

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 84

JANUARY 2013

DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council has had no reply from Lonsdale Forestry concerning our observations on the Fingle Shoot. There is little doubt the increase in pheasant numbers in the roads and on the land around Fingle Gorge is causing a nuisance to residents, so we will continue to monitor the situation.

As we don't seem to be getting anywhere with improving the quality of work with the Turnpike Road Whiddon Down closure, we are contacting Cllr Stuart Hughes, who is the Devon County councillor with responsibility for highways, in the hope he will resolve our complaints. We are also concerned that it appears Dartline buses are using Chapel Hill as a through route against the Traffic Order.

Keeping the highways theme, the blocked drain in Crockernwell causing water to flow down the road was reported to Devon County Council on 21st November but nothing has been done. All that is required is the silt in the drain to be sucked out and the problem is solved, but potholes in the areas are now forming and when it freezes the road is like a skating rink. (At time of writing 31st Dec still nothing!) Those who have travelled through Crockernwell will have noticed the bus shelter at the western end of the village was damaged in a storm. It was secured thanks to Cllrs Mudge & Savage and a local contractor, Tim

Cox services, is due to carry out repairs early in 2013. Numerous potholes have also been notified to Highways.

The old road at Harepath is a little used through road and therefore attracts fly tipping. Recently black bags, builders rubble and road scrapings have been dumped along the verge, and more graffiti has appeared at the nearby underpass. If you see anything please contact a councillor or the clerk so we can inform the appropriate departments to clear it up.

The Council resolved to support planning applications at Chapple Farm, Drewsteignton for a new shed and roof over a slurry pit and Rose Cottage, Crockernwell for a replacement of existing out-buildings. We took a neutral view on minor amendments for the link road at Whiddon Down and various matters at Great Tree bungalow near Sandy Park.

We are also supporting Sticklepath Council in writing to Western Greyhound buses who have chosen to alter their time table with no consultation or prior notification to the public. This alteration is not thought to affect our Parish too much but if you are experiencing difficulties please tell us.

Our next meeting is at **Whiddon Down**
7.30pm Monday 21st January 2013

The Drewe Arms

We would like to thank all of you who came to the village Christmas party in the long room on December 21st and we hope you enjoyed your evening.

For those of you who were not there it was with great sadness that we announced that after seven years at the Drewe Arms and a long battle with Enterprise Inns that we have had no option but to put the Drewe Arms on the market. We have put our hearts and souls into putting the Drewe Arms back on the map and have enjoyed every minute of it. We will miss the village and all of you who have supported us over the years.

Please support us to the end and we will keep you posted as to when that will be.

Fiona, Paul and Molly

January's Birds Observations

In last month's Parish Post, I mentioned waxwings, a very exotic looking winter visitor to the UK and the fact that they were again present this year, in many parts of the county. They are nearly always found in small flocks and mainly to be seen feeding on winter berries such as rowan, hawthorn and cotoneaster. Given their preference for berries, they are often recorded in urban and suburban areas where amenity planting schemes around shopping centres and industrial parks provides good feeding opportunities, as can our gardens. As they were recorded in Chagford in 2010, I thought it worthwhile to ask people to keep their eyes open as they could turn up anywhere, including Drewsteignton.

After the Parish Post went to press, I actually thought it quite unlikely that waxwings would appear in the village so I was amazed and delighted to see a single waxwing in Drewsteignton church yard on the 12th of December. I had just put my daughter on the school bus to Chagford and on returning home, I heard an unfamiliar bird call, quite high-pitched and trilling, similar to a small bell. The calling was coming from the churchyard and looking toward the sound, I spotted a starling-sized bird sitting in the top of a tree and surrounded by blue tits on the lower branches. My first thoughts were that while it looked probable, it couldn't possibly be a waxwing but ran inside, grabbed my binoculars and lo, and behold, there it was.

A single waxwing, in classic upright pose, singing away with its crest up and the narrow black eye mask



and black, yellow, red and white wing markings all showing beautifully. It was surrounded on the lower branches by about 12 blue tits who were possibly wondering what this strange visitor to the village was. It carried on its song briefly while I watched it before it took wing and flew east across my garden at which point I lost it. I did hear it again briefly from beyond my back garden but did not see it again. I would be fascinated to hear if anyone else saw it or any others on or around the same date (12 Dec). Waxwings are still in the county and I have just looked on the 'Devon Birds' website to see that the latest sightings locally are at Heathfield (nr Newton Abbot) and at Exeter services on the M5.

Over the last two months on my journeys to work in Cornwall, I have spotted 7 dead barn owls on the A30 between Whiddon Down and the county boundary over

the river Tamar at Launceston. I worked on a three-year project in the mid 1990s on barn owl road mortality and can still spot a dead barn owl on the verge while driving at 70 miles an hour on a dual carriageway. If it is possible and safe, I will retrieve them and have collected 6 so far, all of which proved to be first-year birds.

None of these birds had leg rings on but I have found many over the years with rings, which provide useful information on dispersal. It is a sad fact that many first-year barn owls die on dual carriageways during their dispersal from the nest site, as hedgerow and river corridors often lead them to dual carriageways where they find ideal hunting along the rank grassland verges but their low-level flight brings them into contact with fast-moving traffic.

I report the road casualties to the 'Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society' along with grid references, dates and age and give the carcasses to a colleague who is one of the country's leading authorities on barn owls.

Please do let me know if you have seen waxwings in the village or parish.

Nick Dixon (tel: 281681)

Rainfull At Venton

I have recorded rainfall at Venton for 20 years. Everyone knows that 2012 was wet and in fact I measured 1388 mm (about 55.5 inches). It may have been heavier as one of the storms tipped the rain gauge slightly and may have spilt a little. The wettest month was December at 245 mm (about 10 inches).

The previous wettest year was 2000 at 1382 mm (55.28 inches).

Very best wishes for a drier 2013

Michael Hall



“So kind of you to carry my broolly for me, Son!”

West Devon Volunteer Centre

New Year—New Opportunities

Help Stone Lane Gardens with admin/publicity/fundraising

Ask about the great new roles with the rangers at Castle Drogo

Be a friend to a dementia patient with Alzheimers Society

For these and many more
volunteering opportunities

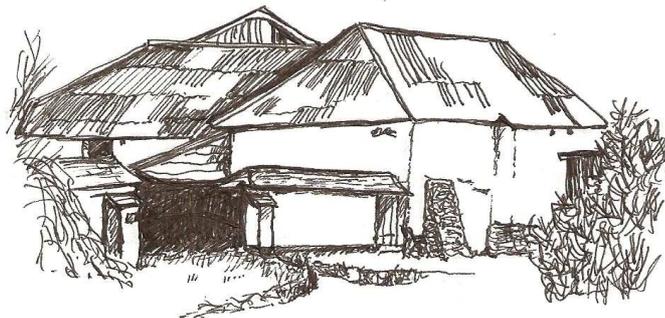
**Drop in Tuesdays and Wednesdays
10 am - 2 pm 13 East St. Okehampton**

Thursdays 9 am - 1pm and

Fridays 1 pm - 4 pm Tavistock Library

Freephone 0330 660 0357

Email volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk



ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at Woodleigh Coach House, all those that came along had a lovely time. Jackie and Hilary from Acorn along with John and Margaret Baker joined in the festivities. The lunch club will be meeting at Woodleigh Coach House, Cheriton Bishop at 12.30pm and on the following dates; 20th February, 20th March and 17th April. Roast beef, desert, tea or coffee all for just £6.50. If you would like to join us please ring Jean Martin 01647 24586 a week in advance to book your place, also let her know if you will require transport.

Minibus Trips To Sainsbury's From Cheriton - Our popular fortnightly minibus trip to Sainsbury's Alphington supermarket provides an opportunity for you to be collected and returned to your door with your shopping carried for you. We run a minibus service on alternate Wednesdays from Drewsteignton, Crockernwell, Cheriton Bishop, and Tedburn, this month it will be 13th, 27th February and 13th March. Please phone Sylvia on 01647 24267 or Jackie on 01647 252701. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. The fare is £3 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café Now Twice Monthly - We are now running two morning cafés on the second and last Thursday of each month 10.30 to 12.30. This month it will be Thursday 14th, 28th February and 14th March. Please call Margaret on 01647 252622 for more details. Meetings are held at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Acorn Coffee Morning At Strawberry Hill – On alternate Tuesdays 10 – 12, we have a new drop-in coffee morning at Strawberry Hill, near Dunsford. It's in the old café and has a lovely atmosphere – attractive surroundings. It's run by a small team of friendly volunteers. It's a great place to bring a friend – and there's ample parking. This month it will be Tuesday 12th, 26th February and 12th March. Volunteer drivers can collect you if transport is a problem. Please ring Jackie on 06147 252701 if you need a lift.

Acorn Services - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered or any other Acorn service, please phone Sylvia Tripp on 01647 24267. Please leave a message on her answering machine if she is not at home and she will call you back. If you have not heard back within 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586.

Winter Salt - The Trustees have purchased small bags of rock salt and we will soon be distributing it to the elderly and vulnerable in our community. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving some please contact: Sylvia 01647 24267 or Jackie 01647 252701.

Winter Fuel Allowance 'donation'- There has been a lot of media discussion recently about universal benefits, in particular the winter fuel allowance and whether or not in times of austerity, it is right that the better off should receive it. More recently the Charities Minister, Nick Hurd, suggested that those 'not in need' could donate it to charity. A couple of local volunteers have done just that- donated their winter fuel allowance to Acorn Community Support and they encourage more of you to do the same. Acorn Community Support is a local GP Practice based charity helping local, less mobile citizens to get out, go to the shops, meet others for lunch, get to hospital/dentist/doctor etc appointments. So if you are considering donating your winter fuel allowance to charity, please think of local needs, not just the big national/international charities.

Contact Jackie Thomas on 252701 or e-mail jackie.thomas@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk and she will advise you how to make your donation.



RNLI Rescue

During the holidays, our family went down to stay at our cousin's house in Cornwall. It's a really nice cottage near Widemouth Bay and is a one-minute walk from the sea. Some of mum and dad's friends came down to stay with us for the New Year. They have 3 children of a similar age to me and Flora and we get on well. On New Year's Eve we went to Port Isaac, a lovely fishing village in Cornwall. It's also where they film 'Doc Martin' and we walked past his house.

Just as we were about to leave, we saw a woman running out of a shop with a radio beeping as she ran past us and went in the RNLI station. The crew were pulling on water-proof overalls, life jackets and wellies. A little tractor came out of the life boat shed and pulled out the dingy-like-boat on a trailer to the shore. There were three people who got into the boat but there were lots of others helping bring out the boat and giving the crew instructions. It's inspiring that some people are on call out duty 24-7, even on New Year's Eve.

The boat headed to Tintagel where a man who had been fishing had been swept off the rocks. As the boat headed out of the harbour and started its long journey to the headland, we stayed a bit longer at the beach before going along the coast path to see if we could see the lifeboat, we couldn't. However, soon afterwards we saw a helicopter fly over us and head into the fog of Tintagel. We looked for ages and dad looked with his binoculars but we couldn't see a thing as it was completely foggy on the headland. Then we saw a flashing light next to the outline of the headland, the helicopter! It got closer to the cliff and lower down but from where we were standing we couldn't see a lot more than that.

On the way back to the cottage, an ambulance headed past us from Tintagel and we were really hoping the man was alive and well, although I'm sure he would have been very cold. A couple of days later, Dad got the Western Morning News to see if it had anything in it about the rescue, and it did. Apparently the sea was too rough for the helicopter to winch him up but the man, who had spent an hour in the sea, was taken to a hospital. During the rescue, the boat was damaged, but the RNLI volunteer said that the boat could be repaired but the damage is minor compared to the threat, the poor man was facing in the water.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a very happy start to the New Year!!!

Tilly Dixon



Port Isaac Life Boat.

Another Recipe From My Granny In Edinburgh

Shortbread

500 grams unsalted butter, softened

175grams caster sugar

600grams plain flour, sieved

(Substituting 50grams of semolina for 50grams of plain flour can make crunchier biscuits)

Heat the oven to 160°/325f/gas mark 3. Beat together the butter and the sugar. Beat in the flour and semolina, 100grams at a time, until smooth. If the dough becomes too stiff to stir, knead in the rest of the flour with your hands.

Grease and flour a large baking tray. Roll out the dough and press into the baking sheet.. Mark the dough into fingers or pie shaped wedges and prick the pieces with a fork. Bake in the centre of the oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until firm to the touch.

Makes about 24 biscuits

Happy New Year to you all.

John Shiell

Want To Save Money On The Cost Of Your Heating Oil?



So do we!

Join our new community-based countywide oil buying scheme and see how easy it is.

The Devon Oil Collective

Saving you money and keeping you warm

Free membership for local coordinators.

www.devonrcc.org.uk

01392 248918 ext.290

The Devon Oil Collective is an ethical social enterprise project run by the Community Council of Devon that can reduce the cost of your domestic heating oil.

By bringing communities throughout Devon together and making the most of joint buying power, this scheme can make significant savings and pass them directly to you.

All you need to do to take advantage of this scheme is to pay an annual membership, from as little as £24, which will cover as many orders as you need during the year.

The membership charge goes towards covering the administrative costs of running the project. Any surplus from the Devon Oil Collective will go directly towards supporting the charitable work of the Community Council of Devon.



News from the Castle



Hello everyone and a very happy new year to you! Since the December issue, it has been 'action stations' here at the castle. Every item in the collection has now been moved and the whole place looks totally different. Although it has been a huge amount of work, it has given us all a fresh enthusiasm and plenty of energy for the year to come.

Sneaky peek - We are all excited about what's coming and can't wait to share it with you. All of the spaces we know and love so well have been turned on their head and the new Nursery corridor (which will be open for the first time ever during the project) looks amazing. Don't forget that members always get free entry but we would like to invite you, our local community, to come along for a free visit to take a look at the new Drogo and let us know what you think. There will be free entry on Friday 15 March and Saturday 16 March for anyone living in Drewsteignton Parish. Just come along with the coupon below and you will be able to come in for free (one coupon per household). All we ask is that you take the time at the end of your visit to give us your feedback and tell your friends and family that Castle Drogo is very much open. We hope that you love it so much that you will come and visit us again to see how we're getting on.

Join the team - There are loads of new opportunities for people to get involved with the project as volunteers. If you would like to meet us and find out a bit more, please come along to one of the volunteer open days on Saturday 9 February or Tuesday 12 February 2013, 11am – 3pm. You will be able to meet the team and find out more about the different ways to get involved. Please pop along to our lovely café to have a cuppa and a chat with us on either of those days.

Yes, we are open - The castle will be open in February half term (16 Feb to 24 Feb) for guided tours but goes to normal 7 day a week opening from 9 March. In the meantime, the garden, café and shop is open every day and we have a great Bugs and Slugs trail for February half term! I can also thoroughly recommend the elevenses brunch menu. Keep up to date with the latest on what's happening by checking out our website and blog. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter by searching for Save Castle Drogo.

I hope to see many of you for our community open days on 15 or 16 March. Best wishes and here's to a very exciting 2013!

Paula, Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Please cut out and present this coupon at reception for free entry to Castle Drogo on one of the dates below (please tick):

Friday 15 March 2013

Saturday 16 March 2013

Postcode.....

Number of adults.....

Number of under 16s.....

Burn's Night

Friday 25th January

7.30pm for 8pm,

3 course meal plus a tot of whisky, £15

Smoked Salmon or Cheese Board,
Haggis (meat or veggie), neaps & tatties,
raspberry pavlova

The Long Room, Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton

Tickets available at Drewsteignton Post Office

All proceeds to

On the Edge/The Mess Youth Project

Please wear something tartan!



Royal British Legion Drewsteignton Branch Womens Section

Coffee Morning

Saturday 16th February

10.30 am

At

3 Glebe Cottage
Drewsteignton.

Raffle

Bring and Buy



Book Stall

For several years now we have had a second-hand book stall outside our house raising funds for various charities. As we depend on good weather and we have had two very poor summers we have decided to have a break this year.

Thank you very much to everyone who has donated books, bought books and then donated them back again. **Mike and Pauline Rowe**

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

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If you have trouble reading this publication please let me know and I will arrange for a large format version to be sent to you

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