



Drewsteignton Parish Post

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

ISSUE NO 128

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2016

The council are looking at ways we can control the amount of unofficial signs being placed around the parish particularly at Whiddon Down. Devon County Highways are legally responsible for their removal, but as with everything else at Devon County these days, they are short of money and manpower to undertake this task. We are looking at a possible policy of allowing parish events to be advertised on a single suitably sized sign up to a week before the event and not allowing advertising from outside the parish. This **has not** been finalised yet and if you think this may have an impact on your advertising events, please contact the clerk or a councillor. Talking about the County Council cutting back on work, it will not have escaped your notice the road verges have not been cut except at junctions or bends, which has left the parish looking scruffy. We have noticed however, in a few places when farmers have cut their field hedges, they have spent a few minutes of their valuable time to cut the verges, the road to Silkhouse, Harepath Straight and on the entrance to Crockernwell are just some examples. We are very grateful to those farmers who have made the effort to improve the looks of the countryside, thank you! No money at County has led to the temporary fixture of barriers at the pedestrian fence in Crockernwell. The bright red doesn't really enhance the conservation area but may lead to an earlier repair.

We have heard from the police they have issued up to 15 fixed penalty fines to drivers ignoring the no left turn at Whiddon Down.

The Parish Lengthsman employed by us with your money, has been at work in and around Crockernwell, cleaning road signs and unblocking drains and gullies. We have been successful in obtaining half the amount he is costing the parish this year from the Town & Parish Councils (TAP) fund which is jointly funded by the County and West Devon Councils. We may be able to claim some more in the future.

The clerk has had more work to do on our VAT reclaim as dear old HMRC had lost the first one!!! The bollards at Chapel Hill Whiddon Down do appear to be having an effect on the speed of vehicles but we think there is a need for them to be more visible. The traffic cones placed there are

only a temporary fix. We have been made aware their location may cause some problems with access to the Methodist Church when a funeral is held. The church officials who contacted us have agreed to monitor the situation and report back to the council.

The closure of the Sandy Park Inn is causing concern to locals and visitors alike and we are hoping it will be registered with West Devon Borough Council as a community asset, much the same as the Drewe Arms was when it was closed some years ago.

Thank you to those parishioners who contacted the council regarding the proposed development at Chagford School. As requested by Chagford Parish council, those letters have been forwarded to them.

It was great to hear the Playing Field bonfire night was a huge success raising around £1300.00. We have asked the committee to review their procedure for parking as it would not have been possible to get emergency vehicles to some parts of Drewsteignton on the night. This is perhaps a mark of how successful the event is becoming – well done to all.

A couple of bits of news from the Eastern (Parish Councils) Links meeting. It appears if the North East and West (NEW) Devon Clinical Commissioning group succeed in closing hospital beds in Okehampton, there would not be a hospital bed west of the river Exe. This is of great concern to the population of West Devon and the joint councils. We will have to wait until the new year to see what will happen and how successful the lobbying groups have been.

WDBC are now the top recycling council in Devon with a 55% rate of recycling – thanks to all of us!! They have issued a plea to reduce the amount of food waste in black bags which is still too high. If your grey bins are damaged or have been lost, please contact them on 01822 813600 or westdevon.gov.uk and they will replace them free of charge.

Our next meeting is at Drewsteignton on Monday 19th December 2016 at 7.30pm. It only remains to wish all our parishioners a very Happy Christmas and we will be back in the New Year.

Whiddon Down Methodist Church

CAROL SERVICE

At the Chapel
 Sunday 11th December
 at 6.30pm
 Tea & Mince Pies
 All welcome

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

2017 Programme

January 9th. Member's Night with illustrated talk
 by Philip Evans
February 13th. New Varieties and Techniques in
 Vegetable Growing with Tom Sharples

All meetings 7:30 pm in Village Hall
 All are welcome. Members free Visitors £1

PROVIDENCE SCHOOL CHARITY FOR YOUNG PERSONS

The Providence School Charity was set up following the Sale of the Throwleigh Centre. The Local Parish Councils were able to persuade the Devon County Council that the funds should stay locally. When the land was given in order that the school could be built, the condition was that the school should provide education for poor persons, and no other purpose.

This has been interpreted that the money should be invested and the interest and any funds raised for the Charity should be used for educational purposes for young people under the age of 25 years, in the form of grants.

The Trustees have been nominated from the Parishes of Gidleigh, Throwleigh, Chagford and Drewsteignton. The Charity will be launched at Throwleigh Village Hall on Saturday 21st January at 19.30 hours. The Trustees will welcome young people from all four Parishes and their families.

Please join the Trustees for drinks and light refreshments.

The Trustees would like to take the opportunity of gathering together people who have attended Providence School and have a wealth of treasured memories of school life at Providence. Please bring your memorabilia be it May Day or a Christmas Play, can we still recognise each other?

We look forward to seeing you there

gayhill820@btinternet.com 01647 432424

Chagford Show Community Fund

The Members of the Chagford Show have decided to donate a % of any profits made in 2016 to a charitable fund to be used to help local people or projects within the Show District, which comprises the parishes of Chagford, Drewsteignton, Gidleigh, Manaton, Moretonhampstead, North Bovey, Throwleigh, South Tawton, Spreyton, Lustleigh, Cheriton Bishop, and an area within half a mile of the Bridge at Post-bridge.

Applicants need to apply in writing with full details of their request, to the Secretary at 42 The Square, Chagford, TQ13 8AH by 10th January 2016.

All applications will be considered by the Funding Committee and the successful applicants will be notified early in 2017.

Dartmoor National Park Authority is entering into a local plan consultation to which Drewsteignton Parish Council have submitted a reply, but which is also open to all parishioners to put an individual view. The consultation is towards the new "Dartmoor Local Plan" which will guide planning applications in Dartmoor National Park in future and your views are invited by 16 December. The full timetable extends through 2017 until the winter of 2018. This includes evidence gathering, issues consultation (where we are now), a first draft, a revised draft, a public examination, and inspector's report, proposed modifications and final adoption by the end of 2018. To see the consultation document and fill in an online response form go to: www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan or telephone 01626 832093 for a copy.

Dunsford Amateur Dramatic Society
presents
Beauty and The Beast
Written and Directed by Ilona English



7th - 14th January 2017



Performances Monday - Friday 7.45pm
Saturdays 2.30pm and 7.45pm
Tickets £5 and £6
Box office opens 1st December
01647 252924



What's On At The Drewe

Gary and the team would like to wish all the Drewe's customers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. Come along and celebrate the New Year in on 31st December with Five Finger Discount and an 80's disco - a brilliant atmosphere, and the bar open until 3am!

For opening times during the holiday season, please see our website: www.thedrewearmsinn.co.uk

Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Sale

Thank you to all the sellers and buyers who came to the Christmas Craft sale in Drewsteignton Village Hall. The standard and variety of the various crafts were amazing and all these clever people live- or have lived- within a 5 mile radius of our village square! Also a HUGE THANKYOU to everyone who helped me to get it advertised and set up - I know there were a lot of signs...but they worked!!!!

Again the agreement was that the sellers did not have to pay for a table but instead give 15% of their takings to the church, so along with money from sales of donated bric-a-brac, a very generous donation of local pottery by Christopher Drewe and Cicely's cards and books, I was able to hand over £446.56 to Holy Trinity Church.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas **Jane Hocking**

Drewsteignton Post Office
Here for you this Christmas.

Now taking orders for
Cream, Sausages, Bacon, Bread and Mince Pies

If you need something we don't usually hold in stock please ask and we will endeavour to get it for you.

Christmas stamps available
Latest recommended post date
2nd class 20th December
1st class 21st December

We will be open on Christmas Eve 8.30am to 1pm
Christmas Day Closed
Monday 26th Closed
Tuesday 27th Closed

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

Tilly's Parish Post

I am currently involved in my second National Theatre Connections play after last year's production of 'Bassett', which you may remember me writing about. This year's play by Chagford Youth Theatre is called 'Extremism' and as the title suggests tackle issues such as Prevent, racism, aspects of politics and discrimination. Personally, I think it is a very topical and interesting subject in light of this year's current affairs and political choices. The play, written by Anders Lustgarten, follows 10 young people within a school environment. It looks at different perspectives of the events discussed after their classmate Jamal, is taken away by the police. Because of Prevent.

It was a bit of an eye opener for the cast and features some very touchy subjects that have got our directors Paul and Jo Diffey really thinking about how best to stage them.

The cast is Livy Rubbra, Morwenna Bint, Topaz Brownhall, Phoebe Muir, Xander Searson, Sam McCarthy, Luke Coombe, Shah Kellman, Nat Bonfield and me. If anyone is interested in watching Chagford Youth Theatre's NTC performance of 'Extremism', then the three performances will be in the second week of February, locations and dates to be confirmed. The company is predominantly made up of those residing in Drewsteignton and Chagford, so it would be great to get some local support!

Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year! **Tilly**

Bird Notes

The last month has been interesting and varied weather-wise, with some hard frosts early on resulting in a massive leaf fall, followed by a slightly warmer period of heavy rain and then followed by a colder dry spell towards the end of October, extending into the beginning of December. I have started feeding the birds again in my garden with kibbled sunflower hearts, Niger seed and the occasional suet block. This has attracted many different bird species in to feed. The kibbled (crushed) sunflower hearts appeal to a wide variety of species, including nuthatches, tits, greenfinches, siskins, house sparrows, blackbirds and collared doves, with the Niger seed bringing in many goldfinches and mainly tits feeding on the suet blocks, with the occasional visit from great spotted woodpeckers. I have seen a single tree-creeper on occasions recently but not on the feeders, and only gleaning small bugs from an oak tree in the garden. However, robins have been very noticeable in the garden, but rarely seen on my feeders.

Over the last month, I have been amazed as to the numbers of robins not only in the garden, but along our row at Churchgate, in the Churchyard and almost everywhere in the village. There are far more than I noticed through the summer, and this is undoubtedly due to migrant birds spending the winter here, rather than in colder northern climes. The great joy of having these around is that they are one of the few birds to sing during this period. Robins will often sing well into the night, and they also herald the arrival of dawn. Many small birds sing to advertise a territory or attract a mate in spring, but few will sing at this time of year. It is thought that robins sing to defend a winter territory, and they are known as a belligerent defender of their autumn and winter quarters. The robin won last years 'Vote for Britain's National Bird', and is one of our most recognisable species, especially by young children, possibly due to their presence on many Christmas cards.

As Christmas approaches, and the cards start coming, have you ever wondered why so many feature the robin? One theory is that, when the sending of Christmas cards first became popular in the 1860's, the postmen wore bright red uniforms, and were known as 'Robins', and early Christmas cards often included designs in which the bird bears an envelope in its bill. There is also the belief that there was an earlier association between robins and the Christmas period, and Christianity in general. One fable tells that when the baby Jesus was in his manger, the fire that had been lit blazed up strongly. A small brown bird placed itself between the fire and Jesus; it fluffed out its feathers and got its breast scorched by the fire, and the red-breasted robin was the result. There are other theories and early religious links, but maybe the reason is simpler. The red breasts of the adult birds are noticeably colourful at this, the darkest and dullest time of the year and their habit of singing through autumn and winter embeds them in our consciousness just as the festive season approaches. It is possible their presence on Christmas cards are our nod to their role in lifting our spirits, just when we need it most.



While we are on a Christmas theme, can I draw your attention to the booklet on the 'Exeter Peregrines', which I am selling to raise funds for a new and improved webcam in the nest box at St. Michaels church in Exeter. St. Michaels was the first church to be used as a nest site in the UK, following peregrines' recovery from near extinction in the 1960s through toxic pesticides in their food chain. The booklet (A5 soft-back, 24 pages, 7,500 words, 17 photos and one illustration) is a brief history of their twenty-plus year tenure in Exeter, and features various aspects of my research undertaken over the period, and includes information on changes of adult birds, the numbers and fortunes of young birds fledged, prey selection and their interaction with other bird species in the locality, most recently the unique and highly aggressive behaviour toward buzzards over the city. It will appeal to anyone with an interest in peregrines (the fastest creature on the planet), birds of prey, birds in general or local wildlife. They are for sale at £5 each in Drewsteignton Post Office, with all funds going towards the new camera. **Nick**

Children in Need Appeal

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored me to do a 12-hour 'bounce' with a team from my school, at Air Extreme in Barnstable for the Children in Need appeal. Our whole team bounced from 7pm to 7am and we all had great fun. I raised over £100 overall and we had a really enjoyable time. There were around 400 children, teenagers and adults bouncing through the night, and with everybody's sponsorship money, the whole event raised over £5,000 for Children in Need. Thank you so much! **Flora**



What's On In January 2017

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be 5th January 2017. 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 11th, 25th January and 8th February 2017. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is

also available. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 12th, 26th January and 9th February 2017. 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 coffee and a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday 10th, 24th and 7th February 2017. Please ring the number below if you would like a lift.

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 also loan wheelchairs and equipment to assist you in the home.

Who should you contact - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered 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 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or Jackie in the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours. Acorn Office Telephone number 01647 252701 for further information.

Visit our website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and to wish you a very Happy New Year.

Cauliflower, Garlic & Turmeric Soup

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

1 head of garlic
 3 tbsp olive oil
 1 medium onion, chopped
 1 cauliflower, broken into florets
 1 tsp turmeric
 1 large potato, peeled and diced
 1.8 pints/1 litre hot vegetable stock (Marigold bouillon powder is fine)
 Parsley or coriander, to serve

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Cut the top off the head of the garlic so that you can just see the tops of the cloves.

Sit the garlic on a square of foil (shiny side up) and drizzle a small amount of the olive oil over.

Pull up the edges of the foil to form a tightly wrapped but baggy parcel and put in the oven for 40 minutes. Remove and allow to cool a little.

Pour the rest of the oil into a wide saucepan and fry the onion gently for about 10 minutes until softened but not browning. Add the cauliflower and turn in the oily onion. Add the turmeric and keep stirring, then stir in the potato. Cover and cook over a low to medium heat for 10 minutes or so.

Squeeze in the pulpy, sweet, baked garlic cloves (just squish the head straight into the saucepan), then add the stock.

Bring to the boil, lower the heat to a simmer, cover and cook for a further 15 minutes or so.

Purée in a food processor or blender.

Add freshly chopped parsley or coriander to the bowls as you eat. For extra protein add a blob of crème fraîche or some grated cheese, or serve with cold meats on the side.



News from the Castle



Hello everyone

I hope that you have all been able to enjoy some glorious autumn sunshine. The colours at Castle Drogo have been amazing this year. The gorge is looking particularly gorgeous, especially when the sun catches the reds and golds.

Despite the current pause in building work, the project is still moving in the right direction. We have had the scaffold team on site for the past month. They have been busy constructing the final (yes – final) stage of scaffolding over the North end of the building. Although we don't intend to start the actual work until early spring, having the scaffolding in place will enable us to hit the ground running once we appoint the new contractors.

Other exciting activities over the past month include working with the wonderful young people from Med Theatre as they recorded a radio play inspired by the stories of wolves on Dartmoor. They did most of the recording on-site at Drogo and it is lovely to hear the acoustics, creaky floors and pianos in the background. If you fancy listening to the full play, please visit www.medtheatre.co.uk/wolf-whispers. I was lucky enough to attend the launch of the radio play and it is fantastic. The group worked very hard creating the play and we just loved being able to support them in a small way.

The next couple of months will be super busy for us as we get ready to re-present the interior of the castle ready for the new season. Once again, rooms will be shifting and new stories will be told. We know that we still have 2 years of building work ahead of us so the rooms cannot go back to 'normal' just yet. We are very excited about our plans though and can't wait to share them with you. I will tell you all about it in the next edition!

All that is left for me to say now is that the Castle Drogo team wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and we hope to see you all soon.

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Holy Trinity Drewsteignton

A warm welcome to everyone at the following services:

11th December - 8.00am Holy Communion (at Hillside House) and Family Service with lovely food, in the church 5.00pm

Sunday 18th December - Carol Service 4.00pm followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

24th December - Christmas Eve 10.00pm Holy Communion

25th December - Christmas Day 10.00am Family Communion

Sunday 1st January - Choral Evensong 6.00pm with the Choir of St Michaels Chagford.

The Church Wardens would like to express their thanks to everyone for all the help and support they have had in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Every event has been a massive success and without our willing band of helpers to make cakes, move chairs and man stalls we could not operate, so "thank you" to each and everyone.

Angela and Norma



Okehampton Library

Wednesday 11th January 2-3pm Traditions of Modern Mongolia

An introduction to the culture of Mongolia.

Mongolia is firmly embracing the 21st Century. However, there are many customs that remain an inherent part of Mongolian culture but they are integrated into everyday life so can be hard for visitors to tell that they exist. This talk is a chance to learn a little more about the way of life and what to expect as a visitor to 21st Century Mongolia.

Tickets £2 each to include refreshments provided by The Friends of Okehampton Library.

Telephone number 01837 52805 Many thanks for all your support throughout this year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Drewsteignton Playing Field - Bonfire Night

Thank you to everyone who attended our Bonfire Night on 5th November. I assume you agree with me that the guys did a great job with the fireworks display, the torchlight procession and the bonfire. If you didn't catch the procession, you missed a great visual display of 50 very old-fashioned torches parading around the field.

We made a profit of £1,918 this year, which is the best we have ever done and is truly amazing. A lot of people attended which means we need to think a bit more about the management of the refreshments and the parking. All suggestions will be gratefully received.

We had help from loads of members of the community both before and during the event which we really appreciate. Particular thanks must go to our main sponsors Chris Gosnay, Drewsteignton Parish Council and Fingle Bridge Inn.

See you next year! **Alison Chapman**

The Parish 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 January - Thank You