

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 152

JANUARY 2019

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Contacting the Clerk to the Parish Council can only be done at the moment by email to clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk or by a dedicated mobile telephone number: 07538 130973, this will also give the flexibility of when the Clerk is on holiday the mobile can be given to a councillor who can deal with matters in her absence.

A very advanced notice is for May 2019 when all councillors come up for re-election. As a reminder there are 3 councillors each for Whiddon Down & Drewsteignton wards, 2 for Crockernwell and 1 for Venton/Sandy Park. We are currently carrying one vacancy which will need to be filled. It is not necessary to actually live in the ward you represent as long as you live in the parish or very close to, work in the parish, are over 18 years of age and not bankrupt! Do you think you can offer something to the community in which you live. Please give it some thought, ask a councillor or the clerk or perhaps come along to one of our meetings, which are always open to the public, and have a listen to what we get up to. As stated there are 9 places to be filled and if only 9 names are proposed that is it and there is no need to hold an election.

The parking in Drewsteignton led the council to ask Dartline if their drivers were experiencing problems with parked vehicles in the village. The Operations Manager confirmed that they had. Halloween night had been a particular problem, but much more so were parked vehicles in and around Sandy Park and towards Parford where they found the buses could not get through at all. This

meant they had to reverse and re-route via Whiddon Down therefore missing Drewsteignton village completely. Darryl Jagger the neighbourhood officer for Devon County Council Highways has confirmed that, where danger or inconvenience is caused by parked vehicles, they are happy to make a traffic order to control parking. At the moment the Parish Council would prefer residents thought about where they parked, especially those who stop the bus from following its route, and parked more considerately. If this applies to you **PLEASE** help us and other road users rather than have double yellow lines everywhere.

Councillors noted a prior planning notification for an agricultural building at Weir Mill Drewsteignton (DNP 0630/18) The Clerk reported she had received another application for The Old Rectory Drewsteignton (DNP 0653/18). As this was too late for the last meeting's agenda and Councillors felt they would like a site visit and to comment on the application, arrangements were to be made for an extra council meeting to deal with this matter.

The long lost monies from the former Drewsteignton Youth Club have eventually been received and a cheque for £1005.61 has been paid into the Playing Field bank account.

The Remembrance bench has been delivered to the parish and will be installed outside the Post Office shortly. The existing wooden bench will be relocated to the car park in Drewsteignton.

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Afternoon Tea

There will be an afternoon tea at 3pm on Saturday 26th January at Ford House, Drewsteigton to help raise money for the Friends of Drewsteigton Church. Everyone is welcome.

Alison Chapman

Just a reminder, lambing has started.

PLEASE KEEP ME
ON A LEAD



What's on in February 2019

Acorn Community Support.

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be February 7th at the Red Lion. 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 February 6th & 20th. Help is provided in store. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return.

NEW! Acorn monthly Cheriton Bishop Outing - Tuesday 12th February, venue to be confirmed! £5.00 per person for a return trip. Call the office for more information.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be February 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. Tuesday February 5th & 19th. Please drop in for a tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake & meet up with friends. Everyone welcome

Dunsford coffee morning- Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212. Village Hall, Dressing room. February 6th & 20th. 10:30 - 12:00 pm. All welcome

What else do we do? – We have a fantastic group of volunteers who help to provide transport to medical and wellbeing appointments, we can deliver prescriptions, we can also loan equipment to assist you in the home.

Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information.

www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

DREWSTEIGTON CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

THANK YOU

To everyone who came and supported this lovely event, and to the crafters who were able to donate £357.80 to Holy Trinity Church funds.

Also, a huge THANK YOU to all the behind the scenes helpers. You all know who you are and without you we couldn't have done this.

(Can I book you for the Summertime Fayre please?!)

Jane Hocking



Race Night
A Fun Night Out
CHERITON BISHOP VILLAGE HALL
16th February 2019
HELPING RAISE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.
JOCKEY & HORSE OWNERSHIP

DOORS OPEN 6.00 pm

TOTE OPENS 7.00 pm

FIRST RACE 7.30 pm

***Tri-Cast = £1.00 per bet – 1 prize of £50 to be won –
 You can place as many bets as you wish on the Tri-Cast**

BAR, BUFFET & RAFFLE

£5 ENTRY FEE TO INCLUDE FIRST DRINK

We are holding a Race Night to help raise funds towards James Bowden's USA Rugby Scholarship – he is following his dream and has secured the chance of a lifetime to study in America on a Rugby Scholarship. Please come along, support us, and have a great night out at the same time.

Tickets available now in advance or on the door.

Donations can also be made on the Crowdfunding page below:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/james-bowden-10?utm_term=y4jY87np7

To purchase tickets or to place a Tri-Cast* bet please contact:

Di Bowden, 07900 366401 di.bowden@yahoo.co.uk

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An email from Bunny Johnstone highlighted the fruit trees in the car park had not been pruned for several years. Councillors agreed to pay for this work to be done (around £160.00)

We have been notified that West Devon Borough Council and South Hams Council are to work together and appointed FCC Environment to undertake joint waste and recycling from 1st April 2019 which it is estimated will save £5 million over eight years. Highways England have told us they are undertaking work on a 45 mile stretch of the A30 between January and March to clear shallow rooted pine trees deemed to be likely to be in danger of blowing over onto the carriageway.

In January 2008 it was reported in the Parish Post that the Christmas bingo at Whiddon Down village hall had raised £370. The Hester and Hardie families had organised a very successful New Year's Eve party also in the village hall. Sam Peirce, who was at that time editor of the Post, was on the move to Exeter and giving her forthright views on private landlords, and the Gardeners Club had an enjoyable Christmas meal at Fingle Bridge.

Our next meeting will be **Monday 21st January 2019 7.30pm at Whiddon Down**

Inaugural Meeting of the Friends of Drewsteignton Church
 Help to shape the future of our church building and community.

Tuesday 22nd January, 7.30pm at

The Drewe Arms

Everybody welcome



Church news from Holy Trinity

As many of you will have seen, the tree surgery in the churchyard has been completed. We are grateful to HiLine for a very efficient job done and for considerably less than other quotations we had received at just under £1,000. All the wood has been spoken for, in return for donations to the churchyard. Mostly it will be going for firewood but some of it has gone to local woodturners which is particularly pleasing.

A Call for Trustees

We hope you are well aware of Acorn Community Support and its activities in your community and are asking you if you are interested in becoming a Trustee of this very worthwhile and very local charity?

If so we would very much like to hear from you!!

Our purpose is the advancement of health and wellbeing with elderly, frail and disabled people in our community. We help our adult community in a variety of ways, delivering medicines, transport to medical and dental appointments, running a Memory Café and other social events including regular lunches and coffee mornings.

The users of Acorn tell us how much they value it. By joining us you could help us maintain and develop this beneficial local service.

To register your interest please call Donna at the Acorn office on 01647 252701 or email office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

'Acorn Community Support - Lending a local helping hand since 1989'

Squidgy Chocolate Pear Pudding

This hot, gooey chocolate pud, with dark chocolate and canned pears, can be made ahead and frozen.

Ingredients:

- * 200g butter, plus extra for greasing
- * 300g golden caster sugar
- * 4 large eggs
- * 75g plain flour
- * 50g cocoa powder
- * 410g can pear halves in juice, drained
- * 100g plain dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids)
- * 25g flaked almonds (optional)

Method:

1. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Lightly grease a roughly 20 x 30cm shallow ovenproof dish. Put the butter in a large saucepan and place over a low heat until just melted. Remove the butter from the heat and stir in the sugar until well combined.
2. Whisk the eggs together in a large bowl. Gradually add the eggs to the butter and sugar, beating well with a wooden spoon in between each addition. Sift the flour and cocoa powder on top of the egg mixture, then beat hard with a wooden spoon until thoroughly combined.
3. Pour into the prepared tin or dish and nestle the pears into the chocolate batter. Put the chocolate on a board and cut into chunky pieces roughly 1.5cm with a large knife. Scatter the chocolate pieces over the batter and sprinkle with almonds, if you like. Can be frozen at this stage.
4. Bake in the centre of the oven for 30 mins or until the mixture is crusty on the surface and lightly cooked inside. Do not allow to overcook, as the cake will become spongy rather than gooey in the centre. Serve warm with cream or ice cream

Okehampton Library

13:30-14:30 Every Tuesday, starting from 8th January – Knit & Natter

Bring along your knitting, stitching, crochet or other portable project, for a chat with like-minded crafters. Tea and coffee available at 50p a cup.

15:00-15:40 Wednesday 16th January – Chair Yoga

Yoga on chairs helps improve balance, co-ordination, muscle tone and is great for arthritis. Suitable for adults of any fitness. Free, no booking necessary.

Regular 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

1st Tuesday of the month - Book Club for ages 7 – 11

(except Aug/Sept) 15:45 – 16:45 Free - no booking necessary

2nd Thursday of each month 16:00-17:00 - Bunala Book Club for ages 12+

Ask staff for further details

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

Children under 8 must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult.

01837 52805 okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Bird Notes

Well, it's the beginning of another year, and the start of January 2019. The weather throughout December was quite settled, with a very wet and windy first part followed by two weeks of dry and quite calm, with the occasional light frost. In the mild spell just after Christmas, I spent a very pleasant afternoon walking on Dartmoor with a friend.

Will is an experienced and knowledgeable walker, and an ideal guide on the moor, but despite agreeing to go for a good walk about three years ago, we had been unable to find a mutually convenient time. We met up prior to Christmas and finally set a date for the 27th December for an afternoon walk.

We drove up onto the moor, and turned south off the Moretonhampstead to Princetown road, and parked up under Hookney Tor, before setting off on foot across the road and through Headland Warren farm. It was a beautiful day with sun and a blue sky with no cloud or wind, ideal for walking, plus the ground was dry too. We headed due south on the footpath under Challacombe Down before hitting the south end of Soussons Down plantation and re-joining a road. We soon headed south on a bridleway across Cator Common before taking our own route west across open moorland. I had taken binoculars, hoping to see some interesting birds on the moor but there was very little about. A couple of magpies, a robin, the odd distant crow, some blue tits and great tits in the hedgerows, and we heard a nuthatch calling from a stand of mature beech trees. We re-joined a lane after another half hour and headed west towards Widecombe before again taking a bridleway up onto Hameldown, where on the ridge, we joined the Two Moors Way and headed north up towards Hameldown Beacon. The views from here were spectacular with the sea visible on the western horizon and the village of Widecombe below us in the valley to the south. We passed a couple of walkers coming down from the Beacon who, on noticing my binoculars, said there was a short-eared owl hunting near the path further up the hill. This was quite exciting news as the last short-eared owl I had seen was about 30 years ago, whilst walking near Cosdon Beacon, where we had inadvertently put up two from a reedbed beside a bog. As we got closer to the top of the ridge, we spotted it hunting low over the grassland beside the path about 20m away, before it drifted west over the brow of the hill and out of sight. We saw it again a few minutes later over the same patch of rough grassland as we carried on walking along the track, and it was visible through the binoculars from a considerable distance hunting over the same patch.

Short-eared owls are not resident breeders in Devon but are autumn and winter visitors, often on passage and seen mainly at coastal or estuary locations plus on Dartmoor and Exmoor. They are slightly bigger than barn and tawny owls but have much longer wings. Their plumage is a mix of pale-yellow brown and buff-white with brown streaking and much lighter under parts, and they can look very pale in flight. They are birds of open country, nesting on the ground and requiring areas of rough grassland which is rich in voles, their primary prey. As such, they are associated with moorland and the early stages of young conifer plantations where rough grassland flourishes before the canopy closes. It was wonderful to watch this one in full daylight as it flew slowly about four foot above the vegetation, quartering the ground and listening for the movements of voles in the grass.

We had to carry on before it got dark, so with the sun setting to the west, we left Hameldown Beacon and started downhill towards Grimspound, one of the best-known prehistoric settlements on Dartmoor. This settlement contains the remains of 24 houses enclosed within a circular stone wall with other houses outside the wall, and dates from the Late Bronze age (about 1450 to 700 BC).

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News from the Castle



Hi everyone. I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and new year.

I treated myself to a walk around the castle yesterday and it is amazing how much work has taken place. The conservation team has been busy polishing the wooden floors, cleaning items of furniture and working through the many boxes of collection. It was lovely to see the big wardrobe from Mr Drewe's room back out again – it's been 4 years since I last saw it!

On another note, we are still trying to find out more information about William George Arscott who lived in Drewsteignton and was a labourer during the building of Castle Drogo. We recently discovered that his older sister, Louisa, married John (Jack) Cleave who also worked at the Castle, possibly for one of the contractors. He was a stone mason from Moretonhampstead. He also had an older brother called Thomas. We would be really grateful if you could get in touch with any info about this really interesting family as we would love to know more.

The castle will re-open on Saturday 9 March but the café, shop and gardens will be open every day before then if you need to stretch your legs and get some fresh air. The good news is that, following the horrible weather in November, we have a re-scheduled date for the locals open day. It will take place on Wednesday 10 April, 11am – 3pm, instead. Just bring either your membership cards or a copy of this publication with you for free entry. Hopefully Spring will be kinder! Please keep your fingers crossed.

Best wishes all,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

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I was amazed at Grimspound and slightly baffled as I have no recollection of ever visiting it before, yet I have known of it for years

We got back to the car just as dusk was setting and headed back, feeling satisfied after a very rewarding circular walk of about ten miles in stunning scenery with some great views of the short-eared owl. Later that evening, I went on the 'Devon Birds' website to record the owl sighting and discovered that someone else had already logged it about 20 minutes before we saw it, and also noticed the first waxwing of the year has been seen (and been well photographed) in Central park in Plymouth. These are also winter migrants, having moved down to western Europe from the north. If the weather gets colder, we will see more of these stunning looking birds in the county. It was a few years ago now, but we had one spotted in Drewsteignton churchyard!

The birds in the garden continue to visit providing I keep the feeders topped up, with far more birds present when the weather is colder. What I have noticed is the increased presence of long-tailed tits on the suet blocks I put out. Many species will feed on these, especially when the sunflower hearts are running low, but the main birds on the suet are blue tits, coal tits, great tits and great spotted woodpeckers. The niger seed is only eaten by the goldfinches and just about everything eats the sunflower hearts. **Nick**

Drewsteignton Post Office

Happy New Year

We would like to thank everyone for the many gifts and cards this Christmas and wish all our customers a very Happy New Year.

Marg and Ian.



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 Pauline Rowe,

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 February - Thank You