

*Crockernwell,
Drewsteignton,
Sandy Park,
Venton,
Whiddon Down.*

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 106

JANUARY 2015

2015 has arrived, celebrations over and an exciting year ahead with elections nationally & locally in May. There will be some vacancies on the Parish Council to be filled, so now is the time to start to consider if you would like to help your Parish. The minimum commitment is one meeting every month which lasts about two hours. How much more you do is up to you.

Since the need to display a current tax disc in a vehicle no longer exists, it is difficult to tell immediately if a vehicle is taxed or not and therefore likely to be abandoned. We have been notified about the existence of a website where we can check a vehicle tax status.

Apart from the usual road defects in the Parish, we are concerned about the lack of road salt bags along the road network. We are trying to establish if Devon County are distributing them as normal or IF they have been affected by cutbacks and we have not been notified. If you do get problems with ice in the normal places, just have a look around as some bags are left over from last year and have been grown over by vegetation. Failing that call Devon County Council on 0845 155 1004 and please let the clerk or a councillor know so we can follow it up.

Still no progress on Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down – there has been a change at Devon County Highways design office so it may be a case of starting all over again!

We supported a planning application to update the mobile telephone mast at Whiddon Down (WDBC 01354/2014). We looked at an updated application (DNPA 0690/14) concerning an additional 20 accommodation pods at Woodland Springs Touring Park. We received representations at the meeting, both written and orally for and against the application. Councillors agreed attention was needed by Dartmoor National Park and the Environment Agency to ensure the drainage concerns raised were addressed, otherwise we voted 5 to support and 2 to object to the application. We were asked to comment on an appeal concerning a change of use to land at Middle

Venton (0332/14) and voted 1 to support 6 for a neutral view and 1 abstention.

Regarding signage at the Drewe Arms, which is a grade two star listed building at the heart of our parish, DNP have said they are satisfied at the removal of some lighting at the pub. DNP refused planning applications 0383 & 0384/14 stating “ the siting, size, materials, appearance & means of illumination are detrimental to the appearance of this part of the National Park, in an area of special control of advertisements and conservation area” so their decision not to insist on action is, in the Council’s view, totally contradictory to their decision and seems to be a little unfair when action has been taken against a householder in the village for a similar subject. We are asking them to revisit this decision and contacting English Heritage who are responsible for listing buildings for their views and advice.

Financially, after several years of careful planning, saving and with having paid off the last repayment on the Drewsteignton car park, councillors thought it was the correct time **not** to make any increase in the parish precept (our part of your council tax bill). Additionally, we are able to make a one-off grant to Whiddon Down & Drewsteignton village halls of £100 each and to the Playing field committee a grant of £250 towards the cost of fireworks to achieve private match-funding. This will mean all monies made at the fireworks night can go to the update of equipment and maintenance.

Crockernwell now has a new Parish notice board made of sustainable Devon wood by a local business from Sourton and now has the facility for non-council notices to be posted rather than stuck up on lampposts.

Whilst this is good news, we must be cautious that more & more responsibilities are being devolved to parishes by national government and the County Council BUT with no financial help! Our next meeting is **Monday 19th January 2015 7.30pm at Whiddon Down.**

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having one lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month. If you would to come along please phone Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 14th, 28th January and 11th February 2015. 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 now £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 8th, 29th January and 12th February 2015. 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 Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. This month it will be Tuesday 13th, 27th January and 10th February. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. 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 or the Acorn office 01647 252701.

Acorn Trustees, staff and volunteers would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year and to thank you all for your support throughout this past year. We look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Please check out our website www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

January-May 2105

Monday February 9th: Question & Answer
Monday 9th March: High Garden (Unusual Plants for Sale)
Saturday May 2nd : Plant Sale 10-12noon

All meetings held in our Village Hall 7.30pm
Annual Membership £ 5.00 or £ 1.00 per meeting
Everyone most welcome

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION DREWSTEIGNTON BRANCH

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 14th FEBRUARY

10.30am

“Windrush”

Stone Lane,

Chagford

By kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Jamieson

Raffle

Everyone Welcome

Community Council Brings Devon Communities Together

An independent charity which helps communities in Devon, The Community Council of Devon, has announced it is to change its name after 50 years. Founded in 1961, CCD has accumulated a wealth of experience in helping communities resolve and progress the matters that are important to people in the county.

In recent years there has been a call from those it works with to change the name as the charity is often mistaken for Devon County Council. The feeling was that the name no longer represented what the organisation does.

The charity, whose vision is "dynamic communities shaping their own futures" will now be known as Devon Communities Together and will be the operating name for the Community Council of Devon. It will be business as usual as the organisation develops growth in the charitable and commercial sector and continues to build upon the strong relationship it has with partners and communities in Devon. The charity has achieved significant projects and achievements.

Partnership working has helped Devon Communities Together in its work with rural communities and has been integral to its work involving, affordable rural housing, neighbourhood planning, village halls, sports facilities, community services and social enterprise.

Key partners include District and Parish Councils, Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Housing Group, the Heart of the SW business support programme, Devon Oil Collective, the University of Exeter and the Devon Association of Local Councils.

Elaine Cook, chief executive, said: "Devon Communities Together is constantly evolving to keep pace with the ever changing social, cultural and economic needs of communities in Devon.

"This name change forms part of that commitment and the charity's commitment to support our joint vision of dynamic communities shaping their own futures."

For more details about Devon Communities Together, please telephone 01392 248919,

email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk or apply online at: www.devoncommunities.org.uk.



Thoughts From Fingle Woods



**WOODLAND
TRUST**

There would have been peace and tranquillity throughout Fingle Woods this Christmas as harvesting operations stopped for the festive season. The New Year brings about a resumption in the felling (all part of the restoration process) and as a result the path by the river in Cod Wood is now closed with diversions in place. Some felling is also taking place in Hall Cleaves Wood.

If the thoughts of felling bring images of people with chainsaws or perhaps men with a manual 2 man saw then think again. Technology has taken over with a tractor-like machine grabbing the tree, cutting the tree and piling the tree up all in one go. We are hoping to give people an opportunity to see this work in action so please keep an eye out on our blog for dates.

Along with techniques for tree felling Fingle woods will have seen lots of changes over the year. In December we were fortunate to have the local historian Bill Hardiman from Moretonhampstead History Society give a talk on the history of the wood – a snippet of which can be found on our blog. And we are hoping he will come back again to tell us some more. If you want to find out about the history of the woods we have some more talks coming up. The first is about the **Archaeology of Fingle Woods on the 5th February 2015** with Andy Crabb (Dartmoor National Park Association) and James Parry (National Trust) and the second is on the **2nd April** looking at **Fingle Charcoal Production set up by Dr Siegfried Marian** during the second world war.

These talks take place at the **Fingle Bridge Inn at 7pm**

Keep up to date with what is happening at Fingle Woods by following our blog <https://finglewoods.wordpress.com> and if you haven't had chance to complete our survey about Fingle Woods please do so by going to this page www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/fwsurvey

Moretonhampstead Hospital - Health and Social Care Hub

“New Year Message and Vision for the Year Ahead - January 2015”

The development of the Moretonhampstead Steering Group has been a great success. The steering group meets monthly and works together on the development of the health and social care hub at Moretonhampstead Hospital. We are extremely grateful for the input of local people to this group, which includes the League of Friends, local GP practices and their Patient Participation Groups (PPGs), parish councillors and other members of the wider community.

We were very pleased to welcome Mel Stride, MP for Central Devon, to our steering group meeting in August, at which he was supportive of the developments at the hospital and he was pleased to see how involved the local community was in this.

Plans for 2015

Several new clinics and services are due to be launched at Moretonhampstead Hospital over the coming months, bringing a range of benefits for local people, and we're looking forward to seeing these develop. Following the success of the new weekly strength and balance classes, which launched in November, an additional class will be starting in January.

We are looking to develop a dedicated Facebook page for the hub, which will enable the community to access updated information and details of events and clinics, and will generally provide a forum for discussion. We are also working with the manager of the Moretonhampstead town website to look at the development of a dedicated page for the hub. The official website, where people can find the most up to date information and news about the hub, can be found at www.healthypeoplemoreton.co.uk

Some members of the steering group will be looking to attend parish council meetings over the coming months to provide updates about the development of the hub.

The financial position for the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is extremely challenging. However, we remain committed to the development of the Health and Social Care Hub as Hubs are key towards creating a more sustainable Health and Social Care system. Other than ensuring that we get the best value from everything that we spend, the financial position of the CCG does not impact on this development.

We recently invited expressions of interest from providers who may be interested in running clinics or services from the Hub and any income that can be obtained from a third party for rental of space will contribute to the services provided and running costs of the building.

Wellbeing Drop-in Sessions

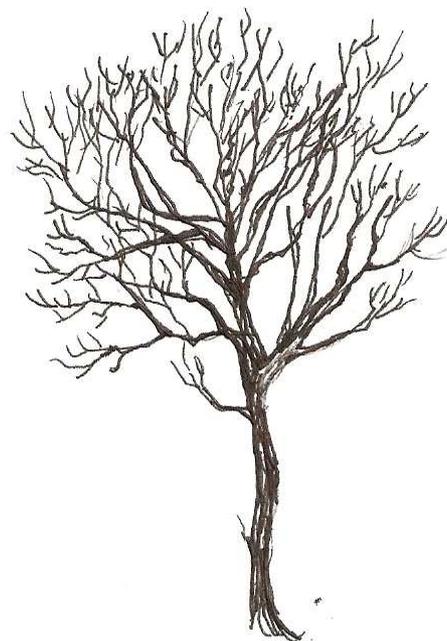
Following a successful open day at Moretonhampstead Hospital in November, the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust is welcoming the local community to a series of Wellbeing Drop-in Sessions. The next session, on Tuesday 24 February (10am to 1pm), will have a theme of falls prevention and safety at home while the event on Tuesday 24 March (10am to 1pm) will have a focus on diabetes.

Thank You

All developments at Moretonhampstead Hospital over the last year would not have been possible without the support and input of people from the local community. We would like to express our thanks in particular, to the Moretonhampstead Hospital League of Friends, the local GP practices and their Patient Participation Groups (PPGs), all members of the Moretonhampstead Steering Group.

Dr Alex Degan

Chair of the Moretonhampstead Steering Group



New Dartmoor Self-Build Housing Project

A new project aimed at encouraging local people to get involved in building their own homes on Dartmoor and Exmoor launched in December. Local people interested in building their own home in the community where they live or work are being invited to register their interest. This will enable a better understanding of the interest in self-build, and may lead to more sites coming forward to meet local needs.

The National Park Authorities are also interested in what land may be available to meet this need, and are inviting landowners to submit sites within or adjoining towns and villages, which may be suitable for self-build. The ultimate aim of the project is to link keen local selfbuilders with a potential site in their village.

Despite the gap between house prices and incomes both National Park Authorities have a strong track record in delivering affordable housing on small sites, and see self-build housing as potentially playing an important role in meeting local need for housing in the National Parks in the future. Any proposals for self-build housing will be subject to the relevant planning policies for each National Park.

People are encouraged to get in touch as soon as possible to express an interest. For more information on the project, and to apply to register please visit:

www.dartmoor.gov.uk/selfbuild or contact Sue Southwell Rural Housing Enabler – Devon Communities together by emailing sue@devonrcommunities.org.uk or tel. 01392 248919, or Dan Janota at Dartmoor National Park Authority forwardplanning@dartmoor.gov.uk or 01626 832093.

The project is part of a 'vanguard' pilot for potential new national policy around self-build.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Planning and Housing Minister Brandon Lewis said

"I am delighted that the national park authorities are actively engaging with our proposals.

We have no intention of using the right to build as a means of encouraging unacceptable development in our most precious landscapes. However, the national park authorities are keen to explore how the register could be used to identify and address local housing demand from long-standing residents who work and live in their national parks."

Peter Harper, Chairman of Dartmoor National Park Authority said:

"We are proud to be part of this exciting pilot. National Parks are living working landscapes but the gap between house prices and incomes is a significant challenge for us. We are keen work with government to explore new opportunities for local people to build their own homes in their own communities".

February at Okehampton Library

February sees the launch of our new Lego Builders club at Okehampton Library. On the first Saturday of every month from 10:30-11:30 come along with your child and get creative, let their imagination run wild. Masterpieces will then be displayed in the library and photos put onto our Facebook pages. The first meeting is on the 7th February which is National Libraries Day so the perfect way to celebrate. Whilst at the library that morning enjoy free refreshments, and become more connected with our digital services by providing us with your email address to receive reminders about items that are due for renewal and keep up to date on plans for the library service along with events and activities via a newsletter. Your details are not passed on to other organisations. We will have a member of staff on hand to assist with our online services. These include ebooks and audio books, accessing your borrower record, searching and reserving from our online catalogue, and using Ancestry, one of a range of online reference sources to which the library subscribes. For further details contact **Okehampton Library 01837 52805**

Drewsteignton Playing Field

Skittles in aid of the Playing Field

Saturday 17th January

6pm at Fingle Bridge Inn

Come with a team or join a team on the night.

Bird Notes

It is the first week of a New Year and although hardly noticeable at the moment, the days are getting longer. The last few weeks have been quite mild at times and very different to last year, when we had the wettest winter and worst flooding for thirty years. I remember the dramatic images from the Somerset levels on the news each night for nearly a month. The current mild weather has given rise to some very spring like periods on occasions with birds calling, and I am noticing the first signs of growth from spring bulbs beginning to push through.

I am feeding the birds in my garden now with a variety of feeds; Niger seed which brings in the goldfinches, sometimes up to ten at a time, along with kibbled sunflower hearts which seems to be enjoyed by almost all the birds from the collared doves down to the tiny siskins. I have seen blue tits, coal tits, great tits, house sparrows, dunnocks, robins, chaffinches, goldfinches and greenfinches feeding on the sunflower hearts, and there is no waste or mess. Quite often the collared doves will spill more than they eat but then it is eaten by blackbirds on the ground.

I also have a suet block up which is mainly fed on by various tits and also the great spotted woodpeckers. I have not provided any peanuts so far as it seems to always bring in squirrels, and I object to feeding an animal that isn't a native species and has a detrimental effect on many of our native species.

The grey squirrel (actually called the Eastern grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*) was introduced to Britain from the USA at about 30 sites between 1876 and 1929. They spread across the country and largely displaced our smaller native Red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*. Grey squirrels are termed an 'invasive species' and known as a 'scatter hoarder' due to their habit of hoarding food in numerous small caches for later recovery. Some foods are retrieved later in the day of hoarding while others may be months later, proving the grey squirrel possesses very accurate spatial memory. They are also one of the very few mammal species that can descend a tree head first, due to the ability to rotate their hind feet so the claws are pointing backwards and they can grip the bark.

I have been hearing tawny owls a lot recently, both here in the village and where I work in Cornwall, often in the day. Tawny owls are territorial and early nesting so the current calling is to re-establish breeding territories as birds renew their pair bonds prior to breeding.

Over the Christmas period, we went to stay with family in Sussex and then friends in Hampshire, both very close to the sea and on either side of the Solent and with views of the Isle of Wight. Whilst in both places, we went on walks alongside tidal mudflats and on sea walls, very different habitats to those local to here. I really enjoy the different feel of the coast there, the light, sights, sounds and smells encountered. I have never been very good at identifying the birds species found on mud flats as waders all seem to be seen miles away, they all appear brown and fly off at first sight. The great appeal of these habitats is that tidal mud offers huge feeding opportunities for many different size waders, and also the opportunity for predators such as peregrines and marsh harriers to come in and grab a quick meal. Sadly I didn't see either of these species this time but I have done in the past. I did however manage to identify a number of waders due to them being used to walkers there and by taking a small bird guide and binoculars along. I spotted curlew, turnstones, redshank, dunlin and ringed plover, plus there were thousands of brent geese grazing on nearby fields and flying along the sea shore at dusk.

'When the days begin to lengthen, then the cold begins to strengthen' is the old saying. It will be interesting to see how the weather affects the number of birds and species I see on the feeders, around the lanes and in the village over the next month.

Nick



News from the Castle



Happy new year everyone!

We are now getting ready to start the 3rd (and final!) phase of our building project. The South end of the castle is very nearly finished and we hope to start taking down the scaffolding at that far end within the next month or so. Before long, we will start erecting the scaffolding over the North end and then work begins on the smaller, but more complicated, part of the building. One of the most complicated sections is the lantern light above the Kitchen.

We can't wait to show you the new art installations that will be installed in February ready for the new season which starts on Monday 9 March. They really are exciting. We are working with several different artists who are creating bespoke artwork inspired by the stories of Castle Drogo. At the moment, the bit I'm most excited about is the replica site office.

Please don't forget that the café, shop and garden are open every day from 11am until 4pm in January and February so please do pop up if you need to walk off some of that Christmas indulgence.

Best wishes and see you soon,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer,

Castle Drogo

1647 434130,

paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Tilly's Post

Over the Christmas holiday, our family travelled up to the south-east to stay with family and friends. While we were in Sussex, we did some interesting things. One of these was to walk up the beach at east Wittering and when you got to a certain area if you looked long and hard enough amongst the pebbles, you would be able to find sharks teeth. However, these weren't your average white sharks teeth, these were black fossilized 46 million year old sharks teeth. These came from sand sharks and the teeth had apparently washed out of a bank of London clay just offshore and just washed up on the beach. The teeth were hard to find. You literally had to be lying on the beach and looking closely! However, when you did find one, it was worth it. They ranged in size from 20mm down, and some were just fragments. But if any of you ever go up to Sussex be sure to look for these ancient wonders!

Before Christmas, one of our football matches was cancelled, probably to do with rain and pitch conditions. In our first game of 2015, we played the current leaders of the league, Plainmoor. This team have a lot of big girls and are not all together nice. A few of them play pretty unfairly which is unfortunate for the opposing team, in this case us. When we got down to Torquay there was a slight panic as nobody was about and the game was due to start in half an hour. But we looked at the Devon girls football website to check we were in the right place and luckily it said the match was half an hour later than we anticipated. So we had an hour to put on our boots, warm up and get ready before the match whistle blew signalling the beginning of the game. It was a tough match as these big opponents used their size against us often knocking, and sometimes pulling us off the ball. Quite a bit of shirt pulling went on by them, annoyingly unnoticed by the ref but nothing too major, luckily for us. However, at one point just after half time a girl almost seemed to launch herself at me, I understandably fell over but my shoulder still hurt a bit. Their passing and shooting had improved but their defence was still no match for our main striker who put 6 past them, with another 2 also being scored by other players! It was one of those matches where the score didn't really size up to the game. The game was much closer than you'd think but judging by the score you would assume we had it easy. The final score was 8-3 and West Exe girls Under 14s remain in second position, now only one point behind the leaders, Plainmoor. But I might add with a game in hand!

Tilly

Drewsteignton Branch, The Royal British Legion, Women's Section, Fund Raising for 2015.

Saturday 14th February 10.30am Coffee Morning, "Windrush," Stone Lane, Chagford.

Saturday 9th May 3.30pm V.E day Afternoon Tea, Village Hall, Drewsteignton.

Saturday 4th July 3.30pm Afternoon Tea, Hillside, Drewsteignton

Saturday 12th September 3.30pm Tea & Cakes, Ford House, Drewsteignton.

Saturday 14th November 12-2pm Soup and Sandwiches, Ford House., Drewsteignton.

Raffle at all events.



Drewsteignton Post Office

We would like to thank everyone who sent us good wishes, Christmas cards and gifts, we are once again overwhelmed by your generosity.

As we celebrate 10 years of being the owners of the post Office on the 31st of this month we would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to serving you for the next 10 years.

Margaret and Ian



The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes.

Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too.

Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below.

If you don't tell us we can't print it

John and Pauline

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

For Editorial John Shiell

Contributions Pauline Rowe

For Parish Council Bella Snook

Business

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: plr43@btinternet.com ☎ 281638

drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282

plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638

clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

☎ 231046—www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Post.

Contributions for the next edition by
1st February - Thank You