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- **½ page strip** £42,
- **¼ page box** £26.

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EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the Spring issue of our magazine. Thank you to everyone who has contributed - advertisers, and all those who send in articles.

Tim Smith has been writing his wonderful nature pages for us since Autumn 2017, but due to ever-increasing involvement in bird and other survey work this, unfortunately, is last one for us. Thank you Tim for letting us share your enthusiasm for wildlife, and opening our eyes to what is all around us.

We do have a new contributor - Terry Watling of Withleigh Nursery - and his first article for us in on page 19. Welcome Terry!

Our AGM is on Tuesday 18th June at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall Committee Room. Everyone is welcome.

How many of you saw the very lifelike snow sculptures on The Triangle?

Karen Edwards took these pictures, but who made the sculptures? If you have any idea, then please let us know!

We have St John’s Fair coming up on 22nd June - see Lise Martin’s report on page 9 - come along and join in the fun.

The redecoration of St John’s Church is now complete and it looks splendid. Our thanks to our Methodist friends for allowing us to use their Chapel during the last 3 months.

Deadline for the Summer Issue is 4th July

Jill Horwood
Editor
A special service taking place in Witheridge to mark the centenary of the official end of the war may be the only one of its kind in the United Kingdom.

Hundreds of thousands of people attended Remembrance Day services on November 11, 2018 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, but few will mark the centenary of the day the war finally came to an end – June 28 – when a peace treaty was signed in Versailles in France.

The new Bishop of Crediton, Jackie Searle, will be giving the address and blessing at the service at Witheridge Parish Church.

A trained primary school teacher, Bishop Jackie was one of the first women to be ordained as a priest. She served curacies in Harrow and Ealing, before joining the staff of Trinity College, Bristol where she was Lecturer in Applied Theology. She moved to be Vicar of Littleover in the Diocese of Derby, serving also as Dean of Women’s Ministry and as Rural Dean, before being appointed Archdeacon of Gloucester in 2012.

Children of Witheridge School will be among those participating in the service, which is taking place at 2pm on Friday, June 28.

They are due to perform a musical version of *In Flanders Fields*, the famous Great War poem written by Major John McCrae, and will also sing *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, an anthem of the Royal British Legion, frequently sung at the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

The service will include a welcome and readings reflecting on the signing of the peace treaty – and the celebrations that followed.
There will be a special tribute to the Devonshire Regiment who had 50,000 men fighting on the Western Front and in other theatres of war across the world, which will be given by author Paul Roberts, who is organising the service with Witheridge Vicar, the Rev Adrian Wells.

Almost 12,000 men and women from Devon died between 1914 and 1918 – 6,000 of whom served with the Devonshire Regiment.

Ten of the 17 men from Witheridge who served in the Devons and died in the war are remembered on the village War Memorial.

At least eight of the 30 grandsons of Witheridge farm worker John Roberts who served in the war, also fought for the regiment.

A slide show of images of the signing of the peace treaty in Versailles and how Devon and England marked this historic moment, will welcome people arriving at the church.

It is hoped that serving and former soldiers will be among those attending along with civic leaders from Witheridge and congregations from local and neighbouring parishes.

The service will be followed by a cream tea and cake celebration at the Parish Hall.

Paul Roberts

Frank Roberts, of Witheridge, who survived the war. He is pictured at Cuckoo Farm near Molland, with his wife, Alice May, and Grandchildren
South Coombe Country Cottages

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ST JOHN’S FAIR JUNE 22nd 2019

With only weeks to go, make sure the date is in your calendar for this year’s St John’s Fair, on Saturday 22nd June.

We have written to all our village community groups asking them to join us for the parade and perhaps take a £10 stall during the fair so we can know more about what is going on in our village. If you haven’t been asked but would like to join us – give us a call.
The theme this year is Flower Power – do dress up and join in the spirit. Come and see all our primary and playgroup school children dressed for the occasion! All 60-70’s vehicles are welcome in the parade to join VW Beetles already participating. As a tribute to Sir Bernie Knight, who was a great supporter of the Fair, we will see a very special range of vintage vehicles in the parade.

As always, on Fair day, a fabulous range of Food Stalls will serve hot and cold food, afternoon teas and delicious ice cream. There will be plenty of stalls with crafts, plants, toys and much more in and around the Parish Hall.
New this year is a Story Teller – for all ages, and a Belly-Dancer!! We will be hosting a children’s disco at 6pm for a couple of hours, with tea supplied by Mama Johns. Dressing up is optional – but there will be a prize for best dressed!
Exmoor Zoo, Witheridge Bake Off and the popular Dog Show will be in full force at the Parish Hall and the Tennis Court. So, bring your children, dogs and baked goodies! As usual, The Sports Club Car Park will host Anderton and Roland fun fair from Thursday to Sunday for all thrill seekers.
For the Disco revellers, the marquee will also be open during the evening with DJ, bar and with Mama John’s in attendance throughout the day. Buy our programme to see the itinerary and enter the £50 Draw. These can be purchased at the Newsagents or from organisers on the day.

Any queries, or if you would like to help on the day, give us a call, 860625. Look forward to seeing the whole village out on Saturday 22nd June!

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Monday afternoon club

Our A.G.M went very well this year. At the crowded meeting, we all agreed how good it was to be back after our New Year break. At our first meeting after that, the Salvation Army gave us an enlightened talk on the good work they do. Our next meeting went with a swing as Ad Lib came along and played for us, well done Warwick and Tony, a great afternoon, with everyone singing along. Our third meeting was completely different - George Williams came back again and continued his talk about his walk around Britain. George has a wonderful way of telling a story, the room was full of laughter about the antics he got up to, and we laughed so much that George did not finish his talk. I am so pleased to say that he is coming back to talk to us again.

We are all looking forward to our first coach trip in April when we shall be going to Sidmouth, calling into Ottery St. Mary garden centre for a coffee break. We all enjoy our days out together and it is always fun to visit the seaside. Our club membership numbers are full, so sorry if you have been put on the dreaded waiting list. If there are vacant seats on our coach trips you will be very welcome to join us as a non member, look out for the posters and phone quickly. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Val Dickinson. Chairman.

Tuesday Rest a while

Charity Bingo

The Bingo has very good support with any new “punters” made very welcome. Everybody welcomed and agreed to an extra game at the beginning of each month, an example of the prize is biscuits and cheese for one line, bottle of wine for two lines and a fairly large piece of meat for full house.

We have donated £200 pounds to charity, £50 each going to The Injured Rugby Charity, Children’s Hospice, Devon Air Ambulance and the Dogs Trust. The monies were gratefully received, and in return we received appreciative letters of thanks.

Dates for bingo are as follows: May 14th, 28th, June 11th, 25th, July 9th, 23rd, August 6th, 20th, September 3rd, 17th.

Thank you for your support.
Marion Crane  01884 860530
Witheridge Parish Hall

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**PARISH HALL**

I am afraid this time the Parish Hall article will not be full of forthcoming events and optimistic news.

Instead we must focus on the field behind the hall where so many dog owners like to exercise their dogs. Yet again there have been complaints about people not picking up after their dogs. This is just not acceptable and if it continues the Parish Hall committee will have no alternative but to close the field to dogs. So PLEASE make sure that you clear up after your dog, indeed if you care about using the field with your dog, pick up any mess you see. Committee members will be making spot checks and we WILL get on top of this problem. We are aware that it is a popular facility for dogs, but it is not just for dogs it is primarily an area where people can relax, and children play. It really is indefensible that the field is becoming a no-go area for fear of treading on or even sitting on dog excrement. It only takes a few careless and irresponsible dog owners to ruin the area for other dog owners and residents of the village.

So please, let’s keep the Parish Hall field an amenity for everyone to enjoy.

Clare Spicer

**ART GROUP**

The Witheridge Art Group meet on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall committee room and would love to see anyone who thinks they would like to draw, paint, or do anything artistic for an hour and a half with friends.

![Art Group Image]

We have a well stocked cupboard so you can try us out without spending on materials, £1.50 per week plus £5 per year membership, payable on 2nd week if you decide it’s for you. We have facilities for disabled. Ring 860564 or 860709, or just come along.

Eileen Curtis.
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.
Witheridge Ladies’ Club

January, our first meeting of 2019, and without the presence of Mary Homden who will be very sadly missed by us all; we owe her a great debt of gratitude for heading the club for the past 10 years. Linda Kennard has taken over the reins of the club and very ably carried out her duties as our new chairperson; well done Linda.

Our speaker this month was Helen Ashton who gave an illuminating talk and demonstration on reflexology, we were told about the benefits of system. One lucky member, Susan, had a session with Helen.

In February Terry from Withleigh Nursery provided us with a quiz to test our plant knowledge. He brought along shrubs and plants that provide winter colour and scent. We thoroughly enjoyed his talk and gained some useful tips on plant requirements. Terry has agreed to visit us again in March 2020.

In March our speaker was Sheila from the Cinnamon Trust; we found out how the Trust was formed and the work it does, especially in taking on the responsibility for pets when their owner is terminally ill or has died. It was lovely to hear about some of the success stories; re-homing the various animals and the wonderful work done at the home-from-home sanctuaries. Volunteers play an important part in the success of the Trust. I have extracted a few quotes from the Trust’s brochure: ‘Pets are warm and intensely loyal. They have the ability to bring happiness and laughter and lift depression. The special relationship between owner and pet adds incalculably to the quality of life.’ How very apt!

Our club also has a book 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
To Whom It May Concern

Re: Your request for funding from the Knights of Witheridge.

Please find enclosed a funding application form which you need to complete and return to the above address or by e-mail to witheridgesirs@aol.com by the closing date of Sunday 12th May 2019, after which time no further application forms will be accepted.

Should you be successful with your application for funding we will inform you in writing after our committee meeting on Monday 13th May 2019 when all applications for funding will be considered.

If you intend purchasing equipment with the funds received from us then please be specific and state name, type, model number etc. as we reserve the right to purchase it on your behalf rather than giving you the necessary funding direct.

The funding offered is on the understanding that we receive a letter from you confirming that you have received it so that we can maintain an accurate record for auditing purposes in the future.

We would also appreciate a mention in your annual report or in the Witheridge Voice, ideally both, stating that the Knights of Witheridge had donated funds to your organisation. This will assist us immensely in advertising our presence, hopefully ensuring that local people will attend our future activities in the knowledge that money raised will be returned to organisations within the parish.

If you are unsuccessful in obtaining funds from us on this occasion then please do not feel slighted in any way as we only have a limited amount for distribution.

Yours sincerely
Mr. Fred Hanbury.
Name of Organisation:..............................................................................................................
Address:.................................................................................................................................
..................................................................................................Post Code:................................
Telephone:............................................................e-mail:...................................................
Head of Organisation:..........................Official Capacity:..........................................
Reason for funding:
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What will you hope to achieve if request for funding is successful:
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Amount of funding required: £..............................
Name of Chairperson:..........................Signature......................................................
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Our bee population is in decline mainly due to pesticides and parasites. You don’t have to become a beekeeper to help and protect bees and other pollinators. You can help by not using pesticides and with the right selection of plants you can attract pollinators to your garden whether it’s a window box, container or courtyard garden.

Here are a few plants that make a ‘bee line’ for at our Nursery. Herbs in pots are great for attracting pollinators. Make sure the pots have free draining compost in them, drainage holes at the bottom of the pots are important for most pot grown plants.

Thyme, Oregano, Chives, Lavender or Rosemary are great choices to attract pollinators. Mint is also good but can be a bit of a thug, so plant in a pot on its own. Borage is excellent for attracting bees and is great for a cottage garden. It is an annual but it will self seed and you will find new plants popping up the following year. Borage flowers are also edible and can be used to decorate salads and drinks. There are many herbaceous perennials that are a magnet to bees. Salvias come in many forms and colours and are an excellent choice. Salvias such as ‘hot lips’ and ‘nightmoth’ are great varieties as they will flower for 5 months of the year without the need for deadheading and the bees are constantly hopping from flower to flower from June to November.

If you are trying to attract pollinators don’t go for the big flouncy double flowers as pollinators do not like these. Cosmos, Ammi majus, cornflowers or sunflowers will put on a lovely show throughout the summer and will attract pollinators.

As for shrubs go you can’t beat a Buddleja or Butterfly bush, it is one of the best for attracting pollinators. These are tough, easy plants that can be pruned hard each spring to keep them in check.

It’s not just Bees that are Pollinators.

You may have noticed Magnolias in all their glory at this time of year, they are one of the oldest plant groups still in existence today and date back at least 20 million years, some even older. Magnolias evolved before bees did and evolution has formed them so that they encourage pollination by beetles and not bees or moths.

Wasps tend to get a bad press but they are an important part of our eco system too. Here is a picture I took last year showing them hard at work on Echinops ‘Artic glow’

For further reading on pollinators for gardens here is a link to the RHS which provides an in depth list of plants. https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/conservation-and-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators-garden-plants.pdf

Terry Watling
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LOOKING FORWARD AT THE REST-A-WHILE

What does the Rest a While mean to you?
Here’s what it means to us.

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A ll welcome
W armth
H appiness
I nformative
L aughter and fun
E veryone is always Valued

Come on in and we will prove it to you.
If not we will give you a free cup tea or coffee.
You can’t get a better promise than that!!
We are open Monday - Saturday 10-12. Last Friday of the month is our Bring and Buy. Come along and find that bargain that you’ve always been looking for and, of course, that all important cup of tea or coffee.

June Turner

UNITED CHURCHES OF WITHERIDGE
LUNCHEON CLUB

This year on 2nd July we will be celebrating 10 years of the Luncheon Club, and so the meal on that Tuesday is going to be a little bit special with a few surprises and treats. 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 live on your own, or 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

Sue Henderson  Hon Sec.
WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY

Dry weather and high winds faced the 19 players who contested the John Kemp Spring Trophy at Waterbridge on 13th March. On the winning team were Witheridge golfers Paul Brooke, Andrew Clark, Norman James and Ken Ramsbotham. The Wooden Spoon trophy was awarded to the Witheridge player John Williams who was playing with Colin Gunn and Terry Rowland.

The dates of future meetings at Waterbridge are the May Trophy on Wednesday 8th May and the Summer Trophy on 3rd July.

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

ANDREW CLARK

WITHERIDGE ROCKS

Witheridge Rocks continues to meet on Thursdays, generally the 2nd and 4th of the month, in the Church Rooms between 7pm and 8.30pm. Any young person from Year 6 upwards is welcome to come along and see what we get up to. Entry is £1 and there is tuck to purchase too. We have table football, table tennis, pool, board games, crafts and much more. We have enjoyed some 'themed' evenings, including a week all about following rules!, a games night where the young people chose all the games they wanted to play and a recent evening all about Fairtrade, which involved a lot of chocolate! We are keen to involve others in our evenings, so if you have a job, or hobby which you think that we would be interested in hearing about please contact myself, Andrea, at Two Moors Store, or Heather Westcott.

Finally, some of our equipment is getting a bit tired, so if you are handy with a screwdriver and you feel that you are able to help to fix our pool table and our table tennis table then please contact me.

Andrea Court
**LITTLE DART SINGERS**

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

**John Harris.**

**Practice Tuesdays 7.20pm**  **Witheridge Parish Church**

---

**BELL RINGERS**

St John The Baptist Church, Witheridge

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

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**WITHERIDGE IN BLOOM**

Here we are at the start of another year in which the team will be working to give the village more bright floral displays. Our intention is to enhance 'the triangle' at the top of the village with new displays – so watch this space and keep your eyes peeled – if all goes well they should be up and running by the end of June 2019.

Would you like to join us? Contact Carol Northam

**carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk**  or Tel: 01884 860817

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**CHARITY KNITTING**

We have been able to support most of our charities, including the Linus Project, items for Eastern Europe, Kenya, hospital baby units, hats for fishermen, and the sock project is now underway.

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**WITHYFEST ’19**

Withyfest ’19 is to be a celebration of local musical talent and local produce. The idea is to create a full-on festival experience on the small, local, community scale. For us small is beautiful. It is a three-day festival held in the sports fields of Edge Down Park. There will be three performance areas, an acoustic tent, a band tent and a night club venue. 38 performers will cater for a diverse range of musical tastes including reggae, pop, SKA, rock, folk, hip hop, jazz and blues. There is camping available, and a varied range of locally sourced food and drink. This year we even have chiropractic therapies and festival merchandising on offer.

As with the previous years, the organisation of the event has been a real pleasure - reacquainting ourselves with old friends and making friends anew within our wonderful community. From seeking out and meeting with musicians and sampling local produce to finding willing support from local businesses, it has really been fun. If the main event is as rewarding as the journey getting there we are in for a treat.

There have been a number of fundraisers since Withyfest ’18. We have the last of these coming up on 25th May, featuring the accomplished blues guitar of Rob Craig, and the joyous and brilliant sound of the Luddites. Your support for this and the main event on 19/20/21 July would be greatly appreciated.

Russell North

**A HAUNTED COTTAGE**

One summer I took a week’s holiday in a remote old thatched cottage in the Cotswolds. I was given the door key by the next door neighbour, and I went in to look around. There were two interesting points. One was that the bedroom had a ‘western saloon’ door with a wide gap at the top and bottom, and the other was that there was a creepy feeling from a deep alcove in the kitchen where the brooms were stored. Upstairs in the bedroom, I plugged in the little bedside lamp, and switched it on - it worked!

Every day was the same - I went for a walk, cooked my evening meal and watched television. However, I couldn’t go upstairs to bed until I had looked into the alcove to ensure nobody was there; luckily the rest of the cottage didn’t feel spooky.

On the last night, I was lying in bed in the pitch black and heard the landing floor boards creaking as if someone was slowly creeping towards my bedroom door. I started to panic and sweat ran down my face.

*Continued on page 27*
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When it seemed time for the ‘person’ to open the door, I fainted and didn’t wake up till morning. Before I fainted, I didn’t think to switch on the bedside lamp.

Whilst packing my case on Saturday morning, just out of curiosity, I switched on the bedside lamp but, for some reason, it didn’t light up. I can’t imagine how terrified I would have felt if it hadn’t lit up a few hours earlier in the dark when my floor boards were creaking; I’m glad I didn’t think to switch it on.

On this holiday I didn’t see or feel anything strange, unlike the religious ceremonies I attended on a Sioux reservation in South Dakota.

Ray Thorne

Do you have a ghost story? If so, please send it in.

**WITHERIDGE YOUNG FARMERS CLUB**

Sunday 10th February was Exe Valley Group Entertainments competition. After lots of practising we did our performance of ‘I’m a Farmer ... Get Me Out of Here’ which was a take-off of “I’m a Celebrity.” Chris Powell and Peter Westcott played Ant and Dec with other club members as camp mates. Florence Bradley sang Roar by Katy Perry which was brilliant, she was awarded best actress. Overall we came 2nd place which was fantastic!

With spring on its way we decided to hold our annual dung sale. We bagged up 55 bags and sold them in the square on Saturday 2nd March. We have had members taking part in group rounds of pub sports, including pool, darts and skittles.

Show season is soon approaching beginning with Devon County Show. So we will have members doing individual entries including cooking, handicraft and photography as well as helping with our club entries. The cubicle theme this year is ‘Children’s Television’. This year it is our turn to organise the Group rally at Mid Devon Show in July.

We are doing a clay shoot on Sunday 19th May 10am – 3pm at Eastway Clay Shoot. Please come along and support us.

We are looking for new members, so if you’d like to join please come along to a club meeting either the first Monday of each month at Black Dog Hall or the third Monday of each month at Witheridge Hall, all beginning at 8pm.

Hannah Perry
Spring is arriving fast in our gardens as I write this and I find myself amazed at the abundance and variety of flowers and plants locally and around the world. Not only are the flowers in our gardens beautiful and aromatic filling our senses with their colour and scent but many herbs and plants used to be our main source of healing from illness of any kind. Now we wander into the local pharmacy and pick a bottle off the shelf of a man-made equivalent.

I’m not knocking the progress science has made in giving us better ways to heal but sometimes the natural ways work just as well and more gently on our bodies. Mint has always been good to calm our digestion, ginger works for travel and morning sickness. Feverfew helps to remove headaches. Sage is not only good with onion in stuffing with a nice roast chicken but also seems to work with our digestive system and may help lift our mood. Marigolds can help reduce inflammation and help with minor cuts and rashes and are good as a natural insecticide. The full list of medicinal plants would become a book, of which there are many. Please consult professionals before using natural remedies.

Scientists are still searching through our diminishing rainforests and boring into the glaciers hunting for more ancient plants and plant fossils to help find cures for some of the still incurable diseases. Nature gives us in abundance and can continue to do so if we look after our world.

Let us never forget the bounty of nature’s gifts to us, remembering to look after the world that can still give us so much and thanking God, the Creator, for the beauty and healing all around us.

Adrian
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 Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th June</td>
<td>Women’s Fellowship Sing-a-Long with Ad Lib, and cream tea. Donations are for Action for Children</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 30th June</td>
<td>Churches Together at the Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St John the Baptist Parish Church  
Rev Adrian Wells  
Morning Worship and Communion Services start at 9:30am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7th May</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 30th May</td>
<td>Ascension Day Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th June</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 23rd June</td>
<td>St John’s Fayre Weekend Open Air Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28th June</td>
<td>Special Service to mark the end of World War 1, followed by cream tea and Cake celebration at the Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 30th June</td>
<td>Ecumenical Churches Together Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2nd July</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 6th August</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All dates are subject to change. Please check the church notice board.  
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ALL FOOLS DAY TO MID-SUMMER – APRIL THRO’ TO END JUNE

Always expect the unexpected. Early morning at the end of February I was doing another Bird Survey, this time for Willow Tit. Play a recording of the birds’ song for 2 minutes; wait a further 2 minutes to see if any comes into the lure; repeat every 100 yards. I was standing still in the dappled woodland shade, listening and watching when a slim and slinky shape loped into view not 20 yards away, wandering through the long grass. A beautiful Vixen. She was a deep chestnut colour, her hindquarters were dark chocolate, a row of heavy teats indicated that she was feeding cubs. Trotting past me without a glance, she was returning to an old Pheasant carcass to feed. Well, she ripped and gnawed at it for 10 minutes and then came back toward me. Closer and closer she came until at last she sensed me standing there not 10 feet away. She tipped her head first one way and then the other trying to make me out. I had pulled the hood of my combat jacket over my head to hide my shape and shade my face. She shrugged her shoulders and went back for more Pheasant! Her cubs have arrived early, birth can occur in February or March. The cubs eyes open a fortnight later and they start to eat solids after about a month. The Dog and Vixen will ‘eat out’ and then come back to the earth and regurgitate for the cubs. So it’s worth watching out for mammals now that the parents are out and about hunting during daytime.

Because many animals are about the death toll can rise on our roads. Sadly yet another Roe Deer was knocked down between South Molton and Witheridge recently. This seems to be a hotspot, so please take a little care driving home, especially where woodland forms the verges. Buzzard are exceptionally slow to rise from roadkill when traffic approaches, so please bear that in mind. Thanks!

First week in April now and time for the first Cuckoo to arrive. A few Swallows have appeared briefly in Meshaw; Celandine blazes yellow along the lanes with Stitchwort and Violets also. In damp areas Cuckoo Flower appears; Brimstone, Peacock and Orange Tip butterflies are out. Birdsong is revving up for Spring.

Continued on page 33
The Mitre Inn, 2 The Square, Witheridge

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

We are extremely proud to have been awarded the ‘Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence for 2018’ for the 4th consecutive year.

Burger Nights will continue on a Thursday until further notice, along with Tuesday Curry Nights as both are extremely popular and successful.

Let’s hope that we have a good summer, weatherwise, for everyone including those walking the ever popular Two Moors Way, which brings a fair amount of trade to the village.

The Specials Board will, as ever, focus on quality, local and seasonal dishes. We also now stock Atlantic Pale Ale, which is going down a treat.

For all enquiries and bookings, please telephone us on 01884 or email the.mitreinn@mail.com

Like us on Facebook to catch us early when we post special offers and events.
Blackbirds have now joined in with Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush; Great Tits sing their ‘teacher teacher’ song; Blue Tits, Coal Tits and Chaffinch are at it; some migrants like the Blackcap are here. The nesting season has arrived early! You’ve probably got Robins on eggs in your garden already. Slowworms, Lizard, reptiles and amphibians will all be emerging from hibernation in early April as will our Bats. Female Bats will feed up ready to give birth in May, so they will be looking for maternity roosts. 17 species of Bat breed in Britain. They emerge to feed at various times from dusk to dawn, often going back to roost between feeding flights. Our most common Bat is the Pipistrelle. Early evening is the best time to see that one.

Following on from the Blackthorn, in May the Hawthorn will be in full bloom. The Blackthorn flowers before coming into leaf, Hawthorn shows leaf before the flowers, it’s often called the May Tree. Bluebells will grace our woodlands once again. Spring migrants will be flooding in, Swallows fly from South Africa to return to the same nest site as last year. No Satnav! Clever isn’t it.

Then into June and Mid-Summer when the natural world will be brimming over with new life and vigour. Young birds; mammals; butterflies; trees in full bloom; wildflowers everywhere; dragonflies on pond and river. We are so very lucky to share such a beautiful world. Do take the time to go out and enjoy it, that will feel really good.

Tim Smith

**GOODBYE**

After 5 years working with the staff group at The Mitre, Ryan is leaving and we wish him luck in his new career. Thank you Ryan for all your help.

Andy, Barbara and the team at The Mitre
GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker for February was Chris Allen with his talk “Amazing Plants.” It was very interesting and very thought provoking. He brought along lots of props which he passed around for us all to see. What was interesting was the age of some of the pine cones that he brought. He was full of facts and figures and made us all marvel at the wonder of nature. Chris does a lot of work for the RHS and marks exam papers for them. He has travelled widely in his research work.

In March, David Usher came to talk to us about Gertrude Jekyll’s Plants and Designs. David was Head Gardener at Hestercombe Gardens, which were designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll – her planting scheme has been restored. Miss Jekyll came from a wealthy family initially living in London, where she attended the Kensington Art School at the age of 19. Unfortunately, she suffered from bad eyesight but was still able to paint, design jewellery and silverware, create interior designs, take and develop her own photographs and design gardens – she liked nothing better than to get out and work in the garden. She also wrote numerous articles on gardening and wrote 13 books. When she designed a garden, she supplied plants from her own garden to ensure that the planting plan was followed. She used shrubs and perennials, interspersed with annuals and drawing on her artistic knowledge, developed a colour palette which is still followed today.

Gertrude Jekyll died shortly before her 90th birthday in 1932.

Jill Horwood

SPRING SHOW

The Garden Club’s Spring Show on 13th April was, despite the early spring and late frosts, a success. The amount of flowers, especially daffodils, on show were a testament to the dedication and hard work of the exhibitors.

The children’s classes were also well supported with Lucy Kelly taking the Rosette for the Best Exhibit in Children’s Classes - a beautifully made bag fashioned from recycled materials - an old T-shirt, material scraps, buttons and left-over embroidery thread.
The Rose Bowl for the Best in Show Exhibit went to June Turner - a first time entrant - for her superbly knitted “George the Gardener”

Elaine Kelly won the Witheridge Gardening Show Cup for most points in the show, with Sheila Manley runner up, and taking the Club Shield.

Doreen Leat won the Rosette for Best Exhibit in classes 1-4 - Flower Arranging.

Photography, baking and handicraft classes were also well supported.
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Witheridge Brownies and Guides

At the end of February the Brownies and Guides joined in with the Tiverton District event for World Thinking Day and great fun was had by all. Since the start of the year the girls have been working on the new guiding programme and have completed interest badges for Collect It, Performer, Baking and Dancing. After Easter we’ll be looking at the Explore section of the new programme. We have space for more Brownies and Guides so if you know any interested girls aged 7 upwards please contact Carole Chapple on 01884 855329.

Taekwondo

In Taekwondo News congratulations to our students who competed at the South West Championships in February. All three of our students who competed came home with more silverware to display! Jamie Crump won silver in patterns, narrowly beating his brother Kieran Crump into Bronze position. Kieran Crump then went on to win bronze in sparring. And Jake Curtis also won bronze in black belt sparring. Fantastic results for all of them.

Congratulations to everyone who has achieved a new belt in the last quarter. Well done to Jessica Curtis and Joseph Phelan our new Red stripes; Lily Perera and Harry Shere our new blue belts; Kieran Crump and Jenny de Rochefort our new green belts; Joshua Clarke, Jamie Curtis and Max Le Mezec our new green stripes; Jamie Crump and Harry Veysey our new yellow belts and Louise Veysey our new yellow stripe. Jenny de Rochefort and Jamie Crump were both awarded A-passes with the overall grading award also going to Jamie.

Looking forward to the summer demo season. We will be appearing at St John’s Fair and the East Worlington Duck Race, hope to see you there!
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THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE?

I don’t know why only some people seem to want adventure in their lives and try to make life into a fulfilling experience as far as possible every day... strangely others it seems do not. A chance to snowshoe near the arctic circle at minus twenty below, and drive a team of huskies onto a huge frozen plateau, and see a landscape that few people ever get to see or to trek along the Inca trail in Peru for four days at altitude in order to arrive at the Sun Gate at dawn and look down onto ancient Machu Picchu ... these delight some people whilst others think this is no holiday at all and you are regarded as completely nuts ... On the other hand a fortnight in a hotel previously visited in order to lie on a familiar beach doing very little ... or a coach ride for days to a distant but previously visited place so there are no surprises, often to meet the same people and visit the same restaurants because the waiter will recognise you ... surely this is the nutty option? The joy of seeing wildlife for real, not just watching it on television... watching David Attenborough’s programmes is a good experience but diving on the Barrier Reef yourself and seeing the amazing colours and movements of corals, anemones and fish whilst feeling the warm water on your skin and hearing your breathing in the aqualung is truly something else. Just like watching red hot lava explode into the air from a volcano and splash back onto the ground a few hundred metres away at midnight after a three thousand foot night climb on Stromboli really makes you feel insignificant.

To go walking on Dartmoor, then watch the sun set in the west from your tent and amazingly re-appearing in the mist of dawn from the east only eight hours later. This can be just as great an experience as opening your tent on a modest ridge at twelve thousand feet in the Himalayas at six in the morning to find a steaming mug of tea put there by a Sherpa, then to look up and see the snow capped summit of Annapurna turn to pure gold before your eyes while all the lower peaks stay in shadow, this is pure magic for the soul.

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Endurance may give joy too ... spending two weeks walking Wainwright’s Coast to Coast, about fifteen glorious mountainous miles each day in all weathers gives such a glow of achievement as you quaff a pint in Robin Hood’s Bay at the end, and wish you could turn around and walk back to the beginning again. Yes many of these experiences require considerable exertion on your part and sometimes even some pain but this only magnifies the joy of the experience.

Of course, not everyone has the opportunity I hear you say, there may be financial or health constraints ... whilst affording some experiences may be difficult there are great adventures to be had for free too. Whatever your physical ability there’s always an adventure in you if you try to find it, it’s not about money but the spirit inside you to find and explore your world and to make the most of a life that seems all too short. Whilst there is an infinite variation on this theme, I do believe that we are broadly divided into adventurous and unadventurous people and of course there is no right or wrong ... so each to their own ... but if there were no constraints, who would like to join me in Peru this summer??

Happy Farthing

**FOOTBALL FOCUS**

Witheridge 2nds
Since the last issue the reserves have continued to pick up points despite some quite nasty injuries and are sitting in 6th place and into the semi finals of the Torridgeside cup. Well done to Darren and his squad.

3rd Team
The 3rds have continued to get some impressive results and some not so good in division 6 this season. They are sitting in 8th place in a very competitive league with some very good footballing teams which will put them in good stead for next season.

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Spring term really has flown by at Witheridge Academy. We have thoroughly enjoyed this term’s topic, ‘Whizz, Bang, Pop!’, where our learning has been based around the theme of inventors and inventions.

**Spring Pupil Music Concert**
Earlier this month, we held our third annual Spring Pupil Music Concert in school. It was fantastic to see so many pupils up on the stage, performing musical compositions that they have been learning in their music tuition sessions with our fantastic music teacher, Mr Rogo.

**Easter Celebrations**
We celebrated Easter with a special Easter Service at the church shortly before the Easter break. We reflected on our value for this half term, which has been forgiveness, and looked at the importance of some of the symbols, signs and traditions surrounding the Easter story.

Our after school Performance Club has been running since Christmas and at the beginning of April, they put on their first school performance for parents and carers – a musical play called ‘Three Trees’. This play told the story of Jesus’s life from the perspective of three different trees who played an important role in his life. It helped us to focus on the reason why Easter is so important, as well as providing an opportunity for our pupils to show off their fantastic performing skills!

Years 3 and 4 recently visited the Beacon Activity Centre at Lee Abbey, Lynton to take part in a unique Easter Experience. On arrival at the Centre pupils were given an introductory talk by the staff and soon we departed on our own walk to Jerusalem (a tour around the Abbey grounds). At various points scenes of the Easter Story were acted out by the Centre staff. It was a really thought provoking experience which certainly brought the Easter Story to life for the pupils.

*Continued on page 45*
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World Book Day
We had a brilliant day in school celebrating World Book Day in March. The children all looked fantastic in their costumes. Our focus this year was on the books of Roald Dahl. The children worked in three different mixed-age groups to make Bruce Bogtrotter's Chocolate Muffins, to describe the gruesome Mr and Mrs Twit, and to make our own pop-up Roald Dahl book. We also had a collection of parents and carers who came into school during the morning to share stories with Class 1 and 2 - all of the children thoroughly enjoyed listening to lots of their favourite books.

Sport @ Witheridge Academy
We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 and 6 football team, who were winners of the South Molton Learning Community Primary School’s Football Competition earlier this term! It was a very competitive tournament with teams from ten other local primary schools. The children managed to put in several fantastic performances, including beating South Molton Community Primary in the final, after extra time - another huge well done to all of the players.
In March, 11 of our Year 5 and 6 pupils represented Witheridge Academy at the Two Moors Learning Partnership Tag Rugby Competition, playing games against Morchard Bishop, Kings Nympton, Winkleigh and High Bickington. The children thoroughly enjoyed the games, which were all played in excellent spirit, and managed to finish 3rd overall.

Daily Mile
The Daily Mile Challenge for this term is for us to run the massive 9579 miles from our school in Witheridge all the way to the other side of the world to Sydney, Australia! I am very pleased to say that this half term every single child in the whole of the Primary school has run a mile every single day, working as a team so we can complete our challenge. Collectively this term the children have run an amazing 4071 miles! On our Daily Mile map we are currently in the city of Dongola in Northern Sudan. This is an outstanding achievement by the children, so to celebrate this week we had a special Daily Mile Bubble Run which we all enjoyed in this lovely weather. The Daily Mile is all about improving the health and wellbeing of children whilst having a bit of fun from running or jogging at their own pace for 15 minutes a day.

Continued on page 47
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Witheridge Pre-school @ The Hive
Before half term the children at the pre-school and in Class 1 were enjoying learning all about Robots as part of our ‘Whiz, Bang, Pop!’ topic.
Since half term, the topic at the pre-school and in Class 1 has been, ‘Oh We Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside!’ The children have enjoyed having a role play Beach café and Beach Shop. They have enjoyed listening to stories about the ocean and the seaside and they have loved exploring our Ocean play areas and making boats, ships and submarines! As I write this, the children are preparing to go on a very exciting trip to Exmouth beach!

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

**To sow or not to sow….** Sow in haste, regret at leisure? At this time of year with spring approaching, many a keen gardener’s thoughts turn to sowing seeds.

There is really no point sowing seeds direct into cold wet soil, it is best to wait until April or even later, when soil temperatures should have risen.

If you prefer to start your veg plants off in modules in a greenhouse or on a windowsill, there's a good argument to get things going earlier than April. Most vegetable seeds won't germinate until the soil reaches a certain temperature, it varies from crop to crop, but around 8°C is a good guide to go by.

Bear in mind there are plenty of other gardening jobs you can do, but granted they do not offer the same excitement as the sight of a tiny seedling bursting through the soil!

If you are interested in an allotment please give us a call on 01884 860630. We still have one plot available and it’s not too late to think about what you would like to plant.

Amanda Williams

---

**What poisons are lurking in the GARDEN**

**Lillies**

Lilies are highly toxic to cats and can be toxic to dogs.

- All parts of the lily are toxic.
- The most likely way for lily poisoning to occur is from cats licking the pollen from their fur/paws.
- Signs include vomiting, drooling, loss of appetite, lethargy, tremors/seizures and abdominal pain.
- Lily poisoning can be fatal and any animal suspected to have ingested any should be seen by a vet immediately.

**Spring Bulbs**

- Spring bulbs such as daffodils, tulips and crocus can cause poisoning.
- Signs vary depending in the bulb but can include drooling, vomiting, tremors/seizures, collapse, changes in heart rate and liver and kidney problems.
- The most common time for poisoning is autumn when they are planted and spring when they are flowering.

**Compost Heap**

- Food scraps on the compost heap need to be kept away from pets, preferably in a sealed container.
- Mould can be a serious and fatal toxin to our pets, especially the mould found on bread, dairy products and nuts.
- Signs include drooling, vomiting, muscle tremors and seizures, which can last up to two days.
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Witheridge Tennis Club

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It was great to see so many Dads at the Friday group when we had a ‘snow day’, we know Dads normally have to work so it was a lovely treat for the little ones to have their Dads see what they get up to and a perfect opportunity for Dads to play with their little ones and get to know other parents. It was so busy that I didn’t have time to take any photos! It’s also been lovely to welcome a few more families to our sessions, new parents and those who are new to the village, our groups continue to grow which can only be a good thing.

12 of our parents have recently completed a First Aid course covering the essentials of First Aid for babies and children. Topics covered were CPR, burns, choking, bleeding, febrile convulsions, meningitis awareness, sepsis awareness, breaks and head injuries. Well done to all those who took part.

We are continuing to grow our Friday group, the shed is now built & we are currently on the look out for any baby equipment/toys specifically soft floor mats/blankets for our babies to lay on, a sit in walker, puzzles, dolls/babies, a dolls pram and vehicles such as cars, tractors, lorries etc. If anyone has anything they would like to off load please contact me (we would consider any other toys not just those listed).

We have a great relationship with our local children’s centre who visit both our sessions regularly to run various activities such as messy play, bounce and rhyme. During their visit they are available to speak to parents confidentially about all aspects of parenting.

One of our parents has started a Breast Feeding Peer Supporter course so hopefully in the near future if anyone would like advice on breast feeding (casually at the group or 1:1), this will be available.

Continued on page 53
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We have great facilities at both of our venues (Parish Hall and Sports Club), with use of large outdoor space, let’s think ahead for the nicer weather, any suggestions for activities in/inside are welcome (teddy bears picnic, mock up beach etc).

Things to look forward to: Easter themed arts and craft session, plus our resident firefighter Hannah has kindly agreed to put something together along the lines of mum/dad and baby exercise to music. Something fun and different to get the kids moving to music, don’t worry parents/grandparents you’re not expected to work up a sweat or gain a 6-pack! This will hopefully be after Easter, keep eyes peeled for further information.

Bumps and Beyond is a parent led group for parents and carers of children under 5, we also welcome expectant mums/dads. Please join our Facebook group to keep up to date with local events, you can find us listed as ‘Witheridge Parent and Toddler Group’

We meet at the Parish Hall every Wednesday 9.30-11.30am and The Sports Club Fridays 2-3.30pm. £1.50 per family per session to include a healthy snack and drink for the little ones plus a hot drink and something yummy for the grown-ups.

For more information regarding this group please contact Sarah Bragg: paul_bragg@outlook.com or 07891 431618, we hope to see you soon

Upcoming events: we will be holding a toddler sports day in the lead up to the summer, taking part in the parade for St Johns Fair with the children decorating our banner, plus we will be holding a toddlers leavers party towards the end of the school year to celebrate our older children taking the leap to BIG school - keep an eye on our Facebook page for more info.

**WITHERIDGE GARDEN CLUB**

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**2.30PM SATURDAY 11TH MAY**

**WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL**

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**EAST WORLINGTON SCHOOL**

The school has gone from strength to strength with school improvement partners - both independent and from Devon - coming in and praising the work we are doing together and commenting on the progress the children are making, and the clear action plans we have to continue to make further improvements.

We are taking part in the decision making spelling project this year, which aims through daily spelling sessions to help the children to become better at spelling. Our founding principles are that 'A good speller is increasingly accurate at making decisions about spelling'. It is amazing some of the rules and patterns that the children can find and use, probably some that even adults don't know! Do you know there are 8 different ‘tion’ spellings, and do you know where and when to use them? Did you know that whether a vowel makes a short or long vowel sound is one of the key factors in making choices about, ck verses k, doubling consonants, and spelling rules for adding suffixes?

We have developed our new curriculum which is set out on the website. The aim is to start with big ideas that carry across the trust and link learning across all year groups in a way that allows for progressive learning. In the Autumn we had the focus on Conflict and Resolution. In the spring we have been looking at Planet Heroes and in the summer we are looking at Life, The Universe and Everything. We are a happy school with a wide range of enrichment activities, but we remain focused on delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. We have had a focus on reasoning and problem solving across the curriculum applying our learning in different contexts.

We have had an amazing school year so far. The children have taken part in the celebration of both Harvest and Christmas with a lovely candle lit Christmas carol service in the church followed by a social with mince pies and mulled wine and our big Christmas draw. We were lucky enough to go and see the pantomime Peter Pan at the Queens Theatre, Barnstaple, this was one of the best productions we have ever seen, with 3D effects, a real flying scene and much more.

The Oak class have attended Hooke Court residential where they spent 3 days immersed in learning about the Saxons: making wattle and daub weaving, silver work for jewellery; hearing Saxon tales; making food and making boats to sail in the moat. We got to dress up and experience everyday life in a replica Saxon hut. We also experienced their World War 1 trenches which fitted very nicely into our previous topic looking at World War 1.

*Continued on page 57*
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This term we have taken part in the 100 year celebrations for the Parish Hall which mark the end of the heritage project, in which the school and parish hall have shared projects. We have visited the World War 1 memorial display with information about local residents who were enlisted. We made a huge quilt which shows an aerial map of the village using stitching, quilting, printing onto silk and many more techniques.

We also contributed to a local book being made about the area, and ran a project looking at recipes that have been passed from generation to generation. From this book we made some of the recipes and compiled a booklet for sale with them in, and a small piece on the history of each recipe. In March to mark the date we had a Victorian day.

We found out about the history of the school and experienced what it would have been like to be a child in the Victorian times. In the afternoon the Oaks visited the local farm to experience a Victorian farm and try out some Victorian games.

Suzie Pinn
Head of School

WITHERIDGE GARDEN CLUB

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Witheridge Tennis Club

Witheridge Tennis Club held a very successful coffee morning on Saturday 30 March to raise much needed funds for the upkeep of the tennis court and clubhouse. It was a chance for tennis players and non-tennis players to meet over a welcoming cup of coffee and delicious slice of home-made cake, as well as having the opportunity to browse the stalls selling plants, cakes, bric-a-brac, clothes and fine china, not to mention the now famous raffle. Judging by the noise, a good time was had by all. The event also raised funds for the Macmillan Cancer Support and Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

The tennis club membership continues to grow, as does the coaching programme for children and adults – beginners through to advanced. There will be tennis tournaments throughout the summer months starting in May. The club actively encourages complete beginners as well as experienced players and those who may not have picked up a racket for some years. So do contact us if you feel like taking up the sport and you will be made to feel very welcome. You can find out more about the club from our website: www.witheridgetennisclub.com

Please note that for a period of approximately six weeks (throughout April and May) the court is being resurfaced and will therefore be out of action from the second or third week of April until the end of May. Any regular games will be arranged elsewhere and members will be informed. We are sorry that we will not be able to accommodate any tennis for non-members of the Club during that period.
By the time you get to read this Bailey will have had his operation on his larynx to help him breathe and hopefully all will be going well. Thank you so much to everybody who helped both financially and with words of support. To find little presents of jam and vegetables on my doorstep was lovely and made me feel that Bailey and I were thought about. It truly wasn’t all about the money, although that helped!

Thank you to everybody... we are truly grateful and I will keep you updated on Bailey’s progress.

Margie Cosker

**STOP PRESS!**

Bailey’s operation was a success and Margie brought him to the Spring Show on 13th April
EAST WORLINGTON PRESCHOOL

The start of this term we welcomed the children back after Christmas break with a lovely topic to learn all about Gardens and growing.

We transformed the roleplay shed into a gardening centre where the children were able to fill pots with soil and seeds to put in our garden. Lots of lovely bright flowers are now growing which the children love to see.

After half term we changed the topic to recycling, it was lovely to see how much interest the children took in this topic. The children created beautiful recycled art pieces to display in the roleplay shed and we made our own paper from scrap bits.

We had a very exciting trip to the local farm where the children got to feed some lambs and explore the orchards and fields.

We also have a new water play area with a water wall and new exciting water resources which the children have spent lots of time exploring, making potions and soup. Our write dance sessions have moved onto flowers, creating lots of lovely swirls and dots to form butterflies, flowers, bees and insects such as spiders and ants.

Our sessions currently run all day Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am – 3.30pm with availability on each of these sessions.
For further information about the preschool call Lydia Roberts on 01884 861722 or email LRoberts@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk.
Information can also be found on the Chulmleigh Academy website, Or search for East Worlington primary school on Facebook.

On Tuesday the toddler group meet in the school hall between 9.15am to 11.15am with self-weighing for babies, a lovely safe area for your children to explore.
The toddler parents provide a welcoming and proactive environment for you and your children to come along for a chat, cuppa and cake all for £1 per family. Please do give Jasmine Welch a call on 01884 861661 for more information.
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**WITHERIDGE SPORTS CLUB**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00 - 11.00 pm (skittles at home)</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
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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**

Greg Henderson
WITHERIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT

The Parish councillors have been proactive throughout the year and many outstanding issues within the village have been addressed. One being the water collection and flooding at Westaway Cross during heavy rain. This was a major road hazard which could have caused serious injury to drivers having to avoid the water by crossing into oncoming traffic. Thanks to the co-operation of Thelbridge Parish council, Witheridge and both district councillors this dangerous issue has now been addressed and all surface water is draining successfully.

Acting upon resident’s displeasure at overflowing commercial wheelie bins in the square, an amicable solution was achieved with the premises concerned. The bins are put out overnight and once collected are removed from the vicinity of the toilet block.

Our village litter picks have recommenced thanks to councillor Northam attending a first aid course which was insisted upon by the council’s insurance provider. On March 2nd there was a good turnout of volunteers whereby eight sacks of rubbish was collected including a plethora of cigarette ends!! Also two incidents of fly tipping were reported to the district council and were duly collected by them.

On September 3rd the first stage of the tour of Britain cycle race criss-crossed Devon, from Exeter to Barnstaple passing through Witheridge, via Long Drag Hill. Thanks to the organisers supplying the council with memorabilia, we all had Union Jacks to wave and Team posters and enjoyed the hospitality of the Rest a While, drinking coffee sat in the sun.

On November 11th the village celebrated one hundred years since the cessation of World War 1 hostilities, when the guns fell silent with a Remembrance service in our Church of St. John the Baptist. Many thanks once again to all the people who came together to create the most wonderful memorable display. On Friday June 28th 2019 at 2pm in the Parish Church there will be another one hundred year anniversary. This time it was the signing of the Versailles Treaty which brought about the political end of The Great War. The Bishop of Crediton and Witheridge School are amongst those taking part in the service, after which there will be refreshments in the Parish Hall.

At the end of March our dog waste bin collection service was terminated by the contractor. Temporary arrangements have been made to empty the existing bins for the month of April whilst the Parish Council look for solutions. We are looking to have litter bins which will take both dog waste and street rubbish and get agreement from the district to collect. It has been accepted that households can put dog faeces in their landfill black bins.
Residents with young children may have noticed that “Dobbin “our playground horse had to be retired and in his place is a fine “Ted “the Tractor. Enjoy children!

Sadly the council will say goodbye at our April meeting to two of our long standing members, Councillor Mary Stanbury and Councillor Chris Kershaw. Between them they have been a huge asset to this village and will be sorely missed. Many many thanks to you both.

I will end with some long-awaited good news on the refurbishment of our village toilet block. On inspection, all the outstanding building issues concerning water supply, toilet cistern inspection panel, the toilet door and locks have been addressed and all is functioning as required by the council. After this meeting the council will discuss which contractor will supply the toilet consumables and collect the sanitary waste, and once these are installed the date the toilet opens will be agreed.

Jacky Harvey Chairman
Have you heard, big things have been happening in our little store. Come and see us, have a nose around and let us know what you think we should be selling. You’ll always be received with a warm welcome.

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