

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 141

JANUARY 2018

We have, unfortunately, not received any response regarding the updating of the Parish Plan. This is not a requirement but, when it was published it became a “tool” for the parish Council to use. The main concern at the moment is that we do not have development imposed on the villages of Crockernwell, Drewsteignton and Whiddon Down and it would be useful to have an up-to-date document of need, developed for the community by the community and not something ten years out of date. Councillors decided to make an enquiry to South West Water and see what is the present capacity of the sewage treatment works in the villages and Sandy Park to compare it with the maximum capacity available.

We are seeking estimates for the replacement of the Parish Noticeboard at Sandy Park. It is likely to be more expensive as it is ‘stand alone’ and open to the elements whereas the others are located in bus stops and are protected from the weather. Is a Parish Notice board actually needed at Sandy Park, should we go to the expense of replacing it, does anyone ever look at it?

We are exploring the possibility of providing a night time landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance as other communities have done. As always, with our parish being so spread out, we have to look at the three major centres of population. The requirement is that the land should be flat and open, at least 50m x 50 m, grass, tarmac or concrete, have pedestrian & vehicle access nearby, nearby power source for lighting is useful but not essential, tall trees and power lines might be a hazard but if they are on the periphery may not be a problem. Do you have a parcel of land in Crockernwell, Drewsteignton or Whiddon Down which might fit the criteria and would you be prepared to have an exploratory chat with a DAAT

representative. If so please contact the Clerk or a councillor. You never know when or who it would help!

It appears road salt bags have not been placed, as in previous years, by Devon County Highways which means there are none for self help as in previous years. We are, therefore, going to press DCC to provide grit bins for road salt, in the first instance at Couples Corner, Fingle Bridge and opposite Netherton Vine, Drewsteignton. Do you know of other locations which freeze and ice over which could do with a grit bin for road salt, ie. Veet Mill, Wisedeom, Trenaway, let us know please.

We have managed to find a contractor who is prepared to undertake the signpost replacement. We have had no response for a parish lengthsman or road warden to undertake small works such as drain clearance so matters will only get worse unless someone picks up a shovel and clears the leaves.

We have been informed that the broken culvert on the A382 at Great Tree is a major job and will take some time to complete.

We have identified building works being undertaken at Whiddon Down which were apparently granted by West Devon Borough Council without consultation with the Parish Council. We are following the matter up with WDBC.

Looking at the Parish Post of ten years ago there is a reminder for everyone to return their Parish Plan Questionnaire – spooky!, Sam Peirce is telling us the easy way to lose weight is to eat a healthy diet and exercise regularly and Wayne Mudge is reporting on his charity sky dive (bet he wouldn’t do another now!!)

Our next meeting is at **Whiddon Down Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Lengthsman required for Drewsteignton Parish Council for a minimum of eight hours per month.**

**Winter - clearing drains, waste to be litter picked and disposed of carefully, on or off site as suits.**

**Spring – localised road flood prevention and fallen tree branch removal.**

**Summer - strimming verges, clear and clean signs.**

**Autumn - clear leaves and gullies, check road signs.**

**Please apply to [clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk) or call Lucy Bruckner on 01647 252306.**

## Carol Singing Around The Village.

Thanks to your generosity the merry band of carol singers raised £220 for the UNICEF (UK) "Protect a Syrian child this winter"

Wishing everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year

Chris and Julia on behalf of Holy Trinity Church



## Drewsteignton Post Office



**We're upgrading our branch technology  
We'll be changing our till systems on 22/01/2018**

**which will make it faster, enabling us to serve you more quickly.**

**We will only be closed in the morning - we aim to be back open again after lunch time.**

**Thanks for your patience as we make these exciting changes.**

## Drewsteignton Post Office and Stores

Revised Sunday Opening Hours

**Starting 14/01/2018**

**9am - 12pm**



## What's on in Feb 2018

**Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club** – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 or ring the Acorn Office on the number below for more details.

**Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton** – Dates are Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £4 return.

**Teign Valley Memory Café** - This month it will be February 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

**Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall** – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 -12. Please drop in for a tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**What else do we do?** – We have a fantastic group of volunteers who help to provide transport to medical social and wellbeing appointments, we can deliver prescriptions, we also loan wheelchairs and equipment to assist you in the home.

**Who should you contact** - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered, equipment hire and any other Acorn service, please telephone the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

**Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information.**

## Friends of Fingle Volunteer days.

January 2018 – March 2018 10.30am – 4.00pm.

We meet every first Saturday and every third Wednesday of the month

It's for both the Woodland Trust and the National Trust and people of any age and ability are welcome to join us. The work can be physical and we're out in all weathers but we do offer tea and coffee for those who make it.

Date	Location and Grid Ref.	Task
17/01/18	Cliffords Sawmills car park SX769895	<b>Butterfly transect widening.</b> Help to create habitat on the edge of our butterfly transect in Fingle woods (sub compartment 15a) by cutting scallops on the ride edge and removing small conifers on the slopes below.
03/02/18	Meet at the Cranbrook layby and grab a lift. SX742888	<b>Boundaries and bowsaws.</b> Time to take a stroll on the hill tops in Fingle, bowsaw in hand. Walking and removing conifer saplings that are still casting their shadow in the broadleaf and along the ancient boundary in Hore wood.
03/03/18	Ross Meadow Meet at Clifford Bridge. SX780897	<b>Broom Pull and burn.</b> Before this rampant plant gains a further foothold in Ross Meadow come and help us pull the offending article and watch its demise over marsh-mallows and hot chocolate
21/03/18	Ross meadow Meet at Clifford Bridge. SX780897	<b>Dormouse spring clean.</b> With nest season upon us, the boxes around Cod wood need a spring clean, some may need repairing whilst other need moving to slightly more suitable locations. All will be revealed on the day!

Everyone is welcome, with no experience or regular commitment necessary.

All tools and training provided.

Please wear sturdy footwear, clothes that can get dirty and please bring your own lunch. Tea and Coffee will be provided.

If events/meeting places change we will inform you as soon as possible.

**For more information please feel free to contact Fred on 07484 503 663 or email: [fred.hutt@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:fred.hutt@nationaltrust.org.uk)**





## New Year New You?

The New Year often sees many of us reflecting on the past year and thinking about our New Year's resolutions. Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA) is asking people to make 2018 their year to volunteer. DeVA has been awarded an Awards for All grant to help promote volunteering across the County, specifically aimed at those with specific skills.

There are a wide range of volunteer opportunities available with local community groups looking for people with all types of skills including IT, finance, social media, management, marketing and media.

Clare Humphreys, Volunteering Support Coordinator said, "The money awarded will help us to promote and market volunteering in a way that we haven't been able to before. By using social media and Google to its full potential we will be able to broaden our marketing of volunteering, and engage with a wider audience."

Bideford based company Bluesoup, are supporting DeVA with the campaign.

DeVA welcomes anyone wanting to volunteer but are particularly keen to engage with those who are in employment, so if you are an organisation who would like to support this campaign and promote it to your employees, please go to our website [www.devonva.org/campaign](http://www.devonva.org/campaign) to download the promotional material.

Volunteering can make a difference so what can you offer?

For more details please go to our website [www.devonva.org/campaign](http://www.devonva.org/campaign)

Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA) is a partnership of locally based organisations providing comprehensive support to Devon's voluntary and community sector.

We have come together to promote and support thriving, vibrant and healthy communities across Devon. By harnessing our collective knowledge, skill and experience, we help the voluntary sector to succeed and grow.

For more information please call **Clare Humphreys, Volunteering Support Coordinator on 01271 866300 or email [clare@devonva.org](mailto:clare@devonva.org)**

## Sheep Worrying

Why can't people take responsibility for their dogs! Farmers work tirelessly to get their sheep looking the best they can and with a little bit of luck make a small profit out of them!

They get so much enjoyment out of looking after their sheep, and then along comes a dog walker with no control over their dogs.

Two dead lambs, one with a broken leg, one that couldn't stand as he was in so much shock, another with bites all over and in serious pain, and one with serious wounds and half it's face eaten whilst still alive, and had to be shot!

This is heart breaking for any farmer, but sadly it's always just a game for a dog to traumatise and chase sheep.

This happened to a local farmer just before Christmas, so this is a reminder to all dog owners that although you cannot always see livestock they are often nearby! Farmers around the county are pleading that you keep your dog on a lead and don't let it ruin someone's livelihood and job.

There are some wonderful places for dog walks in and around our local area without having to walk through the fields when the animals are in, but if you do please put your dogs on a lead.

If you own a holiday let perhaps you could put a notice in the cottage asking visitors to make sure they keep their dogs on a lead.

**PLEASE KEEP ME  
ON A LEAD**



## Healthwatch Devon

Healthwatch Devon reveals local people's health priorities for 2018 and urges them to share their stories. During the period 01 April – 30 September 2017 Healthwatch Devon engaged with more than **3,240** people.

This engagement was carried out through our events, activities and through our project work and surveys. Included in this figure is the **151** people who used our **'have your say'** feedback form to share with us their experiences of health and social care services in Devon.

### **The following are the services that are being reported to Healthwatch Devon:**

- \* Hospital services (31%) including outpatient services at community hospitals.
- \* Primary care services (30%) including accessing GPs and issues with appointment systems.
- \* Adult social care (27%) including residential and nursing care homes.
- \* Mental health services (10%) including community mental health teams

### **SpeakUP**

Healthwatch Devon has joined a national campaign, launched today by Healthwatch England, to get more people to share their views about these and other issues. Your views were then shared with those who have the power to make change happen. We are urging you to contact Healthwatch Devon to speak up about your ideas and experiences.

If you have an idea that could help improve health and social care for you, a loved one or your community, contact us [www.healthwatchdevon.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchdevon.co.uk) and #SpeakUp. No matter how big or small the issue, we want to hear about it.

### **Colin Potter, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Devon said:**

*"The more that people share their ideas, experiences and concerns about NHS and social care, the more services can understand when improvements are needed. That is why we are encouraging people to #SpeakUp in 2018 to help make services better for the people of Devon".*

Healthwatch England have reported nationally on the top five priorities people said they would like us to look into further:

- \* Mental health services (99 of 152 - 65%), with specific reoccurring issues notably Mental Health in Children and Young People
- \* Adult social care, including residential care homes or care at home - 77 of 152 (51%)
- \* Service changes, especially Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) – 52 of 152 (34%)
- \* Hospital care, including discharge and A&E services - 48 of 152 (32%)
- \* Access to GP and dental services – 42 of 152 (28%)

Mental health was the top priority for the third year running. People raised this as an issue in 65% of areas. Care and support available to children and young people was the most notable concern. The lack of mental health awareness, early intervention and difficulty accessing effective and appropriate support were key themes.

Adult social care, particularly support for the elderly and their carers, has come a close second with local Healthwatch covering half of the country planning to do work on this issue in the next 12 months. This follows reports by Healthwatch into [care homes](#) and being [cared for at home](#).

Third on the list are service changes, especially Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs), which aim to help make health and social care services more integrated and better at delivering tailored support.

With hospital care people told us that emergency care - getting to appointments and leaving hospital - can vary greatly. Specific reoccurring themes include discharge and emergency care.

With GP services, specific themes include access and extended hours. Poor access to primary care services has a knock-on effect, as long waits to be seen by a doctor or dentist can prevent people from receiving the right diagnosis, treatment or referral to specialist services.

This list of priorities will shape our work over the next 12 months. Last year, over 340,000 people spoke up about their experiences and shared their ideas with Healthwatch England. These views helped result in changes across England. In 2018, we want even more people to have their say.

### **Imelda Redmond, National Director of Healthwatch England, said:**

*"We want to see all those working in health and social care to make it their personal New Year's resolution for 2018 to work with people as partners in designing the future of services.*

*Healthwatch helps improve care by making sure services hear people's views - what is working for you and what is not. As we approach the 70th birthday of the NHS, if anyone has a story they want to share or an idea they think might help, I urge them to get involved and speak to their local Healthwatch."*

## Bird Notes

December seemed to speed past with a dry calm period at the start of the month, and a very wet and windy end as we picked up the tail end of storm Eleanor. And, so begins a brand New Year!

On New Year's Day, we barbecued on the beach at Crackington Haven with a group of friends from the village and Chagford. Despite the slightly windy conditions, it was a dry day. We were delighted to see daffodils out in flower near the coast there, and caught sight of a huge starling murmuration heading towards their roost site at Davidstowe woods as we were leaving. The flock were flying ahead of us as we were driving but I noticed it kept on splitting and reforming, and then I spotted a peregrine falcon was the cause. The starlings were dividing to avoid capture, and I did not see the outcome as we had to slow down and turn off the road to head back home.

With the weather turning colder over the first few days of January, I have been regularly topping up the bird feeders in my garden and have been delighted to get a maximum count of ten long tailed tits. They were mainly on the suet block I put out with a few more waiting their turn, and perching on a small tree by the feeders. I would be fascinated in knowing of other gardens in the village that get long tailed tits on their feeders, and what they are feeding on. I also continue to put out nyger seed (not Niger as I have been spelling it) which brings in the goldfinches, and the kibbled sunflower hearts which all the birds seem to enjoy.

I have just read a fascinating article in the recent Winter issue of BTO News (British Trust for Ornithology) about feeding garden birds, some of which is replicated as follows. It stated that approximately half of all the households in Britain provide food for wild birds in their gardens, which is a much higher figure than I would have thought, but delighted if this is the case.

Garden bird feeding is now a global phenomenon, often referred to as one of the most common deliberate interactions between people and wildlife. In the UK, we spend an estimated £210 million topping up our garden bird feeders each year. Why do we do this? Because it helps to bring us closer to nature; it improves our sense of wellbeing and – we hope – it is beneficial to the for the birdlife around us. There is no doubt that garden bird feeding provides an extremely abundant and hugely reliable foraging opportunity for wild birds.

People have been intentionally feeding wild birds for centuries, but it wasn't until after the Second World War that it became engrained in British culture. Commercial wild bird foods first appeared in the 1960's to meet the growing enthusiasm for 'bird gardening'. A handful of companies were predominantly marketing peanuts, cereal/seed mixes and then sunflower seeds until the 1990's, while the variety of hanging feeders available for purchase was ever increasing. It wasn't until the mid-1990's that the specialised fat products, sunflower hearts and nyger seed that we have become so familiar with came onto the market. Now, we can choose from over a hundred different food products just by ordering from catalogues or the web pages of the bird food companies. It is clear the quantity, quality and variety of supplementary foods available have increased over time, opening up new feeding opportunities for a wide range of different birds.

Discovering how garden bird communities have changed in response to the continued diversification of our garden bird feeding habits is something that the BTO are looking at, and the results indicate that there is a greater diversity of birds using garden feeding stations throughout Britain now than in previous decades, and the number of different species observed in individual gardens has also increased. In the 1970's, feeding stations in gardens tended to be dominated by a few key species (namely house sparrow, starling and blue tit), some 40 years later there is a much more even distribution of individuals from different species making up the overall community.

One species which has shown a particularly striking change in response to garden bird feeding is the goldfinch. Goldfinch numbers declined substantially in Britain during the 1970's and early 1980's, but have since grown significantly. This shift has coincided with the introduction of more specialist food products (nyger seeds and sunflower hearts) to the bird food market, and the simultaneous increases to the numbers of goldfinches using garden feeders during winter.

I can remember when I first bought a small specialist feeder to hold Nyger seed as I had heard that they attracted goldfinches, and at the time, I never saw them in my garden.



**Cont. on page 7.**

## News from the Castle



Hi everyone

As we head towards the final year of work to save the Castle, it is pretty amazing to think that we have survived 5 years so far. Thank you all for being so supportive throughout the years.

I thought you would like to hear about some work on the estate early this year. We are planning to thin the area of large Douglas fir in Drewston wood this winter, sometime between the new year and the end of February. This thinning, backed by the Forestry

Commission, is in line with our plan to slowly convert these areas back to broadleaved woodland as they once were. The thinning will be managed and undertaken by Euroforest. Some tracks, including Shute Lane, will be closed whilst the work takes place but we will try and put diversions in where possible. If you have any further questions please let us know.

Closer to the Castle, we are delighted to host 3 amazing sculptures by Peter Randall-Page. They will be with us until August 2018 and are well worth a look if you get chance to pop up. They look especially fabulous in the rain, which is lucky as it seems to have been raining a lot lately! We are open every day except for 15 to 26 January when the Visitor Centre is having its annual re-fresh.

Finally, please look out for a First World War postcard with your invite to attend a talk and exhibition on Monday 29 January 2018. They will be delivered by some First World War characters on Saturday 13 January so please say 'hello' if you see them.

A very happy new year to you all.

**Paula**

**Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo**

**01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)**

### Cont. from page 7

It took about a week before goldfinches found it and I have been enjoying them in my garden ever since, and I am often amazed at how many there seem to be.

Another member of the finch family I have been looking out for, is the hawfinch. There has been a huge influx of these very distinctive finches from eastern Europe to the UK, and there are many in Devon at present. They are slightly bigger than a bullfinch but have a very large bill and head. The large bill is used to crack cherry stones and apparently can generate over 50kg force. There has been a small flock in Exeter over the past few weeks and have been regularly seen in Exwick cemetery. I went in search of them early one Saturday morning and was amazed at the size and splendour of Exwick cemetery, with views across the Exe and of the city. It was a glorious morning, with the sun not long up and there was a hard frost, and a joy to explore the area, but sadly I didn't find them. Have a look at the 'Devon Birds' website under 'recent sightings' if you are interested in seeing these amazing birds. I was just unlucky and they are still there according to the website, and others have been seen at Topsham cemetery too.

**Nick**

There's always  
Time for  
Tea!

### Afternoon Tea

There is an afternoon tea starting at **3pm on Saturday 27th January** at Ford House, Drewsteignton to help raise money to repair the windows in Holy Trinity Church Church. Everyone is welcome.



## Granny's Shortbread Recipe

### Ingredients:

- \* 125g/4oz [butter](#)
- \* 55g/2oz [caster sugar](#), plus extra to finish
- \* 180g/6oz [plain flour](#)

### Method

1. Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
2. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.
3. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/½in thick.
4. Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.
5. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.



## 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

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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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**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