

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 113

AUGUST 2015

Cllr Debi Brooks who is responsible for looking after the Drewsteignton Car Park and emptying the rubbish bin is never surprised any longer at what she finds there, this month along with the normal litter she reported various pieces of rotting meat were in the bin, many thanks to the person who left it. Council approved the expenditure for suitable protective clothing for Debi Brooks to use.

Eric McCarthy from RES who are building the Denbrook wind farm and new link road at Whiddon Down spoke to our meeting. Building of the new link road should commence on 6th October and will take 3 months to complete. Obviously there will be some disruption for traffic during this time but in the long run the problem of traffic turning opposite the pub will be resolved to the relief of many, especially our retired councillors Marjorie Wonnacott & John Dyke who, with others, have campaigned for many years for this to be completed.

From the Parish Plan, 69% of residents in Whiddon Down wanted some action taken over Chapel Hill, so it will remain a priority for the Council. Costings from Devon County Council of anywhere from £1,000 to £20,000 have been supplied. Mike Jones from DCC talks of substantial construction, we have already conceded that closure is a non starter but just humps to reduce the speed of traffic making it quicker to use the main road are all that is needed. The council, and now Cllr James McInnes DCC, are asking for the justification of such sums. We wait for some updates.

We are hoping the new bus stop at the junction of the old A30 towards Crockernwell will be in place shortly. We have also been notified of the proposal to alter timetables in September. Details will be published in the Parish Post when we know any details.

The problems caused at the illegal travellers' site,

the lack of police action and lack of action by **West Devon Borough Council's environmental** department following many complaints by residents was discussed at some length with representations being made from parishioners. We agreed to write to the organisations concerned asking for justification of their inaction. It was good to hear that ownership of the land will soon be finalised.

The council agreed to support a planning application at Ford House for an updated sewage system (DNPA 0321/15).

We agreed the parish website was now in need of updating and will incur some cost. We have received three different suggestions from web designers but no immediate decision was taken. Councillors agreed to look at other sites in the area and Cllrs Imrie, Ridgers & the Clerk would draw up a specification of what we require so we can put the work out to tender to get best value. We have received another suggestion that the small area in Barn Close at Whiddon Down could be used as a play area and the Clerk has agreed to give advice on the subject. She will ascertain if the Playing field committee at Drewsteignton can offer some advice.

Councillors were made aware that several complaints have been received about the unusual activity of strangers in the parish calling door to door and also visiting isolated properties. Various reports together with registration numbers have been logged with the police, but as experience has shown it is important for everyone that **ALL TOOLS & MACHINERY ARE STORED SECURELY, SHEDS & BARNs ARE LOCKED & ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE ON TEL. 101.** to include registration numbers and descriptions if possible.

Our next meeting is at Drewsteignton Monday 17th August 2015 at 7.30pm.

Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford

Build Your Own Birch Bark Canoe

Discover the weird and wonderful and practical uses of birch by different cultures through the ages. Try your hand at making your own mini birch bark canoe & see if it floats on our pond!

When: Sunday 9th August – 1400 to 1600

Where: Meet at the garden entrance

What to bring: Appropriate clothing & enthusiasm!

Cost: Normal garden admission plus £2 per participant

Friends of Stone Lane: £2 per participant (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.)

Booking: Places limited so booking essential call Education Officer Alison on 01647231311 or email her at alison.couch@stonelanegardens.com

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Chagfood Visit Monday 14th Sept

6-7 pm

Please let me know if you would like to come on this visit

Bunny

01647432068

bunny_johnstone @btinternet.com

Our AGM Tuesday 13th Oct 7.30pm

2015-16 Calendar's will be available

Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford

We need local people to help look after a very special place.

There are vacancies for a volunteer administrator/secretary, publicity officer and treasurer as well as help with gardening. We are seeking two additional local trustees to join our friendly group preferably to take on one of the above roles, but not essential.

Please contact Pru Barnes (Trustee) 01822 841686 pru.barnes@stonelanegardens.com or Paul Bartlett (Garden Manager) 01647 231311 paul.bartlett@stonelanegadens.com

See our website to find out more about our charity www.stonelanegardens.com and the history of this beautiful birch and alder arboretum and sculpture garden, created by Kenneth and June Ashburner.

Drewsteignton Post Office

No cashpoint? No problem.

Stop press! We are now offering facilities for all banks which means you can withdraw cash without being charged for the service, and pay in cash and cheques regardless of who you bank with. This means that during opening hours, you can treat the Post Office as you would a cashpoint so there's absolutely no need to drive to Chagford or Whiddon Down or even further afield.

Another good reason to go and visit your local Post Office!



Tillys Travels

In my last article I told you that I was imminently going on Okehampton College's CEW (Curriculum Extension Week). This is five days out of college on the penultimate week of school. The activity I'd picked to go on was called 'Fast and Furious' and involved travelling to Germany and France via the Channel tunnel, on a coach.

So at about 8:30 on Sunday night, we set off from Okehampton for Germany. We travelled for hours along British motorways until at about 2:15am on Monday when we got to the Euro Tunnel. By now most people aboard the bus were asleep but when we got on the huge train which would take our coach to France, the bright lights woke us all up. Plus it was pretty exciting as we were all pumped up on sweets, and it was the first time in the Euro Tunnel for most of us. It was about a 35 minute journey. Once out of the Euro tunnel we travelled all day on Monday across France to get to Germany, stopping only for comfort stops and food breaks. Although a bit boring at times, it was interesting to see how the French and German countryside differed from our own. We arrived just outside Freiburg at about 4 pm German time (3pm English time). By now we were all itching to stretch our legs and have a nice shower, as I imagine we didn't smell too great.

On Tuesday, we ventured into the centre of Freiburg, the teachers took us round the main bit then we were told we had 2 hours of shopping or free time. We wisely spent this buying chocolate, looking round the Munstaplatz and Cathedral and also eating a massive lemon and strawberry ice-cream, which we'd ordered in German (ein Eis) ... with difficulty. I shared a huge ice-cream between two friends and it was hugely refreshing in the 34 degree centigrade weather. Later we visited the Todtnauer Waterfall and paddled at the bottom of its 97m drop. After that we caught a chairlift to the top of a high hill and got a mountain coaster down the 2km hill. A mountain coaster is a type of go-kart with no wheels but mounted on a steep downhill track, you can't steer but you can greatly vary your speed. It had been a tiring but hugely enjoyable day.

On Wednesday, we went to Strasbourg and Offenburg and looked round these beautiful cities. In Strasbourg, we went on a Batorama, which is a big tourist boat that takes you round all the canals and shows you all the main attractions. It was very relaxing even in the 35 degree weather!

On Thursday we visited Europa Park, voted by The Sunday Times Travel Magazine as Europe's top-rated theme park. And it definitely was! We went on 6 different roller coaster rides, one of which we had a loop in and another was a classic wooden one, except its top speed was over 100km/h. We also went to two log flume rides which were a great and fun way to cool down in the great heat that we were experiencing (38 degrees centigrade).

On Friday we travelled all day and got back to college at 1:30am on Saturday. It had been a fabulous week and I fully recommend any of the places I've been to any-one visiting Germany or France in the future!
Tilly

Okehampton District Community Transport Group

Coffee Morning

Saturday 5th September

10am – 12noon

The Hall

Ockment Community Centre

North Street

Okehampton

Cake Stall, Raffle and Bric-a-brac/Books

Teignton Fayre

After a very successful Teignton Fayre, and an equally successful Duck Race, the committee are very pleased to announce we are awarding a total of £3398 to charity and local good causes.

As you know, this year's main charity was Cancer Research UK, which will receive £1500. The local good causes will receive the following:

£600.00 to Drewsteignton Playing Fields to contribute to the cost of a new climbing frame.

£500.00 to Holy Trinity Church to contribute to the cost of a new oil tank.

£320.00 to Cheriton Bishop Pre- School for a new iPad.

£250.00 to Whiddon Down Village Hall for renovation of the entrance

£120.00 to On the Edge/ Whiddon Youth Group to purchase equipment to set up a new youth group in Whiddon Down

We would like to thank all the people from these organisations that helped to make Teignton Fayre such a success on the day.

In addition to the above, £108.00 will go to the defibrillator VETS scheme. Thanks to the efforts of Gary Hitching at The Drewe Arms through the monthly pub quiz (first Sunday of the month), at the time of writing, £202 has already been raised to go to this scheme, but the additional amount will allow us to set up the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS), along with enhanced training for the volunteers. The VETS system activates a community First Responder. As soon as the ambulance is called, the VETS system rings all the volunteer numbers and the first to respond rushes to the patient to assist, or collect the defibrillator. This is especially important for those parishioners who live on the outskirts of the village.

We have a few volunteers but we need between 6 and 10 so please let me know if any of you are interested in becoming one. It is useful if you live close to the square and are around the village for a considerable part of the day.

We are holding another barbecue down the playing field to celebrate the success of Teignton Fayre and to present the funds to the recipients. It will be on September 12th and start at 3pm. Posters will go up nearer the time so keep an eye out for them. Hopefully the rain will keep away for this one!

Once again, thanks to all who have helped and participated in the Fayre. We're all very, very grateful of the time you give, your generosity and the disruption you have to endure but I hope you agree that it's all very much worth it!

For more information: 01647 281394 (Sam), *The Teignton Fayre Committee*

Whitehorse Hill Community Play

Free promenade performance 19th and 20th September – Recruiting Participants!

Come and experience a walk through history and magic in Bellever Forest this September. Working with the local community, MED Theatre has developed a promenade performance bringing to life 7 different periods of history, entwining real and unreal events.

Location - Bellever Forest car park. If you are driving from Postbridge, turn left towards Bellever, follow the road over the hill and down to the second car park, by the river where you will find the box office.

Date and time - 19th and 20th September, 6 pm

Tickets – Free but places are limited, to reserve your ticket or for more information please contact info@medtheatre.co.uk or call 01647441356.

Extra info - This will be a walking performance, so please wear suitable shoes and clothing for outdoors on Dartmoor. Suitable for all ages (children under 10 should be accompanied by adults).

This project has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Funded scheme, Moor than meets the eye which is helping people to discover the Dartmoor Story.

www.medtheatre.co.uk

www.dartmoorresource.org.uk



Bird Notes

The last Saturday of July was the 25th, and it was a fine morning with high cloud, blue skies and sun; quite a nice change from the previous few days of either wet or overcast weather. I was walking across the churchyard to the Post Office and noticed a significant change. Despite the pleasant weather, the aerial screaming parties of swifts that I have so enjoyed watching and listening to over the past two months were no longer to be seen over the village. I watched as a solitary adult flew across the churchyard and whipped back into a nest box. At the moment, we still have the breeding adults returning to the boxes with food for their young in the nests and as I returned home, I noticed a juvenile swift looking out of another box. Juvenile swifts have a much whiter forehead and throat than adults and the bird I was looking at just two metres above me looked almost sandy coloured on its head. It looked very large and from what I could see, it seemed almost ready to leave the box. It struck me that its world was about to undertake a dramatic change from the dark confines of the nest and its limited views from beneath the **eaves. Following its initial fledging or 'leap of faith', it will be on the wing for over a year if not longer, until it starts prospecting nest sites for itself.** During its first year, it will travel to sub Saharan Africa and back, and will possibly reached altitudes of over 3,000m.

Many people find it difficult to believe that swifts do not perch on wires or trees, or settle on the ground. They are adapted for an arial life and catch all their food on the wing, hence the year-round need to be where small flies and insects are present. They sleep on the wing too, not as we understand sleep, but by flying very high in groups as dusk settles, and with their heads into the wind, undertake a semi-doze whilst maintaining an almost stationary position with slow wing flaps.

Malcolm came to ring the juveniles in the nest boxes in mid July. This involves putting a tiny metal leg band, with a unique number on each swift. What he found was quite interesting with the ages of young birds varying from box to box, and two boxes still had eggs being incubated with one also having a very recently hatched chick. He always comes at the same time each year and has never seen eggs so late in the season. It will be interesting to see if we have significantly later departure dates for the swifts with late broods. We have breeding in seven nest boxes on Churchgate this year which is great, and I will report on the success and numbers in the next Parish Post.

I have recently read in the local newspapers about the swift tower that has been erected in the middle of Paris Street roundabout in Exeter. This is the roundabout below the bus station at the junction of Paris **Street, Western Way and Heavitree Road. The 'Y' shaped art installation has been sited with many swift boxes on the arms in the hope that swifts will occupy it in the future.** I was in Exeter last week and went to have a look. It was not as tall as I had imagined it to be but is set in the centre of the roundabout amid a wonderful looking wildflower meadow. I look forward to hearing that it has attracted swifts and increases the number of breeding sites in Exeter.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who thinks they may have swifts nesting in their houses and also any dates they last see swifts over the village.

Nick

Royal British Legion Woman's Section

Drewsteignton Branch

Afternoon Tea
at

Ford House
Drewsteignton

By kind invitation of
Mr and Mrs C Chapman
Will now be held on
Saturday 19th September
not Saturday 12th September
as previously advertised
Raffle
Everybody welcome

Whiddon Down Methodist Church

Harvest Festival Services

on

Sunday 13th September at 6.30pm

and

Monday 14th September at 7.15pm

Followed by the sale of produce.
Proceeds are for the Church Funds





Royal British Legion Drewsteignton Branch

On behalf of the members of our branch I would like to say a big thank you to all our supporters who come along to our coffee mornings, afternoon teas and lunches and parted with their money to enable us to support the British Legion Benevolent Fund. We recently received the above certificate in recognition of the highest average donations raised per member. As we only have 11 members we are very pleased and very grateful to you all.

Pauline Rowe

Okehampton District Community Transport Group

100 Club

Thank you for your support which is a great help to ensure our scheme can continue to offer as many people as possible the services they require. You may receive a written or telephone reminder when it is time for you to renew.

DfT Minibus

We are still awaiting information about the acquisition of this from the DfT.

Monday Trips –

Forthcoming trips:

24 th August	Bernaville Garden Centre, Crediton
7 th September	Roadford Lake
21 st September	Homeleigh Garden Centre, Launceston
5 th October	Lifton Farm Shop

If you have any requests for destinations please let the office know, just remember that we need to be able to fit this in between our school runs!

Saturday Trips

We will be taking bookings for these and will require clients to pay a deposit of £5 for each trip to ensure that they are viable as we will be using a driver from Holsworthy which will obviously incur us in extra costs. The higher charge quoted is for those not in Okehampton or along the route of the trip.

AUGUST 22 nd	EXMOUTH	£12/16
SEPTEMBER 19 th	TRAGO MILLS/NEWTON ABBOT	£12/16
OCTOBER 17 th	GREEN LANES, BARNSTAPLE	£12/16
NOVEMBER 22 nd	CREDITON	£10/14

Sunday Lunch

Please let us know if you would like to join one of these trips – 13th September, 11th October, 15th November, 13th December. Destinations to be agreed.

Community Car Service Drivers

We are actively seeking more volunteer drivers, particularly in Okehampton itself and those willing to drive our wheelchair accessible vehicles, as several of our current drivers are not available due to various reasons. If you know of someone who might be available for a few hours a week then please ask them to get in touch! We welcome Tom Bowden from North Tawton to the team.

Stretch and Strengthen!

If your balance is not what it was, or you are feeling a bit stiff and creaky, then this class is for you! It is a gentle, Pilates-based class aimed at mobilising the joints, improving balance and developing core strength. Classes begin Monday, 7th September at 12 noon, upstairs at The Pavilion, Okehampton £5 per session.

All enquiries: Sue Revington 01837 840899

Okehampton Town Bus

We will be running an additional service from September to replace some of the journeys made previously by the 318 service by Jacketts which is ceasing.

Monday – 2 journeys, pick up starts at 09.30 and 11.00, returns from town at 12 noon and 14.00

Wednesday – One journey, pick up starts at 10.15 and returns at 12.15

The fare for this service is £2 per return journey and needs to be booked by 12.30 the previous day.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - Bulgaria

Chrissie Erickson (ODCTG Driver) is again one of the organisers for this – If you would like to donate items or a complete box, please ask the office for a list of what is required.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Okehampton-District-Community-Transport-Group/165867586926940>

Please take a look at our Facebook page, we update it regularly with news and information, if you like a post and comment on it, you will help us by interacting with us and it will enable our posts to pop up on-to your page regularly to keep you up to date!

Sue & Liz, ODCTG, Unit 3 Okehampton Business Park, Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1FJ 01837 55000 sue.odctg@btinternet.com www.odctg.co.uk

Family Fun Day at Drewsteignton Playing Field

Thanks to all of you who came to support us. I hope you had a great time. The weather wasn't bad and we were lucky to avoid the heavy rainfall the next day. Our magnificent water slide was again the star of the show. We made an excellent £893 which will go towards the new climbing frame. Special thanks to all the many people who helped to make the day such a success, whether before, during or after the event. Our next event is the Bonfire Night on Saturday 7th November. Hope to see you there.
Alison Chapman

RACE NIGHT

WITH WELCOME DRINK AND SUPPER

Fingle Bridge Inn
Friday 18 September at 6.30 p.m.

Tickets £15 from:

patric.johnstone1@btinternet.com ■ Tel: 01647-432068
or prflick@dartmoor-it.co.uk ■ Tel: 01837-840670

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 September - Thank You

If you have trouble reading this publication please let me know and I will arrange for a large format version to be sent to you

Pauline Rowe: plr43@btinternet.com ☎ 281638