

Witheridge Voice



SPRING 2023
ISSUE 52

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring issue for 2023 of Witheridge Voice.

I will start with a special 'Thank you', to Gill Manning who is stepping down from her role as Treasurer/Advertising. Gill has been on the committee, in a number of roles, for over 10 years.

We are grateful for all the work she has done and are pleased that she is staying on the committee in an advisory capacity.

Our willing volunteer, to take on the work of Treasurer and Advertising, is our webmaster Robin Thomason.

Please take note of the new email if you are one of our advertisers.

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As part of his role, as Webmaster, Robin has asked that anyone who uses The Voice website could give him feedback on it please.

There is another change as Jo has found that she was unable to fit the role of Editor around working full time– so I'm on my own from this Spring issue.

You will notice there are plans in the village, for different celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III. It's great that there are small street/neighbourhood parties going on but for those of you not able to join in these there are other options.

On the afternoon of Saturday 6th May there is a free Family Picnic party (and available to buy are cream teas & hot drinks), at the Parish Hall. The following day, Sunday 7th May, The Knights have organised a Coronation Party and Disco at the Sports Club.

Look out for posters, or on What's on Facebook page, for more information on these two events.

As part of our constitution, we are required to hold an AGM. This will take place on Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to either get involved or give ideas on what we could include in future issues.

AGM 7.30pm Wed 7th June– Parish Hall

Deadline for articles for the Summer Issue is 4th July .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.

PARISH HALL UPDATE

Well, here we are at Spring again and optimism rules the day!

The Parish Hall website is almost up and running, almost but not quite. When it goes live, we will put it up on the Parish Hall Facebook page and the What's on Witheridge Facebook page.

Hopefully you will all find it helpful and interesting. A lot of work has gone into creating this website, largely from Beckey Boyles and Louise Hutton, so we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Once again, the new housing development has been discussed and the Parish Hall committee hopes to find out how best to prepare for what will be a fairly large influx of people.

We will be looking to employ someone to carry out a feasibility study to explore possible ways of improving the building so that it fulfils its full potential, whilst ensuring a minimal impact on the environment

It would be simply wonderful if there was anyone in the village who could help with this.

If you have any ideas or suggestions about this or anything Parish Hall related please email me at my email address:

spicerclare@gmail.com

Clare Spicer

Litter Pick.

I expect you will have been aware that the litter pick planned for 11th March 2023 had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

The next one will probably be in June. Could you help?

This village needs you!

Please contact: Carol

carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk

WITHERIDGE LADIES CLUB

In **January** we held our AGM. Our Chairperson, Linda outlined what the club had done during the previous year. Most of the committee agreed to carry on with their respective roles for another year.

Mitzi was presented with a bouquet and a card signed by us all. Linda thanked her for her hard work and long service as Treasurer. She is succeeded by Eileen, whom we thank for taking over the role.

Irene brought all of the club scrapbooks to the meeting and members enjoyed looking at all the photographs. We also enjoyed our tea and coffee with biscuits and we had a good chat. Annis ran the raffle.

We heard from Sheila M Manley that Rita Hayes had enjoyed her 100th birthday party and that she sent thanks to the club for her chocolates and card. She received her birthday card from the King!

In **February** we welcomed Gavin Haig back to the club. This time his talk was about The Healing Garden. The talk was illustrated with beautiful photographs. Gavin explained the medicinal and healing properties of all the plants shown. He told us that the wildlife garden he developed at Tiverton Hospital had won a prestigious Royal Horticulture Society award.

In **March** our published speaker was unavailable and Ian Williamson stepped in at short notice to give us an illustrated talk on his charity fundraising trek up Kilimanjaro. Ian was an informative and amusing speaker; showing us video footage and photographs of the 5 day trek. The terrain was very variable. The group were well supported by porters and guide staff. Ian was very proud to have his certificate for reaching the summit.

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.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday in the month at the Parish Hall 2 – 4pm.

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THE FIRS RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME WITHERIDGE

We have welcomed some new residents to The Firs and we would welcome any suggestions for interesting & scenic car journeys that could be taken by them and their families. A round trip of an hour would be ideal. If you have any ideas, please email me so that I can pass them on.

We enjoy taking part in many celebrations here at The Firs. Residents' birthdays; marking occasions such as Burn's night (with a tot of whisky and homemade shortbread); taking part in a horse racing lucky dip sweepstake, with a winner's trophy; Mother's Day; celebrating Easter with decorated bonnets and a traditional roast lamb meal.

Pat, one of our residents, describes living at The Firs as *"a loving friendly place"*. Freda says *"the staff here are wonderful, with other nice residents to spend time with"*. Pat says *"there is always lots to do here, new things to try out and have a go with"*.

Our residents love taking part in the flower shows that take place twice a year at the Witheridge Parish Hall. The Spring show saw more residents taking part and coming away with 11 certificates including 3 firsts! Our local Morrisons Community Champion, Mandy, donated some of the gorgeous flowers for the residents to use.



We are already looking forward to the Summer flower show.

Residents love listening to all types of music and especially enjoy live music, so we were delighted to welcome The North Devon Folk Choir (part of Wren Music) to The Firs.

They sang outdoors in the gardens on one recent sunny afternoon. You may have heard them. They sang traditional folk songs, sea shanties and songs from abroad which all entertained our residents.

Recently we took part in one of our messy vintage church afternoons with Vicar Adrian and Sue, decorating eggs for our Easter tree.

If you are interested in working at The Firs and would like to know what roles are available, then please phone the Home Manager Sharon on 01884 860679 or pop in for an application form.

Lizzie Batley Wellbeing Development Coordinator
The Firs Residential Care Home Witheridge

lizzie.batley@southwestcarehomes.co.uk



Unite Carers In Mid Devon
Witheridge Safe Stop

At Witheridge Parish Hall
10.30 am to 12.30 pm

On the 3rd Tuesday of every month

Commencing 18th April 2023



Witheridge Safe Stop is a new group from Unite Carers In Mid Devon.

At Safe Stop the person you care for can come to us for the morning whilst you, the carer, can take a short break to go off and do an activity of your choice, or just have a rest, whilst staff and volunteers run a programme of fun and engaging activities.

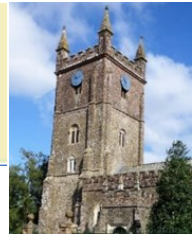
It's a great group for carers who are unable to leave the person they care for at home alone. We are very flexible and if you would feel more comfortable to stay with the person you care for, for however long you like, you are very welcome to do so.

For further information or to register and book your place, please contact:

Unite Carers In Mid Devon on: 01884 257511 or via email: info@unitemd.org.uk

Note: There is a charge of £10 for each 2 hour session

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



By the time this is published the Easter holidays will be a memory and the many bank holidays in May will be upon us. For some, April can be the time when they start to think about the long school summer holidays and whether they will be able to go away this year.

So what is a holiday? A dictionary definition is that it can be a day of festivity or recreation when no work is done, or an extended period of leisure and recreation especially one spent away from home or in travelling. The word comes from Old English *hāligdæg* meaning Holy day. We celebrate our Christian Holy Days with festivals like Christmas and Easter.

Back to the holiday question, a holiday means different things to different people.

"There's something about a holiday that isn't all about how much money you spend" Hilarie Burton

"A holiday is an opportunity to journey within" Prabhas

"Collect moments not things" Karen Salmansohn

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness" Mark Twain

"Travel has a way of stretching the mind. The stretch comes not from travel's immediate rewards, the inevitable myriad of new sights, smells and sounds, but with experiencing firsthand how others do differently what we believed to be the right and only way"
Ralph Crawshaw

A holiday can be about adventures and travel, exploring new areas of the world and understanding other cultures and traditions. A holiday can also be a duvet day, snuggling up on the sofa with a hot chocolate and a good book or binge watching Harry Potter movies.

A holiday is whatever you need it to be on that day or that week. Something that allows you to recharge your batteries, re-energise before you return to study, work or chores and for all of us that is something different.

We are so fortunate to live where we do, we can take a holiday by taking a picnic down to the Little Dart river. We can get in the car, if we are fortunate enough to have one, and leave the village to sink our toes into the sand of the North Devon coastline or to explore either of our beautiful moors with their stunning scenery.

Some of the children at Witheridge CofE Primary Academy were fortunate enough to enjoy a 'holiday' to London during the spring term, an experience, I am sure, that they will never forget.

Whatever you choose to do with your holiday time this year - be it splurge on a great adventure, enjoying making memories with friends and family or choosing a duvet day - my wish is that you will feel invigorated by your experience.

May God's blessing be with you on holiday and at all other times too.

Adrian Wells

Vicar

CONCERTS AT THE CHURCH

Bondleigh Barn Band complete the season on 21 May at 7pm. They are a group of fifty plus musicians from around the county who play an assortment of instruments. You name it, they play it. They say it is an **Event** not a concert. **It will be fun!**

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WITHERIDGE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

I believe that the past year will go down in our annals of history as the year of planning application 73742. We all engaged in lots of extra council, site, and officer meetings to put forward the residents' concerns as to the capacity of the physical and social infrastructure, transport and the local road network and traffic calming. To have all our concerns dismissed by the case officer at the full planning meeting in one sentence "that the infrastructure capacity was the responsibility of the provider" was dismissive to say the least. The new chief planning officer welcomed it as a contribution to the five year housing land supply of Torridge and North Devon. Rather irrational statement as it was the fault of Torridge, not identifying enough land for housing that caused this application to come forward, allowing developers to ignore the local plan.

We encountered the county highway's 'deaf ear' and were given the brush off concerning your traffic calming worries. Our suggestions were a village gateway at the entrance to Chapner Farm like the one at Meshaw, rumble strips, contrasting tarmac colour, interactive speed sign and 30mph roundels. All D.C.C. are prepared to do for the £6,000 section 106 (Developer's contributions to the Council) money is to move the 30mph sign a little further down the road to the village sign as all the other standard traffic calming measures would involve the county in maintenance costs. I sincerely hope that no one in our village has cause to question this decision. The money allocated for the school Zebra crossing has finally come to fruition, albeit some two years late, and the bus stop at the school has been moved a little further along with a new one constructed adjacent to Butts Close.

The refurbishment of the new playground is progressing at a pace, but the recent wet weather has delayed the laying of the safer surfacing. Many thanks to councillors Searles and Dorow for drawing up the schedule of works, JCT contract and the tender document. The new green space which abuts the playground and Willow Rise will become the Parish responsibility when legal documents being drawn up between Alison Homes and the Parish Council are agreed and signed and land searches have taken place. The Parish council have also agreed with the developers that the existing sales office area will be leased back to them for an annual sum of £2,000 for five years. This will go some way to fund our plan to enclose the site with bow topped railings like the existing fronting the B3137.

The Parish council with the approval of the Parish Hall committee have mopped up the remaining s106 money from the Willow Rise development allocated for play space, to encase the tots' playground with bow topped railings, as the existing fencing has reached end of life. In addition to the railings being playground compliant, the new pedestrian gate will be wheelchair access friendly. This will enhance the area aesthetically and keep our children safe. This application was ratified by the District's strategy and resources committee on the 6th of March and Witheridge was awarded £17,000 towards the project. Many thanks to Peter our clerk for drawing up the documents.

The District Council, together with the Parish now must decide which community and social infrastructure projects to put forward for the s106 money, so called "heads of terms" that will come from the developers of the new 155 houses. Although the District were aware that projects had to go forward as early as last December, the Parish were not aware or consulted until the March meeting. We therefore held an extra meeting on the 13th March to discuss these. I was delighted that 14 members of the public attended to put forward their comments - nothing worse than apathy. It was agreed that the following projects go forward:

- * Construction of an all-weather/MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) on land currently available within the village.
- * Land acquisition for sports pitches/open space in village
- * Improvement of facilities at the Adventure playground
- * Extension of the cemetery
- * Additional car parking close to the square
- * Improvement of the facilities at the Parish Hall and grounds.

At the last two council meetings we have heard concerns from residents of both Cannington Road and Drayford Lane as to the lack of hedge, tree, and fence maintenance at the Cannington Road open green space. The Parish council achieved partial success via the North Devon enforcement officer and the grass is now being cut, but with the lack of enforcement officers, where do we go next?

I end by saying a big thank you to the "Knights of Witheridge" for the amazing vibrant display of daffodils you have planted throughout the village. They certainly are 'A host of golden daffodils' and lift the spirits even on the gloomiest of days.

Jacky Harvey (Parish Council Chairman)



We started the New Year with a “Bring a Friend” party and from this gained one new Guide and a few new Brownies. The dark nights have meant we have been able to do some star gazing and complete skills builders and activities based on that theme such as Night Sky Observers, Skills in Space, Spaced out and Blackhole Break out. We celebrated Chinese New Year and the Year of the Rabbit by making Rabbit Glitter Globes and playing Chinese Whispers.

A number of the Brownies and the Guides joined in a Division Thinking Day event, in Tiverton, in February and on the 8th March, International Women’s Day Girlguiding UK had a rebranding and our new logo is at the top of this article.

We are looking forward to the lighter nights and having some fun outside in the summer term.

We meet on Tuesday evenings during term time, from 6.30pm to 8 pm at the School. If you have a daughter who is turning 7 soon or is already 7 or over and would like to join us please go to the Girlguiding website and register.

You can also find information on the website if you would like to join us as a volunteer.

If you were a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Ranger and are aged 18 to 30 you might like to have a look at Inspire and see what Guiding can offer you.

Jane Pemble

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.

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.

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.

2023 Meeting Schedule

(See website for any amendments)

Chairman: Cllr J Harvey Tel: 860629

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
5	2	2	6	11	1
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	RECESS	7	5	2	7

WITHERIDGE IN BLOOM

Hi Everyone,

Are you looking forward to some better weather?

Would you like to make a difference and enhance the village?

Join our small group and take ownership of a planter or two.

Why not? You will wonder why you didn't do so earlier!

Contact : Carol

carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk

WITHERIDGE FILM CLUB

Thank you to all of the supporters of our film nights at the Parish Hall. We really appreciate it. We have deposited £100 to the Parish Hall coffers as a result of your support.



Upcoming news:-

By now you will have seen '*Living*' starring Bill Nighy and we hope you all enjoyed it.

On **May 27th** we will be showing '***Where the Crawdads Sing***'.

This film tells the story of Kya, an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumours of 'The Marsh Girl' 'haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community.

Drawn to two young men from town, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world; but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by the community as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh.

On **24th June** we are showing '***The Railway Children return***'.

This is the sequel to one of the most beloved British family films of all time, '*The Railway Children Return*' is an enchanting, moving and heart-warming adventure for a new generation.

1944 - As life in Britain's cities becomes increasingly perilous, the Watt children, Lily, Pattie and Ted are evacuated to the Yorkshire village of Oakworth. There they are met by Bobbie Waterbury (Jenny Agutter), her daughter, Annie (Sheridan Smith), and grandson Thomas who help them settle into their new life in the countryside. When the children discover injured American soldier Abe, they are thrust into a dangerous quest to assist their new friend who, like them, is a long way from home.

We are not showing films in July or August but will resume again in September.

Once again, thank you for your support,

Margie Cosker and the team.



w: www.east-worlington-primary.devon.sch.uk

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WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY



The original date of 8th March had to be adjourned because of snow and although the revised date of 29th March followed days of rain, Chris at Waterbridge golf club bravely allowed play to take place, including the use of buggies!

Fifteen players contested the competition and on the winning team were Witheridge golfers Greg Henderson, Dave Owen and Ken Ramsbotham, with Rick Davidson. The Ken Leneveu Wooden Spoon Trophy went to Witheridge players Paul Brooke, Andrew Clark and Geoff Evans, with Mike Hillard.

The dates of the next meetings at Waterbridge are the Spring trophy on Wednesday 10th May also 5th July and 6th September.

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.

Longer Course golf can also be played with our affiliated Chulmleigh Golf Society. Games are arranged monthly and include Dainton Park on 25 May, Holsworthy on 14 June, Stover on 13 July and Liberton on 17 August.

ANDREW CLARK

WITHERIDGE GARDENING CLUB

At this year's first meeting in February, Jonty Barlow from UK Biogas came to talk to us about Anaerobic Digestion, which is the process of extracting biogas from breaking down organic waste which can then be converted into electricity, injected into the national gas grid or used for fuelling road transport.

It's a great way of generating sustainable renewable energy 24/7, as we humans are never short on waste!

The Anaerobic Digester in Nomansland collects biogas from a mixture of crops, farmyard manure and chicken litter and converts it into electricity to supply the farm and the national electricity grid. Nomansland Biogas is currently investing in state-of-the-art technology to improve the biogas yield without increasing feedstock volume and most importantly allow the digester to be fed with predominantly local farm wastes.

The mixture generates a warm 40 degrees inside the digester, allowing bacteria to thrive in the absence of oxygen and speed up the decomposition process. Once the gas has been released the digestate (or biodigestate) is removed from the chamber and can then be used as a fertiliser or soil conditioner creating a circular sustainable process.

The biodigestate has a remarkable effect on any degraded soils that it's applied to due to its rich range of macro and micronutrients. Its fibrous qualities promote air pockets for oxygenating the soil and has impressive water retentive properties.

They plan on making the biodigestate available to the horticultural market. Stay tuned to the Witheridge Garden Club for updates!

In March, Ros Nichols from RoseTime Flowers in Tiverton took us on a photographic tour of some lovely gardens in and around this area. The photos were accompanied by music, and we were treated to some fantastic photos starting at Ashley Court and Backswood, both near Tiverton, then further afield to Coppet Hill, Bridport, Highgrove and Tetbury – unfortunately no photography allowed in Highgrove Garden. Next, the Dart Farm Sculpture Trail & Garden Park, behind Trago Mills – not many people knew about this one.

***Continued* - Witheridge Gardening Club**

Next, onto Holbrook Garden (some might know this as Sampford Peverell Shrubs), Holcombe Court which is open once a year to support the Hospice, and a surprising tour of St. Peter's Church Roof, with some great views over Tiverton. This roof is open once a year for a Heritage tour. We ended with RHS Rosemoor with its winter lighting show.

Our thanks to Ros for a most entertaining evening.



Our programme:

Saturday May 13th

Plant Sale - 2.00pm

Wednesday June 28th 7.00pm

Nigel Wright with an illustrated talk on Bonsai Trees

Wednesday July 26th 7.00pm

Flower Readings with Suzy-Grace Galadriel

Saturday August 5th Summer Show – 2.30pm

Wednesday Sept 27th 7.00pm

Paul Rendell, Dartmoor National Park Guide

Everyone is welcome to any of our meetings, and we look forward to welcoming you.

**Jill Horwood
Secretary**

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We have 2 Shows a year and a Plant Sale - all of which are very popular events in the Village.



We meet on the last Wednesday of each month.

7.00pm in the Parish Hall

For further information ring Jill or Alan on 01884 861323



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Our WARM SPACE here at The Rest A While has provided a cosy, relaxed place to come in out of the cold for a coffee and a chat during the cold dark Winter months.

Now that Spring has arrived, we look forward to lighter nights and warmer weather. The centre is the ideal place to meet up with old and new friends for a coffee and chat and to put the world to rights.

The Rest A While is a charity, and we rely on our wonderful band of volunteers to keep it going by serving the drinks and providing a welcoming, friendly face. Since Christmas we have recruited 2 more volunteers and we are so grateful for the time that they give.

On the last Friday of the month we hold a cake and produce stall and we also run a Christmas and Easter Draw which helps to bolster the funds in these hard times.

The Rest A While is open 10am to 12 noon, Monday to Saturday every week. We are closed on Christmas day.

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Let's go on a Bear Hunt in North Devon!

People are being invited to 'go on a bear hunt' in North Devon this spring.

A public art trail featuring 25 life-sized bears, all individually painted by local artists, is open until the end of May, with a series of mini art trails in and around Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington and Ilfracombe.

The Bear Hunt art trail is being held to help raise awareness and funds for Children's Hospice South West (CHSW), which runs the Little Bridge House children's hospice in Fremington.

A special mobile app is available to download on Android and Apple phones to help people to track down all the bears, find out more about the artists, and create their very own virtual bear collection! They will also be able to use the app make a donation to CHSW, which provides vital care and support to local children and young people with life-limiting conditions and their families.

For more information about the Bear Hunt art trail and to download the Bear Hunt app, visit www.chswbearhunt.org



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WITHERIDGE TODDLERS GROUP

The spring term got off to a bumpy start with an impetigo outbreak, but there have been plenty of highlights nevertheless. The children dressed up for World Book Day in March. I think my favourite was Stick Man but they were all very cute! We also got crafty, making Easter bonnets and cards.

The weather has been typically bad but it hasn't stopped us getting outside when we can on Wednesday afternoons. There is so much opportunity for exploration and fun, including a fantastic new play boat called '*Companionship*'.

There have been some new faces not to mention a new arrival. We have loved watching baby Mason's progress when his Mummy brings him for a weigh-in on our scales.

Please contact me using the details below if you need to use them for your own baby. Another resource available to borrow is the Clarks foot gauge. This way you can check whether little feet need new shoes, without a trip into town. Again, just message me to borrow it.

Witheridge Parent and Toddler Group is a parent led group for parents, carers and children aged 0-4. We have two sessions which run weekly in term-time at the primary school in Witheridge.

On Wednesdays we meet from 1.45pm-3.30pm to coincide with the end of the school day. Follow the signs and come round the back to the preschool unit. There is an undercover area for pushchairs. A small charge of £1 per family will include a drink and healthy snack for children. A range of indoor and outdoor activities are available for the children, with the opportunity to play alongside youngsters who attend the preschool setting.

On Fridays we meet for stay and play in the school hall from 9-10.30am. Please arrive via the main school entrance and you can bring your buggy into the hall. This session costs £1 per family as well, to include fruit for the children and a cuppa for adults. Please note that all parents/carers must be responsible for their child whilst on school premises.

For updates and further information, please search Facebook for 'Wetheridge Parent and Toddler Group.' Alternatively, you can contact Katie McKenna on 07786 672037 or katiennunneley@hotmail.com



Photographs from Wetheridge Toddlers



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Witheridge	School (term time)	13:10	13:55
Witheridge	Square	14:00	15:00
Witheridge	Sports Field Car Park	15:05	15:45

WITHERIDGE ROCKS.

Witheridge Rocks have had a busy quarter.

Crab football was a firm favourite during our ball games week.

Valentines' week saw us making chocolate truffles.

At 2 of our sessions, we were delighted to have Mud and Moor Pottery with us. Laura Butcher very patiently guided us to make pinch pot animals and we discovered that some of our young people have hidden talents.

We have also had the opportunity to listen to, and then have a go at playing, handbells. It was not as easy as it looked!

This quarter we will be able to try out bell ringing in the church bell tower. There will also be more opportunities to cook, play games, be creative and, of course, eat tuck.

If you are in Year 6 or above, then come along and join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall from 7.15 - 8.45pm.
£1 subs + £1 tuck.

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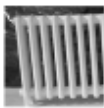
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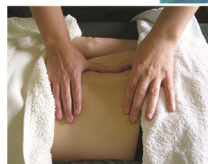
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Witheridge Methodist Church

Sunday service 10.30am

5th Sunday—Breakfast at Parish Hall



Methodism was started by a man called John Wesley who, back in the 1700s, travelled across America and England preaching and teaching about God.

When he died in 1791, aged 87, he had preached roughly 18,000 sermons. Below is a quote of his

*Do all the good you can
In all the ways you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can*

Many Methodist churches try to follow his teaching in whatever way they can.

The Church here at Witheridge has a relatively small congregation but we try to find ways to help people in our local community.

For over 10 years up until Covid, the Churches Together ran a community lunch each month at the Parish Hall. After Covid restrictions were lifted, the volunteers felt they could no longer continue, so a small group of volunteers at the Methodist Church took on this task.

The size of the church limits numbers to around 26 people, rather than the 40 that met at the Parish Hall. These lunches are held on the first Wednesday of the month only and are nearly always fully booked.

Our once a month Saturday coffee mornings provide somewhere else for people from the village, and surrounding area, to meet and have a good chat.

Again, we see around 20 to 25 people, many from the churches but other members of the community also come along.

Thanks to the generosity of our regular customers, we have raised some money for church funds and also gave a donation of £100 to the Air Ambulance.

Due to the King's Coronation, we will not be having a coffee morning in May as we will be helping to organise a free event at the Parish Hall.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 3 May at 12.30pm, Community Lunch (fully booked)

Wednesday 7 June at 12.30pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 5 July at 12.30pm Community Lunch

If you wish to book a place for the community lunch please contact either **Carol 860865** or **Ruth 860228**

Saturday 6 May: **NO COFFEE MORNING** due to Coronation celebrations but Jigsaw library is open, from 10am-11am.

Saturday 3 June Coffee morning, with bacon rolls, and Jigsaw Library

Saturday 1 July Coffee morning 10am-1pm

Craft and Chat 1pm– 3pm (2nd Thursday of the month) £1

Thursday 11 May—Learn how to crochet

Thursday 8 June (Coffee and tea available)

Thursday 13 July (Bring your own craft project or join in with ours.)



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Knights of Witheridge

The fortnightly Knights Quiz has continued to run successfully, raising a small but steady income for the Knights and has a good following. If you would like to join in, please do, the Quiz is held every other Wednesday in the Sports Club starting at 19:30. You need a team of up to 4 to join in but if you are an individual, you can join another team. It only costs £2 per person, half the proceeds are given away in prizes and the rest goes towards the Knights' fund to support the community.

We also have a raffle with the opportunity to win a bottle of wine, thanks to the Sports Club, who donate one of the two bottles on offer. The question masters are drawn from the ranks of the quizzers themselves who kindly volunteer to provide a quiz, which makes it more interesting as no two quizzes are ever the same.

Look out for the signs at either end of the village for the date of the next quiz. The quiz is also advertised on the Knights' Facebook page, the What's On – Witheridge, Lapford, Morchard Bishop Facebook page and the new Witheridge (On Line) Website.

The dates for the forthcoming quizzes are May 3rd, May 17th and May 31st. We hope to see you there.

By the time this edition of the Voice appears, the Knights will have completed a sponsored walk along the Two Moors Way from Morchard Bishop to the Sports Club on Easter Sunday. Along with funds raised by the walk itself, we ran a "Guess the Steps" competition where people could make a donation in return for guessing how many steps one of the Knights would take on the walk. The nearest guess won £25 or £50 if the guess was spot on.

The Knights have been ably supported by the shops and businesses around the village who have hosted collecting pots and entry forms for us. At the time of going to press, our thanks go to Honey Doctor, Mole Valley, Little Dart Trading, Helen Moore Country Living, the Two Moors Store, the Mitre Inn, the Two Moors Gallery Café, the West Ridge Veterinary Practice, the Mid Devon Medical Practice, the Sports Club, and the Witheridge Garage.

Our thanks also go to the various individuals who have made donations and sponsored the walkers as well as to any other businesses that donated after this article was written.

The next major event for us and for the country is the King's Coronation. The Knights have been funding the arrangements for a Coronation Party followed by a Disco which will be held in the Sports Club on Sunday 7th May. The event will be open to everyone in the village, not just Club Members. Look out for more details closer to the time.

Also in May, the Knights are assisting at a Charity Shoot being held in the aid of the Knights and Witheridge School on the 23rd at Eastway Clay Shoot. Any shooters are welcome to come along and support the event.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we are hoping to be able to run or assist in the organisation of a Childrens' Fun Day at the Parish Hall in the Summer, a Firework Party and Halloween Disco on 3rd November and an event around the lighting of the Christmas Tree in December as well as a Children's Christmas Party. Finally, we have not given up on the idea of a pantomime yet if we can find a producer/director, so if you aspire in that area, please let us know.

Apart from funding community events, the Knights also give grants to clubs and organisations in the communities of Witheridge, Drayford, East and West Worlington, Thelbridge, and Nomansland. This is normally done annually as part of our AGM. Arrangements for this year have been posted in the Featured segment of the Witheridge What's On Facebook page and you may have noticed a rash of posters around the village too. Details on how to apply for a grant can also be found on the Knights' website.

The closing date for this year was 27th April and it will have gone when this edition of Witheridge Voice is published.

Finally, there have been a number of changes in the ranks of the Knights as members have come and gone this year, but we remain very short of members to the point where it is getting difficult to put events on and some have had to be dropped as a result. This is a pity as all the money we raise is used for the good of the community and the more we can raise, the more we can help.

***Continued* — Witheridge Knights**

The Knights are open to both men and women, membership is free. All we ask is for some of your time to help plan and put on events either in direct support or to raise funds for the community. We have two types of membership, trustee, and associate. Trustees can attend meetings and have a say in the running of the Knights. We usually meet once a month.

As an associate, you do not need to come to meetings, just be a willing pair of hands to help in the organising and running of events.

So, if you would like to join us, please contact us through witheridgeknights@gmail.com or by calling the number in the back of the Witheridge Voice, or come to one of our Knights' Quiz nights and introduce yourself.

A belated Happy Easter,
The Knights

WELL DONE ROY!

Back in October last year Roy Harknett suggested putting on a Christmas show for the children of Witheridge at the Sports Club, I offered to help and together we managed to raise £1,200 from the generous people of Witheridge. Morrisons at Tiverton and Crediton chipped in a further £60.

The donations were used to provide food and beverages, an entertainer and presents for the children. A thank you to Matt & Sharon for providing the free venue, numerous volunteers, and home baking by many.

After the event, it was decided to donate the remaining amount £500 to Little Bridge Children's Hospice (photo) and £100 to Andy's Man Club. (a men's suicide prevention charity, offering free-to-attend peer-to-peer support groups across the United Kingdom).

Thank you all for your support.
Michael Delaney





NEWS FROM WITHERIDGE PRIMARY C of E ACADEMY and PRE-SCHOOL



We have had a fantastic Spring Term. At the start of the term, some of our Year 5 children, went to London with children from other TEAM schools. The children had a brilliant time! Their visit included a trip to the science museum, Harry Potter World and watching the Lion King in the West End! Thank you to Mrs Milton for accompanying the children on this residential. I am so thankful for TEAM Academy Trust, without whom this Residential would not have taken place. The children at Witheridge Academy are so fortunate to be part of such a wonderful Trust.



We had such an exciting day on World Book Day!

The children loved our Dragon theme and they have enjoyed making dragon nest cakes, 'rowing' across the playground as a Viking long boat, writing some fantastic dragon poetry and creating a magnificent dragon nest complete with dragon eggs which looks brilliant in our Library. Thank you to all our Parents and Carers for your support, whether that is hunting down a bargain costume, getting crafty with cardboard/paper to create a costume, or even sewing a costume from scratch! The children looked fantastic and loved being fully immersed in the dragon theme.

We held a non-uniform day to raise money for victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. We raised a massive £87.60. Thank you so much for your support. We raised over £1000 across the 7 TEAM schools!

This term, our Exmoor Challengers had their first, long awaited, practise walk! The children did so well, especially as the conditions were not great - lots of rain and very muddy! Well done to our Y6 Challengers for a great start.



This term, our Class 3 children participated in the Devon Performing Arts Festival in the group Choral Speaking category. The rest of the school were lucky enough to hear the poems that both Class 3 and Class 4 have been practising prior to the event, and they were amazing! Well done to Class 3 who came second! Great job!

This term, we enjoyed raising money for Red Nose Day by wearing something RED! We raised a huge **£249.40**.

In the last week of term, our Key Stage 2 children performed at the TEAM Proms event at the Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple. I was blown away by the talent across TEAM, and particularly proud of the children from Witheridge who were fantastic.



It was amazing to be a part of such a great event.

Miss Ratcliffe
Head of School
Witheridge CE Primary Academy
Part of TEAM Academy Trust
01884 860518

ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Well what a wet time we've had of it; hopefully we shall see spring in full bloom.

Let's hope that all the rain is behind us and we can concentrate on sowing the crops for this year.

Sow seed outdoors for beetroot, carrots, Swiss chard, summer cauliflower, lettuce, leeks, radish, turnip, spring and pickling onions, peas including early crop main crop, mange tout, sugar snaps and perpetual spinach in well-prepared soil.

We can also start to plant broad beans, coriander, parsnips.

After the winter months our plots will need weeding and turning.

To make the most of the space we have, there are friends and foes within the gardening world—here are a few items that should not be planted together.

FOES

Beans and Onions, Tomatoes and Corn, Potatoes and Sunflowers, Cucumbers and Rosemary, Parsnips and Carrots

FRIENDS

Beetroot go well with Brussel sprouts, Broccoli, Onions, Swiss Chard and Cabbages

Peas like Beans, Carrots, Turnips, Cucumber, Radishes and Corn

Parsnips like Onions, Lettuce and Radishes.

Happy Allotmenteeering

Emma Widdowson

The Handy Gardener
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and surrounding areas.



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WITHERIDGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Witheridge Astronomical Society meets at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month in Witheridge Parish Hall Committee Room with a charge of just £3 per session. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age or knowledge, to join in and share in the observing sessions (after the main meeting). We have two telescopes that have been kindly given to the Society and Members may borrow these at any time to enhance their own viewing from home. They are astronomical telescopes of modest size, ideal for getting used to using, before thinking of buying your own.

In February members from the Society went to Exmoor, known for its lack of light pollution, to spend an evening observing the night sky. Braving the cold, we were lucky to have mainly clear sky. The evening's highlight was the conjunction (alignment in a straight line) of the Moon, Jupiter and Venus. All three shone brightly against a dark sky just after sunset. Venus being more than half lighted, but less than full. Jupiter's four Galilean moons were visible and on the planet itself two of the 'surface' bands could be observed. The Moon, was majestic with its display of craters of all sizes.

We moved into spring on the 20th March and on 26th March we put our clocks forward by one hour for the move to British Summer Time. However, UT or GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) is still the time used in astronomy no matter when in the year.

Looking at targets for this spring let us begin with Arcturus. This is a red giant and the brightest star in the constellation of Boötes (the Herdsman). It can be found by following the curve of the tail of Ursa Major (the Great Bear). It is the fourth brightest star in the Northern Hemisphere and was, in 1635, the first star to be observed with a telescope in daylight.

In 1933 the light from Arcturus was focussed by telescope onto several photoelectric cells the current so obtained was used to switch on the floodlights at the Chicago World's Fair. Arcturus shoots through space at nearly 90 miles per second. As seen from earth we see the star moving across the sky at a rate of 3.9 arcminutes per century.

(Continued)

Now for a challenge, but be careful! See if you can see the planet Venus, in daylight. Try looking due south and at an altitude of 63° at 14.45 UT on the 2nd May. Make sure that you do not try viewing anywhere near the Sun using any kind of instrument – you will be blinded permanently. If we are lucky and have no clouds then Venus may well be bright enough to see in broad daylight, it is a matter of knowing where to look. On dark nights with no Moon shadows can be cast by the light from Venus.

With the month of June we welcome the summer solstice (June 21) and it will maintain a form of twilight all night long – not best for observing. Even old favourites such as the Plough will be difficult to see, except just after midnight. If we are lucky we may see some noctilucent clouds. Distinctive clouds shining with an electric-blue tint. Looking towards the North Pole they are the highest clouds occurring at altitudes of 80-85 km, much higher than other clouds. Visible on summer nights, around the solstice, they are illuminated by sunlight reaching them from the Sun which is hidden below the horizon, and the clouds rising above the horizon within an expanding cone shape.

If these events interest you and you wish to learn more, come along and join the Society.

There is so much up there to learn and experience.

Steven Smith

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

CHARITY BINGO

We have just had a very enjoyable evening at our Easter Bingo, with tea, coffee, biscuits and mini eggs on all the tables, all appreciated by the players.

We have donated £650 to seven of our charities.

The photos below are of our sponsored Guide Dogs, Betty and Rupert, they are beautiful looking dogs with intelligence to match.

Their training is going well and they have been on buses, trains and boats all to assist them in becoming Guide Dogs.



Thank you to for your support Marion, David, Suzi and Hayley.

Any queries please ring Marion on 01884-860530.

Bingo dates

May 10th and 24th

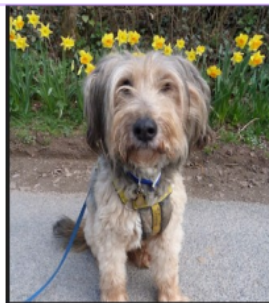
June 7th and 21st

WITHERIDGE DOG WALKING

Karl and Faye have teamed up to offer animal care, dog walking, lunchtime checks, or cat/small animal visits in the Witheridge area.

Between us we have over 55 years of animal experience and training.

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Please call **Faye** on [07855 198252](tel:07855198252) or **Karl** on [07577 686368](tel:07577686368) or message us on Facebook on our **Witheridge Dog Walking** page & see pics and our 5* reviews!

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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
Fr	7.00 - 10.00pm
Sat	2.00 - 10.00pm
Sun	2.00 - 7.00pm



Short mat bowls

We meet in the Parish Hall once 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 Thursday afternoons 2.00pm start.



Photo - Robin Thomason

Greg Henderson

Badminton

The Badminton Club meets in the Parish Hall on Mondays from 2.00pm. £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 small friendly group for adults aged 16 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



Celebrate



Witheridge Parish Hall
From 3.30pm to 6pm

Free Event

Bring your own picnic
Outdoor games and fun for all!

Cream Tea £3.50

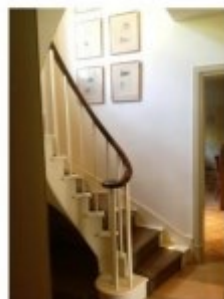
Tickets available from the Two Moors Store
Other refreshments available on the day.



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People4ponies!

Rain....More rain....And....Mud - that summarises the run up to April and in many ways it's more than just the weather that has been challenging!

In February my friend and super P4P volunteer Margaret Hunston (who lived in Witheridge for over 30 years) left Witheridge at short notice to be admitted to a nursing home in Derbyshire. She had been a massive part of People4ponies since 2007 as many of you will know - especially the fundraising side with tombolas and her infamous marmalade and blackcurrant jam. We miss her very much.

The day before Margaret left for Derbyshire, I lost my beautiful Romanian shepherd dog Alf, whom many of you knew from our adventures in Witheridge. He had many admirers within the P4P community. At 14 years old he'd already outlived his life expectancy. With the loss of Alf and Margaret it felt like losing my whole family, which was an incredibly sad time.

We were also sad to learn of the death of Terry Pincombe who was such a key figure in both the local farming community and the lives of our ponies. He will be missed by so many people! He was a very kind and generous person and our ponies owe their lives to him and his decisions to stand by them.

Terry lost all his cows and sheep in the foot and mouth disease saga of 2001 and through the advice of a friend ended up buying a group of wild ponies which was the only way he could keep his grass down....Little did he know that he was actually saving the lives of these ponies (one of them was already registered as dead it turned out!)

He was really making a huge commitment with not just the original ponies but also their offspring. They were totally traumatised after being manhandled and mutilated. Terry would need help as there would end up being 51 of them.

Terry really wanted to do the right thing by the ponies and was determined that they wouldn't be sent to slaughter, refusing to do this and also when a big national rescue advised this and gave the number for the slaughterhouse....and then again when the dealers turned up and offered to take them away.

P4P ended up being formed and he worked with Paul and Cilla the whole way along - allowing them to have use of different fields for the boys and girls so they could be separated as soon as possible. Terry let the ponies graze with the cows and sheep and so they could be worked on a few at a time and let them be there for as long as was needed.

Faye

Upcoming Online Course:

"Rewilding with Ponies - The Practicalities of Conservation Grazing with Equines" online course. **Saturday 6th May 2023! £45.**

The course is being brought to you by People4ponies and is hosted and run by our experts - Nicole Clough (environmentalist and pony conservation grazing specialist) and Faye Stacey (welfare expert and holistic equine health consultant). Our sincere thanks go to The Unicorn Agility Society division of The International Horse Agility Club for making this course possible.

Bookings can be made by email: people4ponies@yahoo.co.uk



Next



Fundraising Event:

WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL



What would you like to do in the Parish Hall?

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A Wedding

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A Children's Party

A Concert

A Meeting

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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 Mon 2pm	Greg Henderson	860819
Brownies and Guides	Witheridge School	Carole Chapple	855329
Charity Bingo	Thelbridge Parish Hall-alt Tue 7.30	Marion Crane	860530
Bell Ringers	Belfry Sun 8.30am	Ken Ramsbottom	861108
Dog Training	Parish Hall Mon 6pm Jackie	McDevitt 01769	550155
Gardening Club	Parish Hall Last Wed 7pm	Jill Horwood	861323
Golf Society		Andrew Clark	860612
Knights of Witheridge	Chairman	07935	661397
Ladies Group	Parish Hall 2nd Tues 2pm	Coral Simmonds	861366
Little Dart Singers	St John the Baptist Church Tue 7.20	John Harris	861084
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
St John's Fair		Gill Manning	860557
Table Tennis	Parish Hall Fri 11-12	Greg Henderson	860819
Tennis Club	Tennis court book at Two Moors	Store	860815
Taekwondo	Parish Hall Thurs 6-7pm Kevin	Raven 07804	471165
Astronomical Society	Parish Hall 3rd Thurs 7.30-9pm	Steven Smith	861037
Witheridge in Bloom	carol.northam@pobroadband.co.uk		860817
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	Katie McKenna	07786672 037
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 07517148284 or	Janet Ashelford	860234
Worlington Photographic Group	Worlington Parish Hall 3rd Tue 7.30	Terry Brown	861268

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