

W^oitheridge

Family History Society

Winter 2018-2019

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Family News

News from Berridale, Australia

Rob and Cathy Staples wrote of the great fun they had with family and friends over the Christmas period, and sent a number of photos showing some of the fun.



Here, Cathy and Rob are relaxing with sons David and George.



This photo shows the yummy breakfast wreath Cathy cooked for Christmas breakfast, admitting that 'it looks better once the tomatoes (cut in half) and basil have been put on'. [Recipe please, Cathy!]

The picture below shows daughter Gillian with her two girls, Ella (4) and Hallie (18 months) enjoying the sunshine of an Aussie Christmas.



Another Staples tradition is Boxing Day tennis on their own court, but this was curtailed as the men set about building Cathy's new hot-house (greenhouse to us Poms!). Rob was ably assisted by sons David and George, and son-in-law Shane.

Shane and George soon had things off to a good start (below left) and before long all four were celebrating completion of the frame assembly (below right). We hope they're all soon enjoying the fruits (literally) of their labours.



News of Judith Witheridge

Last year we were relieved to learn that Judith Witheridge, our former Australia representative, was recovering well from surgery for colon cancer. At first it seemed as though all the cancer had been removed. Sadly, Judith has recently learned that the cancer has come back, and has spread to her lungs. She is now in the Palliative Care unit at Port Kembla Hospital.

Judith has written that she knows she wouldn't be able to look after herself any more, but rejoices that 'God is still my Bridge over Troubled Water'.

We feel sure all our members will join us in sending our love to Judith and all her family.

Family News

Ordination Day

This was a very proud moment for Judith Witheridge and her four sons, particularly for Neil and his wife Rowena. One 17 February, Neil and Rowena, with daughter Katie, saw her husband Jack Day ordained in St Andrew's Anglican Cathedral, Sydney.



Katie and Jack Day, with son Oscar, on Jack's ordination day.

Richard Witheridge

With great sadness, we have to report the death, on 6 March, of Richard Witheridge, for many years a Vice President of the Witheridge Family History Society. He was 83. Richard and his wife Maureen were stalwarts of WFHS from day one, served the Society in many roles over the years, and became good friends to many of us.

Roy and Kim Cook had planned to attend Richard's funeral, both as friends, and as representatives of the Witheridge FHS. Sadly, an emergency in the Cook family made this impossible, but a condolence card from the Society was sent, along with a hand-made card showing all the condolence emails received from our members.

Roy and Kim are hoping to meet up with some of Richard's family at a later date. Meanwhile, the Society has made a donation to the family's chosen charity, Cancer Research UK.

The next issue of the WFHS *NEWSLETTER* will include an obituary.



Richard Witheridge

AGM & Reunion 2019

Saturday 11 May 2019

St Mark's Centre, Church Road, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3LB

AGM 10.45am-12.15 pm; Reunion 12.30 pm-5.30 pm; Reunion Meal 6.15 pm for 6.30 pm



Timetable for the day

10.30 am	St Mark's Centre opens, and refreshments will be served
10.45 am	AGM starts – with working lunch from about 12.00 noon
12.15 pm	AGM finishes
12.30 pm	Doors open for Reunion
3.00 pm	Question Time – Ask the experts about your Witheridge ancestry, or FH in general.
4.00 pm	Refreshments and Birthday Cake
5.30 pm	Close at St Mark's Centre
6.15 pm	The Crown Inn, Leaves Green (BR2 6DQ), for Reunion Meal at 6.30 pm

AGM & Reunion 2019 - AGM Agenda

- 1 **Chairman's opening and welcome**
- 2 **Apologies for absence**
- 3 **Minutes of the 2018 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 Officers and Committee Members have agreed to stand again, and we welcome Maxine Neale who has agreed to stand.

Chairman	Jason Cook	Proposer	Liz Davey	Seconder	Chris Davey
Vice Chairman	Chris Davey	Proposer	Kim Cook	Seconder	Roy Cook
Membership Secretary	Geoff Shingler	Proposer	Jason Cook	Seconder	Roy Cook
Treasurer	Liz Davey	Proposer	Jason Cook	Seconder	Kim Cook
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Davey	Proposer	Roy Cook	Seconder	Kim Cooke
Research Co-ordinator	Kim Cook	Proposer	Maxine Neale	Seconder	Liz Davey
Facebook Moderators	Maxine Neale	Proposer	Jason Cook	Seconder	Kim Cook
	Bill Dwyne	Proposer	Kim Cook	Seconder	Jason Cook
	vacant	nominations welcome			
Webmaster	Bill Dwyne	Proposer	Kim Cook	Seconder	Jason Cook
Secretary	Amy Kennedy	Proposer	Jason Cook	Seconder	Kim Cook
Newsletter Editor	vacant, currently secretary	nominations welcome			
Committee Members	Roy Cook	Proposer	Liz Davey	Seconder	Chris Davey
	Maxine Neale	Proposer	Kim Cook	Seconder	Liz Davey
	vacant	nominations welcome			

7 **Overseas Representatives**

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

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.

AGM & Reunion 2019 - AGM Agenda

9 Amendments to Facebook Pages

As can be seen from the lack of a Facebook Moderator's Report, and our Chairman's substitute report, there have been problems with our Facebook pages. Our Chairman's Christmas message to members and to other Witheridge/Wetheridge people didn't appear on either of our two Facebook pages – the closed page for WFHS members only, listed as Witheridge Family History Society, or the open-to-all WitheridgeFhs page. We were also unable to post other greetings, including those for Anzac Day and Thanksgiving Day. Because of confusion between the similar names, we are in the process of renaming the WitheridgeFhs (open page), as Witheridge & Wetheridge descendants. We have yet to confirm a name for the closed page. We are planning to update both pages with news, information, and new, more relevant photos, and are inviting offers from members who already have Facebook pages to act as joint Administrators. We hope all members will register a 'like' for both these revised pages, and that non-member descendants will also 'like' the Descendants page.

10 WFHS Christmas Card for 2019

As agreed last year, we will be asking Hannah Shingler to design a card for us. We have now resolved the technical problems experienced in previous years, which arose because of incompatibility between Hannah's processes and those of Vistaprint. We now have our Christmas cards printed by the company that produces Hannah's other work.

11 Date and venue for 2020 Reunion

In line with our current arrangements, the 2020 reunion could be held on either 10 or 17 May 2020, 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

13 Chairman closes meeting

AGM & Reunion 2019 – Voting & 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 Hon. 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.

AGM & Reunion 2019 – Reunion & Reunion Meal

The Annual Reunion, at the same venue, will follow immediately after the AGM.

It will be open to non-members, and we hope to welcome new faces. There will be plenty of opportunity to meet and mingle, and to examine the pedigrees, photos, and memorabilia on display. Please feel free to bring anything relevant to your own Witheridge family.



We will regroup at 6.15 pm for the Reunion Meal, which will take place at 6.30 pm at The Crown Inn, Keston, BR2 6DQ, telephone 01959 572920, and we hope as many as possible will join us there. We will be making a group reservation, so please let Kim Cook know if you are planning to be there.

The Crown serves excellent food, sourced locally, apart from their steak, which comes from a renowned Scottish source. The generous portions, cooked to order, are modestly priced, and the atmosphere is warm and friendly. The menus change frequently, often from day to day, but there is always a good choice.

If you have any specific dietary requirements, please email Kim Cook (witheridge1987@gmail.com).

As food is cooked to order, Kim will try to obtain a copy of the menu the night before, so that those at the Reunion can choose their dishes. This will help avoid any long waits for service.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Why not make it a Witheridge Weekend?

For those thinking of coming to the Witheridge Family Reunion, why not make it a Witheridge Weekend? Here are some suggestions for places of interest to visit, and places to stay.

PLACES TO VISIT

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum & St George's Chapel

The new Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, located on Main Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 3EJ, which opened in January, tells the story of Britain's most famous WW2 RAF fighter station through the personal experiences of those who served there, and the community which supported them. It's on the same site as the St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance, built in 1951 to preserve the legacy of those who served and died in the Biggin Hill sector during WW2.

The Chapel features a reredos listing all those who died, as well as a Book of Remembrance and 12 beautiful stained-glass windows. The Museum holds an extensive collection of documents, photos and other memorabilia relating to the Battle of Britain and associated events.



An admission ticket also gives access to a discovery tablet, providing additional story-telling, using special films and photos, with both audio description and subtitles. Admission also allows visitors to explore St George's Chapel, gardens, café and shop. Coach and car parking is available on site and nearby, and there is also a buggy store, cycle parking, picnic area, shop and wi-fi.

The Museum is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10.00 am–5.00 pm, last admission at 4.00 pm. Admission* is £7.50 (£8.50) for adults, £4.00 (£4.50) for children, and free for under 5s. The Chapel is also open Tuesdays-Sundays, from 10.00 am. Postcode for both: Main Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 3EJ.

Further information: <https://bhmm.org.uk> and <https://www/rafchapelbigginhill.com>.

Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar



The Heritage Hangar, at 204 Churchill Way, Biggin Hill TN16 3BN, was founded in 2011 to house the activities of the Spitfire Company (Biggin Hill) Ltd, intending to restore a single Spitfire. It has now completed its sixth Spitfire restoration, and tours enable visitors to observe how current restorations are progressing, as well as getting up close to the Spitfires, a Hurricane Harvard and a Piper Cub. Currently, there is also a Messerschmitt 109e on site.

A tour of the Heritage Hangar costs from £39.00 and, with a chance to sit in a Spitfire thrown in, it's £69.00. For those wanting the full VIP Technical Tour, the cost is from £140.00.

Further information and bookings: <https://bigginhillheritagehangar.co.uk>.

Down House

For 40 years from 1842, Charles Darwin and his family lived at Down House, Luxted Road, Downe BR6 7TJ. Here, in the house and garden, he worked on his theories of natural selection as part of the evolutionary process. Although largely rebuilt between 1778 and 1782, the house has elements of the earlier building, thought to date from the 1650s.



Run by English Heritage, Down House is open from April-October, 10.00 am – 6.00 pm. Entrance* is free to members of English Heritage. For non-members, its £12.40 (£14.00) for adults, £7.60 (£8.40) for children 5-17, £11.40 (12.60), for over-65s or student-card holders, and £33.00 (£36.40) for a family ticket (2 adults + up to 3 children). A special Overseas Visitor Pass (9 or 16 day unlimited) is available from English Heritage.

Further information: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk>.

Why not make it a Witheridge Weekend?

Quebec House

courtesy National Trust



Quebec House, in Quebec Square, Westerham, Kent TN16 1TD, was the childhood home of General James Wolfe (1727-1759). Now restored by the National Trust, it includes contemporary furnishings showing how the Wolfe family lived, and Mrs Wolfe's kitchen, with the recipes and remedies she used. There are also two rooms full of documents and memorabilia relating the story of the Battle of Quebec, in which Wolfe led the British Army to victory over Montcalm and his French forces, ultimately enabling the unification of Canada. Wolfe himself died from gunshot wounds inflicted as the French troops fled. In the grounds, the coach house has an indoor seating area with a

café selling tea and home-made cakes, as well as a shop selling souvenirs and second-hand books.

Admission* to house, gardens and exhibition is £5.90 (£6.50) for adults, £2.90 (£3.25) for children, family £14.50 (£16.25) and adult groups, minimum 15, £5.50 each. There is no parking on site, but parking is available in the nearby.

Further information: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/quebec-house.

Chartwell House

Chartwell House, at Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent TN16 1PS, was the home of Winston Churchill and his family from 1922. The rooms remain much as they were during his lifetime, with pictures, books, and personal mementoes. The sloping gardens include the lakes he created, the kitchen garden, the playhouse designed for his youngest daughter Mary, and Winston's studio.



Admission* to the garden and studio only is £9.00 (£10.00) for adults, children, and £22.50 (£25.00) for family. Admission* courtesy National Trust £4.50 (£5.00) for

including the house, is £15.50 (£17.20) for adults, £7.75 (£8.60) for children, and £38.75 (£43.00) for family. Visitor reception, garden, and shop open at 10.00 am, house at 11.30 am and studio at 12 noon. Visits to the house are by timed tickets, which can be bought in advance, online or by phone, or on the day at the visitor centre. Free parking for NT members, non-members £4.00 per day. Further information: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell.

*Note: The Gift Aid (GA) scheme enables registered charities to reclaim tax on a donation made by a UK tax-payer, increasing the value of the donation by 25%. Where the GA scheme is operated, the figure in brackets shows entrance fee + GA donation.

Why not make it a Witheridge Weekend?

PLACES TO STAY

Darrington Cottage, 7 Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3SA

Self-contained two-bedroom property with kitchen, bathroom and lounge, centrally located. Breakfast, hot drinks, fruit juices and light snacks provided. For main meals, there are plenty of pubs serving good food nearby.

T: 01959 575097; email: ritamckay@yahoo.co.uk.



The Secret Cottage, 341 Main Road, Westerham TN16 2HP

Detached cottage, 2 years old, located in small woodland area, with private access and parking. Fully-fitted kitchen equipped for up to 6, bathroom with walk-in shower, sink, vanity unit and wc. Sitting room with sprung double sofa-bed, two further mezzanine double bedrooms. Underfloor heating. Sleeps up to 6.

T: 07963 680148



Kings Arms, Market Square, Westerham, TN16 1AN

Former coaching inn, dating from 1700, this pub with restaurant has 17 elegant rooms, including 4-poster, doubles, twins and a family room. Larger rooms have flat-screen TVs and larger beds. Free wi-fi, tea- and coffee-making facilities; complementary full English breakfast served in conservatory restaurant, which also offers pub-grub menu. Car park to rear.

T: 10959 562990



The Bakery Restaurant and Rooms, Westmore Green, Tatsfield, Westerham TN16 2AG

5 contemporary sound-proofed en-suite rooms with free wi-fi, flat-screen TV, tea- and coffee-making facilities, above British-European restaurant serving seasonal, locally-sourced food, and a pub providing brasserie-style meals and snacks.

T: 01959 577605; email: info@thebakeryrestaurant.com



Chairman's Report

Firstly, I have to report the sad news that Richard Witheridge, an Hon. Vice-Chairman of the Witheridge FHS, and a member since day one, died on Wednesday 6 March, aged 83. Condolences have been sent to his widow, Maureen, on behalf of the Witheridge FHS. Roy and Kim Cook had hoped to attend the funeral, and represent the Witheridge FHS but, as the result of an emergency in Roy's family, this proved to be impossible. However, we did make a contribution to Cancer Research UK in memory of Richard. A full obituary will be included in our next Newsletter, but I would like to record here the enormous debt the Society owes Richard for his willing service across 30 years in key roles on our Committee, and his valuable contribution to our research records.

On a much more positive note, it's good to be able to welcome members who've not attended before. We're particularly pleased that our Australia Representatives, Jennifer and Richard Woolcott, are able to be with us this year, and we're hoping that other 'first-timers' will be joining us.

This year I must again record our special thanks to the Officers of the Society. Firstly, I thank our Secretary, Amy Kennedy, whose administrative skills and understanding of the new GDPR laws are both invaluable. Her production of our Newsletter continues to be greatly appreciated, but we could do with more contributions from members. Please feel free to send us news of your current family, articles about your family research discoveries, information about places of interest to our members, funny stories, puzzles, and anything else that contributes to a good read. Thanks also to our Membership Secretary, Geoff Shingler who, despite a demanding full-time job, handles our renewals every year, updates members' addresses and contact details, and liaises with our Treasurer over membership income. Our membership levels have changed little since last year, and we continue to pursue ways of encouraging new members. Social media contact can be very effective, so we urge members who are in contact with other Witheridge descendants, to encourage them to visit our website, and our new open Facebook page for Witheridge and Wetheridge descendants. Thanks also, to our Treasurer Liz Davey, ably assisted by husband Chris, for keeping our accounts, and ensuring that our finances stay in good order. It is good to see that our finances are still in good shape, which enables us to continue with Amy's retainer. We're also very grateful to our Webmaster Bill Dwyne, who updates and monitors our WFHS website. Bill also welcomes contributions – family stories, photos, memories and any other relevant information – to the website. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

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. I must also thank Pamela Glynn and Alison Smith who have served faithfully on the Committee for many years, but with advancing years feel they can no longer continue in post.

Finally, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible as participants 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

Membership Secretary's Report

Our total membership for the year ending 31 December 2017 was 58. This was made up of 26 members who paid subscriptions, 28 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 3 Honorary Members, this makes a total of 51 members. We have had 1 resignation in 2019. I have written again to those whose subscriptions are still outstanding, reminding them that they need to pay soon if they wish to vote at the AGM.

All current subscriptions are renewals, but we really need to attract new members in order for the society to continue. Please encourage your Witheridge relations in your wider family to join us.

Geoff Shingler

Treasurer's Report

We have a balance of £781.34 in the WFHS account as of 21 March 2019

As always our income comes from our member's subscriptions.

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

We also pay to print and post our own Christmas card to members and we give a thank you voucher to our auditor and to Hannah Shingler for designing our Christmas card.

Audited accounts will be available from the date of the AGM.

Liz Davey

Research Co-ordinator's Report

Sadly, this year there has again been no new information from members, but there is still plenty to do in unravelling different branches that moved to the same villages or towns. Currently, I'm looking particularly into the many such branches in the **South Hams** area. I'm preparing an article on this which I hope will be ready for the next *NEWSLETTER*.

Another task has involved exploring the marriage links between one of the **South Hams** branches and the **Wembury** branch. It proved very difficult to produce a family tree showing how each branch is linked by marriage to the Rickard family, and probably also to the Bonney family, both from St Ewe in Cornwall, but I've finally managed it. This tree shows how current member Maxine Neale, and former member Gina Couch, from one of the South Hams branches, are linked to me, Jason, Brenda Dixon, Rod Witheridge and Sue Witheridge. I hope this tree, with an accompanying article will also be published soon.

As mentioned last year, I've been printing off parish register documents and illustrations to insert at appropriate places into the main pedigree files for each family, and these will be on display at the Reunion.

It's been disappointing not to have received any new items for the **Witheridges Remembered** project. Unless we record the memories that have been, and are being, handed down orally in each family, they risk being forgotten, distorted, or both.

Finally, we need to consider the opportunities provided by **DNA testing**. It would be interesting to know how many of our members and/or their Witheridge relatives, have taken DNA tests, and with which organisation. Sometimes it's difficult to identify the connections with people listed as DNA matches. If WFHS members from the same original branch were to compare notes, it might help identify which links are with people of Witheridge descent. My own test results (from an Ancestry test) have linked me with Witheridge descendants whose surnames I recognised through the marriages of female Witheridges, but whose existence I hadn't previously known about. I've also managed to identify some matches I believe are probably non-Witheridge, but I'm still wading through over 170 other unidentified matches, believed to be 4th cousins or closer, and one of which could be Witheridge links.

Kim Cook

Facebook Moderator's Report

Regrettably, for some time we have been unable to make contact with our Facebook Moderator, and have received no official Report. The following report is from our Chairman:

Committee members have recognised that for many months there has been no activity on either of our Facebook pages. Even my own post, as Chairman, sending Christmas greetings to all, was not uploaded. As no-one else on the Committee has Moderator access, we have no option but to start again.

The Committee is now in the process of opening up two replacement pages. The open-to-all page will now be called Witheridge & Wetheridge descendants. This will distinguish it from the former pages, and also avoid confusion with any pages relating to the village of Witheridge. Finding a title for the closed WFHS page will take some thought, as we cannot use a name already in use (e.g. our previous closed page). We will have to choose something instantly recognisable, but not likely to be confused with any other page.

We would also like to appoint three Administrators, who would each have the authority to upload, edit, or reject posts. With three people, we should be able to make what is currently a very light load even lighter, and avoid repeating our current situation.

To ensure that our pages comply with UK GDPR laws, it would be wise to have UK residents as at least two of our Administrators, but the third could be from anywhere. I would welcome offers from members who already have Facebook pages to help us with this.

Jason Cook (Chairman)

Webmaster's Report

Recent changes to the webpage include:

- Change from http: to https: (secure/encrypted). The site was attacked a few years ago.
- Converted all icons/symbols to a standard that should improve compatibility with other devices.
- Upgraded ZenPhoto the picture viewing app.
- Some significant changes to the drop down menus for use on phones/small tablets.

It would be nice to get some new content, especially pictures, if anyone has anything they would like to share.

Bill Dwyne