



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO 149

OCTOBER 2018

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council were sad to hear the news of the death of former Parish Councillor Sid Mudge and expressed their condolences to his family.

Traffic problems played a big part in our last meeting. Firstly the traffic congestion, especially at weekends, on the road from Sandy park to Castle Drogo. Paula Clarke & Ellie Lewis from Drogo were at the meeting and were able to confirm that there had been an increase in motor homes attending Drogo this summer. They also confirmed that Devon County Highways have in the past told the National Trust, that Sandy Park is their preferred access to the castle. The council have received correspondence from Mr Hugo de Ferranti and residents in and around Sandy Park, reporting congestion and some instances of damage to property by vehicles driven by those unfamiliar with narrow lanes and the need to reverse. Cllr Paul Ridgers, who is also a resident of Sandy Park, has agreed on behalf of the Parish Council to form a group consisting of residents, National Trust and Devon Highways to try and find a solution mutually agreeable to all concerned. It was noted that the National Trust do advise groups attending Drogo that a suitable sized coach should be used, but of course have no way of enforcing this advice. The second problem was raised by Mr Paul Taylor together with Mr Michael Scott concerning vehicles being parked in the village of Drewsteignton. They considered it was becoming dangerous in as much as vehicles were parking on bends, buses were unable

to stop at the bus stop as they would be blocking the road, farm traffic was being forced to the wrong side of the road where there was an adverse camber and the access to the village by the emergency services, especially the Fire Service, may become restricted. It was agreed initially to have a site visit with Devon County highways neighbourhood officer Darryl Jagger to see if there was a simple answer. We all know that car ownership has increased over recent years as Crockernwell has demonstrated. Fifteen years ago not many house owners in the centre of the village had cars, now most properties have two and the same is happening in Drewsteignton. The last thing anyone wants is yellow line restrictions in the village so, in the first instance, please do think about what the effect of leaving your vehicle where you do has on others, We will be trying to work with residents to see how we can resolve the problem.

Toby Russell from Devon Air Ambulance attended the meeting and confirmed that there had been some misunderstanding in the financing of the night landing site at the playing fields. The grant on offer did not include the actual lighting and pole and it's maintenance, this was the Parish's responsibility. Councillors will consider this and a final decision will be made at the November meeting.

It was noted the contractor who cuts the grass in the car park at Drewsteignton had recently been incapacitated and unable to undertake his duties. He is Cont on page 5

Service of Light, Love and Loss: 6pm, Friday 2 November

A special short (30 mins) service for All Souls' Day will be taking place in Holy Trinity Church to include poems, music and an invitation to light a candle in memory of a loved one. Light refreshments to follow.

Candles of Remembrance

As you may know there has been a special service to remember loved ones on All Souls Day for the past few years, an important part of which is the lighting of candles of remembrance. Holy Trinity Church would like to gift, to anyone who would like one, a memorial outdoor candle.

If your loved one rests in Holy Trinity Churchyard the idea is that the candles will be placed on the graves and lit before the service: if they rest somewhere else you would be very welcome to choose a special place within the churchyard to light your candle.

If for some reason you will not be at the service, Holy Trinity would like to offer you a candle which someone could light on your behalf (please contact Jennifer 281657 or pmjmrmdm@aol.com). If you prefer, you may wish to collect a candle to light and place at a location special to you, at a time of your choosing.

The candles will be in the Church from 5pm prior to the service or can be collected from Drewsteignton Post Office or the Drew Arms from 27 October.

Churchyard Clear Up

We will be having a churchyard tidy and bulb planting on Saturday 27th October, (weather permitting) or, if inclement, two weeks later 10th November. There is not a huge amount to be done on the clearing side of things as David Page and volunteers, principally George Gillard on the ride-on, have kept pretty much on top of things this summer. However, there is some strimming, hedge trimming, ivy clearing and general tidying. Mainly we have about 1,000 spring bulbs to plant below the cherry trees below the north side of the church wall and along the bank above the road to Fingle, the more aged among us find this particularly challenging to our creaking joints.

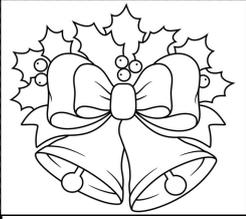
Please bring whatever tools you think may be useful. We will start at 10.00 a.m. with coffee and cakes mid morning and hot pasties and cake at lunchtime. Whatever time you can spare will be very gratefully received.

The 5th Annual Big Quiz

This will again take place at Fingle Bridge Inn starting promptly at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday 24th November. Teams of 6, entry £8.00 per person to include sausage and chips at half-time. Entry forms will be available from Drewsteignton Village Shop from 1st November. Please don't leave it until the last minute as space is limited and for the last two years we have had to turn people away. Tickets for the Big Draw with, as always, great prizes will be available from the shop at the same time as the entry forms. We look forward to seeing you all on the 24th. for another evening of fun and friendly/fierce competition.

In aid of Friends of Drewsteignton Churchyard.



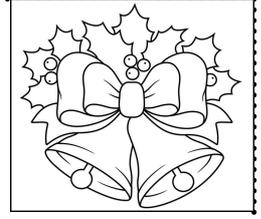


Calling All Local Crafters

If you would like a stall at
**Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Fayre on
 1st and 2nd December in Holy Trinity Church**

Please contact Jane on 01647 281605

No charge for table but 15% of takings to Holy Trinity Church Funds
There are limited spaces so please let me know as soon as you can



Armistice Day,

The Chagford bell ringers will be ringing the bells in Drewsteignton twice on Armistice day, 11th November. Firstly around 7.05 as part of the Ringing for Peace plan (part of the Battle's Over series of events) and then again at 12.30 p.m. as part of the Ringing Remembers event. The early morning ring is being done nationally.

Bonfire Night

The Bonfire Night will take place on Saturday 3rd November. As last year, this will be a ticket only event and we will again need to control parking. We are starting slightly earlier this year. Food and drink will be available from 5pm and the torchlight procession will start at 5.30pm. If you want to be part of the torchlight procession please be there much earlier than 5.30pm as there are limited places available and you will need to listen to the safety instructions. Please also wear wool or cotton gloves with no synthetic material. This also applies to anyone using sparklers. The torchlights will be used to light the bonfire and the fireworks will start at 7pm.

Tickets

Our event licence and insurance limit us to a maximum of 499 people, including all children (however young) and all helpers on the night. The only way to achieve this is to have a ticket only event and no-one will be able to enter the Playing Field without a ticket. Tickets will cost £1 each and will be available from Drewsteignton Post Office and the Drewe Arms. We sold out of tickets last year and I am aware of people who couldn't attend as a result. Please note that it is likely that there will be no tickets available to sell at the gate on the night and so there is a very real risk that families with children could be turned away. I apologise in advance if this happens but this is necessary if the event is to go ahead.

Parking

There will be at least one field available for parking on the night and we will have marshalls to direct people to the parking areas. Lamb Park and Knowle Lane will be manned and will be inaccessible for Bonfire Night parking. It would be helpful if people could car share as much as possible, although I appreciate that this will be difficult/impossible with families in many cases.

Wood

We would like some more wood so that we can again have an enormous bonfire. If you have any spare firewood can you take it to the field please? If possible, can you leave it at the bottom corner but away from the burnt area where the bonfire will be built? No old furniture, no painted or stained wood and a minimum of nails and screws please. Hope to see many of you there. **Alison Chapman, Drewsteignton Playing Field**

Okehampton Library

Chance to win a Kindle Fire Tablet!

Join Okehampton Library in October to be entered into our Free Prize Draw
Anyone joining Okehampton library during October will be entered into a prize draw.
There is a prize of a bundle of books for one child aged under 5 who joins. Also for one lucky person over 5 who joins, there is a Kindle Fire Tablet to be won which is kindly donated by the Friends of Okehampton Library. It is free to join.

Love My Library

Tell us what you love about libraries and 'post it' on our display
09:30-10:30 Wednesday 10 October - Coffee & Croissants at Duplo Storytime
Under 5's can have fun Duplo building and listening to a story whilst their carers relax with free coffee and croissants

Ongoing events for children

Tuesdays 10:00- 10:30

Bounce & Rhyme for over 1 year olds

Free - no booking necessary

Tuesdays 11:00-11:30

Bounce and Rhyme for under 1 year olds

Free - no booking necessary

Wednesdays 09:30 – 10:15

Duplo Builders & Storytime for ages 0-5

Free - no booking necessary

Saturdays 10:30 – 11:30

Lego Builders for ages 5+

Free, no booking necessary

Book Track for ages 6+ during library opening hours. Free, ask staff for further details

Central Devon Conservative Association

QUIZ NIGHT & SUPPER

Friday 2 November, 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

All welcome. Teams of four.

Don't hesitate to come because you are by yourself, or a couple.

We can introduce you to others to make up a team,
or you can take part on your own -- your choice!

Wine and Soft Drinks Bar

Tickets £12 each (including supper) from: patric.johnstone@btinternet.com

Phone: 01647-432068



Dartmoor Local Plan Consultation

We're publishing a draft new Local Plan for Dartmoor, and consulting on it between **3rd December 2018 and 4th February 2019**.

The Local Plan sets out what type of development is and isn't acceptable in the National Park, it is what we use to decide planning applications, and sets out where future development may take place.

Help us plan for Dartmoor's future by commenting on it – it's important to tell us what you like, as well as anything you'd like to see change. View and comment on the plan online or at libraries, parish councils and information centres during the consultation period.

Have a chat with us about the Plan and how it might affect you at our public drop-in event in your area:

North Dartmoor:

Whiddon Down Village Hall 13th December 3pm - 6pm

East Dartmoor:

Moretonhampstead Community Club 18th December 3pm - 6pm

A list of other drop-in events happening throughout December is available on our website:

dartmoor.gov.uk/localplanreview

Join the discussion:

Twitter: @DartmoorPlan

Facebook: /DartmoorPlan

dartmoor.gov.uk/localplanreview

forwardplanning@dartmoor.gov.uk

01626 832093

Parish Council News Cont. from page 1

The parish still need another volunteer to be a trustee on the Provident School Charity which gives grants to young people in our parish and Chagford, Throwleigh & Gidleigh.

Please contact the clerk if you can help.

Cllr Anna Imrie had attended an Eastern Links meeting of parish councils where she heard from the police that crime was relatively low in the area, grant funding for village halls and church groups was being made available and recycling in the West Devon area had increased greatly.

Ten years ago in the Parish Post Erica Davies (wife of Chip) was the Parish Profile who told us her favourite food was Italian! Work was commencing at Castle Drogo on a £2.8 million plan to build a tea room, retail space, a biomass boiler and improved parking and the funeral took place of Paul Greener described as a pillar of the community and an unassuming gentleman.

Our next meeting:

Monday 15th October 2018 7.30pm at Drewsteignton village hall.

Bird Notes

The colours that are now visible in the trees and shrubs across the countryside indicate that we are well into autumn, with noticeably shorter daylight hours and colder temperatures. Despite the lower temperatures, the grass is still growing and I am mowing lawns at home and work, but with considerably more fallen leaves on than just a couple of weeks ago.

I can now finally say that the swallows and house martins have gone, as they head south to Africa to spend the winter. Swallows are known to take about six weeks to undertake their journey from the UK down through France and Spain, into Morocco and then across the Sahara. In last month's Parish Post, I stated that both species had left the village, and that any swallows and martins seen here were groups just passing through. As soon as the Parish Post came out, I either kept seeing martins visiting nests on houses in the square so obviously still feeding their young, or hearing from people that they still had swallows in barns and outbuildings. I continued to watch and record through September and the last swallow I saw was over Townsfield on the 22nd but I heard of others who saw a group on the telephone wires down Knowle lane on the 24th. The last house martins I saw still attending a nest in the square were on the 22nd with none seen in the village after the 23rd, but on a weekend visit to East Prawle on the southernmost tip of the county, there were still quite a few around on the 30th of September.

One bird I have heard calling almost every day through September, is the chiffchaff. I have heard them singing from the hedgerows when I have been in my garden or walking my dog along the lanes leading out from the village. The chiffchaff call is one of the first signs of Spring and they have been heralding us with their 'chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff' song since mid-March. It won't be too long before we start to see and hear some of our autumn visitors, like redwings and fieldfares, and the mistle thrushes that come and eat

the berries in the churchyard each winter. I quite often see a greater spotted woodpecker on one specific wooden pole above the quarry, either drumming or just perching on it. At the beginning of October, I was walking my dog in Townsfield just before dusk and heard one calling. I spotted it on another telephone pole and it then appeared to vanish into the pole, as I didn't see it fly off. I went up to have a closer look and realised it had gone into a hole half way up the pole. I don't think that SWEB will be too pleased to find that woodpeckers are excavating nest cavities into their poles, or maybe its an indication that the pole needs replacing!

Over the past two months, I have noticed more hornets around than I have ever seen before. I first started seeing them in August when I would often spot them in the evenings as they are attracted to the light from open windows and doors when it was dark. In previous years, I would see one or two but now, I am seeing them everywhere in the day, from my garden, to walks down Knowle lane and Shute lane through Rectory woods. I am not a great fan of wasps, but I am told that hornets are far more docile unless their nest is under threat. I have never seen a hornet nest, but there must be a few around due to the number I am regularly seeing. Hornets have been in the news quite a bit recently due to increasing reports of Asian hornets being first found in the UK, in Gloucestershire in 2016, and the damage they do to bee colonies. Asian hornets *Vespa velutina* are the same size as our resident European hornet *Vespa crabro*, but much darker. They are a non-native invasive species that were accidentally introduced to France in 2004 and have spread rapidly. Asian hornets are highly effective predators of insects, including honey bees and other beneficial insects, and can cause significant losses to bee colonies. **Nick**



News from the Castle



Hi everyone.

Autumn is here and the colours through the gorge are starting to turn in to a blaze of reds and golds. I don't know about you, but this is my favourite time of the year.

It is finally starting to feel real that we are heading towards the end of the building work now. There is still a lot of work to go but we are very nearly there. The paving is starting to go down on the north end roof sections and we finally have the chapel steps going back in place.

Surviving such a long building project has been helped by the ongoing support from so many local people. We would like to show our appreciation and say 'thank you' for your continued patience and understanding by offering the residents of Drewsteignton a free car park pass for the Castle Drogo car park.

The pass will be available from 1st November and all you need to do is pop in to the visitor centre to see the team there with proof of address (such as a utility bill) and your car registration number. We will then issue you with a car park pass which will be valid until the end of 2019. The visitor centre is open from 11am until 4pm every day.

Finally, I have some Christmas related news to share (sorry about mentioning Christmas so early). I have been chatting with the shop team and I am delighted to let you know that they are offering a free gift wrapping service for any presents and Christmas wrapping paper purchased at Castle Drogo. We will also be selling a small selection of potted Christmas trees and Christmas wreaths. Something to bear in mind!

Thanks again everyone and we hope to see many of you when you pop in for your free Castle Drogo car park pass.

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Halloween Drinks Recipe

Midnight Mint Hot Chocolate

- * 50ml double cream
- * 1 tsp icing sugar
- * few drops peppermint extract
- * 150ml whole milk
- * 50g dark chocolate, chopped
- * 25ml crème de menthe
- * dark chocolate curls or sprinkles



Whip the cream in a small bowl then stir in the icing sugar and a few drops of peppermint extract. Place in the fridge until needed.

Pour the milk into a saucepan and heat gently until simmering, stirring frequently. Take off the heat then add the chocolate. Stir until the chocolate has completely melted and the mixture is smooth. Return to the heat until warm then add the crème de menthe and pour into a mug.

Top with a dollop of the whipped mint cream and chocolate curls or sprinkles just before serving.

Devon and Cornwall Alert

The Community Safety Partnership are trying to increase the number of our residents who are signed up to Devon Alert. I would be really grateful if you could encourage residents, colleagues and networks to sign up.

Devon and Cornwall Alert is a free community messaging system to inform members of the public about crimes and incidents affecting their local area.

Recorded messages are sent by telephone, email or text message to individuals or groups/businesses.

It is a two-way messaging system which helps us to connect with our communities; it tells people what is happening in their area and allows them to respond directly with any information.

The system is designed to allow people who register to choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime and anti-social behaviour, witness appeals, crime prevention, community events and local good news.

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/our-services/devon-and-cornwall-alert/devon-and-cornwall-alert-explained/

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 **Pauline**

Drewsteignton Parish Post

Contact Details:

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
Pauline Rowe: plrowe43@gmail.com. 281638

For Editorial	Pauline Rowe	drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282
Contributions		plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638
Village Hall Bookings		callum.chapman@btinternet.com or
Drewsteignton	Alison Chapman	☎ 01647 281197
Whiddon Down	Clare Rowe	whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk
		☎ 01647 231643
For Parish Council	Lucy Bruckner	clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk
Business		☎ 01647 252306

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 November - Thank You