

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 46 .

FEBRUARY 2010

JANUARY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Lamb Park construction of four new-build homes for rent consisting of three two-bedroomed and one three-bedroomed house was unanimously approved by the National Park Development Management Committee on Friday 5th February following support from the Parish Council. It is hoped that work will commence in the late spring for completion about this time in 2011.

This project has been the subject of much comment from parishioners and the Council is grateful to all those who have spent a lot of time and effort highlighting the many options and bringing them to the Council.

Just when one subject closes another challenge is put before the Council. This time the concerns of parishioners living in the Teign Valley who have been affected by the massive increase of pheasants for a driven shoot were raised.

Representations were received from farmers, landowners, walkers, horseriders and residents who have all been adversely affected. The Council would be grateful to hear from any other people who have experienced problems with this shoot or anyone who supports the increase. It was resolved to write to our neighbouring Parish Councils, Dartmoor National Park and the shoot managers to initially set up a joint meeting to see how a resolution might be sought regarding the concerns raised. Following the spell of winter weather we decided it would be a good idea to investigate the location of grit bins and the placing of salt bags. One obvious location at Drewsteignton is on Netherton Hill but we would like to hear from anyone in the Parish who has experienced specific problems so they can be looked at. The reporting of the potholes around the Parish

was discussed and a number have been notified to Devon County Council either as urgent due to their size or location or for routine inspection. Since our meeting we have heard from James McInness, our County Councillor, who says that he is one of a number of councillors on a "Task Group" of the Environment, Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee at Devon County Council to respond to the Highways issues caused by the winter weather.

They could be receiving quite a report from this Parish!!

Our only planning matter was retrospective planning for an overflow car park at Drogo to which we made no comment.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate Whiddon Down village hall on tackling a challenge raised in the Parish Plan and wish them success for the produce market.

We heard from Dartmoor National Park that there were no funds available this year for the grant towards the maintenance of the toilets in Drewsteignton and we have asked them to reconsider this decision as they are provided for visitors to the Park and no others are available locally. If we do not get the grant of course the Council has to pay the whole amount for maintenance.

We have also heard since the last meeting that work will start shortly to alter the street lights in Drewsteignton, Whiddon Down and Crockernwell to go out between 0030 and 0530. By doing this work county-wide a saving of half a million pounds will be made. If anyone experiences a problem with this please let the Parish Council know.

Our next meeting is at **Drewsteignton, 7.30pm Monday 15th February.**

Parish Profile...The Young Ones

The Parish Profile has been an occasional feature of the Parish Post for some time now, but for the time being we're going to focus on the youth of the Parish. If any young people fancy trying their hand at doing a Profile, or have any other ideas for articles, please get in touch.



Johnny De Cruz, 20 years old.

What is your profession?

I'm a plumber. I've just finished a three-year plumbing course at Exeter College.

I would probably go for a long relaxing holiday in somewhere like The Maldives.

What is your favourite colour?

Blue.

Favourite film?

Um... Maybe Bad Boys II, with Will Smith.

Favourite song?

I don't really have one. It changes all the time.

What is your main interest?

Football. I play for Chagford.

What is your favourite meal?

I really love Mexican food. Nachos, fajitas and enchiladas and things like that.

What team do you support?

I am a big Manchester United supporter, but I also support Wycombe Wanderers.

You moved to Drewsteignton when you were seventeen, where did you move from?

High Wycombe.

What is your motto, if you have one at all?

Er... I don't know. I don't really have a motto. Live your life to the fullest. That's a good one, I suppose.

What do you like about Drewsteignton?

I like that it's peaceful and quiet, and in the countryside, but it's not too far from Exeter. So you get a bit of both.

Do you have any plans for the near future?

I think I will stay in Devon working for my company for another year or so and earn some money to go travelling. I would like to see America.

If you had a ticket to anywhere, where would it be?

Rabbie Raiser

A massive thank you to all who helped, donated and attended the Burn's Night Supper -- we raised an amazing £1,000 (£650 to Drewsteignton Village Hall and £377 to Chagford Swimming Pool).

A special mention to The Drewe Arms who donated the room, all the vegetables, a bottle of whisky (for the wonderful Bill Savage's excellent whisky coin game) and enormous amounts of help, to the Post Office for donating loads of stuff for the starters and to Dunn's Dairy for donating all the cream. Also to all the fabulous helpers too numerous to mention individually but you know who you are ... and to all those who parted with their hard earned cash. A great night was had by all, thank you, thank you, thank you.

New lines:

Drewsteignton Post Office Stores has two new strings to its bow. The shop is now stocking a range of environmentally friendly cleaning products from leading brand Ecover.

It is also offering fresh meat and produce from Farmer Luxton's, a farm shop based in Okehampton. Luxton's tries to source its produce locally if possible. Its motto is "From here, or somewhere near."

View from the Farm

The New Year always brings new regulations for farmers and 2010 has proved no different. Yet again the rules governing sheep identification have changed and now each sheep is to be individually tagged with an electronic tag. Currently we don't have to read these tags but in markets and abattoirs they will need to read and record. As this mainly applies to lambs born this year we are yet to see how much chaos it causes in markets. But looking at the costs it seems that a set of tags for lambs going to slaughter will be approximately 60p and for breeding sheep 75p. This may not seem a lot but it is yet another cost the sheep farmer has to absorb. In the last year the disposal costs of dead stock have now risen to nearly £20 for a ewe, while the lamb sale price is now less than it was 20 years ago. Looking at the equipment avail-

able has set me thinking about technology on the farm. Apart from writing this article, we use the computer for VAT returns, pay the wages and do PAYE returns, cattle passport applications and from this year we will be able to submit our IACS all from the farm office. On one hand this is fantastic and efficient, saves energy and money, but it also seems that the computer has created more paperwork. Because it is easier for the ministry to process forms they just send more. What was wrong with a VAT form that you filled in and sent back with out remembering numerous passwords and identification numbers? I guess I have been lucky and although old enough that I didn't study computing at school I have had the opportunity to become reasonably handy with a keyboard. How sorry I feel for those farmers that after working hard for very

little returns are then faced with paying someone else to fill in all these tedious forms.

It is fantastic to see that our local community markets are thriving with two more starting, which now means that you can shop locally for good food and handicrafts every Saturday. If you haven't been along do try and sample the experience of shopping for quality products in a great atmosphere.

The markets only charge low prices for each table, which means the produce can be sold at reasonable prices and the profit from the delicious bacon sandwiches goes directly to local funds. Put a date in your diary, each market runs from 10am to 12pm in the village hall. 1st Saturday of the month: Spreyton, 2nd Saturday: Hittisleigh, 3rd Saturday: Tedburn St Mary, 4th Saturday: Whiddon Down.

Hidden Gems

A fund-raising event for the Teignton Fayre charities and the Devon Air Ambulance will be held in the Drewe Arms Long Room on Friday 12th March 2010.

From 12 noon to 5pm, folk are invited to bring up to three items of jewellery for insurance valuation by a qualified jeweller and valuer (Nigel R Campbell).

Items will be carefully examined by this expert professional, photographed, and customers will receive a beautifully presented schedule in the post a few days later.

In the evening of the same date Mr Campbell will be giving an informative talk on pearls and diamonds with time for a Q & A session on any jewellery subject.

There is a special event fee for valuations of £20 for a single item and £5 per subsequent item on the same schedule.

The evening talk is £5 per ticket (available from the Drewe Arms and Drewsteignton Post Office) and will include attendance by a representative of the Devon Air Ambulance along with drinks and canapes on arrival. A donation from all income will be made to the charitable causes.

It is expected to be a capacity event so the advice is to buy tickets early.

This event will be supported by Devon Air Ambulance, Teignton Fayre Committee and hopefully BBC Radio Devon.

Further information from Nigel R Campbell on 01647-281111; mobile 07799-596973



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.

A certain age...

I went to see stand-up comedian Sean Hughes last night and very funny he was too -- close to the bone, dark and acerbic – just as I like my stand-up comedy to be. He entertained the audience for well over two hours, largely made up of forty-somethings who seemed to enjoy his eighties references and empathised as he listed the various things that happen when you get to a certain age.

Mr Hughes has put on a lot of weight since I last saw him on the telly at least five years ago. Back then, when he was still in his thirties, he looked like a cheeky overgrown boy. Now, with the weight being carried largely by his face and his belly, he looks like something you'd warn young children to stay away from. I looked at him, hoping that I hadn't gone through a similar transformation.

I knew what he was talking about when he said that hitting forty isn't the problem. Oh no – it catches up with you a few years after, when you think you've got away with it. I knew I had started reaching a certain point in my life when I really looked forward to an evening of the wonderfully comforting blend of crochets, telly and gin but it sort of smacks you in the face when you suddenly and unexpectedly catch

sight of yourself, either in a photo or a reflection in a mirror or window. You vaguely recognise the person staring back at you then realise it is you but not how you think you look but how you'd look sometime in the future, slightly hunched and with eye bags big enough to gain you a couple of extra Nectar points at Sainsbury's.

Recently, I was reminded that it's not just the physical manifestations that affect you – it's your perspective on time. I was talking to my youngest about A levels and what I chose to do back when I was his age. He turned and said to me,

“I think things have changed a bit in the last twenty five years.” I called him a cheeky so and so. Then slowly the blood drained from my cheeks as it dawned on me that it had actually been a whole quarter of a century since I took my A levels. I'm still getting over that moment. There is one great benefit about being middle aged -- after forty years or so of shuffling about on this mortal coil, you acquire a firm knowledge and assurance about who you are and what you want out of life. It's one of life's cruel jokes that when you finally get your head together, everything else seems to fall apart.

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Scout Report

This term we have been doing our Navigation badge. We have learnt about compasses and we are planning an all-day hike.

After half-term we will be outside more and will be working on our allotment. We need to show the Cubs we can produce more veg than them!

In April we are off on a canoeing camp at Appledore. We are all hoping to get enough experience to go canoeing in France in the summer.

Top 6 Vegetables for 2010

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

After what seems to have been an interminable winter, the days are starting to stretch out and the first snowdrops are poking their heads above the ground. All a sure sign that spring is on its way. Whilst it's still too early to sow most seeds, now is the time to focus your energies on deciding what vegetables to grow this year. Here are some you might consider because they're outstanding in terms of being:

Easy to grow

Highly productive for the space they take up

Crop over a long period

Swiss Chard

Swiss chard is a revelation the first time you grow it. The seeds take a little time to get going, then it suddenly shoots up, producing big glossy green leaves on the end of striking white stems. Break off leaves as you need them. The plant will keep producing more for months on end.

Kale

Kale is slightly less productive than chard, but it more than makes up for it with its wonderful rich flavour. And it'll keep on producing fresh leaves right through the winter brushing off the worst the weather can throw at it. Red Russian, Cavolo Nero and Redbor are all excellent varieties.

Mizuna

Mizuna produces wonderfully succulent and slightly spicy salad leaves just four weeks from sowing, and after you cut it back it will re-sprout a completely new set of leaves. Plants will re-grow 3-4 times before you need to sow some more.

Courgettes

Courgettes are hugely satisfying veg to grow because they're fast, and produce a massive amount of fruit - around 20 courgettes per plant. Pick them young when they're only 4-6 inches long for a delicious nutty taste and wonderful crunch.

Mange Tout Peas

Peas are an excellent choice for the veg plot because they're easy to grow, pretty and super tasty. Mange tout or sugar snap varieties are a better bet than podding varieties because you get more to eat -- a tasty pod *and* the peas inside it. Tall varieties will crop for a longer period.

Lettuce

Lettuce is a great plant to grow in Britain -- it loves our moist climate. Red-tinged Lollo Rosso is an excellent choice because you can treat it as a cut-and-come-again plant and pick off individual leaves for up to three months.

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

Seeds are also for sale in Drewsteignton Post Office.

Cyber-Sam

Congratulations to Sam Mudge, 10, from Drewsteignton village, who entered a competition in Dr. Who Magazine and won!

Sam received a whole collection of prizes including a flat screen TV, a DVD player, a bed-set and curtains, a bean bag, 10 Dr. Who DVDs, a Dalek rug and other good things for his bedroom.

Duck Race

Teignton Fayre Annual Duck Race will be taking place at Fingle Bridge on Monday 5th April after lunch. Please put it in your diary and come along to support this event.



Rock On

The fabulous Heseltines and the Johnny Monument Experience and guests are playing in the Drewe Arms Long Room in aid of Teignton Fayre on Friday Feb 12th. Doors open at 7.30pm. £5 on the door

Drewsteignton Gardeners'

Chairman—Phillip Evans —01647 281285
 Hon. Sec: Bunny Johnstone 01647 432068
 and Carol Mason 01647 281185



It was disappointing to cancel our January 11th meeting due to the snowy weather but the Ashburners will give us their talk next autumn.

Six members braved the fog and went to participate in Cheriton Bishop Horticultural Society's annual Quiz Night. The team which included Philip Evans and Bunny Johnstone came first – no mean feat as the questions were long and hard! It was an enjoyable evening with lots of laughs and excellent cakes.

On the 15th of February at 8pm we meet again with the Cheriton Bishop Club in Cheriton Bishop's church room which is located just past the school on the right. The subject of the talk is " Plant Supports and How To Make Them". If this is of interest to you, please join us. If you need a lift please contact Carole or Bunny.

Whiddon Down Produce Market

The first Produce Market at Whiddon Down Village Hall will be held on 27th February at 10.00 am. Please support this new venture.

After a month's break, the one after that will be on 24th April at 10am

If you would like to have a stall to sell at the Produce Market, please contact Patrick Sullivan (01647 23411 -- evenings) or Michael Hall (01647 231634).



News from the Castle

This winter, for the first time, we have opened the café, shop and gardens each day, whenever possible, and it's been a pleasure to see so many of you making use of the facilities. Now, with the first of the daffodils appearing around the grounds, we are preparing to re-open the rest of the property and I am including below a summary of the days that the Castle will be open. We hope to see you during the coming season, particularly those who have never visited the Castle before.

Dates	Open Days
13 th – 21 st Feb 2010	Every day
27 th Feb – 7 th Mar 2010	Week-ends only
13 th – 31 st Mar 2010	Every day, except Tuesday
1 st Apr – 5 th Sept 2010	Every day
6 th Sept – 31 st Oct 2010	Every day, except Tuesday

We held our first Quiz Night, as planned, on Thursday 21st January and were delighted to welcome along five teams for sausage and mash, followed by a good brain-racking session. Congratulations to the Mad Hatters on becoming the 1st Castle Drogo Quiz Champions. The whole evening went extremely well and we are planning to repeat the event once Easter is out of the way - so watch this space for further information.

In the meantime - can you raise a team to challenge the Mad Hatters?

As you know I will shortly be leaving Castle Drogo in order to take over the management of the National Trust's properties in Herefordshire. Whilst I am looking forward to taking on this new and challenging role, I am sorry to be leaving this beautiful area. I have really enjoyed the three and a half years that I have spent at Drogo and would like to thank you all for your support and for helping to make this period of my life so pleasurable.

From 1st June the management of Castle Drogo will be taken on by Adrian Colston, who some of you will already know. Adrian has been the Property Manager for Dartmoor for the past five years and will be adding Castle Drogo to the properties he already manages which, of course, already includes the Teign Valley. In the interim Tamsyn Butler will be taking over the reins. Once again, Tamsyn already works for the National Trust and is currently the Grants Manager for the Devon and Cornwall Region, helping to secure funding for our work in the region. I know that you will join the Drogo staff in welcoming both Tamsyn and Adrian to the property.

Well, I think that just about wraps it up for this month and my final piece in the Parish Post. Once again, many thanks for making my time at Castle Drogo so happy and memorable. I wish you all every success in the future.

David Bailey

Property Manager – Castle Drogo

Telephone: 01647 434130

E-mail: david.bailey@nationaltrust.org.uk

Castle Drogo Event: February to March 2010

Saturday 13 - Sunday 14 & Saturday 20 - Sunday 21 February

Property open 11 – 5pm, Roof tours every half hour from 11am – 4.30pm.

Behind the Scenes at Drogo

See the House being put back together for the new season. Also, why not take advantage of our special behind the scenes tours of areas usually not open to the public, including the roof? Tickets for roof tours available on the day only, from Visitor Reception, £1.50 per person, incl. NT Members. Normal admissions charges apply.

Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 11am – 5pm

Early Season Opening at Drogo

Come and see the House waking up for the new season on these special early opening days. Normal admission charges apply.

Saturday 13 – Sunday 21 February 2010, 11am – 5pm

Drogo Detective Trail

Follow the trail around the Castle to discover if it really is an ancient Castle! Normal admission charges apply + £1.50 per child (including prize).

Saturday 27 - Sunday 28 February & Saturday 6 - Sunday 7 March, 11am – 5pm

Pre-Season Open Weekends

Take advantage of these special open weekends and visit the house and gardens before the season starts. Normal admission charges apply.

Saturday 6 March, 11am -5pm

Alice in Wonderland Day

This is to mark the release of the new Tim Burton film “Alice in Wonderland”, which was filmed at the National Trust’s Antony House in Cornwall. Why not follow the White Rabbit Trail around the Castle, and enjoy the traditional children’s games, then make your own hat (12-3pm) to wear to the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party in our Café, where you can enjoy a wide selection of fancy cakes from 11.30am. Trail £1.50 per child (including prize). Mad Hat making activity £1.50 per child. Normal admission prices apply but there is special free entry to all children coming in Alice in Wonderland themed fancy dress – or if your name is Alice or Alistair!

Sunday 14 March

Mothers Day Lunch

Why not treat your Mother to a lovely lunch to show her how special she is? £20 per person, includes a posy of flowers and a glass of champagne for each Mum. Children’s portions available. Booking advisable on (01647) 434131.

Sunday 28 March, 11am-3pm

Local Delights Food Tasting

Come along to the Drogo Shop to celebrate the start of British Summer Time. Tickle those taste buds with a wide variety of local produce from honey and jam to apple juice, chocolates and biscuits.

Police Notice

I have had several reports of dogs worrying and attacking livestock, namely sheep. I would like to remind all dog owners that the farmer is allowed by law to shoot any dog on his land that is worrying livestock!!! Most dog owners seem to keep dogs on leads when on the moor, especially when they know that they might chase sheep, but then let them off in wooded or agricultural areas thinking that their dog won't chase sheep because the owner can't physically see any. However, dogs will follow a scent, possibly from deer, and then stumble across sheep in their travels and this is when they might chase them.

Sheep vary in price with the cheapest being around £100 and if they are pedigree etc, this can increase to thousands. Most pet insurance schemes have small-print that states that they won't pay out for worrying livestock, therefore it will fall on the owner to pay out for damages caused by their dogs!!!!

If there is a court case then a destruction order can be requested for the dog concerned. If you love your pets, please take better care of them and farmer's livestock and business!!!

IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM ON A LEAD.

PC Nadine Wilson -- 08452777444 or email nadine.wilson@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Please be aware of the following new scam. A householder contacted West Devon Council to advise them of a telephone call she had received on the 13th January 2010. She had received a call from a gentleman with a foreign accent claiming to be from "the Council" who asked her if she had ever been troubled by nuisance calls. He stated that there was a new system in place for dealing with these calls and she could sign up for it by providing a down payment of £9.99 which would be refunded in three months' time. Please decline this offer. This is a SCAM. Please phone us with any information on 08452 777 444.

Cheriton and Tedburn Young Farmers Club

A big thank you to everyone who helped and attended our Coffee Morning on the 16th January at Bowbeer Farm. We raised £207 for this year's good cause -- FORCE, which is a cancer charity based in Exeter.

On the 21st February from 10.30am we have a charity dung sale in Drewsteignton, if you would like any dung delivered to your door for the garden, please sign up in Drewsteignton Post office. £2 per bag or three bags for £5. All proceeds to FORCE.

Drewsteignton Parish Post

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 March — thank you