

Witheridge Voice



Autumn 2025

Issue 62



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Advertising in Witheridge Voice

Advertising rates to include the next 4 quarterly issues of the magazine are:

Full page £119

1/2 page £65

1/4 page strip £49

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Editorial

It seems that Autumn is certainly with us– we've had rain, sunshine and wind.

Please take time to have a read through the different articles as there's lots of interesting things taking place with all the usual events plus the revamped Farmer's Market and the Science Show, with festive Tea for children.

You'll also see, on the Knight's of Witheridge page, that they're in the early stages of planning a St George's Fair for April 2026. If you think you'd like to be involved, please get in touch with them, We know how well our village community comes together for events like this.

It's sad to read how the village is currently experiencing anti-social behaviour, from just a small group of people. Let's hope this comes to a halt before it causes any more upset and concern.

Deadline for the Winter issue is 4th January.

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 turnaround with the printers.

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

Parish Hall Update & Upcoming Events

Those of you who walk past the Parish Hall will have seen the fantastic progress being made. The new cladding looks wonderful, and the added insulation should make a real difference in how well the hall retains heat. It's exciting to see everything coming together so brilliantly.

A Note on Recent Issues

Unfortunately, not everything is going as smoothly. A group of young people have been causing trouble around the hall, making it unpleasant for those using the space. While we understand that being a teenager can be boring at times, please remember that others rely on the hall for activities like art classes or dog training, things that are often the highlight of their week. Sadly, some people have even started cancelling bookings because of the disruptions.

If you know who might be involved, please have a word and ask them to stop. This is a shared space, and everyone should feel welcome and safe using it.

Children's Christmas Party – Save the Date!

On a more cheerful note, we're delighted to announce the return of our annual **Children's Christmas Party!**

🎄 **This year's theme: A Science Show**

🍰 **Plus: A festive Christmas tea for the children**

📅 **Date:** Sunday 21st December 2025

🕒 **Time:** 4:00 PM

👉 **Cost:** Free!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details on how to get tickets, we hope to see you there!



Live Music – Let's Keep It Going!

Over the past few months, we've hosted a couple of live music nights, but sadly, they weren't well attended. That's a real shame, not only for the organisers who put in a lot of effort, but also for the talented bands.

We're giving it another go with a fantastic **country band called Country Strong.**

☐ **Date:** Friday, 30th January 2026

☐ **What to expect:** Great music, dancing, cheap drinks, and a fun night out!

☐ **Low-cost entry £7.50**

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Witheridge Ladies' Club

In July our speaker was Steven Smith with one of his many talks, this time on the history of the messaging/postal systems. He mentioned the various methods messages were despatched by, including by mail coach and horse riders. He brought along part of his own stamp collection to show us. The trend nowadays to use the email system has greatly depleted the use of the postal system.

In August: 'We're having a heatwave, a tropical heatwave' We think this might have put some folk off coming to our Summer Tea Party with Cream Teas - too hot to venture out to walk to the hall. We still did rather well though in adding to our club funds.

In September by contrast with our August meeting we had rain, rain, and more rain this afternoon! It didn't dampen our enjoyment of the afternoon though.

We visited Tiverton, first of all to St Peter's Church, a beautiful and imposing building. Our guide Bill Zarrett gave us a talk full of humour about the history of the church and we were able to fully explore the interior ourselves afterwards. Of particular interest were the glorious stained glass windows and the unique organ. We were also very impressed by the vast number of kneelers in the church, such varied and wonderful designs, made with love by the congregation.

We then walked next door to Tiverton Castle, the origins which date from the 1100s. We enjoyed a guided tour of part of the gardens and numerous interesting rooms inside the castle. We saw many artefacts and portraits of historical figures connected with the castle. After this most enjoyable and instructional tour we were treated to refreshments. Alison Gordon, owner and our guide, could not have been more informative about her home and it's varied history. Our club also has a book club and lunch 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. Parish Hall 2–4 pm.
Except in June, September and December when we meet elsewhere.

Coral Simmonds



Witheridge in Bloom

Hi Everybody,

Another year nearly gone – where does the time go? Our volunteers continue to put their efforts into our displays, which I hope gives you joy to behold.

We have, this year, extended what we do by installing winter baskets on the toilet block in the square. We shall see how they do!

Littledart Fulfilment Ltd helped by giving us a donation this year, so thank you to them.

We completed our talk at the Gardening Club and they were kind enough to give us a donation.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking our volunteers as without them Witheridge would not bloom.

Carol Northam

carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk

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The Rest A While

charity number 801038

At this time of the year, when the Autumn weather is miserable, why not visit The Rest A While for a hot drink and a chat. We are open from Monday to Saturday from 10am – 12 noon.

We are a registered Warm Space, which is a nationwide organisation, looking out for the wellbeing of everyone within our community. Everyone is made very welcome

On the second and fourth Wednesday of the month the Men's Den takes place and Sean and Peter are the welcoming party. A great opportunity for the men to talk about manly things.

A Bring & Buy is held on the last Friday of the month, offering seasonal produce and home made goodies. There have been lots of apples being offered of late, ideal for the apple crumbles.

The 4th Saturday of the month there is a live music session from 10-12, which keeps the feet tapping.

Every Tuesday from 4.30 -5.15pm Rebecca Cunningham, a highly qualified Pilates Instructor provides a class of Gentle Chair Pilates .So good for balance, and is great fun. The sessions are £5.

Come and stretch those muscles you forgot you had.

If you have 2 hours per fortnight to spare you would be very welcome to join our happy band of volunteers who serve the drinks and biscuits.

We need more helpers, so please contact Val on 860709 if you can help.

The Rest A While is available for holding community events or private events, so please contact Val for details

Pat Grant

Witheridge Golf Society

On Wednesday 16th July ten played the Summer Trophy on a sunny day.

The winning team being: Stuart Gedrim, Tom Armstrong, Peter Smith.

Nearest to Pin: Richard Hurd.

A good day was had by all.



On Wednesday 10th September 11 players played for the Autumn Trophy on a wet and windy day.

The winning team being: Ken Ramsbotham, Jeff Souch, Stuart Gedrim, Peter Smith.

Nearest to Pin: Tony Harris

Thank you to Waterbridge Golf Club and Staff for an enjoyable day and the meal afterwards for both events.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 3rd December 2025 New Members Welcome

Contact: Ken Ramsbotham: Mob:07702226287 01884 861108

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

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01884 861108 07702226287



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Film Club

Our next film is on November 15th, and we are showing Mr Burton, the story of Richard Burton's early years in Port Talbot. As our numbers have greatly reduced, I think depending on how many people come to this film will decide whether we keep going. So, thank you to all of you who continue to support our film nights and hopefully see you on the 15th.

Margie



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Advent: More Than Just a Countdown

It's that time of year again—twinkling lights are going up, Christmas music is playing everywhere, and to-do lists seem to grow by the minute. But before we get swept away in the festive rush, the Church invites us to slow down and take a breath. Welcome to Advent.

Advent is the start of the Church year—a season of waiting, preparing and hoping. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and helps us get ready, not just for the celebration of Jesus' birth, but also for His promised return.

This season is a bit like pressing pause in a busy world. Instead of rushing, Advent encourages us to be still, to reflect, and to make space in our hearts for Christ. Each week, as we light the candles on the Advent wreath—hope, peace, joy and love—we're reminded of what truly matters.

It doesn't have to be complicated. Advent can be as simple as lighting a candle at home, reading a short prayer, or doing something kind for someone else. It's in those small, quiet moments that we can feel God drawing near.

So instead of just counting down the days until Christmas, why not use Advent to slow down and reconnect—with God, with loved ones, and even with yourself? Whether it's five minutes of quiet, a walk in nature, or attending an Advent service, each step helps prepare the way.

Let's not rush past Advent. Let's walk through it, one candle at a time, with hearts open and expectant. After all, something beautiful is coming—and it's worth the wait.

May God bless you.

Adrian Wells

Scarecrow Trail.

This October we had our 4th Scarecrow trail and, while there may not have been as many as other years, we certainly had some very imaginative ‘scarecrows’.

This year’s theme was ‘Holidays’.





Witheridge Garden Club

At our July meeting, Carol and John Northam came to talk to us about Witheridge in Bloom - WIB for short. Several of our members are volunteers for WIB, and it was interesting to hear about its origins.

Some years ago, the Parish Council wanted to enhance our lovely village, and Chris Kershaw undertook to start things going. Chris was also a member of the Garden Club and an avid gardener.

After Chris retired, Carol took over and introduced new planters throughout the village. Carol was keen to get volunteers to help out with the mammoth task and WIB started to grow. One idea was to do something on the Triangle at the top of the village. Carol discovered that it was privately owned and after some time managed to locate the owner, who willingly gave permission for it to be looked after by WIB. The tractor tyres were provided by Kit James, also a member of the Garden Club, and WIB volunteers got to work.

Carol then obtained permission from North Devon Homes and North Devon Council to place planters at Merryside Villas and Butts Close. Chapple Corner was a bit of a mess, and Donald Harris with his tractor and scoop made several trips to clear the rubbish.

Allison Homes gave permission, and provided the funding for 2 planters on the new development of Willow Rise and Juniper Way.

John then told us how WIB is financed. At the beginning, the Parish Council funded the insurance and some of the planting. The Knights of Witheridge have been very good and give an annual donation. WIB receive regular donations from W.H. Squires, the Funeral Directors, and local businesses have also donated. Chapple Corner needed a facelift and John wrote to local businesses asking them to sponsor providing hydrangea bushes - £300 was raised, the plants purchased, the ground was dug and prepared, and the hydrangeas planted. The high viz tabards worn by the WIB volunteers have been donated by a villager. A lot of help has been received by people throughout the village.

Volunteers are always welcome, and if you feel you could help out, then please contact Carol on 01884 860817, or email her at

carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk

Summer Show

The weather was kind to us for this Show on Saturday 2nd August. Although the number of exhibitors was lower than we have previously had, the quality and quantity of exhibits was excellent.

Flowers, fruit and vegetables were all shown off to their best; the handicrafts, floral arrangements, produce and the children's entries were also outstanding. The judges were kept busy deciding who had won which award! There were 2 new categories this year:



Chef's Selection in which exhibitors were asked to provide a selection of vegetables, which they had grown, up to a maximum of 7. This was judged by Anita-Claire Field from La Petite Bouchee and won by Ruth Cooper-Wedge.

The second new category was Pictures – watercolour, oil, drawing etc, and won by Jill Cronk for her beautiful painting of horses in the snow.

Other winners were Luke Harris-Williams, who won several awards for his vegetables, and these were The Gold Cup, Edward Sweeting Memorial Cup, Millie Williams Memorial Shield and the Banksian Medal - (His awards were collected by his wife Zoe);



Ros Knight who won the Ralph Tarr Cup;

Susan Trudgill won the Heathcote Jones Cup;

Zena Veal-Cox won both the Ruby Piercy Memorial Shield and the Arthur Leat Memorial Shield;

The Pat Housam Memorial Shield was won by Gill Southan;

The Peter Jones Cup was won by Celia Eastell and the winner of the Children's Challenge cup was Arthur Walker



Recipe for Chef's Selection

I had the honour of judging the Chef's Selection category at the Witheridge Garden Club Summer Show on August 2nd. All the entries showcased impressive creativity and seasonal flair. The winning entry stood out for its elegant presentation, diverse ingredient use, and a well-balanced flavour palate celebrating summer produce. Congratulations to the winners and all the entrants.

To celebrate the winning entry I've created a two course seasonal meal.

Anita-Claire Field.

La Petite Bouchee

(There isn't room to include the recipes, so if you would like a copy email Jill Horwood horwood539@btinternet.com or ring her on 01884 861323)

The September talk was an interesting one about RHS Rosemoor Garden through the seasons by the curator Jonathan Webster, who has been working at Rosemoor for 20 years. The talk was well illustrated with some drone photos showing the gardens from a perspective usually reserved for the birds!

The Garden has been in the care of the RHS for some 35 years and during that time there have been numerous changes and additions, but the bones were laid out by Lady Anne Berry who kept good records of the plants she acquired, some of which are rare in this country. Lady Anne gifted the estate to the RHS and became a gardening enthusiast after meeting Collingwood "Cherry" Ingram whilst in Spain.

We saw two wonderful trees, an oak and a flowering cherry, both of which have fallen victim to recent storms. Jonathan is a fan of liquid-amber trees and has recently had several planted, much to the dismay of the team who now have to mow in circles around them - harder work and slower than the previous straight lines!

Programme for the rest of the year

Wednesday 29th October Bees and Bee Keeping -Tiverton Bee
Keepers

Wednesday 26th November AGM, Quiz, Bring and Share Supper

Our 2026 programme starts on 25th February

All meetings start at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone welcome.

Jill Horwood

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The first donation was for new goalposts for the Witheridge Warriors YFC.



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Parish council report Autumn 2025

It is with great sadness that I begin this quarterly report as I have to speak about the escalating level of mindless intimidating vandalism that is occurring now in our village. We have had representation from concerned parishioners who have taken time to photograph these children where this vandalism is taking place. It has been centred around the Parish Hall but has moved out to the village square and the church. The church which has recently had CCTV installed photographed children climbing both through the Altar and pulpit, attempting to get into the back of the organ, break into the donation safe and use the donation hub for their gain. To add insult to injury they took the biscuits from the refreshment box for visitors and trod them into the carpet. Unfortunately the church council have had to agree to temporarily close the building unless a service or other function is taking place. Arrangements will be made for library book exchange.

The Parish Hall is losing income as classes are cancelled because of intimidation by children who when confronted are using foul language and “mooning.” Several ladies have expressed their concerns and are worried about visiting village events in the dark evenings. The Parish Hall are installing CCTV once the current refurbishment is finalised.

In the Square both the Hairdressers and the toilet doors have suffered forcing, and children have been attempting to climb onto the newly refurbished slate roof by using the shop waste bins. This was all photographed by a resident of the square.

At our council meeting all the above was discussed. It was decided firstly that a dossier has to be built up of all these occurrences and reported to the police and also to our council police advocate, his email is:- stevegsmith@aol.com. So please if you have evidence of vandalism report it to both. Secondly we are attempting to get guidance from the police as to the procedure of handling this “epidemic” and asking the appropriate officer to attend an open meeting where all of these current offences can be discussed and to seek advice on the best to move forward. Any meeting we can

(Parish Council update –cont.)

arrange will be advertised.

An update on my Summer report;

The District council parcel of land suggested to become a new community space for the village has been offered to us for rent or a possible purchase. Mr Jones will seek costings of both options and these will be discussed at the November meeting.

It was brought to my attention that I inadvertently made a mistake in suggesting that Mr Jones identified this piece of land, however it was a resident and I apologise to him.

I will finish with good news. The Parish clock is now functioning correctly chiming both the quarter and the hour and keeping time. One of the set of railings at “the Bow” have been removed by highways allowing access for mobility vehicles to the parish hall. No date has been identified for the light shields on the Zebra crossing but Mr. Hopely the county councillor is aware that with Winter approaching it is a priority to alleviate the light pollution for the long suffering residents of neighbouring properties.

The bridge to South Molton is finally open albeit only one lane but saving a long detour.

The council will continue to fund the village Christmas tree this year. Both myself and Cllr Northam will pick out the finest specimen in the wood to be delivered to the Square, erected and dressed by Friday 5th December.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Jacky Harvey Chairman Witheridge Parish Council



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News from Witheridge C of E Academy

It's been a wonderful start to the new school year at Witheridge C of E Academy! We are delighted to welcome our 20 new Reception children and three new staff members to the school community. It's been fantastic to see all our pupils return full of energy, enthusiasm, and ready for an exciting year of learning.

We're also incredibly proud of our **2025 SATs results**: 88% of Year 6 pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths combined — the highest in TEAM Multi-Academy Trust and well above both the Devon (56%) and national (62%) averages. Congratulations to our pupils and staff for this outstanding achievement!



The children have already enjoyed some exciting school trips and activities. Year 4 had a wonderful day at **Blundell's School**, exploring science and history, while our KS1 pupils had a hands-on experience at **Animal Encounters**, meeting a variety of animals up close. These trips are just some of the many ways we make learning fun and engaging.



Looking ahead, we warmly invite parents of children starting **Reception in 2026** to our **Open Evening on Tuesday 4th November** from **1:30–5:30 pm**. This is a great opportunity to tour the classrooms, meet the staff, and learn more about the exciting learning experiences we offer. Please **book a slot** by emailing admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk or calling **01884 860518**.



SPACES AVAILABLE FOR 2026 RECEPTION CHILDREN

We are now welcoming applications for Reception 2026 starters!

At Witheridge C of E Academy, we provide a dedicated, nurturing environment rooted in core values that ensure every child feels valued, supported and encouraged to reach their full potential. We strive to help children develop their unique gifts and thrive in mind, body and spirit.

Located in the heart of Witheridge, North Devon, we offer a welcoming and engaging experience for your child's exciting first steps into education.

Come and see us! We would love to show you around our wonderful school. To arrange a visit or for more information, please call 01884 860518 or email us via admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk.



We're also looking forward to our **Harvest Festival** on Wednesday 16th October at St. John the Baptist Church. The children will share songs, poems, and reflections on thankfulness, and we are encouraging donations of non-perishable food to support local families. It promises to be a joyful celebration of community and gratitude — we'd love to see as many parents and carers there as possible.

With best wishes,
Miss Ratcliffe

Head of School
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Witheridge Farmers Market

Wow what can I say?

Three 'willing' volunteers, Naomi, Elaine and I, agreed to re-launch and take over the running of the Farmer's Market which sadly ended earlier in the year. I think until you take on a task like this you don't realise how much time and energy this involves, but by working closely together we achieved our aim of re-launching, our first market being held on the 20th September.

Naomi quickly slipped into the role of doing much of the organizing, contacting stall holders, booking the venue, and sorting out lots of paperwork.

Elaine on the other hand decided that the café was the place for her and immediately started planning how this would run, along with the fabulous cakes which would be on offer. What a Team.

As with any new (to us) venture the first day is always a little uncertain, and I think the three of us held our breaths that morning hoping everyone would turn up which of course they did! With every stall filled, and watching our valued stall holders arriving laden with goodies, there was a real buzz in the air. By 10am we were ready to open and everything looked great. There were stalls selling local fresh produce, meat, eggs, jams, plants and wonderful crafts to name but a few, and of course Elaine and her family ran the café with some fabulous cakes at a bargain price.



The next thing was, would the village support us in our venture, but being Witheridge, this was never really in doubt. Just after 10am the hall began to fill up, and soon baskets were filled, tea and cakes were served, and the conversation flowed between everyone.

The atmosphere was lovely and showed how much people enjoyed getting together for a chat as much as being able to support our local traders.

Thank you for all the lovely feedback we received, and although tiring we knew that working together to keep the market running for the community was the right thing to do. Also knowing that the Farmer's Market is being so well supported gives us hope and scope to develop new ideas for the future (watch this space)!

And finally, we would like to thank Benson Grange Community Funding for giving us a grant of £400 to help us on our way.

We already have lots of ideas of how this money will be used, for example new signage and ways to promote the Farmer's Market but would also love to hear from those who come along to know what else you would like to see happen.

Helen Murphy

Don't forget to check out the Witheridge Market Facebook page



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Knights of Witheridge.



Over the summer, in addition to our usual schedule of quizzes, the Knights played a key role in supporting the cycle race held in

Witheridge at the end of July. Our team assisted by overseeing the parking arrangements for the event, ensuring that things ran smoothly on the day. In recognition of our efforts, we were pleased to receive a donation from the event organisers, SW Road Races.

In August, the Knights paid for the entertainment at the Village Fun Day organised by the Sports Club so the event could be free to all. We hope you enjoyed the entertainment provided by Professor Bumble and singing of Liz-ee. We also had our own stand there, thanks to everyone who bought tickets for our Meat Raffle and the children enjoyed our ring game and our old-fashioned bagatelle .

The summer also saw the introduction of two more fund raising activities. At the Sports Club's request, the Knights, organised a Bingo Night. It was very successful and hopefully will become a regular feature. Another Bingo Night is scheduled for October, with plans to hold them monthly going forward. As has been mentioned, Roy Harknett has also started the Knights' Meat Raffle with the opportunity to win a £25 meat voucher. The raffle is drawn fortnightly in the Sports Club on the Saturday following the quiz. Tickets are only £1 each so if you see Roy, why not stop him and buy one (or more)? The name of the lucky winner is published the on the Village, and the Knights' Facebook pages and of course they will be informed directly.

Talking of the quiz, it has been going from strength to strength and we seem to be building a regular following, The remaining dates for this year are 15th & 29th October, 12th & 26th November and 10th December. The December quiz will include our Christmas Raffle with secret prizes.

(Knights of Witheridge-cont.)

In addition, we are looking at making one of November quizzes a Pudding Quiz with more questions and additional entertainment—watch this space. Admission to the normal quiz and the Christmas Quiz is only £2 and we give half the money back to the first, second and third teams. All our quizzes are open to anyone who comes along.

Looking to the future, next year the Knights would like to hold a St Georges Day event. Planning is at an early stage, but we will need additional volunteers to get it off the ground – keep an eye on the Knights's and the Village Facebook pages.

Many of you will know that the bench we put up for dog walkers by the path through the wood from Drayford Lane to Fore Street was vandalised this year. I am happy to report that the bench has been lifted and repaired. All the paint that had been thrown over it was removed, the wood reoiled, and Jason from J K Garden Services has refitted it to its base for us.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous donation of £1000 to the Knights from the Benson Grange Community Fund which we will put to good use.

Finally our usual plea - for those who do not know about us, the Knights are a small group, currently nine people, that raise funds to support clubs and organisations in Witheridge and the surrounding area, but we cannot do it without the generous support of the people of Witheridge who come to our events or raise funds for us. If you would like to join the Knights and help us to raise funds for local good causes, please call the telephone number in the back page of the Voice. The more of us there are, the more fund raising we can do.



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Witheridge Parent and Toddler Group

Good Morning! We have had a lovely start to our toddler group this term with a few new faces as well. We have started our crafting with wooden rockets and will be moving onto the planets to complete the collection and hopefully make some lovely keepsakes for our families.

Over the next few weeks we will be talking about Halloween and learning about some autumnal Devon traditions. Hopefully towards half term we will be making some tasty treats and having a fun fancy dress session!

The sessions run on Wednesday (13:45 to 15:30) and Friday (9:00 to 10:30). Sessions are only a pound per family with a snack and drink included.

Please find us on Facebook (Witheridge parent and toddler group), or contact me directly on 07875127064 for more information.
Rebecca



**Witheridge
Farmers
Market**

**THIRD
SATURDAY
OF THE
MONTH**

**10 AM
- 1 PM**

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We also serve tea, coffee & cakes!

 Witheridge Parish Hall



We welcome new members of all ages and abilities

Non-members may use the court
at a cost of £10 per hour

Bookings can be made through the LTA ClubSpark
system which can be accessed via our website
You will first need to register with the LTA (free)

For more information about the club,
visit our website:

www.witheridgetennisclub.com
or contact: Sarah Vertigan on 07939 241025

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Tues	Variable
Weds	7 - 11pm Quiz nights
Thurs	6 - 11pm
Fri	5 - 11pm
Sat	2 - 11pm
Sun	4 - 9.30pm



The Club is a Members Only establishment. Membership is open to all.

Details can be found on our facebook page, by contacting the club at

WetheridgeSportsClub@gmail.com
or just pop in and see us!



Witheridge Warriors Youth Football Club – Growing Stronger Every Season

The Witheridge Warriors youth football team is going from strength to strength, with over 50 young players now registered across our squads, ranging from age 5 upwards. Our U7's and U10's are proudly competing in the North Devon League, while our U8's and U12's have a series of friendly matches lined up to develop their skills and teamwork.

The club is supported by a fantastic team of coaches and volunteers, all FA-trained and DBS-checked, ensuring that every child can enjoy football in a safe and supportive environment. At the heart of the Warriors is our focus on fun, inclusion, and community — we are proud to be a club where everyone is welcome.

Training takes place every Thursday evening from 6–7pm at Witheridge Football Club, just turn up and join us, the first two sessions are free. Our matches are usually held on Sundays, both home and away.

We're also looking forward to our next big fundraising event — a Halloween fancy dress training session followed by a silent disco on the training pitch. This spooky celebration will be held during half term on Thursday 30th October, and promises to be a fantastic evening for our young players and their families, anyone else is welcome too! The Warriors are not just about football — we're about building confidence, friendships, and a love for the game.

We strongly believe that no kids should be left on the sidelines so we try and keep costs as low as possible, and offer fully funded spots too if that would help your family please contact us. We have loads of football boots and shin pads available for children to use too.

For more details please find us on Facebook at Witheridge Warriors YFC. Email at witheridgewarriorsyfc@gmail.com or message Tommy on 07969485366.



The poster features a green football pitch at the top with players in action. Below this is a blue banner with the club's crest and the text 'WITHERIDGE WARRIORS'. To the right of the banner is a QR code. Below the banner, it says 'Be a Warrior! FA-trained, DBS checked, friendly coaches First 2 sessions free Open to all children from school years 1-10'. At the bottom, it says 'THURSDAYS 6-7PM WITHERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB' with four white arrows pointing right. Below this are two small photos of the team and a cartoon illustration of a boy in a blue jersey with a white number 1, holding a football. At the very bottom, it says 'No kids on the sidelines. Thanks to the Adam Stansfield Foundation, funded football sessions are available for families who need extra support, please pop us a message: 07702270565'. The bottom of the poster has an orange bar with the email 'WitheridgeWarriorsYFC@gmail.com' and the website 'www.WitheridgeFC.co.uk'.

WITHERIDGE WARRIORS

Be a Warrior!
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Open to all children from school years 1-10

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WITHERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB

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WITHERIDGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The darker evenings are here, and it is now time to go outside to view the jewels in the sky. On a clear night the Milky Way spreads out before you as a blanket in the heavens. Through binoculars the blanket turns out to be countless pinpoints of light as thousands and thousands of stars fill your sight. They are all stars in our own galaxy, the Milky Way. These neighbours of ours comprise many different types of star and number in the millions. Yet, there in the midst of this blanket of stars, lies a faint smudge. That is the Andromeda Galaxy, M31, our nearest large galaxy to us. It is the furthest object that we can see with the naked eye.

Mentioned before, the Pleiades are always worth a few moments to look at. Hot, blue stars surrounded by nebulosity these stars are crashing their way through a gigantic interstellar dust cloud easily seen in binoculars.

Special to November the bright star to the left of the Moon is Saturn (on the 1st) and on its right on the 2nd. The 5th November sees the biggest and brightest supermoon. Lying just 356,980 km from Earth, it is about 14% larger and 30% more brilliant than the faintest Full Moon. If it is clear, on the 6th November, in the early evening, the Pleiades can be found just to the right of the Moon. With aid Uranus can be seen to its lower right. Then on the 17/18th November there is the Leonid meteor shower which should be great to see in a moonless sky. This shower is from the remnants of Comet Tempel-Tuttle.

In December we have another meteor shower, the Geminid's will grace our skies on the 13/14th December, debris from the asteroid Phaethon. A great time to have a party with everyone holding a drink (to keep you warm) sat in a chair and facing a different direction. Every time someone sees a meteor they shout 'meteor' and someone records (time and direction – but do it quietly as the night progresses!). At the end of the party a good record of visible meteors will be available to you.

January and the discussions about the nature of the Christmas Star are past. On the night of the 3rd./4th there is the Quadrantid meteor shower. In the beginning of the month Mercury is visible in the morning whilst at the end of the month it will be seen in the evening. Caution here – do not look directly at the Sun as your eyesight will be damaged. Have someone with you as you view Mercury to keep you safe from accidentally seeing the Sun. Jupiter and Saturn will make for good viewing later in the month.

The Witheridge Astronomical Society meets monthly at 7.30pm on the third Thursday in the Committee Room of Witheridge Parish Hall. We are not a 'highbrow' society, our aim being to introduce people to the hobby/ science/ wonders of the night sky. If you have an interest do come along and join us. No experience or knowledge is needed. We have kindly been given some telescopes which are available to borrow.

Steven Smith



Posada December 2025



'Posada' (Spanish for 'inn') is a Christmas activity which lasts from December 1st – 24th when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night.

People sign up in advance, offering to host Mary and Joseph for a night. It's open to everyone, and lots of families find it's a great way to be involved in the Christmas story.

If you'd like to be involved please contact

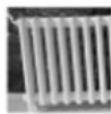
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Witheridge Allotment Society

Here we are once again heading towards the winter and those quieter months on the allotment, it's a time for harvesting, clearing away and putting our plots to bed. The weather has been pretty consistent and it was definitely a change to have a sunny August instead of the constant rain we always seem to get here in North Devon.

The potatoes harvested well but the runner beans didn't thrive in the hot weather. One of those years – the weather never suits all!



We rely on rain water and have three IBC's but these soon ran dry. We took the opportunity of renewing the pallets underneath to take the weight of them when full. Thanks to Zac and Luke for taking on the task!

Our landlady also agreed to renew the fence which had over the years rotted away. Our thanks to Marilyn Cole and to Lee Boyles for completing the fence in the hot weather!

Jobs to do in October, November and December - We can probably expect the first frosts in October and this month is also all about tidying the allotment and preparing it for next year. It is a great opportunity to clear and weed those beds and to add a good layer of compost or manure as well as adding lime where it is needed. It is also a good time for planning your crop rotations and allocating beds for next year.

If you are interested in growing your own please get in touch. It's very rewarding and cheaper than a gym membership!

Amanda Williams



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District Councillor Update October 2025

Please see my latest update as your District councillor.

Affordable & Social Housing at Benson Grange

More affordable and social rent homes at Benson Grange have now been released, with most going to people with a local connection. If you've previously been unsuccessful, please try again; in many cases, there are now more homes than applicants.

A local priority agreement gives Witheridge residents first access before properties are offered to neighbouring parishes and then the wider North Devon area. Please check your application details carefully, as errors can lead to missed opportunities.

In addition, part ownership houses are now also on the market.

There has been a rumour that homes at Butts Close are being allocated to asylum seekers. This is not true. The local priority agreement only applies to the new homes at Benson Grange. If a resident from Butts Close moves into a new, larger home to better meet their needs, their former property is re-let through the Devon-wide system, but these homes are not, and will not be, used to house asylum seekers.

Community Grants

A fund of £15,500 was set up by L&G, the new owners of the Benson Grange development, to support local community grants. The application period is now closed, and funds are being allocated to several local organisations, including Rest A While, the Parish Hall for installation of CCTV, a project to install an additional defibrillator outside the medical centre, the Witheridge Warriors, the Sports Club, St John's Fair, and other valuable community initiatives.

This fund is in addition to the £15,500 previously awarded to local groups at the end of last year by Allison Homes.

(Continued on next page)

Land Adjacent to Willow Rise

Following the purchase of the Cannington Road land by an unknown member of the public, resulting in the halting of plans for the community orchard on that site, I have been looking at the opportunity to rent or buy adjoining land next to the new park at Willow Rise from the District Council. This idea was proposed by a member of the community at a recent Parish Council meeting. This land may be available to the community for future use.

The Parish Council will be discussing options and if viable will be organising a public consultation to explore the best way forward for this use.

Update on Anti-Social Behaviour and Village Concerns

There is growing concern in the village as the situation has escalated significantly in recent weeks. What began as minor incidents has now developed into widespread anti-social behaviour, with reports of vandalism, home break-ins, and increasing fear among residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, who are now afraid to go out, especially after dark.

Steven Smith, Police Advocate, is working hard to ensure the police are fully aware of the situation. I've also liaised with the Police and housing provider to raise these concerns. If anyone wishes to report an issue, they can contact Steven. He is able to take forward reports anonymously at stevengcsmith@aol.com or please contact the police directly.

Local Government Reform

In September, I attended a special Full Council meeting to discuss the Government's proposals for merging the districts of Devon as part of the wider programme of local government reform.

My group, the North Devon Independent Group, once again strongly advocated for the development of a Northern Devon Option as an alternative to the "1:4:5" model currently being promoted by other districts. We believe this alternative would better protect and reflect North Devon's unique identity, priorities, and needs.

(Continued on next page)

Meanwhile, Devon County Council continues to push for the creation of a much larger unitary authority with its focus centred around Exeter. We remain concerned that such a model would risk marginalising more rural and coastal communities, including those in North Devon.

The final proposed direction will be presented by the district and county council in November.

Section 106 Community Projects

Projects funded by the Section 106 community fund are now underway. Money has been allocated for improvements to the Village Hall, focusing on enhancing insulation to make the building more energy-efficient and comfortable. This project has already started and will help preserve and improve the facility for years to come.

In addition, projects are being worked on for improvements to the sports field facilities led by a dedicated working group, the Parish Hall team investigating the feasibility of creating a state-of-the-art skatepark, and refurbishment and enhancement of the existing pump trail.

Further updates will be provided as these projects develop.

Planning Support

I have been busy supporting communities and individuals with challenges they are facing regarding planning applications. If you need advice or assistance with your own application or have concerns about a neighbouring application, please do reach out.

Stay in Touch

You can contact me by email at peter.jones@northdevon.gov.uk, call or WhatsApp on 07708 187 305, or via Facebook Messenger on my councillor page.

Please follow my Facebook page for the latest updates and information.



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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, see www.witheridgepc.org for full schedule and any changes.

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

Chair : Cllr J Harvey Tel: 07751 974412

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.



Witheridge Newsagents t/a Two Moors Store

16a The Square, Witheridge

New opening hours:

Monday – Thursday 6.00am - 6.00pm

Friday and Saturday 6.00am - 7.00pm

Sunday 6.00am - 1.00 pm

A little known fact is that we have been delivering groceries throughout this year and intend to continue this service. We also accept payment by debit card over the phone making life easier we hope. If you've not been in to see the range recently please come on in and have a nose. Tel: **01884 860815**

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Wednesday Charity Bingo.

Hello All, The Bingos have been very well supported which Marion, David, Suzi and Hayley very much appreciate. We have just donated £100 to each of our ten charities, which I hope makes everybody feel good as the letters of thank you we get in return.

Dates for your diaries for forthcoming Bingos are as follow, all start at 7.30pm and are in Thelbridge Parish Hall on alternate Wednesdays.

November 5th and 19th.

December 3rd. December 17th will be our Christmas Bingo, and the last one for the year, we will start again on 14th of January.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Marion, David, Suzi and Hayley.

WITHERIDGE VOICE ONLINE



All 58 Past Issues of the Witheridge Voice available
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Witheridge Methodist Church.

Things have been ticking over, as usual, with our monthly coffee mornings, community lunches and Sunday Morning services.

Our focus is always on outreach and what we can do within our community.

Over the last few months we've been involved with Christians in Witheridge and their afternoon café church, at the end of August, and then the Sing and Cider, at the beginning of October. For any of these events it's great when we see new faces. Please come along to any of our future events— there's usually food involved.

The next event will be Breakfast Church on Sunday 30th November, at 10am, in the Parish Hall.

On October 12th we held our harvest festival service , where food was donated either for sale or to be taken to CHAT, in Tiverton.

Future Events

We are planning a **Christmas Tree Festival** on the evening of Friday 5th then Saturday 6th December. These will coincide with the Lighting of the Christmas Tree, in the Square, on Friday, and then our coffee morning on Saturday 6th.

We'd like to invite any group, family or individual to decorate a tree, that represents 'them' and bring along to the church on the Friday daytime as part of the festival. The church will then be open from 5-8pm on Friday then from 10-4 on the Saturday for anyone to come and visit. Hot drinks and mince pies will be available.



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9.30-11am

25th July, 22nd August, &
26th September

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Sean Murphy - 07503 197282

Charity No. 801038

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

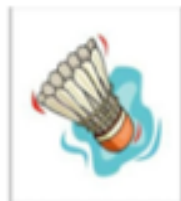


Table tennis

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

Brownies and Guides.

We have enjoyed our start this term and have had fun working on expressing ourselves. Also had a visit to West Middlewick farm and got to feed calves and other activities. We have some new badges which we are working on. We have had new Guide and Brownies join us this term and have room for more. Our Guides went on camp in the summer with Tiverton Guides and had a good time.

If you are interested in joining our group then contact me on 07957808981
Carole Chapple



What's Happening in the village.

Parish Hall Chair		Clare Spicer 860135
Parish Hall booking	(meetings are free)	Steven Smith 861037
Allotment Society	David Williams	07811979488
Art Group	Parish Hall –Wed 7.30pm	Eileen Curtis 860564
Badminton	Parish Hall Fri 7.30pm Linda	Williams 07966131522
Brownies and Guides	Witheridge School	Carole Chapple 855329
Charity Bingo	Thelbridge Hall alt Wed 7.30pm	Marion Crane 860530
Bell Ringer	Belfry Thur 7.30pm 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	Ian Tench 860770
Ladies Group	Parish Hall 2nd Tues 2pm Coral	Simmonds 07759845052
Methodist Church	Sunday 10.30am Ruth Towers	07980104347
Monday Club	Rest a While alt Mon 2pm	Val Dickinson 860709
Rest a While	Mon– Sat 10-12,	Val Dickinson 860709
Short mate bowls	Parish Hall Tues 6.30, Thur 2pm	Greg Henderson 860819
Table tennis	Parish Hall Fri 11-12	Greg Henderson 860819
Tennis club	Www.witheridgetennisclub.com	Sarah Vertigan 07939241025
Taekwondo	Parish Hall Thur 6-7pm	Kevin Raven 07804471165
Astronomical society	Committee Room 3rd Thur 7.30-9	Steven Smith 861037
Witheridge in Bloom	Carol.northam@pobroadband.co.uk	
Witheridge Golf Society	Ken	Ramsbottom 861108
Witheridge Parish Church	Sunday 9.30am	Rev Adrian Wells 861383
Witheridge Primary School	& pre-School Head of School	Miss Ratcliffe 869518
Witheridge parent and toddler group	Witheridge School Wed 1.45-3.30 Fridays 9-10.13am	Rebecca +Nick Robinson 07875127054
Witheridge ploughing association	Gill Gilbard	gill@helebartonfarm.co.uk
Witheridge Young Farmers	Emma Gilbard em	ma.gilbard@markalengroup.com
Witheridge Youth Club	Parish Hall 1+3rd Thurs 7-8.30pm	Andrea Court 860815
Witheridge Striders	Edward Fyson 07517148284	Janet Ashelford 860234
Worlington Photography group	Worlington Parish hall 3rd Tue 7.30pm	Terry Brown 861268



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