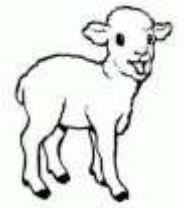


CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 62

MARCH 2011

FEBRUARY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Church clock lighting has to be approved by the Parochial Church Council and it is hoped it will soon be in place. Thanks to the Drewe Arms for agreeing to provide the electricity supply and an anonymous donation for connecting it up.

To establish the exact need for public toilets in Drewsteignton, we have arranged with the assistance of the National Park to install counters for a 12-month period to give some indication of their use.

We are still waiting for Devon County Highways to give us a date for a site meeting to decide on the final arrangements for parking outside the post office.

We have been asked to investigate the case of the "missing post box" which used to be at Bowden Cross, Crockernwell. It used to be attached to the BT pole but since the pole was replaced the post box has gone. The concern is that the Post Office may be gradually removing rural post boxes without consultation.

The Council agreed to support a parishioner in Netherpton Hill, Drewsteignton, who has problems with surface water draining off the road onto their property. Despite County Highways agreeing to undertake remedial work last year nothing has happened.

Some potholes have been filled in, but some -- like the one on Drewston Hill, which appears more like a new Drewsteignton Quarry!! - have yet to be dealt with.

Having seen recent press reports on this subject, it looks like we will have to fight hard to keep our roads in a usable condition.

The Council were informed about alterations in

the Chagstock festival licence conditions. Although the noise may affect our parishioners, this event is not within the Parish and is licensed by West Devon Borough Council which is the responsible organisation for its regulation and enforcement of any noise nuisance.

The Council resolved to make no comment on two planning applications at Bailiffs Cottage, Sandy Park, and Castle Drogo.

The new houses at Prestonbury View continue to cause controversy and we are grateful for the representations made at the meeting. We are reassured that the original conditions for the allocation are being complied with, but we are very unhappy at the way it has been managed by West Devon Homes working on behalf of West Devon Borough Council. We will be writing to WDBC and Cllr Ridgers will be taking details of the complaints we have received to WDBC in an attempt to improve procedures when allocating homes in the future.

We are still awaiting a reply from Devon County Council on the future of the land at Whiddon Down that is currently illegally occupied.

We are grateful to Pauline Rowe for her work in **reducing printing costs for the Parish Post. Let's see what it looks like!!**

We have written to County Highways to let them know we are in a position to make a start on the legal side of the closure of Turnpike Road. Some funding is still required for the groundworks to be completed.

Our next meeting is 7.30pm Monday 21st March 2011 at Whiddon Down and details of the annual Parish Meeting to be held in April will be published next month.

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.



Levi Dove

Levi has just moved to Drewsteignton with his mum and dad, Philippa and PJ. Levi is 13.

How long have you lived in Drewsteignton?
Two and a half weeks. But I lived here as a baby and I have been in Throwleigh for the last seven years.

Where did you spend your last holiday?
East Prawle. I like the pub there. It has a pool table.

What's your favourite meal?
Toad-in-the-hole, gravy, roast potatoes and a pile of cabbage!

What is your favourite book?
The *Inheritance* series by Christopher Paloni. **It's a fantasy series, a bit like *Lord of the Rings*.**

What is your favourite band?
Black Sabbath. Iron Maiden is runner up. It's heavy metal.

How do you relax?
Read a book, play my X box.

What's your motto?
I don't have one but I'd like to live my life without damaging anything.

What do you like doing best with your mum and dad?
With Dad I like playing games, with Mum I like playing board games or cooking.

Where do you go to school?
Sands School in Ashburton.

What do you like about your school?
The way it works. It has a nice atmosphere. I like woodwork and English best. I like history as well.

Describe your perfect day.
I'd play Pathfinder (a bit like Dungeons and Dragons) and then do woodwork – making stuff.

If you could have a plane ticket to anywhere in the world, where would you go?
I haven't been on a plane yet but if I could go by boat or train, I'd go to Italy.

What is your favourite film?
I like loads of films. I liked *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* with Nicholas Cage.

Recycling and Refuse

The West Devon Borough Council's Waste Advisor will be visiting Drewsteignton with the Mobile Library on Tuesday, 29 March to answer your questions on Recycling and Refuse.

Cllr Robert Sampson, Chairman of West Devon Borough Council's Environment and Community Committee, said: "Utilising the newly revamped mobile library service is a great way of getting out and about to keep people in the more rural areas of West Devon informed of their recycling and waste collection arrangements."

Details of times can be found at www.devon.gov.uk/westdevon-mobileguide.pdf or on our website at www.westdevon.gov.uk/WasteEducation

Drewsteignton Going to the Dogs

From time to time, this unpleasant issue comes up and over the last few weeks, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of dog mess left in public areas around the village. It is noticeable on the grass in the Church Yard again. Other areas affected are around the Church Gate cottages area and around the grassed junction with Knowle lane. The entire length of Knowle lane down to the playing field entrance has generally been fairly unpleasant if walking down with young children, but extensive fouling of these other areas and especially right outside houses is a recent problem.

Allowing a dog to foul in these or other public areas and not remove it, is not only anti-social, but irresponsible, grossly unhygienic and an offence with offenders liable to a £50 fine.

The West Devon Borough Council Dog Warden was contacted recently for information on what could be done to encourage a more responsible attitude and was found to be in the area. He visited the village on Tuesday 22nd Feb and agreed there was an unacceptable amount of mess in these areas and in other parts of the village.

There currently seems to be a lot of dogs in the village and I am sure that any responsible dog owner bemoans the fact that there is so much mess about. However, we also have a lot of children growing up here too, and therein lies another issue: the need to worm dogs regularly. If they are not wormed regularly, there is a very great risk that in their faeces will be the eggs of *Toxocara Canis*. This is a round-worm that lives in the intestines and digestive system of dogs. They continually produce microscopic eggs and these are found in dog mess, which can be easily and inadvertently picked up by young children. This causes stomach upsets, sore throats, asthma and, in extreme cases, can cause blindness. The eggs remain active in the soil for many years and long after the dog mess has weathered away.

One option we do have is to join the West Devon dog warden scheme, which will cost each of us more in our Council tax each year, and could help solve the problem but for a village this size, it may not be **the answer. There are many in the Parish who might object to an increase in their costs when they don't live in the village.**

I am not really sure what the solution to this problem is other than to appeal to ALL dog owners in the village to act responsibly. When walking your dogs around the village, please carry a couple of bags, and if **your dog messes somewhere inappropriate, pick it up and dispose of it properly. Please don't leave it outside someone else's home!**

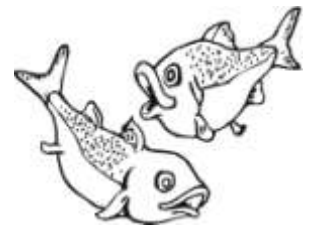
Down Memory Lane

Henry Scott, who has farmed all his life in Drewsteignton, remembers:

If you go past Castle Drogo towards Chagford, down at the bottom of the hill on the left is the old Wisdom quarry. It is now overgrown and looks like a swamp but after the quarry closed, it was used as a car park, taking up to nine cars for people who wanted to go down to the river for a walk.

They used the stone for the drive going up to the Castle. They used to blast with dynamite in the morning **and then take it all up by horse and cart. It wasn't particularly good quality stone, but it was good enough for the drive.**

Jan Coombes, the local poacher, got to talking to these quarry men about the dynamite and the possibility of catching some fish, so they let him have some. He saw this beautiful salmon down under Mill End Bridge and chucked in the dynamite and nearly blew up the bridge. Everybody heard this big bang and they all came down from Sandy Park. The only one who **wasn't at home was Jan Coombes. I can remember going down there to the bridge and Father showing me how the stone was marked. I don't think Jan Coombes ever did it again.** He was gassed in the First World War and he had to **poach to make what he could because he wasn't capable of doing a day's work,** like a lot of them that had had gas in the war. They suffered for years, they **lingered, but they weren't able bodied men. They were short of breath all the time.**





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.

Clay Pigeon Shoot Harepath Shoot and Cheriton and Tedburn YFC are holding a Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bowbeer Farm, Drewsteignton, on Sunday 15th May 2011 in aid of cancer charity FORCE and Devon Air Ambulance. Please put a note in your diaries as all support will be gratefully appreciated.

And the winner is ...

So, the Oscars are over for another year, and dependable Colin Firth gets to fly home with a statuette awarded to him for Best Actor after portraying **the Queen's dad and his efforts to try and overcome a stutter**. The red carpet has been rolled up, Tinseltown returns to some level of normality -- if you could ever equate such a place **with a word like 'normal'** -- and movie stars and their plus-ones **don't have to** worry about their Oscar outfits for nearly a whole year.

I often wonder about this weird obsession with celebrities outfits. Such is the media interest that some channels appear to devote several hours before an event dedicated to acute scrutiny of **the stars' frocks, tuxedos, footwear and accessories**. One dress that caused a bit of a media flurry was that worn **by Firth's wife, Livia, who decided to show off her so-called green credentials by donning a 'recycled' outfit made from 11 vintage dresses**.

I had a look at the aforementioned dress and yes, it is rather pretty, but I really fail to see how destroying 11 perfectly good dresses, apparently each costing from between £10 and **£250 constitutes as being 'green'**. It would have been greener to wear a vintage dress.

Heck -- it would be even greener to make a point of not flying half way round the world to help your husband carry home his Oscar.

Perhaps she should be congratulated for bringing some awareness to the **sustainability issue but maybe she's**

just another to join the long list of celebrity eco-hypocrites. The sort who are photographed in their organic Egyptian cotton robes at a luxury eco-resort for a magazine spread, having flown there in their private jet. The sort that write about how they have upped sticks from their champagne London lifestyle to relocate their Chelsea tractors to Devon to start an organic farm because they want to live sustainable lives, yet drive Aphrodite and Nicaragua 20 miles to school every day in their gas guzzlers. I could go on. The list is -- like I said -- very, very long.

I like Colin Firth. I think he's a fine actor and I loved The King's Speech but like anyone in his household income bracket, being green and ethical is a lifestyle choice that they tend to dip in and out of, according to what suits. We all have to do our bit and -- I hate to quote Tesco because of my deep hatred of the company and all that it stands for but here I go -- every little helps.

But when celebs start talking about how eco-friendly they are, it sticks in the craw just a bit. If it helps to assuage their guilt for living such pampered lifestyles, fine. Whatever. Just stop pontificating.

We all know that the key is to buy less, fly less and recycle. Something that those on the bottom rung of the pay scale tend to do most of the time. Not because of any lifestyle choice, but out of economic necessity.

© Sam Peirce 2011

Music in the Parish

If you like a bit o' jazz, The West Devon Village Vanguard Occasional Jazz Club at The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton will be open on Saturday March 19 for It's Spring Time -- spring flowers and swinging gates with -- Roz Harding, George Cooper, Coach York and Marcus Vergette. Music commences at 8:47 approximately. £5

Not only but also -- at the Sandy Park Inn, Irish Folk Music on Friday 18th March; and Open Mic session on Sunday 20th March. Christy -- 01647 281191/07967645777

Whiddon Down Village Hall

This year Whiddon Down Village Hall is 50 years old! Before that the building was the local school. If you used to go to school in what is now the Village Hall and have memories, photos or any anecdotes you would like to share and that we could use in our 50-year celebration please contact me, Pat Sheridan, on 01647 231580, or any of the other Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee members.

The Village Hall is being used regularly on some weekdays and some evenings by a number of organisations and groups. **Dog training group, Whiddon Luncheon Club, Okehampton Beekeepers, Mother's Union, Rosemary Conley Fitness Group** etc. are making the most of this really good facility. If you are planning a party or need a venue for a meeting or event why not consider hiring Whiddon Down Village Hall? It is a good sized hall with a kitchen and a car park - ideal. To book the Hall (very reasonable at £5.50 per hour, £4.50 per hour for local hirers) please contact Clare Rowe tel. 01647 231643.

The Whist Drive **for March has been cancelled; we'll let you know when they resume.**

Whiddon Down Village Hall Produce Market is held on the fourth Saturday of the month 10am – 12 noon, the next dates being March 26th, April 23rd and May 28th. Please try to come along.

If you have something suitable to sell and would like to, please book a table - it only costs £4 for the morning. Contact Patrick Sullivan tel. 01647 231411 or Catherine Dunn tel. 01647 231452.

We are having a Poultry Bingo evening on Wednesday 20th April. Doors open at 7.30pm – eyes down at 8.00pm. This is in place of the Christmas Bingo that was cancelled due to the bad weather. The poultry has been expertly frozen and stored by Andy Martin, (thanks Andy).

Pat Sheridan, Village Hall Committee

Whiddon Down Methodist Church invites you to a Good Friday Service on April 22nd at 7.15pm with the Exeter Male Voice Praise Choir, followed by tea and biscuits. The Easter Sunday Service will be held at 6.30pm led by Rev David Easton.

View from the Farm ... in Cambodia

32 degrees, fantastic food, lovely beaches, amazing temples, what a place Cambodia has turned out to be. A country that has the largest religious building, Angkor Wat, and the remains of a great civilisation that at its peak had a million people when London had 50,000. A country that now is 17th poorest in the world with a broken infrastructure and nearly half the population under 25.

Much of the agriculture is subsistence farming, around 75% of the population farm and most of the people that have moved to the towns have plots of land that others farm. Farm size is around 1 to 5 hectares and the main staple is rice, but also grown are vegetables, sugar cane, palm sugar and lotus flower. All the cropping relies on the wet season from June to October bringing enough water to store through the rest of the year. Much of the back-breaking work is done by hand and ox, although the more forward-thinking farmers are just starting to buy 'mechanical cows', which are a version of a hand tractor. Livestock is mainly pigs, cows, chicken, and ducks for eggs. Much of the countryside has no electricity and transport to market is either by bicycle or motorbike and -- from the farms we visited in the jungle -- by boat.

Despite the poverty the people are so friendly and helpful, to our surprise all wanted to tell their story

of what happened with Pol Pot and the subsequent wars and famines. Those stories were not easy listening, but they were told without pity.

The government now is stable but corrupt. It is led by politicians that were part of the old regime. Most Cambodians seemed to think stability was good but there seems to be growing anxiety with the poverty in the countryside, where there is still poor health-care and little education. In recent land concessions, the government has taken large blocks of land from small farmers and leased it to the Chinese, who are now logging large tracts of forest.

We did meet one new entrant, who was around 30 years old. He described his need to farm and own a piece of his homeland so he could belong after spending the first 12 years of his life in a UN refugee camp eating rice and dried fish.

I hope that the country can rebuild itself without China and the rest of world interfering.

When you go through Thailand you can see how much the farms could produce with a stable structure in place.

It's definitely a place worth a visit, if you don't mind a bit of dust, dreadful time-keeping and a random attitude to safety. For me it certainly was a great adventure.

Veg Plot

Let's Sow Some Veg!

Spring bulbs are out in abundance. And what a wonderful sight they are after such a long and cold winter. The appearance of these flowers is also a sure sign that warmer weather is on its way, so we all need to crack on with sowing some vegetable seeds!

If you've got a heated greenhouse or fancy using a windowsill propagator (inside), now's the ideal time to sow slow-growing frost-tender plants like tomatoes, chillies, cucumbers and aubergines.

Salad leaves and lettuces can also be started off in the greenhouse too. Modules are quick to use, and make transplanting outside in 4-5 weeks time nice and easy.

Outside, onion sets can go in and early potatoes later in the month. It's best to chit seed potatoes first, otherwise you can end up with lots of small potatoes.

Sow hardy annual seeds like radishes, peas, broad beans and beetroot outside now too.

If you're sowing outdoors during March and April it's well worth considering using some horticultural fleece. There's lots of daylight now – days are as long as they are in September - but the ground is cold, and frosts are common. A sheet of fleece loosely laid over your seeds/plants will help speed up germination and growth a lot. Spread it out and hold it down with stones, or old milk cartons filled up with water to avoid tearing and if you're thinking about planting some new fruit bushes, now's your last chance to get them in! *Peter Clements. Seeds, growing equipment and advice are available on my website seedtoplate.co.uk*

Health Matters

Aspirin – What is it?

The active ingredient of aspirin is a naturally occurring chemical called salicylic acid; this is found in the bark and leaves of the willow tree. It is known to have a range of effects on the body, including alleviating pain, thinning the blood and reducing inflammation.

It was a German scientist working for Bayer who first produced aspirin as a painkiller in 1899.

Aspirin was the most popular and profitable painkiller for 40 years until a new generation of painkillers, including ibuprofen and paracetamol, appeared, which were just as effective but without the side effects, which are upsets to the stomach, ulcers and excessive bleeding.

In the 1970s, aspirin was used to treat cardiovascular patients, due to its blood thinning properties. Thinner blood moved more freely around the body, so reducing the risk of clots which can cause heart attacks and strokes.

So why are doctors becoming sceptical of the benefits of aspirin over the last few years?

Millions of healthy people started to take aspirin to reduce their risk of heart disease, but it was found that side effects began to outweigh the benefits with 5,000 people a year being hospitalised for internal bleeding. However, it is recommended that those suffering from cardiovascular disease should continue taking it.

Does aspirin prevent cancer?

Well, it might. The Lancet, a leading medical journal, published a landmark study that showed taking an aspirin every day for several years can reduce the risk of dying from cancer. The theories are that:

- * Aspirin reduces inflammation which is connected to the development of tumours.
- * Aspirin may induce the early death of cancer cells.
- * Natural salicylic acid found in aspirin has disappeared from our diets because of the increased use of **pesticides and fertilisers, and a small dose of aspirin may restore the body's defences.**

So should everyone be taking aspirin?

The authors of the Lancet study say that aspirin has positive effects even in small doses, at just a quarter of a typical headache pill. However, Dr Ike Iheanacho, editor of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin, points out that all effects of aspirin in low doses, benign and otherwise, are so slight that they will probably only be noticed across the population as a whole.

'Around 60 people would have to take the aspirin continuously for around five years to prevent one death from bowel cancer during a 20-year period,' he says. I hope this has answered some of your questions regarding aspirin's effectiveness in both cancer and cardiovascular disease, if you have any further questions please see your local GP. *Pip Rubbra*



News from the Castle

The weather may have been, at best, 'variable' over the half-term holiday period but it didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the many (slightly damp) visitors who turned up to get our new season off to a great start. I must admit it is quite comforting to have the, now proverbial, pitter-patter of various sized feet once again resounding off the walls outside my office. As many of you will have been aware, over the past few weeks, Castle Drogo has become the centre of considerable media attention, as the appeal for the 'Design for Life?' project hit the headlines. This project is not only seen as being of local importance but is now viewed as being of the highest priority throughout the National Trust, so you can expect to hear a lot more about this in the coming months and years. As I mentioned last month, this year is the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Castle's foundation stone and to help celebrate this we will be holding a Country Fayre at the Castle during the weekend of 9th–10th April 2011. Plans for this are really progressing well now and attractions for the weekend will include: traditional games (such as a coconut shy), various forms of musical entertainment (including the Crediton Town Band), a Punch & Judy show, a vintage tractor display, skills displays (including rural crafts and stone masonry) and, I can now confirm, there will be a beer tent and, for one weekend only, they will be selling a special commemorative beer to mark the occasion (as well as cider, of course). During the weekend we will be welcoming some guests to help with two special events; the first will be the laying of a commemorative stone to mark these centenary celebrations, and we will also be officially opening the new orchard area.

We will also be running a Tug-of-War competition over the weekend so, if you fancy joining in, why not get a team together? If you would like to enter a team, or would like any further information, please contact Rebecca Glover on 01647 434111.

That's all from me for now. Have a good month and, maybe, by April temperatures will be starting to rise a bit (and not as the result of a nasty bout of flu).

Andy Dawson, Compliance & Environmental Practices Co-ordinator, Dartmoor Properties; Telephone: 01647 434117; Email: andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk

Holy Trinity Drewsteignton

Experimental re-ordering at the back of the Church.

With the permission of the Archdeacon, two of each of the rear central pews, and three of the rear pews on the North Aisle, have been removed on a temporary basis. These pews are late Victorian and are agreed to be of no historic or architectural significance.

Within a year, the PCC will either, replace the pews as before, or apply to take out a further pair of pews and make the experiment permanent, or make permanent the experiment as it currently stands.

Clearly there will be a variety of views on this. Please, make use of the church as before as a place of quiet reflection and sanctuary.

Come and support the regular rhythm of worship and prayer and support the events that will be put on using the new space.

In the autumn the PCC will consult further as to what is the best way forward in accord with the mission of the Church. While the work is going on, please do not enter the area currently enclosed by the moved pews. This area is not level and someone entering the restricted area could injure themselves. Also, please be patient – archaeological inspection is necessary before the area can be made good.

C Southgate (Vice-Chair, PCC)

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

For our February meeting we were lucky enough to have Roger Bowden, from Bowden Hostas, who came and gave us a most interesting talk. The nursery has won six consecutive gold medals from Chelsea and many other RHS shows.

Our last winter talk is on March 14th on Butterflies and how to attract them into your garden, everyone is most welcome: 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Notes from the PCC (Parochial Church Council)

Minutes of the meetings of the PCC are put up in the Church Porch, as are those of the Parish council, but it has been agreed that a synopsis of the proceedings should also appear in the Parish Post.

No decision concerning the future of the vacant Church Cottage (whether to sell or continue letting) can be taken until we have heard from the Diocesan Board of Finance regarding terms of the Deeds. The two pews at the back of the main body of the church and the equivalent ones on the North side have been removed (see separate report in this issue). The renovation of the Elizabethan Coat of arms above the South door will commence in May and should take about a fortnight. It will be done in situ from scaffolding. The money for the work has been raised mainly from grants from various bodies and partly from public subscription. It was agreed that a celebration of the restoration of the Coat of Arms should be held on 18th/19th June, hopefully to include a concert of Elizabethan themed music, tower visits, bellringing and other attractions. It is hoped that in the future we can have a calendar featuring a year in Drewsteignton in photos, Christmas cards and mugs or glasses showing the Coat of Arms for sale.

It was further agreed to hold a 'Festival of Talents' in the church to coincide with harvest festival. Our church needs to raise £4,000 to £5,000 this year and it was hoped that the above would raise sufficient funds together with proceeds from the annual fete and Christmas Bazaar. It was noted that the church clock was not striking and was unlit (hopefully rectified by the time you read this), that the kissing gate should be addressed.

The Archdeacon swore in Mrs. Angela Thomas as Churchwarden following the resignation of Mr. Tom Martineau who will take up the office of Verger, and Mrs Norma Gillard was voted as acting Churchwarden pending the resignation of Mr. Ian Merttens to take over as Treasurer at the AGM.

Police Notice

With fuel and heating oil prices on the increase there has been a rise in theft of both diesel and heating oil. Please check your oil tanks on a regular basis and if possible try to eliminate the opportunist thief! Ways of doing this is to put a lock on your tank, if it is located in an easy to access location that is not overlooked, consider if it is possible to relocate it to a different position or maybe conceal it with shrubs etc. and consider if the use of a security light would deter would be criminals.

Any queries please contact me tel 08452777444 or email nadine.wilson@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

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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☎ 281638

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