

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post



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JUNE 2012

JUNE NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The May meeting of the Parish Council is also its Annual General Meeting where officers of the Council are appointed. Cllr Bill Savage stood down as chairman after five years and was thanked by councillors for his work during this period. Cllr Chris Gosnay was appointed the new chairman and Cllr Joy Walker the vice chairman. The following councillors were appointed to represent the Parish at local organisations: Cllr Sue Power Dartmoor National Park Planning & Forum meetings, Cllrs Bill Savage and Paul Ridgers West Devon Eastern Links Committee, Cllr Wayne Mudge Drewsteignton Village Hall Committee and Playing Field, Cllr John Dyke Whiddon Down Village Hall Committee and Devon Heartlands Forum, Cllr Joy Walker Playing Field Committee, she will continue with responsibility by working with Devon County Council as the Snow Warden and Cllr Chris Gosnay will continue responsibility for Drewsteignton Car Park.

Following complaints, the Parish Council asked West Devon Borough Council to tell us the cost of emptying dog waste bins - £1.04 per visit. Mick Jones from the National Trust is intending to **re-introduce the "flick it with a stick" message** in the Fingle Gorge in an attempt to reduce the amount of plastic bags hanging from trees and secreted around the parish. We had also asked Devon County Council to research the **procedure for closing a "byway open to all traffic" (BOAT) but it was found that Froggy Lane** Drewsteignton is still a highway albeit category 7 which probably means they will not maintain it!! Four other items on the subject of highways were discussed, we await further development in the funding for the Post Office parking restrictions following an appeal being sent out. The closure date for Turnpike Road consultation was 25th May 2012 and several letters of support had been sent, the Council being unaware of any objections. The problems with parking at Turnpike Close have been readdressed but after the clo-

sure is implemented we feel this problem may be drastically reduced with the help of residents. The Council cannot get a definitive answer to the ownership of the roadway at the entrance to Whiddon Down Services which is in such a poor condition and likely to cause danger to both vehicles and pedestrians, so we have asked that a Health & Safety officer from WDBC makes an inspection and give his views. On the subject of planning, the Council unanimously supported an application for extensions and alterations at North Cuma Drewsteignton, two other applications were objected to because in both cases site visit requests have been refused, the Council felt that in both cases they could not satisfy themselves that material planning considerations were being complied with. The Council received a report from the Police on speeding issues in the parish with no mention of Whiddon Down. We will continue to press for enforcement or improvements in road layouts.

The Council received a letter from DNPA detailing an extension of the conservation area in Drewsteignton, this was a little surprising as the matter was discussed in August & September 2010 and we objected because of lack of public consultation. We have asked DNPA to supply details of their consultation about this matter and would be grateful if any residents can give us details of consultation or not as the case may be. (Contact Cllrs Mudge, Ridgers, Gosnay or the clerk Bella Snook.)

The Council were extremely concerned that at the Playing Field Committee AGM not enough people came forward to form a committee. This calls into question the future of the playing field but for the moment the Council would encourage parishioners to get involved and hope for a better outcome from the extraordinary AGM on 11th June.

Our next meeting is at Drewsteignton on Monday 18th June 2012 at 7.30pm

Drewsteignton Church Fête

*Saturday 21st July
at 2.30pm*

In the Churchyard

(Please note change of venue)

*Stalls selling cakes and savouries, preserves,
bric-a-brac, books and much more.*

Gifts for all stalls welcomed.

Have a go at all the games and enjoy a delicious cream tea!



West Devon Borough Council have received a complaint about dog fouling in the Fingle Bridge area. **Please would all dog walkers remember to pick up their dog's waste and put it in the bins** provided. Please do not hang the bag in a tree!

Drewsteignton and Chagford Cub Scouts

Teignton Fayre wasn't very good, sorry we had to pack up early because of the rain. Aakela has managed to find two new parents to take over cubs - Rona Amiss and Isabel Brookes, many ,many thanks to them for taking cubs on. Preparations are under way for camp which is in two weeks. Once again it is in Drewsteignton - and we are really looking forward to it, just hope the weather improves.

The Fingle Dash!

Fun Run 1.5k, 3K (9 years & over) & 10k (16 years & over) at Fingle Bridge on the 8th July.

Registration from 9.30am.

Proceeds to Cheriton Bishop school, e-mail school office office@cheriton-bishop-primary.devon.sch.uk for entry form or from Checkers shop.

There will be Medals, raffle, BBQ and refreshments so come and join in the fun!

Drewsteignton Parish Council commissioned this illustrated map to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; the original will be hung in Holy Trinity Church Drewsteignton. You can have your own copy to celebrate the place you love and a special year.

Available at Castle Drogo or from the Parish Council Clerk. Price is £7.50 unframed.



A Busy Bank Holiday Week End

Over the last month, I have done a variety of things but last weekend was the busiest. On Saturday, the whole of our school took part in Chagford Tinnars Fayre and performed a play in the square. We had made puppets at school and also me and two friends, Livy and Ely learnt how to stilt-walk as we were Tinnars Hares and performed on our stilts. Livy and I were taught by Ely (who has been doing it for ages) and her dad Tod. The really big puppet was the Queen and other parts were dancing corgis, stamps, egg and chips, a tea set, crows, punk ponies and crows. It was really good fun to perform but tiring to do our part on stilts.

I very much enjoyed Teignton Fayre despite the downpour and drizzle we had, the music was great and the stalls were fun. Also during the Diamond jubilee weekend we had the tug of war in the car park and the big village tea. It was lovely seeing every-one and the food was amazing. I thought the flotilla down the Thames was beautiful with that many boats all having their own reason of being there. It was a grand display fit for a monarch who has been on the throne for 60 years.

I also competed in the 2 Hills Race which had the worse bog ever at the bottom of Meldon, which we all had to run through. My mum and Flora also did it this year and did very well. I came 56th out of about 200 people so I was very pleased with my position and I improved my time from last year when I first did it. I was running in the 11-15 girls non resident category.

Tilly Dixon



Drewsteignton Parish Jubilee Photo Taken by Mike Smallcombe



Drewsteignton Jubilee Tea



Enjoying The Tea



Tug Of War



Evening Entertainment



Crockernwell Celebrates In Style.

For a small village with very few community resources and little shared space, Crockernwell showed that it was ready to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style with an outstanding display of bunting, flags, beautiful programmes giving full information for all the residents, and even earrings decorated with St. George's flags.

People gave time, money, expertise, muscle, food, drink, beautiful hand made bunting, songs and music and lent tables, seating and a marquee to make it an extra special occasion for all from the youngest resident to some who could well remember previous Royal celebrations.

Special thanks must go to a core group without whom the planning and much of the event would never have happened and also to the residents who allowed their gardens and driveways, their kitchens and power supplies, their vans and trailers and their yards of wiring and P.A. system to be used and to those involved in the setting up and clearing up the day after.

It was a perfect old fashioned village celebration with something for all ages that allowed strangers and friends to meet and share their enjoyment. From the tug of war to the children's party, the bouncy castle, to the exotically clad belly dancers and their impromptu offer of a lesson for all those brave enough to join them, and later on, the outstanding talents of the young singers and musicians, nothing was missed that could have made it a more perfect day apart, perhaps, from a little sunshine, but then even the highest in the land cannot command the weather and at least, for Crockernwell, the rain stayed away. The only remaining question is when's the next occasion???

Crockernwell Enjoying The Jubilee



Okehampton District Community Transport Group Devon County Council Community Transport Awards

We are pleased to report that following nomination, Alan and Lin Perrott received an award in recognition of their contribution to Community Transport in Devon, this was received at a ceremony at County Hall on 25th May. Sue Wonnacott, Co-ordinator, accompanied them and they enjoyed a lovely evening hearing all the nominations for the various categories including Volunteer of the Year, Employee of the Year, Group of the Year and other Volunteer awards.

The winner of the Volunteer of the Year award was a 90 year old man who is still volunteering! These awards take place each year and nominations can be submitted by clients, members of the organisation or the general public. We are always looking for new drivers to join our team, we particularly need drivers who are willing to undertake wheelchair training to drive our two wheelchair accessible vehicles which are being kept very busy. Please contact the office on 01837 55000 if you would like to know more.



Another Wet Month

Whilst deciding what to write for this issue, I thought I would see what I wrote for May 2011 as I had a feeling that it involved swifts in the village, a lack of food for them due to poor weather and a very wet Teignton Fayre. I was wrong and it was interesting to read that for a change from swifts, I chose to write about the peregrine falcons in Exeter on St. Michaels Church, at Mount Dinham. Just as last year, the peregrines there again have three young and they all fledged (flew from the nest for the first time) over this past weekend. For the next month or so, they will be very noticeable and vocal over that part of the city as they learn to fly properly, whilst being taught to hunt by their parents. The sight of the three juvenile peregrines plus the adults perched on the pinnacles of the church or in the air flying high over Mount Dinham and the Bartholomew street cemetery is a stunning spectacle. Great views of these birds can be had from both Mary Arches and the Guildhall car parks, or from above the catacombs on Bartholomew street. They often visit the top of the south tower of the cathedral too, so keep a look out.

Peregrines feed almost solely on birds caught in flight, and in Exeter take many feral pigeons, along with a wide variety of other species. I have been studying the diet of the St. Michaels peregrines since they first bred in 1997 and have just recently had published the largest single site study into the prey of this species in the UK. Over the years of their tenure at the church, we have recovered prey remains of over 4,000 individual birds from over 100 different species. Peregrine falcons are the fastest creatures on the planet, and when hunting will soar high in the sky, before spotting their prey moving

below them and often at great distance away. They will then beat hard in a direction to position themselves before turning and going into a dramatic **'stoop' onto their prey. It is during this closed wing stoop** that they attain phenomenal speeds as they literally rip through the skies, and a captive peregrine was clocked at an amazing 240 miles/hour during a skydive test in the USA a few years ago.

I can't guarantee you will see this in Exeter, but if you happen to be going anyway, take binoculars and watch from the car parks or drive up Dinham road and have a look!

As I am writing this, I can hear the swifts outside screaming and despite the fairly horrible weather over the last month, I am seeing swifts regularly go into about five of my nest boxes so I am hoping **they are all nesting. I won't know exactly what's** been happening until my friend Malcolm comes in July to ring the juveniles.

I have been asking for people to get in touch if they see red kites in the Parish and over the past 5 weeks I have heard of two separate kites passing through. I have also been contacted to tell of a sighting of a Nightjar seen in the Teign valley. Nightjars are amazing birds, and as migrants, are only here between May and September. Their plumage is camouflaged to make them look like dead wood when perched by day on a branch of a dead tree, but at night they hunt moths and other insects. They make an incredible sound at dusk **known as 'Churring' which can be heard up to a Km** away, and they nest on the ground in clear fell woodland blocks.

Do get in touch (281681) regarding Red Kite sightings in the parish. *Nick Dixon*



News from the Castle

What a difference a month makes. In May I was bemoaning the poor weather conditions and now, a month later, summer seems to have finally arrived, hopefully to stay (at least for a few months). With the good weather we are seeing a definite increase in the number of visitors that we are getting, as the season gets into full swing.

By the time you read this the Diamond Jubilee will have been well and truly celebrated with, I believe, parties taking place in both Drewsteignton (following on from the annual Teignton Fair) and Crockernwell and we hope that, wherever you celebrated, you had a truly memorable day – possibly ending the Monday evening with a trip to our front forecourt, to see the lighting of the beacons. With so many local events taking place we decided to keep our activities to a minimum, though we did offer a new, royal based trail, to keep our younger visitors occupied.

Of course, the next big thing, in this summer of celebration, will be the 2012 Olympic Games; with the opening ceremony taking place on 27th **July. But, if you're looking for something to help fill the gap between the Jubilee and the Games, then why not come and join us on 17th June (Father's Day, in case you'd forgotten) for our, now traditional, Classic Car Day. With over 70 cars already booked in, a beer tent offering a range of beers from the Redrock brewery and the opportunity for children to make a unique gift this should offer a great day out for any dad.**

If you would like to spend some time with us and want further information about any of our events then you can find this either online, at www.nationaltrust.org.uk, or from our free events leaflet which you can pick up either from our Visitor Centre or from the Drewe Arms.

Andy Dawson

Compliance & Environmental Practices Co-ordinator

Dartmoor Properties

Telephone: 01647 434117

Email: andy.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk

Workshops Inspired By The Adder

MED Theatre is running two taster workshops for 12-20 year olds for their forthcoming dance-theatre project called Adder. The workshops will be exploring the essence of the adder on Dartmoor through movement and story.

If interested in attending one or both workshops please phone 01647 441356 or email abbystobart@medtheatre.co.uk. They are completely free.

Saturday 16th June, 2pm-5pm, MED Theatre Studio (Moretonhampstead)

Physical Theatre led by drama practitioner Lizzy Pennington.

Saturday 7th July, 2pm-5pm, MED Theatre Studio (Moretonhampstead)

Dance led by dance artist Rosalyn Maynard

Abby Stobart

Education Officer - MED Theatre

Tel: 01647 441356



Whiddon Down Village Market

Whiddon Down Village Market is held on the 4th Saturday of every month. The next market being held is on the 23 June 2012 from 10am until 12 noon.

We have a variety of stalls selling a wide range of produce and crafts. More stalls are always welcome. Please come along and support us. All proceeds from the table hire and from the kitchen which supplies tea coffee, bacon rolls and home made cake go to the Devon Air Ambulance and The Eve Appeal Gynaecological Cancer Research Fund.

Further details or to book a table please contact *Barbara Cannon on 01647 231318*

DREWSTEIGNTON GARDENERS' CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST

(Village Hall)

Staging of Exhibits 9-11am

Open to public 2.30pm

Refreshments /Raffle

OPEN TO ALL IN THE PARISH

Macmillan Cancer Support

Haldon Forest walks on the 14th July in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Just 15 minutes from Exeter, Haldon Forest has something of interest for everyone. From its prehistoric geological history, fabulous views and hidden secrets this is a perfect place for a great day out.

You will be able to visit Belvedere Tower and watch for birds of prey from the viewpoint overlooking the Teign Valley.

There are two walks, a short one 1.5 miles and a long one, 7 miles. The start time is 11.00am with registration from 10.30am onwards.

The short walk is an all ability trail and the long walk follows designated trails with varied terrain and some steeper slopes.

You can register on line at www.macmillan.org.uk/walking select "Haldon Forest Walk". Once you have registered your details, Macmillan will send an information pack with everything you need to prepare.

The registration fee is £10 and children under 16 are free.

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

For Editorial

John Shiell

drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions

☎ 281282

For Parish Council

Bella Snook

clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Business

☎ 231046—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 July — thank you