

*Crockernwell,
Drewsteignton,
Sandy Park,
Venton,
Whiddon Down.*

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 121

APRIL 2016

The first job at our last meeting was to co opt Graham Hester on to the Parish Council to represent Whiddon Down. Graham has served on the council before and it is good to see him back. We have received complaints about the parking of vehicles in and around Chapel Hill & Turnpike road at Whiddon Down. Please remember when parking your vehicle it should not affect other road users by restricting their use of the road, especially young pedestrians. As with the car park at Drewsteignton, any vehicle on the road should be taxed, insured and have a current MOT certificate. All these details can now be checked on the DVLA website and anyone can notify DVLA of untaxed vehicles seen on the road. We also understand a volunteer has come forward to cut the grass on an area in Barn Close Whiddon Down which is used as a play area. Thank you to that volunteer.

A new bus stop with signs has now been created just as you enter the old A30 road towards Crockernwell at Whiddon Down near the Hittisleigh turning. This idea was put to the Council by John Dyke on behalf of a parishioner when he was serving on the council. Those who wish to use the bus that bypasses the village on the dual carriageway can now do so.

The new parish website is up and running and there for anyone to use. There are links to businesses and a what's on page. If you have any item you wish to be included please contact the clerk

who will be more than pleased to help.

We still have not received details of the safety audit on the new link road at Whiddon Down although the traffic order has now been advertised and the tourist sign advertising the Post Inn has now been added to the direction sign opposite the services entrance. We have suggested a secondary direction sign at the junction with the A382 might help drivers and, on the bend, the addition of chevron boards would emphasise the severity especially in the dark. We wait to see if these suggestions will be implemented. Devon highways have agreed there is an unauthorised advertising sign near the link road and will deal with its removal in time.

We are continuing to consult on employing a lengthsman to do small works in the parish and it does seem this will be an option.

The Playingfield committee reported they have been successful in securing a grant of £4800.00 from the Dartmoor National Park communities budget to be used towards replacing old equipment, which is good news, well done to them. West Devon Borough Council are renewing the recycling contract in 2017 and have been consulting on any improvements.

The Tour of Britain cycle race will again be travelling through the parish at Whiddon Down and along the A382 to Sandy Park (Hope there are no lorries coming towards them!!) but it will highlight our parish nationally and internationally.

Cont. on page 2

Don't Miss Out!!!

**Drewsteignton Garden Club
SPRING PLANT SALE**

Saturday May 7th. 10am to 12 noon

Drewsteignton Village Hall

Come early--

Lots of Plants for sale at BARGAIN PRICES!!!

Gardening Books on Sale

Refreshments

Cont. from page 1

From the Eastern Links meeting attended by Cllr Savage it was reported that although we live in a relatively safe area, the crime figures have increased by 32% due mainly to outbuildings & sheds being targeted. It was reported that a white van had been seen at 2am in one village where break-ins had occurred, this was reported as suspicious but was not reported at the time, PLEASE HELP THE POLICE and if you see anything which you think is not right telephone 101 or 999 if they are committing crime.

Cllr Hester reported the Throwleigh School Trust had now received their monies from Devon County Council, further details will be given in later Parish Posts.

Our next meeting is at **Drewsteignton on Monday 18th April 2016** and the **Annual Parish meeting** where you can hear what all the organisations are doing and ask questions of them or the Parish Council is at **Whiddon Down on Monday 25th April 2016**

Whiddon Down Village Hall

"Can you spare a few hours to help your community? - we hope so. Whiddon Down Village Hall committee is looking for some new blood to join us to help keep the hall running. At the moment the hall is running well and with our regular whist drives, seasonal bingos and booking income, financially we are ticking over, although any fresh fund raising ideas are always welcome.

We have meetings when we need to, usually every 3-4 months or so. If you think you are able to help us, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to speak to someone about helping us out, please speak to Michael Hall (Chairman) on 231634, Jakki Newton (Treasurer) on 231024 or Clare Rowe on 231643

Please come along to our AGM on Thursday 2nd June at 7.30pm at the hall."

Clare Rowe

Drewsteignton Playing Field

Skittles at Fingle Bridge Inn

Saturday 14th May at 6.30 for 7pm

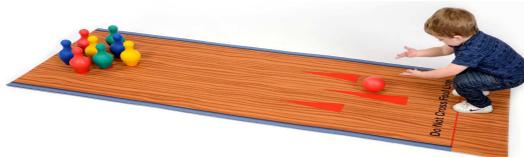
Teams of 4

£5 per head, including food kindly provided by Fingle Bridge Inn

Please give me your team name and details well in advance

All proceeds will be used to buy equipment for Drewsteignton Playing Field

Alison Chapman 01647 281197 email:callum.chapman@btinternet.com



St Georges Day Tea,

Saturday 23rd April 3.30pm

at

Ford House, Drewsteignton.

By kind invitation of

Mr and Mrs C Chapman

Raffle and Bring and Buy

Everyone welcome

In aid of Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund

Encouraging Wildlife into the Garden

A pond is a fantastic way to attract wildlife into your garden – it doesn't have to be very big, even a half barrel will create great interest. We dug a pond this time last year and within only 3 weeks we had assorted creatures taking up residence including a great diving beetle which I watched with a kind of horrified fascination as it made short work of a worm. Later in the year we were privileged to watch a massive dragonfly (Southern Hawker) planting her eggs around the damp pond edges; she was a regular visitor and didn't mind me pestering her with a camera. Brightly coloured damsel flies skittered from plant to plant along with a myriad of other bugs. Tall, graceful drooping plants work well over a pond especially if given enough room to show to their full advantage; in dampish soil a Diarama (aptly named angel's fishing rod) looks very beautiful dangling its 'bells' over the water and on a drier bank *Stipa gigantea* (Golden Oat grass) makes a wonderful specimen plant that holds on to its beautifully waving flowers well into the autumn.

Newts are precious garden creatures who have to breed in water as their larvae are fully aquatic only leaving the water when they have metamorphosed into air breathing juveniles. You want newts in your garden as they feast on slug eggs – enough said!! There are 3 species of native newts – Palmate, Smooth and Great Crested – all are protected but you need a license to handle the almost 7" long Great Crested newt. I don't think I've ever seen one so I'd be delighted to hear about any living in your gardens.

Every summer the public is encouraged to take part in various counts of butterflies and birds, usually over a specific weekend. Some butterflies are in real difficulties – the small tortoiseshell once so prolific is in steady decline and in a wet summer you may see hardly any butterflies at all.

This spring The Butterfly Conservation charity is calling on the public to plant up a pot with nectar rich flowers. Choose a large pot of at least 40cms in diameter and include plants with a variety of heights and some to spill over the edge. Butterfly Conservation suggest the following as their top 10 but you can substitute your own particular favourites if you like: *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' (Clary), *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walkers Low' (Catmint), *Echinacea purpurea* 'Pow wow pink', *Cosmos bipinnatus* Sonata series, *Geranium* 'Rozanne', *Liatris* 'Gayfeather', *Agastache* 'After Eight' (Giant Hyssop), *Stachys byzantina* (Lamb's Ears), *Leucanthemum x superbum* 'Snow Lady' (Shasta Daisy), *Origanum vulgare* 'Country Cream' (Wild Marjoram).

Added to these measures a mixed native hedge, wild grasses and a patch of nettles give caterpillars food plants and somewhere for adults to hibernate.

Buddleia davidii (Butterfly Bush) is an obvious choice for attracting butterflies into your garden but you don't have to restrict yourself to the common pale mauve one seen everywhere. There are some beautiful cultivars including B. 'Black Knight', B. 'Royal Red' and appropriately for us here B. 'Dartmoor'.

Apparently *Buddleia* 'Dartmoor' was cloned from a discovery made in a quarry or ravine on Dartmoor (near Yelverton). An intrepid, retired American gardener spotted the unusual *Buddleia* and was let down the precipice on a rope to collect his samples; the shrub was introduced to commerce in 1973 and given the RHS Award of Garden Merit in 1993. It has soft, scented flowers with smaller outriders clustering on each magenta raceme, the weight of which causes the branches to droop bestowing a distinctive, arching structure.

I would avoid white *Buddleia* as like white Lilac the flowers look hideous when they die and need to be immediately pruned as they go over to avoid a very unsightly display. I often see very overgrown *Buddleia* which is a shame as they are so easy to prune. I reduce the height by about half in the late Autumn to avoid too much wind rock in the winter but the main pruning takes place in April when the shoots are beginning to grow away strongly; any earlier and you risk new shoots being damaged by a late frost without the protection of the old growth. Pruning in April allows the flowers to be at their best in high summer when the butterflies are about. Cut back hard to about 60cms or more making sure there is some green growth below this height otherwise it will take a long time to regrow – don't be daunted they are almost impossible to kill. As always, cut back to a bud with a sloping cut to allow the rain to run off the wound. (Please use sharp secateurs, it makes life so much easier). The plant will look reduced and bare but you will be rewarded in the summer by a lush and floriferous bush.

Happy Gardening
Phillipa Allom

OKEHAMPTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

New 15 seater Community Minibus

We are pleased to announce that we will be taking delivery of a new vehicle at the beginning of May 2016 which has been possible with the assistance of a grant from the Department for Transport. The vehicle is being adapted by GM Coachworks, specialists in wheelchair accessible conversions.

We would like to also thank Balsdons Vehicle Services who are sponsoring the maintenance of the vehicle and Tyred and Exhausted who will be supplying replacement tyres when required, we are extremely grateful for their support.

We would like to obtain further sponsorship for other costs including insurance and can offer advertising on our vehicle as an incentive!

The vehicle will be available for both community groups and our own lifestyle trips.

We will be holding a Community Transport Awareness Roadshow on Saturday 4th June from 10am, press call at 11am and running until 12 noon in the car park of the Co-operative Supermarket in Market Street, Okehampton to which everyone is invited to attend. The new minibus will be there for you to see and discuss any requirements you may have.

We will be publishing a list of trips which can be booked with our office for both weekday and weekends, subject to us obtaining enough bookings for the journey to be viable. These will be available to view on our website www.odctg.co.uk and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Okehampton-District-Community-Transport-Group/165867586926940>

The bus will be available to hire with one of our drivers for a cost of £40 per day plus £10 per hour for the driver and fuel at cost. Please ring the office for availability.

Our aim is to help everyone not only access healthcare but also social events to improve quality of life, particularly those who are rurally isolated. Perhaps you have a group of friends who would like to visit a place of interest. Please speak to us about any requirements and we will do our best to provide transport. If you have a smaller group we can use our 7 seater Peugeot wheelchair accessible vehicle.

We also run a Ring and Ride service which has spare capacity at the present time – which collects you from your front door and drops you in Okehampton, at a destination of your choice, ie. Supermarket, Fore Street, Castleham Lodge (to make use of their many activities) and then collects you at an agreed time for the return journey. Our driver carries your shopping from the supermarket onto the bus if required and then carries it into your home. Fares start at £2 for the return journey if you live in Okehampton, £3 if you are in the next zone ie. Sampford Courtenay, or £4 for Hatherleigh, Chagford, Halwill, Lewdown etc. You have a couple of hours in the town, so even if you don't want shopping you can arrange to meet your friends for coffee!

We have had an excellent response to our recent plea for new volunteer drivers, however there is always a need for drivers so if you have a few hours to spare please speak to us.

For further information please ring **Sue Wonnacott on 01837 55000**.



Tillys Parish Post

I wrote my first Parish Post article in August 2010, nearly 6 years ago now. I reported on my visit to Wembley Stadium, for the Charity Shield football match between Manchester United and Chelsea. For the article, I remember providing some very interesting facts about the stadium, for instance its capacity is 90,000 and in case you've forgotten this gem of wisdom, it has 2,618 toilets, more than any other venue in the world.

And so, 6 years later I have just attended my second fixture at Wembley stadium, an England friendly game against Holland.

I'm sure the football fanatics and sports fans in Drewsteignton will have undoubtedly heard the news, 'Vardys goal just not good enough', It was 2-1... to Holland. But part of the experience of an international match isn't the outcome, although that's very important, it's the atmosphere that is created by the fans in the stadium, which was me and 82,361 others last night.

We had driven to London with Dom and Dan to where we were staying in Wimbledon, and then it took us three separate tubes to get to the stadium. On the last tube, there was a strong football vibe, mainly created by the Dutch fans, and by that I mean, there was some loud and raucous singing by predominantly men dressed totally in orange: hats, t shirts, jackets and trousers. It was a friendly match with the chosen charity being Breast Cancer Care and there was a minutes silence before the match to remember all those who had died in all the recent terrorist attacks, such as the recent one in Brussels. It was a very moving gesture what with 82,362 people all silent and respectful towards the memorial gesture.

Once it kicked off, the game was played very much with England on the ball with their possession being 61% as opposed to Holland with 39%. England were very strong in attack and passed the ball around well but lacked the dominance to have a shot and score, despite having 7 corners and 8 goal attempts (4 off target, 4 on). The only goal for England went to Jamie Vardy in the 41st minute. It was an enjoyable match at the stadium and the Dutch supporters, despite being far outnumbered by home fans, carried their own in vocal support and costume (orange suits were practically normal), I even saw a man in the row in front of us wearing a hat of carrots. It needed a second glance to confirm he was actually wearing real carrots, which decorated his head like a crown.

Tilly

Chicken In A Pot

Ingredients

- * 1 tbsp olive oil
- * 1 onion, chopped
- * 500g boneless, skinless chicken thigh
- * 300g small new potato
- * 425ml vegetable stock
- * 350g broccoli, cut into small florets
- * 350g spring green, shredded
- * 140g petits pois
- * bunch spring onion, sliced
- * 2 tbsp [pesto](#)

Method:

Heat the oil in a large, heavy pan. Add the onion, gently fry for 5 mins until softened, add the chicken, then fry until lightly coloured. Add the potatoes, stock and plenty of freshly ground black pepper, then bring to the boil. Cover, then simmer for 30 mins until the potatoes are tender and the chicken is cooked. Can be frozen at this point.

Add the broccoli, spring greens, petit pois and spring onions, stir well, then return to the boil. Cover, then cook for 5 mins more, stir in the pesto and heat through.

Any veg can be used.



Bird Notes

Despite the unsettled weather (and Storm Katie) that we endured towards the end of March, British Summertime is officially here with lighter evenings and the first migrant birds returning. I was looking on the 'Devon Birds' website at the recent sightings page as there is an "interesting visitor" in Exeter at the moment, and I noticed reports of wheatears, chiffchaffs and sand martins being increasingly seen. These are the first migrant birds to return, heralding Spring and they are then followed by swallows, house martins and the other warblers, and then swifts in May. I heard a chiffchaff just outside the village on the 14th March, and normally expect to hear them everywhere after I hear the first one, but have heard no more until the 26th.

The "Interesting visitor" in Exeter at the moment is a (Eurasian) eagle owl, currently residing on the Cathedral in the evenings and calling from the scaffolding on the east end or on the two towers. I first heard about it from a friend at the end of February, who had seen mention of it on the 'Devon Birds' website. Apparently, it has been heard calling at night from the Bishops Palace gardens or from the Cathedral since Christmas, but is very rarely seen. Eagle owls are not native to the UK and it will probably be an escaped captive bird, but there are records of them breeding in this country. Now, I was intrigued by the presence of this owl living in the centre of Exeter for over two months, so I went in one evening to see if I could hear or see it. I did not have to wait long as it calls fairly regularly and then I spotted it perched on the scaffolding on the east end of the Cathedral.

Eagle owls are really huge, measuring 59 to 73cm in height and with a wingspan of between 138 to 170cm. They feed on mammals such as voles, rats, hedgehogs and hares, and birds such as crows, gulls and wild-fowl, but are also known to take cats. I suspect this one is happily taking roosting pigeons from crevices on the Cathedral at night. It is obviously finding enough food if it has been there since Christmas and the calling is to advertise its territory and attract a mate. I was slightly concerned as where eagle owl and peregrine territories overlap in mainland Europe, they compete with each other for breeding ledges on rock faces, and eagle owls have been known to kill peregrines, both adults and juveniles. The Exeter peregrines nest on St. Michael and All Angels Church just 500m away and they can often be seen perching on the Cathedral towers by day. At the moment, they both seem to be using the Cathedral towers in the absence of each other and I hope there is no interaction between the two species.

The Exeter peregrines are on the webcam again this year and so I have been watching the goings on in the nest over the past week, whenever possible for ten minutes or so. I got lucky and had just logged on at 7am on Thursday 24th March to see the female lay her first egg of 2016. As I am writing this on the Easter Bank holiday Monday evening, there are two eggs but I am expecting a third any minute now as eggs are laid between 48 and 60 hours apart. The web cam set up has an infra-red facility and sound, so you can watch 24hrs a day and hear the adults interact with each other. They normally lay four eggs, and will then incubate for about 32 days before the eggs hatch.

Have a look at the Exeter Peregrines at www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk from the comfort of your home, you never know what you will see happening!

Nick

Whiddon Down Whist Drives

Monthly Whist Drives with fresh meat prizes
at
Whiddon Down Village Hall
are always held on the last Saturday in the month
starting at 8pm
The dates for the next three months are:
29th April, 28th May and 25th June



Afternoon Tea at Ford House

Drewsteignton

Saturday 21st May

3.30-5.30

In aid of

Holy Trinity Church

Restoration Fund



News From The Drewe Arms

April and May are going to be busy months here at The Drewe Arms! Now Easter has passed, our opening and food service times have extended and we have replaced the Sunday Roasts with our spring menu. Pop in and try some of our new seasonal dishes. We are also now open on Sunday evenings, drinks only, until 10pm.

Following the fantastic African, Caribbean and Latin music with Andy Kershaw on Good Friday, we are very pleased to announce that he is returning to the The Drewe this year, not once but TWICE. Watch this space for dates...

The second Dance Friday at Club Drewe will be taking place in The Long Room on **22nd April** at 9pm. Entry will be £3 on the door.

On **Saturday April 30th**, our usual Folk in The Bar Session will feature Little Lapin and Frozen Houses. Entry is FREE and the music starts at 8pm.

Finally, following last year's very successful Beer and Cider festival, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding our second over the Bank Holiday weekend of **May 27th – 29th**. The Drewe Arms Westcountry Beer & Cider Festival will feature 20 Westcountry ales, and a range of still ciders, a craft market, live music and Morris men. More details to follow in the next Parish Post with tickets for the next Andy Kershaw event going on sale over that weekend.

Gary and the Team

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 1 lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month, the next one will be 5th May. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 20th April and 4th May. Please phone Sylvia on 01647 24267 or Jackie on 01647 252701. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. The fare is now £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 14th, 28th April and 12th May. Please call Margaret on 01647 252622 for more details. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Acorn Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. This month it will be 19th April and 3rd May. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of home-made cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. Please ring Jackie on 01647 252701 if you need a lift.

Acorn Services - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered or any other Acorn service, please phone Sylvia Tripp on 01647 24267. Please leave a message on her answering machine if she is not at home and she will call you back. If you have not heard back within 24 hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or Jackie in the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Teignton Fayre News

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, The Duck Race couldn't be held on the usual date of Easter Monday (March 28th), so it will now take place on Bank Holiday Monday May 2nd, with the first race starting at 2.30pm. Ducks are still for sale in The Drewe Arms and Drewsteignton PO and Stores. You will be able to buy them on the day but be warned - they always sell out before the first race starts. If possible, walk or car-share due to parking being extremely limited, as ever.

The Teignton Fayre Committee



ANYONE FOR CROQUET

Do You Play Croquet, Would You Like To Learn?

The National Trust has very kindly agreed to allow a Croquet Club to be started using the courts at Castle Drogo. Members will have access to the two courts at any time, including evenings, booking through the visitor centre, all equipment will be provided and it has been made plain that the National Trust are very much in favour of this enterprise. A membership fee of £15 a year for each member, to cover the extra cost incurred by the gardening team.



Exeter Croquet Club members have generously agreed to come and give lessons to those unfamiliar with the finer points of the game, or indeed, complete beginners.

Croquet is a great game, good fun, and suitable for all ages, (Exeter members range from 12yrs old to 91), no special clothes are needed, other than flat shoes. A chance to play with old friends and make new ones. Croquet is notoriously competitive but it doesn't have to be, it is your choice. Play will commence at the end of May and continue as long as weather conditions permit.

If you are interested, please contact **Tony & Angela Thomas on 281602 or email: athom3@hotmail.co.uk.**

The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes.

Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too.

Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below.

If you don't tell us we can't print it

John and Pauline

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

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The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Post.

Contributions for the next edition by
1st May - Thank You