

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 110

MAY 2015

At Whiddon Down because of the new Stagecoach bus routes and times, we have been asked to investigate the possibility of creating a new bus stop near the junction of the old A30 towards Crockernwell. We will report updates in future Parish Posts.

Chapel Hill is still ongoing but better news on the link road, it will take around 3 months to complete and there is hope work may start this autumn, although this still has to be confirmed.

Several vehicles have re-entered the site of the illegal travellers site. West Devon Borough Council, Devon County Council and other land owners together with the Police will be taking appropriate action for their removal.

Highway repairs again notified were at Veet Mill, Hask Lane, Rushford Gate, Whiddon Down roundabout, France Hill, Spinsters Rock Lane and the road between Preston & Couples Corner.

The Council have been approached by a parishioner complaining about the amount of dog fouling in Drewsteignton. The irresponsible dog owners who do not pick up after their animals are not likely to use dog waste bins which the Parish Council would have to pay for out of the council tax. Additionally, last October West Devon Borough Council made law a number of dog control orders which we hope to publish in the Parish Post in future months so no one is in any doubts about their responsibility.

These orders cover ANYWHERE in the open within the WDBC area. Two subjects covered in these orders are, If you do not pick up after your dog you are liable to a fixed penalty of £80 and also your dog MUST be on a lead in defined areas which includes car parks and **Churchyards** or likewise you are liable to a fine of £80 per dog. If this applies

to you please think about your duty as a dog owner. The Parish Council can do nothing without owners being identified, **you** know who you are and you know who is responsible!

There is no election for Parish Councillors as despite what had been expected, especially at Drewsteignton, not enough candidates stood to warrant an election.

The Parish Council will be made up as follows: Cllrs Debi Brooks & Hazel Hunt represent Drewsteignton, Cllr Paul Ridgers represents Venton/Sandy Park, Cllrs Stuart Hardie & Anna Imrie represent Whiddon Down and Cllr Bill Savage represents Crockernwell. This means there are vacancies at Drewsteignton, Whiddon Down & Crockernwell and expressions of interest will be welcomed by any of the team. Candidates do not necessarily have to live in the ward to represent it.

At the Annual Parish meeting those councillors who were standing down were thanked for their work & commitment to the Parish. **John Dyke** from Whiddon Down has served the council for many years, his knowledge of the area and who lives where has been invaluable to his colleagues. **Sue Power** from Venton has served the council for several years and her views on all matters we have covered, especially planning matters, have been considered and well balanced. **Mike Riches** has not been with us very long. As he has moved he now wishes to be involved with his new parish.

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting where Chairman, Vice Chairman and representatives will be appointed. This meeting is at **Whiddon Down on Monday 18th May 2015 7.30pm.**

Teignton Fayre 2015

All the usual fun and frivolity including The Johnny Fuller Band, Hog roast, barbecue, loads of stalls, games and entertainment!

Saturday June 6th : 5pm til late

Drewsteignton Square

See you there !

teigntonfayre@gmail.com

Would the volunteer who is cutting the grass verge at the eastern entrance to Crockernwell please give Bill Savage a call on 24004 to ensure the work is not duplicated, many thanks.

Bill

DUCK RACE

Thanks to everyone who came, set up, sold and bought ducks and draw tickets, cooked and ate hot dogs, got wet, supported, cheered, queued, carried, wrangled, put up parking signs, first aided, MC'd and amplified. The weather delivered on the day so there was a really good turnout and the committee are delighted with the funds raised, a total of £1,250.

TEIGNTON FAYRE – JUNE 6th from 5pm

No doubt you have the 6th June in your diaries – it's Teignton Fayre time, a time for the community to get together and an opportunity to raise money for local good causes. As with last year, we are starting the event at 5pm because we have so much to pack in.

Apart from the stalls selling cakes, plants, cream teas, hog roast and barbecue we have some truly brilliant sideshows including the ever-favourite coconut shy, a bottle stall, slippery pole and a human fruit machine, no less. For the kids there is a fancy dress, a good old-fashioned Punch and Judy show, a bouncy castle and some fun, child-friendly sideshows. We also have The Johnny Fuller Band performing on stage, Chagford school choir and band, and a raffle with the first prize set at £100, second at £50 and a load of other prizes for runners up.

This year we are raising funds for Cancer Research UK, Drewsteignton Playing Field, Whiddon Down Village Hall, Cheriton Bishop School, On the Edge and Holy Trinity Church.

We look forward to seeing you all for the usual fun and frivolity!

Teignton Fayre Committee

June Events at Okehampton Library

The Crafter's Club continues to meet every Tuesday from 2-4pm and on the 9th June there is a free Flower Arranging workshop with Jill Wilson of Sampford Courtenay Flower Club. Book your place with Okehampton Library and bring along a bunch of flowers and greenery. There will be a small charge for any additional materials used.

Friday 26th June 7pm Murder Mystery Evening 'Death at the Dig' – a play by Kate Ellis acted by members of Courtenay Players. Do you fancy yourself as a budding Sherlock Holmes? Then dust off your deer-stalker and join us to try and solve the mystery of "whodunit". Tickets in advance £5 each to include refreshments. A selection of Kate Ellis books will also be on sale.

Are you interested in learning something new? Learn Devon will be at Okehampton Library from 10-12 noon on Tuesday 2nd June to show you the courses they have on offer. Just call in to have a chat with Mandy.

Children can take part in the Mini Library Adventure for June, just collect details from staff at the library counter. There is also Duplo storytime for children under 5 at 10.30am on Thursday 4th June. Lego Builders is for children over 5 every Saturday between 10:30-11:30am.

To enquire about any of these events or to make a booking please contact:

Okehampton Library 01837 52805

Dartmoor Arts Summer School Week

Dartmoor Arts Summer School Week will be taking place again this year between 26th July to 1st August 2015. We are always on the look out for accommodation for our students and like to be able to direct them to something to suit their budget. Students are busy all day long and out each evening. Many would be happy to help themselves at breakfast time.

If you offer accommodation and would like to be included on our website please do just let us know and students could then contact you direct. Alternatively if you might be able to offer a room for the week and would prefer to be on a list which enables us to match up students to suitable accommodation, we would be enormously grateful.

Thank you

Jackie: 01647 281282 Charlotte: 01647 281295

Wild Woods 'n Willow Summer Programme

Sunday 7th June Essential Bushcraft - Summer (for 8-12 year olds)

Learn the essential skills to survive and thrive in nature - fire-making, shelter building in the woods, knife-work, cooking in the outdoors, and much more.

Wed 29th 10am to 4pm (day only) followed by ...

Overnight Camp - Thurs 30th July (10am) to Fri 31st July (noon)

Essential Bushcraft Summer Camp @ Yeo Farm

Sun 26th (2pm) to Tues 28th July (noon) – Teenage Wilderness Camp

A nature immersion camp practising bushcraft skills and wild craft.

Further Information:

Wild Woods 'n Willow

wildwoodswillow.org.uk

nature@wildwoodswillow.org.uk

Focus on Fingle

The Woodland Trust and National Trust are committed to making Fingle Woods a conservation hotspot. We are holding several meetings to speak to people about Fingle.

The first is on **Sunday 17th May** in the afternoon and is for families. We need 12 families to come to the wood with us, and tell us which activities appeal most to you.

Refreshments will be provided

The second is on **Monday 18th May at The Stag Room, the White Hart Hotel, Moretonhampstead 7pm-9pm**. What do you want to know about Fingle Woods, how do you want to be involved and how can we best communicate Fingle Woods' special qualities?

Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

Booking for both dates is essential.

Drewsteignton Carpark Fruit Trees

Not long before his untimely death Stephen Emanuel wrote a letter to the Parish Post requesting that the two trees that had not survived of the original village planting at the opening of the Carpark in 2008, should be replaced. I felt this was a responsibility that the Gardeners Club could take on and I am glad to say that both my fellow members and the Parish Council agreed. The Council members with whom I had a site meeting agreed the varieties suggested as replacements, and these have now been purchased, donated and planted by the Gardener's Club. One is a mid Devon cider apple, "Fair Maid of Devon", and the second, "Chrislin" an old Devon plum/damson rediscovered in the Barnstaple area. So the Carpark collection is back to the full fourteen consisting of – 8 mainly W Country cider apple trees, 3 (2 Devon) dessert apples, 2 Devon plum/damsons and 1 N Devon cherry - all labelled.

Philip Evans

Just An Idea...

The small parcel of land at **Barn Close** would (in my view) be better as a small children's play area rather than have more houses built on it, as there is nowhere and nothing for the Whiddon Down children to play on.

Just an idea ... **Sandra Bellamy**

The Old Inn

Free to good home or homes 16 comfortable dining chairs.

All very well behaved but some have a couple of screws loose, but we all have that.

Can be taken in batches of as many as you need or as whole for an organisation.

Wood frames with fabric seats

Call Anthea @ The Old Inn 281276



Bird Notes

After the hottest April since records began, May has arrived with a drop in temperature, rain and winds, and unfortunately coinciding with the arrival of our first swifts back to Churchgate. I had been hoping to see swifts return to the village before the deadline for this Parish Post and we saw two overhead at about 7pm on Tuesday the 6th May. I quickly got out the ladder and opened up all the nest boxes on the row, and watched as both birds almost immediately entered different boxes. As swifts never settle on the ground or perch, it is highly likely that these birds have been airborne since they left the nest boxes last August for their wintering grounds in South Africa. I seal the nest boxes up once the swifts leave after the breeding season, to prevent the house sparrows taking them over through the winter and filling the boxes with nest material. I briefly spotted another swift entering a different box this morning at about 7.30 but the weather at the moment does not bode well as they need sunny conditions to catch flies to get into condition for breeding. I am hoping the weather will improve and I look forward to hearing the screaming parties of swifts flying low over the roof tops soon.

So with the first swifts back in the village, we have seen the return of all of our regular migrants. It is the latest the swifts have returned to the village since I began monitoring the arrival and departure dates in 2001. They normally return between the 28th April and the 2nd May but did return on the 5th May in 2013. I first saw a swallow fly over Long lane between Drewsteignton and Whiddon Down on Easter Sunday, the 5th April, but the first date I saw them in the village was the 15th April when two were flying around with two house martins. It was about average for swallows but early for the house martins. What does concern me is how few of both species there seems to be in the village these days compared to when I first started monitoring them here.

I have written before about the seasonal conflict between blue tits and house sparrows arguing over one of my nest boxes in the garden. Well, the blue tits appear to have won again and both parents are now frantically bringing food into the box to feed their youngsters. I have already had young blackbirds in the garden from a first brood in the hedge between our house and the church yard. The young leave the nest before they can properly fly and it seems to be down to the adult male to keep tabs on the young, and feed them on the ground or wherever they end up. Last year I had two youngsters in my shed for a day or two, which surprised all of us the first time I walked in to find them sitting on a shelf.

'The Cuckoo arrives in April, It sings its song in May, It lays its eggs in the month of June, and then it flies away'. It is the time of year when cuckoos are most vocal and Devon Birds (the County bird society) are very keen to hear if you have heard a cuckoo calling. Have a look on their website at www.devonbirds.org, as there is a fascinating map of current sightings, with the vast majority heard or seen on Dartmoor and the immediate surrounding countryside.



Over the last month, I have been keeping an occasional eye on the peregrines at St. Michaels Church in Exeter, via the webcam installed into their nest. They laid 4 eggs between the 22-30 March and the first one hatched on the 30th April. It was about 48 hours before we saw the next chick and that looks like all we will get this year, so possibly two infertile eggs. The chicks are now 6 days old and will grow rapidly. The adults stop brooding them after 12 days as they will now have grown a second down coat. They fledge at about 42 days old, and so will be visible via the webcam until about the 11th June.

It is a live feed with infra red so they can be watched at night too, plus audio which picks up every sound in the nest, plus

nearby bird song, the church bells and occasional traffic sounds from outside the church. Have a look at Devon's most famous peregrine falcons on the church website at

www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk or just type in 'Exeter peregrine falcons' on a search engine.

Nick



ACE Archaeology Club Update

By the time you read this we will have done our first excavation of the year.

This is our third year at Moistown near Winkleigh and this year we decided to do an extra week in May as well as our usual two weeks in August/September. As I write, after all the lovely dry weather we have had in April, the weather forecast for the first week in May, when we dig is looking a bit wet. We have our fingers crossed.

You can see what happened on our website www.acearch.org.uk or follow us on our FaceBook page.

Back in February Graham Langman, who is a pottery expert, had a look at some of our past pottery finds and helped us to be able to do some identification ourselves. He also had a quick look at some of the finds from our dig at Moistown and identified one sherd as being Saxo-Norman, we were rather excited! In April, a couple of our members helped us in making willow shields. Forget any ideas of pretty little baskets, this is hard-core basket making. They will be tested, probably to destruction, at the Festival, see details below.

Dates for the diary

18th and 19th July 2015

We will be on display at the CBA Festival of Archaeology. Check out - <http://www.old-tech-festival.co.uk> for more information as there will be a lot of other activities going on and will be a good day, or two out.

September 5th

Moistown Dig Open Day. Come along and have a look at what we are doing. There will be cake!

The dig site is at Pattiland Farm, Broadwoodkelly, Winkleigh. EX19 8ED, which is the same place as the Festival.

It would be lovely to see some of you at either, or both, of these events. Feel free to email us at

ace@acearch.org.uk



White Horse Hill - Dartmoor Community Play with MED Theatre

Would you like to be involved in a promenade performance in Bellever forest telling the story of central Dartmoor down the ages, to take place on the weekend of 19th-20th September?

There will be a play reading and meeting for this event on **Thursday 4th of June 6.30pm at Post-bridge Village Hall**, Postbridge, PL20 6SY. We are looking for actors, musicians, theatre makers, and those interested in theatre tech, design, costumes, props, stewards, stage managers...and anything else! No experience necessary, just an interest in The White Horse Hill story and the history and folklore of the area, and a willingness to learn new skills.

Come along to read the play together, register your interest or to talk to us about the opportunities described. Ages 10+. For more information, contact Grace Swordy on 01647 441356

email graceswordy@medtheatre.co.uk. This project is part of the Moor Than Meets the Eye Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Drewsteignton Playing Field

We had a very successful skittles event at Fingle Bridge Inn recently and raised £322 towards the purchase of the climbing frame. Many thanks to everyone who came to support us. We hope you all had a very enjoyable evening. Special thanks to the Fingle Bridge Inn team for hosting the event and supplying the food. We hope to run this event again in the autumn.

Alison

Tilly

A few weeks ago, West Exe Under 14 girls went down to Dawlish football club to play in our league cup final against Newton Fire. The league cup is a knockout competition involving all the teams in our league, playing each team home and away so we were pleased to get to the final. Everyone was a bit nervous before the match and we had a few chosen words of inspirational team talk from our coach and then we went out onto the sloping pitch (not really a pitch for a final to be played on). I was pleasantly surprised to find that I got a captain's armband with 'respect' and the FA logo on it, which is to do with racism and equality in sport.

Anyway our match was quite tough, both teams were very determined to win. However, Charlie Melton, our star striker was quick off the mark and scored an early goal. It was going well. They however returned the enthusiasm by scoring as well to level the score, 1-1. Charlie then scored another brilliant goal that did come off the hand of their goal keeper, but Charlie claimed it none the less! Courtenay, another one of our strikers, scored just before half-time making the score 3-1.

When we came back on the field there was a definite panic about the match. We had switched goalies at half time so we now had Courtenay in goal. One of the Newton girls slipped a goal past our keeper, only a few minutes in. At this point Newton Fire saw a glimmer of hope but West Exe continued to defend well. Both teams were playing good touch football with little dribbling and mostly passing and I managed to get myself in a good position and surprised myself very much by scoring. I couldn't keep the smile off my face! Charlie then scored just before the end, bringing this year's league cup back to West Exe (we won the under 13's cup last year as well). There was a small presentation where one of Newton Fire's girls was named player of the match. Lots of photos of our team were taken to applause and cheers. As captain, it was brilliant and I had a fabulous day. This weekend, we are back to the league games and have a very important match concerning the title.

Tilly

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 1 lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month, the next one is on 4th June. If you would like to come along please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 20th May and 3rd June. 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 14th, 28th May and 11th June. 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 5th, 19th May and 2nd June. 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

Whiddon Down Village Hall AGM on Tuesday 16th June

at 7.30pm in

Whiddon Down Village Hall.

All welcome.

Clare Rowe

VE Afternoon Tea

A total of **£429** was raised at the VE afternoon tea. Thank you to everyone who came along and bought raffle tickets and gave a donation towards the British Legion Benevolent Fund.

Next fundraising event is on July 4th 3-30pm at Hill-side House. Look forward to seeing you there.

News from the Castle



Hello everyone

Good news! The south end of Castle Drogo is now officially waterproof. We have water tested the work and, as I type this article, a giant crane is on site helping to move the large pieces of steelwork which formed the roof of the south end of scaffolding. I can't begin to explain how exciting this is for the whole team here at Drogo as this officially means that we are halfway through this massive building project. Work on the central section is marching along too and we are looking at completion for this part of the work in August this year. Next stop – north end. This part of the building is going to be tricky as we have the Scullery and Kitchen windows to tackle.

We do like a challenge though. Once the central section is completed and the scaffold comes down, we will be able to re-open the Chapel and Gun Room which will be brilliant.

I have news of a community event to share with you all. Our fabulous Youth Panel will be holding a FREE community open evening on Friday 15 May, 6pm – 9pm. We held this event for the first time last year and had over 200 people come along. The evening will be a chilled out relaxed event with live music, loads of games and the chance to enjoy this beautiful setting after hours. It is for ALL local people so please spread the word as we would love to see loads of people there. The castle, viewing tower and gardens will be open, there will be loads of games to play and we will have some fundraising activities going on too. There will be a bake-off and plant sale so please do bring along yummy goodies or plants to donate to the stalls as we will then sell them off to raise money towards the building project. The Youth Panel will be there on the night of course so if you know any young people who might like to get involved, they can have a chat with them. I would love to see you all there. If any of you would like to help out too, we would appreciate any offers of help.

Finally, we have got some lovely events coming up. I can't wait for Cider With Rosie on Saturday 27 June. Tickets are available from Plough Arts Centre on 01805 624624. We also have the fabulous Jazz@Drogo event on Sunday 12 July so please get your tickets from the Castle Drogo shop or via Bunny Johnstone 01647 432068. Fingers crossed for glorious sunny evenings.

In summary then, all is going well at the moment. Let's hope it continues. Best wishes and see you soon,
Best wishes all,

Paula

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

Dr Siegfried Marian: The Enigma Behind Fingle's Memorial Plaque.

Mad, bad, or before his time?"

All will be revealed [well quite a bit] by Tim Harrod at **7 pm 14th May** in the Fingle Bridge Inn [aka Angler's Rest], Drewsteignton



MARIAN published with HABER, so no slouch.

Ludwig Moser, Siegfried Marian, A. Hantzsch, F. Haber, L. Andrusow Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry - A, vol. 71, no. 1-2, pp. 78-83, 1927

Scientists, soil or otherwise, do you know anyone in science, soil or otherwise, who a] is / will be remembered by a plaque, b] published with such select company c] is unknown to British science?

One of the Woodland and National Trusts' monthly talks about the Fingle Woods

Free entry, but please let David Rickwood know if you'll be coming
davidrickwood@woodlandtrust.org.uk Local Office Devon: 08452 935810 Mobile: 07827 820637

Bible Book Club

Now **Wednesday's at 8pm Ardonay Cottage, Drewsteignton.**

Come to one... come to them all... you choose...

Refreshments provided

Wed 6 May: 2 Samuel

Wed 3 June: 1 Kings

Wed 15 July: Daniel

Wed 9 Sept: Romans

Do contact Jennifer Mullins for more details 01647 281657

Cancer Research UK Jazz @ Drogo

Sunday 12th July 6.30-9pm

On the Croquet Lawn at Castle Drogo

In support of Cancer research UK

FREE PARKING: EASY ACCESS: BRING A PICNIC

TICKETS: e-mail: jazzatdrogo@gmail.com £20.00pp

VISIT: The Visitor Centre at Castle Drogo

CALL: 01647432068

ALL tickets must be purchased before the event

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 June - Thank You