

*Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down.*



ISSUE NO. 87

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

APRIL 2013

## MARCH NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hopefully you will find an enclosure giving the details of the survey conducted on the Fingle Shoot and the reply the Council sent to the Dartmoor National Park. The Council agreed it was a useful exercise and lessons were learnt by the Council on the administration of any future surveys we might need.

Buses seem to feature on our agenda at the moment. It would be useful if any residents of Chapel Hill at Whiddon Down use the Dartline bus between Chagford and Okehampton and where they catch it or do you "hail & ride". Will you let the Clerk or a Councillor know and also what are your views about the use of Chapel Hill by the bus.

We are still consulting on the stop location for the late school bus at Whiddon Down because of the safety concerns for the children by it stopping on the main road.

As has been reported previously the Western Greyhound services 510 and 599 are altering after 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013, a copy of the new timetable will be placed in the Crockernwell bus shelter at Stanbury's Orchard and in the parish notice board at Whiddon Down. Following a request from a Whiddon Down resident who attended our meeting we will be able to reproduce the relevant times in future Parish Posts (must let the Editor know!!)

Following a request from the Council for an update on the Travellers site at Whiddon Down, Devon County Councillor James McInnes has informed us a notice to vacate had been served on the occupants and the matter was now in the hands of the County legal department.

Four items of planning were discussed and the Council resolved to support applications 0095/13

for the conversion of a redundant agricultural building at Furlong and 0078/13 for the sighting of ground mounted solar panels at Budbrook Crockernwell. We had neutral views on 0114/13 regarding a certificate of lawfulness at Narracott and 0082/13 the building of a veranda and increase in size of a garden wall at Ford House Drewsteignton.

Potholes have been reported at Hask Lane, Veet Mill, Wedeson Hill, Sandy Park to Drogo, Grey-stone to Preston and Upperton and in the square at Drewsteignton. (in fairness to South West Highways, Hask Lane and Veet Mill have now been dealt with as at 3<sup>rd</sup> April). We are also concerned over the lay-by at Whiddon Down being used for the storage of stone chippings which are spilling onto the main carriageway and the wall crumbling on the A382 north of Sandy Park. We are still hoping for two parishioners to come forward to replace Drewsteignton Ward Councillors standing down this year, please contact the Clerk.

Parishioners especially in Drewsteignton, will like to know that Cllr Wayne Mudge was able to check on certain items in the Drewe Arms which are in the keeping of the Council but NOT all items. We are contacting Enterprise Inns with the complete list and will look to the future tenants to continue to look after the items. If not we will be asking Parishioners what action we should take over the items future security.

Our next meeting is **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Drewsteignton 7.30pm.**

Please don't forget the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING which will be at Drewsteignton on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## Okehampton District Community Transport Group

### Newsletter 27

#### 100 Club

Thank you for your support, in the year to October 2012 we raised £1049 which is a great help to ensure our scheme can continue to offer as many people as possible the services they require.

Congratulations to the winners of our recent draws – Thank you for your support.

You can join the 100 Club at any time during the year, just send a cheque, payable to ODCTG for £12 to me at the address below.

#### Newsletters

With the increasing costs of printing and postage, if you or your family have an email address, please let us know so that we can send information to you electronically to cut down on our costs. Thank you.

#### Saturday Trips (Ring and Ride Bus plus Peugeot when numbers require)

6th April	Totnes	£11/15
13th April	Sidmouth	£11/15
20th April	Cornish Market, St Austell	£12/16
27th April	Endsleigh Garden Centre, Ivybridge	£11/15
4th May	NO TRIP – BANK HOLIDAY	
11th May	Green Lanes, Barnstaple	£11/15
18th May	Boscastle	£12/16
25th May	Lifton Farm Shop & Roadford Reservoir	£9/13
1st June	Dartmoor Inn, Merrivale (no w/c access)	£10/14
8th June	The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth	£11/15
15th June	Exmouth	£10/14

#### Trips with the Peugeot

Please let us know if you have any special requests for trips.

Provisional dates and destinations, subject to bookings:

Monday 15th April	Drakes Circus Shopping Centre, Plymouth
Friday 26th April	A la Ronde, Exmouth (National Trust)
Thursday 9th May	Lost Gardens of Heligan
Tuesday 21st May	Widemouth Bay (Black Rock Café)

#### Drivers

We welcome Brent Turner-Oxenham from Winkleigh to our team of drivers. We are always looking for new drivers to join our team, we particularly need drivers who are willing to undertake wheelchair training to drive our two wheelchair accessible vehicles which are being kept very busy. Please contact the office if you would like to know more. We would like to recruit drivers in Okehampton and Chagford areas to help with the increasing demand on our services.

#### West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau

Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton – Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am – 2pm  
Drop in or ring 08444 111 444 during these hours

Home Visiting Service available for housebound, vulnerable, frail, living in West Devon, suffer illness or have work/caring responsibilities, no transport. Home Visiting Officers provide help and advice on a wide range of subjects: Benefit checks and assistance with claiming benefits (including Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance), Advice to Carers, Referral to Specialist Agencies, Advice regarding Money/Housing/Family/Relationships/Employment problems, Generalist advice on any subjects.

Telephone 01837 52105

Please see our website at [www.odctg.co.uk](http://www.odctg.co.uk) for up to date information, photos and more.

**Sue, ODCTG, Railway Station, Station Road, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1EJ 01837 55000**

## March Bird Notes

I have just found out I am the last to submit my piece to the editor of the Parish Post (apologies, again!) but I have been waiting to try and see if we have any of our summer migrants to report and sadly, I have yet to see or hear anything that would indicate a change in the seasons. I have been busy in Exeter in my free time over the week-ends watching the Peregrine falcons on St. Michael's church at Mount Dinham, where we now have a camera mounted in the nest box where they are breeding and currently incubating three eggs. I have been working with the church on their recent Heritage Lottery Funding application which was successfully granted and then I co-ordinated with steeplejacks and a colleague to install internal access up the inside of the spire and then a camera into the nest box.

During these regular visits, I connect up my lap top computer from within the church and record images of developments in the nest, which have been fascinating over the last few weeks. We recorded the first egg laid, then the second egg approximately 57 hours later when the peregrines began to incubate during another particularly cold spell with easterly winds, and finally laying their third egg. The footage I have been capturing will be featured on the new church website prior to images being transmitted live via broadband installation at the church, which hopefully will happen over the next couple of weeks, meaning I along with others can watch from the comfort of home via the internet. It was on one trip (24<sup>th</sup> March) that I stopped in the car park along Okehampton Road, just off the Exe Bridge roundabout, to have a look at the church from a distance and saw four martins flying low over the water, hoping to catch flies but unlikely due to the cold weather. I didn't have binoculars at the time and they looked very much like house martins but could have been sand martins, which often arrive earlier. These were the only martins I have seen so far this year and I really hope that by time this copy of the PP is delivered, the swallows and martins will be back in the village and the weather will be considerably warmer. I started recording their arrival and departures in the parish in 2001, and despite the coldest March on record, they are not particularly late this year and should be here over the next week or so.

What has been noticeable to me is the lack of chiffchaffs calling so far, as I normally hear them from mid March (21<sup>st</sup> in 2012, 13<sup>th</sup> in 2011 and 26<sup>th</sup> in 2010) in and around Drewsteignton. I did hear that a friend had heard them in the woods in the Teign valley recently but I have heard nothing yet. Chiffchaffs are one of the few migrant warblers that I can recognise by their call, which is a plaintive 'chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff', and once heard just continues all through the summer, as the birds advertise their territories.

Many bird species in the region are still thinking it is winter, as this week I have seen redwings, fieldfares, and mistle thrushes and there are still large flocks of over-wintering starlings in the area. It was only last week that I saw a small flock of waxwings in Buddle Lane in Exeter, feeding on berries. This is in stark contrast to some species like blackbirds that are already nesting despite the cold weather, and the house sparrows that persist in creating holes in the eaves of my thatched roof to make new nest sites. With the ongoing cold weather, I have continued to feed the birds in the garden but am scaling back now as the weather forecast is for warmer, albeit wetter weather.

**Nick Dixon**



### **Drewsteignton Gardener's Club**

**SPRING PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 10-12.00**

**Village Hall**

**Everyone welcome to browse & buy**

**Refreshments**

**PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES**

## Busy Time For Cheriton & Tedburn YFC

Well the drama is over but what a fun time we have had. At the County round of the competition on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February we gave a performance to be proud of and came a respectable 4<sup>th</sup>. Tavistock YFC from the South Dartmoor group won the round and deservedly so, with a great drama performance. The local performance of our drama 'Death aboard the Duchess' on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February was well attended. We have lots of people to thank for helping and putting time to the drama, but the biggest thanks must go to our producer Richard Tucker who was there to keep us in line and give worthwhile directions. Special thanks must also go to Ruth Gray who judged at the group round of the competition and then came to one of our rehearsals to give some feedback and pointers.

Moving on from the Drama, I'm sure many of you will have seen (smelt) us travelling around the villages with bags of dung for our charity dung sale. On day 1 we visited Tedburn, Cheriton and Drewsteignton and on day 2 Dunsford, Christow and Doddiscombsleigh. We were lucky enough to have dry weather on both days although it was a little chilly! Thanks to Dot Woolland of Tedburn for providing us with hot drinks and nibble's to keep us going and Sue Retter and Trudy Pearce for bacon sandwiches and cakes for day 1. Day 2 refreshments were kindly provided by Vicki Gilbert and Janet Brook, so thanks to them. All the members that helped out got fully involved and all enjoyed themselves, no one knew how much fun a day of selling poo could be!!

We would like to thank all of you that bought dung from us or gave a donation. In total we raised roughly £1070 for our charities, a figure we are over the moon with,

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we had our Wine & Wisdom at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall. This was a great success with a total of 25 teams entering. A fun and enjoyable night was had by all and thanks must go to our quiz master Nick Gilbert.

A date for your diaries is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. We are planning to hold a Charity Barn Dance in aid of our two charities. The wheels are still in motion for organising this event so more details will follow but confirmed is the recently formed live band 'Got it Covered' featuring local girl and YFC member Laura Grist – I'm sure we're in for a treat.

**Rachel**

## Recipe Corner

### Chicken Pie With A Carrot Thatch

**Let the children help you to create a meal for the whole family.**

#### Ingredients

- 1 large carrot or 2 small
- 1 large potato or 2 small
- 2 tbsp butter , melted
- 1 slice cooked ham
- 3 chicken breast fillets
- 3 tbsp frozen peas, defrosted
- 4 tbsp double cream

#### Method

1. Ask a grown-up to heat the oven to 200C/180C fan, then boil the carrot and potato whole for 5 minutes, then put them in a bowl of cold water to cool down. When cold, peel them carefully.
2. Grate the carrot and potato (cut them into chunks first if you are using a rotary grater).
3. Put the grated carrot and potato in a large bowl, add the melted butter and mix it all together.
4. Cut the ham into small pieces using scissors or a small knife, then cut the chicken into pieces.
5. Put the chicken and ham in a pie dish with the peas and cream and give everything a stir.
6. Spoon the carrot thatch onto the pie and ask your grown-up helper to put the pie in the oven for 50 minutes or until the chicken and topping are cooked through.



## ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club** – The lunch club will be meeting at Woodleigh Coach House, Cheriton Bishop at 12.30pm and on 17th April. Roast beef, dessert, tea or coffee all for just £6.50. If you would like to join us please ring Jean Martin 01647 24586 a week in advance to book your place, also let her know if you will require transport.

**Minibus Trips To Sainsbury's From Cheriton** – Our popular fortnightly minibus trip to Sainsbury's Alphington supermarket provides an opportunity for you to be collected and returned to your door with your shopping carried for you. We run a minibus service on alternate Wednesdays from Drewsteignton, Crockernwell, Cheriton Bishop, and Tedburn, this month it will be 10th, 24th April and 8th May. Please phone Sylvia on 01647 24267 or Jackie on 01647 252701. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. The fare is £3 return.

**Teign Valley Memory Café** - We run two morning cafés on the second and last Thursday of each month 10.30 to 12.30. This month it will be Thursday 11th, 25th and 9th May. Please call Margaret on 01647 252622 for more details. Meetings are held at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

**Acorn Coffee Morning at Strawberry Hill** – On alternate Tuesdays 10 – 12 drop-in coffee morning at Strawberry Hill, near Dunsford. It's in the old café and has a lovely atmosphere – attractive surroundings. It's run by a small team of friendly volunteers. It's a great place to bring a friend – and there's ample parking. This month it will be Tuesday 9th, 23rd April and 7th May. Volunteer drivers can collect you if transport is a problem. Please ring Jackie on 06147 252701 if you need a lift.

**Acorn Services** - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered or any other Acorn service, please phone Sylvia Tripp on 01647 24267. Please leave a message on her answering machine if she is not at home and she will call you back. If you have not heard back within 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586.

**New Acorn Website** - We're pleased to announce that we now have our new website up and running. You can find us on [www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)

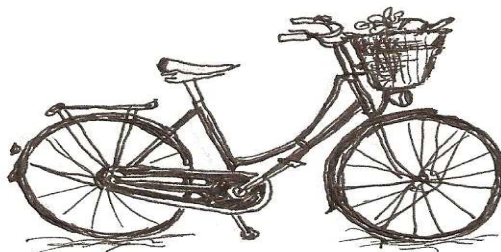
## Dartmoor Arts

### Do you have a spare room? Could you offer B&B for a week?

Dartmoor Arts Summer School will be running again this year and we have need of accommodation to suit a wide range of budgets. Our participants will need to stay from 28th July to August 3rd. They are fully occupied all day and each evening so really only require a good night's rest and a hot shower/bath. Breakfast can be included or not, as you like.

With the uncertainty over the future of the Drewe Arms, we are in greater need than ever and would be most grateful to hear from anybody who could accommodate one or more of our visitors.

**Contact Jackie Abey on 281282 or Charlotte Randall-Page 281295**



## Devon Home Library Service – Bringing books and more to people in their homes

The Devon Home Library Service works in partnership with the WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service). It aims to provide library books, (including audio books on CD, and large print books) to those people in the community who through ill health or disability can no longer visit the library.

After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient time. There is **no charge** for the service and there are **no fines** on books!! Clients may keep the books for as long as needed and may order books they particularly want to read.

Large print books, cassette tapes and audio CDs as well as ordinary print books are available.

Some clients prefer non fiction such as biography and travel books, other prefer romantic novels or murder mysteries!

For those people who love reading or just browsing through books, but are confined to their home, this service offers a chance to have access to the library as well as a visit from a friendly face on a regular basis. Often clients and volunteers make lasting friends so there is satisfaction on both sides.

We really want to promote and extend the service to reach as many people as possible!

If you would like to use the service, or know of someone who would, please contact:

**Julia on 01392 757725 or email [crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Easter Holidays

Over the Easter holiday, my family visited my grandparents in a holiday cottage by the sea, at East Wittering in Sussex. On one of the days we were there Mum, Flora and I visited Fishbourne Palace, dad was doing peregrine work so he didn't come with us.

The palace had been there since Roman times and was a home to the rich; however there had been a horrific fire and most of the building had burnt down. Only the west wing had survived the damage. Another thing that had survived was the beautiful mosaics, often seen on the floors of the rich people's houses. They had really pretty patterns even if they were a bit crumbled here and there. One of the most preserved one was of Cupid riding on the back of a dolphin, this was the mosaic that lined the floor of the hall way. This mosaic had been found in 1960 when workers had been digging a water tunnel; they had come across this masterpiece and other mosaics as well! Also in the museum were old knives, pots and fishing weights. The Romans were very ingenious for their time and even created under floor heating, it was a really amazing museum and I learned many things about how they lived.

On another cold blustery day, we visited the Weald and Downland open air museum, near Chichester. This was not a museum with cases and fact boards, this 50 acre site had 54 buildings rescued from medieval, Tudor and Victorian times. Most of the buildings were fully furnished houses although there were farmhouses, cottages, barns, workshops and even a small school. It was really weird looking down a cobbled street and seeing tudor and medieval houses, and then going in them with their straw stuffed beds and leather water carriers! It was a really cold day but luckily in some of the houses they had little fires which we happily stood by. We were given booklets and we had to tick how many items we saw on the lists, Flora and I saw nearly all of them.

In a Victorian house, we helped polish some cutlery and lay on their beds. In my favourite house (an old Tudor farmhouse) they had milk churns, old pottery and an upstairs privy. All of the buildings had been saved from demolition, and often they had to move the buildings brick by brick to their land, and then rebuild them again.

What added to the effect was the staff dressed in medieval clothes and horses pulling customers around in carts, my favourite horse was one called Neville! I really enjoyed visiting the museum, it was unique and a really fun but cold experience!!!

I hope every-one had a nice relaxing Easter!

**Tilly Dixon**



## News from the Castle



WOW! What a busy month it has been. As I write this, it is the end of March and we are getting ready for Easter. We were very nervous about how people would react when they saw Drogo as a building site. We have been open for 3 weeks and the feedback from our visitors so far has been amazing.

My favourite quotes are:

*'We felt part of your exciting conservation project.'*

*'Fantastic to be able to view all that is being done here.'*

*'Exceptionally friendly volunteers. They made the visit very enjoyable.'*

We will keep on gathering feedback from all of our staff, volunteers and visitors so we can continue to build on what people see and do when they visit. Please do get in touch if you have any thoughts that you would like to share.

### **Scaffolding update**

Those of you that have been up to the Castle will, no doubt, have noticed that there is a lack of scaffolding at the moment. The great news is that we have now appointed the scaffolding contractor and they will arrive on site on 8 April. This means that when this newsletter reaches all of you, the outside of the castle will be on its way to being cocooned.

### **Join the team**

We have an urgent plea for help from the volunteer team. We are struggling to get enough people to help as Room Guides on Sundays. I know that Sundays are often busy days for people, but please get in touch if you have a few hours to spare. Our Room Guides are the fabulous people who share all of the exciting Drogo stories with our visitors. I can promise you that it isn't just standing in a corner of a room guarding everything!

**Community Engagement** – We had a great turn out for the 2 Community Open Days in March. Over 80 people from the parishes around Drogo attended and everyone seemed to have a good time. We very much hope that many people will pop up and see us as work continues to happen.

Hope to see you all soon.

Best wishes,

**Paula**

**Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo**

**01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)**

## DUCK RACE

Thankyou to everyone who sold and bought ducks, turned out on the day to cheer them on and helped in and out of the water. In spite of the VERY cold weather, there was a good turnout and the committee are delighted with the funds raised.

Look forward to seeing you at TEIGNTON FAYRE on JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 6pm.

**Teignton Fayre Committee.**

## New Drama Club for 5-7 Year Olds

MED Theatre is piloting a new drama club for five to seven year olds called 'Rising Lights'.

Sessions are running from Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April onwards (excluding school holidays).

When: Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:00pm.

Where: MED Theatre Studio, 11a New Street, Moretonhampstead, TQ13 8PE

If you have any queries please contact Sarah:

Email: [sarahvigars@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:sarahvigars@medtheatre.co.uk) or ring the office on 01647 441356.

### **Drewsteignton Playing Field Fundraiser**

Saturday 27th April  
6pm  
at The Playing Field  
St George's Day BBQ  
Bangers & Bakers

### **The Royal British Legion Women's Section Drewsteignton Branch**

St George's Day Afternoon Tea  
Saturday 27th April  
3.30 to 5pm  
The Village Hall, Drewsteignton.  
Raffle

### **Bible Book Club**

Thursday 25th April  
Isaiah chapters 40 - end.  
Sponsored by Philip.  
Thursday 23rd May  
Revelation sponsored by Jennifer.  
All meetings start at 8pm in  
Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton.  
Free glass of wine and nibbles included.  
**Jennifer Mullins 281657**

### **The Church At Night**

Come and explore  
Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm on  
Friday 17th May  
Among other entertainments there will  
be a bit of history  
with wine and cheese.  
In aid of Church funds.

## **Okehampton District Community Transport Group**

We will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 11th May from 10 to 12 at Fairplace Church, Okehampton. Donations of cakes, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes welcome.

Please ring the office for more information.

**Sue Wonnacott Co-Ordinator**

### **Drewsteignton**

### **Parish Post**

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If you have trouble reading this publication please let me know and I will arrange for a large format version to be sent to you

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**Contributions for the next edition by  
1st May — thank you**