

CROCKERNWELL
DREWSTEIGNTON
SANDY PARK
VENTON
WHIDDON DOWN

Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 66

JULY 2011

JUNE NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Some good news on potholes!! All those notified to Devon County have been logged and will be dealt with in the near future. However, the direction signs which have either been damaged or broken will not be replaced as they do not have the money to deal with them. Grass cutting on the road edges has also been scaled back but where visibility and safety are concerned it should be done - please let us know if this is not the case.

The details of the parking bays outside the Post Office in Drewsteignton have been finalised. It just needs the legal side of things in the shape of a traffic order to be published and then the work can be completed.

We have asked the National Park to supply a copy of the map regarding the shoot in the Fingle Gorge so we can view what is proposed. Most of the activity will be outside our Parish.

We have also suggested the dates of the shoot days are better published, using the Parish Post and the Post Office, so walkers and horse riders are better informed.

We have been informed that Rebecca Tolley has been appointed as the new Police Community Support Officer for the Parish and we have invited her to a Council meeting so we can meet. She has already been busy in Whiddon Down checking on speeding vehicles.

We received a report from Jennifer Mullins regarding the work in the Playing Fields and the

Council congratulated her and the fund-raising team on their efforts. Whilst on the subject of children playing we were concerned to hear of the Methodist Church at Whiddon Down being used as a playground. We are putting a case together to urge West Devon Borough Council to release the ground in Barn Close as a play area but we have had an objection by the National Park which has to be dealt with.

Mr Puddick told the Council about the use of land at Crockernwell as a caravan sales and servicing business which may conflict with the permitted use of the land. We have asked the National Park to investigate the matter and report back to us on what if any action they intend to take.

Planning applications at Shilstone, Drewsteignton, and Pixies Cottage, Chagford (which is in our Parish) were discussed and we resolved to make no comment on both.

Ongoing complaints have been received about vehicles using Turnpike Road at Whiddon Down. Details of those identified have been passed to the police, and in the meantime we are still pressurising Devon County Council to complete the agreed closure.

We have asked Cllr McInnes, a representative from WDBC and the Gypsy and Travellers Liaison Officer to come to a meeting to discuss the the Travellers Site at Whiddon Down.

The next Parish meeting is at Whiddon Down on Monday 18th July 2011 at 7.30pm.

Teignton Fayre Funds

Teignton Fayre took place on Saturday 4th June in Drewsteignton Square. This was a very successful evening and was enjoyed by all who attended. A Big Thank You to all those who helped make the evening a success. Thank you to all the many helpers.

This year's chosen charities to benefit include Devon Air Ambulance and Royal British Legion. Any local good causes who wish to apply for funds should contact Erica Davies on 01647 281145 or download an application form from <http://www.drewsteignton.org/fayre>.

All application forms to be submitted to Erica Davies by 31 August 2011. A presentation of funds will take place at Fingle Bridge on Wednesday 21st September at 7.30pm. All welcome to attend.

Health Matters....



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

Toxocariasis (caused by dog poo!!)

Toxocariasis is an infestation of humans, usually children, with the larvae of *Toxocara canis*, a small threadlike worm that resides in a dog's intestine.

A dog harbouring the small round worm causes large numbers of worm eggs in its faeces, which can then contaminate the soil.

Children who then play with an infested dog or with soil contaminated with its faeces can then inadvertently put their fingers in their mouths and can swallow some of the worm eggs.

The swallowed eggs hatch in the intestine of the child to liberate larvae, which then travel towards the liver, lungs, brain and eyes.

Here they can trigger off allergic reactions such as asthma, and they also have more serious affects such as loss of vision, at least partially.

If dogs are regularly wormed, this may not be a problem, although the mere thought of children coming into contact with dog poo is pretty revolting.

Out of interest, the diagnosis of toxocariasis is made from sputum analysis and from liver biopsy and severe cases are treated in hospital with anthelmintic drugs (anti-worm drugs) to control the infestation.

Prevention:

- Removal of pet faeces -- poop scoops, bins and enforcement fines
- Regular worming of pets, especially puppies
- Wear gloves when gardening
- Vegetables to be eaten raw should be washed

Let's keep Drewsteignton dog poo free!!!!

DREWSTEIGNTON GARDENERS' CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

Open to everyone in the parish

Saturday 27th August 2011

In the Village Hall

Show open to the public 2.30pm

Refreshments – Raffle!

DREWSTEIGNTON BRANCH R B L WOMEN'S SECTION

Saturday 13th August 2011

Drinks and Lunch Bites

at

Undermoor, Broomhill, Chagford.

12—2pm.

CHAGFORD FC Pre-season

Chagford Football Club commenced their pre-season training on Tuesday 5th July (6pm) and will be running sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the coming weeks. Players old and new are invited to attend as the Club prepares for their second season in the Devon & Exeter Football League. Player registrations will take place at the sessions.

The Club will be fielding a side in the Devon County Veterans League this season and players over the age of 35 years are invited to attend the training above. There are also plans to start a youth section and youngsters of either gender will be invited to attend coaching midweek, at a date yet to be decided.

For further information on all aspects of the Club, please contact the secretary John Pearce on 01647 433897 (home), 07715066442 (mobile) or email jp@cosmicvibes.net

Drewsteignton Swifts

The mixed and generally poor weather throughout June has meant that the swifts have not really been regularly present in good numbers over the village, and may have been hundreds of miles away where food (airborne insects and flies) was more plentiful. However, when we have had sunny days, I have counted up to 22 swifts in the skies over Churchgate.

The presence of this many birds, in their screaming parties, indicates not only a good local food supply when the weather is fine, but that there are potential breeding birds for future years. What I am less sure about here in Drewsteignton, is how many nest sites will be available for swifts as I think I now have knowledge of all of the current nest sites.

Every natural nest is in a thatched property, and I have learnt of three more nests this month with young in. These are not newly established sites but ones I have only just found. If you live in a thatched property, or next to one and observe swifts, flying around, above or going in to a cavity or hole in the thatch, do please let me know.

As swifts are colonial nesters and social birds, the non-breeders (mainly those up to three years old) will stay in the vicinity of "their colony" so we see and hear them in periods of good weather.

Their main periods of activity appears to be the early mornings and evenings, and their screaming calls are often the first noises I hear when I wake as they bond in their groups and prospect for potential nest sites for next year.

The breeding adults are currently busy bringing food back to the young in their nests, and will scream from within the nest boxes on my house to indicate ownership and occupation.

I believe we have six nesting pairs of swifts this year from my eight nest boxes (I put up two new ones this winter) and have been busy keeping the nest boxes available for the swifts as the house sparrows are very keen on them too.

The house sparrows were delighted when I first removed the gaffer tape blocking the entrance holes to the swift boxes, following the return of the swifts. Over the first week of their return, I was constantly removing nest material that the sparrows were stuffing into the boxes.

The swifts then started entering the nest boxes but the sparrows are currently enjoying squatting in one of the new boxes I put up this year.

Around the middle of July, my friend Malcolm and I will check each nest box for numbers of juveniles. Malcolm is a "bird ringer" and has carefully put tiny lightweight metal leg rings on the young swift's legs over the previous two breeding seasons.

Bird ringing in the UK is organised and coordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is carried out by a network of over 2,500 trained and licensed volunteers, who ring over 900,000 birds in the UK each year. Bird ringing provides valuable information on migration routes, and summer and winter feeding areas, and helps us to monitor and understand bird populations.

I was out with Malcolm one evening last week as we went to check a barn owl nest with the owner, in a nest box high in a barn. For the second year running, we ringed the four young in the nest, and during July I will be going back to watch them fledge and be taught by the adults how to hunt.

Last month, I wrote about the peregrine falcons on St. Michael's church in Exeter and referred to them as the most publicised pair in Devon, and shortly after the Parish Post came out they managed to get into the local and national papers again. Two of the three youngsters had flown successfully from the nest but the third prematurely came down to the ground, landing on the road and, for its safety, was put into a box. A resident called the emergency services and the police, the fire-brigade, the RSPCA, a local falconer and a photographer/journalist from the Express and Echo all turned up to rescue the female falcon. This has occurred before in 1998 and to avoid the fuss caused on that occasion, a group of us had put plans in place to catch any young that came down to the ground, get them checked over by an experienced raptor vet and quietly return to the upper ledges. This has worked well over the years but this year, despite the best laid plans and organisation, the St. Michael's peregrines became nationally famous for a day.

If you have any information on swifts, please contact me on 281681.

Nick Dixon



VEG PLOT

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

Last Chance to Sow Veg Seeds for 2011.

July is a transition time in the veg plot. It's when the period of seed-sowing which started back in April generally comes to an end, and the focus shifts towards tending, and more importantly, eating the harvest.

Make your final sowings of all the key fast growing salad vegetables to harvest later this year:

- * Beetroot
- * Carrots
- * Coriander
- * Lettuces
- * Radishes
- * Spring Onions

For tasty vegetables that can cope well with the winter it's your last chance to sow some of these if you haven't already:

- * Perpetual Spinach

- * Swiss Chard

- * Chicory

July is also the perfect time to sow oriental salad leaves. Sown earlier in the year they're prone to bolting (running up to flower) and the nibblings of flea beetles which pepper the leaves with tiny holes. Cooler temperatures when they're reaching maturity from late August onwards will stop plants bolting and see off the last of the flea beetles. My personal favourites are:

- * Mibuna
- * Wild Rocket
- * Mustard Leaves

These fast-growing 'cut and come again' salad crops will give you a big yield during the autumn and happily carry on growing outside through the winter if you give them some protection.

Planning Policy in Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor National Park Authority is the local planning authority for the whole of Dartmoor National Park. A range of planning policies is used to help guide development and to shape the future of Dartmoor. The Authority is currently preparing a document that will provide more detailed development management policies and proposals to complement the adopted Core Strategy. This document is called the Development Management and Delivery Development Plan Document, or DMD for short! The Authority is consulting on a draft version of the document in the summer of 2011 and we would like to hear your views.

How you can get involved

A series of community consultation events will be held across the National Park during July 2011. We shall be using our mobile exhibition vehicle for most of the events. Some of the dates are:

Wednesday 13 July South Zeal: Recreation Ground Car Park (10.30am-1pm)

Chagford: Endecott House (3pm-7pm)

Thursday 14 July Lydford: Car Park (10.30am-12.30pm)

Haytor: Lower Car Park (2pm-4pm).

Monday 18 July Cornwood: Square (10.30am-1pm)

South Brent: Old School Centre Car Park (3pm - 7pm)

Tuesday 19 July Holne: Village Hall Car Park (10.30am- 1pm)

Buckfastleigh: Globe Inn Car Park (3pm-7pm)

Everyone is invited to the consultation events to learn more and comment on the proposals. You can make your views known by letter, e-mail or by filling in one of our consultation forms which are available on our web site or at the consultation events. The full document is also accessible on our web site. If you wish to send in comments, they must be received by the Authority by 23 September 2011.

The contact addresses and the web site address are:

Forward Planning Team

Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey,
Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9JQ

E-mail: forwardplanning@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk , Website: www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

Introducing Rebecca Tolley

Our new Police Community Support Officer Rebecca Tolley writes, I have been based at Okehampton Police Station since early June. I have recently finished my training and have been allocated to work within your community.

Previous to this role I was the Station Enquiry Officer at Okehampton Police Station for two years and have a fair knowledge of your area and what issues may be within it.

One day in mid-June myself and a colleague took the speed monitoring device out to Whiddon Down and placed it on the main straight by the bus stop. We monitored the traffic for 40 minutes between 1520hrs and 1600hrs. In total 88 cars were monitored and four were given words of advice.

We will monitor this area in the future at random intervals in order to make people aware of the safety issues surrounding speeding.

I hope that you feel you can contact me with any queries or issues you may have and I hope I can bring a little reassurance.

Kind regards

Becky

PCSO 30548 Rebecca Tolley

Okehampton Police Station

Exeter Road

Okehampton

EX20 1NN

Playing Field News

No Dogs

Please remember that no dogs are allowed on the Playing Field at any time. There are signs on both gates. The field should be a safe environment for children to play in and dog mess is not allowable. There is a perfectly good path from Lamb Park to Knowle Lane and miles of open countryside all around so there is no excuse for anyone to take their dogs onto/across the Playing Field. Thank you for your co-operation.

Fun Day Update.

We had a lovely day on Saturday 2nd July, it was fab to see so many children, thank you all for coming. Enormous thanks to everyone who helped: the wonderful ladies who baked the most tastiest of cakes, I'm sure you'll all agree; the lovely people who served up tea, cakes, drinks; Tim Ekins for his fab poster; Hamish and his team who manned the BBQ; David and his helpers who sorted out the games; Izzy and Ed at Chagfood who donated all the lovely green salad; and Tessa for her delicious mixed bean salad; Teignton Fayre for donating 40 finger rolls; Marg and Ian at the Post Office for donating the juice; Fiona and Paul at the Drewe Arms for sorting out the BBQ food and drinks, tables, napkins, plates, plastic glasses, chopping boards etc etc etc above and beyond yet again, thank you. To everyone who helped set up and clear away, thank you, thank you, thank you.

The refreshments and raffle raised £390! so huge thanks to all of you for your support.

Here's to some good weather and time to get out and enjoy the field. Work is underway and the zip wire and swings should be up and running sometime soon!

If you would like to receive email updates on what's happening at the Playing Field please email me and I'll add you to my newsletter group: pmjmrmdm@aol.com

Have a great summer,

Jennifer

Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Class Play

Our class Meldon / year 5 at Chagford Primary School have been working on a class play based in the Civil War in Chagford. Mrs Searson our teacher gave us the basics of the play and we had to turn it into script.

We have visited Torrington 1646, a centre where you can find out what life was like hundreds of years ago, to find out more about the Civil War. It helped us greatly and we have added the battle that happened there in 1646 into our play.

Each member of the class helped write one or two scenes of the play. The play is about the two sides -- Parliamentarians and Royalists -- and about life in Chagford in the Civil War. Mostly, Chagford was left alone but there were a couple of skirmishes. I will tell you about one of them.

Sidney Godolphin was a well-known poet and royalist who lived in Chagford. He was walking out of the

Whyddons house (now the Three Crowns pub) when he was shot from the top of the church tower. The guns that were around in those days were very inaccurate so no-one knows if he was shot on purpose or by accident. He was shot in the thigh and had to be taken to Okehampton barber surgeon where he died two days later.

The townspeople were very angry that Sidney Godolphin had been shot and when they saw Parliamentarians running from the church, they knew it was them who had killed Sidney. All the angry townspeople grabbed whatever they could and followed them all the way up to Blackaton heath - soon to be Bloody Meadow - where they murdered every single one of them.

This story is part of our play.

We have been working very hard towards it and we are going to perform it on 12 July in the school hall. I play Mary Whiddon's mother, Margaret, and I have just about learnt all my lines. *Tilly Dixon*

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

Members and friends have enjoyed two garden visits in the past three weeks. A members only visit to Netherton Vine on a hot June Saturday was a huge success. Tony and Angela Thomas were exceptional hosts and gave up much of their morning to show us round their exquisite garden. The second visit was to Cadhay, near Ottery St Mary. We had a guided visit from a most enthusiastic girl. Five acres of garden including two large ponds and a long herbaceous border etc are lovingly cared for by two full-time gardeners and a handful of volunteers. Also the old two acre walled vegetable garden is now full of allotments and tended by people who live locally.

Please remember our Village Show is on Saturday 27th August.

News from Whiddon Down

Whiddon Down is a busy village at the moment. We have the village **Fete on Saturday July 16th** from 2.30pm in the garden of 'Southcott' (the old Toll House at the top of Turnpike Road). We have lots of stalls and games, cream teas etc. and a fantastic raffle with lots of excellent prizes. Come along and join the fun.

On Saturday **July 23rd it is our monthly Market** at the Village Hall from 10am until 12 noon. **Please** come along and support us, have a chat, a cuppa and a bacon bap, we're a friendly bunch. If you have something suitable to sell and would like to book a table - it only costs £4 for the morning, (maybe you could share a table with a friend) please ring Patrick Sullivan 01647 231411.

The Village Hall is used by several clubs and groups and for parties etc. but there are still dates available. If you would like to book the hall for your event please ring Clare Rowe on 01647 231643.

On the last Saturday of each month there is a **Whist Drive** at the Village Hall starting at 8pm. The Village Hall Committee have decided to plan ahead a little and organise a village event to celebrate the **Village Hall's 50th anniversary**. We are looking for photos and memories from people who used to go to school at Whiddon Down at what is now our Village Hall. If you (or anyone you know) have anything you would like to contribute please contact me (Pat Sheridan) 01647 231580 or Margery Wonacott 01647 231631. Come along to the Village Hall on **October 22nd** at 3.30pm if you used to come here to school, or if you live in or nearby Whiddon Down and would like to join in the celebrations at this special anniversary event. Put the date in your diary - more details to follow.

Pat Sheridan, Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee



News from the Castle

Every month I sit here to write a piece for the Parish Post, wracking my brains as I try to remember what's happened over the previous weeks, and every month I swear that I will keep some sort of diary to remind me of recent events. Guess what I didn't do, again, this month? So it's back to the brain wracking.

This month saw our classic car week-end, which got off to a fairly quiet start on the Saturday as some pretty awful weather kept people indoors. However, sunshine, a rise in temperatures and a display of more than 60 classic cars bought the crowds out on Sunday as families celebrated Father's Day in style. This year's favourite car, as voted for by our visitors, was a magnificent burgundy Alvis.

Many of you will have tasted the food prepared by our previous head chef, Alan Loman, over the past few years. However, Alan decided to move on a few weeks ago and, since then, the race has been on to find a new chef and get them settled in before the main summer season. I'm delighted to say that the search has been extremely successful and Rob Kingscott is now in post. Rob comes from the Exmouth area and, before coming to Castle Drogo, worked in hotels and restaurants in both Exmouth and Sidmouth. The food that I've managed to sample so far has been absolutely wonderful – highly recommended.

As well as welcoming a new face to Castle Drogo, we also welcomed back an old one. David Bailey, the Property Manager at Castle Drogo until February 2010, made a return visit, with members of his team from Hereford, in order to look at some of the initiatives that have been introduced at properties in the southwest. As well as visiting Castle Drogo they also went to Knightshayes and Killerton, before calling in at Tyntesfield on the way home. From what I've heard the visit was a great success and it was good to see David again.

Bring the children along to 'Poo and Paws' between 27th July and 31st August

Follow the trail and learn how to identify the animals that have been in your garden. Collect the clues to find the mystery animal. Includes prize. £1.50 per trail

I'm now going to go and set up a diary so that I'm ready for next month.

Andy Dawson Compliance & Environmental Practices Co-ordinator, Dartmoor Properties

Telephone: 01647 434117

Email: andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk



In Transition



Julia Whatley says that there was zero response to her recent call in the Parish Post to set up a Transition Steering Group.

Most people are in denial of peak oil and climate change. We are now at the level of using up vast reserves of oil. Most of us avoid thinking ahead to plan when oil runs out, or becomes too expensive. Being part of a positive Transition Town or group shows how the inevitable and the profound changes ahead can have a positive outcome. These changes can lead to the rebirth of local communities, which will grow more of their own food, generate their own power, and build their own homes using local materials. Being connected to nature and living in harmony with the planet is snarled at by most people in mainstream society as it seems to be some kind of hippie rubbish. Wake up! We humans are adding more stress to the planet by injecting huge amounts of CO₂, and we should be spending our time, effort and ingenuity into surviving the environmental challenges ahead, and thinking of the next generation!

So, I am off to my land to live a more holistic, self-sufficient, non-consumer driven life.

Julia Whatley

Bestselling Author Veronica Henry visits Okehampton Library

North Devon Author Veronica Henry will be at Devon County Council's Library in Okehampton on Wednesday 27 July at 7.00pm. Enthusiasts are invited to hear about her latest novel, 'The Birthday Party'. The Birthday Party is centred around a celebrity family living in the glare of the media spotlight. Character Delilah Rafferty is planning her birthday party, a night that will see a star-studded gathering of friends and family celebrate in traditional Rafferty style. But she has more on her mind than just invitations... Readers will enjoy the combination of gossip and glamour with Veronica's trademark wit and warmth. This book follows in the footsteps of Veronica's bestseller from last summer, The Beach Hut. Both titles will be available to purchase on the evening.

Veronica began her career as a secretary on the BBC 4 radio play, The Archers before turning her hand at scriptwriting for some of the most popular television dramas including Heartbeat and Holby City. She now lives in North Devon with her husband and three sons.

The Beach Hut, is set in a row of beach huts on Everdene Sands, on the North Devon coast. It follows the stories of the people who own the beach huts, families who come to Everdene each year, people who fall in - or out of - love, remembering their pasts, or trying to forget them.

Tickets which must be bought in advance are £3.00 each and this includes refreshments.

Please contact Okehampton Library on 01837 52805.

Mobile Library.

Drewsteignton Square 1.45pm to 2.15pm

Crockernwell 3.05pm to 3.25pm

Tuesday August 2nd, 16th, 30th.

Tuesday September 13th, 27th.

Find out what Devon's mobile library service can offer you.

Best sellers, classics, all-time favourites, travel guides, biographies, the latest must reads.

Books with larger print

Audio books

Films

DVDs – dramas, comedy, children's, leisure interest

You can borrow up to:

12 books for 4 weeks

4 DVDs for 2 weeks

4 audio books for 4 weeks

Joining is FREE. Join at any age, babies too. Join at your mobile library, no ID needed.

Borrowing books is FREE.

Non-fiction and children's books can be reserved FREE.

There is a small charge for renting DVDs and audio books.

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 August — thank you