

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 134

JUNE 2017

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The May meeting of the Parish Council is our “Annual General Meeting” where the Council elects a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and also appoints councillors to represent us on other organisations. As we are currently carrying three councillor vacancies we have withdrawn from some and increased some councillors’ responsibilities. There is only so much commitment the Parish can expect of the unpaid volunteers and it only goes to emphasise how much easier it would be for everyone if we could have a full complement of councillors.

Cllr, Anna Imrie was re elected as Chair with Cllr, Bill Savage her deputy. The following councillors agreed to represent the Council on the stated organisations: Graham Hester – Whiddon Down Village Hall & responsible for planning matters, Anna Imrie -liaison with Dartmoor National Park, Hazel Hunt – playing field, Bill Savage – Eastern Links & Providence School Trust, Debi Brooks – Drewsteignton Village Hall & Car Park, Paul Ridgers – Eastern Links and our representative on West Devon Borough Council. The Snow Warden and Road Warden jobs were deferred.

We are now considering three applicants for the position of Clerk and interviews are being arranged.

Councillors had a successful meeting regarding the anti social Behaviour in Lamb Park Drewsteignton with the Police, residents’ representative, Devon & Cornwall Housing, and WDBC environmental health.

The background was discussed and the limited options explored. The organisations can only act on ‘first hand’ accounts which means the Council cannot act for residents. Councillors noted and thanked Paul Moody for the work he had undertaken on behalf of residents.

Councillors noted and welcomed the re-opening of the Sandy Park Inn and hoped that it would continue to be a success.

Arrangements are in hand to purchase sign posts for those in the parish which are in need of replacing and the work to be undertaken by our parish lengthsman. We are supporting the Post Inn at Whiddon Down to obtain a permanent replacement for the damaged fencing outside the pub.

We are continuing to liaise with County Highways over the speed surveys at Whiddon Down & Crockernwell and a site visit with a representative of the police has been arranged.

We considered a planning application (WDBC I 172/17/FUL) for a commercial storage building in the yard to C. J. Saunders at Whiddon Down. As we were meeting in Whiddon Down Village Hall councillors took the opportunity to go outside and view the proposal.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed to object as it was felt the scale of the build would be overbearing on the village centre and would increase traffic movements.

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Congratulations



Congratulations to Suzanne Lovelace who was the only woman in her 70's to enter this years Exe Valley 2017 Triathlon.

This year she ran the sprint, one up from the novice of last year, " I found it very easy and could have done it again. I was awarded a prize of £20."

Well done Suzanne.

Congratulation also to Kate Wilson and Molly Knott for coming first in their respective categories at the Chagford Two hills race on Bank Holiday Monday.

Drewsteignton Playing Field

The Drewsteignton Playing Field Committee needs your help

We have a wonderful and varied resource in the village playing field, which we are continually attempting to improve with new features, such as the recent addition of the climbing frame and wall. We hold two major events each year: The Family Fun Day, which is coming up next month on the 15th of July so look out for posters going up soon, and the increasingly popular Family Bonfire and Fireworks night held in November. The Playing Field does not run itself and we have a strong Committee that organises these events for our and the wider community, but we do need more members to come and help. If you or your children enjoy the Playing Field or you would like to get more involved in village life, then why not join our committee.

Contact Alison Chapman by email at: callum.chapman@btinternet.com

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Our annual internal audit had been completed and councillors thanked Tony Thomas for his work in this matter.

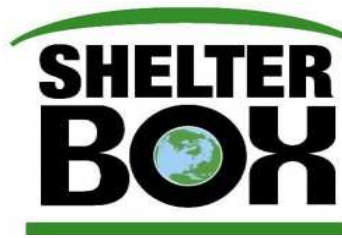
Cllr. Savage reported that the Providence School Trust has at last been able to invest its funds after delays in the process to comply with money laundering prevention measures.

From the Annual Parish Meeting, County Councillor James McInnes reported a rise in the County Council part of the Council Tax of 4.99% with 3% going towards adult care. The new highways contractor Skanska is using hot tarmac to fill potholes which

should lead to a more permanent repair. The County Council is still campaigning for fairer funding from government for schools and all the libraries and youth hubs have been maintained. Alison Chapman reported the Playing Fields had installed the new climbing frame and other equipment was planned, including a second hand fort donated by Castle Drogo. She thanked a great team of people, especially Chip & Jim. Bonfire night is being planned with a revision of parking and controlling numbers attending.

Our next meeting is Monday 19th June 2017 7.30pm at Drewsteignton.

Cream Teas For



Saturday 24th June

at

Hillside House, Drewsteignton.

Cream teas in the garden from 3.00 to 5.00
inside if inclement

Raffle

Entry free but donation for Shelter Box please.

(NB This replaces the previously advertised coffee morning)

Supported by Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton.

For those who are unaware of Shelter Box it is a Cornish based Trust which provides tents and survival equipment for people around the world who have lost their homes and livelihoods through natural disasters and conflict. It is a registered charity whose President is the Duchess of Cornwall and is funded entirely by donations.

Drewsteignton Playing Field

Family Fun Day

Saturday 15th July 3-7pm

Tea and cakes will be served from 3pm with the BBQ starting at 4.30pm.

We will again have our fantastic giant water slide, games, and a tug of war.

Refreshments will be available.

Sorry, no dogs are allowed anywhere in the Playing Field.

Hope to see loads of you

there.



Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton.

Very many thanks to everyone who supported our stalls at Teignton Fayre in aid of the Restoration Fund. Between them the bottle stall, cake stall and pudding stall raised over £500. As we no longer have the man/woman power to put on a summer fete your generosity was very much needed and appreciated.

Bird Notes

In last month's Parish Post, I just managed to get a 'Stop Press' in at the last minute to announce that the swifts had returned to Drewsteignton and were first seen here on the 5th of May. I heard that thousands were reported coming in off the sea at Portland Bill bird observatory on the 4th and almost everywhere in the south and central England had swifts arriving on the 5th. Having first seen them at 06.40 in the morning, I unblocked all my nest boxes, which I had sealed up through the winter to stop the house sparrows filling them up with nest material and occupying them. By the time I got back from work, there were five flying around in the sunshine and on the following day, I watched as a party of eight birds went screaming across the rooftops of Churchgate. Over the last month, the weather has been very settled and we have the continual presence of up to about twenty swifts over the village. It is really heartening that we have so many present and I am looking forward to seeing how many we will have using nest boxes on our row at Churchgate, on Hillmorhayes and now two more up in Knowle lane. I have yet to find swifts nesting on a house in Drewsteignton that has not got a thatched roof, but if you think you may have swifts nesting on your property, or would be interested in putting up nest boxes do get in touch with me, and enjoy the sight and sounds of these amazing birds while they are here.

The Exeter peregrines laid a clutch of four eggs this year, but only two hatched, on the 2nd and 3rd of May, which was the identical scenario to last year, with hatching on the same days. It has been great to watch the webcam and see these tiny chicks develop so quickly from tiny balls of down to juvenile falcons that will be fledging in mid-June. We ringed the two juveniles on the 23rd of May and due to their physical size and weights, it was apparent we have two females, whereas last year, we had two males. They are ringed under licence with a metal B.T.O. (British Trust for Ornithology) ring with a unique number and a blue plastic band with large black lettering that can be read by binoculars, telescopes or from photographs taken of the bird. It is these colour rings that are really good at identifying individual birds and just today, I got confirmation that one of the Exeter peregrines reared in 2015 has established a new territory in Somerset on a city centre church with a female that was ringed in Bath in 2015.

This is the first report of a live falcon from Exeter that we have had since we first started colour ringing in Exeter in 2012.

It is often the rarer or less common birds that seem to be the most interesting or notable, but I have been delighted recently by some very close-up views of one of our most common birds, and I had forgotten just how beautiful they are. I am talking about a blue tit, one of the most frequent visitors to any bird table and a regular user of nest boxes. I have been noticing one delicately taking the minute spiders from the tiny webs in the corners of our kitchen windows in the early mornings. In a fresh looking summer plumage, and just about 15 inches away through the glass, it was just stunning with his white face emphasised by black eye stripes meeting at the bill and running down to meet the yellow breast. The blue on the head runs down the back merging into blue/yellow wings and tail. It is easy to take the commoner species for granted, especially when we have big, exotic looking birds passing through the county such as the red kite. There is currently an influx of these long winged, forked tailed birds of prey in the county at the moment. I think I am the only person not to have seen one of these striking looking raptors in Devon over the past two weeks, and I was informed of one over the A30 at Whiddon Down on the 4th of June.

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Not quite fitting into the 'Bird Notes' category, but a few weeks ago I was asked if I had seen a hedgehog recently. I occasionally spot a dead one at the side of the road in the lanes or on the verge of the A30 dual carriageway, but I have not seen a live one locally for well over ten years. So, I was quite surprised just a week later, while getting something from my car at about 11.30 at night to see a hedgehog just outside my front door. It didn't roll into a ball but just froze as if hoping I hadn't noticed it. I managed to take some photos and then put my camera back inside for about 30 seconds, before returning to the front door and it had disappeared. I was delighted to see it up close while I had the opportunity, and it was good to know there are some about in the village.

I looked up hedgehogs in the Collins 'Field Guide to Mammals' just to see what they eat and was interested to note they eat slugs, of which there are a great many in my garden.

Nick

**Castle Drogo needs your help!**

From July this year, we will be hosting a fantastic art installation by Luke Jerram called Harrison's garden. This artwork, which will be in the castle, will be made up of over 2000 clocks and will be part of our new theme for 2017 'Changing Times'.

We would like to invite you all to contribute towards this art installation. We are appealing for donations of unwanted clocks to be part of the artwork. They don't have to be working (although it's great if they are) and any and all types are welcome. Some schools are even looking into making clocks for us inspired by Devon, Dartmoor or the story of Castle Drogo.

If you have any unwanted clocks which you are happy to donate permanently (e.g. for ever!) to the installation, there are a couple of options:

We would love it if people could please bring their unwanted clocks up to Castle Drogo and hand them over to our reception team. The best time to bring them up is between 10am and 5.30pm which is when the café, shop and garden are open.

Alternatively, if you manage to collect quite a few clocks, we would be happy to come and collect them from you.

Everyone who donates a clock will be invited to a special preview event so please make sure we have contact details for everyone who donates a clock. So, please spread the word. We would love to collect 500 clocks to add to the art installation. So far we have collected just under 100. All clocks must be with us by Friday 7 July!

Please let me know if you can help or would like any more information.

Very best wishes and thank you for any help you can give.

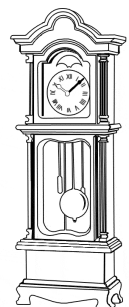
Paula Clarke

Community Engagement Officer

Castle Drogo, Dartmoor

01647 434130

07826 945107





What's on in June 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 14th, & 28th June. 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 8th & 29th June. 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 tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday 13th & 27th June.

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, and 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 or any other Acorn service, please telephone the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Acorn Office Telephone number 01647 252701 for further information.

Visit our website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Raspberry and Custard Cake

Ingredients

1 x 440ml/1lb can ready-made [custard](#)
300g/10½ oz [raspberries](#), crushed
250g/9oz unsalted [butter](#)
250g/9oz [caster sugar](#)

4 free-range [eggs](#)
250g/9oz [plain flour](#)
2 tsp [baking powder](#)
125ml/4½fl oz full-fat [milk](#)
4 tbsp [demerara sugar](#)

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas4, and grease and line a 23cm/9in springform cake tin. Mix the custard and half of the raspberries in a bowl until well combined.

In a separate bowl, beat the butter and sugar together until creamy, then add the eggs, one at a time, until well combined.

Stir in the flour, baking powder, milk, and the remaining crushed raspberries.

Pour half the cake mix into the cake tin. Add the raspberry custard mixture, and top with the remaining cake mixture.

Sprinkle with the demerara sugar and bake in the oven for 1½ hours. (Test the cake by inserting a skewer into the centre. If the skewer comes out clean, the cake is done.)

Remove the cake from the oven and set aside to cool.

Remove from the tin and cut into slices.



News from the Castle



Hi everyone

It is so lovely to have building work fully underway once again. Our new main contractor, Daedalus, started on site on 8 May and has hit the ground running. I never thought I'd be pleased to hear the sound of drilling again! The final phase of work is officially underway.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated a clock for our upcoming art installation by Luke Jerram called Harrison's garden. This artwork, which will be in the castle and will open in July, will be made up of over 2000 clocks and will be part of our new theme for 2017

'Changing Times'. We have already received 100 clocks from the local community which is amazing but we would still like more.

The clocks (or watches) don't have to be working, although it's great if they are, and any and all types are welcome. If you have any queries about this, please email ClocksforCastle-Drogo@nationaltrust.org.uk.

And finally... we will once again be hosting National Play Day on the estate at Castle Drogo. This free event will be on Piddledown Common on Wednesday 2 August from 2pm until 4pm. There will be art and craft activities, soft play, theatre and wild play. Please pop along to join us for an afternoon of play!

Take care everyone and see you soon.

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Events at Okehampton Library

Thursday 22 June 19:00

Su Bristow Author Talk

Su will be talking about her debut novel 'Sealskin'. Set in the Hebrides it is the reworking of a Scottish Legend, it won the Exeter Novel Prize 2013 and her writing has been described as 'magical realism.'

Su will be signing copies of her novel, available to purchase at the event.

Tickets £3 to include refreshments – purchase from Okehampton Library

Saturday 24 June 10:00-12:00

Okehampton Food Festival - Smoothie Bike at Okehampton Library

Use your pedalling energy to power a blender that is attached to the stationary bike to create a healthy, nutritious drink. All the fruit has been kindly donated by Waitrose supermarket.

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

www.devonlibraries.org.uk

West Devon Volunteer Managers Forum

The next Volunteer Managers Forum will take place on Wednesday 5th July 2017, 10am - 1pm, at The Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton, EX20 1AR

The theme will be on Safeguarding and DBS checks;

Steven Dixon, Workforce Development Advisor – Responsible for all Adult Safeguarding Training will deliver a workshop on Safeguarding Adult Awareness, covering changes from the Care Act 2014 including terms, definitions, types of abuse and reporting.

Phil Barrett and Jo Barker, Devon County Council will deliver a talk on DBS's covering eligibility, responsibilities, spent and unspent convictions. There will also be an opportunity for networking.

Places are free but are limited so booking is essential, please email clare@devonva.org.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Clare Humphreys

Locality Volunteer Service Co-ordinator

Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA)

WWW.devonva.org



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:

For Editorial John Shiell

Contributions Pauline Rowe

For Parish Council Bella Snook

Business

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

drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282

plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638

clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

☎ 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 July - Thank You