

# Witheridge Family History Society

Year 2015/2016 – NEWSLETTER NO.2.

Vol 27 NL 6 Sept 2015

20 September, 2015.

Dear Witheridge family members,

I do hope that the intervening months since I sent out Newsletter No.1 (2015/2016), have been good to you. Things have been relatively quiet so far as incoming correspondence is concerned, but I dare to presume that “no news is good news”.

Some news from us to you:-

## **KIM COOK (#1)**

You will recall that in my June newsletter, I mentioned that Kim was due to go into hospital early in July. It is now a while since I heard from Kim but when I was talking to her on the phone early in August, she was home, and although obviously not yet fully recovered from what appeared to be a second big operation to deal with recurring cancer, Kim came over as confident that once again the surgeons had done a good job. As a result, Kim was, at that time, looking forward to taking up the reins so far as Witheridge research is concerned. We are anxious to hear how things are going Kim, so do drop us a line as soon as you can.

## **JASON COOK (#3)**

When I was talking to Kim, she told me that indeed she was not the only “Cook” struggling against health issues; Jason (our chair) had a bad fall which resulted in him being on crutches, probably for a considerable length of time. The injury and the need for crutches did not, however, prevent Jason from being at work, even to the extent of having to negotiate a London Underground strike, which necessitated him having to use his crutches to find another means of getting into work. Here’s hoping that you are now fully recovered Jason.

## **UNA MARY LEY PARSONS (Combe Martin)**

I am very sorry to have to advise you that Una passed away following a very short but serious illness. Although Una was not a member of the Society, many of you will either have met her when you have visited Combe Martin, or at least knew of her. The North Devon Journal reported that Una “went to Heaven on 20 July 2015 aged 94 years.” I



her parents and grandparents (Parsons and Ley families) in the Combe Martin Parish Church-yard.

advice you that Una passed away following illness. Although Una was not a member you will either have met her when you Martin, or at least knew of her. The North that Una “went to Heaven on 20 July 2015 understand that Una has been buried with

Amongst the many tributes to Una, I sent the following message to the family and the community at Combe Martin on your behalf:

***“This tribute comes to a dearly-loved friend from all members, past and present, of The Witheridge Family History Society. Thank you Una for every act of kindness and friendship shown to all members who have visited Combe Martin from all parts of the world. We shall miss you but every time a member comes to Combe Martin in the future, your name will be on their lips as well as in our hearts. Thank you - Rest in peace dear friend.”***

**JULIA CROCKER (#193)**



As promised, Julia sent me a photograph she had taken with her new daughter-in-law, Rebecca (nee King) who married Julia’s son, Paul on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Sydney, Australia. It was apparently a lovely day – we wish the happy couple all the best for the future.

**NOW I AM AFRAID IT IS “RAPPING MEMBERS’ KNUCKLES TIME” –**

Everyone should have received with the last Newsletter, either by snail post, e-mail or drop-box, a number of attachments which I asked you to complete and return to me. Thank you to those who did so, but I must confess I am most disappointed with the level of response (only EIGHT questionnaires and TEN basic pedigree sheets have been received to-date}. Because of the lack of information, it has proved impossible for me to commence work on preparing a database of members as requested by the Committee when we met in Salisbury in May for the AGM. I have spent a considerable amount of time in the past few months, trying to extract as much information as I could from the earlier editions of TWT journals in the hope that I could make up for the lack of detail provided by present members. This has proved to be far too big a task and I am therefore reluctantly placing the preparation of a database firmly “on the back-burner”.

I had very much hoped that by the time I relinquish the position of Secretary (which I plan to do at the AGM in 2016), I would at least be able to pass over a good administration file to my successor. If you haven’t returned your attachments yet, then please do think about doing so.

Finally, a reminder that the 2016 AGM will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May; arrangements in hand for this being held again in Salisbury.

The next Newsletter should be with you just before Christmas, so please let me have any snippets of news from you!!

Meantime, do take care of yourselves.

Yours,  
Beth (#253)  
Secretary,  
Witheridge FHS.