WITHERIDGE VOICE

Winter 2017-2018
Issue 31

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EDITORIAL
Thank you to all our advertisers and contributors to this magazine.

This issue is packed with stories, photos and information. Paul Roberts’ story on pages 6 and 7 ties in with the centenary of the end of hostilities in the Great War and our village contribution. (see page 9). Paul will be coming to Witheridge on 21st February to talk about his book - see page 9. This promises to be very interesting and will be at the Rest-a-While.

Deadline for items for the Spring issue is 3rd April.

Jill Horwood, Editor

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Please contact our Volunteer Manager Cara Jones by calling 01392 466666 or emailing c.jones@daat.org for more information.

**DAMAGE BY STORM ELEANOR**

During the stormy night of Tuesday 2nd /morning of Wednesday 3rd January a huge limb came down off a lime tree (about 150 years old) near the road in Witheridge Churchyard. It fell completely into the Churchyard damaging some grave stones and the tarmac path. The limb that came down has badly damaged a multi-stemmed yew tree. Work is in progress to deal with this.
An astonishing story of the Great War

When I stumbled across a grainy old picture of a smiling John Roberts on the Witheridge Historical Archive, I didn’t know who he was, and I had no idea that it would turn out to be a once in a lifetime discovery. On an old newspaper cutting, it was accompanied by the extraordinary disclosure that he had 30 grandsons serving in the Great War. But he looked familiar, he shared my surname and, with his bushy sideburns and beard, he resembled my father. Remarkably, detailed research revealed that John was a direct descendant of mine. He was my great-great-grandfather. The discovery inspired me to find out all I could about him – and his Devon-born grandsons who faced life and death on the front line.

When war broke out in 1914, John was in his 80s and living with his son, Thomas and his family at Newland Farm in Witheridge. A widower, he had retired after more than 70 years as an agricultural worker. He was a father of 15, and he had almost 100 grandchildren.

He was a proud man as his grandsons volunteered to fight for King and country - but the war would take a terrible toll on his family. Seven of his grandsons never made it home. Three were killed on the battlefields of France; three died from wounds sustained in action, and one succumbed to heart disease. The tragic losses endured by John and his family were among the worst suffered in the United Kingdom. Their selfless contribution to the war effort was nothing short of astonishing, perhaps unrivalled.

John may well have had more grandsons serving in the Army and Navy than anyone else in Devon and beyond.

His story is revealed in a new book, History Maker: John Roberts – the man with 30 grandsons in the Great War, which is to be published in February.

How his young grandsons lived and died on the battlefields of the Western Front and in the deserts of the Middle East, is also told for the first time. Among those who didn’t make it home was 19-year-old Albert Roberts, a private in the 8th Devons, who had grown up with John at Newland Farm. He was fatally wounded in the Battle of Loos in France in which 19 officers and 620 NCOs and men of his battalion were killed, maimed or listed as ‘missing’.
Albert was taken to a hospital at Wimereux, near Boulogne, where he died on October 3, 1915, three days before his 20th birthday. Buried in the Wimereux Communal Cemetery, he is one of 17 men remembered on Witheridge War Memorial. He was one of three brothers to join the Army; the others, Frank and Thomas, who both lived and worked at Newland Farm, survived. Frank had a remarkable escape from death when serving with the 16th Devons in Palestine. He was shot in the head in an attack on enemy defences at a remote hilltop village close to Jerusalem in December 1917. He was carried to safety, treated in hospital – and recovered sufficiently from his ‘serious wound’ to continue service in the Army. Thomas had the good fortune to miss the war – not once, but twice. And for two very different reasons. In 1914, he was discharged from the Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry for being ‘medically unfit’ before he had an opportunity to see active duty. When he was called up almost four years later, in 1918, the war was over as he was sent to Italy to serve with the 8th Devons.

In all, I have traced 20 of John’s grandsons who served in the Great War. They included my grandfather, George Burnett Roberts, who joined the Army Service Corps in France when he was 17.

The book, which has taken 10 years to research and write, also puts the spotlight on:

- The enormity of the sacrifices made during the war by families in Devon who had up to nine sons serving
- The controversy that raged as farmers and their sons became caught up in a bitter and divisive war of words at home over recruitment to the Armed Forces
- And how Devon paid a magnificent tribute to its fallen heroes

Paul Roberts
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AN ASTONISHING STORY OF THE GREAT WAR

Paul Roberts is coming to Witheridge on Wednesday 21st February to talk about his research and his book.

This illustrated talk “The History Maker” will be at the Rest-a-While at 2.30pm. Admission is free - there will be a retiring collection in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust and the Devon Freewheelers.

I met Paul a few weeks ago and his enthusiasm and knowledge is amazing and infectious - I am certainly looking forward to his talk.

Come along and hear the story for yourselves.

Jill Horwood
Editor

100 YEARS OF REMEMBERING

11th November 2018 is the Centenary of the end of hostilities of World War I.

All organisations in the village have been asked to knit red poppies using a very easy pattern. White or purple poppies would also be very welcome.

The white poppy is used as a symbol of pacifism, worn as an alternative to the red remembrance poppy for Remembrance Day, and the purple poppy has been issued by Animal Aid in Britain to commemorate animal victims of war. This can be worn alongside the traditional red one, as a reminder that both humans and animals have been – and continue to be – victims of war.

Knitting patterns are available at the Rest-A-While, shops and the Church. Just collect yours, free of charge. If you would like to join in with a knitting group and have a chat and a cuppa then pop into the Rest-A-While. The poppies will be sown onto a backing to represent a field of growing poppies, all of which will be displayed at our Remembrance Service on the 11-11-2018. Please pop into the Rest-A-While for more details.

There will also be an outside display of poppies – more details about this in the Spring Issue.
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FOREVER HOUNDS TRUST AND THE GREYHOUND TRUST.

A good year to report with regard to fundraising, the monies raised this year from the plant sale, bingo and bacon roll coffee morning, came to the wonderful amount of £1850 - wow!
All the monies are shared between the above trusts for the dogs and only the dogs.

The Greyhound Trust in Cornwall have rehomed a staggering 164 dogs this year, which I am sure you all will agree is a grand achievement. I do not have any figures for the Forever Hound Trust, though I know 6 dogs were rehomed this month with numbers rising.

One of the highlights of the year for me - I knew a lovely couple from Bampton who lost their dear houndie, Rob. On the way down to Cornwall they called in for a coffee at the bacon roll morning and they rehomed a beautiful black and white boy called Lyric, who has now settled into a life of luxury in Bampton.

The Forever Hounds have changed their kennels and have moved nearer to me, so I now go and volunteer walk the dogs once a week, give them some much needed tlc, treats and a groom. A good way of getting to know the dogs and the plus side is I get to spend 2/3 hours a week with them.

If anybody has any blankets, duvets or throws they no longer want, the Dog Trusts would be very grateful as the dogs really welcome their comfy beds. Contact me if you would like them picked up.

I could not do any of the above without the help of supporters, friends and my husband.
A very big heartfelt thank you to everyone.

Love Marion, Betty-Boo and Little Rose
Marion Crane 01884 860530.
Witheridge Parish Hall

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COMMUNITY CINEMA

The Parish Hall Committee are considering putting on film evenings and Paul Clark and I have been looking into it.

We would like to know if you are interested in this type of entertainment, what sort of films you would like to see and which evening would be best for most people.

Please either let me know on 01884 861695, or Paul at paulclark13@outlook.com.

We look forward to hearing from you
Margie Cosker

PARISH HALL

All in all it has been a good year for the Parish Hall, it is looking beautiful, bookings are healthy and it has been home to some wonderful events over the last year. Russell’s “festivals without a tent”, Rackhouse Pilfer, Oddsocks Macbeth, Withyfest, and the amazing Helen Moore sale weekend - to name a few.

Looking forward to 2018, in March we are putting on Circus Berzercus which will combine circus skills with comedy and will be a wonderful evening for all the family. There will be hot dogs in the interval and there will be a small bar and tea and coffee so please come along, it would be lovely to see you. Hopefully August will see the return of Oddsocks with Romeo and Juliet, after the steampunk version of Macbeth, goodness knows what they will do with this!

The Parish Hall is a wonderful venue in a beautiful setting. We are very lucky, and the committee who look after the hall put in a lot of work to keep it that way, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their time and energy.
Happy 2018

Clare Spicer
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**Monday Club**

We say farewell to 2017 with a smile because it has been a very good year for the Monday Club. This year’s speakers were brilliant - such a wide range of topics, something for everyone. Our outings were very well supported with more members and non members booking early to get a seat - we went to some very interesting places and enjoyed the journeys as much as the destinations; we really do live in a beautiful part of the Country. Our membership numbers are up, and our members really enjoy being involved with the planning of the club.

2018 looks like another busy year. Our programme is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th February</td>
<td>AGM 2-30pm in the Rest-A-While</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th February</td>
<td>George takes a walk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th March</td>
<td>A speaker from the local Police.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th March</td>
<td>Children’s Hospice S.W Speaker.</td>
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<td>9th April</td>
<td>Nick Oliver from St.John’s Garden Centre talking and giving advice on the garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd April</td>
<td>Coach Outing to Bude, calling into Atlantic Village.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th May</td>
<td>A speaker from Send a Cow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th June</td>
<td>Coach Outing to Truro, calling into Lifton Strawberry Fields.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th June</td>
<td>A speaker from See, Hear.</td>
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<td>2nd July</td>
<td>Coach Outing to Bath calling into Wells.</td>
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<td>16th July</td>
<td>Hannah Hawkins speaking about Fire safety in the home.</td>
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<td>30th July</td>
<td>Coach Outing to Brixham calling into Dawlish.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th August</td>
<td>A musical treat from Warwick and Tony.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd September</td>
<td>A coach outing to ?????????????????. our famous Mystery Trip.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th September</td>
<td>A speaker from The Blue Cross.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st October</td>
<td>Coach Outing to Lynton and Lynmouth.</td>
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<td>15th October</td>
<td>Harvest Service and Auction meeting.</td>
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<td>29th October</td>
<td>Home Movies meeting with Di and Alan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th November</td>
<td>A speaker from Barclay’s Bank on Fraud, and how to protect our money.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th November</td>
<td>Sally Wilson demonstrating Christmas Wreath making.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Dec</td>
<td>Monday Club Christmas Lunch.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All our meetings start at 2.30pm in the Rest-A-While. For our Coach Outings we meet in the Square at 9am.
Non-members are welcome to come on the Coach Outings with us. If you would like to join this busy and exciting club please phone Val 860709 for more details.

Val Dickinson
**IN THE DEEP MID-WINTER............**

In January we are down to sometimes less than 6 hours of reasonable daylight. Outside, all creatures are focussed on feeding during that time and finding shelter from the cold darkness, just to stay alive. The birds are the most obvious, almost a feeding frenzy at 8am! So, it’s of great benefit if you can top up your bird feeders and put out some water before you have your breakfast - then you can enjoy watching them all come into the garden! Peanuts, sunflower hearts, fatballs and Niger seed are all good, you’ll soon notice that different species will go for particular food. Some examples; the Tits, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch like peanuts; Greenfinch and Chaffinch like sunflower; Goldfinch and Coal Tit like the Niger seed. But I’m sure you’ll find they go for anything! On the bird table use up old cheese grated, crumbled biscuit or bread, but please soak this first or it’ll swell up inside. If it looks like rain I only half-fill the peanut feeders, they rot quickly and birdfood isn’t cheap, you can always top-up later. It’s important for us to drink in cold weather, birds are no different. They also need to bathe to be rid of parasites to keep flight feathers in good condition, but most importantly for insulation. During the night they burn off a lot of energy keeping warm, hence that early morning frenzy, searching for food. The smaller birds are especially vulnerable - providing food is so helpful. Some species prefer to feed on the ground, hoovering the crumbs that spill from the bird table. Blackbird, Dunnock, Robin and Wren are typical. They’re not so agile as the Tits and can’t get the hang of the bird feeders! These are insect specialists and normally won’t eat seeds. So bird table fare is good for them, they also love mealworms. Chop and scatter apple in the garden, give the compost heap a scrape revealing insects. Bigger birds will come too – Woodpigeon, Jackdaw, Collared Dove, Magpie. There is even some song – Robin, Wren and Dunnock sing bravely all year round, very cheering in Winter! You may see a Sparrowhawk trying to pick off your birds when they are feeding. This can be upsetting but if predators are about frequently they are a good indicator that there is plenty to eat, meaning that your local population is doing OK, and numbers are up! All creatures have to survive, active predators mean the balance of nature is about right.

In Winter, strategies change to cope with adverse weather and food shortages. The smaller birds flock together, more eyes to find food and watch out for predators now the leaves are down. Other birds migrate south to where their
their specialist food sources, like insects, are still available. Redwing and Fieldfare come from Scandinavia and east Europe to our islands where it is milder and there is plenty of food – hawthorn, holly and other berries. Mammals can’t migrate so some will hibernate. These are the Bats, Dormouse and Hedgehog.
The Dormouse is out of it from late September until April in a nestball of Honeysuckle bark and grass the size of a tennis ball, heartbeat down to a few per minute. Other mammals like the Badger reduce their activities, sleeping a lot, using fat reserves. Mice, Voles and Shrews are active all Winter. Amphibians and reptiles such as Toad, Frog, Slowworm, Adder and Grass Snake are hibernating too, as are butterflies. These in various forms; chrysalis, egg, caterpillar or even as adult like the Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock. Of course, you’ll always get a surprise. We had a Hedgehog rootling around the garden on a very wet night 21st December and on a sharp frosty day on 19th there were 2 Song Thrushes, 1 Mistle Thrush, and a Bullfinch in full Spring song, so don’t always go by the text books, the natural world hasn’t read them! The Taw Estuary has a host of Waders and Wildfowl, right now. These birds come to our estuaries from the north and east for the abundant food in the ooze. As the tide recedes they will be paddling in the mud. Waders such as Curlew, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Lapwing, Grey and Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwits. And Wildfowl – Shelduck, Mallard, Teal, Widgeon, Shoveller, Pintail, Gadwall, Mute and Whooper Swan, Spoonbill, Canada and Brent Geese, and many more besides. After feeding they will rest, heads tucked under a wing, some on one leg, the low tide providing protection from predators out on the mudflats. There are large gull roosts of Black-headed and Herring gull, with some Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls amongst them. You may get lucky and see a Kingfisher or even a Peregrine cruising. It is lovely down there. A big wide sky, an edge to the wind, the river like steel and wild birds calling.
We have Spring to look forward to now. Very early breeders like Tawny Owl and Mistle Thrush will be starting in February, so listen out for the Thrush’s song in woodlands. Snowdrops to come, giving pollen for early Bumble Bees; followed by Primrose, Crocus and Daffodil; then the first butterfly emergents in the Spring sunshine and the promise of a soft haze of Bluebells in the woods. We are so lucky to have all this to enjoy - right on our doorstep.
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Hansel and Gretel
by Engelbert Humperdinck

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Witheridge

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CHARITY KNITTING

We have been working for a charity called Project Linus, making blankets for the children's wards at North Devon Hospital. Jane Kite, the co-ordinator for North Devon joined us on 14th December, and took away sixteen blankets - a good result.

Eileen Haynes
860212

PROJECT LINUS UK

This was started in March 2000 following the success of the original Project Linus in the USA which began in December 1995. It is named after the security blanket-toting character - Linus - from the Peanuts comic strip.

I joined the North Devon branch in October last year making patchwork quilts, and have been to a couple of “Quilt Days” in Parkham - about 7 miles from Bideford. They are a very friendly and enthusiastic group of quilters. In December Jane Kite, North Devon co-ordinator, took over 50 patchwork quilts to Barnstaple Hospital for the Special Care Baby Unit and the Children’s Ward, and these were very gratefully received.

If you would like to join us - contact Eileen, 01884 860212 for the knitted blankets or me, 01884 861323, for the patchwork quilts. It’s very pleasing to know that a hobby can be so rewarding.

We look forward to hearing from all aspiring blanket and quilt makers!

Jill Horwood
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**Witheridge Ladies Club**

In **October** we welcomed our speaker Kathie Gregory talking about animal behaviour. Kathie has taught her own dogs word recognition. Her clients include dogs and horses.

In **November** two members of the Devon Wildlife Trust joined us. Jasmine and Paul gave an illustrated talk on the wildlife in Exeter. Paul especially was very enthusiastic about his work with school children. He is an education officer and arranges outdoor activities for school children. They are taught about all aspects of nature.

Our **Christmas** lunch was held again at the Tiverton Hotel. We enjoyed good food, convivial company and had a jolly good get together. An excellent venue.

Looking forward to a New Year and our first meeting of 2018 on Tuesday 9th January.

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

**Witheridge in Bloom.**

Chris Kershaw decided to retire from Witheridge in Bloom at the end of October last year and handed the reins to me. At the AGM thanks were expressed to Chris for the sterling work and commitment she has given during the last 17 years. A collection was made and a gardening token (well, it would be, wouldn't it) was thought appropriate.

Do you enjoy seeing the village looking colourful? There have been appeals in the past for volunteers to join the team and I would appeal again (it's quite rewarding you know), but if you cannot give your time, perhaps you can donate soil/compost, bulbs, or plants, which would be gratefully received.

Lastly, may I thank the team, which I have inherited, for their efforts so far and for the future displays we will do together.

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**ST. JOHN’S FAYRE**

The St John's Fayre Day is set for 23rd June 2018, make sure it is in your diary! With the recent AGM restructuring, our new Vice Chair is Peter Court, Treasurer is Reverend Adrian Wells, Secretary is Sam Spurway and Publicity Officer is Lise Martin. If you have any time to spare and a keen interest in providing a fun day for our children in particular, but also for the whole village, please get in touch. Any commitment would be greatly appreciated, do see Peter, Andrea or Sam in the paper shop.

This year's Fayre is themed around farming and our countryside. We start the weekend with a Tea Dance on Friday afternoon at the parish hall. For the parade on Saturday, starting at 11.00 in the morning, we are hoping to have our local school children, horse and cart, traction engines, tractors, twelve vintage model cars, and all our usual suspects. The Witheridge Young Farmers have kindly offered to help make the day extra fun with games and activities.

Saturday evening entertainment will be “The Mangeled Worzels”, an excellent country band, and free entrance for all. If you have any "made in Witheridge" produce or crafts do have a stall on the day, we are here to support everyone in the village.

On Saturday 27th January a warming lunch of soup and baked potatoes is available from 12-2 pm, in the Parish Hall. Please come along and meet the committee. We really do need some more support, and your help would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps you would just like to help on the day? We are grateful for all help.

Lise Martin on behalf of St John's Fayre Committee
CANDLEMAS

As this magazine is published the church will be celebrating Candlemas (2 February), also known as the presentation of Jesus in the temple. The occasion in the Bible when Simeon and Anna recognise Jesus for who he is and we get the familiar words of the Nunc Dimittis - Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32 and Book of Common (Evening) Prayer 1662).

In the church we leave the crib up until we have celebrated this festival, it is 40 days since the festival of Christmas and brings the Christmas season to an end. It also happens to be half way through winter. The days are getting lighter and longer, with hope of Spring just around the corner.

You may wish to light a candle you have in your home (or in church) and think (or pray) about all babies born at this time, all parents and families (perhaps your own and the lives they lead), children who live in war zones, children who are hungry, peace in the world, all who are frightened, those who are sick and those who are bereaved.

We live in a global village, we are all interconnected and inter-independent on each other. We are diminished when people suffer and we are built up in their joy. Let us walk in the light that Jesus Christ brings us, bringing his commandments and values to the forefront of our lives.

Adrian Wells
Methodist Chapel
Rev John Wiltshire 01363 877281
Sunday Services 11am
(Except Churches Together service -see noticeboards)

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

Events at The Chapel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 29th April</td>
<td>Churches Together Ecumenical Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 6th February</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
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<td>Sun 11th February</td>
<td>Plough Sunday Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
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<td>Wed 14th February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
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<td>Sun 25th February</td>
<td>“Songs of Praise”</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
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<td>Sat 3rd March</td>
<td>Mad March Sale</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>10.00am - noon</td>
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<td>Tues 6th March</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 11th March</td>
<td>Mothering Sunday Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 25th March</td>
<td>Palm Sunday walk with branches from Church Rooms</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.25am</td>
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<td>Wed 28th March</td>
<td>Hansel &amp; Gretel Concert</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
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<td>Thurs 29th March</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service</td>
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<td>Fri 30th March</td>
<td>Ecumenical Good Friday Walk of Witness</td>
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<td>from Easter Day Holy Communion</td>
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<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
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<td>Tues 3rd April</td>
<td>Annual PCC Meeting</td>
<td>Church Rooms</td>
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<td>Mon 9th April</td>
<td>Organ Concert</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
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<td>Sun 29th April</td>
<td>Churches Together Ecumenical Service</td>
<td>Methodist Chapel</td>
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Note: All dates are subject to change. Please check the church notice board.

Witheridge Church Rooms - small functions, classes or meetings. Kitchen and toilet. £10 per am/pm/evening. Contact Andrew Clark on 01884 860612
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Like us on Facebook to catch us early when we post special offers and events.
Well we have had a very busy period for the Knights of Witheridge....
We had the most successful Puddings Quiz that we have ever had at the Parish Hall on 11th November, many thanks to all who attended and made the evening so enjoyable.

Our sponsored walk along a section of the Two Moors Way from Down St. Mary to Witheridge on Sunday 19th November was a great success with some very muddy and sore legged Knights afterwards. We raised a good sponsorship which will be used to support local groups and charities, so thank you to everyone who sponsored us. The winner of our ‘number of steps competition’ was E. Tonkins of Butts Close who won the £20 prize.

Written by our very own Knight, Mike Collins, our inaugural Pantomime ‘Snow White of Witheridge’ took place in the Parish Hall on 1st December. It was supported extremely well and the turn out on the night exceeded all our expectations. The cast included many non-knights and we would like to especially thank: Tanya Maze, Ian Tench, Val Dickinson, Maggie Sheppard, Gill Smith, Bob Sheppard, Tricky Whitwell, Richard Sibley, Stephen Smith, Kevin Hunt, Roy Harknett, Michael Delaney, Joyce Harknett, Pat Grant, Clive Plummer, Claire Brooks and Dave Dickinson for all their time and efforts, we couldn’t have done it without them - all the cast even supplied their own costumes!

We all had a great time and hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves. The programme was sponsored by local businesses and we would like to thank: The Mitre Inn, Witheridge Newsagents, John Burd Motors, The Village Hair Shop, Helen Moore, Rockhaye B&B, Wopec, Muxeries Consulting, Stoves online and Risdon Hosegood Solicitors for all their support. All profits will go to charity with the proceeds being split between BBC Children in Need and the Knights local charity fund for use in and around Witheridge.

We also had a Christmas Raffle Card that was very kindly held by Andy in the Mitre over December, the raffle raised an impressive £260, many thanks to all who bought tickets. The prizes were very kindly donated by the Mitre and a very big thanks to Andy and Barbara for all their support, the winner was Ian Tench.

Thank you everyone for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our functions in the coming year.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and prosperous 2018.

Laurie White
Chairman
LOOKING FORWARD AT THE REST-A-WHILE

What a busy and fantastic year 2017 has been, the highlight being the celebrations which took place in October to celebrate 25 years since the Rest-a-while was founded.

However we do not want to sit on our laurels and at the beginning of the year we set ourselves a number of tasks, all designed to help emphasise that the Rest-a-while is a welcoming and place to friendly visit.

To support this aim the premises have been redecorated, the seating area has been rearranged and new signage has been installed.

You may have seen the reports in the newspapers that nine million adults suffer from loneliness and that it is as bad for health as obesity or smoking fifteen cigarettes per day. The purpose of the Rest-a-while is to try to combat such problems and ensure that no one in Witheridge needs to suffer from this sort of isolation and despair. It is a place to meet friends, and make new ones, over tea, coffee and biscuits and enjoy companionship and conversation.

We are pleased to say that many, and increasing numbers of people, are using the Rest-a-while for this purpose but we are always happy to welcome new people to come to see us and sample what we have on offer.

During 2018 the Rest-a-while is supporting the village-wide project of knitting poppies to mark the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War. You can help support this initiative by knitting poppies, or if knitting is not something you do, you may wish to buy wool for someone else to knit.

Copies of the pattern are held in the Rest-a-while; if you would like a copy or more details of how you can take part please pop into see us and enjoy a tea or coffee and a chat at the same time. We will be pleased to see you!

June Turner
Secretary
Happy New Year from Witheridge Taekwondo. We had a wonderful Christmas party and awards ceremony thank you to everyone who attended and made it a great celebration! It is always so hard to choose individual students for these awards as each and every student works so hard and brings something unique to the club. After much discussion and debate the instructors finally agreed: the award for Tiger of the Year went to Oscar Pennells for his outstanding enthusiasm and focus. Colour belt of the Year is Millie Phelan who has grown so much in confidence and developed into a fabulous taekwondo-ist showing focus, determination and skill, we expect great things from her in the years to come! Black belt of the Year is Emma Bird who as our senior black belt sets an example for the whole club inspiring others and she is one of the people without whom we would struggle to run the club. She is always ready to step forward to share her skills and knowledge as well having the courage to speak her mind and keep us all in our place!

We have been very busy with gradings with lots of new belts awarded. Congratulations to our new black belts-Jake Curtis, Joe Webber, Ed Whitwell and Matt Waters fantastic achievement! Congratulations to our new green belts: Joe Phelan and Jessica Curtis. Green stripes: Lily Perera and Harry Shere. Yellow belts: Rob Curtis who also won the grading award for the second consecutive time!, Naomi Ainsworth (A-pass), Nicola Perera (A-pass), Cameron Asson and Angie Lunn. Yellow Stripes: James Reid. Well done to you all.

We have had another fantastic year with competition wins, new black belts, many successful gradings and awards- you make your instructor very proud! Above all else I am proud of the community spirit our club embodies- you all help each other, supporting and encouraging those around you- Taekwondo is so much more than just a sport. Come and see for yourself and get your new year off to a great start with a free months training!

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**ALLOTMENTS**

After quite a wet start to the winter, fingers crossed for a bit of good dry weather so we can get ready for the next growing season.
For enquiries please contact Sam Butler on 01884 861527.

**LITTLE DART SINGERS**

We are a singing group based in Witheridge. We need members who enjoy singing and can commit to one evening a week and to the 3rd Sunday each month. We occasionally sing with other local churches.
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**BELL RINGERS**

St John The Baptist Church, Witheridge
New ringers always welcome, we meet at 8.30 am in the belfry on Sunday mornings.

**LITTER PICK**

The last litter pick of 2017 was carried out on a crisp, sunny morning. We are still picking up cigarette ends amongst chocolate wrappers, bottles still with half their contents and assorted paraphernalia. A half eaten dead rat was found in a hedgerow, and I have to say thank you to the gentleman who so kindly offered to dispose of it for us.
If we missed your area out this time round, apologies, but our team was sadly depleted and we most certainly did our best. There must be someone reading this saying to themselves 'maybe I should join and do my bit'. Three times a year and less than 2 hours each time. Go on, make contact – give it a go.
Lastly, well done team for a fantastic job. Your efforts are truly appreciated.
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As always, Christmas was a very busy period of time in school. The children worked really hard to put on a fantastic Christmas production: ‘Straw and Order’, which was seen by over 150 people. We also enjoyed a Christingle service at the Church and our choir performed a collection of carols at a service for the residents at The Firs. We also enjoyed a fantastic Christmas Fayre and a delicious Friends and Family Christmas Dinner.

Prior to the Christmas festivities, the children were fully enthused and engaged by their work on the solar system, resulting in some fantastic learning taking place both inside and outside of the classroom. This learning was particularly evident when we took the children from Classes 2, 3 and 4 to Wimbleball Lake for a Dark Skies event on the 16th November. All of the children took part in some star gazing, went on a moonlit walk, created their own marshmallow constellations and even met some nocturnal animals from Exmoor Zoo.

Through our worship in the second half of autumn term, we explored the theme of ‘Compassion’ and thought about how we can offer help, love and support to those who may be suffering. As part of this, the school took part in the Operation Christmas Child Boxes appeal, providing Christmas gifts to children around the world who would otherwise have received nothing. In November, we also hosted a spotty-themed fundraising day for Children in Need, where the children took part in some sponsored sporting activities, made and sold their own spotty cakes and spent some time learning about how Children in Need use the money raised to support many children and families across the country. As a school, we raised a fantastic £265!

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40
This term, our new topic in school will be ‘Ni Hao, China!’ The children will be learning all about life in China and considering what it would be like to live in a culture very different from our own. Following Mr Muligan’s visit to China as part of a British Council project, we are also hoping to establish a link with a school in Beijing and enable both sets of pupils to communicate with one another.

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.

Best Wishes,
Mr. C. Holding
Head of school

WITHERIDGE CHILDCARE @ THE HIVE

A very Happy New Year to all our Friends and Supporters 😊 We hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved Festive Break with lots of wonderful family time.

We love being busy and the Autumn Term was certainly filled with memorable times and lots of learning opportunities: we joined in with fund-raising for Children in Need, the MacMillan Coffee Morning and Children with Disabilities; we welcomed all our families and friends for our Annual Halloween Disco with lots of spooky fun and games; the children got creative with pictures of fireworks and bonfires in November; then we paused to reflect during Remembrance week, making a beautiful collage of red poppies; and we investigated the Cosmos with rockets, planets and aliens(!) throughout the term understanding more about our chosen theme of ‘Space’. The children were all very excited to learn about the Christmas Story during December and took part in many activities concluding in a truly wonderful Nativity Performance at the Setting which was much enjoyed by many of our parents, carers and families.

Continued on page 43
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The Committee and Staff have also been focusing on the transfer of the Setting to the TEAM Academy. You may remember that our Membership voted for this change in governance in the summer to safeguard the future of our Community’s only local Childcare Setting in light of a dwindling Committee. I am delighted to report that as of now we are officially part of the ‘TEAM Team’ working synergistically with the School towards ever-better opportunities and results for our children. It is a positive and exciting move which has involved us dissolving as an independent charity and joining with the Academy in all aspects of our management, leadership and governance.

Therefore, as the concluding Chairperson I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to so many people without whom we wouldn’t have achieved the success that we have.....To all our lovely families, friends and supporters for their outstanding help over the years, you’ve all been quite simply amazing! To our hardworking and devoted staff whose kindness, loyalty and enthusiasm have been invaluable to all; children, parents, grandparents and carers alike. Also to all the Committee Members – past and present – for generously donating your time and energy to run the Setting, we thank you for your superb dedication and commitment. And to TEAM Academy, with whom we now look forward to a successful and rewarding relationship which will help to build and sustain the educational future of our Village and Community.

Amanda Martin-Smith

**UNITED CHURCHES LUNCH CLUB**

The luncheon club had a very good 2017 with meals varying from roast chicken, beef hot pot to ham salad, all culminating in our ‘All the trimmings’ Christmas Lunch, which was enjoyed by all,

We are a very happy little group of helpers and guests who all enjoy a home cooked meal in the company of others.

If you are on your own during the day why not come along and give us a try?

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 12 noon for 12.30 pm. If you would like to book a place please ring Annis Stone on 860398 or Val Dickinson on 860709

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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 evenings at 6.30pm for a 6.45pm start, and Thursday afternoons 2.00pm for 2.15pm start.

Greg Henderson

**BADMINTON**

The Badminton Club meets in the Parish Hall on **Mondays from 2-3pm**, £2.50 per session.

We can provide rackets if needed. We welcome all ages and abilities. For safety reasons children are not allowed.

Greg Henderson

**TABLE TENNIS**

Come and join our friendly small group for adults aged 16 or over. All equipment is supplied and we offer tea and coffee too. Come along and pass an enjoyable hour. All levels of ability, from beginners to Olympic contenders, are most welcome.

Friday 11.00am - 12.00 in Parish Hall

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**WITHERIDGE ROCKS**

Our new year 6's joined us in September and enthusiastically threw themselves into all activities, including games, quizzes and crafts.

This year we are delighted to be a part of a Youth Club Football League. Witheridge did fantastic job at the first meeting, winning all their matches.

A few of us attended an Inter-Youth Christmas party in Black Dog which started out with a candlelit Christmas dinner. It wasn't supposed to be candlelit but all the power had gone out in the church, so the amazing catering team had to cook for 60 people in a tiny kitchen in the village hall and then carry it next door to dish out by torchlight! There were games before this for the younger ones and after dinner for the older ones. A good time was had by all.

We have several other Inter-Youth events planned for the year, as well as Spree camp in July and Upload, a youth event to be held in Exeter Cathedral in May.

On February 19th we start a Youth Alpha course, which is designed to engage young people in conversations about faith, life and God. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Andrea Court at andreacourt@hotmail.co.uk.

We are still in need of a treasurer for Witheridge Rocks. It does not involve a lot of time and only requires attendance at our AGM. You do not need to have any other connection with the youth club.

If you feel that you could help with this role then please contact Andrea Court.

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**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**Taekwondo**  
Parish Hall  
Wednesdays  6.00 - 8:00pm (except last Wednesday of the month)

Parish Hall  
Fridays  
Family and Tigers  6.00 - 9.00pm

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

Last half term at East Worlington we were learning all about autumn, looking at the colours, the changes to our gardens by going on woody walks and talking about all the animals that hibernate in the winter.

The children made a big bear cave for our teddy bears to sleep in and they went on many bear hunts!

Over Christmas we took part in the schools nativity play, went on a trip to the panto, lots of fun finding the Elf each morning and our very own grotto to write letters and cards.

Our sessions currently run all day Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am – 3.30pm

On Tuesday afternoons the toddler group meet in the PFSU classroom from 2pm-3.30pm with self-weighing for babies, a lovely safe area for your children to explore with an undercover outdoor area. The toddler parents provide a welcoming and proactive environment for you and your children to come along for a chat, cuppa and cake!

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 website, Or search for East Worlington primary school on Facebook or call Lydia Roberts on 01884 861722.
We have had a very busy term. The Halloween Disco was held at the end of October, which is not used as a fundraiser but a nice evening for the children. All had a great time and the boys and girls especially enjoyed the ‘mummy’ competition and the lucky dip prizes.

Christmas has been full of fun, we travelled by coach to Exeter to watch Dick Whittington. Tickets were paid for by the PTFA. This year the preschool children joined us with their mums. Father Christmas visited the school during the Christmas party and all the children received a gift from him.

Once again this year, the boys and girls showed us how amazing their singing and acting skills are at the nativity and Carol service, which was followed by the Grand Christmas raffle. This year we had some fabulous prizes donated by parents and friends of the school including meal vouchers from Mount Pleasant, Nomansland and Thelbridge Cross Inn, a beautiful ‘Home’ gift set from Helen Moore and a Morrisons Hamper. We raised over £900.

We have a Jumble Sale coming up on the 3rd February. If you have any jumble/unwanted gifts to offer we can collect and store until the sale - Please email me on tippywyctt@gmail.com.

Dates for your Diary
- Jumble Sale - 3rd February 2018 - 2pm, Witheridge Parish Hall
- Easter Disco - 17th March 2018 - Witheridge Parish Hall - time tbc

Alison Skinner
Chair

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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**WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY**

After a prolonged wet period, remarkably mild and dry weather greeted the players for the Christmas Trophy at Waterbridge on the 6th December, even allowing golf buggies to be used! There was a win for the team of Chulmleigh players John Ingram, Paul Scales and Frank Whitcombe. The wooden spoon was awarded to John Avens, Terry Hawkins and Jim Steele. The traditional Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be held at Waterbridge Golf Club for the Spring Trophy on Wednesday the 14th March.

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

Andrew Clark

**TENNIS CLUB**

We had our AGM in The Mitre just before Christmas which was a lively affair as usual! 2017 was a good year with membership, coaching and matches all increased and exciting plans for 2018 outlined. The following dates are in the diary already so do make a note of them and come along:

Saturday 21 April 2018 – Coffee Morning  
Saturday 19 May 2018 – Open Tournament  
Saturday 16 June 2018 – Open Tournament  
Saturday 21 July 2018 – Open Tournament  
Saturday 15 September 2018 – Open Tournament

Don’t forget – if you want to pick up a racquet and start playing again, we have coaching set up especially for you! Just give me a ring to let me know...

Vine Spragg, 01363 866033  
evelyn.spragg@btinternet.com
We ended 2017 as a group with a fun packed Christmas party on 6th December, with soft play equipment, a visit from Amanda from Tiverton’s Children Centre, lots of lovely party food and of course Father Christmas himself!
As you can see from the photos a great time was had by all and the snow making activity that Amanda provided was a big hit with everyone. It was great fun having the preschool join us; they really seemed to enjoy the Christmas song time from Amanda too.
Our final session before the Christmas holiday was a quieter group with Tamara Lane visiting with her hand made nativity set and a lovely craft activity to help bring the story of Jesus’s birth to life for us.
A huge thank you to everyone who attended and gave up their time to support the group with these special events.
For the New Year we have booked another guest to join us for three Wednesdays in January to provide some music sensory sessions suitable for 0-4 years for us to try out as part of our usual session to widen the access to the popular “Moo Music” that many of us have been able to enjoy in the local area recently and at the preschool.

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

Please do contact Denise on 01884 861 365 or denisehenson@icloud.com for more information. We would love you to come and join us when you can.
**Rock and Roll**

Following several requests, there will be a Rock and Roll dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday 28th April.

Popular DJ “The Bear” will provide the music from 7.30pm until 11.00pm.

Entry fee: £4.00. There will be a Bar and Dance tuition will be available. In support of Parish Hall Funds.

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**FANCY A DAY OUT?**

One of our villagers has been putting his bus pass to good use, and regularly takes bus trips around our beautiful countryside. Below is a suggested trip taking in South Molton, Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington etc. He has done several other trips including one to Plymouth. Why not give it a try - for those of us with bus passes, it will cost nothing for the trip. If you want to know more about these trips, let me know and I’ll pass your details on.

Jill Horwood, Editor

### DAY EXCURSION OF DEVON’S COUNTRYSIDE FOR BAS PASS USERS

Note - Can be completed on an Explorer Ticket @ £8 per adult or a Devon Day Ticket @ £9 per adult

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GARDEN CLUB

We very much enjoyed a visit from Steven Powles for our October meeting. Steven is a vet, who used to practice in Witheridge – and is now working as a freelance vet. His great passion is wildlife photography and he showed us some stunning photos as well as some truly amazing and amusing videos. He has cameras, tripods, flood/spot lights, trail cameras and a host of CCTV equipment rigged up in and around his house.

We saw a Kestrel perched on the light outside the house, right in front of the camera, completely at ease, and photos of some delightful Tawny Owl chicks. Hornets had built a nest on the gable end of his house and Steven’s ingenuity had produced some remarkable photos.

Otters had been filmed nearby and Steven had had the film shown on The One Show.

He had set up an experiment in his kitchen to see the life-cycle of a tic – those nasty little creatures that attach themselves to our dogs – interesting, but rather gruesome!

Thank you Steven for a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

At our AGM in November, the Officers and Committee Members were all unanimously re-elected, and we ended our year with a splendid buffet.

2018 Programme

28th February  Dr Gavin Haig  “The Healing Garden”
28th March   Gardening for Wildlife, Eggesford Nursery
Saturday 7th April  Spring Show
25th April   Bluebell Walk at John Greenslade’s farm
Saturday 12th May  Plant Sale
30th May   Wild Flower Meadows at Dart Raffe
Saturday 9th June  FUNDRAISING EVENING with guest speaker Steven Powles
                  Tickets £5 per person. Look out for the posters!
27th June   Hen Welfare Trust with live hens
25th July   Steven Smith “Plants in the Bible.”
4th August  Summer Show
26th September  Winter Colour, Nick Harvey from St John’s Nursery, Barnstaple
31st October   Garden Adventures with my Camera. Tiverton Garden Club
28th November  AGM

All our monthly meetings start at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall – further details from our Chairman – Kit James on 01884 860666

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Witheridge Young Farmers Club

In September, the new YFC year began. We had our AGM, in which Sam Thornton-White finished his year as Club Chairman and Abi Gibson was elected as our new Chairperson and Hannah Perry as Secretary. Our chosen charity to fundraise for this year is the Farming Community Network (FCN). We held a new members pumpkin carving evening which was enjoyed by several new members. At the end of October a couple of members went to Exeter Cathedral to help with the pillar decorating for the Harvest Service.

In the lead up to Christmas we have held a Christmas Pudding and Quiz night in Witheridge Sports Club which was a very successful evening with lots of teams competing, raising over £300! We made wreaths to sell and also went carol singing around the local pubs and a few houses. Everyone was very generous giving us minced pies and mulled wine. We collected over £200 which is going to FCN. We also had a stall at the Christmas craft fayre held in the Church so our members made decorations to sell and helped on the day.

This year the entertainments competition is pantomime, so we have been busy with rehearsals throughout the last few months ready for our group competition day. We will be doing a rerun on Sunday 28th January, in Witheridge Parish Hall where it will be great to have lots of the village support.

We had a visit to Witheridge fire station one evening which everyone enjoyed and it was interesting learning about the fire engine and all the equipment which is carried on it. We also had a club social afternoon go-karting in Exeter and 2 teams took part in Crealy Challenge.

We will be holding a dung sale in the Spring. Dung orders are starting to be taken so please contact Abi or Hannah if you would like to place an order, it will be delivered as well! Young Farmers is a club for anyone aged between 10 and 26 years old so if you would like to become a member or would like to know more information please contact either Abi Gibson on 07980 383594 or Hannah Perry on 07468 418137. We hold meetings on the first Monday of every month at Black Dog hall and on the 3rd Monday of every month in Witheridge Hall. It’s always great to have new members joining.

Hannah Perry
We meet in the Parish Hall every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm for a 6.45pm start, and Thursday afternoons at 2.00pm for 2.15pm start.

New Members welcome.

First three sessions FREE. Woods and shoes available to use for those who would like to give it a try.

Membership is £20.00 per year, plus £2.50 per session, 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 grandall@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.
Here is the latest instalment from the football club - unfortunately nothing much has been happening which is quite surprising but it just means I have less to write about.

The picture is from the 3rd team which includes Nigel Leat who is still playing week after week at 50 years old.

1st Team
After a very quiet Christmas period in which we played no games for 3 weeks down to fixture scheduling and not the weather for a change. The 1st team still sit bottom of the table but performances are improving and we are starting to pick up points with a team of young inexperienced players so hopefully as the season progresses they will grow together and a few more points will be gained to enable us to escape relegation.

2nd Team
With just over a 3rd of the season played, the 2nds sit in 7th place just above halfway. A good start so far after promotion last season, having also only lost 3 games in 12. If they continue to play as they have been then a higher placed finish is more than achievable for them - so fingers crossed.

3rd Team
This group of lads continue to improve game after game. Only in their 3rd season and promoted also last season they are currently 3rd in division 7, only 4 points from top with games in hand - so well done to Darryl and the whole squad for what they have achieved so far and may it continue.

As always we welcome any new supporters to the club to watch any of our 3 teams, or just to watch live football on Sky or BT. We hope to see you soon.

Paul Rich
News in Brief (Full details on the website www.witheridgepc.org)

**Public Toilet Block Refurbishment**

At time of writing it looks like the works will commence towards the end of January/February. Once we have a finalised start date we will erect notices to advise temporary closure of the block for approximately 3-4 weeks. Apologies for the inconvenience.

**Housing Development**

Larkfleet Homes ([http://www.larkfleethomes.co.uk/](http://www.larkfleethomes.co.uk/)) have come forward to develop the new housing on the Tiverton side of the Adventure Playground. The Parish Council are liaising with Larkfleet and North Devon Council Planners with the aim of seeing a fitting development added to our community. It is the Parish Council’s aspiration to refurbish the Adventure Playground in conjunction with this development.

**Village Playgrounds - dog faeces**

Of late dog faeces are being placed in the playground litter bins. Firstly dogs are not allowed in the playgrounds as dog faeces are toxic to children; secondly the council would appreciate the dog waste bins around the village being used for this purpose as these are emptied by a licensed waste disposal contractor. There are dog waste bins in close proximity to both playgrounds.

**Parish Clock**

The clock chimes have been silenced for some time whilst the clock engineers have been eliminating possible causes for the clock stopping. Well it ran and it ran until Fri 5th Jan when the quarter chimes were reintroduced – the engineers have been contacted – watch this space!

**Historical Archive**

This has now been lodged with the South West Heritage Trust based in Barnstaple – see separate article by Chris Kershaw for more info.

**Councillor Vacancy**

The council still has a vacancy for anyone interested in serving on the council. If you are interested to know more please see the information available on the website or contact the clerk.
Council & Committee Meetings

Meetings are held at the Parish Hall Committee Room, North Street, Witheridge. Unscheduled meetings are advertised separate to this notice. Residents can make representations in writing to the clerk or in person verbally during the public session at the start of a meeting.

Agendas (with planning applications for consideration) are published at least three days in advance on the council web site at www.witheridgepc.org together with minutes of all meetings.

Planning applications received after agenda publication will be dealt with owing to a 21 day limit on the council responding to consultations from the Planning Authority. The parish council is only a consultee, and does not determine applications. Paper copies are available on request.

Contacting the Council – Tel: 01363 460046 Email: parishclerk@witheridgepc.org

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Meeting Schedule</th>
<th>Chairman: Cllr J Harvey Tel: 860629</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Aug</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>RECESS</td>
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</table>

Community Information N Devon

Library 2017
Mondays  Witheridge
Dates:  February 19; March 19; April 16

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
Citizens Advice Bureau 01884 234926
North Devon Council  www.northdevon.gov.uk  01271 374 776

RECYCLING
South Molton Recycling
Station Rd
R at junction into S Molton, 1st left

Apr- Sept  Sat & Sun 10-6
Oct-Mar    Sat & Sun 10-4:30

Tiverton Recycling  Approx 2 miles from Tiverton on A396 Bickleigh on RHS.

Apr - Sep M-F 9- 5     Sat & Sun 10-6
Oct - Mar M-F 9- 4:30  Sat & Sun 10- 4:30
### What's Happening in the Village?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Hall Chairman</th>
<th>Clare Spicer 860135</th>
<th>Bookings (meetings free)</th>
<th>Chris Kershaw 860208</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLICE</strong></td>
<td><strong>NON EMERGENCY INCIDENTS 101</strong></td>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY 999</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allotment Society</td>
<td>Valerie Abell 861650</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Art group</td>
<td>P Hall C/R Wed 7:30pm</td>
<td>Eileen Curtis 860564</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>P Hall Mon 2pm</td>
<td>Greg Henderson 860819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charity Bingo</td>
<td>Rest-a-While Alt. Tues. 7:30pm</td>
<td>Marion Crane 860530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bell Ringers</td>
<td>Belfry Sun 8.30am</td>
<td>Cynthia Burrow 861113</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog Training</td>
<td>P Hall Mon 6pm</td>
<td>Jackie McDevitt 01769 550155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening Club</td>
<td>P Hall Last Wed 7:00pm</td>
<td>Kit James 860666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knights of Witheridge</td>
<td>The Mitre 1st Tues 8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knitting for Charity</td>
<td>Rest-a-While Alt Thurs 2:15-4</td>
<td>Eileen Haynes 860212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ladies Group</td>
<td>P Hall 2nd Tues 2pm</td>
<td>Coral Simmonds 861366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Dart Singers</td>
<td>St John the Baptist P. Church Tues 7:20pm</td>
<td>John Harris 861084</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luncheon Club</td>
<td>P Hall 1st Tues 12:00</td>
<td>Yvonne Childs 860012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methodist Chapel</td>
<td>Sunday 11am</td>
<td>Rev. John Wiltshire 01363 877281</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Club</td>
<td>Rest-a-While Alt Mon 2pm</td>
<td>Val Dickinson 860709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mums &amp; Toddlers</td>
<td>P Hall Wed 9:30-11.30</td>
<td>Denise Henson 861365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stay &amp; Play/ Health Clinic</td>
<td>P Hall 2nd &amp; 4th Tues</td>
<td>Emma 01769 579615</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rest-a-While</td>
<td>Mon-Sat 10-12 Bingo alt Fridays, Bring &amp; Buy last Friday Val 860709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Mat bowls</td>
<td>P Hall Tues 6.30pm, Thur 2.00pm</td>
<td>Greg Henderson 860819</td>
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<tr>
<td>St John's Fayre</td>
<td>Graham Pilsbury evenings only please 860416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>P Hall Fri 11-12</td>
<td>Greg Henderson 860819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>P Hall Wed &amp; Fridays</td>
<td>Ven Perera 07730 149784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis Club</td>
<td>Tennis Court Book at the Newsagent 860815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge Parish Church</td>
<td>Sunday 9:30am Rev Adrian Wells 861383</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge Preschool &amp; Childcare</td>
<td>Behind School Daily 861784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge Primary School</td>
<td>Head of School Mr. C. Holding 860518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s F/ship</td>
<td>Methodist Chapel 1st Thur 2:30pm</td>
<td>Pam Lott 861393</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge Ploughing Assoc</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alan Bickley 860558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witheridge Youth Club</td>
<td>Church Rooms 1st&amp;3rd Thurs 7-8:30pm Andrea Court 860815</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Witheridge Newsagents
The store that sells more

Opening Times
M-F 7.00 am-6.00 pm
Sat 7.30 am- 6.00 pm
Sun 7.30 am-1.00 pm
Peter: 01884 860815
16a The Square

Thank you for your continuing support
As many of you may already know, a new family has taken over Thelbridge Cross Inn. We’ve given the front a bit of a re-vamp, which we feel is light and fresh yet also very welcoming.

We’ve got a new chef in as well, Sukh, who is classically French trained with a background in many London restaurants, but don’t fear! We’ve still got the classics on our specials board, but if you fancy something a bit different and daring, then a meal off the A La Carte menu is the choice for you.

Some of the services we offer:

- A la Carte Restaurant
- Bar snacks & Daily specials
- Breakfast & morning coffee
- Sunday roasts
- Cream teas & delicious desserts.
- Functions & Weddings
- Accommodation & Bridal suite
- Large car park
- Beer garden
- Real Ales & a variety of beers & ciders

CONTACT US:
Telephone : 01884 860 316
Email: thelbridgecrossinn@gmail.com
Visit us: Thelbridge Cross Inn, near Witheridge, Mid Devon, EX17 4SQ