

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 124

We are looking at finishing the refurbishment of the public toilets, repairing the bus shelter and updating the noticeboard all in Drewsteignton. It was reported to the Council that a recent wedding party had erected signs at the car park saying its use was for wedding guests only. Whilst sympathetic to this, the car park is owned by the Parish Council, is a community asset for the use of all, and should not be restricted without approval of the Council.

We are still monitoring the new link road at Whiddon Down and have been contacted by South Tawton Parish Council regarding the increase in yellow event signs in and around the village. Again we are sympathetic to the need for signs but have asked Dartmoor National Park just to have a look and ensure they are not breaching any of their regulations. Footpath signs on the track to Venton from Whiddon Down and again near Spinsters Rock have gone missing, this information will be passed to Pete Rich our DNP Ranger for him to deal with.

Our new lengthsman has started work for us and has carried out grass and weed cutting in Crockernwell and cleared a blocked drain between Hooperston Cross and Greystone Cross. We have requested Devon County Council to complete the repair of the footpath fence in Crockernwell which is a safety issue. For those who may have noticed the damaged fence at Harepath, this is also on the list for Highways England's contractors to deal with. (Highways England are responsible for all motorways and nominated A class roads in the country of which the A30 is one, the rest of the parish roads are the responsibility of Devon County Council)

The Council held two planning site visits before their last meeting. The first was at Tordown Venton for a garage and store which we unanimously agreed to support (DNP 0266/16) and also at Venton, outline planning for an agriculture workers cottage at Venton Farm which we unanimously agreed to object to as it would be development in the open countryside and would be

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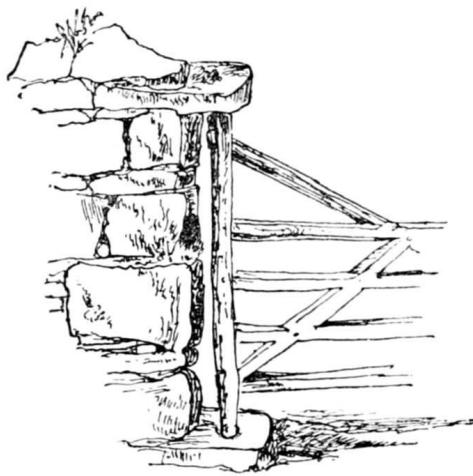
harmful to the National Park environment (DNP 0251/16).

A heads up for those who use the A382 south of Moretonhampstead, it will be closed from 6pm on Thursday 22nd September until Sunday 25th September for a new bridge to be erected for the Wray Valley trail.

From the Annual Parish Meeting in April, Pete Rich from Dartmoor National Park reported that funding has been set for the next four years which means the footpath maintenance can continue. Sam Peirce provided a written report from Teign Fayre stating they had a good year fundraising and welcomed Sophia Beard & Boo Carr as new committee members. The Duck race had to be postponed because of the increase in height of the river Teign at Fingle Bridge, caused by heavy rain, and her committee wished to thank the local community for all their support no matter how small.

Clare Rowe reported Whiddon Down village hall had problems with a leaking roof, and the car park disintegrating which had all been repaired. Repairs are in hand for the entrance ramp and kitchen and she thanked the committee for their support and also the Parish Council & Teign Fayre for their financial support.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be at **Whiddon Down on Monday 18th July 2016 at**



Bird Notes

The swifts that visit us each summer normally arrive a day or two either side of the first of May and will have left by the second week in August. In this short visit, the adults that are old enough to breed will go back to their nests from the previous years or, if first time breeders, will try and find a new site to breed. Having arrived, they will then renew the pair bond with their previous partner, as they do not winter together and the females will then get into breeding condition by feeding up on a variety of minuscule aphids, flies and airborne spiders. Egg laying usually starts about a fortnight after the second partner arrives, with two or three eggs being laid in the darkness of a cavity under roof eaves. Eggs are laid with an interval of two days before the next, and incubation begins when the clutch is complete. Both adults take turns to incubate the eggs, which lasts for about twenty days, and allows each to leave the confines of the nest to feed.

When the young hatch, the adults again take turns away from the nest to bring back 'food balls' comprised of hundreds of tiny flies that they store in their throats. The weather plays a vital part in swift's ability to find enough food for their young, as cold, wet or windy weather is not conducive to catching flies. Most young birds have a known period of days in the nest between hatching and fledging (leaving the nest), and for example, peregrines fledge after 42 days. Food availability is dependent on the weather, and so in this country means that they can fledge anytime over a three week period. Compared to song birds, most of which fledge within three weeks of hatching, young swifts spend a long time in their nests. It is usually about six weeks from hatching to fledging but the length of time varies as much as three weeks (from five to eight weeks) depending on the weather. There is a vital difference: song birds are vulnerable on their nests and the adults continue to feed the young for two or more weeks after they have fledged. Young swifts are safe in their nests, but once they fledge they are on their own. Not only is no help provided by the adults in feeding (though it is likely they join with adults in feeding flocks) but they appear to be abandoned completely by their parents and have to make the entire migration to Africa without parental help.

On Sunday 3rd July, I first heard the high pitched trill of baby swifts calling from one of the nest boxes this year, and so went and spent a few minutes under the others just listening and have confirmed swifts have hatched in at least three of my nest boxes. I now have twelve nest boxes up on Churchgate, having put up two new ones the day before the swifts arrived this year. Last year, we had seven breeding pairs in ten boxes on Churchgate and I am hoping for more this year. We will be ringing the young later in the month when Malcolm (a licensed and experienced ringer) comes to investigate what has been happening. If you enjoy the sound of the swifts as they scream over the village, enjoy their presence for the next month as I suspect they will be on their way back to Africa by the time the next Parish Post comes out in August.

I have already mentioned the period between hatching and fledging for peregrines is 42 days, and the two male peregrines at St. Michaels church at mount Dinham were due to fledge on the 13th June. I had a call at work early in the morning to say one had fledged, and was perching on a high stone cross on the roof above the south transept. I had another call later in the day from the RSPB to say it was found on the floor in the car park of Exeter college in Queen street, being mobbed by herring gulls. It was caught and put into a box and I went in after work to get it. Along with a friend who is a vet, we assessed it and with a ladder, put it up on a gablet back on the church. It was back on the ground early the following morning, so we recaptured it and put in a box, so we both went in again. John brought in some roadkill squirrel which we fed it and then put it on a house roof opposite the church, and under the gaze of the adult falcons. It sat very happily for twenty minutes and then flew back off towards the Iron bridge then disappeared. We found it perched in a low sycamore tree on St. Davids hill and left it there as it was quite safe. Later that evening I had another call to say it was back on the ground, but a churchwarden caught it and had put it back on the house roof, whereupon it had flown towards the community centre on St. Davids hill and went to sleep by the chimney pots. I was dreading the phone ringing the next day but when it did ring, it was to say both juvenile males were now flying well and chasing each other around the tower of the church. They have been flying for almost four weeks now and are truly adept on the wing. I watched them flying for about an hour while in Exeter over the weekend, at well over a thousand feet up, chasing and dive bombing each other as they hone their skills in the air. If you are in Exeter, have a look at St. Michaels Church, Mount Dinham or on the Cathedral as the juvenile peregrines are very visible and vocal at the moment.

Nick

Okehampton District Community Transport Group



Pictured are: Pat Sawyer, Chairman, Maurice Kibble, Volunteer Driver, Sue Wonnacott, Co-ordinator, Mark Read, Ring & Ride bus driver, Cllr Kevin Ball, Jan Goffey, Mayor, Paul Hamilton, new community minibus driver, Cllr Julie Yelland, Cllr Tony Leech, Liz Westlake, Assistant Co-ordinator and Mark Bailey of Transport For Your Community
Thank you to everyone who came along to see our new bus on Saturday 4th June, to the Co-operative Foodstore for letting us use the corner of their car park and Mark Bailey from TFYC for his involvement.

Community Car Service Drivers

We are actively seeking more volunteer drivers, particularly in Okehampton itself and the Sampford Courtenay/Exbourne/North Tawton area, if you know of someone who might be available for a few hours a week then please ask them to get in touch!

We are sorry to say goodbye to Helen Alford who has been a volunteer driver for 16 years! We wish her a happy retirement, we know her regular clients will especially miss their luxury travel! We also say goodbye to Jacquie Slade. We welcome Janet Zaloumis and John Perry from Okehampton.

Coffee Morning

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported this event, sent in donations or helped on the day. It was an extremely busy morning and the fantastic sum of £558 was raised! Special thanks to Bill Litherland (ex-ODCTG driver) who sold raffle tickets all morning, Vera Bray on books, the Co-operative Foodstore for providing the refreshments, Charlotte Bond the Healthwatch champion who came to promote their services but ended up assisting us in the kitchen and the stallholders for their enticing giftware. We will be holding another coffee morning on Saturday 5th November.

Saturday Trips

** Please note higher charge quoted is for those not in Okehampton or along the route of the trip.

2 nd July	Bude	£12/16
16 th July	Homeleigh	£10/14
6 th August	Trago Mills/Newton Abbot	£12/16
20 th August	Otter Nurseries	£12/16
3 rd September	Exmouth	£12/16
17 th September	Bernaville Garden Centre	£10/14

Newsletters

With the increasing costs of printing and postage, if you or your family have an email address, please let us know so that we can send information to you electronically to cut down on our costs and also keep you informed of extra forthcoming events/trips. Thank you.

Sue & Liz, ODCTG, Unit 3 Okehampton Business Park,

Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1FJ

01837 55000 sue.odctg@btinternet.com www.odctg.co.uk



Plant World Word Search

T	M	A	G	N	O	L	I	A	L	S	U	C	O	R	C	N	E	M	T
E	A	D	Y	A	C	N	I	V	U	U	N	P	A	O	Y	V	I	U	H
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MAGNOLIA
MAHONIA
CROCUS
COSMOS
ULMUS
PULSATILLA
PLUM
PHLOX
GERANIUM
FUCHSIA
BEECH
DRYOPTERIS
AUBRIETA

MIMULUS
FOXGLOVE
PINUS
GEUM
DICENTRA
DIANTHUS
GLADIOLUS
FLAG
TULIP
VIOLET
CANNA
CAREX
ELM

ERICA
FILIPENDULA
SNOWDROP
ACER
ALOE
ILEX
LABURNUM
FAGUS
SALIX
RHUS
THUJA
YEW
IVY

HEBE
YUCCA
OAK
BAMBOO
ARUM
SALVIA
ASTER
STIPA
ACCA
ROSA
VINCA

Bringing Fingle Woods Back to Life

We have been celebrating the news of a £730,000 award from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to enhance the restoration of Fingle Woods. The application for funding was submitted last September and throughout the Spring the teams from the National Trust and the Woodland Trust had been anxiously waiting to hear if we had been successful. It is fantastic news as the funding will enable us to further progress the work which commenced when we took ownership of the woods in the summer of 2014. David Rickwood, Woodland Trust site manager, said: “*Fingle is a real jewel in the crown of the Dartmoor countryside and we've been delighted with the response to our restoration efforts so far. The next step is to make the woods really become integrated into peoples' lives locally and thanks to the HLF funding we hope to work with diverse groups of people and provide unique opportunities for people who live, learn and work nearby.*”

Two staff posts to support the restoration are currently being recruited and a number of internships will also be on offer. Over the next five years the funding will help us support local schools with resources to learn about the woods and will support further restoration of over 200 hectares of ancient woodland.

The funding will also help fund management works to preserve the historic Wooston Castle, an Iron Age hill fort, to try and reverse its decline.

There will be a range of volunteering opportunities, events and open days to explore the history and wildlife of Fingle Woods’. To find out more about this project and keep up to date with our work please visit the Fingle Woods blog finglewoods.org.uk/.

For more information contact David Rickwood of the Woodland Trust on 07827 820637 or by email david.rickwood@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Rhubarb Crumble Cake



Pretty pink fruit ripples through this light sponge cake with crunchy crumble topping.

Ingredients:

- * 250g pack of butter, softened
- * 250g golden caster sugar, plus 1 tbsp
- * 2 tsp vanilla extract
- * 5 large egg
- * 300g plain flour, plus 7 tbsp
- * 2 tsp baking powder
- * 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- * 300g rhubarb, washed, trimmed and finely sliced

Method:

1. Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3 and grease and line the base and sides of a deep 20cm round cake tin with a little of the butter and baking parchment. Put the butter, 250g sugar and vanilla into a big mixing bowl. Beat until light and fluffy with an electric whisk.
2. Beat in the eggs, one by one, then fold in the 300g flour and baking powder. Spoon out 85g of the batter, and stir the extra 7 tbsp flour and cinnamon into this with a cutlery knife so it becomes crumbly.
3. Fold the rhubarb into the rest of the cake batter and scrape into the prepared tin. Scatter over the crumble mix followed by 1 tbsp sugar. Bake for 1 hr 15 mins, until a skewer poked in comes out clean – you'll need to lay a sheet of foil on top after an hour if the cake is browning too much. Cool for 15 mins in the tin, then finish on a wire rack.

Acorn Community Support

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, the next one will be 4th August. 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 13th, 27th July and 10th August. 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 14th, 28th July and 11th August. 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 14th, 28th June and 12th July. 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

ACE ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB

In June we had a lovely day out, in Cornwall looking at Blue Hills tin mine and Wheal Coats. If you would like to see some photos do have a look at our Facebook page.

In July we will be spending a day on pottery with a talk from David Dawson on making pottery and Graham Langman will also be attending and having a look at some of the pottery from our Moistown dig. We hope to be able to have a go at identifying what we have for ourselves as well.

After that we will be gearing up for the Council for British Archaeology Festival. We are at Pattiland Farm on the **23rd and 24th of July**. <http://www.step-back-in-time.co.uk/>

At the end of August we start our main period of two weeks of excavation at Moistown.

There will be an Open Day on the **27th August** with tea and cake so do come along and have a look, we would love to see you.

As I have said before, we do not have a website right now but we do have a Facebook page so please have a look.

Enjoy the summer, whenever it decides to arrive!

Erica Williamson

Secretary,

ACE Archaeology Club



Dog Poo

I have received complaints about dog owners not clearing up after their dogs.

Especially the Churchyard, the grassed area at Churchgate, and around the signpost in the village. It is very unpleasant for the people who keep the grass cut.

Please clear up after your dog, I realise it's not always local people who are to blame.

Thank you

Pauline Rowe



News from the Castle



Hello all

What a busy few weeks we have had!

We have just finished our Festival of Arts, which was 5 weeks of welcoming loads of different Devon based artists who have showcased their work. The stars of the show have to be the costume display by Plymouth College of Art students. They created 22 gorgeous costumes to re-create Frances Drewe's trousseau – the clothes she might have taken on her honeymoon. They are fantastic and have really brought the house to life. We finished with hosting the Devon Art teachers conference, which was such a privilege to be involved with, and a fantastic performance by the wonderful people from Get Changed Theatre Company and Petroc college, Time for a rest now I think! Oh... if only.

We are counting down to the big event of the year – the Chagford Show. I hope to see many of you there so please pop in to our marquee to say hello. This year, our theme is 'come rain or shine'. Weather seemed an appropriate theme for us.

I realise that it must seem like I have been saying this for ages, but the rest of the central scaffolding is finally coming down. Honest! It won't be long now until we can see the front entrance to the castle again. Fingers crossed for a lovely sunny summer holidays.

Best wishes everyone

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

Teignton Fayre News.

Following a positively balmy, successful and enjoyable Teignton Fayre on June 4th, the committee are pleased to announce £3405.74 is going to be distributed to Hospiscare and local good causes.

As you might know, the format changed this year with organisations being asked to run their own stalls with their own concepts and prizes. As this was a trial run, our aim was to match the takings of each stall. We are pleased to say that we raised enough funds to do so, and the following was awarded (this includes the stalls actual proceeds (not Hospiscare).

Hospiscare: £1000

Young Farmers Club: £106

Holy Trinity Church: £991.50

Whiddon Down Village Hall: £132

Chagford PTA: £138

Chagford Youth Theatre: £80.10

Cheriton Bishop Pre School: £123.12

Drewsteignton Playing Field: £205

On the Edge: £126.02

Thanks to all those organisations involved for their input on the day!

The Teignton Fayre Committee 01647 281394 teigntonfayre@googlemail.com

What's on at The Drewe.

We are very pleased to announce that following the fantastic sell-out African, Caribbean and Latin music with Andy Kershaw, he is returning to the The Drewe this year, not once but TWICE. The first date is August 13th, so get that date in your diaries.

Tickets are £10 in advance, available now at the bar.

Gary and the Team at The Drewe Arms

<http://www.thedrewearmsinn.co.uk/> 01647 281409

Devon Youth Games at Okehampton

With only a week or so until term ends for the summer holidays everything is winding down (thankfully) and recently even the weather has been bordering on season appropriate.

On Sunday 3rd July, Okehampton hosted this year's Devon Youth Games. Combining over thirteen different sporting events and with twelve hundred young people participating, it was a hugely successful and fun day. I participated in the girl's football tournament and we played six matches, each lasting fourteen minutes. It was six a side on small pitches and on this surprisingly hot day we were very thankful for the shorter matches.

As well as football some of the other sports included hockey, boccia, netball, crickets, tag rugby and even a triathlon!

As well as multiple sporting matches and games going on there was also music from local bands and a dance performance to open the games. We also had a visit from two athletes, one of whom represented Great Britain in the London 2012 Olympics, Pistol shooter: Georgina Geikie.

As part of the tournament every participant got given a t-shirt of a colour corresponding to an area of Devon, as West Devon we were dark blue, the South Hams were light pink and Teignbridge donned red. Cornwall also put in a team which boosted the tournament numbers. It was a really fun day and the near perfect weather made it a lovely day in the sun! **Tilly**

**For Drewsteignton Village Hall bookings please contact Alison Chapman
at callum.chapman@btinternet.com or 01647 281197**

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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If you have trouble reading this publication
please let me know and I will arrange for a
large format version to be sent to you
Pauline Rowe: plrowe43@gmail.com.281638

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 August - Thank You**