

CROCKERNWELL  
DREWSTEIGNTON  
SANDY PARK  
VENTON  
WHIDDON DOWN

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO51

APRIL 2010

## MARCH NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting is being held in Drewsteignton Village Hall on Monday 26th April 2010 at 7.30pm. Anyone may attend this meeting but only those registered as electors may take part in the business of the meeting. It is the opportunity for parishioners to discuss any matters and receive annual reports from organisations within the Parish.

Reports will also be given by Paul Ridgers, our West Devon Councillor, James McInnes, our Devon County Councillor, Nadine Wilson, our Neighbourhood Beat Manager (Police officer). If you would like to hear news about the Parish or have some point you would like to raise, please come along.

Lonsdale Forestry, on behalf of the Teign Valley Shoot, are hosting an open day on Thursday 6th May 2010 commencing at 11am.

A two-mile walk is planned around the area, starting at the old sawmill above Clifford Bridge towards Moretonhampstead (SX 770 896). Afterwards, at around 2pm, there will be coffee and sandwiches at Fingle Bridge Inn. For all those who have an interest in this subject, we would like your support either at the walk or at Fingle Bridge or both.

As the weather now seems to be improving, we have written to South West Highways requesting the siting of new salt bins ready for next winter's snow! We cannot of course guarantee these sites as that decision is down to SWH. Locations identified are: Drewsteignton - top and bottom of Netherton Hill, Fox Close, Ford Hill near West Ford Farm Lane; Whiddon Down - Turnpike Close and along the road to Drewsteignton near Bowbeer;

Sandy Park - Church Hill and further on near Wisdom Cottage; Crockernwell - Greystone Hill near Honeyford Cottage.

From the Parish Plan, we are hoping to hear shortly that approval for the provision of a new crossing between the bus shelters at Whiddon Down will be going ahead during the current financial year. It is in the SWH budget for this year but has to be approved by the West Devon Highways & Traffic Orders Committee - who the Parish Council have asked to support the scheme.

Whilst talking about the Parish Plan, improvements in the car parking signs at Drewsteignton are being looked at. Cllrs Savage, Mudge and Gosnay have had a site meeting and are investigating the cost implications of the improvements. It is hoped to encourage the use of the car park by visitors and free up the square for the use of residents.

We have been contacted by Mick Jones, who is the National Trust Warden for the area, in connection with the tree work in Rectory Woods, Drewsteignton. He is looking for involvement - especially from the younger members of the parish - with the future design of the woods to help access for various activities from walking to mountain biking. He is also going to arrange a tree planting day, so anyone who would like to "plant a tree" or get involved please contact Mick via the Clerk or directly on 01626 834750. (See also News from Castle Drogo in this Parish Post.)

The next Parish Council meeting is on **Monday 19th April 7.30pm in Drewsteignton.**

## Parish Profile.....

The Parish Profile has been an occasional feature of the Parish Post for some time now, if you would like to be featured, or have any other ideas for articles, please get in touch.



Ricky Markham, 28, moved to Drewsteignton from Edinburgh seven months ago. He works in the Drewe Arms.

*What were you like at school?*

I was quiet, short and fat, with a huge head of ginger hair.

*Describe your perfect day.*

I would have a Quebec breakfast -- fruit, bread and a little bit of meat -- followed by a day of sitting on the Quebec terraces watching the world go by.

*If you could have a plane ticket to anywhere, where would you go?*

South Korea, because I'd like to see what North Korea looks like, from the safe side.

*What is your favourite film?*

Minority Report, with Tom Cruise and Samantha Morton.

*Where was your last holiday?*

Quebec, in February. I have lived in Nova Scotia, but I have visited Quebec a lot.

*What's your favourite meal?*

Ham, egg and chips. I discovered this when I got to Devon!

*What is your favourite book?*

My favourite book since I moved to Devon is The Hound of the Baskervilles, by Conan

Doyle. Dr Watson arrives by train at Exeter, and I experienced the same journey, coming out into the rolling hills.

*What's your favourite song?*

People are Strange, by The Doors. A really dark, atmospheric song.

*Favourite colour?*

Green. I get a good feeling from green.

*How do you relax?*

I go to the cinema, and I read books. These days I have started walking. It's so beautiful around here.

*How would you like to be remembered?*

I would like to be remembered with a smile.

*What's your motto?*

What's for you, won't pass you by.

*What's the most important lesson that life has taught you?*

Don't wait for things to be handed to you on a plate. Go out and get them.

*If you could change one thing about Drewsteignton, what would it be?*

I like the village just the way it is. Maybe a big Christmas tree in the square at Christmas would be nice.

### Whiddon Down -- Markets and Meeting

Forthcoming Whiddon Down Produce Market dates: 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June. 10am - 12noon. If you are interested in having a table please contact Patrick Sullivan on 01647 231411 (evenings).

Whiddon Down Village Hall AGM - Tuesday 4th May 7.30pm. All welcome.

## View from the Farm

.One of the most interesting things on my visit to the USA was having a look round some of the biggest and best examples of Pennsylvanian agriculture. One fascinating visit was to Mason Dixon Farms, a large dairy herd of 4,000 cows. This was very much a family farm, but on a huge scale.

The problems for US dairy farmers are the same as in Devon, with falling milk prices and volatility of inputs making an industry that can no longer support a secure income. To overcome this, Mason Dixon Farms had slashed the costs of production and were producing milk at around half the cost of average US dairies. The impressive scale of how they did this was amazing. On arriving we were welcomed into the farm cinema to see a movie of the Dick Wainwright story of success. The key, we were told, was innovation and adaptability. In summary, that innovation was 'to be big' -- big tractors, mowers, fields and livestock numbers. We were looking at equipment that you would struggle to move

down the A30 let alone down some of our Devon farm lanes. We were then given a tour of the farm which meant that we were driven by coach through the cattle housing! Here the cows were kept in groups of 150 cows, in cubicles and milked by robots. They had very little handling by humans which apparently suits the cows better. Welfare was proved to be excellent, with a vet employed on site. The average number of lactations per cow was three, which I believe was the national average. All the feed was grown by the farm and mainly based round a maize diet and an anaerobic digester provided the electricity to run the farm and export some to the national grid. So a pretty impressive system, but I, along with most of the British, definitely did not feel comfortable with that system. The cows never went outside, they were tail docked, the cubicles were smaller than allowed in the UK and the sheer scale just seemed to be the wrong way to produce milk.

Of course this is now being de-

bated in the UK with the plans for the super dairy in Lincolnshire causing a lot of divided opinion. Here in the South West we are good at producing grass and milk. Although many dairy farms have been sold up, there are still some successful businesses that have adapted and innovated. But their way of cutting the costs of production is by utilising what we have got and maximising the milk from grass. Sometimes this is done organically but normally it is done using organic principles combined with more conventional methods.

Often these farms are 150 to 200 cow herds employing three or four people and being a positive part of the local community. As a consumer I want to be paying enough to ensure that my milk is coming from cows that go outside and I think that is what the debate has to be about -- if consumers want a food produced in a certain way they have to be prepared to pay for it. It will be interesting to see how the debate progresses!

### Vouchers for Cubs

The Cubs are collecting Sainsburys vouchers for sports equipment. Last year they collected enough to get an indoor hockey set. Do you have any spare vouchers?

Please leave vouchers with Akela Paula Allen, or Pauline Rowe who will place vouchers in the collecting box at the Village Hall.

### Memory Lane

Calling all occupants of Drewsteignton. My name is Viva and I am currently in the process of doing a photography project based around our small village, past and present. I would love to hear of any stories, myths and anything interesting on the history of Drewsteignton and its surrounding area. Whether it be a personal account of growing up or moving to our village, or perhaps a more specific memory of a wedding, village fete etc.

In addition, if there is any event big or small that you would like to have a keen photographer at, you are more than welcome to also get in contact. [genovevaarteagarynn@live.co.uk](mailto:genovevaarteagarynn@live.co.uk) Tel: 07954369007. Hope to hear from you! Viva



*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.*

## Getting back to biscuits...

For the last 20 years or so we in the UK appear to have wholeheartedly encouraged and welcomed a series of irritating American customs, one by one, and I am, today, calling for repatriation of these offenders. It started in the seventies when some idiot at Huntley and Palmers decided to name the latest batch of chocolate chip biscuits off the production line, 'cookies'. Since then, it has escalated and our slavish dedication to Americana makes you realise how unhealthily one-sided this 'special relationship' actually is.

Once upon a time Halloween came and went, treated with the same degree of apathy afforded to St Swithin's Day. The invariably dark and rainy evening spent in front of the electric fire, watching George and Mildred while sipping a mug of Bovril with no mention of ghosts, witches or apple-bobbing. Then along came Trick or Treat. Ah...how I miss apathy. In the nineties, I managed to spend both of my pregnancies avoiding the general public so I could moan and ache to my heart's content, shout at the cat for purring and castigate my husband for not being able to bear children. Then along came the American custom of baby showers with clucking females, goody bags and stupid games – all aimed at making the gargantuan mother-to-be feel 'special' for doing what women have managed to do since time immemorial without the need of nappy cakes, yummy mummy

keyrings and ubiquitous celebrity baby manuals.

When I left school, I got down on my knees outside the school gates and wept with relief. It was like the scene out of *The Shawshank Redemption*, when Andy Dufresne finally tastes freedom after escaping down a sewage pipe. I vowed to retain the handful of weird, geeky, outcast friends that I had made and keep well away from the savage devil spawn that I had done 'time' with, including the 'screws' (teachers). That was the end of school – grateful, final yet largely uneventful. Now, upon leaving school, youngsters have to endure the very worst and the most divisive, pointless and superficial of those American imported customs: Prom Night. I've never been to one but I've seen the movie *Carrie*, and listened to tales of financial woes thanks to spoilt brats' demands for stretch limos, hand-crafted tiaras, St Tropez tans and fuchsia satin ball gowns. Utterly vacuous but at least it distracts them from trivial things like exams, the future of the planet and developing some degree of emotional and intellectual depth. I wonder where it all might end and we actually end up with Thanksgiving and Labor Day on our calendars. Let's act before it's too late: collect all these customs up, deport and ban them from entering Britain ever again. And while we're at it, stick Guy Fawkes Night in there too.

### St. George's Day

Celebrate St. George's Day at Fingle Bridge Inn on Friday 23rd April. Roast Beef of Old England, followed by various traditional fruit puddings.

Country dancing with a live folk band

£15 per ticket, of which £5 goes to Devon Air Ambulance and Exeter Leukaemia Fund.

Food from 6pm, Dancing from 8.30pm.

Come along and support.



## Thank Goodness Spring Has Arrived

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

I'm sitting here in a T shirt and shorts. It's a baking hot afternoon. But bizarrely I'm surrounded by trees that look much the same as they did in December. There's not one fully formed leaf between them. It's all down to the incredibly long and cold winter we've just been through.

Thankfully spring has now finally arrived. And it's incredible how quickly plants respond to the change in the weather. With just a few days of warm and sunny conditions the garden has leapt into action. We're harvesting stacks of delicious purple sprouting broccoli, kale and chicory that we've been over-wintering on the veg plot.

Once these supplies come to an end in May it's important to have a supply of new veg to fill the gap, so sowing needs to start now.

There are lots of seeds that can be sown straight into your plot. Potatoes and onion sets can go in. And it's time to make first sowings of beetroot, carrots, leeks, lettuce, parsley, peas, perpetual spinach, radishes and swiss chard.

Rocket and oriental salad leaves like mizuna can also be sown direct now too, but they're likely to go to seed when the hot summer weather arrives in June. Get a sowing in now so you can enjoy a good harvest before the heat arrives.

Make sure your soil is loose and crumbly if you're going for a direct sowing. Keep going over it with a rake until the clumps break up. This ensures seeds sit in a snug pocket of soil, giving them the moisture and nutrients they need for speedy growth.

Whilst the days are warm, clear skies mean a risk of frosts at night, so tender veg still needs to be sown inside on a windowsill or in a greenhouse. Use Jiffy 7s or small (3 inch) pots for: basil, chillies, chives, courgettes, cucumbers, squash and tomatoes.

French beans and sweetcorn are best started off in deep narrow pots. Use toilet rolls filled with compost, or root-trainers. But don't plant them outside till the frosts have passed.

*Seeds, growing equipment and advice are available on our website [seedtoplate.co.uk](http://seedtoplate.co.uk). Seeds are also for sale in Drewsteignton Post Office Stores.*

### Dartmoor Arts Auction

An auction of A5 size art works in aid of the Dartmoor Arts Bursary Fund will take place at Exeter Castle on 22nd April.

The Dartmoor Arts week takes place every summer in Drewsteignton, and the Bursary Fund aims to assist local people who want to take one of the courses on offer, ranging from stone-carving to film-making, but might not be able to afford it.

Come along and bid for small pieces by Anthony Gormley, Susan Derges, Peter Randall-Page, Philippa de Burlet, Gary Fabian Miller, Jenny Kyle, Chris Chapman, John Shiell, and many more generous artists who have donated their works.

Viewing from 10am. Bar from 6pm. Auction starts 7pm. Everybody welcome.

### FINGLE WOODLAND OPEN DAY. Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010 11:00am

In the last year a great amount of interest has been shown in the activities in Fingle Woodland.

Lonsdale Forestry Ltd would like to invite anyone interested in a woodland walk to get an in depth view into the management objectives of the woodland and how these are achieved. The format would be approx 2 mile walk on tracks visiting points of interest. The meeting point will be The Old Sawmill site 1km south of Clifford Bridge, SX 770 896 @ 11.00am. Signed from Clifford Bridge. Coffee and sandwiches at Fingle Bridge Inn afterwards approx 2:00pm.

Please contact to indicate numbers or further details:

Barry Jones. 01367820599 [bj@lonsdaleforestry.co.uk](mailto:bj@lonsdaleforestry.co.uk)



## News from the Castle

I'm writing this on the Wednesday before Easter and there are large snowflakes falling outside my office window – just as we thought we'd seen the last of it! Still the first of the daffodils are starting to bloom so, hopefully, spring will soon be here.

As promised our Bonus Weekend took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March and it was great to see so many of you here. The whole property became a hive of activity: with garden, house and roof tours; the wardens providing den-building and woodwork workshops; and giant games in the area previously occupied by the Castle Tea Rooms. Everyone had a wonderful time and we hope to see many of you again, over the course of the year.

Now it is Easter, which marks the start of our main season, so we will be fully open, seven days a week, from now until September. Our exciting events programme also kicks in; starting with a couple of trails, over the Easter holidays, to help keep younger members of the family amused (although these also seem pretty popular with the mums and dads – and even grandmas and granddads – too!). We will be publishing details of all our forthcoming events in each Parish Post but, if you would like to know what we have planned for the full year, please call in and see our Visitor Reception team who will be able to provide you with one of our events leaflets.

If you have travelled the road between Drewsteignton and the Castle over the past few months you will have seen where the trees have been felled in Rectory Wood. Over the winter period a number of groups have joined the wardens and helped to restock this area, by planting about 2,000 ash trees. We will also be planting some mixed, broad-leaf trees to provide variety. This process will continue over the next few years so, if you would like to join the wardens and help to plant some trees next year, please let us know (Tom and the team will be delighted to hear from you!).

This year also sees momentum building as we start on a major building project to prevent the persistent problem of water penetrating the building from every angle. As you may remember we carried out some trials about three years ago to test how effectively the proposed materials and building methods would work. I'm delighted to say that these trials have proved successful and we now have a dry Chapel. Our next step is to raise the funds we need to replicate this work throughout the building. We would like your help and feedback on this, so there will be opportunities over the coming year for you to give us your views regarding this exciting project – watch this space!

Finally, a reminder that the next Drogo Quiz night will be taking place on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, starting at 7pm with Sausage & Mash (or a vegetarian alternative) for £5. The quiz will start at 8pm and each team can have up to six members. There will be a charge of £2 per person, with half of the proceeds going into the prize fund. If you would like to join us please book your place by contacting Paula by e-mail ([paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)) or by phone, on 01647 434114 (if she's not at her desk please leave a message including your name, your contact details and the number of places you would like to book).

Tamsyn Butler

Property Manager

Castle Drogo

Telephone: 01647 434130 Email: [Tamsyn.butler@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Tamsyn.butler@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Castle Drogo Events: April to May 2010**

**Tuesday 6 – Sunday 18 April, 11am-4pm**

#### **Tors of Dartmoor Letterboxing Trail**

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

**Wednesday 21 April, 10am – 11.30am**

#### **Hidden Drogo**

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

**Saturday 24 April and Saturday 22 May, 10am-12pm & 2-4pm**

**Boilers Ain't Boring**

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

**Sunday 25 April, 12-3pm**

**Taste Sunday**

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

**Saturday 1 – Monday 3 May, 11am-4pm**

**Buzzing Bee Trail**

Follow the bees around the garden and grounds to learn all about the wonderful world of the bee. £1.50 per child, including prize. Normal admission prices apply.

**Friday 14 May, 6-9pm**

**Drogo in a Different Light**

Enjoy a delicious supper in our new café before having a special spring evening tour of Drogo. A unique chance to see the House as a guest at a Drewe family party would have in the 1930s. Round off this fantastic experience with a glass of bubbly while watching the sun set on the castle roof (weather permitting) £20 per person. Booking essential on (01647) 434144.

**Tuesday 18 May, 11am-4pm**

**Celtic Illumination Workshop with Judith Richardson-Dawes**

A Celtic Feast of Praise! How did Brother Eadfrith set about creating the Lindisfarne Gospels? Find out more in this magnificent Celtic Illumination Workshop and then create and illuminate a Celtic capital letter of your own name in fine gold. For all abilities. Includes coffee and lunch as well as tuition. £30 per person including light lunch, £25 without. Booking essential on (01647) 434144.

**Saturday 29 May – Sunday 6 June, 11am-4pm**

**Food Glorious Food: Grow Your Own Food Trail**

Follow the clues around the garden and grounds and learn about food that you can easily grow yourself. £1.50 per child including prize. Normal admission prices apply.

**Sunday 30 May, 12-3pm**

**Early Summer Tipple and Taste**

Come sample some glorious local produce in our shop and kick start the summer.

## Police Notice

I would like to bring to your attention the police website. If you have access to the internet, please have a look at the Devon and Cornwall Neighbourhood Policing website (just put this into Google). You can enter your postcode. This will bring up your Neighbourhood Beat Manager and PCSO for the area you live in. There is also the option to email the Neighbourhood office with any issues that you may have or just to inform the Neighbourhood Beat Manager of any community events that may be taking place in your area.

I update my website with visits that I have done and any relevant news that is occurring on my patch and the dates of the 'outreach surgeries'. These surgeries are jointly held with West Devon Borough Council and other agencies and are the ideal opportunity for those of you who don't know me to pop in and have a cuppa and a chat.

PC Nadine Wilson. Tel 08452 777444. Email: [Nadine.wilson@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nadine.wilson@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

## Drewsteignton Round-Up

This year the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Drewsteignton Village Hall on Monday 26th April at 7.30pm. Please come along and hear the reports from local organisations. Light refreshments at the end of the evening. All welcome

### Teignton Fayre Duck Race

Thank you to everyone who helped support this event. Yet again this was a great success and enjoyed by all those who attended. The weather remained dry for the day even though it was a little chilly. Thank you to all those who helped on the day and those who sold ducks prior to the day. Fingle Bridge was packed with spectators, and it was nice to see the children enjoying the day together with the adults. Another successful event helping to raise money for local good causes.

### Teignton Fayre

This year the Fayre will be held on Saturday 5th June in the Square. Various entertainments, usual

stalls, etc. Please note this date in your diary and help make this another good fundraiser for local good causes and charities.

### FORCE Clay Pigeon Shoot

Sunday 2nd May at Bowbeer Farm, Drewsteignton, in aid of local cancer charity FORCE, starting at 10am. Please come along and have a go. Clay pigeon shooting, Target shooting, Draw, BBQ. All welcome.

### FORCE Promise Auction

A promise auction will be held at Fingle Bridge Inn on Saturday 15th May at 8pm in aid of Exeter-based cancer charity FORCE. Event is being organised by Cheriton and Tedburn Young Farmers. Please come along.

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION St Georges Day Tea.

Afternoon tea in the Village Hall, Drewsteignton Friday 23rd April 3.30pm to 5pm.

### Living in a "key marginal" seat

In the forthcoming general election, Drewsteignton has been placed in the newly created constituency of Central Devon, which will elect its first member of parliament on 6 May.

Central Devon runs from Hatherleigh and Okehampton in the north, down through Drewsteignton and Chagford to Ashburton and Buckfastleigh in the south.

It was created in a Boundary Commission review in 2005 that splits the West Devon Borough into two constituencies, the other one being the Torridge and West Devon constituency.

According to the internet site Wikipedia, the Central Devon constituency "has a notional Conservative majority of just over 1,700, making it a key marginal at the next election."

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

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Contributions for the next edition by  
— 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