

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



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 94

DECEMBER 2013

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A warning which may be a little late, but as the Parish Council were not informed we couldn't tell you about a change in the timing for the recycling waste collection. They are now much earlier especially in Crockernwell, so please make sure the bins are out by 7.30am on the day of collection. If like me you have mislaid the timings for rubbish collection over Christmas, it looks like for us Christmas week will be as normal but Mon 30th December and Mon 6th Jan will be collected one day late on the Tuesday.

A site visit with Steve Dawe the Devon County Highways officer was very successful and he agreed all the work to be done by the Parish Lengthsman. He also explained the situation had not changed where the contractors, South West Highways, did highway work on behalf of the County, inspected their own work and then invoiced the County for payment. Councillors thought this was a most unsatisfactory arrangement and could not see this working in the "private sector". It transpired when the lengthsman came to the Parish on 27th November the two staff were only able to complete tasks in Drewsteignton and the work scheduled for Crockernwell will not be done.

We have received notice that the road between Stone Cross and Newton Barton will be closed from 16th December to 19th December 2013 for highways work, the diversion will be via West Ford, Drewsteignton village and Trennaway Cross.

It is perhaps an opportune moment to give you some feedback from a meeting held at the end of October between the West Devon Borough Council Parish Councils, WDBC and Devon County Council. In 2009/10 Devon County Council's budget was in the region of £600 million which they had to make savings of £110 million over 4 years. The "fat" was cut and some 3000 staff county wide lost jobs but front-line services seemed not to be affected. However, the County have now been told by government to save a further £100 million over the following four years, this of course being from what is now a £500 million budget. This **will** lead to cuts of frontline services and the County are now consulting users and partners in every aspect of their services including mobile libraries, youth services, community centres and bus services. Free school meals announced by the government have to be funded by the County and will cost £6 million. £30 million is spent on highways annually but there is a backlog and the situation will not get better (that means our potholes will not get filled). One message that came from the meeting is those services e.g. the subsidised bus service provided in the parish by Dartline will be looked at carefully and if it is not used it will be stopped. The message is clear -- use it or lose it! We will try and keep you up to speed with developments, but if you want further details please contact the Clerk or Cllr James McInnes who represents us at Devon County. A similar account was given by WDBC leader Cllr Philip Sanders but perhaps that is enough bad news for the moment.

Back to Parish Council work, we considered four planning applications relating to work at Middle Venton and resolved to support all applications. Dartmoor National Park Authority have notified the Council they are updating their policy and records on housing occupancy conditions such as agricultural ties, holiday lets etc.

The Parochial Church Council had made a request for assistance in repairing the collapsed wall between the Church & Car Park. They have received grants to cover all but £200. We considered the request carefully but as we were able to identify a saving in some maintenance, we resolved an ex gratia grant of £100 to leave the PCC to find the last £100.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 16th December 2013 at 7.30pm in Drewsteignton.**

From all the Parish Council team may we wish you a very Happy Christmas, a peaceful New Year and despite the above, a relatively prosperous New Year!!



Sam Peirce is back living in the village, this is the first of her occasional rants.

I saw John Shiell in the pub last Friday and he asked me for a rant. I was about to start berating the first thing that popped into my slightly fuzzy head, when I realised he wanted me to actually write one for this glorious journal, The Parish Post. I spent the rest of the weekend trying to think about what had irritated me recently, but I couldn't because I was enjoying myself too much. At work I persisted with trying to dig something up. Because I have the most boring job in the world, there's usually the capacity for the odd belligerent thought, but nothing.

I'm sorry to say I still haven't got anything to rant about because quite frankly, I'm just too flipping happy. I am back in Drewsteignton, or, as I like to put it, I have returned to The Shire after five years on Mount Doom in Mordor, otherwise known as St Leonards in Exeter. I have come back on my terms, no longer a tenant at the mercy of a buy-to-let's property portfolio restructuring. I had given up buying even a studio flat in Beacon Heath let alone a cottage in the village I consider home. And a few weeks before we move in, the pub reopens! It's like winning the lottery but without the begging letters and the Daily Mail hatchet job.

I'm not going to reach for that musty old chestnut lurking in the pockets of the smug, and say I've worked hard for it. I haven't worked any harder than anyone who hasn't managed to get on the property ladder. It's just serendipity in action and it happens to everyone at some point. In this world that sometimes seems to delight in chucking bucketfuls of rotting manure at us, it is reassuring to know that sometimes it has to sit back and watch the roses grow.

Enough now with the soppy gardening metaphors! I don't do sentimental and I never have. (The only way you will know if I have any degree of affection for you is if I start mercilessly chucking insults at you.) And there is nothing more nauseating than someone going on about how happy they are. It's insensitive and about as interesting as watching your neighbour's holiday videos.

Crikey...I feel a rant coming on.

Sam

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE GARDENER'S CLUB

Why not start 2014 by joining us on
Monday January 13th 7.30pm
for Skills night

We have suffered a great loss as our long-term member & Treasurer Ivor Manley has passed away and we send our most sincere condolences to Amy and all her family.

Drewsteignton Peace Committee.

Can anyone help me with information on the Drewsteignton Peace Committee?

The committee raised money during WWI and then when wound up it distributed the remaining money around servicemen from Drewsteignton.

Does anyone know if there are any records from this committee and where I might find them? I am doing some WWI research.

If so I would be very grateful if you could contact me on -

mail@ericaonline.plus.com

Thanks in hope!

Erica Williamson

Teignton Fayre News

Following an open meeting back in September, a new Teignton Fayre committee has been appointed. There are two new members: Lawrence Cosnett and Sam Peirce, who has replaced Adrian Bowden as Chair.

Adrian has been Chair for more years than he probably cares to remember. As you can imagine, the role can sometimes be a thankless task. Adrian has borne this over the years with good humour, firmly focused on the task at hand – to organise an event that brings the community together and raises money for charities and local good causes. Under his leadership, the Fayre has raised thousands of pounds and brought smiles to hundreds of faces. The Committee would like to offer huge thanks for his dedication and hard work over the years, and also express their relief that he remains on the Committee!

This year there are a few changes with regard to applications for funds. Instead of organisations applying post Fayre, bids will go in before. The aim is to encourage more involvement, along with transparency - so everyone knows in advance just who or what it is that they are putting their hands in their pockets for. So – please spread the word to all local good causes and organisations that might want to apply for funds. Get in touch with Jane Hocking (281605 j.hocking05@btinternet.com) or Sam Peirce (291394 sam-jpeirce@gmail.com) for further information and an application form.

Deadline for receiving applications is 31st January 2014.



ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 2 lunches a month, if you would like to come along please phone Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 4th, 18th December and 15th January. 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 12th December. 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 Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 -12. This month it will be Tuesday 3rd, 17th December and 14th January. Please do pop in for a coffee and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. 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 24 hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586.

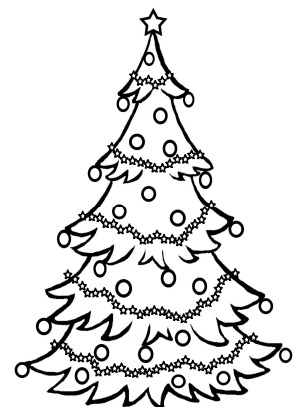
Waitrose Charity Event – We have been advised that £466 will be heading our way shortly. We were one of three nominated Charities for October and many of you showed your support by donating your green token in the Acorn box, a huge thank you to all that supported us through this campaign.

Acorn needs your help – Have you recently retired and have a few hours to spare each week? Are you bored at home now that the children have started school? Perhaps you are just between jobs? If you have ever considered using some of your spare time to help someone else, we'd like to hear from you. You only need to commit as much time as YOU want. If you'd like to get involved and really make a difference to someone's life in your local community, please call us on 01647 252701.

Please check out our website www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers, our Friends of Acorn and all of you who support Acorn, without you Acorn would not exist.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Drewsteignton Post Office & Stores
Wish you a Very Happy Christmas

Christmas & New Year Opening Times
We will be OPEN Monday 23rd December 8.30 – 1.00pm
& 2.00pm -6.00pm

Christmas Eve. 8.30 – 1.00pm.

Christmas Day CLOSED

Boxing Day CLOSED

Friday 27th OPEN 8.30.- 1.00pm. 2.00pm-6.00pm

Saturday 28th OPEN 8.30-1.00pm

Sunday 29th OPEN 9am-12.30pm

Monday 30th OPEN 8.30 -1.00pm-2.00pm-6.00pm

New Years Eve OPEN 8.30-1.00pm 2.00pm-4.00pm

New Years Day. CLOSED.

Don't forget to place your orders for cream, cheeses, mince pies and bread etc in time for Christmas. We also have a good selection of wines & beers for that last minute Christmas celebration/present.

We have our Christmas stamps ready for you in the Post Office. Last posting date recommended 18th December for 2nd class and 20th December for 1st class.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and custom during 2013 and look forward to serving you in 2014.

Christmas Holidays

Please note that the Ring and Ride bus service will be available up to and including Tuesday 24th December, then not again until Thursday 2nd January 2014. If you wish to book a seat for 2nd January please ring the office by Monday 23rd December.

The voluntary car service will be available throughout the holiday period, subject to bookings being made in advance of the office closing and a driver being available.

The office will close at 4pm on Monday 23rd December and re-open at 08.30 on Thursday 2nd January 2014. The answerphone will be available for you to leave a message, please speak clearly and leave your name, telephone number and a brief request with time, date and location of appointment.

100 Club

Thank you for your support 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 the address below.

**Please note higher charge quoted is for those not in Okehampton or along the route of the trip.

USE IT OR LOSE IT! - We are considering cutting down on the number of Saturday trips to one a fortnight over the winter months as we have been struggling to get enough interest to fill the bus each week.

11th January	Green Lanes, Barnstaple	£11/15
18th January	Lifton Farm Shop	£9/13
25th January	Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth	£11/15
1st February	Newton Abbot/Trago Mills	£10/14
8th February	Tavistock	£9/13
15th February	Atlantic Village, Bideford	£11/15
22nd February	Homeleigh, Launceston	£9/13



Community Car Scheme

We welcome Gerald Lomax from Northlew to our team. We said goodbye and thank you to John Bartlett from Hatherleigh who has moved back to Staffordshire to be close to his family, to Malcolm Flemons from Okehampton and Brent Turner-Oxenham from Winkleigh who have personal commitments. For various reasons several of our drivers are unavailable at the present time so we ask for your understanding as we are unable to help everyone who requests transport due to the lack of drivers and the increase in requests we are receiving.

May we remind you that we are extremely busy so appreciate it if you can give us as much notice of appointments as possible to give us time to find an available driver. We know that it is sometimes not possible and we do try everything possible to help everyone!

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas

Sue & Liz, ODCTG, Unit 12 Okehampton Business Park, Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1FJ 01837 55000

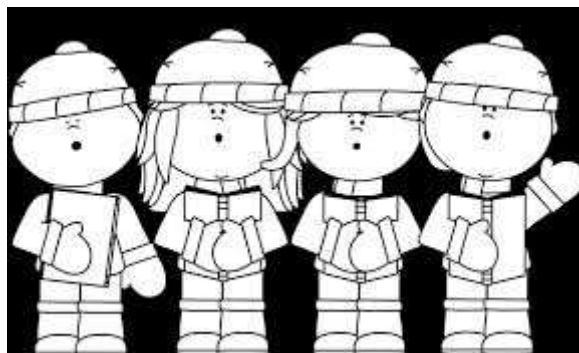
Carol Singing

Drewsteignton

Thursday December 19th

6.00pm

Meet in the Square



Chagford School

Carol Service

Friday December 20th

2.00pm

Chagford Parish Church

December Bird Notes

The weather forecast is a return to icy northern conditions, with winter chaos coming, or at least that was what the front pages of many newspapers were reporting on the first day of December. It will be interesting to see how we fare in the Southwest but the last couple of weeks of November have been pretty good, with some settled weather and mild fine days with the occasional overnight frost. Despite this mild spell, all of the holly berries from the large tree in the hedge at the back of my garden have been taken, mainly by one of our winter visitors, redwings. I have not yet noticed whether other holly trees have been stripped but this one seems to regularly provide their food before Christmas each year.

This time last year, the cold weather had really come in and with it came an influx of waxwings to many parts of the UK, a beautifully coloured starling-sized winter migrant. There were many flocks in Devon and I saw these stunning looking birds feeding on berries on rowan trees and berberis bushes in Exwick, and was delighted to see one solitary waxwing in a treetop in Drewsteignton churchyard.

Another winter visitor to the parish that I recently saw over the village was a woodcock. I spotted it just before dusk as it flew low over the churchyard and down into the fields beyond my garden. This fascinated me as I have been seeing the occasional woodcock on this similar flight line at a similar time of day, always in the winter months for about the last thirteen years, and I can't believe it is the same one.

Woodcock are recorded in the county as "locally common winter visitor and passage migrant, has bred" according to 'The Birds of Devon', an excellent book by Mike Tyler, published by Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society in 2010. Woodcock are pigeon-sized birds with rusty brown plumage, ideal camouflage for a ground nesting bird in their preferred habitat, woodland. They are actually members of the wader family, but are found in woodland rather than on estuaries, and are known as 'the snipe of the forest'. The majority of people who see them close up will be those on farm or rough shoots, as they beat through woodland. They are secretive and wary birds, and are most active at dusk and at night. If flushed from a day roost, they fly off with quite a loud whirring wing noise as they zigzag away through the trees. During a couple of cold days in the last week in November, I put out my garden feeders but only a mixed seed feeder and one with Niger seed. I always presume the first birds to find the replenished feeders out again are blue tits but was amazed as no sooner had I returned indoors and had a look out of the window, two goldfinches arrived and started feeding on the Niger seed, swiftly followed by two more. This then started a bit of a rush and they were followed by greenfinches, a robin, two collared doves, blue tits, a dunnock, house sparrows, a blackbird and a great tit. This was all within 5 minutes of the feeders being out again since I stopped feeding the birds in the spring. Rather than indicating that these birds are desperate for food, I think it shows just how many garden birds are moving around through the village gardens. As the weather gets colder, the numbers of these different species will increase as food becomes scarcer in the open countryside, and more birds will take advantage of food put out for them.

Nick Dixon

Raspberry, Sherry and Nut Trifle- Christmas Favourite.

INGREDIENTS

250g bag of amaretti [biscuits](#)
 Sweet sherry
 150g punnet raspberries
 Icing sugar
 500g tub of crème anglaise or vanilla custard
 284ml whipped fresh double cream
 Chopped toasted hazel[nuts](#)
 Fresh mint leaves

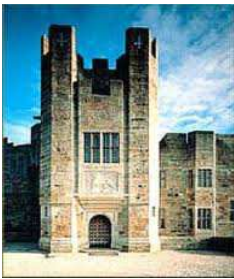


METHOD

1. Spill a box of amaretti biscuits into the bottom of a large glass bowl.
2. Sprinkle well with a sweet sherry.
3. Use a fork to crush 150g punnet raspberries with icing sugar to taste, then spoon over the soaked biscuits.
4. Add a few more whole raspberries.
5. Spoon over a large tub of crème anglaise or vanilla custard and top with plenty of whipped fresh double cream.
6. Decorate with whole raspberries, chopped toasted hazelnuts and fresh mint leaves.

News from the Castle

 **National Trust**



All is going well here at the castle. As I write this, we are getting ready for Christmas. There will be 10 Christmas trees hidden around the garden, some of which have been decorated by local community groups. The 'recycled art' tree created by Okehampton Primary School was amazing.

At the end of November, we had two on-site performances by Med theatre. The young people had created a dance and drama piece inspired by the impact of the First World War on the

people of Dartmoor. It was a fantastic performance and both shows sold out which was excellent. Such lovely people to work with.

January will be busy preparing for opening the castle for the new season. Also, following the success of the 'take over day' project with Exeter College, I will be working with them again in January and February. We are hoping to create a piece of sensory art in the garden. Watch this space.

As always, I hope that many of you will get chance to pop up and see how things are going.

Best wishes,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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



Tilly's November Parish Post

My wrist is now fully recovered after my rather embarrassing accident.

West Exe Girls under 13s remain unbeaten five or so games into the season. However, on this mild Saturday afternoon we were not off to play a match, we were going to watch one. We headed off to the Exeter City ground at about 1.45pm and after a bit of waiting around, we went into the grounds. We headed to the Flybe stand. We were some of the first there as it was a while till kick off. We were given pizza to share, courtesy of Domino's Pizza. It was a great atmosphere with about 50 girls and their families there for the match.

Soon the stadium was full ready for the match which started at 3pm. It was Exeter v Southend, who are a league 2 mid-table team from Essex. The first half didn't go great with Southend scoring twice, but the real action for me happened at half time.

Shirts tucked in and boots laced up we walked onto the pitch with 4,000 spectators in the stands watching us. They had set up smaller goals and our goalies stood in them poised and ready. We dribbled the short distance then shot, but you could shoot from wherever.

I was the first one to shoot in my group and I was nervous but after a couple of shots had been taken, I think everyone was calmed slightly. I had 4 shots and scored 2, which I was pleased with.

I saw a couple of familiar faces in the crowd! After we'd taken our shots, we stood by the entrance where the players come onto the pitch and made an alley (of sorts). The players came back on and we got a couple of high fives. We then returned to our seats and ate cookies which we were given. Neither team conceded a goal in the second half and it was quite even, even if the score didn't suggest so!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, one which I would happily do again.

Tilly Dixon

Clarence Bridgeman

Pam and family wish to sincerely thank all who attended Clarence's funeral, sent cards, messages of sympathy and kindly helped in any way. Special thanks to Pat and Pauline.

**Merry Christmas
From all at the Parish Post**

Made in Drewsteignton
Handmade gifts by local makers.
Hunts Tor December 14th, 4pm-8pm

Village Apple Juice

The apple crop this year was wonderful. Early October saw volunteers collecting apples from Drewsteignton gardens and from the car-park, nearly a ton altogether. They were taken to Westlake Cider of Beaworthy and pressed for apple juice. Altogether nearly 600 bottles. The juice is delicious, it is pasturised and will keep for at least two years. If you want to taste it, it will be on sale at the Church Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall on Saturday 14th December, price £2.50 a bottle.

Okehampton Evening Bus X9.

Monday to Saturday (except public holidays).

The Stagecoach X9 bus service during the late evening also stops at Ide. This is not currently on the X9 timetable.

The Exeter to Okehampton evening service via St Davids Station, Ide, Pathfinder Village, Tedburn ST Mary, Cheriton Cross, Crockernwell, Whiddon Down and Sticklepath depart from stand 13 of Exeter Bus Station at: **19.50 and 21.45.**

The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes.

Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too.

Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below.

If you don't tell us we can't print it

John and Pauline

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

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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 January - Thank You**

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: plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638