

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 61

FEBRUARY 2011

JANUARY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Firstly can I deal with the matter of an anonymous "flyer" which was delivered to some properties in the Parish over the night of 10th January concerning the parking at the Post Office. It did NOT originate from any councillor and the Parish Council had no knowledge of it.

Following the many representations made to the Council on the matter - for which we are very grateful - we resolved to support the Post Office in any way we can to achieve some form of reserved parking, and have since had a site meeting with interested parties and now await a further meeting with Highways to make a final decision on how it will be completed and enforced. The Council also decided that we could not help financially. To use the Parish Precept monies could not be justified on such a project.

Moving on to the Precept -- the Parish Council part of your Council Tax -- we have to find £437 to cover the loss of the National Park's grant towards the upkeep of the toilets from last year, and to cover the missing grant for the current year. Additionally, elections are due in May, and should there be a need for an election of Parish Councillors, we will have to finance that ourselves and it could be as much as £1,500. It will be less if there is an election for a Borough Councillor as the costs are shared. We resolved to increase the Precept to £12,513, or an annual increase of £2.47 for a band D property. This equates to 20 pence per month. Should anyone require full details, if you contact the Clerk they will be provided free of charge.

It is hoped that an update on the Church Clock

lighting will be available shortly. By obtaining sponsorship for the work to be done and for the electricity supply, we hope to make an annual saving to the Council of about £200 per year.

Thanks to Cllr Mudge for his work on this.

We have requested Highways to deal with a number of potholes in the parish, to replace three damaged finger posts and to deal with a stretch of muddy road.

Two planning matters - at Castle Drogo and Knowle Cottage, Drewsteignton, were discussed and it was resolved to make no comment on both of them.

The affordable housing now named Prestonbury View is nearing completion and we have asked West Devon Borough Council to confirm the agreement we entered into to prioritise applicants from the Parish to occupy them in the first instance. This has been confirmed since our meeting -- thanks to Cllr Paul Ridgers.

The voluntary work on the trees in the Car Park was noted and thanks have been sent to those involved. Also thanks were sent to Nigel Dawe at Whiddon Down for his voluntary work in snow clearing.

Our next meeting is 7.30pm Monday 21st February 2011 at Drewsteignton.

Bill Savage, Chairman Drewsteignton Parish Council.

Please note new email address for the Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Jackie Bowden:
clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

If you would like to receive a copy of the Parish Post by email, please notify Pauline Rowe pauline_lily@hotmail.com or Jackie Bowden clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

There are a few advantages: you would receive it early: it reduces our printing costs: and it would help to save a few trees!

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.



Molly Rose Newton

Molly lives in Drewsteignton with her mum and dad. She is five years old and goes to Chagford School. Her birthday is on New Year's Eve.

How long have you lived in Drewsteignton?

All my life.

Do you have a favourite book?

Yes. It's called Alfie all Alone. It's about a dog who is all alone.

Do you have a pet?

No, but we are looking after Toffee. Toffee is sometimes bad and sometimes good. He is a rescue dog. Nigel rescued him.

What is your favourite song?

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

What do you like about living in Drewsteignton?

I like riding on my scooter and going to see Marg in the shop.

What is your favourite TV programme?

I don't watch much TV but I like Mr Maker. He has spotty clothes and a brown coat.

What do you like doing best with your Mum?

I like doing puzzles with her. My favourite is an animal puzzle.

What do you like best about school?

Doing reading and being in the circle passing the sheep round. When you get the sheep you are allowed to talk.

Describe your perfect day.

Playing in my bedroom, going to the playing fields and playing on my new scooter.

Do you have a favourite film?

Yes, two. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and The Wizard of Oz.

Where did you go for your holiday?

Cornwall. I saw James and the Giant Peach in a theatre on the cliffs and things came alive.

What is your favourite meal?

Roast pork and fish and chips. My favourite pudding is chocolate angel delight.

Playing Fields -- THANK YOU

Huge thanks to everyone who supported the Burns Night Supper. An amazing £825 was raised; so that's £275 each for Drewsteignton Playing Field, Drewsteignton Village Hall and Chagford Swimming Pool. An outstanding amount and thank you to you all for parting with your hard-earned cash!

We were only able to make this much money and to have so much fun with the generous help and support of so many people. Thank you -- you all you know who you are!

PLAYING FIELD FUNDRAISING DATES FOR THE DIARY

26th March - Bangers and Mash

14th May - James Bond Casino Night

2nd July - Drewsteignton Playing Field Fun Day

Tilly's Travels

Tilly Dixon, our youngest roving reporter, has filed her final two pieces from her adventure with her family to Australia and New Zealand before she returns home soon to Drewsteignton and gets back to Chagford school.

AUSTRALIA -- Since my last piece we have visited many places and I am going to tell you about the highlights of Australia. Although many people who visit Australia think that Sydney is the capital, it isn't. Canberra is actually the capital.

When we visited Sydney we went to Sydney Aquarium which is home to the duck billed platypus, a small mammal which is only found in Australia. It lives in fresh water. It is small and covered in fur. It has a beak like a duck.

Sydney Aquarium is also home to the dugong, which mythology people used to mistake for mermaids. It is as big as a sealion and is covered in skin that looks like leather. There were massive models of Lego there -- one of a whale's tail made from 35,000 duplo bricks. We also saw the famous Sydney fireworks at New Years Eve. We waited 12 hours to get a good spot and watch them from the Botanical Gardens which overlook the Sydney harbour bridge and the opera house. Luckily we were mostly in the shade as it was a hot day. They were amazing and so worth the wait!



While we were in Melbourne around Christmas, we visited the old Melbourne jail where Ned Kelly the outlaw was hanged. We also looked at all the prison cells, which were spooky. We also travelled the Great Ocean Road in Victoria. We went to some lovely little places and on one occasion there was a hot hairdryer wind and the temperature was 39 degrees Celsius. It was very odd. We had to go in the sea to cool off.

A lot of the things we saw are unique to Australia including the blue winged kookaburra, the laughing kookaburra, wallabies and kangaroos. Unfortunately, we did not see wombats or echidnas.

NEW ZEALAND -- We have been travelling round New Zealand in a green and purple camper van. Flora and I have been sleeping in a tent on the roof. While visiting campsites we have met a lot more children from other countries than we did in Australia which has been good for us.

We have visited our cousins on two occasions. They live in Waipu (pronounced why pooh). They run a little mobile cafe called Zippy's who sell and make their own ice cream and frozen yoghurt, which is really yummy. My favourite flavour is boysenberry.

We visited a little town called Russell in the Bay of Islands where we went on a dolphin tour. We saw approximately 15 dolphins about a metre away from us. They were 3-4 metres long and how the people who study them tell them apart is by the scratch marks on their skin and dorsal fin.

Rotorua is famous for its smell of rotten eggs which comes from the bubbling mud and geysers. We saw the geysers erupt. There was so much steam it was hard to tell what was the sky and what was the steam. We saw pools of hot boiling mud which looked funny. Rotorua and Taupo are geothermal areas.

At Taupo dad did his bungy jump. It was a 47-metre dive from a high platform over the Waikato river. In Taupo we also went to the natural hot springs. There were three main pools of natural hot water. It was 41 degrees Celsius in the pools and the water was a greenish yellow colour. There was also a dragon slide. It was very fast and you plunged into cold water at the end.

Welcome To Two New Arrivals

Congratulations to Jess and Dave proud parents of Rufus John Albert Kimberley born 28th January.

Also congratulations to Issy and Ed proud parents of Jude Alfie Hamer born 22nd January.





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.

Culinary Creations

I like to eat out and, when I do, I like to eat good food, but something that stops me from enjoying the experience of fine dining, apart from the price of course, is that I've always been deeply suspicious of pretentious restaurant menus and the flamboyant, unnecessary way that some chefs present their food. I've come to terms with the lengthy way that menus have to explain the process of how your food came to be on your plate. I now know that 'breast of corn fed chicken, pan fried and stuffed with wild garlic and thyme butter, served on a bed of baby leafs and sun ripened cherry tomatoes' is actually Chicken Kiev and salad. But restaurants know that the more words on the menu, the more they can charge.

They also know that if they tell the chef to pretend they're David Hockney or Van Gogh and to treat an empty plate like it's an empty canvas, the sky's the limit when it comes to pricing. If you've ever watched Masterchef, you probably know what I mean. Instead of doing the obvious thing - spreading ingredients evenly about the plate - many chefs decide to go vertical and endeavour to create a multi-storey concoction. Maybe they are frustrated builders or having a quiet game of food Jenga, but it's an utterly pointless pursuit. It brings on panic attacks with waiting

staff, desperate to make it to your table with the creation intact, and when it gets there, you instantly trash it. You're there because you're hungry. Not because you're judging who can create the highest food tower.

The other thing that I find very off putting is the preference for spraying meals with 'veloute' which, to all intents and purposes, is just foam. I'm really not sure what the point of it is. It's just sauce with air in it.

It totally puts me off my food because I when I see foam I think of three things, equally repulsive: cuckoo spit, the froth you get on polluted water or a slapdash shave.

The last thing I feel I have to mention is the very upsetting fashion of smearing sauces onto the plate using the back of a spoon, instead of the more logical dollop, or serving it in a little jug or pot of some kind. One can only imagine the thought processes of the sick individual who came up with that idea. It makes me feel ill, really it does.

There's no need for any of it. Good food should be simple food. Chefs that indulge in such pretension are probably hiding something, and not just a deep resentment because they failed to get into art school.

© Sam Peirce 2010



Apologies to Ivor Manley for getting the names of the players in the picture of Drewsteignton Football team 1923 the wrong way round last month.

His father Bill Manley is the player first left on the front row and the goalkeeper is Albert Snell who lived in the village.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

Whiddon Down Village Hall is being used regularly on some weekdays and some evenings by a number of organisations and groups. Dog training group, Whiddon Luncheon Club, Okehampton Beekeepers, Mother's Union, Rosemary Conley Fitness Group etc. are making the most of this really good facility. 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 (very reasonable at £5.50 per hour, £4.50 per hour for local hirers) please contact Clare Rowe tel. 01647 231643.

The Whiddon Down Village Hall Produce Market is held on the fourth Saturday of the month 10am – 12 noon, next one on February 26th, so please try to come along. There are a wide range of local produce items for sale including fresh poultry, plants, cheese, and cakes. We now have a fishmonger, fresh eggs, seasonal fruit and vegetables. There are opportunities to buy locally made jewellery, cards, wooden items, framed photos of Dartmoor scenes and more... Refreshments are also available including delicious bacon rolls. Come along and see for yourself, meet friends, enjoy a cuppa and have a chat. You will be sure of a cheerful welcome. If you have something suitable to sell and would like to, please book a table - it only costs £4 for the morning.

Contact Patrick Sullivan tel. 01647 231411 or Catherine Dunn tel. 01647 231452.

Although we welcome people to use the Village Hall's Private Car Park in order to car share etc. please, please park sensibly at the far end of the parking area. Priority parking must go to people using the Village Hall. If you are planning a trip and you wish to park several cars please ring Clare Rowe tel. 01647 231643 and check that there is no Hall event planned for that day.

We are planning to have a Meat Bingo evening in April. Look out for details nearer to the time.

February in the Veg Plot

The days are still short, and the weather's still cold so there's not much to do in the veg plot. That said, if we get a dry spell it's worth getting your soil ready for sowings in March and April. Add plenty of compost/manure, and maybe a little slow release fertilizer to improve soil structure, water retention and fertility.

If you've got a greenhouse, polytunnel or cloche, the extra warmth these provide means you can get in a few sowings of hardy veg like:

- * Peas
- * Parsnips
- * Broad beans
- * Oriental salad leaves
- * Lettuces

Anyone with a heated greenhouse/propagator can also get fruiting veg like tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucumbers and chillies sown too.

And don't forget to order early/2nd early seed potatoes and get them chitting somewhere cool and bright, in preparation for planting in March.

It always seems like a bit of a hassle growing potatoes, but they're a great way of clearing weedy ground, and their wonderful waxy texture and nutty flavour is second to none!

Five-a-side Football

Congratulations to local five-a-side football team EmanuelHendry who enjoyed success by winning the Pitch Invasion five-a-side league at Exeter University.

John Lawrence, Oscar Emanuel, Jasper Emanuel, Jake Rowe, Joey Whatley, Tom Diffey and Ashley Whatley, all played a part in winning the league.



Crockernwell People....

One of the best known sights in Crockernwell is Gil Banbury accompanied by Katy, his dog. Born at Upperton Farm, Drewsteignton in 1933, Gil left school at 15, following his father into farm work for the Strong family, whom he was to work for for the next 50 years.

When Gil was 17 his family moved to Crockernwell where, apart from two years in the Royal Signal Corps., he has remained, eventually moving to his grandfather's former home -- Cross Cottage.

In 1959 Gil married Gladys who worked in his aunt's bakery in Moretonhampstead, and they had three daughters -- Janet, Jean and Julie.

Gil added a Saturday delivery round for Endacotts' Bakery to his farm work, delivering across Dartmoor for the next 25 years in all weathers assisted by his girls. The family also kept 600 chickens and other live-stock, worked in the village shop, and Gladys began taking in paying guests, providing a "breakfast only" service for those who had to sleep in their cars because the house was full. The sheer volume of holiday traffic passing through Crockernwell before the A30 bypass was built is now unimaginable.

Up at 5am each day to tend his animals, Gil then had to start work on the farm at 7.30 so Gladys and the girls helped with the livestock, sometimes moving sheep through the nose-to-tail traffic with the help of all hands, including Grandmother!

Now enjoying a well-earned retirement, Gil and Gladys have a special place in the history and heart of Crockernwell as true country people.

Mary Graham

MED Theatre – March Dates for New Play

Dartmoor-based MED Theatre will be touring their annual community play, No Access, to village halls and community venues in the local area in March.

No Access is a contemporary comedy about conflict over land-use on Dartmoor – a story about a rural community who have differing reactions when the nature of an area of land, which is important to each of them in a variety of ways, changes. The play will invite the communities on and around Dartmoor to explore their emotional connections to locations and how important 'place' can be in our lives.

Saturday 12th March, Manaton Parish Hall 7.30pm

- * Wednesday 16th March, Scorrilton Village Hall 7.30pm,
- * Thursday 17th March, Princetown Primary School, 7.30pm
- * Friday 18th March, Moretonhampstead Parish Hall, 7.30pm
- * Saturday 19th March, Moretonhampstead Parish Hall, 2.30 and 7.30pm

For more information on how to book tickets, please contact MED Theatre on 01647 441356 or email info@medtheatre.co.uk.

Gillian Webster

Company Development Officer, MED Theatre

Cubs 'n Scouts

Cubs are hoping to go on a bike ride and have a hot dog tea to complete their cyclist badge.

Scouts are going to get cracking on the allotment.

St. George's day parade will be in Okehampton this year.

Weekly meetings continue on Thursdays during school term time at Drewsteignton Village Hall.

Cubs: 6pm—7.30pm

Scouts: 7.45 –9pm

For further information please ring 01647 281144



News from the Castle

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing about the silence that had descended on Castle Drogo and the strange absence of footsteps, normally heard as visitors came up the stairs near my office. Now preparations for the re-opening of the house are well underway and, in just a couple of week's time, we will be opening our doors again at the start of another season. The past few weeks have also seen a lot of activity in the new orchard area. For anyone who is unaware of this project, we are currently developing a new orchard in the land below the overflow car park. During this time we have received help from a number of volunteer groups, including Chagford Primary School and the Prince's Trust, who have been busy preparing the ground for the new trees ... and setting up a deer population! Obviously, deer would not normally be welcome in such an area but these have been specially developed and are made from willow! Now around 50 fruit and nut trees have been planted. Most of these will eventually bear cider apples (I would like to point out that I played no part in this decision) but there are also cob nuts, plums, medlars and even a mulberry bush. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we can all enjoy this new facility but, for the time being, I'm afraid this area is closed until the trees get a bit more established.

You may not be aware of it but this year is rather a special one for us, as it marks the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Castle's foundation stone. To help celebrate this event we will be holding a Country Fayre on the 9th and 10th of April. Details of this haven't yet been finalised (although I have heard rumours of a cider tent) but I will let you know more next month. Till then I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a warm, dry, sunny and wind-free end to the winter -- after all it's thrown nearly every other sort of weather at us!

Andy Dawson

Compliance & Environmental Practices Co-ordinator

Dartmoor Properties

Telephone: 01647 434117

Email: andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk

DARTMOOR ARTS -- ACCOMMODATION NEEDED!

Dartmoor Arts students are beginning to sign up and are looking for accommodation. If you could offer a room for the week 24th-30th July we would very much like to hear from you. The students are not a lot of trouble as they are out all day long and well into the evening.

Please do get in touch with either Jackie Abey 281282 or Charlotte Randall-Page 281295

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

At our January meeting we were pleased to have Barry Coulson giving us lots of tips on the propagation and growing of pelargoniums and fuschias.

Also in January a group of members went to Cheriton Bishop for the Horticultural Quiz Night, which was an enjoyable evening as always, even if our teams did not emerge victorious.

Our February meeting is "All about Hostas", and the 14 March meeting is "Butterflies and Gardens" with Peter Hurst.

As always, everyone is welcome to attend – 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Police Drop-in

Okehampton's neighbourhood police team have since February 7 resumed their regular drop-in sessions for residents at West Devon Borough Council's Customer Service Centre at 10, St James Street, Okehampton EX20 1DH.

Officers from the team will again be on hand to help people with issues on policing in their neighbourhood between 2pm and 4pm each Monday.

The drop-in sessions are an ideal way to discuss concerns which have an impact on the community - for example, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, neighbour disputes - or for general advice on home security. They provide a convenient, comfortable location where members of the community can talk to their neighbourhood team in confidence.

Mayor of West Devon, Cllr John Hockridge, said: "The Borough Council's customer service centre has proved itself an ideal place for the police drop-in sessions in the past. We all have a service to provide and we're delighted that our local neighbourhood police team are joining us again."

For all non-emergency incidents Devon and Cornwall Police can be contacted on 08452 777444. In an emergency call 999.

For further information on Council services, contact West Devon customer service advisors on 01822 813600 or email services@westdevon.gov.uk

New Face On The Police Team

The local neighbourhood police team would like residents to know that between now and March 2011, PC 1312 Clegg will be assisting PC 4647 Wilson as Neighbourhood Beat Manager for your local area. For help with any local policing issues please contact either PC Clegg or PC Wilson who will be happy to assist you with your enquiries.

Local police have received numerous reports recently of sheep worrying around the Drewsteignton and Chagford area. Local officers would like to remind dog owners to control their dogs at all times, otherwise they will face prosecution. They would also like to warn dog owners, that dogs will be shot by the local farmer if found on their land, worrying their sheep.

The neighbourhood team would also like to ask all farmers to be aware there had been many reports of poaching and livestock theft, as well as theft of farm machinery, all over Devon and Cornwall and would request that any suspicious vehicles seen in rural areas are reported to the local police station.

Tel: 08452 777444.

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

For Editorial Michael Petrie-Ritchie drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions ☎ 281228

For Parish Council Jackie Bowden clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Business ☎ 281239—www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

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: pauline_lily@hotmail.com

☎ 281638

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