

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



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 96

MARCH 2014

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We need a handyman who can undertake minor repairs, woodworking, painting etc. and who would charge the Council a “reasonable” rate for their work – are you that person or can you recommend such a person? If so, please contact the Clerk or any of the councillors.

One planning matter regarding an extension at Torr, Drewsteignton was discussed and the Council unanimously agreed to support the application.

The Dartmoor National Park Authority have circulated a supplementary Planning Document regarding affordable housing for comment by Councils. Whilst at the moment there is little scope for any more development of this kind in the Parish, we have asked DNP for clarification of the definition of “local person” who would be eligible for this type of housing.

We are going to do a survey of the roads in the Parish by wards so we can build up and submit a complete picture to Devon County Highways regarding the damage caused over the winter. We realise this will be something of a “wish list” as repair funding is very limited, but unless they know, the faults will never be rectified. If you know of a particular problem or a dangerous stretch of road surface please let councillors or the Clerk know so we don't miss anything. Alternatively you call Devon County on 0845 155 1004 to report a fault. This really does work as two blocked drains were reported in the middle of February and within a week they were cleared. Cllr Sue Power reported on the meeting she attended with Cllr Bill Savage regarding the future of Moretonhampstead hospital. The beds would not be reinstated and the danger of losing the building altogether was a possibility. It is therefore, proposed to create a medical “hub” to offer a range of outpatient services and drop-in clinics which would eliminate the need for patients to

travel in to Exeter or Plymouth. The steering group would have representation from Parish Councils by Cllrs Gay Hill from Chagford and Richard Foxwell from Moreton. They would liaise with parishes through a representative to be appointed by the Council. It was agreed that our representative would be the Clerk who will report back to the Council and parishioners through the Parish Post. It was also agreed to support the proposal to keep the hospital open for the community in this manner.

The Council had been approached by Daphne Greener requesting permission to plant a tree in the car park at Drewsteignton in memory of her husband Paul who passed away in 2008. For those new to the Parish, Paul was a very respected local historian and publisher of books on the Parish, he was a font of knowledge and was always prepared to help the Parish. It was agreed an oak tree would be planted in the car park towards the rear of the pub and the Council would pay for a plaque to identify the tree. We also hope to arrange some form of blessing in the spring time. Whilst in the car park, the gardeners' club have asked if they can have a practical demonstration of fruit tree pruning using the trees there. This was welcomed by the Council but a query was raised over the time of the year for the demonstration.

2015 will be the time to choose a new Parish Council and there may well be some vacancies to fill. It is not too early for you to think about becoming a councillor. Come along to a meeting and watch, see if you would like to give it a try. Anyone over 18, who lives or works in the Parish and is not bankrupted can be a councillor. Our next meeting is one week later than normal at **Whiddon Down Monday 24th March 2014 at 7.30pm**

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 1 lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each 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 9th, 23rd April and 7th May. 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 10th, 24th April and 8th May. 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 8th, 22nd April and 6th May. 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.

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

Cheriton and Teign Valley Memory Café History Project

The participating members of the Memory Café would like to thank the families who responded to our request for information about their relatives who lived in our area from 1900 to 2010.

We had 36 individuals from nine families with enough information spanning our time period to form the basis of a small study.

We limited our research to the place of death, cause of death, and age of death of our subjects as there was insufficient data to investigate other aspect of advancing age within our group.

From the three graphs we drew we could see that:

1. Deaths took place almost exclusively at home until the 1970s. Several people commented on the good work of the district nurses who visited their aged relatives during their confinement.
2. The causes of death were predominately due to circulatory disorders, with one case of TB in the 1920s, and cancer accounting for one death in the 1940s, one in the 1980s and two in the 1990s.
3. It was rare for someone to die under the age of 60 prior to 1960, with no deaths under 60 after that. Many people were over 75 when they died throughout the period.

This is a very small group statistically, so it would be unwise to make any firm conclusions from the data, but it does seem that folk in this area have always had a reasonably good life span. Perhaps advances in medicine have decreased the likelihood of death from diseases such as TB and we may be spared some of the aches and pains of old age. It does look like a hospital death is on the cards for most of us from now on.

What was of particular interest to the Memory Café group was the complete absence of documentation relating to memory loss in the older individuals in our study. Other conditions, such as arthritis and diabetes, were noted but nothing relating to dementia. It may be that this condition was just as prevalent as it is today, but seen to be unworthy of comment.

We are considering this to be an open project, and would be happy to add to it if we receive more information from other families in the area. So if you would like to send your own family history to us we would be happy to add it to our data.

Maria Cochrane 01467 252317

Frank Caunt 01647 252816

Geoffrey Sharland 01647 24243

Volunteer Centre - West Devon

Calling volunteer marshals/stewards!

Join this exciting new group, help run different large public events in West Devon
Get ready to roll with West Devon Rovers!

Could you befriend a lonely person?
Age Concern is looking for home support volunteers
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

Pantomime

Over our half term, I had a rather busy time. While most people were having a break from school or work, I was putting 2 or so months of practice to use. I was performing in the Chagford Pantomime, which this year was 'Around the World in 80 days'. With 40 or so other actors and actresses and of course a long list of people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, we put on our show.

I played the role of Ruby: a feisty maid who travelled around the world as one of Phileas Fogg's faithful servants. There were three house maids in total; Morwenna Bint, Livy Rubbra and I. I absolutely loved our costumes (we had two). However, the switch between our costume changes was tight. From maids in aprons, frilled collars and long skirts to bomber jackets, dark shades and black capes. We really did have fantastic costumes, I even had a bright red wig, that at times was super itchy.

I think the panto went really well with only the occasional line slip up or someone dropping a prop. I had real trouble keeping the black cap on my head, especially with all my hair under my wig and the cap rammed on top. It fell off a couple of times and had to be collected in the next scene.

I hugely enjoyed being in this years pantomime and a massive well done to anyone in it or who helped out! Special congratulations to all those from Drewsteignton, who all performed amazingly well: Freddie Hassell, Flora Dixon and Livy Rubbra!!

I really wondered what I would do with all my spare time after the pantomime was over. Then I remembered what a massive backlog of football games I've yet to play. I think I will find plenty to do!

Tilly Dixon



Bird Notes

Over the last month, there has been very little going on in my garden other than noticing a pair of blue tits investigating one of my nest-boxes, but which now seems to be getting close attention from house sparrows. I have noticed this happening in previous years, and with so many sparrows around here, they seem to specialise in disappointing tits.

I heard a green woodpecker calling last week, while I was in my garden, and it sounded quite close. I am sure that it's the first time I've heard their distinctive call (from my garden) in the 14 years of living at Churchgate. Green woodpeckers feed on ants and in summer can often be seen on lawns or on the ground in fields catching them. I am told they survive the winter by digging into ant nests for food. With the amount of wood ant nests in the woods nearby and in the Teign valley, I am surprised not to hear or see them more often.

Despite now having various feed (Niger seed, peanuts, suet blocks and mixed seed) out for the birds in my garden, there have been no particularly notable birds or new species seen other than a very bold nut-hatch, who seems unconcerned by my presence until I am about 8 feet away. I have not seen the small flock of long tailed tits that visited in January.

I have just read in the new 'BTO News' magazine (British Trust for Ornithology) that many of their members are contacting them as they are concerned they have had very few birds at their garden feeders over these past few winter months. The BTO have been replying saying exactly what I have been saying in the Parish Post for the last two months, that the wet weather we have suffered has been accompanied by mild temperatures meaning that there has been plenty of natural food in the surrounding countryside for birds, so they have no need to travel to garden feeders. For example, this winter I have seen a maximum of 4 blackbirds in my garden at any one time but during the cold spell with snow, two years ago, we had up to 14 blackbirds. They seemed to spend the majority of their time and energy fighting each other, rather than actually feeding on what was there.

About two weeks ago, I was on the phone and looking out at the birds on the feeders, when a couple of collared doves came down. These were immediately followed by two more and then what appeared to be another came down at speed, whereupon it appeared that two had hit each other. There was an explosion of feathers around the feeders as all the smaller birds vanished into nearby bushes. It all happened very fast but I just caught sight of a dove sized bird with a grey barred tail disappearing down the garden after a dove. A sparrow hawk attack! All that was left was a few feathers swirling around in the breeze, and slowly the birds started to return and feed.

Collared doves are a real success story; They originated from India, slowly spreading across Europe during the 16th Century before their arrival in the UK in the 1950's and first breeding in Norfolk in 1955. By 1966, they had spread to all counties of Britain, with first nesting in Devon in 1962. They are now common in almost all towns and villages in the county, due to their preference of being close to human habitation, and taking full advantage of garden feeders. Top tip to fans of BBC Period dramas: If you hear or see a collared dove calling on the film, tut loudly and inform those around you "that they only arrived in the country in 1955!"

Nick

Cuma Court

I am appealing for information regarding Cuma Court.

In September of 2012 we bought South Cuma and are currently in the process of restoring it. My Husband, myself and our 4 boys have fallen in love with it and I was just wondering if any of your readers would be able to shed a little more light or insight into the history of the farm. Photos, stories and any information on its past would be very much appreciated.

We understand that the area of Coombe Hall dates back to the doomsday book ... so there is a lot to learn and find out, it is just a matter of knowing where to start. We are ourselves uncovering facts all the time - our most recent one was an inscription in the concrete outside of the Linhay from 1920.

If this is something that your readers would be able to help with I/we would very much appreciate it.

Thank you

Nikki Lines

rablines@btinternet.com

Beware - Potholes!

Although as I write this morning it is a sunny day, the forecast from the Met Office is not good for the rest of the week and who knows what weather March will bring as it 'Comes in like a Lion'. The winter months' rain storms have been aggressive enough, our roads have suffered badly as a consequence and driving has been hazardous.

The Highway Code, which, let's admit it, most drivers of a certain age have not read since they took their test many years ago, has four pages of advice on driving in adverse weather conditions. Much of it is very helpful to drivers of all ages and standards, no matter what they drive. It now gives advice for rain, ice and snow, windy weather and fog conditions and mentions, for example, the use of lights, how far to keep back from the vehicle in front, what to do if your steering goes light from lack of grip in wet weather (aquaplaning).

Incidentally, the Highway Code today includes chapters and rules applying to cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair and mobility scooter users, motorcyclists, animals and horse riders. As importantly, it covers First Aid on the Road; if you are the first at the scene of an accident, what should you do to help even if you have had no training? Practical advice is always worth knowing in extreme circumstances.

On the subject of practical advice, potholes are now a menace on every road and down every lane, but there is a simple driving technique for dealing with them. Highways has a limited budget and manpower and getting round to repairing the many holes now blighting our roads is going to be a long job. So, for most of the foreseeable future avoiding a puncture, and an accident as the result of one, is going to be down to the driver. First of all - Concentrate: Keep your mind on your driving. Observe: Keep your eyes peeled. Anticipate: Expect to find a pothole right around the next corner and slow down. These are all good tips. And, here's another tip: when spotting an unavoidable and really deep pothole, reduce your speed right down to walking pace and 'walk' the car through it. Punctures are caused by too much speed over a hole which has jagged tarmac at its edge, which will rip the side wall. Getting a puncture is an inconvenient, time consuming and expensive mistake to make. Damaging the wheel rim itself adds to the cost and its cause is simply – too much speed for the conditions. Remember that if there is water on the road you may not realise how deep the hole is.

In summary, take it slowly, more than you are used to. Give yourself a bit of extra time to get somewhere. Get a Highway Code (a bargain at £1.98 and available on Kindle for £1.40) from Amazon, or any good book shop and save a life.

Anna Imrie, Training Officer, ROSPA South Devon Group. February 2014.

www.rospasouthdevon.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Torrige, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau require volunteers to join its friendly and enthusiastic team for a range of different volunteer posts in their Okehampton and Tavistock offices.

Volunteer posts include:

- * Advisers
- * PR & Marketing
- * Fundraising
- * Adviceline
- * Administration
- * I.T

EXPENSES AND FULL TRAINING PROVIDED

Interested? Please telephone **01237 477967** or email georgia@cab-bideford.co.uk for an application form or pop into your local bureau

Registered Charity Number 1068496
Company Number 3520698

Whiddon Down Methodist Church

Invites you to a Sacred Concert given by
The Torbay Gospelaire
On Good Friday 18th April at 7-15pm
Followed by light refreshments
Easter Sunday 20th April
Service at 6-30pm
All welcome

Okehampton District Community Transport Group

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 me at the address below.

Co-operative Foodstores – Charities of the Year

We are delighted to report that we have been chosen as one of the 3 charities being supported by Co-op in Okehampton this year. I attended a meeting with some of the other groups (Okehampton Rainbow Pre-School and Devon Freewheelers) to discuss events for the next few months. Please try and support these extra fundraising events when you can.

The first event is a **Family Friendly Prize Bingo on Friday 21ST March** at the Conservative Club, doors open 7.30pm, eyes down 8pm. 50p entrance fee. Raffle

The second event is a **Curry Night on Saturday 26TH April** at the Ockment Centre, £10 per person to include a 2 course meal and disco. Dartmoor Bars will be there for drinks. Doors open 7.30pm to eat at 8pm. Raffle. Booking essential as there are only 90 spaces available.

Payment in advance, non-refundable. Please ring Kirsty on 01837 54338.

Coffee Morning

We will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 24th May at the Church Hall in Market Street, Okehampton from 10am to 12noon. We would welcome donations of books/plants/cakes/bric-a-brac/raffle prizes. Everyone welcome!

Saturday Trips (Ring and Ride Bus plus Peugeot when numbers require)

David Richards has decided to step down from regularly driving on the Saturday trips, he will continue to cover for holiday/illness when required. After 10 years of driving for us David deserves some weekend relaxation!

We are trying to recruit a new driver at the present time and will let you know as soon as possible with a list of dates for forthcoming trips.

Community Car Scheme

We welcome Chris Bloor and Michael Bennett from Okehampton, Tim Axten from Bridestowe and Richard Sampson from Halwill to our team.

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!

Transport For Your Community – Roadshow – Saturday 14th June 10am – 12noon

Devon Community Transport Awareness Week is Monday 9th – 15th June. We are lucky enough to be one of the 5 towns chosen to host an event. Further details to follow.

New Shop – Mobility/Disability Aids

There is a shop opening in East Street, Okehampton (next to the Okehampton Times office) on February 27th which will be selling second hand items which may be of interest.

West Devon Connect Community Coffee Morning – Saturday July 12th 10am – 1pm

This annual event will be held in the Charter Hall, we will be attending. Please come along and see us!

The Stairlift Recycling Scheme

This scheme is a successful UK national operation, for used, unwanted stairlifts. All collected stairlifts are refurbished and fully warrantied, ready for re-installation within the community at affordable prices. Proceeds from this activity go to the Respite for Carers' Fund Registered Charity No. 1150399. The Charity provides short breaks for carers in the community.

Please ring 0203 070 2822, email laura@stairliftrecycling.com or visit their website

www.stairliftrecycling.com for information on their free collection service or low cost installation service.

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

01837 55000 sue.odctg@btinternet.com

www.odctg.co.uk

News from the Castle



Hello again everyone

What a couple of months filled with highs and lows! The biggest high was the Time Team special about Edwin Lutyens. I hope you all saw it. Drogo had a starring role and the castle looked magnificent. The low has to be the weather. The winter storms really gave us a battering. No doubt many of you saw the ever increasing holes in our scaffolding. They seemed to get bigger every time the wind blew. Despite all this, the structure of the scaffolding coped really well.

I have been keeping busy over the winter. Projects are well underway with Get Changed Theatre and Exeter College. I have also been invited to do a talk at The Globe in Chagford about our building project on Wednesday 19 March at 7.30pm. I hope to see many of you there.

Save the date!

On Friday 16 May (6pm – 9pm) we have a brand new event called Drogo Spring Fling. This event is being led by our brilliant Youth Panel as part of Museums at Night. This **free** event for all local people is a chilled out and relaxed evening where you are invited to bring up a picnic, wander around the gardens and castle, enjoy some live music and play our wide range of traditional games. We are doing this on a shoestring so if you are in a band and would like to come up and perform for free, please get in touch with me. We will also be having a pudding club where anyone can enter a cake/pudding/dessert of their choice to be judged before being sold off to help raise money towards the building project. The winning entry will be given a free family cream tea in our lovely café.

There is no need to book tickets but it would be extremely helpful to us if you would drop me an email to let me know if you are planning to come along. That way we can be fully prepared. Please spread the word.

Best wishes and hope to see you all soon,

Paula

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

Money

All of our lives seem to be about acquiring it. Working all one's life for the sake of earning a living until retirement, then you can be free and live! Only a few things are free, walking, singing, breathing, conversation, gardening.

We have some brilliant free alternatives, like Time Banking, Couch Surfing, Help x, Freecycle, Liftshare, L.E.T.S, and The Gift Economy soon! Did someone dream my dream? I am so glad they did! I really did just sign The Free World Charter? So did many celebrities, so I don't feel like too much of a radical. The film Money and Life is very thought provoking with a feel good factor.

Money, a form of exchange, invented by humans, which we could easily uninvent. In a world ruled by money, greed, over consumption, competition, separation, destroying communities, exploitation, disconnection to nature, depletion of our resources'.

Isn't it time for an alternative? Could be there is this one. F.W.C. More reason to embrace the change, move on peacefully together and create a new economy.

Quote: Time has come to make some fundamental changes to our way of life. Once people realise that a money-free society works, we will naturally become more positive in our actions, more co-operative, compassionate and productive.

If there is anyone interested in setting up a hub to discuss The Gift Economy, Time Banking, Transition, it would great to know that other people out there might be open to learn more!

If you want to see a copy of the charter and share it, I will leave one in the bus shelter and the pub. Lots of information on the internet, spread the word.

Julia

juwhat36@hotmail.co.uk

Teignton Fayre

Grand Duck Race

Easter Monday 21st April 2014,

2pm onwards.

Fingle Bridge

Barbecue available.

Fun for all the Family

teigntonfayre@gmail.com



Church Kneelers

If anyone has embroidered a kneeler for Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton since 1966 would they please contact

Marjorie Smith 01647 281289

Bible Bookclub

Dates and books for Bible Bookclub: all Thursdays at 8pm at my house (Ardonay Cottage, Drewsteignton, 01647 281657)

Light refreshments provided, come to one-come to them all, you'll be very welcome whatever...

3 April John, sponsored by Ruth and Ian

8 May Galatians and Philippians, sponsored by Chris

12 June Jeremiah, sponsored by Philip (NB this is a long book!)

10 July Lamentations, sponsored by Jennifer

August holiday

11th Sept to be announced & choosing

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 ☎ 281638

drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282

plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638

clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

☎ 231046—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 April - Thank You