

CROCKERNWELL  
DREWSTEIGNTON  
SANDY PARK  
VENTON  
WHIDDON DOWN

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 63

APRIL 2011



## MARCH NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council were saddened to hear Barry Colton had died suddenly at home and agreed a letter of condolence should be sent to his family. He was a great friend to the community, helping to raise thousands of pounds for various organisations in the Parish.

The allocation of the affordable housing at Prestonbury View was a major topic. As reported last month, Cllr Ridgers raised the subject with the Chief Executive of West Devon Borough Council and his reply acknowledged that mistakes had been made and lessons should be learnt. Marion Playle, head of housing at WDBC, and John Packer, the affordable housing champion for WDBC, attended the meeting. Mr Packer confirmed that applicants had to comply with the original "local" conditions before their housing needs were assessed and the houses were then allocated. Mrs Playle apologised on behalf of WDBC for the manner in which applicants had been dealt with. They should have been dealt with by letter, and it was not WDBC's policy to allocate housing over the telephone. Lessons have been learnt and procedures will be more rigorously followed in the future.

The church clock has now been illuminated and Cllr Mudge was awaiting approval from the National Park to trim back the Yew tree at the church gate entrance from the square. This would allow the path to be illuminated from the street-light and save us money.

Again no response had been received from Devon County regarding a site meeting to finalise the parking situation outside the Post Office (although since the Parish Council meeting this has now taken place and matters are progressing).

A reply from the Post Office regarding the case of the missing post box at Bowden Cross, Crock-

ernwell was received. Unless it served 200 addresses and was not closer than 500 metres from another box, the Post Office would not place a new box there. If they received a complaint, however, they would consider the reinstatement of the missing box. The Council resolved to make that complaint and await the outcome. We are also writing to Cheriton Bishop and Hittisleigh councils as this affects their parishioners as well. It was noted in the Cheriton Bishop magazine that post boxes have gone missing without consultation in their parish!

Although some potholes have been filled in, there were many still to be attended to and we are pressing for them to be dealt with. We also received notification from Devon County Council relating to cutbacks in grass cutting along the road verges. Concern was raised over safety issues at junctions, and Councillors are going to monitor the situation. If you know of a junction which has restricted visibility because the grass has not been cut, please let us know.

The Council resolved to make no comment on a planning application for a garage at Preston Cottages, Drewsteignton.

The subject of dog fouling in and around Drewsteignton was reported and we hope the article in the last Parish Post will remind dog owners of their responsibilities.

The Parish Council will be represented at a site meeting with the National Park near Clifford Bridge concerning the commercial pheasant shoot in April.

We are writing to WDBC to register an interest in a small parcel of land at Barn Close, Whiddon Down for the development of a community area and use by children.

Our next meeting is 7.30pm Monday 18th April 2011 at Drewsteignton.

FOOTBALL at the Playing Field Monday nights from 6pm. More details from Oscar or Jasper Emanuel.

## Down Memory Lane

*It seems hard to believe in these peaceful times in the village, but in the Second World War there was a real fear in the Parish that we could be invaded at any time by German parachutists, Henry Scott recalls.*

The Home Guard used to go out to Natton Hall. It was a vantage point. One night we were up there, and we were expecting an invasion. Parachutists were expected. And one chap who was on the gate heard a rattle and a rustling. So he came in as white **as a sheet, saying, 'there's someone out there'**. So we all lined up, about four of us, with our rifles at the ready, and away scampers a few Dartmoor ponies that had come in from the moor. In the dark they were blowing their noses and making a rattle. It sounded very weird in the middle of the night. The Home Guard also used to go up the church tower. The first watch was from 10pm to 2am, and then the others used to come from 2am till 6am. Tom Ashplant, the local thatcher, had his army greatcoat on up at the top of the tower, but instead of carrying it back down through the passage, he

dropped it out over the edge and of course the coat caught the hand of the clock and pulled it forward half an hour. Everybody in Drewsteignton used to go by the church clock in those days, so everybody was half an hour early. Beer was scarce during the war. But the Globe in Chagford was a Trumans pub, and because they had a lot of their pubs bombed in London they were never short of beer, so they used to give it to the country ones. The City brewery in Exeter used to supply Cheriton Bishop, Whiddon Down, Crockernwell and both pubs in Drewsteignton. Prings were the proprietors. Consumption also dropped during the war but when there were about 40 soldiers in the Rectory in Drewsteignton – **they'd just** come back from Dunkirk, and Chagford had some as well -- they would sup some beer of a weekend.

## Tilly Ends Her Travels and Comes Home

For our last bit of New Zealand after Taupo we went down the Coromandel Peninsula to Port Jackson. While we were there, Dad went out fishing and caught a red snapper which we ate for lunch. We also met some German girls who spoke very little English but we could still play together fine.

We went to stay with some friends – Lily and family -- near Auckland who we had met on campsites. We stayed with her for a night and watched Flushed Away and Holes.

After that we went to stay with John and Sophie who live a short walk away from a beach called Red Beach. They both like football; Sophie supports Chelsea and John supports Liverpool. I support Liverpool and Dad supports Chelsea and there was a live match between the clubs on the day we stayed there.

We went to the beach in the day and later went to sleep. At 4am the match was on so we watched it. It was on at 4am because of the time difference. Liverpool won.

After that we went to Auckland and watched Maori people, New Zealand's first people, do dancing. It was great. Then we had a very long nine-hour journey to Singapore, stayed there for a day and went to a bird park with our cousins. Then we had a 14-hour flight back to Heathrow. We arrived at 6am. After a couple of days we had almost settled back in but we still had jet lag. It was great to be back and with our friends again and at school.

Since being back home in Drewsteignton I have been in the West Devon schools football tournament. It was at Okehampton College and we played on an astro turf pitch. The good thing about astro turf is the ground is always flat but the downside is that when you fall over it hurts.

The other teams we played were Bridestowe, North Tawton, Okehampton and a couple of other teams. We came first in the tournament and got medals. *Tilly Dixon, age nine*

## Wild Woods 'n Willow

Our next event: June 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday -- Knife Skills & Hunting Tools

Summer Camps at Yeo Farm, Chagford -- July 24-26 (12-16yrs); July 29-30 (8-11 yrs)

To find out more please contact Charlie Loram (01647 432769) or Linda Lemieux (01647 231330), or email < [wildwoodswillow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wildwoodswillow@yahoo.co.uk)

We are also running a FAMILY BUSHCRAFT EXPERIENCE Bank Holiday Monday, May 2nd, Castle Drogo 10am-4pm (last session commencing at 3.30pm)



## HEALTH MATTERS

**Pip Rubbra lives in Drewsteignton and work's in local GP surgeries as a practice nurse.**

Cholesterol

Which is the good one and which is the bad one??

The low density lipoproteins carrying cholesterol – LDL cholesterol -- is often referred to as the **'bad' cholesterol as it is the one mainly involved in forming atheroma.** Atheroma is the main underlying cause of various cardiovascular diseases.

Usually, about 70% of cholesterol in the blood is LDL cholesterol, but this can vary from person to person. High density lipoproteins carrying cholesterol -- HDL cholesterol -- **is often referred to as 'good' cholesterol** as it may actually prevent atheroma formation.

What are the lifestyle risk factors that cause atheroma?

Lifestyle risk factors that can be prevented or changed:

- Smoking.
- Lack of physical exercise.
- Obesity.
- An unhealthy diet.
- Excess alcohol.

What does a healthy diet, mean?

- AT LEAST five portions, and ideally 7-9 portions, of a variety of fruit and vegetables per day.
- THE BULK OF MOST MEALS should be starch-based foods (such as cereals, wholegrain bread, potatoes, rice, pasta), plus fruit and vegetables.
- NOT MUCH fatty food such as fatty meats, cheeses, full-cream milk, fried food, butter, etc. Use low fat, mono-, or poly-unsaturated spreads.
- INCLUDE 2-3 portions of fish per week. At least one of which should be 'oily' (but if you are pregnant you should not have more than two portions of oily fish a week).
- LIMIT SALT to no more than 6g a day (and less for children).
- If you eat meat it is best to eat lean meat, or poultry such as chicken.
- If you do fry, choose a vegetable oil such as sunflower, rapeseed or olive oil.

All these healthy foods can be purchased from Drewsteignton PO Stores!!

If you would like more information about cholesterol visit [www.patient.co.uk/health/Cholesterol.htm](http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Cholesterol.htm)

### **Whiddon Down**

Did you go to school in Whiddon Down? This year Whiddon Down Village Hall is 50 years old! Before that the building was the local school. If you used to go to school in what is now the Village Hall and have memories, photos or any anecdotes you would like to share and that we could use in our 50-year celebration, please contact me, Pat Sheridan, on 01647 231580, or any of the other Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee members.

The Village Hall is being used regularly on some weekdays and some evenings by a number of organisations and groups. If you are planning a party or need a venue for a meeting or event, why not consider hiring Whiddon Down Village Hall? To book the Hall (very reasonable at £5.50 per hour, £4.50 per hour for local hirers) please contact Clare Rowe on 01647 231643.

Whiddon Down Village Hall Produce Market is held on the fourth Saturday of the month 10am–12 noon, the next dates being April 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you have something suitable to sell, please book a table -- it only costs £4 for the morning. Contact Patrick Sullivan on 01647 231411 or Catherine Dunn on 01647 231452.

We are having a Poultry Bingo evening on Wednesday April 20th. Doors open at 7.30pm; eyes down at 8.00pm. This is in place of the Christmas Bingo that was cancelled due to the bad weather. The poultry has been expertly frozen and stored by Andy Martin (thanks Andy).

*Pat Sheridan, Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee*



*Sam Peirce resides in Exeter and has been a regular columnist in a number of regional newspapers. Never shy of expressing an opinion, she writes about all manner of things but is happiest when ranting about the things that impinge on her otherwise harmonious existence. Every month, she will share her thoughts with us in The Parish Post.*

## Scouts and Cubs

Scouts are sorting out the allotment this year. Cubs are hoping to do a cycle ride after half term. District camp is at Taw Bottom, South Tawton in June.

Akela

# Leave us in the dark, please...

During a recent visit to London, I had the fortune to go and see a play in the West End featuring a stellar cast that included Ellen Burstyn, Carol Kane and the hugely famous Keira Knightley, who incidentally looks even thinner on stage than she does on screen. It was **called The Children's Hour and I enjoyed it immensely and came away with a new found respect for the A List actress, but with a profound hatred for several members of the audience.**

The reason for this hostility was because the theatre-goers to whom I refer kept bringing out their mobile phones. There was no ringing, no chatting, no inappropriate ring tones – no noise whatsoever, in fact. It was the hugely distracting bright screens on their smart phones that had me cursing. **It's exactly the same in the cinema.** What was a formerly pleasant experience has transformed into being trapped in a zoo with a bunch of **primate mates that can't leave their bright** flashy toys alone. You sit there in the dark, eyes focused on the performance when, in the corner of your eye, you spot something: an iPhone belonging **to some idiot who can't keep away** from flipping Facebook or refrain from texting garbled English for a couple of hours. They probably think they are being incredibly discreet, or more **likely, don't give a flying hoot, but it is** so distracting, they might as well be

waving a torch in my eyes.

It makes you wonder about the level of intelligence of these morons. Really it does. What sort of a numbskull would pay to go the cinema or theatre – the latter even more astonishing given the huge price tag of some of the theatre tickets, (not me, cheap seats, with a pillar in my view throughout the performance) and play with their phones all the way through? What sort of hold does a mobile phone have over someone whereby **they can't leave it switched off, in the** bottom of their bag for a couple of hours?

Because mobile phones have been thrust upon us en masse in such a **relatively short period of time, we haven't** developed anything in the way of telephone etiquette which causes frustration, discomfort and even accidents. People walk straight at you while they are texting in the street. Others interrupt a real live conversation so they can shout at their phones. And now we have Smartphones with bells on, they have become an **appendage they can't stop fiddling with.** All those that are so reliant on their iToy should do the rest of us a favour.

**Don't bother going to the cinema.** Stay at home, hire a DVD and save your money for a session with an addiction therapist.

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## Family Tree

*New Life in Trees* - a family learning workshop from MED Theatre  
Afternoon of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Parke, Bovey Tracey, price: completely free! Suitable for any age; if under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Families will learn about how trees are an essential part of our ecology through fact finding in games, drama exercises and stories. The image of new life that trees symbolise will be explored in this drama and storytelling workshop led by MED Theatre in the outdoor location of the National Trust orchard at Parke, near Bovey Tracey as part of their Full Bloom Festival.

**To book your free place contact MED Theatre's Education Officer on 01647 441356 or [abbystobart@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:abbystobart@medtheatre.co.uk).**

## View from the Farm

My trip around India was a change of pace, flying between regions and visiting some very intensive farms. India is an incredible country of 1.2 billion people and a huge diversity of agricultural land and farming. We first visited the Punjab which produces 60% of India's cereals on just 2% of India's arable land. The land price was exceptionally high and holding size was small due to the 1947 socialist land-capping policy making most farms just 30 acres. But double-cropping of rice in the wet season and wheat in the dry was the norm and both crops had a minimum support price, so 30 acres provided a good living and employment.

We had an interesting visit to the village elected head (sort of the equivalent to chairman of the parish council) where we were entertained by his extended family in the bedroom and drank sweetened buffalo milk (they only had two rooms!). Most of the villagers seemed to own a few cows or buffaloes and most didn't have any land but grazed the side of the roads and collected or bought forage daily.

Although beef is sacred and not eaten, milk is an important part of the Indian diet and the muck was carefully mixed with straw to use for fuel. The demand for milk is growing and India, with a still quite tightly government-guided agriculture, has great plans to double its production in the next few years. We visited several very large dairies in the Punjab and in Chattisgarh in central India. One in particular was a very clean well-managed unit of 2,000 cows, but the mechanisation was minimal. A farm worker costs just 200 rupees (£2.77) a day and with 1.2 billion people there is enough labour to just follow the cows around clearing up the muck with a bucket and shovel.

We also visited a large integrated poultry and feed business that currently sells 17.5 million chickens per year, 95% of which are sold on the wet market

which means they are killed in the shop as the customer requires them. This gets round the need for refrigeration as the electricity supply is completely unreliable. The health and safety in the feed mill was horrifying with hand loading of unguarded machines and most men working in bare feet. This was a plant that was considered at the forefront of modern development, but labour was not only cheap but seemed to be treated as replaceable resource.

The most memorable part of the trip was in central Rajasthan where we invited to a shearing party by shepherds who are part of the Raiki Hindu caste who are pastoral grazers. Their traditional lifestyle is under threat from development and intensification of agriculture as well as the creation of national parks that exclude them from their grazing grounds. These were the happiest people we met in India and they certainly found it very funny when a Welsh sheep farmer (part of our small group) tried and failed miserably to hand shear a very thin sheep. The following morning we breakfasted in the mountains with Raiki camel herders surrounded by some very noisy camels -- an amazing experience.

Indian agriculture is impressive with what it has achieved, but it is reckless in its misuse of chemicals and water. There is still huge potential to increase production and improve the quality and distribution of produce. A new awareness of the environmental disasters that have occurred has made the industry start to improve its use of chemicals. Add in the Indian attitude that anything is possible, and India should have no problem in feeding its huge population. But after spending the last few days in Delhi, I did leave feeling very uncomfortable about how the vulnerable were not looked after and although the economy is growing, so many are being left in extreme poverty.

## Holy Trinity Church

Key church dates for your diary:

April 24, 11.15am, Easter Day, our biggest service of the year. All welcome.

April 28, 7.30pm. Church Annual Meeting. This is in two parts – the election of wardens (all adult residents may vote) – **and the congregation's annual meeting. This considers the church's strategic plan and receives reports from its committees.** The agenda and copies of the reports will be available in the church before Easter. Please note that only those who have committed themselves to the church's worshipping life by joining the electoral roll may vote at the meeting.

The Village Hall is not free that evening, and the meeting will be in the back of the church.

**Advance notice: June 19, Trinity Sunday, the church's own festival, 11.15am service with blessing of the restored Coat of Arms, and thanks to those, especially Jane Cox and Marjorie Smith, who made the restoration possible. Elizabethan concert in the evening with the Courtney Players.**

## Veg Plot

### Great Veg Sowing Weather Has Arrived!

The warm weather we've enjoyed at the start of April is just the thing we need to get the veg sowing season fully underway. **It means seeds can finally be sown outside with confidence that they'll get off to a prompt and vigorous start.**

And there are lots of seeds that can be sown straight into your plot right now. Potatoes and onion sets can go in, plus first sowings of: beetroot, carrots, leeks, lettuce, parsley, peas, perpetual spinach, radishes and Swiss chard.

**Rocket and oriental salad leaves like mizuna can also be sown direct now too, but they're likely to go to seed when the hot summer weather arrives in June.** Get a sowing in now so you can enjoy a good harvest before the heat arrives.

**Make sure your soil is loose and crumbly if you're going for a direct sowing. Keep going over it with a rake until the clumps break up.** This ensures seeds sit in a snug pocket of soil, giving them the moisture and nutrients they need for speedy growth.

Whilst the days are warm, clear skies can mean a risk of frosts at night, so tender veg still needs to be sown inside on a windowsill or in a greenhouse. Use Jiffy 7s or small (3 inch) pots for basil, chillies, chives, courgettes, cucumbers, squash and tomatoes.

French beans and sweetcorn are best started off in deep narrow pots. Use toilet rolls filled with compost, or rootainers. **But don't plant them outside till the frosts have passed.**

*For more advice, or to buy vegetable seeds, go to [Seedtoplate.co.uk](http://Seedtoplate.co.uk)*

## Playing Fields

I'm ashamed to say that it's not often that I laugh so hard I cry but it happened at least twice at the Bangers & Mash meal: the children's balloon game where the balloons went every which way except for where they should; and David cheating on the whisky game by clamping a £1 coin between his buttocks (sorry for that mental picture).

A huge thank you to all who supported the Bangers & Mash night. We made a fabulous £475.51p which was only possible due to the huge generosity of not only everyone who helped organise it and those who came along and spent their hard-earned cash on the night but also those kind souls who handed in donations. It's all much appreciated.

It was an evening tinged with a slight note of sadness, Tom Martineau, who has been mowing the field for the last 19 years, is retiring at the end of April when he hits his 75th Birthday. Huge thanks to Tom for all his dedicated service to us over the years.

He and Catherine have always been such strong supporters of the Playing Field, and Catherine had a surprise and wonderful announcement for us. As she qualified to be a PE teacher in 1951 she wanted to mark the occasion of 60 years by donating to us a pound for every year. We are thrilled by her kind gift. Our next event is a FREE Sports & Art Session at the Playing Field (or Long Room, Drewe Arms if weather inclement), at 10am-12 noon, Monday 18th April, which is being run by OCRA (Okehampton Community Recreation Trust) for 6 to 14 year-olds. No booking necessary, just turn up on the day (if you are unable to register your child for this session please send them along with details of their name, address, DOB & emergency contact number).

Coming soon is Casino Night, from 8pm, Saturday 14th May, the Long Room, Drewe Arms. Casino Royale comes to Drewsteignton, tickets £25 to include £25,000 worth of gaming chips, a cocktail and canapes. Top prizes for winners and best-dressed lady and gent.

A date for your diary is the Playing Field Committee AGM, 7.30pm, Thursday 26th May, the Village Hall, Drewsteignton. We need to make an important decision about whether to revamp our existing equipment/shed/field before tackling the 'All Weather Pitch' or not. Come and have your say as to what we do and where we spend our money.

Here's hoping for some good weather, and I look forward to seeing you at one event or another or just simply down the field enjoying yourself! *Jennifer*



## News from the Castle

In the National Trust we make every effort to ensure that our visitors feel welcome and **we don't ask a lot in return, but we do prefer it when they:**

**Come and see us during normal opening hours (so that we're here to greet them, rather than in the middle of the night)**

Use the entrances and exits provided (rather than sneaking about in the shrubbery)

Leave the place as they would wish to find it (without causing damage and without removing National Trust property)

**In short, we prefer members of the burgling fraternity to visit us when they're off-duty (and without the intention of 'casing the joint'), not when they're at work.**

Unfortunately both Castle Drogo and Lydford Gorge have recently received such visitors and, in both cases, damage was caused to outbuildings and items were taken. It seems that the thieves are particularly on the lookout for hand-held, petrol-driven, garden machinery, such as chainsaws, strimmers, hedge-trimmers and leaf-blowers. They also seem to like to make the most of their visit by stealing similar items from other premises in the area. In the case of Lydford, a further four burglaries, each aimed at outbuildings containing garden machinery, were carried out in the village on the same night.

**I must admit that I've sat at home and read items in the Parish Post submitted by the police to warn us of these types of activity but haven't taken a lot of notice. After all, these things always happen to someone else, don't they? Unfortunately, as we've found out, that isn't always the case. So, to quote Shaw Taylor's 'Police 5' catchphrase -- "Keep 'em peeled". (Yes, I really am that old!)**

**To finish on a brighter note ... I'm writing this on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, so we're hoping that tomorrow will bring some fantastic weather and a lot of families will celebrate Mother's Day with a meal, a tour of the Castle and a walk around the estate. To all you mums, I do hope that, whatever you did on Mother's Day, you enjoyed yourself and had a well-earned rest.**

I shall be back next month with, hopefully, happier news. Happy Easter!

*Andy Dawson, Compliance & Environmental Practices Co-ordinator, Dartmoor Properties*

### Young Farmers

Cheriton and Tedburn YFC and Harepath Shoot will be holding a Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bowbeer Farm, Drewsteignton on Sunday 15th May in aid of Devon Air Ambulance and cancer charity FORCE. Please come along and help to support both these worthy charities.

### Teignton Fayre

Teignton Fayre Duck Race is on Easter Monday 25th April 2011 at 2.30pm at Fingle Bridge. Please come along and help to support this event. Teignton Fayre will be held on Saturday 4th June at 6pm in Drewsteignton Square. Music and entertainments for all the family. There will be a fancy dress competition at this year's Fayre again for the children.

### Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Hon Sec: Bunny Johnstone 432068 and Carol Mason 281185

The Annual Plant Sale takes place on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12.30 in the Village Hall. Lots of plants for sale, vegetables and flowering, all at excellent prices, plus a raffle and lovely refreshments. Everyone is most welcome to come and pick up a bargain.

Whiddon Down Methodist Church invites you to a Good Friday Service on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.15pm with the Exeter Male Voice Praise Choir, followed by tea and biscuits. The Easter Sunday Service will be held at 6.30pm led by Rev David Easton.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Drewsteignton Village Hall on Tuesday 26th April 2011 at 7.30pm. This meeting, which is open to all parishioners, is where reports are received from organisations within the Parish and from the Parish, District and County Councillors.

There will also be a presentation from Oscar Emanuel and Nigel Padfield on the work of the North East Dartmoor Community Land Trust. Refreshments will be available and there will be an opportunity for an informal chat with those involved after the meeting.

## Welcoming Back Our Summer Migrants

Now the clocks have gone forward and we have increasing daylight hours, our summer migrants are returning to the village. I first heard chiffchaffs on **13th March (an earlier arrival than last year's on the 26<sup>th</sup>)** and am now hearing them everywhere, with blackcaps heard singing on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

There was a solitary swallow flying around the village on 30<sup>th</sup> March and two on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, but the pair that nest in my woodshed have yet to return. These are also early (6<sup>th</sup> April last year) and I normally expect to see house martins first, but a few are now around the village today (5<sup>th</sup> April).

Sadly, the long spell of settled weather ended as these first birds arrived but I would expect (and hope) that by the time you are reading this the skies over the village will be full of swallows and house martins, and some good weather will be back.

**I don't expect to see the swifts back until the end of April or the beginning of May**, and as usual I would like people to be vigilant and let me know if you think you have had swifts nesting in your property last year.

The majority of swift nests I have recorded to date in the village are mainly in thatched properties, where they nest in small cavities beneath the eaves. These amazing birds are currently on their way back from the Congo basin where they spend the winter months and they need help as their numbers are in decline, mainly due to loss of nest sites. Now is a great time to put up nest boxes for them and there are some great and informative web sites that offer advice, guidance and a variety of nest boxes.

**These include "Swift Conservation", "Concern for Swifts" and the RSPB, or contact me to have a chat** and see what I have done to increase the number of breeding sites on our row of cottages.

The nest boxes I have erected contradict most of the published advice (height above ground, aspect, proximity to windows and overhead wires) but we had swifts nesting under the eaves long before I erected nest boxes and I have just provided more opportunities for them.

Do contact me on 01647 281681 if you are interested. *Nick Dixon*

## Police Notice

Several distraction burglaries have been committed in the Devon area recently. In some incidents the offender claims to be from the Water Board, in others the Gas Board. These are thought to be being carried out by one male. This male is described being in his 20s, 5ft 6ins tall with short black hair.

Please be suspicious of any cold callers, ask for identification and let no one into your house you do not know, however plausible, until you are certain they are legitimate. Cold callers should expect to be challenged these days. Thank you.

Please phone the police with any information on 08452 777 444.

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