

Witheridge Family History Society

Year 2015/2016 – NEWSLETTER NO. 1

20 June, 2015.

Dear Witheridge family members,

This is the first newsletter since our 2015 AGM at Salisbury. If you have provided us with an e-mail address, you should have already received a copy of the Minutes of the AGM, if we have not got an e-mail address for you, then your copy will be enclosed with this Newsletter. If you have not got a copy of the AGM minutes, let me know and I will get it sorted. I do hope that you have read the Minutes, especially Agenda item 5 as the items under that heading provide evidence of the fact that the Committee are making every attempt possible to administer the Society in a professional and user-friendly manner. More about the “business” matters later in this newsletter. First of all, let’s look at the family news items.

1. A NEW ARRIVAL!!

Am delighted to announce the birth of JONAH ELLIOT CARLSON, born May 27, at 7:52 a.m., weighing 7 lbs 4 oz and is 20” long. Jonah is the son of Dr. Matthew and Rebekah (#266) Carlson who live in the USA. Congratulations and best wishes Matthew, Rebekah and 2 year old Ingrid, from us all Another leaf on the Combe Martin branch!! Rebekah tells me that “Jonah is growing well and is a very content little guy”.



Jonah and a very proud big sister!!

2. ALLAN WITHERIDGE (#165)

Unfortunately. Allan has recently been hospitalised following a collapse some weeks ago. Good to hear from Judith that he is now home again and, although still not completely “good”, he is making progress. It seems that he was suffering from that very common Australian disease called dehydration! Strange how we don’t seem to hear much about this complaint in the UK, must be something to do with the Australian climate!! Keep drinking the water Allan and take care of each other.

3. MESSAGES FROM KIM:

Joyce Browne (#6)

At the end of May, Roy and Kim Cook were able to visit Joyce Browne again, and were delighted to find that she was considerably brighter than on their previous visit. Although when she's not in her favourite arm-chair, Joyce has to be in a wheelchair, Roy was able to wheel Joyce across the road to her favourite Italian restaurant, where they all enjoyed a delicious meal.

As always, Joyce was keen to hear family and WFHS news, and she enjoyed hearing about the AGM and Reunion. Joyce sends her very best wishes to all who remember her.

Since then, Kim has also sent Joyce a letter full of pictures, including photos taken at the Reunion, which will help her keep everything fresh in her mind.



Joyce Browne & Kim Cook.

Kim Cook (#1)

Kim Cook will be out of action for a while, as she is due to go into hospital on Tuesday 7 July, and doesn't know how long her post-op convalescence will be. As Roy doesn't do computers, if anyone needs to contact Kim, please email our Chairman, Jason, who will see that messages are passed on.

Thank you Kim for your messages. Trust that the operation does the trick and recovery will be speedy and complete. Assurance of continued support and prayers in the days ahead.

Thanks Kim for the photo of Joyce as well as hearing how she is doing. Of course we remember you Joyce - the whole of the Witheridge family, send their very best wishes to you.

TALKING ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHS!!

I was hoping that I would be sent some pictures taken at the AGM in May, but due to various problems with computers, wiring problems as well as sickness in the Cook household, there has been delay in getting these through to me. Hopefully I will be able to get these and other Witheridge family pictures to Bill Dwyne so that they will be in the gallery section on the web-site before too long.

When sending items to be included in these newsletters, it would be great if you could attach relevant photographs, and adding a note of whether you are happy for the pictures to go into our web-site as well as these newsletters. Any chance of a picture or two of the Australia wedding Julia (Crocker)?

4. I recently received the following e-mail from the Lanarkshire FHS. Obviously it will only be relevant to UK members:

“Lanarkshire Family History Society are holding a Local & Family History Fair in Motherwell Civic Centre on Saturday 22nd August 2015, 9.45am - 4.30pm.

Please visit our dedicated Events website for more information. This is updated regularly as more items and Exhibitors are confirmed: www.lfhsshow.weebly.com”

Because of the availability of search facilities on-line, there has been a steady decrease in the numbers attending Family History Fairs. The “knock-on” result is that many Local History Societies are limiting the Fairs they attend as exhibitors. However it is quite common for non-attending Societies to be invited to display publicity leaflets, and I am hoping that we will be able to get some Witheridge leaflets ready for distribution at the Lanarkshire Fair (see Item 5 (g) AGM Minutes). Do let me know if you have FHS fairs in your area or indeed any relative events where our leaflets can be displayed.

5. **NEW APPOINTMENT.**

I am pleased to advise you that **Janice Cawsey** has agreed to act as Auditor of the Witheridge accounts following the retirement of Derek Nixon (AGM minutes Item 8).

6. **NEW WEB-SITE PASSWORD.**

As you will already know, the Society password to the Members’ section of the web-site is altered following the AGM. I am asking **Bill Dwyne** (Webmaster) to alter the accepted password on the 30th June. Those members of the Society who have fully paid up their 2015 subscriptions will receive the password with this newsletter. I am afraid that those who have not yet paid their subscription will not be given the password until they rectify their status by contacting **Barbara Finemore**, the Membership Secretary. If you don’t receive the password, but are confident that you have paid up, please contact Barbara either by telephone 01623 820 957 (UK) or by e-mail to barbarafinemore@gmail.com

7. **NOW DOWN TO BUSINESS!!**

You will have already noticed that there are a significant number of enclosures or attachments this Newsletter. Here is a brief outline of these documents:

- A. **UP-DATE OF INFORMATION.** It is not necessary for you to return this sheet with your replies, but merely to indicate on a separate sheet, the number of the question you are answering., i.e., 1 - “YES,” 2 - “e-mail”. 11 - “Will sort some out” etc. Some questions may not be able to be answered immediately, that’s fine, but it would help with the preparation of the database if I could have replies to easily-answered questions;
- B. **LIST OF FULL MEMBERS.** Have a look at this list and use it to help me out **PLEASE!!** I am having a great deal of difficulty in sorting out who is related to which member of the Witheridge family! I shall be grateful if you can let me know any of the members listed who are **CLOSE** relatives to you. E.g., my list would show 254 - Angela Rundle - “my sister”, and 263 - Alison Seakins - “my niece” Feel free to keep a copy of the list yourself and you can then up-date it from time to time.

- C. **BASIC PEDIGREE SHEET.** Where I have already had a Pedigree sheet from you (mostly newer members), I am \ sending you a copy of that basic pedigree sheet. Please check that the information is correct and, if you can, fill in any blanks and return the form to me. (Just let me know any alterations to the form if you want to keep the original yourself and do not have photocopying facilities). If I do not already have this information, I am attaching a blank form for you to complete and send back to me, together with an example form already completed by Barbara Finemore. The completed basic pedigree sheet for each member will be placed in a confidential file to be handed over to future Secretaries of the Society.
- D. **S.A.E.** All UK members who receive this Newsletter by snail-mail are being provided with a Stamped addressed envelope. Please do make sure when returning mail with any enclosures, that the correct stamp value is on the envelope. Overseas members and those receiving items by e-mail - you will receive, if you have not already done so, an invitation to set up a drop-box. If and when I get confirmation that you have agreed and successfully set up your box, I will put the enclosures into your drop-box rather than risk sending confidential information via e-mail. Additionally, it will mean that you can return items by putting them into your drop-box. Please send me an e-mail whenever you have placed items in the drop-box.

In great faith, thank you for being willing to co-operate!!! If we can just get the administration of the Society working well, it should make life a lot easier for all of us and enable the Committee to fulfil their individual roles to everyone's satisfaction.

The next Newsletter will be due to be circulated on 20th September 2015. News items etc., should be with me no later than 15th September. By then I hope to have received all the information requested today!!

Meantime, take care and God bless

Yours,

Beth (#253)
Secretary,
Witheridge FHS.