

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 76

MAY 2012

APRIL NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Further to last month's mention of fly-tipping the council have heard that highways use the uncontaminated spoil to repair verges, saving public money on disposal at the same time. Monitoring is needed by everyone to ensure the soil used is clean.

Planning news includes the fact that the wind turbines on the Post Inn have been removed, the Council decided on a neutral view response to both the extension at Clifford House, Crockernwell and the ménage at Moorend, also in Crockernwell. Communication has continued between the Council and West Devon Borough Council regarding the unauthorized solar array on the land adjacent to the petrol station at Whiddon Down, the latest from WDBC;

"I formed the opinion that the array could be assimilated into its surroundings by the judicial planting of a [2m high] hedgerow in front of the (exposed) panels closest to the "Service Area", thereby allowing it to be considered favorably in line with planning policy.

Whilst on site I took a series of photographs and with them, discussed the development with Mr. Dulling a planning officer for the north of the Borough. I have to say that the planning officer was of a similar opinion. Therefore, should an application not be submitted for determination, having endeavoured to negotiate with the landowner the planting of a hedgerow. Enforcement Notice proceedings would be considered as a

method of ensuring that the array is assimilated into its surroundings. If it cannot be assimilated, we will in all probability require its removal."

The Parish Council will monitor this situation closely.

The Traffic Order for the closure of Turnpike Road will be posted shortly in the Okehampton Times and at Okehampton library.

The Parish Lengthsman will be visiting in May, if you have any concerns regarding particular road problems, gullies, drainage etc please contact the Clerk who will compile a list.

The police have been actively dealing with speeding issues in Crockernwell and we look forward to a report for the May meeting.

The End of Year bank reconciliation was approved and signed.

The Parish website now has a 'What's On' page, please do make use of this facility to promote your events, and to keep up to date with what is going on around you. Also the Community Notice-board is now installed at the Visitor Reception area at Castle Drogo, ideal for promoting local events to National Trust visitors.

Prints of the Commemorative Parish map will be available shortly, a perfect way to celebrate the area you love and a special year.

The next Council meeting is 7.30pm Monday 21 May at Whiddon Down.

Cancellation.

Drewsteignton Open Gardens have had to be cancelled until next year due to unforeseeable circumstances. However, the garden at Nether-ton Vine will be open for Morning Coffees and Afternoon Teas (marquee) on Sunday 1st July from 10.30 until 6.30 for the Church Repair Fund.

Rubbish Day Dilemma

There has been a spate of foxes going through black bin bags.

These bags are left out far too long and the consequences are, split bags and debris all over the road, this can then lead to rats and other vermin.

Please be a little more thoughtful and only leave the bags out on the appropriate day.



“One-off” Volunteering! Can You Help?

Son-Rise Cup Football Festival
plus Tidy Tavi in Tavistock
Saturday 19th and Sun 20th May

Children’s Hospice South West

Half Marathon in Plymouth

Sunday 3rd June

Robey Trust Steam Fair
in Tavistock

Sunday 10th June

OCRA Devon Games to Inspire
in Okehampton

Saturday 30th June

Drop in Tuesdays and Wednesdays

10am-2pm 13 East St. Okehampton

Thursdays 9 am-1pm Tavistock Library

Fridays 1pm-4pm Tavistock Library

Freephone: 0330 660 0357

Email: volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk

Join in the fun with

Barnardos Children’s Centre

Okehampton & Hatherleigh

WRVS Home Library Service

Help deliver books and CDs

to those who are house bound

Young Devon

Care for a young carer.

We look forward to hearing from you!

To find out about all our opportunities contact:

Volunteer Centre West Devon

13 East Street, Okehampton EX20 1AS

Tuesday to Thursday 10 am - 2 pm

Phone No: 01837 55047

Email: volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk

Okehampton And District Community Transport Group

Please remember to let us know if you change address or no longer require our services due to moving away from our area.

If you have not already provided one, please let us have a telephone number for a next of kin or someone who we can contact in case of illness or emergency. Thank you.

Wheelchair Vehicles

It has been suggested that we name our Peugeot and Citroen wheelchair accessible vehicles – we would welcome your suggestions – there will be a small prize for the winners of the chosen names!

Wheelchair Assistance

Please let us know when booking if you will require wheelchair assistance from your house to the car and/or at the hospital/appointment. We prefer not (although some drivers are still happy to) to take clients wheelchairs if possible as not all our drivers have space to transport them in their boot and not all of them are as young and fit as they were so should not be lifting heavy equipment!

Saturday Trips (Ring and Ride Bus plus Peugeot when numbers require)

June 16th Lynton & Lynmouth incl. cliff railway £16

June 23rd Easy Going Tour DNP with guide £10

June 30th Seaton Tramway £18

July 7th Bude £9

July 14th Easy Going Tour – DNP with guide £10

July 21st Cockington £10

July 28th Sidmouth £9

August 4th Tavistock £8

August 11th Easy Going Tour – DNP guide £10

August 25th Ilfracombe £11

Trips with the Peugeot

We have had extra grab rails and a step fitted which should enable easier access for our clients.

A list of trips will be available and will be published on our website, in our vehicles and by phoning the office. If you have a group of friends who would like to arrange a trip, give us a ring and we will do our best to organise it for you.

We will also be arranging some Sunday lunch trips.

Drivers

We welcome Maurice Kibble and Alan Hemming to our team.

Website

Please see our website at www.odctg.co.uk for up to date information, photos and more.

Sue, ODCTG, Railway Station, Station Road,

Okehampton, Devon EX20 1EJ

Phone No. 01837 55000

THE LYCHGATES

Most people visiting the Drewsteignton Village Square on their daily business will by now be aware that new lychgates have recently been installed replacing a 19th century edition that were in a sad and sorry state of dilapidation. If you have time take a close and detailed look at the workmanship involved in their making. It really is in the tradition of Ecclesiastical furnishing of a very high order and far outweighs in quality their predecessors.

The two craftsmen responsible for their creation are, for the woodwork, Mr Philip Rose, a joiner some 30 years ago and who is now an extremely accomplished designer and furniture maker. Go to his web site (below) and view a wall unit of some size made in burr oak with contrasting brown oak trim. Superb. Look at the thumbnails of his creations to see the variety of his work and the underlying imagination that creates the bespoke furniture both large and small. All with enormous attention to detail and finish.

Philip Rose: Designer and Maker of Fine Furniture

Web site: www.philiprosefurniture.co.uk

e.mail: philiprose@@longford.eclipse.co.uk

Tel. Home 01626 365476 or workshop 01647 440003

The gates are embellished with wrought iron hangings, decorative panels and fleurs-de-lys. Simple; not so; genuine wrought iron (incidentally only reintroduced into this country since the last furnace of many **ceased production in the '70s) is a difficult material to work and requires real and specific skills.**

Such a blacksmith is Mr Greg Abel who has owned and worked the 150 year old Morton Forge for over a decade. You require hand made nails, a fire irons set, or a pair of estate gates Greg will make them using traditional hot forging techniques in most of his work. A visit to the forge is an education in fine craftsmanship, material and atmosphere that hasn't changed in centuries.

Greg Abel: Blacksmith

Website: www.mortonforge.co.uk

e.mail: gregabel@mortonforge.co.uk

Tel. 01647 440331

EVENTS AT STONE LANE GARDENS

Sunday May 6th The 'Mythic Garden' sculpture exhibition opens within the Gardens and this year celebrates its 20th anniversary. The theme this year is 'Birds'. Garden open 2-6pm daily.

Gypsy Caravan Weekend May 26/27th 2-6pm Two traditional vardes (gypsy caravans) will be at Stone Lane Gardens over the weekend.

Saturday May 26th 6-10pm

An evening of Gypsy storytelling, music and food round the fire with Tom Hirons, Rima Staines and Lisa Rowe. The owners Derek and Carol Ambridge have restored and rebuilt the caravans themselves. Tickets include delicious food and entry to the Gardens - a wonderful opportunity to see the beautiful woodland garden in the evening.

Adult £12.50, under 16s half price and under 5s free.

Available from Sally's Newsagents and the Courtyard in Chagford as well as from Stone Lane Gardens (01647 231311). Bookings can also be made by email admin@stonelanegardens.com or via the website www.stonelanegardens.com

Sunday 13th May 2-6pm Garden Open in aid of National Gardens Scheme (NGS). Every year NGS gardens across England and Wales welcome about 750,000 visitors in a massive charitable fund-raising endeavour. On this open day all our entry fees will go to the NGS charities and profits from teas and plant sales will be retained for the Stone Lane Gardens charity. Nearby Castle Drogo is also open on the same day.

June 10th Guided Bird Walk at Stone Lane Gardens in collaboration with RSPB. See website for details.

Stone Lane Gardens, Stone Farm, Chagford, Devon. TQ13 8JU

Tel: 01647 2231311

www.stonelanegardens.com

Charity number 1141252

The Summer Migrants Return Along With More Rain!

It has been a poor month for many of our summer arrivals, especially for the swallows and house martins which rely on flies for food. I reported in the last Parish Post that I first saw a swallow in the village on the morning of the 26th March (a week earlier than last year) and occasional sightings through that week of a single bird whipping over the thatched roofs in the square, with a pair perching on telephone wires on the 31st March. The weather has been pretty unpleasant for the whole of the month and so they will have gone off to find better food supplies elsewhere. I saw my first house martins in Drewsteignton on the 21st April with four birds flying around the west end of the square, but again with food in short supply at the moment, sightings have been elusive.

As I write this today (Monday evening, 30th April), I can report that I saw my first swift this morning after dropping my girls off on the school bus. Rain and high winds greeted the bird back to the village as it flew over Churchgate and tried to return to one of my nest boxes. These are all taped up through the winter to deter the house sparrows from filling them with nest material and so I hastily unblocked a couple of boxes. This is a day earlier than last year but the identical date to my first sighting in 2010. What I have noticed in recent years is that the first sightings of the swifts seems to coincide with a downturn in weather and so having arrived back to the village, they find poor weather and a lack of airborne food. I hastily unblock the nest **boxes to allow the swift's access just as they vanish** to find food in sunnier climes. This then leaves me to defend the open nest boxes from the sparrows until the good weather returns, and the bulk of the swifts reappear and occupy the boxes. I am delighted to report we have 6 more nest boxes up in the village this year, courtesy of a grant from the **"Devon Bird watching and Preservation Society"**, two of which are on Churchgate and four are on

two thatched cottages to the west of the square. Despite the mainly poor weather during the month, which I have just heard on the radio, has been the **wettest April since accurate record's began, which** is over 100 years, we have had the odd good day, but as a farmer friend of mine from north of the **A30 says its been "Misty moo"**. I am informed this is a Somerset term for poor early morning weather! Thursday 26th April was one of those better days and from about 8am onwards, I could hear a cuckoo (my first one this year) calling from the valley between Veet Mill and **Puddicombe. Cuckoo's are** also here only briefly as this brief poem illustrates, **"The cuckoo arrives in** April, he sings his song in May, they lay their eggs in the month of June and **then they fly away"**.

I normally stop feeding the garden birds during April most years but have continued this spring and have been amazed as to how many goldfinches and siskins come to eat the Niger seed. Greater spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches, blue tits, great tits and a couple of coal tits are always present on the peanuts and with greenfinches, chaffinches, house sparrows, robins, collared doves **and dunnock's feeding on the seed feeders, my garden** has been full of birds.

Despite the inclement weather, I have been captivated by the bird song as birds sing to defend territories and attract mates with chiffchaff and blackcap song almost continually heard from hedgerows nearby. The blackbird singing well into dusk is also a joy and I have even seen a couple of bats flying in and out of my woodshed during the odd dry evenings. *Nick Dixon*



Queens Jubilee Celebrations

For our next edition we are extending the contributions date for a week to the 8th of June as we would like to hear all about your Jubilee celebrations.

Let us know how your parties went and please send in photos of the event. Look forward to hearing from you.

John.

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton - We regularly run a minibus service on alternate Wednesdays for Cheriton Bishop, Crockernwell and Tedburn, this month it will be 9th, 23rd May and 6th June to Sainsbury's Supermarket, Alphington. Please phone Sylvia on 01647 24267. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. The fare is £3 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café now twice monthly - We are now running afternoon cafés on the second Thursday of each month, this month it will be 10th May 2.00pm – 4.00pm. This is in addition to our usual morning café on the last Thursday of each month 10.30 to 12.30 which will be Thursday 31st May. If you are concerned about your memory, or if you are a carer of someone with a memory problem, and you would like to join our group or would like more details please call Margaret on 01647 252622. Meetings are held at Strawberry Hill on the B3212 adjacent to Dunsford village – look out for the sign. Come and enjoy some homemade refreshments and meet new friends.

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club - Will be meeting at Woodleigh Coach House, Cheriton Bishop at 12.30pm on the 10th May. Roast beef, desert, tea or coffee all for just £6.50. If you would like to join us please ring Jean Martin 01647 24586 the weekend prior to book your place, also let her know if you will require transport.

Acorn Services - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered or any other Acorn service, please phone Sylvia Tripp on 01647 24267. Please leave a message on her answering machine if she is not at home and she will call you back. If you have not heard back within 24 hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586.

Loan equipment - If you have borrowed a wheelchair, walking frame, bath seat etc from Acorn and you no longer need it could you please contact Jackie 01647 252701 so that we can arrange for it to be collected.

Can you spare an occasional hour or two? to drive local folk in your car who have a difficulty getting to local non-urgent appointments? Those who cannot use public transport and have no available car often use the Acorn driver service to get to one of our surgeries - or to appointments in Exeter or Newton at the dentist/opticians/chiropractors, etc. If you would like to help but have limited time, do please talk it through with us. Many appointments are booked well in advance and could be made to tie-in with your limited availability. Most volunteer drivers work the trip in with doing some shopping. We can also pay 45p per mile to those who wish to claim. Just a little help from those who can spare us the time can make such a difference to those who need our help. Please call Jackie on 252701.

Vacancy for Community Care Manager. REMINDER - please note that the closing date for applications for this new post (previously advertised in the April issue) is May 12th. Please email Jackie at jackie.thomas@acorncommnitysupport.co.uk if you would like a copy of the advertisement.

CHRIS RALPH

I would like to thank everyone in the area for the support that you have given my family and myself over the last few weeks.

As many of you know, I lost my wonderful brother Chris (Ralphy) on the 30th March while we were playing football in the DCFA Veterans Cup Final. Although it was devastating to lose him I take some comfort in knowing that, apart from spending time with his family, Chris was happiest when playing football with his mates.

He was a wonderful player and, though it pains me to say it, he was the best footballer in our family although my brother John might contest that. Ralphy was more than just a brother to me, he was my friend, my inspiration and my hero. I idolised

him, as he was everything to everyone. If I could emulate any of his qualities in my life or be half the man he was, I know I would be a better person. So to everyone in the area, from Lorraine, Lucinda, Emily, Katie, Hannah, Matthew, my brother John, myself and our families - A VERY BIG THANK YOU!! for making this awful time much more bearable with your kind words and messages. It has shown us that there is love, compassion and decency in this world and one big local family.

By the way we gave Chris a good send off, my head is still spinning!!!

Porky Ralph

Crockernwell Prepares For The Jubilee Celebrations On The 4th June.



Great progress has been made towards what it is hoped will be a wonderful celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The events will begin at 3.00pm with the initial focus upon younger children and their parents but with all others welcome. There will be a Bouncy Castle, Face Painting and 5 a side Football, cup cake making and a Tea Party with buffet foods for the adults. At 6.00pm the food focus will move to the beginning of the Barbeque and there will be a varied programme of entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening including a guitar player, singing, and Belly Dancers!

Jane will be going around the village on the 15th May to ask people to state what they can contribute towards the buffet so be prepared, all help appreciated. Names are also needed of volunteers able to help with setting up on the morning of the celebrations on the 4th of June, and taking down and clearing up at the end of the day and on the following morning.

Please let Bill Savage know if you're able and willing to assist.

If everyone can give a little of their time it should be a very happy and memorable day for all.

Mary Graham.

My First Fencing Attempt

During our half term, Flora (my sister) and I attended an OCRA fencing day in Okehampton. OCRA stands for Okehampton Community and Recreation Association and they put on many sporting events for children in and around Okehampton, including visiting Chagford School. We knew quite a few others there, Phoebe and Alex Muir, Jacob Sherlock and Jasmine Stanbury who are all at or used to be at Chagford School.

Before we could start fencing, we had a lot of protective clothing to put on, including a chest plate, jackets, gloves and more. Next we had to choose a helmet that was the right size and slipped it on before getting a foil (sword).

We had to do many exercises to practice holding and lunging with the foil. After we had done that, we started fencing against each other and the tutor (nobody won against him).

We also tried 'electric fencing'. It's the same as fencing except that when you hit your opponent in

the prime areas (chest, stomach and groin), it buzzes on the equipment. There are many wires attached to you but they are not in the way while you are fencing.

At the end of the one day session, he gave out prizes to all who attended, and there was a medal for the best fencer over all, which I won!!

Flora was the best in her age group, and won a bag of Minstrels!

I really enjoyed the day and it was great to try a new sport!!

I also played in a charity football tournament in Exeter last weekend helping to raise funds for the Adam Standsfield foundation (he was an Exeter city player who died of cancer in 2010). Our West Exe **Under 12's team came last in our group, but we** were playing boys and overall on the day, £1,700 was raised!!!!!!!.

Tilly Dixon

Police Notice

This is a message from your local Policing Team.

Residents are reminded to ensure that their unattended properties are left secure, i.e. garages, sheds, outbuildings, oil storage tanks and to secure any outside metal items. Be on your guard against people cold calling and offering to carry out tarmac, paving, patio, fascias, soffits or other work. This can sometimes lead to a low standard of workmanship that carries a lack of guarantee if problems arise later on and the price quoted can very often increase once the work has finished. Do not accept offers of work from contractors at the door. Reputable tradesmen will give a central office number and allow you to contact them when you want work done.

Please advise any neighbours.

Thank you.

Please phone us with any information on 101 or email general.enquiries@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk.



News from the Castle

As I write this there is just a week to go to the first of May yet, after a great early spring, it feels more like winter; with cold winds and icy rain. However, as is often the case for us, every cloud does have a silver lining, and the bad weather is helping to bring the visitors to our door as the moors and beaches become a less attractive proposition.

If you've been up to our Visitor Centre recently you will probably have seen a new notice board; which has been put up to the right of the main entrance, as you approach the building. This is yours and can be used by anyone living locally. So, if you have an event coming up, if you provide a service that others could make use of, or have any other information that you'd like others to see then please feel free to post it here. There is no charge for using this facility and you can get a key either from the Drewsteignton Post Office or by contacting Christine Gray at Castle Drogo (01647 434131).

This is a bit short but that's it from me for this month.



I'd just like to finish by hoping you all have a great time at both the Teignton Fayre and the Jubilee Celebrations, it should be quite a week-end!

Andy Dawson

Compliance & Environmental Practices Co-ordinator

Dartmoor Properties

Telephone: 01647 434117

Email: andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk

Splash Out On An Open Air Swim



Summer's coming and Chagford Swimming Pool opens for the 2012 season on Saturday 26th May.

Enjoy the wonderful experience of the largest outdoor freshwater swimming pool in Devon. In glorious country, fed by the river Teign, warmed by solar covers, with a children's paddling pool and refreshment kiosk, this is a fabulous facility.

The pool is open to all-comers from 2 - 5.45pm from Tuesday to Sunday. Join us for Dawn Dippers at 8 - 9am on Mondays, for Lane Swimming from 6 - 7pm Tuesday to Friday, or for the over 50s from 1 - 2pm on Fridays.

In the school summer holidays the pool is open all week.

Tickets on the door are £3.70 for adults, £2 for children (5 - 16) free for under fives and £1.50 for spectators. Season tickets are available from the kiosk at £48 for adults, £34 for children, £110

for families (maximum 2 adults and 2 children) and £125 for families with more than 2 children

Whitestone Open Gardens

Sunday 24th June 2012

Let your curiosity get the better of you.

Spend the day exploring 10 of

Whitestone's gardens.

Enjoy a light lunch, cream tea, plant and produce stalls and other attractions.

£4 per person

Programmes available in advance via 01392 811979 or from the Parish Hall 10am -4pm.

Teignton Fayre

This year Teignton Fayre forms part of Drewsteignton Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and will be held on Saturday 2nd June at 6pm in the Village Square. Please make a note in your diaries to come along and enjoy the evening. This year as part of the celebrations we will be having a live band Jiggery Pippery together with all the usual entertainment including a BBQ and Hog Roast.



CUBS

The cubs are looking forward to their summer camp which will again be held in Drewsteignton as it proved so popular three years ago. They will also be taking part in the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the village.

The Cubs attended the St George's Day celebrations which were held at Teign Valley Hall, Christow on Sun 29th April.

Paula and Sarah are giving up the cubs in July so Akela is looking for anyone interested in taking over the pack. Full training given and support from Akela.

WOW!

Over £900 was raised to fund my journey to volunteer in a Bulgarian Orphanage in the Summer.

This is an amount far and beyond the expected, and allows a substantial portion to go towards buying much needed resources to take out to the children at the orphanage.

Thank You to everyone who supported me. I hope to keep you all up to date on my trip and exactly how the money we raised was used, *Naomi*

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
8th June — thank you