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Sam Spurway

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- Full page £102,
- ½ page £56
- ¼ page strip £42,
- ¼ page box £26.

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EDITORIAL

A Very Happy New Year to you all, and thank you for finding the time to send your articles in at this very busy time of year. I couldn’t put this magazine together without your help!

Our very popular Music events are back now that the redecoration of St Johns Church is complete - full details on pages 9 and 11. Do come along and enjoy the wonderful music they provide.

The Garden Club Spring Show is on 4th April - schedules will be at the Newsagents very soon, so pick one up and get those green fingers working! There are also classes for baking, crafts, photography and more, as well as children’s classes. The Show is open to everyone. - You don’t have to be a Garden Club member or even have a garden - there is something for everyone.

The Knights of Witheridge have a busy year, and their fortnightly quiz evenings at the Sports Club are great fun.

On a more sombre note, and I really hate having to bring this up again, but dog faeces are making a very unwelcome appearance once more. People’s front gardens are NOT for your dog to make a mess on - take waste bags or a pooper scooper with you and dispose of the faeces properly. We know that the majority of dog walkers are very responsible and clear up after their animals - but there are always some who do not. Make it your New Year’s Resolution to keep our village looking its best and dispose of dog faeces properly.

Deadline for the Spring Issue is 4th April.

Jill Horwood
Editor
West Middlewick Farm

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

We welcome visitors for a week booking or short breaks subject to availability.

Each log cabin sleeps six people, including a double room with en-suite and all the home from home comforts. Warm and cosy with central heating and an added log burner.

Pets welcome in three of the cabins with enclosed gardens.

Also available: B&B, camping, caravans, log pods

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e-mail: hello@farmholidaysdevon.co.uk
Tel: 01884 861235
361 COMMUNITY ENERGY

This is the North Devon Not-For-Profit organisation helping to reduce the carbon footprint of North Devon and Torridge. 361 Energy work with the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) to provide free home energy visits. Their advisors can help review your energy usage, energy tariffs, give you free energy-saving equipment such as LED lightbulbs and draught excluders. They can also help you access funding for loft and cavity insulation, combi boilers, solar panels and more.

The home energy visits have some very broad eligibility requirements and 69% of residents in North Devon qualify for a free energy visit. 361 Energy want to help as many people as possible by extending the service to anyone who is in fuel poverty or who is at risk of falling into it. It is open to all types of householders – homeowners, private renters and social housing tenants.

Last year the team completed 500 home energy visits but they have the capacity to complete many more across North Devon and Torridge.

To book a home energy visit go to their website http://www.361energy.org/save/ or call 01271 599361.

YOUTH WORKER

Hello! My name is Sherrin Neenan and I have just taken up the post of Children, Youth & Families worker for the Methodist Church across Morchard Bishop, Black Dog & Witheridge. Part of my role is to spend a day a week in Witheridge. So far, this will include helping with the youth club and taking collective worship in the primary school. As I get to know the village this will grow and develop. If your children/young people have attended any Lighthouse club events or Spree during the past 3 years then they will probably have met me already. I will also be working in Chumleigh Secondary school so I will get to meet the young people there too. If you have any questions about my role or how I might use my time in Witheridge to benefit the community please do get in contact with me: sherrin.ringsash@gmail.com / 07711 123542.
In Memory of

29th October  Burial of cremated remains of
John Knight

2nd November  Burial of
Sydney Winston Stoneman

9th November  Burial of cremated remains of
Richard George Selley

South Coombe Country Cottages

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South Coombe is the perfect location for a quiet getaway. Its tranquil rural setting and country charm make it an idyllic place to stay. With its indoor swimming pool complex (comprising sauna, gym and games room as well as a 10m x 5m pool), guests can relax and take some healthy exercise inside or out. South Coombe offers high quality cottages that sleep from two to six people with one cottage having wheelchair access. The cottages are less than a mile away from the pubs and shops in Witheridge village.

South Coombe Farm
Witheridge
Tel: 01884 860302
Email: stay@southcoombe.co.uk
Web site: www.southcoombe.co.uk
Music returns to Witheridge

Following the redecoration of the Parish Church a season of varied musical events have been arranged. The first is at 3.00pm on Sunday afternoon January 26th with Jonathan Weeks. He gives a very informative and entertaining talk on the history of wind instruments at the same time as playing examples of them. This is an afternoon suitable for all ages and entrance for accompanied children under 12 is free!!!

Box Office for all events:
Ring Andrew Clark 01884 860612
or email him at astonguy@tring92.f2s.com

Continued on page 11
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ISCA VOICES
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Exeter Cathedral Choir

Musical Director - Stephen Tanner

Saturday 25th April 7.30pm
Tickets £12 unreserved

ELEANOR TURNER & TĀLA TARANG

Saturday May 23rd 7pm

Eleanor is undoubtedly one of the best Harpists
of her generation and a thoroughly versatile musician.
Maestro Mendi is a Tabla player, composer and a
musical visionary with an international reputation.

As the group TĀLA TARANG they play arrangements of classical
and modern music including pieces by
Edvard Grieg and Claude Debussy

Tickets: £15 unreserved

Sunday October 18th 5.30 pm

The Heritage Singers
Andrew Millington and Stephen Tanner

Choral Evensong
Retiring Collection
Witheridge Parish Hall

What would you like to do in the Parish Hall

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(weekdays between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm please)
**Parish Hall**

Those of you who came along to the Abba night will know that it was a huge success. They were a very good tribute band and the whole evening was great fun. It was wonderful that so many people dressed up, it certainly added to the atmosphere of the evening!

I must thank everyone who helped on the day/night, Jules, Dave and Marian were fantastic on the bar. Peter and Andrea from the newsagents not only sold tickets but also supplied and delivered all the booze, Lucy came and decorated the hall with Elise, which did make all the difference. Poor Greg and Chris struggled heaving tables chairs and some kind of Taekwondo kit around with very little back up from the rest of us who were setting up the hall. Helen and I were on the door, enjoying welcoming so many people.

It is astonishing how much goes into putting on one of these evenings and when it works it all feels worth it, which this one did so – HOORAY!

We have some beautiful new doors which I hope you will all notice!

Happy 2020 to everyone.

Clare Spicer

**Looking Forward at the Rest-A-While**

Well, can you believe it, Christmas come and gone and here we are in the New Year! Indeed, not only another year but the start of a fresh decade and all that might bring to us.

Who can recall the concerns as we moved into the new Millenium, the dire warnings that computer systems might fail and we would be plunged into chaos?

Certainly there have been many changes and surprises over the last twenty years but, despite them all, the Rest-A-While remains a constant at the heart of the village, continuing to provide a place to meet and make friends, and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Open every day of the week (except Sundays and Christmas Day) from 10 am until noon the Rest-A-While provides continuing friendship to all.

At this time of the year many of us make New Year Resolutions, most of which do not last very long.

If you have not tried the Rest-a-while before, or have not been there lately, why not make a resolution to come along to see us; you will be most welcome!

June Turner
**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.
**VILLAGE FIREWORKS**

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came along to the Sports Club to support the village fireworks display and Halloween disco for our local children. This is the second year we’ve been able to do this event and we hope to be able to do many more.

Whilst putting on an amazing display for all to watch we were also able to raise some much needed money for charity. The first year was Devon Air Ambulance and this year was Make A Wish. Hopefully we will be able to put on another fabulous display next year (well this year now)!

I would like to say a massive thank you to all our sponsors as without you this event would not be able to take place: Alan Thomas, Bradford Builders, Gill Manning, John Burd Motors, Kit James, Newhouse Cottages, Pauline Johns, Mel Knott, Leach Brothers, Phil Asson, Paul Bragg PCB Construction and MBG Forestry & Fencing – I do hope I haven’t forgotten anyone?

For this years event to take place we really do need continued support from individuals, small or larger local businesses. If you are able to pledge anything at all towards the next display please do contact me directly via email: paul_bragg@outlook.com (under score between paul bragg).

Many Thanks,

Sarah Bragg

**WITHYFEST FUNDRAISERS**

Withyfest will be staging 5 events to promote and raise funds for Withyfest 2020. We hope to make this year’s bigger and better than last.

**Witheridge Church Rooms**

Saturday 18th January - Cathy Fisher, Will Edwards and Andy Bell with deejay Cam3l
Saturday 22nd February - Jerry Cahill, Colin Edwards and Rob Craig
Saturday 21st March - Free Parking, The Care Factory, Seneca and Josh Brokes.
Saturday 25th April - Pineapple Tribe System with special guests including Obadiah.

St Johns Fair:
Friday 19th June - Dave Starr, Tony Kilshaw and Louise Cliff.
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OFFICE: 01884861697
EMAIL: pcbcons@gmail.com
WEB: pcbconstruction.co.uk
GARDEN IMAGES

I’m sitting in the garden
The grass has just been cut
Now it will be easy
For the squirrel and his nuts.
The frog is looking at me
He knows all that I say
His mate is in the other pond
So they will breed some day.

My old fence looks tired
It’s too long past its best
My new one will need painting
A job I’ll do with zest.
The blackbirds are quite friendly
Because they are well fed
Strawberries are their favourite
When red and in their bed.

The foxgloves are tall this year
The bees fly in and out
Lots of honey will be made
For you and me no doubt.
The runner beans are growing
They love their sturdy poles
But the leeks and carrots
Grow hiding in their holes.

If I’m out at midnight
The hedgehog may come round
I feed him tasty mealworms
Or food I feed my hound.
The Devon Air Ambulance sometimes lands
In the field behind my wall
It’s rotors raise the fallen leaves
And on my lawn they fall.

© R. E. Thorne
CAT Preschools is a director-led organisation incorporating Chulmleigh Preschool, East Worlington 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, Thursday & Friday: 9.00am – 3.30pm
Wrap around care is available through the school.
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 registered for 30 hours funding.
**FILM NIGHT**

I’d like to thank everyone for their support, and the film we showed before Christmas, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, made over £100 to go into the Parish Hall’s coffers.

On February 29th we will be showing “Judy,” starring Renée Zellweger.

Margie Cosker

---

**CHARITY BINGO**

The Tuesday Charity Bingo.

We have just enjoyed a good Christmas Bingo, with prizes of one line choccy’s, two lines basket of fruit, and full house a joint of topside. We also had a competition of a dressed fairy doll, 1st prize went to Mrs D Leat and 2nd was Mrs A Reed, well done ladies.

Monies donated this year amount to £950.00, which, I think is a very good amount for our little charity bingo. A very big thank to all our supporters and Dave, Sue, Hayley and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Our bingo is held in the Rest-A-While Centre (opposite Mitre pub) once a fortnight on a Tuesday, games start at 7-30pm.

Dates for the next few months Bingo are,

- February 4th and 18th.
- March 3rd, 17th and 31st
- April 14th and 28th.

Thank you, Marion Crane.

Any queries ring 01884 860530.
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- Cash Machine
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£10 every 30min

Tel: 07903 566861
Email: tpcgeek@hotmail.co.uk

Facebook

www.tpcgeek.c
**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 eleventh 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 first 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**

Members have had a busy few months since our AGM in September where I was appointed secretary and Alec Gillbard chairman.

We started with the final speaking competition ‘Just a Minute’ where we had members as young as 10 taking part in the group round and members as young as 13 taking part in the county round which was great! Members headed to Exeter Cathedral to decorate the pillars for the annual harvest service.

We had our farming related meme make it to 2nd place in the NFYFC national meme competition!! Lots of members enjoyed an evening at the Exe Valley group dinner and dance.

Alec and I, along with chairs and secretaries from across Devon had a fantastic time on the training weekend down in Okehampton thanks to Devon Young Farmers. Members have been busy raising money for our charity ‘Devon Air Ambulance,’ spending evenings making wreaths and carol singing! Then just before Christmas Witheridge YFC filled a bus with Bampton WFC which then headed to Westpoint for the DFYFC Christmas ball which was enjoyed by all.

We are welcoming new members all the time, meetings are held first Monday of each month at Black Dog, and every third Monday in Witheridge.

Milly Bradley (01884 860226)
**WITHERIDGE LADIES’ CLUB**

In **October** Rose Chanin visited us. She entertained us royally; such a **jolly** afternoon, we were all smiling at her dialogues and sketches (she dressed up in character). A lovely, lively lady.

In **November** our booked speaker was incapacitated so we had a round robin in getting to know each other better. Later we played Hoy the Game (similar to bingo but using playing cards); a good game enjoyed by all. As this game has been purchased by the club it can be used again and again as a ‘filler’ when circumstances demand.

In **December** we enjoyed our Christmas lunch at the Tiverton Hotel. Mary Homden, our club founder, was very much on our minds as it was close to the anniversary of her death last December.

An exceedingly satisfactory end to our first year under Linda’s leadership. Well done Linda, thank you again for taking up the reins.

We look forward to another successful year in 2020 (our 12th year). 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

---

**PROGRAMME FOR 2020**

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<th>Complementary Canine Therapy</th>
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<td>February 11th:</td>
<td>James Maufe</td>
<td>Being Well Clinic Team</td>
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<td>March 10th:</td>
<td>Terry Watling</td>
<td>Gardening Talk plus plants for sale</td>
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<td>April 14th:</td>
<td>Andrew Cross</td>
<td>Chasing Time ‘The World Record Ride’</td>
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<td>May 12th:</td>
<td>Carole Brooks</td>
<td>The Importance of Accessories in our Wardrobe</td>
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<td><strong>Summer Outing – Coach Trip</strong></td>
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<td>June 9th:</td>
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<td><strong>Teaching in Tanzania</strong></td>
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<td>July 14th:</td>
<td>David Harvey</td>
<td><strong>Our Summer Tea Party with Cream Teas &amp; Stalls</strong></td>
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<td>August 11th:</td>
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**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 third 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.

---

**WITHERIDGE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY**

Do you fancy growing your own veg for your next Christmas dinner?

We are an informal group of people with a shared interest of growing things. All we ask is the allotment site is kept tidy. There is something very rewarding in producing your own veg, salad crops and flowers, besides the taste, no air miles or plastic wrapping!

Now is the time to plan and purchase your seed potatoes and seeds (for those who didn’t have them as Christmas presents!!) We are very lucky to have local stockists for all you require.

We have allotments available so if you want to come and have a look around please get in touch. 01884 860630
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EX16 8AJ
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GARDEN CLUB

Tim and Ros Nichols from Rosetime Flowers in Tiverton came to our October meeting. Whilst Tim was showing us how easy it is to make floral displays (!!), Ros told us how he came to be a florist. Tim started in Safeways working in the flower department, then trained to be a florist. He spent time in Morrisons wrapping bouquets for customers, then became a trainer for making floral displays in shops throughout the South West and South Wales. A couple of years ago, they obtained the shop in Bampton Street, Tiverton.

During the evening, Tim showed us how to make a simple Christmas wreath, a delightful posy for the table, a basket using various shades of red flowers and green foliage, and a beautiful hand-tied bouquet. We were also shown how to wrap flowers using tissue paper and craft paper, and how to make very effective bows.

Tim and Ros very generously donated all four arrangements for raffle prizes.

At the AGM in November, the committee were re-elected en-bloc, and Janet de Rochefort was elected as a new Committee Member. Kit James remains as Chairman; Steven Smith, Treasurer; Jill Horwood, Secretary and Alan Horwood as Show Secretary.

Our programme for 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th February</td>
<td>Eddystone Lighthouse. David Hole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>National Trust Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 4th April</td>
<td>Spring Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th April</td>
<td>Devon Air Ambulance Trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9th May</td>
<td>Plant Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th May</td>
<td>Visit to Coombe House Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th June</td>
<td>Visit to Cyril Cole’s farm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 29th July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 1st August</td>
<td>Summer Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th September</td>
<td>South West Coastal Path. David Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th October</td>
<td>Tim Nichols, RoseTime Flowers, Tiverton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th November</td>
<td>AGM and Social Evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2019 was a chaotic year for the Knights of Witheridge, with two puddings-and-quiz nights, appearances at local fetes and our new venture of fortnightly pub quizzes in the Witheridge Sports Club (next to the Fire Station). Unfortunately we had to postpone a couple of our events last year, the fabulous Panto and the local clay shoot, which will be both back for 2020 - look out for posters later in the year for more details. As with all of us, the Knights get older and this year some of us have been made grandparents, retired and just got a little slower.

You may have seen groups of various Knights out in November with numerous digging or hole making devices, which will all become apparent in the Spring.

In 2020 we have the following events planned:
15th January - pub Quiz night at the Sports Club and then every other Wednesday.
25th April - Quiz and Pudding Night.
New style St John’s Fayre Stall.
Withyfest stall.
And for the end of the year the return of The Pantomine Knight (including 3 or 4 Dwarfs)

Don’t forget to look out for our poster in the next Witheridge Voice telling you how to apply for funding for your club, society or group - as long as it benefits the village we will be happy to support you if we can.

Here's to a great 2020 for everybody in the village.

Keith Greenwood
Chair of the Knights of Witheridge
ST VALENTINE’S DAY

This now mainly secular celebration of romantic love is rooted firmly in the Christian faith with its origins in the third century. Valentine’s Day is named after a catholic priest living and working in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Claudius II. Many Romans were converting to Christianity. Claudius was a pagan and believed that Roman soldiers should be devoted to and serve only Rome. He created strict laws about what Christians were allowed to do and forbidding Roman soldiers to marry. Valentine began to hold secret Christian marriages for them, and this was the start of his reputation of a belief in the importance of love. Valentine was caught and imprisoned. While in prison he cared for his fellow prisoners and his jailor’s blind daughter. Legend has it he cured her blindness and just before his execution wrote her a love note signed ‘from your Valentine’. He was executed on 14th February 270 AD.

It was nearly 500 AD before 14th February officially became St Valentine’s Day. A feast day in the Catholic calendar of saints. It was a further 900 years before the link with romantic love was made by the poet Geoffrey Chaucer. This was the start of the tradition of a secret expression of love and admiration.

This developed into the sending of special cards, usually handmade and individually designed to express the depth of love for the recipient. The cards would be decorated with pictures of Cupid, hearts and flowers - these symbols of love are still recognised the world over. The culture around St. Valentine’s Day varies around the world, with some celebrating romantic love, and others love between family and friends, with the giving of lollipops to children or more practical acts of appreciation between friends.

As the Christian season of Lent approaches I am reminded of the other symbol of love recognised by Christians worldwide and by many others too - the cross. Christians believe it is a powerful symbol of the love God has for his world and us, giving his son, Christ, to die for our salvation. God’s love is freely and unconditionally given for all those who wish to accept.

I pray that you have or may experience the love of God in your lives, as well as that of your family and friends.

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</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th March</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 29th March</td>
<td>Churches Together Service</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 5th April</td>
<td>Palm Sunday with Deacon Joan Cole</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 12th April</td>
<td>Easter Day and our Church Anniversary</td>
<td>11.00am</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</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th Feb</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 9th Feb</td>
<td>Plough Sunday Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd Mar</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 26th Feb</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 22nd Mar</td>
<td>Mothering Sunday Service</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 29th Mar</td>
<td>Churches Together Service</td>
<td>Methodist Chapel</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 5th Apr</td>
<td>Palm Sunday - walk with branches from Church Rooms followed by Holy Communion Service in Church</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.25am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7th Apr</td>
<td>United Churches Luncheon Club</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>12 for 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th Apr</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10th Apr</td>
<td>Ecumenical Walk of Witness</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 12th Apr</td>
<td>Easter Day Holy Communion</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20th Apr</td>
<td>Annual PCC Meeting</td>
<td>Church Rooms</td>
<td>7.00am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
DEVON AIR AMBULANCE TRUST

“The Devon Air Ambulance needs a community of volunteers to keep our 19 charity shops open and our emergency helicopters flying. Could you spare an hour or two to help your local Barnstaple shop? We have a host of tasks which need to be completed to make our shops a success. From customer service on the till, to sorting through our generous donations, steaming, tagging and creating displays. You do not have to have any previous retail experience as we offer friendly support, training and encouragement. So why not give volunteering a go and arrange a trial session at one of our shops. This opportunity would suit anyone who would like to meet new people and help to save lives. Pop in and have a chat with our lovely managers at 4 Queens’ House Barnstaple or call 01271 328579 to find out more.”

MONDAY CLUB

What a wonderful year 2019 was for the Monday Club. We had interesting speakers covering a variety of subjects including gardening, cooking, caring for your pets and National Trust stewarding. We walked around Britain with George, learnt about the bees, were shown how to make our own Christmas Crafts and all about the art of working with willow; we were entertained with music and singing, we learnt a lot more about Witheridge during the war years and laughed till we cried with a comedian, add to all this the friendship and banter of a group of young 60 year olds and you have a fantastic club.

If you are 60 or over and would like to join us, just phone Val 860709 and ask to be put on our waiting list. Sorry but this is a members only club at our meetings, of course our coach trips are open to you all.

We look forward to meeting you all soon.

Val Dickinson.
This term, both the Brownies and Guides have been working hard on badges from the new programme, working towards their ‘Express Myself’ theme awards. We have been exploring the importance of good communication, whether through body language, tone or words.

Many of the girls particularly enjoyed discussing how they could communicate online via platforms such as WhatsApp or Instagram, and how emojis and images could be used to show emotions. From getting glitter everywhere in craft activities to baking and decorating some delicious (and rather sugary) cake pops, there hasn’t been a single dull week!

At the end of term, the girls spent time making Christmas decorations for their friends and loved ones, and enjoyed preparing sweets for the Tiverton District Christingle service.

Brownies and Guides both meet on Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8pm at Witheridge School. If you are interested in joining either Brownies or Guides- or volunteering in our unit- please contact Carole Chapple (carolechapple50@gmail.com). Alternatively, for more information on Girlguiding’s work and the opportunities available, visit the Girlguiding website (girlguiding.org.uk).
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Last Quarter was busy with our Table Top event, thank you to all who supported this popular event, and a big thank you to Bobbie for cooking the bacon baps. We shall hold the next Table Top event on 14th March 10am – 2pm at £5 a table. Please contact Sam for booking. We managed to raise £400, of which some went on our Christmas Tree Lighting event, and the rest will go to this year’s St John’s Fayre.

Lovely to see so many of our local families out for the Christmas Tree Lighting. A Christmas Carol session was held in Church by Vicar Adrian, before mince pies and mulled wine, offered by The Mitre, were had in the Square. Two Witheridge School children switched on the lights followed by Father Christmas handing presents to all children. If you didn’t join us this year – come next year!

We also managed to have a Craft Stall at the Church Christmas Craft Fair and raised a handsome £120 on sales of committee members’ amazing crafting efforts.

Looking forward to receiving entries for the Parade. Our theme for 20th June 2020 is World War II, but all entries very welcome. A new addition this year are the South West Bikers. Likewise, anyone wishing to book a stall please contact me at: lise.martin@thehoneydoctor.com – there are special discounts for locals and charities.

We are progressing with the coming Fayre. A great band for the evening has been booked and “Trev” the piano man will play all afternoon. Lots more booked and more to come.

Lise Martin
ARCHIE BELANEY  (GREY OWL)  by Ray Thorne.

Archie was born on 18th September 1888 in Hastings to parents George and Kitty Belaney. When Archie was just two years old, his parents separated and he went to live with his loving aunts – Ada and Carrie. In 1899 he started at Hastings Grammar School where he had an acquisitive and eager mind, and a love of books.

His aunts were concerned about his passionate love of living creatures, but they failed to discourage it. If an animal or bird was killed, he worked himself up into a nervous rage which made him physically ill for several days. In his playroom, he had a collection of snakes, frogs, a wounded swallow, a weasel and a baby rabbit. There were also books on Indians and the Frontier. He enjoyed studying Indian life, and an aunt was persuaded to buy him a bow and arrow with which he became surprisingly efficient. He would go out all day to St Helen’s Woods and play at being an Indian. Some evenings, he would play the piano for his aunts, but his thoughts were on the Canadian wilderness.

In summer 1904, Archie passed his Cambridge local examinations with ease and left the school. He took a job in a solicitor’s office and saved up for new clothes and his fare to Canada. On 29th March 1906, Archie and his aunt Ada went to Liverpool from where Archie sailed alone for Canada on the steamship “Canada” – he was just 17 years old.

The steamship arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Archie found a job in Toronto selling men’s clothing in a department store. However, he found the work depressing and not his Wilderness dream, but in his lodgings he dreamt of a remoter future.

At that time, silver was discovered in Cobalt, Ontario, so Archie quit his job and caught a train to Cobalt. There he met Jesse Hood who was a miner, guide and trapper, and who had two Indian companions called Ned and Michelle. As Jesse had a job on a Government Survey party, he invited Archie to go along and learn from Ojibway Michelle how to handle a canoe, hunt for food and carry a heavy pack. After that survey trip to Latchford, they returned to Cobalt for the winter. Michelle taught Archie how to snowshoe, make traps, track animals and speak the Ojibway language.

North of Cobalt is the town of Timiskaming, which was on the edge of civilisation and a sportsman’s paradise. One tourist camp was run by Mr. Bill Guppy, and he employed Archie as a guide and packer for his new hunting lodge in Temagami. There Archie found his way around the wilderness and was taught how to light a fire in the snow, dig a bed in the snow, and know the meaning of animal cries. Tommy Saville, a co-worker, took Archie to Bear Island where there was an Ojibway village, and where they ate a meal with Chief Standing White Bear.
In June 1907, after the ice melted, the first visitors arrived at Bill Guppy’s camp and Archie enjoyed himself as a wilderness guide. One day a visitor asked Archie where he came from. For the first time, Archie told the story that he was the half-breed son of a Scotsman and an Apache woman.

For three summers, Archie worked for Mr. Guppy and in the winters he was a trapper and mail carrier, which gave him the opportunity to start a friendship with the beautiful Indian girl he had noticed on his first visit to Bear Island. Although her parents disapproved, Archie married Angele Egwuna on 23rd August 1910. They were both banned from visiting Bear Island, so they built a cabin outside of Temagami. In 1912 Archie gave up the guiding and mail deliveries and went to isolated Biscotasing to work as a fire-ranger in the Mississauga Forest Reserve. He did not see his wife Angele, and daughter Agnes, for six years.

Archie started his summer fire-ranger job at Mississauga in June 1912 and greatly enjoyed it. For two winters he worked as a trapper out of Biscotasing, and in the summer he was employed by the Forestry Department as a fire-ranger. He built a reputation of being a noisy, hell-raising hard drinker who dressed like an Indian and showed his skills with a knife and gun.

In 1914, he and Bill Draper worked for the Ontario Forestry Department to remove prospectors from the banks of the Goulais River. Also in 1914, he met an Indian girl named Marie Girard. They had a baby son early in 1915, but Marie died a few weeks later. The child was adopted. The Biscotasing townsfolk hated Archie for the way he treated Marie.

Archie left ‘Bisco’ under a cloud, and as war with Germany had been declared, he joined the Army in 1915. His long hair was cut, he was given a uniform and sent to England for basic training. Two months later, he was sent to the trenches in France, where he fought as a sniper with the 13th Montreal Battalion.

In January 1916, he was wounded in his wrist and on 24th April he was shot in the right foot. He was sent to a hospital in Bromley where a toe was amputated. His lungs were scarred from the effects of mustard gas. His aunts, Ada and Carrie, came to see him and he renewed his friendship with sweetheart Connie Holmes. They were married, illegally, near Hastings. After several unsuccessful operations on his injured foot, he was sent back to Canada in September 1917 for therapy and discharge. His foot was deformed and he was given a disability pension. He returned to Canada alone, so on 30th November 1917, Connie started divorce proceedings. The white man’s war made Archie very bitter and he longed to be back amongst the Indian people.
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What a fun filled time we’ve had this term.

Celebrating Halloween, we got messy scooping out, carving and decorating our pumpkins.

We were invited to spend an afternoon at the school where the pre-school lead various messy play activities in the hall and then the pre-school children joined us at snack time which was lovely.

Then something a little different, our toddler group took a trip up to the The Firs and spent the afternoon interacting with the residents and staff, this was a great success and something that everyone would like to do more often, so watch this space – toddlers are coming!

Finally, we got in the festive spirit and held our annual Christmas Party although this year we had TWO! Our Wednesday group held at the Parish Hall enjoyed the delights of the Snow Globe, bring and share party food topped off by a visit from Father Christmas who bought the children some gifts.

Our Friday group held at the Sports Club burnt off some energy using soft play equipment kindly provided by the school, they also had a bring and share lunch and a visit from Father Christmas. Thank you to everyone who helped put this together and it was clear the children loved it.

We also held an adults only Christmas party which consisted of a very sedate meal at the Mitre followed by an impromptu karaoke night at the Sports Club, fun had by all (I think)!

Continued on page 39
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Coming up: We have booked some sessions with Moo Music which starts early January so please keep a look out at the toddler groups for info on the dates and times. We are also in the process of setting some dates for regular visits to The Firs for both the Wednesday and Friday groups. We will also be holding a craft session in the run up to Easter. In the pipeline, toddlers will be purchasing a Clarks shoe fitting device so we don’t have to take a trek into Exeter to get our little ones feet measured and we are trying to set up an exercise group.

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.

**WITHERIDGE IN BLOOM**

Here we are, another year in which we will be enhancing the village displays yet again. We have been lucky enough to receive a grant from the Councillor Community Grant, so look out for our three new planters by Merryside Villas and along Fore Street. We have also received a donation from Chris Searles, Mitre Cottage, to enable us to purchase new hi-viz jackets, printed with our ‘Witheridge In Bloom’ name. We will be visible to all! Many thanks Chris.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and peaceful 2020.

If you would like to join please either speak to one of us or contact:

carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk
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**Youth Club**

The first term of this academic year has seen our tuck shop evolve into a 'cafe'. The usual goodies have been available but with the addition of hot chocolate, tea and lattes. Some weeks we have enjoyed home made biscuits or cup cakes, and even cheesy chips.

We welcomed new members in September, who quickly settled in, with Play Doh modelling being very popular. ‘Minute to win it’ games brought out the competitiveness in everyone, and biscuit decorating brought out the artistic flair. We have met together with other youth groups three times. The first time we made our own guys, which were put onto the bonfire at our second get together. A great time was had by all at our Christmas dinner followed by games.

We are looking forward to seeing more of Sherrin next term, as she begins her new role as Youth and Community worker in Witheridge, Black Dog and Morchard Bishop.

Andrea Court

**Witheridge Golf Society**

For a change the weather was kind for the Christmas Trophy at Waterbridge on 4th December and it was even dry enough for buggies to be used! There was a win for a team with Witheridge player, Ken Ramsbotham who was joined by Colin Gunn, Rob Peck and Brian Burgess. The wooden spoon was awarded to the all Witheridge team of Graham Clarke, Alan Horwood and Keith Jenkins. The traditional Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be held at Waterbridge Golf Club for the Spring Trophy on Wednesday the 11th March.

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

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We had a very fun filled autumn term with our topic ‘Marvellous me’, where the children were able to talk about themselves and recognise what makes them different or similar to others. We also talked about ourselves in positive terms and discussed what we are good at.
We went on some lovely walks around the local area, collecting conkers and acorns, creating some lovely autumn art. Lots of pumpkin play too, hammering golf tees in the pumpkin and exploring the textures of the inside of one.
The children loved getting into the Christmas festivities, creating some Christmas crafts and singing in the Christmas carol service in East Worlington church. We also had the cheeky elf causing mayhem in the PFSU each day; the children had to find him to see what he had been up to in the night.
We enjoyed joining in with the school for the last day of term Christmas party and Christmas dinner.
We were very sad to say farewell to Tamara Parish, who has gone on to new adventures and we wish her the best of luck.
We welcomed Rebecca Harrison to East Worlington preschool as the new Assistant who joined us end of October.

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 from 9.15am to 11.15am with self-weighing for babies, a lovely safe area for your children to explore, and with lots of exciting activities set up each week.
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**MESSY CHURCH**

An enjoyable time was had by all the children and adults who came to our Advent “Messy Church”.

There were a lot of lovely crafts to make, and decorated cakes to take home – if they managed to keep them that long! The children also decorated saucers with foliage and put Battery T-lights in the centre. They drew maps on lighted balloons representing “Light of the World”, and made Christmas decorations to take home.

We had a short service and finished with eating lunch together.

I would like to thank everyone who attends Messy Church, and hope to see you all at our next Messy Church which celebrates Easter. New children and adults are welcome to join us.

I would like to thank everyone who helps out with Messy Church.

Denise
It’s been a brilliant autumn term at Witheridge. Our topic has been ‘Digging Up the Past’ and the children have really enjoyed finding out all about life in Britain during the Stone Age. We had a fantastic trip to Cheddar Gorge, where we took part in a number of different activities. Class 4 also enjoyed a trip to Stonehenge as the children investigated the mysteries surrounding its construction.

Class 2 have been learning all about fossil hunter, Mary Anning, and even created their own Museum of Curiosities! Class 3 had a wonderful Stone Age survival day at the Wildside Experience in Hemyock, and learnt about people in Papua New Guinea who are still living in a Stone Age today!

Our school value this half term has been compassion and we have been carefully considering ways in which we can help those in need. The children have chosen two charities to support this year – CHAT, a housing charity based in Tiverton, and the Blue Cross Pet Appeal. The children are really passionate about these two causes and the work they do and as a school community we have already managed to raise over £300!

Christmas Celebrations

During early December, we had our Christingle service at the school – it was a lovely service which the children all thoroughly enjoyed. The final week of term was an exceptionally busy week with our three Nativity performances. All of the children were AMAZING!

Continued on page 48
It takes a lot of courage to sing and talk in front of so many adults and all children rose to the challenge and exceeded all our expectations. Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along and supported our Nativity. On Wednesday, we also had our delicious Christmas lunch. The food was yummy and it was so lovely to see so many parents and carers joining in the merriment. On Friday 20th December we held a Christmas Service for the school community at the church, where children, staff and families came together to sing carols and retell the story of Christmas.

**The BIG Climate Fightback**
Woodland Trust Class 2, 3 and 4 took a trip to nearby Mill Barton Farm this week to take part in the National Tree Week. We were met by Toby the farmer and helped him plant over one hundred trees in sections within one of his fields. The tree saplings included Silver Birch, Sweet Chestnut, Oak, Holly, Rowan, Beech, Alder and Spruce. National Tree Week is the UK’s largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). All our saplings were dug in and fitted with a stake and protecting sleeve to prevent animals nibbling at them. We were lucky with the weather and the pupils really enjoyed their outing. We hope to return in the Spring to see the growth of the trees.

**Sporting Success**
Both our Year 3 and 4 and our Year 5 and 6 Athletics teams achieved the fantastic feat of coming runners-up in the South Molton Learning Community Indoor Athletics tournaments in November. The children did brilliantly to throw, run and jump their way into second place out of 12 schools altogether. As a result, the Year 3 and 4 team have qualified for the North Devon Finals, which will take place in January – good luck to the whole team!
Witheridge Pre-School
The children have continued to enjoy our topic related to dinosaurs. In our book "Harry and the dinosaurs go wild" we looked at endangered animals and what the word endangered meant, interestingly some children suggested using the internet to research this information. We made some cardboard foot prints of endangered animals and the children had great fun making different footprints by putting them on their hands.

The Children were busy doing lots of activities linked to Remembrance Day. The children enjoyed making poppies and cooking cakes and decorating them to represent a poppy. Many craft activities took place over the month of December and all the children were excited to be taking them home for their families to enjoy. We would also like to say how proud we are of all the Pre-School children for taking part in their nativity play ‘A Little Nativity’ they all sang so beautifully.

Our Pre-School offers wrap around care 5 days a week 8am – 6pm from 2 years old we currently have availability on sessions throughout the week and accept 2 year old funding and 30 hour funding. For further information about our Preschool please call our Admin Team on 01884 860518 or email admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk. Information can also be found on the Team Academy Trust website, Or search for Witheridge Childcare at The Hive or Witheridge CofE Academy on Facebook.

A Fond Farewell
At the end of this term, I will be bidding a fond farewell to Witheridge as I take up the challenge of a new role at Woodbury School. I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the best of luck for the New Year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 3 years at Witheridge and am very grateful for all the support I have received from the whole community. In particular, I have been extremely lucky to work alongside a fantastic team of staff who are all incredibly hard working and dedicated to making sure that the children have the best possible experiences in school. It is because of this that I am certain the school will continue to go from strength to strength.

With Best Wishes for the future,
Mr Holding
Head of school
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NEW SPECIAL EDITION OF HISTORY MAKER

The new special edition of the book *History Maker* is now available.
The extraordinary story of Witheridge farm worker John Roberts and his 30 grandsons who served in the Great War captured the public imagination.
The tragedies he endured – and the heroism shown by so many of his offspring on the front line – were revealed in the first edition of *History Maker*, published in February 2018.

John was heralded as the most unlikely record breaker, having more grandsons serving in the war than anyone else in Devon and beyond. More than 50 members of his family were in the Army and Navy between 1914 and 1918. Eleven – seven of his grandsons, three great nephews and a grandson-in-law – never made it home.

The special edition of *History Maker* reveals:
How author Paul Roberts came face to face with ‘lost’ descendants of men who fought on the Western Front, Gallipoli and in the Middle East; the extraordinary breakthroughs that helped to unearth a wealth of new detail about John and his family; New stories of those who went to war, including four grandsons who served in the Machine Gun Corps, the Royal Marine Light Infantry and Devonshire Regiment; How two members of John’s family fought with the Canadian and Australian Armies in France; and how a great-grandson-in-law had four remarkable escapes from death at sea in the First and Second World Wars.
The book includes 64 pages of pictures and three family trees showing the grandsons who went to war, the 15 children of John Roberts and his ancestors dating back to 1603.

The special edition of *History Maker*, with a new artist-designed cover, will be available at £20 from Liznojan Independent Bookshop in Gold Street, Tiverton and Crediton Community Bookshop and by post (with a cost of £4 for postage and packing).

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So what have WoW been up to since the last issue? Still haven't changed the world, but we have had fun. We've been swapping clothes, willow weaving with Woody and wreath making. We've got a Christmas meal to finish off the year and we're looking forward to some fresh topics and re visiting popular ones in the new year. Look out for more relaxation, lino printing, practical sustainability and cider tasting. First date for the diary is 23rd January topic tbc.

WoW is a member's led group meeting once a month. Each month there's a different topic, we may have a speaker or members could be sharing a skill. Find us on Facebook (Women of (and around) Witheridge). Or email on womenofwitheridge@gmail.com.

### Mobile Library

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In the winter garden

Winter is a magical time in the garden and there are plenty of stars that shine. The obvious choices are evergreens but the list is endless so I am going to focus on some different attributes (flowers, bark and scent).

Trees

*Hamamelis (Witch hazels)* are small beautiful trees with spider-like fragrant flowers on bare stems in winter. There are various varieties which have different coloured flowers that come in red, yellow or orange.

*Prunus autumnalis* is the winter flowering cherry which can flower from November to April. It has delicate small flowers which are a real treat at this time of year.

*Prunus serrula* (Tibetan cherry) has shiny peeling red bark which almost looks like it has been polished.

One of my favourite trees is *Acer griseum* (paperbark maple) which has peeling, curly chocolate bark and is a real show off, especially when back lit with the low winter sun.

*Betula jacquemontii* (Himalayan birch) gains the most amazing, tactile, pure matt, white bark within a few years.

Shrubs for winter fragrance.

*Sarcococca* (Christmas box) has the most delicious, sweetly scented flowers in January and February. This shrub can be planted in pots, where it can be appreciated close to the front door.

*Viburnum bodnantense* has densely clustered scented flowers on bare stems from November to March. This shrub grows quite large and needs some room to develop.

*Mahonia japonica* is an architectural evergreen with scented upright racemes of yellow flowers.

*Lonicera fragrantissima*, the winter flowering honeysuckle is a vigorous shrub which bears fragrant flowers on bare stems through winter. This is a tough, easy shrub.
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Climbers with winter flowers.

*Clematis cirrhosa* The winter flowering climbing clematis produces masses of nodding bell-like flowers throughout the colder months. These perform best on a south or west wall with shelter from the cold winter wind. *Jasminum nudiflorum* or Winter jasmine, has bright yellow flowers in winter and makes an excellent cut flower. It can be grown as a wall shrub or can scramble over a low wall or up a bank, or trained up a vertical. Unlike other jasmines this one does not twine, so it will need tying-in if grown as a climber. Unfortunately it has no scent.

Other plants

*Helleborus niger*, commonly called the Christmas rose. These evergreen herbaceous perennials are always popular in the winter months. Hellebores come in lots of different colours but this variety flowers in early winter. They can flower for a number of weeks constantly sending up new buds from the ground. Although called the Christmas rose they are in the Ranunculaceae Family which includes buttercups and delphiniums.

*Cornus* (dogwoods)
Nothing beats the fiery coloured stems of these tough, easy shrubs, and when planted in groups the effect is breathtaking. Stems of red, yellow, black, dark purple, orange and green with names like Midwinter fire, they bring so much colour to the garden in winter with their amazing stems. These require tough pruning every other year to keep them in check and retain the stem colour.

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

We have a special menu for Valentine’s Day, Friday 14th February - booking advised for this very popular event.

Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements and we’ll do our best to help.

Mother’s Day is Sunday 22nd March - please book early as our restaurant fills up very quickly for this special lunch.

For all enquiries and bookings please telephone us on 01884 861263 or email

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**TAEKWONDO**

Happy New Year from Witheridge Taekwondo!

Congratulations to our graders who all achieved new belts. Red belts: Rob Curtis, Angie Lunn and Nicola Perera; Blue stripe: Jamie Crump; Green stripe: Daisy Dickinson and Seb Walker; Yellow stripes: Ian Clements, Ferdy Dickinson, Robert Stewart and Oliver Walker. Congratulations to Oliver and Daisy for both achieving plus passes.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Christmas party, it was lovely to celebrate another year with all of you. In our highly competitive annual awards Congratulations to Kieran Crump our Junior Colour Belt of the Year. Kieran combines natural talent with phenomenal focus and drive, during the last year as well as being a pleasure to teach he has won many awards in competitions and gradings.

Congratulations to Louise Dearing our Senior Colour Belt of the Year. Since joining the club Louise has pushed herself so far outside of her comfort zone, including successful gradings despite her nerves and completing Mission Unbreakable even though she doesn’t like mud!

Congratulations to Ed Whitwell our Black Belt of the Year. During the last year it has been great fun to work with Ed on exploring advanced applications of Taekwondo and seeing his personal development.
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FOOTBALL

Unfortunately due to high amount of rain before and after Christmas not too many games have been played but I’ll update each team as best as possible.

1st Team
The 1st team currently sit in 12th position in the new Devon football league having played 12 - winning 3 and losing 9 - but have fared better in the cups with impressive results such as 10-2 against Liverton United. A mid table finish is more than possible for these guys so hopefully a good 2nd half to the season will achieve that goal.

2nd Team
The 2nds so far are in 8th position having only played 7 games and have 7 points, so quite a few games still to go and with the strengthening of the team by Daryl over the Christmas period then any finish is still possible with a good run of results.

3rd Team
After a very good start to the season manager Adam Summers unfortunately stood down as manager due to family commitments, so we would like to thank him for his hard work and the blueprint he put down with the 3rd team. We now have a manager partnership of Quinton and Alex who I’m sure will keep on progressing this new team.

League wise the 3rds are in 3rd position with 22 points from 12 games and are only 5 behind 1st place so are doing really well at this point.

Please remember that all these teams do not get paid to play football and having people to watch them makes it worthwhile so please support them as much as possible.

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<td>Tues</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
This being the commencement of a new decade may I wish you all a very happy New Year for 2020?

The council have been asked to include information received from 361 Community Energy in our quarterly report. This is a not for profit organisation helping to reduce the carbon footprint of North Devon. 361 work with local energy advice partnership (LEAP) to provide free home energy visits, their advisors helping with energy usage, energy tariffs and provide free energy saving LED light bulbs and draught excluders. Help is also available to access funding for loft/cavity insulation, combi boilers and solar panels. This offer is open to all householders, home owners, private renters and social housing tenants. To see if you qualify or to book a visit email www.361energy.org/save or phone 01271 599361.

Devon County Council in association with the Woodland Trust are offering land owners a pack of 45 sapling trees each containing 15 native oak, rowan, and birch, plus support canes and spiral guards to protect against rabbit damage. Planting and maintenance instructions are included. These are free to the recipient subject to the following conditions: - trees must be planted in Devon and completed by Easter 2020: Tree planting locations must be suitable in terms of size and location in the landscape: A photograph must be provided as evidence of completion.

Our Witheridge war memorial, situated in the grounds of St. John the Baptist Church has been given a grade II listed status by the Heritage and conservation office North Devon Council. Its listing Number is 1462916

Dog owners please be responsible and clean up after your animal. Reports have been received of dog waste left on pavements. I appreciate that we have very dark evenings but be aware where your dog is, keep them under control and you will know when a pooper scooper or waste bag is necessary. This is an ongoing nuisance on the Parish Hall field and even the most enthusiastic of dog lovers do not want to tread in dog faeces. Residents also please note that dogs are not allowed in either the tots playground at the Parish Hall or the adventure playground behind Merryside villas. They have been spotted at both locations recently.
Many thanks must go to the “Knights of Witheridge” who through their charity raising, have provided and planted 14 large sacks of daffodil bulbs at various places in our village. I must mention Mr. Keith Greenwood the Knights Chairman, Mr. George Haynes and his willing volunteers who were out planting in some awful weather conditions. They will be a very welcome sight in spring and for many springs to come thank you gentlemen.

Councillor Northam organised a litter pick on November 2nd and many thanks to her volunteers. A lot less litter collected this time I am glad to report!

A new bench now replaces the old rotting one on the Two Moors Way adjacent to the Parish Hall field so you can now safely rest a while!

Jacky Harvey, Chairman, Witheridge Parish Council

| Witheridge Parish Council |
| Council Information |

**Council & Committee Meetings**

**Meetings** are held at the Parish Hall Committee Room, North Street, Witheridge. Unscheduled meetings are advertised separate to this notice. Residents can make representations in writing to the clerk or in person 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 website 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.

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<th>2020 Proposed Meeting Schedule</th>
<th>Chairman: Cllr J Harvey Tel: 860629</th>
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<td>Jul</td>
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<td>RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>What's Happening in the Village?</td>
<td>Parish Hall Chairman Clare Spicer 860135</td>
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<td><strong>POLICE</strong></td>
<td><strong>NON EMERGENCY INCIDENTS 101</strong></td>
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<td>Rest-a-While</td>
<td>Mon-Sat 10-12</td>
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<td>Church Rooms 1st &amp; 3rd Thurs 7-8:30pm</td>
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The Village Hair Shop
37 West Street
Witheridge
Tel: 01884 861232

Witheridge Newsagents T/AS
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website www.chulmleighgolf.co.uk Email chulmleighgolfcourse@outlook.com

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