

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

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 118

JANUARY 2016

An anonymous letter was presented to the Council having been received by Cllr Savage, it's content was complaining about the proliferation of business signs around the parish in particular at Drewsteignton green and at Whiddon Down. The Council has already taken action about the Whiddon Down sign complained of, which has been recorded in our minutes, published on the website and Parish notice boards for everyone to read. If the writer would like to identify themselves then we can discuss their concerns.

It is perhaps timely to reiterate which councillors represent which areas of the Parish, Debi Brooks, Ben Brown & Hazel Hunt-Drewsteignton, Paul Ridgers-Venton & Sandy Park, Bill Savage-Crockernwell, Stuart Hardie & Anna Imrie-Whiddon Down, with Anna being the Council Chairperson. Bella Snook is the Clerk to the Council. If you need to discuss any matter please contact your local councillor, the Clerk or the Chair.

Repairs are now underway to the churchyard lamp post thanks to Pete Rich and volunteer rangers from the National Park. Painting should be completed when the weather improves.

Thanks to the National Trust a new fence has been erected around the public toilets in Drewsteignton and they have supplied timber for the new barge boards which Mike Rowe has kindly offered to paint and install.

The new parish website is nearing completion and councillors have been told of a Facebook page "What's on near Whiddon Down". If anyone has knowledge of this page and if it is thought useful, please contact the Clerk as it may be another way of getting the news spread about the parish. There has been a delay in the completion of the link road at Whiddon Down following complaints from North Tawton & Spreyton that a long closure which had been planned, would have a detrimental effect on businesses over the Christmas period. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this it should be open. There has been some progress with the traffic calming in Chapel Hill and

work should now be carried out to improve the situation. Just staying in Whiddon Down, there is concern over the parking problem created by parents picking up children from the Exeter school bus. Following a request from the Parish Council last year, the village hall committee agreed their car park could be used for parking but it appears this offer is being ignored. It is quite likely most of the vehicles are from outside the parish but we are asking the school, Devon County Council and the police to look at this nuisance and see if it can be improved.

We discussed a planning application 0626/15 at Crockernwell following a site visit earlier in the day. We had received four letters of objection. Crockernwell is not a designated settlement in the National Park which means that any application should be dealt with as if it were in the open countryside. The proposal is for a major change from the current agricultural use with barns to 8 live and work units and 2 commercial storage distribution units being serviced by articulated lorries. We resolved unanimously to object to the application as it was not a suitable development in the countryside. It was too close to residential properties, there would be the likelihood of noise and other pollution issues, there is no mains drainage near the site, and the massive increase in traffic entering and exiting the main road at an already dangerous entrance to the village would not be acceptable. A number of the National Park core policies and policies from their Development Management document are thought to back up our objection.

We are very fortunate in comparison with what we have all seen over the Christmas period, but if you are aware of any properties having been flooded would you please inform the clerk as Devon County Council flood risk team are compiling a risk map which, amongst other things, has a bearing on funding for future flood prevention schemes.

Our next meeting is **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 7.30pm at Whiddon Down**

## Mental Health Charity MIND

I am holding a Coffee Morning Event at Castle Drogo [function Room in the Café area] on **Friday, February 26th, 1030 to 1200.**

I am aiming to raise awareness and funds for the Mental Health Charity MIND. A representative from the Exeter office will be attending and Mel Stride MP has been invited.

More details in next months edition. Any enquiries please call Rose Jordan 01392 210122 at the Exeter MIND Office.

**Sue Cripps. National Trust Volunteer at Castle Drogo**

## MED Theatre

### Refuge: The English Civil War on Dartmoor

It doesn't take an expert historian to know that the English Civil War was a conflict that divided communities nationwide, and life on 17th Century Dartmoor was no exception. Village was set against village, family against family in one of the most bloodthirsty periods in English history. However, Dartmoor's unique landscape, with all of its secret haunts, did prove to be an excellent hiding place...

MED Theatre's 2016 community play will be examining the tensions between history and hearsay during this vivid period in Dartmoor's past.

#### Dates:

**Friday 11th March: Manaton Parish Hall (preview)**

**Saturday 12th March: Manaton Parish Hall**

**Tuesday 15th March: Belstone Village Hall**

**Thursday 7th March: Meavy Parish Hall**

**Friday 18th March: Moretonhampstead Parish Hall**

**Saturday 19th March: Moretonhampstead Parish Hall**

All performances begin at 7:30pm

#### **BOOKING RECOMMENDED!**

Tickets £8 adults, £5 children, £7 concessions

(Preview: £7 adults, £4 children, £6 concessions)

Email [info@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@medtheatre.co.uk)

Ring: 01647 441356

[www.medtheatre.co.uk](http://www.medtheatre.co.uk)



**MED THEATRE**

Inspired by Dartmoor

## Mobile Library Service

As there have been no members of the community using the Mobile Library Service at Whiddon Down during 2015, the service to this stop will cease from January 2016.

If any resident is housebound or too frail to visit their nearest library, Devon Libraries runs a Home Library Service in partnership with the Royal Voluntary Service and I will be happy to pass on any referrals.

Kind regards,

**Pauline Anderson Outreach and Rural Services Manager**

## Did You Know The Local NHS Has A Patient Advice And Complaints Team?

NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS NEW Devon CCG) patient advice and complaints team is a service to provide patients, carers, family members, the public and staff with help, advice and support with concerns or comments relating to NHS services.

The team provides free and confidential help to investigate and resolve problems as they happen and aim to do this as quickly as possible. They can also organise in depth investigations of any problems relating to healthcare across a number of different services.

Hearing from patients helps us to make improvements and gives us early warnings of system problems. It is very important for the CCG to hear when things are going wrong.

You can contact us on the phone on 01392 267665, or 0300 123 1672

Or text us at 07789 741099

Or email [pals.devon@nhs.net](mailto:pals.devon@nhs.net)

## Are you a Galanthophile?

After a very unseasonably warm December my thoughts are turning towards spring flowers. I think the season might kick off early for Galanthophiles - "You what?" I hear you chorus. A Galanthophile is an enthusiast collector of snowdrops - a buzz that has been gathering momentum for several years now although there has always been a stalwart group of snowdrop fanciers. Indeed soldiers were so enchanted with the beautiful flower that they returned from the Crimean War battlefields (1853-1856) with precious bulbs to plant in their gardens. Every year there are an increasing number of 'snowdrop events', fairs, study days and gardens thrown open in February for the appreciation of beloved collections. Eye watering prices can be paid for snowdrops - once £600 was paid for a single bulb. There are 19 species of wild snowdrops with over a thousand distinct cultivars selected by gardeners. One species to look out for is the large and beautiful *Galanthus elwesii* - the giant or Turkish snowdrop. It can be seen at Rosemoor Gardens, Torrington, in their Winter garden. It is tucked around the glowing red coloured stems of *Cornus alba 'Sibirica'* (dogwood) making a beautiful display. If you want to lift and divide a clump or give some to friends, right after flowering is the time to do it - this is known as lifting the bulb 'in the green' and is much the best way to move or buy snowdrops. Dry bulbs do not fare well in hot garden centres and tend to have a very short life. Another plant unfurling its striking foliage now in my garden is *Arum italicum ssp italicum 'Marmoratum'* which is a long winded name for the garden version of our native Lords and Ladies. It has large, shiny green, arrow shaped leaves up to

18 inches long and generously veined in cream. Later in the year those leaves give way to the well known spathe surrounding the tightly packed scarlet berries and by high summer the whole thing will have disappeared under ground. It does best in damp soil out of direct sunshine.

One job that should have been undertaken before Christmas but it's not too late now is to shear off all the old Hellebore leaves (Christmas or Lenten Rose varieties) This allows the newly emerging flowers to be seen and pollinated but more importantly it removes any leaves that might be harbouring Hellebore leafspot - a lethal disease for Hellebores. Get rid of diseased leaves in a bonfire or in the roadside compost collection not in your own compost heap. Seedlings will spring up all around these plants but will not come true to their hybrid parents - however its fun to see what colours you get from these offspring.

Another Hellebore that you might not be so familiar with is *Helleborus argutifolius*. This is a lovely architectural plant that stands up all winter, gets to 1m high with metallic green foliage and pale green flowers that last for months. Like all Hellebores it resents disturbance but in happy conditions should self-seed happily.

Finally if it gets too wet or cold to be in the garden I suggest curling up with a cup of tea and a good seed catalogue. (I like Chiltern Seeds for their vibrant descriptions and great service). Annuals are a great and inexpensive way, when grown from seed, to plug gaps in the border and introduce waves of colour and texture.

Happy gardening. **Philippa Allom**

## The Royal British Legion Women's Section, Drewsteignton Branch

Coffee Morning,

on

Saturday 13th February 10.30am to 12pm.

at

Glebe Cottage Drewsteignton.

Raffle

Bring and Buy



## Tillys Parish Post

At the time of writing this we have been experiencing atrocious weather with flooding in many places. The heavens have well and truly announced their presence. And as boring as this is, it's also affecting our football fixtures at an alarming rate, so I have had no matches since I last wrote. However hockey pitches are a bit more robust than football ones and aren't the councils responsibility if they get churned up so we've had one match this New Year. It was on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January and it was an away fixture in Ottery St Mary. We were playing a combined town team of Sidmouth and Ottery (SOHC). It was a really cold day and it absolutely tipped it down, affecting visibility in places. Yet that didn't deter the Okehampton ladies seconds and we put up a strong fight. The final score was a close run 5-4 to them and let me tell you I've never looked forward more to the after match food!

So with hockey and football matches being limited at best I've had to do something else to keep fit. Luckily over the holidays we visited my cousins in Bristol and nearby there is the UK's biggest trampolining centre called Air Hop. Air hop basically consists of various different trampolining areas in a massive adapted warehouse. The main court is the biggest area at Air Hop and consists of 135 interconnected trampolines from which you can bounce or if you're a bit of an expert (like Flora), can flip and tumble on, or if parkour is more your thing can bounce off the walls; because there are also trampolines on them! I'm not an avid 'jumper' but still thoroughly enjoyed bouncing my way around. This isn't the only attraction, there's also a dodge ball area (still on trampolines), a foam pit, a basketball dunking station and battle beams where you try and push your opponent into the foam pit below. But I have to say my favourite section was the total wipe-out area. This consists of 8 circles that are set on a circular bouncy castle like contraption that has two spinning arms that you try to dodge. You duck under one and jump, or at least attempt to, jump over the other. It's exceedingly fun and if you go on with a friend, there is bonus of being able to laugh at them as they 'face plant' the floor. I really hope to have some more football news when I next write next month.

**Tilly**



## 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 is 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016. 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 27<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016. 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** - 28<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016. 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 26<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 10.30 -12. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade 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 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or Jackie in the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.



## Events at Okehampton Library

Chill out and relax with our new Colouring, Craft and Coffee sessions every Tuesday 2-4pm. Bring along your own craft to work on or sit and colour in using materials provided. Refreshments are available for a donation.

Celebrate National Libraries Day with us on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February, our Friends group is holding a coffee morning from 10am -12noon and children can build a Lego library.

We have a free story and craft session on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2-3pm for children under 5 and their carers.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February FabLab Plymouth are at the library offering families the opportunity to participate in digital workshops. The workshops will bring a FabLab experience to the library through the use of 3D printing, 3D scanning, laser cutting and 3D design. The first session is Makey Makey - participants will turn everyday objects into musical instruments using basic circuits and programming. The second session is Build a Glider – design, construct and fly a laser cut glider, use the 3D printer to develop parts such as a nose and propeller to improve the flight of the glider. Please contact the library for further details regarding booking as places are limited.

To celebrate World Book Day in March there will be a chance to win an ebook reader, kindly purchased by our Friends group. During March pick up a copy of our fun Book Quiz from the library, £1 a sheet, and the lucky winner will be drawn from the correct entries received. Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March author Rebecca Alexander, writer of urban and historical fantasy, will be offering three Creative Writing workshop taster sessions at Okehampton Library. Recent experience in writing is not necessary, just an enjoyment of stories! There will be three workshops - 10.30am -12.30pm Writing Short stories and Flash Fiction. 1.30-3pm Writing Poetry. 3.30pm- 5pm Writing Children's Fiction. Booking is essential as places are limited and prices are from £7.50-£10 per person per session to include refreshments.

Local historian Paul Rendell will be presenting for the first time his brand new talk 'Tales of 100 miles Walking Across Dartmoor'. Paul talks about the Pack Pony Challenge that he undertook recently following in the footsteps of the moormen of yesteryear. It was a tough challenge but a great achievement by the ponies, the dogs and the people that accompanied him. The talk starts at 7pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, tickets cost £5 each in advance to include refreshments.

For further information on any of our activities and events, please telephone Okehampton Library on 01837 52805

### **Tedburn Amateur Dramatic Society**

**Proudly Presents**

### **“Sleeping Beauty”**

Written by Ben Crocker

Directed by Charles Pallot & Debbie Garrish

**Thurs. 11th to Sat. 13th February 2016.**

**Tedburn St Mary Village Hall**

**Performance starts 7.30pm**

**(Matinee 2.30pm on Sat 13th)**

**Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Children (under 12)**

**Licensed Bar Available On Friday/Saturday**

Contact Elton Rowe 01647 270040

Or 07983209615

Email: TADSTSM@OUTLOOK.COM

## Bird Notes

The weather has been very much in the news over the past month. The very mild temperatures have been very unseasonable and lead to extraordinary facts such as that mid December had warmer day and night temperatures than experienced in July. The continued wet weather has also meant that parts of Scotland had exceeded their normal monthly rainfall for January by the fourth day of the month. While we have not had the associated devastation from flooding seen in Yorkshire, Cumbria and Scotland, we have had considerably wetter and milder conditions than normal.

This has had very visible effects such as daffodils coming into flower by the roadside in Crockernwell which I first saw on Christmas eve, and also in Drewsteignton churchyard before the New Year. Cherry trees are coming into flower and lesser Celandine is showing its yellow flowers and I have been seeing bees throughout December. Quite what effects this will have later in the year is unclear, and is probably dependant on what weather we get over the next few months. Almost everyone I speak to is saying we are having a cold spell after the first week of January, and so by the time this Parish Post is out, we may have frosts and snow!

Apart from a saturated lawn which is still growing but too wet to mow at the moment, there is little noticeable change in my garden, but I have almost stopped feeding the birds. This will change if it does get colder but at the moment there is a lot of natural food out and about.

What I have noticed is that robins are very vocal and singing long into the evening, and early in the morning well before it gets light. This vocal display is territorial, and as such, designed to proclaim a territory and attract a mate.

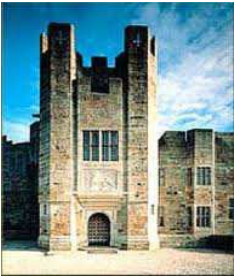
One bird I am seeing occasionally is a woodcock that flies over the edge of the churchyard at dusk at tree top height, and always from the south to the north. I find this fascinating as I have been seeing this fairly regularly at exactly the same spot for over 16 years and I can't believe it is the same bird. Woodcock are crepuscular, ie. most active at dawn and dusk and so this bird may be moving to a feeding area. They don't breed in Devon but many over winter here having migrated from Scandinavia and northern Europe. I had quite a lot of interest in my last piece in the Parish Post about the St. Michaels peregrine found dead in Halifax. Since we started ringing the juveniles in the nest in 2013, we learnt about two of the three youngsters from that year, the Halifax bird and the Shoebrooke recovery. In 2014, we again ringed three juveniles in the nest and have learnt what happened to two of them as well. One male peregrine was found in the St. David's school playground, immediately next to the church just four days after fledging. He was being mobbed by gulls but was caught by a teacher and given to the RSPCA. After a few days, I collected him and released him next to the church but it was apparent he was not quite ready to go. He made no attempt to fly and just hopped about so I caught him and took him back to the RSPCA. They kept him and tried to get his weight up but he was reluctant to perch anywhere other than on the ground. This caused damage to his plumage so he never flew despite being in a large aviary. After a few months he went to a falconer on the Isle of Wight but he could do little with him and so came back to another falconer in Devon. I saw the bird in November of 2014 and shortly after that he was killed by a stoat which dug into his new aviary and caught him easily as he was on the ground.

The other peregrine from that year was found perching on a lawn at Woodbrooke, near Cheriton Bishop on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014. She had a fractured and infected wing and was quite emaciated so the RSPCA put her to sleep. She was found 98 days after being ringed, and 13km due west of the church. I have had no information on the two juveniles that fledged from the church in 2015 so hope they are doing well and surviving the first and most dangerous year of their lives.

**Nick**



## News from the Castle



Hello all.

Happy new year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

2016 is here! We are very excited about this year. To celebrate reaching the end of this phase of building work and getting ready to start the final phase, we are holding a community open weekend on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 March. This is the weekend before we officially re-open for the new season so you all get a sneaky peak before everyone else. Plus, we will be hiding golden tickets for free entry that weekend in various secret

locations. Check out our Facebook and Twitter account 'Save Castle Drogo' for clues as to where to find these tickets. Make sure you get the date in your diary.

Before that, we will be open for February half term. The trail that week is wildlife, which ties in nicely with a community project in February with the Princes Trust who will be working in the woodland along the drive creating better habitat for dormice. The highlight of half term week will be the Castle Drogo fundraising coffee morning at Endecott House in Chagford on Saturday 20 February. Please pop in to see us all – any raffle prizes much appreciated.

The inter-schools cross country run is back again for its third year. Last time, we had over 200 children racing around Piddledown Common which was loads of fun, and very noisy! We're hoping for even more runners this year.

We are also holding a volunteering open day on Saturday 6 February, 11am – 3pm. If you have been wondering what volunteering at Drogo involves, or would just like to grab the opportunity to chat with the team, please pop along to see us. There are so many amazing opportunities for people to get involved with us. You are guaranteed a cuppa, a biscuit and a very warm welcome.

Finally, please note that the visitor centre, including the café and shop, will be closed week beginning Monday 18 January for a bit of maintenance and care. It will all be open again on Saturday 23 January if you are out walking in the winter sun. Here's hoping for crisp sunny winter days.

Best wishes everyone

**Paula**

**Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo**  
01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## News from The Drewe Arms

**First of all we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!**

2015 was a great year for The Drewe, with many events, parties and gigs including Richard III (A One Woman Show), The Rugby World Cup screened in the Long Room, and monthly Folk in the Bar sessions, which showcase a wide range of talent. We also raised £439 to go toward the Defibrillator Maintenance Fund (and many thanks to Tony Thomas who won the £150 Christmas sweepstakes, then promptly donated the money to the fund). This will go towards setting up the VETS scheme.

The year culminated in a great New Year's Eve party with The Johnny Fuller Band, who made it a night to remember.

Business has now resumed to normal, with the full winter menu, and our ever popular roasts available from between 12pm and 3pm on Sundays. On the events front, it will be a quiet month with just our Folk in the Bar session featuring the John Fitzsimons duo on the 30th January, starting at 8pm.

In February, there will be a new regular event: Dance Friday at Club Drewe. The event is organised by Kate Wilson and Johnny Loram and will be, simply, for people who love to dance. Come along on 12th February, 9pm.

Entry will be £3, to go to the newly set-up Chagford Youth Theatre.

**Gary and the Team**

[www.thedrewearmsinn.co.uk](http://www.thedrewearmsinn.co.uk)

## Whiddon Down Village Hall

The dates for the monthly Whist Drives with fresh meat prizes 8pm start.

30th January  
27th February  
26th March  
29th April  
28th May  
25th June  
30th July  
27th August  
24th September  
29th October  
26th November - Christmas Whist Drive  
No whist drive in December  
28th January 2017

## 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 and prosperous 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 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 February - Thank You