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EDITORIAL
Thank you to all our advertisers and contributors to this magazine.
Our new website is up and running, and on page 5 you will find details of how to publicise your events.
Cover photographs - if you have any photos of Witheridge you would like to see on the front cover, please do send them in to me.
We have a new contributor joining us - Tim Smith - you will find his lovely article on wild life and autumnal plants on pages 32 and 33. Welcome Tim!
Deadline for the Winter issue is 4th January.
Jill Horwood, Editor

Advertising in Witheridge Voice
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**WITHERIDGE VOICE WEBSITE**

Our website - [www.witheridgevoice.org.uk](http://www.witheridgevoice.org.uk) - is up and running thanks to a lot of hard work by our new webmaster - Ed Eyles.

If you have events to advertise within the village, please let Ed have the details - both text and poster - and he will put them on the website. Contact Ed at: [webmaster@witheridgevoice.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@witheridgevoice.org.uk).

If you have any photos of Witheridge in the past, Ed would be most interested to have a look at them with a view to scanning them in and using them in the section on Witheridge.

Stories about Witheridge are always of interest - again contact Ed - or me - if you would like to share them with our readers.

Jill Horwood
Editor

---

**Christmas Craft Fair**

St John the Baptist Church
Saturday 9th December
10am—12 noon
Christmas gifts, decorations, cakes, produce,
Christmas Lucky Dip, Raffle
Come and join us!
**A DOZEN EGGS FOR A DOZEN YEARS**

Roll back to 2005 to a time when commercial laying hens were still in battery cages. Then, there was no other destination for these little birds than the slaughterhouse. No hope of a free range future, or of enjoying life as a much-loved pet.

Fast forward a dozen years to 2017 and the picture is a very different one. Thanks to the work of the British Hen Welfare Trust, founded by Jane Howorth, 580,000 hens have been taken out of their cages and adopted into family life in people’s back gardens where they have lived a full, happy and, most importantly, free range retirement. Thousands of those hens found homes via the charity’s two Devon re-homing points in Okehampton and Rose Ash.

Jane was inspired to start helping ‘ex-bats’ after watching Panorama’s Down on the Factory Farm in 1979 and finding out that commercial laying hens never had an opportunity to experience the outdoors at any point. At the core of the charity remains the re-homing initiative which has now become a complex national operation co-ordinated from Hen Central in Devon with 500+ volunteers across more than 30 regional pop-up re-homing venues.

Free range egg sales have increased from 32% of market share in 2004 rising steadily, even through recession, to 52% today and the charity has been directly linked with this growth. However, there are currently around 36 million laying hens, approximately 16 million of whom are still in ‘colony’ cages, in the UK and the charity saves the lives of less than 1%. So, wider education of the public has been key in reaching beyond just those lucky enough to have an ex-bat as a pet.
The message of hen welfare is as relevant today as it was when Jane Howorth started the charity over 11 years ago. Even though great strides have been made to improve the welfare of commercial hens the charity is committed to raising awareness that hens are still kept in cages. Currently it is developing an educational programme which will be rolled out to coincide with the build of the UK’s first dedicated hen welfare and education centre at Hen Central in North Devon.

Planning permission was granted in October 2016 for the centre to be built and it is hoped work will begin next year. In addition, Jane received an MBE for her services to hen welfare in January 2016, the same month that the charity saw its 500,000th hen re-homed. Finally, announcements by the major UK supermarkets that they are to cease selling shell eggs from cage hens was welcome news to the charity in 2016 but it will continue campaigning to remind shoppers that 60% of the eggs laid by hens in cages go into processed food including cakes, quiches and even wine. The vision is for a free range future; there is much more to do...

British Hen Welfare Trust, Hope Chapel, Rose Ash, South Molton, EX36 4RF
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or visit our website at www.newhousecottages.com
The Monday Club is going from strength to strength, our numbers are increasing and the support that we are getting from non members is fantastic. I thank you all very much.

Our trip to Lyme Regis was fully booked, and what a wonderful day we had. The sun brightly lit our way around this very pretty town. Lots of ice creams were eaten and laughter sounded all around us as we relaxed by the sea shore.

Our mystery trip took us to Dartmouth - much to everyone’s delight. We strolled around the town then ate fish and chips on the beach, a real seaside day out. Unfortunately, it started to rain, but it could not dampen our spirits, we had to make our way to the nearest pub to keep warm and dry - shame!!!! A wonderful day enjoyed by all.

We have had some excellent speakers this year, including the Knights of Witheridge who gave as an insight into what they were about, how and who they helped, who they were and about the money that they have raised, and are continuing to raise. We were all very impressed and they received many offers of help. It will certainly help us to understand what they are doing at our local events and how we can support them. Well done boys for such an informative afternoon.

If you are a young sixty year old and would like more details about joining our club, please phone Val 860709

Look out for posters about our coming trips, I will look forward to hearing from you.

Val Dickinson, Chair.
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COMMUNITY NEWS

In memory of

5th October funeral of Joyce Pullen

Bill Bullivan cremated at Exeter Crematorium

Congratulations on their marriage

Peter Randerson and Jessica Mills
9th September

TUESDAY CHARITY BINGO AT THE REST-A-WHILE.

The bingo continues to be well supported, with everybody enjoying the evening, including tea or coffee half way through. The monies donated so far this year are as follows

- North Devon Hospice - £50
- Children’s Hospice - 2 lots of £50
- Dogs Trust - £50-00.

We were invited to visit the children’s hospice. Three of us went, and I think it would be fair to say we were in awe of the place, a beautiful house and grounds, with their every need catered for. We were made to feel very welcome and that our contributions are also very well appreciated.

The dates for our following Bingo sessions are

- November 14th and 28th
- December 12th - Christmas Bingo
- January 9th and 23rd
- February 6th and 20th.

Play starts at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

Marion Crane
01884 860530
Witheridge Parish Hall

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HERE'S A BAILEY EXPLOIT!

One day at the canal Bailey leapt into the water after his ball. Worryingly, it was the part of the canal with very steep sides and he couldn't get out! At the same time, the horse drawn barge was trundling along and the man leading the horse helpfully said to me, 'The only way to get him out is to haul him out!' and he carried on with lots of delighted onlookers on the barge.

Bailey weighs 32 kilos DRY!!!

I lay down on the bank and tried to hoist him out but to no avail. He was barrelling along with his ball in mouth puffing and panting like a steam engine. A very kind man came and lay down on the bank beside me !! and we both tried to lift him out, but we were still unable to get him on dry land. Finally, a third man joined the throng and between us we managed to get him out!

Bailey looked very pleased with himself, still hanging onto his ball and ready for a lengthy walk. I was in such a state I had to come home for a cup of tea!

Margie Cosker
See Hear on Wheels visits 2017

Equipment demonstrations, loans, information and advice for people who have hearing and/or sight loss. Fully accessible mobile service.

Witheridge Square: 10am - 12 noon
Thursday 26 October 2017
Thursday 22nd February 2018

For more information contact the See Hear Centre
Email: seehearn@livingoptions.org
Phone: 01271 373236
Mobile: 07831 515809

Registered charity No: 1102489
**FIRE FIGHTERS NEWS**

Members of the public and staff have been recognised by Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service at its annual awards ceremony.

Chief Fire Officer’s Certificates of Commendation were presented to firefighters and members of the public for their exceptional actions and outstanding acts of bravery at the ceremony in Exeter.

Members of the Service who have served for more than 20 years were presented with long service awards by Her Majesty’s Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Devon Sir John Cave and several firefighters who have served for more than 40 years were given special awards.

Chief Fire Officer Lee Howell said: “This is an important time in our Service calendar as we recognise service, professionalism and actions beyond the call of duty.

Hannah Hawkins

**WITHERIDGE IN BLOOM**

Our aim is to keep the Village looking as colourful and as tidy as possible all year round. It was difficult this Summer with extreme weather conditions, but most displays lasted well until September. Thanks to the team who have been helping me for these last 2 years.

I will be standing down as Chair in October after our AGM, and after 17 years as well! However, I am very confident the Village displays will go from strength to strength.

Our thanks go to both the Parish Council and the Knights of Witheridge for their generous grants – we wouldn’t have had the displays without their help.

Chris Kershaw
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**ALLOTMENTS**

After a glorious start to the summer, we were disappointed that July and August were as wet as they were. Things are starting to draw to a close for the season on the plots, with the majority of the harvest already pulled in. We can now turn our attention to clearing up and making plans for next year.

For enquiries about the availability of plots please contact Sam Butler 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**

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**STRANDED HEDGEHOG**
saved by off-duty Fire Fighters

Witheridge Fire Fighters - Hannah and Shaun – came to the rescue when a hedgehog was found stuck behind an oil tank in Mrs June Webster’s garden. Villagers believe that the hedgehog had been stuck there for about two or three days when it was discovered. Shaun, a neighbour and a friend, was called for his expertise and advice, and promptly came to help. He was quickly called away on an emergency “shout”, but Hannah, a colleague of his, soon came to help in his place.

Together, using a combination of sticks and reaching aids, the villagers and off-duty Fire Fighters were able to free the bedraggled animal from behind the tank. The hedgehog has now fully recovered from his ordeal, and lives safely in a neighbour’s garden. Mrs. Webster would like to express her gratitude to Hannah and Shaun for giving up their time. They have proven once again, that the Fire department of Witheridge is a true credit to the community.

Jan Speirs
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
**CHARITY KNITTING**

We continue to knit for our usual charities, which keeps us busy, and the items are always gratefully received. The charities include the Baby Bear Project, which consists of a set of baby clothes, plus a teddy bear. These go to Kenya. We also support the baby units of Bath and Exeter hospitals. Hats for fishermen. Blankets and tunic tops for needy children in Eastern Europe - and more!

Eileen Haynes
860212

**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 7th November, and then Tuesday 5th December. There will be no meal in January.

Yvonne Childs

**WITHERIDGE COMMUNITY COMPOSTING**

Although we are no longer collecting green waste, we still have some compost left for sale which can be purchased at £1.00 per bag, delivered free in the village.
To order ring Greg on 01884 860819
Harry Richardson Treasurer 860522
The Mount Pleasant Inn
Nomansland
CHRISTMAS MENU 2017
2 courses £19.50 3 courses £24.50 (includes coffee, tea & platter)

SPICED PARSNIP SOUP - topped with parsnip crisps
THAI CRAB CAKE - served with salad & a sweet chilli dip
HAM HOCK TERRINE - served with salad, piccalilli & chunky bread
POACHED PEAR, STILTON & WALNUT SALAD - served with a side of dressing

ROAST TURKEY - served with stuffing, bacon roll, sausages, roasts potatoes, gravy & cranberry
SMOKED HADDOCK GRATIN - layer of spinach, smoked haddock, dauphinois potato and cheddar cheese and baked in the oven
GAME PIE - rich mix of seasonal game, shallots root vegetables in a port gravy topped with a short crust pastry & served with roast potatoes
MUSHROOM, CAMEMBERT & CRANBERRY WELLINGTON - on a bed of creamed sweet potato

The above mains are all served with bowls of roasted vegetables topped with asparagus, fresh sprouts, cauliflower cheese and extra roast potatoes

CHRISTMAS PUDDING - served with clotted cream & jugs of brandy sauce
St.CLEMENTS POSSET - refreshing cream pudding served with poppy seed shortbread
BERRY TRIFLE - topped with a fresh cream snowman!
CHOCOLATE BROWNIE - served with raspberry sorbet

POTS OF COFFEE OR TEA - served along side your delicious mince pie platter!

Bookings taken for lunches & evenings from 1st December to 23rd December.

Phone 01884 860271

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Christmas Day bar only
12 noon till 2pm

Boxing day Closed
New Year Eve
kitchen closes at 4pm then
MUSIC & BAR!
Closed 1st 2nd 3rd 4th January
**WITHERIDGE LADIES GROUP**

In **August** we held our annual Garden Party, selling cream teas and having the usual stalls, also a tombola/raffle. An occasion for a good natter and a cream tea.

In **September** we welcomed Hannah Hawkins of Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service who gave us a most informative talk and demonstration on safety in the home. She advised us against leaving electrical appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines switched on overnight. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were also discussed. Hannah also gave us some examples of the causes of fire in the home and told us that chip pan fires and fires due to people smoking are decreasing.

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

**MUSIC GROUP**

There will be a concert on Friday 10th November at 7pm. David Davies, Organ and soprano, Heloise West. It will be a wide ranging programme, some serious, other items light-hearted. Something to suit everyone.

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Dear All in our Witheridge Community,

I write on behalf of the St John’s Fayre Committee in the hope that we can recruit some more members. We are a very small committee, with a good sense of humour and the will to keep the tradition, going back to the year 1248, alive and thriving.

Every year in June, for St John’s Day which will be celebrated on the 23rd June in 2018, we organise our Village event. A Parade, crafts and food stalls, and entertainment are the backbone of the day. Perhaps you have some good ideas you would like to see to fruition? Perhaps you would like to make sure the day goes ahead for your children or grandchildren? Perhaps the thrill of being part of this exciting group of party planners could entice you? Whichever the reason, we would love to have you on board.

Our theme for 2018 is Devon Farming. We hope to enthral everyone with the best our local farmers have to offer. Farm animals, Horse and Carts, Tractors and Engines, local produce with the finale of an excellent Country Music band to take us in to the night.

We will still have plenty of other entertainment, and any new ideas would be greatly appreciated. A big thank you to Sir Bernard Knight who has kindly arranged for no less than twelve vintage cars to join the parade and be on display next year.

St John’s Fayre Committee also arrange the Christmas Tree Lighting. This year it will take place on Saturday 9th December, at 5pm in St John’s Church, for carol singing, followed by the lighting of the tree at 5.45pm, with presents from Father Christmas for the children and mince pies for everyone.

Our next meeting will be held on at 7.30pm Tuesday 6th November at the Committee Room adjacent to the Village Hall. Please do come along and make sure that we have a Fayre in 2018.

Lise Martin (01884 860625)
**THE MOUSE TRAP**

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathised, but said "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house - like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness. So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember: when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry.

**Author unknown**

We are all interconnected with all of creation. We need to be mindful of our actions, as they may affect our neighbours - both human and animal and the environment. Jesus said the first commandment is this: the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with your heart, soul, mind and strength. The second is this: love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

I commend living by this principle. **Adrian Wells**
**Methodist Chapel**
Rev John Wiltshire 01363 877281

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

**Women's Fellowship**
◈ 1st Thurs in month from March - December 2:30pm

---

### Events at The Chapel

- **Sun 12th November**
  - Remembrance Service at Parish Church 10.15am
- **Fri 17th November**
  - Stowford Meadow Singers 7.30pm
- **Thurs 7th December**
  - Carols with Ad Lib in aid of the Leprosy Mission, with mince pies to follow 2.30pm
- **Sun 17th December**
  - Service of 9 Lessons and Carols with Ad Lib, with mince pies to follow 11.00am
- **Sun 24th December**
  - Sunday Service 11:00:00

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### St John the Baptist Parish Church
**Rev Adrian Wells**

**Morning Worship and Communion Services start at 9:30am**

- **Tues 7th November**
  - United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall 12 for 12.30
- **Fri 10th November**
  - Concert for Organ and Voice Parish Church 7.00pm
- **Sun 12th November**
  - Remembrance Sunday Parish Church 10.15am
- **Tues 5th December**
  - United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall 12 for 12.30
- **Sat 9th December**
  - Christmas Craft Fair Parish Church 10.00am - noon
- **Sun 10th December**
  - Witheridge Carol Service with Tiverton Town Band Parish Church 6.30pm
  - Christingle Service With Witheridge School to be confirmed Parish Church 9.30am
  - Crib Service - to be confirmed Parish Church
- **Sun 24th December**
  - Christmas Eve Holy Communion Parish Church 11.00pm
- **Mon 25th December**
  - Christmas Day Family Service Parish Church 9.30am

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

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Tel:    01884 861235
Website:  www.knightsofwitheridge.org.uk
email: knightschair@gmail.com
Unfortunately, we had to cancel our main fundraising event, the Tractor Push this year, due to lack of interest and a clash with another similar event happening the week before, we are hopeful to re-schedule next year in the spring.
We are having a Knights sponsored walk along an approximate 13-mile section of the Two Moors Way on Sunday 19th November, please sponsor one of the Knights if you can as all proceeds are given out to local groups and charities. We are going to have a very busy lead up to Christmas with one of our famous ‘Pudding Quizzes’ at the Parish Hall on Saturday 11th November, followed by our first Pantomime in The Parish Hall on 1st Friday December, if you require tickets please contact me at: knightschair@gmail.com
Wishing everyone a great Christmas and Happy New Year

Laurie White
Chairman

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**THE LITTLE DART**

flows by the village and makes me wonder why, when the village was founded, it was not positioned closer to the river. Perhaps in those days the ground was just too marshy. I also wondered why it was called the Little Dart. Yes it’s little, but it doesn’t flow into the Dart or rise on Dartmoor. Then I discovered that the word Dart is thought to be from a Celtic word meaning 'river where oak trees grow' and that there’s another river Dart which rises close to the source of our Little Dart and this River Dart, which we all pass over on the way to Tiverton, joins the Exe beside Bickleigh. So it was probably named after that one and not the better known one which runs through Dartmouth.

So what about the Little Dart .......... it rises a few miles east of Rackenford just off the A 361. It then winds its way west passed Witheridge and through a deep wooded valley between Chawleigh and Chulmleigh before joining the River Taw. That’s a distance of about 60 km, during which it falls about 213m. Along its course over 40 smaller streams flow into it. The river passes under 16 road bridges and 1 rail bridge and the 1765 map shows 7 mills along its course. It’s a pleasant walk along its banks and if you’re lucky you might see a Kingfisher, Dipper or Grey Wagtail and if you’re really lucky an otter.

Under the surface you can find trout and salmon. It’s also worth going down to see the river when it is in flood. The river has been monitored at Chulmleigh since January 1996. The lowest depth recorded was 11 cm in August 1996, though I’m sure in the summer of 1976 it would have been virtually zero. A typical winter depth would be between 70 and 80 cm, but on 25th November 2012 it measured 2.62m. The deepest ever recorded. I know that’s only since 1996, but considering the winter of 2013/14 was the wettest since records began in 1766, perhaps it was something really special.
As Witheridge is only a few miles downstream of the river’s source, after very heavy rain, the flood surge arrives quickly, but then abates just as quickly. Here, the easiest place to walk the river is as it passes through Yeo Copse. It’s only a short walk, but I’ve seen lots along its banks. There is an 11-mile walking route, the Little Dart Ridge and Valley Walk, which links the Two Moors Way at Witheridge to the Tarka Trail at Eggesford railway station and follows the river for part of the way. I’ve always found it a pity that the river is not really deep enough to take a boat trip along its length, surely the best way to experience any river.

More quite interesting river facts
In the rainy season, the Amazon is about 40 km at its widest. At its peak roughly 625 million litres of water flow over the edge of Victoria Falls on the river Zambezi every minute.

Perhaps the strangest rivers are found flowing through channels at the bottom of the sea. They’re caused by the water in the channels being more saline and having a higher density than the surrounding seawater. This stops the waters from mixing. The photo shows a river flowing along the floor of the Gulf of Mexico. Jim Campbell
AUTUMN INTO WINTER

Picture this. It’s a warm evening, late Summer, around 9pm and the light is fading. I’m walking slowly through some wildflower meadows and pause as usual in the next gateway, just to see if there’s anything about. I try the Bat Detector again and register two more Pipistrelles. There is a pale shadow floating softly above the ripening grasses and seedheads. Barn Owl. I hunker down in the gateway to wait, knowing that this may be one of those lucky encounters you get from time to time. A female, larger than the male, and she is starting to quarter the field in the classic hunting mode. Blunt wings are extended and cupped to enable her to almost stall in the damp air; her head is inclined sharply downwards, intent on the moment.

The Barn Owl has evolved a perfect sensory system enabling it to hunt and take the small mammals that emerge in the half light. The plumage is of slightly different design in that the feathers have ‘feathered’ edges to reduce audible friction as the air passes over them - silent flight. This is some ghost! You can see why they were feared as bad omens when seen silently gliding over the gravestones in the gloaming! The facial disc is a perfectly beautiful heart shape, this acts as a twin radar screen, capturing the slightest sound; the ears are offset, one higher than the other to help directional location; the eyes are forward facing and adapted to see well in the half-light; feet are strong and ribbed to give a firm grip, tipped with long razor-sharp talons with which to grasp its prey.

My lovely bird drifts over the dry grasses, she sways gently from side to side. She drops, then rises, and drops again. I realise I’m holding my breath, throat taut and dry, eyes watering, while the world seems to have come quietly to a standstill. Somehow I’ve been allowed to step inside creation, just for a moment, what a privilege. I watch her as the light is failing fast, her hunt is also failing. She glides over me and vanishes into dusk.
We have 5 common species of Owl in these islands. Barn Owl, Tawny, Little Owl, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls. The one we hear most in our area is the Tawny Owl. The Barn Owl hunts in the half-light over fields and hedgerows.

Tawny is a forest hunter, typically perching in a tree and swooping down on rodents, usually hunting after dark. In Autumn they become very vocal. The male calls “to-whit-to-woo”, or simply hoots; the female will answer with an ear-splitting shriek – “kewick”. In between are all sorts of trembly bits and pieces, weebly throaty gurgles. All geared to excite the libido. If you are a Tawny, that is. So, what’s going on here? Tawnies breed very early, almost before Spring has sprung because the young need to gain enough weight, and learn to hunt effectively, before the next Winter sets in.

Autumnal events: black Buckthorn berries ripen – don’t be tempted, leave them for the birds, they have an unfortunate laxative effect! (Brimstone caterpillar foodplant); bird migration – the arrival of 2 new Thrush family members – Redwing, Fieldfare. Also large numbers of Blackbird, Mistle and Song Thrush, and Robin from the cold north and east of Europe, intent on reaping the berry harvest of Hawthorn, Holly, Ivy; (we might even get Waxwings!) Fungus everywhere – Stinkhorn in the woods, Dead Man’s fingers in the lawn – some ghastly names! Late broods of Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies can appear; Comma and Red Admiral feed on windfall apples on sunny days before they hibernate. (If you find one in the curtains please don’t put them outside!); we could get a ‘Vole peak’ where Bank Voles and Field Voles reach a ‘high’; watch out for a few late Common Darter Dragonflies; and the Salmon are starting their astonishing journey back up-river to their spawning grounds – they can leap 4 times their own body length.

December brings us to the Winter Solstice, that time of wonder and fellowship, log fires and short days – Christmas with its amazing message of hope and gifts – enjoy it, whatever your persuasion! Then it’s January again – another Happy New Year – and here we go again!

Tim Smith
LOOKING FORWARD AT THE REST-A-WHILE

The major event this quarter has been the celebration of our 25 years anniversary since the Rest-A-While first opened its doors in October 1992.

In the months leading up to this auspicious event we have been busy giving the premises a facelift in readiness for this great occasion. Our new curtains are now up and looking very smart. We are looking forward to having new signs outside the building which will give more information about our opening times and offer a more friendly and welcoming face as we seek to make more people aware of the facilities on offer to everyone in the village and surrounding area.

We have of course been carrying on with our business as usual; especially pleasing is when we are able to welcome newcomers to the village, and help them get to know more about the helpful and friendly community they now live in.

Many new arrivals are interested in the history of the village and how it used to look in years gone by. We now have on display in the Rest-A-While a number of photographs showing views of the old village which were obtained courtesy of Chris Kershaw from the Witheridge Archive. The photographs have been attractively displayed in a collage kindly made for us by Patrick Brook of West Country Pictures. Please do come in to the Rest-A-While to see the photographs and have a tea or coffee with us whilst you are there.

In July we held a 50p jumble sale where every item was marked at this bargain price. The event was well attended and we were pleased to raise the grand sum of £120 on the day.

Also in July we were pleased to welcome Margery Vanstone and Kaye Woollacott as new Trustees to the Rest-A-While.

On Saturday 30th September, our 25th Birthday Party started at 1pm, and the people just kept arriving - a wonderful sight to see so many of our past and present helpers there, chatting to our regular supporters. Hilary Partridge was in charge of catering, and what a spread of delicious food.
Peter Tout, who had left the village some months earlier, came back to enjoy the party with us. There was standing room only as Val, our Chairperson, gave us an emotional talk, telling us how the Rest-A-While had started as the seed of an idea planted in the minds of Loveday and Francis Venner and grew in the hearts of so many. Val spoke about the people who had helped us in the last 25 years and of the growing numbers who regularly go to the Rest-A-While - some for a chat with friends, some looking and finding comfort in the company of others, all enjoying the comfort of a warm welcome.

The birthday cake was cut by Queenie Pyne and Peter Tout who, it was felt, represented the heart of the Rest-A-While. Val proposed a Champagne toast to absent friends, to present friends and friends that we still have to meet as they come through the door for a coffee, tea, biscuits and conversations. ‘Happy Birthday’ was sung, and Champagne enjoyed. A very successful afternoon, and a big Thank You to all who shared it with us.

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**CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES**

**Taekwondo**  
Parish Hall  Wednesdays  6.00 - 8:00pm  
Fridays  Family and Tigers  6.00 - 8.00pm

**Youth Club**  
Church Rooms  1st & 3rd Thursdays 7.00pm

**TAEKWONDO**

Wow what a fantastic summer we have had. Everyone has been working really hard preparing for their gradings. Congratulations to our new yellow tags: Angela Lunn, Rob Curtis, Naomi Ainsworth and Cameron Asson; yellow belt: Ella Reid; green tags: Joseph Phelan and Jessica Curtis and green belt: Millie Phelan. Special congratulations to Rob Curtis for achieving an A-pass and taking home the coveted grading award! Fantastic achievement by all of you.

Good luck to our black tags as they prepare for their black belt grading shortly: Joe Webber, Jake Curtis, Edward Whitwell and Matt Waters they have all been working very hard and are sure to do the club proud.

And good luck to club instructor Ven Perera as he goes for his second dan!

Tigers of the month for the last quarter have been Cameron Asson, Ava-Lily Asson and Harry Veysey. All showing wonderful Taekwondo spirit.

A big shout out to our young tigers who have graduated into the junior class: Isabella Mantle, Jerome Mantle, Cameron Asson and Penny Watkinson. The tigers class focuses on learning through play whereas the junior class is more traditional martial arts. The dedication of our young students to commit to the increased demands of the junior class means that we have space for more tigers! So if anyone has lively youngsters typically 4-8 years old then come and try a months free trial!

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**Parish Hall**

Given the damp and dreary summer we have had, incredibly enough the sun came out for Macbeth and the evening was absolutely wonderful. There were 300+ people laughing, eating, drinking and generally enjoying a first class evening of entertainment. I wish a few more people from Witheridge would give it a chance, we had people coming from Exmouth, Taunton and Russia but not so many from Witheridge. Still the ones that did come seemed to have a lovely time.

We are going to put on a film evening - look out for posters, the first showing will probably be sometime in January.

Russell is putting on a few music events over the winter and The Parish Hall committee will probably have another dance orientated event at some point either this Autumn or Spring depending on who is touring.

There are many things going on in the hall - Taekwondo, Bowls, Badminton, Table Tennis, Badminton and Mother and Toddlers are just a few. Do check out what is happening and get involved.

Clare Spicer
Chairman

**Art Group**

If you would like to join us, we meet in the parish hall committee room with wonderful lighting. We are a small group of people who have painting and drawing as a hobby and find meeting with friends a happy and productive experience.

We have facilities for disabled people, tea and coffee are available, and a cupboard full of materials if you would like to try us out without spending too much.

The subscription is £1.50 per week and £5 annual membership. If you would like to join us ring 860564 or 860709
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Across

1. Pub with log fire
5. “You little devil”
7. Wild goat
8. Some roofs still like this
11. Washington State
14. It meets on Monday
17. Animal used to be called “urchin”
19. Car
21. Possessive of “we”
22. Annual Cleanup

Down

1. Indian corn
2. Our martial arts club
3. Smaller than an LP
4. After deductions
5. Irritating skin
6. Variegated or spotted
9. Obscure
10. Former partner
12. Ridge of sand
13. Little Dart .......
14. A wonderful thing races
15. How long to rest?
16. A series of symbols
18. Singer: Doctor ....
20. Island motorcycle

Ray Thorne
(answers on page 65)
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This term we welcome Lydia Roberts, our new Early Years Leader and Christine Pugsley, our new Reception Teacher. Lydia, Christine and staff, spent many hours during the school holidays brightening up the preschool and the outside area and the children are really enjoying their brighter environment.

All our new children have settled into preschool extremely well. Lydia and Christine plan their activities together to follow the children’s interests and so that transition from Preschool to Primary School is seamless, with the children working together in the same unit.

We have now extended our ‘Woody Wonders’ outdoor learning provision and the children are loving being able to play and learn outside as much as possible. Sessions are currently all day Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday afternoons the Toddler Group meet in the preschool. The Toddler parents are very welcoming and proactive and have exciting plans for the coming year.

Please do give Chanelle Busby a call on 01884 861680 for more information.

Further information about the preschool can be found on the Chulmleigh Academy Trust website or telephone: 01884 861722.
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Sat 12.00 - 9.30 pm
Sun 12.00 - 7.00 pm

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**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**

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A great day was had by all who attended the Ploughing Match on 19th September, kindly held at Mr. Stoyles & Son at Little Bamson, Puddington. 53 ploughs were entered, and a good lot of produce entries, but we could do with more Roots and Crops. Everybody had an enjoyable day.

**Ploughing Trophies**
- Champion Ploughman: Mr. Gill
- Best work: Alan Bickley
- Reversible Plough: Paul Pincombe
- Reversible Plough Open: Sam Reed
- Under 25 years: Rachel Pincombe (First lady winner)
- WYFC member: Ben Perryman
- Local Ploughman: Alan Bickley
- Horse Ploughing: Bill Tonkin

**Class winners**
- Class 1: D. Tonkins
- Class 2: Rachel Pincombe
- Class 3: Arthur Heyward
- Class 4: Paul Pincombe
- Class 5: Mr. Gill
- Class 6: J. Hodges
- Class 7: J. Hill
- Class 8: T. Hurly
- Classes 9–18: M. Stoyle
- Best exhibit 9–18: M. Stoyle
- Class 14–18: A. Buckley and D. Gibson
- Most points classes 25–41: Doreen Leat
- Classes 42-56: Cyril Leat
- Most points in classes 25-56: Joyce Rowcliffe
- YFC Witheridge & District Shield: Megan Perryman

**Children’s classes**
- Classes 19-24: Isabel Govier
  - Runners-up: Phoebe Gover, Reuben Gillbard, Polly Ayre, Tom Ayre

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With half term already approaching it is hard to think that summer was almost 5 weeks ago. It has been a fantastic start to the new school year at Witheridge with all of our children (and staff) quickly settling into their new classes. We have really enjoyed welcoming into Class 1 our new pupils from the pre-school and have even had some very welcome new families join the school community. As a school we are really looking forward to this new academic year and the opportunities it will bring.

We have, if you’ll excuse the pun, launched ourselves wholeheartedly into our new topic, ‘The Final Frontier’. We enjoyed a fantastic trip to At-Bristol science museum during September, where the children all got to take part in space-themed workshops, explore the exhibits and enjoy a 3D show in the planetarium! Recently, we have had a school Arts’ Week, with the children all producing models and sculptures around an outer space theme, with some very impressive pieces of work produced.

Through our worship this half term we have been exploring the theme of ‘Thankfulness’ and considering all of the people and things that we have to be thankful for and how we show that thankfulness to others. Before half term, we are looking forward to Harvest festival and our joint celebrations with the church.

As always, if you would like any more information about any of the things we do here at Witheridge Primary Academy or have any ideas you would like to discuss, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Chris Holding
Head of school
EAST WORLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

Thank you to all who supported our September jumble sale, we had an amazing amount of things to sell resulting in a wonderful profit of £735, which was boosted further still with £196 from the Bag2School collection the following week. The next jumble is booked for 3rd February.

We are continuing to invest in IT equipment at the school and have just placed an order for some iPads to ensure our children have the best access to technology.

Plans are underway for a Halloween Disco, a Theatre Alibi production for our Year 6s at Chulmleigh, a whole school trip to Exeter Northcott Theatre for the Christmas Pantomime, Dick Whittington, and planning is in place for our annual Christmas Raffle.

At the recent AGM I stepped down as Chair and Alison Skinner is now taking up the role, with Ruth Bucknell as Vice Chair, Chanelle Busby as Secretary and Nina Phillips continuing in the post of Treasurer.

A big thank you to everyone in the community who supports our lovely village school and pre-school, it is much appreciated.

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       Mob:-    07545056229
**WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY**

Good, dry weather greeted the 19 players for the Autumn Trophy at Waterbridge on 6th September and resulted in a win for the team of local players Andrew Clark and Norman James plus Chulmleigh player Mike Hillard. The wooden spoon was awarded to John Avens, Tony Harris and Rob Peck.

The next meeting will be held at Waterbridge for the Christmas Trophy on Wednesday 7th December. The game will be followed by a Christmas lunch.

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**

**TENNIS CLUB**

It has been another busy year in spite of the unpredictable weather. We had three one-day tournaments which were very popular and we had our first ladies friendly match against Chulmleigh, where we won by 3 games from a total of 75 games played overall – so, closely fought and great fun!

Fifteen of our members played in the Rackenford Tournament as well this year and we are continuing with the children’s coaching.

For more information contact me, Vine Spragg, on 01363 866033: email: evelyn.spragg@btinternet.com or Sarah Vertigan on 01884 860844
Bumps and Beyond is a member led group for parents and carers of children under five and babies. We also welcome expectant mothers.

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.

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 met up for three sessions during the holidays and enjoyed welcoming some of our older siblings along while school was out for the summer!

Our favourite of these sessions was when (thanks to the resources from both Tiverton and South Molton Children’s Centre) we had the beach come to Witheridge for the morning with lots of sand and water play for some summer sensory fun!

Many of our parents have been helping with running the group since the start of the autumn term and do look at our Facebook page for details of new events as we plan them including our Christmas party.

Moving into the autumn term we have already had another visit from Amanda (Tiverton Children’s Centre) who organised a Gruffalo themed morning for us with craft, games and a story bag that really grabbed some of the children’s interest as you can see from the photos.

Please do contact Denise on 01884 861 365 or denisehenson@me.com for more information. We would love you to come and join us when you can.
Hello everyone - we hope you enjoyed the Summer as much as we did; the children had a lovely holiday and enjoyed a well deserved break from their learning. Many of them came to our Summer ‘Buzz’ Club and had fun with lots of activities including science, cooking, nature walks, crafts and games.

At the same time another team of very hard workers was undertaking an amazing project to renovate our outside area. Until now we only had a very small part of the garden that we were able to use all year round; the rest of our outdoor footprint, whilst generous, was very wet, muddy and only available in the drier summer months. That is until now! Having been offered a large amount of rubber ground matting for free(!) from another play-park renovation we have created an all-weather surface for our climbing frame, seesaw and other playground equipment.

We also invested in the Preschool garden, stripping off the top layer of mud and laying artificial grass to allow the children to play regardless of any rain. This stage of the project was finished with a beautiful 'Growing Garden' filled with bright flowers and lots of sensory herbs and plants to stimulate the senses and inspire interest in nature and conservation. As you can see from the before and after pictures the transformation is outstanding. Our grateful thanks to Danny Boyles and his family who worked tirelessly to create this stunning area, to the Sampford Peverell Play-Park Committee for the rubber and to our families and friends who, through their support to our fund-raising events, have allowed us to totally self-finance this important improvement in our services to the Community.

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The new term has also seen us updating some of our toys and resources through a very kind grant from the Knights of Witheridge whose generous support has allowed us to purchase agriculture-related toys and community role-play resources to help teach our children all about the Rural Community in which they live. Our sincere thanks to the Knights for enhancing key learning experiences and for their enduring support of the young children in the Village.

We’ll be celebrating Christmas with our traditional Village Sleigh and with a Craft Afternoon at the Setting on Saturday 16th Dec....to include a very 'special visitor' so bring along all the children to meet Father Christmas

Amanda Martin-Smith

**AUTUMN GARDEN VIEWS**

Autumn leaves are falling
My oak prepares to sleep.
The lawn has leaves aplenty
So I’ll make a compost heap.

The produce in the veggie patch
Sustains me every week.
To stay both fit and healthy,
I eat carrots and a leek.

The frogs are under water
Gone to their muddy beds.
I hope there’s no thick ice this year
It sometimes leaves them dead.

Red plants are still attractive
In the sun they’re very bright.
They will last until the frosts
Then sadly out of sight.

The birds are never far away
They know their seeds are here.
The hedgehog eats his tasty treats
Until the frosts appear.

I’ve seven bags of compost
Just waiting to be spread.
I hope to do a proper job
Before I need deep heat and bed.

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In July, Bert Jewele gave us a very amusing and informative talk on how to prepare fruit, flowers and vegetables for showing. Tips and tricks on preparation were welcomed by us all – just in time for the August Summer Show!

September saw 16 of our members visiting the RHS Malvern Autumn Show – a good time was had by all and the sun shone!

Our AGM is on Wednesday 29th November, 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and join us. This will be our last meeting until February, and our new programme for 2018 will be in the Winter edition of the Witheridge Voice out at the end of January.

Show dates for 2018:

Spring Show    Saturday 7th April
Plant Sale     Saturday 12th May
Summer Show    Saturday 4th August

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INCOMER’S GUIDE: Croyde, Baggy Point, Woolacombe Beaches & SW coastal path

Getting there
Distance from Witheridge 34 miles
Time: 1 hour approx


CAR PARKS: several. On right side going into Croyde but a good way from shops, or keep going through shops, bear left, keep going. Car parks on left or keep going to National Trust car park on right.

Croyde - one of best surfing beaches
Pubs and cafes in the centre, beach and cafes further on. Toilets at beach.

Baggy Point- right out of NT car park. Excellent cafe (Surf school) on left (toilets 50p), LOVELY ice creams. Watch surfers across the bay. SW coastal path to Baggy Point. At fork take low road for wild flowers in May/June, high road to avoid steep drops.


DOGS: Croyde- not allowed May to Sept Woolacombe- not allowed in some areas-map at entry to beach.

SW path: www.southwestcoastpath.com

Carole Campbell
Wetheridge Short Mat Bowls Club

We meet in the Parish Hall every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 6.30pm for a 6.45pm start.

Membership is open to all over 10 years of age who live within, or near, the Wetheridge parish area. (Those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.)

Club woods available for those who wish to try this popular game.

Membership is £20.00 per year, plus £2.50 per evening, including refreshments.

For more information, ring Harry Richardson, Secretary, on 01884 860522

CAT Preschools is a director-led organisation incorporating Chulmleigh Preschool, East Worlington Preschool and Lapford Preschool.

Chulmleigh Preschool (PFSU)

- We offer wrap around care from 8am – 6pm for 2-5 year olds
  - Monday – Thursday: 8.00am – 6.00pm
  - Friday: 8.00am – 1.00pm

  Please call Gina Randall on 01769 580535 or email gr Randall@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk for further information and to arrange a visit

East Worlington Preschool (PFSU)

- Care for 2-5 year olds
  - Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am – 3.30pm

  Please call Lydia Roberts on 01884 861722 or email LRoberts@catpreschools.co.uk for further information and to arrange a visit

Lapford Preschool

- Care for 2-5 year olds
  - Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9.15am – 3.15pm

  Please call Lorraine Kigongo on 01363 83162 or email lkigongo@catpreschools.co.uk for further information and to arrange a visit

We are registered to take 2yr old and 3 / 4 year old funded children at all of our settings.

We are open term time only.
**WITHERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB**

**1st Team**

In the last edition it was announced that Peter Buckingham had left the club and a new manager was in place. The new manager left before the season even started and another new manager, Roger Bonaparte, has now been put in place. Roger comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge which can only help the club as a whole.

On the pitch, due to the management issues, the first few games were not an easy task but once Roger took over performance improved including a 3-2 win over Exmouth when we were 2-0 down, so things are starting to look a lot more positive and stable.

**2nd Team**

After gaining promotion to the premier division the 2nds have had a good start sitting around mid-table which is all credit to them with having to send players up to the 1st team and sometimes leaving themselves very short.

**3rd Team**

Again pretty much the same as the 2nds with promotion last season and players representing the 1st Team, who are 9 leagues higher by the way, they sit around mid-table in Division 7, but we still need to remember this team is only coming into its 3rd season.

Overall it’s been a very busy 3 months but hopefully with everything starting to settle down now all 3 teams will continue to grow and move forward and keep putting Witheridge on the football map.

Paul Rich
Public Toilet Block Refurbishment
The works to refurbish the toilet block have been scheduled to be undertaken early 2018. The toilet facility will be closed for the duration of the works and notices will be posted nearer the exact time.

Councillor Vacancy
The council would like to thank Maria Greenwood for her service on the council. A poll to fill the current vacancy has not been claimed and the council invites applications for co-option. If you are interested in serving on the council more information is available on the parish council website link below.

Parish Clock
The efforts to get the clock back up and running continue. The repaired fly vane has been replaced but the clock is still struggling to run for more than a few hours and engineers are endeavouring to get to the root of the problem.

Historical Archive
Volunteers to continue this work are still required, if you are interested please contact the council via the clerk.

Council Grants
At September’s meeting two additional grants were awarded for £100 to the Knights of Witheridge to help towards their insurance for their local fund raising activities, and a further grant to the Parish Hall towards the costs of running the Macbeth production.

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 website 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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Chairman: Cllr J Harvey Tel: 860629

Community Information N Devon

Library 2017

Mondays Witheridge

Dates: November 20; December 18

Witheridge The Square 14:00 - 15:00
Witheridge School 15:05 - 15:50
WRVS Home Library Service. For anyone physically unable to reach a library. Phone 01392 384315
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North Devon Council www.northdevon.gov.uk 01271 374 776

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

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11. Wa
14. Monday Club
17. Hedgehog
19. VW
21. Our
22. Litterpick

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2. Taekwondo
3. EP
4. Nett
5. Itch
6. Pied
9. Hazy
10. Ex
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Our Christmas lunch/dinner menu is available from 1st to 24th December 2017 (except Sunday lunch). Main course includes Turkey breast, Roast Lamb, Pan-fried fillet of Sea Bream, Cranberry glazed Nut Roast.
2 courses £18.50 or 3 courses £22.75

If you would like a copy of the menu, please call in or email us.

Christmas Day
We are fully booked for Christmas Day

The Christmas lunch/dinner menus must be pre-booked.
Please book early.
Please let us know if you have any specific dietary requirements and we’ll do our best to help

Christmas Day Evening - Closed

New Year's Eve
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Bed and Breakfast available over the holiday period too.

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