

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

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 107

FEBRUARY 2015

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Drewsteignton car park is a public car park maintained at public expense and cannot therefore be used for the storage of vehicles especially if they are untaxed. It is not a location for keeping vehicles notified to DVLA as being stored off the road (SORN). Looking back over 12 months of the Parish Post this subject has featured on several occasions. It has been noted that DVLA has now taken action regarding 5 vehicles. The car park is checked by a councillor at least once a week. The Council welcomed an offer from the Gardeners Club to fulfil the commitment made by the late Stephen Emanuel to replace some of the trees in the car park and we are going to arrange a site visit to ensure the location of the replacement trees does not conflict with any future plans for the site.

The list of highway faults seems to get bigger every month and we realise they are prioritised by the County, but none the less we feel if we do not give a full list every month then nothing will be repaired. As always we would encourage parishioners to also report defects either on the Devon County Council website or by telephoning 0845 155 1004. We may find a "flurry" of work in the next month as the end of the financial year approaches and new budgets have to be negotiated, but we are not holding our breath!! Fortunately so far this winter, the weather has been relatively kind and Cllr Stuart Hardie who took over as Snow Warden has only had to distribute a few salt bags. For insurance purposes we are investigating whether he may need some form of training and if more salt will be made available by Highways.

Concern has been raised at Whiddon Down regarding the parking of vehicles at around 5pm in the vicinity of the Post Inn. The drivers con-

cerned are there to pick up children from the school bus from Exeter and are most likely not to come from our Parish. They are causing problems and potential danger to residents and pedestrians and we are seeking an alternative meeting area,-- possibly with permission, the village hall. In the meantime we have asked the Police to pay passing attention at around the time to give advice and are placing an article in the Whiddon Parishes magazine.

We were asked to comment on a planning application WDBC 01422/2014 which was a retrospective application for a shed at High Wynds, Whiddon Down. Cllrs raised concerns about the scale of the building in relation to its use and the possibility of noise issues for neighbours including a bed & breakfast business and Dartmoor View holiday park. The fact two other previous planning applications in the immediate area had been turned down as "sporadic development in the open" was also mentioned. A vote was taken with 6 councillors objecting and 1 with a neutral view. A revised application which was too late to be included in our January meeting had been received regarding the new signs at the Drewe Arms. Councillors decided to hold a site visit and an extra council meeting to discuss this application and also the action taken by Dartmoor National Park regarding work on the grade two star listed building without consent.

The council received a letter from Mr Alan Brooks regarding the DNP and agreed to attend the meeting he was proposing at Fingle Bridge. Any item highlighted at that meeting requiring Parish Council action will be placed on our next meeting agenda for discussion. This meeting will take place at **Drewsteignton 7.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

## ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club** – We are now having 1 lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month, next month 5<sup>th</sup> March. 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 25<sup>th</sup> February and 11<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 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> February and 12<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 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade cake 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.

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

### Polite Notice

It has come to our attention that individuals and dog walkers are using the fields at the bottom of Shute Lane to Lamb Park and beyond, for walking and exercising their dogs.

We would like to remind people that these fields have no public access or right of way nor an area to let your dog foul. So please keep to the footpaths.

Thank you  
Beryl and Mike.

## Okehampton Library

Okehampton Library is launching some new activities on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate World Book Day. Children are being invited to take part in a 'Mini Adventure in the Library', just call in for full details, there will be a new adventure each month.

If you are an adult interested in joining a writers group, come along to a meeting in the library at 7pm where you will meet other budding writers and enjoy free refreshments.

Our craft group will be meeting every Tuesday from 2-4pm, a chance for you to bring along a project you are working on and sit and have a chat with others, refreshments will be available. Once a month there will be the opportunity to learn a new skill with a workshop/demonstration or visiting speaker. Donna from Rockin' Beads is providing a Jewellery Making workshop for the first meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, prices for kits to work on will start at £5 each.

We will also have our regular sessions – Duplo Storytime for children under 5 on the first Thursday of the month, Lego Builders club for children over 5 every Saturday from 10:30-11:30 children must be accompanied by a parent/carer.

Do you need help in starting to search for ancestors, drawing up a family tree or perhaps help breaking through the brick walls? Then book a free one hour Family History help session through Okehampton Library – available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

For further details of any of these events please call Okehampton Library 01837 52805

## Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

**March 9<sup>th</sup> Unusual Plants for sale from  
HIGH Gardens- Kenn  
7.30pm Drewsteignton Village Hall**

## The Sir Francis Chichester Trust Bursaries for 2015

The Trustees would like to offer fully funded places on an Outward Bound Skills for Life Award Course to young people that you are in contact with. The opportunity is for young people that live in Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay) and are aged between 16 and 19 during summer 2015.

The Award is designed to help participants make an effective transition into sixth form, further education or work and is a chance to have a life-shaping adventure with people from all over the world, to know what they are truly capable of achieving and to stand out in a crowded market place. Participants will take part in 19 days of high adventure and challenge, amongst some of the most spectacular scenery that the UK has to offer. Please note that the course is 19 days, running from a Monday to a Friday so only involving young people in being away over two weekends.

Our aim is that young people from Devon challenge themselves, demonstrate progress through 1:1 action planning focussed on personal development, work outside of their normal friendship group and leave with a breadth of experience that will enrich personal statements and set them aside from other young people. We look for candidates that wouldn't normally have a chance to undertake anything of this nature and will be able to enjoy, benefit and go on to be confident members of our community. Please note that we cannot support any young people that at the time of their course are subject to a youth offending order and also that if a young person has been supported by the Trust previously they are unlikely to be funded for a further course.

The Sir Francis Chichester Trust will meet the full course fee (£1,649pp) for successful applicants and ask that they are responsible for their own transport. However, if transport costs are prohibitive then we will look at additional support if possible.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 7th April with interviews for those short listed being held 23rd and 24th April in Exeter and young people applying must be available on one or other of these dates. An application form and other information can be downloaded from the Trust website. I would welcome the chance to discuss this in more detail and if you could help us share this wonderful opportunity with colleagues and young people I would be extremely grateful.

Full details and a video clip available on our website [www.chichestertrust.org.uk](http://www.chichestertrust.org.uk)

**Anthea Parkyn**

**Trust Administrator**

**Sir Francis Chichester Trust**

**YFC Centre**

**Retail Park Close**

**Marsh Barton Road**

**EXETER EX2 8LG**

**Tel 01392 250976**

[info@chichestertrust.org.uk](mailto:info@chichestertrust.org.uk)

## £150m endowment will give communities the power to change

Towards the End of January the news was announced that 'The Power To Change' is moving closer and closer. This is a programme to support community enterprises to move forward and is backed by a huge £150million endowment. This is great news for the many rural community groups across Devon who are developing their own enterprises from saving their local shop or pub, to redesigning their library service. Keep an eye out for announcements over the coming weeks as it looks like funding is on the way. Be prepared - if you are interested in social and community enterprise in rural Devon and would like to know how to start, grow and sustain your business then the following workshops are what you have been looking for: Social Enterprise Workshops: **Intro to Social Enterprise, 10th February 2015, 1pm – 5pm**

**Sustainable Funding, 26th February 2015, 1pm – 5pm**

**From Ideas to Enterprise, 19th March, 1pm – 5pm**

**Funding for Start Up and Growth, 26th March, 1pm – 5pm**

All events to be held at Devon Communities Together HQ, 1st Floor, Unit 3 & 4, Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close, Exeter, EX2 8PW Book you place at <http://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/Event/intro-to-socialcommunity-enterprise> For more information please call Devon Communities Together on 01392 248919 or email [info@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:info@devoncommunities.org.uk).

## A Woodland Day for Bat Volunteers

**Saturday 28 February 2015 - 10am to 4pm**  
**Bovey Valley Woods, nr Bovey Tracey**

*Moor than meets the eye*  
 Landscape Partnership



This is a woodland day for individuals interested in learning about bats and their use of woodland habitat and bat volunteering opportunities.

As part of the Heritage Lottery funded **Moor than meets the eye** scheme, the Woodland Trust and Natural England are planning some exciting research to build on current understanding of the use of Dartmoor by the rare barbastelle bat. We are looking for volunteers to help with some of this work.

This day, organised in conjunction with the Bat Conservation Trust, is a chance to come along and hear about the project and see how you could get involved. We will also be looking at other local bat projects and volunteer opportunities (such as the [Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project](#)).

**What will be covered?** The morning will include classroom talks on bats and woodland habitat, the Barbastelle project in the Bovey valley, and the Devon wide Greater Horseshoe Bat Project. The afternoon will be an outdoor session in the surrounding woodland looking at how the habitat is used by bats. As part of the day we are keen to explain how volunteers can get involved with the Barbastelle project in the Bovey Valley and the Devon wide Greater Horseshoe project.

**Attending.** The day is free to attend, refreshments will be provided but please bring your own lunch. To register your interest in the day and for more information please contact:  
 Helen Miller ([hmillier@bats.org.uk](mailto:hmillier@bats.org.uk) / 020 7820 7169) at the Bat Conservation Trust

## Tillys Sporting Endeavours

Over January, my weekends were filled with football matches. I had two for the under 14s and one eventful match for the under 15s. On the 4<sup>th</sup> January we played Plainmoor Youth and won 3-8, then on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January played Newton Fire and tied 4-4. These two matches have taken us to the top of our under 14s league, however last weekend Plainmoor had a match which they won taking them 3 points ahead but with a much weaker goal difference. It also means we have a game in hand.

Some other under 14s players also played up for the under 15s which is always great fun, even if we do get pushed around a bit more. On this particular sunny day we were playing at home against Ottery St. Mary. They were currently top whereas we were bottom, so we needed a win or draw. It started well with us going 4-0 ahead in the first half. But in the second half, things got a little confusing.

For one of the ref's decisions, one of their supporters made an inappropriate comment towards the ref which resulted in that supporter being sent off, much to the away side's dismay. He spent the remainder of the match behind a gate a bit away from the pitch. They scored just after that, bringing the score to 4-1. They were putting a lot of pressure on us and it was one of those matches where the score doesn't reflect the actual game. One of our midfielders ran up the pitch with a defender hot on her heels, the goalie came out towards the striker but instead of getting the ball she actually took out her own defender.

Our striker then went on to score oblivious to the drama, until the game was stopped. The injured girl then accused us of laughing at her, which may I point out, we weren't. She got carried off and taken back to one of their cars. She had hurt her ankle. While this was going on our striker was getting blamed for injuring the defender despite the fact she hadn't touched her.

Anyway after that they were really mad at us and bearing in mind these players weren't small it was quite a sight. Soon after that it was their corner down in our end, but this stroppy girl yanked out the corner flag and kicked the ball before the ref had a chance to blow his whistle at the player. Although taking out the corner flag may seem like a small thing, it is part of the pitch and therefore essential to the game; it has to be on the pitch, it's not for the striker to decide whether he/she wants it in or not.

So our managers were yelling at the girl to put it back in, the ref was telling her to put it back as well, and her other team mates were all asking us 'why were we so obsessed with a corner flag. Eventually she put it back in and stormed off only for it to fall and flop over, causing much laughter, because it really was rather amusing! She went over again and put it back but yet again it fell over. Every time we laughed their players got more and more aggravated so I think it was just as well that the match was almost over.

The final 5 or so minutes were tough as they were doing everything they could to score, even if that meant fouling us. But none the less we held our own and ended up winning the game 5-1!!!

**Tilly Dixon**

## ACE Archaeology Club

Since I last wrote we have sorted out all the pottery from this year's dig. This involved an ACE day in October when members sorted through bags and checked that they had all the correct information on them. Finds had been coming out of the ground so quickly on the Moistown dig that it wasn't always possible to do more than the basics. Since then all the finds have been washed, where appropriate, dried and re-bagged ready for our next pottery session in February when we will have a pottery expert to help us identify and date some of the sherds.

In October we tried out Pole Archaeology. This isn't what you might at first think. Dr Sandy Gerrard took us out to Merrivale to try taking overhead photos of sites using a camera on a pole.

November is our AGM month and we had a good meeting, short on the business side and that left us time for a good shared lunch followed by an excellent discussion about the dig and how people felt it went and what we needed to do next.

Without pole



As you can see you can get a much better view of this burial chamber and its surroundings, but without resorting to ladders or expen-



With pole

In December two of our members arranged a visit to the Whitehorse Hill Cist exhibition at the Plymouth Museum. If you are interested in finding out more about the Cist burial check out Dartmoor National Parks website <http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk>. We had a great visit to an amazing exhibition and wound up the day at the member's house for our Christmas get together.

Unfortunately, as so often happens, our January walk was cancelled due to the weather!

A list of only some of what we will be doing for the next few months -

In April we will be willow shield making; May, we will be digging just for a week at Moistown; July, Sat 18th & Sun 19th: Festival of Old Technology and Archaeology

22nd August to 6th September; Excavation at Moistown

5th September; Moistown excavation open day 11.00am to 4.00pm, tell your friends.

For more information on any of these events please go to our website or contact me through [ace@acearch.org.uk](mailto:ace@acearch.org.uk). Some events do need to be booked and for non-members there is a charge.

### Badgerland: A Dartmoor Comedy

**Friday 13th March Manaton Parish Hall (preview)**

**Saturday 14th March Manaton Parish Hall**

**Tuesday 17th March Belstone Village Hall**

**Thursday 19th March Mary Tavy Coronation Hall**

**Friday 20th March Moretonhampstead Parish Hall**

**Saturday 21st 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

**Contact 01647 441356 or email [info@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@medtheatre.co.uk) [www.medtheatre.co.uk](http://www.medtheatre.co.uk)**

#### About Badgerland.

Dartmoor's badgers are taking a stand. Fed up with living under threat from human hands, they have joined forces in the 'Campaign for Badger Independence'. They just need to persuade an unsuspecting human to front the 'Better Together' campaign and Dartmoor will be all set for an inter-species referendum. That's not forgetting the hedgehogs, advocates for a Mother State who will clamp down on Badger appetites...

MED Theatre's 2015 community play, Badgerland, takes a comic look at Dartmoor's current climate, both ecological and political.

## Bird Notes

With the colder weather we have experienced over the last month, I am feeding the birds in the garden and have noticed a couple of new arrivals. I am regularly seeing a pied wagtail hanging out below my bird feeders, and occasionally there are two. Pied wagtails have what I would class as a descriptive name; They are black and white, and have a long tail that is constantly bobbing. It is interesting to have them below my garden feeders as pied wagtails are insectivorous, i.e. they eat insects but appear to be interested in dropped sunflower hearts too.

I was recently asked why so many pied wagtails congregate at car parks and motorway service stations, and I did not have an answer. I did some fact finding and found that being insectivorous, they are often to be found near water and in urban environments, town centres or near buildings, where increased temperatures may allow insect activity all year round. They also roost communally when in winter or during cold spells, and so buildings in rural areas will attract them in numbers. I have seen 70 or 80 at dusk at the petrol station at tongue end but up to 1500 have been recorded at the M5 Exeter services at Sowton. For a small bird they can be quite long lived with the oldest recorded being 11 years, 3 months and 21 days, but the typical lifespan will be about 2 years. This is information gleaned from the work that the B.T.O. (British Trust for Ornithology) do regarding ringing juveniles in the nest in the hope they are later recovered.

My other interesting visitor was a bullfinch, but not on to the feeders but an early flowering bush in the garden. I first had a female then a couple of days later watched as a male delicately fed on the early flowers. Bullfinch males are stunning looking finches, with a very short 'bull neck' and a black crown from below the beak to the back of the head. The bright pinky-red on the neck and breast extends to the under wings and the wings are grey and black with a white bar separating the colours. The tail is black and they have a white rump which is mainly seen when in flight. I have seen very few around the lanes this winter but hear the odd call from the hedgerows when I am in my garden.

During my visits to Exeter, I always try and get to St. Michaels church at Mount Dinham to see what's going on with the peregrines and gather up any fallen prey remains. Over the last week end, I was watching both falcons on their normal perches on various high pinnacles at the base of the spire, when my attention was drawn to movement on one of the lower drainage hoppers. There was a small drab coloured robin-sized bird with a quivering tail, which briefly flew a few feet to another nearby perch and flicked its tail again. A black redstart, either a female or immature but the first I've seen at the church for almost a year. Black redstarts are quite rare breeding birds with fewer than 100 pairs breeding in the UK. They are birds that favour nesting in urban and industrial sites such as power stations, gas works and derelict buildings. We have recorded a female/immature at the church for about the last six years, always in December, January or February, and I've also seen one on the Cathedral but have no idea whether it was the same one present at St. Michaels.

Despite the coldest temperatures of the winter at the moment and still with some snow left in the shady corners of the garden, there are the first signs of spring coming. Snowdrops and crocuses are in flower and daffodils are coming up now, and in Exeter over the week end, I saw the yellow flowers of lesser celandine. **Nick**

## What's on at The Drewe Arms

### **Saturday February 28th: Folk in the Bar**

Regular folk sessions have started on the last Saturday of the month and for February, we have Lisa Rowe and Tim Heming treating us to some Celtic folk from 7.30pm in the bar. FREE

### **Saturday March 7th: Pub Quiz**

Come along and test your brains with our monthly pub quiz at 7pm. £1 a person - a maximum of six people per team. Proceeds go to the Defibrillator Maintenance Fund.

## News from the Castle



Hello again everyone

Things are moving along at quite a pace in the castle. All of the protection work in the Drawing room and Dining room is now down and daylight is once again streaming in through the windows. The chandeliers are also back up and it is fantastic to see some of our old favourites returning from storage. The flip side of this is that other items will be packed up as we get ready to start the next phase of building work. The building work itself is still going well despite it frequently being too cold for some tasks to take place. Work on the masonry is still progressing across the roof and phase two is on schedule to finish in June this year. The south parapet is complete as is the rebuild around the east side of the south wing. The spiral stairs are nearing completion as are the stairs up to the south roof.

It is now action stations as we rapidly get closer to opening for our new season on Monday 9 March with brand new displays and exciting artwork. We just need a few more hours in the day.

Best wishes and hope to see you soon,

**Paula**

**Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo**

## DCC Public Transport Budget Consultation

**TOUGHCHOICES: Help shape your local services.**

Devon County Council is consulting on how to reduce its public transport budget in the coming financial year. To help meet the £50 million budget reduction required by Government spending cuts next year, we now face making savings of £1.7m from our annual public transport budget. It will be the first time that we have proposed making service reductions for four years.

**We need your help**

We would like to find out what you think about our proposals to reduce services. Please let us know what their impact might be on you. The proposals would start to come into effect during 2015.

To read the proposals and join the debate about the future of public transport in Devon, visit:

**[toughchoices.co.uk](http://toughchoices.co.uk)**

For more information, or to see the proposals in a different format, call 0345 155 1015

**Consultation closes: Monday 20 April 2015**

## Discover Bushcraft with Wild Woods n Willow

Would you like your children to learn how to survive and thrive in nature whilst having great fun and making new friends? Then why not sign them up for a day of Bushcraft Essentials with the eclectic team of environmental educators from Wild woods 'n Willow near Chagford? Let Linda, Charlie and Daniel inspire your children with a range of practical, sensory and playful activities outdoors from fire making and shelter building in the woods to knife work and cooking in the outdoors. Children will also learn how to feel at home in nature and have closer encounters with wildlife.

Wild Woods 'n Willow, who work with a number of local primary schools, cater for all ages from 8 years upwards and run special days for teenagers as well as summer wilderness camps and their popular Bushcraft Birthday Adventures which include games, cooking on an open fire, woodcraft and stories.

**Spring events**

**Essential Bushcraft day for 8-12 year olds – Spring**

Firemaking, shelter building in the woods, knifework, cooking in the outdoors, and much more.

**Monday 30th March - Steward Wood**

**Family Bushcraft day**

A fun packed day for all ages sharing bushcraft skills and nature awareness, games and activities.

**Sunday 17th May – Homefield**

The full 2015 programme is out now. To find out more visit: [www.wildwoodswillow.org.uk](http://www.wildwoodswillow.org.uk).

**Central Devon Conservative Association**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**Fun Quiz and Supper**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7 for 7.30 p.m.**

**Whiddon Down Village Hall**

All welcome.

Wine and Soft Drinks Bar

Tickets £12 each from:

Peter Flick, Copse, Sticklepath EX20 2NR prflick@dartmoor-it.co.uk or Telephone: 01837-840670

**Chagford Singers Singing Day.**

**Do you enjoy singing?**

If so come and join us on Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. at Chagford Primary School, when Chagford Singers are organising another Singing Day. The works being studied are **Faure's Requiem**, **Mozart's Ave Verum** and **Handel's Zadok the Priest**. Further details from **Sue Glassfield 01647 433770** or **Janet Jeffery on [janetejeffery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetejeffery@yahoo.co.uk)**.

**Enjoy listening?**

The singers will show what they have learned at a free run through at 4.30pm and the public are welcome to come and listen.

**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

drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282

Contributions Pauline Rowe

plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638

For Parish Council Bella Snook

clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Business

☎ 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 March - Thank You**