

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 55

AUGUST 2010

JULY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

One agenda item which always attracts a lot of attention at the Parish Council meetings is that of Planning, and our last meeting was no exception. It is always useful for Councillors to hear the views of parishioners so they can make a more informed decision to support, object or make no comment on an application. We would like to thank those for taking their time to attend the last meeting and for those who actually stayed to see "local democracy" in action.

Just as a reminder, however, we are not the Planning Authority but only make recommendations to either the National Park or West Devon Borough Council depending on what part of the Parish we are dealing with. This is also the same when the Parish Council receive complaints on various subjects; they are placed on the published agenda available on the Parish Notice boards, discussed at our meetings and our observations are passed to the relevant authority be it planning, highways, police and so on.

The Council resolved to make no comment on alterations at Lower Budbook, Crockernwell, and on a certificate of lawfulness at Longhayes, Venton. We supported an application to replace a farm building at Chapple Farm, Drewsteignton.

The next subject which takes up so much of our time is Highways. This is partly due to the bureaucracy involved in getting anything done, usually blamed on "funding", which because of government cuts will increase. However, we will keep on keeping on until the potholes are filled in and the salt bins are sorted out. We have asked for the Parish Lengthsman on his next visit to clear the footpath between Lamb

Park and Knowle Lane in Drewsteignton. Following the visit of Cllr Graham Hester to the farmers' market at Whiddon Down to gain the views of parishioners on the closure of Turnpike Road and Chapel Hill, a meeting has been arranged in September with Cllrs Hester and Savage, the Area Highways Engineer and our County Councillor James McInnes to determine the next step and what funding has to be obtained, and secondly to see what progress is being made on the new crossing at the bus stops which has already been funded.

If you see a Highways matter which needs dealing with please contact your local Councillor or you can telephone 0845 155 1004 and report the matter yourself.

One item of finance worth noting is the cost of illuminating the newly refurbished Parish Church clock which cost £77 for the last quarter. We are asking EDF to justify the amount for one light on an unmetered supply. For those who are avid readers of Parish Notices in Whiddon Down, please note we will shortly be moving the Parish Notice board from outside the Post Inn car park to the westbound bus shelter so it will not be so adversely affected by the weather.

We can report some enforcement action has been taken against speeding drivers at Whiddon Down and Crockernwell with £60 fines and three penalty points being handed out by the police. We are still waiting for action on Harepath and Venton straights.

Our next meeting is 7.30 pm on Monday 16th August 2010 in Drewsteignton.

Parish Profile.....

The Parish Profile has been an occasional feature of the Parish Post for some time now, if you would like to be featured, or have any other ideas for articles, please get in touch.



Rory Mullins has lived in Drewsteignton all his life. He will be serving in the Drewsteignton Post Office Stores every other Saturday, alternating with Ben Wiseman.

What's your favourite meal?
Lobster, but I never have it.

What is your favourite book?
Anything by Darren Shan.

What do you like at school?
Science, English, Maths. I enjoy school and like talking to people.

What's your favourite band/music?
Slipknot. I play piano and want to learn guitar and drums.

Describe your perfect day.
A day when I don't have to do anything. Wake up late, stay up late. Maybe go into town with friends.

How do you relax?
Computer, social networking (Facebook) and games.

If you could have a plane ticket to anywhere, where would you go?
To Japan, again. I like the food, the culture.

What's your motto?
Keep trying and you'll get there eventually.

What is your favourite film?
Hot Fuzz.

What do you like about living in Devon?
It's quiet but there are also cities close by.

Where was your last holiday?
A French exchange trip. I stayed with Felix in Strasbourg.

What do you like best about Drewsteignton?
The community feeling, knowing everyone.

What do you think Margaret and Ian will be like as bosses?
Really nice!

Chagford FC Sign Up Drewsteignton Players

With pre-season preparations well in hand, Chagford Football Club are pleased to note the signing of new players from the Drewsteignton area. In addition to the retention of Oscar Emanuel, Joey Whatley and Jon de Cruz, two more recruits, Ashley Whatley and Jake Rowe, have joined the Club and have taken part in friendlies. Jake, although very young, has shown enough in these matches to hint of a very bright future. Ashley has also figured well and will be a useful addition to the defensive side of things.

The Club opens its first season in the Devon & Exeter League with the Firsts at home to Heavitree Social United while the Reserves visit Cheriton Fitzpaine. Both matches are on 4th September and kick-off at 3pm. It is expected the East Devon Cup will commence the weekend before, though the draws are yet to be made.

John Pearce

News from Whiddon Down

The Whiddon Down Village Hall Produce Market has been running for several months now and is proving very popular. It is held on every fourth Saturday of the month from 10am until noon. **Future dates for 2010 are - 28th August, 25th September, 23rd October, 27th November.**

There are a wide range of items for sale including fresh poultry, plants, eggs, cheese, cakes, wood-crafted items, jewellery, cards and more... Refreshments are also available, including delicious bacon rolls. Come along, buy our wares, meet friends, enjoy a cuppa and have a chat. You will be sure of a cheerful welcome.

We need a few more sellers so if you have something suitable and would like to give it a go please book a table -- it only costs £4 for the morning. Contact Patrick Sullivan tel. 01647 231411 or Catherine Dunn tel. 01647 231452.

If you have surplus allotment or garden produce but it's not quite enough to fill a table, why not get together with a friend and share a table? It's good fun and could pay for your next packets of seeds or maybe some manure! Maybe you have enough bric-a-brac to sell, why not hire a table -- give it a try. We are still holding our monthly Whist Drives on the last Saturday of the month.

If you are planning a party or need a venue for a meeting or event why not consider hiring Whiddon Down Village Hall? It is a good sized hall with a kitchen and a car park -- ideal. To book the Hall please contact Clare Rowe tel. 01647 231643.

There will not be a Fete at Whiddon Down this year. Instead, we (the Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee) are putting our energy into planning a bumper Fete for 2011 to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Whiddon Down Village Hall building. We'll keep you up to date nearer the time. *Pat Sheridan*

Mobile Library -- Change is in the Air

We have had notification that the mobile library service may change its stops in Drewsteignton.

The current /proposed stops are:

Sandy Park Inn -- 20 mins	Proposed stop -- none
Venton -- 10 mins	Proposed stop -- none
Stanburys Orchard -- 15 mins	Proposed stop -- 20 mins
Drewsteignton Square -- 30 mins	Proposed stop -- 30 mins
Whiddon Down Chapel -- 30 mins	Proposed stop -- 45 mins

Where customers are physically unable to transfer to another service outlet, Devon County Council will be arranging for them to be provided with the Home Library Service where a WRVS volunteer delivers books to them at home.

This follows a survey undertaken recently with customers and Parish Councils and the new routes are proposed to start in January 2011. However, comments are requested to mobiles@devon.gov.uk or directly to Liz Alexander, Devon Libraries Operations Manager at Liz.alexander@devon.gov.uk or telephone 01392 384335 by Friday 10th September 2010.

Dartmoor Arts

All those involved with putting on the Dartmoor Arts Summer School week would like to thank everyone in Drewsteignton who had to put up with the invasion by 80 plus art students and the inconvenience and noise this may have caused. It was a very successful week and so many of the students commented on what a lovely, hospitable village it was. Thank you very much.

Fields of Fun

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Drewsteignton Playing Field Fund Day. It was a fab afternoon and I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as I did (though sorry I missed the tug-of-war when David had his end of the rope tied round a tree). We raised £321.55!

Baz's brilliant World Cup Sweepstake raised £103 (congrats to John Shiell and his Spanish victory).

The Sporting Songs of Praise was a rafter-lifting experience and the live football final a tremendous end to the day. So thank you to all you wondrous people who turned up and spent your cash and to the magnificent people who helped run the day and donated the beer, chicken, cakes, lettuce, smoothies, cooking and serving, and organised the games ... We couldn't have done it without you.

Jennifer Mullins (Chair)



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.

Not so sweet charity

This week I had an unexpected caller who took the saying 'charity begins at home' and gave it a literal interpretation. I was in the middle of cooking, when it became apparent, because of the cacophony of relentless barking and insistent knocking, that there might well be somebody at the door. I duly opened it and there on the doorstep was a vision of immaculate personal hygiene and enthusiasm; a sprightly, tousle-haired young man dressed in a brightly coloured T Shirt. It became rapidly clear, however, that under that wholesome exterior lay a devious, manipulative alter ego. Because I trust no-one, I was ready for him. The minute anybody asks, 'How are you today?', your defences cut in lightning-quick. Nobody asks that, especially not a stranger, unless they want something. This caller was no exception. Before he got a response, the door was pretty much in his face and off he went, to try his luck next door. Now, I suppose there are many people out there who think I am rude, uncharitable and a bit of a tightwad, but my hatred is not directed at those who stand on street corners dishing out little stickers while shaking their charity boxes. Likewise, I do not despise the charity that puts bags through my letterbox ready to be filled with my

old clothes, or the kids who want to be sponsored for walking, sneezing or eating snails. You are all welcome to my cast-offs and cash. The aggressively cheery bunch of charity muggers, or chuggers, as they have become known, are an altogether different species. They have been hunting in packs on the high street for some time now and it's about time we could shop without fear of being accosted by any of their smarmy, disingenuous number. I hate the way they pounce when you're in a hurry, I hate the fact that they think their 'hooklines' are amusing when they actually sound like a graduate from the David Brent school of witty repartee. I hate the cynical and manipulative way they flirt with the opposite sex in order to get in their wallets and now, I hate the fact that they have taken their brutal, emotional blackmail to my front door.

Do the big corporate charities not realise how they not only alienate their causes by using chuggers, they can also have a really detrimental effect? For example, if I see a chugger representing Friends of the Earth, I get an overwhelming urge to set light to the Brazilian rainforest ... and I can't be the only one. And if I see one representing the RSPCA, well – don't let your puppies out of sight ...

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Tour of Britain coming to Drewsteignton

The Tour of Britain cycle race is passing through Drewsteignton Parish on Wednesday 15th September. It is stage 5 of the race and starts 1000 at Tavistock, over the moor to Moretonhampstead, up the A382 to Whiddon Down, C50 through Crockernwell (about 1100 - 1130) and then on towards Exeter and finishes in Glastonbury.

The Eyes of the World will be upon us!!!

Any suggestions for reception parties at Whiddon Down and Crockernwell, please contact Jackie Bowden jackie.bowden@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk or Bill Savage bill.savage@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Merry Go Round Trip to Minehead by Steam Train from Bishops Lydeard Thursday September 2nd. £10 per person. Time of departure 9am from Whiddon Down, picking up at Crockernwell,

Cheriton Bishop and Tedburn St Mary. This trip is open to all so please ring Pam on 01647 281650 to book your seat.

Bugs, Slugs and Nasty Nibbly Creatures

Peter Clements runs a business from home in Drewsteignton, all about helping people to grow their own veg.

The reason I grow my own veg ultimately boils down to one thing – flavour. Even with the improvements supermarkets have made to the quality of fresh produce I don't think they'll ever be able to compete in taste terms with veg that has been grown at a natural rate, outdoors, in organically enriched soil, and picked minutes before it arrives on the table.

Unfortunately this more traditional approach to growing inevitably attracts its fair share of bugs, grubs and nibbly creatures that will happily gorge on tender seedlings and succulent leaves of your vegetables. Here's a few to watch out for, and a few tips on how to deal with them:

Flea Beetles: These little black bugs are noticeable by the tiny holes they make in the leaves of salad crops like mizuna and mustard leaves. The leaves are still perfectly edible, they just don't look so nice. Flea beetles only tend to be a problem from June to August. Deal with them by either covering your crop with micromesh – either stretched across hoops, or laid loosely over the leaves and pegged down. Or more simply, avoid growing salad leaves during this time. Either sow in March/April for a late spring harvest, or sow in July/August for an autumn harvest.

Caterpillars: These guys are a little more vicious, so you need to keep your eyes peeled. Brassicas (everything from radishes, mizuna, rocket, kale through to cabbages) make very attractive egg-laying sites for cabbage white butterflies. Once the eggs hatch, legions of hungry caterpillars will wriggle forth. Either drape micromesh netting over

your plants to keep the butterflies off in the first place. Or the simpler option, if you're just growing a few plants - pick off the caterpillars by hand. Look out for the eggs too - rub/wash off any clusters of white or yellow balls you find on the underside of leaves.

Black Fly: These can infest the tips of broad beans in the summer. They only seem to be around in small numbers this year, but if they ever do become a problem, just pinch out the tips of the plants and they'll disappear. They're after the sugary emerging leaves. Remove the tips and the bugs will disappear, and your plants will bush out nicely.

Tomato Blight: This tends to affect outdoor-grown tomatoes, especially in wet summers. With the dry weather this year we haven't been affected -- fingers crossed. The tell-tale signs are brown/black patches that first appear on the leaves and soon spread till the whole plant rots. Avoid it by growing varieties that reach maturity quickly like cherry tomatoes or tumbling toms. Or if your budget will stretch, get yourself a greenhouse so the leaves don't get wet in the first place!

Mildew: Dry weather tends to encourage powdery mildew on the leaves of courgettes and squash. This often happens at this time of the year and is generally nothing to worry about. Cut/pull off rotten leaves if you want to tidy up the appearance of the plants, but it's not essential. Tomato feed every couple of weeks will improve their resilience and boost the crop.

Seeds, growing equipment and advice are available on our website seedtoplate.co.uk

Cubs in Space

SPACE -- the final frontier ... Well at least it was for over a hundred cubs, explorers and their leaders as on July 9th-11th North Tawton Rugby Field became the final destination for the Mid Devon District Cub Camp.

What a fantastic camp it was too!! Packs within the district joined forces to enjoy a weekend "exploring the black hole", making "asteroid" biscuits and dodging meteorites. Good old-fashioned fun and not a playstation to be seen!!

Trophies and cups were awarded, with Drewsteignton and Chagford winning two alongside Tedburn, who won the Baden Powell carved award. Many cubs were presented with their Chief Scouts Silver Award - a very deserving badge -- Alex Browne from Drewsteignton/Chagford being one of them.

Well done to everyone and thank you to Sarah Ekins for helping Akela cook, clean and clear up at the end of camp. **Enjoy your summer.**

Akela





News from the Castle

The schools have now broken up for their summer holidays and we have done all that we can to prepare for the busiest six weeks of the year. During this period it will not be unusual for us to greet 1,000 visitors a day though, contrary to popular opinion, we do not necessarily get more visitors in fine weather.

In fact, the opposite is often true, with wet weather bringing increased numbers as visitors seek alternatives to the beaches and the moors.

Unfortunately, however carefully we plan to make every visit a safe and happy one, there is always the risk that someone may experience an injury or suffer ill health whilst at Drogo. Strangely enough, whilst there is a legal requirement for us to provide first aid facilities for our staff and volunteers, we are not required to provide similar facilities for visitors to the property. Nevertheless, we always ensure that there are trained first aiders on duty, to look after everyone, and we have recently trained up a number of additional staff to ensure coverage at all times. In fact, we've gone one step further, and are one of very few National Trust properties to have an automated external defibrillator (AED). A number of us have been trained in the use this equipment, which could greatly increase the chances of survival for anyone who may suffer a heart attack whilst on the property.

As you may be aware, we are developing the area below the overflow car park as an orchard. It is also hoped that this area will provide facilities for visiting educational groups and, over the past few weeks, we have moved a lot closer to these goals, thanks to the efforts of two groups. Firstly, on St Swithin's Day (15th July), 60 faculty members from Exeter College braved the weather in order to work alongside staff and volunteers from Drogo, the Teign Valley and Lydford Gorge. During their day with us they created a fire pit and seating area, started to develop the framework for a study area and even cleared the space around the 'Bunty House' in preparation for future work to restore this to its former glory. The following week saw a number of pupils from Queen Elizabeth's Community College, in Crediton, spending three days working alongside the rangers and gardeners. After a day's work on the estate, they spent two days continuing the fantastic work started by the team from Exeter College. We would like to thank the members of both these groups whose hard work produced truly amazing results in a very short period of time.

Finally, the eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed, in the last edition of the Parish Post, that we were planning a community event, to be called the Inter-Parish Games. Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances, we have now postponed this event until next year which, of course, gives you even more time to get training.

Andy Dawson, Operations Co-ordinator, Castle Drogo. telephone: 01647 434117

Email: andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org

Tilly's Travels -- Wembley Stadium

Hello, my name is Tilly. I am 9 and I live in Drewsteignton. When I grow up I want to be a reporter and I will write occasional articles for the Parish Post.

On Sunday 8th August I went to watch Manchester United play Chelsea in the Football Community Shield at Wembley. The Community Shield is not new to either team. Between them they have won it 21 times altogether.

Wembley holds 90,000 people but when I went there were 84,623 people there. There have been lots of problems with the pitch which has been relayed 13 times so far.

The new Wembley cost £798 million to build and England's international games are usually played here. The old Wembley closed in October 2000 with the new stadium due to open in 2003. Unfortunately, due to many delays, it did not open until 2007. The stadium has 2,618 toilets.

Old Trafford, Man Utd's ground holds 75,957 people; Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's ground holds 41,841. One of Dad's friends got tickets to go to the game.

The result was 3-1 to Manchester United and Paul Scholes was awarded Man of the match.

Drewsteignton's Swifts

Our swifts have now all departed on their long journey back to southern Africa.

The last sighting I had over the village was a single bird over Churchgate on the early evening of 3rd August. Two were present overhead on the previous evening and just as dusk turned darker, a single swift returned with a low swoop into one of the nest boxes on the north facing gable end of my house. This is box number three, which successfully fledged three juvenile swifts this year.

I found this returning bird interesting as the juveniles had all left the box and it is believed that the adults depart for their warmer winter climate before the young in the nest have flown.

It is also believed that young swifts, who have spent their entire life in a dark cavity before attaining the right weight, age and plumage, do not have the aerial skills required to return to the nest cavity in the first weeks of their flying lives.

The bird that I watched return to the box for the night was undoubtedly one of the breeding adults having a last night's rest before undertaking another eight months on the wing and the winter in the Congo, the Republic of Congo or Malawi.

This year has been a more productive year than 2009 with nine young swifts reared from four of my six nest boxes, and this mainly due to the good weather in May and June.

The good weather may also account for the slightly early departure date of the 3rd August. While this is only two days before last year's departure date, it is still the earliest recorded date since 2002.

I have continued to try and seek out other swift nest sites in the village over the last three months

and have had two other sites confirmed, but sadly through finding dead juveniles on the ground. This occurs when the young first launch themselves out on their maiden flight and fall down to the ground. They are just not equipped to re-launch themselves and invariably get caught by cats, get run over or die of hunger. On a happier note, I was brought one juvenile swift which I managed to return to the skies by gently throwing it back up into the air. This was the fourth time I have done this over the past few years.

In last month's article, I wrote about 'bird ringing' and that our swifts are ringed, and coincidentally, on 11th July, I was given a small dead bird with a tiny leg ring on.

The bird had been found at Lower Puddicombe and looked like a warbler, another of our summer visitors. I thought it was a wood warbler and reported it to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), who run the ringing scheme.

It transpired that it was a female chiffchaff, which had been caught as an adult and ringed at Orfordness in Suffolk in 2008.

Our swallows in the woodshed are on their second brood of young and I am noticing a lot of goldfinch and nuthatch activity around the village, especially in the churchyard. The goldfinches seem to be perching in the horse chestnut tree by the eastern church gate most times I walk through and the nuthatches are looking for small insects in the moss and lichens on head stones and thatch roofs. If you are in the village and think you have had swifts nesting in your property, please do let me know on 01647 281681. Nick Dixon

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Chairman: Philip Evans 01647 281285

Hon. Sec. Carole Mason 01647 281185 Bunny Johnstone 01647432068

Thirty members and others had a very enjoyable outing to Cothay manor and gardens, a truly magical place. Our thanks are due to Amy Manley who suggested it to the committee.

On 15th September there is another outing to Rosemoor, which is open to all and is free entry, so please ring Jacqueline Page on 433309.

The Annual Village show to which everyone is invited to enter takes place in Drewsteignton Village Hall in Saturday 28th August. Schedules are available now in the Post Office and there are lots of classes and plenty of chances to win First Prize so pick up a form and enter! Exhibits are put on show between 9-11am and the show opens for viewing at 2.30pm. Refreshments are available as well, so do come along. The Club winter programme starts on Monday 13th September at 7.30pm with "Rare Plants of Bhutan".

Cheriton And Tedburn YFC

27th August 2010 "Mr and Mrs" Theme Disco at Tedburn St Mary Village Hall. No under 18 non-members. No under 16 members. Next Meeting is on 17th August at Cheriton Bishop Spalding Hall. Any new members welcome. Contact Gem Bowden 01647281239

But Where's the Well? A Brief History of Crockernwell

Crockernwell appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as previously being owned by a Saxon named Ulf, but it is likely that it existed long before that as a place on an ancient Ridgeway much used by travellers to the far west. It's name possibly comes from the well, or spring, used by a potter (the old name for a potter being "crocker").

The supply of good water was believed to be of great importance to the settlement. It was one of the few wells in the Dartmoor area actually noted by the Norman scribes who also assessed the settlement as being worth 15 shillings, having land for four ploughs, although only two were in use, four acres of meadow and 30 of pasture, all worked by two villeins, two bordars and a slave who all owed their homes or keep to the local lord and laboured on his land in return. Budbrooke is the only farm remaining from that time actually in Crockernwell village, but it is believed that the village was divided into five tofts, or areas of land where a cottage was sited and there was the space for the householder to grow crops and keep a few livestock so that they were self-sufficient. One toft would have been where Saddlers Close now stands and one where Fulfords Cottages and Finglemoor are. Most of the land would have been to the north of where the main road now runs, the cottages to the north side of Stonelands and Ducks' Path having become separated from their land when the road was realigned and the village expanded.

Largely due to its place on the main route from Exeter to Cornwall, the little community survived with a heavy dependence on working in agriculture. A local court house was built on the site of what later became the Royal Hotel. It is believed that the infamous "Hanging" Judge Jefferies presided over a court there in the aftermath of the Monmouth Rebellion and the name of the inn was changed to honour this connection in the late 20th century before it was converted into private accommodation.

Lilac, Holly and Pilgrim cottages were formed from the old farmhouse, and Holy Trinity Chapel from a further two cottages, the original 14th century chapel having disappeared. As people became more mobile and travel increased, a turnpike road was laid through the village, bypassing the old original narrow lane that runs through Stonelands and Ducks' Alley. The village now had two large inns, the Royal and the Golden Lion to cater to the through traffic, which provided work and led to an increase in building, notably the block including Fulfords Cottages at the eastern end of the settlement. The landlord of the Golden Lion also offered a service in making and repairing harnesses and saddlery, which has continued to the present day. Mr Ching, having only recently announced his retirement, is the last of five generations working in Crockernwell.

It was at the Golden Lion that the chaise and messenger carrying the news of Nelson's victory and death to London halted. By the 1850s there were two inns, a post office and shop, butchers, masons, carpenters, wheelwrights and bootmakers in the village, followed by a bakery at Finglemoor. The village was largely self-sufficient.

After the building of the A30 bypass, places gradually closed and Crockernwell is now largely a dormitory village. Ironically, although the population is expanding, jobs and facilities have disappeared and older residents must look back with some sadness. Hopefully the village will continue to be as sturdily independent as it has always been and will adapt and change as needed.

Just one question remains ... Where was that Well? *Mary Graham*

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

Contributions for the next edition by
1st September — thank you