

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 45

OCTOBER 2009

SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Was it something to do with being at Whiddon Down, or the agenda items, that made so many parishioners attend the September meeting? Whatever it was, the Council always welcomes input from those attending so we can make better and more balanced decisions. The matter of Parish representation at the National Park planning meetings is still ongoing. **The Parish Council's observations on the Lamb Park development** were NOT accurately reported to National Park members attending a site visit there, but fortunately Cllrs Bill Savage & Chris Gosnay were present to put the tables straight!! The development at Lamb Park was on the agenda at a meeting of the National Park on Friday 2nd October where a lengthy discussion ensued. This meeting resolved to refuse permission for the erection of new houses in their present format. The main reasons were the height of the development, access and parking problems and the fact the design was not in keeping with the rest of the village by virtue of the orientation running north to south. The committee felt that the development should be something the National Park and the community should be proud of and that was not the case. Apart from three abstentions this decision was unanimous.

The Parish Council will be pressing West Devon Homes to come up with a more acceptable development as soon as possible. We welcomed Inspector Hammond from Okehampton Police who addressed the problem of excess speed in the Parish. It has been agreed that resources will be deployed to enforce the current 30 mph speed limits in Crockernwell and Whiddon Down over the

next 12 weeks and a report will be given at the December meeting as to the outcome. (At the time of writing we are aware that enforcement measures have already started -- please do not become a recipient of a fine and licence endorsement.) Once we are satisfied that action has been successful at these locations we will be pressing for similar action on the Venton and Harepath Straights. The question of speeding vehicles entering the village of Drewsteignton from the Drogo direction was also discussed. The Parish Council had already taken this from the Parish Plan and is awaiting a speed survey to be done by Devon County Highways to establish the extent of the problem so a solution can be found.

Nick Payne from West Devon Borough Council gave a report on the situation regarding travellers' sites. WDDBC is trying to locate suitable land for relocation, but the problem is that it does not own very much land itself. The Parish Lengths-man will be in the Parish in November so if you are aware of any small highway jobs that need doing, please contact the Clerk.

Congratulations to the Parish Post team for getting a copy on to the Parish website. Now anyone in the world can read it!!

Next Parish Council meeting is at Drewsteignton on Tuesday 13th October at 7.30pm.



Drewsteignton teenager makes the grade

Chagford Football Club is proud to state that, for the first time we are aware of, we have a player selected for a County representative side. 17 year old Will Cork, of Sandy Park, Drewsteignton Parish, has played his way into the initial squad for Devon's Under 18s.

Will impressed in trials held at County HQ in Newton Abbot and then gave a good performance in their first friendly – the side winning 4 – 2, with our man helping his team to a 3 – 0 half-time lead.

Our hope is that Will continues on to the final 16-man squad that plays competitively throughout the South West, although this would mean we lose him occasionally on weekends. We also have another couple of lads capable of emulating Will, should they follow his fine example.

John Pearce, Chagford FC

Harvest Festival Auction at Fingle Bridge

This year's Harvest Festival Auction will be held at Fingle Bridge Inn on Friday 16th October at 8pm.

Proceeds will go to the maintenance of the church clock and the Drewsteignton Playing Fields.

Donations in keeping with the Harvest Festival will be gratefully received and auctioned off -- fruits of the land, including fruit and veg, meat, eggs, preserves, bread and cakes, home-made wines and so forth.

On 5th November, Fingle Bridge Inn is planning a Bonfire Night event, with proceeds going to Okehampton Hospiscare. Watch this space!

Drewsteignton Royal British Legion, Women's Section

After a year of very successful fund-raising for the Benevolent Fund, we now turn our attention towards Remembrance Sunday on 8th November, and the annual Poppy Appeal.

As always, there will be door-to-door collections around the country and if anyone could spare a little time to help with this in our area (the more helpers the less time) Amy Manley 01647 281275 would be very glad to hear from you.



Drewsteignton Ladies Club
Coffee Morning
Thursday 22nd October
At Ford House, Drewsteignton.
10.30am to 12 noon
In aid of Drewsteignton Village Hall

Royal British Legion
Drewsteignton Branch , Women's Section
Soup and Sandwiches
In aid of The Poppy Appeal
Saturday 7th November
At The Village Hall 12 noon

In the Veg Garden

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

In the last few days we've seen the weather shift dramatically from a wonderfully warm and sunny September, to a distinctly **cool and damp October. It's time** to get set for the chill of autumn and winter.

Despite what many people think the arrival of the colder months **needn't mean the end of productivity** on the veg plot. In fact, far from it!

Veg like kale, Swiss chard and perpetual spinach, will take everything but the most severe frosts in their stride. Inevitably **they'll grow more slowly with** the lower temperatures and reduced levels of daylight, but **they'll grow none the less and** give you a steady supply of

leaves. When warmer temperatures arrive in March/April their growth will accelerate again and you can harvest with your usual enthusiasm, picking fistfuls at a time. Certain salad leaves like mustard, mizuna, mibuna and lambs lettuce will also grow well through the autumn and winter.

If you haven't sown any yet, there's still just about time to sneak some in, but do it asap. It's helpful to cover them with a cloche to offer some protection from the elements and slightly warmer growing temperatures, but not essential.

Now's also the perfect time to sow garlic and broad beans. Garlic is a wonderful thing to grow yourself. The big advantage is you can use it 'wet', this means picking it and using straightaway, before it reaches the dried out state commonly available. The flavour is milder and sweeter. It's

truly exceptional in dishes using raw garlic, like pesto and in salad dressings when you don't want such a strong garlic hit.

Plant individual cloves now and by the time summer arrives each one will have transformed into a new bulb.

October is also an excellent month to sow broad beans. Be sure to pick a variety suitable for overwintering such as Super Aquadulce or The Sutton (dwarf variety). The plants will establish an extensive root system during the winter, enabling rapid growth when the warmer weather arrives in early spring – **you'll be harvesting delicious beans as early as May and they'll go on cropping till July.**

Seeds and advice are available on our website www.seedtoplate.co.uk

Community watch

Recently a few of our rural petrol stations seem to have become targets for burglaries, with cigarettes and cash being stolen in the main. These burglaries have taken place once the garage has closed so there have been no witnesses. If everyone in our communities could be more vigilant, in that if you see people or a vehicle in suspicious circumstances please call us as we would rather deter and prevent crime or further burglaries taking place.

If you have seen something suspicious, please call the police on 08452777444

Two males attempted a distraction burglary in Witheridge on 30th September 2009. Please look out for two 6ft males of large build wearing navy blue tops. They made off in a vehicle described as a sporty blue Vauxhall. This message relates to crime no CS 09 532. If you see them or have any suspicious callers, please let the police know via 08452777444.

Between 15:00 hrs on the 27th September and 15:45hrs on the 29th September 2009 a green quad bike and a Husqvarna ride-on mower were stolen from a farm in Cheriton Bishop. Were you in this area between those times? Did you see any suspicious activity or vehicles? If so please let us know via 08452777444 quoting crime KC 09 744.

If you are thinking of buying a second-hand car then please be aware of the following. Car cloning is the vehicle equivalent of identity fraud. Cars are stolen and given a false identity by giving the vehicle a false set of number plates, illegal copy of the log book and a different vehicle identification number. If the deal is too good to be true, then it probably is. Always do your research first. If you require further information, contact Constable 6534 Mark Humphries on 01392 451701.



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.

Not crochet ...

I spent Sunday morning at Westpoint with my mother at a show called Creative Stitches and Hobbycrafts. It was, as you can probably tell from the title, an exhibition for those keen on crafts, but no amount of dressing of that gargantuan metal container could detract from the feeling that the venue would be more suited to housing a few thousand Friesians.

It's an annual event that once upon a time was just called 'Creative Stitches'.

About 10 years ago, the event had a respectable attendance but nothing like that on Sunday where every square inch was filled with all sorts of human life, jostling in order to observe how you can turn a simple **duck egg into Cinderella's coach or how to turn ribbon into gladioli, if you could be bothered. I've never** seen so many devoted husbands fall asleep standing up.

I went along because of my love affair with the beautiful craft that is crochet. I rightly thought as the title **included the word 'stitches' that I** might find acres and acres of lovely alpaca, merino, linen, silk and cotton yarn that I could caress and sniff. No such luck. The addition of the word **'Hobbycrafts' should have been a** warning, because the event was

largely dedicated to the relatively new but extremely popular craft of card making.

Now, far be it for me to come over **all superior, and I realise I'm going** to upset a lot of people out there in the middle of sticking a couple of sequins on piece of A5 foil printed **luxury felt card, but it's not a proper** craft – carefully honed and handed down through generations - is it? It just involves sticking stuff on to other stuff. In fact, the show should **be called 'Creative sticking and Hobbycrafts'.** **On top of the fact that it is** just an exercise in glue handling, **aren't there enough cards in the** world? Really? There are stores selling cards everywhere. Cards for birthdays, for Christmas, for graduation, for Valentines, for Easter, for grandparents day, for condolence for the loss of a budgie, for flip's sake. Now people are making these pointless things destined to spend a couple of weeks on your mantelpiece and then make their way to the recycling bin. I beg of all you card-makers out there, ditch the hobby. **It's fleeting, it's facile and it's most** definitely not crochet.

© Sam Peirce 2008

Watch your speed!

A local issue raised by the residents at the last Parish meeting concerned speeding through Crockernwell and Whiddon Down, *Nadine Wilson of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary writes.*

I have liaised with our Road Casualty Reduction Officer, Nick Porter, and he has asked our neighbourhood team to record and monitor the speed at both locations for a period of a week at various times to obtain true data. If the data shows an issue, then further enforcement will be taken. I will be collating and actioning this over the course of a 12-week period initially.

I am asking motorists (usually locals) to take greater care and abide to the speed limits. Just being a little over is not acceptable and enforcement will be taken.



Community Garden

Some friends and I have been inspired by the idea of food sustainability and the growth of Community Gardens, which are part of the Transition movement locally, nationally and globally.

We would like to ask other villagers who are interested in setting up a community garden here in Drewsteignton to join us. We're inspired by permaculture and movements like Transition Towns and Food Futures.

If anyone knows of a plot we could use (or rent), that would be helpful, too. We are in the process of negotiating an allocated area of land in Drewsteignton from West Devon Borough Council.

A meeting will be held in the New Year. Watch this space!

If you're interested, please contact christina.siddorn@sky.com and/or julia_whatley@hotmail.co.uk

Teignton Fayre Award Funds to Local Good Causes

Around 30 guests, including both recipients and sponsors, attended the annual Teignton Fayre Awards Presentation Evening on Wednesday 23rd September, held at The Drewe Arms.

A total of £3,300 went to five charities and local organisations:

- £200 for Cheriton Bishop Community Primary School for equipment for their after-school club
- £700 for Drewsteignton Village Hall for ongoing refurbishment
- £700 for Drewsteignton Playing Field for sports and line-marking equipment
- £600 for Drewsteignton PCC toward the painting of the church clock face
- £1,100 for Okehampton Hospiscare, our nominated regional charity.

Chair Adrian Bowden presented the cheques while guests enjoyed Pimms and nibbles.

Teignton Fayre Committee



Calling Sandy Park

The Parish Council has received notification that BT wish to close the telephone kiosk at Sandy Park because of lack of use. They say that only 168 calls have been made from there in a 12-month period and that the mobile network Vodafone is an alternative in the area.

The Parish Council can adopt the kiosk for a nominal sum of £1 but the telephone equipment will be taken out. The kiosk could remain in place but that would then incur an ongoing expense for maintenance and funds would need to be found by increasing the Parish Precept. We have not been told how much would be required.

The Parish Council would like to hear the views of parishioners and especially those from Sandy Park residents as a matter of urgency on whether we should adopt the kiosk or leave it to BT to remove the kiosk completely. Please contact Cllrs Sue Power, Paul Ridgers or the Clerk. It will be discussed at our November meeting.

Bill Savage

Chairman Drewsteignton Parish Council

Charlotte's Choice.....

Easy to make Sticky Chocolate Cake

This is a recipe that is not possible to get wrong -- very little weighing, just cups full of ingredients. It is moist and sticky and chocolaty and really good for you. Well, its got yogurt in it.

Mix together 2oz cocoa with 1/4 pint of cold water in a large bowl.

Add:

1 cup s/r flour
1 cup caster sugar
2 tsp baking powder
2 tsp baking soda

1/2 tsp salt

Then add:

1 egg
2 oz melted butter
4 fluid oz (small tub) plain (here is the healthy bit) organic yogurt.

Mix it all together with a metal whisk and pour into two prepared cake tins. Bake in the oven at 350-400 for about 40 mins.

It is no use testing it with a knife as it is supposed to be a bit soggy in the middle when it is cooked.

Icing:

Melt 1 1/2 oz butter and mix in 2 oz cocoa, blend 1 3/4 cups icing sugar and 3 tablespoons milk.

Use this to sandwich the two cakes together and dust the top with icing sugar. Eat with copious amounts of double cream.



The Old Inn
Drewsteignton

www.old-inn.co.uk

Tel:01647
281276



News from the Castle

Your Castle needs you!

We are nearing the end of what has been a very busy time for us, at Castle Drogo, having seen more visitors this year than ever before. In part this is down to more UK residents holidaying near home, but we have also seen many more overseas visitors than last year.

Whilst we have enjoyed the challenges that the year has offered us we are disappointed that we have been forced to close some of the show rooms, as we do not have enough volunteers. This always saddens me, especially at a time when we are receiving so many new visitors to the Castle, and it is always disappointing for repeat visitors. Many of our volunteers have been visited by family and friends, who want to holiday near home and take the opportunity to stay with relatives, or have been looking after grandchildren during the school holidays. All of which, quite understandably, reduces the time that they have available to work with us.

It is fascinating to watch the trends, year on year, and we now have more volunteers than ever before but, on average, there is a reduction in hours each volunteer can offer us. **So don't be surprised when, early next year, I ask everyone who lives locally to come and help us make visiting this area a truly uniquely, local experience, by volunteering to work with us at Castle Drogo.** It is, genuinely, a positive experience: with new people to meet and travelling expenses provided. In addition, once

you have volunteered with us for so many hours, you get a pass that provides you with free entry to other National Trust properties and a discount in National Trust shops and cafes and on the rental of holiday cottages. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities available please call Paula on 01647 434114, but I will mention this again in the New Year

Winter events.... Here are just a few coming up....

Please call Ros on 01647 433306 for more information if required.

Riding for the Disabled Coffee Morning, Wednesday 25 November, 10am - 12pm
Coffee morning in the Castle in aid of Hittisleigh Riding for the Disabled, £1 per person.

Fire and Ice, Friday 27 November, 7pm - 11pm

Come for a curry evening at our new café and share the experiences of Arctic experts! Watch re-nowned animal sculptor, **Mark Coreth, create a polar bear, listen to Animal Planet's Nick Baker** and other top speakers talk about the Arctic and win some great prizes. Organised in association with The Ice Bear Project (www.icebearproject.org) and WWF-UK, all proceeds will go towards the London Ice Bear, an extraordinary life-sized ice sculpture of a polar bear with a bronze skeleton to be exhibited in Trafalgar Square this December to focus attention on the threatened Arctic. £22.50 per person. Booking essential. For more information email christine.gray@nationaltrust.org.uk

Fairy Light Fantastic

Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 December, 6 – 9pm

We are opening the doors at night so you can enjoy a tour around some of the show rooms and see parts of the castle traditionally decorated with sparkling fairy lights and special events celebrating the spirit of Christmas. The café and shop will also be open and there will be an opportunity to have a bite to eat and to buy some fantastic Christmas gifts. £5.25 adults, £2.99 children.

The winter events leaflet will be with us by the end of October. So do drop by if you want to find out about our lecture lunches; taking cooking classes with our Chef; if you would like to enjoy the gardener's delight experience, with Andrew our Head Gardener; or would be interested in seeing behind the scenes with Bryher, our House & Collections Manager. There will be more to come next month.

All the best,
David Bailey
Property Manager
Castle Drogo

Telephone: 01647 434130

Email: david.bailey@nationaltrust.org.uk

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Chairman—Phillip Evans —01647 281285
Hon Sec Bunny Johnstone &
Carol Mason 01647281185

Our AGM was a very convivial affair attended by most of our 30 members and after the business we had an excellent buffet provided by Jacqueline Page. Carol and I have taken over as joint secretaries, a daunting task after Daphne, who was such an excellent secretary and did much for the club over the past 10 years. We are now trying to get to grips with all the information, meetings etc.

Please do come and join us for our regular meetings, further details of which will be provided in the Parish Post.

Bunny Johnstone & Carol Mason



Introducing Danielle Moore-Dunstan, our new Police Community Support Officer

I am the new PCSO for Okehampton Rural East, including North and South Tawton, Chagford, Drewsteignton, South Zeal and Sticklepath. I joined the Neighbourhood team at the end of July 2009 after completing my training at Middlemoor. Previously I was working as a Special Constable for two and a half years, doing my first year in Tavistock and the last 18 months here in Okehampton.

I will be working alongside my Neighbourhood beat manager, PC Nadine Wilson, and predominantly be on foot patrol in these rural areas, being easily accessible to the community, helping to reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. I will be visiting North Tawton Primary and Pre-school on a regular basis so the children can get to know me. This is what my colleague PCSO Lee Walker used to do when he covered this patch so I will do my best to follow in his footsteps.

The local community can get to know me when they see me out and about, or if they would like to contact me they can reach me on my email address: danielle.moore-dunstan@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Fireworks in Moretonhampstead

A firework celebration with fireworks to music will be held at the King George V Sports and Community Centre in Moretonhampstead on Saturday 7th November.

Gates open at 6.15pm with the firework display commencing at approximately 7.30pm. There will be a lantern parade from The Square starting at 6.30pm. There will also be a licensed bar, live band, hot food and mulled wine.

Cost of admission: £5 for adults and £2.50 for children. There is no admission charge for under 5s. Tickets are available from the Sports Centre, Michael Howard Butchers, Court Street Groceries and the Information Centre.



Drewsteignton Parish Post

Contact Details:

For Editorial Contributions	Michael Petrie-Ritchie	drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281228
For advertisements	Pauline Rowe	pauline_lily@hotmail.com ☎ 281638
For Parish Council Business	Jackie Bowden	Jackie.Bowden@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk ☎ 281239— www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

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

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