

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 123

JUNE 2016

The Council was saddened to hear the news of the death of Brenda Lunt who was a previous Parish clerk and was the founder of the Parish Post. Also Mr Millet, Jane Ashburner and Daphne Greener and we paused the meeting for a minutes quiet reflection.

The May meeting is our annual general meeting, Cllr Anna Imrie was elected as Chairperson for the coming year & Cllr Bill Savage vice chairman. Councillors were not particularly impressed with the reply from the local Police Inspector concerning police coverage of the parish especially as regards speed enforcement at Whiddon Down & Crockernwell and we have invited him to attend a future meeting for a face to face discussion. Please contact the Clerk or a councillor if you would like to raise any matters, good or bad, about police coverage.

Once again Tom Wood from the National Trust at Castle Drogo has offered to help in the provision of wooden direction signs for the playing field in Drewsteignton, thank you Tom!

A planning application for a small extension at Hooperton Rise Crockernwell (DNP 0212/16) was unanimously supported. A planning application in Cheriton Bishop parish was also discussed at the request of a parishioner. The application would have a detrimental effect on Hask Lane which is in our parish and is used by pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists as well as local and farm traffic. If approved it would lead to a substantial increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles using the lane. Councillors agreed to oppose the application and write to Devon County Council (who are the planning authority for this particular application)

listing their objections.

Discussions are still ongoing concerning the new link road at Whiddon Down and the amount of stones being thrown up onto the road surface from the drainage channels. West Devon Borough Council have notified us their verge grass cutting responsibility has now been given to Devon County Council which means that the only verges being cut will be for road safety at junctions and inside edge of bends. If you are aware of danger being caused by verges **not** being cut please inform the Clerk or a councillor.

WDBC have created an online link to report problems with dog fouling and the link is available on the parish website.

From the Annual Parish Meeting, the Head Teacher of Chagford primary school Liz Wiseman, reported the review of the Governors by the Local education Authority rated them as highly effective, organised, professional and committed. The Ofsted inspection had found the school to be "super" and made mention of the good rates of progress as pupils move through the school. This put the school in a good position for considering future options regarding academy status. She also reported the building company Kier have been appointed by the Education Funding Agency to prepare plans for a new building and will be working with a focus group for input in the design process. Chagford History Society are compiling a school history and any contributions or memories would be welcome.

Our next meeting will be **Monday 20th June 2016 7.30pm at Drewsteignton**

Drewsteignton Village Hall

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

Bird Notes

The weather has been quite settled for most of May, and pretty good towards the end of the month and especially over the first few days in June. This has not only meant good weather for Teignton Fayre but plenty of airborne insects for the swifts to feed on. I have really enjoyed watching the screaming parties of swifts as they whip over the rooftops, and I've seen them going into most of my nest boxes on Churchgate. Last year we had seven breeding pairs in ten boxes but I have put two more up on our row so we now have twelve. It won't be until mid July that we ring the chicks in the nests, and will know how many breeding pairs we have here and at the other end of the village, at Hillmorhayes where we now have a further six nest boxes. I keep meaning to visit the Paris Street roundabout in Exeter when I am in town, to see if swifts are taking an interest in the swift tower installed last year. It is a large 'Y' shaped structure in the centre of the roundabout, containing 90 swift boxes and a solar powered mp3 player that plays swift calls to attract them to the boxes. I hope it works and provides much needed nest sites for these spectacular birds.

While on the subject of birds in Exeter, I learnt this week that the eagle owl is still present but has moved from the Cathedral north towards Pennsylvania, with regular sightings from St. James Park across to Posloe Bridge. It appears to be living in these residential areas with small parks but I am quite relieved that it is a bit further away from St. Michaels church in Mount Dinham, the home of the peregrines. The two young juvenile peregrines should be fledging (taking their first flights and leaving the nest) at just about the same time this issue of the Parish Post comes out. It is when they first fledge that they can be seen in very close proximity and in their first few days on the wing will perch on chimney pots, tv aerials and roof ridges. They are very noisy during this period and good fun to watch as they quickly get better at flying and landing, and begin to play and chase all manner of passing birds.

We ringed the juvenile falcons on the 23rd of May, when they were 21 days old and due to their size and weight, we confirmed that they are both males. We left them with two leg rings each; one was metal BTO ring with a unique number on and the other was a larger coloured plastic ring with two letters on which will allow it to be identified in the wild if viewed by a good telescope.

There has been an amazing bird recorded in Devon over the past two weeks, which I have not seen, but many have. A lammergeier, also known as a bearded vulture has been seen at various sites over Dartmoor, and has also been spotted over Bodmin moor. Lammergeier's are normally to be found in mountainous regions of the Pyrenees, Spain, the Balkans and Greece, but this one has turned up here. Its presence has attracted birdwatchers from all over the UK keen to see it and with a nine foot wingspan, it is a substantial bird, but it has remained quite elusive. It will be fascinating to see how long it remains here. If you are interested, have a look at the Devon Birds website for the latest news on its movements.

Nick

Tilly's Parish Post

Now the football season is over and summer has finally emerged, however briefly, West Exe Youth Football Club had just one more event on the calendar.

The West Exe Youth Football is a huge club with many different age groups ranging from under 8s to under 18s, both girls and boys, with 19 West Exe teams in total. So on the 22nd May the under 15s girls team swelled the ranks out at Tedburn St Mary football club and joined the other teams for a fun charity day all in aid of FORCE Cancer Charity and CLIC Sargent for children with cancer. It was thankfully a sunny day punctured only by an early burst of rain yet that wasn't enough to dampen the spirits and certainly not enough to postpone our world record attempt of the most penalties taken in a 9 hour period. The record currently stood at 1400 and an aim for the day was to beat that, sadly we were just a few hundred short but it was exciting participating none the less. Also at the charity day, there were a host of marquees selling food, music playing and continuous football matches being played all day. My team played in a friendly match against the under 16s girls as the team from Seaton that we were meant to play weren't able to turn up. The game was fun and ended in a draw... However, my favourite match was the one played in costume: Villains and Superheroes, and it involved a rather enjoyable 60 minutes of superman streaking down the pitch with a gang of black and white clad robbers on his tail. All in all, it was an enjoyable day raising lots of money for two highly important charities.

I apologise for the short article this month, but between school work and lounging at the recently opened (and now heated!) Chagford swimming pool I've found myself very short of spare time. **Tilly**



Congratulations to Suzanne (72) who has just competed in a Triathlon. She came first in her category and won £30 from Bike Shed. Well done. You have put us all to shame

Everybody is welcome
to join us for a special
Cream Tea
Saturday 2nd July, 3.30pm
At
Hillside, Drewsteigton



New Funding Available For Dartmoor Communities

Dartmoor National Park Authority has opened its Communities Fund 2016/17 for applications and is calling for community organisations on Dartmoor to come forward if they have a project that needs funding. The Dartmoor Communities Fund offers up to 50% grant funding for capital projects that support existing valued community facilities and services, or create new community infrastructure to meet identified community needs.

The Fund is supported by the New Homes Bonus from West Devon Borough, Teignbridge and South Hams District Councils and this year there is just over £90,000 in the pot. So if you have plans for your village hall, are thinking of setting up a new community shop or want to make the most of a valued local heritage asset the Dartmoor Communities Fund may be able to help!

Last year successful projects included the renovation of a stunning medieval rood screen in St Peters Church, Buckland in the Moor, new hot water showers for Chagford's idyllic outdoor swimming pool and the development of the new community bike initiative at South Brent.

The Fund is open to applications during June and July, but you are encouraged to submit your project ideas early. Successful projects will be announced in September 2016.

New for this year and sitting alongside the main grants scheme, is the 'Just Do It' community action small grants pot, where applications for less than £500 will be determined within a month. This 'quick win' grant scheme is aimed at environmental works and is ideal for when communities just need a small amount of cash to do works themselves to maintain or enhance their community.

The New Homes Bonus is a Government scheme encouraging local authorities to grant planning permission for the building of new houses in return for additional revenue. The support for Dartmoor Communities Fund is in recognition of Dartmoor National Park's role as a planning authority.

More information about both grants and how to apply can be found at www.dartmoor.gov.uk/livingin/grants or by contacting **Jo Rumble, DNPA Communities Officer on: jrumble@dartmoor.gov.uk or 01626 831024.**



Gardener's Club

The months seem to fly by & the Village Show is just around the corner(Saturday 20th August) During the past year we have had a few changes, Philip Evans has stood down as chairman after 14 years but has kindly agreed to stay on the committee. He has been a most professional outstanding chairman and will be a very difficult act to follow. We have a new committee member (Rosemary Payne) who is now joint secretary with Carole Mason.

During the autumn & winter months we have had some excellent speakers, ranging from Gardening for Wild life to Laurel Farm Herbs (just up the road at Whiddon Down). Our membership continues to grow to about 35 members and all our meetings were really well attended.

Our Plant Sale on May 7th was very popular and we sold out all plants by 10.30am, a record and the funds from this help to pay for our speakers for another year. This is our only fund raising event in the year. I can't write this without mentioning Daphne Greener who died last week, she was secretary for many years and a huge supporter of the club. In the past few years she organised our Christmas supper at Fingle Bridge and produced the most colourful informative posters every month. I'm sure you saw them outside the village shop. She will be missed by all in the club.

All our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from September to March, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, membership is £ 5.00 for the year or £ 2.00 per meeting. All are most welcome to join us. If you would like any information do phone Carole 281185 or Rosemary 24515.

Working Together To Get Rid Of Dog Mess

West Devon Borough Council is determined to deal with the foul issue of dog mess in and around local communities and has increased the amount of council officers on the ground.

Dog mess is unsightly, unpleasant and a health hazard because it can spread disease, or in extreme cases, cause blindness. Therefore, please make sure when walking your dog, you pick up your dog waste, bag it and bin it. Remember, any dog or litter bin can be used. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal and moral duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place.

To overcome this foul issue, the Council are calling on residents to do their part by reporting any incidents, with the location, days and times witnessed. This means the enforcement officers can try be in the right place at the right time, to deal with repeat offenders quickly.

Lead Member for Environment, Cllr Mike Benson, said: "Dog fouling is a really big issue and we need to work closely with the local community to try and stop those who are not looking after our beautiful borough."

The Council are holding a range of upcoming events in partnership with the Dogs' Trust to share information about responsible dog ownership and will also cover issues concerning dog fouling. These events will be held at:

Okehampton (Market Street CP) – Tuesday 26th July

Tavistock (Bedford Square) – Tuesday 9th August

If you want to help the Council to stop those blighting the landscape, please report incidents by using the '**report it online**' form to inform about dog fouling in your area at:

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/7397/Dog-Fouling>

New Flag

Each year the flag which flies on the church tower has to be replaced, at a cost of £140, due to wear and tear. We are extremely grateful to Sarah Ekins who has made 2 St. George's flags from far superior material at a fraction of the cost and is in the process of making a new Union Jack.

St George's flag is flown from Easter to Remembrance Sunday and the Union flag on special occasions i.e. the Queens birthday. Very many thanks Sarah.

Whiddon Down Roundabout

I would like to say how lovely the flowers look on the roundabout as you leave Whiddon Down before the vets. The lady who is responsible has done a great job, they always make me smile driving by. Also the plants beside the phone box look good too. I don't know who she is but thank you and well done !

Sandra Bellamy

Open Gardens and Good Books

Now is the time of year when it's worth visiting some of the many gardens opened under the National Garden Scheme. I'm sure you've seen the yellow booklet listing all the gardens involved in the scheme in Devon; you can pick it up at garden centers, newsagents etc or go online to look it up. In May a friend and I visited Lewis Cottage near Spreyton and were spellbound by the garden's beauty, tranquility and design. Umbrellas were thoughtfully provided, as of course it had been raining, as was a map of the garden. The NGS require that a garden should have at least 40 minutes of interest in order to be considered for the scheme - no problems in that department here - there are mature trees and shrubs, luscious borders and roses, a master class in tomato growing in the greenhouse complete with companion planting of a marigold in front of each tomato plant and amusing touches in the garden (see if you can find the cricket stumps!!) There are meandering paths through the woodland (a lesson here in completely out of control Petasites - never, never introduce this thug into your garden unless you have acres to spare) which lead to a beautiful lake. The whole thing is just stunning and you can have delicious refreshments in the garden and all the proceeds go to charity. You are also tempted by plants to buy on the way out and there is expert advice on hand should you require it. This garden, no.59 in the little yellow book, is also open for a weekend in June, July and August

As always visiting beautiful gardens has me wanting to 'up my game' in my own garden only to look around and sigh at the ground elder and bindweed creeping here and there. Well, I am here to tell you that ALL gardens suffer from some irritating weed or other - its an occupational hazard. Don't despair - concentrate on small areas, the bits that matter most to you or are in your direct line of vision and get to grips with those. Its fine to have wild and woolly areas and the wildlife appreciates this too. I have a rough area of ground that is difficult to sort

out and I have introduced, yes you read that right, introduced a variegated ground elder. It's no where near as invasive as its green cousin but will deal admirably with difficult ground. It is actually very pretty - that, and a variegated periwinkle, are turning a challenging piece of the garden into a 'relatively' work free area.

There are so many gardening books out there that it's hard to know where to start - I have hundreds but a few favourites.

Beth Chatto has decades of experience and writes in a conversational manner. I particularly like her 'Garden Notebook'. It's written from her personal notes and diaries and takes you through her gardening year. There is guidance on designing, planting, propagation and day to day tasks. Another great plantsman, sadly no longer with us, was Christopher Lloyd - all his books are fun, witty and stuffed full of his vast gardening experience acquired from creating his wonderful garden, Great Dixter.

In contrast to Garden Notebook, which is a paperback with no pictures, is 'Designing with Plants' by Piet Oudolf and Noel Kingsbury - a luscious book for the coffee table. That's not to say that it is all pictures and no content though - it has chapters entitled 'Planting through the Seasons', 'Repetition and Rhythm', 'Using Umbellifers' and, importantly in my view, 'Breaking the rules'. It will have you dashing to nurseries and garden centers hunting out all the wonderful recommendations. There's very useful information on year round planting and photographs to show you how borders progress through the seasons.

Lastly, Helen Dillon's book 'On Gardening' has me laughing out loud. This book is a selection of her columns for an Irish Sunday newspaper with short, snappy chapters written in her unique and captivating style. She has an encyclopedic knowledge; you can get a taste of her wit in the Comments section of the RHS magazine 'The Garden'.

As ever - Happy Gardening Philippa Allom

Peoples Postcode Lottery Scam

Police have received a report of a letter purporting to be from the People's postcode Lottery. The letter sent to a resident in Torrington told of them winning an substantial amount and gave Serial numbers to tickets bearing their name and giving contact details.

If you are a member of the Peoples Postcode Lottery, Do Not Be Fooled

If you receive such a letter, there are indications on the letter that do show it is a scam.

Do not ring any of the numbers given on the letter or give any personal, banking or card details.

If you are unsure as to the authenticity to letters of this nature, go to your local Police Station for assistance in confirming a scam. Thank you

ACE Archaeology Club.

We have just finished our first dig of the season at Moistown and for a change, the weather was kind to us, apart from the Bank Holiday Monday of course.

We uncovered the remains of a hearth, which may help us orientate other parts of the house. Of course there were more cobbles. We have started opening an extension to the trench next to the hearth trench and that will be ready for anyone who wants to have a go at digging, which in this case really means trowelling, at the Festival of Archaeology in July; for more information on this event please have a look at <http://www.step-back-in-time.co.uk/>

Our shield making event in April went really well and we were joined by some Iron Age re-enactors

who will also be at the festival, putting the shields to the test. In June we are venturing into Cornwall to The Blue Hills Tin Mining Centre at St Agnes.

Non-members are welcome to join us.

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.

If you would like any more information on anything we do please contact me Erica Williamson mail@ericaonline.plus.com. Unfortunately our website is still having problems so not yet available.

Erica Williamson ACE Club Secretary



July Events At Okehampton Library

Saturday 2nd July 10:00-16:00: Novel Writing Workshop with Rebecca Alexander. £20 per person to include tea & coffee, bookings in advance through the library

Wednesday 6th July 14:00: Laurel Farm Herbs talk and cream tea, tickets £3 each. A talk from the nursery based near Okehampton, hear all about their history, the herbs they grow and the use of herbs. Herbs available to purchase

Saturday 16th July launch of the Summer Reading Challenge 'The Big Friendly Read' – come along and sign up your child (ages 4-12) to read 6 books by the 10th September and collect various goodies.

Saturday 16th July 10:00-12:00: Friends of Okehampton Library coffee morning & hamper, draw tickets available up to and including 16th July 50p each for a chance to win the contents of a picnic hamper.

Saturday 16th July 10:00-13:00: Learn Devon free 'BFG' Printing Workshop for children over 5 and their parents. Bookings in advance

Monday 25th July 2pm: Friends of Okehampton Library AGM, come along to see how you can help support the library

Wednesday 27th July 10:30-11:30: 'James & The Giant Peach' free craft activity for children and their carers

www.devon.gov.uk/libraries Okehampton Library 01837 52805

Holy Trinity Church Fete - 2016 - Cancelled This Year

The PCC have decided not to hold a Summer Fete this year. This was a hotly debated subject but in the end we regrettably felt that it was 'a bridge too far' in 2016. We are incredibly grateful for the small stalwart band of ladies and gentlemen who work so hard to make the fete possible. It is a tradition that we hope not to lose forever but we have to be mindful of our overall capacity to support a wide range of activities.

This year we have tried to support Teignton Fayre, Queens birthday event on Sunday June 12th, and there will be a new exciting family Story and Maths evening at Fingle Bridge on Friday July 8th, and over the weekend of September 30th to 2nd October there will be a Festival of Fruits of our Earth and Labours. Please look out for posters and advertisements for all of these events which I hope will include something for everyone.

Each summer the calendar is busy with events that we want to support as we look outward to the wider community as well as meeting the expectations of the church community. We are very grateful for the invaluable support of so many local individuals and families and so we hope to see many friends at the above events; not forgetting our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 10th December 2016.

If you would like to suggest events for next year or make any comments on our social events for this year then please contact Hazel Craddock. Email: hazelcraddock@hotmail.co.uk or 01647432083

News from the Castle



Hello all
As I write this we have had a whole week of amazing weather, including a bank holiday weekend! It's a miracle.

The garden deserves a special mention this month as it is looking spectacular. The wisteria is covered with beautiful flowers and the smell is amazing. I am keeping everything crossed that the weather is like this on Saturday 9 July as that is when the Hatherleigh Players are back doing a performance of Noel Coward's *Blythe Spirit*. Tickets are on sale in the Castle Drogo shop, so please pop in to grab yours. Please note that it is cash only though so bring enough pennies. Tickets are £10 for adults and £8 for concessions.

We are right in the middle of our Festival of Arts at

the moment. Loads of different Devon based artists have showcased their work. The stars of the show have to be the costume display by Plymouth College of Art students. They have 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.

Finally, please don't forget about the excellent workshops taking place at Drogo in partnership with Learn Devon. On Friday 1 July, we have an embroidery workshop. For more info or to book a place, please call the Learn Devon team on 01822 613701.

Best wishes everyone

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
01647434130 paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Teignton Fayre

Thanks to everyone who set up, cooked, donated, assisted, barbecued, roasted, loaned, sold, MC-d, gave, baked, played, sang, swept, entertained, performed, served, cleaned, constructed, danced, spent, hosted and turned up. Although we don't have the final figure, it's looking like proceeds are just under the £2000 mark. Big, big thank you. It was a wonderful evening, lots of fun (with a bit of defibrillator drama in the middle, see below) and the weather did us proud. With regard to the defibrillator incident: luckily it was a false alarm – the unconscious, unresponsive male in a vehicle was actually having a snooze, whilst wearing headphones. But this incident did provide a bit of a test run in terms of how the public responded. In particular – most people not having the code at hand. As I test the defibrillator every week, it is firmly ingrained in my brain: C123X.

Although it is strongly advisable to ring the ambulance service before attempting to access the defib (they will issue any responders with the code), I have made the decision to put the code on the metal container. I was reluctant to do this partially because of security, but realise it's a fine balance between expecting people to do as advised, and how people actually react in an emergency. The defib is designed to be - for want of a better expression – idiot-proof. A video is played giving very specific step-by-step instructions. Please don't be afraid to use it, if required. You might save a life.

Once more – thanks for coming to Teignton Fayre. And a very special thanks to Adrian, Michael and Jane for their long servitude to the cause! See you next year.

Drewsteignton Playing Field

The Family Fun Day will be **Saturday 9th July from 3-7pm**. Tea and cakes will be served from 3pm with the BBQ starting at 4.30pm.

We will again have our fantastic giant water slide, games, and a tug of war.

Refreshments will be available.

Please note that no dogs are allowed anywhere in the Playing Field. We are hoping that our new climbing frame will be installed at the end of June, so come along and see it. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the maintenance of the Playing Field during May. We had lots of people and got loads of work done including a substantial amount of repairs to the old, decaying equipment.

The skittles evening on 14th May raised £478 for the Playing Field. Many thanks to everyone who came. I hope you had a good time. Many thanks also to Fingle Bridge Inn for providing the food and the venue.

Alison Chapman

The Plantsman's Eye

An exhibition of botanical studies and landscape drawings by Kenneth Ashburner

29th May to 26th June 2016 2-6pm every day

At the Barn Gallery Stone Lane Gardens Stone Farm

Chagford Devon TQ13 8JU

www.stonelanegardens.com 01647 231311

Contact; duncanrice.ld@btinternet.com or call 01837 840 531

An exhibition celebrating the work of Devon based botanist plantsman Kenneth Ashburner, creator of the unique birch arboretum at Stone Lane Gardens.

The exhibition includes a diverse range of drawings, including botanical plant studies, planting design sketches and inspired plant portraits.

The display is highly informative for anyone interested in plants and planting design and demonstrates the study behind the beguiling naturalness of Kenneth Ashburner's planting style.

Homelife Carers

Homelife Carers are looking for people who are based locally to the area. Who would be interested in being a Care Worker caring for people in their own homes. For more information please go to our website: www.homelifecarers.co.uk or ring 01837 52733 for more information.

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