

*W*itheridge

Family History Society

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Winter 2017

Winter 2017-2018

Notices	page 2
News for Researchers	page 2
Family News	page 3
Chairman's Report	page 6
Research Co-ordinator's Report	page 7
Treasurer's Report	page 8
Membership Secretary's Report	page 8
Witheridge FHS and General Data Protection Regulation	page 9
AGM Agenda	page 10
Voting and Absentee Voting	page 11

Notices

Witheridge FHS Reunion 2018

If you have Witheridge or Wetheridge ancestry, you're warmly invited to a Family Reunion, being held on 12 May 2018 in Biggin Hill.

It should be a fun and informative occasion, and we hope everyone will bring their own family research and memorabilia.

On display will be extensive narrative pedigrees of 11 main branches of Witheridge and Wetheridge families, together with details of other family clusters. There will also be facsimile copies of wills, parish registers (including many post-1813 marriage entries), and almost 200 GRO birth, marriage and death certificates, as well as other family documents and memorabilia.

During the afternoon, experienced researchers will be on hand to answer questions on family history in general, and Witheridge/Wetheridge ancestry in particular. There will also be the option of being put in touch with long-lost family members, subject of course to the agreement of both parties.

There is no charge for admission. After the reunion, there will be an opportunity to attend a family meal in a local pub/restaurant.

The venue is easily accessible from the M25 (Junctions 4, 5, & 6), the A21, A22 and A25, as well as via public transport.

For further details, please email witheridge1987@gmail.com, putting 'Reunion' in the subject box.

News for Researchers

The Imperial War Museum now has a new website, <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/>. This is an invaluable resource to researchers, as it is one of the few that includes details of those who survived the war, as well as the lost. It includes nurses, conscientious objectors, and many more. Family historians can register with the website free of charge and then contribute by adding their own photos and stories about family members. This creates a memorial, whether or not the family member actually died during the First World War. There is no need to take out a paid-for subscription, as access to the Life Stories, enabling you to share images and stories, connect evidence, and prove facts, is free.

As we approach the centenary of the First World War Armistice, the Federation of Family History Societies is keen for us to add details to the entries for family members (not necessarily with the Witheridge name) who are named on this website. This applies to our overseas members as well, as many of them had family members who served in WW1. Records on this site include Canadian Expeditionary Force Attestations, Commonwealth War Graves casualty records, First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Index, New Zealand Great War records and medal index card transcriptions.

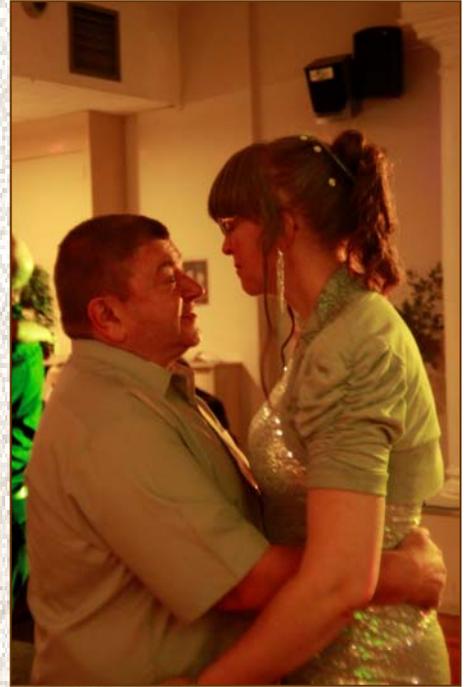
Please make time to enter details of your family members as soon as possible. The aim is to fill in the blanks for all those listed on the website by 11 November 2018 and ensure they are never forgotten.

For those who wish to access the full range of over 300 million official genealogy records on the site, there is a fee of £6 per month, or £50 per year.

Family News

Silver Wedding

On 24th October 2017, Jason and Zoe Cook celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. They marked the occasion by throwing a party at their local social club on the Saturday before, (21st October). Along with their children, Ethan and Lauren, and both sets of parents, the party was attended by approximately 60 friends and family. Among them were Zoe's aunt, who had travelled from Ireland, and Jason's godfather, who had come from the Isle of Man! Zoe's parents had made cakes depicting their main hobbies – Zoe's being darts, and Jason's being pool. An extensive buffet was laid on – probably too much food, as they were eating leftovers for a week! However, a good time was had by all – and lessons have been learned for catering in the future!!



Art by Hannah Shingler

Hannah, who designed our lovely Christmas Cards, has created this beautiful piece of fan fiction art showing characters from the Manga/Anime series 'Fairy Tail'. Hannah is creating her own "what if ...?" scenarios based on the characters and other aspects of the original story, and this picture is an illustration for what she is writing.

Anyone wanting to see more of her creations can visit her gallery at:

<https://dragonsflyatsunset.deviantart.com/>



Family News

National Pool Championships

Hopefully, many of you remember the accounts I have put in previous newsletters of my son, Ethan, playing at the National County Pool Championships in Great Yarmouth. Being there to watch and support him in his achievements inspired me to try and qualify for a representative team so I could have the experience of playing at the highest level.

I play for a pub team within the Croydon league, which is part of the Surrey County Pool Association. Our league has two teams that compete within the Interleague competition, which is where representative teams from within the county compete against each other for the right to play at the National Finals.



I had previously trialled in January 2016, but had been unsuccessful, however, I wasn't giving up. At the trials in January 2017 there were 21 triallists for 11 squad places. We were divided into 2 groups, and I managed to finish joint top of my group with 7 out of 10, meaning I had qualified for the team.

Matches were one Sunday evening per month throughout the year (apart from a summer break), giving 9 league games, plus one all day competition for the Cup.

Croydon B (my team) finished 5th in that Cup competition, which was good enough to secure a place at the National Interleague KO Cup Finals, held in Great Yarmouth over the weekend of 6th-8th October.



For this, there were 32 groups of 4 teams, with 2 teams to qualify from each group. Our first match was against a team from Braintree, and our captain decided to have me playing first. I was more than a little nervous! Fortunately I managed to play well enough to set the team off on the right foot, before we eventually won 10-6.

Our second match was against Normans Elite, a team who had actually won the competition a few years previously. Just to add extra spice to it, we were to play on one of the live stream tables – this was being sent out live over the internet. We were the first team from Croydon to ever get the opportunity, and everyone was quite excited. Ultimately, I had nothing to get excited about – my opponent cleared the table without even giving me a shot, and I was never seen on the live stream. (I know, because I watched the recording a few days later!) Despite a valiant effort we lost 10-8, sending us into a play off against Walsall Pool Federation. Unfortunately, the team were drained after the efforts of the previous match, and despite being favourites for the match, we lost 10-4, and were knocked out.

However, still an enjoyable weekend, and I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to do it again!

FOOTNOTE:

My end of season averages were not good enough to guarantee my retention within the team, so I had to go through the trial system again in January. This time, there were 16 players competing for 11 places, but I had a poor day, finishing 12th. However, an unforeseen situation has meant that I have been called back into the squad for 2018! Additionally, our league placing of 7th was just high enough to gain an invitation to the National Interleague League Finals, which are being held at the end of April. Can't wait!

Jason Cook

Family News

Condolences to Mary Foster, and to the Dixon Family



We are sorry to learn of the death of **Michael Foster**, husband of (Dorothy) **Mary Foster**, née Witheridge. Michael died suddenly on Christmas Day.

Michael trained in horticulture at Hadlow Agricultural College in Kent. All his working life was spent in the horticultural industry, and Michael's love of horticulture was evident in his beautiful and productive garden. Mary and Michael married in 1967, and had recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

For many years Michael was Chief Buyer of fruit and vegetables for the south-east region of supermarket chain Safeway UK (now Morrisons). A quiet, unassuming man, Michael found unexpected fame when, in 1979, he was chosen as the central figure in a Safeway TV commercial. He was filmed in London's famous Covent Garden market at 5.10 am on a wet morning, selecting the best fruit and vegetables and negotiating the best prices. Believing the filming had stopped, Michael threw the pear he was holding to the lorry driver waiting to take the produce away. The company loved this spur-of-the-moment act of kindness, and kept it in the advert.

At his funeral, a tribute was read by his niece **Sarah Chudley**, daughter of Brenda and Ron Dixon. Included in the tribute was a showing of the TV commercial, which can still be found on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzhxL05Dah0).

Other Witheridge descendants at the funeral included **Brenda** and **Ron Dixon** (Mary's sister and brother-in-law), **Richard Dixon** (nephew), as well as **Kim** and **Roy Cook**, **Jason Cook** and **Adam Cook**, and **Caroline** and **Nigel Fuller** (cousins).

Note: Mary Foster and Brenda Dixon are from the Wembury branch of the family. Although their father, William Edmund George Witheridge (1899-1972) was born in Fulham, London, his father William Henry Witheridge (1870-1939), had been born in Plymouth.

Do you have any news you would like to share?

Email our secretary, amykennedy.ask@gmail.com, to be included in the next newsletter.

Chairman's Report

The major change during the past year has been the appointment of Amy Kennedy as our Honorary Secretary. We are delighted to have Amy as a member of the team, and I'm sure all our members have appreciated her administrative skills. Additionally, her production of our Newsletters, in a new and interesting format, has been well received. When the Committee was faced with getting to grips with the implications of the new Data Protection measures, we were delighted and relieved to learn that Amy is already well versed in Data Protection issues, and her knowledge will enable us to implement the new regulations correctly and efficiently. Thank you, Amy.

With Amy doing such a good job, those who had previously been struggling with administrative issues have been able to do some publicity and promotional work. The Society now has an entry in the 'Really Useful Leaflet' put out by the Federation of Family History Societies, and an item about Witheridge FHS appeared in 2018 edition of the *Family History Handbook*, produced by *Family Tree Magazine*. The magazine itself will also be publicising our Reunion in May, with an invitation to any Witheridge or Wetheridge descendants to join us. Further publicity has been sent to local and regional newspapers in areas within easy reach of our venue, where we know there are Witheridges and Wetheridges.

Currently, membership is about the same as last year, but we hope that these initiatives will encourage growth. To complement these, a further initiative has been proposed in the AGM Agenda. It has been suggested that we implement a discounted 3-year membership, to encourage any new members to stay and become involved with the Society.

Our finances continue to be in good shape, particularly now that we no longer have an expensive print bill, and this will enable us to continue to have Amy as our Honorary Secretary.

I'm sure all our members will join me in thanking all our Officers, Committee Members and Overseas Representatives for their work during the year. Without them we couldn't survive.

Finally, I hope you will all participate in our AGM and Reunion, whether by attending, or by contributing via absentee voting. Your input is necessary if you are to have the kind of Society you need.

Jason Cook

Research Co-ordinator's Report

This year there has been no new research information from members, other than the small amount of research I've been able to do myself.

In last year's report I mentioned that I was planning to separate the Enhanced Narrative Pedigree (ENP) files according to the family branches, and update them. This I've managed to do during the course of 2017. I now have 11 separate ring binders, each holding the ENP for one of our main branches.

North Devon has 4 major branches: **Barnstaple & East London; Berrynarbor & Combmartin; John Witheridge of Bideford, Littleham & North Tawton; and Fremington, Ilfracombe & Bradworthy.**

South Devon has 5 major branches: **Ermington; Witheridge-Penrose of Plymouth; South Huish, Yealmpton & South Africa; Thurlestone & South Milton; and Wembury & Plymouth.**

There are two further main branches, each with a separate file. These are **Kent & Birmingham; and Wetheridge of Hornsey, Highgate & Camberwell.**

Currently, each of these files contains only the ENP, although in some cases this extends to almost 50 pages of type! I have recently started to print out facsimile copies of parish register entries, GRO certificates, and wills relating to these families, so that these can be included in the relevant file for each family.

In addition to the 10 main groups, there are a number of shorter pedigrees which it has not yet been possible to place definitively in one of the main groups. These include a short pedigree of 3 generations (1570-1630) from **Newton Ferrers & Plymstock**; a selection of Witheridges from **Littleham**; some early Witheridge strays in **London**; early strays in **North Devon**; strays in **Worcestershire**; and the pedigree of the **Bridgwater** family whose name varies from Witheridge to Wittridge and Woodridge, often within the lifetime of one member!

I plan to have all these files with me at the AGM and Reunion, along with two further files. One, entitled **A Place in the Family**, contains a review of some of the farms and houses which have strong historic links with various Witheridge families. These include Witheridge Farm, East Ogwell; Strode Manor Farm, Ermington; Witheridge Cottage, Newton Ferrers (all in Devon); and Witheridge Farm, Exton, Somerset.

The other file, entitled **Witheridges Remembered**, contains written portraits of some Witheridges who lived in the 19th and 20th centuries. These portraits contain not only historical facts, but details of the characters and specific incidents in their lives which would not have been recorded in any document.

Many of the contributions in these two files were written about 20 years ago, and it would be good to have further contributions. If any members would like to produce something to add to either of these files, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Finally, I have recently been in touch with someone who knows the whereabouts of a Bible linked to the family of Henry Witheridge and Ann Light (Ermington-Plymouth). I also have some of the material previously belonging to Joyce Browne (née Witheridge), also from that branch, and I hope to make a special display of these at the Reunion.

Kim Cook

Treasurer's Report

We have a balance of £1062.69 in the Witheridge FHS account to date.

As always our income comes from our members' subscriptions.

Our outgoings go on annual membership of the Federation of Family History Societies, expenditure relating to the AGM and we now pay our Secretary, Amy Kennedy £30.00 per month.

There are also expenses for producing and posting our Christmas cards and our annual thank you gift voucher to our auditor. We also paid for an advertisement in a family history publication.

The audited accounts will be available from the date of the AGM.

Liz Davey

Membership Secretary's Report

Our total membership for the year ending 31 December 2017 was 58. This was made up of 27 prime members who paid subscriptions, 27 additional family members, and 4 people awarded Honorary Membership for major contributions to the Society's past work. This type of Honorary Membership does not cover family members, and does not carry the right to vote.

Although renewals are due on 1 January each year, members are not considered lapsed until the AGM. As at 31 March, I have received 22 renewals, covering a further 26 family members. With our 4 Honorary Members, this makes a total of 52 members. I have written again to the 5 whose subscriptions are still outstanding, reminding them that they need to pay soon if they wish to vote at the AGM.

So far, all current subscriptions are renewals, but we really need to attract new members. I know other members of the Committee are working on publicity to encourage new members, but it would good if current Witheridge FHS members could encourage their Witheridge relations in the wider family to join us. Please tell your distant cousins, or people you may be in touch with via family history websites, about us, and invite them to join.

Geoff Shingler

Wetheridge FHS and General Data Protection Regulation

As mentioned in our previous **Newsletter**, the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** (EU [2016/679](#)) will replace the **1995 Data Protection Directive** ([Directive 95/46/EC](#)) on 25th May 2018 in the UK.

All personal data (records relating to living individuals) provided to **Wetheridge FHS** will be processed (obtained, used, retained and destroyed) in line with **GDPR**.

Our lawful basis for processing personal data is that this is done with the consent of the data subject (all details are provided voluntarily) and, in the case of contact details, is necessary for providing membership services.

Your personal data will only be processed for the purposes of family history research, and to allow us to keep you informed about **Wetheridge FHS**. Your personal data will not be shared with any third parties.

If, at any time, you wish for your own personal data held by **Wetheridge FHS** to be amended, we will update our records to reflect these changes. All Officers of the Society can be contacted using the links on the Wetheridge FHS website, <http://wetheridgefhs.com/>.

You have the right to request that we restrict our processing of your personal data (e.g. not sharing details with non-committee members). You also have the right to object to our continued processing of your personal data, or request erasure of your personal data from our records, if your membership of **Wetheridge FHS** has ended, or at any time on the understanding that this may necessitate the withdrawal of some membership services (e.g. we cannot send newsletters if we have erased your contact details). You also have the right to request copies of any data we hold about yourself, and these will be provided.

If you would like to know more about **GDPR**, the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)** have published a useful guide on their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>.

As a non-profit, recreational organisation, processing personal data for the purposes outlined above, **Wetheridge FHS** is exempt from **ICO** registration and does not require appointment of a **Data Protection Officer**. The committee act together as **Data Controller**, determining our purposes for processing data, and no individual member will implement any changes to these without prior committee approval. Each committee member is a **Data Processor** responsible for the security of any personal data they hold.

If you have any questions specifically in relation to **GDPR** and the **Wetheridge FHS**, please feel free to contact me at amykennedy.ask@gmail.com.

Amy Kennedy

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Witheridge Family History Society will be held at St Mark's Centre, Church Road, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent, on 12 May 2018, at 12:30pm.

- 1 Chairman's opening and welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of the 2017 AGM held at St Mark's Centre, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3LB
- 4 Matters arising from these Minutes
- 5 Matters arising from Officers' Reports
- 6 Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following is the list of current Officers and Committee Members. Anyone willing to stand, or to nominate/second an existing member or new member (with their consent), please email our Secretary, Amy Kennedy with details, amykennedy.ask@gmail.com.

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Facebook Moderator
Research Co-ordinator
Webmaster
Committee Members

Jason Cook
Chris Davey
Amy Kennedy
Geoff Shingler
Liz Davey
Chris Davey
position vacant

Paul Barber
Kim Cook
Bill Dwyne
Pamela Glynn
Roy Cook
Alison Smith

This is currently being done, very well, by our Secretary Amy Kennedy.

7 Overseas Representatives

We hope **Jennifer and Richard Woolcott** will agree to continue as the Society's Australian Representatives, and that **Jim Witheridge** and **Annette Witheridge** will continue as the Society's North America representatives. We would like to record the Society's thanks and gratitude to the all for their support during the past year.

Australia:

Jennifer and Richard Woolcott

New Zealand:

position vacant nominations invited

North America:

Jim Witheridge and **Annette Witheridge**

8 Appointment of Auditor

We are very grateful to **Janice Cawsey** who has kindly agreed to act as our Auditor again for the current year. We have expressed our thanks for her work last year with the gift of a garden voucher.

9 Discounted 3-year Membership

It seems that certain Societies are finding that some new subscribers are paying for a year, taking all the information they can get, and then not renewing. It has been suggested that one way of helping to overcome this might be to offer the option of a 3-year subscription at a reduced rate, e.g. £25 instead of £30 (a discount of approx 16.7%). There is already an option to pay unlimited years in advance at the basic rate although, understandably, few people take that option, as there's currently no benefit. If the person taking the subscription dies with more than, say, 7 months left of the subscription, the remainder of the time may, at the discretion of the Committee, be awarded to a member of the deceased's family who is not already a member of Witheridge FHS. As this is a Constitutional matter, it needs a two-thirds majority to be approved.

10 Witheridge FHS Christmas Card for 2018

Ideas to be discussed, and suggestions given to the Committee, with a decision to be made by the Committee by 30 September 2018.

11 Date and venue for 2019 Reunion

In line with our current arrangements, the 2019 reunion could be held on either 11 or 18 May 2019, with Biggin Hill the default venue, if no-one suggests a workable alternative. However, members are invited to submit their comments and proposals for discussion at the AGM. If necessary, these will be further discussed by the Committee, with final proposals put to the membership by 1 July 2018, and the venue approved by 1 August 2018.

12 Any other business

The Annual Reunion, at the same venue, will follow immediately after the AGM. It will be open to non-members, and we hope that some will decide to join us.

Voting and Absentee Voting

All full members, and additional family members over the age of 16 who are covered by that membership, are entitled to vote, provided the membership is fully paid up at the date of the meeting.

Any voting member unable to attend may register an absentee vote by post or e-mail. **All absentee votes must be received at least four full days before the meeting, ie, by Tuesday 8 May, 2018.** Postal votes must be sent to the Honorary Life President at 135 Kings Road, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent TN16 3NH in a sealed envelope clearly marked 'Postal Vote'. Votes registered via e-mail must be sent to amykennedy.ask@gmail.com with 'Absentee Vote' in the subject box. Votes received by this mail box will be printed off and taken to the meeting, but neither these, nor the postal votes, will be counted until the votes of those present at the meeting have been cast. Should more than one vote be received from a member, only the last received for that member will be counted.

Any AGM motion concerning the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of votes cast in order to be passed, but other motions can be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast for and against a motion (except motions amending the Constitution) the Chairman of the meeting has a casting vote.