

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 142

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2018

We welcomed John Redman to the team of councillors at the January meeting which means there is only one vacancy left to fill before we have a full council. John is another farmer from the parish and a long standing resident. All three of our new councillors will be undertaking a training course provided by the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) in the next month or so which is designed to bring them up to date with current legislation and working practises concerning Parish Councils.

We have received an anonymous complaint alleging the accuracy of the minutes of council meetings was not correct. Just to be on the safe side we did take legal advice from DALC, they confirmed the minutes were not required to be a verbatim account of what is said at a meeting but

Park Drewsteignton who has caused so much anti social behaviour over the past years has now left the village, we can only hope he is now in a place he can receive the support he needs.

We are hoping the notice board at Sandy Park will be repaired shortly thanks to Cllr Ian Rowe and Simon Eakins.

Having received a reply from South West Water regarding the capacity of our sewage treatment works, it seems at odds with what we have been told in the past, therefore we are going back to SWW for clarity.

The provision of night landing sites for the Devon Air Ambulance is progressing and we hope a representative from DAAT will be able to meet with Councillors and land owners in the near future, it is still not too late to register an interest if you

a record of decisions made which is exactly what our minutes are. Following a parishioner request some years ago it has been our practice to publish a “draft” copy of the minutes on the website and on the parish notice boards. It is not until the following month’s meeting can the Chairman sign them as an accurate record having been approved by the council. If you do wish to contact with the Council which we welcome, be it with a compliment or a complaint, please give us some form of contact so we can have a dialog and reply to you in a proper fashion, many thanks.

On the anonymous subject, some months ago we received £100 to be used for planting at a specific location in Whiddon Down from an unknown person. We have been advised the location is not suitable for such planting and would like to use it at another location in the village. If the donor is happy for us to do that would you please let us know. The Clerk can be contacted on 01647 252306 and will treat your call in strict confidence, thank you.

We were pleased to hear the resident of Lamb

think you may have a suitable area that could be used.

We are monitoring the actions of Devon County Highways and what progress is being made with the collapsed culvert at Great Tree on the A382. The Council voted 4 votes to 3 to support a planning application for a two storey extension at Moorview, Whiddon Down (WDBC 4218/17/HHO)

The Parish Precept (or our part of your council tax) for the year 2018/2019 was discussed and, because of prudent management of our finances together with being able to obtain some public grants, we are pleased to say it will remain the same as it is for the current financial year – no increase.

Ten years ago it was reported in the Parish Post the police had dealt with 18 speeding drivers in Whiddon Down & Crockernwell in less than an hour, some different to today!!

Our next meeting is at Drewsteignton Monday 19th February 2018 at 7.30pm

Drewsteignton Playing Field

**Saturday 3rd March from 9am onwards
Hedge laying and maintenance day**

Come and try hedge laying.

The playing field is having a spring tidy up to include reinstating a hedgerow. If you would like to learn some basic Devon hedge laying methods come along for a morning, or all day. Bring along hand tools you may never have used, stout boots and gardening gloves.

Some tools can be provided.

We are combining this task with our general field maintenance day. Other help would be most welcome.

Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

If you can't make the 3rd of March but could help us out on another day, can you get in touch?

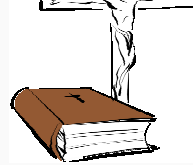
Many thanks **Alison**

Whiddon Down Methodist Church

Invites you to a Sacred Concert given by
The Exeter Male Voice Choir
On Good Friday 30th March
At 7.15pm
Followed by light refreshments.

Easter Sunday 1st April
Service at 6.30pm
All welcome





Michael Page

Michael's death has been a great shock to me, to David and Janet, to Cheryl and Andy in New Zealand and to Paul and Eileen and to all that knew and loved him, and you couldn't not love him, could you?

Thank you so much for all the cards, kind thoughts, and offers of help. There has been a tangible out-pouring of love and caring for us all, for which we are truly grateful.

Even though it might seem that I am now "abroad", it does only take minutes or so to get to Honiton, and I would love to see anyone who has the time to stop by- tel: 01404 42731.

My Love and best wishes to everyone for 2018.

Jacqueline.

Ford House Tea

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Tea Party for the Church on 27th January at Ford House and contributed so generously with food, draw prizes and donations. This event was specifically for the restoration fund to enable us to pay for the repairs to the crumbling stonework around the four windows on the south side of Holy Trinity. At the moment the estimated total cost is between £20,000 and £25,000 but, as each window will have to be done as and when we have sufficient money, the final bill is likely to be considerably more. Special thanks to Calum and Alison Chapman for opening their beautiful home and making everyone so welcome. It is testament to their warm hospitality that events at Ford House draw so much support. ***Angela Thomas.***

Stone Lane Gardens Launches Water Garden Appeal

On a sunny hillside close to Drewsteignton, Stone Lane Gardens are our local gardens open to the public all year round. The gardens feature a spectacular arboretum, which is a National Collection of Birch and Alder, and a meandering water garden, both originally designed by musician and plant hunter Kenneth Ashburner who now rest in Holy Trinity churchyard next to his artist wife June. The gardens have easy access along specially made paths and on the lawns children can play among the trees. By a pond there is a corner where visitors can sit in a tranquil 'Silent Space'.

As well as the arboretum, Stone Lane Gardens has a specialist nursery, selling saplings to gardeners and professional horticulturists and is open from Monday to Friday. New at Stone Lane, in the summer a small flowering plant sales area will be open as will a new Pop-Up Cafe serving teas.

From 13 May to 31 October, the gardens host "The Mythic Garden" Sculpture Exhibition and as 2018 will be its 25th anniversary, many artists will use the theme of Silver. Featured this year will be sculptures by internationally-known local artist Peter Randall-Page and by Andrew Logan, famous for his glittering mirror works.

Many people knew June and on her death in 2016 the gardens became a Charitable Trust. Assisted by local volunteers around the grounds, gardens manager Paul Bartlett goes out to give talks and engages local schools with the wonders of nature. In the garden's barns, artists rent studio space and art exhibitions and music events take place in the hay barn, now requiring restoration.

For 2018, the Trustees have launched a special Stone Lane Gardens Water Garden Renovation Appeal. Funding is needed for the replanting of the water garden and landscape designer Duncan Rice has drafted plans based on the originals by Kenneth Ashburner. Supporters can contribute by cheque or via a 'Donate' button on the Welcome page of the web site. Contact Paul Bartlett at admin@stonelanegardens.com, or the press office at pressoffice@stonelanegardens.com, for details. Visitors are welcome at Stone Lane Gardens every day from 10am – 6pm. Parking is at Long Lane. Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford, TQ13 8JU T: 01647 231 311 www.stonelanegardens.com
Contact: Anna – (01647 433 771) pressoffice@stonelanegardens.com

ACE Archaeology Club

We are now busy planning for another year of archaeology. There is so much going on.

We have changed the dates of our Moistown dig so that we do it all in one go instead of spreading it out and doing a week in spring and two weeks in the summer.

We decided that putting up the tents and then taking them down twice and covering and uncovering the trenches twice wasn't a good use of time and energy so we

will be digging from the 30th June to the 25th July. This also covers the Council for British Archaeology festival on the 21st and 22nd July, for which we will be doing our bit. As well as the opportunity to have a look around our site and find out more from the exhibition, there is the chance for visitors to have a go at digging. The 'Have a go trench' is usually full of children but we would love some adults to try it as well. You never know, you might like it.

We have a small group of people now starting to work on the thousands of finds that we have, mostly pottery sherds. We have to do a crash course in how to identify the different types of pottery. We have found some pieces dating from the Saxo-Norman period and quite a bit of later medieval as well as the ubiquitous blue and white ware! So have a lot to get our heads around.

Of course, we aren't the only ones doing archaeology and we hope to have some involvement in work that will be going on in the National Trust estate at Fingle Woods. Information will be out on that later in the year on the Castle Drogo website and the Woodland Trust website.

Finally, this year is Ace's 21st birthday, so we will be having a party in July to celebrate that.

For more information on what we are up to do have a look at our Facebook page or our website

www.acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com

Or contact us on surica47@gmail.com

Erica Williamson (Secretary)





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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. Last year we raised £570 for our funds. 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 or Standing Order NatWest Okehampton Sort Code 54-21-14 Account No. 22127879 ODCTG

Drivers

We are always looking for volunteer drivers and at the moment would particularly like to find someone from the Chagford, Lewdown and North Tawton areas. Please ring us for more information.

We welcome Sally Chamings from Okehampton

Coffee Morning

We will be holding a coffee morning in the Charter Hall, Okehampton from 9am to 12 on Saturday 10th March with all the usual stalls and will also have a representative from the Fire Service who will be available for advice and information. We would be grateful of donations for the raffle and also books, puzzles, bric-a-brac which can be brought along on the day, dropped into our office or we can collect. Thank you.

Trips

Is there somewhere you would like to visit? If so, give us a ring and we will try and arrange a suitable date. We have incorporated some of your requests and have others ready for the summer months when hopefully the weather will be kinder!

Please let us know as soon as possible if you need to cancel a booking, to allow us time to try and fill the seats, especially if you are a wheelchair user as this involves us removing 4 seats for each wheelchair space. Thank you.

space. Thank you.

Saturday 10 th February	Green Lanes, Barnstaple	£12
Saturday 17 th February	Dartington Glass & Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Torrington	£12
Saturday 24 th February	Homeleigh, Launceston	£10
Saturday 3 rd March	Otter Nurseries	£12
Saturday 10 th March	ODCTG Coffee Morning then lunch at Country Lanes	£5
Saturday 17 th March	World of Country Life, Exmouth	£10
Saturday 24 th March	Trago Mills/Newton Abbot	£12
Saturday 31 st March	NO TRIP - EASTER	

Midweek Trips

Please note that these will be Okehampton (or along the route) pick ups only and will allow two and a half hours at the destination

Thursday 15 th February	Lifton Farm Shop for lunch	£10
Tuesday 27 th March	Bow Garden Centre for lunch	£10

Mayors Coffee Morning

Sue and Liz were invited by the Mayor to host a stall at her recent event. We served refreshments.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us, we raised £65.69.

Newsletters

With the increasing costs of printing and postage, if you or your family have an email address, please let us know so that we can send information to you electronically to cut down on our costs and also keep you informed of extra forthcoming events/trips. Thank you.

15 seat Community Bus

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

Presentation/Talk

If you belong to a club or society and would like one of us to come along and explain how our services work, please give us a ring so we can arrange a suitable date/time.

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Wheelchairs

We have two wheelchairs in our office which we are happy to lend for short term use for a donation to our funds

Twiddlemuffs

We currently have a large amount of these available so would politely ask you not to knit any more at the present time. Perhaps you would like to knit/crochet/sew some items which we could sell at our coffee mornings instead e.g. toys, clothes or anything else you can think of!

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

Out of hours emergency mobile no. 07484525577

The Coast – A Play about our Relationship with the Sea

Atlantis is a South West coastal village; a holiday destination with beaches covered in litter, cliff edges tall enough to hide many a secret, and locals affected by the low-wage economy of the holiday trade.

When Dartmoor sisters Romney and Petra go on holiday to Atlantis, they are led into a world where nothing is quite as it seems, and end up staring at disaster from the edge of the cliffs. Can they and others, overcome the feud that is undermining village life?

MED Theatre's new community play *The Coast* looks at the relationship of Dartmoor to the coast of the South West, and dives into the issue of plastic pollution of the oceans. Set in the fictional coastal village of Atlantis, the play makes use of historical accounts of wreckers, as well as the folklore of Jack o' Lantern and selchies, to explore modern conundrums in landscape conservation, development and planning.

The Coast continues MED Theatre's tradition of producing and touring community plays with and for local people, stretching back over three decades. *The Coast*, like most MED community plays, is a bespoke piece written for its large multigenerational cast by artistic director and playwright Mark Beeson, with input from two young co-writers.

The Coast tours villages on Dartmoor in March 2018:

Friday 9th and Sunday 10th Manaton Parish Hall

Tuesday 13th Belstone Village Hall

Thursday 15th Mary Tavy Coronation Hall

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

For bookings and more information please contact MED Theatre: info@medtheatre.co.uk, 01647 441356, or visit www.medtheatre.co.uk

A382 – Temporary traffic lights at Great Tree Park

Traffic lights are currently in place at Great Tree Park on the A382 near Chagford.

The lights are due to be in place at least until April 2018 and are required due to a collapsed culvert (a structure allowing water to flow under the road).

What are we doing?

In trying to clear the problem it has been identified that there is a possible collapse under the hedge bank, as well as issues with the culvert under the road in the coned off area, meaning this section of the culvert will need to be replaced.

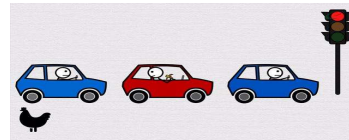
A hole in the road is allowing some water to flow through the culvert and will allow easy access for contractors to unblock the culvert if needed.

A detailed design needs to be undertaken to achieve a solution that is best for all concerned. This may require negotiating access and permission with local landowners.

Further traffic management in the form of a road closure may be required once a solution has been identified.

Contact

If you need any further information please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0345 155 1004.



Bird Notes

We seem to have had yet another month of very wet, often windy weather with the occasional dry, mild and even sunny day. It has been on these rare days over the last month, that I have really started to notice the bird song beginning to herald the arrival of Spring. Robins are normally the only bird to sing through the winter and will often be heard last thing in the evening or before light in the mornings. Just recently, I have heard great tits, song thrushes, wrens and assorted finches all singing on the nice days. The hedgerows, woods and trees are at their barest now, with all the old leaves blown off by the winter gales. The lack of foliage on the trees does enable really good views of the stunning landscape around the village, and also allows good views of birds in the tree tops and hedgerows at the moment. I am noticing more snowdrops along many hedgerow banks in full flower now, the daffodils are coming up and primroses are starting to flower too, all signs of new beginnings.

In May last year, we took ownership of Otto, a springer/labrador cross (a Splab) who needs plenty of exercise and walks. This has got me out into the surrounding countryside on some new routes and footpaths I would not normally use on a regular basis. It has been wonderful to watch the changing of the seasons on these routes and catching those unexpected glimpses of local birds and animals around the village. Invariably, these routes incorporate some walking along the lanes into the village, and I am amazed at the amount of rubbish that would appear to have been chucked into the roadside hedges. I presume most of it was thrown from cars as I just don't see people walking along the lanes with the rubbish that is littering the local hedgerows. Tin cans, mainly 'energy' drinks, lager or cider cans seem to be the most prevalent, but, I also come across the Costa coffee cups and lids and the plastic/polystyrene packaging from a KFC or MacDonalds meal which has obviously been dumped from a moving car. I wonder who it is that seems to enjoy the convenience of the drink or meal, but having finished it, can't wait to rid their car of the packaging into the lanes around the village.

I took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch over the last weekend in January. This is an annual and very simple survey sent to RSPB members to get records of what birds they see in their gardens over one hour over the weekend. It has been running since



cons over the year. Over the weekend it has been raining since 1979, when 34,000 people took part in the first Big Garden Birdwatch. It has proved to be very popular and in 2011, 600,000 people took part and recorded over 10.2 million birds.

These annual surveys have revealed some fascinating information as to the numbers of birds seen in our gardens, and some of the changes that have occurred to different species over the past. For example, 4 house sparrows are seen on average in each garden, topping the results, but overall numbers of this once very common species have fallen by 57% since 1979. The blackbird is seen in 93% of gardens, making it the UK's most widespread garden bird. There has been a 79% decline in starlings since it began 39 years ago, and a 52% increase in long tailed tits between 2006 and 2016. The robin is present in 9 out of 10 gardens, and siskins and goldfinches have soared in abundance over the last decade.

The most recent survey results are from the 2016 Birdwatch and the top ten most seen birds were (in order from No.1) house sparrow, starling, blue tit, blackbird, wood pigeon, goldfinch, chaffinch, great tit, robin and at No.10, the long tailed tit. When I was doing my hour watching out of the window, the weather was quite wet and my overall numbers were not as high as I had expected, or as high as a few days prior to the watch. I recorded all the above species except woodpigeon and starling, and a few others too. In the first few days of February, with a turn to colder weather, I have noticed a considerable increase in birds coming to my feeders.

I am going to end on a question. It's one that came up during a Christmas quiz, and my team looked to me for the correct answer to it, and I got it wrong! What is the UK's commonest bird? The answer is easily found via Google if you want to check, and it surprised me. If you see me around, let me know what you think the answer is.

Nick



News from the Castle



Hi everyone

We finally seem to be heading towards Spring. It is lovely to see snowdrops in the garden and daffodils starting to appear. The garden is open every day now if you feel the need to stretch your legs and the Castle will re-open for the new season on Saturday 3 March.

Thank you so much to everyone for their support of the First World War event, part of the Devon Remembers Heritage project, that has just taken place in the village. We had such a lovely warm welcome from so many people when delivering the postcards – even being invited in for tea and biscuits! It was wonderful to see so many people at the talk too. Thank you again to all

those who turned out on a cold January evening and to Gary and the Drewe team for loaning us the Long Room. It really was a very moving and poignant event, finishing with the Chagford Bell Ringers completing 100 peals of the church bells. I must confess to getting a bit misty eyed.

We have another First World War project underway at the moment too which is part of a national project called Away From the Western Front. We have been working with Okehampton College to create a history, music and drama performance and exhibition inspired by the story of a Drewsteignton lad called William George Arcscott. The college plan to perform the finished piece at Drogo on Friday 9 March. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

Best wishes to you all,

Paula

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

Devon Communities Together

Devon Communities Together are running a winter programme to support households to get better value from their expenditure on energy sources. The project is part of the Big Energy Saving Network initiative and also supported by Western Power Distribution.

tive and also supported by Western Power Distribution.

We offer three services:

A presentation to community leaders and organisers to provide an oversight of a range of 'energy' matters that will enable them to give guidance and direct people to sources of information and help.

We have made this presentation to parish and district councillors, village hall committees, organisers of support groups, energy interest groups, community shop organisers, patient participation groups and tenants organisations.

The presentation lasts for 30 minutes.

A one to one discussion on home energy use including a review of current energy bills.

This is usually delivered by attending a 'gathering point' such as a club or drop-in event, community shop, food bank.

Home visit to review energy use and energy management in the home.

These visits last around two hours and can include a review of current energy bills.

At the moment we are also organising the Energy drop in clinics across Devon and we offering it to each parish. During the drop in clinics we are helping people with their energy bills and debts, looking at discounts and solutions, helping people to change a supplier if they need/ want it.

We also offer a Free home visits as a follow up. The drop in takes about 2 hours.

If any of the above would support your services, then please contact us.

Martin Rich

Community Projects Advisor

telephone 01392 248919*141 Mob: 07984 001542

www.devoncommunities.org.uk

Devon Communities Together
First Floor, 3 & 4 Cranmere Court
Lustleigh Close
Matford Business Park
Exeter EX2 8PW



Slow Cooker Chicken Casserole

Treat the family to this wholesome chicken casserole that delivers comfort while being low-fat. And you can let a slow cooker do most of the work

Ingredients:

- * Knob of butter
- * ½ tbsp rapeseed or olive oil
- * 1 large onion finely chopped
- * 1 ½ tbsp flour
- * 650g boneless, skinless chicken thigh fillets
- * 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- * 400g baby new potatoes, halved
- * 2 sticks celery, diced
- * 2 carrots, diced
- * 250g mushrooms, quartered
- * 500ml stock
- * 2 tsp Dijon mustard, plus extra to serve
- * 2 bay leaves

Method:

1. Heat the butter and oil in a large [frying pan](#), cook the onion for 8-10 mins until softened and starting to caramelise. Meanwhile put the flour and a little salt and pepper in a bowl and toss the chicken in it. Add the garlic and chicken to the pan and cook for 4-5 mins more until the chicken is starting to brown.

2. Transfer to your slow cooker, along with the rest of the ingredients, Give it a good stir. Cook on Low for 7 hours or High for 4 hours. Remove the bay leaves and serve with Dijon mustard on the side.



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.

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
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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 March - Thank You