

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 85

FEBRUARY 2013

JANUARY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council received an update by Paula Clark from Castle Drogo on how the commencement of the waterproofing works are progressing. She has agreed to keep us and the parish regularly informed over the expected duration of the works of five years.

The Dartmoor National Park are reviewing the Fingle Shoot in March and have asked the Parish Council to partake in that review. After discussion we decided to place a survey in the Parish Post to give parishioners the opportunity to express their views so we could make a better informed reply to DNP. If you have been affected in any way, or have a view on the shoot, please do complete the survey, which can be anonymous if you wish. If you cannot deliver your reply to the Post Office then any Councillor or the Clerk will be happy to receive it.

We have asked the Police to pay attention to vehicles using Chapel Hill at Whiddon Down against the Traffic Order. The Parish Council would like to add they wanted Chapel Hill to have been included in the complete closure with Turnpike Road, but it was Devon County Council who refused to allow this to happen despite us telling them this problem would occur. We would encourage anyone experiencing problems with traffic using Chapel Hill to contact us.

Cllrs Stuart Hardie & Graham Hester are meeting on site with an engineer from Devon County Council to discuss the improvement to Turnpike Road and they are also meeting with representatives from Okehampton College and the bus company to resolve the late school bus service dropping off point.

In addition, if you pick up a child from the Exeter School bus, please **DO NOT** stop your car where it causes obstruction to private entrances. We were grateful to parishioners contacting us regarding the reduction in Western Greyhound's bus service. We are writing again as all we re-

ceived was a "holding reply". The matter will be discussed at the next West Devon Council's Eastern Links Committee and if anyone else has had problems and not done so, please tell us.

The blocked drain in Crockernwell has still not been dealt with (TEN WEEKS after being reported).

It appears the salt bags in the Parford & Drogo areas have been sliced open by highways engineers working there. We have also been told of salt bags going missing at Venton and other locations, these are the ones supplied by DCC. If you need road salt, please contact the Clerk as we do have a limited supply of bags for use in the parish. We discussed two planning matters and resolved a neutral view on both, one for a conservatory at Lamb Park, Drewsteignton and the change of use of an agricultural barn at Venton (Cllr Power left the room during our discussion as she was the applicant).

After much discussion it was resolved to make a modest increase in the Parish Precept (our part of the Council Tax) equating to an annual increase of £1.36 (less than half a pint of beer) on a band D property to enable us to progress projects in the Parish. Full details will appear in the coming months.

We are writing to Enterprise Inns and the DNP to notify our objection **should** there be any thoughts of change of use to the Drewe Arms.

We are also asking for an update from DCC on the Travellers site at Whiddon Down.

Our next meeting is **Monday 18th February 7.30pm at Drewsteignton.**

P.S. On Wednesday 30th January 2013 the blocked drain in Crockernwell was sucked out by contractors and water is no longer flowing down through the village – just over ten weeks from when it was reported!!

Januarys Birds

Since the last Parish Post came out, we have finally had a brief spell of proper winter weather, with conditions that meant the youngsters in the village spent a few days off school, sledging and enjoying the snow. It was interesting to see that one very large snowman built in the top of the field between the quarries, had some “alterations” made to it during the day, while the youngsters were off warming up and having lunch. To those involved, you were spotted during your work, but well done on your artistic merits transforming a snowman into a snow transgender person! It amused all concerned! Since the snow melted, there is a distinct feeling of spring around, on the occasional sunny days when the wind isn’t blowing from the east and crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils are all beginning to show. I saw one daffodil in full flower in the churchyard by the end of January.



During the cold weather, I gave in to the cost and resumed a full feeding regime of the garden birds, with peanuts, suet blocks, niger seed and mixed seed out on my bird table and feeders. With available food present, the garden was soon inundated with a variety of birds

visiting such as blue tits, great tits and coal tits, house sparrows, dunnocks, nuthatches, collared doves, greenfinches, goldfinches (put out niger seed if you want these in your garden), chaffinches, robins, blackbirds, siskins, great spotted woodpeckers and even a song thrush.

Towards the end of January, I submitted all my interesting (to me) bird records seen locally and in the county throughout 2012 to the Devon Bird watching and Preservation Society (DBWPS).

These included various peregrine records from numerous sites that I observe, local sightings of hobbies, two sightings of nightjars I had in July near the village, 7 dead barn owls on the A30 dual carriageway and the number of swifts we had breeding in my nest boxes.

These records all add to the awareness, numbers and understanding of birds in the county and following my submission, I was contacted by the county recorder to see what else I knew of the birds in the vicinity of the village for the County Atlas that DBWPS is working towards producing, with the aim to map all the breeding and overwintering bird species in the county. I was able to provide more information based on local knowledge, regular sightings of everyday birds throughout the year and also as I undertake a British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) breeding bird survey just outside the village each year. This involves a set walk within a kilometre square recording all the species seen or heard, and done twice during the breeding season. If anyone is interested in providing records of local birds or those seen in the county, I would urge them to visit the DBWPS website or search ‘Devon birds’, or just have a look if you are interested in learning more about birds in Devon or would like to join.

Another species that I also submitted a number of sightings of is black redstart, which are uncommon winter visitors to Devon, but a bird that I see regularly in Exeter through the winter months. Each week, I try and get in to St. Michaels Church at Mount Dinham, where the Exeter peregrines breed. I normally get in during early mornings (avoiding both traffic and traffic wardens) over the week end and collect fallen feathers and prey remains in the vicinity of the church from the peregrines captures. This is part of my on-going work into the diet of urban nesting peregrines, and we now have published studies from this site that are the longest and most comprehensive in Europe.

It is during these visits that I have been seeing black redstarts either on the church or on the roofs of nearby houses. They are robin shaped and sized birds but with slightly longer tails which are continually flicked revealing a flash of red from the undersides and flanks. I have recorded black redstarts at the church during the past four winters now and over the last week end, there was a female there again, perching on various roofs, flicking her tail and making short airborne forays to catch flies in the weak winter sun.

Nick Dixon

West Devon Decision On Council Tax Scheme

The leader of West Devon Borough Council is warning that plans to protect the most vulnerable people from paying more council tax can only be a temporary measure.

Cllr Philip Sanders said, following a meeting of the Council on Tuesday (December 11), that tough decisions will have to be made in future years about the level of help available to people on the lowest incomes. The Council backed a series of measures to protect vulnerable residents from having to pay more towards their council tax bill in 2013-14, while supporting the Government's desire to break the culture of life on benefits. However, the decision is subject to a Government announcement later this month (December) on how much the Council's financial grant for 2013-14 will be.

All councils have been tasked with designing a localised council tax support scheme to replace the current system which comes to an end in April 2013.

Around 2,000 working age households in the borough, who currently claim the council tax benefit, faced a cut of up to 25% on top of a raft of further cuts to other welfare benefits, as part of Government reforms. The Borough Council also loses more than £500,000 in Government funding when the benefits system ends. Pensioners and people with disabilities are automatically protected from any increase as part of the changes.

Cllr Sanders said: "I support the Government's efforts to make the welfare system fairer but at the same time it is important to protect the most vulnerable.

"The measures we are putting in place for 2013-14 will give those on low incomes a further year to adjust to the changes that will have to be made in 2014-15 if the current Government scheme remains unchanged. We are giving West Devon residents 12 months breathing space before reviewing the council tax support system, which will inevitably mean making some tough decisions."

A recent Council consultation identified that 47% of its residents agreed that everyone should pay something towards their council tax.

Councillors voted in favour of removing the 10% council tax discount for people who own a second home in the borough meaning that they would pay the full 100% of council tax. This move affects around 560 properties. They also backed proposals to change discounts given to people who own uninhabitable or vacant properties.

A 50% council tax premium would also be charged on properties that remain empty for more than two years to encourage them to be brought back into use.

The Council will also apply for extra funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government to help with the transition to a localised council tax support scheme. This funding is only available to councils who protect the most vulnerable.

Enquiries to West Devon Borough Council's Communications Team on 01822 813646 or e-mail:press.office@swdevon.gov.uk

Message From The Snow Warden

As snow warden for Drewsteignton parish I was out a lot during the recent cold snap replenishing salt supplies. I am disappointed that there are some among us who feel that their own requirement for salt grit take precedence over the community as a whole and that those individuals felt justified in stealing the bags from the road-side for personal use, thereby making my job doubly difficult as I had then to return home for more bags in order to grit the more dangerous stretches of road.

Should we have another such spell of weather I will not be putting bags out, I will take them with me and salt that which I can manage.

Joy Walker.

Fingle Shoot Survey

If the survey regarding the Fingle Shoot is missing from your copy of the Parish Post please contact me and I will arrange to have another one sent to you.

Pauline Rowe

Chagword, Dartmoor's Literary Festival.

Put the weekend of 15-17 March 2013 in your diaries. The Festival team has enticed some of our finest authors so do come along and let them celebrate the written, spoken and the musically-delivered word with you. To whet your appetite here is the programme in brief:

Friday 15 March (evening)

Kathy Lette - popular writer and columnist

Blue Suede Sporrán Club – with Elvis McGonagall, stand-up poet, and friends

Saturday 16 March (all day and evening)

Miriam Darlington – nature writer and poet known for otter-spotting

Neil Sorrell – ethnomusicologist – will include a workshop for singers and non-singers alike!

Moor Poets – Dartmoor-based poets

Philip Reeve – children's fiction

Chris Mullin - political diarist, journalist and former MP

Andrew Taylor – award-winning historical crime writer

A.L. Kennedy – novelist and critic – will perform her funny and moving one-woman show

LiTTLe MACHiNe – music and poetry band

Sunday 17 March (all day)

Malcolm Pryce – cult comic detective fiction

Paula Byrne – biographer – talking about her recent book *The Real Jane Austen*

Literary Lunch in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support with Kate Mosse, novelist and broadcaster, choosing her Inheritance Books

Simon James – children's author and illustrator

Jonathan Dimbleby – journalist, author and broadcaster

Full details of the programme and other Festival information are in the Festival brochure, available in local shops, pubs, cafes and libraries and on the website www.chagword.com.

Tickets for most events, a bargain £6.50, can be bought online (see website); in person from Chagword Box Office at The New Forge Café, Chagford: 10am-3pm, Saturdays 16 and 23 February, and daily 2 -16 March (excluding Sundays); or by post - phone 07564 025303.

Our grateful thanks go to our principal sponsor **Helpful Holidays** www.helpfulholidays.com and the other organisations and businesses who are supporting Chagword. Also thanks to Chagford Library who are stocking up with the books being discussed at the Festival and are available now to borrow.

Recipe Corner

Chocolate And Coffee Fudge Pudding.

Struggling to keep to your New Year Resolution to lose weight, treat yourself to a gorgeous, indulgent, sticky sponge pudding, lovely served warm. Light, moist and only 128 cals per slice.

For the pudding mix

100g dark brown sugar

100g Light margarine

2 eggs

25g good quality cocoa powder

75g plain flour

1 tsp baking powder

For the topping

2 tsp good quality cocoa powder

1 tsp instant coffee powder

2 tsps dark brown sugar

2 tsps boiling water, from kettle

Preheat the oven to 150C, 300F, Gas Mark 2.

Lightly grease a small loaf mould.

Using an electric whisk, mix together the pudding ingredients in a bowl. Pour the mixture into a loaf mould and bake in the centre of the oven for 30 minutes until firm to the touch.

Remove the pudding from the oven. Mix together the topping ingredients and pour over the pudding. Return the pudding to the oven for 5 minutes before serving. Serve warm with a little virtually fat-free fromage frais.

NEW DARTMOOR HISTORY PLAY: IN THE SHADOW OF THE VIKINGS

New research suggests that Dartmoor was used by the Anglo-Saxons as summer pasture where girls took their cattle up from the manors of surrounding Devon to make butter. Meanwhile the threat of the Viking raiders came and went, and finally came again with a vengeance in the form of the sack of Tavistock Abbey in 997, followed by total conquest. The contrast between this idyllic summer activity and the grim reality of living under the threat of invasion forms the basis of MED Theatre's new community play *In the Shadow of the Vikings*.

Following the story of Aelfthryth who was born at Lydford - the only Dartmoor girl to become Queen of England - the play charts the politics of the time from the point of view of the house of Devon, creating a vivid and moving account of the end of the Anglo-Saxon era.

Saturday March 16th, 7.30pm, Manaton Parish Hall

Wednesday March 20th, 7.30pm. Mary Tavy Village Hall

Thursday March 21st. 7.30pm, Lustleigh Village Hall

Friday March 22nd, 7.30pm, Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

Saturday March 23rd, 7.30pm, Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

Tilly's Sporting Month

This month I've been really involved in many sports. Unfortunately due to all this bad weather, many of my West Exe football matches have been cancelled. However I have one this weekend which hopefully, (fingers crossed) will be on.

I have been doing quite a bit of hockey in school and outside of school. On a Saturday morning I go to a club in Okehampton and on Wednesday after school, I do another practice. Last weekend I played my first hockey match, and it was really great. I was playing with nine or so other girls who go to the Saturday morning practice, Livy included.

We got picked up at Whiddon Down and drove down to St. Peters College in Exeter, where there were lots of different teams. We got there quite early so we had time to change and warm up. Our kit is purple and we have purple socks; they're very nice (see below). Our matches lasted 15 minutes and we don't swap ends. For the first match, I was on the bench for the first five minutes then went on in defence for the remaining time and we drew against the team 0-0. We had a games break then we played Isca B, I played the whole match, for the first 7 or so minutes I played on the left wing and then swapped to play up front. We had possession for most of the match but couldn't quite get it past their goalie and ended up drawing 0-0 again. We were unbeaten though. We all wanted a win next!

Our coach, Jane gave us some 'magic jelly beans' and then after a long break we started playing. We had an advantage as their team didn't have a goalie. I was off for the first bit again as we had more players than were allowed on the pitch at a time. The first goal was scored, we scored it, yes!!

Then I came back on and Livy scored her first goal, 2-0. I was playing on the left wing, and I scored!! It

was my first goal and I was very pleased 3-0.

Then Livy scored her second goal making at full time a score of 4-0 to us!!

Everyone on our team played very well and I had a very enjoyable day!!



The Plymouth trials in mid January to get into running for the Devon County team went well. I came 18th out of about 50 girls in my age class. I was very pleased with how I did. However I didn't qualify for the next round but Livy did coming in eighth!

She raced in Bristol at the weekend and came 14th in the south west and moved up to second in Devon. Well done Livy Rubbra!!!

Tilly Dixon

Events at Okehampton Library

National Libraries Day is the day for everyone who loves libraries to celebrate them! 2012 was a busy, exciting year for Devon Libraries with the opening of the £2.8M Passmore Edwards Centre in Newton Abbot, the launch of our free ebooks service and over 8000 young readers taking up the Summer Reading Challenge. 2013 promises to be another excellent year with a new library opening in Totnes, the refurbishment of Sidmouth library, Work Clubs and Free Fridays to help jobseekers and loads of book events including World Book Day.

You'll be amazed at the service we offer. We have lots of events planned during March to celebrate World Book Day which is on Thursday the 7th. Children are invited to collect an entry form for our competition to describe a book character. Woody Fox (Illustrator of 'Astrosaurus' and 'Cows in Action') will then choose a winner. Come along to Okehampton Library to see him draw the winning character on Saturday 16th March 10:30 - 12:00. Closing date is 7th March. On Saturday 9th March we are holding a Mega Book and DVD Sale and coffee morning between 9:30-12:00. Your chance to pick up a bargain. We have a book themed quiz for adults to take part in. Collect your quiz sheet in February. There is a prize for one correct entry drawn on World Book Day, Thursday 7th March.

On Monday 18th March at 7pm we have an author visit from Rebecca Tope who is the author of four murder mystery series, featuring Den Cooper, Devon police detective, Drew Slocombe, Undertaker; Thea Osborne, house sitter in the Cotswolds and now Persimmon Brown, Lake District florist, also "ghost writer" of the novels based on the ITV series Rosemary and Thyme.

Tickets are £3 (in advance) to include refreshments and are available from Okehampton Library.

For any further information regarding these events please contact Okehampton Library on 01837 52805
Many thanks for your continuing support.

Regards

Carole Cornwall Library Supervisor

Okehampton Library Tel: 01837 52805

Email: carole.cornwall@devon.gov.uk Website: www.devon.gov.uk/libraries

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 17th May 2013



Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity?

Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 17th May 2013 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, or at work.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes.

By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA. Since 2009 we have raised over £20,000 and it has become our flagship community fundraising event.

We want to raise £10,000 from this event in 2013 so we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people. The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.



Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives."

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 0714350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk



News from the Castle

Hello again everyone. What a month it has been up at the castle! Work has been continuing despite nearly a foot of snow. After staff walking up to the castle through a blizzard (what brave souls we are), both of the chandeliers have now been removed and packed away from the Drawing Room and there wasn't a single 'Del Boy and Rodney' moment (phew). All of the tapestries have been rolled and packed and the protective works are going up along the Service Corridor. Suddenly, it is getting very real and all eyes are focused on getting ready for the new season which officially starts on 9 March. Nerves are building, but we are working our socks off to get everything in place. **Sneaky peek** – Just to remind you, we would like to invite you, our local community, to come along for a free visit to take a look at the new Drogo and let us know what you think. There will be free entry on Friday 15 March and Saturday 16 March for anyone living in Drewsteignton Parish. Just come along with the coupon below and you will be able to come in for free (one coupon per household). All we ask is that you take the time at the end of your visit to give us your feedback and tell your friends and family that Castle Drogo is very much open. We hope that you love it so much that you will come and visit us again to see how we're getting on.

Join the team – Although our volunteer open days have already taken place, there are still loads of new opportunities for people to get involved with the project as volunteers. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about volunteering and the different opportunities we have.

Community Engagement – I have been nice and busy with loads of ideas, events and activities being planned for later in the year. Please get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions for things we could do at the castle. I quite fancy the idea of a cinema night! I have also been engaging with our European Community. The project at Drogo was successful in getting an EU grant and I was lucky enough to visit Utrecht to meet with partner organisations that are also caring for heritage buildings and sharing ideas and best practice.

That's enough from me for now. I will be at the Castle on the open days so I hope to meet many of you then. Best wishes, **Paula**

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
 01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Please cut out and present this coupon at reception for free entry to Castle Drogo on one of the dates below (please tick):

Friday 15 March 2013

Saturday 16 March 2013

Postcode.....

Number of adults.....

Number of under 16s.....



Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

Our January meeting was a huge success and we will repeat "skills evening" again next year. For February 13th we are lucky enough to have the expertise of John Rippin and Barry Starling answering questions on any garden subject or query you may have. All non-members are most welcome to join us for £1.00! Also put Monday 11th March in your diaries for our talk on Climbing Plants. All meetings start at 7.30pm

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Burn's Night and especially to Paul and Fiona and their team at the Drewe Arms for the tremendous help and subsidy they gave, we made a staggering £820 for our local youth projects: On the Edge and The Mess.

Drewsteignton Youth Club Spring Term Dates

Please note that all Drewsteignton sessions are now held on Mondays, 6:30pm-8:30pm in Drewsteignton Village Hall. These sessions are for young people aged between 12 and 18 years old. Please spread the word as we look to develop the work in this area.

We hope that a side project this term will be to start the coloured panels for the downstairs of the village hall! We hope lots of you will get involved!

25th February (Confirmed)

4th March (Confirmed)

18th March (Confirmed)

8th April (TBC)

Tel: (01647) 433910

Mob: +44 (0)7540127827

Email: wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

Web: www.ote-chagford.org



WHIDDON DOWN METHODIST CHURCH

Invites you to a Sacred Concert given by
The Exeter Male Voice Praise Choir
On Good Friday 29th March at 7.30pm

followed by light refreshments.

Easter Sunday 31st March
Service at 6.30pm

All welcome

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 March — thank you