

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 97

APRIL 2014

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council welcomed Alison Chapman who attended the meeting wearing two hats. Firstly as Chair of Drewsteignton Village Hall committee, she discussed the financial position including the water bill for the public toilets running at about £500 to £600 annually, we have agreed to enquire into the insurance position covering the toilets and also to see how other Parish Councils deal with their toilets being connected with the village hall and being public toilets as well which is a little unusual. We are also making enquiries how to resolve the problem of the lack of hot water in the toilets. It appears the machine has become faulty and may cost in the region of £500 to repair. For a service contract to be set up that would be in the region of nearly £600 per annum which would exclude damage from frost or vandalism.

Secondly we discussed the playing field committee which Alison chairs and is a subcommittee of the Parish Council responsible for its day to day running. The current members are all keen, very able and fund raising events are in hand for this year. The wooden equipment will need replacing in the future years and funding will be required for that. Cllr Ridgers in his role as West Devon Borough Councillor told the meeting that limited finance may be available from WDBC for capital projects. The playing field is for the use of the whole parish and not just Drewsteignton, indeed it is noted some residents and their children from Crockernwell use the facilities provided. The Council thanked Alison for attending the meeting and for all the voluntary work done for the Parish by her two committees and their members. Councillors supported a planning application at Hillside House, Drewsteignton for a variation in roofing materials from the original plan as they felt it would be more in keeping with the character of the conservation area. We are asking the Dartmoor National Park for an explanation why they decided to refuse six applications previously supported by the Parish Council. The Council were informed of more parishioners working to keep their local environment tidy and clean and thank residents from Barn Close,

Whiddon Down for litter picking and keeping the small garden by the telephone box tidy.

At 12 noon on Easter Sunday (20th April) there will be a gathering in the car park at Drewsteignton for a blessing of the memorial tree to Paul Greener which has now been planted behind the Drewe Arms garden. A recent visit to the car park revealed what appears to be two abandoned vehicles in as much as their vehicle tax discs displayed expired in October & September 2013. By leaving the vehicles like this only encourages others to abandon vehicles there so the matter will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. The last time this happened WDBC, who are responsible for removing abandoned vehicles, did just that with a considerable financial penalty to the owner. **If these vehicles are yours please remove them.**

A little bit of news from WDBC concerning food waste. There is 7 million tons of food waste in West Devon and 50% of this is domestic and excludes the food waste in black bags. Council Tax payers are paying for the disposal of the food waste and also disposal of food in the black bags, so please use the grey bins for food, peelings etc and not black bags.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at Whiddon Down village hall on Wednesday 7th May 2014 at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to hear about the work of the Council and the other community organisations during the last year and to comment on it.

The next Parish Council meeting normal date coincides with Easter Monday so will be one day late on **Tuesday 22nd April 2014 7.30pm at Drewsteignton Village Hall**

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday 3rd May, Village Hall 10am

Stock up your garden at **AMAZING** prices!!!

Raffle and Refreshments

Don't be late or you'll miss out!

Bowls Taster Session in Moretonhampstead

Ever thought of taking up lawn bowls? If so, why not come and try your hand at the Moretonhampstead Bowling Club. Weather permitting, the club is holding a “taster” bowls session on Tuesday 6th May from 5pm which is open to anyone interested in learning about the sport. No previous experience is required. Members of the friendly Moreton Club will be on hand to provide advice and instruction. All you need is a pair of flat soled shoes; woods (bowls) will be provided.

For further information please contact **Rob Irving on 01647 441348**

Teignton Fayre News

We are all gearing up for, and looking forward to, the Duck Race on Easter Monday. Fingers crossed for a fun packed, sunny afternoon with lots of funds raised too. The usual mass yellow duck spectacle is offered, and a hot dog stand is on hand for anyone who might get a bit peckish between races.

This year, as mentioned before, we have decided to choose organisations that we are going to award funds to, prior to the actual event.

This is to encourage the organisation’s engagement with the event itself, and transparency so that everyone who donates their time and money knows exactly where it is going.

Amounts will be dependent on funds raised and confirmed after the Fayre and will go to:

Drewsteignton Playing Field: To maintain and replace play equipment.

Drewsteignton Village Hall: To repair three external doors.

Whiddon Down Village Hall: To replace two gas heaters.

In addition to the local good causes, we usually name a national charity that will benefit. Again, we’ve done something different this year in that we have decided that the parish will benefit instead.

We are aiming to raise enough funds to purchase a community automatic external defibrillator (AED) under the Community Defibrillator Scheme. It will be fully accessible, automated, located in a yet-to-be-determined public place in Drewsteignton and can be used by anyone. The Scheme provides awareness training for communities so anyone who needs to use the defibrillator can be confident should the need arise. There aren’t many people that haven’t been affected by sudden cardiac arrest, be it a loved one or somebody they know. The statistics make sobering reading: It strikes without warning taking the lives of 250 people a day in the UK with less than 5% of its victims in the UK surviving. It kills more people than lung or breast cancer and it can happen to anyone, even young athletes. BUT... if you have immediate access to an AED and it is applied within three minutes, it increases the victim’s chance of survival to over 70%. So you can see why we think it would benefit the community and hope you’ll all support this project.

Two further things:

We need First Aiders for The Duck Race and Teignton Fayre so we are having a bit of a First Aider audit, tracking down anyone in the locality that has a current First Aid Certificate and is willing to be called upon to support any Teignton Fayre fundraising events. If you are one of those people, could you let us know via the contact details below? Many thanks.

In addition: We are trying to recruit Friends of Teignton Fayre – people who want to help but not join the committee. If you can help in any way – please let us know by emailing or phoning, or even popping a note through Sam Peirce’s door, (1Hillmorhayes, next to The Old Inn). Let us know who you are and how you might want to help – either manning a stall, selling draw tickets, donating a prize...etc, etc.

If anyone would like any further information, email teigntonfayre@gmail.com or phone 01647 281394.

Thanks for your continued support, and hopefully see you at The Duck Race.

The Teignton Fayre Committee



Birch Visions: Stone Lane Gardens May 4th - June 15th 2014

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by June Ashburner and Duncan Rice at Stone Lane Gardens. This exhibition brings together two artists connected with the unique birch and alder collection at Stone Lane Gardens near Drewsteignton and celebrates this beautiful wilderness tree.

The exhibition is showing at the newly renovated Barn exhibition space at Stone Farm. It will share its opening date with the 2014 'Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition' 'Works for a Woodland' and will be open daily from 2.00pm to 6.00pm from Sunday May 4th until Sunday June 15th.

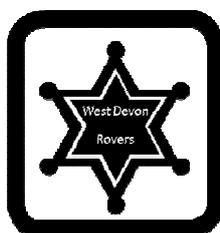
Contact: **June Ashburner 01647 231 311** june@mythicgarden.eclipse.co.uk

Duncan Rice 01837 840531 duncanrice.landscapedesigns@virgin.net

Paul Bartlett paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com

www.stonelanegardens.com charity number 1141252

Volunteer Centre West Devon



Do you enjoy great days out?

Join this exciting new group of volunteer marshals and stewards helping to run a huge range of large public events in West Devon

Get ready to roll with **West Devon Rovers**

For more details of this and much more

Drop in Tuesdays and Wednesdays

10am-2pm 13 East St. Okehampton

Thursdays 9 am-1pm Tavistock Library

Fridays 1pm-4pm Tavistock Library

Freephone 0330 660 0357

Email volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk

Paul Greener

An English Oak tree has been planted in Drewsteignton car park in memory of Paul Greener which is to be dedicated after the 11.15am church service on Easter Sunday (20th April). Everyone who would like to come to this is most welcome.

Daphne Greener



Okehampton District

Community Transport Group



Coffee Morning

Saturday 24th May

10am – 12noon

Church Hall, Market Street,
Okehampton

Cake Stall, Raffle,

Bric-a-brac and Books

Bird Notes

We have had quite a change in the weather from the previous months with some lovely warm and sunny days. This has had the effect of speeding up the onset of spring, and now with the clocks going forward last weekend, we are officially back in British summertime!

I love this time of year. Many of the first plants to come into flower are all yellow; primroses, daffodils, lesser celandine, dandelions and now forsythia.

Cherry and blackthorn are also flowering on bare branches but green leaf is rapidly emerging in the woods, hedgerows and gardens. The colours are changing daily as the days slowly remain light for longer in the evenings.

Our winter visitors have mainly gone back to their breeding grounds, and we welcome back our summer migrants. Chiffchaffs are the first bird I hear each year and always herald the arrival of spring for me. I first heard one calling its familiar 'chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff' on the 22nd of March while working in Cornwall and now hear them every day and from almost everywhere. I saw my first sand martin on Mothers Day (30th March) while on the beach at Widemouth Bay in Cornwall. House martins and swallows will appear over the course of April and the swifts will return in early May.

From time to time, I write about the peregrine falcons that nest in Exeter on St. Michael and All Angels Church in Mount Dinham. I have been studying the diet of these urban nesting falcons for 17 years now, since they first nested in Exeter in 1997, by collecting fallen prey remains at the church. This long term research into their prey is now the largest sample of prey/longest study of peregrine diet in Europe at a single site, and we have had a number of papers published on it.

Due to my involvement with the birds on the church, I helped with a Heritage Lottery Fund appli-

cation two years ago which was successful. This funding was to buy a new organ, establish a website and install a camera into the nest of the falcons. The camera went in early last year but we hit a stumbling block. It was not easy getting broadband access into a grade I listed church in time to cover the breeding season! We were able to watch and record eggs being laid, incubated, hatching and the development of the young until they fledged, via a monitor in the church. This year, broadband has now gone in and I am expecting that by the time this Parish Post comes out, we will be able to watch the Exeter peregrines in the nest from our homes via computer. If you are interested, search for 'St. Michaels Church, Mount Dinham' and visit their website. Last year, they laid three eggs, all of which hatched on the same day and this year they have four eggs.

Peregrine falcons are currently at their highest recorded numbers in the UK. However, they nearly faced extinction in the late 1950s from the devastating and unexpected effects of the introduction of organochlorine chemicals into farming. By feeding on birds that had ingested the seed dressings, they accumulated these pesticides and the population crashed. In 1963, Devon had a single breeding pair left and a few other tenanted sites, compared to over thirty breeding pairs in the 1930s. The problem was identified and the specific chemicals banned. They began to recover and return to traditional cliff sites, and then occupy inland quarries, and can now be found on buildings and pylons. There have been surveys of the UK population about every 10 years, with the last county figure of 87 pairs in 2002 and there is another survey this year. It will be fascinating to see how many pairs Devon now has.

Nick

Royal British Legion, Drewsteignton Branch, Women's Section.

St George's Day Tea

Saturday 26th April

3.30 to 5

The Village Hall,
Drewsteignton.

Raffle

Our biggest challenge so far – the Devon Girls Under 13 Cup Final

Recently I have been playing a lot of football matches. The most exciting of which was the Devon Girls Under 13 Cup Final; where we played Marine Academy Plymouth Juniors on a Friday evening at the Devon FA centre. Both teams played quite a few matches to get to this stage and we were very pleased to be there. When we arrived by minibus at the Devon County Football HQ in Newton Abbot, we were escorted to our changing rooms by one of the Devon FA officials. We then got changed into our match kit, which was different to our normal blue. We had to wear this as Marine Academy Plymouth plays in the same colours as us but they won the toss to be 'the home team'. After we got changed we then got told the evening's schedule and how everything would work. I, as the team captain, got taken out of the changing room and with our manager, had an interview with one of the FA officials. He asked me all sorts of questions about how we got here and whether I had played in all the matches. He also asked me if I was excited to be here. It was great fun!

We then went out the front of the stadium and both teams warmed up on some pitches opposite. We were out there for about half an hour and were watching the Plymouth team as they practised. They were all quite tall. After we'd warmed up we went back into our changing rooms and the officials showed us that we each had our own programmes for the match, and with our names in them! By this point, everyone was raring to go but also insanely nervous.

We then walked out onto the pitch and shook hands with the other team, their manager and the referee and linesmen. We won the toss and I decided we would kick off... then the match started.

They were a physically strong team who were fast both on and off the ball. At the end of the first half, the score was 3-1 to us. We then went off and had an inspirational team talk and drank squash before we went back on the pitch. The second half was really tough but our very vocal supporters kept us pumped up on adrenalin. With only 10 minutes to go, one of their forwards scored. This was bad news for us as they were really rearing and trying their hardest to pull back that final goal to go to extra time. We managed to keep our defence strong and didn't concede another goal! The whistle went. WE HAD WON!! Our team celebrated but tried to keep it to a minimal level to be good sportswomen to the other team. I noticed our goalie had very watery eyes at this point. When the Plymouth side went up to collect their medals we clapped politely, but when our goalie went up to collect 'man of the match' we cheered SO loudly. She was crying with happiness and there were lots of hugs all round, then it was our turn to go up and collect our medals which were in blue velvety boxes. The FA official told me to go last as I had to lift up the trophy! It was such a great experience and one that we all hope to achieve next season at Under 14 level. After this, we then went and had burgers (not me) and chips in the club house with the Plymouth girls! It was such a great evening and I was so lucky to be a part of it!!! I'm so proud West Exe girls won the FA cup! **Tilly Dixon**

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 1 lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month. If you would to come along please phone Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 7th, 21st May and 4th June. 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 now £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 8th, 29th May and 12th June. 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 Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. This month it will be Tuesday 6th, 20th May and 3rd June. Please do pop in for a coffee and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. 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.

Please check out our website www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Museum of Dartmoor Life, West Street, Okehampton

New Volunteering Opportunities Events Programme Fun for Families

Under its new management the Museum of Dartmoor Life is looking forward to the coming season.

Tourism Information

Following West Devon Borough Council's decision to stop funding the TIC, the museum has stepped in to ensure Okehampton's visitors will still have access to tourism information. The reception and shop is being refurbished and will stock leaflets about local attractions, maps, guidebooks and locally made souvenirs and crafts. Volunteers will be on hand to welcome visitors and deal with enquiries.

Volunteering Opportunities

The museum is developing a reputation as a fun and friendly place to volunteer. We have vacancies for people with a wide range of skills and interests and training will be provided.

This year we are looking for:

- * Volunteer museum & tourism assistants to welcome visitors, provide tourism information and staff the shop.
- * A volunteer co-ordinator to help recruit, train and manage volunteers.
- * Maintenance volunteers with strong practical skills.
- * A knowledgeable gardener.
- * Events and education volunteers.
- * Collection care and documentation volunteers.

Events Programme

Our events programme for people of all ages is growing. Highlights this year will include an Okehampton College exhibition called "Our Energy Journey ...Your Energy Future" and a World War I display. Family activities include Discovery Zones, a Dartmoor Easter Egg hunt for letterbox stamps and activities in school holidays.

Annual and Season Tickets

Mon - Fri 10:15am - 4:15pm Sat 10:15am - 1pm

Season Tickets & Offers for local people

Standard ticket prices are: **£2.50** adult; child/student **£1**; family (2 adults & 2 children **£6**).

Fun family activities through-out the year

Open 7th April until 2nd November

Further Information

For more information about volunteering and the museum's activities please visit::

www.museumofdartmoorlife.org.uk, email: enquiries@museumofdartmoorlife.co.uk

or phone **01837 52295**. **Andrew Thompson Museum Manager**

Nominate Your Local Community Transport Hero

Devon County Council is pleased to announce the 15th Annual Community Transport Awards

This year's categories include:

- * Volunteer of the Year
- * Best Contribution to the Local Community
- * Outstanding Lifetime Contribution Award
- * Employee of the Year Award

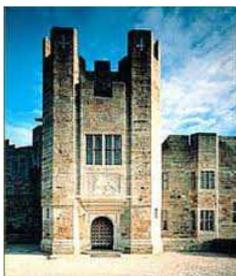
For further details and nomination forms

Call: 01392 382123 email: comtrans@devon.gov

or visit: bit.ly/1fRGH68



News From The Castle



Hello again everyone

As I write, summer is about to officially begin, the sun is shining and we have had a brilliant start to the new season. Feedback from visitors has been hugely positive and the viewing tower is definitely the hot ticket. Building work is racing along and we have been media starlets over the past month with features on BBC Spotlight, ITV West-country and the starring role in the Time Team Lutyens special.

Autographs available on request.

We have some new artwork on display across the property. The lovely people from Get Changed Theatre Company have created poppy windmills in memory of all the Drogo men who fought in the First World War. The group have also made wind-chimes from cutlery and table ware and re-created images of the 11 ages of man cabinet which is in Mr Drewe's room. Don't forget to check out our website or pick up one of our events leaflets as Get Changed are doing a series of appearances at Drogo performing glimpse theatre. Not to be missed!

Save the date!

In the last edition, I asked you all to save the date of Friday 16 May (6pm – 9pm) for the latest event organized by our brilliant Youth Panel. Drogo Spring Fling is a **free** event for all local people. It is a chilled out and relaxed evening where you are invited to bring up a picnic, wander around the gardens and castle, enjoy some live music and play our wide range of traditional games. Don't forget the 'pudding club' where anyone can enter a cake/pudding/dessert of their choice to be judged before being sold off to help raise money towards the building project. The winning entry will be given a free family cream tea in our lovely café.

We hope to see many of you there. Keep your fingers crossed for sunshine!

Best wishes, **Paula Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo**

01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Dartmoor Road Show Visits Nine Villages

An information and advice road show goes on a tour of Dartmoor this summer visiting nine villages in one week - offering free microchipping for dogs and a chance to win a hamper!

West Devon Borough Council is teaming up with Dartmoor National Park Authority and Dog's Trust to visit communities across Dartmoor this June.

They'll be stopping off at **Drewsteignton** on **Monday June 2**.

The Dartmoor National Park outreach team will be taking their mobile unit full of information on Dartmoor including the latest edition of Enjoy Dartmoor, the National Park Authority's free magazine. The team will be parking up near the **Post Office & Stores from 11am to 1.30pm**.

The road show will give residents the chance to meet face to face with an advisor from the borough council who will be able to answer questions about a range of public, not for profit and support services. Dogs Trust will be offering free identity microchips for dogs – a quick and painless procedure which would normally cost around £20.

Lee Paris, Campaigns Assistant from Dogs Trust, said: "We are really pleased to be working with West Devon Borough Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority.

"Microchips will be compulsory by 2016 so we would urge dog owners to take advantage of this limited microchipping offer."

Local Dartmoor National Park Authority Ranger, Peter Rich, will be joining the road show to talk to residents about his work in the parish.

There are also two chances to win at the road show this year.

All visitors will get the chance to enter a free prize draw to win a luxury Devon hamper, and all dog owners who have their pets microchipped at one of the events will be entered into a prize draw for a hamper of doggie goodies - courtesy of Dogs Trust.

For more details call **01822 813600** or go to www.westdevon.gov.uk, www.dartmoor.gov.uk, www.dogstrust.org.uk or follow us on twitter [@SHWDCConnect](https://twitter.com/SHWDCConnect), [@dartmoornpa](https://twitter.com/dartmoornpa) or [@DogsTrust](https://twitter.com/DogsTrust).

DARTMOOR ARTS SUMMER SCHOOL LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION

Have you got a spare room which could be let to a Dartmoor Arts student during the week **27th July to August 2nd**? We have students on very different budgets. Some looking for something simple and economical and others prepared to pay a little more. Students are out and busy all day and out again for the evening. Breakfast arrangements would be entirely up to you.

Please do get in touch with either:

Jackie Abey 01647 281282 or Charlotte Randall-Page 01647 281270

Drewsteignton Playing Field

Many thanks to those of you who came to the Curry Night at the Drewe Arms in early March. We raised £285 for the Playing Field which is very welcome. Thanks again to Laurence, Gary and the team for all their hard work in making it a great night.

See you next year.

Alison Chapman

The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes.

Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too.

Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below.

If you don't tell us we can't print it

John and Pauline

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

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Contributions Pauline Rowe

For Parish Council Bella Snook

Business

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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The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Post.

Contributions for the next edition by
1st May - Thank You