

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 68

SEPTEMBER 2011

## AUGUST NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

At this month's meeting the Council welcomed Devon County Councillor James McInnes and Mrs Playle from West Devon Borough Council. Dartmoor National Park have told us they are meeting with the managers of the Commercial Shoot in the Fingle Gorge to discuss their plans for this winter's shooting season. The Council had received a complaint from a resident who had difficulties whilst using one of the permitted bridle paths and we have passed this on to DNP. We have asked them and Lonsdale forestry to confirm which paths can be used and the to replace the signs indicating such use.

Problems of parking in Drewsteignton during the Dartmoor Arts week were discussed following complaints from residents. The Council recognise the value to the community, local businesses and bed & breakfast establishments of such an event and how it has grown over the past few years. It was agreed to write to the organisers to see if they can improve the parking arrangements for next year.

Councillors have been allocated footpaths within the Parish to walk and report back on their condition and signing at the October meeting.

The car park wall in Froggy Lane, Drewsteignton is becoming unstable in places and Councillors are going to visit before discussing what action we can take to remedy the situation. It will inevitably involve cost to the Parish Council which we will have to bear. Various potholes have again been reported and details are being passed on to Devon County Highways as is the damage to the road edge just around the corner from Veet Mill

at the bottom of Weddison Hill where the tyres of at least two vehicles have been damaged – take care if you use this road!!

Cllr McInnes has agreed to chase up the parking area outside Drewsteignton Post Office. He also explained that following a reorganisation at Devon County Highways there had been a few “teething problems” – nothing new there then!! The Council resolved to make no comment on a planning application for a certificate of lawfulness at Wisdom Cottage, Drewsteignton and to reply to a parishioner who had complained about a site visit made by the Council.

Mrs Playle explained WDBC had responsibility to house Gypsies and Travellers but they had no land available. Devon County Council are in negotiations with the Highways Agency over the ownership of the small part of land at Whiddon Down still occupied and the Council are writing to the Highways Agency supporting the County taking over responsibility for the land. The Council are writing to WDBC confirming we would like to lease the small piece of land at Barn Close at Whiddon Down for use as a play area subject to planning permission by DNP. We have been told that work to close Turnpike Road at Whiddon Down will not take place until after Christmas – 2011 we hope!!

At the end of the meeting a presentation was made to Jackie Bowden as this was her last meeting as Clerk.

Our next meeting is at Whiddon Down on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011** at 7.30pm.



## Cream Teas

Cheriton and Tedburn Young Farmers Club are serving up cream teas at Bowbeer Farm on Sunday 18th September from 3pm in aid of Devon Air Ambulance.

Why not come along and support a good cause. Cake stall and Draw.

## Teignton Fayre

Presentation of funds will take place at Fingle Bridge Inn

on  
Wednesday 21st September  
at 7.30pm  
all welcome to attend.

## Hittisleigh Riding for the Disabled Coffee Morning

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

at

Castle Drogo,

Drewsteignton

10am-12 noon

### Bring and Buy:

Cakes and quiches,  
Christmas cards, presents, books  
and videos,  
Christmas turkey draw  
and lots of coffee!

*Please come and bring a friend*



## Police Notice

There have been several incidents in the last two months involving thefts from insecure sheds, outbuildings and insecure properties. Items taken were electrical and petrol powered garden machinery and cash. Please check your security when leaving your properties unattended and lock any doors when not in use. Fit strong deadlocks or padlocks to sheds, outbuildings. Secure your garden equipment in your shed and mark any tools with your post code. Report any suspicious activity promptly to the Police. Thank you. Please phone us with any information on 08452 777 444.

## Babies and Toddlers

Mums and dads come along to Drewsteignton Playing Field on Monday afternoons 2 – 4pm for a cup of tea and a chat.

Jessie 281264

## Chagford Film Festival

The First Chagford Film Festival kicks off on Monday 19 September at The Globe Inn with the film *Moulin Rouge* starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor.

The festival closes on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September with *The King's Speech*, starring Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush. Two of the film's producers will introduce the film.

In between, there are a host of great events – such as a day of sing-along screenings of musicals including *The Sound of Music*, *Grease* and *the Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

There will be master classes with accomplished film-makers, showings of vintage home movies made around Chagford and a rare chance to see the 1927 masterpiece *Sunrise*, a silent movie accompanied by Chagford-based harpist Elizabeth-Jane Baldry.

The festival will screen the world premier of *The Long March to Freedom*, a documentary about survivors of an epic march by prisoners of war across Europe in January 1945.

The festival's charity is Farms for Children. For more details, call The Globe on 01647 433839 or see <http://theglobeinnchagford.co.uk/film/index.htm>

## Grab a bargain - Mega Booksale and Coffee Morning at Okehampton Library

On Saturday 8th October, 9.30am - 12 noon, lots of withdrawn library stock including adult non-fiction and fiction and children's books, too. Enjoy a cup of coffee whilst you are there, kindly supplied by the Friends of Okehampton Library Group. Telephone Okehampton Library 01837 52805 for further details or to enquire how to join the Friends Group.

### Share a cream tea with Dartmoor author

Okehampton library will play host to the 'Catherine Cookson of Hound of the Baskerville Country' next month, as author Tania Crosse shares a cream tea with guests and presents her latest novel, *The Wrong Side of Happiness*.

The author's novels, which include *The River Girl*, *Cherrybrook Rose* and *Hope at Holly Cottage* are all based on and around Dartmoor, and provide a vivid and evocative insight into local history. Her debut novel, *Morwellham's Child*, was based on her first visit to the area and since then Tania has sold over 100,000 copies of her first two titles alone. She is rated among the top five per cent of authors for library loans in the UK, and her books are now being published in the US and translated into European languages.

Tania is continuing to work on her series of novels illustrating the rich history of Tavistock and the surrounding area of Dartmoor from Victorian times to the 1950s.

Tania continues to have links to the area, spending time in the Dartmoor cottage where she retreats to write and absorb the atmosphere of the places that inspire her.

Supported by Friends of Okehampton Library, the event takes place in Okehampton Library on Wednesday 12th October at 2pm. Tickets are priced at £3 each to include a cream tea and can be purchased in advance from Okehampton Library on 01837 52805.

## Church News

We can now confirm the name of our new Rector, Paul Seaton-Burn. He and his wife Helen will move to Chagford at half-term, with their three younger sons, William, James and Charles. (Edward is at university.) Please welcome them and help them settle in.

Dates for the diary: Sept 25 - Back to Church Sunday. If you haven't been for a while, why not make a date to come again. 10am service followed by refreshments.

Nov 20 (evening) - read-through of John's Gospel in the King James version, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the KJV. For Christians this is one of the most profound books ever written, but for everyone it is an extraordinary literary masterpiece. Come and hear it in full!

Church Cottage: work is ongoing, but because of the II\* listing it may take a while to get the cottage how we would like it.

## Dartmoor's Playwright

Young people from the local Manaton and East Dartmoor (MED) Theatre are putting on a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Performance Extravaganza! Come along to *John Ford on Dartmoor*, a play about Dartmoor's very own famous playwright. The day will feature two live performances of the brand new play written, directed and performed by young people from MED Theatre, as well as a film and fair to accompany it.

24th September at Buckland Abbey, performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. This is a free event but tickets are required. To book your tickets contact MED Theatre on 01647 441356 or [info@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@medtheatre.co.uk)



## HEALTH MATTERS

*Pip Rubbra lives in Drewsteignton and works as a Community Matron, providing a specialist service aimed at caring for people with complex diseases at home and keeping them out of hospital.*

### Tetanus

I thought that a reminder about tetanus vaccine maybe a good

idea as autumn is the time for madly digging in our gardens, cutting hedges and messing about with compost and manure.

In the UK we have an active immunisation programme against tetanus, so you will be glad to hear that there were only three cases notified in 2007.

However, it is a big problem in the developing world, where there is inadequate vaccination, neonatal tetanus causing 23-75% of neonatal deaths.

It killed 277,400 people worldwide in 1997.

### What is tetanus?

Tetanus spores are found in virtually all soil, particularly soil rich in manure, but also in house dust and both animal and human faeces. Spores can enter even the smallest wound and in anaerobic conditions found in necrotic tissue, active infection or the presence of a foreign body produces tetanospasmin, a powerful exotoxin.

This spreads via lymph and blood, and is transported up the nerves, binding irreversibly to neurons, and preventing inhibition of motor reflex responses to sensory stimuli. This results in the characteristic muscle

spasms (severe enough to tear muscles, cause long bone fractures or spinal compression fractures) and rigidity.

### What do I do if I have wounded myself with a rusty spade or the cat has scratched me?

Clean the wound as much as possible, dress it and have it checked in your local surgery. It is then worth checking on your vaccine record in the surgery or card at home that you have had five doses of tetanus vaccine. Five doses are likely to confer lifelong immunity

This means if you have had your triple vaccine as a baby followed by boosters at school entry and leaving school, then you are covered.

For many of us who cannot remember or do not have a record of our childhood vaccines, then it is worth having a tetanus booster every 10 years.

For travellers to areas where medical attention may not be accessible and whose last dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine was more than 10 years ago, a booster dose should be given prior to travelling, even if the individual has received five doses of vaccine previously. This is in case immunoglobulin is not available to the individual should a tetanus-prone injury occur.

## Paying at the Post Office

Thanks to those parishioners who have elected to pay their Council Tax at the village Post Office following our last appeal in the Parish Post.

It is a really simple way of payment, and it makes a big difference to keeping the Post Office viable in our Parish. Let's make the most of having such a valuable resource for our community on our doorstep.

If there are any others who would like to pay their Council Tax in the Post Office, just ask Marg or Judy.

## Departing Summer Migrants

Our resident swifts at Churchgate finally left the village on the 5th August, with very few left in the area in the days prior to that. With the bulk of swifts having departed, the skies seemed strangely quiet but around that week, I had the occasional sightings of three over Crediton on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, three over the A30 at Whiddon Down on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug and two high over the village at dusk on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, maybe previous years' youngsters flying over familiar territory before their epic journey south to Africa.

I saw my final swifts of the summer while I was setting up our tent for our camping holiday at East Prawle on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August as they had a last feed of flies over the south Devon pastures before heading across the English Channel to mainland Europe.

My recorded departure dates for swifts in 2011 are two days later than last year (3<sup>rd</sup> August in 2010) but identical to 2009 when they again left on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

We are still left with the swallows and house martins, who if going by previous years, will be with us until the middle of September with house martins leaving at the end or even staying into the first week of October. Over the last month, I have really enjoyed the constant twittering of the swallows and martins as they catch flies over the village to feed late broods in the nest and this has led to some interesting other sightings. Swallows and martins will "alarm call" if there is an airborne predator in the vicinity, and on hearing this, one can often be rewarded with unexpected sightings overhead.

The presence of sparrowhawks, buzzards, hobbies and peregrine falcons in the skies over the village will all cause the swallows and martins to alarm call, and I have recorded more sightings of hobby in the area this year than over any of the past 10 years.

The hobby is a member of the falcon family, and our only summer migrant, as all the other falcons are year-round residents. Hobbies are medium-sized, smaller and longer-winged than a peregrine and bigger than a kestrel but they are incredibly agile in flight, and they specialize in catching insects, mainly dragon flies and small birds in the air.

This year, I have had sightings of them between South Zeal and Clifford Bridge, with about six occasions over the village, often soaring high and each time I have seen them, it has been due to the alarm calling of swallows.

The weather has been quite mixed over recent weeks, and with a gradual change in colour of the leaves on certain trees, mainly sycamores and birches so far, it is beginning to feel quite autumnal.

Despite the fact that summer is slipping away, I am still hearing chiffchaffs calling from the hedgerows, and the odd late summer song from various warblers. Nuthatches are very noticeable in the village at the moment and often to be found seeking insects from the bark of trees in the church yard and lichens on the church tower.

If anyone is interested in putting up swift boxes underneath thatch eaves for next year's arrivals, or want to know more about my swifts, please call me on 01647 281681.

Nick Dixon



*Hobby*

## Liverpool Tackle Exeter

During the holidays I went to watch Liverpool FC play Exeter City. The tickets were hard to get so we didn't think we'd get any but a friend of mine's dad is a season ticket holder and he could get five tickets if he wanted. He asked if dad and I would like to go and watch the match. So of course we said yes!

When we got to St James Park we bought a programme, then made our way into the stadium. We saw a BBC news Spotlight van just outside. After we had found our seats they began to call out the names of both teams. We were two rows away from the front and next to the Liverpool dugout. Liverpool scored 3 goals and Exeter scored 1. Luis Suarez, Maxi Rodriguez and Andrew Carroll all scored for Liverpool and Daniel Nardiello scored for Exeter City. The match was really good and I think Exeter played very well. At half time I got Dirk Kuyt's autograph.

## Making a Splash In Chagford

Chagford pool is the biggest fresh water swimming pool in Devon. It is very refreshing. In the summer, classes from my school go down there for lessons. The pool always opens the last week of May and shuts just before we go back to school. Children over 9 can go there without an adult.

There's a line separating the deep from the shallow water and if you swim your length then you can go in the deep end, there's a baby pool, too. On the opening day anyone who goes in the pool gets a free hot chocolate. Also there's a cafe which you can get tea and ice creams and things like that.

Chagford swimming pool was opened in 1934 and dug by hand by local residents. Chagford pool is staffed by local life guards and my mum used to be one.

*Tilly Dixon*



Well done to Tilly for successfully completing her 8-hour Sponsored Read. She read four books – a total of 722 pages – and raised £206.60, which will be divided equally between Devon Air Ambulance and the East Africa Appeal. And a big Thank You to all of you who generously supported her endeavour for such good causes.

## Who wants to be a Dartmoor Quiz Ranger?

Dartmoor National Park Authority are holding a 60th Anniversary Community Quiz and would like to invite locals to take part in each ranger sector. Ours is Chagford, Drewsteignton and Moretonhampstead -- Pete Rich's patch.

Each Parish is invited to enter a team of six people, the first date being Tuesday 11 October TBC, and Friday 25 November for the final.

They would also like each Parish to provide five local questions with their answers. Registration ideally by 16 September.

The contact for this is Head Ranger Robert Steemson:

[rsteemson@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](mailto:rsteemson@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk) or 01626 831052



## News from the Castle

I'm writing this on the 31<sup>st</sup> August; the August Bank Holiday weekend is now finished, the schools will shortly be going back and the peak season rush will soon be over. Although, at times, this has appeared to be a quieter year we have had our mad moments and, on the whole, I understand it's been pretty successful. Looking back over the last month there are two particular highlights that spring to mind. On the 18<sup>th</sup> was Chagford Show, of course. This year was the third time that I have been and I really love it for both the setting and the atmosphere. So, many thanks to everyone on the show committee and all the stewards who put in so much effort each year. For us this was a particularly successful show with so many people coming to visit our area which, I'm delighted to say, also won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the best Trade Stand – something we're all very proud of.

You may remember that, last month, I talked about the bunting that we were planning to make in order to support the 'Save Castle Drogo' campaign. I will now, briefly, hand over to Paula Clarke (Audience Development Officer, Design for Life):

*The creation of this bunting involved one member of staff, six very creative and enthusiastic volunteers to make it, many more very generous volunteers and staff to donate material, several generous local people donating even more material and approximately 100 lovely visitors who drew some wonderful pictures. What a fabulous team effort. We now have some gorgeous, very smart looking 'Save Castle Drogo' bunting in visitor reception and some fun, decorative bunting in the hut opposite the Castle. I very much hope that you all get chance to see it over the next few weeks.*

I think that about covers things from me. I'll finish by just reminding you that this year's World War II event will be taking place over the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Andy Dawson, Compliance & Environmental Practices Co-ordinator, Dartmoor Properties; 01647 434117, [andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Chairman: Phillip Evans 01647 281285  
Hon Sec: Bunny Johnstone 01647 432068

The annual Show was again well supported and many thanks to all the exhibitors and to Jacqueline Page who provided the judges' lunch.

Cups were won by Angela Thomas (Chairman's Cup), Tony Milward (Greener Memorial Plate and Westaway Cup), Jacqueline Page (Manley Cup), Erica Davies and Cicely Drewe (Wood and Rush Cup), Erica Davies (Clerk's Cup). The new President's Cup, given by the Hon. President Jane Cox was won by Angela Thomas.

Our winter programme begins on September 19<sup>th</sup> when we are guests of the Cheriton Bishop Horticultural Branch. The topic for the evening is Green Manure, starting at 8pm in the C.B. Church Rooms. Car sharing is advised as parking is limited.

All members will be contacted as soon as we have a date for the Mushroom Talk with Phil Page. It will be either September 30<sup>th</sup> or October 10<sup>th</sup>. On November 14<sup>th</sup> we welcome our 1<sup>st</sup> speaker for the winter, Alan French, a well known plants man, he will be telling us about interesting plants for our garden.

Carole Mason 01647 281185

## New Season Underway At Crediton Photographic Club

Crediton Photographic Club commences the new 2011-12 season, at the Masonic Hall, Union Road, Crediton on Friday, September 16. The club meets weekly on Friday evenings at 7.30pm.

The programme this year is an exciting mixture of presentations from expert photographers, internal club and external competitions, chances to show and discuss your work, coaching sessions, workshops, and excursions for some practical, hands-on photography. The first meeting on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September, in addition to being a welcome night, will review the photographs taken by members for the club's parishes & pubs summer treasure hunt and quiz activity and feature an audio visual presentation of the club's outing to Topsham in April.

Club Chairman, Keith Worters stated "The lively programme aims to provide something for everyone, from the most to the least experienced". The outline programme for the coming season can be viewed at [www.creditonphotographyclub.co.uk](http://www.creditonphotographyclub.co.uk)

Crediton Photography Club is a friendly local Camera Club and offers those interested in photography an opportunity to meet, compete, teach and learn and new members are always very welcome. Why not come along and see what we do.

Potential members are invited to attend up to three Friday meetings free of charge in order to meet and talk to members before deciding whether to take up membership. Annual subscriptions are £40, with reduced rates for full time students under 25 of £5 and children under 16 of £1.

If you have any enquiries you can make them through the club website or by contacting the Club Chairman, Keith Worters at 01363 83489.

### Drewsteignton

### Parish Post

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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