

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO.90

JULY 2013

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Before the start of our June meeting the Chairman welcomed Mrs Hazel Craddock, secretary of the Parochial Church Council. She was presented with the framed original of the Queen's Commemorative Jubilee Parish map commissioned by the Parish Council in 2012. This will be displayed in Holy Trinity Church at Drewsteignton. There are a limited amount of prints still left – please contact the Clerk.

Three parishioners had put their names forward to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. After discussion it was unanimously decided to invite Mrs Anna Imrie and Mr Mike Riches to join the Parish Council team to represent the Drewsteignton ward. Mr Nick Boustead was thanked for his interest and commitment.

Councillors appointed to represent the Parish council were made:- Cllr Sue Power Dartmoor National Park, Cllrs Bill Savage & Paul Ridgers West Devon Eastern Parish Links Committee, Cllr John Dyke Whiddon Down Village Hall & Heartlands meetings, Cllr Joy Walker continues as Snow Warden and now takes on Drewsteignton Car park, Cllr Mike Riches Drewsteignton Village Hall and the playing field representative has to be confirmed, Cllr Graham Hester will be responsible for checking planning applications for the Parish.

Cllr Graham Hester agreed to attend a meeting at Okehampton School with Mr Alan Brooks to discuss the dropping of children at Whiddon Down from the late school bus. It seems some bus drivers are complying with the instructions and some are not.

The Police have recorded the graffiti in Whiddon Down bus shelter as Criminal Damage and are investigating, we await the result of their enquiries with interest.

The blocking of private driveways in Whiddon Down by vehicles dropping off and picking up

children from the Exeter School bus was discussed. They are likely to come from outside the Parish. We will ask the Police to monitor the situation and place an article in the Whiddon Parishes magazine.

We are still awaiting to hear when a site visit can be arranged between the Parish Council, Cllr McInnes Devon County Councillor and a representative from Devon County to decide on a solution to stop the illegal use of Chapel Hill at Whiddon Down.

The Council agreed to support an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for ancillary accommodation at Hunters Lodge, Drewsteignton. The Council were not satisfied with the reply from West Devon Borough Council regarding matters at Martins Park farm Whiddon Down and have asked them to look at it again.

We received a reply from Devon County Council to say they had instructed their contractors **not** to fly tip gully waste and scrapings on the grass verges. We will wait and see what happens in the winter and, as always would welcome any reports from Parishioners.

WDBC's Dog Warden has contacted the Council and confirmed that anyone not clearing up their dog's mess in Whiddon Down are liable to a fixed Penalty notice.

A public meeting is being held at Moretonhampstead Sports Hall on the North Bovey road **Wednesday 17th July 2013** from 5.30 to 7.30pm by the newly formed Devon Clinical Commissioning Group. This is your opportunity to tell them what you think the future of the health provisions in the area should be – including the future of Moreton Hospital.

Our next meeting is **Monday 15th July 2013 at Whiddon Down at 7.30pm** and some advanced notice the September meeting will be a week earlier than normal on Monday 9th.

How safe are our children travelling home on the late bus from school?

You will be aware from previous editions of the Drewsteignton Parish Post that there have been changes to the drop off point for the late school bus from Okehampton. This arose because of the closure of Turnpike Lane which meant that the bus now needs to turn around in Whiddon Down in order to travel on to Chagford. The school issued instructions to Carmel Coaches that the drop off point should be at the bus stop in Whiddon Down but some drivers who were keen to complete their run as quickly as possible decided that they would drop children on the Moretonhamstead Road avoiding both the need to travel into the village of Whiddon Down and the need to turn round!

This option for the drop off is unacceptable as I and other parents believe it is an unsafe location. There is no pavement only a grass verge where children can egress from the bus, motorists would not normally expect to see pedestrians at this location. There is a de-restricted speed limit and a sweeping bend from either approach with road junctions into Turnpike and Long Lane. There is no street lighting and the school uniform that children are obliged to wear is navy blue, which means that the risks to children will dramatically increase during dark winter evenings or in adverse weather conditions. Parents collecting children have to park their vehicles at or close to the junctions further restricting visibility and possibly committing road traffic offences in doing so.

Recent research has shown that children from the age of 11 years old are three times more likely to be killed on the road than 10 year olds! This is because children of 11 years obtain their first mobile phone which takes their attention away from the road.

It is easy to imagine the scenario of a parent being late to collect their child on a cold dark winters evening. What is likely to happen is that the child calls or texts the parent and walks off down the dark, unlit road to meet them whilst still paying more attention to the phone than the traffic.

The Bus Stop at the Post Inn was the former drop off point which is still used but only by a minority of drivers. This drop off point offers all the safety features that Moretonhamstead Road lacks. There is a pavement and bus shelter with a lay by to pull into. The speed limit is 30mph and good visibility from either approach with street lighting in place. It is a built up location where motorists expect to see pedestrians. There are driveways, lay bys, Turnpike Lane and Whiddon Down Village Hall car park for parents to use when collecting their children.

It has now been agreed that the children will again be dropped off at the bus stop outside the Post Inn. If anyone is aware of Carmel drivers failing to comply with this instruction can they please note the date and time then let the school and the Parish Clerk know immediately.

Alan Brooks

Recipe Corner

Recipe for My Granny's Cullen Skink:

Ingredients:

- * 1 tablespoon butter
- * 1 medium onion
- * 2 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into 1cm cubes
- * 300ml water
- * 250g un-dyed smoked haddock
- * 250ml milk
- * Salt and pepper to taste
- * 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley or chives

Method:

Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat, then add onion and fry gently until transparent. Cook for about 5 minutes but do not allow to brown.

Add potatoes and water and bring to boil. Simmer for 10-15 minutes.

Meanwhile in another pan, cover the haddock with the milk and cook gently for about five minutes until just tender. Remove from the milk and, when cool enough to touch, flake gently into large pieces, removing skin and any bones.

Add milk and flaked fish to saucepan containing potatoes and other ingredients and cook for a further 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Serve with crusty bread and butter.

John

A Trip To London

I'm not going to write about sports this month so instead I will tell you about my recent trip to London. We had stayed over at my grandparent's house in Oxford the previous night, having got there very late and had as much sleep in the car as possible. The following morning, my cousins arrived and we set off on the train, all 9 of us! It was a short journey in comparison with the night before and we were soon at Paddington station. We walked through the station looking like a little procession and got the tube to Charing Cross station. From there it was a short walk up through Covent garden to the Cambridge theatre. We were going to see my namesake play, Matilda! by Roald Dahl.

I was very excited because of the buzz and general excitement of everyone there, and outside the theatre we took lots of photos. When we got inside we made our way past all of the people and into the theatre foyer. I had never seen so many items with my name on it before; we got a programme and waited with everyone else until they opened the doors. Another aunty and cousin turned up and we all went into the theatre together, with grandma and dad going to the top floor and the rest of us going to sit right at the front!

Around the stage they had very decorative wooden tiles with letters on; they were all different colours and completely surrounded the stage - if you looked at the letters some of them formed words. We had really good seats, I sat 2 rows from the front with my cousin while my other relatives sat in the row in front, it was amazing to be so close to the stage! Then the musical started and it really lived up to its five star ratings, it had loads of really catchy songs and amazing characters, my favourites being the headmistress of the school, Ms. Trunchbull, and Bruce Bogtrotter! The scenery was amazing and things kept popping up from all over the stage. They had added a clever little twist onto the play which made it frightfully brilliant. We had noticed empty seats behind us and so, in the interval, we called dad and grandma and asked the people working there if dad and grandma could sit in them, they said yes and so they came down and sat with us for the second half of the play.

All of the actors were excellent, and the children could sing, dance and act really well even though some were only 9 years old. The girl who played Matilda was excellent, she was so believable!

Tilly Dixon

The Sleep Over Event

One church, one night

Friday 2 August, Ages 11-18 years
Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton

8pm - BBQ

9pm - Games

11pm - Film

1am - Sleep???

Have you ever slept in Drewsteignton Church? Now's your chance!

On the Edge Youthwork Project is running an overnight event for local young people aged **11-18 years** old to bring them together as a community to share, have fun and get to know each other better!

Our aim is to kick off the evening with an all age BBQ at 8pm in the Church Yard. If you are hoping to attend, it would be great if you are able to donate some food. Please contact us for ideas or to make suggestions.

We would also encourage the young people to help us get some sponsorship money for the event which will help us to sustain the youth work provision of On the Edge. We have set a target of £10 per person, however, this is optional.

For more information including a consent form and sponsor form, please contact:

Wez Cutler- 07540127827 or wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

Jennifer Mullins - 01647 281657 or pmjmrmdm@aol.com

Summer at Okehampton Library

We have lots of activities for children at Okehampton Library during the school holidays starting with the launch of this year's Summer Reading Challenge on Saturday 13th July with Rob from Entertainingly Different telling stories and poems at 11am



Every year, thousands of families all over the country are involved in the UK's biggest reading event for children in libraries, the Summer Reading Challenge. In 2013, the Challenge is called Creepy House. The aim of the challenge is to get children to read six books from their library during the summer holidays. It's great fun for kids, it keeps them reading through the summer preventing their reading ability from dipping and what's more, it doesn't cost a penny to join.

Just head to Okehampton library at the beginning of the summer holidays. Staff will enrol your children - it's completely free of charge - and every child will receive a membership pack.

The Summer Reading Challenge is designed for children of all ages and reading abilities. They can read any books they like - fact books, stories, joke books, picture books - it's up to them. Audio books count too! As long as you're borrowing them from the library, they all count.

Everybody who reads six books or more will receive a certificate and a medal. There are stickers and other small prizes to collect along the way.

The challenge runs from the 13th July until the 7th September and the first 75 children that complete the challenge at Okehampton Library will be invited to a certificate presentation with entertainment provided by Entertainingly Different.

Crafts and storytimes for children:

Monday 29th July 10:30-11:30

The Awful Upstairs – create creepy ghosts, bats, spiders and more for our display

Saturday 10th August 11:00

Spooky Storytime

Thursday 15th August 10:30-11:30

Gruesome Ground Floor – create your own spooky portrait

Saturday 24th August 11:00

Spooky storytime

Friday 30th August 15:00-16:00

Spine Tingling Cellar – create and play a ghoulish game

For further details please contact Okehampton Library 01837 52805

Okehampton U3A Group

The University Of The Third Age (<http://u3a.org.uk>) defines U3A Groups as "self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun."

I have no hesitation in saying that Okehampton U3A falls exactly and comfortably within that definition, supporting a range of interest groups far too extensive to cover within this brief note.

Group meetings take place on the last Thursday of each month in the Garden Room, Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton, where, each month (excepting August), we invite a guest speaker, typically, if not exclusively, covering topics of interest particular to Devon.

Brian H Varrall,

Okehampton U3A

brianhv@yahoo.co.uk

01837 657518

07719 805163

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Has now finished for the Summer but will recommence in September. If you would to join us please ring Jean Martin 01647 24586.

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 3rd, 17th, 31st July and 14th August. 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 - We run two morning cafés on the second and last Thursday of each month 10.30 to 12.30. This month it will be Thursday 11th, 25th July and 8th August. 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 10.30 – 12.00 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 2nd, 16th, 30th July and 13th August. 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.

New acorn website - We're pleased to announce that we now have our new website up and running. You can find us on www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Drewsteignton Youth Club

6.30-8.30pm in the Village Hall

Anyone over the age of 13

is welcome to attend!

8th July and 22nd July

Further information from:

Wez 01647 433910, 07540 127827,

onthedgelyouthwork@hotmail.co.uk

www.ote-chagford.org

CHERITON & TEDBURN YFC

Invite you to join them at their
CHARITY BARN DANCE on

FRIDAY 5th JULY at

GREYSTONE FARM, EX6 6NH

Local Band – 'GOT IT COVERED'/Disco/Hog
Roast/Bar

In aid of Motor Neurone Disease Association
and Spring Intensive Care.

ADMISSION £7

On The Edge Cook Book

We are putting together a Cook Book to raise funds for the On the Edge Youth Work Project and we need your recipes!

Have you got a favourite family recipe that you would like to share, or your own personal twist on a traditional dish? It doesn't matter if your recipe is as simple as your favourite sandwich or a full-on gourmet meal, we are looking for a wide variety of recipes, from starters to sweets to make up this cookbook!

An image of your dish to go with your recipe would be great!

All recipes by the 20th August please to:

Ella Wiseman: Liz.drew@homecall.co.uk

Rosemary Bleakman: rosemary.bleakman@lineone.net

or Jennifer Mullins: pmjmrmdm@aol.com

Hard copy to either Drewsteignton Post Office or
The Mess, Chagford.

Seeking Divine Inspiration At Drewsteignton Church



Pole Painted: check

New rope fitted : check

Now how do we get this pole back up?

Bird Notes

The three juvenile peregrines successfully fledged from St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Mount Dinham in Exeter over three days in early June, on almost the identical dates to last year. Peregrines normally take 42 days from hatching to fledging and the male took his first flight bang on his 42nd day. Male peregrines are smaller than females and often develop their full flight feathers and lose their down before females, and as a result will often fly first. His two sisters both left the nest ledge two days later, and spent their first night out of the nest on the roof of a house, adjacent to the church. One spent 16 hours sitting on a gutter just above the front door (making a bit of a mess on the welcome mat!) to the house, which fortuitously provided excellent photo opportunities for a photographer from the Express and Echo. He was there along with a journalist reporting on the church's recent successful award from the HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) for a new organ, the setting up of a new website and the installation of a camera in the nest box the falcons are using. The young falcons are all doing well and terrorising everything that flies near the church at the moment, whilst honing their flying skills. It's a good time to have a look at them if you happen to be in Exeter; the top floor of Mary Arches car park provides great panoramic views but don't forget to take binoculars! If they are around or on the church, they will be vocal and very obvious but it may be all quiet if they happen to be off chasing pigeons somewhere else over Exeter! One bird I am watching a lot at the moment without the need for binoculars are swifts. I've just come in from mowing the lawn, 9.30 in the evening with the beginnings of a glorious deep red sunset showing from the west and about 16 swifts chasing each other and screaming over the roofs of Churchgate and above the trees in the church yard. I have been watching their comings and goings in the evenings and seen them going in and out of 7 out of my 10 nest boxes, but we do not know how many breeding pairs we have yet. Some people may have noticed a couple of dubious looking characters hanging around church gate for two days last week. They were friends of mine, watching for swifts going into the boxes and then trapping them in fine nets over the entrance holes as they left. This was the next stage of the geolocator work, attempting to catch the two swifts that have had geolocators on since last August and putting them on more swifts to further monitor their movements and help with understanding their decline in this country. This is a research project funded and undertaken by the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) involving strict licensing and considerable training and experience in handling birds. Some of the birds Chris and Malcolm caught last week were first ringed here in the boxes in 2011 by Malcolm, who has been ringing the swifts here for the last four years. These birds ringed in 2011 would have successfully undertaken the journey to South Africa and back twice now, a phenomenal journey. I am delighted they have made it back and enjoying the good weather we are having at the moment! Swifts and strawberries seem to be in abundance at Churchgate at the moment!

Nick Dixon

News From The Castle

We have scaffolding!!!!

After several delays and complications, the scaffolding is now going up and the outside of the castle is changing dramatically on a daily basis. The whole team at Drogo was delighted when we arrived on a cold, dull Monday morning to see 3 wagons full of scaffolding poles on the drive.

What a relief.

The scaffolding is becoming a spectator sport. Every day there are groups of people watching the contractors at work. Who would have thought scaffolding would be so interesting?

When the scaffolding is finished, we will have a viewing tower which visitors will be able to climb and look on to the roof. As you can imagine, we can't leave visitors to manage this themselves – they would get in to all kinds of bother. Instead, we would like to train a team of volunteers to run this viewing tower. If this sounds like the sort of volunteering for you, PLEASE get in touch. It will be loads of fun, we cover travel expenses and we will teach you everything you need to know.

Speaking of volunteering, on Friday 27 September, we will be holding a Room Guide taster day. This is an opportunity for anyone who is curious about the behind the scenes work that goes in to opening a house like Castle Drogo to spend a day with our fantastic Room Guides. No forms to fill in, no long term commitment – just a day of your time. On the day, all you need to do is arrive at Visitor Reception at 10.30am. I will meet you there, show you round and buddy you up with one of our experienced volunteers. You will then spend the day with them, chatting with visitors and getting the inside scoop on life at Drogo. Please give it a go – you never know, you might enjoy yourself. Please give me a call or drop me an email if you would like to come along.

As this edition of the Drewsteignton Parish Post goes out in July, I must mention our summer events. We have a great activity trail planned for the summer holidays where you can meet some of the characters that helped create Castle Drogo. Then, on 21 and 22 September, we will be holding an Edwardian country fair. In true country fair style, we will be holding various fruit and veg based competitions (funniest/biggest/prettiest etc). If you would like to enter any of your home grown produce, please get in touch with me to register.

To hear all the latest news, follow us on Twitter or Facebook @savecastledrogo. We are always posting latest news and lots of photos.

Hope to see you all soon.

Best wishes,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Chagford Show

Thursday August 15th -

A date for your diary.

Dogmarsh Bridge Fields, Mill End.

Gates open 8.30am Free shuttle bus from Chagford Square.

Entry £7 adults £2.50 5 - 15 year olds.

Under 5's free

Free parking.

Lots of entertainment throughout the day to keep all the family amused.

If you would like to help on the day or if you would like to compete please contact:

sally385@btinternet.com or 01647 24306

Sally Hutchings

Chagford Show Secretary

Playing Field Fun Day

We had a great day, a magnificent water slide, the weather was kind to us and we made a profit of £572.

Thanks to all of you who came to support us.

Thanks also to all the people who loaned us equipment, prepared the ground, set up or manned the activities, made the cakes, served the drinks etc.

A special note of thanks must go to Chip and Jimmy for all the time and hard work they put into the playing field in general and the Fun Day in particular.

Hope to see you all next year.

Alison Chapman



**DREWSTEIGNTON GARDENERS' CLUB
VILLAGE SHOW
SATURDAY 17th AUGUST
Start planning now!**

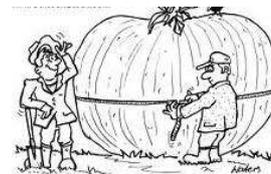
This is your SHOW come & have a go even if you have only one lettuce or flower!

Up-dated SHOW Schedule in shop from 2nd week in July

Staging 9-11am

Open to all 2.30pm

Tea/Raffle



Prize vegetables.

TEIGNTON FAYRE 2013

Teignton Fayre Committee is delighted to announce that funds are available for distribution to local groups and organisations.

Please contact Jane Hocking for an **application form** at either

email: j.hocking05@btinternet.com or

by post to: 2 Prestonbury View, Drewsteignton, EX6 6AT.

Completed applications to be returned by 31st August please.

All applications are judged against a set of agreed criteria and the committee works within clear guidance on allocating the funds available.

Thanking you again for all your efforts in helping our fundraising.

Teignton Fayre Committee.

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

For Editorial John Shiell

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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

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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 or Drewsteignton Parish Council.

**Contributions for the next edition by
1st August - Thank You**