

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 60

JANUARY 2011

DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The problems with parking outside the Post Office at Drewsteignton were briefly reported on in the last issue of the Post. Not for many years has the Council received so much public response on a subject. We have yet to set a date for a site visit with interested parties but hope that full details on how progress is going will be available next month. The Clerk is unable to respond to individual letters because there were so many, but the Council are grateful to everyone who has taken time to write, attend the meeting or contact their local councillor.

Cllrs Chris Gosnay and Wayne Mudge met with the PCC but were not able to resolve the repositioning of the Church Clock lighting. They are actively working on alternative ideas with other parties but if no suitable resolution can be found the Council will have to consider the possibility of removing the lighting altogether. The Dartmoor National Park Ranger for our area, Simon Lee, attended the meeting to introduce his successor Pete Rich, and we look forward to working with Pete as well as we have done with Simon.

The closures of Shute Lane were discussed and it is hoped they should now be near completion but if there are any problems Pete will deal with it.

The DNP planning enforcement officer is now happy with the matters reported to him by the Council but he has notified us of work to a listed building which he is investigating and will report back with his conclusions.

Following site visits, the Council resolved to make no comment on two applications at Churchgate, Drewsteignton and Windy Ways, Whiddon Down.

The Council have notified Highways to clean a stretch of road between Drewsteignton and Whiddon Down, to clear the culvert at Veet Mill - which seems to be ongoing - to replace salt bags at Parford and Bowbeer, place new ones at the Car Park entrance and deal with the potholes in Drewsteignton Square. On the subject of potholes, after the recent weather there will be many more - please make a note and let the Council know or report them to Devon County Council on 0845 155 1004.

It is hoped to have an "honesty box" in the car park soon so voluntary contributions from users can be made.

At Whiddon Down we are hoping to report progress on the closure of Turnpike Road in the New Year, Devon County Highways are going to improve signage at the A30 junction and give a report on the A3124 junction. The new buzz word from central government is "self-help" and during the recent snow this was displayed in the Square at Drewsteignton and at Stanburys Orchard, Crockernwell, to name just two in the Parish. Councillors thanked our Clerk, Jackie Bowden, for her work during the year and presented her with flowers for Christmas as a token of their thanks.

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 jackie.bowden@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!

Survive and Thrive

Drewsteignton Parish resident Linda Lemieux introduces Wild Woods n'Willows new series of survival courses for children.

WILD WOODS n' WILLOW have a fantastic programme lined up for you in 2011. This includes a new Wildcraft Survival Course, held on four days throughout the year, covering the main survival skills.

You can attend individual days or book on all four and receive a discount.

There are also some bursary places available.

We're also running another Family Bushcraft Day, and a Training Day for Adults who wish to learn and develop their skills of connecting children with nature (whether as parents, teachers or outdoor educators). After the enormous success and enjoyment of our first camp in 2010, we're offering two Apprenticeship Camps in July for regular attendees of our events, one for younger children (8-11) and one for teenagers (12-16).

All events take place at venues in the Chagford/Moretonhampstead area.

WILDCRAFT SURVIVAL COURSE - Module One - FIREMAKING (age 8-16)

Thurs 24th February, 10am-4pm

£25 per child (see note below)

WILDCRAFT SURVIVAL COURSE - Module Two - WILD FOODS & CAMPFIRE COOKING (age 8-16)

Mon 11th April, 10am-4pm

£25 per child (see note below)

FAMILY BUSHCRAFT DAY

Sun 22nd May, 10am-4pm

A fun-packed day for all ages sharing bushcraft skills and nature awareness, games and activities.

£20 per adult, £12 per child, under 4's free

WILDCRAFT SURVIVAL COURSE - Module Three - KNIFE SKILLS & HUNTING TOOLS (age 8-16)

Sun 5th June, 10am-4pm

£25 per child (see note below)

APPRENTICESHIP CAMP 1 - for older children/teenagers

Sun 24th July (2pm) to Tues 26th July (Noon)

APPRENTICESHIP CAMP 2 - for younger children

Fri 29th July (11am) to Sat 30th July (4pm)

MENTORING CHILDREN IN NATURE - WWnW TRAINING DAY for parents, teachers & outdoor educators, based on mentoring techniques developed by the Wilderness Awareness School in the USA

Sun 2nd October, 10am-4pm, £40

WILDCRAFT SURVIVAL COURSE - Module Four - SHELTER BUILDING & TRACKING (age 8-16)

Mon 24th October, 10am-4pm

£25 per child (see note below)

Pricing for the Wildcraft Survival Course modules:

We can offer siblings £5 discount per child if needed. If all four modules are booked in advance, we are offering a total cost of £80, representing a £20 reduction (with no sibling discount then available).

We usually work to a ratio of one instructor to four or five children to ensure high levels of safety and depth of learning.

For more information on any of the above events, or our schools education programme, or birthday parties, please contact:

Wild Woods 'n Willow, c/o Wood & Rush, 1a The Square, Chagford TQ13 8AA

wildwoodswillow@yahoo.co.uk

wildwoodswillow.org.uk

Charlie Loram 01647 432769 Linda Lemieux 01647 231330

The Wild Woods 'n Willow Team -- Dan, Son, Charlie and Linda

Dates for Your Diary

R. B .L. Drewsteignton Branch
 Womens Section
 Wednesday 16th February Coffee Morning
 10.30am Glebe Cottage, Drewsteignton.
 Saturday 23rd April St Georges Day Tea
 3.30 pm Village Hall, Drewsteignton

Babysitter Wanted

Please contact
 Angus or Lindsey
 Knowle Cottage
 Drewsteignton
 01647 281238

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER



*Smoked Salmon or a Selection of Cheese & Oatcakes
 Meat or Vegetarian Haggis, Neaps, Tatties & Gravy
 Raspberry Pavlova
 Shot of Whisky
 £12.50
 Saturday 22nd January
 7.30pm for 8pm start
 The Long Room, The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton
 Please Wear Something Tartan
 Proceeds go to
 Drewsteignton Playing Fields, Village Hall and
 Chagford Swimming Pool
 Tickets Available From
 Drewsteignton Post Office*



Thanks to David Stanbury for this picture of Drewsteignton Football Club in 1923. His uncle, Harold Stanbury, is standing 4th from left, next to another uncle, Bill Smith, 5th from left. David now lives in Maidenhead. He has fond memories as a child of spending holidays with Bill Smith and his family who lived in Hunts Tor, Drewsteignton.
 (Ivor Manley believes the goalkeeper could be his father Bill Manley and we think the player first left on the front row is Albert Snell who lived in the village.)



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.

Mine's a pint...

The government is scrapping the law on alcohol measures, opening the way for beer to be served in schooners, the measure favoured by Australians, which adds up to 400 ml, around two thirds of a pint.

I hate red tape along with the best of them, and am all for getting rid of unnecessary regulations, especially when it comes to pubs. If landlords want to serve their beers and ales in 'schooners' instead of, or alongside, pint glasses or mugs, that's absolutely fine by me.

But what has been winding me up since I read this story is the assumption that, by serving beer in smaller glasses, this will somehow tempt women into choosing beer as a potential beverage, instead of the normal wines, gins and tonic, vodka and coke or 'enter girly drink of choice' because normally, according to Brigid Simonds, chief executive of the British Beer and **Pub Association, 'many [women] avoid the traditional pint glass.'**

On what basis do they make that assumption? Who have they been talking to? Because it certainly isn't any woman I know, I can assure you. Why would anyone, anyone at all, avoid a **pint glass? It's got more in it for goodness sake.** Would a woman turn down

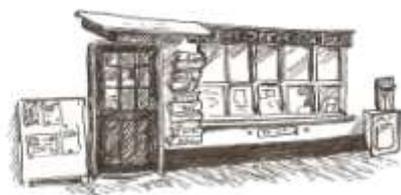
a larger box of chocolates in favour of a smaller one? I think not. Extra volume is good, whether it's chocolate, peanuts or beer. There is more of it ... **simple. What's not to like?**

Is it because women are deemed so feeble that they find it difficult to hold a pint? Or is it because a pint would obstruct the constant reapplying of lipstick and swishing of hair in the ladies? Or is it simply because a woman's priority is to be perceived as attractive by the opposite sex and drinking out of a pint might make them look a bit ... you know ... butch.

Now, I love my real ale and have done ever since I looked eighteen. I like my zesty, floral golden ales and I like my dark ruby, sweet and malty ales and everything in between. I like beer so much that I drink it by the pint. I also like make-up, wear heels sometime and am most definitely a woman. And, as a woman, I would like to state that the day I decide what to drink on the basis that some shallow, self-obsessed moron might or might not think looks feminine is the day I hang my tankard up for good.

Thank You From The Post Office.

Ian & Marg. would like to thank everyone for the many Christmas cards and gifts you gave us. We would also like to thank everyone for their support last year it has been overwhelming. Happy New Year to you all.



View from the Farm

Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman's recent speech at the Oxford Farming Conference 2011 included the statement: 'We now need to make the new CAP fundamentally different. Its strategic approach must change; as well as its detail. It must be re-positioned so that we can tackle the new challenges of achieving global food security and tackling and adapting to a changing climate.' She went on to claim that with high global food prices, direct subsidies were no longer needed and much more limited support should move to Pillar 2 payments (that relates to the environmental schemes and other schemes where the money often never gets to the farmer).

Now as far as I can see, much of Europe want to continue direct subsidies for their farmers. Already we are at a big disadvantage as, in their wisdom, England opted for moving away from direct payments in the last round of CAP reform. Wouldn't it be great if world food prices stayed high and we didn't need subsidies. Well it would be great for the large arable farms of East Anglia, but when you are in marginal areas of the Southwest, where our costs are significantly higher, it doesn't quite work.

Already the public outrage against the Nocton Super dairy plans has shown that the taxpayer wants to keep our traditional family farms. But these very farms are struggling to make a profit and recent reports suggest that 25% of farmers are below the poverty line. So we might not like it, but to keep our countryside as most people seem to want, we do need some help and not just the help of subsidised overpaid consultants to tell us how to farm.

I hope that Mrs Spelman finds the courage to support our farming industry, not just the big arable barons that pay the biggest fees to the National Farmers Union and tend to bank the biggest subsidy cheques, but also the rest of us.

I have been thinking of poverty and farm support a lot lately as I prepare to travel to Cambodia and India to visit diverse types of farms and cultures. Both countries have been having unpredictable weather and harvests have suffered, but unlike the UK there is no safety net. I feel I may come home very grateful for any help Mrs Spelman decides in future to send our way.

News from Whiddon Down

Whiddon Down Village Hall was the venue for a fun party on New Year's Eve - there were games and quizzes, food and drink, lots of laughing, spinning plates (which was great fun) and a 'Conga'!

Our Christmas Bingo was cancelled due to the bad weather but we are hoping to hold it in April instead so look out for the details nearer the time.

The Whiddon Down Village Hall Produce Market is held on the fourth Saturday of the month 10am – 12 noon. Future dates for this year are February 26th, March 26th, April 23rd, May 28th, June 25th etc. Refreshments are available including delicious bacon rolls. Come along and see us, 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. 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.

Happy New Year from Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee!

Health Matters.....

My name is Pip Rubbra. I live in Drewsteignton and I have been working in local GP surgeries as a practice nurse for the last six years. My role is predominantly health education. We felt the Parish Post may benefit from a regular article about relevant health issues that will affect our local community.

EXERCISE!!

This time of year you maybe thinking, a bit of exercise would do me good, but how much and what's available? The present thinking is that 30 minutes of aerobic exercise on most days of the week can have a number of benefits for our health, such as controlling weight, reducing the risk of developing heart disease, strokes, high blood pressure, some cancers, type 2 diabetes, vascular dementia and osteoporosis. There are also all the psychological benefits, such as easing anxiety and depression.

What is aerobic exercise?

Aerobic exercise makes your heart and lungs work harder, making you feel warm, mildly out of breath and a bit sweaty!

There are a number of ways of doing this. In fact the easiest way is by walking briskly or if mad enough, run up a few hills, which in Drewsteignton are easy to find. There are a number of sports clubs locally – Chagford has football, cricket, swimming, running and tennis. Dance is another great form of exercise, and classes in Salsa and Tango can be found in Chagford. Just by attending local bands in the Long Room of the Drewe Arms you can work up a sweat. Drewsteignton has regular football in the playing fields on Monday evenings in the summer when the days are longer.

The nearest gyms can be found at Mortonhampstead and Okehampton, which has both the Parkside sports centre, with an indoor pool, and the new Phoenix health club, which can be found near Mole Avon -- good gym but no pool.

If you suffer from any form of chronic disease, then ask at your local GP surgery. They may provide exercise on prescription, and this reduces the cost of gym memberships. There are trained instructors who will advise on appropriate exercises for your condition.

If you want to lose some weight then 45-60 minutes of aerobic exercise is recommended, five days a week alongside a healthy diet.

Muscle-strengthening activities

As well as aerobic exercise it is important to do two sessions of muscle-strengthening activities per week. This may already be part of your daily life, such as heavy gardening, DIY and housework.

As we get older it is important to maintain muscle strength and flexibility. This improves balance, and so prevents falls.

Yoga, pilates and tai chi are all excellent muscle-strengthening exercises. The Barefoot Barn in Mill Street is just one place in Chagford that can provide all of these.

Here are the contact details of some of the sports centres and health clubs in the area:

Barefoot Barn 01647 432734

Mortenhampstead Sports Community Centre 01647440107

Okehampton Parklands Leisure Centre 01837 659154

Phoenix Health Club 01837 659554

Chagford Tennis Club 01647 432508

Chagford Cricket Club 01647 432331

Chagford Swimming Pool 01647 433713 (Open May-September)



"The handle on your recliner does not qualify as an exercise machine."



News from the Castle

Unfortunately, the snow we experienced in the run-up to Christmas rather ruined our Christmas plans - **even Santa couldn't manage to manoeuvre his sleigh up the drive and** around our car park. However, as I write this, the last of the snows have gone and, with Christmas and the New Year celebrations behind us, life at Drogo is returning to its winter norm as we prepare for another season.

Anyone who comes to see us at the moment will find the Visitor Centre (including the café and shop) and the Gardens open from 11am to 4pm, daily. These opening times will apply each day until the start of the new season, on 12th March. However, in order to allow us to complete necessary maintenance work, the castle will remain closed until the start of the season - although there will be the chance to see parts of the house, as it undergoes final preparations for re-opening, during half-term week, which runs from 19th to 27th February.

As you may know there are several flats within the castle, one of which is occupied by three full-time volunteers. Each of these volunteers spends up to a year working with us on specific projects and, to give you a break from me twittering on, I am now handing over to Sytske Knol:

In October I started my full-time volunteering role as a Research and Records Assistant at Castle Drogo. As the castle is home to an interesting and relatively extensive collection of archive materials, the idea is to make those more accessible for everybody who wishes to use them. The information contained in these documents is very important because it gives us great insight into the history of the property as well as providing the basis for decisions relating to conservation and interpretation. Above all, knowledge about its history and occupants makes the castle come to life!

A lot of knowledge about Castle Drogo, its occupants and its history is kept within folders, books and photographs carefully tucked away in the offices. However, there must be a lot of knowledge which has been collected and kept by everybody living in the local area. If you have any information relating to the castle and the estate, its history, its construction and its occupants (and people who are in one way or another related to it) that you think could be useful for us to have, please contact me! Photographs are also very welcome and we are particularly interested in images which date from before the 1980s. Also, if you would be interested in doing some research related to Castle Drogo or the Drogo Estate, your help is more than welcome!

My email address is: sytske.knol@nationaltrust.org.uk

I think that's all for this month, but I'll be back in February.

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

LOST PROPERTY

A number of coats and jackets have been left behind at the Village Hall Drewsteignton, one is a size 10 ladies black coat the rest are children's. If one of your children's coats are missing please contact me on 281638 to collect it. If they have not been claimed by the end of February they will be taken to a charity shop in Exeter. Pauline Rowe

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

The annual Christmas party at Fingle Bridge Inn was much enjoyed by all and thanks go to Barry and his team, who made it such a festive evening. Our February 14th meeting will be a talk by Roger Bowden on Hostas. Visitors are welcome (£1.00 donation includes tea and biscuits). I hope this talk will be of interest to some of you.

CHAGFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

Results for November/December 2010

13/11/10 (Div One) Firsts v Elmore (home):

WON 5-0. Scorers: Steve Scott (3); Oscar Emanuel; Steve Kinsey.

20/11/10 (Div One) Firsts v Feniton (away):

WON 6-0. Scorers: Steve Scott (3); Andrew Davis; Jon de Cruz; Matt Mortimer.

20/11/10 (Div Six) Reserves v Bampton Res (home):

WON 5-0. Scorers: Porky Ralph (2); Jerome Whatley; Gavin Forsey; Will Hutchison.

27/11/10 (Div One) Firsts v Cullompton Rangers (away):

WON 3-0. Scorers: Andrew Davis (2); Steve Kinsey.

27/11/10 (Div Six) Reserves v Awliscombe (home):

DREW 1-1. Scorer: Porky Ralph.

11/12/10 (Div One) Firsts v Morchard Bishop (away) LOST 0-2.

11/12/10 (Div Six) Reserves v Priors FC (home):

LOST 2-5. Scorers: Will Cork; Gavin Forsey.

The weather, as much as anything, had a lot to do with recent results, with both teams only playing half their scheduled fixtures. However, it was good to see some attractive football producing some decent results. Steve Scott found his shooting boots to notch a couple of hat-tricks for the Firsts, and the Reserves seem to have the ability for any player to score. Their biggest headache is their need for another forward to support Joey Whatley, although newcomer Jake Rowe is shaping up well. Both sides face difficult fixtures in the coming weeks but hope to hold their positions in their respective tables.

Forthcoming home fixtures below:

22/01/11 Reserves v Cheriton Fitzpaine

29/01/11 Firsts v Halwill

05/02/11 Reserves v Up and Under FC (yes, that is their name)

12/02/11 Firsts v East Budleigh

19/02/11 Reserves v East Budleigh Reserves

26/02/11 Firsts v Feniton

Updated home fixtures can be found on the notice-board at Bowdens and in Fowlers office window. Or visit our website at www.chagfordfc.com

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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☎ 281638

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