

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO.91

AUGUST 2013

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Mike Riches and Anna Imrie who are the two new Parish Councillors representing the Drewsteignton Ward, Mike will be the council link with the Village Hall and Anna with the playing Field committee.

A site visit has now been arranged at Chapel Hill Whiddon Down with Cllr McInnes and a representative from Devon County Council to discuss and resolve the use of the road as a "rat run" by non permitted vehicles. It has come to the Council's attention that not everyone realises what is and isn't allowed.

At either end of the road mandatory traffic signs have been in place since the roundabout at the junction of the A382 was built. The picture depicts a motorcycle flying over a car which means no vehicles of any description may travel along the road unless access is required e.g. a resident of Barn Close. This is not something new.

No news has been received on the Traveller's site and no further development on the sale of the Throwleigh Centre.

It is the time of year when the allocation of footpaths to be walked by Councillors is made ready to report back on their condition to the Dartmoor National Park ranger at the October meeting.

A planning application for the replacement of a mobile home at Martins Park Farm, Whiddon Down, with a timber framed dwelling was discussed. After receiving representations from the applicant and supporters and a site visit by coun-

cillors the Council voted 4 to 3 to support the application. As the matter would under normal circumstances be referred to the West Devon Borough Councillor – Cllr Paul Ridgers who is also a member of the Parish Council, stated it would be his recommendation to refer the matter to the Development

Ccommittee at WDBC for decision.

The honesty boxes in the car park and at the toilets in Drewsteignton have now been in place for twelve months and we are able to give a total received of £135.70 from the toilets and £427.82 from the car park. This money will now go towards the upkeep of the toilets and the car park grass cutting. It is with thanks to DNP for their assistance in providing the equipment for these, wish we'd had them years ago!

A note has been sent for inclusion in the Whiddon Parishes magazine asking parents dropping off or picking up their children from the Exeter school bus at Whiddon Down not to block private drives and entrances. If when the school term resumes you are still getting problems please contact us. We are waiting to hear the results of the Police investigations in to the graffiti at the bus shelters.

A complaint had been received from a parishioner at Drewsteignton regarding weed killing along a path with concerns that it may have entered water courses. Weed killing is not in the remit of the Parish Council but used to be a Devon County responsibility. They stopped routine application a couple of years ago in order to save money. This instance seems to be a private matter.

Please ensure any subject you wish to be discussed by the Council is notified to the Clerk in time for it to be published on the agenda at least 3 working days before the next meeting, which is: **Monday 19th August 2013, 7.30pm at Drewsteignton.**

Help.

In the middle of April, 2 pairs of trousers were left on the counter of the shop which we assumed was dry cleaning.

Brand: Marks and Spencer Blue Harbour,

Size: waist 36" inside leg 29"

One pair light colour

One pair light grey/blue

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 2 lunches a month 7th August Woodleigh Coach House for a fish and chip lunch and 22nd August Pub lunch for a carvery. If you would to join us please ring Jean Martin 01647 24586.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are 14th, 28th August and 11th September. 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 now £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 8th, 29th August and 12th September. 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 – This month is will be Tuesday 13th, 27th August and 10th September. Please ring Jackie on 06147 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.

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

Can you spare some time to be an Acorn volunteer ? - We need more volunteers to help run our expanding community support activities. Flexible times and with no regular commitment – just help when you can. A wide choice of activities from which to choose. Mileage allowance paid when using your car for patient transport to surgery, etc. Support and guidance from our Professional part time staff. Training provided where appropriate. Helping those in need can be a rewarding 'feel good' experience. Interested? Call Jackie on 252701 for more details.

HELP MAKE A DIFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES, ITS GOOD TO VOLUNTEER

Advance Notice of Acorn Annual General Meeting – Is to take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th September at The Walled Garden, Dunsford. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Jackie on 252701.

Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund – Grants Available

Dartmoor National Park Authority is delighted to announce a further year of funding for sustainability projects through the Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund (DSDF) and is inviting local organisations and individuals to express their interest.

The DSDF has provided over £2 million of funding for over 300 projects in and around Dartmoor since 2002 and in 2013/14 suitable projects will be able to apply for support from the £100,000 available.

The aim of the DSDF is to encourage and support individuals, community groups and businesses to develop practical, local projects that develop and test new ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living or which enhance and conserve local culture, wildlife, landscape, land use or community.

Projects supported in the last 2 years include; a community garden, a skate park, a community bus and equipment for the Dartmoor Woodfuel Co-operative.

Grants have ranged from £300 to nearly £30,000, with an average grant award of £6,000. The key priorities for 2013/14 will be energy efficiency, sustainable travel and young people, and the majority of funding will be allocated to projects relating to these priorities, which demonstrate innovation or act as an inspiration to others. However, applications are still welcome from projects which meet other environmental, social or economic DSDF criteria.

Applications for less than £2000 are agreed through a delegated process, normally within a month of submission. Applications for greater than £2000 will be asked to present their projects to the DSDF panel which will be meeting on Thursday September 5th 2013 (deadline Friday 16th August), Friday November 22nd 2013 (deadline Friday November 1st) and Friday March 14th 2014 (deadline Friday 21st February 2014). For more information please contact Ruth Leonard-Williams, Sustainable Development Officer, on 01626 832093, rleonardwilliams@dartmoor.gov.uk or visit www.dartmoor.gov.uk/DSDF

Bird Notes

The swifts have left us again, and will now be back on their return journey to Africa. I have so enjoyed the sounds of the groups of swifts chasing and screaming over the roof tops over the past three months, and this year with the good weather, the numbers present over the village have been much higher than the previous two years. My last sighting of swifts here was on the 8th of August as a single adult was circling over Churchgate, and the last youngster I saw in the nest boxes was on the 5th of August when I spotted a juvenile peeping out of the entrance.

With the nice weather, and many non breeders present through the summer, I had high hopes that we had a good number breeding in my nest boxes (I had seen them going in and out of 7 of the 10 boxes up here) but it was only when Malcolm came to ring them, that we found out how many were nesting. We only had three breeding pairs which was exactly the same as last year, and at the moment, I am not sure how many young in each box. We do have more swifts this year with geolocators on though and I am looking forward to hearing the results of where some of Drewsteignton's swifts have been since August 2012.

I was contacted recently by a friend who told me that an injured peregrine had just been handed into Chagford Vets. It was found in a field near Gidleigh early that morning by a dog walker, and appeared to have an injured leg. I went in to confirm whether this was an adult or juvenile peregrine and on gently opening the large cardboard box, found myself looking at a very small but exquisite looking male hobby in adult plumage. Hobbies are another summer migrant that I am seeing more of in Devon in recent years, they are a stunning looking but small falcon that are so adept in flight that they catch and feed on dragon flies, other large insects, housemartins and swallows.



I was able to confirm it was a hobby and not a peregrine. It didn't appear to have a visibly broken leg and so it went to the RSPCA at West Hatch, Taunton for assessment. I rang them a few days later to give them the grid reference of where it was found and to find out how it was doing. My thoughts were that if it were a breeding bird then its absence would not help if there were dependant young in a nest. I was told it was actually one of last year's young so was not old enough to breed, and it didn't have a broken leg and would be fit for release in a week. They asked if I could release it back where it was found and so a week later, I met one of their officers early in the morning at Exeter services and collected it in a large box. I drove back to Gidleigh to where it was found and gently carried it to the middle of the field, before opening up the top flaps of the box. It shot out and flew so quickly across the grass, gained height over the tree tops in the hedgerow and was gone but then appeared high above me as it circled in three wide arcs gaining height over head each time before drifting off to the north. The RSPCA did a wonderful job in getting the bird back to fitness, and it was a joy to see the bird go off like that.

Nick Dixon

Central Devon Conservative Association

AUCTION

With Bangers & Mash and Welcome Drink
Fingle Bridge

Thursday 19 September at 7 p.m.

By kind permission of Zoe Colton

Tickets £12 from patric.johnstone1@btinternet.com

or Telephone: 01647-432068

Lots of interesting items to bid for, including:

Bottle of House of Commons Claret signed by David Cameron;

Day of Fishing on the River Teign; Dinner at Mill End Hotel;

A World Globe; Bottle of Champagne; Joint of Meat from Martins of Chagford;

Signed Print by John Christian;

Bistro Dinner for two at Bovey Castle.

CLASSICS GALORE!

Once again **CLASSICS GALORE** will return to the stage of The Great Hall at Exeter University on Saturday 9th November 2013 at 7.30pm.

It will be an evening of virtually non-stop popular classical music, with items including the Thunder & Lightning Polka by Strauss, Handel's And the Glory of the Lord, Von Suppe's Light Cavalry, Waltz from Sleeping Beauty by Tchaikovsky and many other well-loved pieces. The concert comes to a fitting climax with a grand "Proms-style" finale - for all to join in!

The participants will be newly formed Classics Galore Symphony Orchestra, The Lymstone SW Telecoms Brass Band, The Ottery St Mary Choral Society and members of St David's Players, with soloists Penny Daw and Mark Hurford. They will all be combining to produce another feast of musical entertainment in aid of FORCE, the Exeter-based cancer support charity.

For more details visit the website: www.classicsgalore.co.uk

Gallery & Box tickets can be purchased by contacting classicsgalore@hotmail.com

Auditorium tickets are available from Exeter Visitor Information & Tickets. Telephone 01392 665885

Doing a Drama Course

During the first week of the summer holidays, I did a drama course. It was at Mum's work in Bridport and so I didn't know anybody else doing it. On Monday, we got there a bit early as Mum had to open up the Arts Centre and clean the caravan that was our workspace and where our play was going to be predominately set. The caravan was parked in the forecourt and we also used all of the space for our play. The course leader was a really nice woman called Nikki and there was also a very jolly volunteer called Caroline. Soon people began to turn up and there were five of us on the course; Grace, Eleanor, Rowan, Tom and I, they were all really friendly and the ages ranged from 12-17, with me being the youngest. A couple of them went to the same school and knew each other but Eleanor had come from London and was in the same boat as me by not knowing anyone.

We played a few games to warm up and get to know everyone's names: Mr hit and zombie tag which when tagged you had to say someone's name or you lost a life. After that we brainstormed ideas for what we wanted to do and had a look in the caravan for inspiration, and we came up with loads of ideas! We then made up and performed little sketches where the audience (Nikki and Caroline) were in different places, sitting inside the caravan or outside, looking in. We only had five minutes to make them but they were quite funny in a bizarre sort of way!

The next day we had an addition to the group, a Spanish boy called Jon, who's family were on a house swap and he wanted to do something to do with the Arts Centre. We filled him in on what we had done the previous day. Nikki decided we needed to trust each other a bit so we got into pairs and took turns to manipulate your partner.

The idea was there were 3 types of pushes, skin, flesh and bone. If you pushed them on the arm quite hard then you just had to move in a way that was how your body wanted to move. We then moved on to do this in the caravan.

On Wednesday, we stretched then did the manipulating exercise again and then added more to our performance. We also talked more about where our audience would be on the day of the performance, would they be in or outside the caravan and would they stay seated or move about during our performance?

On Thursday, we brainstormed ideas for what our characters should be like, did we want them as innocent or scary. We also agreed that our characters should have an agenda to claim the sink and to move the caravan were some.

Friday was Performance Day!

In the morning, we ran through what we had already come up with and then practiced the transition between bedtime and breakfast, as this was particularly difficult. We then had half an hour to decorate the caravan, we had £10 between the 6 of us and managed to make it look a bit like home. The story we devised was: there was this strange family who didn't socialize and were a bit mysterious. They had weird rituals like playing cards with people under the table and dancing before bedtime. At the end of the play we got some of the audience members to join our family and then we all went on holiday to a telephone box leaving them very mystified. It now sounds a bit bizarre but it was great fun and we had about 50 people in the audience. I had a really great time and it was a fantastic experience to have!!! **Tilly**

Summertime...

Volunteering Is Easy!

(apologies to George Gerschwin)

Care for young carers

Fridays 3.30 pm—5.30 pm

with Young Devon in Okehampton

Raise a smile as a good neighbour

with Age Concern

Okehampton & Torridge

Roll up, roll up

to the Museum of Dartmoor Life

Could you help front of house?

For details of these and many more
volunteering opportunities

Contact us

Drop in Tuesdays and Wednesdays

10am-2pm 13 East St. Okehampton

Thursdays 9 am-1pm Tavistock Library

Fridays 1pm-4pm Tavistock Library

Freephone 0330 660 0357

Email volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk

Volunteer Centre West Devon is a service provided by West Devon Community and Voluntary Services

Supported by: Devon County Council, NHS Devon and West Devon Borough Council

Registered Office: 13 East St. Okehampton EX20 1AS

Registered Charity no 1119730. Registered Company no 6115797

Easy Sausage Casserole

*Recipe
Corner*

Ingredients

- 4 large potatoes
- 4 carrots
- 8 good-quality sausages from outdoor-reared pigs
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tsp paprika
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 400ml vegetable stock
- 1-2 bay leaves

Method

1. Turn the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas 4. Peel the potatoes and carefully cut them in half, then into quarters. Peel the carrots and cut each carrot into about 4 or 5 even pieces.
2. Prick the sausages all over with a fork – this helps the fat to run out of the sausages, so that they don't split open as they cook. Heat the olive oil in a heavy-based casserole and fry the sausages, turning

often, until lightly golden all over – this should take about 10 minutes. Remove the sausages from the pan and put them on a plate.

3. Add the chopped onion to the casserole (there will still be some oil in the pan from the sausages) and continue to cook over a low heat for 5-10 minutes, until the onion is slightly soft. Add the garlic and paprika and cook for another minute.

4. Add the chopped potatoes and carrots and stir everything around in the casserole so that the vegetables are coated with the oil.

5. Add the tomatoes and stock (to measure the stock, you can use the empty tomato can – filled up, it will hold 400ml of stock) and the bay leaves. Bring to a simmer (so it's just bubbling gently). Return the sausages to the casserole.

6. Put the casserole into the oven. Cook for 45 minutes, until the potatoes are cooked through, and serve.

A Sense Of Place; is there a future for local identity?

Devon's rural communities have thrived on their individuality. Each owes their origins to different circumstances, have different histories and have developed unique characteristics that build a sense of community, which in turn is part of our personal identity.

Yet these features are under threat. Is countryside heading in the same direction as the typical 'could be any town' high street?

The extended families of several generations living in the same area are rapidly disappearing as the younger generation move away to find work and accommodation and the older family members move into town to be nearer to health care and support services. They are replaced with incomers who are often keen to get involved but do not have the culture and folklore embedded in them; they bring perspectives which may add to the 'community mix', but are initially alien to local values. The 'active retired' eventually become inactive and isolation becomes a problem. A less dynamic community cannot support the essential infrastructure and so shops, garages and pubs close.

There are communities that have successfully evolved, they may have changed significantly in their social and cultural mix, but they have retained dynamism, community cohesion and a sense of purpose. So what works and what doesn't? How can we go forward and ensure that our valued communities are not only sustainable in the long term, but that they retain their individuality and continue to contribute to the diversity that is such an essential characteristic of Devon?

The Community Council of Devon will be bringing these questions under the spotlight at their annual conference taking place at Exeter Racecourse on 12th September.

With a packed line up of seven speakers covering areas of rural life from housing to health, policing to community enterprise, the conference may not produce all the solutions, but aims to increase consciousness of this challenge and to advance the debate.

To find out more or to book your place, please visit <http://www.devonrcc.org.uk/c/95/a-sense-of-place> or phone 01392 248919.

About The Community Council of Devon

The Community Council of Devon is an independent charitable company, founded in 1961. It is part of a national network of Rural Community Councils.

The Community Council supports communities in many ways, including technical support for local councils, community halls and social enterprises. It helps communities develop new and imaginative ways of meeting needs, working in partnership with statutory bodies and voluntary organisations.

Visit their website at www.devonrcc.org.uk, follow them on Twitter: @CommunityCDevon or find them on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/communitycouncilofdevon>

Help For Homeowners, Landlords And Park Home Owners

West Devon Borough Council, in partnership with not-for-profit organisation Wessex Home Improvement Loans, may be able to provide homeowners, park home owners and landlords with subsidised finance to carry out essential repair works to their homes. Works are assessed by the council and include boiler repair/replacement or heating installation, damp repair, structural works including roof/thatch repair, electrical and plumbing works, rotten window replacement, or upgrades to bathrooms and kitchens over 15 years old and in need of repair. Eligibility is wide to include people who own their own homes who may have savings and/or an income but who wouldn't be able to afford repairs or access finance elsewhere. For more information call West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600 or visit www.wrcic.org.uk.

News From The Castle



As I write this, the summer holidays have just begun and 5 weeks of glorious sunshine have ended. I know that everyone who had their holidays ruined will hate me for saying this, but we were very pleased to see some rain. Not only were the lawns looking somewhat frazzled, but our visitors didn't believe that we had water issues. The castle hasn't been this dry in years! The leaks are back now and our grass is looking green again. People have also stopped going to the beach and have been visiting in their droves too. Phew!

The scaffolding is growing on a daily basis. The south end is complete and work on the central tower and viewing platform is underway. It may even be finished by the

time this article is published. Please pop up for a visit to get a birds eye view of the work on the roof. The big news is that we have now launched our brand new Castle Drogo Youth Panel. This is an opportunity for young people under 25 years of age to get involved with Drogo and help shape it for the future. Our first meeting will be on Thursday 19 September in the evening. If you would like to join the panel, please contact me for all the details.

Finally, two quick reminders. Firstly, on 21 and 22 September, we will be holding an Edwardian country fair. In true country fair style, we will be holding various fruit and veg based competitions (funniest/biggest/prettiest etc). If you would like to enter any of your home grown produce, please get in touch with me to register.

Secondly, our Room Guide taster day is on Friday 27 September. This is an opportunity for anyone who is curious about the behind the scenes work that goes in to opening a house like Castle Drogo to spend a day with our fantastic Room Guides. Just let me know if you would like to come along.

To hear all the latest news, follow us on Twitter or Facebook @savecastledrogo. We are always posting latest news and lots of photos.

Hope to see you all soon.

Best wishes,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

My Vision For Community

My Vision For Community, originally written for my friend's book, The Sleeping Sickness, a collection of stories and poems from environmentalists, scientists and a host of concerned messengers.

I have just read Stephen Emmott's Ten Billion! It contains hard facts on accelerating climate change, water shortages and food security and ever growing numbers of humans beings on the planet.

Our activities are exhausting the planet's natural resources, bio diversity, loss of plant and animal habitats. A recent review of of Emmott's 10 Billion by Chriss Goodall says Emmott's work is unscientific and error strewn. Although any attempt to increase mankind's alarm is welcome.

My friend, author of The Sleeping Sickness, has managed to acquire funding from a philanthropist to purchase copies for Frome College in Somerset and Okehampton College.

Quote 10 Billion:

Human population today is just over seven billion: towards the end of the century there will be another nine billion more mouths to feed. As our numbers continue to grow we continue to increase our need for more water, far more food far more land, far more transport and far more energy.

As a result we are now accelerating the rate in which we are changing our climate! We need to urgently consume less. A lot less, radically less, and conserve more, a lot more. To accomplish such radical change, we need radical government action.

If we discovered tomorrow there was an asteroid on a collision course with earth and we knew that its impact will wipe out 70 per cent of all life on earth, governments worldwide would marshal the entire planet into unprecedented action.

We are almost in precisely that situation now, except there isn't an asteroid, the problem is us.

Julia Whatley

Drewsteignton Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who lent their support and came to the Friday night socials. They were enjoyable events at which folk from the village and the surrounding area met old, and made new, acquaintances. The events paid for pint and wine glasses, and, in addition, raised £680 for the Hall.

Drewsteignton Playing Field

Picnic in the Park Saturday 31st August

There will be a picnic for teddy bears, kids and adults from 4pm in Drewsteignton Playing Field followed by karaoke and local talent at about 6.30pm. For health and safety reasons all bears must be accompanied. There will be prizes for the largest, smallest, oldest, cutest, ugliest, toughest (ie it has had a hard life but is still hanging on) and quirkiest bears, as well as a 'name that bear' competition and a treasure hunt. Please feel free to bring your own picnic but donate as much as possible for our BBQ, teas, cakes, beer, cider, Pimms, wine and soft drinks. For those of you who can play, sing or dance this is your chance to show the rest of us what you can do. All profits will go towards replacing the Playing Field equipment. Hope to see you there.



World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday 27th September

At 3 Glebe Cottage

Drewsteignton

10.30am

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

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Business

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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The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Post.

Contributions for the next edition by
1st September - Thank You