Thank you to members of the public who attended the meeting on Monday 20th January. Their concerns reflected those of a lot of parishioners who made representation to Cllr James which were discussed under the Highways agenda item, around the closure of the road through Crockernwell due to a damaged building. The council wishes the lady involved in the accident, causing the damage, a speedy recovery, and we hope that the homeowners are able to return home very soon. Thank you to Highways who have listened to the parishioners and been able to open the road, albeit only one lane and with traffic lights, and to the insurers who have finally moved on the repair of the building. Finally, thank you for your involvement in getting this resolved quickly, whether this was by protest or patience. I know that the traffic lights have not solved all the problems but at least it has gone some way to return village life to a semblance of normality.

The meeting continued, with our clerk keeping us up to date and who presented 3 internal policies (H&S, Internal Audit and Confidential reporting) to the council for approval, two of which were approved and one which was deferred to the next meeting for a small inclusion.

Cllr James is preparing a report for the Parish Council from the Carbon Neutral Working Group and proposed that she would report on this in 3 months time.

Cllr Brennan updated the council on the Mobile Vehicle Activated Speed sign which is currently at Whiddon Down. Graham Hester made a welcome return to add to the MVAS sign update. He retains some responsibility for the sign. He informed the council about the requirements for the posts and Cllr Brennan said that he had identified 3 potential sites, 2 in Crockernwell and 1 in Whiddon Down and had written to Highways for their approval.

More good news, the Parish Council has agreed to take on the tenancy of the WC’s in Drewsteignton and have also agreed to undertake a plan of works including repair of the leaking roof. Currently the gents are closed due to the leak but the ladies are open. Cllr Redman has agreed to do a temporary repair so that the gents can reopen too, whilst we await quotes for the repair to the roof.

Cllrs Redman and Brennan reported on the state of the car park in Drewsteignton. They have had the two quotes required for the completion of the repairs and are seeking a third. The Cllrs have been working with Highways to ensure the best possible outcome. There was brief discussion of planning application 2701 and the progress of the Judicial review. Cllr Rowe agreed to bring further information to the next meeting.

Cllr Brennan brought to the attention of the council that the Mid Devon local plan con, if you wish to comment you can at https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/local-plan-review/

The Royal Garden Party was discussed, and a Drewsteignton parishioner’s name has been put forward for consideration, and hopefully this will come to fruition.

The council agreed the mileage rates for Cllrs and the clerks expenses in line with other councils and the Borough council at 45p per mile. (cont.)
Precept Request was discussed, and the council has agreed to ask for a 2% increase this year (the first increase in 5 years). This will ensure the council has enough to cover its commitments this year.

Next meeting: Monday 17th February 2020, 7:30pm, Drewsteignton Church Rooms. All welcome. Ysanne James - Chairman

~ VILLAGE EVENTS ~

Club Drewe returns to the Drewe Arms
Saturday 1st February
Doors open 8.30pm.

Tickets £5 in advance from Drewe Arms or Drewsteignton Post Office, or £6 on the door. All profits to FODC.

For more information visit the Club Drewe Facebook page.
For people who love to dance!

Wurlitza: in Holy Trinity Church, 7th March

Big screen, bar, popcorn, beanbags
Buster Keaton for kids and adults
A Cottage on Dartmoor - adult supervision recommended
WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

For the foreseeable future, Whiddon Down village hall will no longer be available to hire for teenage/young adult evening parties. Unfortunately, the Hall committee have been forced to make this decision following unnecessary mess, damage and antisocial behaviour caused by the parties held last year. Although booking forms outlining terms and conditions of use were completed, the people responsible chose to ignore the content. As a result, the Hall committee received several complaints from neighbours, along with several hundreds pounds worth of damage.

As a charity, our committee, as trustees, have a responsibility to safeguard the hall’s reputation, to avoid reckless damage and antisocial behaviour within our community. This was a unanimous decision which cannot be construed as prejudicial in any way. Future parties will be considered exclusively at the discretion of the committee.

We have also decided to chain off the Carpark at varying times when the hall is not in use, to deter inappropriate parking. This will be implemented after Easter.

On a brighter note, many thanks to Alison Chapman for generously agreeing to take on the role of treasurer. I am exceedingly grateful. Hopefully, the new fire exit door will be fitted before our next event, thus, completing the refurbishment of the Dartmoor side of the hall. Pig racing returns by popular demand 21st March. Watch out for the posters!!

Thank you to everyone for their continuing support. Jenny Turner chairman.

What’s on in February 2020

www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be February 6th at the Red Lion. 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 February 5th & 19th. Help is provided in store & we will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return.

Acorn monthly Cheriton Bishop Outing - Date & venue to be confirmed!

Call the office for more information.

Teign Valley Memory Café - February 13th & 27th.
Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall – This month it will be Tuesday 4th & 18th.

The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. Please drop in for a tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake & meet up with friends, everyone welcome.

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

Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information or to join our wonderful team of volunteers.
Okehampton District Community Transport Group Newsletter

100 Club - Thank you for your support. Last year we raised £1622 for our funds. You may receive a written or telephone reminder when it is time for you to renew. Congratulations to the winners of our recent draws – 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

November
1st Mrs Aileen Martin, Okehampton
2nd Mrs Rose Martin, Halwill
3rd Mrs Rosemary Hocken, Bridestowe
4th Winifred Davey, Northlew
5th June Slee, Okehampton

November
December
1st Jacqueline Smith, Okehampton
2nd Clare Potter, Winkleigh
3rd Margot Ward, Okehampton
4th Winifred Davey, Northlew
5th June Slee, Okehampton

Drivers
We are always looking for volunteer drivers and at the moment would particularly like to find someone from the South Zeal, North Tawton, Okehampton and Chagford areas. Please ring us for more information. We say goodbye and thank you to Roger Partridge who has driven for us for 13 years, nearly every Wednesday!

Co-op Community Fund
Sue and Liz attended the Big Co-op Payout Celebration to receive our share of the £17m they are donating to local causes in the UK through their Local Community Fund. We will put our £5021.09 towards the purchase of the new minibus. THANK YOU to all the Co-op members for supporting our group.

Coffee Morning
Our next fundraising coffee morning will be on Saturday 21st March at The Charter Hall, Okehampton from 9am – 12noon. We welcome donations of raffle prizes. There will be all the usual stalls. Fundraising
Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Bingo and Quiz nights, we raised a total of £426 over the two events.

Trips
March 7th Sidmouth
March 14th Trago Mills or Newton Abbot
March 21st ODCTG Coffee Morning followed by lunch
March 28th Tavistock
April 4th Homeleigh, Launceston
April 18th Green Lanes, Barnstaple
April 25th Bude

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. 07484525577
Office Hours – Monday to Friday 08.30 – 16.00

February Events at Okehampton Library

Thursday 6th February 16:00-17:00 Harry Potter Night
Join the Triwizard Tournament! Wizards, Witches and muggles from around the world are invited to take part in a tournament of their own, testing their skills with an array of magical activities.
Optional dress code of best wizarding robes or fancy dress.
Wands at the ready….let the magic begin!
£2.50 per child, bookings in advance, spaces limited. Recommended for ages 7+ (cont.)
Friday 21st February 14:30-15:30  Lego Lego Lego!
Lego fun for families. Recommended for ages 5+.
Lego Builders, Lego Speed Building and a Lego Animation demonstration.
£1 per person, no booking required.
Carole
Okehampton Library
Libraries Unlimited
01837 52805
librariesunlimited.org.uk
Facebook.com/OkehamptonLibrary
@OkehamptonLib

SNOWDROP PLANTING DAY
Stone Lane Gardens, near Chagford, is open to the public every day and is a registered charity.
Every March we hold a special Snowdrop Planting Day, which this year will be on
Sunday the 1st of March, from 10am until 4pm.
Garden owners, who can spare a few plants and are kindly willing to donate wild Snowdrops from their own garden, will be welcome to drop by and help us increase the display of Snowdrops, sheltering under the trees in the arboretum, for all our garden visitors to enjoy for many years to come. Find us at Stone Farm, Stone Lane, Chagford, TQ13 8JU. Stone Lane Gardens holds a National Collection of Birch and Alder trees and is an RHS Partner Garden. Registered Charity No.1141252. For more information on Stone Lane Gardens go to www.stonelanegardens.com

The disappeared
Back in 2013, our first extended stay near the village in many years, I decided I wanted to make some cider. We spent a weekend collecting apples from a friend's nearby farm and left them in a trailer, buried in straw, for about a week until we returned. However, much to our surprise, when we came back there was not a single apple to be seen, only a trailer full of straw. There was no debris on the ground surrounding the trailer, and no signs of any half-eaten apples. We were very perplexed by this and wondered how this relatively large quantity of apples could disappear with no sign of any obvious interference. We concluded that it must be a practical joke carried out by someone from the village, and there were two obvious suspects. However, over the next few years, despite recounting the story in the pub, nobody ever admitted to it.
The following autumn we had a good crop of hazelnuts, and thought we'd leave them for another week before harvesting them, but when we came back, they had all disappeared as well. However, this time it was obvious that squirrels were the culprits as we could tell from the shells left on the ground.
This year it's happened again, except the first disappearance was of the last potatoes I'd left in the ground to harvest for Christmas. I'd left a row about 12 feet long, thinking they would be better preserved in the ground than out of it, but when I went to dig them up there was no sign.
I made cider again before Christmas and had a few apples left over which I left in much the same place as the original trailer full. Again, these disappeared without trace, although this time there were only 20 or so. To solve this recurring mystery, I set up a camera trap to identify the culprit. It turned out to be those squirrels again, although how they ever coped with the volume of apples in that first year I can't imagine. There must have been an army of them, and they must all have ended up with severe stomach ache. However, I'm not convinced the squirrels are responsible for the potatoes. I could see something had dug them up, but would squirrels do that? I will have to set up another camera trap next year to solve that one. Hugh Clench

News from the Castle

Hi everyone
I hope that all you had a happy and healthy Christmas and new year. We certainly enjoyed welcoming lots of people in to see the castle decorated for Christmas in traditional Edwardian style. It had been 7 years since the castle was last open for Christmas and it was lovely to see it looking so beautiful. The days when we had various choirs and performances were particularly fabulous. The weather was largely kind but we still had a couple of days when the wind speed was in excess of 50 mph so the site was closed.
The new year started with a bang with the National Trust launching the celebrations to mark its 125th birthday. It’s also a big year for Castle Drogo. The scaffolding is down and the final sections of work are underway on the Kitchen and Scullery roof sections. I had one of those magic moments as I was walking down the drive towards the castle when the sun broke through the cloud catching the stonework beautifully. After 7 years of scaffolding, it was wonderful to see the full glory of the building once again. There is still a lot of finishing touches and tidying up to do, but it really felt like we were on the home stretch.
To mark our special birthday, and to say a huge thank you to all of you for your continued support and positivity, we would like to invite you to a community open weekend on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March, 11am – 4pm. The castle will be open, fresh from the winter clean and with new displays. The team will be on hand to share the latest project news and to chat about future plans. It would be the perfect time to find out about ways to get involved too, whether that is volunteering or how to make a difference for nature. I will be there too (please don’t let that put you off) and we will have some live 30s style music in the castle from The Hummingbirds.
Please keep fingers and toes crossed for nice spring weather for the open weekend. We always update our website if we have to close due to high winds or heavy snow. If you are a member, please bring your card. Otherwise, please bring a copy of this magazine to get free entry. Everyone is welcome and I hope to see you all there.
Best wishes,
Paula
Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Och Aye! Great fun had at Burns’ Night Supper on the 25th. Thanks to Gary, Hamish, Jenny Mullins, the piper, guests and helpers. impressive funds raised for FoDC, with thanks - Ed
Fond Farewells: the village recently lost two much-loved and respected friends: Liz Fox and Philip Evans. Here, we first remember Liz.

Elizabeth Joan Fox, known as Liz, lived a long life, falling just nine days short of the full century. Liz enjoyed her early childhood in Rawalpindi, playing in the stables, chatting to the staff in their native language of Pashtun.

When her father left the Indian Medical Service in 1928, the family returned to Europe, spending some time in Annecy, France, before her father bought the medical practice at Chillington in South Devon and settled into life as a GP. She loved riding but was not much interested in other sports although she loved the outdoors and won a school prize for successfully identifying 25 wildflowers. After leaving school, she went on to Dartington in 1935 and trained as a Montessori teacher before her mother sent her to Paris to attend Finishing School and then the Sorbonne to study French Civilisation and Fine Arts.

The spring of 1939 might not have been the best time to move on to Munich to study German at a private language school. While there she helped a maid working at the school to escape in the middle of the night with her Jewish boyfriend — they made it over the border into Switzerland. Liz herself made the long journey back to Britain just a few days before the beginning of the Second World War. In October 1939 she joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (the FANYs), where she became a driver in the ATS chauffeuring senior officers.

It was during the war that she met the love of her life — Freddy Fox. He was a para Captain in the Royal Engineers — they met out beagling where he didn’t make the best impression, but that night at the hunt dance they danced the night together. Freddy had been unable to obtain a divorce from his estranged first wife, so Liz changed her name to Fox by deed poll. Their son John was born in April 1946 and the first Mrs. Fox then agreed to a divorce, so Liz and Freddy were able to marry in 1947. After the war Freddy went to work in Nigeria and Liz went with him. The twins, Sue and Felicity (better known as Mouse) were born there, in Kano.

Later years included a spell in Afghanistan, where Liz found that the Pashtun she’d learnt from the stable boys in Rawalpindi was not quite the language used in polite Afghan society although it was useful for negotiating in the markets! The move to Hillside in Drewsteignton brought a settled home for the family and for the numerous cats which were an important part of Liz’s life. She and Freddy soon became an integral part of the Drewsteignton community with many friends. Freddy also became part of the community which centred around the Sandy Park Inn — a community which also included my Father who counted Freddy amongst his closest friends.

At the age when most people are thinking of retirement Liz took on a whole new career trading in antiques. She knew the joys of love and family and the frustrations and limitations of old age, but always retained an open mind and an open heart, full of compassion. She would describe herself as an agnostic rather than a believer and she certainly had some issues with the Almighty, feeling that he could have managed things a lot better and that the world should be a kinder place.

As we say our farewells we can commend her to God’s love with great confidence although I do have some sympathy for St Peter who has probably just got used to dealing with Nanny but now has Liz to contend with as well! Harriet Every
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<td>Fingle Talk: 2019</td>
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**The Drewsteignton Parish Post**

**Contact Details:**

If you have trouble reading this publication please do let me know and a large-print copy will be sent to you.

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_The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Post._

Contributions for the next edition **by** 25th February - Thank-you.