

Witheridge Voice



Summer 2024
ISSUE 57

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EDITORIAL

I don't want to tempt fate by saying "summer is here" but it is sunny as I write this editorial.

We have been quite lucky with the weather though, particularly for the 'relaunched' St John's Fayre. The committee deserve our thanks for organising such a successful event in a short space of time. Please read their special thanks on page 50.

On reading through other articles I can see there are a number of events we can look forward to over the next few months.

The Ladies Group are holding their Summer Tea party on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th August, I'm sure they'd love to see some new faces.

There is also St John the Baptist Church Fete, Saturday 17th August, 1.30 – 4.00pm

The Firs have an open day on Saturday 21st September with ice-creams, refreshments and a cake sale.

Then in October there will be a Village Scarecrow Trail, this year's theme is Superheroes– hopefully we'll see a wide range of Heroes, including those from Film, Literature and History.

Ruth Towers

Deadline for articles for the Autumn Issue is 4th September.

Please let me have your articles, by email before that date, so I can edit the magazine and have it with the printers in good time.

It is important that this deadline is kept to as we have a very quick turn around with the printers.

This deadline also applies to advertisers, if they need to change any details on their adverts please let us know as soon as possible.

PARISH HALL UPDATE

It is with great joy that I can announce the Parish Hall is going to have Wi-Fi! This is a direct result of the questionnaire many of you completed at the end of last year.

Within the next month or so we are going to offer free Wi-Fi to everyone using the hall. So, if it has ever occurred to you that it would be a great idea to set up computer classes or run an event that requires card payments now is the time to seize the moment.

Another wonderful bit of news is that we will be putting on the Christmas Show again. Circus Berzercus will be back on 20th December. There will be limited availability so you will need to keep an eye on the Parish Hall web site for more news later in the year.

Tommy and Louise have left the committee so it would be lovely to have some more younger people join us. In order for us to cater for everyone in the village we need to know what is wanted from the hall so if you feel that we are not offering anything you are interested in then come on the committee and help us fulfil those expectations!

Clare Spicer

Bell Ringing Practice

Anyone wishing to learn to ring the church bells or previous ringers wishing to ring again, we meet at the church tower 7.30pm

Thursdays. ALL WELCOME

Contact: Ken Ramsbotham Tower Captain

01884 861108 07702226287

WITHERIDGE LADIES CLUB

In **April** our speaker was Ian Williamson with his talk on Hadrian's Wall. Several members had previously visited the wall. Ian showed us photos and videos of his walk which was pre-arranged and included stops and B&Bs along the way. The wall was not always in evidence. The Romans constructed the wall to keep the Scots out of England and it was originally made of turf but later made of stone.

Ian's talk was very informative and an extremely interesting history lesson. He was presented with a cheque donation to his chosen charity, St Margaret's Hospice, where he is a volunteer, as well as cash donations when he passed around his collecting bucket.

In **May** it was a welcome return visit from Steven Smith, on this occasion his illustrated talk was on the carriage museum at the National Trust's Arlington Court. Each carriage shown was unique in its own right. They ranged from the Speaker's State Coach, on loan from the House of Commons, down to a Hanson cab. Yet again a very informative talk from Steven, a look into history and an excellent education for us all.

In **June** we had a most enjoyable visit to Tiverton Museum, the museum being such an asset to the community. There was so much to see and history to learn. Did you know the Roman's built a fort at Bolham? We finished off the afternoon at Elsie May's café for welcome cups of tea and cake.

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



We invite you to come along to our
Summer Tea Party
on Tuesday 13 August 2024
in Witheridge Parish Hall
at 2 pm – 4 pm

Admission free

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The Centre is run entirely by our happy band of volunteers, If you have 2 hours to spare just once a fortnight, and would like to get involved with a local charity, and even help serve the drinks, we would love to welcome you on board.

Our men's group 'Men's Den' meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Rest A While from 2pm-4pm. This is proving to be popular with the men of Witheridge. Many thanks to our volunteers Sean and Peter who serve up the drinks, and contribute to the banter.

We hosted a fundraiser for Dementia UK on 7th June. It was a great success and the afternoon raised £360 for the charity. A very big thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. The donations received from private donors and local businesses, the raffle prizes, the delicious cakes that were made and donated, everyone who helped on the day, and of course to all the people who came and supported us for this worthwhile charity. Dementia UK fund Admiral Nurses who provide much needed care for dementia patients.



To get in touch please contact Val tel. 860709

Pat Grant
Secretary

(See page 59 for a special Thank You from Rest a While)



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Sunday Services are usually at 9.30am, either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer



Encouragement

Encouragement is no doubt one of the best motivators there is. It's needed in everyday life, jobs, school, sports, games, and at home. Encouragement allows people to feel wanted and loved. I know just hearing the words "good job" means a lot, in fact, it can keep us striving to keep doing a good job and possibly even reach greater heights. It feels really good to hear those words and that little bit of encouragement can give a boost for the day. It also renews energy and helps getting the next task done well. It's a beautiful thing how simply being recognised for something can totally change or make one's day here on earth.

As a Christian I believe it is extremely important to adopt this giving of motivation to others. Especially when it comes to strengthening others faith by positive reinforcement when we notice the good things they are doing. First, it allows the people we are noticing to feel good about their actions in the faith and encourages them to strive for more. It can also be a very contagious thing. Some are a little shy, and when one person breaks the ice on encouraging someone, many others get the confidence to do so as well. This outpouring of encouragement is really an outpouring of love. Love is all about the other person and how they feel, and what you do to show them that you care. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Thessalonians (5:11) 'Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing'. It is a requirement for each of us to lift, build up and encourage one another.

When it comes to encouragement, no task is too small or ordinary. Most of the time people appreciate it the most when the little things are noticed. Reinforcing each other never causes harm, and if we can all excel in doing so, there's no telling what heights we may all achieve and what an example to set the world.

You may have realised that the quote from bible is the same as our school has as its strap line and one of the six values that the school adopted is also encouragement.

May you feel encouraged and encourage others as we live life to the full within this community.

Adrian Wells
Vicar



Wetheridge in Bloom

Hi Everyone,

It's so good to meet so many people on my travels around the village whilst tidying up. It would be a tremendous help if you could just look outside your property and have a sweep up and clear any weeds. I like to think that we are proud of our village and our volunteers are doing their bit, but we are few in number – hence I ask for your help.

Why not join us.

Please contact me

carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk

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Witheridge Parish Council Summer 2024 Report

At the June council meeting Andy Cattermole from Allison Homes, builders of the new houses at Juniper Way, attended to give an update on the development progress and to answer Councillor questions. The site is now owned by Legal and General and the build process is now scheduled for two and a half years rather than the original five, and the first tranche of houses are to be completed and available by September 2024. Legal and General are currently preparing a full advertising campaign, however, should anyone be seeking housing you must register with Devon Home Choice. There will also be a site notice board erected for updates between phase one and phase two developments. A community fund for local projects has been established. Mr Cattermole will aim to attend parish council meetings periodically, to keep us updated. Work has begun on improving the footpath to connect pedestrians along Fore Street to the village centre and when completed work can begin on restoring the Northern open space to a level grass area. Once finished the transfer of the land to the Parish council will be expedited.

Two Parish Councillors Cunningham and Bibby are liaising with the developer to open the possibility of them undertaking some works to restore the BMX track at the adventure Playground and Allison Homes are undertaking a survey at no cost to the council.

There has been some vandalism at the adventure playground with graffiti on the skate ramps and the destruction of a litter bin. Graffiti has also appeared on the youth shelter at the Parish hall. Many thanks to councillors Northam and Cunningham for removing the offending drawings and the council will replace the bin.

Both Councillors and residents of Willow Rise are concerned with the surfacing and condition of the path through the adventure playground as the top surface is spreading on to the safer surfacing of the play equipment and also has travelled into the centre of the roundabout. Myself, the clerk and Cllr Northam met with Kompan, the playground installers, on 30/05/24 to discuss the problem and to seek an

(Parish Council report continued.)

alternative. Kompan's tender specification replaced tarmac with "self-binding gravel which has proven with the shedding onto the safer surfacing that it is far from self-binding". We were informed at the meeting that the top surface was 20/30mm gravel and would need maintenance weekly to sweep back onto the path. At no point were any caveats given as to required path maintenance and if so would not have accepted the suggested surface. The tender specification 9.2 "All proprietary play equipment and surfacing shall comply fully with BSEN 1176, BSEN 1177 and any other relevant play industry safety standards "The stone spreading onto the safer surfacing where children can fall is not compliant with the tender specification above." It was agreed at council that the clerk would write to Kompan stating the works were subject of a JCT Design and Build Contract therefore under the contractual obligations what action were Kompan proposing. At our July meeting no reply had been received and was it decided to write again asking for an answer within seven days. The roundabout will be repaired under warranty.

Residents of Lakelands are justifiably worried about the overgrown horse chestnut trees at the entrance to the close. This time last year a huge limb crashed down onto the road and blocked the entrance. The Parish council wrote to the county council, whose land it is, asking for a tree survey to be carried out and any remedial action taken. Their reply to our concerns was "We would only commission tree surgery to dangerous or diseased trees and as they are neither we will be taking no action to your request." At our June meeting, following the DCC response dated 12/04/24 it was decided that the clerk writes to county councillor Jeremy Yabsley seeking action to address the problem of the overgrown trees.

Looking out at the weather as I write this it is raining again. I hope we all get some sunny warm weather soon and enjoy the children's holidays.

Jacky Harvey Chairman Witheridge Parish Council



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Witheridge Parish Council Council Information



Council & Committee Meetings

Meetings are usually held monthly on the first Thursday with additional meetings scheduled as required – **please refer to the website for current up to date schedule of meetings and cancellations.**

Agendas detailing venue and start time are published at least three days in advance on noticeboards located in the Square & Drayford Green, and on the council website together with minutes of meetings. Minutes of proceedings of a council and of its committees must be kept. They are intended to be formal records of official acts and decisions, not reports, still less verbatim reports of speeches.

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.

Residents can make representations in writing to the clerk or in person during the public session held at the start of a meeting. Please note in accordance with Council Standing Order 3(h) a question shall not give rise to a debate or require an immediate response

Contacting the Council :- Tele : 07922 926017

Email : parishclerk@witheridgepc.org

Website : www.witheridgepc.org

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

Contact Details for the District & County Councils services and councillors can all be accessed via the parish council website **Council Contact / General Info.** page.

Links to report Highways issues (potholes, block drains etc), issues with overgrown trees are also available including "A-Z" links to other services.

2024 Meeting Schedule

(See website for any amendments)

Chairman: Cllr J Harvey Tel: 860629

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
4	1	7	4	2	6
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	1	5	3	7	5

WITHERIDGE FILM CLUB



Thank you to everyone who support our film nights. By the time you read this we will have shown The Holdovers and I hope you all enjoyed this film.

We are having a break in August and September but our next film night is October 12th. I am hoping to show Wicked Little Letters with Olivia Colman.

Now, forewarned is forearmed! This film is based on a true scandal and the language is extremely crude with LOTS of swearing.

Two more dates for your diary are November 9th and December 14th. Film choices undecided as yet.

I hope you all continue to enjoy our film nights and thank you again.

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Witheridge Gardening Club

In May, we had a talk from Nikki Rule-Jackson of The Littlest Wildlife Hotel who, together with her mother Valerie Jackson, gave us a very informative and entertaining evening on what they do and which animals they care for.

They look after British Native Wildlife only, not invasive species which they are not allowed to release into the wild. They do not provide a veterinary service, but work in conjunction with local vets if an animal needs medical care/treatment.

They are based just outside Alswear, having moved from Cornwall in 2022. They rely on donations and have recently applied for Charitable status which, if agreed, would enable them to apply for grants. Apart from money, acceptable donations are newspapers, wet cat food, dried cat/kitten food, Royal Canin Babydog formula and Royal Canin Babydog mousse.

Animals they will accept for care and rehabilitation are: Hedgehogs, stoats, weasels, polecats, voles, rabbits, hares, fox cubs, badger cubs, chicks and owls.

Last year, they cared for over 400 animals and birds, including Hazel Dormice and buzzards and lots of hedgehogs – adults as well as babies. Contrary to popular belief, hedgehogs do not eat slugs, which will give them lungworm.

Netting is very harmful to hedgehogs and also to owls. It is recommended that the netting is raised about 30cm off the ground to prevent animals getting trapped. If you find a hedgehog, or any animal, trapped in netting and are able to cut the netting away without harming the animal, then please take it to a vet who will be able to remove any netting which may have become embedded in the animal's skin.

If you find an animal which needs rescuing, then contact the Littlest Wildlife Hotel for help and advice on 07481 801447.

We had a coach trip in June to Bickton Park Botanical Gardens in Budleigh Salterton, and had a super day out. The weather was glorious, the gardens looked fantastic and the food wasn't bad either!

Quite a few people enjoyed a train ride round the gardens, seeing them from different viewpoints.

(Witheridge Garden Club– cont)



At our regular meeting in June, we had a very informative and enjoyable talk from Nigel Wright, a Bonsai Artist. He brought with him a selection of Bonsai trees and explained how he had got them to their respective shapes. (He has about 120 Bonsai specimen at home).



The art of Bonsai started about 4,000 years ago in China and was then taken over by the Japanese. Bonsai trees are normal trees that have been pruned, trimmed and wired to keep their miniature shapes, and in the main are kept outside – just like their full-size counterparts. They require watering and feeding daily – they are only in shallow pots – and trimmed regularly to keep their shape.

Trees popular for training as Bonsai are Acer, Larch, Juniper, Scots Pine.

(Witheridge Garden Club– contd.)

Programme for the remainder of 2024:

3rd August Summer Show 2.30pm.

25th September “Help! Someone’s given me an orchid – what do I do now?” with Clive Lloyd

30th October Devon Orchards and how Devon took to Cider
with Michael Gee

27th November AGM and Social Evening

Meetings start at 7.00pm, unless otherwise specified.

Jill Horwood

Secretary

horwood539@btinternet.com.

Tel: 01884 861323

WITHERIDGE ROCKS.

It had been great to have some lighter evenings, which meant that on one rare occasion, when the weather was good, we were able to enjoy some sports outside, including badminton, football and tennis.

There have been plenty of crafts, food and games, but our highlight must be when Chris brought in his beautiful eagle owl. He told us all about her and we had the opportunity to stroke her, and even hold her. She was very heavy!!!

Chris has now joined our team on a regular basis and we are all gradually getting to know him better. Recently he brought in some of the items from his 'cabinet of curiosities' for us to see, including a sharks tooth, some dinosaur teeth, an extremely old medical book with some rather strange diagnoses and remedies, and some animal skulls, amongst other things.



We welcome children from Year 6 upwards on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall from 7.15pm - 8.45pm.

£1 subs and £1 tuck. Registration forms must be completed.

Andrea Court



Benson Grange

WITHERIDGE

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WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY

On Wed 1st May, after all the rain in April, the weather was fine and sunny. 18 holes were played for the Spring Trophy, 13 played 3 groups of 3. 1 group of 4. The course was a lot drier than in April and a good day was had by all.



After a good meal the results announced were winners:

Rick Davidson

Jeff Souch

Ken Ramsbotham

NEXT MEETING: 4th Sept 2024

9.30a.m for 10.00a.m start

Anyone interested in joining, contact Ken Ramsbotham

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1st Witheridge Brownies & Guides

We've had a jam packed summer term, full of activities, badges and challenges.

We've welcomed some new Brownies and Guides as well as some of the older Brownies moving up to Guides.



Some of the activities this term include bin bag fashion, board games night, craft night and we've made the most of the lighter evenings with a water games night! The Brownies had a couple of nights, earlier on in the term, where they got to use hammers and screwdrivers so that they could DIY safely. The Guides planned a route for when we next visit London. We also had a night of making crafts which we then had on our stand at the St Johns Fair, where you may have seen us in the parade for the St Johns Fair or spoken to us at the stand that day.

We ended the term with a trip to Crealy, where we joined over 2,000 other Girlguiding members and this was a great way to end for Summer! The girls really enjoyed the water rides and some were brave enough to go onto the rollercoasters.

Both Brownies and Guides need more volunteers to keep the units running. We meet Tuesday evenings during term time from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. If you would like more information on volunteering, or have a daughter who would like to join us please head to the Girlguiding website to register your interest and someone will be in touch!

Register your daughter: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Register to volunteer: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>



An Action Packed Summer Term At East Worlington Primary School

East Worlington Primary School have had a very busy term, full of lots of fun activities that we would like to share with you.

Nursery and Reception have had great fun building a mud brick house and dens for their different 'stories of the week.'

The Acorns (Key Stage 1) have been busy planting the allotment, that Oaks (Key Stage 2) worked so hard to build last term. Acorns recently planted some lovely strawberries and beautiful wildflowers; we can't wait to taste the strawberries! Also, the Forest Schoolers have been putting together a scarecrow, he looks amazing and will hopefully do a great job! We decided to call him Worly Gummidge. Worly Gummidge really impressed the judges when we entered him in a competition at the Devon County Show, winning 1st place! Acorns have also enjoyed learning all about London and the Royal family.



Year 6 and Year 2 completed their SATS in May, they worked so hard, well done and good luck to Year 6 who have been taking part in lots of transition events with Lapford and Chulmleigh Primary School to prepare them for beginning at Chulmleigh College in September.

Last week, was one of the highlights of the term, our school play, we performed The Keymaster and it was extreme fun! It was about a supply teacher who is secretly a Keymaster and brings the 4 school children back in time to places like the Victorians and way more. We performed it twice and it was so much fun, with lots of songs about key moments in history, everyone from Reception to Year 6 joined in, our families really enjoyed the show and so did we!



After all our hard work with our SATS and the brilliant play, it was decided that we deserved a party! The teachers organised an afternoon Disco, with some music and yummy snacks, it was a great way to finish a Friday afternoon after a very busy few weeks.

The team spirit continued in our Sports Day, our families joined us for a picnic beforehand and then we had a fun but, of course, competitive afternoon of races and activities, such as beat the goalie and long jump. The legendary Green team won again, Yellow came 2nd, Red 3rd and Blue 4th. Our Mums and Dads even had the chance to race to score points for our team too! There are still lots of events happening within the Academy, with just a few weeks of term left such as our open day and the Music Mix event. The Oaks from East Worlington have been taking part in the Leopard's drum performance, in which we have been drumming, performing and singing. It will be performed at Chulmleigh College. Also, participating are the other Academy schools, Lapford and Chulmleigh Primary School.

We really hope that you managed to come along and enjoy our Duck Race organised by our wonderful PTFA, always a great event that raises so much money for our school, allowing us all to have such lovely equipment, a fantastic library and excellent school trips.

***Written by East Worlington
Primary School Creative
Writing Club***





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WITHERIDGE TODDLERS GROUP

Welcome to Witheridge parents and toddler group! We have had a lovely term mainly focusing on our crafting skills and obstacle course making. Some of our younger members are coming on leaps and bounds with their motor skills so we try and tailor the sessions to fit a wide range of abilities. The slightly older ones just enjoy hurling themselves off any obstacle you throw in their path!

Crafting wise we have tried some nature inspired leaf and rock painting, mask making, and letting inspiration take the little ones in whichever direction they want to. Granted, a not insignificant amount of paint and glue has ended up on clothing and the floor but it is all about the journey!

We also have had especially delicious snacks provided by the school this term, so thank you very much for the variety of new fruits and treats for the little ones to try. As some of our young babies progress up to the snack table, I'm sure this will continue to be very much appreciated.

Finally, a warm welcome to the new faces who have appeared this term and we look forward to welcoming plenty more over the next few weeks before our summer break. We do plan to have a little summer party before the end of term, details to be finalised and confirmed!

Our group runs on Wednesday 13:45 to 15:30, and Friday 9:00 to 10:30 at Witheridge Primary School, just ask at reception.

Please feel free to contact me on 07875 127064 or rebeccarobin44@gmail.com with any further queries.

Thank you!

Rebecca Robinson

Allotment Society — Winter

Well June and July have come and gone, where did those months go! We've all been busy sowing and planting out crops and trying to keep on top of the weeding, watering and tying in. The best bit of course is the harvesting! Starting with potatoes – new potatoes have that amazing taste and have harvested well despite the wet spring. We also have lovely broccoli with the excess being frozen.

It's never too late to sow some vegetables.

August - Swiss Chard, winter-hardy spring onions, radishes are very easy to grow and reliable, make direct sowings for harvesting in the Autumn. You can still make direct sowing of carrots, but choose a fast maturing variety such as Adelaide.

September - is the best time to start sowing the vegetables that can provide you with winter harvest and early pickings in spring and summer. You can sow spring cabbages and spinach, winter salads, broad beans and peas for earlier harvests next spring, onions, shallots and garlic, and quick-growing crops such as turnips and radish.

As we don't have a water supply on site we rely on a delivery from the heavens above. We make full use of the shed to save as much water as possible and several allotmenters have found ways of catching water on their allotments. Your plants need less water than you think. Watering little and often does not help, as the water does not penetrate deep into the ground and encourages plants to develop roots near the soil's surface. One good soak every 10 days is better than a daily sprinkle. Water in the early morning or late evening, this gives the water a chance to penetrate the soil rather than evaporating. It may take a little longer but watering around the plants gets the water to where it is needed. Spraying the whole plot or using sprinklers simply waters the weeds and the water doesn't soak into the soil. Soaker hoses and sprinklers should never be needed on an allotment plot.

Remember we reap what we sow.

Amanda Williams



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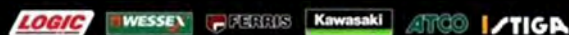
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Update from Cllr Peter Jones Your Independent District Councillor

Hi everyone,

I do hope you are all enjoying this wonderful summer weather! Since I last updated you, it has been rather busy. The constant flow of meetings continues and I have been busy with case work in the community including rat infestations, fly-tipping and much more. Here are some key updates.

St John's Fayre

It was a privilege to be part of the St John's Fayre Committee to see the return of what is such a vital community event alongside such a committed and fun team. It was a wonderful day with so many out enjoying the parade, festivities at the village hall, and a fantastic evening party. A big well done and thank you to the many people who made it happen and ensured it was such a success.

Willow Heights Development

Following the last update many of you attended a public meeting with Allison Homes, Legal and General Affordable Homes and the council planning team to discuss the change to the Willow Heights development to include 100% affordable homes. It was a heated meeting and the community expressed their concerns and asked probing questions. Concerns centred around the impact on the community and existing infrastructure.

In April the deal was signed and the site is now owned by L&G with Allison's homes responsible for delivering the build.

Whilst we couldn't change the overall proposal some concessions were negotiated. The full 106 contribution was paid in full to the district and county council on the signing of the contract. This means that the community can access a substantial pot of money for community facilities many years earlier than originally agreed. Alison Homes has also agreed to an additional £15k for local projects. Applications for this will be opened soon, along with Allison Homes I will assist in ensuring that this is allocated to local groups and projects.

Peter Jones—District Councillor Update. (continued)

Allison Homes is also offering time and resources for local projects including a new disabled ramp at the Rest-a-while, and a full refurbishment of the pump track amongst other projects.

An important concession is that the affordable and social rent properties must prioritise those with a local connection before the area widens to surrounding parishes and districts. This means that many who would not meet the criteria will be eligible for these homes. If you need local affordable or social housing please make sure you register and include all necessary details on the Devon Homes Choice website.

106 open space money

When I last updated you I hoped that we could undertake a community led approach to the allocation of these vital funds. Frustratingly it is clear that the projects are already defined in the planning agreement and although tweaks may be possible the projects are now defined. I am working closely with the named groups to ensure there is the greatest impact on the community.

The parish hall group are looking to apply to update this important facility to secure its condition for the future.

The sports field committee are working alongside the football club and the school with the intention of further engagement with other parts of the community for an application for new facilities which will provide a consistent all year round surface for a multitude of activities including sport, fitness and recreation, the need for which has been identified over many occasions after inclement weather where the current setup means the ground becomes unusable.

The Tennis Club are looking to add lights.

There is money available for allotment space, however, it is possible to use this for a similar community project. A community orchard is being considered. Woody Fox is working on a project, if you are interested in helping to take this forward do contact Woody.

The Parish Council are also looking to explore the purchase of amenity land for the community.

Peter Jones—District Councillor Update. (continued)

Water Quality

Along with a merry band of citizen scientists, we are regularly testing water quality in the Little Dart. It's a great opportunity to wander down to the stream with the children and take a break. We have recently reported potential pollution to the Environment Agency and South West Water. One incident was expected ,agricultural run, the other was an indication of pollution at Rackenford Sewage Works. We have been assured that there are no ongoing issues at the sewage works, but we will continue to monitor. We need more testers at sewage works and generally across the catchment. If you are testing or would like to test please do reach out to me or contact West Country Rivers Trust at csi@wrt.org.uk

At district level, I continue to lead the sub-committee on the subject. We have been holding further meetings with South West Water and our planning teams as we look to ensure that the future local plan includes policy to protect the rivers and beaches which make our district so special.

Agricultural Policy Meeting

In June I took part in a public policy meeting where we quizzed experts from the farming community on the future of farming in North Devon and the changes to agricultural subsidies. It's clear that many are confused by the changes and that many may end up with reduced funding if they do not maximise the opportunities of the new scheme. Despite the short-term concern, the panel was optimistic for the future. Everyone in the sector must be getting advice from an agent to understand the new changes.

North Devon Council has recently launched grants for rural businesses through North Devon Plus. Do take a look at the scheme to see if you have an eligible project

North Devon Council's Flourishing Culture Grant

A new grant is available that will give local groups, organisations and businesses funds to organise pop-up events, performances, projects and activities. It would be great if we can make use of this, more details are on my website.

Peter Jones—District Councillor Update. (continued)

Bus Service

Despite coverage of the issue on Spotlight and the local newspapers, the poor service continues. Breakdowns and missed services are causing chaos and upset for those who rely on the buses.

Emily's petition has received over 300 signatures. If you haven't signed it please do. There is a link to it on my Facebook page. We are also compiling a list of all issues on a pinned post on the What's on in Witheridge FaceBook page. I will be compiling all of the recent Incidents and along with the petition it will be presented by our County Councillor Jeremy Yabsley to the cabinet on the 11th of July. We hope to push for the reinstatement of the direct service between Exeter and Barnstaple and a replacement of the unreliable buses which regularly break down. Please do report issues to the FB post or contact me or Jeremy at Jeremy.Yabsley@devon.gov.uk.

Waste and recycling

Following a period of few issues I am hearing of the odd missed collection. With the increase in waste as tourists visit North Devon we do see more issues during the summer period. The recycling centre is also about to go through a full rebuild with improved equipment and logistics. If you do have an issue please report it to the customer service team. If you have a regular issue let me know so I can raise it with the heads of service.

Here when you need me!

Like and follow me on Facebook to stay up-to-date. You can contact me on Facebook messenger, by email at Peter.jones@northdevon.gov.uk or call or WhatsApp me on 07708 187305.



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For many people, September is a time of change. Children start at school, move up a year group or transfer to their next key stage. This can be a scary time for some, but is a time for new opportunities, new friendships and new challenges.

In the Methodist church, September is when ministers move, or are stationed at their next church. A minister usually stays at a church for 5 years but can then have their invitation extended or request to stay for longer.

This September sees our new minister, Revd Peter Brown, coming to the Ringsash Circuit (Morchard Bishop, Copplestone, Hele Lane (at Black Dog) and Witheridge). As he is working in all 4 churches, we won't see him every week but he will be leading our Sunday Morning worship on a regular basis. We hope that he'll find a friendly welcome in our village.

Remember our regular Coffee mornings, on the first Saturday of the month— Aug 3rd, Sept 7th and Oct 5th— from 10am-1pm.

Community lunches— 1st Wednesday of the month: 7th Aug, 4th Sept, 2nd Oct. You must book a place for lunch. Phone Carol on 860685.

As part of Christians in Witheridge we have some events planned that everyone is welcome at.

September 29th 10am— Breakfast café church

October 12th Beetle Drive 5pm, plus jacket potato supper.

Both of these events are Family Friendly.



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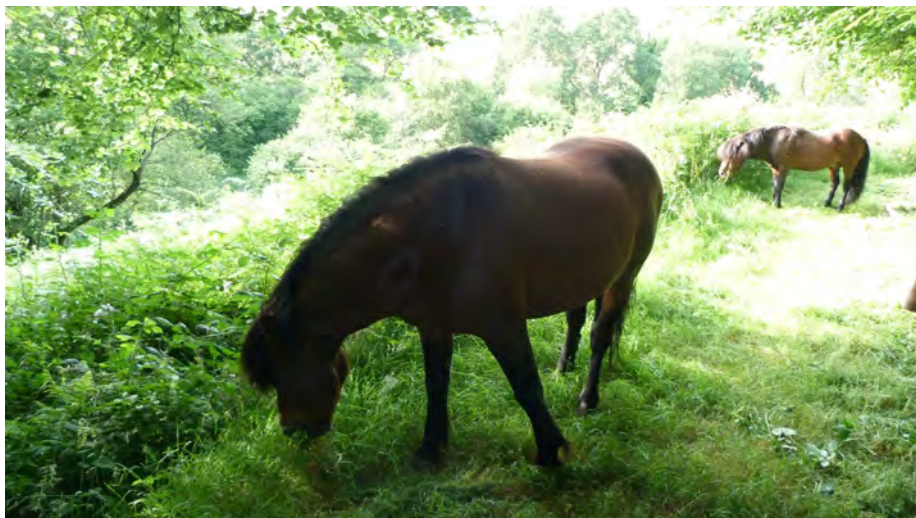
Teams of up to 6, £2 per person, cash prizes

People4ponies Update

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us at our May Plant Sale and Dog Show at the Parish Hall. What an amazing turnout and you were so generous too with your donations of plants, cakes, raffle prizes and items to sell! The parish hall had a "jungle's worth" of wonderful plants to tempt everyone, we had irresistible dogs of different sizes enter the dog show and have a go at dog agility!

Everyone had such a lovely afternoon and I really can't thank all our helpers enough! Ernest Jackson Limited from Crediton donated a chocolate hamper for our raffle (thank you Wendy!) and vets Alice and Rosa judged the online photo pet competition! With the May event and our stall at St John's Fayre you've helped us to raise just over £1500 for the ponies - THANK YOU!

The Dartmoor stallions have been continuing their training - Gem has now been gelded. We are so grateful to Alice our vet from Jonathan Woods Vets who came especially on her days off to make a plan for the operation and helped us make everything as stress free as possible for Gem. Shiloh is progressing well with his training but his trauma makes the work slower paced. He had an extreme fear of hands which we have overcome. We are so grateful to Pauline and Paul for the use of their yard - without which these ponies would never have had a chance of a future.



The Wednesday Charity Bingo

Hello to you all.

Good news regarding our Guide Dogs, both dogs have gone to their recipients.

Rupert has gone to live with Jane who says, "Since the beginning of my fantastic adventure with Rupert, my confidence has grown massively and I trust him completely".

We have only had Margo a short time but she has gone to live with a man called Joel, who says "Going out now is much more enjoyable with my best friend by my side she follows me everywhere and I adore her".

Last but not least our lovely Guide dog Betty who did not make the grade has settled into a new home and enjoys her walks on the near by beach.

I sincerely hope all the Bingo supporters feel very proud at what we have achieved for just one of our Charities. Thank you.

Bingo is held once a fortnight in Thelbridge Parish Hall, and commences at 7-30 pm.

Dates for your diaries are as follows. September 11th and 25th.



October 9th and 23rd.

November 6th and 20th.

Rupert and Margo

Witheridge Art Group

Do you feel like expressing yourself in Art?

Why not try Witheridge Art Group? We meet every Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall Committee room, 7-30 pm until 9pm.

We are a small friendly group who help each other. For more details please phone Dave on 860709 or just turn up on the evening you will be made most welcome. **Dave Dickinson.**

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NEWS FROM WITHERIDGE PRIMARY C of E ACADEMY



Dear Witheridge Community,

This term, we had a special theatre visit! The children from Reception up to Year 6 enjoyed watching 'The Selfish Giant'. Some children were even lucky enough to participate in the performance. All the children were able to join in with the singing as well. The feedback from the children (and staff!) has been fantastic - the children loved the show!

We have been enjoying our BRAND NEW play equipment this term! I want to say a huge THANK YOU to Simon and Rosa for overseeing the installation of the equipment over the May Half Term. It has been great to see the children out and enjoying the equipment this term. Thank you also to the PTFA for the contribution made towards to the costs of the new equipment.

This term, we celebrated 'Great Big Green Week'. The children in all classes have been thinking about ways to reduce our energy usage at school. Mrs Nott launched the week, and set the children the task of labelling appliances in our classes under the following categories:

- RED - This item cannot be turned off
- AMBER - Ask an adult if this can turn this off
- GREEN - Turn this item off if it has been left on

Having the stickers has helped us all to think more carefully about the energy use in our classes and to turn off our appliances where we can.

The children in Year 5 had the opportunity to attend a Classics and Athletics day at Blundells School this term. The staff at Blundells commented on the children's fantastic behaviour and Mrs Nott and Mr Wiggins reported that they represented the school brilliantly. Our partnership with Blundells School is new for this year and we are so thrilled that this will continue next year. It sounds like the children had a wonderful time.

The PTFA Summer Fair was a great success this term. The children

Witheridge Primary C of E Academy and Pre-school

(Continued)

had a go at many things, including an obstacle course in the hall. Thank you also to the PTFA members and stall holders for the stalls, hotdogs and snacks. It was a great event and everyone had a wonderful time. A huge THANK YOU to the PTFA for organising this event.

The children in KS2 had the chance to visit Rosemoor this term for a fun filled day of workshops and activities. We hope they are having a lovely time. Thank you to the Parent/Carer volunteers who joined the staff for the day.

We have had a few sporting events take place this term. Our Cross-Country competitors from Year 2-6 went to High Bickington to compete in the TEAM Cross Country race this term. Mr Manning and Mr Wiggans were so impressed with the children's behaviour and resilience at the event. Well done to everyone! Witheridge hosted a TEAM football tournament for children in Year 5 and 6. A huge THANK YOU to Mr Manning for organising such a fantastic event. Well done to both our teams for their fantastic efforts in the tournament. Mr Manning was out on the field again, this time leading the FSU Sports Day with help from our wonderful FSU team AND the Y5 Sports Leaders! Well done to all our Nursery and Reception children - you did brilliantly in all your events.

Thank you to all the children who participated in the St John's Fair parade this term. We were so pleased with the fantastic turnout on the day and with the children's amazing performance outside the village hall. Thank you to the wonderful staff for accompanying the children and ensuring our participation in the parade could go ahead. A huge well done to our Fair Queens - Kyah and Lena - for opening the fair so brilliantly.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to our Year 6 children leaving us this term to start their new and exciting learning adventures. Wishing you all the very best of luck for your new chapter and I hope you remember us with a smile. We will miss you all, but we know you will love everything that is coming next.

Kind regards, Miss Ratcliffe *Head of School*

Witheridge C of E Academy Part of TEAM Academy Trust

01884 860518 <https://www.witheridge.devon.sch.uk/>

St John's Fayre

St. John's Fayre was a resounding success and it was incredible to see the community back together after a 5 year absence. We are so proud of what we managed to put on and we are now looking forward to taking a short break to reflect before considering how we can do it all over again next year.

As you can imagine, these things take a lot of preparation behind the scenes and to make our jobs even harder, we decided to get this set up with only a few months notice. It wouldn't have been possible without the incredible team of people I've had the privilege of working besides to set this up.

A huge thank you to: Jon & Claire Bibby, Matt & Amy Cunningham, Jamie & Lorelei Burrows, Rev Adrian Wells, Lisa Williams, Hayden Eaton, Georgia White, Martha Dudman, Russell North, Ellie Hudson, Kim Matthews, Sarah Bragg, Peter Jones and Clive Richardson, Ryan Chapman, HnR Discos, Withyfest musicians, our stall holders, food and drink vans/bars, parade participants, security staff, first aiders, Devon 4x4 rescue and other helpers on the day.

Whilst we take some time to reflect, our E-mails remain open for feedback and advanced bookings for next year's Fayre. If you would like to have a vehicle in the parade, a stall holder or if you have any suggestions on how to improve, please get in touch on: Witheridgesjf@outlook.com

Thank you all again for coming along, we hope you had an incredible day and we will see you all on Saturday 21st June 2025!





Make a difference with Allison Homes

For every new home built at our Witheridge development, Allison Homes will donate £100 to local charities – that's a total of **£15,500!**

We want **YOU** to decide where this donation goes.

Suggest your favorite charity and tell us how they'd benefit from the funds.

Please send your nomination to swenquiries@allison-homes.com

WORLINGTON PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

We are a friendly group of photographers of all abilities meeting monthly at Worlington Parish Hall, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm .

We have a yearly programme with regular trips out and also hold meetings in the Parish Hall to take indoor photographs with a theme, such as still life or portrait.

Contact: Terry Brown – (01884) 861268



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WITHERIDGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

We are now approaching the end of the summer season. If you can, look for the constellations of Scorpius and Sagittarius. For us they never rise high but you are looking into the very heart of our galaxy. This area is packed with nebulae and star clusters, many easily visible in binoculars.

August - a month of fun and games but in the early hours Mars has a close encounter with Jupiter, the Moon hides Saturn (from 4.28 am to 5.21 am), passes closely to Neptune occulting some of the Pleiades, and finally we have a display of the Perseid meteors. Great to hold a meteor party on the night of the 12/13 August. With everyone looking in different directions shout 'Meteor' every time one is spotted. A person needs to record the shouts, using a red torch to preserve night sight, as a record of the sightings. Each meteor is a high speed pellet of dust from the comet Swift-Tuttle.

September - Saturn is closest to the Earth on the 8th September at mag. +0.6. Its rings will be difficult to see because they are nearly edge on to us. It will be worth looking to see if you can spot Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) in the morning sky on about the 28th September. We are also treated to Mercury in the morning horizon. On the 18th we will have a partial eclipse of the Moon at 3.34am.

October - The Andromeda Galaxy is best placed for observing this month and many can see the galaxy with the unaided eye. At 2.5 million light years away the galaxy contains some 400 billion stars. Light from this galaxy started its journey to us 2.5 million years ago. Do not be fooled into thinking that you will see it better through binoculars. The galaxy is as wide as three full Moons.

This quarter we have quite a variety of objects to seek out. Unfortunately, many of them occur in the early morning. Dilemma! Do you set an alarm clock or opt for a good night's sleep? It is your choice. Why not come to the Witheridge Astronomical Society's meetings on the third Thursday at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall Committee Room as we learn from each other and share observation experiences. Don't forget, we have equipment that may be borrowed to aid you explore the night sky.

Steven Smith

Police and Crime Commissioner's Councillor Advocate.

I serve as a Parish Councillor on Witheridge Parish Council. In that capacity I was elected to serve as a [Police and Crime Commissioner's Councillor Advocate.](#)

My function is to form a relationship with our local policing team through the Local Sector Inspector. This allows better use of police officer's time. Living in the village I am better positioned to be informed about crime and policing here and to bring community views to the police.

As a Police Advocate I have an understanding of the Commissioner's policing priorities, as well as her role as the public's voice for victims of crime. This advocate scheme works through frequent communication and access to information on policing issues.

My main role is to ensure that consistent, accurate and honest information relating to crime, victim services and community safety is cascaded to the public. There is also the provision of information about accessing victim services and restorative justice, as well as what happens if a case doesn't go to court or if the perpetrator is under the age of 18. Details can be provided of how to make a complaint if a victim or witness is unhappy with the service they have been provided.

As a Police Advocate I am not in a position to discuss individual cases or to problem solve on specific issues. I am happy to discuss any issues that anyone may feel, especially concerning the community involving policing issues. I may be contacted on 01884 861037 (please leave a message on the answering machine if I am not available) or by e-mail: stevengcsmith@aol.com.

Steven Smith

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Witheridge sports club

Mon	7.00 - 10.00pm
Tues	7.00 - 10.00pm
Wed	7.00 - 10.00pm
Thurs	7.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	7.00 - 10.00pm
Sat	2.00 - 10.00pm
Sun	2.00 - 7.00pm



Short mat bowls

We meet in the Parish Hall on Thursdays at 2pm. Club woods are available for those who have not played before. The first three afternoons are free and tuition will be given.

Green fee is £3.50 per session there after

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. Greg Henderson



Photo - Robin Thomason

Badminton

The Badminton club meets on Fridays at 7.30pm and the cost is £3.00 per session.

Anyone interested in coming along should contact Linda Williams 07966131522



Table tennis

Come and join our small friendly 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

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Men's Den

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When: 2nd Wednesday every month

Time: 2 - 4pm

Hot Drinks from £1

Free Biscuits

Warm Space

Contact Sean Murphy

for more information

On 07503197282

Charity Number: 801038



Village Scarecrow Trail.

Throughout October.

Theme- Heroes

Contact Ruth if you'd like to take part.



07980104347



Rest a While A personal message from me to the committee of Beerfest Nomansland



I received a phone call explaining that the Rest a While had been chosen as one of the Charities to receive a cheque from the Beerfest, I was thrilled and delighted, even more so when I was invited to receive the cheque at the Cricket Club at Nomansland,

On arriving I was greeted by several of the committee and other guests, who all received a glass of sparkling bubbly. I was asked to explain the reasoning behind the Rest a While, and what the money would be used for, what we did and what were the benefits to our community. I starting by saying that the Rest a While is a small building with a big heart, a heart that cares and listens to everyone who enters. The Rest a While was the brain child of Francis Venner who wanted a place where village people could meet and get to know each other, a place where all would be welcome to find out about the village life, what clubs there were, and what other help was available to them, many of them living alone, each looking for company, a cup of tea and a chat where they could rest a while.

I explained that the money would be used to make the Rest a While more accessible to wheelchair users, many of whom struggle getting up the ramp and turning sharply into our main room, help is often needed from someone else already in there. It is felt that if the ramp could be extended outwardly a bit it would provide more mobility for the wheelchairs this would allow all users of the Rest a While with easier access, some alterations to the toilets may also be required.

The presentation went well and photos were taken. Chris Clark presented me with the cheque and smiling happily I took it, it was only when I read the amount that I realised what a generous gift this was, I must admit it was through tearful eyes that I thanked them on behalf of our committee, our regulars and those yet to join us.

The cheque was for £1,000, so again I say Thank You so much, all of you xx

Val Dickinson

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My mother was taken into hospital last week. I was walking out of the cubicle when a nurse asked in which care home my mother was a resident. I said The Firs and the nurse said to me "I am not surprised it's The Firs as you can see that your mother is so well cared for, her skin is soft and she is clean and well kept." Christine.

If you think you can make a difference to our residents at The Firs and change their lives and yours for the better, apply online here: www.southwestcarehomes.co.uk/apply



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What's Happening In the Village ?

Parish Hall Chair		Clare Spicer	860135
Parish Hall Bookings	(meetings are free)	Steven Smith	861037
Allotment Society		David Williams	860630
Art Group	Parish Hall– Wed 7.30pm	Eileen Curtis	860564
Badminton	Parish Hall Fri 7.30pm	Linda Williams 0796613	1522
Brownies and Guides	Witheridge School	Carole Chapple	855329
Charity Bingo	Thelbridge Parish Hall-alt Wed 7.30	Marion Crane	860530
Bell Ringers	Belfry Thursday 7.30 pm	Ken Ramsbottom	861108
Dog Training	Parish Hall Mon 6pm	Jackie McDevitt 01769	550155
Film Club		Margie Cosker	861695
Gardening Club	Parish Hall Last Wed 7pm	Jill Horwood	861323
Knights of Witheridge	Chairman	07935	661397
Ladies Group	Parish Hall 2nd Tues 2pm	Coral Simmonds	861366
Methodist Church	Sunday 10.30am	Ruth Towers	860228
Monday Club	Rest-a-while Alt Mon 2pm	Val Dickinson	860709
Rest-a-while Mon-Sat 10-	12 Bingo alt Fri, Bring + Buy last Fri	Val Dickinson	860709
Short mat bowls	Parish Hall Tues 6.30pm. Thur 2pm	Greg Henderson	860819
Table Tennis	Parish Hall Fri 11-12	Greg Henderson	860819
Tennis Club	www.witheridgetennisclub.com	Sarah Vertigan	07939 241025
Taekwondo	Parish Hall Thurs 6-7pm	Kevin Raven 07804	471165
Astronomical Society	Committee Room 3rd Thurs 7.30-9pm	Steven Smith	861037
Witheridge in Bloom	carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk		860817
Witheridge Golf Society		Ken Ramsbottom	861108
Witheridge Parish Church	Sunday 9.30am	Rev Adrian Wells	861383
Witheridge Primary School	& Preschool Head of School	Miss Ratcliffe	860518
Witheridge parent and Toddler group	Witheridge school Wed 1.45-3.30pm	Rebecca and Nick	07875127 064
	Fridays 9-10.30am	Robinson	
Witheridge Ploughing Association	Gill Gilbard gill@helebartonfarm.co.uk		
Witheridge Young Farmers	Emma Gilbard emma.gilbard@	markallengroup.com	
Witheridge Youth Club	Parish Hall 1st & 3rd Thurs 7-8.30pm	Andrea Court	860815
Witheridge Striders	Edward Fyson 07517 148284	Janet Ashelford	860234
Worlington Photographic Group	Worlington Parish Hall 3rd Tue 7.30	Terry Brown	861268

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