

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



Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO.86

MARCH 2013

FEBRUARY NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A big thank you to everyone who has taken the time to fill in and return our survey on the Fingle shoot. The results are being analysed by Cllr Joy Walker and the Clerk with the views being passed on to the National Park in time for their review. I hope to be able to give the results in next month's Parish Post.

Thanks to Tim Cox Services the Crockernwell bus shelter has now been repaired and reinforced. The cost to the Parish is £100, which is the excess on our insurance who met the rest of the cost.

The reduction in Western Greyhound bus services to and from Exeter have been discussed at the Eastern Links meeting of Parish Councils. Mel Stride MP has been consulted and the latest news is some alterations will be made on 15th April 2013, which will hopefully bring some improvements. In the meantime the latest timetable can be downloaded from their website or can be viewed in the Crockernwell bus shelter at Stanbury's Orchard (thanks to the Cheriton Bishop magazine!)

Cllrs Graham Hester and Stuart Hardie at Whiddon Down met with a representative from Devon County Council and resolved to place two metal bollards at the Turnpike Road closure at a dis-

tance of 1.2 metres apart at the County's expense. They were unable to resolve the problem with where the late school bus stops in the village having met with representatives from the College and Bus Company.

The plans for the link road at Whiddon Down have been approved which is good news, however the building of this road is entirely dependent on the company involved in the building of the Den Brook wind farm (RES) going ahead with that project. If for any reason they do not, then the road would not be built, as it is RES paying for it and not Devon County Council.

The Clerk is keeping an up-to-date list of highways problems, mainly of course potholes, which are passed to Devon CC for attention. We are at their mercy as to when the jobs are completed because of the funding situation. That being accepted we are looking at some works done; for example where drains have been flushed out, debris has been pushed back to allow access to the drain and just left which means the next rain we get the drain will block again. It is this Council's view that if a job is to be done it should be done properly or don't waste our money in doing half a job.

(Continued on page 2)

Drewsteignton Village Hall

Public Meeting 12th April

With a renewed purpose and a new focus for village activities, the time has come to re-vitalise the village hall or former church rooms. To this end, the village hall committee will be holding a public meeting in the hall on Friday 12th April.

Every one in the village, with an interest or something to contribute is encouraged to come along and enjoy a free glass of wine. The event is your opportunity to support the hall and contribute to an integral part of the village fabric.

The meeting will be from 7:30 pm for 08:00 pm.

Volunteer Centre - West Devon

National Trust at Lydford Gorge

Help plan, promote and run events in stunning scenery

Age Concern Okehampton

Be a friendly and helpful neighbour as a home support volunteer

Barnardos Childrens' Centre Okehampton

Help drive young families to courses and events in local area

West Devon Marshalls

Be a marshall at different large local events

For details of these and many more volunteering opportunities

Contact us at: **West Devon Volunteer Centre. Drop in Tues Wed 10 am – 2 pm.**

At 13 East St Okehampton EX20 1A

Freephone 0330 660 0357 Email volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk

The Drewe Arms

Since the Drewe Arms closed its doors on Friday 22nd February, there has been little information on when it might open again. **Enterprise Inns**, which owns the pub, sent this statement:

“We can confirm that the Drewe Arms has recently closed and we are working very hard to recruit a new Publican who can take the business forward. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone with the right vision and passion to develop a quality food offering with letting rooms in the picturesque village of Drewsteignton. Anyone interested in finding out more can call us on 0800 953 0072.”

Crocky Refreshed.

Mid February saw the arrival of a slew of vans, lorries and diggers and a collection of temporary road signs in Crockernwell. Two small trenches were dug at the end of Saddler's Close and outside Fulfords Cottages and workmen disappeared into them. Heads were scratched and various people in high-viz jackets and safety helmets carrying clipboards and plans conferred. Two days later the trenches were filled in and tarmaced over and the water that had been cascading down the road for months was no more.

The bus shelter, that has a habit of lurching drunkenly over to one side every year or two was, like Lazarus, resurrected yet again with sturdy new supports attached to its front legs which should help it to stay upright in the future.

Finally, and most surprisingly, a B.T. engineer visited the 'phone box and suddenly there was light for the first time in at least three years. This might seem a small and insignificant improvement, but, on an unlit main road it provides illumination for those catching or descending from buses stopping in the lay-by in the dark days of winter.

A cynic might think that the sudden activity is probably due to the approaching end of the financial year and a need to use up budgets but, whatever the reason, and whoever instigated the improvements, they are all most welcome. **Mary Graham**

(Parish Council Continued)

We are still trying to get an answer relating to who is fly tipping along Harepath Straight and West Devon Borough Council have already cleared some of this rubbish.

The Council voted to support a planning application for a horse schooling area at North Down Crockernwell.

We have received a response from Enterprise Inns regarding the closure of the Drewe Arms but it only gave us a regional contact for further communication. We like everyone hope the closure will be

a very short one (if for no other reason we have a pint in there after meetings!!)

Cllrs Chris Gosnay and Wayne Mudge have stated their intention to stand down in April 2013 so if you were interested in taking their place to represent the Drewsteignton Ward of the Parish please contact the Clerk and/or come along to a Council meeting to see what you might be letting yourself in for!!

Our next meeting is **Monday 18th March 2013 at Whiddon Down.**

Dartmoor Arts

Do you have a spare room? Could you offer B&B for a week?

Dartmoor Arts Summer School will be running again this year and we have need of accommodation to suit a wide range of budgets. Our participants will need to stay from 28th July to August 3rd. They are fully occupied all day and each evening so really only require a good night's rest and a hot shower/bath. Breakfast can be included or not, as you like.

With the uncertainty over the future of the Drewe Arms, we are in greater need than ever and would be most grateful to hear from anybody who could accommodate one or more of our visitors.

Contact Jackie Abey on 281282 or Charlotte Randall-Page 281295

February Bird Notes

The daylight hours are now noticeably lengthening and with snowdrops, primroses, daffodils and lesser celandine all in various stages of development and flower, it is apparent that spring is on its way. It has been a joy to have a dry, albeit cold snap over the last few weeks and I hope this holds as this period is my favourite time of the year. I am also seeing blackthorn in flower locally and, on trips into Exeter, noticing cherry trees are coming into full blossom.

Today (the last day of February), I spotted two new bird species at my garden feeders with a pair of jays coming early in the morning to take fallen peanuts from beneath the feeders but despite the availability of easy food present, they showed considerable caution and were gone at the first sight of my daughters going out to feed their rabbits. Later on during the day, I was in conversation on the phone whilst looking out at the bird table and was delighted to see three longtailed tits feeding on the suet blocks and peanuts. This was the first time I have ever seen longtailed tits on my feeders but I do hear and spot them along the hedgerow at the back of my garden.

I have been contacted by two people in the village over the last few weeks to report the presence of bramblings in their gardens. These are members of the finch family and look a bit like very colourful chaffinches but with much more orange on the breasts.

The bird I intended to write about this month is the starling, a bird widely regarded as both common and drab, as I have noticed some huge flocks of them in the parish just recently. Starlings are actually neither common in England now nor drab. The large flocks present at the moment are Scandinavian migrants, overwintering here in the Southwest in their millions but they are not so common during

the breeding season.

If starlings were a real rarity, they would be much more highly regarded than they are at present, and if one happens to see them up close and in good light, they reveal their true beauty. Looking not dissimilar to a blackbird, they actually show a metallic green and violet sheen with yellowish white spots on their feathers. I have written before about the huge gatherings of starlings as they congregate prior to communal roosting, and where I work in Cornwall, we often get massive flyovers at dusk as they go to roost in the conifer woodlands near Davidstowe. As the days have been getting longer, I have noticed many starling flocks flying over the A30 as I travel back home and the BP garage near Okehampton has been a great place to see these huge congregations as they head to another roost site in woodland near Okehampton camp. There have been a couple of occasions where I have spotted

huge flocks while driving so have pulled off in a lay-by to watch them. They resemble an enormous swarm of bees as the flock appears to morph into different shapes in the air as the birds change direction. As I mentioned before, there are great clips of these huge gatherings (called murmurations) on the internet and the best ones often feature predators such as peregrines trying to snatch birds from the flock. It is the birds roosting at Okehampton that we are seeing in the parish at the moment, but they will be leaving over the next few weeks.

Checking on my records from last year, I notice that I first heard chiffchaffs on the 21st march in 2012 and the 13th in 2011, so by the time this comes out we may soon be hearing the first of our returning spring migrants.

Nick Dixon



ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – The lunch club will be meeting at Woodleigh Coach House, Cheriton Bishop at 12.30pm and on the following dates; 20th March and 17th April. Roast beef, desert, tea or coffee all for just £6.50. If you would like to join us please ring Jean Martin 01647 24586 a week in advance to book your place, also let her know if you will require transport.

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 13th, 27th March and 10th April. Please phone Sylvia on 01647 24267 or Jackie on 01647 252701. 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 14th, 28th March and 11th April. 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 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. This month it will be Tuesday 12th March, there won't be one on 26th March as it's Easter, the next will be 9th April. Volunteer drivers can collect you if transport is a problem. Please ring Jackie on 01647 252701 if you need a lift.

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 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586.

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.

Book Sale – Saturday 9th March 10.00 – 12.00 at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall. Teas, coffee and home-made cakes will be available. All proceeds to Acorn Community Support. For more information please ring Jackie 252701.

NEW ACORN WEBSITE - We're pleased to announce that we now have our new website up and running. You can find us on www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

If you have access to a PC, please take a regular look at our site as we do update it every month. It has a 'Latest News' section which includes our current Newsletter and various recent activities. It details all of our services, shows how many people we help and who to contact. It also provides an opportunity for potential new volunteers to get in touch. If you have any suggestions about how we could improve the site, please let us know via email. When we are planning the introduction of new services, we will post the details on the website and invite everyone in our area to comment before we introduce it.

Chagword

Tickets are selling fast for Chagword – Dartmoor's Literary Festival - to be held in various venues in Chagword over the weekend 15-17 March 2013!

An outline of the programme was featured in last month's **Parish Post** and can be found in full on the Chagword website – www.chagword.com. Printed brochures are now available in various local shops, pubs, libraries and cafes.

Chagword Box Office at The New Forge Café, Chagword is open daily from 10am-3pm from 2-16 March. Tickets can also be bought online from tickets@chagword.com or by phoning 07564-025303. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to hear some of the UK's finest authors and performers of the written, the spoken and the musically-delivered word!

Playing Football Again!

It's Sunday 3rd March and I have just got back in from playing in a freezing cold football match. It was our first league game since December 7th as they've all been postponed due to the bad weather and saturated pitches. The match was against Plainmoor Under 12 Girls in Torquay, the pitch was outside and the temperature very cold. It wasn't a grass pitch, but AstroTurf, which is fake grass with little circular pieces of rubber in between the blades, it was quite bouncy and made for a fast game.

Their team were big and used that in the match by blasting the ball up the pitch. In the first half, we scored twice and we were all very tired as it was a long and not very wide pitch and we'd done a lot of running. We also had no substitutes! In the second half they had a couple of shots on goal, none successful, we had endless shots on goal but didn't score again until the last five minutes. The final score was 3-0 to us. We were all very pleased and on the coach on the way back one of the girl's mums gave us all a doughnut!!

During half term, I went to the Bike Shed Theatre in Fore Street, Exeter with my sister Flora, my dad, Livy and her mum (Pip). It's a great theatre but quite a weird little place and it feels a bit like someone's garage with lighting and forty-odd seats.

The play was called "Freddy Dare and the Ginger Robber" and was about a little boy whose father had passed away. When he was a little boy, he thought the famous dancing pair, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers, were called Freddy Dare and the Ginger Robber. So his super hero name is 'Freddy Dare'. He didn't fit in at school and his mum is not very well, so he investigates the shed with his dad's old stuff in it. He imagined that a life-sized doll (called the Ginger Robber) was real and he danced with her. His parents had been ballroom dancers before they had Freddy and the doll was in fact a dummy that wore his mum's old dancing dress. He had to dance to the 'judges' to get to Heaven so he could see his father, and to do this he had to perform the dance steps without putting a foot wrong. The Ginger Robber had to have a perfect costume as did he; so this involved stealing things including feathers from their cockerel for her dress. In the end he collapses and goes into hospital, but his relationship with his mother becomes strong and good again. It was a really lovely play and despite there being five or so characters, there are only two actors.

Tilly Dixon

Forthcoming Events At Okehampton Library

World Book Day Character Competition

Calling all children to enter our World Book day Character Competition. If you were to write a book, what would the main character look like? Is it a boy, girl, animal or monster? Describe your character on our entry form and send it into Okehampton Library and illustrator Woody Fox will pick a winner. Then come along on the 16th March between 10:30 -12:00 to see him draw the winning character.

World Book Day Literary Quiz

Test your literary knowledge with our free World Book Day quiz. Pick up a copy from Okehampton Library and hand it in by the 7th March. First correct entry drawn will win the 3 top bestselling paperback novels.

Spring Draw

Purchase a ticket for the Friends of Okehampton Library spring draw for a chance to win a selection of chocolate prizes. Tickets cost 50p each with all proceeds will go to the Friends of Okehampton Library group to help pay for future events. Draw takes place 30th March 2013.

An Evening with author Rebecca Tope

Rebecca Tope - author of four popular murder mystery series will be coming to Okehampton library on Monday 18th March at 7PM to give a talk. Tickets cost £3 which includes refreshments are available from Okehampton library.

A large selection of Rebecca's books are also on display and available for loan at the Library.

Cubs

Cubs have had an exciting winter term completing their science badge. This has meant lots of experiments including bean growing, rockets, lava lamps and star gazing.

We have also been making Pancakes with lots of toppings. In the Summer term we are meeting down the playing fields for lots of outdoor activities and practising for the District camp in June as well as completing our Hiking and Map reading badges. If anyone locally has good map reading or navigation skills and would like to spend an evening sharing their expertise we would love some extra help.

We are collecting Sainsburys Kids vouchers again this year and there is a collecting box in the village hall. In the past we have collected enough for games equipment and a camp first aid kit.

On 18th March the Cubs will be entering a Mid Devon District swimming gala and hope to win some prizes.

We have lots of new cubs but there are still some places for boys and girls aged 8 to 11, we meet on Thursday nights at 6pm in Drewsteignton. Please contact Akela for anymore details 01647 281281

Rona



Quiz Night at The Post Inn

Tuesday 12th March @ 7.30

All proceeds to Devon Air Ambulance

£1 per person

All for a good cause and everyone is invited

Curry Night at The Post Inn

19th March

Between 6 and 9

£6.95 per head

(Booking is advised)

Whiddon Down Market

23rd March at The Village Hall

Between 10 and 12

Proceeds towards Devon Air Ambulance

And The Eve Appeal

For more information on any of the above venues please contact Barbara on 01647 231318

Drewsteignton Gardeners Club

SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday 4th May 10-12.00

Village Hall

Everyone welcome to browse & buy
Refreshments

PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES

Whiddon Down Village Hall

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on

Tuesday 30th April in the Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting is open to all. Do come and hear about our activities and contribute your ideas about the ways we should develop in the future.

Tea and biscuits

Dr Michael Hall 01647 231 634

Bible Bookclub is Back!

Thursday 21 March, Isaiah chapters 1-39, sponsored by Harriet.

Thursday 25 April, Isaiah chapters 40 - end, sponsored by Philip.

Thursday 23 May, Revelation, sponsored by Jennifer.

All meetings start at 8pm in Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton.

Free glass of wine and some nibbles included.

Sunday 17th March, Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton

7.30pm (till about 9.30pm), including a break for light refreshments.

A reading through of Mark's gospel (New International Version).

Did you know that you burn more calories eating celery than it contains (the more you eat the thinner you become)



News from the Castle



We have now officially embarked on the most exciting period of Castle Drogo's history since it was built. The major conservation project to make it watertight has begun and the innovative new visitor experience is in place. As I write this in early March, we have been giving our staff and volunteers a sneak peek before we open to the public on the 9th March. The team have run seven preview sessions for 160 staff and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers have reacted enthusiastically to the new presentation and are looking forward to sharing it with visitors. The feedback so far has been incredible:

Amazing! So glad I'm part of it, love how dynamic it will be too! Thank you. (preview attendee)

The 'new Drogo' means that we have renamed all of the rooms to reflect the story of how and why the castle was built. The visit now begins in the 'Hall of great beginnings' before moving to the 'Room of good fortune'. Julius Drewe's dream castle has been modelled in great detail by our creative partners, Codsteaks, with tea chests symbolising the source of his wealth. Codsteaks, who are most well known for their work on the sets of the Oscar nominated film, *Pirates! In an adventure with scientists*, have created a series of installations throughout the castle which bring to life the story of the Drewe family, the architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens and the tenacious Clerk of Works, J C Walker.

Join The Team - There are still loads of new opportunities for people to get involved with the project as volunteers. You don't need a degree in history to volunteer – just a warm smile, enthusiasm and a few hours to spare every now and then. Our volunteering open days in February went very well with 20 new volunteers joining the team. However, we still need more people so please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Community Engagement – Plenty of exciting things happening here. I have had some great meetings with local groups, including Get Changed Theatre, and bookings from local schools are coming in thick and fast. Most of my energy is focused on helping the team get ready for the new season and, most importantly, making sure our volunteer team are ready for the year ahead.

That's enough from me for now.

Best wishes,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Recipe Corner

Cheesy Quorn Bake

1 red onion, finely chopped
 1 garlic clove, crushed
 100g Quorn mince
 200g chopped tomatoes
 250g tomato passata
 ½–1 tsp vegetable stock powder
 ½ tbsp chopped fresh chives, plus extra for garnishing
 150g courgettes, sliced
 150g 3% fat yogurt
 25g Low Fat Mature Cheese or vegetarian alternative, grated
 Freshly ground black pepper
 Pre-heat oven to 200C, 400F.

Dry-fry the red onion and garlic until soft, then stir in 100g Quorn mince and cook for a further 2 mins. Add the chopped tomatoes, tomato passata, vegetable stock powder, ½ tbsp chives and reduce to a gentle simmer.

While the Quorn mixture is simmering heat a non-stick griddle pan and cook the courgettes on both sides until lightly browned, seasoning with black pepper. Layer the courgettes and Quorn mixture in an ovenproof dish. Pour the yogurt over the top and add the grated cheese and black pepper. Bake in the oven for 20 mins until the cheese has melted and the dish is hot all the way through. Garnish with chopped chives.

JIGSAW PUZZLE SWAP

I am initiating a Jigsaw Puzzle swap service which I hope will appeal to many parishioners and I plan to put into place from 1st March.

There will be a supply of puzzles available at the back of Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton and you would be most welcome to borrow one, enjoy completing it and then return it back to the church.

It would be really great if you would like to let others borrow any puzzles that you have and these could be added to those already supplied. (Please only puzzles that are complete with all pieces and are suitable for family entertainment!)

An exercise book will be placed nearby for you to complete so that you can keep a trace on your donated puzzle and I can keep a check on the supply. Some people may wish to purchase the puzzles so please could you indicate in the appropriate section in the book if this is ok with you.

Donations for borrowing a puzzle would be greatly appreciated – perhaps 50p - £1.00 per puzzle which could be put in the wall collection box in the Church. If you would like to purchase one then a suggested donation of £3.00 per puzzle would be great.

For any more information please give me a call on 01647 281605 and happy puzzling!!!

Jane Hocking

NO DOGS!

Drewsteignton Playing Field is a dedicated space for children's play and **NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE FIELD AT ANY TIME**. There are notices clearly signed on both gates. We are mending the boundaries where spaces have appeared and do request that all dog owners respect this space and walk their dogs somewhere else - after all, we do have the most amazing countryside all around us!

Thank you.



Dog Poo

Before the green could be cut at Churchgate I had to remove a lot of dog poo. Be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your dog and show some respect for other people.

Many thanks **Jill Lock**

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 April — thank you