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Editor    Jill Horwood    Tel: 01884 861323
voiceeditor@btinternet.com

Treasurer Gill Manning    Tel: 01884 860557
Chairman    Carol Prynn
Advisor      Carol Prynn
Secretary    Jess Campbell
Proof Reading Committee
Advertising
witheridgevoice@icloud.com

Website    www.witheridgevoice.org.uk
Webmaster:
webmaster@witheridgevoice.org.uk

Printed by Burridge Printers
01837 82386
Cover Photo: Autumn at Rosemoor
Jill Horwood

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Advertising in Witheridge Voice
Advertising rates, to include the next 4 quarterly issues of the magazine are:
- Full page £102,
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- ¼ page strip £42,
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Hello and welcome to the Autumn edition. Thank you to all our advertisers - old and new - and to the contributors - keep those articles coming in!

Are you an ABBA fan? Then take a look at page 13 - a Tribute band will be coming to Witheridge on Friday 22nd November - keep a lookout for more information round the village.

The children had a lovely time at Messy Church in September - read Mary’s report on pages 43 and 45.

What do you know about Princess Caraboo? I had never heard of her until a few months ago, and now John Gibson of West Middlewick Farm has written an interesting article on her - he is a distant relative. See pages 34 and 35.

The Christmas Craft Fair is on 30th November - lots of lovely things to help with your Christmas preparations.

The Knights of Witheridge are launching a fortnightly quiz - have a look at the poster on page 27.

Brian Blackman’s account of his life in the Met Police comes to its conclusion in this issue.

Deadline for the Winter Issue is 4th January.

Jill Horwood
Editor
West Middlewick Farm

We have five spacious log cabins, with fantastic views available all year round.

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MY TREE, MY RESPONSIBILITY” CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO TACKLE ASH DIEBACK

A new campaign has been launched to encourage landowners with ash trees on their property to inspect them for Ash dieback.

Devon County Council’s “My tree, my responsibility” campaign, supported by the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum, aims to inform owners of trees to look out for signs of the fungal tree disease and to take any appropriate action in order to maintain public safety.

More than 90% of Devon’s native ash trees are expected to be lost due to Ash dieback in the next five to 15 years.

Across the county there are around 448,000 ash trees within falling distance of the highway that are owned by third parties or on unregistered land. The overall cost of felling all of these ash trees could be more than £70 million.

Devon County Council surveys have estimated that it will potentially have to remove around 6,300 of its own ash trees from highway land across the county, which would cost the authority around £2.5 million to fell.

Councillor Stuart Hughes, Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Highway Management, said: “It is essential that Devon’s roads are as safe as possible and we are regularly monitoring and inspecting trees alongside our highways in order to keep the network as safe as possible. We would encourage landowners to do the same, as they need to be aware that trees on their land are their responsibility. If any trees are found to be a safety hazard, we would urge them to please take appropriate action.”

Councillor Roger Croad, Devon County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment, said: “We need landowners to take a proactive approach to managing this highly infectious tree disease. Once Ash dieback has infected an ash tree, it will shed branches and limbs, or the whole tree can be at risk of collapse.

Continued on page 9
On Their Baptism
28th July
Victoria Claire Richards
Aiden Jay McNicol
Faith Paige McNicol

6th October
Nancy Elizabeth Grace McKenna

In Memory of
5th August  Funeral of Murial Rosina Green

Welcome To The Village
Barbara Glass
Alex and Eunicia McShane

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South Coombe Farm
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Email: stay@southcoombe.co.uk
Web site: www.southcoombe.co.uk
“All landowners should ensure that any trees on their land, particularly ash trees alongside public roads and rights of way, are professionally inspected while in leaf to determine how urgently they might need attention. We also need communities and landowners to establish new plantings of different tree species to replace ash trees that will be lost.”

Devon County Council leads the Devon Ash Dieback Forum, which was established in 2016 to address the risks of the disease.

The County Council is committed to replacing trees lost through Ash dieback. It has adopted a 3-2-1 tree replacement principle, where three saplings will be planted for each mature tree it fells due to Ash dieback, two saplings will replace a semi-mature tree, and one new sapling will be planted for each ash sapling lost.

As part of its tree replacement programme, the authority has supported the planting of a small copse of native, broadleaved trees and shrubs, along with a new length of species-rich hedge at Lower Ashculme Farm, near Hemyock. For more information visit the Devon Ash Dieback website.
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**MONDAY CLUB**

We have had some really enjoyable coach trips this year, so to cheer us up on a wet Monday afternoon we have planned our coach trips for next year - 2020. Hurrah!

20th April  Fermoy’s garden centre and Brixham.
1st June  Polpero and Looe
29th June  Bicton Farm and Exmouth.
27th July  Quince Honey Farm and Woollacombe. Exmoor drive.
24th August  Mystery trip?
September  Plymouth for the Mayflower Exhibition. Date to be arranged.
12th October  Bishops Lydeard Train to Minehead.
9th Nov  Cribbs Causeway.

We are really excited about this line up - some great places to visit with lots to see. Non members are welcome to join us on these coach outings, please lookout for posters.
If you are young at heart and over 60 years, why not put your name on our waiting list.

For more information please phone Val on 860709, Chair.

**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.

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.
Witheridge Parish Hall

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**Witheridge Ladies’ Club**

In **July** Sonja and Colin Andrews joined us at short notice due to our booked speaker having to cancel. We were wonderfully entertained with folk songs, ditties and poems. Colin played the squeezebox and guitar; Sonja played the guitar and spoons. They both sang. We all enjoyed a singalong and a great afternoon’s entertainment.

In **August** we enjoyed our annual get together with cream teas, cakes and other refreshments. We had the usual stalls with books; bric-a-brac; plants; cut flowers; tombola and raffle. We had very good attendance from members and also some visitors from the village. Members enjoyed their tea and a good old chat. An occasion very much looked forward to and appreciated. We were very grateful to all our helpers who helped make the afternoon a success.

In **September** we were given an extremely interesting illustrated talk by David Harvey on some of the lesser known historical events along the 631 miles of the South West Coastal Path. We enjoyed his talk immensely, and learnt a great deal too. We are so fortunate to live in the south west of the country. We hope to welcome David back next year for a talk on another subject.

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.

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**LOOKING FORWARD AT THE REST-A-WHILE**

By the time you read this copy of “The Witheridge Voice”, summer may just be a distant memory with the prospect of long, dark days of winter ahead. A time perhaps to draw the curtains, build up the fire and stay indoors? Not a bit of it!

Whilst other times of the year might have more obvious charms there is so much to look forward to over the winter months: bonfire night, the run up to Christmas including the now seasonal highlight of the Knights of Witheridge annual pantomime, the lighting of the tree and the visit of Father Christmas in the village square plus the visit of the Tiverton Town band as an integral part of the Carol service at St John’s.

All these and more to enjoy, so wrap up warmly, get out of the house and join in with all that Witheridge has to offer at this very special time of year. One place where you can always be sure of a warm welcome is the Rest-A-While. We are open from ten in the morning to noon from Monday to Saturday every day of the year except for Christmas Day. So why not make an early New Year’s resolution and come in to see us. You will be most welcome!

June Turner

**WITHERIDGE IN BLOOM**

By the time you read this our winter planting should be just about complete. During summer the bees and butterflies have enjoyed our blooms – we hope you have too!

An effort is made to weed around the displays. It is noticeable that some residents have cleared the weeds in front of their property, giving the village a 'cared for' look, so thank you to them! If you are proud of this village – I know I am – will you take a few minutes to clear your frontage? Maybe help your neighbour too!

Thank you to our volunteers both old and new, your efforts are much appreciated.

Carol Northam

carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk    Tel:860817
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We are registered to take 2yr old and 3 / 4 year old funded children at all of our settings.

We are registered for 30 hours funding.
Dear All,

Thank you for supporting the film evening when we showed Bohemian Rhapsody. We actually made a profit!

Our next film will be Rocketman, the story of Elton John, so expect some explicit scenes. We hope to show this on November 16th in the Parish Hall and we will have a bar. Please try and come.

The film in the pipeline next is Downton Abbey, but this has not yet been released, so no dates. Thank you again for your support and hope to see you on the 16th.

Margie Cosker and Paul Clark

---

**Film Nights**

October 29th
November 12th and 26th
December 10th and 17th
January 2020 7th and 21st

We have had some new members recently, which has boosted our numbers. We will be putting some monies into Charities shortly before Christmas.

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UNITED CHURCHES OF WITHERIDGE LUNCHEON CLUB

We are a very happy little group of helpers and guests who all enjoy a home cooked meal in the company of others and we are now in our 11th year. 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 12.30pm.

For the small charge of £4.00, payable in advance, you will be served a main course and delicious pudding followed by tea or coffee. If you would like to book a place please ring Annis Stone on 860398 or Val Dickinson on 860709.

Sue Henderson  Hon Sec.

WITHERIDGE YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Since the last issue Witheridge YFC have had a good summer. This year was our turn to organise our Group rally at Mid Devon Show. We appointed Milly Bradley as rally secretary and had members helping set up the inside of the tent the week before. Almost 20 members entered classes from cookery, flower arranging and crafts with some great results! We also did all the club entries including a decorated rose arch – this year’s theme was ‘a holiday arch’, which came 1st. The cubicle theme was ‘children’s television’ which came 2nd. Emma Gillbard won the senior girl, Rob Leach won senior boy and as a club we won the overall points.

We have had members take part in public speaking competitions at Group and County rounds including Brainstrust and Call my Bluff. Throughout the summer we have had a few club social evenings, including a trip to Waie Inn, a BBQ and a blind drop which was good fun for everyone to take part in.

On Tuesday 17th September we held our Annual General Meeting at Black Dog Hall. Alec Gillbard was elected as our chairman and Milly Bradley was elected as secretary. We are always looking for new members so please come along to any meeting if you’re interested to join. Meetings are held every 1st Monday of each month at Black Dog Hall and every 3rd Monday at Witheridge Parish Hall.
WITHERIDGE BROWNIES AND GUIDES

Witheridge Brownies and Guides took part in the Witheridge Gardening Club colouring competition and were duly awarded prizes which we presented on our first evening back since the summer break.

We have a good number of Brownies and Guides now, but are still looking for additional volunteers to help out on a regular basis. If you can give an hour even if it is only on a rota basis we would appreciate it, please call Carole Chapple on 01884 855329 or e-mail carolechapple50@gmail.com.

WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY

Much better conditions than earlier in the year faced the golfers for the Autumn trophy on 4th September. On the winning team were Witheridge players Dave Owen and Greg Henderson with Brian Burgess while the wooden spoon trophy went to Witheridge players Paul Brooke, Andrew Clark and Norman James with Chulmleigh player Mike Hillard.

The date of the final meeting of the year at Waterbridge for the Winter Trophy will be on Wednesday 5th December.

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
**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.

---

**ALLOTMENTS**

The allotments have yielded well this year with a bumper crop of peas, runner beans, dwarf beans and potatoes. Still harvesting carrots, beetroot, cabbages, kale etc.

Growing your own veg is very rewarding whether it is a small part of your garden or an allotment but it does take commitment and time. You can’t plant something, go away for a month and not expect weeds to have taken over. But if you have a few hours a week to spare why not have an allotment? There is nothing better than the taste of your own veg with Sunday roast or fresh salad at lunchtime. If you would like an allotment please get in touch - telephone: 01884 860630
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GARDEN CLUB

At our July meeting, Dick Fulcher of Eggesford came to talk to us about this lovely plant. Dick holds the National Collection of Hybrid Agapanthus, and he has been growing them for the last 23 years. He showed them at Hampton Court Flower Show in 1988 and they created a lot of interest. Demand started to increase, particularly from London and Europe, and Dick then developed a mail order business.

Dick gave us an interesting and detailed insight into their history, how to grow them successfully and different methods of propagation.

The Agapanthus is endemic to South Africa particularly Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique. The plant has now spread throughout the world and in New Zealand it is regarded as a weed! It is not a bulb, but a Rhizome from which it is easy to propagate by division, and the best time to do this is in March and April. Dick uses liquid seaweed on his plants, which are known as Pine Cottage Hybrids.

Tom Parsons from the Devon Wildlife Trust came in September to tell us something of the work done by the Trust. Tom is a Farm Advisory Officer helping farmers with their land management to encourage and sustain wildlife. The Trust looks after a lot of varied habitats across the county - lowland heathland, wetlands, meadows, Culm grassland, our vast coastline and also under the sea. They also help children to understand, take care of and love the countryside, and work with South West Water on our rivers and streams.

We heard about the Beaver project and how they are flourishing along the River Otter. They are ear tagged and microchipped to help with identification. Beaver dams have helped to improve the water flow in some areas.

Wildlife gardening, especially early and late flowering plants, can help our pollinating insects - if you don’t have a garden, then pots of wildflowers can be just as beneficial.

To find out more, visit their website: www.devonwildlifetrust.org

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The KNIGHTS OF WITHERIDGE launch a fortnightly quiz starting in November.

Get Your Thinking Caps On To Win
Cash Prizes

KNIGHTS QUIZ
£2 entry per person : Max 4 to a team

1st Quiz
6th Nov 2019
7:30 p.m.
Prompt Start
Sports Club
Witheridge

Then every other Wednesday
1st 2nd & 3rd Cash Prizes
Bonus Prize up to £100

Log on to: www.knightscfwitheridge.org for future quiz dates, rules and further information along with the bonus amount to be won at the next quiz


**LOVE, CARE AND SUPPORT**

Exeter Street Pastors deploy a team every Friday and Saturday. We also have a couple of people praying for us and the city. Before heading out on my last deployment we were reminded that we are on the streets to demonstrate practically God’s love to everyone - the police, the homeless, the nighttime economy providers, door staff and those having an enjoyable time.

This love is shown by caring for people who are on their own or in groups, having a chat with them, praying with them, keeping people safe and supporting them. We remove glass bottles so they cannot be used as weapons, sweep up broken glass, provide flip-flops to girls in high heels, water and lollipops, as well as offering first aid and hair bands.

I recently attended a meeting about introducing Hospiscare@Home - www.hospiscare.co.uk - in our geographical area, hopefully in early 2021. At the moment £904,000 needs to be raised for the start-up costs and to cover two years’ running costs. The funding will provide for about ten qualified nurses to cover the Cullompton and Tiverton areas, including Witheridge. This will allow people to remain in their own homes without, hopefully, the need to go to hospital at the end of their life. These funds need to be raised from donations and grants. We can show our care, love and support perhaps by fund raising and/or leaving a gift in our Wills. The nurses will show their care, love and support for the whole family by being available practically and spiritually, giving information and using their skills to balance drugs.

A charity that started locally in 1988, by farmers wanting to make a difference and to show they cared, is Send A Cow - www.sendacow.org. They sent cows in calf to Africa. These animals have allowed people to feed themselves, their families and communities by offering the first female calf to a neighbour - called the ‘pass on’ effect. The charity has developed into an organisation that raises funds to educate people in good farming practices and local people are passing on knowledge, giving support, sourcing local animals and tools. Families not only feed themselves, they have cash from selling surpluses, to pay for education of the next generation, a home and health care.

Our local farmers showed they cared and now millions of people have benefited and will continue to benefit from the gifts given with love.

You may be working with and supporting other charities, which makes a great difference to people, animals and the environment. We take our place in the rich tapestry of life because we are part of God’s creation.

God loves a cheerful giver and Jesus teaches “what you do for the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me” (Matthew 25:40).

How and where will you show your love, care and support next?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events at The Chapel</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 10th November</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 29th November</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 5th December</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 22nd December</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 29th December</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St John the Baptist Parish Church</th>
<th>Rev Adrian Wells Morning Worship and Communion Services start at 9:30am</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 5th Nov</strong></td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall 12 for 12.30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sun 10th Nov</strong></td>
<td>Remembrance Service, Parish Church 10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 30th Nov</strong></td>
<td>Christmas Craft Fair Parish Church 10.00am - 12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 3rd Dec</strong></td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall 12 for 12.30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 7th Dec</strong></td>
<td>Carol Service Parish Church 5.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 8th Dec</strong></td>
<td>Carol Service with Tiverton Town Band Parish Church 6.30pm</td>
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<td><strong>Wed 11th Dec</strong></td>
<td>Christingle Service with Witheridge School 5.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 24th Dec</strong></td>
<td>Crib Service, Parish Church 3.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 24th Dec</strong></td>
<td>Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service, Parish Church 11.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 25th Dec</strong></td>
<td>Christmas Day Family Service, Parish Church 9.30am</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 29th Dec</strong></td>
<td>Churches Together, 5th Sunday Service, Parish Church 9.30am</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 7th Jan</strong></td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall 12 for 12.30</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 4th Feb</strong></td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club Parish Hall 12 for 12.30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 9th Feb</strong></td>
<td>Plough Sunday Service Parish Church 9.30am</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
Christmas
Craft Fair
St John the Baptist Church
Witheridge
Saturday 30th November
10am—12 noon
Christmas gifts, decorations, cakes, produce, Christmas Lucky Dip, and lots more.
Raffle
Come and join us!
The Rehoming has gone well in the last 6 months with 27 dogs going to their forever homes. There are always some waiting in the wings to come in and I have heard on the grapevine we have some puppies coming in - these will probably be homed fairly quickly.

I have also included a short article from a fellow volunteer:

“I have been volunteering for Forever Hounds Trust now for several years. At the beginning I helped with fundraising activities as the charity is self funded and we have to raise as much money as we can. Then I started walking the dogs at the Kennels where the greyhounds that have finished racing are waiting to find their new homes. As I love greyhounds so much this was a joy, to be able to meet them, all different sizes and colours, but each with their own personality. Greyhounds are such lovely dogs, they do not need lots of exercise and are happiest chilling out with their humans. Some of the Hounds that come into the kennels do not settle so that’s when I decided to foster them. They came to live at my house with my own dogs where they soon settled into our routine and became used to living as a pet and not a racing dog. I felt honoured and proud to help these greyhounds, and happy and sad when they eventually left me to go to their forever homes. There are so many aspects to Volunteering for Forever Hounds Trust, a Charity that takes in Greyhounds and Lurchers and matches them to their forever homes - apart from helping the Hounds it is a great way to make new friends. Kim”

Thank you Kim.

Our next event is the Bacon Roll Coffee Morning on 19th October at 1 Woodlands, East Worlington, 10.30am - 12.30 pm.
We look forward to seeing you all.

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ST JOHN’S FAYRE

The St John’s Fayre AGM took place in September and we welcome our new members; Carol, Peter, Wendy and Alaistar. We wish everyone good luck in the venture for another great St John’s Fayre.

Our Fayre will take place on Saturday 20th June 2020. Please put the date in your diaries now. The theme will be a Celebration of VE – Victory in Europe - 75 years. If you have any interesting facts, stories, artefacts or ideas, do let us know.

We have already booked our band for the Saturday night event – Barely Legal with Carly Jeffrey!

A bit closer in the calendar, please note our Christmas Lights and Father Christmas event. On Saturday 7th December there will be Carol Singing in the St John’s Church at 5pm, followed by lights being switched on at 5.45pm by two of our local school children. Father Christmas will then make an appearance with presents for all primary school children and younger.

Please do come forward with your thoughts on how to make our Fayre even better. If you would like to be a member or friend of the Committee, to help now or just on the day, you are always welcome.

Lise Martin
In April 1817 in the village of Almondsbury, pronounced Amesbury, near Bristol, a girl was found exhausted and half starving. She was dressed much like a beggar with the exception of having an exotic turban on her head. She spoke no English but talked in an unrecognisable language no one could understand.

At this point in history begging was an offence, and it was for the overseer of the law, a Mr Hill in this case, to have her arrested. Mr Hill was as baffled by her as the cobbler’s wife who had found her, and when asked by him if she was begging she looked at him with baffled incomprehension.

Unsure what to do, Hill took her to the Rector who had a large collection of books and would probably be able to place her tongue. The Rector was not at home - only his wife who did not like the look of her and they were told to leave. It was also within Hill’s power to be able to take her back to her own parish, but this was difficult because she wasn’t speaking English. He didn’t want to have her arrested because wherever she came from she was extremely pretty!

He then took her to Knole Park, the home of Samuel Worrell and his American wife Elizabeth. Samuel Worrell was the town clerk of Bristol and the local Justice of the peace.

Hill knew that the Worrells had a manservant who spoke several European languages and may be able to solve where the girl came from. The Worrells too were puzzled and the servant was not able to communicate with her. It was decided to take her down to the local inn for her to spend the night, at the Worrells expense. When taken to her room, she had to be shown that the bed was for sleeping in, not the floor. She also had strange rituals before eating and drinking.

Within a few days, she was staying with the Worrells and they welcomed her in, becoming enchanted by her and her eccentricity. She became much more at home and welcomed many visitors, and she was able to tell them by pointing at herself that she was called Caraboo.

Samuel Worrell and his Greek manservant were still very sceptical and, due to the Worrell’s position in society, it was decided to take her down to the Council House to be tried by the Mayor. When found she also had in her possession a counterfeit coin, a dud sixpence. Her prospects were terrifying should she be found guilty - usually it was transportation to Australia or worse still, death.
John Haythorne, the Mayor was also baffled, he had heard the story of her arrival, her turban, strange language and behaviour. She also talked during the hearing using expressions and gestures in order to get herself understood. She was bodily examined, ear piercings, soft hands, white teeth, not like any normal beggar he had ever come across before.

It was decided she would be lodged at St Peter’s Hospital while further enquiries were made and as soon as her nationality was discovered she would be returned home. Caraboo did not like living there, she was questioned relentlessly by various different linguists and professionals in an effort to find where she came from. She then went on a hunger strike, and on hearing this, Elizabeth Worrell stepped in to get her released and taken to her husband’s flat above the Tolzey Bank in Bristol.

Worrell was losing patience and it came as an enormous relief to him when a Portuguese traveller, who had visited the East Indies, was brought in and was familiar with the Malay language. His name was Manuel Enes and he spoke to Caraboo for some time. He then relayed that she was a princess who came from an Island named Javasu where she had been kidnapped by pirates who had sailed into Northern Waters. She had escaped by jumping overboard in the Bristol channel and swam ashore.

Samuel Worrell and his wife were delighted that this had been settled and Princess Caraboo was triumphantly brought back to Knole House. Caraboo was fast becoming what we would call 'a celebrity', being dined at various houses around Bristol and Bath. Still there were some doubters, but most were satisfied Caraboo was a princess. Both Samuel Worrell and his wife were now captivated by her along with various other gentlemen. Samuel was moving upwards in his career with the notoriety. For Elizabeth, it was like having a daughter she had always wanted.

It was agreed that Dr Wilkinson, a national figure, would write an article in the press about Caraboo. This was to be her downfall, as a lady called Mrs Neale recognized her description from the article, and in particular the turban which she was wearing when she was found. Mrs Neale had employed her to look after her children which she did by talking in her nonsense language.

So who was this mysterious Princess Caraboo? Would you believe it, she was a Cobbler’s daughter from Witheridge, Mary Baker, born Willcocks.

Next time the truth behind Caraboo.

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BUMPS AND BEYOND

With the older children now settled into school, you’d think it would be quiet, but no. Our group of babies are now mobile and making the most of being the big kids on the block. We have a few babies due in November growing the group further, we can’t wait!

We have had a lovely summer with a group trip to Crediton outdoor toddler pool which the children enjoyed, followed by a little picnic. We also had a summer party, a little celebration for all those who were going up to big school and a chance for the younger ones to experience the joys of a bouncy castle, followed by a bring and share lunch - great fun had by all.

Unfortunately, we were let down at the last minute by Grow Devon who were booked to visit our session to provide a taster in baby massage, baby yoga, messy play, crafty kids and sensory games. **If anyone in the village knows of anyone who does any of these things please get in touch with me and hopefully we can arrange something for our group (whether you’re still practising or retired).**

Coming up - the mums of the group are looking forward to our night out, a nice meal and a few drinks to help unwind and relax (Dads - you’re more than welcome to arrange something!)

For the children we will be having a craft session for Halloween, craft session for Christmas, Christmas party to include possibly a bouncy castle/snow globe for the older ones and soft play equipment for the younger ones, a visit from the big man himself, followed by a shared lunch. We are also in the process of arranging Moo Music to visit our group, you may remember they visited a couple of years ago and completed about 6 weeks of sessions with our children which they loved.

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 07891431618, we hope to see you soon.
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Congratulations to Daisy Dickinson, Kieran Crump, Jamie Crump and Harry Shere who competed at the Southern Championships, everyone did really well in tough competition.

Daisy Dickinson won bronze in girls yellow belt sparring at her first competition. Jamie Crump won bronze in boys green belt sparring. Harry Shere was just out of contention with a 4th in boys blue belt patterns, and club instructor Ven Perera won gold in foot destruction, making him Southern Champion for the second year in a row. In November we have the British Championships and hopefully we will bring back some more silverware!

In grading news congratulations to our new red stripe: Harry Shere; Blue belts: Kieran Crump and Jenny de Rochefort; Green belts: Joshua Clarke, Jamie Crump and Rory Pratt; Yellow belts: Clare Clarke, Louise Veysey and Daisy Dickinson who also achieved a plus pass. Congratulations to Jake Curtis and Edward Whitwell for achieving their black belt second star.

We are again fundraising for the wonderful charity North Devon Hospice this Autumn. Our intrepid team will be facing “Mission Unbreakable” a 10K commando challenge full of mud, obstacles and freezing water! If you can spare any money at all please sponsor us at: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/witheridgetkd (all money raised goes to North Devon Hospice we have already paid the event costs).
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The so-called ‘tennis season’ came to a close on a beautiful, hot, sunny day in September with our final Open Tournament which was very well-supported by members and non-members all fighting to become the new holders of the Dodds Cup. The winners were Sylvia McLean and Joseph Court, with the runners up being Diney Dyer and Mark Difford. Patricia Dodds presented the Cup, champagne and tennis balls to the winners and wine and tennis balls for the runners up!

You could have been forgiven for thinking that it was still high-summer throughout most of September as we basked in warm temperatures and lots of sunshine. But even though the days are getting shorter, there is no shortage of tennis being played in Witheridge – most of our members continue to play every week unless it is absolutely teeming with rain or when there is just too much snow on the court. They will often be found sprinkling salt on the frost and carrying on as normal. So, if there is anyone who would like to join the Club, don’t wait until the summer, come along and start playing now.

Coaching will continue throughout the winter months, weather permitting, and details can be found on the website.

The Club will be holding its AGM in November – date to be confirmed – and we will be setting the dates for next year’s Coffee Morning and tournaments. All details will be on the website in due course so do please check from time to time.

www.witheridgetennisclub.com
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MESSY CHURCH

Noah’s Ark, read by Sue - On Saturday 14th September at 11.00am, 14 children and their parents took part in the various activities around the Church, which would be put towards the “Acting Out” of this story:

Cave Quiet area for colouring in pictures to take home later.

Cake Decorating Individual cakes made by Bethany. The children chose which decorations to put on, ready to take home later. Some were eaten - too yummy to resist!

Face Masks (Animal Style) The children chose their animal and produced some lovely faces to be worn later, and then to take home.

Plasticine Made into all sorts of little creatures, 2 of each (as the story goes Male and Female) and later displayed on a tray.

Ark Then Chris mentioned it was time to put the Ark together, before the flood came. This was accomplished with enthusiasm by all, and the story unfolded (read by Sue) - Animals and Humans (Noah and his family) walked into the Ark. After sometime, Noah said the rain had stopped, but the flood had not receded, as the Dove kept flying back to the Ark - no land. Eventually, the Dove did not return, land had become visible, so Noah, his family and the animals all walked out of the Ark and everybody was happy.

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Surprise! Once everybody had sat down and were quiet, Chris brought out two boxes which contained 2 lovely birds of prey - an Eagle Owl called “Warwick, and a female Harris Hawk called “Abi.” The children thought this was great, and Chris gave some details about these beautiful creatures.

Then we had another surprise - “Charlie”, a special friend who turns up at various places. He had heard that Messy Church was telling the story of Noah and thought it was a good idea to pop-in. Charlie introduced himself “popping-up” in the Pulpit (where the Vicar gives his sermon on Sundays.) It was good fun with singing and prayers.

By 12.30, it was “Feast Time” and the children made their bread roll sandwiches themselves from food items on the long table, followed by cakes - of course!

See you all at the next Messy Church on Saturday 7th December from 11.00am to 1.00pm, when our activity will be “Advent”.

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**EAST WORLINGTON PRE-SCHOOL**

We welcomed back our very excited children after the holidays, it was great to hear all about their adventures.

We have been busy giving the room a big tidy and fresh paint on the walls over the summer and also a lovely new shed was kindly funded by our PTFA for the PFSU garden to replace the old and very out worn one. We use the shed for role play and the children spend lots of their time in there.

The Knights of Witheridge also funded some wonderful new musical instruments for the children which they have absolutely loved.

We just want to say a big thank you, the children and I are so grateful and very lucky to have new resources ready for this autumn term.

Our topic this term is ‘Marvellous me’ - we have been making play dough faces and reading some fantastic books about ourselves and feelings. We have also been looking at pictures of ourselves and drawing self-portraits which are on display in the room.

The children had great fun creating pizza faces too, mixing the dough up and selecting some vegetables to make some great faces.

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.
After 7 years as a PC I passed for sergeant and in 1963 I was transferred to another division and posted to a small station at Belvedere in Kent. It had about six sergeants and a few dozen constables and was on the very edge of London and partly in an agricultural area. You get sent where there is a vacancy and it was deadly dull and after a few weeks I looked for an escape. My chance came when I arrested a factory breaker on night duty and as I walked him towards the police van - which had arrived by then - he punched me hard in the stomach. I promptly punched him back and told my PCs to grab the offending arm. I never charged him with assault as it was quid pro quo but he had the cheek to tell the magistrate next day and I quickly explained all. The Chief Superintendent must have thought it as a good arrest and proved to be my means of moving out. So I asked him nicely in a report for a transfer and soon I was at Greenwich Station with the Cutty Sark (short shirt) a clipper ship plus the Royal Naval College at one end and rough Deptford at the other.

Now in each front office (where the sergeant sits waiting for customers) was an A5 size loose leaf book with a record of each officer - the first one being the above mentioned Chief. Supt. Harper who was shown 'previous occupation' - labourer! - I had visions of him coming down from Scotland with his suitcase - probably in the late 1930s - and joining the Met - and after some 30 years he had worked his way up to be in charge of about 11 police stations with a force in his division of nearly 1,000 men.

The Met was an equal opportunities 'firm'. Three pleasant years were spent here - as station officer I once arrested a man who came in and gave himself up for murder. The trouble was I didn't arrest him and there was no murder. He told me he had strangled his girl friend and she was dead. I quickly and gently swung myself over the desk to the public side - to 'arrest' there has to be a 'laying on of hands' - I didn't as I wanted to keep him calm. I sent my 'sweeper' PC (he did all the straightforward jobs at the counter) to the CID who investigated and said she was not dead. He had tried to strangle her and had squeezed her carotids and she went unconscious - blood cut off from her brain - but eventually she came round. The CID charged him with aggravated assault but I don't remember him going to prison.

Another time a well dressed man came in and at the same time my PC went out the back somewhere. In a quiet gentle way he was complaining about his neighbours. Had they assaulted him? 'No' Had they damaged property? 'No'
And 'No' to every nuisance thing I could think of. No - he said - it's the gas - they are feeding a gas through my walls in order to control me. Well I said - thinking quickly - you will not be aware of our gas squad but we have a special team who turn the gas back onto the sender - my officer will take your details. And I turned round and about half dozen ground floor staff were trying to keep a straight face. Every police station had one or two visitors who were not quite the ticket - but you have to get to know them.

Talking of humour - two US tourists asked police at Buckingham Palace if it was possible to go in and look round the palace. 'You will need a pass for that and they are available from officers on duty at Trafalgar Square' And off they went but back they came about an hour later clutching a neat note on a police memo pad to the effect 'allow the bearers to visit but on no account to ask the Queen for her autograph'. True story - don't know what the palace PCs quickly thought of next.

I had a complaint from a headmistress that the PC on school crossing was invariably late. Obviously this was serious and I warned them on parade and went to the school crossing. I saw children across the road and after about five minutes a PC came up said he had been to court but had had a cup of tea - that did it and I promptly reported him. Later we both saw the Superintendent who asked me if I was satisfied if a caution would do (nice of him) and I, of course, said yes. The reason I tell this is that the PC rose to Inspector and retired to Morchard Bishop! We became good friends but we never spoke about it, and no animosity, as he knew all those years ago that he had been caught bang to rights - he subsequently moved back up country and is now is in that big police station in the sky.

In the early 1970s our 'powers that be' had allowed us to join the military as reservists - but it had to be something akin to policing - so I joined the Royal Military Police for 6 years and for a few weeks each year I made the tax man happy by receiving both police and army pay. In the UK the civil police dealt with all criminal military incidents but in Europe we dealt with everything concerning our military. In due course I went into the Special Investigation Branch and dealt with domestic issues such as a mess sergeant putting cheap brandy (allegedly) into fine brandy bottles.

Continued on page 51
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One year we went to Berlin - I think via the Russian section. At Check Point Charlie I remember seeing an East German watch tower and we were (all in plain clothes and large tall men - our whole SIB unit was made up of erstwhile regular British policemen) being photographed and stared at through binoculars. They could not make us out at all. We visited Bergen-Belsen - we were billeted in Hamburg and I remember at least one vast concrete block area which must have had 1000’s interred there and there were birds flying - contrary to popular myths.

Another 3 years and I passed for station sergeant - the one with the crown above the stripes - you remember Dixon of Dock Green. I was posted to Brixton and man for man it was the busiest station in London - my next step took me to West End Central - two police stations in one - plus Bow Street. After Brixton I could deal with anything, and, because I had dealt with everything they posted me to the West End. Plenty of everything - ladies of the street etc., but there were too many inspectors so I had to escape once more and I went into Traffic Division. They operated from 8 Police Garages and specialised in mechanical offences - brakes, steering, suspension etc.

Then I got my next step and I had four teams of traffic patrols working accident black spots over south London. I had a car but I often needed a police motor cycle to get to them - I had had two motor cycle courses and four car courses by then and they made me an advanced police driver - I keep trying to convince my wife. Then an artic pushed a car across the road right in my path and I 'did' both tib and fib and was off for 11 months - my beautiful boots were ruined by the bone sticking through one! The accident led to my being medically discharged in due course or 'cast' as it was called. But, as a result, my pension was enhanced by 3 plus years to near 29 years service and my subsequent civil claim payout brought us down to lovely Witheridge over 30 years ago. Not one of my 17 direct descendants have contemplated a police career - although my two 'greats' are a bit young of course - but I have enjoyed every minute - and most days. And so I remain the 6th and last member of my family to join the Met and only one was sacked!

Brian Blackman
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What have the WoW'ers been up to since they began just 6 months ago? Giving a voice to women in the community, combating the gender pay gap and the unpaid workforce, speaking out against sexism, contributing to the #metoo movement? Nahhh... just having a laugh really! We've tasted wine and cheese, talked about keeping fit, had a knit and a natter, and got more sustainable.

Next, we're going to be updating our wardrobes with a clothes swap, getting crafty for Christmas and then out for a meal.

Thanks to the Knights of Witheridge for providing some funds that help us run and allow us to sort some future speakers. And thank you to all our members who pitch in to help each month happen and keep us laughing.

We've welcomed lots of new members and if you want to come and join us, you'll find us once a month at the Parish Hall committee room, 7.30pm. We don't have a set day so find out up to date info on our Facebook group, look out for posts on other local groups or email womenofwitheridge@gmail.com
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**ORNAMENTAL GRASSES**

As we move into autumn the ornamental grasses become the star attraction in the garden. They bring so much interest to the garden through the autumn and winter months. With the sun lower in the sky at this time of year the light that shines through them is beautiful.

From small evergreens to bold and giant bamboos, there is a place for them in all styles of garden. They have so much to offer, colours, movement, structure, highlights and seed heads, the list goes on. The seed heads from ornamental grasses are great for drying for flower arrangements. Grasses can bring a naturalistic theme to the garden and they are always a go-to for planting plans. To see them planted in drifts with the wind blowing through them is a wonderful sight.

Here are some of my favourites:

**Stipa tenuissima. (Pony tails)**

It grows to about 60cm tall and it is an elegant, graceful, airy grass that gently wafts in the wind. The new growth that emerges pale green gradually ages to straw and will persist into winter. It is also easy to grow from seed.

**Mulenbergia capillaris (Muhly grass)**

This is a real star in late Autumn. Just when you think it is time to tuck everything up for the winter, this bursts with a froth of hazy pink tiny seed heads like a puff of smoke. If you see these in drifts or in large groups it is a sight to behold.

**Pennisetum villosum**

Generally this is sold as a half hardy grass, which may not make it through a harsh winter if the ground is too wet. It has survived at the nursery in the ground for years in a well drained sunny spot. It does not emerge from the ground until mid-May, but you are quickly rewarded with the most incredible eruption of large white fluffy wheat-like seeds heads that float like clouds above the grass. These look beautiful in the autumn with the morning dew resting on the flowers. It grows to about 60cm tall.

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**Pennisetum alopecuroides f. Viridescens** (Chinese fountain grass)
This is a great choice for a large tub or container. The flower heads on this shoot out like fluffy red fireworks from summer through to autumn.

**Cortaderia selloana** (pampas grass)
Pampas grass is a bit of a blast from the past. There was a time when these were taking up too much room in every other front garden. In the right setting and space these huge grasses can bring a touch of drama to the garden. The plumes are also highly sought after as a dried flower. What goes around comes around!

**Miscanthus sinensis ’Zebrinus’** (Zebra grass)
This is a tall, well behaved elegant grass with unusual banded creamy stripes running along the length of the blades.

**Restios**
These are from the Restionaceae family and are not technically grasses. They look like a hybrid between a grass and bamboo. They are excellent for containers or the garden and offer all year-round interest. These are very difficult to propagate. However we have had some success over the last couple of years. The seed has to be treated with smoke to emulate a bush fire. Once sown they require warm days and cold nights for 8 weeks. Germination is erratic and slow but we have been rewarded with the most amazing young Restios which are highly sought after by plant hunters.

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AROUND EXMOOR

We can ride on bridleways
At any time of year
We sometimes ride to Winsford
And look forward to a beer.
Kestrels fly on out-stretched wings
While fox cubs play below
Lambs run to their mothers
To feed – as their tails show.

We photograph the skylarks
As we stand on Penny Bridge
A salmon in the river
May soon be in our fridge.
Along the winding Two Moors Way
We come to Withypool
We watch the rocky River Barle
Then in the pub play pool.

Pretty village houses
Thatched roofs and country gardens
Just the sound of birdsong
No sign of Traffic Wardens.
Take a walk through Edbrooke Wood
Close by the River Exe
This leads down to Bridgetown
Where we sat with our dog Rex.

There is a lake called Wimbleball
A place to stop for sure
You can fish or sail a boat
Or picnic on the shore.
Some cows are waking slowly
From a milking parlour
They’re grazing now on pastures new
As a tractor pulls a trailer.

Dulverton is the southern gate
A pretty market town
With Heritage Centre and great shops
You can buy a gorgeous gown.
Walk across the river bridge
Explore the Iron Age forts
And if you wish to linger
You can sleep in modern yurts.

© R. E. Thorne
This poem has been included in a compilation printed by the Exmoor Society.
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Thursday  8am – 1pm  3pm – 6pm
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**FOOTBALL**

**1st Team**
After being invited to participate in the newly formed Devon football league it’s been a tough start for the 1st team. The standard of football has been good, probably higher than we would have expected but everyone likes a challenge! So far, after 7 league games, we currently sit 2nd from bottom on 0 points, but with every game the lads are getting to grips with the new league plus improving performances and strength in the team so the points will soon come.

**2nd Team**
With the Macron Devon and Exeter league not starting until 3rd week in August the 2nds have only really just started getting back into the game. After 4 games they sit mid-table with 4 points - a mixed bag of results so far but this early in the season anything is still possible and with a few good results they can push further up the table.

**3rd Team**
As with the 2nds and late league start the 3rds haven’t played that many games but after 5 games they are in 3rd on 10 points, which is a good start considering they only formed in June, not forgetting the team is a mixture of young local lads and experienced players - including one who is in his 40th season of football but more to come on that after Christmas.

Next year is Witheridge football clubs centenary year so please keep a look out for details of events planned in celebration and I will bring you details as soon as they have been finalised here.

**WITHERIDGE SOCIAL CLUB**
We are now back into “winter mode “ with all the teams back after the summer break so the skittles, pool and darts are all in full swing and it’s nice to see some new faces in teams representing us . Plans for the rest of the year include live music, a firework display and maybe a bit of renovating, so please follow us on Facebook or pop in to keep up to date on all the action plus don’t forget we show pretty much all live sporting events and sell a wide range of drinks at a very affordable price .

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**WITHERIDGE SPORTS CLUB**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00 - 11.00 pm (skittles in the winter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</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
The Council were addressed by Mr. Peter Beal with regard to the origins of the Witheridge shield currently being used by the Parish Council on their documentation. The crest on the outer sleeve is as per the artwork on the 1247 charter. The only known coat of arms that is applicable to Witheridge and was in existence of the time of the charter is that of the Fitzpaine family who were given the manor by either King William 1 or by Edward the Confessor. There is no evidence that the Witheridge Crest is real or no proof that it isn’t.

Mr. Beal has recreated a version of the shield with better representation of the lions and omitted the Witheridge crest which is a modern addition within the last 100 years. Also changed is the shape of the shield, taking away the “battle peaks”, as it is highly unlikely that the “brave” people of Witheridge took up arms against an invader during the middle ages.

The image attached on the left is the new created version and we would like to know whether you wish to adopt the new version or to keep the status quo? (On the right)

A concerned resident was unsure of how to obtain the usage of the village defibrillator. Should any of you unfortunately need to use it, please dial 999 whilst with the patient and obtain the code that will release the machine. It is situated at the North end of the toilet block in the square. If in panic you forget the number just dial 999 again whilst at the defib. There is a visibility issue during the Winter months but this is being addressed by the council and lighting will be installed above the machine.

The Council have had notification from the environment agency that there is a need for consumers to apply for a water extraction licence for a previously exempt abstraction. There are two categories:
1. A transfer abstraction licence to abstract more than 20 cu. metres per day from one source to another without intervening use.
2. A full abstraction licence to abstract more than 20 cu. metres of water per day for more than 28 days.
The licence must be applied for by January 2020. Contact the environment agency: National Customer Contract Centre, PO Box 544, Rotherham S60 1BY.

The Council has been made aware of new service delivery consultation put forward by the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue. They state that fire stations will be moved to areas of greatest need. Although Witheridge station is not among the suggested closures, it could impact by the engine being called out at more frequent intervals thereby involving the retained staff being away from their full time occupation for a greater number of hours. Will this impact on the retention of existing, and recruitment of new staff? Also if the engine is called out increasingly to other locations, a motorway crash for example will we still be covered in Witheridge should the need occur? Our representations concerning the above have been added to the consultation.

Jacky Harvey
Chairman

Witheridge Parish Council
Council Information

Council & Committee Meetings

Meetings are held at the Parish Hall Committee Room, North Street, Witheridge. Un-Scheduled meetings are advertised separate to this notice. Residents can make representations in writing to the clerk or in person during the public session held 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 together with minutes of meetings. Agendas are posted on noticeboards located in The Square & Drayford Green.

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.

Contacting the Council:–
Tele : 01363 460046
Email : parishclerk@witheridgepc.org
Website: www.witheridgepc.org

Parish Councillors are listed in the Register of Interests on the website.

2019 Proposed Meeting Schedule

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Our special's board will now turn towards more autumnal dishes ie. homemade fish pie, local venison steaks, Somerset pork sausages, Creedy carver duck breast and of course Exmoor National park steaks. We are also bringing back an old favourite, homemade sticky toffee pudding.

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

Our December “Christmas Dinner/Lunch Menu” is available from 1st to 24th December (except Sunday lunchtimes).

Starters include Ham Hock, Winter Vegetable Soup, Breaded Whitebait and Whole Tail Scampi.

Main Course: Roast free-range local turkey breast, Local Game Pie, Hake Supreme, Baked Aubergine—all served with a selection of seasonal vegetables.


All 3 courses - £25.50. 2 Courses - £19.50

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Like us on Facebook to catch us early when we post special offers and events.