

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



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO.98

JUNE 2014

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish Meeting at Whiddon Down on the 7th May where the various and diverse organisations in the Parish gave their yearly reports, it is very encouraging to **see a number of “new faces” bringing new ideas** and enthusiasm to the Parish.

Monday 19th May was the Annual General Meeting of the Council which saw Cllr Bill Savage elected as Chairman for a further year with Cllr Joy Walker Vice Chairman. Councillors appointed to represent the Parish or Council were: Cllr John Dyke – Whiddon Down Village Hall & Heartlands, Cllr Mike Riches - Drewsteignton Village Hall, Cllr Bill Savage – Eastern Links Committee & Playing fields, Cllr Sue Power – Dartmoor National Park, Cllr Stuart Hardie has taken over as Snow Warden , Cllr Anna Imerie – Playing fields, Cllr Joy Walker – Drewsteignton Car Park and finally Cllr Paul Ridgers - Eastern Links Committee and he is also West Devon Borough Councillor for us, Spreyton, Throwleigh & Gidleigh.

Some progress has now been made to repair the Crockernwell Bus shelters, east bound should be done shortly and the westbound will be done when insurance details and specifications are finalised. It is hoped that some reinforcement to this shelter will be made thanks to the generosity of villager Peter Brennan and his engineering company.

As the Council have not received any complaints about the missing water pump at Knowle Lane Drewsteignton we have decided to make safe for the time being rather than replace at more expense. Still in Drewsteignton, the hand washing facilities in the toilets have been repaired and we have confirmed a 3 year fixed price with EDF energy for the electricity in the toilets at a lower rate than previously. Drawings of the first world

war commemorative stone were shown to the meeting by Cllr Anna Imerie, it is a miniature version of the cenotaph which was designed by Edwin Lutyens who also designed Castle Drogo. Two items of planning were discussed and supported by the Council, one was an amendment to plans at Hollydown, Venton and the second was the replacement of derelict sheds with a timber building at Coombe Hall Drewsteignton. The Council was addressed by a parishioner who was representing two other farmers in the parish about two planning applications to extend an agricultural shed and to build a house at Fursham Cross. This matter is on our boundary with Hit-tisleigh and Spreyton and as the existing shed erected in 2008 can be seen on the skyline from our Parish, Council agreed to support our parishioners in their objections to the proposals. As he was unable to attend the Annual Parish meeting, Dartmoor Ranger Pete Rich addressed the Council about the National Park matters. As with everyone else, financial cut backs are still the main topic. We were interested to know the maintenance of footpaths and bridleways undertaken by the National Park is actually funded by Devon County Council who are looking at withdrawing funding. This could lead to a reduction in work undertaken to maintain the footpaths.

Vodafone had written to the Council for our views on an update of their mast at Whiddon Down, after discussion we agreed it would be of benefit to the Parish and will support it.

Many thanks to the person responsible for the placing of flowers at the Drewsteignton Village entrance from Fingle Bridge

Our next meeting is at Drewsteignton on Monday 16th June 2014 at 7.30pm

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. You may receive a written or telephone reminder when it is time for you to renew.

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. Please note new address.

Saturday Trips

We are going to be arranging a few trips with the Peugeot for the next few months as we have not yet been able to recruit a driver for our bus. This will mean that numbers will be limited each week so you may not be able to join each one, depending upon how many people request a seat but we will endeavour to put any popular destinations on more than once so that no-one has to miss their favourite trip!

June 7 th	Homeleigh, Launceston
June 14 th	Teignmouth
June 21 st	Lifton Farm Shop
June 28 th	Trago Mills
July 5 th	Bude
July 12 th	Green Lanes, Barnstaple
July 19 th	Exmouth
July 26 th	Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth

Prices will be confirmed when we know how many passengers are booked and where we will be picking them up. If you would like to book a seat, please ring and let us know.

Sunday Lunches

We also run a regular Sunday lunch trip, at present it is once a month but if we get more interest then we can increase this. If you are interested in joining us on one of these then please let us know.

Advice West Devon

We are pleased to be a member of the steering group for this new initiative with West Devon CAB, Tavistock Area Support Services, Kingdon House, the Ockment Centre, Tavistock Youth Café and West Devon CVS. The project has 3 main aims: to make it easier for people across West Devon to get reliable information or advice when they need it, to enable more organisations to assist in providing simple information and advice and to work better together by providing training and resources, to identify more sustainable ways of funding that ensure survival of information and advice services in the

long term. The project is funded for 2 years by the Big Lottery Fund and aims to be self-sustaining thereafter. To get in touch call the Advice West Devon project line on 01837 658209 ex 200 or email advicewestdevon@westdevoncab.org.uk

Community Car Service Drivers

We welcome Chris Langan from Okehampton to our team, although he currently works full time he will be helping us out occasionally at weekends when required. We are sorry to say goodbye to Graham Brown who is leaving for personal reasons. Transport For Your Community – Roadshow – Saturday 14th June 10am – 1pm

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. This will take place in the car park of Co-operative Foodstore, Market Street, Okehampton (by the zebra crossing) and we will be joined by other groups including GM Coachworks who will have one of their converted wheelchair accessible vehicles on show, Oakhouse Foods, Devon Wheels 2Work, CAB, Healthwatch, Countryside Mobility. There will be competitions and a chance to meet some of our team. Please come along and see us! 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!

Devon Libraries Consultation

Devon County Council wants to know what you think about their proposals for your local library. Call into your library today to find out more about the proposals and complete a questionnaire. For more information contact 0845 155 1001 or visit www.toughchoices.co.uk The consultation runs until 17th July.

The Co-operative – Home Delivery Service Do you struggle to carry your shopping home? If so, why not try using this service? It is free when you spend over £25. You just need to register in store, choose a time for your delivery, shop as usual then it will be delivered to you.

For more information visit the website at www.goodwithfood.co.uk/homedelivery.

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

We also have a Facebook page.

Bird Notes

The swifts have been back for over a month now, as I first saw one on the 1st of May. They are again using my nest boxes but I have no idea yet as to how many are breeding. The overall numbers seem low so far **as the most I've seen in screaming groups is nine. Later on we will know exactly how many are nesting** here when we open the boxes (under strict license) to ring the juvenile swifts. I have been informed that the swift geolocator project is continuing so Malcolm and Chris will be back to catch the adults to retrieve the geolocators (data loggers) from the swifts that had them put on last year, and put new ones on. I am convinced we have less swallows and housemartins than this time last year in the village. I used to see good numbers in the mornings and afternoons when meeting the school bus, and I am not seeing these this year. Any reduction in numbers can be based on many factors including food, the weather and available nest sites.

Two birds that seem to be doing well here are collared doves and bullfinches. Collared doves seem to be almost everywhere in the village, especially in and around the churchyard and square. Bullfinches are seen in the lanes around the village and I am seeing them much more often than previous years. They can be identified by the white rump stripe they show as they fly off into the hedgerow. I seem to see them just after rounding a bend in the road and off they fly.

I mentioned the peregrines at St. Michaels church in Exeter in the last Parish Post, and that their development in their nest could be observed on the internet due to the web cam that we installed last year. The three young birds all flew the nest over the week end of the 7 and 8th June with the smaller male flying on Saturday and his two sisters going on the Sunday. This year was particularly successful with all taking their maiden flights with no fuss or accidents requiring human intervention. There have been some years when we have had juveniles inadvertently coming down to ground before they are ready to fly which has required some interesting chases and spectacular ladder work to return them to safe upper levels of the church.

Over the next few weeks there will be lots of action and noise (and feathers!) around the church as the juveniles hone their flying skills and chase everything and anything that flies past. They will be taught to hunt by their parents and then begin to catch their own food. Food for peregrines is other birds, mainly pigeons and smaller common birds, all of which are caught in flight.

I spent about six hours on the top of Mary Arches car park on Sunday with a BBC wildlife cameraman, as they are trying to capture footage of the high levels of aggression shown by the peregrines to buzzards that fly over the city. No buzzards were to be seen despite a glorious sunny morning with good thermals over the city. The adult peregrines spent hours soaring high in the sky with only one spectacular (but unsuccessful) stoop onto a feral pigeon witnessed by us.

It rained around midday and the adult peregrines returned to their regular perches on the church, with the female perching in the trefoil of the nest entrance and the male tucked away out of the rain. Shortly after the rain stopped, we spotted the female heading as if straight for us, and started filming. She shot over the car park just 20 feet above our heads, hitting a feral pigeon that had come from behind and my left. I watched as she bound on to it with both talons, turned and headed back immediately to the church. She briefly repositioned it beneath her body then killed it in flight by severing its vertebrae, and took it back to the ledge at the junction of tower and spire. The whole episode took less than a minute; that is what you call fast food! She spent the next hour plucking and feeding on it before giving some to one of the youngsters.

If you are in Exeter, have a look at the peregrines while the juveniles are most active around the church.
Nick

Royal British Legion

Drewsteignton Women's Section
Afternoon Tea

On Saturday 28th June 3.30-5

At Hillside House, Drewsteignton.

By kind invitation of Tony and Angela Thomas

What's On at Okehampton Library July 2014

We have lots of events in July starting on 12th July with the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge. **This year's challenge is called Mythical Maze and the aim is to get children to read six books from their library during the summer holidays. It's great fun for kids, it keeps them reading through the summer preventing their reading ability from dipping. Just head to Okehampton Library from the 12th July to enrol your children and receive a membership pack for every child, it's all free. It is designed for children of all ages and reading abilities, they can read any library books that they like and everybody who reads six books or more will receive a certificate and a medal and there are stickers and other small prizes to collect along the way. To launch the challenge staff from Okehampton Library will be at the West Devon Connect Community Morning at the Charter Hall/Red Lion Yard on 12th July 10:00-13:00 where Rob Pudner from 'Entertainingly Different' will be performing a storytime session from 11:00.**

The first 75 children to complete the challenge will be invited to a session in September to see cockroaches, scorpions, spiders and more with Jo from 'Reptobug'.

On Wednesday 16th July 2pm, award winning novelist Veronica Henry will be at Okehampton Library for a chat, cream tea and book signing. Veronica Henry began her career as a secretary on 'The Archers' before turning her hand to scriptwriting. She has written for some of our best loved television dramas, including Heartbeat and Holby City. She writes escapist fiction with an edge - **her latest book 'The Beach Hut Next Door' is set in a row of beach huts on the North Devon coast: assignations, confessions and shocking revelations abound amongst the sandcastles and ice-cream. Her novel 'A Night on the Orient Express' won the Romantic Novel of the Year 2014. Tickets are available in advance from the library £2.50 each to include a cream tea.**

We have family fun on Saturday 26th July from 10:00-13:00 with a 'Unicorns & Minotaurs' family craft workshop run by Learn Devon, bookings in advance. On the same morning enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee served by our Friends of Okehampton Library Group who will also have tickets available during July and August for their Summer Fun draw – various prizes up for grabs at just 50p a ticket.

Also don't forget there is still time to give your views on a series of proposed changes to the way the library service operates in Devon in the Library Consultation. We have developed seven proposals for the future of Devon Libraries and we are consulting on these proposals until the 17th July 2014. We are keen to hear the views and ideas of a wide range of people and to learn about the potential impact – positive and negative – that these proposals may have on you, your family and friends and your local community. We are also keen to hear about any ideas or potential approaches which we have not considered, or hear from organisations which may be willing to work with us in the future. We will use this feedback to **create a definitive set of proposals to take to Devon County Council's Cabinet during Autumn 2014.**

Full details of the Consultation and proposals together with questionnaires are available from your local library or at <http://www.toughchoices.co.uk/>.

For further information about any events please contact *Okehampton Library 01837 52805*

Teignton Fayre

We are absolutely delighted to announce that we raised a total of £2587.69!

A huge thank you to everyone who opened, set up, cooked, donated, assisted, barbecued, roasted, loaned, sold, MC-d, gave, baked, played, sang, swept, entertained, performed, served, cleaned, constructed, danced, spent, bought, hosted and turned up.

Sorry about the lack of Punch and Judy and bouncy castle. The puppeteer had chicken pox and the castle just didn't turn up.

I'm sure there are easier ways of raising that amount but they're probably not as much fun. We will get our defibrillator, and have money for the other good causes too.

Here's to Teignton Fayre, and all the wonderful folk who made it such a fantastic night!!

The Teignton Fayre Committee

Hey Mambo Coffee Van Comes To Stone Lane Gardens

Visitors to the Stone Lane Gardens near Chagford can now enjoy refreshments amongst the birch trees along with a lovely view of Dartmoor.

On Saturdays, Jessica Day will bring her little Piaggio coffee van 'Hey Mambo' to the gardens. On a recent holiday in Italy she fell in love with the iconic little vans buzzing around the tiny streets in the hill towns of Tuscany. On her return to England she was thrilled to find a van for sale which had been converted to carry an Italian coffee machine. It was then that the idea was born and it wasn't long before she became the proud owner of her own Piaggio van.

Inspired by the Italian art of coffee making she set about sourcing top quality organic products to make the best coffee possible and made it a priority to buy from other local small businesses so she knows where the products come from and can ensure they are ethically sourced.

"I'm passionate about coffee myself and know how important it is to get it right" says Jessica

Along with a range of speciality coffees Jessica serves a great choice of organic teas, delicious hot chocolate, cold drinks from Heron Valley in Kingsbridge and delicious cakes handmade in Exeter.

She will be at a number of local shows and festivals over the summer and has a regular pitch at Devon Wildlife Trust's Meeth Quarry Nature Reserve near Hatherleigh.

Jessica observes "On my first visit, people were quite surprised to find my little van parked in the middle of a nature reserve but were really appreciative of the refreshments after a walk round the reserve."

On Saturdays Jessica is now bringing her characterful little red van to Stone Lane Gardens where visitors to the arboretum and the Mythic Garden Exhibition and the Birch Visions painting exhibition can enjoy a drink and a cake in the lovely picnic area.

Check our website www.stonelanegardens.com for dates when she will be here or phone/text her on 07539979000

Contact:

Pru Barnes or Paul Bartlett: 01647 231311

pru.barnes@stonelanegardens.com

paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com

Jessica Day 07539979000 jessica_day@btinternet.com

Paul Bartlett

Garden Manager



Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton

SUMMER FETE

In the Churchyard

Saturday 5th July at 2.30pm

To be opened by Mrs Margaret Maynard.

Stalls including Plants and Garden Sundries, Cakes, Preserves and Savouries, Bottle, Gifts and Collectables, Books, Display and Sale of Pottery.

Competitions, Trips up the Tower, Face Painting, Cake Decorating for Children etc.

Grand Draw 10 Great Prizes Valuing over £200 in total

DELICIOUS AFTERNOON TEAS

Contributions for the above stalls will be gratefully received and may be left at the Village Shop (by kind permission of Marg & Ian) or at Hillside House (Tony & Angela)

Moretonhampstead Health And Social Care Hub.

I am writing to update you on the current proposals to develop Moretonhampstead Community Hospital into a health and social care hub that will provide a range of services for the local community.

You may already be aware of these proposals and may have attended one of the public meetings or drop-in sessions that we held last year.

We are pleased to inform you that since the public meetings and drop-in sessions, we have been working **very closely with a 'steering group', formed of local GPs, parish council, the patient participation groups,** hospital league of friends, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, and Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group. This group is tasked with developing the hub.

You may wish to have a look at the dedicated website that we have developed for the public to access updates. On this website, you will find feedback from local residents about how they want to see services provided in the future, statements summarising the current position around the hospital and points describing the next steps. You can access this website here:

www.healthypeoplemoreton.co.uk

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us on dccg.easternlocality@nhs.net or 01392 356 129.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Alex Degan

Vice chair

Mid Devon Sub-Locality

Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

The Season Is Over

Now that the football season is over, its beginning to feel a bit more like summer, although the weather **doesn't know it quite yet. However I thought I would fill you in on the final football fixture of West Exe girls season.**

We were playing away at Newton Abbot on the last game of the season. As it was our final game and we had already won the league on points, our manager Nick decided to play everyone available by having lots of substitutes. This meant that there would be lots of rotating players and giving the new and younger girls a chance. We scored in the first ten minutes but just before half time they equalised. In the second half, just before I got substituted they scored again, 2-1! **I'd played about 40 of the 60 minutes of the game. The score stayed the same until about 8 minutes from the end. Our main striker, Charley was also off the pitch and I didn't want to lose our last game so asked (pestered) our manager if we could both come back on for the last few minutes. Nick brought us both back on for the final 5 minutes of the season! As hard as we tried, we couldn't score until we got a corner. Charley crossed the ball into the box, right in front of me and I headed it in the net! I was ridiculously pleased to have scored the equalizer in the final moments of the season. We came off so happy with a 2-2 draw.**

We did have more games though, as we had to play in a Futsol tournament. It is indoor football on a small pitch, playing 5 a side with a heavier non-bouncing ball. As FA cup winners, we were representing **Devon in an Under 14 tournament despite us being Under 13's! It was good fun and a great experience, even if we did come last, which doesn't happen to our team very often.**

On the 7th June, it was the West Exe club presentation night at Crealy. Its not just the girls teams there, its all 15 teams (boys and girls) of different ages that make up West Exe youth. Unfortunately it clashed **with Teignton Fayre but didn't start until 6.30 so I had a good hour before we had to leave. That gave me time to wander round the stalls and get beaten by Ella (only just) on the greasy pole.**

At the presentation evening, the roller coaster and the swing boat were open so we spent loads of time on them and of course the death slides!

At the actual presentation I was awarded Club Person of the Year which amazed me plus a small trophy for representing West Exe. It was a great night and I hope everyone who went to Teignton Fayre had a great time too!

Tilly

News from the Castle



Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our Spring Fling event. It was a great evening with over 200 people attending and our brilliant Youth Panel raised over £150 towards the building project. The biggest thank you has to go to the local musicians and performers who gave up their time for free to make the evening really special. Building work is coming along well. The south wing pointing is now completely raked out, stone cleaning on the parapets is nearly complete and we have even started to put in the waterproof membrane. The scaffolding on the south wing is due to come down before the start of our 2015 season so we are busy planning a day by day diary of work

over the winter when we will be moving the entire Castle Drogo collection. It never feels right to think about winter in June but we will need a plan to do this mammoth task.

Other good news is that fundraising is coming along well. The team at Drogo have raised over £5,500 through cake bakes, a quiz night, outreach talks and on-site donations. We are really keen to hear any other fundraising ideas and we would love it if you felt inspired to do some fundraising on our behalf. Please get in touch if you have any thoughts.

Finally, the team from Learn Devon have a programme of really interesting workshops taking place at **Drogo this year. There is a different workshop every month. July's workshop is stained glass, costs £25** per person including all materials and a cuppa and biscuit. If you would like to book, please contact Learn Devon on 01822 613701.

Best wishes and see you soon,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Med Theatre

MED Theatre is starting their new project *The Walk*, funded by Arts Council England. The project will use the prize-winning poem *The Walk* by local writer Mark Beeson to inspire drama, dance and music through exploring how the landscape of Dartmoor can come to life.

There are FREE summer activities on offer as follows:

Sunday 13th July, 2pm-5pm, MED Theatre Studio (Moretonhampstead): An introductory drama workshop for 13-19 year olds led by practitioner Lizzy Humber, exploring images and poetry through physical theatre.

25th-27th July, Pixies Holt residential centre, Dartmoor: A two night residential weekend away at Pixies Holt for 13-19 year olds – young people will be led on a moorland walk and will be mentored by theatre professionals to use artistic skills such as drama, music, movement, poetry and photography to interpret *The Walk* poem through their eyes.

Saturday 30th August, 10am-4pm, Lustleigh Village Hall, and Saturday 13th September, 10am-4pm, Leusdon Village Hall: An introductory dance-theatre workshop led by movement artist Rosalyn Maynard for 16-25 year olds, where participants will explore the landscape of Dartmoor through the senses in order to create dance-theatre ideas.

Spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. (Your place on the residential will be secured on receipt of a £30 fully refundable deposit.)

For further information or to book contact abbystobart@medtheatre.co.uk

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Drewsteignton Village Show

August 16 2:15 Village Hall

Schedule available in shop from 20th July

More classes than ever.

Children's classes and something for everyone.

Delicious teas and Raffle

Any questions? Phone Bunny 432068 or Carole 281185

See you there!!!

Playing Field Family Fun Day Saturday 21st June 3-7pm

Teas and cakes will be served from 3pm with the BBQ starting at 4.30pm. We will again have our fantastic giant water slide, as well as games, the greasy pole and a tug of war. Pimms, beer, wine, juices and squash will be available.

Additionally, this year Laurence from the Drewe Arms will be sponsored to go down the water slide and so you can watch at least one adult getting soaked, not just the kids. If you can drop in to the Drewe to sponsor him, or contact me, we will have more funds to spend on new equipment for the field.

Alison Chapman

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 July - Thank You