

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



# Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 100

JULY 2014

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A very warm welcome to our latest Councillor Debi Brooks from Drewsteignton who will be responsible for the Drewsteignton ward together with Cllrs Anna Imerie & Paul Ridgers, Debi has lived in the parish with husband Alan since 1997 and is a puppy training supervisor for the Guide Dogs for the Blind. Cllr Mike Riches will now be responsible for Whiddon Down ward along with Cllrs John Dyke & Stuart Hardie.

A new waste bin has been provided by West Devon Borough Council outside the toilets at Drewsteignton at no cost to us, and the east bound bus shelter at Crockernwell has been repaired with new fascia and guttering.

The World War 1 commemorative stone design has been approved by local representatives and Finch Foundry have offered to make the gnomon ( the piece of a sundial on the top that casts the shadow ) as their competition piece on their St Clements day celebrations. This will be orientated to mark 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November each year.

Road surface damage at the A382 roundabout in Whiddon Down together with the damage to the road on the eastbound off slip from the A30 have been passed to Devon County Council. Some grass cutting has taken place in the parish but we are concerned at the poor standard of work done. It probably reflects the financial cutbacks at County level, any improvement will undoubtedly be left to the Parish Council to fund or for parishioners to look after as volunteers. We have heard that the County Council are looking at downgrading or even closing some roads in an effort to save money on maintenance, the Parish Council will, on your behalf, monitor carefully any action proposed in the Parish.

Amendments to the Listed Building and planning consent at Castle Drogo were presented to the

Council, after discussion we agreed to support the proposals.

Charities often write to us asking for donations as the NSPCC have recently done. Whilst we would like to support these requests, especially local charities, we do not think that during these times of austerity it is right to use your money to go to charity. We would offer publicity on the website or through the Parish Post.

Cllr Sue Power gave a report on a public meeting she attended regarding the future of Chagford Library and Cllr Anna Imerie reported on the Playing Field maintenance morning.

Some items of interest from the Eastern Links committee of Parish Councils are the Police report which indicates that total crime in the area has decreased by 6.5% but theft from vehicles at popular walking areas are still causing problems, the advice as always is take your valuables with you and leave nothing on display in your vehicle. Antisocial Behaviour in Drewsteignton was also reported on. A small amount of money is available from the National Park for assistance in community projects which address a clear community need and have a lasting impact. New dog control orders are to be introduced by WDDBC in October, if you are in a churchyard or car park for example you can receive an £80 fine if your dog is off the lead and also taking your dog to a sports pitch whilst sport is in play will incur the same penalty. Law dealing with dog fouling will be in force on all land in the WDDBC area which is in the open air and the public have access, so if you are down a country lane in the middle of nowhere or the top of Dartmoor and you do not clear up and **remove your dog's mess instead of "flicking with a stick"** - £80 fine.

Our next meeting is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 7.30pm at Whiddon Down

## ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 1 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 16<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> August. Please phone Sylvia on 01647 24267 or Jackie on 01647 252701. Help is provided in store and a wheel-chair service is also available. The fare is now £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 10<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. This month it will be Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August. Please do pop in for a coffee 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.

Trip to Roadford Lake - We have a trip booked for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July to visit the lake and have lunch, **we're planning on leaving Cheriton around 09.30 10.00 and arriving back mid/late afternoon. If you are** interested in coming along please ring Jean Martin on 24586 for more details.

Please check out our website [www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)

- \* Feeling Bored?
- \* **Have you skills you're not using?**
- \* Looking for a more fulfilling way to spend your time?
- \* Want to make friends with some fascinating people?
- \* Want to work at the heart of your community?
- \* Want to wake up your life?

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- \* Chances to learn new skills and use those you already have
- \* Have fun whilst helping others

**Join Acorn Community Support and make someone's day so much better.**

For more information contact Jackie on 01647 252701

## “Family Fun Day at the Playing Field

Thanks to all of you who came to support us. I hope you all had a great time. It was a lovely day and our magnificent water slide was again the star of the show. We made a much-needed £800.31 which will go towards maintaining the field and buying new equipment.

Thanks also to the many people who helped to make the day such a success, whether before, during or after the event. Special thanks go to Laurence from the Drewe Arms who contributed £209.10 towards our total by being sponsored to go down the water slide.

Hope to see you all next year. *Alison Chapman*

### DREWSTEIGNTON VILLAGE SHOW

August 16<sup>th</sup> 2.15 Village Hall  
 Schedule available in shop from 20<sup>th</sup> July  
 More classes than ever  
**Children's classes &**  
 something for everyone  
 Delicious teas & raffle  
 Any questions? Phone Bunny 432068 or  
 Carole 281185  
 Hope to see you there!!!

### Royal British Legion Drewsteignton Branch Women's Section

Buffet and Drinks  
 Saturday 2nd August 12 -2pm  
 At  
**“Undermoor”**  
 Broomhill, Chagford  
 Raffle, Bring and Buy  
 By kind invitation of Mr and Mrs M Page

## Sam's Wonder Shack.

Some of you might have noticed a small structure go up on our plot recently. Various people have commented on the speed with which it has been erected, and for this I have to thank my very hard-working husband. On top of his normal working week, he has brought this little wooden baby into the world. The reason I bring this to your attention is not to show off to the shed-envious, but because **I don't actually know what it is.**

**When I say that I don't know what it is, I'm not being thick or an amnesiac, I just mean that I am having trouble knowing how to refer to it.** The obvious thing is to call it is a shed but, to me, a shed is a place where you find secateurs, broken plastic pots and slug pellets or, on a larger scale, men channeling their mid-life crises through the invention of pointless but well intended labour saving devices whilst drinking milky tea out of a filthy mug.

**I could go for 'workshop' but there's a little problem there.** Can you see it? Yes – it has the word 'work' in it and as it is a place for relaxation, there will be no work of any kind in it, I can assure you. The next suggestion, I suppose, might be 'summerhouse' but unsurprisingly, I have a few issues with that, For me, a summerhouse conjures up

little duck-egg blue enamel buckets, lavender bags and gingham bunting and I'm not housetrained enough to appreciate all that girliness.

**I quite like 'studio', but it suggests serious artistic endeavour, and I don't think crochet really fits in to that category, to be honest. I also like 'pavilion', but this is Drewsteignton, not Chagford.**

In order to give it a name, I suppose it might be useful to define its purpose. Well, I know what I'm going to do in it. I am going to appropriate it for reading, crochet and preparing for the zombie apocalypse. **I'm going to escape up there when the oppressive crowds and noise pollution of Drewsteignton gets to me, and invent new flavours of cheese.** I am going to sip beer and invite guests so I can talk absolute, unadulterated rubbish at them. I will continue to watch the bus go down the hill and wonder, if I jumped on it and clung on for dear life, **whether I'd still be on it when I get to Netherton Corner or, dare to dream, Veet Mill?**

**As these hobbies don't really fit any of suggestions I've pondered so far, I'm hoping some of you might suggest something but until then, let's just call it Sam's Wonder Shack.**

*Sam Peirce*

## Dartmoor Arts Project Summer School Evenings, 27th July to 2nd August

A week of talks by contemporary artists & photographers plus storytelling & live music  
EVERYONE WELCOME

8pm each night £5 on the door. The Long Room, The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton  
01647 281295 [admin@dartmoorarts.com](mailto:admin@dartmoorarts.com)

Sunday 27th: Jerry Tate & Charlie Brentnall

Architect & timber specialist Jerry & Charlie share their top 8 inspiring images.

Monday 28th: Zoe Laughlin The Institute of Making, Artist's Talk

Zoe presents her latest research with a theatrical demonstration - a combination of science, art & performance.

Tuesday 29th: Contemporary Photography panel discussion

Gary Fabian-Miller and Chris Chapman join the panel along with visiting photographers.

Chaired by David Chandler

Wednesday 30th: Storytelling evening.

Stephen Park & Wilf Mertens & the summer school storytelling students perform live on stage, plus live music from singer/songwriter Nuala Honan.

Thursday 31st: Claude Heath Artist's Talk

Claude Heath has rightly been recognised as one of the most outstanding artists of his generation, bringing to his work a lively intelligence and a radical sense of experimentation.

Friday 1st: Chrystel Lebas Artist's Talk

Contemporary photographer Chrystel Lebas employs photography and the moving image, to address a wider understanding of the complex encounter between man and nature.

Saturday 2nd: Music with Explosive Nzakomba & end of summer school party.

Explosive Nzakomba's engaging music promotes their passion for soukous combined with everything else via Angola and Namibia to the UK.

## Bird Notes

With the good weather we have had during June, I have really enjoyed the sight and sounds of the swifts as they scream overhead in their groups. I am at home most during the early evenings and will try and do rough counts of them overhead. Last night (2<sup>nd</sup> July) I was mowing my lawn and when I stopped the mower to empty the grassbox, my attention was immediately grabbed by the swifts. Each time the engine was silenced, their calls dominated the evening and I counted 24 over Churchgate, the highest count so far this year. I have noticed there is a lot of very close flying to the thatch eaves and my nest boxes, which will be sub- adults and non breeding birds that are investigating nest sites for next year. It is during the good weather in June and July that we get the non breeders here when there is plenty of food available, and subsequently the highest counts.

I seem to be doing a huge amount of driving at the moment, either for work or driving my children around to clubs and sporting events which enables me to check out for swifts elsewhere. While waiting for the school bus from Okehampton at Whiddon Down last week, I spotted a swift going in to a nest on the gable end of a house and also have seen this in Moretonhampstead too. I have noticed that I achieve higher counts of swifts over Drewsteignton than Chagford and Moretonhampstead

I take great pride in the fact that the boxes up on the row at Churchgate provide nest sites for swifts now and that they may have lived in this row for hundreds of years. As I have written before, the work we are doing on ringing the juvenile swifts before the fledge and putting the tiny geolocators on adults all helps to further understand this amazing and secretive species.

The two juvenile female peregrines that flew from St. Michaels church in Exeter continue to flourish and are now learning to catch their own prey, often helped by the parent birds. They are very much still a highly visible and vocal presence over the city. Sadly the juvenile male that was rescued is still in care of the RSPCA but despite eating well, is not putting on enough weight or developing the muscles required to sustain flight.

Over the last month, I have really seen a lot of stoats on the roads around the village. These sightings are often just a brief glimpse of one running across the lane and disappearing into the hedge, but others are **more interesting. I saw three playing so vigorously, they didn't see me. It looked like a chestnut coloured quivering ball of fur with three black tipped tails.** I suspect this coincides with the amount of baby rabbits also seen in the lanes and on grassy verges. I have twice seen stoats dragging dead rabbits into the hedge.  
*Nick*

## DADS To Stage the Comedy-Thriller “A Tomb with a View”

**The Dunsford Amateur Dramatic Society's summer production this year will be Norman Robbins' comedy-thriller, “A Tomb With a View”, being performed in the Village Hall on:**

*Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 21st to 23rd August, starting at 7.30pm.*

The play centres on the weird Tomb family greedily awaiting the reading of the will of their late-departed father, Septimus Tomb.

The crotchety Tombs are desperate to hear who has benefitted from his millions, but the arrival of unknown authoress, Ermytrude Ash, and her male secretary throws them into a state of panic when they realise she is the main beneficiary. What follows are a series of twists and turns with corpses on and off-stage until the unexpected final dénouement. This play is full of quirky characters, not all of whom are who they claim to be, with wacky events and even wackier outcomes.

*Tickets, price £6, are available from the Dunsford Post Office or call 01647 252024.*

## Drewsteignton and Chagford Cubs

Drewsteignton and Chagford cubs went to the district camp last weekend. The theme was Robin Hood. We did lots of fun activities and we were given groats when we did well. We did a song round the campfire, identified the most birds and Freddie came second in the archery. At the end our pack were the pack that had the most groats and we won the district shield. It was the first time our cub pack had won for 24 years! We were all jumping around and hugging each other. It was a brilliant weekend, although we missed the family fun day.

*Flo, Freddie and Henry Hassell*

## Hockey

**This month I've decided to write about the 'Devon Games to Inspire'!**

I had a trial recently for West Devon hockey which meant, if I got in, I would play against teams from various other parts of Devon and Cornwall. And I successfully got in one of the 2 teams West Devon were taking for girls under 14s hockey. So for 4 weeks I came out in the beautiful weather and played a winter sport, let me tell you now we got seriously hot and exhausted. But personally I feel sorry for the goal keeper, I mean, imagine wearing all that padded kit in the blistering hot sun!

Anyway on the fourth week Dad took me into Exeter University at 8:30, where we would be playing in the tournament. The rest of the team turned up pretty quickly and we all piled into a massive sports hall and waited for about 45 minutes until 8 different regional teams from Devon and Cornwall were seated and ready. Whilst we were waiting we were given streamers and England tattoos so the vibe in the room was quite **jolly considering it was only about 9 o'clock in the morning on a Saturday. By the end of the 'opening' ceremony we had danced, fully woken up and seen an England hockey player. By now we were all desperate to actually do something!**

Our matches were about 20 minutes long which again left us all red faced and hot. However we did have rolling substitutes. We narrowly lost our first 2 matches even though we had had the most possession **and had dominated the game. We just couldn't score! (which is a bit embarrassing as I was a striker!)**

However in our 3<sup>rd</sup> match we were playing West Devon team 2 which was a bit weird as they were our teammates in a way! We won that match 3-0 and I finally scored. The next few matches we played, we again lost very narrowly but we all played well and had a lot of fun and ate a lot of sweets for energy. But in our final match we drew, so that was good.

We played some games on a water pitch. These are artificial grass pitches which get sprayed by water cannons to make the pitch faster. After it has been watered, you could slide your hockey stick along the **ground and flick 'water' at people. The reason I say 'water' is that its re-used so there will probably be sweat and blood all mixed in. We hoped it got cleaned before it can be re-used again. But it was still fun all the same and made a nice change from sand based Astros which rip the skin off your knees if you're unlucky enough to fall over.**

In the end our team came either 2<sup>nd</sup> last or 3<sup>rd</sup> last but it was good fun and there were lots of activities **to try out whilst we weren't playing. Also I got a medal for 'good sportsmanship' which was great but I think they might have got me mixed up with someone else!**

Tilly



## World War I remembered... can you help?

I am putting together an exhibition in Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the start of WWI in the run up to the Remembrance Day Service on *9th November*.

If you have any photographs, stories or items relating to WWI (and other conflicts) I would love to hear from you...

If you have a war poem that means a lot to you please nominate it for inclusion in the exhibition...

If you have any ideas of anything else about what could be put on / included...

Ideas so far: a wine & cheese evening to launch the event, a related film night, tea & tales afternoon, Vera Lynn style sing-a-long...

Also, if you would like to be involved in helping to make this happen I would be delighted to have you 'on the team'!

Jennifer Mullins 01647 281657 pmjmrmdm@aol.com

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Drop in:

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Thursdays 9 am-1pm Tavistock Library

Fridays 1pm-4pm Tavistock Library

Freephone 0330 660 0357

Email [volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk)

Volunteer Centre West Devon is a service provided by West Devon Community and Voluntary Services

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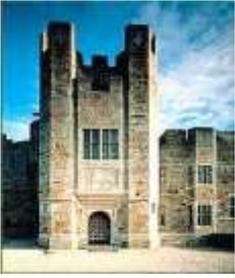
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## Teignton Fayre



There will be a full report on Teignton Fayre in next months edition of the Parish Post.

## News from the Castle



Hello again everyone

The latest building project news is that, at the moment, everything is still ticking along nicely. All of the windows in the east window have now been refitted. There is a bit more work to do on pointing and sealing around this window but, when that is finished, the plywood will start to be removed from the inside. Hurrah! Stonework has also started to be reinstated with the external granite skin being put back on the east side of the castle. This is the start of a long process of rebuilding and will start to increase next month as the waterproofing progresses and the walls on the south wing go up. The new

anti vortex roof outlets have started to be fitted too. This will mean the water from the roof will go down the rainwater pipes more quickly-helping us cope with the severe Dartmoor downpours. It is so nice to be able to talk about putting things back together!

Meanwhile, we are getting ready for the summer holidays. We have lots of events and activities planned including art and crafts and a trail round the garden. We will also be celebrating National Play Day between 2 and 4 on Wednesday 6 August. This is a completely free fun-filled afternoon on Piddledown Common. Everyone is welcome. Please pop along and take part in some of the games we have planned. And finally, tickets will soon be on sale for 4 evening performances by Get Changed Theatre Company. They will be on-site at Drogo on the 4, 5, 6 and 7 September. Please go to the Get Changed website for more info [www.getchanged.com](http://www.getchanged.com).

Best wishes and see you soon,

Paula Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo  
01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### Stone Lane Music Fest

Sunday 6th July, Stone Lane Music Fest (12 till 5pm)

Featuring The Blue Pineapple Club, Hot Club Du Square, Georgia Bonfield, Tiddlers, Tansy and Charlie Jazz Duo.

Music for a Summer's afternoon with a mixture of Gypsy Jazz, Swing, Latin, Blues, Soulful Ballads from the 20s and 30s onwards and Traditional folk.

Young singer/songwriter Georgia Bonfield will be performing songs from the 50s.

Local Musicians will be playing this charity gig at the Barn, Stone Lane Gardens, providing a relaxing afternoon of musical entertainment in the lovely setting of Stone Farm, with music drifting over the trees to Stone Lane Gardens.

£5.00 per person\* includes free entry to visit the gardens

**\*Students/children £2.50. (under 5's free).**

Beverages & cakes and a small selection of savouries available to buy. Bar drinks (by donation.)

Feel free to bring your own sandwiches-

Contact: Tansy Rice [tansy.ricecaley@googlemail.com](mailto:tansy.ricecaley@googlemail.com) Paul Bartlett [paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com](mailto:paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com)

### ACE Archaeology Club

Are you interested in archaeology and want to do something more than sit on the sofa watching re-runs of Time Team?

**Do you want to work on a local 'dig'?**

Try experimental archaeology?

Learn more about the history of Devon?

Then come and join us. We are a small but active group working mostly in Mid/North Devon but also sometimes on Dartmoor.

We meet the first Saturday in the month and do various activities. For example over the past few

months we had sessions on flint knapping, taking part in an Oxford University based hill forts project, some dowsing and working towards our part in the **Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology** in July.

At the end of August we will be running a two week **'dig' on a possible medieval site near Winkleigh**, for the second year.

You do not need any experience of anything archaeological just enthusiasm and interest. Of course if you do have experience that would be great too. For more information have a look at our website [www.acearch.org.uk](http://www.acearch.org.uk)

## COMMUNITY CARE MANAGER

Acorn Community Support are looking for a Community Care Manager to work within the area covered by the Cheriton Bishop & Teign Valley GP Practice. This is a part-time post based on up to 20 hour week working either fixed or flexible hours. We are looking for a caring person who is a good communicator and who has experience dealing with elderly and frail people. Experience in working with clients with dementia and/or some medical knowledge would also be an advantage.

Applicants should have use of their own car and have modest IT skills including ability to email and type up documents in Word. Duties include working closely with the GP practice team and our Office manager who is based at Christow surgery, visiting referred clients to assess their needs, working with the Trustees to plan new initiatives to expand our overall community wellbeing services and helping with medical appointments transport.

For a more detailed job description and/or an application form please email our Chairman at [johnbarker3@btconnect.com](mailto:johnbarker3@btconnect.com) or telephone 01647 252622 no later than 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014

### Whiddon Down Methodist Church

#### Harvest Festival Services

Sunday 21st September at 6.30pm

Monday 22nd September at 7.15pm

followed by sale of produce.

### Thank You

Thank you to all of the people who have bought home made cards, poems and rhubarb from outside our House. Me, Felicity and Henry raised £64 for cancer research! Thank you! *Flo Hassell*

## 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 July - Thank You