

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO.74

MARCH 2012

FEBRUARY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council received an update from the Police about what they are doing regarding speeding vehicles in Whiddon Down and Crockernwell – they are going to undertake a survey the same as they did in April 2010 when it was established over 200 vehicles a day were exceeding the speed limit in Crockernwell and to date there has been little or no enforcement action. The Council resolved to invite the Police to commence some form of enforcement rather than repeat an exercise already undertaken.

The honesty boxes in the car park and at the toilets in Drewsteignton should be in place shortly thanks to Dartmoor National Park (DNP).

With the near completion of the closure of Turnpike Road at Whiddon Down, councillors have agreed it is a good time to approach the Highways & Traffic Orders Committee at Devon County Council for them to revisit their decision to install a pedestrian refuge at the bus stops.

This was highlighted in the Parish Plan as being a benefit to all especially the school children in the winter. Money had already been allocated for this project but then withdrawn.

The Council are unaware of any further complaints about unofficial road signs in the parish so resolved to take no further action regarding this subject.

Problems involving parking on the grass verge at Turnpike Close Whiddon Down are ongoing and will hopefully be resolved once ownership of the land is confirmed.

The Council are working with Mr Tony Thomas and Mr & Mrs Maynard to progress the parking

issues at Drewsteignton Post Office.

The Council have received little response from West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) regarding a request on their planning policy on solar panels so have asked that appropriate enforcement action is taken over what appears to be a breach of planning regulations at Whiddon Down. As has been reported in the past when the Parish Council are asked for their views on a planning application we either support, object or make no comment, DNP have now changed their paper work which led the Parish Council to have a **“neutral view” rather than a no comment on applications** at West Netherpton, Drewsteignton, Trundle, Furlong, Chagford & Mill Farm Whiddon Down.

The car park at Drewsteignton is not a place where untaxed vehicles can be stored lawfully, it is the responsibility of WDBC to remove any apparently abandoned vehicles reported to them. They follow a lawful procedure which includes placing a notice of removal on the vehicle for at **least seven days before it's removal.**

Hopefully Cllr Mudge will have had a good turnout at the working party on Saturday 3rd March and improvements will have been made to the hedges and walls. Staying in the car park, we are aware of the state of the trees which is monitored, at the moment it is not our intention to replace any dead trees and to prevent any further damage to the existing ones.

Our next meeting is at Whiddon Down on Monday 19th March at 7.30pm.

Youth Club

7-9pm, Friday 9th & 23rd March

Drewsteignton Village Hall

All of secondary school age welcome

Email: wesleycutler@hotmail.com

Parish Profile.....

The Parish Profile has been an occasional feature of the Parish Post for some time now. This month it is the turn of our local Parish Councillors, starting with the chairman.



WILLIAM SAVAGE - CHAIRMAN — CROCKERNWELL

Bill joined the Parish Council in 2004 and has been Vice Chairman and Chairman. He is ward councillor for Crockernwell. He represents Drewsteignton parish on the West Devon Eastern Links Committee of Parish Councils and is

also one of two councillors on the playing fields committee.

Having completed 32 years in the Devon & Cornwall Police in May 2001, he retired and together with his wife Caroline, started a garden maintenance business. He has lived in the

area since the early 1990s but policed the parish in 1971.

Bill was instrumental in achieving the 30mph speed limit in Crockernwell and constantly seeking to achieve other road safety measures in the parish. A keen supporter of the countryside and country pursuits, he is anxious to preserve the historical aspects of the Council but also embrace modern methods and technology **to enhance the future of the Parish and it's children.**

He has served on the Chagford Show Committee for many years and, together with his wife, is an active volunteer for Devon Air Ambulance.

Hobbies include motorcycle sport of any description, walking his dog and gardening.



Support Medical Detection Dogs by fundraising or giving talks.

Join Leonard Cheshire's campaign to improve disability rights

Help a hero with SSAFA
Be a caseworker

For these and many more opportunities

Drop in Tuesdays and Wednesdays
10am-2pm 13 East St. Okehampton
Thursdays and Fridays

10am-2pm Kingdon House, Tavistock
Freephone 0330 660 0357

Email: volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk
We look forward to hearing from you!

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

Supported by Devon County Council, NHS Devon and West Devon Borough Council

Registered Office: 13 East Street, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1AS

Whiddon Down Methodist Church

Invites you to a Sacred Concert given by
The Torbay Gospels Male Voice choir on
Friday 6th April at 7.15pm.
Followed by tea and biscuits.
Easter Sunday Service at 6.30pm led by
Rev. David Easton

Whist Drive at Whiddon Down

The March Whist Drive at Whiddon Down
will be held in the village hall on
Saturday 31st March at 8.00 pm.
There will be a special Easter Turkey Meal as
the main raffle prize.
Further information: Peggy Reed 01647

Keep Looking, Keep Listening But Watch Where You Tread.

I really enjoy it when people make a point of telling me about interesting birds they have seen, especially around the village or in the Parish. Not only does this extend the enjoyment of the observer but it can also provide useful information to me. I pass on many records of interesting birds to the county recorder, which all helps build a picture of how different populations of birds are faring.

I would like to appeal to anyone who is regularly seeing kestrels in the Parish to let me know, especially if they happen to see a pair of birds. Kestrels are medium sized falcons, and occasionally to be seen hovering, head into the wind alongside dual carriageways, as they scan the rough grassland verges for small mammals. Kestrels used to be a common farmland bird but are now in decline across the UK. I have the odd sighting locally, mainly by the A30 flyover at Whiddon Down, occasionally around Drewsteignton and on the top of Church Hill.

Although I write these articles mainly on birds, I am not a great bird watcher. I envy those who can hear a plaintive call from a hedgerow and confidently confirm it is a lesser whitethroat or some other warbler. I am quite good at identifying some birds and I know the calls of a few others but I still struggle to learn the less familiar calls, especially our summer visitors and mainly the warblers.

These are a group of small, brown, shy and normally elusive birds that summer here, having migrated back up from Africa. The first to arrive is the Chiffchaff, which for me heralds that arrival of Spring. This is the one migrant that I can **identify by call as its song is a high pitched and repeated rendition of its name “Chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff”**. Last year, I first heard them calling on the 13th of March, so we may be hearing this in woodland and from hedgerows by the time this Parish Post is out.



Chiffchaff

In regard to noticing birds and their calls, and spotting tracks and field signs of animals, I have to mention one fairly unpleasant one which has again become very visible around the village again. There has been a recent increase in the amount of dog mess in the Church yard, Church gate and the top of Froggy lane and down Knowle lane to the playing fields. I mention these areas as this is where I live and notice most, but I am told there are other areas in the village where this is occurring.

Dog mess is really unpleasant and having to clear up other peoples from right outside my house annoys me, and I seem to be clearing quite a lot at the moment. It is particularly unpleasant for those with young children, who tend not to notice it until too late. Not only is it disgusting but it can be hazardous, leading to partial or total loss of sight in young children, if the faeces contain Toxocariasis, a bug that can live in the digestive system of dogs that are not regularly wormed. I do not see dogs roaming on their own over this side of the village so I can only presume some dog owners are avoiding their responsibilities and **choosing to ignore what their pets are doing outside other people's houses.**

I am aware there are many dogs and responsible dog owners in the village, and many visitors who come with dogs, but please can ALL dog owners take note of the many signs around the village, and clear up **what their pets may leave, especially if in the public areas or outside resident's houses.**

Nick Dixon 01647 281681

Bible Book Club

8pm, Thursday 29th March, Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton.

I have always wanted to read the entire bible but have never quite managed, so I've had the idea for a Bible Book Club. On the lines of other book clubs we will have a 'choosing' meeting (8pm, Thursday 29th March) to decide the books and dates (venue: Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton). And, over the coming months we can get together to discuss the different aspects of each book; style, content, favourite passages, parts we struggle with, meanings etc. And, in the great tradition of book clubs everywhere, drinks and nibbles will be provided. I am hoping for a broad range of readers from bible novices to aficionados to make for stimulating debate - ALL WELCOME, please do come along, I look forward to seeing you there. *Jennifer Mullins 01647 281657*

Crockernwell People

George Gillard.

In the entry on Crockernwell the Domesday Book makes reference to "Boga's Brok" which later became "Budbrooke Farm". It was to this ancient settlement that a very young George Gillard came with his parents in 1939, making him one of the longest staying residents of the village alongside his mother, who will reach the grand age of 99 this year.

George can remember when Crockernwell boasted two shops, two places to get petrol, a taylor, a wheelwright and a very useful hardware store, but, no school, so he had to go by bus, initially to Drewsteignton Primary and then on to Chagford school, with the prospect of a very long walk if he missed the bus!

Crockernwell had numerous footpaths to be explored but gradually they disappeared, those along the main road being absorbed into the road widening that started in the War as American convoys passed through, some stopping to the delight of those who received gum and coffee from the generous G.I.s. In 1968 George married Norma from Cheriton Bishop, but, even as their family grew, he continued to serve the community alongside his farm work. He has been a Church sides man for much of his life, initially at the old Crockernwell Church, now Trinity Cottage, then at Cheriton Bishop and now at Drewsteignton. As a Special Constable he was called on to assist the police patrolling the moor at night when prisoners escaped, and directing the ever increasing traffic towards Whiddon roundabout. As a young man he joined the Young Farmers becoming a leading light in the organisation, and also served as a Parish Councillor for 16 years.

As he became older, and his health deteriorated, George reduced his acreage from 88 to 10 enabling the redevelopment of the old yard as "Budbrooke". Inside some of the new houses, however, are incorporated parts of the old buildings, including the ancient threshing barn saved for posterity.

Now George still keeps sheep where they have roamed for over a thousand years and where he and Norma can continue to enjoy the beautiful hills of Devon.

Mary Graham

Devon Charity Launches New Oil Buying Scheme To Save You Money.

Home owners, who rely on oil delivered to their properties for heating, will benefit from a new initiative by The Devon Oil Collective, modelled on a similar scheme in Oxfordshire, it works on the principle that households can reduce their annual spend on heating oil by collectively buying oil in bulk.

Based on Oxfordshire's experience, Devon authorities are predicting typical savings of around £30 to £50 per 1000 litres of heating oil, and as many homes use around 2,000 litres per year, that equates to annual savings of up to £100 per household.

The Community Council of Devon has launched the scheme with financial support from Devon County Council. "Through negotiation with heating oil suppliers, we will be able to pass on reduced rates to participating households and business premises." said Elaine Cook, Chief Executive of the Community Council of Devon. "The savings are made on the strength of the orders. The more oil orders we take on behalf of households, the more negotiating strength we have with suppliers and the better the rates.

We act like a broker. We negotiate the rate and make the orders on people's behalf. Oil is delivered to people's properties within two weeks of the order and they pay the supplier direct.

We and Devon County Council are working to tackle the issues of fuel poverty, and we are working with organisations across the country to do so. By organising orders and deliveries, suppliers can cut down on their delivery journeys too, which is better for the environment."

The Community Council of Devon is looking for local volunteers to help them co-ordinate the scheme, and is waiving the annual membership fee for joining. Householders will be charged £24 to join; community organisations £36; and business/statutory **organisations charged £120 to become members.**

To find out more about the scheme contact the Community Council for Devon on 01392 248919 or email oilscheme@devonrcc.org.uk Further information is available online, at www.devonrcc.org.uk

Whiddon Down

Whist Drives will continue to be held at the Village Hall on the last Saturday of the month starting at 8pm. The Whist drive on Saturday 31st March will have a very special raffle prize of an Easter Turkey.

Mmmmmmm.... bootiful! (Sorry – **I couldn't resist.**)

The Village Market resumes at the Village Hall on Saturday 24th March from 10am to 12 noon and will be held on the fourth Saturday of each month. If you would like to hire a table and sell your produce or crafts etc. at the market, please ring Barbara Cannon on 01647 231318. Come along and support your local community, have a chat and a cuppa, you'll be sure of a warm welcome.

The Village Hall Committee members are busy planning events for the coming year, the AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th May at 7.30pm, local people are encouraged to attend.

We are very excited that the Olympic Torch relay is expected to pass the Village Hall on 21st May and are planning to put the flags out to celebrate.

On Sunday 3rd June, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee is going to be celebrated with a party in Drewsteignton Village Square which our committee will support. It is promising to be a fun year.

If you are planning a party or need a venue for a meeting or event why not hire Whiddon Down Village Hall? It is a good sized hall with a kitchen and a car park. To book the hall (very reasonable at £5.50 per hour, £4.50 per hour for local hirers) please contact Clare Rowe tel. 01647 231643. There are several local organizations and clubs using the Village Hall regularly but if you would like to hire it for an event there are still lots of dates available.

Pat Sheridan (Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee).

Crockernwell Village Get Together

It has been proposed to hold a village get together on the June bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Do you have a talent that could help the village, can you cook, fund raise, entertain or just come on the day to make up the numbers!!

You are invited to attend the Methodist Church on Friday 9th March at 7.30pm to discuss **“what, where, who and how” to make this a great village event.**

If you cannot make the meeting but would still like to be involved please call 01647 24004 or email bill.savage@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Fun At The Chagford Pantomime

In the last parish post I mentioned I was in the Chagford pantomime, along with a few other friends from **Drewsteignton. During the last half term, the evenings were taken up performing “Mother Goose and the 5 gold rings”. There were shows every evening except Sunday, and a matinee on Saturday. This was my second pantomime as I was in Windy Willows 2 years ago. We had to get to the Jubilee hall at 6pm, 1 ½ hours before the pantomime started, to have our make-up and hair done and get our costumes on. I had 2 parts so I had to change costumes part way through, I was an icicle and a gosling, both dancing parts. There was a TV monitor in the large shed behind the hall (where we were when not on stage) which is **LIVE, to make sure we don't miss our cues. We have to be very quiet in the shed otherwise the audience can hear us.** The youngest pantomime performers were aged 9 and it was a great mix of children, teenagers and adults.**

I loved all the amazing scenery and costumes which were brilliant, the show was a sell out every night which was great. I really enjoyed being in it and I hope every-one who watched it left with a smile on their face.

The story is about a lady who lives on her farm and has 5 golden eggs, but they are stolen by a nasty chef called Gordon Bennett and his Hench- **men. Mother Goose wants the eggs for her Queen's Diamond Jubilee cake and Gordon Bennett wants to sell them for his dastardly plan to bring the Olympics to Tossham Hall. The fairy god mother turns them to golden rings, and Jack is set on a journey to bring them all back to Mother Goose. The story has many twists and turns along the way as well as the inevitable “It's behind you” and “Oh no it's not”. I really enjoyed doing it, despite the constantly late nights. There's a pantomime every 2 years and I hope to be in it again in 2014!!! Tilly Dixon**

Okehampton & District Community Transport Group

New Citroen Berlingo wheelchair accessible vehicle

We are pleased to announce that we have taken delivery of a new vehicle which has been possible with the assistance of a grant from the Devon County Council Sustainable Community Transport Fund. The vehicle has been adapted by GM Coachworks, specialists in wheelchair accessible conversions. This will be available to take wheelchair using clients to healthcare appointments or places of interest.

We have recently had an increase in the number of requests for wheelchair transport and hope that this will enable us to assist more people, perhaps those who would like to attend regular appointments/social groups. Our aim is to help everyone access healthcare and social events, particularly those who are rurally isolated. Perhaps you would like to visit the Cinema, attend swimming or exercise sessions.

Please speak to us about any requirements and we will do our best to provide transport.

We also run a Ring and Ride service which has spare capacity at the present time – which collects you from your front door and drops you in Okehampton, at a destination of your choice, ie. Supermarket, Fore Street, Castleham Lodge (to make use of their many activities) and then collects you at an agreed time for the return journey. Our driver carries your shopping from the supermarket onto the bus if required and then carries it into your home. Fares start at £2 for the return journey if you live in Okehampton, £3 if you are in the next zone ie. Sampford Courtenay, or £4 for Hatherleigh, Chagford, Halwill, **Lewdown etc. You have a couple of hours in the town, so even if you don't want shopping you can arrange to meet your friends for coffee!**

We run lifestyle trips with the Ring and Ride Bus on a Saturday and also with our Peugeot 7 seater wheelchair accessible vehicle on various days of the week and weekends, subject to a driver being available, when it is not required for healthcare appointments. Recent destinations have included Buckfast Abbey, Trago Mills, Newton Abbot and Exeter.

We have seats available for the Holiday on Ice show on Saturday 18th February – Please ring and book as soon as possible.

We have had an excellent response to our recent plea for new volunteer drivers, however there is an area where we would still like to find drivers – Lewdown/Bridestowe. If you have a few hours to spare please speak to us.

For further information please ring *Sue Wonnacott* on 01837 55000.

Website

Please see our website at www.odctg.co.uk for up to date information, photos and more.

Interested In The History Of Crockernwell?

Are you interested in helping to put together a booklet on the village, its' past and as it is now in this year of celebrations?

It may be that you have already investigated various aspects of the history of the village, its' buildings and those who lived here and are willing to share that with others or think that you would enjoy taking on a piece of research or writing up the work of others. Please let me know and I will arrange a meeting to get us started. marygraham2009@hotmail.co.uk

News From The Church

One of our emphases as a church is fairtrade, and a focus on local provision. We are very grateful to the shop for increasing its stock of fairtrade products and we are doing our best to use these.

As you'll have seen the Kissing Gates have been replaced - huge thanks to Tony Thomas for doing this.

We very much hope the Lytch Gates will be ready by early April. Easter falls on April 8. Please come and share our greatest celebration of the year (11.15am).

We hold our Annual Meeting in April. This year it's April 19, 7pm in the church. All residents are entitled to vote for churchwardens, and all are welcome to come and hear what we have been up to.

Christopher Southgate (Acting Secretary)





News from the Castle

As you may have noticed I've been writing this piece for quite some time now; so I thought that you were due a rest from my ramblings and I'm going to hand over to Christine Gray, the Enterprise Manager for the Dartmoor properties. However, I must warn you that I should be back next month! *Andy Dawson*

Castle Drogo Café and Shop News

For the 3rd year running the café and shop have remained open throughout the winter. This year we escaped the snow and it was business as usual for us, although we were on reduced opening hours of 11am - 4pm, we were kept busy. The house itself was open at weekends leading up to Christmas; we saw an increase of visitors coming to walk the estate and many more locals using us as a destination to shop and have a good cup of coffee, and a light lunch.

What's new for 2012?

Drogo café now boasts 2 chefs, Rob Kingscott who accepted the head chef position in late June 2011, and Chris Guy, our second chef, a very local resident from Chagford. Through the winter they have worked on the new menu which they launched during half term week. We now have an elevenses offer with hot buttered crumpets and toasted tea cakes, everyday lunches available from 12 noon to 4pm, hot special 12 noon - 2.30pm, and tea time treats.

Of course our Sunday lunch is still ongoing and gaining popularity. Sue Hooper, Castle Drogo's Catering Manager, and her team, most of who live within the local area, wait to welcome you over the next year with a friendly greeting and a new food offer to tempt your taste buds.

The Drogo full English breakfast starts again during the months of July to September, the rest of the year we can tempt you with bacon and egg baps freshly cooked to order.

We also have public WiFi available in the café and this is accessible via a voucher offered with the purchase of any refreshments.

Drogo Shop 2012

Marcia Horsley, Castle Drogo's Assistant Retail Manger and her team hope to welcome you to the shop, we still have a good selection of local food and beer, supporting suppliers from around the area.

The new range of gifts should be arriving on the shop floor during the next few weeks; the team are very excited about these for 2012.

Throughout the season the shop will, again, host 'tasting' days which will be advertised in the visitor centre reception area.

National Trust property shops like Drogo are being invited to take part in the Delamore Young Plants

Geranium 'Octavia Hill' Event taking place during March - June 2012 to celebrate the centenary of Octavia Hill's death. A donation from every plant sold will go to National Trust and Octavia Hill House Trust.

The Geranium 'Octavia Hill' is 100% British grown in the native home town of Octavia Hill in peat free soil. Our delivery which is a vibrant red flower is expected in March, we are sure this will sell well.

Christine Gray

Telephone: 01647 434131

Email: christine.gray@nationaltrust.org.uk

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

Our Q & A session in February was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us, many interesting questions were asked and answered by our panel, Barry Starling (Plantsman) and John Rippin (Drogo) who kindly gave us all a grass to take home. Do think of coming to our last talk of the winter season, Benedict Burrell from Bicton on Propagation, when you can take home your own sample.

Put the date of our Plant Sale in your diary (Saturday May 5th) more details in the April Parish Post.

Carole Mason

Chagford Football Club

In their first competitive season, Chagford Veterans team has made it to the Devon County Veterans Cup final. The Veterans squad is made up of some of the talented players that have represented Chagford over the years, with some of the players still playing for the club's two Devon & Exeter League sides. Following victories over Okehampton Argyle and Bideford, the team beat St. Martins of Exminster 1-0 in their semi-final at the War Memorial Playing Fields. 'Porky' Ralph's 75th minute headed goal from Ben Deeble's pinpoint cross was enough to settle the tie and book a final place at Devon FA headquarters in Newton Abbot. The other finalists are Topsham Town who went through after a penalty shoot-out in their semi-final against Heavitree. The Final will be on Friday 30th March at Coach Road, Newton Abbot with a 7pm kick-off. Your

support for the team would be more than welcome. At the other end of the scale, the club has also commenced coaching for children of Primary School age. Sunday morning sessions, from 11am to 1pm under the guidance of FA qualified coaches, are free and are open to kids of any ability. Although informal this season, the club's objective is to help improve the youngsters so they can reach a goal of playing competitive football for their local club, without having to travel too far. The project has been sanctioned by Devon County Football Association and, following last season's achievement in gaining the FA Charter Standard, the club hopes to go on to attaining Community Club status. Further details of the club's activities can be found at www.chagfordfc.com or by calling the Secretary *John Pearce* on 01647 433897.

Crockernwell Methodist Church

We meet every Sunday at 6.30pm with the service being taken by various Ministers and Lay Preachers. On the second Saturday of every Month we hold a Coffee Morning between 10am and 12.00 noon and visitors from the local area and further afield are welcome to come to chat and enjoy free coffee, tea and biscuits. *Stuart MacDonald*

Drewsteignton Branch Royal British Legion Women's Section

Thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning
On Friday 17th February
We raised £177 for the Benevolent Fund

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

For Editorial Nigel Campbell drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions ☎ 281111

For Parish Council Bella Snook clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Business ☎ 231046—www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

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Pauline Rowe: pauline_lily@hotmail.com

☎ 281638

Contributions for the next edition by
1st — thank you