

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 135

JULY 2017

CAN YOU HELP? Were you, or do you know anyone, who was involved in the Drewsteignton Youth Club. It appears there is a dormant bank account with around a thousand pounds in it which cannot be accessed. The date of the last statement was 2013 and the bank will not release this money to the Council. It was probably money raised by the hard work of those involved and it could be put to use for the benefit of our younger parishioners. If you can help, please contact the clerk or any councillor. Thank you.

On the subject of the clerk, we are pleased to tell you we have appointed Lucy Bruckner to take up the reins from Bella Snook. If you recognise her name you may have been a customer, as she and her husband used to operate Animal Crackers at Moretonhampstead. Just for the moment if you need to contact the clerk please use Bella's contact number as she is taking Lucy through a hand-over. We will update new details in a later Parish Post. We were impressed by the quality of the other applicants and hope one may be encouraged to join us as a councillor as she lives in the parish and has youth on her side!!

Remedial work on the public toilets in Drewsteignton have, at last, been completed.

The replacement finger posts have been purchased and we are waiting for our lengthsmen to start replacing those which have rotted and fallen over, work which is no longer undertaken by Devon County Council.

We considered two planning applications both in the National Park 0271/17 is at Castle Drogo and concerns an alteration in the route of cabling from the turbines on the river up to the castle. We resolved to take a neutral view, 0256/17, is a conversion of the existing garage at Netherton Barton to an annex and to add an extension to create a new garage. We resolved to support the application.

We received the Playing Field accounts which indicate a healthy position and we are very grateful to Alison Chapman and her team of volunteers for undertaking the running of the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council.

From the Annual Parish meeting, the report from Chagford school head teacher Liz Wiseman, stated that the strategic direction of the school and its forthcoming replacement building were the key areas of focus and continuing collaboration with Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. The early years are showing good progress academically and socially, and, overall, more children are achieving age-related expectations. The building work is due to start this summer and completion expected in the summer 2018. She also thanked the staff, parents, PTFA, Governors and the community who all help to support the school and pupils.

Our next meeting is at **Whiddon Down on Monday 17th July at 7.30pm**

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Drewsteignton Annual Show

Saturday 19th August 2:00 to 4:00

All residents of Drewsteignton Parish are encouraged to enter

This is YOUR Village Show so start planning your FREE entries NOW!!!

CHILDREN may enter any of the Classes and win a cash prize.

Flowers, vegetables, cakes, crafts, photos and MORE, even a class for a Scarecrow!!

Lots of classes with something for everyone.

Schedules and Entry Forms available in the shop from 21st July

Will it be YOU who grows the Longest Runner Bean???



Stone Lane Gardens

What's on at the Barn Gallery, Stone Lane Gardens.

This is in addition to our Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition at the gardens, which is open until the end of October.

July

Sculptures by Zimbabwean artist Thomas Ndhlebe.

With more than 40 years experience in stone sculpting, Story behind the Stone artist Thomas Ndhlebe is well versed in abstract, cultural and figurative pieces. He also runs workshops on a national level, sharing with and teaching his skills to those that share the passion of stone sculpting.

August

Paintings, prints and photographs by Graham & Sara Gilbert.

Graham's work – "Colourful and often impressionistic and painterly photographs, sometimes quirky, of the natural world."

Sara's work – "Contemporary landscapes from Dartmoor to the coast. Dynamic paintings and mono-prints"

September

Reliefs and drawings by Celia Dickson

Celia has used many mediums over the last 25 years of being a professionally trained artist in London. Having moved to the west country a decade ago, she now hand carves wooden relief wall hangings and produces prints of her drawings and paintings, generally inspired by the effects of mystical transpersonal experiences through extensive solo travel and years of spiritual practice and contemplation meditation. Currently she is exploring the use of Mandalas in her work.

Many thanks.

Paul Bartlett

Garden Manager

Drewsteignton Playing Field

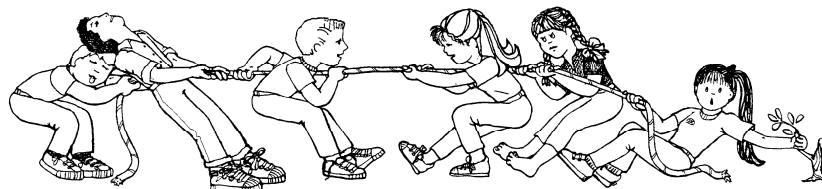
Family Fun Day Saturday 15th July 3-7pm

Tea and cakes will be served from 3pm with the BBQ starting at 4.30pm.
We will, again, have our fantastic giant water slide, games, and a tug of war.

Refreshments will be available.

Sorry, no dogs are allowed anywhere in the Playing Field.

Hope to see loads of you there.



Waste Vegetable Oil

Is there is anyone in the parish who runs their vehicles on recycled waste oil?

I have a quantity of waste vegetable oil which I no longer need.

Free of charge, but please come and collect.

John telephone:- 01647 281282

Teignton Fayre Round Up '17

The committee thanks everyone who contributed to this year's successful Fayre. As was the committee's wish it was an event that brought the community together as well as raising funds for worthy causes. Together with the Duck Race, funds raised from this year's events mean that we have over £2,500 for good causes. Recipients of funds all contributed to the Fayre by running stalls and other activities. Building on the success of this year's Fayre we would like to see more worthy organisations joining us to bring variety, extravagance, excitement, entertainment – there is no such thing as 'over the top' or 'too much'!! Off the top of our heads, some silly ideas:

- Welly Wanging
- Chicken chucking
- Limbo
- Apple Bobbing (in shark infested custard?)
- Face Painting
- Dangling Doughnuts
- Giant Jenga

(We hope that your imagination is better than ours and you can come up with some really wacky, off the wall entertainment for us!)

Thanks one and all for all you have done to help and support the Fayre.

Fingle Woods

Did you, or any of your family, work for Dartington Woodlands Ltd., Dr Marian's Charcoal Co., Gales, or Fountains Forestry in Fingle Woods, Steward Nursery, or the Court St. Saw Mills at Moretonhampstead? Perhaps they made or delivered Hooper's Mootels? Did any of your family live in Dartington Cottages at Clifford, Hill Farm, Steward or Willingstone? Were you one of the 'lumber Jills' who worked in the woods as part of the Women's Land Army in the war?

If so Bill Hardiman, Moretonhampstead History Society Chairman, would like to hear from you for their research into Fingle Woodlands for an exhibition from September 16th to October 28th at Green Hill Arts and Heritage Centre, (old Primary School Moretonhampstead), that will feature local people who lived and worked there.

Events at Okehampton Library

Saturday 15 July – Saturday 9 September - Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge

A brilliant challenge for children to read six books over the summer holidays - Free activity

Wednesday 2 August 14:00-16:00

Animal Agents - Really Wild Learning

Animal encounter & activity. Suitable for children aged 4+ and their carers
£3 per child – book in advance at Okehampton Library

Tuesday 8 August 14:00-15:00

Code Breakers

Calling all undercover agents! Free - suitable for children aged 7+

Wednesday 16 August 14:00-15:30

For Cats' Eyes Only

Oliver Tooley will be talking about his new book and making secret agent I. D. cards.
Suitable for children aged 6-10. £2 per child – book in advance at Okehampton Library

Monday 21 August 10:30-11:30

Fascinating Fingerprints Top Secret - for your eyes only. Free - suitable for children aged 4+

Tuesday 29 August – Saturday 2 September

Dodgy Disguises Create your own design kit

Suitable for children aged ages 4+. Free - during library opening hours

Children under 8 must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

**Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, Okehampton EX20 1AR 01837 52805 okehamp-
ton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk**

West Devon Borough Council

Ever wondered what your council tax gets spent on? West Devon Borough Council has released its annual report and has listed some of the things on which it spent money last year.

Along with collecting 1.9 m domestic waste collections, West Devon Borough Council has processed 900 planning applications, investigated 130 abandoned vehicles, prevented 174 potential cases of homelessness and collected 450 fly tips. But this is just a snap shot of the services that your council provided, from Environmental Health inspections on food premises, so you don't get ill when you eat out, to inspecting play parks so your children are safe and providing community grants and disabled facilities grants.

Of the money that West Devon Borough Council collects from you in Council Tax only 12% of it goes towards paying for services provided by the Borough Council. The rest goes to Devon County Council, the police and emergency services and your Town or Parish Council.

This year West Devon's net budget is approximately £7.4 m, that is £1.2 million less than the council had to spend on the same services a few years ago.

Cllr. Phil Sanders comments on the challenges ahead: "In a way we have been our own worst enemy by managing our finances effectively and continuing to deliver your services despite continued cuts to our funding. We have reduced our workforce, brought in new computer technology, put more services online, so we need less people to process our customer's requirements, and we are continually trying to be more efficient. This comes across well in this annual report. Not only have we managed to make £2.2 m worth of saving annually, which will keep us financially afloat up until 2020, but we have done this while improving our performance."

In the last year the Borough Council has reduced the number of days it takes to process benefit claims from 39 days to 16, determined 96% of minor planning applications on time and along with South Hams District Council was given IESE's Council of the year award.

Cllr. Sanders continues: "Despite a good year, the financial challenges we face have not gone away. We know that our revenue support grant. (money given to us by government to help fund services), will go completely by 2018, which means we are once again looking at how we can do things differently so that the statutory services we provide do not suffer. Unfortunately, this has meant that we have had to make tough decisions like charging for garden waste which was a non-statutory service we provided free of charge and was not covered by your council tax. We simply could not afford to pay for it anymore, so rather than losing it we have given those people who would still like the service the option to pay for it."

Looking at the next 12 months the reports sets out some of the council's key projects. They include, £36,000 Village Hall capital grant available, continue to make progress on the Joint Local plan, to support community led energy conservation projects, and provide £1/4 of a million towards the delivery of housing.

The full report can be found here www.westdevon.gov.uk. **Annual report.**

Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton.

Very many thanks to everyone who came along and supported the 'Cream Tea' at Hillside House on 24th June.

Through your generosity we raised £542.10 for ShelterBox, sufficient to provide a tent and some basic survival equipment for a family made homeless by natural disaster.

Thanks also to those who lent tents for the occasion, to those who helped erect and dismantle them and to the carriers of chairs and tables to and fro from the church.





100 Club

Thank you for your support which is a great help to ensure our scheme can continue to offer as many people as possible the services they require. Last year we raised £570 for our funds. You may receive a written or telephone reminder when it is time for you to renew.

Congratulations to the winners of our recent draws – thank you for your support. You can join the 100 Club at any time during the year, just send a cheque, payable to ODCTG for £12 to us at the address below or you can pay by BACS or Standing Order NatWest Okehampton Sort Code 54-21-14 Account No. 22127879 ODCTG

Drivers

We are always looking for volunteer drivers and at the moment would particularly like to find someone from the Chagford and North Tawton areas. Please ring us for more information.

Thank You

We would like to say a big **thank you** to our kind and generous clients who have recently provided us with many items to sell on behalf of our funds. This makes a huge difference to our small charity and is much appreciated by us all.

Community Services

Are you wondering about what services may be available to you in your area, if so go to:

<https://services.pinpoint.devon.co.uk> where you can search in different categories to find what you are looking for.

Devon Insight

Are you living with sight loss or supporting someone who is? Do you need information and advice or someone to talk to? For anyone affected, contact our Community Support Service for West Devon on 07718 651 628 or come along to the Macular Society Support Group held at the Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton 10am – 12 noon 2nd Friday of every month.

Onesmallstep to a healthier you

Want to make a change? Live in Devon? We can provide free support to help you quit smoking, cut down on alcohol, maintain a healthy weight and move more.

www.onesmallstep.org.uk 0800 298 2654 Freephone or local number 01392 908139

hello@onesmallstep.org.uk also find us on Facebook One Small Step and Twitter @stephealthy.

Force@Okehampton – Wednesdays 10am – 4pm Castleham Lodge

Force Cancer Support Service is available in Okehampton every Wednesday providing support closer to home. It is available to anyone at any stage of a cancer diagnosis, and their relatives or friends. You don't need a referral which means you can simply call in and find out more about us. All our services are funded by the charity FORCE, so there is no charge to you. A cancer diagnosis may mean having to deal with a lot of questions, worries and uncertainty. Advice and support is available through our support services team in Okehampton. Written information and booklets on specific cancer treatment or self-help guides are available. Signposting to other services such as benefits advice or help for carers is also available. Counselling is available in Okehampton but sessions need to be booked in advance. FORCE Oncology Support Specialists are trained counsellors who as well as offering support, can also give more time and in-depth help in the form of counselling. Counselling offers a safe place where you can speak about feelings that may worry or frighten you. It gives time and privacy to talk about how cancer has affected your life. To enquire about this service please phone 01392 406151.

All of our complementary therapies are delivered by qualified therapists, some of whom are volunteers. All our therapies work alongside any medical treatment to help promote relaxation and improve emotional and physical wellbeing. All therapies need to be booked in advance by contacting Carol on 01392 402086. www.forcecancercharity.co.uk forcefr@forcecancercharity.co.uk

**Sue & Liz, ODCTG, Unit 3, Okehampton Business Park, Higher Stockley Mead,
Okehampton, Devon EX20 1FJ 01837 55000**

sue.odctg@btinternet.com www.odctg.co.uk

Out of hours emergency mobile no. 074845525577

Bird Notes

I think this has been a really good summer for swifts, and over the last month I have been delighted with the numbers seen flying over Churchgate, and the village in general. The fairly consistent and warm weather has boosted numbers by keeping the non-breeding swifts here as there has been a good food supply. I have watched many of these sub-adult swifts flying around in screaming parties and actively looking for nest sites for next year. This involves investigating potential cavities under the eaves, and where nest boxes are installed, attempting to enter them to see if they are occupied. If the box, or nest is occupied, the resident swift will scream at the intruder to establish its occupancy.

A few years ago, I put up a nest box for house sparrows under my eaves, as I was fed up with the sparrows attempting to nest in the swift boxes after I opened them up in May for the swifts. This box was a 'terrace style' box favoured by sparrows with three nest cavities with entrances at either end and one in the middle of the front face. Last year, in mid-July, I noticed prospecting swifts attempting to enter the middle hole of the sparrow box to investigate its suitability as a potential nest. The resident sparrow was not happy at all to find a swift in its nest and I took some photos of the swift peeping out of the sparrow nest entrance. Swifts need a wide opening and a shallow box whereas these sparrow boxes have a circular hole toward the top of the box. I should have replaced the sparrow box with a swift box during the winter as I have seen identical behaviour over the last two weeks. I have now ordered two more swift boxes and will erect them to provide more nest sites for next year. I would have taken down the sparrow box in the last week but there is a small colony of bees in one end, so I am reluctant to move it until the winter months.

Nest boxes for swifts were put up on a property on Knowle lane which has proven very successful, with swifts investigating and entering both boxes within a fortnight of being erected. This is amazingly quick and may be due to the owner playing a cd of swift calls out of the nearest window, or may be due to the house having had nesting swifts in the past, and the hole being blocked during repair works. This bodes really well for next year and also indicates we have swifts reaching breeding age and actively looking for potential breeding sites. Over the next week, Malcolm will come and ring the swifts in the nest boxes at Churchgate and at Hillmorhayes, and it will be interesting to see how many we have this year. I can hear the high pitched trill of the baby swifts in the nest boxes under my eaves and in Hillmorhayes as I walk past. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the swifts over the village as, by this time next month, they will have gone and be back on their journey to over-winter in southern Africa.

It appears to be a good year for the peregrine sites I monitor each year, with breeding at all of them although the number of fledged young per site is not particularly high. The pair on St. Michaels and All Angels church in Exeter had two females which fledged on the 14th and 20th of June. The early one did require a brief rescue as it fledged early and was found on the ground the following morning. It was gently captured and put on a house roof opposite the church. After about three minutes, it flew across the valley and spent a few hours sitting on a chimney pot at the bottom end of Bartholemew cemetery before returning to the church. The pair of juveniles are now both very visible and vocal around Mount Dinham and have been joining in with the adult falcon's attacks on passing buzzards. The other interesting factor about the peregrines I monitor is the timing of fledging. I have one site in a small derelict quarry to the north of the A30 where the two young will not be fledging until mid-July. Normal fledging time in Devon is around early to mid-June and this site is usually very productive with three or four young each year, so it is likely the first clutch of eggs failed or was predated early into the incubation period, or there has been a change of one of the adult pair early into the breeding season.

I have been seeing bullfinches everywhere around the village recently, which is always a delight, and I have a feeling I have written this before around this time of year. I always see them as I am driving on the lanes from the village to Sandy park, on the Crockernwell road and out past the quarry. It is a fleeting glimpse of a pair, or occasionally three flying ahead and into the hedges, and it is always the white rump and wings bars that indicates a bullfinch. Both sexes have the white rump but it is the male that has the bright pink/red neck, breast and belly compared with the rather drab brown/grey underparts.

Nick

News from the Castle



Hi everyone

Work on the final phase of building work is just flying along! Some of the granite is already starting to come down to storage and our first window is due for removal within the next week. Just in case one project wasn't enough, work to reinstate the turbine house back to working order is starting to pick up pace too. The original turbines have been removed for refurbishment before being fitted back in and we are getting ready for the cable route to go in. Please let me know if you would like to get the newsletter

about this project.

I'm sure some of you are wondering where the car park machines are which were due to be in place by the end of June. Due to unavoidable delays being experienced by the central delivery and installation teams, our new car parking payment machines have been delayed. The revised installation date we've been assigned is now the 24th of July so watch this space.

We have had a really busy month of events and community activities too with an even busier one coming up. Talks, school visits, classroom sessions, theatre and orienteering groups – phew! The event I am most looking forward to is Boxtree productions bringing **'Wind in the Willows'** on Thursday 10 August, 5-8pm. Picnics are available to pre-book from the Castle Drogo café and tickets are available from the Plough box office on 01805 624624. Prices: £13 (£11 Conc, £9 Plough Supporters + families with children under 18yrs). Take care everyone and see you soon.

Paula

Community Engagement Officer,

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

Recipe Corner

Berry Sundaes

Ingredients:

- * 300g (10oz) blueberries and raspberries mixed
- * 1 tbsp caster sugar
- * 1tbsp Cassis or raspberry liqueur (or water)
- * 4 tbsp good lemon curd
- * 200ml pot crème fraiche
- * 4 small straight tumblers



Method:

1. Put half the fruit in a small pan with the sugar and liqueur (or water).
2. Heat gently, stirring until the juices start to run.
3. Take off the heat, pour into a bowl, add the rest of the fruit and leave to cool.
4. Stir the lemon curd roughly into the creme fraiche and divide half the mixture between the glasses.
5. Spoon just over half the fruit mixture on top.
6. Spoon the rest of the lemon curd mixture on then the last of the fruit. Serve straightaway.

Tip: Use a mix of fresh or frozen summer fruits and add a scoop of vanilla ice cream to each glass, if you like.

Calories per serving: 290

Not suitable for freezing





Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month. 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 12th & 26th July. 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 July 13th & 27th. 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 July 11th & 25th.

Acorn AGM: Cheriton Bishop Village Hall- July 18th starting at 6.30pm. All welcome.

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, 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 or any other Acorn service, please telephone the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Acorn Office Telephone number 01647 252701 for further information.

Visit our website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

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 August - Thank You