

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 133

MAY 2017

Following earlier representations to the Parish Council regarding anti social behaviour in Lamb Park, we have now been able to broker a meeting between a residents' spokesperson, councillors, the housing association, West Devon Borough Council Environmental Health Dept and the Police. The RSPCA have not responded to our request and, indeed, continue to be extremely hard to make contact with. It is the Council's hope that some progress to solving the problem will come from the meeting.

The council was pleased and relieved to hear the news that Sandy Park Inn has now re-opened, and we are still backing the Sandy Park residents efforts to have the pub registered as a community asset.

The one planning matter was DNPA 0171/17 concerning amendments to a porch at Middle Venton Farm and we made no comment on the application. We have received a letter from Jackson-Stops estate agents who are the agents for the owners of land at Whiddon Down which had previously been looked at by Wainhomes for development. They asked for our views on developing the land. It has been a long held belief by this council that, unlike many new housing proposals these days, anything in Whiddon Down should redress the balance of social housing over open market housing which at the moment stands at about 65% of the total housing in the village. We would await any detailed planning application made to Dartmoor National Park before commenting further.

The financial year end paperwork had to be approved and this included Tony Thomas being appointed as our internal auditor for another year. Councillors felt we were in a slightly better financial position to be able to increase the grants to the village halls at Whiddon Down and Drewsteignton.

We were happy to approve the appointment of Roger Burridge from Sandy park as the second

representative on the Providence School Charity board.

At the Annual parish meeting held at Drewsteignton on Monday 24th April 2017, Cllr. Anna Imrie reported on the work undertaken by the Parish Council over the past twelve months. The parish website has been updated, we had been active in supporting Sandy Park residents to form a community association and re-open the pub registering it as a community asset, we had monitored the teething problems with the Whiddon Down link road and reported to Devon County Highways and the police, as appropriate. We have gained some grant finance from the Town & Parish funds to mitigate the expense of employing directly a Parish Lengthsman, we were supporting Dee Douglas at Whiddon Down who continues with her gardening campaign to improve the village looks, we have managed to get Highways to undertake yet another speed survey in Crockernwell & Whiddon Down – the challenge now is to get something done to improve the safety in both villages - formed a policy to control the proliferation of unauthorised signs in the parish, considered and responded to planning applications together with site visits as and when required, at a rate of 2 or 3 a month.

The Parish Post continues to be the main method of communication in the parish and for this, thanks are due to John Shiell and Pauline Rowe. It had been a unanimous decision by councillors that **Pauline** should be the recipient of the first Drewsteignton Parish Annual award to a parishioner who has worked exceptionally hard for the benefit of the parish. Thank you Pauline.

Although we have received some interest in the post of Parish Clerk, we still need 3 more volunteers to be co-opted to serve their community as councillors.

Our next meeting is **Monday 15th May 2017
7.30pm at Whiddon Down**

What's on at The Drewe

We are very happy to announce that our 3rd annual Beer & Cider Festival will be taking place over the late **May Bank Holiday weekend**.

The event kicks off on **Friday** night with the return of Andy Kershaw who will be playing a World Music set, and joined by folk blues musician Mehal.

Tickets can be bought in advance at **The Drewe for £5**

On Saturday 27th, we have local band AFAF performing at 2pm and the Yellabellies at 8.30pm.

Sunday afternoon sees the return of FOS Brothers, who will perform at 2pm.

Serving on Friday is from 5pm - midnight. Saturday 12pm - midnight and Sunday 12pm - midnight

Phone Gary on 01647 281409 for further information and tickets for the Andy Kershaw gig.

Teignton Fayre

Drewsteignton Square,

Saturday 3rd June, 3pm 'til late

Morris Men, Stalls, Barbecue and Puddings, Live Music, Grand Draw, Children's Entertainment to include Bouncy Castle, Ball Pool, Fancy Dress and Balloon Modelling.

Raising Money for local good causes and Acorn



Stone Lane Gardens Music Fest

**Stone Lane Music Fest and the Launch of the 2017 Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition
Sunday June 11th (12 till 6pm)**

Featuring :

Billy Bottle & Martine, Tipple, Hot Club Du Square, Mainz Gaz, Tansy and James with Anita Munson maybe..... surprise celebrity guest!

Music for a Summer's afternoon with a mixture of Originals, Gypsy Jazz, Swing, Latin, Blues, Ballads and Traditional Folk. Local Musicians will be playing this charity gig at The Barn, Stone Lane Gardens, providing a relaxing afternoon of musical entertainment.

Admission includes free entry to the Mythic Garden Sculpture exhibition featuring the Wild Woods Willow Exhibition of willow animals by Katherine Miles, with a variety of different wildlife themed sculptures, displayed by other artists along the lower part of the garden.

Admission: £6.00 per person* includes free entry to visit the gardens *Students/children £2.50. (under 5's free). Beverages & cakes and a selection of savouries available to buy.

Bar drinks (by donation.) Feel free to bring a folding chair.

Contact: Tansy Rice tansy.ricecaley@googlemail.com

Paul Bartlett paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com



WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU

Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee needs new committee members to keep going .

Over the last few years our numbers have reduced. We very much need some new blood for the hall to continue serving the community.

We are in need of a new chairman at least . If we don't find a new chairman, the hall may well have to close, this includes the car park!

Our AGM is on Wednesday 14th June, 7.30pm in the Village Hall when we will decide on the future.

Please contact Clare Rowe on 01647 231643 or whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

June Events at Okehampton Library

Tuesday 30 May 14:30-15:30 & Thursday 1 June 10:30-11:30

'Where's Wally' bag of fun

Celebrate 30 years of Where's Wally with our fun craft activity

For children over 5 – tickets in advance £1 each

Where's Wally Treasure Hunt - during library opening hours. Search for Wally and other characters hidden around the library

Thursday 22 June 19:00

Su Bristow Author Talk

Su will be talking about her debut novel 'Sealskin'. Set in the Hebrides it is the re-working of a Scottish Legend, it won the Exeter Novel Prize 2013 and her writing has been described as 'magical realism.'

Su will be signing copies of her novel, available to purchase at the event.

Tickets £3 to include refreshments – purchase from Okehampton Library

Saturday 24 June 10:00-12:00

Okehampton Food Festival - Smoothie Bike at Okehampton Library

Use your pedalling energy to power a blender that is attached to the stationary bike to create a healthy nutritious drink. All the fruit has been kindly donated by Waitrose supermarket.

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

Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, Okehampton EX20 1AR 01837 52805

okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

www.devonlibraries.org.uk

Coffee Morning

Saturday June 24th

10.30 to 12.00

at

**Hillside House
Drewsteignton**

In aid of Shelter Box

Afternoon Tea

on Saturday 13th May

from 3pm

at

**Ford House,
Drewsteignton**

in aid of

Friends of the Churchyard.

Everyone welcome.

Stone Lane Gardens - Arboretum and Tree Nursery

This beautiful, tranquil garden is surely a jewel in our local crown set up by the late Kenneth Ashburner in the early 70's. Kenneth had a life long passion for birch and alder trees and spent decades exploring far flung corners of the globe to bring back rare or unknown seeds. The 5 acre woodland garden is now mature with winding paths, pools and streams and incredible stands of beautifully barked trees. Indeed the garden won the Gardener's World Magazine 'Gardens to visit SW' award in 2010 and holds the National Collection of birch and alder

I was lucky enough to work for Kenneth when the garden was about 10 years old. My work included propagating the precious seeds, potting up, planting out and anything else that needed doing. It was a beautiful place to work in, under such knowledgeable guidance. It wasn't without its amusing moments – Kenneth rushing back down to the garden as he could see the geese carefully and thoroughly pulling out some plants that we had painstakingly planted earlier, or June's chickens scratching away in a newly tilled seed bed. Gardening and poultry are not an ideal combination. Kenneth also had a raft of interesting tales to tell of his epic collecting trips – he once paddled for 4 hrs across the open sea to reach a tiny Japanese island to find a rare or unknown plant.

As well as the wonderful collection of trees every summer the garden is filled with sculpture, The annual Mythic Garden sculpture exhibition opens on the 2nd June and to celebrate this there is a 'Festival of Music and Official Garden Opening' on June 11th, 12-6pm to which everyone is invited.

The garden is now a registered charity which will safeguard Kenneth's life's work and the garden manager Paul Bartlett, worked for years with Kenneth so the spirit of the garden very much lives on. Paul has now been on his own plant collecting trips to an unexplored region of Arunachal Pradesh, NE India and to Georgia in the Caucasus. There are dedicated volunteers who help to maintain the garden, as you can imagine 5 acres is a lot to look after.

There is a very handsome book finally available - Kenneth always preferred gardening to being stuck at a desk -The Genus *Betula*, A Taxonomic Revision of Birches by Kenneth Ashburner and Hugh A McAllister. Birch is such a good tree to choose for your garden – it has many seasons of interest but the reason most people include it is for the wonderfully tactile, peeling bark. Our native silver birch, *Betula pendula* is very popular, but I think the most often requested birch is *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* whose bark is the whitest of all the *Betula* genus. There are more than 60 species and numerous cultivars available now with names like 'Grayswood Ghost' and 'Silver Shadow'.

There are so many more to choose from and how handy to have the arboretum on our doorstep so that choosing becomes such a pleasure. *Betula ermanii* has a slightly pinky bark and *Betula albosinensis* is more colourful still. *Betula* 'Kenneth Ashburner' (Chinese red-barked birch) has bark that peels away like paper as the stem stretches each season revealing the new colour underneath, a striking coppery red.

There is a river birch that is useful for wet places called *Betula nigra*, its pale bark flakes as it ages making the trunk look feathery and frilly. A multi stemmed tree can be the answer for a small garden and they look so very impressive as they mature.

It is important not to plant birches too deeply. They are shallow rooting trees so you might need to stake them for the first year to prevent wind rock. A little bone meal can be added at planting time but they thrive in poor soils so subsequent feeding is not needed. Tree guards are vital if rabbits are a problem as they seem to love some of the species.

It's fun to prune the trees in your garden to expose the stem but never prune from January to March because the sap flows too vigorously. The best time for pruning is July and August.

There is an algae which causes a green stain on the bark but you can easily wash it off with a hose.

Stone Lane Garden is open 7 days a week, 10am - 6pm and dogs are welcome on a lead. For more information the website is www.stonelanegardens.com or you can phone them on 01647231311

Hopefully we now will have a lovely summer of gardening and garden visiting ahead of us.

Philippa Allom



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. 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 say goodbye and thank you to Gerald Lomax from Northlew who is moving to Suffolk. We welcome Douglas Young from Okehampton and Cheryl Everitt from Northlew to our driving team. We also welcome back Michael Bendix from Okehampton. 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.

Fares

We will be increasing some of our fares from Monday 29th May. They have remained the same for 9 years so felt that this was not unreasonable. The Ring and Ride Bus fares will each increase by £1 a journey, eg. £3 for in town journeys, £4 from Sampford Courtenay and £5 from Winkleigh, Hatherleigh, North Tawton, Halwill areas. Our in town car journeys will also be increasing by 50p to £4.

Coffee Morning – Saturday 29th April

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our event. We had a very busy morning and it was lovely to see so many clients/supporters. We raised £476.50. Special thanks to our volunteers – Graham and Isabella Barrett, Alan and Lin Perrott, Vera Bray, Abi Westlake, Clare Goater and Lindsey Harrison who helped Liz and Sue make this another successful morning.

Trips

Saturday 22nd July	Model Village, Babbacombe	£9.95	£12 bus
Saturday 29th July	Chagford		£6
Sunday 6th August	Hartland Abbey & Gardens		£12 adult, £10.50 reg.
	Disabled entry for house & gardens or £8.50 & £6.50 gardens only.		£12 Bus
Saturday 12th August	Homeleigh Garden Centre		£10
Saturday 19th August	Torquay		£12
Saturday 2nd September	Kents Cavern	£9.00 entry	£12 Bus
Saturday 16th September	Morwellham Quay	£9.95 entry	£10 Bus
Saturday 23rd September	Looe		£14
Saturday 30th September	Plymouth Hoe/Barbican		£12
Saturday 7th October	Trago Mills or Newton Abbot		£12

Please note that these trips will only take place if we have enough interest. There will be an extra charge for anyone not in Okehampton or along the route of the journey.

15 seat Community Bus

Our bus is available for groups and organisations. Please ring us for more information.

ACOT (Age Concern Okehampton & Torrington) Centre

The ACOT centre in North Street will be open from 10.30 to 12.30 every Tuesday (unless advised otherwise) for a general coffee morning type drop in session. Crafts and ipad help available but just a chance for staff, trustees, volunteers and clients to meet up and spend a bit of time together.

Trust in Blue

Are you looking for a handyman? There is a new group which has been set up by retired Police Officers who are all CRB checked. Check out their website at www.trustinblue.com for further information or ring 0800 255 0255 or email helpdesk@trustinblue.com

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

The Exeter peregrines laid 4 eggs at the end of March and the first hatched on the 2nd May. A second chick hatched on the 3rd May and I am hoping for more over the next few days. Developments in the nest for the next weeks (until the juvenile peregrines fly) can be watched on the webcam via the church website www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk

The swifts are back! I have now seen my first swift of 2017 but not in Drewsteignton just yet. It was high over Kingsbridge quay in the early evening of Friday 28th April. Last year, I recorded my first one in the village on the 2nd May, so I am now waiting to see when we get our first returning swifts.

Each May around this time, they return from south Africa. The swifts are with us for just three months each summer, sweeping overhead and screaming in the sky above our towns and villages. The birds cover large areas in the search for food and, incredibly, spend all their time on the wing, never landing. Swifts are amongst the fastest flyers in the animal kingdom. Even the Common swift (*Apus apus*) cruises at 5 to 14 m per second and is capable of 60 m per second for short bursts. In a single year, the common swift can cover at least 200,000km. The swift does everything in the air, including mating. It feeds and drinks on the wing, preens and plays in the air. It sleeps, mates and collects nesting material while in flight. The wings are narrow and long which makes it a rapid and precise hunter of its targets such as flying insects and minute airborne spiders.

Swifts return to their breeding places at approximately the same time each year, early May across most of Europe. It is faithful to its breeding place so that the pairs may breed together for many years. Swifts lay 2-3 eggs and incubate the chicks together. On summer days they fly until dark, when the non-breeders of a colony assemble and fly high in the sky to sleep on the wing. At the end of July, the young will leave the nest and they all begin their epic migration to Africa.

Swifts breed in cavities and small holes under the eaves of houses. They will accept nest boxes too and with 12 on our row at Churchgate, of which 7 were used last year, we are hoping for more this year. The UK Swift population was estimated at 80,000 birds in 1990, and surveys indicate a decline of 15% to 20% since then.

These amazing birds have shared our buildings with us ever since the Romans came to Britain. They still breed under our eaves and gables, but with increasing difficulty, as modern and renovated buildings exclude them. They are also being affected by modern farming practices in Africa, pesticide use and climate change. It is feared that if present trends continue swifts will vanish from the UK.

The following is an extract from 'Swifts' by Ted Hughes

Fifteenth of May. Cherry blossom. The swifts

Materialize at the tip of a long scream

Of needle . "Look! They're back! Look! And they're gone

On a steep

Controlled scream of skid

Round the house-end and away under the cherries.

Gone.

Suddenly flickering in sky summit, three or four together,

Gnat-whisp frail, and hover-searching, and listening

For air-chills – are they too early? With a bowing

Power-thrust to left, then to right, then a flicker they

Tilt into a slide, a tremble for balance,

Then a lashing down disappearance

Behind elms.

They've made it again,

Which means the globe's still working, the Creation's

Still waking refreshed, our summer's

Still all to come

Swift Update

The first swift over the village seen by me was at 06.40 on the 5th May followed by three more over Churchgate by 07.10.



News from the Castle



Hi everyone

I have great news to share with you all. Our new main contractor for the major building project has now been appointed. They are called Daedalus and have previously worked on conservation projects at Cliveden House, Clandon and Hampton Court Palace. They are arriving on site on Monday 8th May when the final phase of the project to Save Castle Drogo will begin in earnest. It now feels like we are on the final stretch!

Thank you for your thoughts and feedback about the introduction of car park charging in the Castle Drogo car park. Following your suggestions, there will be a short stay option of £2 for 2 hours as well as the £4 all day option. Hopefully this will be welcomed by those who just want to pop in for a short stroll and a cuppa. Don't forget that car park charges will begin on Monday 26 June and all proceeds will go straight to caring for the Teign Gorge.

In other news, our free croquet lessons are back this year. Please pop along on the first Tuesday of the month in June, July and September to get your free croquet lesson from Gabby, our resident croquet expert. No need to book in advance but don't forget that normal admission applies.

And finally... we are working with Plough Arts Centre again this year to host 2 great theatre performances on the croquet lawn. Thomas Hardy's '**Far from the Madding Crowd**' by Hotbuckle Productions is on Saturday 24 June, 7-9pm. Then, Boxtree productions will bring '**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). We'd love to see you there – please book the sunshine!

Take care everyone and see you soon.

Paula

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

No-Cook Chocolate Tart

Ingredients

- * 200g pack all-butter biscuit
- * 100g butter
- * 1 tbsp golden syrup or honey
- * 100g bar dark chocolate
- * 100g bar milk chocolate
- * 1 tsp vanilla extract
- * 2 tbsp icing sugar, plus extra for dusting
- * 200ml whipping cream
- * 3 tbsp crème fraîche, to decorate
- * 200g raspberry, to serve



Crush the biscuits by putting them in a large, strong, plastic food bag and bashing with a [rolling pin](#). Melt the butter with the syrup or honey in the microwave, then stir in the biscuits. Press onto the base and up the sides of a 12 x 36cm rectangular tin (or 23-25cm round flan tin) and chill while you make the filling. Break up the two chocolate bars and put in a large bowl. Melt in the microwave for 2-3 mins on Medium, stirring halfway through. Stir in the vanilla extract, then sift in the icing sugar. Whip the cream until it just holds its shape, then fold into the melted chocolate. Pour into the prepared tin and smooth the top. Chill for at least 2 hrs or for up to 2 days.

Just before serving, remove the tart from the tin and slide it onto a flat plate, (loosen edges first with the tip of a small pointed knife). You will find it easier to remove the tart if you leave it at room temperature for 30 mins. Put a few tsps of crème fraîche along the centre of the tart (or around the edges if the tart is circular) and top each with a raspberry, then dust lightly with icing sugar. Cut into thin slices and serve with extra raspberries on the side.

What's on in May 2017

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 3rd, 17th, 31st May and 14th June. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. We will also help carry your shopping! The fare is just £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 11th, 25th May and 8th June.

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 16th, 30th May and 13th June.

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

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

Acorn Office 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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Village Hall bookings ☎ 01647 281197

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Business ☎ 231046—www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

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 June - Thank You