

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 50.

MARCH 2010

FEBRUARY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council was disappointed with the response from Dartmoor National Park and others we had written to regarding the Teign Valley shoot, but are grateful to those horse-riders, walkers and residents who have taken time to contact us. We are still pressing for a meeting of those interested parties to try and resolve the problem.

Highway matters take a lot of our time and this month is no exception!! Our list of potholes is getting longer, but to give credit where it is due, many temporary repairs have been done.

We would be interested to know if anyone has experienced problems since the street lights have been turned off in the small hours. We are formulating a plan for a request to Devon County Council for the siting of Salt Bins instead of bags and thanks to those who have contacted us regarding this subject.

Parking in Knowle Lane Drewsteignton has cropped up again. Please use the allocated bays for parking. We are writing to the owners of the holiday cottages seeking their help and have asked WPC Wilson to monitor the situation and to take positive action against those car drivers who choose to cause an obstruction. It's quite simple - if a Fire appliance cannot get through, it is an offence.

We have also heard that no money is available to cut back the undergrowth at Venton Lay-By, so if the fly tipping continues, please inform Cllr Sue Power and West Devon Borough Council. Talking about money, we have been told Dartmoor National Park will not be contributing to the upkeep of the toilets in Drewsteignton, so the whole cost will now be

borne by the Parish.

At Whiddon Down an alternative plan has been discussed relating to the closure of Turnpike and Chapel Hill. Cllr Graham Hester will be contacting residents to canvass their opinions. Some news about the new crossing highlighted in the Parish Plan at the bus stops - it is hoped it will be included in Devon County Council's budget for this year. Again at Whiddon Down the junction with the A30 is the subject of a survey to monitor "near misses" and accidents in the hope of persuading the Highways Agency to make some improvements. (You can help by letting us know the date, time and incident you witness).

On the subject of Planning, we made no comment on the application to replace a shed at Coombe Hall. The Council's responsibility is to make recommendations to the Dartmoor National Park. We either support or object with valid planning reasons, or make no comment, leaving the decision to the DNP.

Hot off the press: West Devon Borough Council has negotiated a new contract with regard to refuse collection, and new arrangements will take place after 1st April.

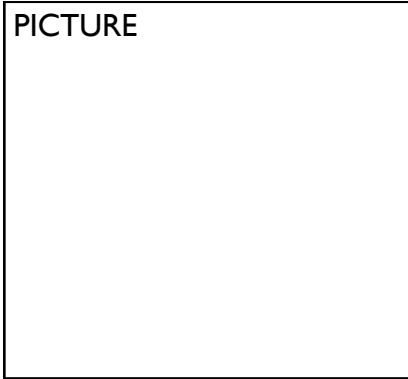
There will be a much improved recycling collection and other collections, but WDDBC will be contacting all householders with the full details in due course.

Our next meeting is at **Whiddon Down, 7.30pm Monday 15th March**. Advance notice: the Annual Parish Meeting where you can have your say will be on Monday 26th April at Drewsteignton - full details next month.

Parish Profile...The Young Ones

The Parish Profile has been an occasional feature of the Parish Post for some time now, but while we have the crack team of Hope (cub reporter) and Viva (photographer) available, we're going to focus for a time on the youth of the Parish. If any other young people fancy trying their hand at doing a Profile, or have any other ideas for articles, please get in touch.

PICTURE



Text—approx. 250 words

Name

Brief overview of person—approx. 50 words

Drewsteignton Post Office Stores Easter Opening Hours

Good Friday, April 2, 8.30.am - 1 pm (Post Office closed)

Saturday, April 3, 8.30 - 1pm (as normal)

Easter Sunday, April 4, CLOSED

Easter Monday, April 5, 9am - 12.30 pm (Post Office closed)



Morenews from Morecare

The Morecare Association continues to thrive in the various parishes which we support. Last year we carried out over 500 jobs and we are very well supported by a group of about 60 volunteers. Feedback from those we help is very positive but we cannot sit back and be complacent.

What we can do

Morecare aims to help in simple ways such as shopping for those who may be temporarily housebound; driving someone without a car to an appointment; visiting someone who needs company or something read for them. Many in our community already receive help but there are some people who do not know as many as others and sometimes find it difficult to get help easily when they need it most. The Morecare telephone number is 0791 485 3726. Please leave a message if necessary and the organiser will get back to you.

New ideas

We are keen to meet the needs of those who need our

support. We do get some suggestions such as helping those with poor or no sight but I am sure there are other ideas you may have. To this end, Volunteers will be asking those that we help if there are any services that we can provide that would make life easier for those that might be struggling. We are open to all ideas so please let a Volunteer know or write to me, the Chairman of Morecare at Linden Spinney, Chagford, Devon, TQ13 8JF or leave a message on the Morecare telephone, 0791 485 3726.

Meldon Seat

Morecare has had a very kind donation specifically to enable us to erect a seat at the base of the path that leads to the top of Meldon, close to the old golf course clubhouse. The purpose is to provide somewhere for those unable to get to the top to sit and admire the view and take in the air.

There are ongoing discussions taking place with the Dartmoor National Park and we hope it will not be too long before the job is completed.

Nigel Price, Chairman

The Veg Sowing Season Has Arrived

Peter Clements runs a business from home in Drewsteignton, all about helping people to grow their own veg.

It's the start of March, and we're finally starting to see an improvement in the weather. Snowdrops and crocuses have begun appearing in abundance, and you can even see the change in the trees. Just last week I was walking along the top of the Teign Valley and there was an incredible purple-pink hue over the trees on the other side.

My neighbour informed me this comes from new spring buds emerging from last years bark. The French, rather charmingly, call it the 'rose du bois'. With all these strong signals from nature that spring is on its way, it's time to start sowing some veg. If you've got a heated greenhouse or fancy using a windowsill

propagator (inside) now's the ideal time to sow slow-growing, frost-tender plants like tomatoes, chillies, cucumbers and aubergines. Salad leaves and lettuces can also be started off in the greenhouse too. Modules or gutters are quick to use, and make transplanting outside in four-five weeks' time nice and easy. Outside, onion sets can go in and seed potatoes later in the month. It's best to chit seed potatoes first, otherwise you can end up with lots of small potatoes. Sow hardy annual seeds like radishes, peas, broad beans and beetroot outside now too. If you're sowing outdoors during March and April it's well worth considering using some horticultural

fleece. There's lots of daylight now – days are as long as they are in September - but the ground is cold, and frosts are common. A sheet of fleece loosely laid over your seeds/plants will help speed up germination and growth a lot. Spread it out and hold it down with stones, or old milk cartons filled up with water to avoid tearing, and if you're thinking about planting some new fruit bushes, now's your last chance to get them in!

Seeds, growing equipment and advice are available on our website seedtoplate.co.uk. Seeds are also for sale in the Drewsteignton Post Office.

Olchard Opera Presents

An evening of 'magical Moments'

Grand Opera, operetta, Gilbert & Sullivan, Musical Comedy & More

at

Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton

Friday 19th March 2010.

7:30 pm

Tickets £6 to include coffee & cake. Proceeds to: **Haiti Shelter Box Appeal**



Sam Peirce resides in Exeter and has been a regular columnist in a number of regional newspapers. Never shy of expressing an opinion, she writes about all manner of things but is happiest when ranting about the things that impinge on her otherwise harmonious existence. Every month, she will share her thoughts with us in The Parish Post.

The never-ending story...

I've decided that I really hate soap operas. I was round my mum's for a visit and she rudely insisted on watching Coronation Street followed by Eastenders. As I was only there for an hour, not a lot of social interaction went on but I did find out about Gail and her husband's hassle with loan sharks and who killed Archie, whoever the heck he is. It might have something to do with living in Drewsteignton all those years. Most of us who inhabit or who have inhabited the place are aware that we are actually living in a soap opera and the Parish Post is equivalent to a monthly fanzine. I gave up Eastenders a long time ago because I was finding it cynical and depressing with repetitive storylines and one-dimensional characters. Every time someone turned up at Beale's café in need of sustenance, I got fed up of the sound of my own voice imploring them to go home and make a coffee/bacon sarnie/cheese roll as they would save themselves a fortune. I know they're entertainment, loved by masses of people keen to escape to a fantasy land where people are having a miserable time, but watching Eastenders, or indeed any other soap, is just like smoking, drinking, gambling or any other vice. It takes up time and is highly addictive so if you never start, you're never going

to know what you're missing. I have been trying to get my mum to spend her time more productively and recently decided to chuck some statistics at her. Eastenders started 25 years ago, broadcasting just two half-hour episodes a week. Some time around half-way between then and now, the BBC decided on doubling the broadcasting time, with a total of four half-hour episodes. You probably know where I am going with this ...

Yes – I have done 'the math' and worked out that if you had watched every episode since its inception, you would have spent 1,950 hours worrying about the lives of a bunch of fictional people with fictional lives in a fictional place.

That's a total of 81¼ days or nearly 12 weeks or three months without getting off that sofa, sleeping or going to the toilet.

The trouble is she doesn't just watch Eastenders. She watches Coronation Street and Emmerdale, too. It's probably not advisable to work out the total time she's been glued to the screen. She could probably get half her life back.

© Sam Peirce 2010

Devon's Mobile Library Service

Devon Library Service want to improve the mobile library service, the use of which has declined by more than 40% over the last 10 years.

They will be consulting with the local community and users about the service and the changes they might make. There is information about the consultation and an electronic survey on the Devon Libraries website at www.devon.gov.uk/mobilelibraryreview.

Printed survey forms are available in the mobile libraries. You can also e mail your comments to mobiles@devon.gov.uk or hand them into a member of staff at any one of Devon Libraries.

Internet For The Community

Drewsteignton has a number of ways of beating the jungle drums and keeping its residents in touch with each other and with what's going on -

The Post Office / Marg and Ian

The Pub / Fiona and Paul

The Parish Mag

The Church and Cubs

The school bus stop

The Book Club

The Gardening Club

The WI

Snowy days tobogganing

... and probably many more

To make that communication even more efficient,

we thought an internet noticeboard would be a great idea if you

- * *need help or advice*
- * *have something you no longer need and would like to pass on*
- * *need a lift*
- * *have a space in your car for more passengers*
- * *want to advertise an event etc*

You can join by logging onto

drewsteignton@yahoogroups.co.uk

or if you have a computer but you're not very confident about using it, just ring Fiona 281617 or Christy 281191. We'll be happy to try and help.

View from the Farm

I feel like a real global correspondent and am filing from Washington. Recently, I have been lucky to have been awarded a Nuffield Scholarship (www.nuffieldscholar.org.uk), which gives me the opportunity to travel in the next 18 months and present a paper that will give some solutions to increasing the number of new entrants in farming.

This week I am with a group of leading agriculturalists, including farmers, a journalist, fish farmers, bee-keepers and policy-makers from around the world.

Although it sounds like a jolly, it has been intense work getting to grips with the global situation in our industry. Much thought is being given to the population prediction of 9 billion by 2050, volatility in the oil market and climate change. Although it is hard to compare our small farms in Devon with Australian farms that are 45,000 acres, we still have very similar worries of where the next generation of farmers are coming from.

Drewsteignton Gardeners Club

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

Looking ahead, our Annual Bring and Buy Plant Sale is on Saturday, 1st May, from 10 to 12 noon, in the Village Hall. Don't forget to put the date in your diary! There will be refreshments and a raffle -- contributions much appreciated! The event is open to all and is just the place to get something special for your garden for the coming season!

Whiddon Down Produce Market

The first Produce Market at Whiddon Down Village Hall was a big success!

We had a good selection of produce available, including fresh vegetables and plants, dairy and meat products, fresh fish, cakes and local crafts. Tea & coffee is also available.

The Market is going to be held EVERY 4th Saturday morning, 10.00am to Midday.

If you are interested in having a stall please contact Patrick Sullivan on 01647 231411 (evenings).

Please make a note on your calendars and come along for some wonderful local produce.

The annual general meeting of Whiddon Down Village Hall will be held on Tuesday 4th May at 7.30pm.

All welcome. Tea and coffee will be served.

Music for Good Friday

Exeter Male Voice Gospel Choir will be performing at Whiddon Down Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Good Friday, April 2. Light refreshments available.

News from the Castle

Well, what a chilly January and February we've had, with the Castle effectively cut off to all but 4x4s for several days! In spite of the weather it was good to see so many local residents, particularly the younger members of the community, making use of the grounds – with sledges and snowmen much in evidence. In fact the remnants of one snowman can still be seen by the croquet lawn.

To help beat the cold, a new wood-burner has been installed in the gardener's workshop, replacing an old, electric fan heater. As a result, the gardening team are now lovely and warm and are able to effectively dry their wet clothes. By replacing the electric heater with the wood-burner, we have further reduced our carbon emissions and our reliance on fossil fuels. It even came in handy for making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

While I'm on the subject of garden news, our previous Head Gardener, Andrew Midgley, left in January to take over the management of the Trust's gardens in the Torbay area. We are now looking forward to welcoming our new Head Gardener, John Rippin, who will be joining us in April. John is currently the Deputy Head Gardener at Hidcote Manor Garden, Gloucestershire, and will bring a wealth of horticultural experience and expertise to the team.

As many of you will know, a car parking area was created at the top of the drive to provide hard standing for larger vehicles during the re-development of the Visitor Centre. While this has proved very useful over the past year, it was only ever intended to be a short-term solution and the time has now come for us to reinstate this area. We are currently planning the work required and will post notices to keep you advised of progress. We will all miss that little car park, but are looking forward to seeing that spectacular view across the Teign Valley to Dartmoor restored to its former, uninterrupted glory.

February half-term was busy despite the cold weather, and the team are all now geared up and ready for the year ahead. Let's hope it will be a bumper one, like last year! It's fantastic to see so many volunteers returning this year and we are delighted to be welcoming some new faces, too.

So, as we re-open, is there anything in particular that you should look out for? Well, how about the following to get you started?:

To celebrate the start of a new season, the National Trust is holding a 'Bonus Time' weekend on 20th and 21st March during which you will get free entry to our car parks and pay for entrance to properties. So, if you haven't visited us for a while, why not come along to say hello and see what's new at Castle Drogo. We'd love to see you here.

Many of you will be pleased to hear that the breakfasts are back! From 13th March you will be able to get a full English breakfast for £6.95, or a bacon and egg bap for £3.50, (with vegetarian and children's options available). These will be on sale from 8.30am until 10.30am every day until the end of October. Finally, as mentioned in last month's Parish Post, we will be holding another Drogo Quiz night on Wednesday 21st April. Once again the evening will kick off at 7pm, with Sausage & Mash (or a vegetarian alternative) available for £5 and, of course, there will be a bar. Paula will be our fiendish questioner and the quiz will start at 8pm. Each team can have up to six members and there will be a charge of £2 per person, with half of the proceeds going into the prize fund. Be warned, this time there will be a booby prize! If you would like to join us, please book your place by contacting Paula by e-mail (paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk) or by phone on 01647 434114 (if she's not at her desk please leave a message including your name, your contact details and the number of places you would like to book).

Finally, as you know, David and Kate have now moved on to pastures new, in Herefordshire. I am stepping in, on secondment, as interim Property Manager until June, when the new General Manager starts. I've been working for the National Trust for four years and come to you from Lanhydrock, Cornwall. I'm very much looking forward to my time at Drogo.

Do come and see us during the Bonus Time weekend!

Tamsyn Butler

Property Manager

Castle Drogo. Telephone: 01647 434130 Email: Tamsyn.butler@nationaltrust.org.uk



Castle Drogo Events: March to April

Sunday 14 March

Mothers Day Lunch

Why not treat your Mother to a lovely lunch to show her how special she is? £20 per person, includes a posy of flowers and a glass of champagne for each Mum. Children's portions available. Booking advisable on (01647) 434144.

Sunday 28 March, 11am-3pm

Local Delights Food Tasting

Come along to the Drogo Shop to celebrate the start of British Summer Time. Tickle those taste buds with a wide variety of local produce from honey and jam to apple juice, chocolates and biscuits.

Friday 2 - Monday 5 April, 11am-4pm

Easter Trail

Follow the wildlife clues around the garden and grounds to claim your chocolate prize!

£2 per child. Normal admission prices apply.

Tuesday 6 – Sunday 18 April, 11am-4pm

Tors of Dartmoor Letterboxing Trail

Hunt around the garden and grounds to discover the Letterboxing stamps and learn about the stories behind the Dartmoor Tors. £1.50 per child (including prize). Normal admission prices apply.

Wednesday 7 April, 11am - 1pm & 2 - 4pm

Holiday Activities: Create a Cookie!

Now that all the Easter chocolate is finished, why not have fun decorating your own biscuit? It's up to you whether you save it or eat it straight after! £2 per person. Normal admission prices apply.

Wednesday 14 April, 11am – 1pm & 2 - 4pm

Holiday Activities: Design a Bag

Create a unique and individual design on a jute bag using pens, buttons, sequins, fabric and your imagination! £2 per person. Normal admission prices apply.

Wednesday 21 April, 10am – 11.30am

Hidden Drogo

Come and explore behind the scenes at Castle Drogo. This tour will show you areas not normally on the visitor route such as the Boot Room, Wood Store and the spectacular roof. £5 per person, £2.50 per child. Booking essential on (01647) 433306.

Saturday 24 April 10am - 12pm & 2 - 4pm

Boilers Ain't Boring

Find out why on this quirky tour of Castle Drogo's heating system! Descend into the bowels of the Castle with a visit to the now obsolete oil-fired boilers. Then climb onto the roof to see the magnificent view of the Teign Valley that will soon be providing our heating fuel. You will also take a trip to our new environmentally friendly biomass boiler where you can discover what biomass is and see the boiler in action. A unique opportunity to take a peek at the inner workings of Castle Drogo! Please note this tour includes many stairs over many levels. Not suitable for children under 12. £5 per person and £2.50 for children under 16. Booking essential on (01647) 433306.

Sunday 25 April, 12 - 3pm

Taste Sunday

Try before you buy - come along to the Shop for food tasting and see what our local suppliers can tickle your taste buds with.

Duck Race

Teignton Fayre Duck Race will be held on Monday 5th April at Fingle Bridge at 2.30pm.

Ducks available to purchase in advance from any committee member.

Please come along and support.

Police Notice

I would like to remind people NOT to give out any bank or credit card details to unknown persons over the phone, even if they claim to be from your bank or credit card company. **YOUR BANK AND CREDIT CARD COMPANIES WILL NOT PHONE YOU AND ASK FOR SUCH INFORMATION.**

It has come to notice that telephone type scams are on the increase with people claiming to be from bank/credit card companies asking you to confirm your card details, informing you that there appears to be a problem with your account and asking in the case of credit cards for the three security numbers on the rear of the card -- this enables them to access your account and remove money.

If you are at all unsure if callers are genuine, contact your bank to confirm this.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further advice about this subject or if you think you may have been subject to a scam. Call 08452 777 444.

Public Transport Survey

West Devon Borough Council is currently undertaking a Public Transport Survey, which closes on 30th April 2010.

The results from the 2008 survey showed that only 43.8% of those surveyed were happy with the public transport information available in the Borough and only 42.6% were happy with the local bus service.

WDBC would like to encourage local residents to give their views. Blank copies of the survey form are available from the Clerk or at Drewsteignton Post Office. The survey is also available for completion on the website; www.westdevon.gov.uk.

FORCE Date For Your Diary

A Clay Pigeon shoot is being held at Bowbeer Farm on Sunday 2nd May 10am to 4pm in aid of Force, a cancer charity based in Exeter.

Barbeque, Draw and Target shooting also being held on the day.

Please come along and support this worthy cause.

Drewsteignton Parish Post

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Contributions for the next edition by
1st April — thank you