

Drewsteignton Parish Post

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

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 132

APRIL 2017

We welcomed a number of parishioners from Drewsteignton who had contacted the Council regarding anti social behaviour and an allegedly dangerous dog in the village. They had themselves tried to solve the problem by contacting the police, RSPCA, WDBC environmental health and the Housing Association. After a full and frank discussion it was decided the Council will follow up enquiries with these organisations highlighting their individual responsibilities and in a hope they can all work together to resolve what has been going on.

Following feedback from a resident, the unauthorised signage policy has been amended slightly and final draught will be published in the near future. It is hoped we can reduce the amount of signs on the roadside which are unsightly and likely to cause distraction to drivers. This all follows on from Devon County Highways not having the resources to deal with the subject as they always used to.

The results of the speed surveys in Whiddon Down and Crockernwell are not yet available from highways, there is a possibility the Crockernwell survey details have been lost and may have to be repeated!

Devon County Council are responsible for the roads in the county and have subcontracted the work of maintenance and engineering to South West Highways for many years. As from 1st April 2017 the contractor now appointed to undertake the work is a Swedish organisation called Skanska. The only part of the maintenance contract they will not undertake is the manufacture of the road signs. DCC are seeking another contractor for this work.

The council considered planning applications at the Old Smithy Sandy Park (0100/17), 8 Stonelands Crockernwell (0103 & 0104/17) and two

items at Middle Venton Farm, Venton (0108 & 0131/17) and agreed to support all the applications.

You may have noticed in your Council Tax bill for this year the Parish Council precept has shown a minimal percentage increase. As stated last month the Parish Council have **not** requested any increase, it is because the portion of parish funding from central government called the Council Tax Support Grant, is gradually being reduced and this is to make up the shortfall.

Cllr Bill Savage gave a report from the Eastern Links meeting and Cllr Hazel Hunt gave a report from the Playing fields committee.

The identity of the recipient of the newly established Parish Council Award to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting was decided.

Councillor Stuart Hardie, who has represented Whiddon Down for many years, has resigned as he and his wife are moving to France. Stuart has been a very respected councillor and member of the team and his input to the council will be sorely missed, we wish him luck in his new venture.

Our Parish Clerk – Bella Snook, has also indicated she wishes to resign but will continue her duties until a structured handover to her replacement has taken place.

If you know of anyone who would like to become a councillor or would like to take on the job of Clerk, please contact Bella or any councillor.

The next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 7.30pm** and the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IS ALSO AT DREW-STEIGNTON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM** This is when you can hear the reports from parish organisations and ask the Council, West Devon Councillor and County Councillor to account for themselves.

Job Vacancy For Parish Council Clerk

10 flexible hours weekly, as administrator for Drewsteignton Parish Council. Dealing with communications, agendas & minutes for meetings, accounts & procedures, and website updates. Full training & structured hand-over available.

Salary according to experience following official scale.

Please contact the current clerk for more information. Bella Snook 01647 231046

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

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

EASTER BINGO

(POULTRY SUPPLIED BY Oinkers, Longdown)



MONDAY 10TH APRIL
EYES DOWN 8.00PM

Don't Miss Out!!!

Drewsteignton Garden Club

SPRING PLANT SALE

May 6th.

10am until sold out!

At the

Village Hall

Come early - Lots of Plants for sale
at **BARGAIN PRICES!!!**
Refreshments/ Raffle



Drewe Arms

Every Sunday, table top sale in the Long Room, 12 to 3 with donations to Defib

29th April: Folk music in the bar.

13th May: All you can eat curry night with proceeds to go to the Defib.

26th 27th 28th May: Beer and cider festival.

26th May: Live music and DJ Andy Kershaw.

27th May: Live music afternoon and evening.

28th May: Live music afternoon and a play by Something Underground in the evening.

20 beers 20 ciders.

Colour in the Garden

I would say that in over 90% of the designs that I have done over the years I have been instructed by the client not to use the colour orange in the palette and this has usually been accompanied by a shudder and grimace. I used to go along with this and stick to the tried and tested formula of soft blues, the palest lemon yellows, pinks and whites and silver foliage with the odd shimmer of bronze on unfurling tree leaves. But I began to realise how much people were missing out on by restricting the colour scheme in such a way as to only use cool colours. A popular request is a 'white border' but in reality not many gardens have the scale or structure to carry this off successfully - you need plenty of well ordered evergreen hedges and some fairly imposing white tree trunks such as *Betula jacquemontii* to be backdrop to the 'white' planting' scheme. It is important when creating a white border to have the odd spike of colour in it somewhere to make the whites seem truly white otherwise you can end up with a rather lacklustre affair. Prairie gardens became fashionable and then hot colours had a reprieve but not everyone has the space for this type of planting so I would like to suggest some orange flowers that work well in a mixed border and who they happily combine with. Orange cries out for contrast; *Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'* is a tall herbaceous perennial with burnt orange flowers and looks fabulous with a tall purple phlox and an acid green *Euphorbia*. There are a raft of Red hot pokers - not everyone's favourite I know but that's usually because they have traditionally been planted in the wrong place and look as comfortable in their setting as a punk at a cocktail party. They flower at many different times of the year and get them in good company and they won't disappoint you. One of my favourites is *Kniphofia ruperii* which has great big fat pokers that shine in the low sunlight of late October and looks glorious set against big clumps of tall grasses such as *Miscanthus* which are wafting their fluffy seed heads around by now.

Another great garden plant is *Euphorbia griffithii* 'Fireglow' which forms intense brick orange flowers in terminal umbels over a long period before fading into autumn (don't we all!) It looks lovely with spring flowering bulbs and *Geum 'Borisii'* or 'Dolly North'



Most folk know the Californian poppy - *Eschscholzia californica* - which happily self seeds everywhere and often turns up in slightly different shades including cream which is fun.

Lilium henryi - a spectacular Turks head lily - thrives in partial shade and flowers in late summer with up to 30 large nodding flowers in soft orange on stems often over 4 ft high. It is hardy, vigorous and easy to grow in well drained soil and looks superb contrasted with the lovely blue spikes of *Salvia viridis* or any of the many purple salvias on offer these days.

There is, however, one combination that I absolutely abhor and you most frequently see it when driving along an urban street with front gardens. Maybe it's an enthusiasm to have plants that come into flower early, to get rid of the winter blues and fill one's garden with cheer but if there was ever a reason to keep your eyes firmly on the road ahead it's this - bright yellow forsythia and clouds of bright pink cherry blossom rubbing shoulders. It is a disgusting combination - completely unrelieved by any leaves - and should never be allowed. I am very biased as *Forsythia* is one of the few plants that I really loathe - and it is impossible to kill. I have one in my garden but I never allow it to flower - any sight of new wood gets ruthlessly removed.

So - have a go with orange - seek out some unusual nurseries, not just the boring garden centres and see what unusual beauties you can find.

**Happy colour scheming,
Philippa Allom**

Bird Notes

I enjoy each season we have but I think that Spring is my favourite period. It is a combination of seeing the countryside change almost daily, and the sights, sounds and smells of a new season that accompanies the changes. Over the past month, I have watched blackbirds gathering materials for nest building and on the first of April, I observed an adult with a beak full of worms in my garden, obviously for hatched youngsters in a nest. On the 30th March, I saw my first house martin flying over Moretonhampstead. It was hunting flies high above the roofs of the houses on Court street, over a very specific area which made me think this bird had returned to its summer quarters, rather than just passing through. On the same day, I heard of swallows having returned to a barn near Eastern Court. As of today, the 5th of April, I have yet to see a swallow anywhere or both species in Drewsteignton, but look forward to seeing them and hear the shrill twitter of their call over the next few months.

The last few weeks have had further appeal and interest to me, and that is due to peregrines beginning their breeding cycle. With a camera in the nest box on St. Michaels church in Exeter, it is easy to record the time and date of the eggs. The earliest date of the first egg was on the 18th of March in 2002, and last year the first was laid on the 24th of March. With many other urban peregrine nests also having webcams, it is fascinating to see where the first egg of the year is laid, and then start hearing of others. The very first I heard of this season was in a clock tower in Bournemouth on the 16th March between 6 and 7.20 am, the next was at Export House at Woking with an egg laid at 10.45. The peregrines on Nottingham Trent University were next with an egg on the 17th, which was interesting as this site has been the first over the past few years. After these sites, reports were coming in of eggs at many other sites across the country, and the Exeter falcons laid on the 24th at 02.14 in the morning, on exactly the same date as last year but earlier in the day. I didn't actually see this but was informed and shown captured footage the following morning.

Peregrines lay eggs at roughly 56 to 60 hour intervals and we had a full clutch of four eggs in Exeter laid on the 24th, 26th, 28th and the 31st march. There was great excitement among peregrine watchers when it appeared that the Woking peregrines had laid five eggs, which was further increased when news surfaced that a clutch of six eggs had been laid on the roof of a building in Sutton. Clutches of five eggs are really rare, but to lay six is exceptional, and would indicate that the adult falcons must be in really prime condition and have a good food source.

With eggs now laid, incubation takes place and lasts about 30 to 32 days, when again many watchers wait for the hatching. I am expecting hatching in Exeter around the 27th and 28th of April and hoping that all the eggs are viable. Of the four eggs laid in Exeter last year, only two hatched which is possibly due to the ages of the Exeter peregrines. We estimate that the male, who arrived in 2005 is now 14 years old and the female is about 10 years old.

The Exeter peregrines can be watched via the webcam on www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk and if you are interested in them, their history and my research over the past twenty years, my booklet on them is available in Drewsteignton post office for £5. All profits from the sales of this are going towards the cost of the new high definition camera we installed into the church nest box earlier in the year.

Nick

Drewsteignton Parish Website

The Parish Council would like to boost the content of the Parish website.

We can promote local businesses, organisations and events. Free of charge. Please send a brief text and any images you would like included.

What do your surrounding mean to you?

If you have any images you would like us to consider for inclusion in our gallery please do submit them, we should be able to give you a credit but cannot currently offer copyright protection.

The website was updated with grant funding, and is there for all to access. The fact that the name is unusual means it comes near the top of many internet searches!

Email to clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Bella Snook

Drewsteignton Parish Clerk

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 10 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.

Drewsteignton Parish Council

What's On At Okehampton Library

3 – 15 April during library opening hours

Spring Crown – craft activity for children. Drop into the library to make a spring crown, decorated with flowers, bees and bugs. Free - no booking necessary

Sunday 30 April 12:00-16:00

May Fair, Simmons Park

Pop along and meet the Friends of Okehampton Library, who will be at the fair with various activities and selling second hand books.

Thursday 18 May 19:00

Writing Crime, Reporting Crime, talk by Simon Hall

Author and BBC Home Affairs Correspondent, Simon Hall, will share some of the insights from his career as a TV reporter and author in this talk: from the poignant to the hilarious and downright ridiculous.

Tickets £3 to include refreshments –available from Okehampton Library

Saturday 27 May 10:00-11:00

Elmer Day Activities

Dress in your brightest colours and join us for a celebration of everyone's favourite patchwork elephant! Free event for children

Where's Wally Week 30 May – 3 June

Tuesday 30 May 14:30-15:30 & Thursday 1 June 10:30-11:30

'Where's Wally' bag of fun

Celebrate 30 years of Where's Wally

For children over 5 – tickets in advance £1 each

Where's Wally Treasure Hunt - during library opening hours

Search for Wally and other characters hidden around the library

Children under 8 must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, Okehampton EX20 1AR 01837 52805 okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Granny's Leek and Potato Soup

Ingredients:

Oil
 2 or 3 leeks chopped
 3 carrots (1 grated)
 3 or 4 largish potatoes (cut into chunks)
 Handful of red lentils
 2 litres of Veggie stock or Chicken stock

Method:

Heat oil in a large saucepan
 Cut and chop leeks, potatoes and carrots and gently heat in saucepan
 Add stock and bring gently to the boil
 Add Red lentils and simmer until vegetables are soft
 Add salt and pepper to taste.

Granny's Scottish Morning Rolls

Ingredients:

350g (12ozs) strong white bread flour
 100g (4ozs) oat flour
 1½ teaspoons salt
 50g (2ozs) butter
 1 X 7g sachet fast action dried yeast, or ½ ounce (12g) fresh yeast mixed with tepid water
 1 teaspoon sugar
 300ml (half pint) tepid milk and water – in equal measures

Method:

Put both of the flours into a large bowl. Add the salt and rub the butter into the flour to combine. Add the sugar and the dried yeast.
 Pour the tepid water (or fresh yeast mixed with the water if using) into the bowl and mix with your hands until all the ingredients are combined and you have a rough dough ball.
 Tip the dough on to a floured board or work surface and knead with the heel of your hand, turning all the time, until the dough is smooth and elastic and not sticky – about 10 minutes.
 Grease and line two baking trays. Cut the dough in half and then cut the halves into equal pieces, I usually get between 8 to 12 baps, depending on the size. Roll into balls and then flatten lightly with a rolling pin or the palm of your hand – place on the greased and lined baking trays; sprinkle a little more flour lightly over the tops of the baps and place inside a large oiled plastic bag, place them in a warm place until doubled in size, about 35 to 45 minutes.
 Pre-heat oven to 200C or Gas 6. Place the baps in the heated oven, swapping the trays over half way through baking time; bake for 20 minutes, or until the baps a very pale golden colour – they should NOT be too dark, and should still feel soft and hollow when tapped from underneath.
 Place them on a wire rack to cool. Store in an airtight tin or pack into freezer bags and freeze for up to 1 month.
 (Makes 8 to 12 baps.)



Drewsteignton Playing Field

I have been advised that a few people are walking their dogs across the playing field. Some of you may not be aware that dogs aren't allowed anywhere in the whole of the field. Many children's play areas have fenced off sections to keep out dogs. We don't do this because the field is on a slope and we can only put play equipment in certain areas. As a result our equipment is spread out.

It's not as if Drewsteignton isn't surrounded by places to walk dogs. There's a public footpath at the top of the field that can easily be reached without going through the playing field.

Dog faeces is unpleasant and some children can be scared of dogs, but the real issue is the Toxocara egg which can cause eye diseases. Although it is rare, some people, mainly children, have gone blind as a result. I'm sure no one in this Parish wants to be the cause of a child going blind.

Please don't tell me that your dog is wormed regularly and/or it never poops in the playing field. The mere fact of a dog being walked across the field may encourage others, say a tourist, to think that it is an acceptable thing to do.

We are going to do a better job with our signs to make them larger and clearer. Please never allow your dog onto the playing field. Thank you for taking this issue seriously.

News from the Castle



Hi everyone

Spring has definitely sprung and it feels like you can watch the garden growing and blooming. I have never seen so many daffodils and spring flowers! This run of beautiful sunny weather has been fabulous and I hope it bodes well for the summer to come. I have some important news to share with you all. From Monday 26th June, we will be introducing a charge to park in the Castle Drogo car park. This is part of a national initiative to generate more income for conservation on the coast and in the countryside as

well as our historic buildings. I know how much people love and care for the Teign Gorge and enjoy the walks from Castle Drogo – myself included. The extra income raised from car parking charges won't disappear in to a central National Trust pot but will go directly to helping us to care for this wonderful landscape – improving habitats for butterflies and other important species and maintaining paths so people can enjoy the walks and the views.

The charge will be £4 for the day and will be applicable every day from 10am until 6pm. The car park will continue to be free outside of those times and don't forget that National Trust Members park for free after scanning their membership card, which we hope will encourage more people to join and support the work that the National Trust does, caring for special places, for ever, for everyone. Every time a membership card gets scanned at a National Trust place, either in reception or in the car park, that place gets a small credit from the central pot. So basically, every time a member visits Castle Drogo – whether it is to walk through the gorge or to visit the Castle and garden – we get a little bit extra to spend on caring for this wonderfully special place.

If you have any questions about this, or would like to know more, please do get in touch.

One other thing to tell you about is that the Festival of Arts is back for a second year. The festival starts on Saturday 6th May and will finish on Father's Day, Sunday 18th June. This event is when we get to celebrate the beautiful art throughout Castle Drogo as well as showcasing the breadth of fantastic artists across Dartmoor through pop-up exhibitions and drop-in activities.

The programme of artists and activities will be available very soon but already confirmed are our friends Diane Bailey, Marielle Ebner-Rijke and Tessa and Gary Challenger. I do hope some of you will come along to check out the great artwork and support us.

Take care everyone and see you soon.

Paula

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

Garden Waste Service

Councillors have agreed to retain a Garden Waste Service for West Devon Borough Council residents and agreed to introduce a charge on the service for those people who would like to use it, rather than see the service cut. West Devon Borough Council are joining 75% of authorities in Devon who collect garden waste and already charge for this service.

The Leader of West Devon Borough Council, Cllr Philip Sanders explains: "I am pleased that we will continue to offer this service. Our members did not want to cut this service, and as a discretionary service and in light of our budget pressures this is the right outcome. We are faced with a significant budget gap and the decision was clear for me, let's continue to offer a service to those people who want it. Although in my heart I did not want to introduce a charge for this service, I would rather see an introduction of a charge than lose the service.

Cllr Robert Sampson, Lead Member for Commercial Services said:

"We want to be able to offer householders the maximum number of choices to enable them to recycle their garden waste in an environmentally sustainable and cost effective way. This decision means that this can still be done through the Council run garden waste collection service, or by home composting or delivery to a County Council. Cutting this service would have restricted the options open to our residents and we did not want to do that".

The details of the charges will be publicised well in advance of the service switching to a charged service.

What's on in April 2017

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 or ring the Acorn Office on the number below for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 19th April and 3rd May. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 13th, 27th April and 11th May. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. Please drop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday 18th April and 2nd May. Please ring the number below if you would like a lift.

What else do we do? – We have a fantastic group of volunteers who help to provide transport to medical social and wellbeing appointments, we can deliver prescriptions, we also loan wheelchairs and equipment to assist you in the home.

Who should you contact - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered, equipment hire and any other Acorn service, please telephone the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Visit our website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

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 May - Thank You