

CROCKERNWELL  
DREWSTEIGNTON  
SANDY PARK  
VENTON  
WHIDDON DOWN

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 44.

SEPTEMBER 2009

## AUGUST NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Planning matters seem to have dominated our time this month with applications at Furlong House, Hunters Lodge, Moorlands Bungalow, Preston Farm and Saddlers Close being discussed along with updates on the Lamb Park affordable houses. It does appear that problems are occurring with the National Park Planning Department, which has resulted in the Council having to meet an unprecedented three times this month because of the timing of applications being sent out to the Parish. It was also revealed by a member of the public attending a meeting that the Planning Officer dealing with Lamb Park had already completed her report before the Council had discussed and made their observations on the subject. As a result we are inviting the head of Planning at the National Park to attend one of our meetings to address our concerns. There seems little point in the Council being consulted on planning matters if the Park has already completed their reports. That being said, the Council were very pleased to welcome so many members of the public at our meetings and receive their comments. We are hoping to hold a public meeting at Whiddon Down to discuss with the Highways engineer how to progress the Turnpike Road **problem where everyone's views can be aired** and how it can be finalised. Potholes around the Parish are gradually being filled in, and some Finger posts have been found in need of repair or replacement.

We are inviting the Sector Police Inspector to attend our meeting to give an update on how many times they have visited Whiddon Down, Crockernwell, Harepath and Venton Straights since April to enforce the speed limits and what the results were.

The Council felt they were unable to contribute towards the cost of repainting the church clock as it would mean a sizeable increase in the Parish precept -- the share of the Council Tax is currently £9,500 -- over and above what we have planned already for projects in the Parish. It is hoped funding may be available elsewhere.

**A site visit to the Travellers' Camp has been** arranged for councillors to update themselves on the area.

A new roof has been placed on one of **Crockernwell's bus shelters, thanks once again** to Cladco, and enquiries are in hand to see if the early morning Dartline bus to Exeter can divert through Drewsteignton to save parishioners having to travel to Crockernwell. From the Parish Plan, the subject of tree and flower planting has been discussed. The Gardeners' Club is unable to assist in coordinating this project. Could those parishioners who responded positively to improving our environment in this way please contact the Clerk with a view to setting up a voluntary group to advise the Council.

Next meeting is at Whiddon Down Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### Parish Post Online

Your Parish Post is now online. Look out for it on the [www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk) website, click on the tab "Parish Council" and then scroll down to find the .pdf file. Back issues are available too.

## Parish Profile...The Young Ones

The Parish Profile has been an occasional feature of the Parish Post for some time now, but 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.



Scarlett, Brown 14, lives in the parish of Drewsteignton at Honeyford Cottage, with her family, Dottie, the Jack Russell, a few horses and a guinea pig. She is currently in Year 9 at Okehampton College.

*What are you like at school?*  
Reasonably quiet.

*What was the first book you read?*  
Streaker the 100 mile an hour dog.

**What's your Favourite colour?**  
Pink.

*Describe your perfect day*  
Massive breakfast in bed followed by a day out at a massive rollercoaster park, dinner at **a restaurant then I'd watch the film Twilight** until very late.

*How do you relax?*  
Read a book or go on the computer.

*If you could have a ticket to anywhere, where would you go?*  
Japan - because I play Taiko drums

*Do you play any sport?*  
Hockey and I do a lot of cross country running.

*What was the first film you remember seeing at the cinema?*  
Dr Doolittle, with Eddie Murphy

*What would you like to do when you leave school?*  
Absolutely no idea!

*Where was your first holiday?*  
Italy – Rimini, I remember it was very hot and I snorkelled for 5 hrs non-stop.

*Do you have any role models or is there anyone you admire in the public eye?*  
David Attenborough – because I would like to have seen all the things he has seen in the world.

**What's your favourite meal?**  
Anything spicy, I love curries.

*How would you like to be remembered?*  
For being happy and vibrant.

### Dartmoor Arts Summer School 2009

For the last week of July, Drewsteignton had an influx of 60 students who had signed up to take part in this, our third Dartmoor Arts Summer School.

Eight courses ran – documentary film-making, stone carving, iron casting,, digital photography, cob with ceramics, drawing master classes, landscape painting and spatial structures.

It was an interesting and stimulating week for everyone. Wilf Merttens, telling the story of Chronos, to a full, rapt, laughing audience was a real highlight for me.

*Charlotte Randall-Page*

## In the veg garden

The dust has finally settled after the Drewsteignton Gardening Club Annual Show. We managed to get a couple of firsts but other categories were too hotly contested for us to get a look in. I blame the **poor, stoney soil on the allotments. But then a bad workman... Well done to Phillip Evans and his team** for organising such a great event.

**The main task on your veg patch this month is simply picking and enjoying everything you've grown. September's the month when the slower maturing crops like sweetcorn, chillies, leeks and squashes reach maturity, supplementing the veg you've already been harvesting throughout the summer.**

With that in mind I thought it best to make the focus this month a recipe – for deep fried courgette flowers. Before I tried these I wondered what all the fuss was about – after all, eating flowers is a bit **weird isn't it? Now I realise they're one of the delights of growing your own veg. You'll very rarely be** able to buy them and they taste utterly delicious.

You mainly want to pick male flowers. These are the ones with no baby courgette at the base. Pick female flowers with courgettes up to 2-3in long still attached as well if you like, but obviously you'll miss out on the fully grown courgette. Ease apart the petals to remove the bitter stamen and check for any **insects (especially if you've got vegetarians coming for dinner).**

Beat an egg in a bowl then add 225ml of iced sparkling water. The water must be as cold as possible, as this prevents the batter from absorbing too much oil, keeping it light and crispy. Lightly mix in 100g of plain flour and a little salt with a fork and beat gently. Don't worry too much about lumps.

**Dip the flowers in the batter and deep fry them in oil that's been heated to**

180C. If your flowers sink to the bottom of the oil, the temperature is too high.

Fry for a couple of minutes until golden and serve.

Courgette flowers are perfect for stuffing too. Ricotta cheese (or Philadelphia at a push) with a little basil or parsley tastes wonderful.

## Drewsteignton Open Gardens 2009

Fifteen gardens in the Parish were opened to the public over the weekend of July 4th and 5th in aid of Holy Trinity Church. This was the first time the event had been held for four years.

Location of gardens included Sandy Park, Venton and Netherton Cross. But what was particularly appreciated by visitors -- many from Exeter, Tavistock and beyond -- was the increased number of gardens open within the Village centre itself -seven in all.

The gardens were all looking at their best and although the event clashed with Wimbledon finals weekend this was more than compensated by probably the best weather of the month. Teas were on sale at the Village Hall and much appreciated. Overall the event raised £1,038 .



*Philip Evans*

### DO THE PLASTIC BAG SPLIT TEST

For those of us who use a plastic refuse bag I have a word of warning. If like me you fill your plastic refuse sack and carefully carry it to the pick-up point, make sure you do the Split Test. Recently my neighbours' bags and mine were piled up in the usual place when one of the refuse operatives (dustmen) ran up to them and grabbed a sack with such force the bag promptly split, emptying the contents on the road. I was fortunate to witness this event and approached said operative who informed me it was a "split bag" and they "ring it in" having placed a warning sticker on the bag. They do not pick up the rubbish left on the road. When I asked why a sticker had not been placed on the bag I was informed they had run out!! To their credit they agreed to pick up the rubbish if I re-bagged it which I did and the problem was resolved.

So be warned if you fill your plastic refuse bag too full, do the SPLIT TEST, or you will find your rubbish outside on the road with your split bag blowing in the wind with a sticker on it -if they haven't run out!!  
*Bill Savage*



*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.*

## Oh I do like to be beside the seaside...

Well – the summer is over, the nights are drawing in and we can probably say that it has not been third time lucky, if we are talking about the weather. Fortunately, my week spent in Cornwall back at the beginning of August took place during a spell of quite decent weather. We had just one day of rain, with the rest providing weather clement enough to actually tempt me into the sea. No small miracle considering I am one of those cowards who choose the slow and tortuous bit-by-bit method of entering the water, as I actually find the process physically painful, with each step punctuated by the sound of me doing an impression of an injured spaniel.

One thing I did notice whilst losing the battle to look cool on the beach, is how a day out at the seaside has changed in one generation. Once upon a time, it was a carefree, fun-filled connection with nature. It has now become a militarily planned exercise in protection from the elements.

On arrival, the first thing most beach-goers try to make preparations to avoid is the wind. After finding their spot on the sand, they set up camp, quite literally, erecting an encumbrance with protective characteristics that Captain Scott would have been chuffed with, and, once upon a time used to be a humble, stripy windbreaker.

After assembling their temporary homes, safe in the knowledge that a

force nine hurricane could hit the beach unnoticed, they slather Superdrug Factor 549 sun protection cream all over their pale, freckly bodies, topping them with a protective hat that style forgot. After the basting, they emerge from their camp surrounded by an ethereal white glow, knowing they can be present in the company of the sun without having to endure its rather hostile carcinogenic light waves.

**After some time has passed it's now** time to brave the chilly sea. But **there's no need to brave it anymore**, thanks to the proliferation of cut-price wetsuits available from Trago Mills. No longer the uniform of die-hard watersports enthusiasts, every family appears to have a collection. When all members of the party have incarcerated their bodies in black rubber, they make their way to the ocean looking like a fraternity of gimps. After a bounce about in the waves, the family return to camp, struggle for an hour or so to try to emancipate their tired bodies from the neoprene prisons in order to get a factor 594 rub down again. At the end of the day, the family return home completely unscathed by the wind, the cold or the heat.

**It really is a wonder, don't you think**, how many of us who grew up with baggy swimming costumes and a bottle of calamine lotion actually lived to tell the tale.

© Sam Peirce 2009

### Devon Car Free Day - Tuesday 22nd September 2009

This is an annual event organised as part of the Devon Travel wise campaign. You are asked to try a different and more sustainable way of travelling to work on that day rather than making the journey by car. The aim of the day is to get people to leave their cars at home, explore other options of getting to work and to reduce their carbon footprint. This might be by walking, cycling, public transport or car sharing. Take a look at [www.carsharedevon.com](http://www.carsharedevon.com). Those who sign up between 7-22 September may find one or more people to share their journey with and will also be entered into a free draw to win £100 worth of vouchers of their choice.

## Summer Migrants

I reported my last sightings of swifts over Drewsteignton on the 5<sup>th</sup> August in the previous Parish Post, but during our camping holiday at East Prawle, on the southernmost point of Devon, we saw many more up until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. These were small groups of up to eleven birds, feeding up before their long flight across the channel and on their way to Africa.

Over the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September, I noticed we still had late broods of swallows around, most noticeably in the church porch, and housemartins under the eaves on a few properties around the square. There are also visiting groups of mainly housemartins over the village at the moment as they too prepare to leave, with some flocks consisting of up to sixty-odd birds.

With a particularly wet and windy period over the last two months, it has been wonderful to hear the combined calls of swifts, swallows and housemartins as they hunt airborne insects over the village on the occasional sunny day. What I have found particularly interesting, and quite numerous this year, has been **these bird's reactions when a predator is around. My attention has been drawn to the alarm calls of the swallows**, which will often reveal a sparrowhawk flying through or over the village. The swifts, often flying at greater heights, tend to stay high whilst both swallows and housemartins mob the sparrowhawk from above until it passes on.

I am particularly interested in the arrival and departure dates of all of our visiting migrants and record them from year to year. Last year, I recorded swifts leaving on the 8<sup>th</sup> August with swallows gone by the 27<sup>th</sup> September and housemartins by the 19<sup>th</sup> October. It will be interesting to see how those dates compare this year.

Two bird species yet to arrive are the fieldfares and redwings, both members of the thrush family that **migrate from Scandinavia in order to overwinter. Last year's arrival dates were on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

**I have been submitting my records of arrival and departure dates to a project called Nature's Calendar**, also known as the UK Phenology Network. Information on a wide variety of seasonal observations ranging from butterflies, frogspawn, birds, flowering shrubs and trees is sent in by thousands of recorders across the UK and shows how nature has been affected by climate change since the earliest records in 1684.

**I send in return forms to Nature's Calendar, care of the Woodland Trust at Grantham. They can be contacted by telephoning 01476 584878, and have a website at [www.naturescalendar.org.uk](http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk), if anyone is interested in recording dates on their patch.**

*Nick Dixon*

## DOG POO

Once again we have received complaints about dog owners not clearing up after their dogs. The worst area, once again, is Knowle Lane and the Churchyard. Dog owners - please, please clean up after your dogs, and show some respect for other people.

## Teignton Fayre news...

Despite a rather washed out event this year and subsequent low attendance figures, miraculously Teignton Fayre managed to raise some money, mainly thanks to the generosity and support of the community.

It is now time to award those funds to local good causes and our nominated regional charity.

The successful applicants will receive their cheques at a Teignton Fayre Awards Presentation Evening that will take place on Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Long Room, The Drewe Arms. The evening will kick off at 7.30pm and everyone that contributed on the day in any way is invited.

We hope to see you there.

The Teignton Fayre Committee

## Charlotte's Choice.....



The Old Inn  
Drewsteignton

[www.old-inn.co.uk](http://www.old-inn.co.uk)

Tel:01647  
281276

This is so easy, quick and delicious. These quantities will be enough for 3 to 4 people.

### Lemon Chicken with Tarragon and Cream

2 large organic chicken breasts  
2 cloves of garlic, crushed.  
Juice of 2 lemons  
2 teaspoons of paprika  
2 tablespoons of chopped fresh tarragon  
500ml double cream  
Small jar of sun-dried tomatoes (drained of oil and cut into 4 pieces per tomato).

#### Method

Cut the chicken across the grain into strips about 1/2 inch thick, squeeze the lemons and pour over the chicken, add the chopped tarragon and leave to marinade for half an hour.

Fry the lemony chicken and tarragon in 2 oz unsalted butter. Make sure it is cooked through before you take the chicken out of the pan and put it on one side.

To the juices in the pan, add the garlic, cook for a minute or so then add the the paprika and tomatoes, turn the heat down and pour in the cream, bring to the boil, then turn the heat down again before adding the cooked chicken and simmer for 3 minutes.

This dish can be kept warm for up to half an hour in a low oven. Dish it up with minted new potatoes (or rice) and a salad.



## News from the Castle

### Go on – **have a go...**

Fancy having a go at something a bit different? Want to meet new people and spend time in a beautiful place?

We are looking for friendly people to be volunteer Room Guides. These are the fabulous people who welcome visitors and tell them all about the beautiful rooms and the story of self-made millionaire **Julius Drewe**. **Don't panic – you're not expected to remember loads of information.** We give you a very handy info pack and there are always other volunteers around to help you if someone asks a tricky question.

**There isn't a scary process to go through and you don't need a degree in history –** enthusiasm and a friendly, approachable manner is what we look for. If you have one day a week or fortnight that you could spare, please contact Paula Clarke on 01647 433306 or email [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk).

## WW2

World War Two Weekend is coming! On Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 September, 11am – 5pm, there will be vehicles, displays and re-enactments to recreate the atmosphere of wartime Britain! You can step back in time to discover what life was like as a wartime evacuee and maybe even join in with an old time sing-a-long.

**Don't forget before our World War Two weekend we have Heritage Open Days, a national event** which we are taking part in -- upshot being free admission into the Castle and Gardens on 12 September during normal opening hours.

All the best,

David Bailey

Manager

Castle Drogo

Telephone: 01647 434130

Email: david.bailey@nationaltrust.org.uk

## Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Chairman—Phillip Evans—01647 281285  
Hon. Sec. Daphne Greener—01647 281256

As stated in our last missive our AGM will be on Monday 14th September this year which is a very convivial affair so do come, members or not, to enjoy the feast. Join the Club then but only if you want to!

Our first winter meeting will be on Monday 12th October when Phil Page will give us a talk on fungi so come and discover what we can eat and what we should leave alone!

Our annual Show on 29th August was a great success with lots of entries despite the unseasonable summer weather which had preceded it. The day itself was sunny and dry which made a welcome change.

Cups were won by Tony Milward (Chairman's Cup), Jacqueline Page (Clerk's Cup and Wood and Rush Cup), Tony Thomas (Westaway Cup), Catherine Martineau and Joy Taylor (Manley Cup).

Everyone in the Parish is welcome to all our meetings. You don't have to be a member although the more members we have the merrier!

However, I am resigning as Secretary as from our next AGM and will appraise you of my successor as and when he/she is appointed.

*Daphne Greener*

## Police Notices

A householder in Bere Ferrers, Yelverton, was visited on the morning of 25th August by a gentleman offering tarmac work. He is described as white, 5ft 9ins tall, tubby, approx. 55 years old, with a moustache and wearing a high visibility jacket. He was driving a white Ford Transit van registration no WG52BFY with "Birchworks" on the side of the van. Undertaking house maintenance services such as tarmac from a caller at the door could be false economy as there is a good chance that the work will be sub-standard and carry no guarantee. If you have any information concerning the above person please contact us on 08452 777 444 quoting Police Log 200 of 25th August 2009.

Yellow Pages are currently being delivered in certain areas of Devon. Delivery agents have been instructed not to leave directories on view from the street, however it is unavoidable that some books will be left outside and the support of neighbours is enlisted where possible to minimise the risk of burglaries. Thank you. Please phone us with any information on 08452 777 444.

# Football Focus

Drewsteignton Parish teenager Will Cork is making a name for himself. Having signed for Chagford Football Club as a 16-year old last season, Will has had a successful trial with Devon County Under 18s. Of the 43 lads that attended, Will, from Sandy Park, played his way into the initial 20-man squad and now has a chance to make the final 16. These places will be decided by the lads taking part in friendlies for the County.

As far as we can tell, Will's selection is a first for the Club and we consider it an honour to be able to support him. Hopefully, we can report on further progress in the next issue.

*John Pearce, Chagford FC*



The team at Moretonhampstead's King George V Sports & Community Centre are re-introducing football sessions for 5 to 14 year-old children.

Under the auspices of manager Melanye Luscombe, plans are afoot to hold Saturday morning sessions open to all abilities and genders.

Further details can be obtained by emailing [sport@leisureatmoretonhampstead-devon.co.uk](mailto:sport@leisureatmoretonhampstead-devon.co.uk) or calling 01647 440107. Application forms are available at the Centre.



## Macmillan Cancer Support

### Biggest Coffee Morning

At The Village Hall, Drewsteignton

Friday September 25th 10.30am to 12 noon

Every day 822 people in the UK are told they have cancer. This is news that not only turns their world upside down but also affects their family and friends.

Macmillan's ambition is to help every one of these people by providing the medical, emotional, practical and financial support they need. That's why they need your help more than ever. Come along and join us for a coffee.

## Drewsteignton Parish Post

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

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