

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



ISSUE NO. 108

Drewsteignton Parish Post



MARCH 2015

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We are very grateful to the volunteers who deliver the Parish Post. Recently a parishioner questioned a volunteer on part of the content being “political”. Please, if you have any comment to make on the Parish Post then contact John, Pauline or one of the councillors. “Don’t shoot the messenger” comes to mind! We welcomed Hazel Hunt as our new councillor who has taken Joy Walker’s position representing Crockernwell ward.

Cllr Debi Brooks who is responsible for the Car Park at Drewsteignton has had a site visit with Philip Evans from the Gardeners club and the location of replacement trees has been agreed in line with the long term aim of the Council.

Going back in time a little, when Aunt Mabel left the Drewe Arms there was a public sale of effects which were in the pub. A number of items were left over and were purchased, along with a couple of more important items, by some generous local gentlemen. The then Parish Council agreed to be custodians for the items. Following a number of different tenants at the pub and a period of closure, an up to date list has been compiled and agreed with the current landlord Gary Hitching. It has also been approved by those gentlemen who put up the money in the first place.

We are monitoring correspondence between Mr Brooks and the Dartmoor National Park.

We resolved to support a retrospective planning application 0062/15 for the erection of a field shelter in a field adjacent to Shute Lane, Drewsteignton. In the spirit of openness in our deliberations, we made it clear in our reply to DNPA, the applicant had been a parish councillor in the past.

We are still waiting to hear if the new link road at Whiddon Down will go ahead and, frustratingly to all councillors, cannot report any progress on traffic calming in Chapel Hill.

The alterations to public transport for Whiddon Down & Crockernwell are being publicised in the bus shelters. Most of these journeys are commercially run but some are financially supported by Devon County Council. The Dartline 173 service through Drewsteignton to Exeter is remaining for the time being but it is important for as many passengers as possible to make use of it to prove its need to the community.

Early notice of the Annual Parish Meeting where you can hear what has been happening in the parish, is being held at Drewsteignton village hall **7.30pm Tuesday 28th April 2015**

ELECTIONS 7th MAY 2015

This is the Parliamentary, West Devon, and Parish elections. As far as the Parish is concerned, all current Parish Councillors will stand down in May. There are nine positions on the Council made up of three for Whiddon Down, three for Drewsteignton, two for Crockernwell & one for Venton/ Sandy Park. If only nine parishioners put their names forward then they will make up the new Parish Council, but if more than nine put their names forward, there would be an election. Nomination papers are available from West Devon Borough Council from 9th March and the deadline for them to be returned **IN PERSON** to Kilworthy Hall, Tavistock is 4pm 9th April

The penultimate meeting of the present Council will be on **Monday 16th March 2015 7.30pm at Whiddon Down**

Do You Believe In Fairies



The youngest classes at Chagford School had been doing a project on myths and legends in class and on February 11th they were visited by our own Fairy Princess and her Unicorn. Lisa Taylor and Roxie (by kind permission of Martin and Christine Perryman) walked down the school drive to the waiting children in the playground. Lisa then took her Unicorn on to the school playing field, Roxie proudly

www.kidogo.com

showing off her headpiece and her flowing white tail.

As they passed the school house they were out of view, they then appeared trotting back across the field, Lisa's white dress and silver cape flowing behind her, the children took in a sharp intake of breath in wonderment!

They then stood in the playground. Luke said to his mate "that's my auntie". His mate replied "no it's not" but of course Luke was right. It took a while for Jacob to recognize his mum.

Well done Lisa and Roxie and to Marie the kitchen manager who persuaded Lisa to perform for the little ones.

Joy Taylor



Lambing Season

Could we please ask if parishioners would keep to the footpaths when walking their dogs especially on Piddledown Common and Townsfield. The lambing season has started and ewes are out in the fields with their new born lambs.

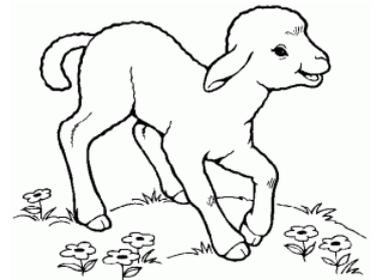
The first few weeks are very important to ensure a good bond between the ewe and lamb. Dogs can be seen as a threat to this bond.

Calving season will soon start on Piddledown Common and cows can be dangerous when freshly calved, protecting their young.

If Dogs can be kept on a lead when in the fields this would be greatly appreciated.

Please also remember to worm your dogs regularly as the faeces from untreated dogs can be harmful to livestock.

Adrian and Jackie Bowden



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 to come along please phone Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 11th, 25th March and 8th April. 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 12th, 26th March and 9th April. 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 10th, 24th March and 7th April. 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 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or the Acorn office 01647 252701.

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

TEXTILE FIESTA

Cheriton Bishop branch of the West Country Embroiderers are holding their annual
Textile Fiesta and Exhibition

on **Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of April**
in **Cheriton Bishop Village Hall , EX6 6JA**
from **10.30 – 4.00** on both days.

Entry and parking are free and as well as the exhibition there will be trade stands including
Textiles, Embroideries, Threads, Hand Made Books, Gifts and others.

Refreshments will be available and there will be a Tombola and members work for sale.

Teignton Fayre News

The committee are gearing up for the Duck race, scheduled to take place in the usual place, on the usual day, at the usual time: 2pm, Easter Monday, April 6th at Fingle Bridge.

Also, as usual ducks will be on sale beforehand from the shop and pub, and some members of the committee, so stop by (or stop us) and buy one, or even a family. We hope for a good day, filled with sunshine and people and little yellow ducks bobbing about on the Teign.

Also remember to put 6th June in your diary for Teignton Fayre!

The defibrillator has been in place for four months now and there have been lots of questions about what to do, how to do it and in what order, should an emergency happen, and what happens if you are on your own with a patient.

Although it might feel like you will need prior experience and knowledge of the defibrillator, you really don't. You do what you would normally do: call an ambulance. The defibrillator is registered with the South West Ambulance Trust so they will tell you the code and what to do. The code isn't a secret: It's C123X, but it is strongly advised that you dial 999 first. The machine itself has a video, and will talk and show you what to do so there is no reason to be afraid to use it.

As far as the question of what to do if you are alone with somebody who suffers a cardiac arrest; we are

about to get the VETS scheme up and running, which is the Village Emergency Telephone System, thanks to Gary at The Drewe Arms and all those who came to Burns' Night Supper back in January, and the monthly quizzes. We now have enough funding to get the scheme in place and have a few volunteer responders, but will need a few more. Ideally you will live close by to the defib and be around the village much of the time. The VETS scheme is a telephone system that the ambulance service, or the person seeking help, accesses: one single phone number will go through to all volunteer responders' numbers simultaneously. The first to pick up goes to the scene or picks up the defib, whichever is required. Subject to further funding, the volunteers will receive enhanced training. If you want to be a volunteer or have any questions, speak to Sam Peirce, phone 281394 or emailsamjpeirce@googlemail.com.

I am hoping to get an FAQ in the next, or the following Parish Post that you can all keep safe by your phone. In the future, it is also hoped that another community awareness session will run as a refresher, and for all those who couldn't make it last time. The session included CPR, also very important in an emergency, and very simple to remember.

Anyway - we will see you at The Duck race, hopefully. Fingers crossed for sunshine!

Thank You

We would to thank everyone who came to our Golden Wedding party at the Drewe Arms and for all the lovely cards we received.

It was lovely to see so many people join us in our celebrations. Thank you to Gary and all at the Drewe for making it such a special occasion.

Elaine and Roger

Teignton Fayre

Grand Duck Race

Easter Monday (6th April) 2015,
2pm onwards.

Fingle Bridge

Hot dogs available.

Fun for all the Family!

teigntonfayre@gmail.com



Bird Notes

It is now early in the first week of March and from the local news and weather, I notice it's the first time this year that the sun has risen before 7am and set after 6pm. We have had a variety of weather conditions through February, with cold winds and sunny days, wind and rain and also hard frosts and occasional hail, sleet and snow flurries. On the better days, there have been many indications of the soon to arrive spring. I have heard woodpeckers drumming from the tall trees around the Rectory, seen greenfinches displaying in flight and now notice many garden birds are showing strong colours in their plumage, especially goldfinches and chaffinches.

I continue to feed the birds in my garden but have noticed we have not had many visits this winter from the nuthatch. I do not put out peanuts anymore but do have kibbled sunflower hearts (crushed sunflower bits) which does attract nuthatches on friend's feeders outside the village. Nuthatches have a distinctive call and I often hear them in the churchyard, and see them on the church tower looking for insects in the moss and in recesses in the stonework.

My garden feeders attract a variety of birds, and just recently I have noticed coal tits feeding during the quieter periods. Coal tits are the smallest of the seven breeding tits we have in the UK, and are distinctive due to a seemingly large head on a small body with a white stripe on the nape. They will be soon prospecting for nest sites in woodland with scattered old pine trees. With a tendency to frequent the upper branches, it will be their song, a high pitched 'See you, see you, see you' that indicates their presence.

The peregrines at St. Michael's Church in Exeter will soon be laying their first egg of 2015, and last year it was laid on the 20th March. Eggs are laid at 48-58 hour intervals with incubation beginning with the penultimate egg, but the adults will often cover the eggs prior to full incubation if the weather is cold. By the time this copy of the Parish Post comes out, the webcam in the peregrine nest should be on and streaming live. Have a look at the website during the month, as there is archive footage plus the chance to see the first egg laid and subsequent developments in the nest. It can be found at www.st.michaelsmountdinham.org.uk and click on the peregrine link.

As part of my ongoing study into the diet of the Exeter peregrines, I get a number of wet smelly bags of accumulated debris from the annual gutter clearance each year. This is undertaken by steeplejacks in December, to clear the gutters, gulleys and drain hoppers of autumn leaves and other windblown detritus. It never ceases to amaze me what gets blown onto the roof each year, despite what the peregrines drop. Along with eroded stone, slates and nails, I find newspaper, polythene, plastics, styrofoam cups, human hair and string among the wet soil, which has presumably arrived as windblown dust during the summer months. There would seem to be a thriving eco system up there too with snails, woodlice and worms all present. However it is what the peregrines drop from their perches that I am interested in and I part-dry the wet bags, then turn them out onto large seed trays and with latex gloves on, go through to see what I can find. Among assorted bones, wet feathers and the occasional racing pigeon leg ring, I find many skulls of what they have been preying on but the real treasure is wild bird rings. These are put on by licensed ringers and mainly on juveniles in the nest. I was not disappointed as I found one and contacted the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) to inform them. It proved to be a ring from a Common tern that was ringed as a nestling two years ago in Oban in Scotland. This was only the eleventh wild bird ring I have found from over 5,000 individual prey captures we have identified as taken by the church peregrines.

Nick

What's on at The Drewe Arms

Friday March 13th

Not-Quite-St-Paddy's Night featuring Allerfeldt, Bayliss and Kyle playing Celto-Americana in The Long Room: 9pm. £5 on the door

Sunday March 15th

Mothers' Day. Why not book a special roast dinner to celebrate at The Drewe? Phone 281409 to book

Saturday March 28th

Folk in the Bar: Tobias Ben Jacob, 8pm. FREE

Easter Sunday April 5th

Pub Quiz: 7pm.

A Trip To The Theatre

“Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again” And from that moment I was hooked.

We recently went to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to see ‘Rebecca’ performed by Kneehigh theatre directed by Emma Rice. My grandparents were visiting us and as a surprise we took them to the theatre. A book written by Daphne Du Maurier.

The story was about Mrs. De Winters, the newlywed bride to Max De Winters. Following their honeymoon, they go to Max’s house – Manderley - and there are met by the presence of Max’s former wife, Rebecca and Rebecca’s old maid the sinister Mrs Danvers. Mrs. De Winters begins to think Max still loves Rebecca but as the plot unveils, we see this isn’t quite true. Mrs. Danvers tries to drive the new wife to suicide by comparing her to Rebecca. We see a fantastic story brought to life by the astounding actors and wonderful musicians.

The set looked like a rundown old manor house, and stairs with writing on helped narrate the story, but it was transformed into a forest, the beach and even a ballroom depending on what the story required. There were only 11 cast members but so many more characters so they were often doubling up on roles. Also there were fisherman who sang appropriate sea shanties at positive or negative points in the story. All actors on stage seemed to be able to dance, act and play an instrument impeccably well. Right up until the end I was utterly spellbound by the fabulous set, actors and plot. I hadn’t read the book, but now plan on doing so but it didn’t matter as the story was cleverly shown and explained.

It was a mysterious play and the magic was broken only by a mobile phone which rung a few times in the first half from someone in the row behind us, luckily after the interval this mystery phone had been switched off!

The play interwove romance, comedy and it also had a slightly sinister and mysterious side to it. All of us thoroughly enjoyed it and our group contained ages from Flora (11) to my grandparents in their 70’s. I utterly recommend it to anyone, of any age! If anyone’s interested in seeing this show then it’s showing at the ‘Hall For Cornwall’ in the Autumn.

Meanwhile, on the sporting side we have had a few postponed games, one was a crucial match against Plainmoor who are currently top of our league by 3 points, but we have a game in hand. When they re-schedule the game, it is very important we win it or we may be out of the title race.

A few weeks ago we did play against Plainmoor, but this was a cup match. Plainmoor are our greatest rivals and it was the second part of a two legged match, we were on aggregate 5-4 up. However, everything could change in that match. Unfortunately it wasn’t Plainmoor’s day, they only had eight players and one of the larger girls called Taylor was feeling a bit ill. She is probably their best player. None the less they continued to play even after she had been sick on the sideline (after that she played in goal). She eventually went off and they conceded the game as they now could only field 7 players, letting us go through to the cup final. We all wanted to carry on playing so some of our substitutes went to their side to even it out. We then played a friendly match for the remaining half. It was fun to play yet slightly ‘pointless’.

Tilly



Drewsteignton Gardener’s Club

SPRING PLANT SALE

Bedding, shrubs, vegetables & more!

Saturday 2nd May 10-12.00

Village Hall

Everyone welcome to browse & buy, refreshments

This is a very popular event



Hello

As we have recently moved into Clifford Cross, we thought it would be rather nice to introduce ourselves.

We lived in Ringwood, Hampshire for 23yrs and when the opportunity arose, we decided to move to Dartmoor as it is an area we have loved for many years. It is just the two of us, plus 4 Greek dogs and a cat, and we suspect many people have already seen us out walking. We also have a house in Aegina, Greece, which we built as a holiday home, but during our visits in the mid 1980's it was evident that we were not coping with witnessing the appalling treatment to the stray cats and dogs. So, we started fundraising to help these animals and our Greek home soon became a make-shift veterinary hospital for voluntary vets when they visited to carry out neutering. Since then, however, we have worked with supporters in the UK, Germany and Greece and developed a wonderful dog shelter in Aegina which has its own clinic. We work all over Greece, a country whose people have suffered from serious financial hardship, so the animals are now even more vulnerable.

In 2002, we formally registered our charity Friends of the Strays of Greece and now have a good supporter base – we, and all our volunteers, do not receive any form of remuneration for our work so those who donate know that the money will go where it is most needed. Whilst we do bring a small number of lucky dogs into the UK every year, our priority is to help provide food, shelter and veterinary care to stray and unwanted dogs and cats in Greece.

From time to time, people express their concern by saying we should be helping animals in the UK. Of course, this is a relevant comment but there are thousands of wonderful animal welfare charities in the UK but, in Greece, there is nothing. We hope people will spend a few minutes looking at our website www.straysofgreece.org or Facebook 'Friends of the Strays of Greece' to enable them to understand our aims. We will be doing fundraising events in the near future so this introduction should, we hope, explain what we do. We shall look forward to meeting our new neighbours and hope they will support us and the charity.

Lyn and Mark Purden

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.

Spring Churchyard Clear Up

Following on from last Autumn's successful, and relatively enjoyable, churchyard tidy, we are hoping to repeat the exercise on Saturday 28th March from 10am onwards. On this occasion we would like to attack the lower (north) end of the churchyard against the car park wall where the shrubs have become very overgrown and bramble ridden. The main requirement this time is for hedge trimmers, chainsaws and strimmers together with operators, and man/woman power to clear and burn.

All offers of help, for as long or short a time as you wish. Will be gratefully received. Food and drink provided for as long as it takes or until we have all run out of energy and/or enthusiasm, if inclement weather it will be carried forward to the next week. Hope to see you on the 28th.

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
01647434130paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

The Walk: A Shadow Play

Performance Dates:

Friday 24th April: Moretonhampstead Village Hall

Saturday 9th May: Belstone Village Hall

Friday 15th May: Lydford Village Hall

Thursday 21st May: St Laurence's Chapel, Ashburton

All performances begin at 7:30pm

Call 01647 441356 or email info@medtheatre.co.uk for more information

www.medtheatre.co.uk

About the Walk shadow play:

The Walk shadow play has been adapted from a narrative poem by Dartmoor poet and playwright Mark Beeson. A solitary Dartmoor dweller is whisked away one night by a storm outside. He soon finds himself in Wistman's Woods where a stranger offers to take him on a special journey. The play is intended for intergenerational audiences (aged 8+) and may be of interest to lovers of poetry, shadow puppetry and Dartmoor's remarkable landscape.

April Events at Okehampton Library

There are lots of events and children's activities on offer at Okehampton Library in April.

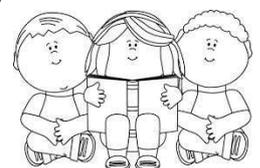
From 30th March – 11th April during library opening hours there will be a drop in Easter activity for children accompanied by a parent or carer. The second Mini Adventure will also be available for children from the 1st April, just pick up the full details from staff at the counter.

Crafters' Club continues to meet every Tuesday from 2-4pm. It is a chance to take along a project you are working on and sit and have a chat with others, refreshments will be available. On 14th April Learn Devon are coming along to the club to provide a Willow Workshop which is aimed at complete beginners. It is a chance to learn about how to prepare willow to make amazing garden sculptures, baskets and gifts. Telephone 01822 613701 to book your place through Learn Devon at a cost of £12.

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 Family History session through Okehampton Library – available on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

There are regular sessions of:- Duplo Storytime for children under 5 on the first Thursday of the month, Lego Builders for children over 5 every Saturday, storytime and Bounce & Rhyme every Tuesday, each session runs from 10:30 and children must be accompanied by a parent/ carer. On the first Tuesday of every month for children over 8 years of age there is an after school book club.

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



Skittles at Fingle Bridge Inn

Saturday 18th April 6.30 for 7pm

Teams of 4

£5 per head including food

Please give me your team name and details well in advance

All proceeds will be used to buy equipment for the Playing Field

Alison Chapman 01647 281197

Drewsteignton RBL Women's Section

We made a good start to our new year of fund raising at the recent coffee morning held at "Windrush," Stonelane.

We raised £211, thank you to everyone who supported us. We look forward to seeing you at our Afternoon Tea on Saturday 9th May at Drewsteignton Village Hall 3.30pm.

Easter Bingo

Chicken & Chocolate

Monday 30th March at

Whiddon Down Village Hall

7.30pm Eyes Down - 8.00pm



Whiddon Down Methodist Church

Invites you to a Sacred Concert given by The Exeter Male Voice Gospel Choir

on

Good Friday 3rd April at 7.15 pm

followed by light refreshments

Easter Sunday 5th April

Service at 6.30pm

All welcome

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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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

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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 April - Thank You