

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



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO. 105

DECEMBER 2014

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

It was lovely to see so many parishioners and Drogo staff attend the unveiling of the commemorative stone and sundial in the parish garden at Drewsteignton on the 11th November, even the weather had a break for half an hour to give us a dry time! It has however, come to our notice, a couple of parishioners have criticised the Council for not consulting on its placing and location. The Parish Council are responsible for the garden and the whole idea of the sundial is that at 11am on 11th November 2018, **the sun's shadow will fall at the 11am position**, so the exact location had to be worked out mathematically, we hope that has answered those who have been critical, and the sun is shining in 2018!

The recent sale by Devon County Council of the old Providence School at Throwleigh may not be of interest to many, but because of how the land to build the school on was donated in the first place many years ago, means that the proceeds of the sale will go to benefit the youth of Drewsteignton, Chagford, Throwleigh and Gidleigh parishes. It has been discussed by representatives of the councils and decided to set up a charity which will have trustees appointed by the constituent councils, two each for ours, Chagford and Throwleigh and one for Gidleigh. Bill Savage and Graham Hester have been appointed initially for Drewsteignton. It is early days yet but full details of who will benefit and when will be reported in due course.

Criminal damage in the shape of more graffiti in the bus shelter at Whiddon Down has been reported to the Police, it is your money which will be used to rectify the situation so it would be helpful if those responsible, or who know who is responsible, did the right thing. We are looking at consulting with youth groups such as On The Edge to see if a longer term solution can be

found.

Devon County Council have sent us a lengthy consultation paper on saving money in waste management and asking for our views. Briefly our view was any cut back should not lead to an increase in fly tipping, which of course is not the responsibility of the County to clear up, but the district councils.

We have received complaints about inconsiderate parking along the road entering Drewsteignton from the Drogo direction underneath the village garden. Parked vehicles are forcing traffic to the right hand side of the road approaching, and on the left hand bend to the square. We have asked the Police to pay passing attention to this problem but in the mean time, if you are parking there, please give a second thought to how you leave your vehicle and is it going to make it difficult for others to see or force vehicles on to the wrong side of the road.

Discussions are ongoing in relation to the misuse of Chapel Hill Whiddon Down and updates hopefully early in the New Year.

The council unanimously resolved to object to a retrospective planning application 0635/14 at Westford Farm as it was felt to be inappropriate development at a farm. The increase in unauthorised signs in and around Whiddon Down, especially around the services was noted and we are asking the relevant planning authorities to see if any breaches of planning have taken place.

The Chairman reported he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Joy Walker, councillors agreed to send her a letter of thanks for her hard work whilst on the council,

Cllr Debi Brooks agreed to take on responsibility for Drewsteignton Car Park and Cllr Stuart Hardie would be the Parish Snow Warden, duties Joy had undertaken.

C/Fwd to page 2



Merry Christmas from the Parish Post

Proper Job

Proper Job is a community run, not for profit, recycling center based in Chagford, Devon. They are Crowd Funding on INDIEGOGO to raise 20k for a purpose built vehicle with a customised logo. This new van is necessary to enable them to carry on providing a service throughout rural Devon, as their old van has to be recycled itself! This important service keeps large items of household waste away from the landfill. It will also be used to deliver home made organic compost and has the potential to be used by local people as a community vehicle.

At Proper Job, recyclable items are broken down to their component parts and recycled separately. Reusable items are given a second lease of life - they are kept away from landfill by being offered for **sale in an Aladdin's cave of pre-loved treasures** at a fraction of their original cost. Our customers not only save money, they help save the environment!

Although there is a growing network of community driven projects - some just composting, some just doing reuse, others involved in growing and selling local produce and many more - there are none quite like Proper Job.

Proper Job's manager, Alison Sallis, says that 'Last year Proper Job successfully stopped over 100 tonnes of waste from ending up in landfill. Not to mention the amount of clothes, shoes, tools and bric a brac we sold. We could double this if we have a new van.'

Each year we generate about 177 million tonnes of waste in England alone. This is a poor use of resources and costs businesses and households money. It also causes environmental damage.

Crowd funding enables people with a great business idea to ask the general public for the funding they need to set up or expand. The business sets a target for the money it wants to raise and explains how it will use the cash. People can then make pledges for small amounts of money in return for a reward. Proper Job are offering some great rewards for donations to their crowd funding campaign, including vouchers, artisan bread making courses, composting workshops, cheese making tuition and much more! So come on and share some of that Christmas spirit and donate to Proper Job today by going to <http://igg.me/at/properjobnewvan>. The campaign ends on the last day of Christmas 6th January 2015.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Acorn Community Support

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having one lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each 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 3rd, 16th December then 14th January 2015. 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 11th December, the last one before Christmas, the next will be 8th January 2015. 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 2nd December and the 16th December - when we will be visited by the children from Christow School singing Christmas carols. 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 or the Acorn office 01647 252701.

Acorn Trustees, staff and volunteers would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Brt/Fwd Council was addressed by Dee who looks after a garden area by the Post Box at Whiddon Down. We very much supported her community spirit and were able to give advice on where help could be obtained especially from the National Park.

Various items of correspondence were dealt with and replies agreed.

Our next meeting is Monday 25th December 2014 7.30pm at Drewsteignton.

From all your Parish Council team we wish you a very happy, peaceful Christmas and New Year

WW1 COMMEMORATIVE STONE 1914 - 2014 DREWSTEIGNTON VILLAGE GARDEN

In 1916 my grandmother stood on her doorstep in Port Talbot and opened a telegram informing her of the death of my uncle in the trenches. In 1917, my aunt did the same on Tyneside when she opened the telegram with news of her young son who had been killed in action. Family photographs show eager youths in smart army caps with chins up and buttons polished, and short lives. The two at the time were unrelated, but in 1944, with the marriage of my parents, they became part of the same family. There are many people alive today who have a similar strand in their ancestry. Some of us born in the mid-twentieth century encountered men who had fought and remembered, all too **vividly, the horrors of the Great War; "I buried my best friend in two sacks.", is a reflection that comes uneasily to mind. They were men who took up arms for King and Country and were the happy few who returned safe home when so very many did not.**

In the early years of the 'new century' young men went off to battle who had been part of the mason and craftsmen workforce which had begun to build Castle Drogo. It is not beyond imagining that the young men who comprise the workforce restoring Castle Drogo in 2014 shadow their forebears. It is fitting therefore that unveiled in tribute today, on the 11th of November 2014 at 11am, is the Drewsteignton World War One Commemorative Stone comprised of granite supplied by Blackenstone Quarry, from where the original building material came for Castle Drogo. The monument echoes the design of Castle Drogo's

architect Edwin Lutyens's Cenotaph in London. On the top is a sundial gnomon, cast from a single bullet, which will interpret the correct time only once in history. This will take place at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 2018.

The work on the stone was undertaken by the contractors William Anelay Ltd, with the endorsement of Tim Cambourne, National Trust Castle Drogo Project Manager. Advice on the complex mathematics of light and time was freely given by Ben Jones of Peter Randall-Page workshops, the metal casting was made by Avon Armour and I myself am pleased to have played a role in its inception and realisation for the Parish.

*At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them
1914 – 1918*



Cllr. An-

ish



**na Imrie –
Drewsteignton
Council,**

Par-



Drewsteignton Post Office & Stores
 Wish you a Very Happy Christmas
 Christmas & New Year Opening Times
 We will be OPEN
 Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December
 8.30 – 1.00pm
 & 2.00pm -6.00pm
 Christmas Eve. 8.30 – 1.00pm.
 Christmas Day CLOSED
 Boxing Day CLOSED
 Saturday 27th OPEN 8.30-1.00pm.
 Sunday 28th OPEN 8.30-1.00pm
 Monday 29th and Tuesday 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 2014 and look forward to serving you in 2015.

Fingle Woods



If you go down to the woods..... you'll find a lot activity taking place and a chance for you to have your say.

There is a lot happening at Fingle Woods and we have only just got started.

Our regular volunteer work parties have been out in force and much of the work has been around clearing regenerating (self-seeding) conifers. Doing this gives native trees and wild-flowers a chance to become re-established here. This is one of the long term aims of the restoration work taking place. Volunteering activity is not complete without a well-earned tea break which tastes extra special having been heated on a wood burning stove out in the woods. If you want to give volunteering for us a try then please contact David Rickwood at davidrickwood@woodlandtrust.org.uk and he can tell you where and when the next activity is.

This is just the beginning of the restoration process and the Woodland Trust and National Trust are starting to look at the long term management of the site and what we need to do to manage this wood for wildlife and for people. We would really appreciate it if you would fill in our online survey at woodlandtrust.org.uk/fwsurvey and let us know your thoughts.

Keep up to date with news from Fingle Woods by going to Finglewoods.wordpress.com

Teignton Fayre News

The cycle of Teignton Fayre activity has started up again, with the same committee on board along with the very welcome addition of Rebecca (Boo) Carr.

As with last year, applications for funds are invited before both Teignton Fayre events, in order 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.

All local organisations are actively encouraged to apply for funding for capital projects only. Get in touch with Jane Hocking (281605 j.hocking05@btinternet.com) or Sam Peirce (291394 samjpeirce@gmail.com) for further information and an application form. Deadline for receiving applications is 28th February 2015. One further thing – all those that signed up for the defibrillator awareness session should note that it will be taking place in The Long Room at The Drewe Arms on 9th December 8pm. See you there!

The Teignton Fayre Committee

Tillys Post

Over the last month I've had 3 football matches cancelled due to wet and overplayed pitches, so I have only played in two games. These were both very tough matches. The first was an under 15s match which a few members of my team and I played in as the under 15s were short of players. Moors Youth were our opponents and these players were good and strong on the ball. There were quite a few girls taller than me, or at least that's how it seemed! It was a very muddy match as the end of November brought a lot of rain. The game was lucky to be on as the pitches get a lot of use and adult games get priority, followed by boys leagues then girls.

In the game, we (West Exe) beat our enemies Moors Youth! I don't think many of you will remember but I wrote about it a few seasons ago. A rather loud argument going on between our two managers, and a fair few parents from either sides of the pitch... Anyway that was the previous time I had played Moors because they dropped out of our age league that very season. So I was secretly very pleased that we beat them. The final score was: 4-3!

However, lets move on to the more exciting match, the under 14s cup game! We turned up with only 9 players (we play 9 a side but normally bring a few subs) including a temporary goalie, who has played before but wouldn't be our first choice as she plays up a year in our team anyway. **Me and dad drove down to Plymouth and when we got there found out that our manager wouldn't be there as he was with one of the other teams playing elsewhere. We warmed up and got started, however we were as a team playing, if I'm quite honest, rubbish. We were slow to the ball, lacked enthusiasm and really were not in the game.** That is why they scored 3 goals in the first 15 minutes or so. After that we really did try and scored a goal, but so did they. It was going to be a tough second half.

We swapped our goalie for a girl that hadn't played in goal before but while we were warming her up, she was surprisingly good for someone who hadn't played between the sticks before. In the second half we were the dominant team and our striker was really back in the game. They were a rough team and fouled a lot so it wasn't really surprising when we got 2 penalties, naturally our striker scored them both! The game was on, 4-3. They broke free of our marking and ran down the pitch following a big kick from their goalie, and scored again, so it was now 5-3.

We then got another goal from a different striker making it 5-4. That last 10 minutes was some of the **hardest football I think I've ever played. That match I was playing in defence for a change. And it was a nightmare, continually attacking then defending. I was up and down that field pretty much constantly. I was shattered after that match. We lost so we're out the League cup which is bit of a disappointment but we played well, well for most of it anyway**

By the time this Parish Post gets out to you we will be well into December and almost at the near destination of Christmas. So I wish you a very Merry Christmas filled with mince pies and turkey! Also a very Happy New Year!

Tilly

Bird Notes

My monthly articles about birds in the 'Parish Post' were originally instigated by an appeal for information about swifts, in 2002. I had 3 nests in our thatched row and was keen to know if other residents in the village knew if they had them nesting under their eaves. What started off as an appeal in the 'Parish Newsletter' in 2002, then became a regular column in the Parish Post from about 2009.

As the deadline approaches for these articles, I start to think about what I am going to write about, and how quickly I know what I am going to do is very dependent on the time of year.

In the spring I write about my observations of the first seasonal changes and arrival dates of migrant birds. All through the summer months I love to write about the swifts, the joys of watching them as they chase and scream over our rooftops, how many breeding pairs we have and the numbers produced and the ringing of juveniles in my nest boxes, plus the recent geolocators work.

In the autumn, I write about the departure dates of the summer migrants and arrival dates of the winter visitors.

It is about this time of year that I am occasionally lost for a subject, uninspired by the short days and cold weather, and so switch my attention to other subjects. My most regular alternative topics are the peregrines on St. Michaels Church in Exeter, and then other incidents mainly concerning chance observations with birds of prey. I find it difficult to actually describe what I find so fascinating about these experiences but I am not alone. People in the village often tell me of the interesting birds or unexpected behaviour they have seen and I really enjoy hearing about these observations, especially when it has been an unexpected sighting of an unfamiliar bird of prey. What people describe to me, and enjoy telling is what they have seen, but I am becoming increasingly interested in why these events are exciting to chance on and important to pass on.

Owls often provide great and memorable, albeit brief wildlife moments, as they are mainly seen at night and when driving in the dark. I had one such incident last winter as I left the village to drive to work in Cornwall. I had set off very early in the dark and on the way up the hill between Ford House and the A30 under-pass, I spotted a barn owl sitting near the top of one of the oak trees in the hedgerow. I stopped some distance away and put my headlights on full beam to provide a bit more light, then just sat and watched it. After a bit, possibly less than a minute, it flew down from the tree, along the hedgerow, over my car bonnet as it crossed the road and across the other hedgerow. As I was just marvelling at what I had just seen, I realised there was a car frantically flashing its lights at me from the top of the hill, and obviously waiting for me to drive up and past. I have no idea how long he had been courteously flashing me **but the driver didn't return my wave and looked very cross as I finally drove past!**

After a very mild November, the weather has now started to be indicative of the season and I have started to feed the birds in my garden again. Each year it seems to become more costly to buy peanuts, suet blocks, niger seed and mixed feed to top up the feeders even if I only feed through the really cold and lean periods. I have started to feed the birds again but am only putting out niger seed and kibbled sunflower hearts, so have no wasted feed on the ground left to attract rats. As a result, I am inundated with goldcrests, blue tits, chaffinches, greenfinches and the collared doves have just started coming. It will be **interesting if I get different species coming once the predicted cold weather arrives (I've just watched the Sunday night forecast and snow is predicted later this week, possibly over high ground in the West Country).** I may weaken my resolve and end up buying a bag of peanuts or start putting out the suet blocks again. *Nick*

Okehampton Library

The Friends of Okehampton Library have lots of festive goodies up for grabs in their Christmas Hamper, draw tickets are £1 each, with the draw taking place on Saturday 20th December. Test your festive knowledge with their fun quiz sheet at only £1 each, there is a £10 books token for the first correct entry drawn and £5 for the second.

From the 8-20th December children can come along to the library during our normal opening hours and make Christmas tree decorations to add to our display and also to take home, this is a free craft activity.

From 1-20th **December drop your child's letter to Father Christmas into our post box and come in a few days later to collect his reply.**

For any further details of our events please visit <http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/cultureheritage/libraries>
Or telephone *Okehampton Library* 01837 52805

News from the Castle



We are now getting ready to start the 3rd (and final!) phase of our building project. The South end of the castle is very nearly finished and we hope to start taking down the scaffolding at that far end within the next month or so. Before long, we will start erecting the scaffolding over the North end and then work begins on the smaller, but more complicated, part of the building. One of the most complicated sections is the lantern light above the Kitchen.

We can't wait to show you the new art installations that will be installed in February

ready for the new season which starts on Monday 9 March. They really are exciting. We are working with several different artists who are creating bespoke artwork inspired by the stories of **Castle Drogo. At the moment, the bit I'm most excited about is the replica site office.**

Please don't forget that the café, shop and garden are open every day from 11am until 4pm in January and February so please do pop up if you need to walk off some of that Christmas indulgence.

I hope you have a very merry Christmas. Best wishes

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Getting Cosy This Winter Couldn't Be Easier

If you want to stay warmer this winter you should come along to one of West Devon Borough Council's Connect outreach events and see what amazing free deals are to be had on energy saving.

From a new boiler to free insulation, Cosy Devon will be on hand at locations across the region to deliver a variety of energy saving improvements worth up to £3,050* direct to you.

Cavity wall insulation usually costs around £450*, but Cosy Devon are able to provide it to you for free. Around a third of all heat lost in a non-insulated home exits through the walls, so if your home was built after the 1920s, it is likely to benefit from this service.

Is your gas boiler broken or over eight years old? If you are claiming child tax credit, Pension Credit or other income related benefits, you could qualify for a new replacement boiler through Cosy Devon

Among the other organisations joining the road show will be the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Oak-house Foods, and Action on Hearing Loss whose specialist representatives will be available to offer their expert help and advice.

Devon Carers will also be in attendance to offer support and guidance to unpaid carers. Their services vary from counselling, short breaks, and specialist advice services for young carers.

Everyone is welcome, and a Borough Council adviser will be present at every session to answer questions and provide information about a range of public and support services.

For further details please contact West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600 or emailservices@westdevon.gov.uk

Connect Service Dates:

December 12 and January 9 – Chagford Library 10.30am – 12.30pm with an adviser from Cosy Devon

January 20 – Spreyton Village Hall 2pm – 3.30pm with an adviser from Cosy Devon

Playing Field

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Bonfire Night at the Playing Field on Saturday 8th November. The fireworks were really great thanks to the generosity of Chris Gosnay, who donated £250 towards their cost. I hope you all had a good time and I hope to see you next year. **It's worth making it in time for our torchlight procession if you like real flames.** Many thanks also to all the people who helped to put the event together.

We raised a much needed £980 towards maintenance and new equipment for the field.

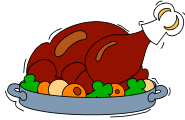
Our next event will be team skittles on Saturday 17th January at 6pm at Fingle Bridge Inn.

Thank you Alison

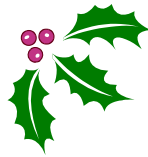
WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL



CHRISTMAS FRESH POULTRY BINGO
(SUPPLIED BY MARTIN'S, CHAGFORD)



MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER
DOORS OPEN 7.30PM
EYES DOWN 8.00PM



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 January - Thank You