

# Wetheridge Voice



Winter 2025  
ISSUE 59

www.countrysidefunerals.co.uk



# Countryside Funerals

A friendly, personal approach to arranging unique funerals

- \*Traditional Funerals
- \*Affordable, Simple Cremation
- \*Green Funerals & Natural Burial
- \*Tailor-made pre-payment plans
- \*Bereavement Support



31 Park Hill, Tiverton, Tel. 01884 258881



## PENNYMOOR TIMBER LTD

Family-owned and independent since 1969

### Timber

Sawn, Planed, Treated & Incised  
Joinery Grade and Long Lengths  
Fencing/Panels & Gates  
Sheet Materials • Roof Sheeting  
Decking • Raised Beds  
Cladding & Guttering  
Poultry Units + materials for  
refurbishment and maintenance



Tel: 01363 866262

Fax: 01363 866840

email: pennymoortimber@yahoo.co.uk

[pennymoortimber.co.uk](http://pennymoortimber.co.uk)



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>	
Editorial	4	Editor: Ruth Towers
Parish Hall	6	Tel 07920650485
Ladies Club	7	ruthandjo9@outlook.com
Rest a While	9	Treasurer Robin Thomason
Witheridge in bloom	10	07434032880
St John the Baptist Church	12	Chairman Carol Prynne
Allotment Society	14	Secretary Gill Manning
Film Club	16	Minutes Secretary Mike Turner
Gardening Club	18-20	Proof reading Committee
Witheridge Golf Society	22	Advertising Robin Thomason
Brownies and Guides	24	07434032880
Witheridge Toddlers Group	28	advert.treasure.voice@gmail.com
Witheridge Rocks	29	Website www.witheridgevoice.org
Reminiscence Project	30	Webmaster
District Councillor Update	33-35	witheridgevoicewebmaster@gmail.com
Methodist Church	38	Printed by Pharoah Print and Design
Knights of Witheridge	41,42	
Parish Council Update	43-45	
Witheridge C of E Academy	47-49	
Mid Devon Messenger	50	
Worlington Photo Society	51	
Astronomical Society	53,54	
St John's fayre 2025	56	
Sport's club, short mat bowls, table tennis, badminton	57	
People for Ponies	59	
What's Happening	63	
		<b><u>Advertising in Witheridge Voice</u></b>
		Advertising rates to include the next 4 quarterly issues of the magazine are:
		Full page £119
		1/2 page £65
		1/3 page strip £49
		1/6 page box £29
		Email:
		advert.treasure.voice@gmail.com

## **EDITORIAL**

It feels almost too late to say “Happy New Year “ but I think I should anyway.

There has certainly been plenty going on over the last few months. It was sad that St John’s Fayre Christmas event was cancelled, due to bad weather, but check out their information in this issue and maybe offer some help for the summer fayre.

It’s so important that we support our village events– whether that’s film nights, farmers’ market or the many musical events that are organised. In the same way, we need to support our local businesses or we may lose them.

I’m often in Crediton, looking after our grandsons, and see posters promoting the idea of locals spending £5 a week in local businesses.

***“When money circulates within the community, it creates a multiplier effect, benefiting multiple local businesses and individuals.”***

Perhaps this is something we all aim to do, if we’re not already doing so.

You will notice a few spaces in this magazine just waiting to be filled by new adverts. There is also information about the Witheridge Voice website which is always a useful point of reference for what’s going on in the village.

### **Deadline for articles for the Spring Issue is 4th April**

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

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

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

## **PARISH HALL UPDATE**

Once again Circus Berzercus was a great success.

The children absolutely loved it, and it was wonderful to see them so excited and happy just before Christmas. Huge thanks to everyone who helped make it go so well. We will be hoping to do something again next year, probably something a bit different but still a Christmas gift for the children of Witheridge from the hall trustees.

The next thing we are putting on will be Big AI in April so keep a look out for more information about that as it gets nearer the time.

We have been having a bit of an uphill battle now on a couple of fronts. Firstly, the heating.

New heating has been installed and we are hoping it will prove to be a success, but we are having a few teething problems. The instructions for using the heaters are in the hall beside the meters, and beside the winches. So please make sure you have read the instructions before reporting an issue. The heaters are working.

Secondly the key safes are being particularly troublesome. I am hoping the committee room one is now up and running but there have been a few issues with the main hall one: Once again, apologies. If anyone hiring the hall has any difficulty getting in they can call me on 07759 973772. I can safely say that any further attempt at dealing with key safes in the future will be done in the summer!

I would like to thank once again the trustees of the hall they do an amazing job for no reward; they really are wonderful.

Happy New Year

Clare Spicer

## **WITHERIDGE LADIES CLUB**

In September we had a canal barge trip outing in Tiverton. A most enjoyable journey on the barge; we saw many ducks, moorhens and swans. The Captain, Paul Brind, told us about the history of the canal and explained that the enterprise was a family run business. It was very well worth the visit. There is also a visitors' centre, a gift shop and coffee shop. Many members enjoyed a lunch at the canal café before boarding.

Our speaker for October was unfortunately not available, instead June and Sue distributed craft materials to enable members to make their individual greetings cards. This was a very popular pastime.

In November we welcomed Coralie who had provided a large selection of items suitable for making a Christmas arrangement in a mug, she then gave assistance, where needed, to members in making their own arrangement. A good time was had by all, we were delighted to take our Christmas arrangement home with us.

In December the weather was very cold but dry for our trip out to the London Inn at Morchard Bishop for our Christmas lunch. The food was delicious and abundant, and we enjoyed great service.

We have a full programme booked for 2025; great speakers, outings and lots of activities. A warm welcome awaits members new and old. Our first meeting of 2025 is on 14 January, our AGM. We will also be enjoying a quiz, board games and crafts on that day. Subscriptions remain at £20 for a year's membership.

Our club also has a book club and lunch club. Why not come along to see what we are up to!

2nd Tuesday in the month. Parish Hall 2–4 pm.  
Coral Simmonds

SINCE 2014



**LA PETITE BOUCHÉE**  
Private Chef | Events | Brasserie

Family & Friends Celebrations | Boutique  
Weddings | Hen & Stag Party | Shoots | Yoga &  
Wellness Retreats | Corporate Events  
Multi-Award Winning Brasserie

For further information or to book a no obligation meeting contact:  
Anita-Clare Field 01884 900 161  
email [hello@lapetiteboucheebrasserie.co.uk](mailto:hello@lapetiteboucheebrasserie.co.uk)

**gth**



## THE EXPERTS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

From cottages and townhouses to farms,  
land and country homes; if you are  
looking to sell, develop or  
let your property, we can help.

Contact us today for a **FREE**  
market appraisal.

01884 243000 | [residential.tiverton@gth.net](mailto:residential.tiverton@gth.net)

**GREENSLADE TAYLOR HUNT**  
[www.gth.net](http://www.gth.net)

# WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL



## What would you like to do in the Parish Hall?

This could be:

Indoor Sport

A Wedding

A Jumble Sale

A Children's Party

A Concert

A Meeting

Or almost anything you would like

£15 an hour

£10 an hour for Children

Charities by negotiation

(All rates including the use of china and cutlery)

**To make a booking or for further information, please phone**

**Steven Smith on 01884 861037**



## THE REST AWHILE charity no 801038



*Coffee & Chat*

Everyone at The Rest A While would like to wish you all a very Happy 2025.

As a registered Warm Space, we welcome anyone looking for a cuppa and a chat in a friendly atmosphere, to join us from **10am until 12 noon**. We are open from **Monday to Saturday** all through the year, and only close on Christmas Day. This is all down to our lovely volunteers who give up their time and offer a warm welcome.

On the last Friday of the month, we hold a bring and buy stall with seasonal produce and homemade goodies. There is also a raffle. In the entrance hall we have a book exchange bookcase with a variety of paperbacks to be enjoyed.

**The Mens' Den** has proved to be so popular, that from January it will be held twice a month.

Sean and Peter will be there to welcome you on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

February dates are 12th and 26th.

Since October there have been **live music sessions** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month from 10am -12.

These sessions will continue into the New Year. It has been great fun, so our thanks go to Russell North, and all the talented musicians who take part and raise our spirits. Come along and listen to some great music.

In a few weeks we are planning to hold a jumble sale at the Rest A While. This will be a fund raiser towards our building maintenance programme. The date will be confirmed very soon, so watch out for posters around the village.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at The Rest A While please get in touch with Val

Tel No. 860709. It is just 2 hours of your time, once a fortnight, please come and join us.

Pat Grant  
secretary



## Witheridge in Bloom

Hi Everybody.

We were lucky to receive funding, from Allison Homes, which has allowed us to replace the rotting surround with oak sleepers on the display by the Pound House in the square; two new planters and a set of mangers for the toilet block.

Our volunteers continue through rain or shine to keep things looking tidy, but we are always looking for more helpers so that we can expand what we do.

May I wish you all a peaceful New Year and thank those who have supported us in the past with donations, either financial or otherwise.

[carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk)

01884 860817

### **Bell Ringing Practice**

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

Thursdays. ALL WELCOME

Contact: Ken Ramsbotham Tower Captain

01884 861108 07702226287



KEVIN JONES

## **Clean Sweep**

**Chimney and Flue Cleaning**

**Brush and Vacuum service**

**Clean Friendly Reliable**

**Tel: 01884 - 821297 or Mobile: 07773 - 618524**



# THE MITRE INN



PROPER FOOD, REAL ALE &  
A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE



## BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

Our ethos is to provide quality seasonal meals made with locally sourced ingredients.

If it'll fit in a box, we can have it ready to takeaway!

## REAL ALES, CIDERS & LAGERS

Varieties from across the world to as close as down the road. A pint of the good stuff not your thing? Come and check out our gin corner & cocktail menu!



## BED & BREAKFAST

We have five rooms suitable for families, to people travelling with dogs. So if you ever have friends or family coming to stay, but just not enough room at home, why not book them a room?

Cooked breakfast included!



TEL - 01884 861263

EMAIL - [THE.MITREINN@MAIL.COM](mailto:THE.MITREINN@MAIL.COM)



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

## Seasons

I am writing this article on New Year's Day, a wet and windy day, thinking about Christmas a week ago and all the celebrations enjoyed with others. It is lovely to see Christmas decorations and an array of coloured lights as I walk Monty around the village.

I was asked earlier in the week when should the Christmas tree and decorations come down. There are many different answers. For me the Christmas tree is dismantled after twelfth night - Epiphany (a moment of sudden realisation, in the church specifically a showing of Jesus Christ to the Magi, God had come to earth for everyone not just the Jews) - on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. However, the crib stays up until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February - the festival of Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, which is the end of the Christmas season in the church.

There is such a build up to Christmas with carol services, Christingle, school nativities, offering worship, tradition and fellowship. It is over so quickly. The Church allows us a few weeks more for reflection about God's Son coming amongst us, being human and divine, living a life showing us of God's love for all of his creation.

The next major season will be Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Forty days of reflection leading to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and culminating on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Day this year. The date for Easter moves each year because it is set by the phases of the moon and is related to the meal, Passover, that Jesus celebrated with his friends the night before he was arrested. The celebration of Easter occurs after the first full moon following the Spring equinox and will fall between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

I pray that you may know that God is present in your life also his love, in everything you are, do and say.

May God bless you.

Adrian



**DIANNE  
LEACH**  
*Nail & Beauty*

By Appointment Only

**Gift Vouchers Available**

66 Butts Close,  
Witheridge, Tiverton  
Tel: 01884 860039 or  
07513 497300



**MUD & MOOR**  
**POTTERY**

HANDMADE IN DEVON

Pottery classes in my log cabin  
studio in Witheridge  
6 week blocks £150  
Morning & evening sessions  
available

MUDANDMOORPOTTERY@GMAIL.COM  
07702270565 - 01884860387



**Quality Solicitors**  
**Charlesworth  
Nicholl**

- Moving home • Agricultural • Commercial • Leases
- Family Matters • Landlord & Tenant • Wills & Probate
- Accountancy & Tax

**YOUR  
LOCAL LEGAL  
EXPERTS**

Contact us on:

01363 774706

[www.qualitysolicitors.com/charlesworthnicholl](http://www.qualitysolicitors.com/charlesworthnicholl)

31 High Street, Crediton, Devon EX17 3AJ

Charlesworth Nicholl & Co is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority no. 174176.

**R T Foster Electrical**

Fully qualified Electrician  
All works undertaken.  
Fully insured and guaranteed

Ring Rob 01884 860689 or  
07763594910  
for free quotation

NAPIT and UKAS registered

**Tommy Butcher**  
**Decoration & wallpaper specialist**

Over 15 years experience

All aspects of wallpapering and decorating.

Carried out to a high standard

Extremely knowledgeable service provided  
throughout your project



[www.primarydecorators.co.uk](http://www.primarydecorators.co.uk)  
[primarydecorators@gmail.com](mailto:primarydecorators@gmail.com)  
07969 485366  
01884860387



*Just Me Hair & Beauty*

07946 487577 / 01884 861514  
The Square, Witheridge, Tiverton  
EX16 8AE

By appointment only  
Gift vouchers available

## Allotment Society.

Happy New Year from the Allotmenters!

Our Christmas dinner included home grown carrots, swede, broccoli cauliflower and potatoes so we considered that a success and delicious!

We look forward to another growing year and planning what we will grow and where. Adding well rotted manure will improve the soil and give better results, you cannot keep taking without replacing the nutrients.

Gardening can be a healthy activity for life if you are sensible with your physical capabilities.

### 5 handy tips for gardeners of any age

1. Think before you bend, hinge from the hips and allow your ankles to flex especially when lifting. If you can, squatting can be comfortable for long periods and is a great way to maintain lower body flexibility.
2. Variety, Digging is hard labour and long periods of this can cause repetitive strain injuries and back pain. Break up the task by choosing lighter jobs that use different muscle groups.
3. Be aware of tension in your neck, the Alexander Technique teaches you how to keep your head balanced and poised on top of your spine. A contracted neck and hunched shoulders interfere with natural posture and can also impact balance.
4. Organise your shed, replan your storage to reduce any unnecessary twisting, turning or lifting heavy bulky items such as lawnmowers.
5. Have a lie down or active rest - this will release any tension that has built up whilst gardening.

We have allotments available if you're interested – get in touch and we'll show you around!

## Witheridge Parish Council Council Information



### Council & Committee Meetings

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

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

**Planning** applications received after agenda publication will be dealt with owing to a 21 day limit on the council responding to consultations from the Planning Authority. The parish council is only a consultee, and does not determine applications.

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

**Contacting the Council :-** Tele : 07922 926017

Email : [parishclerk@witheridgepc.org](mailto:parishclerk@witheridgepc.org)

Website : [www.witheridgepc.org](http://www.witheridgepc.org)

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

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

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

---

06/02 Council (WPH)

---

06/03 Council (WPC)

---

03/04 Annual Parish Meeting (WPH 18:30)

---

03/04 Council (WPH 19:00)

---

## WITHERIDGE FILM CLUB

Happy New Year to all our Witheridge film night supporters! Your support is very much appreciated and enables us to keep going. Unfortunately, the licence to show films has been increased from January. In order to continue we need to make slight price increases. The cost of tickets will now be £6 instead of £5 and we have increased the bar prices. However, we do hope you continue to come to our film nights.



in-

After some teething problems the hall is now lovely and warm. Thank you Amanda for persevering!

On January 18th we showed Thelma and we hope you all enjoyed it. The next film night is February 15th and we hope to show The Critic, with Ian McKellen. It is a British period thriller set in 1930's London. March 15th is our next film night, but we have yet to decide on the film. We hope to show the new Paddington film as soon as it's available.

If there is anybody out there who would occasionally give Terry a break we would be grateful. It's the 'techy' side of showing films and Terry would show you how easy it is!

So, see you all soon ,  
Margie and the team xx



### **J K GARDEN SERVICES**

Covering Witheridge and beyond.

Landscaping, fencing, mowing, hedge cutting  
and general garden maintenance.

For further information call Jason.

Mobile: 07971 292599

Office: 01884 860779

Email: [jklandscaping@icloud.com](mailto:jklandscaping@icloud.com).



**East Worlington Primary School**, for children aged 2-11 years, is in the village of East Worlington, very close to Witheridge.

A small, warm & welcoming school with incredible outdoor facilities!!

- **Nursery Class** - registered for funded childcare
  - **Out of School Club**
- Part of the high performing Chulmleigh Academy Trust, enabling seamless transition & **priority admission** to secondary school at Chulmleigh College.



**East Worlington Primary School & Nursery**

w: [www.east-worlington-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.east-worlington-primary.devon.sch.uk)

e: [admin@east-worlington-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@east-worlington-primary.devon.sch.uk)

t: 01884 861722



Call Steve on:

**01884 860960**

- **WOOD BURNER INSTALLATION**
- **OIL BOILER INSTALLATION + SERVICING**
- **OIL TANK INSTALLATION**
- **ALL GENERAL PLUMBING NEEDS**

Registered  
Solid Fuel  
Heating  
Business



Registered  
Oil Heating  
Business



# Witheridge Gardening Club

## Witheridge Garden Club

What do you know about Orchids? Not much, but after our September meeting, we all knew a lot more! Our speaker for the evening was Saul Walker, Vice-Chairman of the Devon Orchid Society. Saul is also Head Gardener at Stonelands House, Dawlish. He has an impressive list of qualifications and experience, including a passion for orchids stretching over 25-30 years, and helping to build Orchid stands at the Chelsea Flower Shows.

There are 27,000 species of orchids world wide, many of which are the most tolerant of house plants. There are 3 main temperature zones for orchids – Cool – minimum 12°C; Intermediate – 16 – 24°C and Warm – 19 – 29°C. Don't put your orchids on top of a radiator, or in direct sunlight which will burn the leaves.

Saul gave us a most interesting and informative talk, and those members who had orchids found the evening very beneficial. He brought with him a number of different types of orchids, supplied by Burnham Nurseries at Newton Abbot. Saul is a very good speaker, and I have a list of his other talks – if anyone would like to book him for their club/society then let me know and I'll give you the details.

Jill Horwood  
Secretary

**“Devon Orchards and how Devon took to Cider”** was the title of an interesting and well-illustrated talk by Michael Gee at our October meeting, which told us the history of orchards in Devon. The only native apple is the crab apple, with all other varieties originating from Asia. The earliest apple trees were grown in the medieval period, but were probably not orchards as we know them today. Henry VIII, encouraged by Catherine of Aragon, promoted fruit growing and cider caught on as a drink that lasted longer than home brewed ale.



A diary from 1787 recording apple trees at Buckland Manor, Braunton included 10% of Devon apples: Tom Putt, Lucombe and Brown-eyed Pippin. The rest were from Herefordshire. Competition has seen a marked decline in Devon orchards since the second world war, but the introduction of

more specialised and professional fruit growing has seen a resurgence.

White Lightning was developed in Winkleigh by Inch's Cider and proved hugely successful. Inch's was bought by Bulmer's (now owned by Heineken) and production moved to Herefordshire although a proportion of their apples are still grown in Devon. There was far too much information in this talk to be reproduced here!

Photographs courtesy of Michael Gee

Janet de Rochefort

November is our last meeting of the year when we hold our AGM and end the season with a bring and share buffet.

Alan Horwood was re-elected as Chairman; Janet de Rochefort as Treasurer; the committee were re-elected en bloc, and we welcomed 3 new members to the committee. I retired as Secretary, and the work will be split amongst the committee members.

Our programme for 2025 is as follows:

Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Grow the Food you can't Buy. Katherine Crouch
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Fuchsias My Way. David Dexter
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Spring Show</b>
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	The care and Management of Trees and Shrubs . David Usher
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	People4Ponies. Faye Winter
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	TBA
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Witheridge in Bloom. John and Carol Northam
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	<b>Summer Show</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Rosemoor. Jon Webster
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Bees and Bee Keeping. Tiverton Bee Keepers
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	AGM and Social Evening

New members are always welcome and as can be seen from our programme, we cover a wide range of subjects. We meet on the last Wednesday in the month, at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.

Jill Horwood



Coming  
Early 2025

# Benson Grange

## WITHERIDGE

New 2, 3, 4 & 5 bedroom  
**Shared Ownership Homes**



## Introducing Benson Grange

Benson Grange is situated in the tranquil village of Witheridge and brings an exciting new opportunity to live in the North Devon countryside. Enjoy modern living, built with quality and sustainability in mind.

**We are proud to be contributing £15,500  
to help support community projects in Witheridge\***

To register your interest or to find out more about these  
**Shared Ownership** homes call **01884 510 253**

 [benson-grange.co.uk](https://www.benson-grange.co.uk)

Register  
here →



\*See our website for details of how to apply for funding.  
T&C's apply. Subject to status and eligibility criteria. Min and max share values apply and rent is payable on the unsold share. Homes will be prioritised to those with a local living or working connection to Witheridge.  
The exterior images are representative of actual home styles at Benson Grange. January 2025.

# WITHERIDGE GOLF SOCIETY



On December 4th 2024 4 teams of 3 played for the Winter Trophy.

A good day was had by all followed by an excellent Christmas meal in the clubhouse provided by the staff at Waterbridge Golf Club.

The winning team were: Stuart Gedrim & Ken Ramsbotham Witheridge and Jeff Souch Meshaw

The Wooden Spoon went to John Avens, Jim Steel and Richard Herd.

Nearest pin on the 3rd was Tom Armstrong.

The next meeting will be Wednesday March 12th 2025

Waterbridge Golf Club

All new members welcome

Contact Ken Ramsbotham: 01884 861108 Mob:07702226287



# The PC Geek

*your computer...*

*not working got a virus*

*Collecting dust in the corner*

## call Andy Carnegie

PC repairs

Health checks

Upgrades

Web Design

Office/admin services

New and refurbished computers

Established 18 Years

£60 first hour

then

£20.00 every 30min



[www.tpcgeek.co.uk](http://www.tpcgeek.co.uk)

Tel: 07903 566861

Email: [tpcgeek@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tpcgeek@hotmail.co.uk)



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT INN

Nomansland EX16 8NN



Family run pub since 1986.

Open for food & drinks

Tuesday to Sunday from 12 noon.

For all information on closing  
times & menus go to our web site

[www.themountpleasantinn.com](http://www.themountpleasantinn.com)

Take away service still available.

To make a booking

please call

**01884 860271**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Witheridge Brownies & Guides



Witheridge Brownies and Guides had a busy Autumn Term with many and varied activities, the district Christingle was held at Witheridge Church this year and the Mayor of Tiverton attended and the girls from all Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from Tiverton districts took part, a special thanks to Jane for organising the event. Brownies and Guides also visited the Firs, on the following week to sing Carols and Christmas songs to the residents. We took part in Remembrance Service at church with girls carrying the flags and laying a wreath. We made edible fireworks for Firework night, had a Christmas craft evening and made lanterns for windows for Methodist Church Christmas celebrations.

We are always happy to take more girls and willing to have volunteers to help us run the groups.





# Friendship & Sons

## Funeral Directors

*For the personal touched that matter*

We are a family run business providing professional and caring services to families in Witheridge and surrounding villages from our offices in South Molton and Dulverton.

- Offering Traditional and Bespoke funerals
  - Direct Cremation for £1195.00
  - Golden Charter Funeral Plans
    - Private Chapel of Rest
    - Home visiting service

For Professional advice and Guidance please contact

**Tel: 01884 508535(24 Hours)**  
**[www.friendshipandsons.co.uk](http://www.friendshipandsons.co.uk)**



SAIF  
INDEPENDENT  
FUNERAL  
DIRECTORS



**Witheridge.Online**

A modern website  
By local people  
For local people

Proudly supported by  
**The Firs**

**Local.News**  
**Special.Offers**  
**Upcoming.Events**  
**Business.Listings**  
**Clubs.Charities**



**South West Care Homes**

WHERE QUALITY COMES FIRST

## WITHERIDGE VOICE ONLINE



All 58 Past Issues of the Witheridge Voice available  
to view and download from

<https://www.witheridgevoice.org/>

Do you have an event or editorial that missed the deadline ?

Add it to our Website

email: [witheridgevoicewebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:witheridgevoicewebmaster@gmail.com)

Are you interested in Sponsoring our website?

email [advert.treasure.voice@gmail.com](mailto:advert.treasure.voice@gmail.com)



### **A JOHNSON BUILDING**

**Renovations, Repairs and Modernisation**

**Extensions and Roofing**

**Kitchen and Bathrooms Fitted**

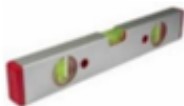
**Interior & Exterior Decorating**

**Bespoke projects catered for**

References available on request

Call Anthony Home:- 01769 550472

Mob:- 07545 056229



## **WITHERIDGE TODDLERS GROUP**

Happy new year from toddlers!

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and are looking forward to the new year ahead. We had two lovely Christmas parties with lots of tasty snacks, crafts and music to celebrate.

I would like to start by saying thank you for all the very generous toy and craft donations we received last year. These donations have really helped keep the little ones entertained and brought fresh ideas for imaginative play. I'm looking forward to setting up some messy play days and spring themed crafting over the next few months.

As always it would be great to see any new faces, please just drop by for the Friday or Wednesday session or give me a bell if you would prefer to find out more before turning up. We have a wide range of ages at the group so there should be something for everyone to enjoy!

In the spirit of new beginnings, we will be working on providing opportunities for the toddlers to keep active, and thanks to the school we will have some fresh tasty snacks as usual!

Session times: Wednesday 13:45, Friday 9:00. Each session is £1 per family.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Rebecca and Nick

(07875127064, rebeccarobin44@gmail.com)

## WITHERIDGE ROCKS

This term we have welcomed lots of new faces to Witheridge Rocks. So many, in fact, that I am still struggling to remember everybody's names.

Chris brought in Abi, his beautiful hawk, for us to meet, in September. We weren't able to hold her though, like we did with Warwick, the eagle owl, because she can get a bit stropky!!!

On 26th October Heather, George & I attended the church coffee morning where we used our static bikes to cycle the equivalent distance of Witheridge to West Point. Our efforts were rewarded with donations of money to go towards our SPREE weekend in June.

Our numerous activities this term have included pizza making, diamond art and stained glass window decorations. We finished the term with a pretty chaotic Christmas party. Chris provided an interactive Christmas quiz and there was lots of food and a present for all attendees.

Due to the large number of children attending we have put out a plea to parents asking them to volunteer to help us occasionally. Thankyou to those who have responded. We still need some more volunteers.

Next term we have organised a first aid course for the children, and we are hoping to have a fund raising evening for Comic Relief.



## **MID DEVON REMINISCENCE PROJECT**

Did you know that Crediton Library are building a collection of memories from people living in Mid Devon? The Reminiscence Project volunteers chat with people at the library, in their own homes, at care homes and anywhere else people feel comfortable. These chats can be about any memories you'd like to share. Typically, we start at childhood and move through key events life events, but if there are specific things you'd like to talk about, we'd love to hear it! The chats are audio recorded, transcribed and added to an online collection for everyone to enjoy.

As part of the project, the library also runs a free 'Drop In' on the first Tuesday morning of each month. People can drop by for a chat and a good reminisce. There is usually a set theme to get us started, but conversations can veer off anywhere!

If you would like to sit down over a cuppa with one of our volunteers, to preserve and share your life experiences, or if you are part of a group who would be interested in trying a Reminiscence Group session, get in touch at [crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or call 01393 772578.

This project has been made possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



## The South West's trusted mover...

We are setting the standard for removals in Tiverton and Devon by providing a professional, high quality service, while offering great value for money. We work locally and nationally and can offer a full or part pack service to compliment your removal.

Scan this code to watch our movie!



or search YouTube for Van Man Removals

Give us a call today to arrange a free no-obligation removal assessment!

☎ 01392 956 002 ☎ 01884 665 000

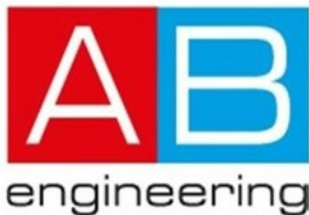
✉ [info@vanmanexeter.co.uk](mailto:info@vanmanexeter.co.uk)



[www.vanmanexeter.co.uk](http://www.vanmanexeter.co.uk)

[www.vanmantiverton.co.uk](http://www.vanmantiverton.co.uk)

📱 📺 van man removals



## Oil Heating and Oil Cookers

### AB Engineering Oil-Fired Specialists

Servicing and Repair, Boiler Installation, Power Flushing  
AGA - Rayburn - Stanley - Grant - Worcester - Boulter - Trianco - Firebird  
and more.

**Tel: 01769 732032**

[www.abengineering.biz](http://www.abengineering.biz)



## 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**

# TWO MOORS GALLERY CAFE

## 4 West Street, Witheridge - 01884 861696

## CAFE

Light Lunches  
Homemade Cakes  
Teas and Coffees



## GIFTS

Fairtrade Gifts  
Original Local Artwork  
Vintage Corner

For Our Opening Hours Please Find Us On Google  
Or Call The Number Above

Self Contained Holiday Flat 'Two Moors Retreat'  
on Booking.com or call the number above

Made with PosterMyWall.com



## Andrew Symons LTD

GROUND CARE & GARDEN MACHINERY



Offering repairs, servicing and sales  
of all leading renowned brands.

- Lawnmowers
  - Hedge Cutters
  - Chainsaws
  - Leaf Blowers
  - Strimmers
  - Ride-on's
- Plus So Much More



## South Molton

Borners Bridge,  
Near Pathfields Industrial Estate,  
South Molton, EX36 3LZ

01769 574455

[www.andrewsymons.co.uk](http://www.andrewsymons.co.uk)



Follow us on  



## **Update from Cllr Peter Jones Your Independent District Councillor—January 2025**

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas!

Please see my latest update as your District Councillor.

### **The New Development and New Affordable Homes**

The development has progressed, and the first of the affordable homes and shared ownership properties have been made available. Those eligible can bid until the 20th of January on the Devon Homes Choice website. The first release includes 12 rented units, including 1 x 2-bed house and 3 x 3-bed houses for affordable rent, as well as 3 x 1-bed houses and 5 x 2-bed houses for social rent. More properties will be released throughout the year.

### **106 Projects**

I'm pleased to share that applications are now being submitted for the 106 community fund, which is the money available from the development. An application has been submitted for updates to the village hall, and plans are underway for a multi-surface sports pitch on the sports field. Additionally, the £15,500 contribution from Allison Homes has been distributed to various community groups. I am also delighted to confirm that a further £15,500 will be available from L&G Affordable Homes this spring.

### **Buses**

The bus service continues to fail our community despite the hard work of many within the community to highlight the issues. Despite petitions and efforts to engage the council and Stagecoach, no real improvements have been made. We must continue to highlight these issues, so please keep reporting onto the Facebook group log. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time so far.

## **Peter Jones—District Councillor Update.** (continued)

### **Community Events**

2024 saw many wonderful community events. St. John's Fair made a triumphant return, and we welcomed the creation of a new farmers' market.

Almost every weekend, there are activities bringing people together, thanks to the tireless efforts of those who volunteer their time to make our community a better place.

Let's not forget the hard work of our parish council's and various committees, who often undertake tough, thankless roles. To everyone who plays a part in supporting our communities—thank you.

### **Policy Development Work**

Through my work with the Policy Development Committee, I've been proud to take part in three public hearings over the last year:

#### ***Dentistry Provision in North Devon:***

We addressed the critical issue of failing dental services. I'm pleased to report that our MP Ian Room is leading an action group with regional experts to drive change on this issue.

#### ***Supporting the Rural Economy:***

We explored ways to better support our farming sector and rural economy. This has led to changes in planning processes, including free pre-application advice and faster processing for projects tied to grant applications, such as slurry pit coverings.

#### ***Water Quality in North Devon:***

Improving the quality of our rivers and beaches remains a passion of mine. Alongside local citizen scientists, we are testing the Little Dart catchment and working to establish a North Devon group to monitor water quality across the region. I continue to lobby for year-round water monitoring on beaches and rivers and was proud to join the March for Clean Water in London this October with my family.

## **Peter Jones—District Councillor Update. (continued)**

### **Looking Ahead**

#### ***Devolution:***

We are entering an interesting period for local politics. The new Government has released a plan that will likely see a restructuring of the current two-tier system, merging district councils into larger unitary authorities. It's highly likely that I will be your last District Councillor and that there are unlikely to be county council elections as planned in May.

During my time as a councillor, I've seen how effectively North Devon Council manages services for our communities. I worry that larger, more centralised councils will move services further from local communities, with a negative impact on responsiveness and quality. I'll continue to monitor developments and keep you informed.

#### ***Planning:***

The government is also introducing significant changes to planning regulations, with housing targets nearly doubling in many areas. This makes it more challenging for communities to maintain a five-year supply of development land, which could lead to an increase in unwanted, speculative applications—like the one recently seen in Witheridge. I'll be watching these changes closely and will update you as the situation develops.

### **Happy New Year**

A big thank you again to everyone who gives their time to the community, making our communities the special places they are. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported me throughout the year.

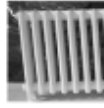
### **Here When You Need Me!**

Like and follow me on Facebook to stay up-to-date. You can contact me on Facebook Messenger, [Peter.jones@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.jones@northdevon.gov.uk), or call or WhatsApp me on 07708 187 305.



## Need to rejuvenate old metal?

We provide a variety of services ranging from powder coating to hot zinc spray and shot blasting. We keep a range of about 100 colours in stock, and most are exterior polyesters, which provide excellent durability and colour retention on gates, railings and garden furniture.



Telephone 01884 34506

Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 8 am to 5 pm or Friday 7 am to 1 pm

Email: [coatingsupplies@aol.com](mailto:coatingsupplies@aol.com)

[www.industrialcoatingsupplies.co.uk](http://www.industrialcoatingsupplies.co.uk)

Units 1 + 2 Simmons Place, Kingsmill Industrial Estate Cullompton EX15 1BH

*Try a different approach to pain ... try Bowen Therapy*

Sarah Swadling cert ECBS

07840 596501

*Release, Rebalance, Revitalise – in Thelbridge*

Back and neck pain • Frozen Shoulder • joint pain • stress  
Menopausal symptoms • headaches • chronic fatigue • RSI  
and many more... suitable for all ages and pregnant women

Bowen Therapy is a gentle hands on approach using precise moves over muscles and soft tissue, which release tension and prompt the body to begin repairing itself.



[www.swadlingbowen.co.uk](http://www.swadlingbowen.co.uk)



## Steve Rolfe

### Oil Fired Heating Services



Over 20 years experience of providing a quality service

\* Service and maintenance of boilers, Aga's and Rayburns

from £58.00 + VAT

\* Installation of boilers and  
Central Heating systems

\* Oil tank replacements

\* System Power Flushing

\* System updates and sealed  
system conversions

Tel: 01398 351471

Mob: 07894080143

## Mel's Barber Shop

**APPOINTMENTS ONLY**

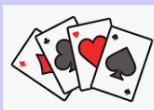
Call Mel to book: 07716 942005

Open: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
Haircuts for Men & Boys

Old Market Field Ind. Est.  
Shop adjoining Leach Brothers

Do you play Bridge?  
Would you like to come and play  
Bridge at our friendly club in  
Morchard Bishop? We meet every  
Tuesday evening at 7.30pm with a  
free lesson beforehand for those  
who want it. Why not come along  
and give us a try?

For more information, contact me,  
John Chater -01363 877096



## D. CHAPPLE

Joinery

Est. 1983

**HARDWOOD WINDOWS  
& DOORS**

UNITS 1,2 & 3  
TOLL GATE COURT  
MARKET FIELD IND. EST.  
WITHERIDGE

Tel/Fax 01884 861221

MOT Testing  
Servicing & repairs

## Harris Motor Services



Chapel Hill, Nomansland, Tiverton, Devon,  
EX16 8NN  
Telephone/Whatsapp: 01884860127  
Email: harrismotorservicesltd@yahoo.com

## Ray Westcott & Sons

Traditional

West Country Thatchers

Over 35 years experience

No Job too small

Free estimates

angela123westcott@gmail.com



T:01884861577  
M:07990951809  
or:07788293580

## Andrew Prince Electrics Electrical Contractor

Tel: 01884 861648

Mob: 07714 618390

andrewprinceelectrics@hotmail.co.uk

Domestic, Industrial, Commercial,  
Agricultural  
Test and inspection

# Witheridge Methodist Church



Sunday Service 10.30am

Everyone welcome– tea and coffee served at the end of the service.

In the Christian Church the lead up to Christmas is advent; preparation for welcoming Jesus.

Throughout December we were certainly able to welcome a lot of people into our church.

On December 1st we had a service of 'favourite carols' and it was good to see some new faces.

The stained glass window festival had contributions from the toddler group, youth club, Brownies and Guides and some people completed 'stained glass windows' during the coffee morning. Due to the poor weather we didn't open on the Friday evening but it was good to see so many people on the Saturday.



We also took part in the Posada, where Mary and Joseph were hosted by over 20 families in the village. The Posada started at the Methodist Church and finished at St John's Crib service on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all those who took part.

Special events, that are planned with Christians in Witheridge, are a Beetle Drive on Saturday 8th February, starting at 5pm. This is a fun event, for all the family and will include a jacket potato supper. On March 30th, Mothering Sunday, we have Breakfast Church at the Parish Hall. Again, this is suitable for everyone, with breakfast at 10am then a short act of worship afterwards. We would love to see you there.

## South Coombe Country Cottages

*Set in a beautiful location with an indoor swimming pool*

South Coombe is the perfect location for a quiet getaway. Its tranquil rural setting and country charm make it an idyllic place to stay. With its indoor swimming pool complex (comprising sauna, gym and games room as well as a 10m x 5m pool), guests can relax and take some healthy exercise inside or out.

South Coombe offers high quality cottages that sleep from two to six people with one cottage having wheelchair access. The cottages are less than a mile away from the pubs and shops in Witheridge village.

**South Coombe Farm**

**Witheridge**

Tel: 01884 860302

Email: [stay@southcoombe.co.uk](mailto:stay@southcoombe.co.uk)

Web site: [www.southcoombe.co.uk](http://www.southcoombe.co.uk)



*An academy with ambition, open to 11-16 year olds, offering a traditional and enriching education, with results consistently amongst the best in the region. In 2022 we were the top performing academy in Devon. Every day is an Open Day, please contact us to arrange a personal tour.*

# Chulmleigh College

*'Nothing but our best'*

t: 01769 580215 w: [www.chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk](http://www.chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk) e: [admin@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk)



*Compassion  
Ambition  
Teamwork*



1911 re-inauguration

# Appleyard's

CHIMNEY SWEEPING & SERVICES

REGISTERED MEMBER INSTITUTE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS  
FRIENDLY, CLEAN & SAFE SERVICE  
PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE ESM  
INSURANCE CERTIFICATES ISSUED WITH EVERY SWEEP

## Chimney Sweeping

Wood-burning Stoves  
Multi-fuel Stoves  
Open Fires  
Aga/Rayburn  
Gas & Oil Flues

**ICS**

REGISTERED MEMBER  
[www.icsuk.com](http://www.icsuk.com)

## OTHER SERVICES INCLUDE

Removal of bird nests  
Resealing of appliance components  
Replacement rope seals, fire cement seals and fire bricks

01884 829464 07868 589525

[www.appleyardschimney.co.uk](http://www.appleyardschimney.co.uk)

# RICHARD GRANT MEMORIALS

"Your local independent Mason"

FREEPHONE

0800 146887

FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE



2-4 WESTEXE NORTH, TIVERTON,  
DEVON, EX16 5LX  
TELEPHONE/FAX:  
(01884) 255737

[WWW.FINEMEMORIALS.CO.UK](http://WWW.FINEMEMORIALS.CO.UK)

## COSWAY SOFT FURNISHINGS

Handmade Curtains, Roman Blinds  
& Accessories

Design Service Available  
Measuring Service  
Highly Experienced Maker  
Curtain Alterations Undertaken  
Friendly & Approachable

Contact Sarah on 07701 062902

[www.coswaysoftfurnishings.co.uk](http://www.coswaysoftfurnishings.co.uk)



**Alan Thomas  
Painter &  
Decorator**



Interior/Exterior

Domestic & Commercial  
13 Butts Close, Witheridge  
EX16 8AJ

Tel No 01884 861092

Mobile 07713545772

Email: [alanthomas.decorator@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alanthomas.decorator@yahoo.co.uk)



THE SHIFTERS

**Spirebourne Limited**

Liquid Waste Disposal and Drainage Co.

FREEPHONE 08000 855 185

[spirebourne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:spirebourne@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.spirebourne.co.uk](http://www.spirebourne.co.uk)

## EMERGENCY CALL OUTS

Septic Tank/ Cess Pool Emptying – Any Size  
Grease Traps  
Drain Blockage Clearance  
Various Commercial Liquid Waste Disposal  
Servicing  
CCTV Drainage Surveys  
Pump Repairs & Renewals  
Installation of Septic Tanks & Sewage Treatment Works  
Mantair Units



A green banner with a white border and a white ribbon-like edge, featuring the text "Knights of Witheridge" in a white, stylized, gothic-style font.

First of all, a belated Happy New Year from the Knights.

We have continued to run our fortnightly quizzes in the Sports Club which have been increasingly well attended. The year culminated in our Christmas Quiz, which included our Christmas Raffle with many prizes kindly donated by the quizzers themselves. All the prizes were wrapped to add to the fun, so we hope the lucky winners enjoyed their selections.

The quiz dates for the first part of the year are:

5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February,

5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March,

2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April

For those who have not been to one of our quizzes, they only cost £2 per person to enter and half the money raised is given back in prizes. The remainder is used to fund various events and good causes during the year. We have a different person asking the questions each time, which means there is a good variety of types and styles of question, so why not come along?

The other event in the last part of 2024 should have been a BBQ at the Christmas Tree Lighting in the village square, but the weather put paid to that at the last minute. Malcolm from the Sports Club very kindly bought the stock of burgers and buns off us, so at least we were not too badly out of pocket.

The other event this year was the purchase of a bench in memory of Tim Leach, who sadly died last year. It was his wish that the collection taken up at his funeral be given to the Knights. We have used this, plus a donation of £100 from his family and

£100 from the Sports Club to buy a Teak bench.

In addition, Ian Stoneman, of FIS Engineering, has kindly offered to engrave a plaque to go on it. The bench is now in the Sports Club waiting for the better weather so that it can be put into position.

Finally, it will soon be time for the next round of grants from the Knights to clubs and organisations in Witheridge and the adjacent parishes. The announcement about applications will go out in March, so now is the time to think if there is anything your club or organisation might need that the Knights can help with.

The Knights usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month to socialise and plan events. If you would like to join us, details of our next meeting should be on the Knights' Facebook page. Alternatively, you can get in touch via the telephone number inside the back page of the Voice.

## KP Interiors, East Burrow Farm, East Worlington

Bespoke, handmade curtains, blinds, box seating and all soft furnishings for your home. With 30 years experience in the Interiors industry, I can create your own finishing touches, whether it a new build or period property. I can work with your fabric, help you source fabrics online or I stock a small range of plain fabrics.



A complete handmade Roman Blind in one of my plain fabrics, fully lined (blackout if needed) supplied with a top quality childsafe headrail will cost as little as £150.

For larger projects my fitter can fit all your tracks and poles too!!

For any enquiries and no obligation help: call **07510317525**  
email [katherine971@btinternet.com](mailto:katherine971@btinternet.com)

## **Wetheridge Parish Council Winter Report January 2025**

I will begin with an update on the children's playgrounds. Firstly governance update on the Tots playground. It is good news; the Parish Hall committee have agreed to lease the land containing the playground to the Parish Council for ninety nine years at a peppercorn rent. Once the solicitors have drawn up the lease the council can then carry out the agreed replacement of the damaged Springer, and erect bow topped railings around the site with new gates incorporating a disabled access. The existing entry is rutted and the council have accepted a quotation from our grounds maintenance company to rectify the problem as soon as is possible.

At the adventure playground the council is aware that the existing skate ramps need welding repairs. Two contractors have been sourced however welder A has been somewhat reticent with providing a revised quotation. Council agreed that a further attempt be made to contact A, failing this to proceed to ask B to quote.

It was agreed at our October meeting, and a contractor chosen, to tarmac the existing footpath through the playground. The existing stone will be cleared and 20mm of porous tarmac laid. The original so called "self binding stone" certainly wasn't, and would have involved the council in costly maintenance. At the time of agreeing the contract no caveats were given as to any required maintenance, had they been disclosed the gravel medium would not have been chosen. The contractor has given a date of this January to carry out the work.

The Parish council have still not taken ownership of the green space bordering the playground as the land has not been restored to the agreed requirements of the 106 agreement. However once this commitment is completed by Allison Homes, the council's solicitor will proceed to exchange documents and the Parish council take ownership and the ongoing maintenance.

There seems to be a bewildering amount of road closures and diversions in our neighbourhood some of which appear to have no activity during the closure period also very poor signage.

## **Parish Council report-continued.**

Recently there was a burst water main beyond Witheridge but the road was closed at Tiverton Long Drag .Surely the sign should have been explicit as to where the road was closed saving residents a long diversion? There is a county website with an overlaid map where any future road closures can be viewed online at <https://devon.roadworks.org> or there is a link on our website contacts page and accessible on DCC highways. One to add to your diary is Newbridge just out of Witheridge towards South Molton. That is scheduled for closure from the 21<sup>st</sup> July until the 5<sup>th</sup> September. Both the walls and foundations are crumbling.

At the January meeting, a quotation was accepted to replace the rotting bench at the end of Lakelands Close with a new one.

In December the council were consulted by representatives from South West Care Homes who are proposing to add another twelve en suite rooms at the rear of the existing Firs care Home. The home is an asset to the village as residents who feel they can no longer cope with living in their own homes can opt for care at the Firs but still be in a familiar environment and still meet up with friends. When the question was asked of the representatives “would Witheridge residents be given priority for care? The answer was an unequivocal, yes they would. Formal plans are to be submitted sometime this month.

The Finance subcommittee suggested budget for Witheridge council 2025/2026 was approved in December by full council .All councillors were in favour of a budget of £60,000 and setting a precept of £43,000 with the difference being funded from our general reserve. This results in no tax increase to residents.

Currently Witheridge only has one public defibrillator accessible in the Square. Given the growth of the village the Parish council has identified additional requirements and would like to locate a second at the bottom of the new development. We have the agreement of the Medical Centre to mount a new defib/code cabinet and electrical installation requirements. .

## **Parish Council report-continued.**

We have costings for the cabinet and support charge with Community Heartbeat foundation our current provider, and wiring costs. We have submitted an application to Legal and general Partnership Fund to support this cost to serve the extended community at Juniper Way, Broomhouse Park and Cannington Road.

The format of the Parish Council Meetings has changed slightly. They now commence at 7pm and for the first half hour reports are received from Mr. J.Yabsley our County Councillor and Mr. P. Jones our District Councillor and Councillor S. Smith who is the Parish Councils police advocate. Questions can then be put to them by the public and councillors alike during the public session and also questions which are specific to the Parish council. These are restricted to three minutes.

We move on then to the council session during which there is no public participation.

The Christmas tree in the square provided by the Parish council, this year, was funded by Allison Homes partnership fund. I for one was very disappointed that the forecast storm put paid to all the festivities organised by St. John's Fair committee at our annual "switch on" event. Hopefully Next Year?

A Happy New Year to you all.

**Jacky Harvey** Chair, Witheridge Parish Council

# WEST COUNTRY PICTURES



Rull Farmhouse  
East Worlington  
Tel - 01884 860978

Email [brook@rullfarm.com](mailto:brook@rullfarm.com)

*Picture Framing Service Available Locally  
Please telephone for an appointment  
Local collection and delivery can be arranged*

## Painful Feet?

**Viv Pulford**

**Foot Health Practitioner**

Diploma in Foot Health,  
and BSC in Adult Nursing.

Tel No 01884 861306 or 07827 779559

- Nail Cutting and filing
- Corn Callus Removal
- Deal with Fungal Infections /Thickened Nails
- Discounts for 2 or more people in same house

For Treatment in the comfort of your own  
home

**WITHERIDGE  
SELF STORAGE  
SECURE CCTV  
10' X 8' CONTAINERS  
20' X 8' CONTAINERS  
OTHER OPTIONS  
ALSO AVAILABLE**

**7 DAY ACCESS**

**01884 860194 07970 771718**



**Simon Underwood**

Trading as

**Stonehouse electrical services**

Installations, testing and repairs  
Domestic, agricultural and off-grid  
Telephone 01884 860713

Text 07790251131

Email [stonehouseservice@btinternet.com](mailto:stonehouseservice@btinternet.com)



## NEWS FROM WITHERIDGE PRIMARY C of E ACADEMY



### **A Memorable Term at Witheridge Academy** □

This term at Witheridge Academy has been nothing short of extraordinary, filled with learning, sports, and festive joy. Here's a glimpse into the highlights that brought our school community together.

### **Learning Democracy Through UK Parliament Week**

We kicked off the term by celebrating UK Parliament Week, immersing the children in the British Value of Democracy. From understanding the workings of parliament to electing our new school councillors, it was a week of inspiration and engagement. Congratulations to Toby, Georgia, Lily Ea, Hazel, Olly, Alfie, and Molly, who were elected by their peers. They now join Head Boy Cody and Head Girl Emma to form our school council. We can't wait to see their ideas for improving our school!



### **Bowling into Cricket Sessions**

Key Stage 2 children had a fantastic time honing their cricket skills during free cricket sessions this term. A huge thank you to Martin Bryce for his expert coaching and to Mr. Manning for organizing this brilliant opportunity.

### **Pantomime Magic and Festive Cheer**

The festive season began with a delightful performance of *Elf and Safety*, generously funded by the PTFA. The children were treated to snacks and a hearty dose of laughter. A big thank you to our PTFA for their unwavering support.



Elf Day brought even more festive fun, with children and staff donning spectacular outfits. The festive spirit was infectious, and the school was buzzing with excitement!

## Witheridge Primary C of E Academy and Pre-school

(Continued)

### Unforgettable Festive Activities

- **Reception Class:** A magical trip to Blundell's School's *Christmas in the Garden*, complete with Father Christmas, his reindeer, and his elves.
- **Classes 1 and 2:** A visit to Rosemoor for a special Christmas workshop and exploration of the enchanting gardens.



**Christingle Service:** Despite weather challenges, the children sang beautifully, and the Christingles were stunning. Special thanks to Sue Wells for joining us.

- **Christmas Performances:** Key Stage 1 and 2 children delivered four fantastic performances for parents and carers. Their beautiful singing and acting left us all brimming with pride.

**FSU Nativity – Shine Star Shine:** The FSU children stole the show with their outstanding performance. Their confidence and joy it a moment to treasure.





## A Season of Togetherness

- **Christmas Lunch:** A delectable feast prepared by Bobbie and Sophie delighted everyone. Thank you for the delicious meal!
- **Party Time:** The end of term was filled with joy as toddlers, nursery children, and Reception to Class 4 celebrated with parties and a special visit from Father Christmas and Rudolf.

**Cheeky Classroom Elves:** PTFA elves added an extra sparkle, surprising children with presents delivered straight to their classrooms!

## Celebrating Achievements

Congratulations to our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 football teams for representing Witheridge brilliantly in their matches against SMUPS. Mr. Manning was incredibly proud of their efforts.



## A Heartfelt Thanks

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our amazing staff. You make Witheridge Academy the special place it is, and your commitment to the children's learning and happiness is truly inspiring.

As we wrap up this fantastic term, we look forward to another exciting year ahead. Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

*Miss Ratcliffe*



# MID DEVON MESSENGER

talking news & more

Do you recognise one of these?



Can you use one of these?

**If 'yes' we would love to hear from you.**

**If 'no', would you like to learn?**

The **Mid Devon Messenger** Talking News is looking for one or two folk who would like to **assist in the recording and production** of their weekly roundup of news from the Tiverton Gazette and other publications, for the benefit of those unable to access the printed media due to any number of reasons.

**Keen to help? Or want to learn more?**

**Email:** [enquiries@middevonmessenger.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@middevonmessenger.org.uk)

Mid Devon Messenger,  
c/o Heathcoat Fabrics, Westex South, Tiverton, EX16 5LL

Registered Charity 287670

## THE VILLAGE HAIR SHOP

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for your custom and support over the last 24 years. There has been so much laughter and even a few tears. I have loved getting to know you all and it has been a privilege to have started up a salon in the village. However, after 48 years in the business I felt it was time to hang up my scissors and retire.

I would also like to thank all my staff who have helped so much over the years, I couldn't have done it without you.

With love and best wishes

ALYSON CHAPPLE

## EAST WORLINGTON PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

We are a friendly group of photographers of all abilities meeting monthly at Worlington Parish Hall, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**



## Worthy Trees & Gardening Services

Willoughby Stolworthy

- Tree Services: Crown Raise, Reduction, Thinning & Removal...
- Gardening Maintenance: Hedge Trimming, Grass Cutting, weeding, Pruning...
- Power Washing: Driveways, Patio, Decking...
- Free Quotes

✉ willoughbyblue@hotmail.co.uk

☎ 07538179803

📍 36 North Street  
Witheridge  
EX16 8AG

## Christians in Witheridge

Beetle Drive 5pm

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February

At Witheridge Methodist Church



Jacket Potato Supper

Family event.

Adults £2

Children £1

## Tricky2Cut

Mobile Sawmill  
Services

Have your own trees sawn into useful timber at  
your site.

Planking, Sidings, beams, posts, rails etc.

Contact Richard (Tricky) for further information  
07811 408157

Facebook page: Tricky2Cut

Website: [www.tricky2cut.co.uk](http://www.tricky2cut.co.uk)

Email: [info@tricky2cut.co.uk](mailto:info@tricky2cut.co.uk)

Serving Witheridge and surrounding area  
Fully insured for sawmilling and chainsaw work.  
(felling small/medium trees and logging work also  
undertaken)

## WITHERIDGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

February and hopefully clear, dark skies will abound. The constellation Taurus can be seen in the south from about 10pm. Taurus, the Bull, has a distinctive 'V' shaped group of stars forming the head. This group is called the Hyades. The bright red star, Aldebaran, forms the eye of the bull. Twice as near to us as the remaining stars of the Hyades, Aldebaran is just 68 light years away from us, about 40 times the diameter of the Sun and 100 times as bright.

To the upper right of Taurus lie the Pleiades, an open cluster of stars which, through a telescope or binoculars, seem to be a little fuzzy which is caused by the stars passing through a cloud of carbon grains.

March sees the onset of spring and the promise of slightly warmer evenings. The old favourite, Orion, is sinking towards the west to be replaced by the constellation Leo. Leo can be discerned by its distinctive 'backwards question mark' forming the head and shoulders of the Lion. Leo is one of the oldest constellations being recognised by many different cultures and people including people in Persia, India, Turkey and the Levant, all of whom recognised the shape of a sitting Lion.

Just before we say goodbye to Orion look below and to the left to see a really bright star. This is Sirius which is only 8.7 light years away and shines 23 times as brightly as the Sun.

Moving to April the highlight of the month has to be the Lyrid meteor shower. This will be on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> April. It is a short shower lasting less than a day but is easily seen with the naked eye. This month there could well be a good number of fireballs, bright shooting stars streaking across the sky and possibly leaving a trail lasting for 30 seconds or more.

(Wetheridge Astronomical Society– continued)

Before leaving April two events worth looking out for. One is the Moon making its way through the Pleiades occulting many of the stars in its path. This will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> April at about 10.30pm. The other sight to observe is the planet Mars almost due south of the Moon and one Moon's width away, this will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> April.

To learn more come and join the Wetheridge Astronomical Society meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall Committee Room at 7.30pm.



**PCB CONSTRUCTION**

- Decorative walling
- General building
- Steel & timber buildings
- Concreting
- Groundworks
- Landscaping
- Patios

Tel: 01884 861597  
Mob: 07728492327  
Email: [Pcbcons@gmail.com](mailto:Pcbcons@gmail.com)  
Web: [pcbconstruction.co.uk](http://pcbconstruction.co.uk)

# Solicitors

Legal advice for every  
chapter in life



Visit our Crediton Office @  
**1 Westward Business Centre, Mill Street, EX17 1HB**

☎ **01363 77 55 66** ✉ **law@gilbertstephens.co.uk**

or visit [gilbertstephens.co.uk](http://gilbertstephens.co.uk)

Crediton / Okehampton / Sidmouth  
Ottery St. Mary / Exeter / Budleigh Salterton

## **St John's Fayre 2025**

We would like to wish you all a very happy new year. Last year saw us bring St John's Fayre back after a short break and we are keen to build on that this year. There will be a few small tweaks to the Fayre this year but largely, it's going to be very similar to last year's event so that we can ensure we keep the wonderful close knit community feel to the day.

The committee will be meeting on 30th January at Witheridge Sports Club to get the ball rolling. If anyone would like to help with this year's event, please get in touch. We have a wonderful committee of friendly faces who are essential to the running of the Fayre. But as with most things, many hands make light work.

We are looking for people who would like to actively help with the organisation of the event or just help on the day. Any help you can offer would be hugely appreciated. If you would like to offer your services, please message the page or contact one of our amazing committee members listed below.

### **SJF Committee**

Ryan Manning

Rev Adrian Wells

Sarah Bragg

Jon & Claire Bibby

Kim Matthews

Matt & Amy Cunningham

Ellie Hudson

Hayden Eaton

Lorelei & Jamie Burrows

Clive Richardson

Martha Dudman

Lisa Williams



## **Witheridge Sports club**

Mon 5.00pm – 10.00 pm

Tues 5.00pm – 12.00

Wed 5.00pm – 11.00

Thur 5.00pm – 12.00

Fri 5.00pm – 12.00

Sat 1.00pm – 12.30

Sun 1.00pm – 11.00



### ***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

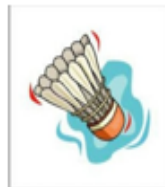


Photo - Robin Thomason

### ***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 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

# Aerial Communications

TV & FM Aerials

Satellite Systems

Extension Points

CCTV Systems

WIFI Systems

No Call Out Charge

EST.  
32yrs

**John**

**01884 860701**

## Men's Den

Pop in for a coffee  
and a chat.

Where: 'Rest A While'

When: 2nd Wednesday every month

Time: 2 - 4pm

Hot Drinks from £1

Free Biscuits

**Warm Space**

Contact Sean Murphy

for more information

On 07503197282

Charity Number: 801038



Quality hardwood logs  
cut to order and kindling.  
All aspects of low impact  
forestry.

[josh@mdff.co.uk](mailto:josh@mdff.co.uk) [www.mdff.co.uk](http://www.mdff.co.uk)

Josh: 07792 906258

Becky: 07368 499893

## People4ponies

We've had a very traumatic last few weeks. On Boxing Day Wolfie arrived at "dinner time" with a nasty eye injury and so had an emergency vet visit. Wolfie had a serious puncture wound to his left eye that had penetrated through almost all the layers of the cornea. Thankfully he is a very good patient which has meant that we have been able to treat him at home and not have to send him off to hospital. He has been having 6 sets of eye drops a day since then in an effort to save his eye and sight. He is still having weekly vet visits to ensure the eye heals as best it can. We suspect blackthorn was the culprit.

Even more tragically, on the evening of the 27th December Rocky started showing early signs of colic. We had 3 vet visits over 24 hours. Despite all initial signs having been promising, as time went on it became clear that we weren't winning. We were in the realms of rare, unusual and complex conditions that we wouldn't be able to fix...and so we had to say goodbye. Rocky was such an incredibly important member of the herd, and a great friend to me. An excellent communicator he ensured the smooth running of everything with the herd and he is a huge loss to us all. I had known Rocky for 17 years and he was such an important part of me too.



Thank you to everyone who attended and helped at our For The Love of Animals event at the Quince Honey Farm in November. We were overwhelmed with the response from North Devon who turned out in support of the 11 animal rescue organisations who attended and supported the event. There was such a great response from the venue, the visitors, and the rescues that everyone is keen for the event to run again in 2025.

We have no further news about our search for land - only that we are definitely losing our location and efforts so far have not yielded any results. There are 3 pony sanctuaries in Devon losing their land. Nationally I know of another 3 animals rescues in the same situation. It's not an easy situation to resolve.

We are booked to hold our plant sale and dog show at Witheridge Parish Hall on May 18th 2025.

# Change of CAREER?

## Change someone's LIFE!

### Join Our Caring Team at The Firs

Are you passionate about making a difference in people's lives? We have an exciting opportunity for caring individuals to become part of our team at The Firs.

Imagine working in an elegant period-style building that holds a rich history as the former doctor's manor house from the early 1900s. Our home is surrounded by gardens, providing seating spots and a close-to-nature experience. You'll find vegetable plots and a pond with a variety of fish, creating a soothing environment that residents are encouraged to engage with. Our skilled gardener welcomes their input and gardening insights, fostering a sense of community.

Join our dedicated care team, offering personalised and compassionate care that revolves around each individual's unique needs. We take pride in providing flexibility and choices that cater to the day-to-day lives of our residents.

Residents' well-being is paramount at The Firs. We've appointed a dedicated Well-Being Coordinator who curates a comprehensive 7-day activities schedule. This includes a range of engaging group events, one-on-one activities, and even the planning of major events like our annual summer fete.



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

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



Competitive salary, benefits, and a friendly working environment.



**South West Care Homes**

WHERE QUALITY COMES FIRST

The Firs, 27 Fore Street, Witheridge, EX16 8AH

## **Newhouse Farm Cottages**

quality self-catering accommodation in Devon's Heartland  
open all year for long or short breaks

We have nine beautifully converted Grade II listed stone barns sleeping in total 47 people with a choice of accommodation ranging from one to five bedrooms



Our facilities include heated indoor swimming pool with counter current jets, traditional sauna, function room, barbecue lodge, indoor games room and outdoor children's play areas set in 30 acres of flower-filled meadows

**\*NEW AND AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE\***

**Scandinavian Barbecue Lodge - barbeque no matter what the Devon weather has in store!**



Newhouse Farm Cottages, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QB  
Tel: 01884 860266 Email: [info@newhousecottages.com](mailto:info@newhousecottages.com)  
or visit our website at [www.newhousecottages.com](http://www.newhousecottages.com)

Here at East Burrow Farm ( 5 minutes from Witheridge)



we rear and sell direct our succulent Dexter cross Beef Boxes.

Red Tractor Assured, NDDC Inspected 5\* rating and low food miles, you will not taste better.

Fresh Beef is available every month through the year, we can suit any size budgets...but our most popular boxes are :

**Small family Box**, typically just under 3.5 kgs, Roasting joint, 2 x lean mince packs,  
2 x dice beef, one pack of 2 steaks .....£40

**Medium Box**, approx. 7.5 kgs, a larger selection of the above .....£85

Please follow us on fb... eastburrowbeefandlamb, or call 07510317525

Email [kathrine971@btinternet.com](mailto:kathrine971@btinternet.com)

**FOUR SEASONS**  
PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICES

All aspects of tree surgery  
Stump Removal  
Crown Lifting and Crown Reduction  
Hedge Cutting Grass Cutting  
Turfing  
All types of fencing

Grounds and Garden Maintenance  
Wood Chip, Seasoned Logs  
NPTC Qualified to British Standard 3998  
Private and Commercial Customers  
Fully Insured Free Quotations

[info@fourseasons-treeservices.com](mailto:info@fourseasons-treeservices.com)  
[www.fourseasons-treeservices.com](http://www.fourseasons-treeservices.com)

Oliver Vernon Bycott Farm, Halberton,  
Tiverton, Devon, EX16 7AU

01884 820839 07766 168162

**WITHERIDGE  
TENNIS CLUB**



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](http://www.witheridgetennisclub.com)  
or contact: Sarah Vertigan on 07939 241025

**Orchard End  
Kennels & Cattery**

Providing award winning, friendly and professional  
care for dogs, cats and small animals.



• 3 Acres of exercise fields • Fully heated • Onsite grooming salon  
• Accommodation for all types of small animals  
• Collection & Delivery service available

Tel: 01393 877374 Email: [orchardend@btinternet.com](mailto:orchardend@btinternet.com)  
Address: Orchard End Kennels, Black Dog, Crediton, Devon  
EX17 4QE  
[www.orchardendkennels.co.uk](http://www.orchardendkennels.co.uk)

## 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	07811	979488
Art Group	Parish Hall– Wed 7.30pm	Eileen Curtis	860564
Badminton	Parish Hall Fri 7.30pm	Linda Williams 0796613	1522
Brownies and Guides	Witheridge School	Carole Chapple	855329
Charity Bingo	Thelbridge Parish Hall-alt Wed 7.30	Marion Crane	860530
Bell Ringers	Belfry Thursday 7.30 pm	Ken Ramsbotham	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	Secretary	Ian Tench	860770
Ladies Group	Parish Hall 2nd Tues 2pm	Coral Simmonds	861366
Methodist Church	Sunday 10.30am	Ruth Towers 0798	0104347
Monday Club	Rest-a-while Alt Mon 2pm	Val Dickinson	860709
Rest-a-while Mon-Sat 10-	12 Bingo alt Fri, Bring + Buy last Fri	Val Dickinson	860709
Short mat bowls	Parish Hall Tues 6.30pm. Thur 2pm	Greg Henderson	860819
Table Tennis	Parish Hall Fri 11-12	Greg Henderson	860819
Tennis Club	<a href="http://www.witheridgetennisclub.com">www.witheridgetennisclub.com</a>	Sarah Vertigan	07939 241025
Taekwondo	Parish Hall Thurs 6-7pm	Kevin Raven 07804	471165
Astronomical Society	Committee Room 3rd Thurs 7.30-9	Steven Smith	861037
Witheridge in Bloom	carol.northam1@pobroadband.co.uk		860817
Witheridge Golf Society		Ken Ramsbotham	861108
Witheridge Parish Church	Sunday 9.30am	Rev Adrian Wells	861383
Witheridge Primary School	& Preschool	Head of School Miss Ratcliffe	860518
Witheridge parent and Toddler group	Witheridge school Wed 1.45-3.30pm	Rebecca +Nick	0787512706 4
	Fridays 9-10.30am	Robinson	
Witheridge Ploughing Association	Gill Gilbard gill@helebartonfarm.co.uk		
Witheridge Young Farmers	Emma Gilbard emma.gilbard@	markalengroup.com	
Witheridge Youth Club	Parish Hall 1st &3rd Thurs 7-8.30pm	Andrea Court	860815
Witheridge Striders	Edward Fyson 07517 148284	Janet Ashelford	860234
Worlington Photographic Group	Worlington Parish Hall 3rd Tue 7.30	Terry Brown	861268

# West Middlewick Farm Shop

Nomansland

Tiverton, Devon EX16 8NP



Fruit and Vegetables

Our own fresh milk

Meat

Eggs

Chilled products

Snacks, bread and cakes

Ice creams

Gifts and more...!



For opening hours check out our website [westmiddlewick.co.uk](http://westmiddlewick.co.uk) or find us on Facebook and Instagram