

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 112

JULY 2015

Cllrs Anna Imrie & Stuart Hardie held a site visit with representatives of RES at Whiddon Down. RES are the company who are going to build the Den Brook wind farm near Spreyton and to facilitate this, also build the new link road from Exeter road to the North Tawton road. They explained in detail what is proposed and they intend to fully consult with residents of Whiddon Down to include an open day at the village hall. It is hoped the project will be completed by Christmas this year. It is so close but not yet completed and is something residents have wanted to happen for many, many years, perhaps you could organise a party on opening day?

The Council are concerned at the amount of graffiti in the bus shelters at Whiddon Down and we have made contact with Wes Cutler, the youth leader, to investigate if some more positive painting could be done instead of the mess there now. It does appear that, as we have had no response from either Devon County Council or our representative, Cllr McInnes, that they do not want to have a repeat meeting to discuss Chapel Hill Whiddon Down traffic calming. This Council is resolved to pursue this issue until a satisfactory result is achieved. We wanted both roads closed in the first place which, despite being agreed some 25 years ago, DCC have refused to do. This has led to the ongoing problem. The police refuse to enforce the traffic order preventing through use of this road because they do not have the manpower, and now South West Highways have filled in potholes, which at least kept the speed of offending vehicles down, as more of a priority over our request to repair the roundabout which is so bad it is now dangerous especially to motorcyclists (as witnessed by the author last week where a biker nearly fell off).

Some good news at Whiddon Down: we may

well be able to organise a new bus stop in the near future at the junction of the old A30 leading to Crockernwell having received a suggestion from a resident. This follows the Stagecoach bus routes being altered and not to come through the village but up the dual carriageway.

At Drewsteignton in the car park, the rubbish bin was found to be full of old kitchen utensils & equipment. Many thanks to the person who left this rubbish there, Cllr Debi Brooks has had the task of emptying and getting rid of it. Why not use your own dustbin, or perhaps you are camping overnight in the area?

The toilets at Drewsteignton are now in need of some tender loving care over and above that they receive from Mike Rowe!! We are seeking tenders for their redecoration and, thanks to the honesty box takings, we can mitigate some of the cost rather than using Council precept money for it all. In addition some of the vegetation overgrowing the toilets needs to be removed. We are hoping to get some voluntary help for this, details in a future Parish Post.

Does anyone know of a reliable odd job person the Council can use from time to time? If so please contact the Clerk or one of the councillors.

We are very grateful to Chris Gosnay who has been hosting and maintaining the parish website for many years. His company is still prepared to host the site but he can no longer maintain the site. It has been suggested it should be updated and councillors agree. We are looking for suggestions on how this can be progressed, if you have any ideas please contact us. There will be a cost implication but details of this will have to be decided on when all options have been discussed.

Our next meeting is at **Whiddon Down on Monday 20th July 2015 at 7.30pm**

Bee Scene!

Bee Scene! Popular family-friendly survey of wild flowers re-launches this summer holiday thanks to Nature's Path

Plantlife's hugely successful 'Bee Scene' survey has been rescued by family-owned cereal maker Nature's Path, after its original funding had ended. Over 30,000 children have already taken part in the wild flower survey since its launch in 2010. Now thousands more will have the opportunity to explore the nature on their doorstep and learn about the wild flowers growing there.

Families can discover whether their local area is good for bumblebees by looking for bee-friendly wild flowers such as foxgloves, dandelions and clovers in their local green spaces. The results are then uploaded onto a virtual meadow map of the UK.

The survey raises awareness and understanding in children of the importance of biodiversity in their local area, starting them on a path to enjoying wild flowers and realising their importance as part of our natural heritage. It also helps them understand the importance of wild plants for our declining pollinators. 90% of teachers who did the survey reported that 'Bee scene' had given them new learning about the natural environment and helped pupils understand that different wild plants are important for bees.

Nature's Path has a strong commitment to sustainability and the natural environment and has stepped in to enable the Bee Scene initiative to reach many thousands more children and families this year after its National Lottery funding ended. A spokesperson comments "As an organic, family owned company, with a strong commitment to the natural environment we recognise the importance of educating children early about the importance of our wild flowers and the pollinators that rely on them. We are thrilled to be able to support Plantlife to continue this fantastic survey, so that many more children and families can take part and 'Bee Scene'.

'Bee Scene' is a simple and effective way to encourage children and their families into their local parks or countryside - to enjoy them together away from the television screen, computer games and other pressures of modern life. By using a simple flower key, they are able to count different flower shapes and colours and look out for bumblebees, so helping children understand how valuable their local green spaces are for wildlife.

Full details and bee scene resources are available online at www.plantlife.org.uk/beescene

Nature's Path is a family-owned company that has been making organic and gluten-free breakfast cereals for both adults and children for the last 30 years. Founded in 1985 in British Columbia, Canada, it remains proud of, and committed to, an organic and sustainable approach to business.

The Bee Scene project was originally developed with Natural England, The John Muir Trust and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.



Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers would like to warn the public against scammers impersonating the charity.

Crimestoppers has been alerted to a group of scammers who have 'hijacked' the 0800 555 111 number.

The scammers are calling people, saying they are "Crimestoppers at the Home Office" and directing them to the website to clarify the number and asking for personal information like bank details.

Crimestoppers has never, and will never, make cold calls to members of the public asking for any personal details, if you receive from someone asking for personal information and claiming to be from Crimestoppers, please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Roger Critchell, Director of Operations for Crimestoppers, is currently talking to their phone service provider to attempt to resolve the situation and hope this can be rectified as quickly as possible. "People can still call the 0800 555 111 to pass on anonymous information about crime, but we wanted to make sure people are aware that Crimestoppers will never, ever contact members of the public asking for personal details. Please do not hand over any personal information to cold callers claiming to be Crimestoppers."

The Walk - A Dance Drama

The Walk Dance Drama is a dance, music and drama performance describing a dream journey across Dartmoor through storms, blizzards, fires, raging torrents, over tors and along cleaves, taking in quarry pools, orchards and ruined houses. It interprets Dartmoor's landscape through expressing the effect the terrain and the light and shade cast by different weather has on our innermost feelings. MED Theatre will perform The Walk outside at the **Bridford Woodland Trust** and at **Fingle Bridge** (in partnership with the National Trust), and inside with projections in the village hall venues of Manaton, Mary Tavy and Moretonhampstead.

Performance dates:

Saturday 1st August, 4pm: Bridford Woodland Trust, (outdoors)

Sunday 9th August, 4pm: Fingle Bridge, (outdoors)

Thursday 13th August, 7:30pm: Manaton Parish Hall

Friday 14th August, 7:30pm: Mary Tavy Coronation Hall

Saturday 15th August, 7:30pm: Moreton Parish Hall

Booking information:

Tickets £8 adults, £5 children, £7 concessions

Booking recommended

To book, email info@medtheatre.co.uk or ring 01647 441356

Visit www.medtheatre.co.uk for more information

Road Verges

A new Plantlife study shows that Britain's road verges are home to 703 species of wild plants, more than in any other part of our landscape, and 87 of them are either threatened with extinction or heading that way. In addition, 88% of these wild plants provide nectar and pollen for bees and other insects, making road verges essential refuges for insect life; bird's-foot trefoil alone is a food plant for 132 species of insect.

In addition, 21 of the 25 Nation's Favourite Wildflowers grow on road verges. From cowslips and bluebells in spring to swathes of cow parsley and ox-eye daisies in early summer, our verges are home to most of the 25 favourite wild flowers as voted for by the public. And with 30 million drivers in the UK, they're the most frequently viewed habitat too, providing many people with their only regular daily contact with nature.

But in much of Britain road verges are still being needlessly cut down in full flower threatening the wildflowers and the wildlife that depend on them. Many councils have already started cutting verges - much too early in the year for flowers to be able to set seed, and greatly reducing one of the most important food banks for our ailing bees and other pollinators.

Dr Trevor Dines, Plantlife's Botanical Specialist, explains, "Over 97% of meadows have been destroyed in England since the 1930s. In many areas, rural road verges are the last remaining stretches of natural habitat for our wildlife. Road safety is the absolute priority, but we know that verges can be managed

better for wildlife whilst remaining safe for motorists. This means adopting some simple changes to management - like a delay in cutting to allow seed to be set - so that wildflowers can thrive".

Plantlife has produced new management guidelines and is urging the public to sign a petition asking local councils to adopt them. Some councils are leading the way. Trials in Dorset, for example, are investigating how to combat the over-vigorous growth of grass on fertile verges (which is both detrimental to wildflowers and obscures driver sight-lines), by stripping turf, using semi-parasitic yellow rattle to stunt grass growth and even grazing verges with sheep. Plantlife is helping to showcase the work of councils like Dorset to show others that it can be done. Our guidelines are being currently being applied to 11,700 km of verge covering 2,300 hectares of verges - that's equivalent to 2.5 times the area of remaining upland hay meadow in the UK - and with the public's support we can do even more.

Dr Dines adds, "If we just give them a chance, wildflowers can return. Meadow crane's-bill was once widespread in meadows - hence its name - but is now more commonly found on road verges. It spreads readily when cutting is delayed and it's allowed to set seed. Maybe it's time to change its name to "verge crane's-bill".

Katie Cameron T 01722 342759 / M 07584 995929 / E katie.cameron@plantlife.org.uk

Trevor Dines Plantlife Botanical Specialist T 01248 670691 / M 07789 685635 E

trevor.dines@plantlife.org.uk



ACE Archaeology Club Update.

We hope that some of you made it to the Council for British Archaeology Festival, if not with ACE then somewhere else. Our history is so important that the chance to get hands on and find out more really should not be missed. I am writing this before the event so you will have to wait for the next thrilling instalment to find out how it went.

We had a week of digging at our site at Moistown near Winkleigh in May. It went very well and we got more done than we had hoped, which is always a bonus. That was despite some adverse weather at times. Our large 6 meter by 3 meter gazebo decided to fly away and we had to chase it up the hill as it bowled its way up towards the road. Luckily it caught on some brambles and we managed to take it apart but it had to go to the tip. Unfortunately no one managed to get a photo. But here is one of us working underneath it.



Our ACE day in June was on Dartmoor trying out paperwork and equipment for a proposed database of roundhouses on Dartmoor. This may be an ongoing project for ACE and there will be more details on the website at a later date.

We are also gearing up for our main event of the year which is our two weeks of digging, last week in August and the first week in September. There will be an open day on the 5th of September and you are all very welcome. Tea coffee and cake will be available so come and see us. The details, as ever, will be on the ACE Facebook page and on our website www.acearch.org.uk.

Erica Williamson

ACE Archaeology Club

Don't Miss DADS' Summer Production, the Comedy, "One O'clock from the House"

Performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 20th to 22nd August

Following last year's acclaimed production of "A Tomb with a View", The Dunsford Amateur Dramatic Society's summer production this year will be Frank Vickery's comedy, "One O'clock from the House". It will be staged in the Village Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 20th to 22nd August, starting at 7.30pm.

The play revolves around the funeral of an elderly father – not usually an occasion for hilarity. But when the family concerned numbers among its members a wellington-clad cook who bakes almondless almond cakes, another who's convinced his shopping trolley is a clever dog called Rover, and a sister who's a happy inmate of a psychiatric home, the proceedings are bound to be lively. Add to this a posthumous joke played by Father on three of his daughters and the fact that they are not exactly what might be termed a close-knit family, the scene is set for a scorching comedy of personalities and situations.

Tickets, price £6, are available from the Dunsford Village Stores, telephone 01647 252330

Teignton Fayre

The Teignton Fayre Committee are absolutely delighted to announce that around £3000 was raised at this year's event. A huge thank you to absolutely everyone who attended and did their bit to make sure the event was a success.

The weather was on our side, thankfully, although it got a little chilly toward the end of the evening. Fund applications will be discussed at the next meeting, when we have a confirmed total, with awards going to Cancer Research UK, Drewsteignton Playing Field, Whiddon Down Village Hall, Cheriton Bishop School, On the Edge and Holy Trinity Church.

We are planning another barbecue at The Playing Field in September to present the awards, so as ever, watch this space for the next update!

Thanks again, people of Teignton, You're all stars!

The Teignton Fayre Committee

Were you alive during World War II or do you have family stories from this time?"

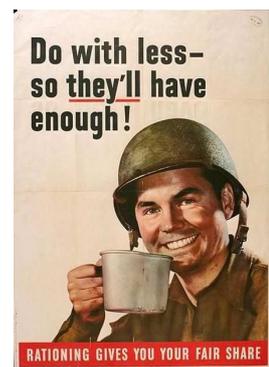
If so and you would be willing to share your experiences please contact Jennifer Mullins or her associates as we are hoping to put together a project in November similar to the one we did for WWI last year. Any memorabilia, photographs, written anecdotes, gratefully received. We are especially looking for parishioners who have personal memories who we could record for a short film and for photographs of VE day celebrations.

The exhibition will be on for a week but please put Saturday 7th November in your diary as there will be the British Legion soup and sandwiches 12 noon - 2pm followed by afternoon tea (with lots of cake) in Holy Trinity Church 2.30 - 4.30pm.

Also, if you would like to be involved in helping to make this happen please get in touch with any of the following;

Elaine Chudley	281653
Daphne Greener	281256
Jane Hocking	281605
Jill Lock	281297
Jennifer Mullins	281657
Pauline Rowe	281638

We look forward to hearing from you.



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT - JOIN US

We are a local group of active Macmillan fundraising volunteers who are looking to spread our enthusiasm, widen our horizons and develop and expand our committee. Many people have in some way been touched by cancer and we would like to extend an invitation to all residents of the Whiddon Parishes to help us raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Please do come and join our committee - call the Macmillan Cancer Support local group secretary on 01647 433771 for a chat and more information about this really worthwhile charity

www.macmillan.org.uk

Bird Notes

Over the last month, I have really enjoyed the sight and sound of the swifts as they chase each other in their screaming parties across the rooftops over the village. The maximum I have counted was 22 birds during the last week of June, but they are tricky to count due to their speed and being in numerous interchangeable groups going in many directions. The swifts we observe chasing around overhead are the non breeding birds, many of which have been born here in Drewsteignton and have returned to remain in family groups. If they are old enough to breed, they will seek to find a partner and a potential nest site for next year. The breeding adults are too busy, and either catching insects to feed their now hatched young (we heard the high pitched calling of juveniles in my nest-boxes first on July 1) or brooding the young swifts.

A few years ago, I applied for a small grant from 'Devon Birds' to purchase six swift boxes which went up in time for the 2012 breeding season. I put two on my house and four went up under the thatch eaves along Hillmorhayes, at the other end of the square to us. Despite some occasional playing of a CD of swift calls in the early years, which is reputed to attract swifts to potential nest boxes, the boxes were never found or investigated, except by house sparrows. Earlier this year, I was contemplating moving them to put up elsewhere but in mid June, I got a call to say the swifts had found the boxes and were going in and out. I went up as soon as I could in the early evening and there were swifts investigating the boxes. I was really delighted that they had finally found them and I watched as swifts attempted to go in three of the four boxes we put up. These are swifts prospecting for breeding sites for next year, so we will remove the sparrow nesting material (when the breeding season is over) and block the boxes through the winter. They will then be opened up once the swifts return in May next year and hopefully breeding swifts will return to

Hillmorhay!

It is no wonder that swifts are in such serious decline across the UK when the search for a nest site is so drawn out. Swifts are only with us for three months of the year, and so much can happen to potential or existing nest sites in the remaining nine months of their absence, especially when homeowners may not even be aware they may have swifts nesting. Swifts are not a species you can create or manage habitat to increase numbers for. Conservation of swifts is all about identifying and protecting existing nest sites, and creating new ones. In the years I have been trying to increase interest and awareness of birds, especially swifts, by writing in the Parish Post, I am aware of two properties in the village that no longer have breeding swifts any more due to house wall and roof repairs.

Last week, Malcolm (who has been ringing the swifts here for the last five years) came up to catch adult swifts as they left the nest boxes, and non breeders investigating nest sites for next year. He erected a long very fine net called a 'mist net' along the front of the row and waited. Unfortunately, I had to go out but when I got back, found out they had caught five swifts, 4 of which Malcolm had already ringed as chicks in the nest boxes in previous years, and they put a tiny leg ring (with a unique number on it) on the other one. They also caught a number of birds attracted by my neighbour's bird feeder and so ringed a further two chaffinches, one blackbird and six siskins. So if you should see any of these species in your garden, keep an eye out for little aluminium leg rings on them!

Enjoy the sound of the swifts as they skim the rooftops, and wheel high over the village while they are with us over the next few weeks, as by this time next month they will have left us again on the long journey south to spend the winter in Africa!

Nick

Apple Pressing Service

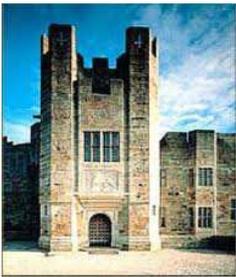
We are a new South Devon based business, providing a mobile apple pressing service, whereby we attend a customer's premise and clean, mill and press their apples for them to their requirements producing apple juice.

We cater for small apple trees in back gardens in towns, to large orchards within rural communities. We can also then provide a service if required of pasteurising the apple juice for customers or turning it into their own branded bottled Cider.

We are also keen to engage with local community events such as village fetes or demonstrations at schools, in order to preserve this old West Country tradition with a modern twist.

www.applepressingservice.co.uk
paul@applepressingservice.co.uk

News from the Castle



Hello all

Happy summer everyone! The weather has been so lovely the past couple of weeks and the garden is looking amazing. I have been at Drogo for 9 years and this is the best the garden has looked in my time here. The rose garden in particular is looking beautiful and the smell at the end of the day is gorgeous so it's well worth a visit to cheer you up. Work on the castle is still ticking along nicely. The central section is still on track to complete by the end of summer and then we will have a brief respite before the final phase of work starts on the north end of the building. There is a chance we may even

have a short period of time without scaffolding while we shift in to final phase mode. Watch this space! We are all looking forward to seeing the central section of scaffold come down later this year and the final piece go up.

Last week saw a lovely performance of Laurie Lee's 'Cider with Rosie' on the croquet lawn. The weather was amazing and the audience were treated to a very creative interpretation. A lovely evening was had by all. Now we can't wait for the performance of David Walliams's book Mr Stink by Heartbreak Productions on Friday 14th August. Tickets are available from Plough Arts Centre on 01805 624624. They are going fast so best contact them quickly.

Best wishes and see you soon,

Paula

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

Tilly's Post

Over this last month everything seems to have been slowly winding down for the summer holidays, and about time too! However, recently I've been particularly active on a Tuesday evening, and with a few friends from school, we have been participating in a women's hockey summer league. It's good fun, and although we haven't yet won a match, it's great experience, plus there's still time to win.

We play in Honiton against the six other teams in the league, including another Okehampton Hockey club team. Our first match, funnily enough, was against them and ended in a 1-1 draw; which looking back was probably for the best. We play one of the teams every week in a fast paced 35 minute match.

As the Okehampton College summer term draws to a close everyone in Year 7-9 has the opportunity to go on Curriculum Extension Week (CEW), which is an activities week for about 700 students. Year 10's are on work experience this week and the Year 11s have now finished college, after completing all their exams. Last October we each received a booklet with various activities weeks planned out, from Roller Coasters to Dartmoor yoga, there really were a lot of choices. As it's my last year for CEW, I'm going abroad on a trip called 'Fast and Furious' which travels to Freiburg in Germany via the Euro Tunnel. We visit Europa Park, the Todtnauer Waterfall and travel down a 2.9km mountain coaster from the top of Hassenhorn Mountain. Our stay is predominantly in Germany although we cross the border to France for a day. I am really looking forward to it! **Tilly**

Dartmoor Arts Summer School Week

Dartmoor Arts Summer School Week will be taking place again this year between 26th July to August 1st 2015.

We are always on the lookout 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

Whiddon Down Village Hall

Monthly Whist Drives at the village hall with fresh meat prizes, always held on the last Saturday in the month.

The dates are:

25th July

29th August

26th September

24th October

28th November - Christmas Whist Drive

8pm start



DREWSTEIGTON VILLAGE SHOW



Saturday 15th August

In the Village Hall

Open to the public at 2.15pm

Delicious teas ~ raffle

Come and support your local flower and vegetable show

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT TRUSTEE VACANCIES

Applications are invited from any public spirited adult residing in our GP Practice area for the three new Trustee vacancies scheduled to arise at the AGM in October 2015. Trustees serve for up to three years and hold Quarterly evening Committee meetings at Ian's Walled Garden Cafe, Dunsford. There are also vacancies for all four Officer Trustees (Chair/Vice Chair/Treasurer/Secretary who serve for up to five years. Appointment is by public vote at the AGM. The Trustees aim to bring new faces with new ideas to the Committee as our Constitution calls for outgoing Board Members to take a sabbatical before seeking to return. Please phone Jackie for more details on 01647 252701.

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

Drewsteigton

Parish Post

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For Parish Council Bella Snook

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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 August - Thank You