



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO 148

SEPTEMBER 2018

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The August meeting only lasted for just over an hour so the news this month will be relatively brief. The provision of a night landing site in the playing field at Drewsteignton for the Devon Air Ambulance is progressing well. Grant funding has been obtained to cover the costs of bringing electricity onto the site from Knowle Lane and for providing the infrastructure which will include a ten meter pole (32 feet in old money), for the floodlights. The clerk is going to liaise with Dartmoor National Park to check on any planning requirements. Cllrs. Anna Imrie & John Redman are now working together on this project.

Work to reduce the height of the roadside hedge of the playing field is due to take place in September. This does not have anything to do with the landing site but has been requested by the playing field committee to make their maintenance work easier. At last we have been informed by Openreach that work to refurbish the telephone kiosks at Sandy Park and Drewsteignton village has been scheduled but as yet no date has been given.

The clerk has negotiated a fixed contract with EDF energy for the provision of electricity to the toilets in Drewsteignton until 2021 so this, coupled with the recent work to have movement switches for the lights rather than them being on for the hours of darkness, should save us money.

Every year councillors walk allocated footpaths in the parish and report back to the October meeting for any faults found. The clerk is preparing this year's allocation for councillors.

It was noted some progress has been made on repairing pot holes, especially the road at Veet Mill. We are following up on complaints from residents about traffic congestion problems between Sandy Park and Castle Drogo. Have you been affected in any way by this, if so please contact the clerk or a councillor so we can have some understanding as to the extent of the problem. We are contacting the

National Trust to see if they can help with any suggestions. One thing we are not keen on from past experience, is the use of the lane from Trenaway Cross to Whiddon Down past Stone Lane Gardens and Spinsters Rock as a route to or from the Castle.

Councillors were informed that the planning application for a farm shop, cafe and children's play area at Whiddon Down submitted to West Devon Borough Council by V B Farms retail ltd has been withdrawn, but another application has been submitted by Mr Jack Mann which is similar but without the children's area. This can be found on WDBC website under the application number 2701/18/FUL where support or objections can be viewed and made. Comment has been made about why it is not the Dartmoor National Park deciding on the application. The reason is that part of the parish is outside the National Park boundary so they are only consultees as a neighbouring planning authority and the planning authority for this part of the parish is West Devon BC.

It was noted the car park at Drewsteignton has not been cut recently, the clerk is to chase the contractor.

Cllr. Ian Rowe informed the council that Whiddon Down village hall committee recently held a working party which was well attended. They are going to be raising money for new windows.

10 years ago in the Parish Post we were talking about a unitary authority for Devon which never came to fruition, Teignton Fayre had raised £4,968.81 that year and the police were telling us of their priorities being, speeding through the villages and dealing with theft of heating oil. Not much change there then except they no longer check speeds in the villages!!

Our next meeting is **Monday 17th September 2018 7.30pm at Whiddon Down**

Service of Light, Love and Loss: 6pm, Friday 2 November

I would very much welcome any suggestions of music or poetry which might be included in this year's special service in remembrance of our loved ones at Holy Trinity on All Souls Day
Please contact Jennifer on 01647 281657 or pmjmrmdm@aol.com.

WHIDDON DOWN METHODIST CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES

SUNDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

at 6.30pm

Preacher – Rev. Dr. Stephen Mosedale

MONDAY 17th 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



Drewsteignton Gardeners's Club

The annual Village Show was a great success in spite of the difficult growing conditions and the judges were complimentary for all the classes of the show. Thank you to all the entrants, your support is so important.

Special congratulations to the winners of the various cups: **Chairmans Cup**, Angela Thomas, President's Cup, Zelda Lambert, Paul Greener Plate, Tony Thomas, Manley Cup, Fiona Ridgers, Westaway Cup, Rosemary Payne, Clerk's Cup, Jenny Mather, Wood and Rush Bowl, Kath Eley.

The September Meeting welcomed Peter Cantrell from Dayspring Plants who brought many of his beautiful and unusual plants for us to buy. October 8th at 7:30 we will be visited by Christine Skelmersdale from Broadleigh Bulbs who will talk on "Banish the Blues: Breathing Life into the Late Summer Border". She too will have some bulbs for us to buy. Our meetings are open to non-members for £2 and there are refreshments.

Membership in the Gardeners' Club is £5 annually and you don't even have to have a garden to join! Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7:00 in the Village Hall. We are quite a lively bunch, not at all stuffy, and you would be very welcome!

PUDDINGS NIGHT

We are having a puddings night in the long room at The Drewe in aid of the Playing Field on Saturday 6th October starting at 7.30pm. The plan is to have your dinner and then go over to The Drewe for as many puddings as you want to eat for £4 a head.

This will be a ticket only event and tickets will be on sale at Drewsteignton Post Office and The Drewe. Hope to see many of you there.

Alison Chapman



Dartmoor Devil Cycle Ride

The Annual Dartmoor Devil Cycle Ride will pass through the parish on Sunday 28th October.

There will be a total of no more than 250 riders in the event and should be very well spread out to prevent bunching.

Riders leave Bovey Tracey in two groups, at 8am and 9am, The first riders are likely to enter the parish at about 9.55am and the last of the riders is expected to have cleared the parish by 1.40pm or so.

The ride goes from east to west through Drewsteignton Parish, from Dunsford to Whiddon Down.

Okehampton Library

Tuesday 25th September 19:00

Karen Maitland 'A Gathering of Ghosts'

Queen of the Dark Ages, Karen Maitland, is back with a ghostly new medieval thriller, set on the wilds of Dartmoor. Join Karen at Okehampton Library as she discusses everything from healing holy wells to haunted caves, knights and nuns, plus miracles, witchcraft, folklore and more.

Tickets to include refreshments: £3.50 each for members of Devon Libraries, £4 each for non-members

Chance to win a Kindle Fire Tablet!

Join Okehampton Library in October to be entered into our Free Prize Draw

Anyone joining Okehampton library during October will be entered into a prize draw. There is a prize of a bundle of books for one child aged under 5 who joins. Also for one lucky person over 5 who joins, there is a Kindle Fire Tablet to be won which is kindly donated by the Friends of Okehampton Library. It is free to join.

Saturday 6 October 09:30-12:30

Fun Palace

Free activities at the library, run by the community for the community, ask staff for full details

Monday 8 – Saturday 13 October

National Libraries Week

Come along and talk to staff about what the library service has to offer, there are many free resources.

Love My Library

Tell us what you love about libraries and 'post it' on our display

09:30-10:30 Wednesday 10 October - Coffee & Croissants at Duplo Storytime

Under 5's can have fun Duplo building and listening to a story whilst their carers relax with free coffee and croissants

09:30-12:00 Saturday 13 October – Coffee Morning with Book & Cake Sale

Lots of books for sale, prices starting at only 50p! Homemade cakes will be available to purchase and why not relax with a free cup of coffee and browse the bookshelves too.

09:30-12:00 Saturday 13 October – Big Lego Build

What would your dream library look like? Come along and join others at Lego Builders to build one big library. We can't wait to see what it looks like!

Ongoing events for children

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

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

Ground Up Cookery

The recent rain has started the mushroom season in earnest and one of the tastiest and most recognisable fungi is Chicken of the Woods- *Laetiporus Sulphureus*, otherwise known as Sulphur Shelf or the Sulphur Polypore. It is one of the few bracket fungus to be considered desirable to eat. It grows on oak, willow, beech and cherry but can sometimes be found on yew and other fruit trees. Do not eat it from Yew trees, it is poisonous as it absorbs the toxins in the tree as it grows. This species is saprobic meaning it feeds on dead or dying timber.

This mushroom has to be cooked thoroughly before eating, in a minority of people it can still cause feelings of nausea and occasionally has been known to cause hallucinations. It is good practice with all wild mushrooms to make sure you only have a very small amount when you try it for the first time.

It has a firm texture as you would expect from a bracket fungus. It is best sliced thinly, brushed with oil and fried. This allows the subtle flavour and meaty texture to shine through.

This is a great mushroom for storing too. Slice as above and freeze raw it will last well. I have a few plans for this specimen I found high in an oak tree.

Remember, leave the base attached to the tree, so as not to disturb the mycelium, pick the younger smaller sections as this can get tough and dry, and cook thoroughly. Enjoy, it's a spectacular find and can deliver many kilos from one find.

Another plant that has had a bumper year due to the great weather is rosebay willow-herb, or fireweed, *Epilobium angustifolium*. It is one of our more majestic wild flowers and is not easily missed as it grows up to eight feet tall.

Traditionally this plant was used as a very good tea substitute and it still is in some parts of the world, especially in Russia where it is known as Kaporie tea. Having said that, there does seem to be some general confusion among some sites between rosebay willow herb and hairy willow herb with reported side effects of a "stupefying" effect if too much is consumed.

It is also used to make beer and the residents of Kamchatka, again in Russia, make it more intoxicating by adding the poisonous Fly Agaric fungi (*Agaricus muscarius*). Do not try this at home!

The young shoots of this plant are delicious and taste like asparagus, simply pick and steam for a beautiful spring wild green. At this time of year I am utilising the flowers, they are beautiful as garnish and make a nice flavoured syrup. I am also going to experiment with creating a vegan honey too as the flowers when infused in syrup have a cranberry like taste.

The roots can be cooked as a vegetable and are best added to stews. The stem can be split and the pith can be used as a cucumber like snack but can be quite astringent. Other uses are the downy seed hairs make a great fire lighting tinder and the fibre from the outer stems can be made into cordage.

A very useful plant indeed!

A true pleasure in late summer is the native bilberry, known locally as the whortleberry. It is otherwise known as blaeberry, bulberry, whinberry, trackleberry, huckleberry and, in Ireland, fraughan. *Vaccinium myrtillus* is a fabulous native plant.

I was delighted to find a huge area of these plants growing locally.

They look similar to blueberries but the taste is different, it is sharper and more acidic but just as nutritious as a blueberry. They are not quick to harvest as the berries grow hidden under the foliage and grow in ones and twos. I spent an hour collecting a mug full.... I may have tasted one or two...



Whiddon Down Village Hall

A big thank you to all the valiant Committee members and their families who turned out to help on 4th August at Whiddon Down Village Hall. A lot was achieved and identified, as necessary projects to ensure the continuance of this valuable community asset.

We are about to embark on some major fundraising, so please watch this space and come along and support our efforts.

Thank you again.

Jenny Turner (Chairman)

Moving Together Devon

Moving Together Devon is a new social enterprise aimed at supporting older and less able people to either move home or stay in their current property with appropriate changes/adaptations. We appreciate that this can be a difficult decision, sometimes feeling overwhelming.

Starting with a free consultation anywhere in Devon, we explore with you the feasibility of adapting your property if staying put is your priority. Alternatively, we clarify what options around moving are available to suit your requirements. We also identify with you the extent and nature of the support you feel you might need, working as closely with family and /or friends as you deem necessary.

We will do as much or as little as you want, by providing practical support, ranging from helping find a new home, sorting belongings, dealing with other professionals, right through to moving in.



Moving Together Devon came about when Carole was faced with the dilemma of moving her own mother. As an Occupational Therapist, she had lots of experience working with disabled people in their homes, providing equipment and adaptations to give them a better quality of life. She also came across many people who knew they needed to move but didn't have the energy or support to do so.

With the help of her husband Tom, also a Healthcare Professional, they have acquired the necessary skills and expertise to help people through this process, towards a positive, more settled future.

If you are considering moving or changing your home to suit your needs and feel you need some help, please contact us on **01392 273067** or email carole@movingtogetherdevon.co.uk Website: www.movingtogetherdevon.co.uk



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 – Wednesday September 19th. Help is provided in store. We will also help carry your shopping. The fare is just £5 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be September 13th & 27th. 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 September 18th.

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 NEW website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Bird Notes

From the first of September, according to the meteorological calendar, Autumn began but it is generally accepted that autumn starts after the equinox on the 23rd of September. Apart from the cooler days, there are now the first signs of the changing season with some trees beginning to take on autumnal hues and it is now dark by 8.30 in the evenings.

The swifts left the village on the 2nd of August according to my sources, but I missed their departure as we had gone to Majorca at the end of July for 10 days. Majorca was wonderful and experiencing hotter temperatures than normal, and I saw many groups of swifts moving south. We stayed in a small village called Soller, just 4 miles from the coast and surrounded by rocky mountains. We had a small roof terrace where I could watch black vultures and spotted eagles soaring along the ridges and high overhead. While this was a joy, my main aim while out there was to see Eleanora's falcons, a medium sized falcon that breeds in colonies on coastal cliffs on some Mediterranean islands. There are a few well known locations to see them and I drove to the western tip, and got the boat over to Dragonera island, a National park. Once on the island I enquired the best location to find the Eleanora's falcons, which resulted in a 1.5 hour walk in considerable heat, but it was well worth the effort. The first falcon I saw there was a peregrine, which also breed on Dragonera, soaring high over the tallest point of the island, which then drifted back over the sea and out of sight. About five minutes later, I saw my first Eleanora's falcon over the scrub woodland of the slopes fronting the cliffs, then I saw another, and another. They looked to be hunting insects over the tree tops and were drifting back over the cliff edge and disappearing only for others to then appear. I had been told to watch from a specific viewpoint and it offered great views of the tall sea cliffs they nest on, but the nests were hidden from sight on ledges in fissures on the cliff face. It was amazing to watch these falcons utilising the updrafts, and I had counted 190 sightings over a two-hour period, with a maximum of 12 visible at any one time. Eleanora's falcons breed very late in the year so as to make the best use of the southerly migration of passerines (small songbirds), which they catch over the sea. I didn't see any hunting but their agility and speed in the winds was breath-taking. Watching so many of these falcons at any one time was a very different scenario to watching peregrines, which are very territorial, and not as continually visible.

I visited another National Park called S'Albufera, a wet grassland and marsh reserve in the hope of seeing marsh harriers, and I was not disappointed. No sooner had I arrived in the first hide overlooking a large pool when a marsh harrier drifted over the reeds and put up all the waders that were feeding in the mud. After it had gone, I started concentrating on the birds that were reappearing and among the more normal wading birds, I was amazed to see two stone curlews walk just in front of the hide, then I spotted cattle egrets, a glossy ibis, purple swamp-hens and black-winged stilts, all birds I had never seen before, and had to look up in my bird book in the hide.

And so back home and the swifts had gone, other than the odd late sightings recorded through August on the Devon Birds website. As the deadline for this month's Parish Post approached, I was intrigued to see a single swift was seen at Soar (just south west of Salcombe) on the 3rd of September. However, I was delighted and amazed to see one over the A30 dual carriageway just near Bratton Clovelly on my way back from work on the 6th of September, and I have sent the sighting in to Devon Birds. The resident swallows and house martins have also now left the village, but I am still seeing flocks of both species moving through, either feeding or perching on the telephone wires.

I wrote about the barn owls in last month's Parish Post, and our return from holiday coincided well with the owls fledging. I spent a few evenings listening to them calling for food while watching them flying first within the barn from beam to beam, then as they started to leave and explore the surrounding fields, fence posts and trees. It was a joy to see them flying around before they started to roost further afield by day but were still returning to the barn in the evenings. Sadly, one was found dead in the barn on the 2nd of September, and it only weighed 240g so it was considerably underweight, and possibly hadn't been able to feed itself properly and had starved. I have sent the carcass to the Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme for analysis, and now wait to hear what their findings are.

Nick



News from the Castle



Hi everyone.

As I write this update, we are just reaching the end of the school summer holidays. It has been super busy at Castle Drogo and it has been lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves. I have particularly loved the 2 outdoor theatre performances this summer – Hound of the Baskervilles and The Railway Children. It was great chatting with so many local people at these events too so, hello to all of those I managed to catch up with.

You may remember me writing about a drama, music and history project I was doing with Okehampton College as part of a national project called 'Away From the Western Front'. This is now in its final phase with a small exhibition on display in the Chapel which tells the First World War story of William George Arscott, a local lad from Drewsteignton, who was a labourer at Castle Drogo who ended up in Salonika, Greece as part of the Devonshire Regiment. The display includes footage of a performance by Okehampton College students which is incredibly moving. It will be in the Chapel until the end of September so I hope you get to see it.

Finally, I have heard that tree felling work will be taking place in Rectory Woods from early September for 4 – 6 weeks. This area of wood is a plantation on ancient woodland (PAWS) and the thinning work will promote a more natural woodland long term. Walkers will see diversions in place and some of the boundary fences will be temporarily replaced with ropes during the felling work.

Best wishes to you all,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

News from Holy Trinity, Drewsteignton

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving in the church at 11.15 on Sunday October 7th. This will be followed by a Ploughman's Lunch at 12.30 in the Drewe Arms with baskets of produce for sale, the proceeds of the latter going to Water Aid as is our custom. Tickets for the lunch are £6.00 with a choice of puddings extra. Everyone is very welcome to come to one or other or both of these.

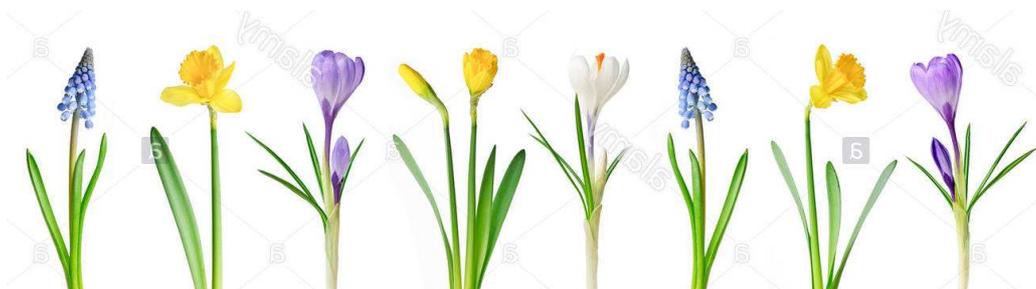
The 5th annual Big Quiz will be held at Fingle Bridge Inn on Saturday 24th November at 7.00 p.m. Teams

Date For The Diary

of six, tickets £8.00 including sausages and chips. In aid of the Friends of Drewsteignton Churchyard.

It seems very likely that we are going to have to take down the western of the two big cherry trees behind the church. A large area of it has died and it is now deemed to be in a dangerous condition especially as it is beside the public footpath to the car park. It is estimated that to have it felled and removed will cost between £1,700 and £2,000 so your support would be especially appreciated this year.

We are intending to plant out that area with spring bulbs for naturalising so will be asking for volunteers to help with the planting later in the Autumn.



BLACKBERRY & APPLE FLAPJACK

Ingredients

- * 120 g butter
- * 85 g demerara sugar
- * 2 tbsp golden syrup, maple syrup.
- * 125 g rolled oats
- * 125 g jumbo rolled oats
- * 50 g sunflower seeds
- * 30 g pumpkin seeds
- * 50 g brazil nuts, chopped
- * 1 large Bramley apple, peeled and grated
- * 250 g blackberries, washed



Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas mark 4.

Melt the butter, sugar and syrup over a low heat. Remove from the heat and add the oats, seeds and nuts, stir to mix. Gently stir in the grated apple.

Grease and line a 20-cm (9-in) square cake tin with baking parchment. Press half the flapjack mixture into the base of the tin. Mash the blackberries with a fork and spread these on top of the flapjack mixture, top with the rest of the flapjack mixture, leaving the blackberries sandwiched in the middle.

Bake in the centre of the oven for 20–25 minutes until nicely browned. Cut into squares and leave in the tin to cool completely.

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 October - Thank You