

Witheridge Family History Society

Newsletter No. 3 February 2015

Dear Friends,

Once again I must commence this Newsletter with a very sincere apology for the long gap between Newsletter No. 2 (Oct. 2014) and this one. Many of you may know that I have been in Australia since early November last and returned in the middle of January 2015. However, this was most certainly not a holiday - I had gone out, originally for a couple of weeks, owing to the fact that Angela, my sister, had become rather ill. Won't



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bore you with all the details, sufficient to say that from the day of my arrival, Angela's condition deteriorated to such an extent that she has now been obliged to give up her home and go into residential care. I am sure you will understand that I felt unable to leave her until I knew that she was settled. Angela, her children, Andrew and Alison as well myself are most grateful to our Australian Witheridges who have kept a close eye on what was happening with Angela. Special thanks must go to Judith & Allan Witheridge who visited Angela in hospital on a number of occasions and who are now keeping in touch with her and making sure that I receive regular up-dates on how things are going.

Now that I am home again and have managed to catch up on my other work, I must concentrate on bringing my Witheridge family up-to-date with news of.

1. Up-dates from Newsletter No. 2.

Kim & Roy Cook (#01) are now safely settled in their new home. Their address is: 135, Kings Road, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3NH. E-mail address is unchanged, witheridge1987@aol.com More news from Kim a little later in this Newsletter.

Roy and Kim (Wembury branch) celebrated (if that's the right word!) their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the end of October. However, the delay in their house move meant that the planned family celebration had to be postponed. In the event, they ate their anniversary meal on their own, in their Tenterden kitchen, surrounded by boxes! Their move to Biggin Hill finally went ahead at the end of November, and they're gradually settling in. Unfortunately, they were without any Internet access for over seven weeks, which proved a great hindrance. So, if you haven't heard from them for a while, blame the backlog of emails, and the need to complete HMRC tax returns by 31 January! A proper anniversary celebration is planned for the spring, once they've caught up with essentials

Allan & Judith Witheridge (#165) - their new address is: 107/66 Woples Road, Unanderra, 2526 NSW Australia E-mail address jwitheridge@hotmail.com

So far, no pictures of these new homes, but maybe in due course??? This point has just made me think - how about sending me in pictures of your home? With family members

being scattered around the world, few of us will be able to visit you but it would bring us a little closer if we have a visual aid of the building we each call home. I know there is always Mr. Google and his street view pictures, but it's not quite the same as being able to link a person and a picture.

2 Witheridge Deaths.

We were sorry to learn of the death of John Michael Witheridge of Kent. John was the youngest of three children born to Sidney Philip Witheridge (Ermington branch), and his wife Winifred Emily Frederica Lund. For many years John and his wife Mayda were members of WFHS, holding a number of Committee posts, and John attended many WFHS meetings. However, as John's family history interests widened, he switched to supporting other family history groups. He was a very active member of the Friends of Medway Archives (FOMA) and became their Vice-Chairman.

Although retired for many years, in his working life John was a builder who specialised in restoring historic buildings. We understand that, early in December, John had a fall and was admitted to hospital. There it was discovered that he had advanced cancer, and he died on 15 December 2014. We send our condolences to Mayda and all the family.

On 31st January, Barbara Finemore received an e-mail from Richard Home, the son of Lorna Home (#204), advising us of the recent death of his mother. Apart from the fact that Lorna lived in Merseyside, UK, I have not so far been able to gain any further details as to how she linked in to the Witheridge family. Maybe there is someone who can enlighten me. In the meantime Barbara has sent the condolences of the Society to Richard.

Once again, the news of these deaths has prompted me to feel that I am not able to do this job as Secretary of the Society to the best of my ability as by far the majority of members are merely names on the membership lists. I would like to put in an appeal to everyone to consider the possibility of sending me brief profiles of themselves and how each of us link into the Witheridge family. If you were happy for me to share these profiles via the Newsletter that would be great, but if you would prefer it, I could limit the use I make of your profile(s). Thanks to those who have already provided me with these - to the rest of you, please do think about it.

3. A New Member.

We give a specially warm welcome to our latest new member, Helen Mary Edwards. Helen lives at 38 Belmont Road, Ilfracombe Devon, EX34 8DR . (Membership No. 267). E-mail: helenmaryedwards@hotmail.co.uk I am not able to give you any further details of how Helen links into the family, but hopefully I will be able to do so in Newsletter No.4. However, in her application form, Helen stated that she lives very close to the church in Ilfracombe, where there are a number of gravestones bearing the names of Witheridge ancestors, and Helen would be very willing to help any other family members who have links with Witheridges who came from the Ilfracombe area. Welcome Helen and thank you for your offer.

4. More Family News.

I am grateful to Kim Cook for the following family news: (*Beth's comments in italics*)

Congratulations to Brenda Dixon (#12) of Orpington, Kent (Wembury branch), who celebrated her 80th birthday on 20 December 2014.

I understand that there was a immediate family celebration in January to mark Brenda's special day, and we can anticipate some pictures for the next Newsletter.

During the last weeks of 2014, **Joyce Browne** (6 -) (Ermington branch), one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents, was twice admitted to hospital, and at one point there were serious concerns about her recovery. We're delighted to say that Joyce is now home again, and feeling much brighter back in the comfortable surroundings of her flat.

Unfortunately, Joyce is a lot less mobile now, and has to use a wheelchair outside of her home. When Roy and Kim Cook visited her earlier in January, they were able to take her out for a short while, and they passed on to Joyce the good wishes of many of our members, and Joyce in turn sends her love and best wishes to all who remember her. Roy and Kim plan to visit again in February, and hope to be able to take Joyce out again.

(Thanks Kim and Roy for keeping such a good eye on Joyce)

5. NEWS FROM CANADA



Kathy Witheridge - (#60) - Canada

Just before Christmas I received an e-mail from Kathy, encouraging me to have a look at a Canadian journal website where I could read about the basis of the above picture. Thought you would like me to share what I discovered with the rest of the Witheridge family. Here is a summary of the narrative concerning the medal proudly worn by Kathy.

The picture shows Kathy wearing a medal she received in November which was awarded to her for surviving with Type 1 Diabetes for 50 years. On one side the medal reads, "Triumph for Man and Medicine". The other side says, "For 50 courageous years with diabetes". Kathy was a young woman aged 22, living in Halifax, West Yorkshire, UK, when she learned that she had diabetes. The presentation of this medal was launched in 1970 by the Boston Joslin Diabetes Clinic. The programme was started by Dr Elliott Joslin who believed that proper self-management was the key to minimizing complications. Since 1970 only 2,905 50-year medals have been presented to recipients around the world since 1970.

Kathy has always maintained strict self-discipline in order to ensure that as far as possible, her life would not be dominated by her illness. Despite being aware of the potential difficulties, Kathy gave birth to a healthy son and she and her husband, Paul, went on to become great-grandparents.

Dr. Joslin wanted the presentation of 50 year medals to serve as an incentive to all Type 1 Diabetics. Kathy shares his belief, "I have had to be disciplined - the only thing I'm supposed to do, that I don't do enough, is exercise!!"

Our sincere congratulations to you Kathy. Maybe they will have to think about casting a medal to commemorate another ??? years!!

6. NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Allan and Judith Witheridge recently attended a funeral of an old friend, and, as is the custom, they signed the attendance book. On seeing their name, a young man told them that his cousin is named **Leon Witheridge**. Apparently the cousin's father was also called

Leon. Judith gave him their e-mail address and phone number and they are hoping that the contact will lead to finding yet another Witheridge relative in Australia. Does the name "Leon Witheridge" ring a bell = maybe that name is on your family tree? If so, then do let us know!!

Whilst us folk on this side of the world are shivering and longing for winter to be over, our relatives in Australia are looking forward to their annual Witheridge reunion, due to be held on Sunday 29 March. In the height of their summer. This year their Witheridge representatives, Jennifer & Richard Woolcott (#260) have arranged:

Downriver Cruise

on the beautiful
Shoalhaven River



**A delightful 3 to 3.5 hour Cruise on the tranquil
Shoalhaven River**

"After we depart Nowra Public wharf, morning tea is served. We travel downriver enjoying the scenery and the skipper's informative commentary.

We pass Broughton Creek on our way to Berry's Canal. We travel through the Canal from the Shoalhaven River into the Crookhaven River. The villages of Orient Point and Greenwell Point come into view. A delicious pack of fish & chips for each and everyone is taken on board at Greenwell Point and we head for home".

Do have a wonderful day and don't forget those photographs!

7. UK Witheridge Day & AGM

Our UK members will, hopefully, recall that I promised to let you have further details of our **2015 Witheridge AGM and Reunion**. This has been booked for **Saturday 16 May 2015** and will be held in the SP2 Community Centre in Salisbury, Wiltshire, commencing at 10.30 a.m. through to 4.00 p.m. We shall be providing a buffet lunch during the day and arranging for a family meal to be available in the evening. (The evening meal will be payable by those present). SP2 is an excellent venue for the day and will give us plenty of facilities to really enjoy the day. I know that very few of our members have been able to attend the AGM but

if you would like to join with us, but are prevented from doing so because of travelling difficulties, let me know very soon, and we will try and see if there is anyone who can help with transport .

I am still not sure if we will have the pleasure of any overseas relatives joining us this year, but it would be really great if any family members from anywhere in the world can be with us!! Further details of the day's events and plans for the Sunday will be included in the next Newsletter.

8. OUR WEBSITE

Can I just remind you to keep an eye on our website www.witheridgefhs.com **Bill Dwyne** (Webmaster) has recently up-dated a lot of the material. He does an excellent job on this site - thank you Bill. Don't forget that in order to get into the Members Section of the site, you need the user-name and password details given out after last year's AGM. If you can't remember these details and would like them, drop me an e-mail and I will give them to you.

And finally,

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Because of the lateness of this Newsletter, I realise that many of you will not have received a reminder (if you needed one) that subscriptions are payable as soon as possible after 1st January. I am leaving this notification from **Barbara Finemore (#179)** **Membership Secretary**, to the very end of the Newsletter in order that it will be fresh in your mind when you finish reading everything else.

"The Committee members have unanimously agreed that as members of the Society are only receiving newsletters instead of "The Witheridge Times", the membership fee should be reduced for overseas members. Therefore, from 1st January 2015, **ALL** members of the Society, wherever you live, will be liable to pay £10 annual subscription. This rate will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPIONS

Subscriptions are due Annually on the 1st January

All members - £10.

Payments may be made by following methods:

Cheque, made out in favour of **Witheridge Family History Society** - please send to me at **4 Thoresby Avenue, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9ND**

Electronically - to the **Witheridge Family History Society** - Account Number **49815180**
Branch Code **60-23-22**

PayPal - This requires my email address - barbarafinemore@gmail.com
(If you do not have an account with them, Google "I want to open a PayPal account" it was quite straightforward - thank you, Steve Karnes, for being my guinea pig/tester)
It is free from the UK - a small fee from Overseas, but much better than an overseas cheque.

Standing Order - the “old faithful - peace of mind” method, which means it is always paid on time and may be cancelled at any time.

According to the Constitution, if the payment is not received by the date of the AGM, membership will be deemed to have lapsed. However, I would appreciate payments to be made as soon after the due date as possible to enable the Accounts to be prepared and presented at the AGM, having been to the Auditor as well.

If you choose to make your payment by any method other than sending a cheque to me, I would be grateful if you will e-mail me, or drop me a line to let me know that your subscription has been paid. This will prevent me chasing you!!

If you decide that you no longer wish to continue your membership, do please advise myself or Beth.

Many thanks,
Barbara Finemore - Membership Secretary

May I remind everyone to let Barbara or myself know if any of your details change, (address, e-mail address or telephone etc)

Looking forward to hearing from you in the near future. Next Newsletter will be out (God willing) just before Easter, which is the first weekend in April. Till then, take care of yourselves and each other.

Beth (#253)
Secretary,
Wetheridge FHS
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