

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 147

AUGUST 2018

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We have established that there are four millennium boundary stones which were paid for in partnership with adjoining councils and the Dartmoor National Park. In addition to the stones at Fursham Cross between Whiddon Down & Hittisleigh, Sands Gate at the bottom of Venton Straight from Whiddon Down to Moretonhampstead, another is located on the Whiddon Down to North Tawton road at Hollycombe Ford and one at Scotley Bridge on the Drewsteignton to Dunsford road. Now we have located them we will ensure that they are properly looked after for future generations to see.

Councillors discussed four quotations for work to reduce the height of the roadside hedge at the playing fields and have instructed CB trees from Chagford to do the work which will take place in the autumn.

Negotiations are continuing with Western Power & the Devon Air Ambulance Trust regarding the use of the playing field as a night landing site. It is hoped a grant will be available for the supply of electricity to the site for lighting when required by the aircraft, it will also give us the opportunity to have an electric supply to the pavilion instead of using a generator which is a useful spinoff.

Whilst on the subject of electricity, work on the toilets at Drewsteignton to install a motion sensor for the lighting, which will turn them on as and when required instead of the lights being on all night, has now been completed.

We are continuing to try and make contact with BT to repair & renovate the telephone boxes at Drewsteignton & Sandy Park. We are looking at more sites in the parish where the Community Payback Scheme can be used to tidy and enhance the area. More items for inclusion on the Parish Assets Register have been identified:- a milestone between Crockernwell & Hooperton Cross, three old milestones in the wall of the raised pavement and the

Trafalgar Way plaque in Crockernwell.

The council have received a reply from DNP regarding the yellow AA signs, mainly at Whiddon Down, which are directing traffic to building developments at Chagford & North Tawton. They may remain in place until "the development is complete". It is not clear if this is when the building work is finished or the last property occupied!!

Cllr. Ysanne James updated council on the parish Facebook page and was happy with the way it is building up. If you are a Facebook person please "like" the page and it will continue to grow. We are hoping it will complement the Parish Post and get information out to our younger residents.

The vehicle activated speed sign should be arriving shortly and will be placed in Sticklepath first before being relocated in Whiddon Down & Crockernwell. Our Parish Clerk, Lucy Bruckner, has completed her first year of employment and having had her annual review was thanked by the chairman on behalf of the councillors and parish for her hard work. This follows quite a tough time dealing with some matters which have arisen.

Cllr. Paul Ridgers has requested that we look at the increased traffic causing congestion between Sandy Park & Castle Drogo. If you have experienced problems please tell either Paul, or any councillor, as it will be on our next meeting's agenda.

From the Parish Post from July 2008, Sarah Ekins was looking for a good home for some cockerels, Clare Rowe was hoping the sun would shine so the Whiddon Down fete could once again be held outside and also stop traffic using Chapel Hill & Turnpike road as a cut through, and the Gardeners Club attended Trecice and Tresillian gardens with eighteen people.

Our next meeting is **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
7.30pm at Drewsteignton**

### Quiz night in aid of the Alzheimer's Society

On Sunday 9th. September, Mum and I will be joining 57,000 other runners and taking part in the world's biggest half marathon, The Great North Run from Newcastle to Gateshead. We are running to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

A fundraising quiz will be held on Friday 14th. September in the Long Room at the Drewe Arms at 7.30pm and snacks will be provided. We can promise fun rounds suitable for all ages and prizes for the winners.

Teams - maximum of six people. Tickets £5 per head. Please come along and support this worthy cause!

A sponsorship form is available in the Post Office.

**Tilly Dixon**

### WHIDDON DOWN METHODIST CHURCH

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES

SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

at 6.30pm

Preacher – Rev. Dr. Stephen Mosedale

MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

at 7.15pm

Led by Rev. Julian C Albrow

Followed by the sale of produce

Proceeds are for Church Funds

COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME



### ACE Archaeology Club

ACE Archaeology Club is an active group based in central Devon. Our aim is to find and record archaeology in this part of Devon (and farther afield), and also to encourage others to get to know and look after the fantastic heritage that exists in the area.

The Club provides opportunities to meet others interested in archaeology, to visit sites of interest and to take part in excavation and other aspects of practical and experimental archaeology.

Our members range from enthusiastic amateurs to professionals, all of whom are happy to pass on and share their knowledge.

**If you would like more information, or would like to join ACE:**

**email The Secretary: [surica47@gmail.com](mailto:surica47@gmail.com)**

**The subscription per person for a year is £10.00**

**If you are interested in digging with us do get in touch.**

## Ground Up Cookery

It has been a phenomenal spell of weather with back to back weeks of hot and dry weather. Understandably this has had a major impact on some of the plants I like to forage at this time of year.

Elder or sambucus nigra has had the most amazing flowering season that I can remember. The shrubs and trees were laden with the beautiful flat wide heads of richly scented pollen laden flowers. To me elder flowers are synonymous with early summer and long hot days. I use them to make cordial, flavour vegan honey, infuse in gin with rhubarb and make delicious pink gooseberry and elderflower jam.

Vegan honey or the very idea has created a great deal of discussion wherever we sell it. Many vegans will not eat honey as it is a by-product of an animal, and more importantly, they believe the bees should be left their own honey for their own uses. Vegan honey is an attempt to recreate the texture and flavour of honey and is made using apples, flowers, sugar and lemon juice. To date the best results have been achieved using clover or dandelions. We have also made a rose flavour, elderflower flavour and are soon to make a lavender version. Using pectin to achieve the set gives the required texture without having to boil the mixture for hours. This results in a much more aromatic finished product with a lighter and less sweet flavour. It's delicious!

Cherry plums or prunus avium have produced very small and bitter fruit this year due to the lack of moisture. They are always hard to get as the birds seem to know when they are exactly ripe and beating them to the bounty is a constant challenge. If you do manage to collect some they make delicious cherry brandy, simply soak a mug full in a bottle of brandy and add a couple of tablespoons of sugar and leave for a few months in a dark place. They are also delicious pickled and served with pate, carpaccio or venison dishes. I also like to use them to flavour vinegars and they are particularly tasty in cider vinegar.



**Pineapple  
weed syrup**

The final plant I have used this month is a very unassuming little plant often found on compacted or waste ground, carparks and farm tracks. Pineapple weed or matricaria discoidea sometimes known as wild chamomile (not the only plant with that moniker) disc weed or May weed it has a very strong smell of pineapple when crushed.

The leaves are feathery and similar to chamomile and can be added to salads or nibbled when browsing the hedgerows. The flowers are best picked early or can turn bitter. The best way to use this plant is to pick it and roughly chop it, make a 1-1 syrup and infuse the chopped plant in the syrup overnight, strain and bottle. The syrup can be used as a cordial, a drizzle for cakes straight out of the oven and even add a splash into your cider or lager in this lovely hot weather!

Please take a look at our website or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram

[www.groundupcookery.co.uk](http://www.groundupcookery.co.uk) #groundupcookery

@groundupcookery .

Many of our products are also available at Oinkers Farm Shop or can be ordered on line for collection at Oinkers too!

Happy foraging!



**Wild cherry  
cider vinegar**

## Parish Magazine Deliveries

As was written in the last issue of the Parish Magazine, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain house to house deliveries beyond the village. Copies are always available at Drewsteignton Post Office or in the Church. If you are unable to obtain a copy from the above and wish to continue having a copy delivered please ring either Norma Gillard on 24263 or Angela Thomas on 281602.

For the purposes of this exercise the village boundary is defined as being within the Fingle Bridge, Netherton Cross, Trennaway Cross perimeter.

House to house deliveries will continue in Crockernwell between the end of Fulford Cottages to the east and the underpass to the west.

Outside this area please contact as for Drewsteignton.

## MED Theatre

### Stapledon

Thursday 27th, Friday 28th, and Saturday 29th of September 2018, 7.30pm  
in St Andrews Church, Ashburton

'Stapledon' is a new play written by MED Theatre's Artistic Director Mark Beeson and performed by a community cast from the Dartmoor area with music by Gillian Webster and Trefor Farrow. This historical drama charts the life of Walter Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter – from his humble origins coming from a farming family in North Devon, through his meteoric rise in the church and politics to becoming King Edward the Second's most trusted diplomat and also his treasurer, to his murder by a London mob in 1326.

His life is counter pointed by the story of a farming family on Dartmoor during the Great Famine. In 1315 Dartmoor, along with the rest of the country entered the most extreme period of starvation in English history, which it can be argued caused as much suffering as the Black Death itself, thirty five years later. According to the chronicler John Trokelowe, people were so desperate that they ambushed children to eat them, and in some cases even ate their own children. Out of this misery and chaos emerged the extraordinary figure of John of Devon, possibly maddened by the ergot growing on mouldy crops, who travelled to Oxford claiming to be the real King Edward, upsetting Queen Isabella, and then blaming his claim on the suggestion of his cat.

Stapledon must go down as perhaps the most successful of England's treasurers (or Chancellor of the Exchequer as we would call it today). When Edward II came to the throne, the country owed thousands of pounds (billions in today's money) to Italian bankers. By the time Stapledon had done his work the coffers were full and England was actually lending to the Italian bankers. In the process, however, he made himself deeply unpopular with the common people from whom he extracted these funds in a programme of swingeing austerity which would have been the envy of the likes of George Osborne. The play 'Stapledon' is based on detailed research into the life of the 'quiet man' of Edward II's reign, who flew under the political radar for much of the period. He knew both Edward's favourites, Gaveston and Despenser, and befriended Isabella as well as Edward himself, eventually being forced to choose between Edward and his Queen in an agonising encounter in Paris. The letter written to Stapledon by Queen Isabella, which still exists in the Public Record Office, is one of the most fascinating documents in English medieval history, evincing underneath its anger a former closeness and a deep sense of hurt and betrayal, at a time when she herself was faced with a choice between Edward and Roger Mortimer. Stapledon later paid for this betrayal with his head, which was cut off by Londoners with a bread knife in the aftermath of Isabella's invasion of England with Mortimer. When presented with the severed head, the Queen is reported to have been horrified at his treatment, and immediately commanded that Stapledon's body, which had been thrown into a pit by the banks of the Thames, should be re-united with his head and sent to Exeter for a proper burial.

MED Theatre, a unique theatre organization based on Dartmoor and dedicated to creating original work with a radical perspective on history and ecology, has been commissioned by the Guild of St Lawrence to create this play.

**Tickets are £8 /£5 children under 16 and are available online from MED Theatre website [www.medtheatre.co.uk](http://www.medtheatre.co.uk) or Ashburton Information Centre.**

**For booking and more information contact MED Theatre on 01647 441356 or [info@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@medtheatre.co.uk)**

## Drewsteignton Playing Field

Thank you to everyone who came to the Family Fun Day. I hope you had a great time. We raised £320 which was good considering the football was on at the same time. Many thanks to the people who put in all the hard work to make the event possible.

Thanks also to everyone who helped on our maintenance day. Particular thanks are due to Jimmy Bell for getting the Wendy house up and running.

**Alison Chapman**

## 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 Colin Wills from Thorndon Cross, Diana Marshall from Wembworthy and Mark Wolf from Sampford Courtenay to our team. We say goodbye and thank you to Keith Martin who is moving from the area.

As part of Volunteers Week, to show our appreciation for their help, we held an afternoon tea for our drivers at Belstone Old School Tearooms which was enjoyed by all.

Devon County Council – Community Transport Awards

We were delighted that my nomination for Maurice Kibble was successful and he won an award which was presented at a ceremony at County Hall in June. All our drivers deserve an award, it is really difficult to choose just one to nominate each year!

## Reminder – GDPR Consent

We are still awaiting signed consent from a number of clients, please return these forms ASAP to enable us to be able to retain your details so that we can accept your transport requests. If you have lost the form please request another one from the office. Thank you.

## Section 19 Consultation

Thank you to everyone for your support, especially those who wrote to their MPs and completed the consultation document. The decision was expected at the end of July however due to the large number of responses they have delayed this until the autumn. We will keep you informed of progress.

## SeaMoorLotto

Please support us by buying tickets, they only cost £1 per week with the chance to win up to £25,000 and every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize. You choose your 6 numbers or can have random ones. 50% of the ticket price goes to the good cause you choose. [www.seamoorlotto.co.uk](http://www.seamoorlotto.co.uk) 03302234225

## Trips

Thanks to a grant which Sue was able to obtain from Devon Community Foundation we are able to subsidise the cost of trips for the forthcoming year. All bus fares will be £6 for Okehampton and along the route and £8 for outside this area.

<b>6<sup>TH</sup> October</b>	Dartington Shops, Totnes
<b>13<sup>TH</sup> October</b>	ODCTG Coffee Morning, Charter Hall followed by lunch at Country Lanes
<b>20<sup>TH</sup> October</b>	Ikea, Exeter
<b>27<sup>TH</sup> October</b>	Homeleigh Garden Centre, Launceston
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> November</b>	The Willows Shopping Centre, Torquay
<b>10<sup>TH</sup> November</b>	Tavistock
<b>17<sup>TH</sup> November</b>	Trago Mills or Newton Abbot
<b>24<sup>TH</sup> November</b>	Cotehele (National Trust) to see the Christmas Garland – Entry £11.60 (£10.60 if group of 15 or more) NT members Free

## Coffee Morning – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Our next fundraising event will be at the Charter Hall from 9am -12, we would welcome donations of raffle prizes, books, bric-a-brac, plants etc. We can collect if you are not able to drop it in to the office or bring it along on the day.

## Okehampton Men in Sheds

Learn skills and make new friends – Come and meet us at Okehampton Community Garden, Fatherford Lane, Okehampton EX20 `OQ on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10.30am. For more information contact one of our friendly team, Terry 01837 53621 or Phil 01837 658779

For further information please contact:

**Sue & Liz, ODCTG, Unit 3 Okehampton Business Park, Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1FJ 01837 55000 [sue.odctg@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.odctg@btinternet.com) [www.odctg.co.uk](http://www.odctg.co.uk) Out of hours emergency mobile no. 07484525577**

## Bird Notes

July was another month of hot sunny days and warm nights, with some rain and overcast days during the last week. The hottest day of the year was on 23<sup>rd</sup> of July with 33.3C (91.9F) recorded in Suffolk, whilst the heat in London resulted in a variety of related news stories such as the underground tube trains were operating in temperatures deemed illegal for the transportation of cattle! The good weather has been ideal for the swifts and the tiny insects they feed on, resulting in good numbers of non-breeders and sub adults staying around. I have been undertaking counts of flying birds over the church yard and our row in the early mornings and evenings, and while I often recorded about 30 swifts, the maximum I counted was 42 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July.

Malcolm and two of his ringing team came up and ringed the chicks in my nest boxes, plus nests at Up-perton, Burrow farm and along Hillmorhayes where we have 8 more boxes up. I don't have the final numbers from all the sites checked yet, but there were 17 chicks in 9 nests in my boxes, which is the highest count we have ever had. Sadly, quite a few of them have been coming out of the nest boxes before they are ready to fledge and so I have had to rescue them, read the number from the leg rings and return them back to the correct box. The skies over the village have been getting quieter as the big screaming parties seem to have gone but we will get other groups coming through as groups start heading south again. I am interested in the departure dates for the swifts this year as they arrived a week later than usual, but I expect that they should have all gone by the time you read this, unless any late chicks are still being fed.

I was contacted late in June by friends who said they have been seeing a barn owl in one of their outbuildings. I think that barn owls are such special birds, and sadly, I see far more dead ones on the road verges of the A30 than live ones locally, so I went down to see if I could see it out flying at dusk. I didn't see any owls but there was plenty of evidence with an accumulation of fresh pellets and 'whitewash' beneath their regular perches and beams in the barn. We discussed putting a nest box up for next year to encourage them to breed as there didn't appear to be suitable opportunities. About a fortnight later, they called to say they were seeing it quite a lot flying around in the evenings or roosting in the barn by day. Also, they were hearing calling from the barn around 10 pm, which they were convinced was from chicks. I visited the following evening at about 10, and it definitely sounded like youngsters from outside the building. I crept quietly into the barn to try and locate where the calls were coming from, and it seemed they were from behind the stacked hay bales and high in one corner. It was definitely 'food calling' from young barn owls which sound like a wheezing or rasping hiss and is very similar to someone snoring! Two days later, I went back in the morning, quickly climbed the bales and there at the back of the barn on the wall top were four baby barn owls, aged from 4 to 5 weeks old. What I found interesting was the fact that the bales had only been stacked in there in late June, so the barn owls would already have hatched, and no one had noticed. I expect the brooding female would have just sat tight with her head down. Young barn owls are ready to fledge at about nine weeks old and I am really looking forward to returning to see the first flights of these stunning birds as the adults teach them to hunt in the nearby fields.



I spotted another dead barn owl on the central reservation of the A30 dual carriageway by the Okehampton turn off on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. This is the sixth I have recorded on the A30 this year between Whiddon Down and the Cornish border at the river Tamar. It is odd to find barn owls dead on the road in mid-summer, as this mainly occurs in the autumn months when juveniles are dispersing or early in the New year as adults are moving around looking for new territories.

I have seen two interesting mammals in the Parish over the last month. One was a polecat which I saw at night just outside the village and watched it briefly in the headlights of my car, and the other was a hedgehog. I saw one in Froggy lane in early June late at night and spotted this one at about the same time out at the front of our house, possibly it was the same one. I am told that many mammals (and birds) reliant on earth worms have been struggling to find sufficient food over the hot period, so the current wet weather will hopefully be doing them a service.

**Nick**



## News from the Castle



Hi everyone.

I hope you are all enjoying the summer holidays. It has been wonderful to see so many families wandering around, enjoying the glorious views and exploring. Yesterday we once again hosted Play Day at Castle Drogo with loads of free games and activities on the common. We had over 100 people come along and 90% of those who attended were local which was lovely to see.

Coming up, we have a brand new offer for local primary schools using the wonderful work of Peter Randall-Page, which is currently on display at the castle, as inspiration. This will be available for September and October and includes exploring Peter's

work with one of our brilliant volunteers and then taking part in activities such as print making, line drawing and mark making.

The building work is still marching forward. The focus at the moment is on the North Tower (the bit that faces you as you walk down the main drive). Most of the stone from the roof level has been dismantled and we are getting ready to dismantle the wall on the east side down to the lowest roof level. It has helped having a run of calm weather, although the heat inside the scaffolding can make you feel like you are in a greenhouse!

Finally, we are in the middle of the Big Butterfly Count and the Ranger team have been working with our friends from Butterfly Conservation to undertake surveys in the gorge. Early indications are that this has been a good year for some of our rarer species, including the pearl-bordered fritillary which lives on Piddledown Common. This is especially good to see as the money raised from car park charges has helped to fund habitat management for native species in the Teign valley.

Best wishes to you all,

**Paula**

**Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo**

**01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)**

## Stone Lane Gardens

### Friendly Conservation Charity seeks Trustees

Stone Lane Gardens charity is looking to recruit up to 3 new trustees, to help run the charitable company. We are a small friendly charity based at Stone Farm, near Chagford. Our mission is to conserve birch and alder trees by promoting, researching, propagating and displaying our National Collection in a beautiful arboretum to educate and inform the public, alongside an educational display of high quality art in a natural setting. We would welcome volunteers who are interested in any aspect of the work of the charity and ideally have experience in business and finance, fund-raising and public relations or running a gallery. Appreciation of botany, and or garden and landscape design and or art would also be useful. If you are local, it would be easier for you to attend meetings and get involved, but living nearby is not essential. If you need help with transport, we can arrange this.

We meet four times a year and our next AGM is October 2nd at 10.30am which would be a good opportunity to come and meet the other trustees and tell us about the skills you could bring to the charity and check your eligibility to act as a trustee. See the Charity Commission website for more information. Please contact Pru Barnes, the secretary to the Trustees, for more information:

**[pru.barnes@stonelanegardens.com](mailto:pru.barnes@stonelanegardens.com)**

**01822 841686**

**[www.stonelanegardens.com](http://www.stonelanegardens.com)**

**charity number 1141252**

# Granny's Shortbread Recipe

## Ingredients

- \* 125g/4oz [butter](#)
- \* 55g/2oz [caster sugar](#), plus extra to finish
- \* 180g/6oz [plain flour](#)

## Method

1. Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
2. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.
3. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/1/2in thick.
4. Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.
5. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.



## 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

### 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  
Pauline Rowe: [plrowe43@gmail.com](mailto:plrowe43@gmail.com). 281638

For Editorial	Pauline Rowe	<a href="mailto:drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk">drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk</a> ☎ 281282
Contributions		<a href="mailto:plrowe43@gmail.com">plrowe43@gmail.com</a> ☎ 281638
Village Hall Bookings		<a href="mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com">callum.chapman@btinternet.com</a> or
Drewsteignton	Alison Chapman	☎ 01647 281197
Whiddon Down	Clare Rowe	<a href="mailto:whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk">whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk</a>
		☎ 01647 231643
For Parish Council	Lucy Bruckner	<a href="mailto:clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk">clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk</a>
Business		☎ 01647 252306

**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 September - Thank You