wessex pork and Creedy Carver chicken from Crediton. We also stock a very good selection of bottled wines and Exmoor real ales. 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.

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

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**Monday Club**

The Monday Club is going from strength to strength, with lots of new members. It is not surprising really, with all the very good speakers they have on their Agenda this year, and the coach outings look very interesting, lots of different places to enjoy.

If you would like to enjoy these outings with us, just look out for the posters. For more information about the club itself please phone Val 01884860709.

Thank you.

Val Dickinson,
Chair

**Litter Pick.**

It certainly wasn’t the best of weather for the Parish Council’s litter pick on the 18th March, but I have to say that it did not deter our band of volunteers, thank you one and all.

The litter pick produced a mountain of rubbish including cigarette ends, a car tyre and a Christmas tree along with the usual cans, bottles (both glass and plastic) and assorted confectionery wrappers.

Two separate incidents of fly tipping have been found and reported to North Devon District Council. Our next litter pick will be in June – look out for the notice on the Parish Council noticeboard and come and join us.

Carol Northam
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On Friday 3rd March, World Day of Prayer took place commencing with Samoa as the sun rose and continuing with a great wave of prayer around the world until the last Service – held as the sun set over American Samoa. During this time, an estimated 3 million men, women and children in 170 countries and islands will have prayed with and for the people of the Philippines. In the British Isles alone, some 6,000 Services have been held. We thank the Philippino ladies for preparing, with love, such a wonderful Service entitled “Am I being unfair to you?”

The Service began with a rousing “For the Beauty of the Earth,” then Pauline Brooke led the United Churches of Witheridge through the Service, inviting people to “Come and join the circle” to worship our wonderful God and give him thanks. It commenced with the stories of four women seeking economic justice for unfair treatment of no pay for hard work carried out, and went on to the Gospel reading of The Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20, vs 1-16) and their feelings of unfairness.

In the Philippines, among the rice farmers, the neighbours are called to help with the planting and the harvesting. No one is paid, but the harvest is shared among all, this being a good practice for building and sustaining a community, an actualisation of compassion and care for each other. At the end of the Service, Grace was said with everyone holding hands, and then delicious refreshments were shared.

Thank you to everyone present, especially our new Organist, Eleanor Ramsbotham, for making it such an enjoyable and thought provoking Service.

Yvonne Childs
Imagine you have a bank account with £86,400 pounds in credit, how would you feel if you woke up one morning, checked the account and found that someone had stolen £10. Would you throw the other £86,390 pounds away in the hope of getting back at the person who had stolen from you? No, most of us would just write off the ten pounds, put it down to experience and move on, perhaps consoling ourselves that they needed it more than us, or that it made them feel better or to be able to do something they needed to do.

Every morning we are given 86,400 seconds to live for that day. Every day is a new start, sometimes people steal part of our day from us, by their unkind or unhelpful words, by thoughtless actions. We then throw away the rest of the day by going over and over in our minds what was said or done. Find a way to let go, write off those 10 or 20 seconds and move forward with your day. The bible reminds us of the importance of time and using it wisely.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 International Children’s Bible (ICB)

There is a right time for everything. Everything on earth has its special season. There is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time to plant and a time to pull up plants. There is a time to kill and a time to heal. There is a time to destroy and a time to build. There is a time to cry and a time to laugh. There is a time to be sad and a time to dance. There is a time to throw away stones and a time to gather them. There is a time to hug and a time not to hug. There is a time to look for something and a time to stop looking for it. There is a time to keep things and a time to throw things away. There is a time to tear apart and a time to sew together. There is a time to be silent and a time to speak. There is a time to love and a time to hate. There is a time for war and a time for peace.

Time is finite, each day comes to an end and another one starts every 86,400 seconds. Each day we can start anew, with ourselves, with friends and family and with God. Let's all make every second count.

Yesterday is the past - we can’t change it,

Tomorrow is the future - we don’t know what it holds

Today is a gift from God - that is why we call it the present.

My prayer is that you live every minute of your gift, 'the present' today and everyday, all 86,400 seconds of whatever they bring into your life with God given strength and peace.

Amen.

Adrian
Events at The Chapel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30th Apr</td>
<td>Churches Together Ecumenical Service, Methodist Chapel</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 6th Jul</td>
<td>Ad Lib and Cream Tea. Donations to Children’s Hospice for the South West.</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30th Jul</td>
<td>Ecumenical Service, Parish Church</td>
<td>09:30:00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Saturday of each month Prayer Breakfast - everyone welcome</td>
<td>8.30am - 9.30am</td>
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St John the Baptist Parish Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30th Apr</td>
<td>Churches Together Ecumenical Service, Methodist Chapel</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30th Apr</td>
<td>Exeter Male Voice Praise Choir, Evensong Service</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7th May</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 13th May</td>
<td>Sale and Coffee Morning, Parish Church</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 24th May</td>
<td>Concert for Organ and Piano, Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 25th May</td>
<td>Ascension Day, Holy Communion, Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 6th Jun</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 4th Jul</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30th Jul</td>
<td>5th Sunday, Ecumenical Service, Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 1st Aug</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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Since September, it has been an extremely busy time for Witheridge Young Farmers Club. We currently have approximately 40 members registered in the club. The year started with our annual AGM where a group of enthusiastic members took up the positions of club roles, with Sam Thornton White becoming Chairperson and Charlotte Lake becoming Secretary. The club chose their charity for the year as ELF and have already held several events to raise important vital funds for the charity.

In October we had our first bingo which raised just over £200 for club funds. Leading up towards the festive season we had a wreath making workshop, cup cake decorating, carol singing in and around Witheridge area as well as our club Christmas meal. Straight after Christmas a large number of club members spent many weeks practising and perfecting our entertainments performance named ‘The only Way’. The story was about a young farmer who was worried about his injured pig who he was getting ready for a local show. In preparation for the show, the pig was taken to several local places along the way, even to the local vets West Ridge in order for his leg to be mended. After months of rehearsals the club performed their entertainments show to a packed audience at Tiverton High school. Our club was up against three other young farmers clubs from the Exe Valley area and we were awarded third place overall. Alongside entertainments, three of our members, Sam Thornton White, Louisa Leach and Peter Westcott, entered Senior or Junior member of the year. After handing in a personal statement, a CV and being interviewed, Louisa Leach was awarded third place in the junior member category.

In March we hosted a big breakfast and car wash event in Witheridge. The event was a great success and members were kept busy washing 65 cars in 4 hours and cooking over 50 breakfasts. The event raised over £350, with the money being split equally between ELF and club funds. We have several other fundraising events planned over the forthcoming months including a bingo, clay pigeon shoot, tractor run and a 24hr pool marathon, so please come and support us at these events if you can. In addition to these events we are also currently organising our Early Summer Ball. The event is on Saturday 3rd June at Bulworthy Farm, Rackenford and will surely be a great night for all with ‘Silver Souled’ band playing live, a DJ, photo booth and Hog Roast. If you are interested in coming to this event, please contact Beth Powell on 01363 860383 for further details.
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Daniel Jurado Caldwell-
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07542673665

djbuilders@yahoo.com
LOOKING FORWARD AT THE REST-A- WHILE

Firstly, thank you to all who made the effort to reply to my appeal for ideas about improving the Rest-a-while; things are now being put into place. We have new seating outside, paid for from the proceeds of last year’s Easter Concert kindly donated to us by Graham Allum. The seats are there to be used by those passing by, perhaps with a dog or walking the Two Moors Way or for those who just want to take their refreshment in the sunshine! Paint colours are now being chosen for the walls which will lead on to the purchase of new curtains, all to give the Rest-a-while a fresh new look in preparation for our 25 Year celebrations in October.

We have recently said good-bye to our good friend Peter Tout who many of you will remember from when he and his wife ran the butcher’s shop in the village. Peter has been a long-standing supporter of the Rest-a-while from its very beginning, helping with the initial funding, helping with teas and coffees, serving on the committee and as a trustee. Peter will be sadly missed by all and we wish him well for the future as he has now moved away to live nearer his family.

We have a book swap in the Rest-a-while which is open to all at no charge. We have a wide selection of books which you can either borrow or feel free to swap with one of your own.

Don’t forget our Bring and Buy which we hold at 10.00am on the last Friday of every month.

June Turner
Secretary

WITHY FEST
Friday 30th June 19:30 - Late. Live Bands and DJ’s
In the Parish Hall and Football Club
Saturday 1st July 12:00 - late
Children’s entertainment, Live Acoustic Set, Live Bands and DJ’s
In the Parish Hall and Football Club
£15 / £7:50 cons / under 11's free for both days
Camping available. £10 for both nights
Tickets can be purchased on line at https://something-else-witheridge.myshopify.com/
Any problems in purchasing tickets, call 01884 860943
Russell North
Witheridge Garden Club

Paul Fonnereau spoke at our February meeting on Plants for a Winter Garden, giving us ideas on how to brighten up our Gardens in the winter months. The Paper Bark Tree and Himalayan Birch were just two of the statement plants mentioned, along with Dogwoods, Christmas Box (scented), Mahonia, Winter Sweet. Berry bearing plants such as Pyracantha, Spindleberry and Cotoneaster were good plants for colour along with Hellebores, Heathers and bulbs together with evergreen grasses. No excuse for a dull winter garden!

In March, Glynn Barlow who is the Senior Risk Assessment Officer for the NFU Management Services, gave us tips on how to keep ourselves safe in the garden. He listed the top ten causes of garden injury – top of the list were lawn mowers, followed by flower pots (heavy lifting) secateurs and pruners, then spades and electric hedge trimmers. Most garden related injuries can be avoided by common sense and correct handling of equipment. Hazardous substances were another cause of injury – always read the labels before use. An electrical RCD is an essential when using electrical garden equipment, and where necessary wear suitable protective clothing.

The Spring Show on 8th April was well attended and displays of spring flowers were at their very best. As well as daffodils, tulips and other spring flowers there were knitted items, needlecraft, painting, decorated Easter cakes, Easter cards and carrots decorated by the children. We had a new category this year and that was to design a poster for the Summer Show – this was won by Lucy Kelly and you will see her poster in and around the village in July advertising the Summer Show in August.

Best In Show was won, not by flowers, fruit or vegetables, but by a superb cross stitch Autumn sampler by Janet Child - congratulations Janet. This was the first time in many years that an exhibit which had not been grown had won this prize.

Jill Horwood
SPRING SHOW

Winners of Cups and Rosettes
Doreen Leat - Best Exhibit in classes 1-4
Janet Childs - Best Exhibit in classes 21-43 and Best In Show
Ros Knight - Most Points in the Show
Catherine Kelly - Best Exhibit in the Children’s Classes
Paul Kelly - Show Secretary
Cyril Leat - Shield for runner up Most Points, and rosette for Best Exhibit in classes 5-20
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Telephone: 01884 860578
Witheridge ladies club

In January we enjoyed a return visit from Anne of the See Hear Centre who brought us up to date with the numerous aids available to help with problems of sight and hearing.

In February Kathleen Saunders demonstrated magnetic health care. It is said that magnets work by emitting a static magnetic field, much like that of the earth’s magnetic field, which can assist the physical body to balance and heal.

In March Jean and Tanya demonstrated the Lifeline Alarm service. Mid Devon District Council offer the most competitive rates for this service and cover a wide area. The alarm system gives peace of mind to users and their families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Telephone 01884 234383.

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

Programme

May 9  Jenny Kane,  Yoga in a Chair
June 13  Summer Outing,  Venue to be advised
July 11  Clare Joseph,  Hen Welfare Trust
Aug 8  Cream Teas & Stalls
Sept 12  Bob Hancock,  Safety in the Home (Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service)
Oct 10  Kathie Gregory,  Animal Behaviour
Nov 14  Devon Wildlife Trust,  Exeter Wildlife
Dec 12  Christmas Luncheon  Venue to be advised
Chulmleigh Golf Course

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website www.chulmleighgolf.co.uk   Email chulmleighgolfcourse@outlook.com
Witheridge Brownies
This term the Brownies have been working towards their World Guiding Badge. They have made World Thinking Day cards, learnt how to make a friendship circle of paper dolls and made Anzac biscuits from Australia. In March we all went on a fantastic day out to Crealy Great Adventure Park. We had a great day, some of the Brownies even braved touching a hissing Cockroach. We had fun on the rides and feeding the animals.

Witheridge Guides
This term the Guides have practiced their gymnastics skills, decorated candles, made bath bombs and made yummy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. We are already planning for later in the year with some Guides and leaders going to the Big Gig at Wembley Arena in October. We are hoping to go on a day out in the summer term.

Brownies are for girls aged 7-10 and Guides for girls aged 10-14 yrs. We meet every other Tuesday, term time only. If you would like to join either Brownies or Guides please do not hesitate to contact me or visit the guiding website.
Girlguiding.org.uk
Kim Howard 860311
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PARISH HALL

Spring is here and the Hall is looking great. Bookings are fine and there is a wedding booked for the summer.
Rackhouse Pilfer had us dancing all night at their wonderful gig on April 1st. Thanks to Peter and Andrea at the newsagents for selling tickets and to Dawn at The Stores for helping with supplies.
The next event for your diaries is The Bootleg Swing Band on May 20th, so if you are in need of an energy boost do come along.
Then on August 25th Oddsocks will return with their very own take on Macbeth. If you are doing Macbeth for GCSE come along and have a fresh look at “The Scottish Play!” If you are not doing GCSE’s come along and just have a wonderful evening - if you have ever wondered how you could laugh at Macbeth you will have your answer. Following the slightly damp(!) conditions last year we have decided to have a gazebo area, although hopefully we will have wonderful weather this year.
Lastly the basketball hoop is starting to come into its own and the lines have been drawn, so you will now know where to shoot from. We owe a vote of thanks to Nic Skorecki, this achievement is entirely down to him. Thanks also to Greg Henderson who has painted the lines. We all hope that everyone enjoys this wonderful new addition to the hall grounds.

Clare Spicer (Chair) Helen Moore (Vice Chair)

WITHERIDGE VOICE WEBSITE

Carole Campbell has been looking after both the website and the Facebook page since handing over to me in January last year. Carole is now ready to give these up, and as I mentioned in my Editorial, we have decided not to continue with the Facebook page. We do, however, need a Webmaster to produce a new Witheridge Voice website and to maintain it. If you think you can help with this, please contact me - either by phone on 861323, or email voiceeditor@btinternet.com.

It would be great to get this up and running in the very near future so Carole can finally relinquish her duty. My very grateful thanks to Carole for looking after these 2 sites - I couldn’t have done it!

Jill Horwood, Editor.
COMMUNITY POLICING
Looking back over the incidents recorded there thankfully hasn’t been much for Witheridge:
  Vehicles obstructing the pavement in West St Witheridge
  Shop lifting at the Central store Witheridge

SECURITY FOR YOUR HOME AND GARDEN
When you are out in the garden make sure your front doors and large windows are locked as it is easy for someone to gain entry to your property quietly, and be in and out briefly without you hearing anything.

Make sure your home looks occupied if you are just out for the day let alone if you go away for any length of time.
Don’t leave curtains closed during the day.
Ask a trusted friend or neighbour to look after your house, collecting post, turning lights on, opening and closing curtains.
Cancel any regular deliveries such as milk or newspapers.
Do not put your home address on luggage labels when travelling to your destination
Keep all valuable items out of sight, computers, I-pads, jewellery etc.,

In your garden:
Prevent intruders getting into the back or your property by installing strong fences and gates.
A thorny hedge along the boundary of your property and gravel can put intruders off.
Make sure your garages and sheds are locked.
Lock ladders inside your garage or shed.
Paint your postcode on lawn mowers, chainsaws, any power tools etc. - it makes it less appealing to steal. Thieves will have to go to more effort to remove the paint. Engraving the postcode is even better.
Don’t keep large sums of money in your property and utility bills, banks details etc., in a locked filing cabinet
As always please keep to the speed limit within the village. Now that the weather is nicer and its holiday time more people, and particularly children will be outside and crossing the roads. There will also be more traffic on the roads.
May I wish you all a good summer. I am now on maternity leave but will return next year.
Regards PCSO 30103 Beverley Bray
**WITHERIDGE CHILDCARE @ THE HIVE**

Spring has sprung and our children are certainly feeling the ‘bounce’ in the air! We’ve had a busy, but very productive, start to the year with lots of activities and projects underway. Most notably we have just finished the installation of a new toilet and sink suite adjoining the main PreSchool Room. This project has provided a much-needed asset for us and has helped immensely with delivering essential ‘life skills’ to the children. Our grateful thanks go to Devon County Council’s Investing in Devon Initiative, in particular Councillor Jeremy Yabsley, for his kind support of this important project, and without whom we would not have been able to achieve this essential improvement to our Setting.

There have been many exciting events as well, including World Book Day where the children dressed up as their favourite literary characters and had a very enjoyable day exploring the world of creative stories. Red Nose Day was another opportunity to dress up – this time in red and/or spots – and at the same time raising funds for well-deserving projects at home and abroad. The children baked their own yummy Red Nose cakes to take home and one of the staff baked a beautiful ‘Malteeser Red Nose’ to raise yet more funds by sending in a photo to the official website where the Cadburys sponsors had pledged additional money for all those who shared their pictures.

Easter is almost upon us and the Easter Bunny has already paid a visit to our lovely Setting! Some of the mums joined us for an exciting Easter Egg Hunt through the play rooms and garden where the children practised their tallying skills to count up the number of delicious choccie treats the Easter Bunny had left for them 😊

As always we have a packed programme of events over the Spring and Summer, the dates for which are:
- 27 May – Mini Beast trail through the woods with a picnic
- 10 June – Bingo at the Parish Hall (jointly with the Primary School PTFA)
- 24 June – St John’s Fayre
- August – Family Fun Challenge Day at the Setting

We encourage all parents/carers and their children in the village and the surrounding areas to join us for fun, entertainment and learning. Look out for our posters or pop into the Setting for more information.

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**WITHERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB**

The season is fast coming to a close as fixtures have not struggled with cancellations this year because the winter weather has been very helpful.

The first team have exceeded expectation by avoiding relegation after losing nearly all its players just before the season started, followed soon by the manager. Pete Buckingham and his team worked miracles to get a team to compete and finish where we have in the league.

The second team is still battling for promotion and with a little bit of luck will finish as runners up in Division One of the Devon & Exeter League.

The third team finished early and secured second place in their second season so will be playing Division Eight football next season.

The football pitch and floodlights have had the necessary work done to enable night time Air Ambulance landings. The helicopter made its first trial run on Monday 3rd April. The lights were triggered remotely and all went successfully to allow the helicopter to land. We believe this is a great benefit for the village and thank the Parish Council for their help in making it possible.

Chris Cole

**TUESDAY REST-A-WHILE BINGO.**

The dates for the following months are as follows:

- **May** Tuesdays: 2nd, 16th and 30th
- **June** Tuesdays: 13th and 27th
- **July** Tuesdays: 11th and 25th
- **August** Tuesdays: 8th and 22nd
- **September** Tuesdays: 5th and 19th
- **October** Tuesdays: 3rd, 17th and 31st

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**WITHERIDGE SPORTS CLUB**

Mon  7.00 - 11.00 pm (skittles at home)
Tues 7.00 - 11.00 pm
Wed  7.00 - 10.00 pm
Thurs 7.00 - 11.00 pm
Fri  7.00 - 12.00 midnight
Sat  12.00 -  9.30 pm
Sun  12.00 -  7.00 pm

**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 first few months of 2017 has been packed with fun for the Witheridge Parent and Toddler Group. We have enjoyed a couple of visits from Sophie and Amanda from the Children’s Centres who have brought along various activities for us to try from playing with water or shredded paper to the Rhyme challenge, where children joined in with lots of songs with actions. We are grateful for their input and look forward to more visits in the term ahead.

In March we held a really successful coffee morning in aid of Exeter Neo Natal Unit and raised an amazing £256.59. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this, it was lovely to welcome the preschool and visitors from the wider community who supported this event and we were really touched to see how much this charity means to so many in Witheridge. Congratulations to Sarah Bragg who won the lovely hamper from our raffle too!

Please do join our Facebook group if you are a local parent or carer of children under 5 to keep up to date with our upcoming events. We would love you to come and join us when you can.

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

We helped our families to celebrate Mother’s Day this year by making a lovely “handmade” keepsake for our Mum’s to treasure! We are looking forward to the summer term where we will be visiting the preschool as a group for some fun in their baby room. We are also looking forward to welcoming a visit from the mobile library at some point as well as planning our next charity event. During the school holidays we still meet on some Wednesdays and older siblings are always welcome to join in.

Please do contact Denise on 01884 861 365 or denisehenson@me.com for more information.
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Gift Vouchers Available 66 Butts Close, Witheridge, Tiverton Tel: 01884 860039 Mobile 07513 497300


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Call Trevor Broderick Tel: 01884 861159 Mobile: 07979 914791 Email: silverhaul@hotmail.co.uk
This term we welcomed Mr Holding as our new Head of School. Mr Holding joined us from a senior teaching post based in Exeter. He has a very broad range of experience and has a particular focus of working with older primary aged children. At home, he is a family man with two young children and enjoys playing football!

Mr Mulligan remains as Executive Head Teacher across both Witheridge and High Bickington Primary Schools as we continue to work closely with TEAM Academy Trust.

**World Book Day 2017 – Alice in Wonderland**

When we arrived at school, we climbed through the rabbit hole and entered Wonderland... Whilst in Wonderland, we enjoyed participating in lots of different activities in our house groups. We visited the Queen of Hearts where we wrote riddles about the book character we were dressed up as. We then went to see the Dormouse to complete an obstacle course and play croquet using a flamingo! After that, we went to the March Hare’s house to help build an enormous card tower. Finally, we visited the Mad Hatter to make mixed up sandwiches for our tea party in the afternoon.
EAST WORLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

Both the African drumming and the mosaic workshops gave the children great opportunities to be creative, and during this era of testing and SATs, as a committee we are delighted that we can ensure our children still get to enjoy these enriching experiences. We are also looking forward to having a new school sign once the mosaic is complete!

We finished the Spring term with an Easter crafts day and egg hunt followed by a disco.

Dates for your diary:-
Saturday 6th May – Summer Jumble & Plant Sale, Witheridge Parish Hall, 2pm
Saturday 17th June – Duck Race & Dog Show, gates open 11.30am – see www.worlingtonptfa.org nearer the time for full details

Donna Webber
Chair PTFA

WITHERIDGE TAE KWON DO CLUB

Wow what a great start to the year. A number of our tigers have moved up to the juniors class so it was lovely to see an influx of new tigers once again swelling the ranks, welcome to all our new students.

A small group of us travelled up to Worcester for the British Champs, everyone had a great time and fought fantastically. Jace Prince won Bronze in Sparring and club instructor Ven Perera won Gold in 1st dan Black Belt patterns, making him the reigning British champion. Congratulations to our competitors representing the club at the British Champs.

In Grading news Millie Phelan has successfully achieved her yellow belt, whilst Finley and Joe Phelan passed their yellow tag. Ed Whitwell, Jake Curtis, Joe Webber and Matt Waters have all passed their black tag, next stop black belt!

Congratulations to you all, your hard work and commitment are a credit to the club.

Tiger of the Month over the last quarter have been Jamie Curtis, Sebastian Walker and Cooper Williamson. Well done for all your hard work and enthusiasm.

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**WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY**

A good turnout of 19 players contested the John Kemp Spring Trophy on a chilly damp day at Waterbridge on 8th March. On the winning team were Witheridge players Alan Horwood and Ken Ramsbotham with farmers Brian Burgess and Michael Pinchcombe. The wooden spoon trophy was won by the team of Andrew Clark, Colin Gunn and Mike Hillard. The dates of future meetings at Waterbridge are the May Trophy on Wednesday 10th May and the Summer Trophy on 5th July. 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

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**TENNIS CLUB**

What a great start to the season. 25 children at the coaching sessions with Rachael - ranging from our youngest at 3½ to the oldest at 15 – but we would like still more! The adults are hoping to start coaching sessions too during the summer so keep an eye on the notice board near the court for details. Coming events include one-day tournaments open to non-members and members alike.

- **Sunday 14th May** – a One-day Open Tournament over 3 or 4 courts
- **Sunday 18th June** – an Adult/Junior Tournament (afternoon only)
- **Saturday 15th July** – a One-day Open Tournament over 3 or 4 courts
- **Saturday 19th August** – a Half-day Tournament (afternoon only)

Vine Spragg, 01363 866033 or, if you prefer to email: evelyn.spragg@btinternet.com
Living on a wildlife estate

From mid Jan-March 2017, Jim and I spent a glorious couple of months in Hoedspruit, South Africa. It was our 4th visit to escape our winter, my health is better in a hot climate (25-40C) and after almost 20 years teaching in Swaziland, Botswana and Zimbabwe, we miss the African bush. We flew South African Airways to Joburg then on to Hoedspruit and picked up a hire car at the airport.

Hoedspruit is a small town halfway up the western edge of Kruger National Park. A trip into Kruger is easy from here - ¾ hour to Orpen gate or an hour to Phalaborwa. There are 2 main streets, 2 supermarkets, garage, pharmacy, medical centre, cafes (free wifi) and restaurants - everything we need. I put a local SIM card in the phone then top up with data which is enough for news and email.

Houses: We rent for a couple of months on Raptor’s View or Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate. They have small buck, kudu, nyala, waterbuck, wildebeest, zebra and giraffe, monkeys, jackals, civets and servals, but no lions, buffalo or elephants. There are leopards though: game fences won’t keep a leopard out. Raptor’s houses are down windy dirt roads on 1 hectare plots, so quiet and private. The animals roam freely as pets and fences aren’t allowed. Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate (HWE) has smaller plots and tarred roads but pets, gardens and fences are allowed. We were on Raptors for the first month then HWE from mid February. The Raptor’s house was lovely with a big pool and a huge veranda looking onto a waterhole. The first morning we had a nyala peering through the bedroom window; another day it was a very curious giraffe! Life started at 6am (26C) when Jim would walk to the dam, then from 7am we were in the shade reading, in the pool, knitting, in the pool, a walk on one of the trails in the afternoon….back in the pool.
One particularly busy day we had 40+ impala with babies, nyala, giraffes, monkeys and warthogs but other days we were content with just ‘our’ tree lizard and ‘our’ kingfisher.

In a wildlife estate you can’t leave doors or windows open or the monkeys will be in causing havoc. In 40+ years in the bush we have rarely been bothered by spiders, scorpions or snakes, but after 2 days of heavy rain we had a huge centipede in the sliding door, a sand snake (long, thin and harmless) fall off a rafter onto me in the night and a scorpion (small pincers, large tail, deadly) next to the steps into the bedroom! I was paranoid for days after that snake. Thankfully, most days were much lower key and the giraffes came so often to feed around the house that we stopped taking photos!

Our second house wasn’t quite as grand as Raptor’s but after Jim built a small waterhole opposite the veranda we had warthogs, duikers, monkeys and birds most days.

We were busy in a retired sort of way - 3 nights in Kruger, visitors for 4 days, walking in the early morning (Jim) and late afternoon (me) and reading lots of books! On one evening game drive, we narrowly missed a large (and deadly) black mamba in the road - more than a bit scary until it slithered off into the bush.

After 9 weeks among wildlife, we are happy to be back in Witheridge but just think, a giraffe could be at the Raptor’s waterhole right now!!

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**THELBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

At the meeting on 22\(^{nd}\) February, the Council agreed to the new website, which can be viewed at [www.thelbridgebtck.co.uk](http://www.thelbridgebtck.co.uk) where agenda, dates of future meetings, minutes etc. are all available. The website is still under development, so more information will become available over time.

The public are welcome to attend meetings, which are now publicised through the website and, as has historically been the practice, through noticeboards in Nomansland, The Mount Pleasant Inn and the Thelbridge Cross Inn.

Janet de Rochefort  
Thelbridge Parish Council Clerk

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**CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY CLUB**

Arranged and funded by members of Mid-Devon churches working together with leading support from [www.pulseministries.co.uk](http://www.pulseministries.co.uk)

Games, Fun, Songs, Competitions & Crafts for Primary Age school children at Morchard Bishop Playing Fields.

Wednesday 31st May & Thursday 1st June - 10am to 3pm and Friday 2nd June 10am to 3.30pm, then *Family Space from 3.30pm-4.30pm* for parents to join their children for High Tea.

Registration forms at [www.thelighthouseclub.org.uk](http://www.thelighthouseclub.org.uk)

Children will need to bring a packed lunch each day and a refillable bottle, all named.

Enquiries: Sylvia Grant 01363 877400

**Lighthouse Youth Event** Thursday 1st June 7.15pm to 9.15pm  
For school years 6 and above  For details contact Zoe on 07519 360243

Parents/Guardians are invited to come and relax at The Lighthouse each day 10am to 11am, and 2pm to 3pm, for a FREE tea/Coffee and cake at Morchard Bishop Playing Fields.
Parish Clock
A new PAR pendulum regulator, which provides accurate timekeeping of clock movement and adjusts for Summer and Winter time, has been installed. Although the clock now provides accurate time and quarter movements, the chimes are now faulty and another part has been ordered from Cumbria clocks - we are awaiting its installation.

Devon Air Ambulance
Where floodlighting is available, Devon Air Ambulance is extending its service until midnight. The council has identified the main football pitch for such use, and has funded the wiring of a GSM power switch into the power supply for the floodlights. This will be activated by a phone call which will automatically activate the lights thereby extending the coverage of the life-saving Air Ambulance for Witheridge and nearby residents.

Witheridge Tree Plantings
Due to district council cutbacks, we have taken over several of their previous commitments. Last year we paid for a tree survey of Witheridge's existing plantings in the square and Chapple corner. Apart from a cherry in the square which needs to be removed the others are healthy but need pruning. When the optimum time arrives to have the necessary work carried out, quotations will be sought and an operator appointed.

Cannington Road Safety
Very unfortunately a child was hit by a car in Cannington Road. Councillor Yabsley and the highway officer, at a meeting with concerned residents, have recommended safety measures. It was stated that 106 monies are available for these safety alterations.
Footpaths
The footpath from Downs Cross to Queen Dart has been upgraded with existing stiles being replaced by self-closing gates.

Local Grants
We allocated from our precept, monies to local Witheridge organisations including £300 to the Parent and toddler group, £600 to the Parish Hall, £1,000 to Witheridge Pre School, £500 to St. John’s Fayre and Witheridge in Bloom, who in my opinion do a magnificent job to brighten our village. Thank you ladies.

Litter Picking
After a successful litter pick using hired equipment, the council agreed that we purchase our own and have had two organised clear ups since. The aim is for at least two a year and we are appealing for volunteers. Thank you Councillor Northam for organising these.

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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Witheridge School 15:05 - 15:50
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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
27th April, 22nd June, 24th August and 26th October

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

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