

Drewsteignton Parish Post

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 146

JUNE 2018

It has been a busy month for us with no less than three public meetings. The first was at Whiddon Down on Friday 11th May and was an open public consultation meeting regarding a proposed development of a new farm shop, ancillary cafe, and a dedicated children's soft play area to land north of the A30. The matter is to be decided by West Devon Borough Council planning committee on 19th June 2018 as it is the very small part of our parish not in the National Park. Their reference number is 1255/18/FUL if you would like to view the plans. The land is on the left of the Hittisleigh road from the junction with the old A30 at Whiddon Down just up the rise where the road bends to the right. Over fifty members of the public attended the meeting and it is fair to say there was no one speaking in support of the application. We had invited the applicant or his agent to attend but they were unable to. It must also be stated that the meeting was arranged at short notice because of time restraints, now relaxed by WDBC, for views to be submitted to them. The meeting was published on social media, parish website and Council notice board but please accept our apologies if you did not know about it.

The second meeting was the following Monday evening also at Whiddon Down and was the Annual Parish Meeting where representatives of various organisations in the parish give their reports. A few snippets of news were Castle Drogo had just short of 100,000 visitors in 12 months, the gardeners club was in a healthy position with 30 members, the Church not quite so good with the majority of the congregation now being in their seventies and

looking at ways to encourage younger members to support it. Can you imagine what Drewsteignton village would be like if the church was to shut? We also heard from Cllr James McInnes, Devon County, When questioned on highways he informed the meeting that the county had a 28 day period in which to fill any pothole reported to them. There is a scheme of future proofing roads by surface dressing them to prevent them getting worse which is why lanes like Hannaford lane have been worked on.

The third meeting was our monthly and additional annual general meeting. Cllr. Anna Imrie stood down as Chairman having held the position for three years. Cllr. Bill Savage was nominated and elected as Chairman, Cllr. Graham Hester was nominated and elected as Vice-Chairman.

We have received a reply from Stagecoach to say none of their drivers have experienced problems with overhanging trees. A meeting is being arranged with the community payback scheme organisers to finalise work to be done in the parish.

Cllr. Ysanne James is making progress with a Facebook page and is looking for any photographs with a bit of history attached.

Councillors confirmed that following the consultation meeting and an extensive site visit with the applicant for WDBC 1255/18/FUL, they felt fully briefed to make a decision. Following discussion the Council resolved to object to the proposal by 6 votes to 2 and the Clerk will inform WDBC of our decision.

Our next monthly meeting is **Monday 18th June 2018 7.30pm at Drewsteignton**

Drewsteignton Parish Facebook Page

As discussed at the last parish meeting a Facebook page will be launched shortly. This will be in addition to the Parish Post. I hope that you will take a look and follow us. If you would like to contribute or have any ideas as to what you would like to see in the content please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you would like to contribute on a more regular basis please ask about becoming an administrator. I can be contacted via email Ysanne.james@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk this is the address to send any photo's you wish to be published on the page.

Ysanne James, Councillor Drewsteignton Parish Council

A BIG DAY OUT

Saturday 23rd June

in the afternoon 3.30 to 5.00

Cream Teas in the Garden

at Hillside House

Donations in aid of ShelterBox

in the evening at 7.00

an Eclectical Musical Concert

by the Songliners Choir

Tickets £7.50 on the door

Most people will be familiar with the work done by the Cornish based ShelterBox but, for those who don't, the charity provides tents and the basic essentials for survival to those affected by natural disasters throughout the world. They currently have teams working in Guatemala following the recent earthquake which left thousands homeless.

The Songlines Choir is a 40 strong London based choir currently on tour. Tickets normally sell at upwards of £25 but they are performing here for expenses only in order to help raise money for our Church Restoration Fund. We are extremely grateful to them for their generosity and to Gary for organising this event.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

AGM

Weds. 13th June

8pm in the Village Hall.

Anyone interested is welcome to come along .

Drewsteignton Playing Field

We are having a maintenance day at the playing field

from

10am on Saturday 30th June.

**Any help you can give us will be
very welcome.**

Tea and cake will be provided.

Drewsteignton 'Summertime' Craft Fayre

Thank you to all who popped in and bought goodies from our local craft fayre over Teignton Fayre weekend and the crafters are delighted to be able to hand over £103.35 to Teignton Fayre Committee.

We had a lovely couple of days and it was great to see so many friendly faces.

We will be back again on December 1st and 2nd and if you would like a stall please contact me at j.hocking05@btinternet.com or 01647 281605.

Events at Okehampton Library

Tuesday 12 June Empathy Day

Pop in and borrow from our book display

Friday 6 July – Tots Play with Sarah Cole - Free mini taster sessions

10:00 Social Tots: active crawling to 3 years

Multi-activity programme, which includes music, movement, sign language and sensory play

<https://tots-play-okehampton.class4kids.co.uk/info/20> Please book via this link

11:00 Discovery Tots : 2 months to active crawling

Multi-activity programme, which includes massage, yoga, sign language and sensory play

<https://tots-play-okehampton.class4kids.co.uk/info/19> Please book via this link

Saturday 14 July – Saturday 8 September

Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge

This is an annual programme produced by The Reading Agency and delivered by libraries to encourage children to read over the long summer holidays when a child's reading can 'dip'. This year's theme is

'Mischief Makers' and is part of the 80th Anniversary of The Beano. Each child that reads 6 books to

complete the Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge by 8th September will be given a free ticket for

entry to the Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre at Lifton.

14 July – 8 September during library opening hours

Treasure Hunt – Find the Mischief Makers characters hidden in the library to be entered into our 'Beano' prize draw. Free

Guess how many marbles in the jar – Nearest guess drawn on 8 September wins the marbles. 20p a go

Make a Beano character – come and make your own Beano character, different character to collect each

week, materials provided at the library – 20p per character

Saturday 14 July 10:00-12:30 – Making Games Workshop

Family workshop with Learn Devon to make games including pairs and picture dominoes

For children aged 4-11 and their carers. Free - booking essential

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





Acorn will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 25th June at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall 6-7pm. Please do come and join us.

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 June 13th & 27th. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. We will help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be June 14th & 28th. 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 June 12th & 26th.

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 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

'Try Something New – volunteer with us'

Torrige, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice (TNMWD) is a local charity that provides free, independent and confidential advice on all subjects to members of the local community.



Good quality advice can make a huge difference to people's lives. Four out of five people who came to us for help said the advice they got improved their lives, including reducing stress and improving their finances.

Volunteering for TNMWD Citizens Advice not only gives you the opportunity to make a real difference to people's lives, it allows you to learn new skills and support your local community.

We have various volunteering opportunities available and are looking for volunteers from all walks of life. In particular we wish to train more advisers to expand our telephone and digital service and explore more ways of improving our service in the rural parts of Devon. We currently have offices in Barnstaple, Bideford, Crediton, Okehampton, Tavistock and Tiverton.

If you can commit to a few hours a week and want to try something new then come and volunteer with us.

We will give you all the training you need as well as support from a trained supervisor and pay travel expenses.

We are also looking to recruit new Trustees to join our Trustee Board. Being a Trustee is a rewarding role and offers the opportunity to contribute to your local community.

Our volunteer Trustees are responsible for setting the overall strategic direction and development of the charity, for governance and financial controls and for establishing an effective fundraising strategy.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds who can bring different skills, experience and perspectives to strengthen our Board. In particular, we are keen to hear from people with legal, fundraising or Marketing/PR experience.

The Citizens Advice service is committed to valuing diversity and promoting equality. We encourage and welcome applications from suitably qualified candidates from all backgrounds regardless of age, disability, gender and sexual orientation.

The find out more please contact our Training Officer on:
trainingofficer@ruraldevoncab.org.uk or tel 01237 426070

Ground Up Cookery

Hello to you all. We are Ground Up Cookery and are a new business based in the parish hoping to expand into several different avenues. One of the primary focuses for the business is teaching people to utilise wild ingredients found all around us.

Spring moving into Summer is a real time of bounty with a new ingredient available every day. I have chosen a couple of common species to focus on and tell you a little about. The first is the Mountain Ash or Rowan tree (*Sorbus Acuparia*) This common tree easily recognisable with its clusters of white flowers in Spring and masses of red berries in Autumn has the most amazing flavour of bitter almond or marzipan in the leaf buds when just opening. The flavour comes from the compound cyanogen which is found in many foods including almonds. Make marzipan vodka by adding



a small handful of buds to a bottle of vodka and leave to infuse for a couple of weeks. Please remember, the tree will not grow another bud on the branch you forage from this year so gather sparingly.

The next plant I particularly enjoy in early spring is Galium Aparine known as cleavers, goose grass or sticky willy. It gets the name goose grass as it is particularly sought after by poultry, I regularly pull large clumps to feed to my chickens. The plant is commonly found growing up hedges and in arable crops to the bane of farmers everywhere. The tips of the plant prior to flowering can be gathered and eaten raw in salads, stir fried or eaten in omelettes.

The seeds can be collected and ground and make a reasonable coffee substitute. One of my favourite ways to use cleavers is to pack equal amounts of cleavers and nettle tips into a jar, fill with water and a few mint leaves and leave overnight in the fridge. Strain off the water in the morning for a wonderful, mineral rich and refreshing drink.

My final plant is Wild Garlic or *Allium Ursinum*. This plant is easily recognisable by its scent and most of us will be familiar with its strong garlic smell. There are so many things to do with this plant. Wild Garlic pesto is simply delicious, the flower heads can be salted to make capers, they are equally good pickled in a cider vinegar, as are the small green seeds after flowering. The leaves can be dried, crumbled and mixed with salt for a flavoured salt but my favourite way to utilise them is to lacto ferment them. Lacto fermenting is an ancient way to preserve food, essentially it is salting and packing into jars. The process of salting allows gut friendly bacteria *Lactobacillus* to thrive but impedes or stops the growth of the bacteria that would make the plant go mouldy and "go off" Lacto Fermented goods have great benefits to your digestive tract, are a great way to preserve food and taste great!



If you would like to know more, please follow us on Instagram, facebook and twitter at @GroundUp Cookery or visit our website at www.groundupcookery.co.uk

Chagford Runners

Chagford Running Club is a friendly group Welcoming all ages and abilities (children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult), We meet on a Monday evening at 7pm at The Clubhouse and 10pm on a Saturday in the Square, although sometimes we head to the moor or a nearby village to add some variety. We don't take things too seriously, but we do have lots of fun and a good workout.

If you would like more information please contact:

Rachel Short: rachelshort36@gmail.com or

Kate Webber: krwmakeup@hotmail.com

Bird Notes

The swifts had just returned on the 7th of May when I sent my last Parish Post in. This date is the latest that they have ever arrived in Drewsteignton since 2001, when I began recording their arrival and departure dates. Over the past month, I have observed them going into most of my nest boxes and others in the village, and on the sunny days there have been very vocal groups of swifts screaming over all the properties with natural nests and boxes. I am expecting more over the village in June as the non-breeding sub adults return and begin to investigate nest sites for next year. We will not know how the late arrival will affect this year's breeding until mid-July, when we start checking the active nest boxes and ringing the juveniles.

It has been three years since I last heard a cuckoo calling in the parish, but many residents have over the last month and passed the dates on to me. The first was heard from the Deer Park on the 7th of May with



Common Cuckoo

others heard calling from Piddledown Common and around the slopes of the Teign valley from the Hunters path. I have been getting reports of cuckoos calling through the latter half of the month from the newly cleared sections of Rectory and Drewston woods and on Prestonbury common. Cuckoos are another migrant species where the population is in serious decline, and much work is being done on tracking them on migration. Devon Birds (the county bird study group), in collaboration with the University of Exeter and Dartmoor National Park Authority are asking for the public to submit their records of live sightings and calling cuckoos. There is a simple recording form

and map on their website (www.devonbirds.org) for people to log the location and dates of calling birds and live sightings.

In the middle of May, there seemed to be an increasing number of red kites reported on the sightings page of the Devon Birds website. Red kites do not breed in Devon but are often seen when moving around as sub-adults. In Devon there always seems to be a peak of these glorious birds in April, May and June, when the weather conditions seem to push them westwards. Forty-two were seen passing over Bowling Green marsh in Topsham over a three-hour period, and 80 were seen heading west over Colyton in East Devon during a similar period. My neighbour called me to say that he had just seen five at Preston, some of which were initially feeding in a field but then looked like they were heading towards the village. I went out but couldn't see them but did spot one the following day at Whiddon Down in the evening, and another later in the week being mobbed by crows at Ford lane cross. I have been hearing of individual birds seen passing through up to the beginning of June.

On the 25th of May, We ringed the two peregrine chicks at St. Michaels and All Angels church in Exeter. This involved Jason, a licensed and very experienced ringer who also installed the web camera in the nest, visiting with another climber and we met at the church at about 6.30pm. Having unlocked the tower door, we went up the long spiral staircase into the bell ringing chamber with assorted equipment for the task. The final five metres involve climbing up a very old wooden ladder into the bell chamber, before Jason then climbed on ropes up the last 17 metres to the internally set nest box. It was when he opened the access door into the nest box that the adult peregrines realised something was up and began flying around the spire with much high pitched 'alarm calling'. Jason blocked the entrance to prevent the falcons seeing in while he removed the juveniles by putting them into soft bags in a holdall and then lowered them down to us on a rope. They were checked over, weighed and various measurements were taken before having a metal BTO ring put on one leg and a larger soft plastic ring with letters on the other leg. Both chicks were confirmed as females by the size of their talons (which were very large) and their weight, as females are bigger than males. They were then returned to the nest box and the camera turned back on when we all got down to the ground again. It was reassuring to see the female falcon sitting in her normal perch at the entrance to the nest box just 15 minutes after Jason returned the chicks and removed the cardboard that had blocked access into the box. The chicks were ringed at 20 days old and with two females, it is likely they will fledge around 46 days from hatching which should be around the 18th of June. This is always a tense time as the young peregrines can, and often do, come down to the ground before their wings have developed adequate muscle to maintain flight. If they do come down to ground, we attempt to catch them and get them checked over by a local vet before

Cont. on page 7

News from the Castle



Hi everyone.

I hope you have all been enjoying the amazing weather over the past few weeks. The storms were pretty impressive too. I can't believe that it is already June. This year is flying along. Building work is moving forward really well now that the weather has settled down a bit. We are definitely on the last lap and we are still on track for building work to be completed by the end of 2018.

We have just held a great event in partnership with the Institution of Civil Engineers where we had hundreds of children making pinwheel windmills and loads of people taking engineering tours of the castle and hydro turbine house. Don't worry if you missed it as we hope to hold another one soon. We have also just launched a very special display of works by the brilliant Peter Randall-Page throughout the castle. They are stunning and well worth checking out.

A few dates for your diary...

We will once again be welcoming 2 fabulous local artists to Castle Drogo. Diane Bailey and Marielle Ebnert-Rijke will be setting up a pop-up gallery in the Activity Hut on Thursday 14 June and will be with us until Friday 22 June. Please do pop in to see them. We also have 2 theatre performances taking place in August. Castle Drogo will be the venue for a very special performance of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' by Illyria productions on Sunday 5 August, 7.30pm and the classic story The Railway Children will be performed by Heartbreak productions on Thursday 30 August, 5 – 8pm. Booking is essential from the Plough box office on 01805 624624. Prices: £13 Full £10 Plough Supporters/Families/parents with children under 18yrs).

Best wishes to you all,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

01647 434130,

paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

John Shiell

John has decided to terminate his position as assistant editor. I would like to thank John for all his support and help over the last six years.

Thank you John.

Pauline

Cont. from page 6

Towards the end of May, I noticed increasing reports on the 'Devon Birds' website of nightjars seen and heard 'churring' across the county. Nightjars are another summer visitor we get in Devon and are most active from dusk until dawn, when they catch moths. The 'churring' sound is from the males and carries over a considerable distance and can be heard for hours on end.

They are a similar size to a kestrel or cuckoo, mainly found on heathland, in woodland or clear-fell and newly planted forestry blocks. They are well camouflaged birds with mottled brown, buff-white, grey and black plumage, and a wide gape to aid with the capture of flying insects at night. I went out a few times locally to hear and see them last year, and have located two 'churring' males over the last week. I was amazed to see two over the village at about 9.40pm on the evening of Teignton Fayre. Obviously, the fine weather and good music brought them out to see what was going on!

Nick

Fruit Jewel Ice Lollies

Ingredients

75 ml Sainsbury's Taste the Difference elderflower cordial
150 ml cold water
75 g mixed fruit, such as small chunks of mango, blueberries, raspberries and halved grapes
4 lolly moulds



Method

Combine the cordial and cold water in a measuring jug. Put a few pieces of mixed fruit at the bottom of each lolly mould, then fill each with the liquid so they're a third full. Leave to freeze for around 2 hours until completely frozen. Put the remaining liquid and fruit in the fridge until required.

Remove the lolly moulds from the freezer and add a few more pieces of mixed fruit, then top up with liquid until the moulds are just over half full. Return to the freezer and freeze for a further 1 hour, until semi-frozen. Then add the last of the fruit and the remaining cordial, and insert the lolly sticks. Leave to set for at least 4 hours, preferably overnight.

To remove, take the lollies out of the freezer and leave for just under a minute to loosen.

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 **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 July - Thank You