

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



# Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 95

February 2014

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The parish notice board at Whiddon Down has now been renovated and replaced in the west-bound bus shelter. Thanks go to Cllr Stuart Hardie and his wife Lyn for the work they have done (voluntarily) in cleaning the bus shelters and to Cllr Mike Riches for some temporary work at one of the Crockernwell bus shelters.

The Council is very concerned about the state of the roads in the Parish and although we continue to notify the County of the current issues, we have now heard from Devon County Council that all programmed gully cleaning, planned cleaning of ditches, lengthsman visits and routine patching work have been suspended so the whole workforce can concentrate on priorities. Those priorities appear to be those roads carrying the bulk of the traffic which of course means our country lanes will drop right down the list. They explain the County has 8,000 mile of roads which is the biggest of any authority in the country, they need £62 million a year just to maintain the roads but have only got a budget of £39 million. Whilst the Parish Council continue to lobby for work to be done, you can contact Devon County Council to report defects at their call centre on 0845 155 1004. In the meantime all we can advise is to take it steady in the lanes, at least the potholes keep the speed of vehicles down!!

The Council were concerned to hear Mike Rowe who cleans the public toilets at Drewsteignton had recently slipped on some ice and broken his leg, we wish him a speedy recovery and thank Tony Thomas for standing in for Mike. Thanks also to Tony for his letter of support in the last Parish Post, needless to say we have heard nothing from the author of the anonymous letter.

The Parish Precept was discussed at some length. Thanks to our Clerk Bella Snook who had examined the finances with a fine tooth comb, she identified some Council expenses which would

remain the same for the next year and at long last, the final repayment for the car park in Drewsteignton will be made in the spring. We resolved to make a request for a 1% increase to bring our finances up to date. We have to bear in mind the likely hood of an election in 2015 which, under certain circumstances, we might have to pay for. We also want to update some of the other parish notice boards over the next couple of years and work has to be done on the bus shelters which are owned by the Council. Work might have to be undertaken in the public toilets at Drewsteignton. This increase is the equivalent to 73 pence per year for a band D property and we hope this meets with approval. As always, if anyone wants to see the full details please contact the Clerk or come to the Annual Parish Meeting. This is your Council and your money and we are completely happy to supply all details of our expenditure for examination by any parishioner. The future of Moretonhampstead Hospital was discussed at a meeting which Cllrs Sue Power & Bill Savage attended this week, they will be reporting to the Parish Council at the next meeting where a decision will be made by the Council to support or object to the proposals. That next meeting will be at Drewsteignton on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 7.30pm



## Volunteer's Day At Stone Lane Gardens Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

Did you make a new year's resolution to get out more, meet new people and help with worthwhile charitable work? Why not come along to our volunteers day on Friday March 14<sup>th</sup>?

You can find out about the conservation and educational work our charity does in displaying our National Collections of birch and alder to the public and in promoting and exhibiting quality sculpture.

There will be a chance to meet other volunteers over coffee and biscuits, when there will be discussion of the variety of work we would like our volunteers to carry out – both in the office, at events and in the garden. Afterwards you can try your hand at a range of gardening tasks, or just enjoy a walk around the arboretum.

Please contact Pru Barnes by email [pru.barnes@stonelanegardens.com](mailto:pru.barnes@stonelanegardens.com) or telephone 01647 231311 to reserve a place.

## Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

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

February-May 2104

Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> Every Day Alpines

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March Alternative to Common Pesticides

Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> Plant Sale 10am

All meetings held in our Village Hall 7.30pm  
Annual Membership £ 5.00 or £ 1.00 per meeting  
Everyone most welcome to any meeting

## Moretonhampstead Community Hospital

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are working with the North Devon Healthcare Trust (NDT) to plan the use of the hospital as a hub providing services for the community. These services would not include in-patients, the beds will continue to be closed as at present

The services might include all or some of the following: Podiatry, ophthalmology, audiology, blood transfusions, chemotherapy (limited), minor surgery, rheumatology, dementia clinic, acupuncture, physiotherapy, a base for 24 emergency care at home & ongoing professional care in the home, care of the elderly clinic, drop in tearoom for the elderly, occupational use of the kitchens to regain skills after illness.

Local doctors, the League of Friends, Mortonhampstead Parish Council, and others support this. It is a plan that could preserve this important building & service in the community.

YOUR VIEWS are invited; if you accept the proposal or reject it or have comments, please urgently inform the CGT & NDT via Mortonhampstead Health Centre – [healthyplemorton.co.uk](http://healthyplemorton.co.uk)

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped when Mike slipped on the ice and broke his leg recently, Special thanks to Philip, Sarah and Tony for their help before the ambulance arrived and Ian for keeping the traffic away from him. Thank you to everyone who sent get well cards and offers of help and support.

The broken leg is now on the mend, thank you.

*Pauline and Mike*



## Swedish Red Cabbage

Serves eight

1 Red Cabbage, about 1.5kg, finely shredded.

About 60g streaky bacon.

2 Spanish onions, thinly sliced.

3 tablespoons of brown sugar.

1 dessert apple, peeled cored and chopped.

125ml chicken stock.

125ml red wine.

3 tablespoons wine vinegar or cider vinegar.

Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

1 small, raw beetroot, coarsely grated.



Put the shredded cabbage in a large bowl.

Pour over enough boiling water to cover the cabbage.

Set aside.

In a large, heavy enameled pan or casserole, sauté the diced bacon until the fat runs. Add the onions and fry, stirring frequently, over a moderate heat until soft and transparent. Stir in the sugar and continue to fry gently until the onions are caramelized and a rich golden colour.

Take great care not to let the sugar burn.

Drain the cabbage thoroughly. Add it to the casserole, together with the apples, stock, wine and vinegar. Mix well.

Season generously with salt and pepper.

Cover tightly and cook gently for about 1.5 hours, stirring occasionally.

Mix in the grated beetroot (this transforms the colour) and continue to cook for a further 30 minutes longer, or until the cabbage is soft. Correct the seasoning and serve hot.

Serve with duck or pork or any rich meat. It also reheats and freezes well.

**Enjoy...**

*John*

## Tilly's Parish Post

**What with all the wet weather we've been having lately all my football matches have been postponed;** hopefully until after half term. Normally I would be disappointed by this but because the Chagford pantomime rehearsals are in full swing we're not allowed to miss a rehearsal. Pantomime rehearsals clash with the same time my football matches are usually on. So dad and I secretly hope for it to rain the day the officials do the inspection of the pitches to see if they can be played on. Luckily for us the weather has been in our favour lately!

As part of Okehampton College school time table we have technology as one of our subjects. We have technology for 3 hours a week and there are different types of technology, we rotate to a different one every term: resistant materials, graphics, textiles, electronics, core and food. I currently have food technology and am enjoying it hugely. We get to make a range of food using different culinary skills and various pieces of equipment. So far this term we've made a cheese and potato bake, raspberry and white chocolate muffins, pasta salad pot and a fruit crumble.

All of these dishes have been great fun to make in the double lesson and in the single lesson we get to evaluate our work. Next week we are making a cheesy sauce and we have a choice we can either make cauliflower cheese or pasta bake.

*Tilly*

## February Bird Notes

January 2014 has just been officially announced as the wettest on record by the Met office, and in the newspaper over the last week end of January, I read that it has been confirmed as the wettest winter month since 1767. This was announced by Oxford's Radcliffe Observatory which holds the longest-running series of daily weather measurements in the World.

As I mentioned in the last Parish Post, this wet weather has also been accompanied by mild temperatures, and as such, many garden birds are still finding plenty of food in the fields and hedgerows, and so have little need to visit garden feeders.

However, as it is still officially winter, I have started to increase my feeding of the garden birds and over the last couple of weeks have put out peanuts, niger seed, a suet block and one mixed seed feeder. I decided to put these all out in advance of the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, which took place over the weekend of the 25/26 January. It involved counting the maximum number of each separate bird species seen at any one time over one hour. As it is normally colder at this time of year, I would feed the birds anyway and record what I see at my feeders.

**During this year's Birdwatch, I recorded a fairly similar count to previous years observations with blue tits, great tits and a solitary coal tit, robins, dunnocks, goldfinches, greenfinches, chaffinches, a nuthatch, house sparrows, collared doves, great spotted woodpeckers, blackbirds and a few siskins. In comparison to last year's count, the overall numbers were fewer but this could be down to the milder weather or to the fact that I've not been putting food out for that long prior to the count.**

There was an article on the Big Garden Birdwatch in the most recent copy of the RSPB magazine, stating it has been running since 1979. Over this 35 year period, there have been some interesting findings and fluctuations in some of our most familiar and best loved bird species.

Blackbirds are down in number year after year, and declines in chaffinch, greenfinch, starlings, robins, song thrush and house sparrow have been noticed, while collared dove, woodpigeon, magpie, dunnock, great tit, coal tit, blue tit and wren are increasing.

I wrote about the delightful long tailed tit in my last article, and saw none during the RSPB Birdwatch count but had a small flock of 6 of them on my peanut feeders the following week end and again this morning. This is the first time I have seen them on my nuts in the ten years of living in our house.

I often get up to about six goldfinches at a time feeding on the Niger seed but am noticing and hearing large flocks of these finches flying overhead or calling from trees in the Churchyard and neighbouring gardens. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, I heard their high pitched calling and was amazed to count a flock of 42 goldfinches in one tree in the Churchyard.

Over the last week end, I noticed considerable activity from a pair of blue tits in going in and out of one of my nest boxes in the garden. It seems very early to be thinking about nesting yet, but the lengthening days and mild weather may well be bringing some birds into breeding condition. Despite the current very wet weather and long dark nights, there's some promise of Spring coming!

Nick



## Royal British Legion

Sorry but the Coffee Morning due to take place on the 15th February at 3 Glebe Cottage has been cancelled. We hope to arrange another date soon.



## ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

**Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton** – Dates are Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March. 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> March. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March. 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 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586.

Last year, our services were used by 151 people on 2,421 occasions – up from 1981 in 2012 – a healthy 22% increase. Most of the increase was attributable to the increase in home visits by our new Community

**Care Manager who at the request of our GP's made 215 home visits.**

Next year, from April, we are expecting to increase our patient transport services to cover the transfer of many clinics from the RD&E in Exeter to our local community hospitals. We aim to work with the NHS to cluster and schedule appointments in our area to enable minibus services to operate to and from Moreton and Okehampton hospitals. We will also need more volunteer car drivers. We are also planning to assist those in need when returning home after an operation.

All this extra work will require additional funding at a time when local authority budgets are being substantially reduced. Should our funding be cut, service users can rely on Acorn continuing as we have adequate capital reserves for such an occasion. We will then need to step-up our fund raising activities.

The New Year sees many people retiring – **it's a good time to join our growing team of volunteers** to join in with our good works in your local community. If you can help or want more details, please call Jackie on 252701.

**The winner of the Memory Cafe raffle of Mary Graham's painting was Margaret Gravestock from Tedburn St Mary.** Many thanks to all those who supported the raffle.

Please check out our website [www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)

## Chasing Kitty Jay: The Creation Of A Wartime Myth

This March, MED Theatre continue their Dartmoor in World War One project with their new community play **'Chasing Kitty Jay'**. Exploring the relationship between grief, memory and myth in a time of conflict, the play investigates how writers Beatrice Chase and John Galsworthy came to construct the modern myth of Kitty Jay, perhaps one of the best-known figures in Dartmoor's folklore.

For more information visit [www.medtheatre.co.uk](http://www.medtheatre.co.uk),

Friday 7th March: Manaton Parish Hall (preview)

Saturday 8th March: Manaton Parish Hall

Tuesday 11th March: Widecombe Church

Thursday 13th March: Mary Tavy Coronation Hall

Friday 14th March: Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

Saturday 15th March: Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

All performances begin at 7:30pm

Tickets: £8 adults, £5 children, £7 concessions

(Preview: £7 adults, £4 children, £6 concessions)

BOOKING RECOMMENDED

Please telephone 01647 441356 or email [info@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@medtheatre.co.uk)

## Hey, We Need The Attention Of Kids (of all ages) In The Parish

The Drewsteignton Playing field Committee are constantly trying to maintain and improve the playing field for the benefit of all Parishioners. With that in mind, We would really like to hear the opinions of kids (of all ages) and their mums and dads as to what they would like to have or play on in the playing field.

Can you think of the best things you have seen or played on in other play parks recently?

**Would a roundabout be a useful addition or a 'walking exercise platform' to keep adults occupied while the children play?** Please let us know what you think would improve our playing field by writing down what you want, or describing/drawing it or even getting a responsible adult to take a photo of it to show us. We will consider all of your suggestions.

Letters/drawings/printed off pictures can be left at the village shop with Marg and Ian, but do label any envelope with **'Playing Field Ideas'** and **don't forget to leave your full name and age. We look forward to hearing from you!**

## Chagfarm

**Chagfarm seeks £15,000 investment to expand raw goats' milk dairy.**

The 8-week campaign will see the Farm Directors, Sylvan and Davon Friend, seeking £15,000 for more **farming equipment and facilities to expand the raw goats' milk dairy and ensure the continued resilience of the local community's food supply.**

After successfully achieving its first year targets of turning over £12,000, we are on a mission to show that the business model is financially viable by recruiting an additional 25 new members by April 2014.

Individual donations of between £5 and £500 or more from the philanthropic Crowdfunder community and beyond will enable Chagfarm to:

- \* Build a milking parlour for the milking goats
- \* **Construct a cheese cave to enable production of Chagfarm's own uniquely flavoured cheese**
- \* Carry out essential repair work on the farm roofs
- \* Invest in solar panels as the farm is currently without mains electricity

Please help us by spreading the word to like minded people or donating to our crowdfunder campaign

Many thanks,

*Davon and Sylvan Friend [www.chagfarm.org](http://www.chagfarm.org)*

*Chagford Community Farm CIC*

*c/o Proper Job Ltd*

*Crannafords Business Park*

*Chagford, Devon TQ13 8DR*

## Wild Woods 'n Willow

**The Wild Woods 'n Willow 2014 programme of events is out now. Why not sign your child up for a day or longer of Bushcraft Essentials near Chagford? They'll learn how to survive and thrive in nature whilst having great fun and making new friends.**

Essential Bushcraft days for 8-12 yrs

Fire & Tracking in the woods	Mon 17th Feb
Wild Forage	Wed 28th May
Dens & Campfire Cooking	Sun 29th June
Knife Skills, whittling & weaving	Mon 27th Oct
Teenagers Days	
A Dartmoor Expedition	Thurs 29th May
Wilderness Skills	Sun 26th Oct
Family Day for all ages	Sun 11th May
Camps	
Teenagers	Sat 26th -Tues 29th July
8-12yrs	Wed 30th -Thurs 31st July

To find out more visit: [www.wildwoodswillow.org.uk](http://www.wildwoodswillow.org.uk).

## News from the Castle



Hello again everyone

It has been lovely to see so many people popping up over the winter for a stroll round **the garden and something warm in the café but it isn't long now until the castle opens** for the main season. From Saturday 8 March, the castle will be open every day from 11am until 5pm (last entry at 4.30pm). All of the new displays have now settled in and there are some new things for 2014.

The big change this year is that the scaffold viewing tower will be open every day (unless the weather gets a bit too challenging). It is well worth coming in just to scale the heights of the tower and see the work taking place. Also, we will be marking the centenary of the start of WW1 with new displays and stories. You may remember that last year we asked you to get in touch with our research volunteer with stories about the people who originally built the castle. A key character has proved to be William Arscott, a local chap who was a labourer on the original building site. His story is a sad one but we have found an amazing newspaper article about him which we will be displaying this year in the castle.

**I'm sure many of you remember the small room at the end of the Green Corridor which is known as Adrian's Room. This room was closed last year as there was a real issue with water getting in. This room** has now been fully cleaned, the door and window have been removed to be refurbished and we will be re-opening it this season once they have been replaced. This room is a designated war memorial and is very poignant due to the loss of Adrian Drewe at Ypres so it is fitting that we are able to re-open it this year. Finally, our brilliant youth panel are keen to recruit some more young people to join them. They will be hosting a drop in session on Saturday 22 March, 10 til 12, in the Activity Hut opposite the castle. If you are aged under 25 and would like to find out more about the youth panel, please pop along for a cuppa and a chat or get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Best wishes and hope to see you all soon,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### 'Goodness Gracious Me'

The Drewe Arms is delighted to host an 'all-you-can-eat' curry night in aid of the Playing Fields.

**Friday 7th March from 7pm to 9pm.**

A large choice of curries, rice, salads, etc

Only £14 per person

Fill your plate as many times as you like.

Party games etc

Tickets available from the Drewe Arms.

All tickets must be bought by **4th March**

### What's On At The Drewe

**8th February** - Flaky Jake & Tony Bayliss

**14th February** - Valentine's Dinner & Dance

**22nd February** - Quiz Night for The Devon Air Ambulance

**28th February** - Laurence & Gary sign a 10 year lease with Enterprise - complimentary buffet from **6pm**

Central Devon Conservative Association  
QUIZ NIGHT

**Fun Quiz and Supper**  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
7 for 7.30 p.m.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

Wine and Soft Drinks Bar

Tickets £12 each

from: Patrick Johnstone,

1 Wisdom Cotts, Drewsteignton  
EX6 6PB

[patric.johnstone1@btinternet.com](mailto:patric.johnstone1@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01647-432068

Thank You!

An enormous THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Burns Night Supper, we raised a staggering £780 for our local youth work project On the Edge - it was such a success because of the generous support of Laurence, Gary and their team of wonderful staff at the Drewe Arms, a massive thank you to them.

Jennifer

Youth Club

Whiddon Down and Drewsteignton.

NO SESSION on 17th Feb due to Chagford Panto  
3rd, 17th & 31st March

14th & 28th April

12th & 26th May

9th & 23rd June

7th & 21st July

Whiddon Down sessions are from 4:00pm-6:00pm

Drewsteignton sessions are from 6:30pm-8:30pm

## 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

Contact Details:

For Editorial John Shiell

Contributions Pauline Rowe

For Parish Council Bella Snook

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

Pauline Rowe: [plr43@btinternet.com](mailto:plr43@btinternet.com) ☎ 281638

[drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk) ☎ 281282

[plrowe43@gmail.com](mailto:plrowe43@gmail.com) ☎ 281638

[clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)

☎ 231046—[www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)

*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 March - Thank You