

CROCKERNWELL  
DREWSTEIGNTON  
SANDY PARK  
VENTON  
WHIDDON DOWN

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 64

MAY 2011

## APRIL NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

It was a relatively quiet month for the Parish Council with our meeting ending just after 9pm. It is often frustrating having to wait for other organisations to make decisions before our plans can be implemented but that is the way of Council life.

A site visit with Devon County Council was held regarding the parking scheme outside the Post Office and a draft plan is being drawn up.

We are still awaiting a reply from Post Office management regarding the missing post box at Bowden Cross, Crockernwell. Cheriton Bishop have similar problems in their parish.

Highways, as always, takes a lot of time. Some potholes have been dealt with but other repairs are awaited.

We have agreed to write to Highways on a monthly basis itemising that which has been done and what is awaited or new.

We discussed three items of planning and resolved to support all the applications. They were at Dartmoor View Caravan Park and land at Exeter Road at Whiddon Down, and Wisdom Cottage, Drewsteignton.

The Council received another housing needs report, this time for the over 55 year olds in Drewsteignton, Chagford, Throwleigh and Gidleigh.

West Devon Borough Council have acknowledged our interest in the small parcel of land at

Barn Close, Whiddon Down to develop into a children's play area. We have asked Cllr Paul Ridgers to liaise with them.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Drewsteignton on 26th April and was well attended. A presentation was given by Nigel Padfield and Oscar Emanuel on the newly formed North East Dartmoor Community Land Trust. Essentially this is a good idea but there is much work to be done and the Council look forward to seeing how things progress.

Reports were received from the various organisations in the Parish, from Cllr Ridgers WDBC and Cllr James McInnes Devon County Council.

We were concerned to hear from Cllr McInnes that the unlawful travellers site at Whiddon Down has still not been rectified. Those remaining are apparently on land owned by the Highways Agency, which is a government department, and whilst the rest of the land has been vacated and is to be fenced off, this small parcel of land remains occupied.

Our next meeting is on Monday 16th May 2011 at Whiddon Down.

This is the Council's AGM and is where we shall be welcoming at least one new Councillor, when the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected for the year and appointments to represent the Parish at other organisations are made.

## News from the Church

Big date to note in the diary: June 19 is Trinity Sunday, our 'patronal festival'. As we celebrate the dedication of the Church to the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so we also take the opportunity to celebrate the renovation of the 16th-Century Royal Coat of Arms, which hangs over the South Door.

Few such panels survive in Devon from this period, and ours is being expertly restored, the costs being met by grants raised by a valiant group of parishioners led by Jane Cox and Marjorie Smith.

So please join us on June 19 for our morning communion at 11.15 at which the panel will be re-dedicated, and in the evening for an Elizabethan concert by the Courtney Players.

Christopher Southgate (Vice-Chair, PCC)

## 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.



Alison Mudge, aged 13, lives in Drewsteignton with her mum and dad and brother Sam and sister Lucy.

*How long have you lived in Drewsteignton?*  
I was born here.

*Where do you go to school?*  
Okehampton College

*What do you like about your school?*  
Seeing all my friends. I like PE, all sports, and science.

*Describe your perfect day.*  
**I'd ride Pimms (a pony), then go to the beach. When I'd come home, I'd play with my animals.**

*What animals do you have?*  
I have four ferrets – Tinker, Belle, Destiny and Claude – two dogs and a cat.

*If you could have a plane ticket to anywhere in the world, where would you go?*  
**I haven't been anywhere abroad yet so I'd like to go anywhere where I could hear a different language and learn some of it.**

*What is your favourite film?*  
I like Shrek – all four of them.

*Where did you spend your last holiday?*  
We went to Coverack in Cornwall. It was lovely seeing the waves crashing on the rocks and having walks.

**What's your favourite meal?**  
I like something Mum and Dad make called a Seven-Layered Casserole. It has rice, bacon, mince, sweetcorn, tomatoes, onions and peppers. What pudding? Anything with custard.

*What sort of books do you like?*  
I like books about animals and books by Michael Morpurgo. **I've just read Lamb in the Laundry** by Lucy Daniel and **Shy Boy** by Monty Roberts.

*What is your favourite band?*  
**I don't have a favourite band, but I like all sorts – folk, classical and pop.**

*How do you relax?*  
Sit down and have a cup of tea.

*What do you like about living in Drewsteignton?*  
I like the village and the fields and being able to go for nice walks.

*What would you like to do when you are grown up?*  
**I'd like to be something like a veterinary nurse. Or maybe a vet.**

## Wild Woods 'n Willow

Our next events are: June 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday -- Knife Skills & Hunting Tools  
Summer Camps at Yeo Farm, Chagford -- July 24-26 (12-16yrs); July 29-30 (8-11 yrs)  
To find out more please contact Charlie Loram (01647 432769) or Linda Lemieux (01647 231330), or email < [wildwoodswillow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wildwoodswillow@yahoo.co.uk) >

Some bursary places are available for all events this year thanks to wonderful sponsors like Wildaid and Dartmoor National Park. (If you too would like to help local children by donating to our charity, please contact Linda.)

Wild Woods 'n Willow is registered with Devon County Council as a Service Provider so If you are eligible for free school meals, you can come for free under the "Don't Stop Me Now" scheme.  
Call Linda with your registration number.



## HEALTH MATTERS

Pip Rubbra lives in Drewsteignton and works in local GP surgeries as a practice nurse.

### **OSTEOPOROSIS**

At present, there is no national screening programme in the UK for osteoporosis, therefore it is important that we are

aware of who is at risk of the disease so that it can be treated accordingly, before any symptoms or fractures occur.

#### What is osteoporosis?

After about the age of 45, you start to lose a certain amount of bone material. Your bones become less dense and less strong. The amount of bone loss can vary. If you have a lot of bone loss, then you have osteoporosis. If you have a milder degree of bone loss, this is known as osteopenia

#### Who is at risk?

All men and women have some risk of developing osteoporosis as they become older, particularly over the age of 60. Women lose bone material more rapidly than men, especially after the menopause when their levels of oestrogen fall. The following situations may also lead to excessive bone loss and so increase your risk of developing osteoporosis. If you:

- \* Are a woman and you had your menopause before the age of 45
- \* Have already had a bone fracture after a minor fall or bump
- \* Have a strong family history of osteoporosis - that is, a mother, father, sister or brother affected
- \* Have a body mass index (BMI) of 19 or less --

that is, you are very underweight. For example, if you have anorexia nervosa. In this situation your levels of oestrogen are often low for long periods of time and, combined with a poor diet, it can affect bones

Have taken, or are taking, a steroid medicine (such as prednisolone) for three months or more. A side-effect of steroids is to cause bone loss. For example, long-term courses of steroids are sometimes needed to control arthritis or asthma.

- \* Are a smoker
- \* Have an alcohol intake of more than four units per day
- \* Lack calcium and/or vitamin D -- due to a poor diet and/or little exposure to sunlight
- \* Have never taken regular exercise, or have led a sedentary lifestyle -- particularly during your teenage years
- \* Have, or had, certain medical conditions. For example, an overactive thyroid, Cushing's syndrome, Crohn's disease, chronic kidney failure, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic liver disease, type 1 diabetes or any condition that causes poor mobility.

If any of the above relate to you, please see your GP for advice. It may be that you need a dexam scan (bone scan). If it is osteoporosis or osteopenia, relevant information and treatment can then be advised. For more information visit [www.patient.co.uk/health/osteoporosis](http://www.patient.co.uk/health/osteoporosis)

## Drewsteignton lads make their mark with Chagford Football Club

With their season very nearly over, Chagford Football Club can be reasonably happy with their first season in the Devon & Exeter League. The First XI are looking at a mid-table finish in Division One, the Reserves will probably finish just below the middle of Division Six.

What has been more significant than overall results has been the individual progress of a couple of local youngsters, Will Cork and Jake Rowe, both having joined Drewsteignton-based Oscar Emanuel in the First team squad. Although Will has played much of his football with the Reserves since turning 16, it was felt he deserved a longer run with the Firsts and the lad has grabbed the chance with both hands (or feet?). Jake has been a revelation since making his debut with the Reserves in November and earned the opportunity of a few end-of-season games with the Firsts. Both have also shown an eye for goal, Will netting four times and Jake bagging three. It is hoped both the youngsters go on to consolidate their places with the Firsts and more young players join the Club. Further Club info can be found at

[www.chagfordfc.com](http://www.chagfordfc.com)

May 20<sup>th</sup> sees the Club holding its Presentation Evening at the Fingle Bridge Inn, an evening well hosted by the Inn over the years. Lock up your daughters!

John Pearce



*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.*

*Sam has been an incredible supporter of Drewsteignton and the community for ages, involved in all aspects of village life. Many people say that her column is the first thing they turn to in the Parish Post. It will be sorely missed. Thanks, Sam, and see you around*

## Farewell, so long, see you soon...

**I've been having some weird dreams** recently. I am in a strange place and I **need to go to the toilet. I can't find any** toilets. Then I come across a block of public loos and they are out of order, engaged or resembling the toilets at the end of Reading Festival, so I leave, in search of more toilets.

Confused by this, I went to the astute old sage that is Google, and it basically means that I have something I need to offload, as it were. I applied this to my own circumstances and realised that I have little in the way of spare time **any more and it's time to prioritise so I've** decided to stop writing this column. I also thought that you had probably had enough of my ranting and raving and it might be just as good for you as it will be for me.

**I'm not sure how long I've been writing in the Parish Post. I'm guessing it's** around four years, although it might be **three. I'm useless with the passing of** time. I can never work out how long **ago stuff happened. Let's call it four.**

A lot can happen in four years. And, for me, a lot certainly has. Four years ago, **I'd** just turned forty. Workwise, I was doing my usual career-avoiding bits and pieces; a bit of copywriting here, a column there, a website in the middle and on the top, pouring pints at The Drewe Arms. I was living in Broadmeadow Cottage, with Tim and the boys, an ageing cat and dog and my tatty old Renault parked out the front, affection-

ately known as The Skip because of my reluctance to keep it clean and tidy. I was looking forward to the summer and was gearing up for Teignton Fayre.

**Now, I'm forty four, in full-time** employment in a large organisation in Exeter where I type a bit, learn acronyms, move pieces of paper around, and organise meetings where things are discussed and more meetings are organised where things are discussed and **even more meetings are organised. I'm** told this is the way most corporations and government bodies work. Now I know why we invented the wheel. We like watching things go round in circles. I am living in Exeter in a terraced house with Tim and the boys and a pair of expiring pets. I have colourful neighbours; some who are friendly, **some who won't even make eye con-** tact. I no longer have my Renault. I walk everywhere and use public transport. My life is very different but equally enjoyable and frustrating in the same measure.

**That's the changes in one tiny inconse-**quential life in just four years. I would-**n't even start on the changes that** Drewsteignton has undergone in the same period.

So, like I said, enough of my ranting and **raving. It's time to move on.**

Some things remain the same, how-**ever. I'm looking forward to the sum-**mer and gearing up for Teignton Fayre. **I'll see you there.**

## Teignton Fayre

Teignton Fayre is being held on Saturday 4th June in Drewsteignton Square at 6pm.

**This year's main charity has been chosen by the Colton family in memory of Barry Colton, who did so** much to assist the committee and the Fayre and will be sadly missed.

The charities chosen are the Royal British Legion and Devon Air Ambulance. The theme this year for the **Fancy Dress will be the Royal Wedding. So children, let's see lots of imaginative ideas!**

There will be the usual bottle stall, cake stall and bric-a-brac stall, so any offers for these stalls will be gratefully received.

Volunteers are always sought to help at the event. This year we are looking for someone to organise and run the Vegetarian BBQ. If anyone would like to help with this or anything else please contact Adrian Bowden 01647281239 or Erica Davies 01647281145.

## The swifts are back in Drewsteignton

Whilst not being particularly drawn to poetry, I would like to include a few lines of Ted Hughes wonderful ode, Swifts.

*Fifteenth of May. Cherry blossom. The swifts*

*Materialise at the tip of a long scream*

**Of needle. 'Look! They're back! Look! And they're gone**

*On a steep*

*Controlled scream of skid*

*Round the house-end and away under the cherries. Gone.*

*Suddenly flickering in sky summit, three or four together.*

*Gnat-whisp frail, and hover-searching, and listening*

**They've made it again,**

**Which means the globe's still working, the Creation's**

**Still waking refreshed, our summer's**

*Still all to come –*

The first swifts I saw this year were two high over Honiton on May Day, and a solitary single over Drewsteignton at 7pm that evening -- a day later than they arrived in 2010. My next sighting was of two over Churchgate on 5<sup>th</sup> May in the morning which had increased to seven by the evening. During the weekend, there were over 14 and becoming difficult to count due to their speed and agility. If the weather is good, we should now be hearing their screaming calls as they chase each other high in groups over the village. Swifts are the last migrants to arrive and will only be here for three months before returning to Africa. If you think you have swifts nesting in your property, please contact me as I am trying to find all the other breeding sites in the village. Having put up nest boxes for swifts, we had six pairs on our row at Churchgate last year but sadly swifts are in decline in the UK, with loss of nest sites as one of the main causes. As a reminder, house martins nest under the eaves of houses in mud nests, and swallows build mud nests in barns, garages and outbuildings, whereas swifts nest in small cavities under the eaves of houses. While the swifts are just getting into breeding condition prior to egg laying, many species of bird have already got youngsters in the nest or first broods have already flown.

This time of year is the start of the period through the summer where people bring me injured birds or those that appear to be abandoned. If you find a bird on the ground that you think has been abandoned or fallen from a nest early, please do leave it where you found it as the parents will not be far away. If it is **in danger from cars or cats, then it is best to get it up out of harm's way and gently put it high on a hedge or wall.** You may not see them but the adults will be nearby and hear the youngsters call.

Do contact me on 281681 if you suspect you may have swifts nesting or if you are interested in putting up any nest boxes. *Nick Dixon*

## Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

Forthcoming Events:

June 11<sup>th</sup>, a Members Only tour of the garden at Netherton Vine, meeting there at 10.30am.

July 1<sup>st</sup> is the date for our outing to Cadhay House Garden near Ottery St Mary. We will leave from the Square and will car share so please ring Carole if you are planning to come. All are welcome to join us.

## Independence Day 3 — Poetry and Music Festival with family entertainment

Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm till late

All readers of the Parish Post are welcome to this third annual event in memory of Ben Padfield. Admission and parking free. Food and refreshments for sale from lunchtime on and licensed bar till late.

Format similar to previous years. Mon Merttens will be bringing poets and live music bands from Bristol and Manchester to perform in the Hare Barn from 5pm till the small hours. Before that, from lunchtime, there will be story-telling by Wilf Merttens and Clive Pigg, the Bard of Exeter, award-winning African dance, activities for kids and maybe a bit of circus too.

Venue: Upperton Farm, halfway between Fingle Bridge and Clifford Bridge. More info 281660

## Veg Plot *If you want seeds, buy ours online at [seedtoplate.co.uk](http://seedtoplate.co.uk).*

Phew, What a Scorcher!

**We've lurched from a bitterly cold winter to a searingly hot and dry spring -- testing conditions for growing veg to say the least!**

**The veg we're normally picking through April and early May like kale has gone prematurely to seed.** And newly planted out seedlings are requiring watering every 2-3 days, at a minimum to keep them **alive. If the dry weather continues there's a number** of things you can do to combat it:

Mulch the soil with compost or manure to seal the moisture in and help stop it evaporating

Try to avoid digging your soil, but if you do, firm it down by walking on it afterwards to remove large air spaces that will let the drying wind in

Sow your seeds in a seed bed or rain gutters so you have one small area to concentrate on for watering, then transplant them later.

Get more perennial veg and herbs in your plot for next time! An established root structure will help them coast through dry times early in the year like these, how about mint, thyme, chives, lovage, French sorrel, asparagus and globe artichokes and maybe even Welsh onions?!

Sow potatoes, and plant them deep where the ground is still moist.

Providing you can keep up with the watering of **surface sown seeds, here's a great selection of easy to grow veg to get sown right now:**

- \* Beetroot
- \* Chard
- \* Chives
- \* Coriander
- \* Courgettes
- \* French bean
- \* Kale
- \* Lettuce
- \* French parsley
- \* Radishes
- \* Spring onions

**It's not too late to sow tomato seeds, but it's** probably easier to buy plants now. Grafted plants seem all the rage this year. Tasty varieties are grafted on to super-vigorous root stocks which are **supposed to give you a massive harvest. We're trying** them out for the first time this year.

*Peter Clements*

## Snack Project – the Apprentices

I was picked to do a snack project along with some of my other friends representing Chagford School, to give Gifted and Talented pupils a chance to see what the business world is like.

For the snack project, we had to package, price, design and cook our own unique snack. There were three people from year five and five people from year six. There were four people in our group from Drewsteignton; Ella Wiseman, Lilli Way, Livy Rubbra and me.

It was quite hard work being in the group as we were always disagreeing. We started by wanting to do something sweet then we thought the judges would like something savoury better. So we split into three groups: the cooking group, the packaging and pricing group and the advertising group which I was in with Livy. At the beginning of the process Livy and I wanted to do an advert and so, as we are school children, we thought we should set our film in school. We wanted to do a very slick advert and weave the snack into it. So we wrote a script and then tried to perform it. It took a lot of goes and at the end of the day the film camera ran out of battery.

We finally decided on a snack -- **Crumble Blush Biscuits. We even made up a jingle: "Locally made by local kids." We thought the name suited them as they were crumbly and we used sun blush tomatoes with cheese in a secret recipe which even I don't know because I wasn't in the cooking group.**

We had to pitch our snack to a set of judges, so we all got together and thought about what we each wanted to say then we typed it out on the computer so it looked good. We still had a lot of work to do: cook the snack, make the box and run through what we were saying a couple of times to make sure it went really smoothly on the day of the presentation. The prize for winning was your snack made up professionally and put in a supermarket.

On the day of the presentation we finally had a box of neatly wrapped up biscuits and a large tin of crumble blush biscuits. We did our presentation and showed our advert and then sat down and watched all **the other teams show the judges their snack. Okehampton had two teams which wasn't really fair. The** lady from Okehampton kept on coming over and having a biscuit. In the end we came second to an Okehampton team. But it was really fun and if I had the choice to do it again I would!!!

*Tilly Dixon, age 10*



## News from the Castle

I was sorry to miss the recent Country Fayre, which was held to mark the centenary of the laying of the Castle Drogo foundation stone. However, I have heard, from a very reliable source, that the event was a huge success and that a number of Drewsteignton parishioners came along to join the celebration - we all hope you had a great time.

Another major success has been the introduction of the Teign Valley Wild Tribe, a monthly event organised by the Rangers. The Wild Tribe, which is open to young people between the ages of 5 and 18, meet on a Sunday and the events provide the opportunity for younger members of the community to learn about fire-lighting, den-building, traditional woodland skills and a host of other activities which will vary throughout the year. The next Wild Tribe day will take place on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, so, if you would like to know more, or would like to make a booking, please ring 01647 433356.

**To stay on the outdoors theme, if you haven't been up for a walk around the gardens, recently, you're missing out on something pretty special - they're looking amazing! John (our Head Gardener) and the rest of the gardens team have been hard at work and the results of this are now bearing fruit (no pun intended). Whilst I am most definitely not a gardener, the current highlights, for me, include the new Bunty House garden, the Azalea Walk (which runs from the croquet lawn down to the fragrant garden), and the wisteria. However, I'm sure that everyone will have their personal favourites.**

**As you may remember; last month's piece was mainly concerned with the recent break-ins at Castle Drogo and Lydford Gorge. I'm pleased to say that Dorset Police have now recovered at least some of the missing items and more may come to light once a full inventory tally can be completed.**

Great news for us!

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

## View from the Farm

Spring has sprung and it seems like everyone wants to be a farmer -- and for just £30 per year everyone can. **The National Trust has introduced 'My Farm', which allows farmers to discuss for three weeks key decisions on the farm and then in week four a vote is taken to decide how the farm is run.** The farm is Wimpole Estate, a 2,500-acre organic farm in Cambridgeshire that is run by a very capable farm manager and includes a rare breed open farm.

Key decisions this month seem to be if they should continue with rare breeds and what crop should be grown in one of the fields. Discussions are guided by the farm team and 'experts' will give their thoughts. Included in your £30 is a ticket to visit the farm.

Within days of launching, the 10,000 farmer target seems to be reached with the £300,000 raised going to manage the project and pay for the team to manage the website and PR.

Apparently the 'My Farm' idea was developed from the popularity of the online Farmville game, which seems to attract a huge following of all ages and has 80 million active monthly users. Get the children to surf the net and they will come up with a whole range of running-the-farm games, including a Macdonalds game where you bizarrely have the option to feed industrial waste to the cows.

**So 'My Farm' seems a great idea and wouldn't it be good to charge all the people who tell us in their often misguided way how we should farm - starting with Defra. But is it trivialising and misinforming the public about the realities of real farming? I think it probably is but it goes some way to trying to teach where food comes from to the logged-on population.**

My Nuffield Scholarship continues looking for answers to encourage New Entrants into farming and as **'My Farm' proves, lots of people want to farm, but the problem seems to be lack of quality opportunities to get started.** This month I am off to France again to try and see how they encourage the young on the land with subsidised bank loans, retirement packages and tax incentives for older farmers bringing new entrants on to the farm, and looking into their complicated land rules preventing large numbers of farms

## PLAYING FIELD: GOOD NEWS AND BAD

We have just received an anonymous donation to the Playing Field for £500!!! Huge thanks to our unknown benefactor. I hope by the time you read this we will have decided what equipment we are going to spend it on at our AGM.

### DAMAGE AT THE PLAYING FIELD HUT

It is with regret we have to report that over the bank holiday weekend the playing field hut was broken into and damage was caused, including the water left running (which is metered, paid for by the Parish Council and therefore paid for by you out of the parish precept), paint spilled on the floor, equipment taken into the field and the line marking machine removed - since recovered.

We are aware the security was not good but it has never been a problem before.

Some children from the village were seen near the hut but it cannot be established for certain they were responsible.

We have taken advice and the security of the hut has now been improved to such an extent that it would be necessary to physically force an entry and if this was to occur a burglary will have taken place. This would be reported to the police for their action and prosecution of offenders. It is hoped this would not include a young person from the parish.

The hut is there for us all to use and enjoy, and while it has seen better days plans are afoot to smarten it up in time for the summer (please come and help at the Maintenance Day, see below). Anyone who wants to make use of this facility can borrow the key from the Drewe Arms, but please note it is important that an adult is present at all times and that any equipment used is returned and the hut securely locked afterwards.

Maintenance Day at the Playing Field, from 10am, Saturday 11 June, lend a hand for an hour or two: refreshments provided.

Family Fun Day, from 3pm, Saturday 2 July. All the usual suspects: rounder's, football, tug-o-war, tea/coffee, cakes, drinks, BBQ.

## Cubs get in the water

St. George's Parade was successfully held in April in Okehampton. Sarah received her 5-year badge – well done to her.

The Cubs had a brilliant time down at Fingle building rafts and getting in the water and racing them. The District Camp will be held in June at South Tawton.

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

For Editorial                      Michael Petrie-Ritchie      drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions                      ☎ 281228

For Parish Council              Jackie Bowden              clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Business                              ☎ 281239—www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

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

Pauline Rowe: pauline\_lily@hotmail.com

☎ 281638

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