

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

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 114

SEPTEMBER 2015

At our September meeting we welcomed eleven members of the public all from Whiddon Down who had made the journey over to Drewsteignton. They were there regarding the planning application for a Solar Array on land at Martin Farm. To begin with, five councillors had spent two and a half hours on the previous Saturday at the site reading through the planning application and walking the site to see what impact the application would have on the area. We then received comments and observations from those who wished to speak at the meeting before councillors commenced their deliberations. Six councillors agreed to support the application and one took a neutral view.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time and trouble to contact the council or come to the meeting, your views are very important to councillors and greatly assist when having to take difficult or controversial decisions.

We are investigating whether or not the Drewsteignton car park comes under the National Park bylaws which give instructions about camping and overnight sleeping which may enable us to control its misuse.

Remaining in Drewsteignton, we have now dis-

covered the Public Toilets are in need of some attention as the fascia boards are rotten and guttering broken. This combined with overgrowing vegetation, has of course resulted in dampness within the building which has to be rectified before any internal redecoration takes place.

Good news for bus users to Exeter from Whiddon Down and Crockernwell. Firstly, the new timetables are now in place and, rather than a reduction in services, there are additional services and an improved Sunday service. The new bus stop at the junction of the old A30 towards Crockernwell at Whiddon Down, which came about at the suggestion of a parishioner to the Parish Council, is just awaiting its signs to be erected and can be used.

A new specification for the revamp and maintenance of the Parish Website has been produced and sent to interested parties. On the subject of computers we are awaiting an update on the superfast Broadband for the area. It seems some parts of the parish are already up and running but others are not.

Our next meeting is at Whiddon Down on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 7.30pm.

### Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 4th October at 11.15am  
A very warm welcome to all

### Harvest Supper

Monday 5th October at 7.00pm  
In the Village Hall, Drewsteignton  
Followed by sale of produce  
Tickets £6.50 from the Village Shop  
or from

Norma Gillard 24263

or Angela Thomas 281602

Numbers are limited so please book not later than  
30th September

### Drewsteignton Gardening Club Winter Programme AGM Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October ( £5.00 to join 2015-16)

November 9<sup>th</sup> Gardening for Wildlife

December 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Supper

January 2016 Quiz Night

All meetings in village hall 7.30pm

We would love to have some new members  
*Carole 281185 & Bunny 423068*

## North Cuma

Although I was an avid birdwatcher until I reached adolescence, when the word “bird” took on an entirely different meaning, I never realised the importance of habitat until we moved in to North Cuma a couple of years ago. In the late 50s and early 60s David Attenborough was still in shorts, working on “Zoo Quest”, his first TV series. Access to information was much more restricted than it is now, and while I eventually won a school prize consisting of my first bird book, my main reference was the Brooke Bond series of tea cards “Birds of Britain”. Number 1 in the series, always at the top of the pack, was the stonechat, a handsome bird with a striking orangey yellow breast and black head, but I couldn’t understand why I never saw one. Take a walk over Fingle Bridge, up the steep hill to Cranbrook Castle, and you’ll be surrounded on all sides by stonechats, flitting from one vantage point to another in the bracken. There was nowhere like Cranbrook Castle where I grew up, so no stonechats.



Two summers ago I noticed some odd bird behaviour amongst the trees alongside a stream that runs through our land. These little sparrow-like birds kept flitting in and out, turning acrobatically, and then returning to the perch where they had started. I realised they must be catching flies – which was a bit of a clue. Spotted flycatchers – a bird I had never seen in my youth. Nondescript birds, easily visually confused with many other species, but given away by their behaviour.

They are migratory and the following year I was looking forward to seeing them again, but they didn’t turn up. I later learned that they had decided to stay with our neighbours just half a mile away at the top of the hill while we’re at the bottom. Swifts regularly nest there but they never come down the hill to us, and I’ve realised it’s as a result of the difference in elevation. As birds which are constantly on the wing it would take too much unnecessary effort to fly down the hill and then back up again. For the same reason we only see the occasional swallow and house martin.



However, every spring and autumn we’ve had a redstart or two stop off for a couple of weeks on their migration to and from the north. We also have ravens overhead most days, and although the books tell us they are as big as buzzards they really don’t look it in flight as they are much slimmer. You are also supposed to be able to distinguish them from other crows by their diamond shaped tail, but this is often hard to see in flight. The real giveaway is their throaty croak, totally unlike the sound of the carrion crow or rook, and they’re not shy in calling as they fly overhead.

Our most common birds at North Cuma are wrens who belie their size by their noisy chatter and scolding. They love all the wild patches we’ve left overgrown with thistles and other weeds, which are also raided by flocks of goldfinches.

However the real star of the show this year has been the spotted flycatchers who came back to us, and nested in a hole in the side of our lincay. We only realised they were there a day or two before they fledged as these 3 youngsters suddenly started poking their heads out, exploring their world for the first time. They’re not as glamorous as the golden oriole, but I’m never going to see one of those in Drewsteignton. *Hugh Clench*

### R B L. Drewsteignton Branch, Woman's Section

Soup Sandwiches

on

Saturday 14th November

12 noon to 2pm

In

The Village Hall, Drewsteignton

Followed by Afternoon Tea (with lots of cakes)

at the WW11 Exhibition

in

Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton

In aid of the Poppy Fund

## Friends of Holy Trinity Churchyard

### The Big Quiz

Saturday 28th November at 7.00pm  
at

Fingle Bridge Inn

Another chance to pit your wits against local teams.

Teams of six, £6pp includes sausage and chips

Quizmaster: Alastair Greener.

Entry forms, from Angela Thomas 281602  
or Drewsteignton Village Shop

Please return forms no later than 22nd November. Last year we had a full house for this event and numerous requests for a repeat this year, so book your team place early. We look forward to seeing you for another fun evening.

### Autumn Clearup

The Autumn clearup in the churchyard will take place on Saturday 31st October from 10.00am onwards.

Free refreshments

All help and equipment gratefully received.

We achieved a huge amount last year and enjoyed working together, fuelled by the usual great refreshments. Do come along if you are able to, your help, however small will be much appreciated.

During the months of July and August, amongst those who signed the visitors book in the church were visitors from new Zealand, USA, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Australia, Canada, Qatar, Trinidad & Tobago, France and Switzerland.

## ACE Archaeology Club

**We did our bit for the Council of British Archaeology's Festival of archaeology, for the 6<sup>th</sup> year.** We are part of The Festival of Archaeology and Old Technology at Pattiland Farm near Winkleigh, [www.old-tech-festival.co.uk](http://www.old-tech-festival.co.uk). If you missed it this year make a date for next year, 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016. We had a good time and for the first time we were able to give people the opportunity to try their hand at excavating. We had all ages having a go and they all enjoyed it.

Our August ACE day was a trip to Cornwall. We visited Bodmin Moor, specifically the Cheesewring and The Hurlers on one of the worst days in August. Any views were lost in the rain and mist and we had to cut the day short. But the sun did make a bit of an effort.

Do come and visit, we would love to see you. [www.acearch.org.uk](http://www.acearch.org.uk) for details.

## Volunteer Connect Devon

New on-line system for people to look for volunteer opportunities

The new on-line system is simple to use. You can sign up as an individual user to create your own profile, which is a quick and easy process, allowing you to edit and update your profile and preferences at any time putting you in control.

Why not have a look at which volunteer roles are available right now at:

[www.devonva.org/volunteer\\_connect\\_devon](http://www.devonva.org/volunteer_connect_devon)

Volunteer Connect Devon is just one of the ways Devon Voluntary Action Partners support volunteers across Devon. We also offer face-to-face and telephone volunteer support as well as by email.

So no matter how you want to find out about volunteer opportunities in your area, Devon Voluntary Action can help.

Email us at [support@devonva.org](mailto:support@devonva.org) or call us on 0845 6099901



**Devon Voluntary Action**

A Devon-wide partnership building vibrant, healthy communities

## Bird Notes

### **It's starting to look and feel like autumn outside**

now with the trees beginning to change colour and heavy dew on the grass in the mornings, but Drewsteignton has still got the twitter of the swallows and house martins to remind us that the summer is not quite over. I have been delighted as we have had swallows nesting in our woodshed **this year, and they have just fledged three young. It's the first nesting by swallows in our shed since 2000 and quite a late brood.** The swallows have been flying in and out of the shed all summer but it was only when I started being dive-bombed by the male during late July that I realised we had a nesting attempt. It is interesting behaviour and totally different from the swallows that nested in my shed at work in Cornwall, which put up with me coming in and out all day and starting up ride-on mowers or stacking logs. **I inadvertently disturb them so much I couldn't** believe it when I first heard the calling of the juveniles shortly after they hatched. Five swallows fledged from that nest on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

We went on a camping holiday to Spain at the end of July and so I got to see some great birds there, and, as always, spotting swifts and noticing where they were nesting in buildings. In the Picos Mountains, we saw Egyptian and griffin vultures, occasionally very close but mainly soaring along the mountain ridges in groups of up to fifteen. I spotted two peregrines, one very dramatic sighting of an adult just as it caught a pigeon over the motorway on the outskirts of Bilbao, and I saw a juvenile hunting over the coast near one of our campsites. It was wonderful to see wheatears and black redstarts in the high mountains and I also saw my first rock thrush there. The timing of our holiday did unfortunately mean I missed the departure of the swifts from the village, but I am informed that breeding swifts were last seen locally on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, which is about average for a leaving date. Malcolm came up and ringed 9 juveniles from 4 nests in my boxes in early July and found that three other nest boxes still had eggs in and very recently hatched young, possibly due to the early weather delaying swifts getting into breeding condition. Sadly these late nests all failed, which is often the case due to poor weather and the ease with which they can catch enough food. Had we had better weather through July, we would have had 7 active nests with a potential of 15 youngsters.

One great success was that swifts reared two young in a new nest box that we put up at the other end of the village, and Malcolm was also able to ring these. We put up 4 boxes under thatch eaves on

two adjacent houses about two years ago but there was little interest shown and I was considering taking them down for next year, when I got a call to say swifts were going in and out of a couple of them. I went up one evening and saw swifts investigating three of the four, the other one appeared to have nest material in and looked occupied by House sparrows. I believed this was swifts prospecting for next year but was delighted when Malcolm checked them out while up here ringing juveniles in my boxes and found two youngsters, both of which he ringed, so making 11 juvenile swifts ringed in the village from nest boxes this year.

**A couple of weeks ago, I went to 'the Birdfair' held at Rutland water, near Oakham in Rutland.** I have been once before, about 20 years ago and it had changed considerably since my last visit. It is now referred to as the **'Birdwatchers Glastonbury'** and is enormous. Eight huge marquees house 380 different stands with a variety of exhibitors from county, national and international wildlife organisations to exotic foreign bird-watching holidays, optical and photographic equipment, books, wildlife and bird artists, bird-feed suppliers, magazines and outdoor clothing. There are book signings and almost continual lectures throughout the three day event, with celebrities' and wildlife presenters holding debates, overseeing quizzes and signing books. I was only there on the Saturday but had a great time, meeting friends and putting faces to names of people I speak to on the phone. One of the best stands for me was **'Swift Conservation', which initially attracted my attention by them playing a continuous loop of screaming swifts.**

The only regret for me was not having enough time there to see the ospreys that breed at Rutland water, and were still present on a distant part of the reserve. Next year, I am going again but will camp and make a weekend of it! *Nick*

### Tea at Rose Cottage for Diabetes UK

Thursday 1st October at 3.00pm  
Ann & Michael Hall welcome everybody to a tea party. Michael, a Vice-President of Diabetes UK and a Board Member of the European Council of the International Diabetes Federation, will talk very briefly about diabetes and it's prevention and then be available for questions.  
All welcome, collection for Diabetes UK research funds.

*Michael Hall*

## Devon Festival of Remembrance

Exeter Cathedral Thursday 5th November 7.30pm. Tickets at £15, £12.50, £10 either tel: 01392 285983 or <http://www.exeter-cathedral.gov.uk/boxoffice>.

2: Launceston Male Voice Choir Concert in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal at St Michael the Archangel Church Chagford on Saturday 31st October at 7pm. Tickets at £6. Also participating the **Arscott Ladies' Choir**.

3: **The 2015 Devon County Launch of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, on Saturday 24th October** 11am in the centre of Exeter. Parade will involve veterans, Royal Navy and Royal Marine cadets, Army and RAF Cadets via the Guildhall to the Cathedral and will include a flypast.

Additional information about these events: Peter D. Williams, PRO Devon Royal British Legion, Tel 01837 840757

Many thanks,

*Peter D. Williams*

## October Events at Okehampton Library

October is Active Life, Active Mind month and we have several events planned:

Interested in learning a new craft? Jenny Bealing will be running a Wet Felt Workshop at Okehampton Library on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 14:00-16:00. Attendees will learn to manipulate wool fibres to make decorative items, all materials will be provided. There is a small charge of £5 per person; bookings need to be made in advance through the library.

Elite Training are offering free beginners IT Training at Okehampton Library for you to be able to access the internet, send and receive emails or job search more effectively. They can even help you with your own laptop, iPad or tablet if required. Book now for the 3 week course which will run from 13:00-15:00 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Local author, Lin Treadgold will be at the library on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 10:00-12:30 selling and **signing copies of her book 'Goodbye, Henrietta Street' which is set on the beautiful Isles of Scilly.**

Our Mega Booksale and coffee morning is on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 9:00- 12:00, grab yourself a bargain, prices for withdrawn Devon Libraries books start from as little as 40p. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee when you are all shopped out! Kindly served by our Friends group.

Contact Okehampton Library if you are interested in joining our Friends of Okehampton Library group.

**As part of 'The Big Draw' for under 5's and their parents/carers there is an 'Owl Babies' story and craft activity on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 10:30-11:30. A second 'Big Draw' activity for older children is on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 10:30-11:30.**

Bookworms, the book club for children aged 7-11 years old, is on the first Tuesday of each month 16:00-17:00.

For any further information please contact Okehampton Library 01837 52805

## What's on at The Drewe

We have a few events coming up that you might want to put in your diary.

On September 26<sup>th</sup> at 8pm we have our FREE Folk in the bar session featuring Greg Hancock and Jo Hooper.

Our monthly quiz will take place on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. £1per entrant, maximum of 6 per team, prizes and all proceeds go to the defibrillator maintenance fund.

On Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, we have our annual nod to German culture with Oktoberfest. For just £15 you can enjoy a two course meal of typical German fare, a bottle of German beer, schnapps and a complimentary glass to take home with you. Entertainment is by way of an Oohmpah Band, guaranteed to keep you entertained all evening. Tickets available at the pub.

## Granny's Scottish Morning Rolls

Makes: 10 rolls

### Ingredients:

450g Strong White Flour  
150ml Lukewarm Milk  
150ml Lukewarm Water  
2tsp Dried Yeast  
2tsp Salt

### For the glaze

Milk  
Flour



### Instructions:

1. Mix the yeast with the milk and leave to stand for 10 minutes to allow the yeast to activate.
2. Sieve the flour and salt into a bowl. Make a well in the centre and pour in the milk and water. Mix well to a smooth dough.
3. Knead the dough in the bowl for 3-4 minutes. Cover and place in a warm area to allow to double in size.
4. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knock it back. Divide the dough into 10 pieces. Knead each piece for 30 seconds in your hand and make into a smooth ball.
5. Grease 1 or 2 baking trays. Roll each ball out to a circle 9cm and place the circles onto the baking trays, leaving a good space between each.
6. Cover and leave in a warm place for about 45 minutes to let the rolls puff up.
7. Press the centre of each roll very gently to distribute any air bubbles and brush lightly with milk and dust lightly with flour.
8. Bake at 175°C/350°F fan oven, 200°C/390°F normal oven for 12-15 minutes until the rolls begin to turn golden.
9. Place the cooked rolls on a wire rack to cool. Finish with another light dusting of flour.

## ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 1 lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month, if you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Teign Valley Memory Café - 24<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> October. Please call Margaret on 01647 252622 for more details. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Acorn Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> October. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. Please ring Jackie on 06147 252701 if you need a lift.

Acorn Services - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered or any other Acorn service, please phone Sylvia Tripp on 01647 24267. Please leave a message on her answering machine if she is not at home and she will call you back.

### **Last chance.....Trustee Vacancies**

Applications are invited from any public spirited adult residing in our GP Practice area for the three new Trustee vacancies scheduled to arise at the AGM in October 2015. Trustees serve for up to three years and hold Quarterly evening Committee meetings at Ian's Walled Garden Cafe, Dunsford. There are also vacancies for all four Officer Trustees (Chair/Vice Chair/Treasurer/Secretary who serve for up to five years. Appointment is by public vote at the AGM. The Trustees aim to bring new faces with new ideas to the Committee as our Constitution calls for outgoing Board Members to take a sabbatical before seeking to return. *Please phone Jackie for more details on 01647 252701.*

## Summer Holidays

I am just about to start year 10 at Okehampton College after having a very leisurely 6 weeks off for the summer holidays, not that the British weather has shown us much summer weather!

Just two days after we broke up, my family packed up our car to the limit and we drove to Plymouth, as we were going camping in Spain! We were all quite excited as we have never been camping abroad before. We were to catch the ferry to Santander, a crossing of 20 hours. It was a huge vessel and could take 2400 people. The journey was quite rough and not as calm as we expected, as friends had described it as like crossing a millpond! On arrival, we then drove for about an hour to arrive at a campsite near Comillas, a pretty and picturesque town by the sea. We spent a week there, alternating between the beaches and sightseeing due to the showers we had on a few days. However, these days were not wasted as we **went to see some amazing local sights including a 'Gaudi house' in Comillas which was stunning both inside and out.**

After our jolly by the sea, we then went inland to visit the Picos de Europa, a huge area of snow-capped mountains just inland that is a national park. We arrived at probably the best campsite I have ever had the pleasure of visiting. It had great facilities including an amazing swimming pool but what really set it apart were the divine views. You could see the Picos mountains from the tent entrance. It was very multicultural there, with many nationalities but the majority of campers were Spanish. We walked quite a bit there **(much to my sister Flora's dismay) but also did something different during our stay. We hired mountain bikes and went for a day's cycle along a trail known as 'Senda del Oso' or 'the Path of the Bear'. And sure enough, we saw the Spanish Brown Bear, actually three, however they were in an enclosure along the cycle trail. It was a stunning ride and we all ended up cycling 32km in the heat, so we were very pleased.** After four great days in the wonderful Picos Mountains, we then ventured back to the coast but further to the west and stayed on a campsite just outside a small fishing village called Cudillero. We spent a few more happy days lounging on beaches before packing up, jamming everything back in the car and heading for home. It was a fantastic holiday and I hope everyone had a good summer too.

Tilly

### Okehampton District Community Transport Group

#### WANTED

Due to increase in requests for transport  
Do you have an hour or two to spare daily, weekly or monthly?

Do you enjoy meeting new people?

If so, we would love to hear from you!

We provide transport to hospital/medical appointments and social visits, both locally and further afield

We pay our drivers 45p per mile and also indemnify your no claims bonus and policy excess

Drivers are also required for our two wheelchair accessible vehicles. We provide training for wheelchair handling.

Please ring Sue on 01837 55000 for further information *Thank you*

#### Here are all the sessions at The Mess:

##### **Mondays**

4:00pm-6:00pm - School Years 8 & 9

##### **Tuesdays**

3:30pm-5:30pm - School Years 6 & 7

##### **Thursdays**

4:00pm-6:00pm - School Years 10 & 11

6:00pm-8:00pm - 6th Form

##### **Whiddon Down Youth Group (Fortnightly @ The Village Hall)**

**Mondays: 4:00pm-6:00pm - School Years 7+**

##### **Podcast/YouTube Group (Fortnightly @ The Mess)**

**Tuesdays: 6:30pm-8:00pm - Years 10+**

Please get in touch with any questions about these sessions  
07541027827 or wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

Charity Clay Shoot  
In Aid of Cancer Research & The New YFC Centre  
@ Bowbeer Farm, Drewsteignton, Exeter, EX6 6PD  
Sunday 20th September 10am – 4 pm

- \* 50 Bird Challenge
- \* Team Competition
- \* Individual
- \* BBQ
- \* Draw

Entry Fee	
Team of 4	£50.00
Individual	£15.00

Prize Fund	
Team 1st	£100.00
Individual 1st	
Under 21	£30.00
Over 21	£30.00

Cheriton Tedburn YFC  
Hope you can join us to help  
Raise money for  
These good causes

For more info please contact  
Adrian Bowden 07747 023178 or  
Alison Gould 07977 126553

**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

Contact Details:

For Editorial                      John Shiell  
Contributions                      Pauline Rowe

For Parish Council                Bella Snook  
Business

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: plr43@btinternet.com ☎ 281638

drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282  
plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638

clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk  
☎ 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 October - Thank You