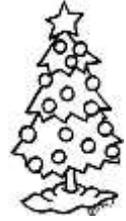


*Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down*



# Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 83

DECEMBER 2012

## NOVEMBER NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our Chairman Chris Gosnay had obviously got inside information about the forthcoming weather as he and his wife were in sunnier climes leaving our Vice Chairman Joy Walker to take her first meeting. Opinion of councillors was, as the meeting finished on time, she did well!!

We welcomed Stephen Belli who is Director of Planning at the National Park to the meeting; he had requested to attend to explain the history of **the changes to Drewsteignton's conservation area**, which had been planned for several years. The confusion on the matter is not uncommon as it is **down to "communication"**. He did apologise to one resident who was at the meeting and spoke to councillors saying it was not the DNP policy to reply to letters sent on the subject.

The Fingle Shoot was also discussed and Mr Belli **was told of residents' complaints of trespass**, working dogs wandering freely, hundreds of birds outside the shoot land and one farmer who had been advised not to plant a 70 acre arable area as it was likely he would lose 30% of it to the pheasants. **Mr Belli told the Council that this year's lease was much stricter than it had been and complaints should be addressed to Lonsdale Forestry and the Park copied in.** They were due to review the situation in January next year.

It was reported planning of the link road at Whiddon Down was now in its final stages. Rather than shut the old road completely, the plan would be to make it one way in favour of vehicles attending C J Saunders and service vehicles attending affected houses, but they would only be able to travel from the North Tawton direction and only turn left at the Exeter Road junction. The Council thought this was a satisfactory compromise. The Council noted the work on the bus shelters at Whiddon Down had been successfully completed

and approved payment.

The Council await responses regarding the Turnpike Road fiasco.

A number of highways issues were reported and are to be passed on to South West Highways for attention, they included clearing storm drains between Hooperton Cross & Crockernwell, pot-holes around the parish including the Square at Drewsteignton, flooding problems between Cross Farm & Castle Drogo and at the junction of Long lane and the A382, and the Council would be grateful for any information on who may be responsible for Fly Tipping along Harepath again and the graffiti obliterating the Give Way sign at Higher Fingle.

Following site visits, the Council resolved to a neutral view on a solar array at Upperton Drewsteignton, and to object to the retention of a mobile home for residential use by an agricultural worker at Martins Park Farm Whiddon Down.

It is the time of year when the Parish Council discuss matters financial for the next year, we have been told we cannot make any decision until after the Chancellors Speech in early December when he may announce restrictions on Parish Precepts. Thank goodness the honesty boxes in Drewsteignton car park and at the toilets are giving a small income as has the Jubilee Parish Map sales. Because our next meeting would have clashed with certain Christmas events – Whiddon Down Poultry Bingo to name but one!! – We shall have our next meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012 7.30pm at Drewsteignton. It only remains to wish all parishioners and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year and the Parish Council team look forward to the challenges of 2013 to deal with on your behalf.

Happy Christmas From The Parish Post.

## Thank You & Thank You

### Bonfire Night

Thank you to everyone who turned up to support the Playing Field's Bonfire Night, I hope you all agree that it was a great success! And I'm delighted to say that after paying for the fireworks and all the other expenses we made £207.85. There was a huge amount of volunteer help from a great many people, thank you to you all!

### Curry Night

Once again, a fantastic evening; thanks to everyone who supported the event, made food, donated prizes and helped on the night. Also a massive THANK YOU to Fiona and the staff of the Drewe Arms, who by donating the cost of all their food, as well as the tremendous help they give on the night, meant that we raised a staggering £775!

Thank You, *Jennifer*

## Slow November

**November seemed to have gone very slowly, although that's more to do with the longer and more tiring days.**

I was entered into an away cross country event with a lot of my friends from school. Because there were sheep in the fields we were going to run in, we had to run around two quite large fields at Tiverton College. It was very muddy at the beginning but as the last race proceeded, it was a field of mud, honestly. There were lots of schools there and in our race there were about 50 girls. We got put into different year categories, and then the Year seven girls and year seven boys raced in separate categories.

That was the Exeter district schools racing event, and to qualify for the next stage you had to be within the first 16 places. Livy (Rubbra) and I were both under that so along with a few of our friends, we will be going to the next stage. Livy came 3<sup>rd</sup> and I came 5<sup>th</sup> which I was VERY pleased about.

Becky (Rowe, another friend and ex Chagford school girl) and I both played in a football match, Okehampton against Tavistock in a knockout cup. We were the only girls in the boys team. Both sides were evenly matched so it was a tight game, but the score ended up being 4-5 to Okehampton!!!!

**I got a hockey stick for my birthday but because of floods and frozen pitches, I haven't been able to use it yet (I have had it since November 18<sup>th</sup>) which is really annoying but hopefully by the time you have read this I will have used it.**

*Tilly Dixon*



## Church News

Holy Trinity Drewsteignton looks forward to the holy season of Christmas and will celebrate in our usual ways, but with some new developments too. Following the success of moving the Fete to the church and churchyard, we shall try out having the Bazaar in the church. Please come and check it out on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>. The usual carol service will be the next day at 4pm, led by our own Harriet Every. Midnight service will be 10pm on Christmas Eve.

Not many people know that epiphany - the great service of light that celebrates the showing forth of Christ - is an older feast than Christmas itself. This year Epiphany, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, falls on a Sunday and we shall have a special Prayer Book Evensong at 5pm. The next Sunday is Christingle, another chance, much more informal, to come to the light in a time that seems to contain so much darkness - 5pm on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope to welcome many of you there!



## ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### ACORN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton** – Our popular fortnightly minibus trip to Sainsbury's Alphington supermarket provides an opportunity for you to be collected and returned to your door with your shopping carried for you. We run a minibus service on alternate Wednesdays from Drewsteignton, Crockernwell, Cheriton Bishop, and Tedburn, this month it will be 5th and 19th December and 16th January 2013. 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 two morning cafés on the second and last Thursday of each month 10.30 to 12.30, this month it will be Thursday 13th December, due to Christmas and the New Year there will not be a café on 27th December. We will resume Thursday 10th January. Please call Margaret on 01647 252622 for more details. Meetings are held at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

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.

Acorn Coffee Morning at Strawberry Hill – On alternate Tuesdays 10 – 12, we have a new drop-in coffee morning at Strawberry Hill, near Dunsford. It's in the old café and has a lovely atmosphere – attractive surroundings. It's run by a small team of friendly volunteers. It's a great place to bring a friend – and there's ample parking. Only one coffee morning this month on 4th December due to Christmas but we will resume Tuesday 15th January 2013. Volunteer drivers can collect you if transport is a problem. Please ring Jackie on 06147 252701 if you need a lift.

Winter Salt - The Trustees have purchased small bags of rock salt and we will soon be distributing it to the elderly and vulnerable in our community. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving some please contact: Sylvia 01647 24267 or Jackie 01647 252701.

New Trustees - At our Annual General Meeting held in September, we elected two new Trustees to the Board; Jon Morton from Christow and Mary Graham from Crockernwell. We elected one new officer - Paul French was elected to Deputy Chair. Beryl Westcott retired following 3 years service. Claire Purser resigned after 2 years service. Thanks to both for their valued service. There are currently 10 Trustees – full details available from the office.

Acorn Trustees, staff and volunteers would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## My Granny's Lentil Soup

Red Lentils

Vegetable Oil

4 Carrots (1 to be grated)

Turnip or any seasonal vegetable (Swede)

2 Leeks

1 Onion

2 or 3 Potatoes

Vegetable Stock (Traditionally Granny used a Ham Bone, boiled for 2 hours, strained and reserved the stock)

Salt and Pepper to taste

**Mopped up with crusty bread... Delicious**

**Proportions are entirely of your choice and depend on who's invited.**

Prepare the vegetables, peel and cut up into chunks add then to a large saucepan with the grated carrot, the oil and sauté for a few minutes.

Add the stock and bring up to the boil. Add Red lentils and simmer for about 20 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

*John Shiell*



## November Garden Birds And Observations

I have noticed how the berries have really diminished on the tall holly tree at the back of my garden and on some of the road edge hollies on the way out of the village over the last month. On the odd occasion that I have actually seen birds feeding on the berries, it is always redwings, one of our winter visitors, eating them. I am constantly hearing redwings overhead (a high pitched *Seeep* call) and along with fieldfares, mistle thrushes and a few extra starlings around at the moment, it is plainly obvious that the birds around reflect the current season we find ourselves in.

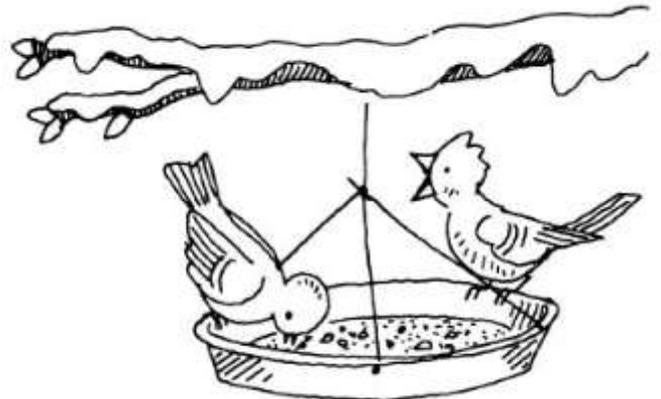
I was on the phone last night to a friend who told me he had seen waxwings yesterday on the outskirts of Newton Abbot, feeding on rowan trees and cotoneaster shrubs planted up around an industrial estate. I **haven't seen waxwings in Devon since 2003, when we had an influx of these stunning looking winter migrants**, and again they were present in Newton Abbot. I had never seen them before in this country and took my daughter Tilly (then aged three) to see them. Waxwings are starling sized migrants but with very bulky necks and a distinctive crown. They are a mainly buff colour but have a dramatic black eye mask and black under-throat with yellow, red, white and black wing markings on the outer primary wing feathers. They are often to be seen in flocks during the winters in eastern U.K. and only come this far south and west during very cold periods in Northern Europe, where they breed in summer. When they are present here, they can be found eating the berries on rowan, hawthorn, cotoneaster and many other shrubs that bear fruit in winter. Have a look at them in a bird book and keep an eye out this winter as they appeared **in Chagford in 2010 (which I didn't know about until last night when I read the 'nature notes' in the new copy of The Whiddon Parishes Magazine!)**.

I have just started feeding the birds in my garden but only putting out niger seed, suet blocks and mixed seed in my feeders so far. I am reluctant to put out peanuts at the moment due to the really high cost of them but also as within hours of putting them out, a grey squirrel will appear. I dislike grey squirrels intensely (I had typed hate but that seems a bit strong) due to a number of reasons. Grey squirrels do not belong in the U.K. having been introduced into the country during the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century as a delightful addition **to the landed gentry's parks, gardens and estates. As** such, they have no natural predators but a number of predatory species do now prey on them, but not in numbers required to control their spread. They have caused the decline of our native red squirrel (Squirrel Nutkin) as greys will feed on a variety of food sources including hazel nuts before they are ripe and ready for the reds to feed on. So far this year, they have stripped every hazel nut from my garden including the big cob nuts from a hazel I planted 10 years ago. Grey squirrels are also known to predate young birds in nests and cause untold damage to trees and newly planted saplings.

With the food I am putting out, I am visited by blue, coal, and great tits, chaffinches, goldfinches but very few greenfinches so far whereas over the past 10 years, there have been many greenfinches present. We also have collared doves, great spotted woodpeckers, robins, siskins, dunnocks, nuthatches and the numbers of blackbirds are building up again. I will be putting out peanuts when the weather gets a bit colder but keeping the air rifle handy if any grey squirrels appear.

If anyone sees waxwings locally, please call 281681.

*Nick Dixon*



## Christmas Bingo

At Whiddon Down Village Hall

Monday 17th December

Andy Martin's fresh poultry and many other prizes. 7.30 for 8.00 pm

# Okehampton District Community Transport Group

## Newsletter 25

### 100 Club

Thank you for your support, in the year to October 2012 we raised £1049 which is a great help to ensure our scheme can continue to offer as many people as possible the services they require.

Congratulations to the winners of our recent draws, thank you for your support. You can join the 100 Club at any time during the year, just send a cheque, payable to ODCTG for £12 to me at the address below.

### Newsletters

With the increasing costs of printing and postage, if you or your family have an email address, please let us know so that we can send information to you electronically to cut down on our costs. Thank you.

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

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Brookes Garden Centre, Bude	£10
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Exeter – The Range & Matalan	£9
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Tavistock	£9
12 <sup>th</sup> January	Barnstaple	£10
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Sidmouth	£10
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Castle Drogo	£8 (transport only)

### Trips with the Peugeot.

We have been asked to put on the following trips: A la Ronde, Drakes Circus, Lost Gardens of Heligan – We do need a minimum of 5 passengers to allow the trips to proceed. If you are interested in joining any of these or have other suggestions, please give the office a ring.

### Drivers

We have said goodbye and thank you to a number of drivers recently, Michael Bendix (Okehampton) has been driving for us since 2010 including driving our wheelchair accessible vehicles and has left to drive for the Ambulance Car Service, Carol Tucker (Okehampton) has also been driving since 2010, she has left due to family commitments. Bill Litherland (North Tawton) has driven for us since 2008 and is sorely missed by everyone, his dedication to the service was wonderful, driving nearly every day, always willing to do the early morning, late night or weekend hospital appointments. Bob and Pam Blackmore (Chagford) have been driving for us since 1995. Their regular clients will miss their attentive care and support. We wish them all the best and appreciate the many years they have assisted our passengers.

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 if you would like to know more. We would like to recruit drivers in Okehampton, Lewdown and Chagford areas to help with the increasing demand on our services.

### Waitrose – Community Matters

We are grateful to Waitrose for choosing us as one of their 3 charities of the month during October, we have received a cheque for £331. Thank you to everyone who put their token into our box!

### Let's Sing Together

**This is part of the Alzheimer's Society Singing for the Brain programme, it stimulates interest, aids memory and provides opportunity for seated exercise as well as provides an opportunity to socialise and relax in convivial company.** The health benefits are numerous and it can be of benefit to the following people: with dementia, carers, suffering any mental health illness, recovering from strokes, bereaved, isolated and lonely, with Parkinsons, in sheltered accommodation, residential home residents. It is a time to enjoy singing without the pressure of striving towards a performance and some people come for a good sing and the company. The sessions take place on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Boniface Centre, Crediton from 10am to 11.30am. For more details contact Jacqueline Patten on 01803 669216 or 07540920685.

### Website

Please see our website at [www.odctg.co.uk](http://www.odctg.co.uk) for up to date information, photos and more.

Merry Christmas from everyone at ODCTG

Sue, ODCTG, Railway Station, Station Road, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1EJ 01837 55000



## December Events at Okehampton Library

Join in the festive activities at Okehampton Library:

Test your Christmas knowledge with a quiz sheet put together and sold on behalf of the Friends of Okehampton Library Group. Available from 1<sup>st</sup> December, first correct entry drawn wins a £10 book token, second correct entry drawn wins a £5 book token, closing date 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

For a chance to win a fabulous hamper full of festive goodies purchase your ticket from the library, only £1 each, draw to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

From 1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December children can post their letter to Father Christmas in his special post box and come back a few days later to collect his reply.

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December between 10:00 -12:00 parents and children can make Christmas decorations at our free drop in crafts session. Also take the time to stop for a chat and a mince pie at our Friends Group coffee morning on the same morning.



## ChagWord

Over the weekend 15th-17th March 2013 Chagford is hosting Dartmoor's first Literary Festival - ChagWord.

Many prominent authors will be joining us to talk about their latest publications.

Among these are Jonathan Dimbleby whose companion programme to his book, *Destiny in the Desert*, was recently featured on TV, the popular writer Kathy Lette, poet and nature writer Miriam Darlington, political diarist Chris Mullin – whose book *A Very British Coup* has recently been adapted for Channel 4 as *Secret State*, Andrew Taylor award-winning historical crime writer, Paula Byrne whose book on Jane Austen will be published in January, Malcolm Pryce, Neil Sorrell, Sally Crabtree, Philip Reeve, and LITTLE MACHiNE and Elvis McGonnagall – performance artists. The programme is still in development and should be finalised towards the end of 2012.

Meantime do come along to some of the Run-Up events:

*In Transition 2.0* – a film showing and talk by Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Towns Movement, in conversation with Ed Hamer of Chagfood.

Saturday 19th January 2013, 7.30pm, Jubilee Hall, Chagford

Tickets £6.00 – see website.

*Journeys of Edward Thomas* with Chris Waters.

Thursday 7th February 2013, 7.30pm at Endecott House, Chagford

Tickets – see website.

Devon poet, Chris Waters, talks, with readings, about the life and works of the writer and poet Edward Thomas.

There are also three other events where we ask for contributions and participation from local people:

*Diary of a Day* – would you keep a diary of your day on Thursday 10th January 2013? This will become part of a national Mass Observation project. If you would like to participate please submit your diary by 2nd February 2012 to [diaries@chagword.com](mailto:diaries@chagword.com) or put them in the boxes supplied in local Chagford shops. All entries will be anonymous. See website and click JOIN IN for details.

Twitter Fiction Competition – write a short 'story' in the equivalent of a Tweet i.e. 140 characters including spaces and punctuation. See website and click JOIN IN for details plus some examples.

The Big Read – calling all book groups or individuals who would like to participate in discussion with Andrew Taylor on 16th March 2013. Andrew has published over 40 books, and is particularly known for his historical crime thrillers. The book in discussion will be *The Anatomy of Ghosts*. Full details on the website.

Full details of these and the main programme as it develops on [www.ChagWord.com](http://www.ChagWord.com).





## News from the Castle

Hello everyone! My name is Paula and I am the new Community Engagement Officer at Castle Drogo.

This is the most exciting time in the history of Castle Drogo since its initial construction. We are just about to embark on a 5 year major building project to save this iconic place from an army of wind and rain. The big news is that we are going to stay open for the entire project and we want to share this exciting time with all of you - our local community. In early January, the main contractors will be on site and scaffolding will start to go up. When we open for our main season in March, what visitors find at Castle Drogo will be very different to what has been here before. Instead of a walk around a typical National Trust house and garden, they will be visiting a place where a huge scaffolding structure covers half the castle, furniture is stored to protect it from dust, stonemasons are seen and heard working, windows are blocked up and new areas are accessible to them. Visitors will get the chance to learn more about the people who built Castle Drogo, see parts of the building never seen before and will also get to climb the scaffold tower and take a look at the amazing view of the high moor and the work happening on the roof. I very much hope that many of you will come up and see us over the next year.

This project is part funded by a £2.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This grant has enabled us to appoint me as Community Engagement Officer. I will work closely with the local communi-

ty, providing new and exciting ways to get involved. Please do get in touch if you would like to know more by emailing me on [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk) or calling 01647 434130.

We also have loads of new opportunities for people to get involved as volunteers. On Tuesday 12 February 2013, 11am – 3pm, we will have a volunteering open day. If you would like to meet the team and find out more about the different ways to get involved, please pop along to our lovely café and **have a cuppa and a chat with us. You don't need a degree in history to volunteer – just a warm smile, enthusiasm and a few hours to spare.**

**Keep up to date with what's happening by checking our website and blog regularly,** <http://dartmoorNT.org.uk/> to find out the latest news, information about places to visit, activities and events. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Castle Drogo opening times 2012/2013  
Castle

16 Feb to 24 Feb 2013 (guided tour only) everyday, 11am-4pm

25 Feb – 5 Mar, Saturday and Sunday, 11am-4pm

9 Mar – 3 Nov, everyday, 11am-5pm

Visitor Centre, Cafe, Shop, Garden

1 Jan – 8 Mar 2013, everyday, 11am-4pm

9 Mar to 3 Nov, everyday, 10am-5.30pm (café from 9am)



## Cubs Christmas Postal Service

The cubs are this year delivering Christmas cards in Drewsteignton village only. If you would like your cards delivered please leave them in the post box in Sarah Ekins Porch at The Rectory between 1st to 20th December or if you needed them collected ring Akala on 01647 281281. A small donation would be appreciated towards Cubs funds.

Cubs start again on 10th January.

## Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

We had an excellent talk in November on Herbs and their uses. On January 14th we are **having a meeting on Members' Skills. We would like members or non-members to come and talk for a few minutes on their garden successes or failures! I'm sure there are many people who read the Parish Post who have excellent gardening skills, we welcome you all 7.30pm Drewsteignton Village Hall.**

Please contact Chip if you are at all interested on 01647 281145



New Years Eve  
at the  
Drewe Arms

**Spin 2 on New Year's Eve**  
in

The Long Room,  
Doors open at 8pm  
Band from 9pm

Advance tickets £5.00 available at  
The Drewe Arms or over the phone.

**01647 281224**

## Okehampton District Community Transport

Please note that the ring and ride bus service will run as usual from Monday 17th to Friday 21st December  
Christmas Break

The service will resume on Wednesday 2nd January.  
Please call the office before 11 am on 21st December to make your bookings for the 2nd January.

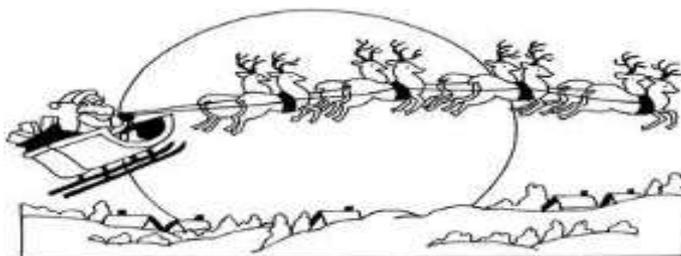
The community car service will be running subject to availability of drivers for medical/hospital appointments throughout the holiday period.

Please give as much notice as possible as the office will be closed from Friday 21st December and not re-open until 2nd January. The answer phone will take messages for appointments after this date.

## Drewsteignton Post Office

Ian and Marg would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
We are closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.  
Thank you to everyone for your support in 2012 and we look forward to serving you in 2013.

Under the new Food Standards Agency businesses are now scored on a Hygiene Rating from 0 - 5, we have just received a 5 which we will be proudly displaying on our door.



Drewsteignton

Parish Post

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If you have trouble reading this publication please let me know and I will arrange for a large format version to be sent to you

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☎ 281638

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