

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 47.

DECEMBER 2009

NOVEMBER NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Looking at the weather out of my kitchen window, it is perhaps topical to report that West Devon Borough Council has introduced new initiatives regarding flood preparation!! The Parish Council will liaise with parishioners living near the River Teign about these initiatives.

At Whiddon Down we are actively seeking financial support for the Turnpike Road project. It does appear that some funds will have to be found from the Parish, but we will try and keep those to a minimum.

The Parish Precept will be discussed at the December meeting and whilst making savings where we can, it does seem inevitable that it will have to be increased. The Parish Council is committed to keeping parishioners fully informed as to how we spend **your** money and details will be published when a decision is made.

The Council had received no comments on the closure of the telephone box at Sandy Park and have informed BT it has no objection to the closure.

We are hoping to receive the amended plans for the Lamb Park development in Drewsteignton early in the New Year -- possibly at the January meeting -- so for those affected please keep an eye on the notice board for the agenda item.

The results of the speed survey undertaken on the approach road from Chagford into and out of Drewsteignton revealed the highest speed into the village was 36.4 mph and only three vehicles above 40mph leaving. Nevertheless we have asked Devon County

Council Highways to look at the entrance to the village and see if drivers can be encouraged to slow down even more.

The County Council is looking at making savings in the cost of street lighting. Currently the annual cost is about £2.2 million and they are looking at reducing this by switching off street lighting in residential areas between the hours of 12.30am and 5.30am. Town centres and main roads will not be affected. This policy will mean most of the street lights in the Parish being turned off during these hours. If anyone has strong views against this policy -- e.g. Stanburys Orchard, Crockernwell -- please contact the Parish Council.

The County Council is also looking at savings in the Lengthsman service to parishes. This means a reduction in the preventative measures to keep the roads clear and will mean more calls to incidents.

On the planning side we supported two matters -- one for a new barn at Bowbeer Farm, and the second concerning an appeal against enforcement at Cuma Court. The National Park has now agreed to allow Parish representation at Planning Meetings. This means that our views can be accurately conveyed to members when it is felt necessary.

The next Parish Council meeting is at Drewsteignton Village Hall at 7.30pm **Tuesday 15th December**. Police Inspector Hammond will be giving an update on the speed enforcement requested.

From all the team on the Parish Council, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Parish Post

Parish Profile...The Young Ones

The Parish Profile has been an occasional feature of the Parish Post for some time now, but for the time being we're going to focus on the youth of the Parish. If any young people fancy trying their hand at doing a Profile, or have any other ideas for articles, please get in touch.



Florence Randall-Page 22, was just a baby when her family moved to Drewsteignton 22 years ago. Florence went to school in Chagford and Exeter.

What were you like at school?
Small and un-interested.

Favourite colour?
Green.

Describe your perfect day.
I would have a lie in, cup of tea in bed, eat really good food all day.

How do you relax?
Gin and tonic.

You have recently returned from travelling.. Where did you go?
Six of us went to Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

What's your motto?
Whatever makes you bad makes you better.

What was it like?
Absolutely amazing.

What's your favourite drink?
Gin and tonic.

Did you learn anything from it?
I think I learnt a lot about myself, yes.

How would you like to be remembered?
I have no idea.

If you could have a ticket to anywhere, where would you go?
I would go skiing in Wengen (Switzerland) It's the most beautiful place...ever.

What's your job?
Café supervisor at Juice Moose!

Where was your first holiday?
Probably Italy, I think.

Do you enjoy it?
It's ok...

What's your favourite meal?
Steak, rare.

What appeals to you at the moment as a future career?
Possibly becoming a social worker or counsellor.

What was the first book you read?
Proper book? Spot, the dog.

What do you like about Drewsteignton?
It's just home!

Is there anything you would change about the village?
Cash point! (24 hour.)

DUNSFORD AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY'S PRODUCTION OF CINDERELLA

Dunsford Village Hall from Saturday 9th January to Saturday 16th January 2010. There will be matinee performances each Saturday at 2.30 pm and evening shows each day at 7.45pm, except Sunday. Price of tickets £5 and £4 for evening performances and £4 for all matinee seats. Available from Juliet Speed tel. 01647 252161

WANTED

Lady O.A.P finding it harder to dig her allotment, has anyone got a spade with a spring for sale, I believe it is called a Backsaver.

Please ring 01647 61019



View from the Farm

It is always difficult each month to think of an interesting and relevant farming topic to include in the Parish Post. If all else fails the thing that most farmers deal with daily and worry about constantly is the weather.

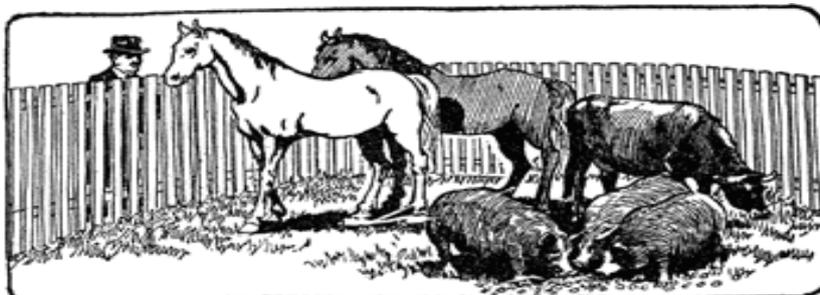
Watching pictures of the dreadful flooding that has happened in Cumbria, one thinks about the disruption and impact it will have for the next few years not just on the towns but on the farms that are left with spoiled crops and heaps of gravel and debris to remove. I then set to thinking about the Climate Talks currently in Copenhagen, a meeting that has been billed as the most significant ever. It is all too easy to think that our life will be little changed here in Devon. But although the direct effects on us may not be so severe as on people in more southern countries,

our lives and those of our grandchildren will change beyond imagination.

When I ask the children what the world should do, they could sort the problems out before breakfast, with simple choices that make complete sense to them. Maybe that is who the politicians should listen to, as it will be the kids that will have to deal with the consequences. I just hope that some clear direction will come from Copenhagen with definite targets and plans that are truly global and not motivated by greed and politics. So where do farmers come in? We are having an onslaught of blame currently, with calls to stop eating meat to save the world and our cows being blamed for creating all the methane. But we do have grassland, woodland and hedges that ab-

sorb carbon and there is huge potential for us to farm to capture more carbon at the same time as producing local food to feed the increasing population. We need some trustful guidance with clear targets and to be paid a sensible price for the food we do produce. Some 25% of farm households were below the poverty income threshold in 2008, while DEFRA spends £5m reviewing their systems that they tell us work perfectly, which all gives a mixed message just how high a priority food security is to our current leaders. Just maybe they will come back from Copenhagen with some positive ideas about what we can do to make a change.

A Happy local Christmas and Healthy New Year to all!



Fair Funding for Devon Schools

Did you know that Government education funding for Devon children is the fourth lowest in England? According to the Government's assessment, every pupil in Devon is worth £375 less than the national average.

It is an unfair situation. Schools face similar costs wherever they are. Staff pay is set nationally, not locally. The education of 96,000 children and young people in Devon is affected by the relative low level of funding schools receive from central government.

That's why Devon schools have launched a campaign, Hands Up for Fairer School Funding, to persuade the Government to tackle the inequalities in funding for schools and end the post-code lottery that affects the young people in many parts of the country.

Devon schools would welcome your support for the campaign. Further information on how to help is available on <http://www.fairfundingfordevonschools.org.uk/index.html>.

If you don't have easy access to a computer, you could write (or start a petition) to 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA urging the Prime Minister "to implement a fairer education funding formula that recognises every child matters equally and ends the postcode lottery of education funding in this country, so that every child receives the same opportunity and quality of education wherever they live."



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.

Food glorious food

By the time you read this, you will very probably be thinking about December 25th and all the work that it entails and possibly be planning the day with military precision, not least the gargantuan feast you are planning to share with friends / family / alone (delete where appropriate).

Every year I have a question about the traditional Christmas dinner that is never answered, probably because those that I ask have brains that refuse to work on account of the amount of gin, port or whiskey they have ingested.

My question is this: I don't know if it's true in every household but I was wondering why most of the food eaten at Christmas is never eaten any other time of the year? I can understand it with sprouts.

Who, with the exception of my mum who eats them every week when they're in season, would choose to go out and buy sprouts any other time than at Christmas? These little green noxious balls are known for being the nation's least favourite vegetable. You can dress them up any way you like -- chuck them in bacon fat, sprinkle toasted almonds on them or deep fry them, but they still taste like rancid old trainers dipped in a cowpat. What about turkey? I have never eaten turkey in any other form than roasted for

Christmas day or in its leftover form. I enjoy it, so why I only have it once a year is a mystery. Tradition appears to stop me from doing so.

After the main course comes the Christmas pudding. As heavy as it is, it is a truly deliciously rich and fruity way of following a roast turkey dinner, especially when it has a great dollop of brandy butter melting on top of it. And then some clotted cream on top of that, just to be sure I don't suffer from malnutrition.

Christmas puds keep forever so why on earth do I not stock up on them and bring one out in the spring, or in the middle of the summer? Other seasonal foods that spring to mind are mince pies. Personally, I prefer them as an alternative to plain old cakes and think they are perfect contenders for all-year-round food. Who wouldn't like a nice little pastry stuffed with juicy fruit during Easter or even a Yule log covered in loads of rich chocolate icing in the autumn, minus the plastic snow-covered log and robin, of course? Tradition aside, my question is never answered but I'm going to stick to eating like this just one day a year. Because if pigs in blankets, brandy butter and mince pies were available to me all year round, I'd be so big, I'd make a Sumo wrestler look anorexic.



Village Christmas Party

The Long Room, the Drewe Arms

Monday, 21st December, 7pm for 7.30 sit down

Everyone welcome. The more the merrier!

Choice of courses. Two courses £12.95. Three courses £16.95

Menus and booking forms available from the Drewe Arms and the Post Office

Roll of Honour

Talking in The Drewe Arms, as one does, after The Remembrance Day Service on Sunday the 8th November a group of us were endeavouring to put family connections to the list of those who were so sadly killed in the two World War conflicts.

The upshot was that with one or two exceptions we, as local residents, knew very little. Someone, not I, made the excellent suggestion that we try to find out more about them: how they came to be Parishioners; what were their family connections; what they did; and a little about their lives prior to and during their military service.

At the end of this missive is a list of those men whose names appear on the list and are read out every Remembrance Day. If any relative, or anyone who can point me in the direction of a relative, can help I would be most grateful. Any information about them: school records, friends, photographs or group photos and obituaries -- would be an excellent starting point. The concept is that if we can acquire sufficient information we can print a pamphlet to augment the Roll of Honour.

Should anyone not want this possible invasion of privacy in respect of any individual then please let me know and of course this request will be respected and understood.

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1914-18

William George Arscott
William R. Bragg
James Bradshaw
L.S.de Lisle Bush
H.D. de Lisle Bush
Robert Incedon Chichester

Adrian Drewe
Edwin Ellis
James Francis
John Jordan
Thomas Moore
Sidney Mudge
Norman Pym

Edward Crewdson Pitt-Pitts
Walter John Pitt-Pitts
George Saffin
George R. Smith
William Slocombe
John Lee White
Frederick Wooland

1939-45

Christopher W.E. Bolt
Ernest Finch

Albert Hellier
Bertram J. Holman

John Light
Trevor Williams

Nodafone

For those of you who are having problems with Vodafone this is an update.

Thank you to all who have registered your mobile numbers with Marg in the post office (thanks Marg & the team). This has enabled us to let Vodafone know there are many of us who still cannot get a good reception following the gales nearly four weeks ago. Previously, Vodafone wouldn't acknowledge the problems we are having with poor, erratic and no signal signal strength plus "sim" messages.

We now have a reference number, HD1447897, logged with the Technical Fault Management Team. You may quote this number to find out how the repair is going and I suggest we do this to keep the pressure on until we are restored to "normal". The number to call is 08700700191, select option 2 then option 4, quoting the reference number.

Vodafone will be contacting me on a daily basis (after 12 noon) to keep me updated until the fault is repaired. I can be contacted on 281620 or ali@loram2028.fsnet.co.uk

Ali Loram

Three Essential Veg for 2010

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

The torrential rains and violent winds of recent weeks haven't made the veg plot a pleasant place to be. The only work I've been doing on mine is replacing the glass which got blown out of the greenhouse -- twice!

For the time being I think it's a far better idea to stay inside, and maybe start thinking about what you're going to grow next year. If that sounds like a good idea, here are three amazing vegetables that you might not have considered. Each one has become a staple in our kitchen, because they're easy to grow, crop for a long time and taste delicious.

Kale

You rarely see this in the supermarket. When you do it tends to be inferior curly kale, which is often tough and rather bitter. Go for Cavolo Nero or Red Russian varieties instead -- the taste and texture is far better. Just pull off leaves as you need them. The plants will carry on growing right through the winter. I'm still harvesting leaves from Cavolo Nero I grew in the summer of 2008. To cook, just steam for a few minutes, then season and stir through a little butter. Or, heat through a little chopped chilli and garlic in some olive oil and dress with that instead of the butter.

Chard

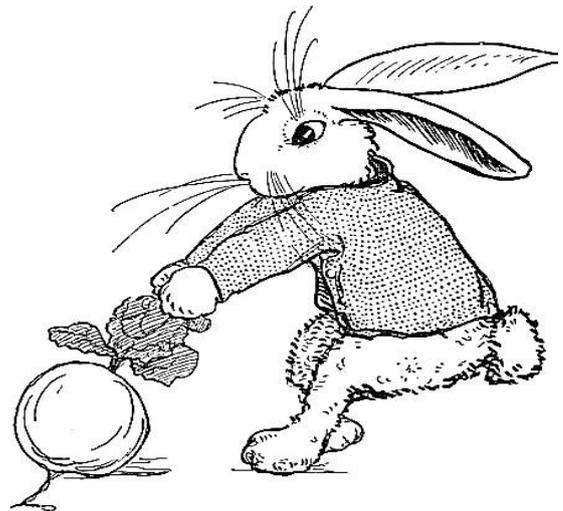
The flavour of chard is less robust than kale, but it produces masses of leaves, and it won't attract the nibblings of caterpillars in the summer like kale.

Swiss chard has the best flavour. Rainbow chard is also worth considering for its wonderful colours but the flavour's not quite as good as Swiss chard. Cook the same way as kale, except put the leaf stems in the pan first because they need a few more minutes cooking.

Mizuna

Mizuna comes from the oriental salad leaves camp. And in my view it's the best. You can start harvesting leaves just four weeks from sowing and you can cut the plant back three-four times and it will re-grow. The succulent leaves have a spicy note, but they don't turn searingly hot like those of mustard and rocket if you pick them young.

Seeds, veg growing kits and advice are available on our website seedtoplate.co.uk.



Whiddon Down Village Hall

Saturday 12th December: A Christmas Table Top Sale, 2pm to 4pm. There will be Toys, Books & Bric-a-Brac tables, a Farm stall & Lucky Dip as well as tea and mince pies. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED.**

Monday 14th December: Christmas Poultry Bingo, 7.30 pm. Once again we will have a splendid array of prizes including Andy Martin's excellent fresh chicken and turkeys.

Police Notice

People should be aware of a recent spell of shed break-ins. The items that are being stolen are petrol strimmers, chainsaws, power washers etc.

Please secure your property and lock sheds etc and lock your vehicles when left on the driveway.

Do not give the opportunist thief the advantage of being able to remove your property. Ensure that when you are not at home all windows and doors are locked and shut.

If you are unfortunate enough to be burgled and the thief has not had to force entry, your insurance company is unlikely to pay out! We are talking about a low number of thefts, but I would prefer it if there were none!

If anyone would like home security/crime prevention advice, please contact me at Okehampton Police Station on 08452 777444. Likewise, if anyone has information about the crime that are occurring, you can also speak to me in confidence on that number.

PC 4647 Nadine Wilson

Young Farmers Club

Cheriton and Tedburn Young Farmers Club hold meetings twice a month, the first and third Tuesday of every month, usually at Cheriton Bishop.

You are welcome to come along to a meeting to see if you would like to join us. Membership age ranges from 13 to 26.

We have speakers at various meetings, hold discos and various other social events, including charity fundraising events.

If you would like more information please contact Gemma Bowden on 01647 281239

Disco date

Cheriton and Tedburn YFC are holding a Disco on 29th January 2010 at Spreyton Village Hall.

All welcome.

Roger Cudlip, landlord of the Tom Cobby, has agreed to have his moustache shaved off provided £1,000 can be raised for charity.

Also on 19th December, the YFC are holding a Wine and Wisdom evening at Tedburn Village Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

On Monday 9th November, members and visitors enjoyed Howard and Sally Wills' excellent slide presentation and talk on the "Beauty of Leaves". The Wills' Nursery near Torrington holds the NCCPG National Collection of Phormium and they exhibit at all RHS shows where they have had Gold Medals.

Monday 14th December is the annual Christmas dinner, held this year at Fingle Bridge Inn, which replaces the usual monthly meeting.

Our first meeting of the New Year is 11th January and our speakers will be Kenneth and June Ashburner, whose talk is titled "The Magic Garden". It is sure to be interesting so why not have an evening out and join us in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Scout Report – A Chilly Camp

Last month the scouts had a winter camp at Dave's wood near Cheriton Bishop. We made our own meals, chopped wood and made a wooden spoon. I cut myself, so did Martha and Douglas, who got sent home as his cut was so bad. We made up a song and sang it round the camp fire: 'If you are cold and wet, stamp your feet!' It helped a bit to keep us dry. Luckily Skip has a big waterproof shelter to sit in. Alison was invested and we all earned our camping badge.

Now as it's nearly Christmas bring on the jokes:

What do you get if you cross a shark and a snowman? *Frost bite!*

Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants? *In case he got a hole in one!*

What do snowmen eat for lunch? *Ice Burgers!*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Football Focus

Jerome Whatley from Drewsteignton has been on the score sheet for Chagford Football Club, but the club's two teams -- Firsts and Reserves -- have had a roller-coaster season so far, with varying degrees of success, writes club secretary *John Pearce*.

Results:

FIRSTS

24th Oct, Herald Cup round one, v Kingsbridge & Kellaton (H) WON 5 – 1. Scorers: Robbie Miller; Dale Chadwick; Jerome Whatley; Andrew Davis; Mike Wright.

30th Oct, League, v Abbotskerswell (a) LOST 3 – 4. Scorers: Davis (2); Whatley.

7th Nov, League, v Ashburton (H) WON 3 – 2. Scorers: Davis (2); Miller.

RESERVES

31st Oct, League, v Babbacombe Corinthians Res (H) LOST 4 – 5. Scorers: Jon Scarry; James Hambly; Porky Ralph; Own Goal.

7th Nov, League, v Brixham Villa 3rds (A) WON 3 – 1. Scorers: Wes Gavillet; Porky Ralph; Chris Woof.

The First XI overwhelmed lower division opponents in the Herald Cup but then faltered against Abbotskerswell, in an evening match at Newton Abbot under lights. The win against Ashburton was hard fought for but deserved, with a Robbie Miller volley being possibly the 'goal of the season'.

The Reserves somehow contrived to lose at home to Babbacombe Corinthians Reserves but then bounced back with a fine away win in Brixham. The weather has bested both teams with end-of-November matches being rained off.

Probably the best result of the month came in the Clubhouse, with the success of the annual Race Night. Various local notables sponsored the races and businesses such as the Three Crowns, the Ring of Bells and the Fingle Bridge Inn were generous with prizes. A large gathering enjoyed a very good evening and in excess of £800 was raised towards club funds. Our thanks go to everyone who participated in making the event most successful.

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 January — thank you