

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 131

MARCH 2017

Following the proliferation of unofficial signs in and around the parish, the Council sought guidance from Devon County Council on their policy in dealing with such items. Based on a model supplied by them we have adapted it to what we think would suit the parish. This is being published elsewhere in the Parish Post so please take a moment to read through it and, if you think it may affect you or your organisation in anyway, please contact the Clerk or a Councillor so we can make a balanced decision at our next meeting.

Speed surveys have now been undertaken at Whiddon Down and at the westerly entrance to Crockernwell by DCC Highways. In the past these results have been made available to the Parish Council but, for some reason, we have been told we must submit a freedom of information request to receive the latest results. The data is discussed at the "Speed Compliance Action Review Forum" (SCARF) where highways officers and the police are represented to decide what action should be taken. Regular readers of the Parish Post will have heard all this before of course!! Additionally at Crockernwell, following a complaint to the police by a resident, it is now realised that parking is prohibited between the Drewsteignton road and Stonelands on either side of the road because it is governed by a double white line system. The Parish Council asked for these lines to be removed several years ago as they had been placed when the road was the main A30, subject to a 40mph speed limit and very few householders owned a car. Times have now changed and the prohibition of parking decision is now affecting either directly or indirectly, about 16 properties (or 30% of the village). The problem can be resolved by removal of the out of date double white line system. A report from the Parish Council agreed at our last meeting, was to

be presented at the SCARF meeting but not delivered in time. We will continue to work on behalf of residents to resolve this problem.

The Council have been informed that the road sweeper service supplied by West Devon Borough Council is now on a request basis only and available for B & C class roads. We are making enquiries to confirm this and when done we will publish the contact details. Following the good work done by a resident at Whiddon Down smartening up the village, you may have noticed daffodils growing around the parish where they haven't before. This is a result of Cllr Hazel Hunt "doing a deal" on behalf of the Council last year and obtaining the bulbs at a cost of about £12. They were subsequently planted by councillors. The Council discussed three planning applications, one was work on a tree in Drewsteignton 17/0016, the second provision of pay and display machines and associated signs at Castle Drogo 0045 & 0046/17 both of which we resolved to have a neutral view on. The third was a two storey extension to Ramblers Cottage in Crockernwell 0045 & 0046/17 which, after a presentation by the applicant and letters of objection read out, councillors unanimously resolved to object to. Following on from the WDBC Mayoral awards scheme, councillors agreed to launch the Drewsteignton Parish Council Award. This will take the form of a certificate of thanks presented at the Annual Parish Meeting to any resident the Council thinks has made a significant contribution to the parish. This year the AGM will be at Drewsteignton on Monday 24th April, so please put the date in your diary!

The Clerk & Cllr Hazel Hunt are working to improve the parish website; any What's On, please notify the clerk.

Our next meeting is at **Whiddon Down Monday 20th March 2017 at 7.30pm**

Stone Lane Gardens

Come along to our Volunteer Information Day – Friday 7th April from 10am

Chat with our Garden Manager and the friendly volunteer team at our lovely garden and sculpture exhibition! Have a guided tour of the garden.

See how you could make a difference in your local community, learn new skills and meet new friends in a great outdoor working environment.

There's coffee and cake !!

Stone Lane Gardens is an environmental and educational charity, set in a lovely five-acre woodland and water garden just outside Chagford. Our volunteers really enjoy the sociable atmosphere at the garden, working as a team in this special place.

For more information, call or email our **Garden Manager Paul Bartlett** or **pop along on Friday 7th April**. paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com www.stonelanegardens.com **01647 231311**

Thank you for your support.

Paul Bartlett

Garden Manager

Drewsteignton Playing Field

Many thanks to everyone who came and helped with our clear up day at the Field. We managed to get rid of all the concrete, the remnants of last year's bonfire plus some other rubbish. Special thanks must go to Tony Coates for paying the high cost required to get rid of all the rubbish. Tyres half encased in concrete don't appear to be on everyone's wish list.

The next set of help we will need is with the maintenance day when we will paint and treat all the wood and do some repairs to the equipment. All help will be gratefully received. I'll let you know the date.

Alison Chapman

Unauthorised Signs, Posters, Graffiti, Displayed Goods and Other Items on or Adjacent to the Highway

In general Drewsteignton Parish Council has a policy to remove unauthorised signs, posters and graffiti from the highway in accordance with Section 132 of the Highways Act. However, it is recognised that some discretion is needed in town and village centres with regard to goods and displays outside local shops.

Discretion may also be exercised with regard to signs for local fetes, community and small charitable events provided that they:

1. Do not cause a hazard, a distraction or a visibility problem (particularly at known collision sites)
2. Are not over 0.5 square metres in size, offensive or unsightly
3. Are erected not more than 7 days before the event and are removed within 24 hours after the event
4. Are not erected remotely from the location of the event – typically no more than 5 miles away
5. Are not general direction signs when no specific event is taking place.

No action will be taken unless it is certain that the signs, posters, goods or other items are situated within the limits of the public highway (i.e. on highway land).

Any unauthorised sign may still be removed regardless of whether it has consent under The Town and Country planning (Control of Advertising) Regulations.

Any unauthorised sign for a commercial event may be removed.

Notwithstanding the above, Drewsteignton Parish Council reserves the right to remove any unauthorised sign, particularly at any location where there is a proliferation of unauthorised signs.

The parish Council would like any comments from residents. Please contact the Parish Clerk (via email ideally) at clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Bella Snook

Clerk Drewsteignton Parish Council

Sweet William or Stinking Billy?

I like knowing the Latin names for plants – it doesn't matter who I am talking to, if we refer to the plants in Latin then we know we are talking about the same plant. Having said that the colloquial names can be interesting or funny and when a plant has a whole host of common names you can assume it has been widely grown and much admired. *Dianthus barbatus* (Sweet William) is one of my favourite plants – a sure reminder of my childhood; I loved the solid heads and lumpy, bobbly stems and their slightly strange smell. The exact origin of its English common name is unknown but first appears in 1596 in botanist John Gerard's garden catalogue. There are many unverified legends to explain how Sweet William got its name but none is verified. 'Sweet William' is often said to honour Prince William, Duke of Cumberland but as a result of the Duke's victory at the Battle of Culloden and his brutal treatment of the King's enemies, it is also claimed that the Scots sometimes call this flower Stinking Billy. Although this is a nice story and one that I believed for a long time apparently it is not so and the Scots sometimes refer to Ragwort as Stinking Billy. You can see how plants and names can get all jumbled up until the truth of the matter has long since gone and all that remains are local stories and legends.



When you start to look at the Latin or Greek names you can see that they give you clues about the plant such as where it has come from or what its habit is – this will then help you to identify the sort of conditions it might require in your garden. Here are just a few – *alpestris* = from the mountains, *alpina* = from the alps, *argentea* = silvery, *autumnalis* = of the autumn, *bulbifera* = bearing bulbs, *chilensis* = from Chile, *densiflora* = dense-flowered, *gigantea* = giant. I could go on forever but I won't as Pauline would quite rightly put a stop to it and edit ruthlessly!

Another good, garden worthy plant with a whole host of names is *Pulmonaria* – Lungwort, Soldiers and Sailors, Joseph and Mary, Spotted Dog and Jerusalem Cowslip are the ones I have come across – I must admit I was very confused when I was asked to put some Joseph and Mary plants into a garden design. This is a great little plant, the flowers generally coming in early spring before the leaves which make a good ground cover later in the year. There are so many *Pulmonaria* now and many almost impossible to tell apart but here are a few of the goodies that I personally know: *Pulmonaria rubra* – a vigorous species, deep coral red to 30cms tall, *Pulmonaria* 'Sissinghurst White' – an old variety but still popular (much to do with its name I suspect as there are many other white *Pulmonaria*'s out there but this one endures), *Pulmonaria* 'Blue Ensign' – probably bearing the darkest blue flowers of the entire family. *Pulmonarias* are very promiscuous plants that vigorously self pollinate and hybridise; I don't mind the hiatus of spots and blotches on the leaves and the interesting colour forms that appear over the years as a result of this cross pollination but if you do you must chop off the flowers before they seed to keep all your varieties true.

I know it is trying to snow as I sit here on the last day of February but you know what happens at this time of year, suddenly everything is taking off in the garden and it's action stations. I have already seen evidence of slug damage on emerging tulip leaves and the grass is growing. It is time now to tidy up those borders and cut back any old herbaceous plants being careful not to cut off any delicate emerging foliage. The weeds will be coming through with a vengeance so try and keep up with them but if you have a heavy soil try to avoid walking on it and compacting it – lay boards and walk along them – leaning over to weed and not fall into the flowerbeds is a wonderful balancing act and great for strengthening many muscles that have lain dormant over the winter months (I speak for myself here, being a fair weather gardener if at all possible). Once those borders are tidy it's a good time to mulch with organic matter; a 2–3inch layer of well rotted manure or garden compost. Over crowded clumps of perennials can be divided now and you can sow trays of hardy annuals too.

Please do send me pictures of your garden or feel free to ask for advice on Facebook at:

Philippa Allom, plants woman, Doves Garden Design.



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.

Congratulations to the winners of our recent draws. Thank you for your support. You can join the 100 Club at any time during the year, just send a cheque, payable to ODCTG for £12 to us at the address below or you can pay by BACS NatWest Okehampton Sort Code 54-21-14 Account No. 22127879
ODCTG

Drivers

We welcome Lindsey Harrison from Okehampton, Graham Payne from Jacobstowe and Graham Barrett from Hatherleigh to our driving team. We are always looking for volunteer drivers and at the moment would particularly like to find someone from the Chagford area. Please ring us for more information.

Legacy

We are extremely grateful to the family of the late Margaret Tarvit who chose our charity for the retiring collection at her recent funeral. Donations like these help to keep our services running for those in need and are much appreciated.

Coffee Morning – Saturday 29th April

We are holding a fundraising coffee morning in the Charter Hall, Okehampton from 9am – 12noon. We will have various stalls joining us and would like donations of books, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes please, these can be dropped in to our office, handed to one of our drivers or brought along on the day.

Trips

Saturday 22 nd April	Torquay	£12
Saturday 29 th April	Coffee Morning then lunch at Country Lanes	£2
Saturday 6 th May	Sidmouth	£12
Saturday 13 th May	Eggesford Nursery	£10
Saturday 20 th May	Paignton Zoo Entrance fee: £15.40	£12
Saturday 27 th May	Tiverton Canal – 2 ½ hour horse drawn barge trip	£12.85
		£12
Saturday 3 rd June	Tavistock	£10
Saturday 10 th June	Bude	£12
Saturday 17 th June	Bernaville Nurseries	£10
Saturday 24 th June	RHS Rosemoor for Rose Weekend £9 for group of 10 or more	£10
Saturday 1 st July	Teignmouth	£12
Saturday 8 th July	Powderham Castle: Classic Car Show £7.50 garden only.	£10
Saturday 15 th July	Docton Mill and Gardens, Bideford. Entry £4.25	£12

Please note that these trips will only take place if we have enough interest. There will be an extra charge for anyone not in Okehampton or along the route of the journey.

Please book early for the Tiverton and Rosemoor trips as we need to try and make use of the group booking discounts available, these need to be confirmed by the middle of April. Thank you.

15 seat Community Bus

Our bus is available for groups and organisations. Please ring us for more information.

Royal British Legion

An RBL representative will be at the Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton EX20 1AR on the first Friday of each month from 10am – 1pm. Pop in for information, advice and guidance for serving members of the Armed Forces, Reservists, Veterans and their families.

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

Bird Notes

It's official, We are now out of the winter. Spring in the meteorological calendar is the season beginning in March and ending in May. Astronomically, spring typically starts on the day of the vernal (or spring) equinox which falls around the 20 March in the Northern Hemisphere. The equinox refers to when the sun's path crosses the equator and the day and night are of equal lengths lasting around 12 hours each. The beginning of spring can be one of the most recognisable transitions between the seasons as the days begin to lengthen and the temperatures warm. Sometimes without even knowing it we often define the seasons phenologically. This refers to biological indicators, most notably the blossoming or emergence of certain plants, or the activities of certain animals. The very origin of the phrase vernal equinox also alludes to this with 'vernal' coming from the Latin *vernus* meaning bloom.

I occasionally refer to a project I like to take part in called 'Natures Calendar'. It is run by the Woodland Trust and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. They send out two forms during the year for participants to record the dates of nature's events on a local scale in spring and autumn. It is a very easy project in which to participate with records sought for a wide variety of events such as trees and shrubs coming into leaf and first flowering, birds nesting or migrants first seen, wildflowers coming into flower or butterflies first seen. For the Spring survey, I just record the arrival of our summer migrant birds and, also the odd butterfly I see in my garden with one or two wildflowers I recognise.

I personally love March and April, it is my favourite time of year with many of our summer migrant birds returning to breed. I suspect that by the time this issue of the Parish Post comes out, I will have heard the first Chiffchaff. I always find it exciting to hear the call of the first Chiffchaff, because it tells me that birds are returning to the localities where they were probably born, and now intend to breed. Chiffchaffs are tiny warblers that over winter in Africa, but make their way back here and then spend the whole summer calling their 'chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff' call from woodland, hedgerows and shrubs. Once I have heard the first one, I then hear them everywhere.

March is also the month when peregrine falcons lay their eggs, and at St. Michaels church in Exeter, the earliest date for the first egg is the 18th of March. Peregrines lay eggs at intervals of about 56 hours and with a webcam in the nest box on the church, we were able to record, that last year, the four eggs were laid on the 24th, 26th, 29th and 31st of March. Incubation of the eggs only begins after the penultimate egg is laid so all the eggs will hatch over a 48 to 56 hour period rather than over a similar 8 day period of laying. I have been looking various peregrine webcams and websites across the country over the past month and the birds are all gearing up in preparation to breeding season. Male peregrines have been making 'scrapes' in nest boxes for the females to investigate prior to egg laying. Peregrines, like all falcons do not build nests, and prefer to lay eggs on cliff and rock ledges where they will find a sheltered grassy ledge or with loose substrate, and then dig out a shallow depression to form a cup or scrape to retain their eggs.

We had an analogue camera installed into the nest box on the church in 2013, but we decided to upgrade it this winter to a vastly superior HD (high definition) resolution one that would provide far better clarity, and hopefully attract more watchers with more feedback and information about their behaviour. I took on the responsibility for the funding of the new camera and its installation by producing a condensed history of the Exeter Peregrines in booklet form. These have been selling well through my website www.urbanperegrines.co.uk and I have already raised two thirds of the cost. They are also available in

Drewsteignton post office at £5 each. The new camera went in on the 18th of January, and I hoped that live streaming would begin in the first week of February. A test stream was set up and I was able to watch the falcons perch on the lip of the trefoil entrance to the box by day, I watched the male making a scrape and recorded the pair of them roosting in the box by night. Unfortunately, the test stream became intermittent due to a fault and we still have no live streaming while checks are made and the problem is identified. We will be up and running soon so do check out the Exeter peregrines on

www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Nick



What's on In The Parish

Whiddon Down Methodist Church

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

Good Friday 14th April at 7.15pm
followed by light refreshments.

Easter Sunday 16th April
Service at 6.30pm

All welcome

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

Forthcoming events

March 13 AGM 7:30 Village Hall
We are having a talk by Julia Tremlett of the NGS
"Yellow Book"

May 6 Annual Plant Sale Village Hall 10:00 am
until Sold Out

Be sure not to miss this great annual event with
terrific bargains for your garden!!

MORECARE - CHAGFORD

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 8 APRIL
10.00 – 12.00

Endecott House
Real Coffee ~ Raffle
Cakes and Savouries

CDCA

QUIZ NIGHT

Quiz and Supper

Saturday 1st April at 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

**All welcome. Don't hesitate to come because you are
by yourself, or a couple.**

**We can introduce you to others to make up a team,
or you can take part on your own -- your choice!**

Wine and Soft Drinks Bar

Tickets £12 each from:

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

News from the Castle



Hi everyone

Our 2017 season is now underway and we are very excited to share the new displays in the Castle with you all. Some parts of the Castle are now complete and rooms in those spaces are gradually starting to look close to their original design, although they are still being used to store the collection items from the other end of the building. The north end of the Castle is still a building site but our brilliant friends from MDesign have worked their magic to bring them to life for visitors as they walk through.

The highlight has to be the much anticipated return of the scaffold viewing tower which re-opened on 4 March. It isn't quite as high as the previous one but is still really cool as you get to look down on to various sections of the roof. The usual restrictions apply (no stiletto heels please!) but it is well worth scaling the dizzy heights.

Other things to update you on include work getting started on changes to our Biomass system so it will be compatible with the hydro turbine house and enable us to provide our own electricity. We are also looking forward to Easter with all sorts of trails and activities and we can't wait until the warm, sunny days return.

Finally, the start of our new season seems like a great opportunity to mention that we are looking for some fantastic new people to join our brilliant volunteer team. We think we have the best team in the world so, if you would like to join us, please do get in touch. All you need to be is friendly and chatty and willing to get stuck in. We can teach you the rest!

Take care everyone and please do pop in to see us soon.

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Chagford Youth Theatre

Chagford Youth Theatre would like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who came to support their show in the Long Room, Drewsteignton last month and for the enthusiastic response and many positive comments received. Thank you also to everyone who 'voted' for them with their Waitrose green tokens during February. The group will receive £300 from Waitrose towards the cost of their visit to the Egg Theatre in Bath in April as part of the National Theatre Connections Festival there.

The group will perform 'Extremism' by Anders Lustgarten at the Egg on Wednesday 5 April at 6.30pm. Tickets are £5. The box office is 01225 448 844.



Access your high street bank account **HERE**

Do your day-to-day banking with all the UK's major banks here
at **Drewsteignton Post Office**

Just to remind you that you can use the Post Office for all of your Banking .

Spring Embroidery Fair
To be held at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall (EX6 6JA)
On Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th April
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Exhibition of hand & machine embroidery
And mixed media textiles
With demonstrations of techniques
Trade stalls with fabrics, threads and books

Home-made lunches and refreshments available through each day.

Free admission – prize draw

Contact Details: Felicity Dudbridge on 01392 811647,

The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes. Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too. Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below.
If you don't tell us we can't print it
John and Pauline

Drewsteignton Parish Post

Contact Details:

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: plowe43@gmail.com.281638

For Editorial	John Shiell	drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282
Contributions	Pauline Rowe	plowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638
For Drewsteignton Village Hall bookings	Alison Chapman	callum.chapman@btinternet.com or ☎ 01647 281197
For Parish Council	Bella Snook	clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk
Business		☎ 231046— www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Post.

Contributions for the next edition by
1st April - Thank You