

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 109

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

APRIL 2015

The agenda for the March meeting was relatively short compared with normal which allowed us to be home for 9pm!

We are looking into the cost of a sign at the car park reinforcing the fact it is not a place for un-taxed vehicles to be kept.

At Whiddon Down we are waiting to hear on the development of two highway items. The first is the traffic calming and or closure of Chapel Hill which has been rumbling on for far too long. Nothing has been heard from Devon County Council for some time, despite our suggestion of road humps being placed which is a low-cost solution. We look forward to hearing an update from Cllr McInnes at the Annual Parish Meeting and anyone who is affected by this we would encourage you to attend that meeting. The second is, no update has been heard regarding the new link road from Exeter road to the North Tawton road which depends on the wind farm at Den Brook going ahead. Again we are looking forward to an update from our West Devon Borough Councillor Paul Ridgers at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors received a report from Cllr Sue Power who attended the Dartmoor National Park planning meeting regarding the signage at the Drewe Arms. We were very concerned at the outcome. We are asking why, in October last year they refused an application for the signage on the grade2* listed building, the listed buildings officer saying the replacement of the original signage would be preferable, and then four months later completely changed their minds and approved the application. This is an example of inconsistency with their decisions which have been highlighted elsewhere.

A parishioner had drawn our attention to the fact someone had indicated the small green area in Barn Close Whiddon Down could be developed into housing. The Council having made enquiries, have established this is the same as a number of small parcels of land identified in the Parish by WDBC & DNP as "possible" locations for hous-

ing. There is no immediate intention to develop any of these parcels of land and full planning permission would have to be considered before any such development was decided on.

There are over 8,700 parish and town councils in England representing around 16 million people, the only difference is a town council has decided it should be known as such and has a mayor. The work of the local tier of government falls into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve the quality of life in the Parish.

In the last Post we described the need for 9 Parish Councillors, 3 for Whiddon Down, 3 Drewsteignton, 2 Crockernwell & 1 Venton/Sandy Park. If more than those candidates required are standing in the **ward**, then there would be an election for the **ward**, not the Parish, on May 7th. Full details of those candidates will be posted on the notice boards prior to the election date. The final meeting of the current Parish Council will take place at **Drewsteignton on Monday 20th April 2015 at 7.30pm** and please do attend the Annual Parish Meeting also at **Drewsteignton on Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 7.30pm.**

Royal British Legion Drewsteignton Women's Section

Afternoon Tea at 3.30pm on

Saturday 9th May in

Drewsteignton Village Hall

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE Day
All proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion
Raffle

Everybody welcome



Dartmoor Arts Summer School Week

Dartmoor Arts Summer School Week will be taking place again this year between 26th July to August 1st 2015. We are always on the look out for accommodation for our students and like to be able to direct them to something to suit their budget. Students are busy all day long and out each evening. Many would be happy to help themselves at breakfast time.

If you offer accommodation and would like to be included on our website please do just let us know and students could then contact you direct. Alternatively if you might be able to offer a room for the week and would prefer to be on a list which enables us to match up students to suitable accommodation, we would be enormously grateful.

Thank you

Jackie: 01647 281282 Charlotte: 01647 281295

Teignton Fayre News

By the time you read this, the Duck Race will have taken place and hopefully it will have been a great success.

This year, Teignton Fayre is holding an additional event; a barbecue, treasure hunt and possibly some games (details yet to be confirmed) on Bank Holiday May 4th. We will keep you posted of finer details, but it will take place during the afternoon and early evening, at the Playing Field. We hope to see many of you there and that it might provide an opportunity for the village to celebrate Teignton Fayre's successes over the last year.

As well as getting ready for this event and the Fayre itself, we are considering applications for funds.

Thanks to all the organisations that applied, we will let you know in due course if you have been successful. We have decided on our main charity this year - Cancer Research UK. There can't be many people in the community that haven't been affected by cancer, and we feel their life-saving work deserves our support.

Don't forget to look out for posters giving details of the barbecue!

The Teignton Fayre Committee

What's On At The Drewe

Saturday 11th April: Boy le Monti (Vintage ska, rocksteady and other excellent tunes)
£4 on the door 9pm

Saturday 25th April: Folk in the Bar. FREE, 8pm

We are also now serving a range of teas, coffees, cream teas and delicious home-made cakes from 9am every day so why not pop in and try some,

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – We are now having one lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month, the next one will be 7th May. If you would like to come along please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 22nd April and 6th 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 now £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 30th April and 14th 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 Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. This month it will be Tuesday 21st April and 5th May. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade cake 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. If you have not heard back within 24 hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or the Acorn office 01647 252701.

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

Fingle Woods Improvements Are On Track

After the first year of woodland habitat improvements the Woodland Trust and National Trust are welcoming visitors into Fingle Woods on a newly resurfaced riverside track, completion due by 10th April 2015. Now spring is on the way it's a perfect time to take a close look at the start of a major woodland restoration project alongside the beautiful river Teign. The track refurbishments, part funded by Devon County Council's Granite and Gears project, will provide a 5km multi-use route along the valley east of Fingle Bridge and link up with a vast network of tracks and paths, all now open for public use. Over recent years the existing track has been damaged by flooding and wear and tear, old drains have collapsed and culverts have been blocked. This reconditioned track will provide a pleasant experience for visitors who want to see the gradual return of broadleaved woodlands now the light levels are being improved by the progressive removal of the dense rows of conifer trees. The winter's felling work has temporarily left a few areas looking a little bare but they will soon naturalise and the remnants of ancient woodland plants will begin to recolonise the slopes. The first stage of restoration has concentrated on the route at the bottom of the gorge so that forthcoming disturbances to public access can be kept to a minimum. Dave Rickwood of the Woodland Trust said "We are keen to encourage people to Fingle Woods and, whether walking, riding or cycling, they can enjoy some great new tracks, get some fresh air and see woodland conservation on a grand scale. Now the initial work has been done the wildlife along this corridor will be left to its own devices for the next decade, beginning the process of restoring a more natural look to the woodland along the valley and improving the habitats for wild plants and creatures". Ecological surveys have uncovered where rare and protected species such as otters, bats and dormice live around the river Teign and their habitats will be priority areas for action in the ongoing restoration which may take the Woodland Trust and National Trust many decades to complete.

If you would like to help and if you're feeling really energetic, you can join the Woodland Trust or National Trust volunteer teams; contact davidrickwood@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Alternatively, you can help by entering the Focus on Fingle Photography Challenge. We are calling young, amateur and professional photographers alike to help us put nature in the frame with our Focus on Fingle Photography Challenge. We are looking for original and striking photographs of Fingle Wood in all its glory that demonstrate the power of photography to inspire greater understanding of this unique natural environment. Send your picture, which must be at least 1MB in size, along with a brief description, your name, age (if under 16), email address, telephone number, the date and location of the photo to sarahleach@woodlandtrust.org.uk. This competition is open to participants in two categories: Juniors (under 16) and Open (16 and above). The closing date is Friday 22nd May 2015. Entry is free. Winning entries will be featured in Woodland Trust and National Trust publications and online, PR and social media channels. Photographers will always be credited alongside their image. By entering this competition, you grant us a non-exclusive license to display your photographs in connection with this contest.

David Rickwood

Site Manager Devon

davidrickwood@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Local Office Devon : 08452 935810 Mobile: 07827 820637

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club SPRING PLANT SALE

Bedding, shrubs, vegetables & more!

Saturday 2nd May 10-12.00

Village Hall

Everyone welcome to browse & buy

Refreshments

This is a very popular event

Stone Lane Gardens

Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition and Paintings by Dominic Hills

Two exhibitions will be open at Stone Lane Gardens from Saturday May 2nd. This year, the theme for the annual Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition, which will run until October 11th, will be 'Folklore': plenty of opportunity for children and more mature art lovers to discover a magical 'other world' amongst the beautiful birches and alders at Stone Lane Gardens.

Alongside this, an exhibition of large scale, playfully colourful oil paintings by Dominic Hills will be on show at the Barn, Stone Farm until June 14th. Dominic has been painting at Stone Farm for the last 10 years. He exhibits with the Edgar Modern Gallery. His use of patterns and natural forms compliments the beauty of the birch and alder trees at Stone Lane Gardens.

See our website www.stonelanegardens.com

Contact June Ashburner or Paul Bartlett 01647 231311

paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com



Tillys Post

Over the last month, my weekends have been busy with football matches. I played in an Under 15's cup match against Moors (a team from Tiverton) that sent West Exe through to the final, which unfortunately I won't be able to play as it's the same day as the Under 14's final! The final score was 6-3 but as the players were much bigger than me, I always feel I get beaten up and pushed over quite a bit. I still enjoy it though!

I also had an Under 14's match against Twyford in which we beat them 6-1. This result again putting us just that little bit closer to the league title.

Today (Sunday 29th March), West Exe Under 14 girls played a crucial match against Plainmoor girls. Plainmoor were top by 3 points but we have 2 games in hand. If we won, we would go level on points but top on goal difference, whereas if they won, it'd be hard, but not impossible for us to win the league.

It was a cold wet and very blustery day and we had a morning kick-off. We only had 8 players, and we usually play 9 a side, but thankfully they also only had 8 people turn up too. It did however mean no subs, with everyone playing 70 minutes and only broken up by a 10 minute half time. We started the match well and from then on the goals kept coming, our best striker, Charlie scored a total of 5 goals. Another 3 were scored by another striker, Courtenay; those were the first goals she had ever scored so they were very well deserved. And the last 2 were from Beth. I thought we played very well and our manager said it was the best we had played all season. Although it sounds like we annihilated them, which we did, they did have a few shots on goal but thankfully due to our superb keeper and defenders; none went in! However about half way through the second half Courtenay got carried off the pitch, owing to a bad challenge and her ankle. It had been hurting before and I think she collapsed on it. This left us with only 7 players but we stayed steady and 10-0 was the final score. Thankfully we didn't concede a goal and are now top of the league.

As all of you will know there was an eclipse the other day and the whole of Okehampton College went out to watch it. However, when I say watch it, I mean use a pinhole camera. These were 2 pieces of paper, one with a pinprick in that you held that up to the sun and it projected a small picture of the sun onto another sheet of paper. You did this with your back to the sun. However, the projected image was rather small but luckily Becky Rowe had a pair of glasses that were her parents from the last eclipse, so we did get a better look! I am thankfully now on school holidays, and boy, that was a tiring term! Happy Easter to you all!

Tilly



100 Club

Thank you for your support which is a great help to ensure our scheme can continue to offer as many people as possible the services they require. You may receive a written or telephone reminder when it is time for you to renew.

Monday trips – New service

We are planning on running a trip from Okehampton to Exeter, Tavistock and Launceston on a rota basis, pick up would be from 09.15 in Okehampton and you would have 2 hours for shopping before returning. If this would be of interest please get in touch with the office ASAP so we can arrange the timetable.

Saturday Trips

We are pleased to announce that we have found a driver who is willing to do one trip a month. We will be taking bookings for these and will require clients to pay a deposit of £5 for each trip to ensure that they are viable as we will be using a driver from Holsworthy which will obviously incur us in extra costs. The higher charge quoted is for those not in Okehampton or along the route of the trip.

Unfortunately the March trip to Tiverton had to be cancelled due to lack of support, use it or lose it!!

April 18th	Exmouth	£11/15
May 16th	Barnstaple	£12/16
June 13th	Sidmouth	£12/16

Sunday Lunch

We will be running a Sunday lunch trip on 19th April, 17th May, 14th June, 19th July and 16th August. Please let us know if you would like to book a seat, destinations to be agreed.

25 year anniversary!

ODCTG have been providing services to the community for 25 years this year! It is also the 25 year anniversary of Devon County Council setting up Ring and Ride schemes in the county. To celebrate there is to be an event at Seale Hayne, Newton Abbot on Sunday 17th May from 1 – 4pm. Seale Hayne has many attractions on site including galleries, shops, artist studios, attractive landscaped grounds. There will be a cream tea and entertainment including a live jazz and swing band which is available for drivers, staff, volunteers and passengers. We will be taking our Ring and Ride bus and if we have enough interest may take other vehicles too. The cost of this will be £5. There will be a 'Silver' theme and everyone is asked to wear something silver as there will be a group photograph. There is also a competi-

tion for the best decorated 'silver' bus and silver table centrepiece. If you would like to join us then let us know as soon as possible as we need to book the numbers with DCC.

We will also be holding our own local celebration in the week of 8-14 June as this is Community Transport Awareness Week and the Transport For Your Community Roadshow will be visiting Okehampton on Saturday 13th June. We will be in the Co-op car park from 9am – 12noon. Further details to follow. We invite you to 'Tea in the Pavilion' on Tuesday 9th June at 3pm to help us celebrate such a milestone, please let us know if you would like to join us so that we can advise the caterers of numbers. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

NHS Health Trainers

Health trainers provide one to one support for adults who want to make a change to improve their health. They do this by helping each individual; chose what they want to change; work out how to make the changes; build their changes into every day life; plan for and deal with any problems with achieving their goals; access other services for specialist advice. They work with other health promotion services including Community Development Workers and Stop Smoking Advisors to develop health and wellbeing in local communities, other health professionals and organisations to help you access support and services.

They are here to help you with: managing your weight; eating more healthily; drinking sensibly; being more active; stopping smoking and improving emotional health.

Thinking of making a change? You can make positive changes in your life!

'My Health Trainer loaned me a stepometer and with her support I have lost over a stone in three months' – statement from a Health Trainer Client
If you would like to speak to our local trainer please ring Akiko Brixey on 07896 995667, email her at akiko.brixey@nhs.net or look at the website for more information

www.healthpromotiondevon.nhs.uk

Sue & Liz, ODCTG, Unit 3 Okehampton Business Park, Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1FJ 01837 55000

sue.odctg@btinternet.com www.odctg.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Okehampton-District-Community-Transport->

Bird Notes

It has been an interesting month with increasing signs of the arrival of spring, the daffodils have looked great and lasted well, blossom has appeared on the blackthorn and cherry trees, and with the first green leaf showing on the hedgerows. The rooks have been busy nest building over the month, the distinctive round shape of new magpie nests can be spotted high in hedgerows and the blue tits and house sparrows are in their regular yearly dispute over a nest box in my garden.

I wrote last month that I had not seen a nuthatch in my garden for ages. As soon as I sent my article in, there was a nuthatch on my feeders and I think they have been in every day since. I am now also hearing them calling constantly from the tall trees in the rectory garden and in the churchyard.

I have not seen or heard of anyone else seeing any of our regular summer migrants locally yet but I would expect the first swallows to be here by the time this Parish Post comes out. I have heard that sand martins have returned to Devon but they are always seen first. My arrival dates from last year were swallows first on the 16th April, house martins on the 23rd and swifts on the 1st of May. I always record when I first hear chiffchaffs calling as they are the easiest warbler to identify by sound. Their call is a high pitched 'chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff' and this year I first heard calling on the 18th February, an exceptionally early record just outside Moretonhampstead but I haven't heard them since then. I normally hear them from the 21st March, and then it's just non-stop all through the summer.

My great excitement over the past couple of weeks (apart from watching West Exe Under 14's notch up a few more wins) has been watching the developments in the nest at St. Michaels church in Exeter via the nest camera on the church website. The peregrines laid their first egg at 6.30 in the morning on Sunday 22nd March, with the second around 10pm on Tuesday 24th and the third at exactly 3.05pm on Friday 27th. The gap between each egg was almost 64 hours each time, which surprised me as it is normally acknowledged that eggs are laid about 48 hours apart. I fully expect a fourth egg to be laid on Monday 30th around 7am but in an attempt to get this in to the editor on time, I can't report whether this has happened. However do have a look on the church website www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk and click on the peregrine page. Peregrines normally start incubation with the penultimate egg so we will have to wait for an adult bird to get off the eggs to see if we have four, as we did last year.

I often mention how we put a small metal leg ring and a colour ring on the juvenile peregrines while they are still in the nest. The purpose of this is to monitor bird movements and help determine life span and mortality. I received a Ringing Recovery report form yesterday which had the details of one of our ringed juveniles from 2013. It was found dead on the 11th March at the bottom of a disused tall chimney in the middle of Halifax, in West Yorkshire. This was 662 days since we ringed it and 356 km (19 degrees/north north east) from Exeter. While it is unfortunate to hear of the demise of another of our youngsters fledged from the church, it is worth considering that having been ringed, more information has been gained whereas had it not been ringed, nothing would have been known about it or learned from it.

Nick



Jazz @ Drogo

Sunday 12th July 6.30-9pm

On the Croquet Lawn at Castle Drogo

In support of Cancer research UK

FREE PARKING: EASY ACCESS: BRING A PICNIC

TICKETS: e-mail: jazzatdrogo@gmail.com £20.00pp

VISIT: The Visitor Centre at Castle Drogo

CALL: 01647432068

ALL tickets must be purchased before the event

News from the Castle



Hello everyone

We are now officially open for the new season!

The past couple of months have been hectic but we managed to get everything in place, all the new installations are installed and we are ready to welcome all our lovely visitors. Phew!

So far, feedback has been amazing and people seem to like the more interactive approach we have this time. The artists we have worked with to re-present the castle have been brilliant to work with and we are already welcoming groups and schools to

see what we have done with the place. We are open 7 days a week now so please pop in to see us. All we need now is this pesky weather to start being kinder to us.

Building work is going well too, despite being a bit behind schedule due to winter storms and temperatures being too low to mortar blocks in place. We hope to catch up over the spring and summer though so keep everything crossed for us. All of the windows in the south end of the building are back in place and are looking great.

Finally, a date for your diary is our second Spring Fling community open evening on Friday 15 May, 6pm – 9pm. This event last year was loads of fun and it would be great if we could make this one even better.

What made last year so special was the variety of local bands and groups we had performing so please get in touch if you would like to take this opportunity to showcase what you can do.

In summary then, all is going well at the moment. Let's hope it continues.

Best wishes and see you soon,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Connect Service Takes To The Road

An information and advice road show goes on a tour of Dartmoor this spring visiting five villages over three days - offering the chance to win a food hamper worth £50!

West Devon Borough Council is teaming up with Dartmoor National Park Authority and the Community Voluntary Services (CVS) to visit communities across Dartmoor this May.

They'll be stopping off at Drewsteignton on Monday May 11.

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 10:30am 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. Whether you are keen to start volunteering or you are an experienced community group in need of advice, a range of guidance and support materials on all things volunteering will be on offer with the Connect service.

CVS connects individuals, groups and organisations involved in voluntary and community action. By harnessing their collective knowledge, skills and experience, they help local voluntary organisations to thrive through training and support on a wealth of topics, including funding, the law and governance.

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 is also a chance 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, which includes locally produced jam, cake, and biscuits.

For more details call 01822 813600 or follow us on twitter @SHWDCconnect, or Facebook

www.facebook.com/SHWDCconnect

Drewsteignton Playing Field

**Maintenance Morning
Saturday 25th April 10-2pm
Drewsteignton Playing Field**

We are having our usual maintenance morning at the playing field. Please come along and give us an hour or two of your time. Tea and cakes will be provided. If you can bring some paint brushes and basic tools that would be great. All help gratefully received. the more the merrier.

**Please note that the Playing Field AGM will be
7.30pm on Wednesday 6th May in the Village Hall.**

Drewsteignton Village Hall

Drewsteignton Village Hall Maintenance Day Sunday 19th April 11am – 4pm

Please come along and help us spruce up your Village Hall on Sunday 19th April. Drop in any time from 11am – 4pm and you will be welcomed with a cuppa and a slice of cake. We welcome people of all ages, skills and abilities but particularly those with painting and cleaning skills. Help us keep your Village Hall in tip-top condition for the year ahead (and don't forget that is available for hire!). We hope to see you there.

The Village Hall Committee

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

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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
May 1st - Thank You**

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

Pauline Rowe: plr43@btinternet.com ☎ 281638