

Drewsteignton Parish Post

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 144

APRIL 2018

On behalf of everyone we would like to give a very big **THANK YOU** to those farmers, contractors and individuals in the parish who cleared roads and footpaths during the two bouts of snow recently. It would not be fair to name individuals as we would be sure to miss someone, suffice to say you know who you are and because of your selfless actions you made life for others just that little bit easier, thanks.

Everyone has now been notified by West Devon Borough Council of the changes in recycling collections from 16th April 2018. Basically it means householders have to do a bit more sorting out and use two bins instead of one. If, like me, you had to think where your second green bin was, have a look in the garden shed, mine was there with "stuff" in it!! A survey of the contents of black bags has been undertaken and it was found 24% of the contents was food waste. If an extra effort could be made by you to improve this figure, not only would the WDBC be grateful, but it would make a financial saving to them. If it helps, we wrap our food waste in newspaper, pop it in the freezer and then put it out in the grey bin on the day of collection. If for any reason you need another green bin or food container, just contact WDBC preferably by email or telephone 01822 813600 and they will deliver what you need.

Jointly with Sticklepath Parish Council, we have been successful in being granted funding for a mobile Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) sign which we intend to share and use in the villages affected by anti-social drivers exceeding the speed limits. We also hope to have enough to include "Traffic Gateways" for Whiddon Down and Crockernwell. The replacement of finger posts around the parish which were either dirty, damaged or rotted off has now been completed. You will see they have been mounted on metal spikes. By do-

ing this it is hoped they will last considerably longer than they have done before when Devon County Council planted the wooden posts straight into the ground.

WDBC no longer cut the grass verges so, as a result of representations being made to the Parish Council, we have agreed to pay for the cutting in Whiddon Down once a month at £30 per visit. Thanks to an idea from Cllr. Ysanne James, we are working with Devon Probation Service to explore the possibilities of the Community Pay Back group being used for work such as gully clearing, weeding etc in the parish.

We would still like to hear from anyone prepared to represent the parish as a trustee for the Providence School Charity.

The unauthorised occupants of land at Whiddon Down have now been evicted but have left a large amount of rubbish for someone to clear up.

The latest news we have received from DCC regarding the collapsed culvert on the A382 at Great Tree is, work is hoped to commence sometime in May or June. It will mean road closures and diversions which will be well advertised. As soon as we know we will publish it in the Parish Post.

DCC have also informed us they are allowed to dump the road scrapings along Harepath Straight and will smooth it all out in time. For those who drive through Crockernwell you will notice the double white line system in the village has been removed and patching work done to the road surface.

The date of the **Annual Parish Meeting** published last month is incorrect, it is **Monday 14th May 2018 7.30pm at Whiddon Down**.

The next monthly meeting of the Parish Council is **Monday 16th April 2018 7.30pm at Drew-**



CREAM TEAS IN THE GARDENSaturday 23rd June

at Hillside House

*for***ShelterBox***under cover if inclement*

3.30 – 5.00

Donations please

Calling all local crafters.....

If you would like a stall at
Drewsteignton 'Summertime'
Craft Fayre 2nd and 3rd June
please contact Jane on 01647 281605
No charge for table but 15% of takings to Teignton Fayre funds

**Drewsteignton 'Summertime' Craft Fayre**

Saturday 2nd June 2pm—9pm

Sunday 3rd June 11am— 5pm

Drewsteignton Village Hall

Please come and support our Local Crafters
who will be donating 15% of their takings to
Teignton Fayre funds

Thank You

Many, many thanks, specially to Amy, Pauline, Lyn, Mike and Nigel for finding me and helping after my recent fall, only thing is I can't remember any of it. I would also like to thank the Rapid Response team, Moretonhampstead Firemen, and paramedic for all their help and care.

Thank you for all the get well cards and fruit I have received, and all the visitors I have had.

Pam

STONE LANE GARDENS

STONE LANE GARDENS VOLUNTEER DAY - 18th APRIL

Want to gain experience & learn new skills? Or have you got skills and time to share them? You can make a big difference to Stone Lane Gardens!

Come along and discover more at our Volunteer Day, 10am to 2pm on 18th April 2018 at Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford. Chat to Paul, our Garden Manager, and meet some of our regular volunteers over coffee and biscuits. They can tell you about the volunteering opportunities - from admin jobs, including social media and publicity, to more practical tasks such as garden maintenance and helping with events. After coffee you could try your hand at a range of gardening tasks or just enjoy a walk around the arboretum.

Stone Lane Gardens is home to a National Collection of birch and alder trees from all around the world and hosts the 'Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition' every summer. Open to the public every day we also offer outdoor learning activities for nursery children to university students and special interest groups. You could meet new people and help with worthwhile charitable work. Our regular volunteers meet as a group on Wednesdays and Fridays, or you can come some other day of the week to suit your own timetable.

For more information please take a look at our website www.stonelanegardens.com or contact Paul at paul.bartett@stonelanegardens.com or on 01647 231311.

EVENTS FOR 2018

May 13th – The 25th Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition opens with the theme of 'Celebration'

10 – 6.00 pm every day until October 31st

June 10th – Music Fest

June 23rd – Storytelling with Rowan Wylie.



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 4th & 18th April. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be April 12th & 26th. 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 17th April.

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 can also loan 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.

Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information.

Visit our website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk



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. 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.

Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported us on Saturday, we raised £350.59. Special thanks go to our Volunteer Drivers who came along to help: Graham, Lindsey, Scilla, Michael, Michael & Ann, Graham & Isabella plus Vera Bray and Abi Westlake who helped run the stalls and Annie and Minno for serving refreshments.

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.

14 TH APRIL	Atlantic Village, Bideford	£12
21 ST APRIL	Otter Nurseries	£12
28 TH APRIL	Merry Harriers Garden Centre, Woolsery	£12
5 TH MAY	Torquay	£12
12 TH MAY	Eggesford Garden Nursery	£10
19 TH MAY	Teignmouth	£12
26 TH MAY	Exeter	£10
2 ND JUNE	Bude	£12
9 TH JUNE	Looe	£12
16 TH JUNE	Sidmouth	£12
23 RD JUNE	Ilfracombe	£12
30 TH JUNE	Dawlish/Dawlish Warren	£10

Midweek Trips

Please note that these will be Okehampton (or along the route) pick ups only

Tues 3 rd April	Hatherleigh Market	Bus £5
Thurs 19 th April	Lunch at Roadford Lake	Bus £8
Tues 22 nd May	Cowslip Workshop, Launceston	Bus £10
Thurs pm 10 th May	War Horse Valley	Bus £8 Entry £5
Fri 8 th June	Afternoon Tea at Belstone Tea Room	Bus £4
Tues 19 th June	Killerton House, National Trust	Bus £10 Entry £11.60 to non NT members

Dee Cares

Would you like company to attend an appointment, go on one of our trips, do you need help with your shopping or just to play cards or have a chat. Dee is available at a reasonable hourly rate and has 12 years caring experience including palliative care and caring in the community. She is also able to do sits with people or overnight sleeps. Please call her on 07563497794 for a chat.

Dartmoor Mobile Foot Clinic

Unable to reach or cut your nails, thickened toenails, ingrown toenails, fungal infections, corns, callouses, cracked heels, athlete's foot, psoriasis? Please ring Amber Bennett S.A.C. Dip FHPT, Diabetic trained who can help you. Daytime 07738247092 or Evenings 01647 441381. Giving your feet professional treatment within the comfort of your own home.

Grant

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Sue receiving a cheque for £2,000 from Jan Goffey, Mayor, Okehampton Town Council following a grant application by Sue towards running costs of the Volunteer Car Service which costs approximately £24,000 per year to run.



Pinpoint Devon

www.pinpointdevon.co.uk The easy way to find services and support in your community for you, your family or someone you care for: for help at home, keeping healthy and staying active, help getting out and about, advice and advocacy, money matters, staying safe and more.

Art for All

Make art and make new friends: Wednesdays 1.30 to 4.30 at the Ockment Centre £8 per 4 week course.

Course 1: Anilinky & Brusho Landscapes 18th, 25th April, 2nd 9th May Experiment with vibrant colour to create bold landscape images.

Course 2: Collage & Mixed Media Flowers 16th, 23rd, 30th May, 6th June Create exciting vibrant flower images with a selection of decorative papers.

Course 3: Ink Drawing & Painting 13th, 20th, 27th June, 4th July Explore ink drawing, line and wash and Japanese ink painting. – Ring 01822 258351 to book or for further information email westdevonartworkshops@gmail.com

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.

Wheelchairs

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

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

We have had some interesting and varied weather in March with two heavy lots of snow, at the beginning and in the middle of the month. The wet weather that has seemed to prevail this winter also continued but the clocks went back the week-end before Easter, and the daylight hours are now getting longer.

Towards the end of March, the first green leaves were noticeable on some early trees and hedgerows, and as I write this, (rather late, on the 8th of April), many of the hedgerows are greening up well.

March is always a favourite month of mine as it's when the peregrine season starts. They begin to lay eggs from mid-month, and with so many nest cameras installed at the ever-increasing number of urban sites, it gets interesting as to which location records the first egg of the year, the intervals between eggs, and number of eggs laid. My main interest is with the Exeter peregrines at St. Michaels church at Mount Dinham, and 2018 will be the 22nd year of breeding there. The earliest first egg date we have recorded is the 18th of March, but that was back in 2002. With the current pairing of adult peregrines at the church, the first egg date has been the 24th of March over the past three years but of the 4 eggs laid in each of these years, only two have hatched from the 4. Both of the Exeter peregrines are now quite old, and we believe the male arrived in 2005 and the female in 2009. As both appeared in adult plumage this would indicate the male is at least 15 years old and the female 11. The ages of the resident birds in Exeter may be contributing to the low hatch rate.

The first peregrine egg laid in 2018 that I heard about was at a site in Merton in south London on the 16th of March followed by eggs laid in Woking, Bath and Fulham on the 17th. Peregrines eggs are laid at intervals of between 50 to 60 hours, so about a two and a half day interval with a typical clutch of four eggs being the normal amount. I was fully expecting the first egg in Exeter to arrive on the 24th again but it wasn't laid until 18.53 on the 25th, with the second laid at 05.55 on the 28th and the 3rd at 17.32 on the 30th. One of the benefits of web cameras on peregrine nests is that there is an army of armchair peregrine watchers that record and post the arrival times of their favourite, or local sites online. This saves me having to sit watching my screen for the first egg to arrive, but having got the time of the first, I know that ours lay at about 59 hour intervals, so if I can, I will try and record the others. I was again expecting four eggs but they only laid three this year, also possibly due to their age. It will be interesting to see how many hatch and I am expecting this around the end of April.

It is towards the end of March that many of our migrant birds return, and the sound that heralds the start of Spring for me is the calling of the chiffchaff. They are the first birds to return from Africa and one of the few warblers I can identify by their call. Normally I hear their high pitched 'chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff' call from the 25th of March locally but it was all quiet this year. The first chiffchaff calling I heard was on the 3rd of April in an ancient Yew forest called Kingly Vale in west Sussex, where we spent a few days over the Easter school holiday. Having arrived back in Devon, I then began to hear chiffchaffs here and now they are calling everywhere. On Saturday 7th of April whilst walking our dog, I heard another warbler singing from a hazel copse and tried to spot it with my binoculars to determine what species it was. I am not very good at identifying warblers from their song and this could have been a whitethroat, a blackcap or a garden warbler. That's why I like chiffchaffs as they are easy to identify from their song! However, I spotted it singing and it was a fine male blackcap, so they are back locally too.

I saw my first house martins of 2018 on the 6th of April while I was working in Cornwall, and then on the 7th spotted a solitary swallow calling while flying over the river Exe in Exeter, and then saw four near Veet Mill on the way home. The swifts will be back with us soon, and I normally expect to see the first back in the village around the 1st of May. I am always keen to hear if anyone has swifts nesting on their properties, or would like to attract them by putting up a nest box.

I am delighted that we have robins nesting in a box I put up two years ago in our back garden. I cable tied an open fronted nest box into the middle of a bush at about head height, in the hope of attracting robins as I rarely see them in my garden during the summer, but we do get a few on my feeders in the winter. The box wasn't used last year but a few weeks ago, I was on the telephone and looking out of our kitchen window, when I saw a robin with a beak full of moss perching near the box. Later, I had a quick look and the box was nearly full of nest material. Over the last week, I have seen a bird regularly sitting inside and hopefully soon, we will see food being brought in to feed the chicks when they hatch.

Nick

News from the Castle



Hi everyone. I hope you have survived the snow! I particularly enjoyed jumping in the snowdrift on Long Lane.

I have 2 wonderfully exciting things to update you on this month. Firstly, we have just finished a truly wonderful music, drama and history activity with Okehampton College as part of the Away From the Western Front project. We have been working with the students since September exploring the story of a Castle Drogo labourer called William George Arscott from Drewsteignton. He was one of the first men from Castle Drogo to enlist during the First World War and the students used his story as inspiration to create presentations, compositions and dramatic pieces which were performed in the Chapel on the 9th March. Don't worry if you missed the performance as it was filmed and will soon be on display in the Chapel as part of a short term exhibition. I will let you know when it is ready just in case you fancy popping in to take a look. Secondly, we are getting ready for 2 volunteer open days. We would love to welcome you to be part of this wonderful team so, if you fancy finding out a little bit more, please drop in on Sunday 22nd or Wednesday 25th April between 12 midday and 3pm. There will be mini tours of the Castle, a chance to meet some of the team and, of course, plenty of cups of tea. We have several opportunities to volunteer in the Castle but we will also be flinging open the doors for new recruits in the plant centre, café and on the historic landscape team. I'm not sure if this would put you off, but I will be at the Wednesday one if you fancy saying hello.

Finally, we are all getting ready for the Easter rush and have vast amounts of yummy Easter eggs ready to go. Fingers crossed for a little bit of sunshine – we certainly deserve it!

Best wishes to you all,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Drewsteignton Gardeners Club

**Spring Plant Sale
Bedding, shrubs, vegetable and more
Saturday 5th May
10am until sold!**

Drewsteignton Village Hall
Everyone welcome to browse and buy
Refreshments.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

**St George's Day Bingo
Monday 23rd April
At
Whiddon Down Village Hall**

Meat/ Poultry supplied by Oinkers at Drakes Farm

Eyes Down 8.00pm
1 line, 2 lines and full house

Okehampton Library

Thursday 26 April 19:00 – Great Plants to Take Your Garden Through the Year

Talk by David Squires from the Royal Horticultural Society

Tickets only £3, to include refreshments

Regular Events

Tuesdays 10:00- 10:30 - Bounce & Rhyme for over 1 year olds

Free, no booking necessary

Tuesdays 11:00-11:30 - Bounce and Rhyme for under 1 year olds

Free - no booking necessary

1st Tuesday of the month (excluding Aug & Sept) 15:45-16:45 - Bookworms

Book Club for ages 7-11 Free - no booking necessary

Wednesdays 09:30-10:15 - Duplo Builders & Storytime for ages 0-5

Free - no booking necessary

Saturdays 10:30 – 11:30 - Lego Builders for ages 5+

Free, no booking necessary

Book Track for ages 6+ during library opening hours. Free, ask staff for further details

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

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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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 May - Thank You