

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 122

MAY 2016

The new parish website is up and running and in addition to a what's on page there is a facility to create a link to other sites. If you have a business website, a community website or any site you would like linked to the parish website please contact the Clerk who will deal with your request. It has been created to inform visitors and residents of what is on offer in our area and adjoining parishes and is there for your use.

Whilst on the technology drift, it has been suggested it would be useful to have a Facebook page or similar form of communication especially for the youth of the parish to use, do you know anyone who would be prepared to set up and maintain such a site? If so contact the clerk or any councillor.

Communication between the police and Devon County Council is continuing regarding the use of the link road and drivers ignoring the signs at Whiddon Down. If you are a driver, please obey their instructions and don't risk a fine or penalty points on your driving licence by ignoring the no right or left turn signs as there will be enforcement taking place.

Councillors have agreed to employ Warren Dawes from South Zeal for twelve months on a one day per month basis to undertake small works on the roads in the parish. Previously this has been undertaken by DCC under the parish lengthsman scheme and will cost the parish £1584.00. He currently works for Chagford & South Tawton parishes. The type of work he will

undertake will be clearing drains, litter picking, flood prevention, trimming verges, clearing leaves in the autumn and checking and cleaning road signs. Councillors are already aware of a number of jobs for him but if you have a particular problem you are aware of please contact the clerk or councillor and we will try and get it fixed.

Councillors agreed to support an amended planning application at Narracott Close Drewsteignton (Dartmoor National Park 0029 & 0030/16) and at a subsequent meeting also supported an application at North Down Crockernwell (DNP 0149/16)

A number of reports were given at the Annual Parish Meeting at Whiddon Down on Monday 25th April. There were too many to give in one Parish Post so where we have some room I will include them over the next few months. From the Drewsteignton Playing Fields, Alison Chapman reported they had a successful year fundraising, including the family fun day and bonfire night. The new climbing frame has been ordered and it is hoped to be in place in the summer. She went on to thank a great team of people who assist her especially Chip & Jim. She also acknowledged the generous support from the Dartmoor National Park communities fund who donated £4800.00 towards new equipment. This year's Family Fun day is on Saturday July 9th.

The next Parish Council meeting is at **Whiddon Down on Monday 16th May at 7.30pm**

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

Acorn is looking for volunteer's to help us continue to support the elderly and vulnerable in our communities. Whilst we live in a beautiful part of the country, our rural location can be isolating for some individuals. Acorn works hard to reduce this isolation by supporting the emotional and social needs of the elderly. We are in search of volunteers who can contribute some volunteering time. This could be anything from one hour a month to one morning a month.

The services that need support are:

- * Being prepared to drive clients to appointments such as the GP surgery, hospital or podiatry clinics;
- * Driving our minibus to Sainsbury's so our clients can do their shopping (minibus training provided);
- * Engaging with our clients at our various services which include coffee mornings,
- * lunch clubs and much much more.

If you have any time please do call **Jackie Thomas on 01647 252701.**

Maintenance Day at the Playing Field

We are having a maintenance day at the playing field on Saturday 14th May from 10am. We would be very pleased if you could come and help us that day. Tea and cake will be provided.

Alternatively, if you are busy that day or don't have much time, would you be willing to pick a task from the list below and carry it out when it suits you, but by the end of May? You may wish to turn up briefly on the 14th to check what needs to be done.

Attached below is the list of jobs. Can you get back to me with your choice please?

Playing Field AGM Tuesday 7th June 7.30pm in the village hall

1. Repair wooden benches (the wood will be on site)
2. Move downpipe so that it flows into the drain
3. Clear shed gutters
4. Build small shed for the generator (the wood will be on site)
5. Repair/remake the frame for the roller
6. Change the shackles on the swings
7. Paint swings
8. Tighten rope on zip wire. Modify plastic tubing
9. Re-stake the apple trees and weed around trunks and chippings
10. Minor repairs to top gates.
11. Re-stain top gates
12. Wire brush and stain top 2 benches. Prune back overhanging branches.
13. Cut out dead trees in coppice
14. Clean inside shed
15. Repair and replace woodwork on the slide (the wood will be on site)

Alison Chapman 01647 281197



I am 72 in June and I'm attempting to complete a novice triathlon in May, my first!
I also swam 1,408 lengths of a 25 metre pool in 9 swims within 10 days the distance of the English Channel for my 70th birthday and made over £2000 for Hospice care. **Suzanne**

Small But Beautiful

Many of the plants that we know and love have lesser known relations that are seldom seen at garden centres but yet are very garden worthy and worth hunting out. Here are a few of my favourites:

Lathyrus vernus – The most common Lathyrus is our much beloved annual sweet pea and perhaps not quite so well known the perennial sweet pea – both vigorous climbers. This little chap is a herbaceous perennial which flowers in April and May. It makes a pleasing clump, no more than a foot high, covered in purple/pink vetch like flowers. It self seeds gloriously so you can plant up the offspring all around the garden. My clumps have been flowering determinedly and remaining upright during all this freezing rain, hail, snow and wind.

Viola cornuta – so under used for such an incredible workhorse of a plant. Its mat forming foliage is evergreen (more or less) and its charming little purple flowers bloom for months on end. Its a really useful plant in the garden, filling gaps, under planting shrubs and generally just being a jolly good thing. It clumps up and gently spreads and self seeds.

Alchemilla alpina – everyone knows this plant's big cousin Alchemilla mollis or Lady's Mantle but this is altogether a more delicate and beautiful plant. I grow it for its amazing foliage; it has deep green leaves with silky hair underneath giving the impression of a silver edge around the leaf which looks wonderful all the time but particularly good when covered with dew in the early morning sun. Its another clever little self seeder and plants will turn up in most inhospitable places like cracks in paving etc. Very effective and useful.

Cornus canadensis – although in the Dogwood family this little plant only grows six inches high and makes beautiful ground cover in woodland or a dampish shrub border. In late Spring, showy white bracts over bright green leaves appear and are followed in autumn by glossy, red berries. A lovely little thing.

Sisyrinchium – but not the big one called S.'Aunt May'. I am at a bit of a loss to give you the correct name as I bought my original plant from the green grocer in Ashburton and it was just labeled Sisyrinchium. It could be a form of S.Aangustifolium or S. 'E.K.Balls' or something similar. Suffice to say that it is a dear little semi evergreen iris, only a few inches tall that flowers away all through the summer and into the autumn. It is easily divided and indeed I have clumps all over the place all from my original pot.

Crocus tommasinianus – the woodland crocus. This crocus from Eastern Europe is one of the easiest to naturalise as it will self seed freely even in cracks and crevices; the colour is variable, and light and dark forms and also white flowers are likely on self sown plants. The pale silvery purple flowers are a welcome sight in late winter/early Spring. It is happy in lawns but will also tolerate the shade in woodlands. This early crocus is a wonderful source of food for early bees.

Handy tip for the month: if you have clumps of daffodils that perhaps have not performed as well as in previous years now is the time to lift and divide them. Dig up, being careful not to slice into the bulbs and gently tease them apart; leave any baby bulbs clinging to the big bulbs, attached, so that they can grow on naturally. Replant, leaving any green leaves intact to continue to soak up solar energy and feed the bulb for next year.

I'm hoping that by the time you read this, the weather will have improved and warmed up dramatically.

Happy gardening, Philippa Allom

Moretonhampstead Spring Fayre and Fun Dog Show

Saturday 4th June 2016 from 2pm to 5pm at Linscott, near Howton

We look forward to welcoming you at the Spring Fayre and Fun Dog Show. Funds raised will go towards repairing the clock, bell tower and bell frame of St. Andrew's Church Moretonhampstead.

There will be plenty of activities for all the family including pony rides, face painting, welly throwing, bric a brac, cake, book and plant stalls, cream teas, egg and spoon race, treasure hunt, guess the name of the bear, raffle tickets, pin the tail on the donkey and many more.

There will be 12 dog classes to suit all manner of pooches so please bring your dog and enter him/her for best breed or cross breed, the dog with the waggiest tail, fastest bonio eater or the most handsome dog, and there will also be a Gun Dog Scurry.

Tickets will be available nearer the time and at the gate on the day, together with raffle tickets on the Saturdays preceding the event from outside the Co-Op. On the day, the community minibus will be ferrying visitors from the town up to Linscott. **Kathy Warner.**

Teignton Fayre News

Despite the very drizzly Duck Race, postponed from Easter Monday to May Bank Holiday May 2, we managed to raise a similar amount to last year, when we were blessed with wall-to-wall sunshine. We managed to sell all the ducks and all the hot dogs. A total of £1247 was taken but final proceeds are yet to be confirmed. Huge thanks to everyone who helped out on the day, especially those who went in the river Teign, and, of course, those who turned up to watch this annual fun and spectacular event.

Now the Duck Race is out of the way, we are gearing up for Teignton Fayre, taking place in the square on June 4th, 5pm – 10pm. Note the earlier finish of proceedings. The pub will, of course be open until midnight for all the post Teignton Fayre revelry.

Details are still yet to be confirmed but it will be the usual mix of fun, games, entertainment, prize draw and delicious food stalls, including the usual hog roast, kindly donated by the Fingle Bridge Inn.

Fingers crossed for great weather and we will see you there!

What's on at The Drewe

Following last year's very successful Beer and Cider festival, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding our second over the Bank Holiday weekend of **May 27th – 29th**.

The Drewe Arms Westcountry Beer & Cider Festival will feature 20 Westcountry ales, and a range of still ciders, a craft market, live music and Morris men. The festival opens at 5pm on Friday night, and carries on all weekend until 10pm on Sunday.

Friday 27th May

8pm: Greg Hancock and Jo Hooper

Saturday 28th May

12pm: Morris Men and Craft Fair 8.30pm: Shedmashed

Sunday 29th May

12pm: Craft Fair 2pm: FOS Brothers

Come along, try some new ales and ciders and enjoy some fantastic live music from local talent. Entry is FREE.

Mid Summer Music Fest at The Barn Gallery, Stone Lane Gardens

Sunday 12th June 2016 from midday

This is our 3rd successful Music Fest and this year we are very excited to have BBC's The Voice contestants Billy Bottle and Martine join our line up with their unique blend of folk, pop and jazz originals and covers. They will perform their set at 12.15 so try and get there early to catch them!

We are also delighted to welcome back the fabulous Hot House Four who delighted the audience last year performing Swing, Blues, Gypsy jazz and Early American Roots music with infectious humour and style.

Always good value, Hot Club Du Square will be making a welcome return. Guitarist, James Goodwin from Hot Club will also be teaming up with Jazz singer Tansy Rice to perform a set.

Traditional folk band, Tipple (formerly Tiddlers) will be joined by a percussionist and their talented son on clarinet.

We also welcome for the first time TripAdvisor, a popular Chagford based 4 piece band, who write and perform their own material and perform with voices, guitar and percussion.

Wine, beer, beverages, barbecue and snacks will be on offer.

This is a fundraising event and entry will be £6 including free entry into the woodland garden where you can view the Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition.

(Family ticket £15, students and children £2.50, under 5s free)

Contact: Tansy Rice 01837 840531 tansy.ricecaley@googlemail.com

June Ashburner: 01647 231311 june@mythicgarden.eclipse.co.uk

Paul Bartlett: paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com

www.stonelanegardens.com

Bird Notes

After a few wet, cold days and nights at the end of April, we have been graced with some lovely weather as May has begun. This good spell has heralded the return of the swifts back to the village. My first sighting of 2016 was on 2nd May when two were over Churchgate, and later on in the day, I spotted four over the churchyard. Their arrival this year is three days earlier than in 2015 and one day later than in 2014. Since I started recording their arrival and departure dates in 2001, swifts have always arrived in Drewsteignton between 25th April and 5th May. The variation in their arrival dates is unsurprising considering the epic journey they have to undertake to return to the village to breed. Our understanding of their migration routes has increased considerably since geolocators have been put on swifts in the UK, including some of those nesting at Churchgate. This research by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has revealed that when they leave the UK in late July or early August, they travel to South Africa to overwinter. Recovery of the tiny geolocators on their return reveals that they head south through Europe and on down the west coast of Africa to spend about four months in the Congo before spending a month on the east coast in Mozambique before returning to the Congo in early February until early April. After this, they then travel across the Atlantic or move up the coast to Liberia before travelling across the Sahara and move up through mainland Europe to return back to their UK nest sites in early May. This is an incredible journey but means we now have the historical sound of the summer back over the village, with parties of screaming swifts winging high over our roof tops. I have been increasing the number of nest boxes in the village to provide for swifts, which has proved very successful but I am always keen to hear if anyone thinks they have them nesting under their eaves.

'The cuckoo arrives in April, they sing their song in May, They lay their eggs in the month of June, and then they fly away'. Devon Birds are keen to hear of cuckoo sightings or calls, so if you hear the glorious call of our most evocative spring birds, but one that sadly is in serious decline, then do please go online to report your observations to www.devonbirds.org

Each year, I undertake a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) for the BTO which is a set walk to record all bird species seen on two set occasions in the spring and summer in a one kilometre square on the map. I am fortunate that I can walk from the village along the road to Castle Drogo before heading across farmland to the north to undertake the survey, with the kind permission of the landowners. Two things really struck me during a survey I undertook on 1st May: one was the beauty of the area we live in at this time of year and the variety of bird species recorded on this walk. One of the most pleasing things was to find yellowhammers singing from the top of telegraph poles in an area where I had previously never seen them before. The second thing really disappointed me on a dawn walk on a beautiful spring morning. I was surprised at the amount of (filled) dog poop bags there were thrown in the hedgerows, especially along the road immediately outside the village. I presume the contents were collected by people walking their dogs whilst in the village, and therefore demonstrating great responsibility, but what does it say when these non perishable bags are then just thrown into the hedgerow when out of sight of the houses and villagers. I am truly puzzled as to the ignorance of these dog owners and wonder whether they are just visiting the village or are residents.

The peregrines at St. Michael's church in Exeter are doing well and can be viewed in the nest via the webcam. Four eggs were laid at the end of March, of which two hatched on 2nd and 3rd May, and the chicks are currently being brooded by the adults. By the time this issue of the Parish Post comes out they will be old enough to be left alone and growing fast. Watch their developments over the next month via the webcam online at: www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk or at another peregrine site I have been involved with in Woking over the past few months. This is: www.wokingperegrines.com Did anyone notice the eagle owl currently residing on Exeter Cathedral that I reported in last month's Parish Post, hit the headlines in the local and national press about two weeks after I wrote about it. You heard it here first!

Nick



WEST DEVON ROVERS

“We had a really great day! Looking forward to next time!” said a **West Devon Rover** recently.

What on earth is a West Devon Rover? No, it's not a member of a football team, it's the name of a local volunteer marshal or steward, part of a lively group formed by West Devon Community and Voluntary Services 3 years ago, to help run large public events of all kinds in the borough.

Vital start-up funding having been gratefully received from Okehampton United Charity, Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council, West Devon Rovers have so far helped out at 12 events across West Devon, including, for example very locally, Okehampton Town Council's Civic Parade, some of OCRA's sporting events and Chagford's Literary Festival.

The volunteers, 12 of whom live in or near Okehampton area, have discovered new places (or have had the chance to revisit old haunts), have enjoyed new experiences, have made new friends and above all, have had fun. They have enjoyed good communication, great training opportunities and have felt safe and valued. They all wish to volunteer again!

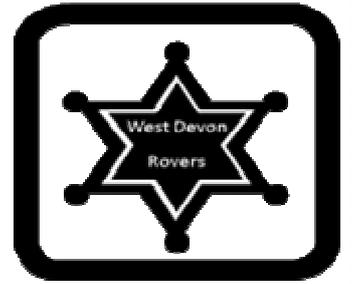
Anyone over 18 is welcome to join; the commitment is entirely down to the volunteer's availability, as and when they are free. Alternatively, you may be planning an event and may need the help of West Devon Rovers. To find out more, please contact Billie Burnett, Volunteering Services Co-ordinator at West Devon CVS by telephoning 01837 55047, by emailing volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk, or by calling in at 13 East Street, Okehampton EX20 1AS any weekday except Monday between 9am and 3pm. The role is also advertised on Volunteer Connect, the user-friendly Devon website on all things volunteering at www.devonva.org/volunteering. We look forward to hearing from you!

Billie Burnett

**Volunteering Services Co-ordinator West Devon,
West Devon Community and Voluntary Services**

**Drop in: 10 am-2 pm Tues. at 13 East St. Okehampton; 9 am-1 pm Thurs. at Tavistock Library;
other times by appointment only.**

Tel: 0330 660 0357 Email: volunteering@westdevoncvcs.org.uk , www.devonva.org/volunteering



Wild Woods 'n Willow.

Bushcraft & Nature Connection for all ages on Dartmoor: 2016 Programme

The Wild Woods 'n Willow team are once again running an exciting programme of events in the Chagford area this summer.

Learn the essential skills to survive and thrive in nature - firemaking, shelter building in the woods, knife work, cooking in the outdoors, and much more. Also, learn how to feel at home in nature and have closer encounters with wildlife. These skills will be taught alongside playing games and making crafts.

Essential Bushcraft (8-12 year olds) – Summer

Sat 4th June 10am-4pm

Essential Bushcraft Summer Camp

Wed 27th July 10am to 4pm (day only) followed by ...

Overnight Camp - **Thurs 28th July (10am) to Fri 29th July (noon)**

Teenage Wilderness Camp

Sun 24th (2pm) to Tues 26th July (noon)

A nature immersion camp practising bushcraft skills and wild craft.

Essential Bushcraft – Autumn - Craft & Archery Day

Mon 24th October 10am-4pm

Further Information:

www.wildwoodswillow.org.uk

Email: nature@wildwoodswillow.org.uk



News from the Castle



Hello all

Spring has officially sprung!

We have had a great start to the year with loads of visitors over Easter, despite some rather unpleasant weather on the Saturday. Plus, the new tours down to the chapel have been going down a storm with people. I think it's mainly due to the excitement of putting on a hard hat and high vis vest in a very fetching shade of orange. Oh, and some brilliant guided tour volunteers of course! I can thoroughly recommend it if you haven't been up yet this year.

Being busy has really boosted everyone's spirits here at Drogo so thank you to everyone locally who has popped in or encouraged others to visit. It makes a big difference to us all, especially when you are half-way through such a massive building project and starting to feel very tired.

We have had some great community activities recently too. The lovely people from Get Changed Theatre company were up recreating the Mad Hatters Tea Party in the usual Get Changed style. Over the two shows there was an audience of about 200 people which was excellent. The highlight for me was watching everyone join in with the finale dance routine. Sheer brilliance.

Over the past couple of months we have had visits from Okehampton College students, who did some lovely work on our creative writing workshop. We also had a 2 day introduction to stone masonry with Dartmoor Arts and Devon Guild of Craftsmen which was fully booked.

As I write, we are all looking forward to our Spring Fling free open evening on Friday 13 May which launches our 5 week Festival of Arts, celebrating the creative spirit of Dartmoor. The Festival will finish with another performance by Get Changed Theatre on Saturday 18 June. Not to be missed!

Best wishes everyone

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

'Hound Of The Baskervilles and The Last Wolf on Dartmoor'

MED Theatre is running a free taster workshop for its new project for young people on May 31st at Castle Drogo. The workshop will run from 11am to 4pm, and will provide young people aged 11-19 with the opportunity to sample writing and recording parts of a radio play. Entry to the workshop is free provided it is booked in advance. Please contact Lucy Hirst or Abby Stobart on 01647 441356, or email education@medtheatre.co.uk.

'The Hound of the Baskervilles and the Last Wolf on Dartmoor' is an exciting 18 month project supported by Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots programme. The project will enable young people to learn more about Dartmoor's local history and ecology through the eyes of a long lost animal, the wolf, last sighted on Dartmoor in 1780, and the legends it inspired. Young people from across Dartmoor and the surrounding area will have the opportunity to take part in a series of creative projects, including the creation of a radio play, a stage play, part of a community play and a short film.

Piddledown Common

Could we please ask if parishioners would keep to the footpaths when walking their dogs especially on Piddledown Common and Townsfield. The ewes are out in the fields with their lambs and the first few weeks are very important to ensure a good bond. Dogs can be seen as a threat to this bond.

Calving season has started on Piddledown Common and cows can be dangerous when freshly calved, protecting their young.

If Dogs can be kept on a lead when in the fields this would be greatly appreciated.

Please also remember to worm your dogs regularly as the faeces from untreated dogs can be harmful to livestock. Adrian and Jackie Bowden

Tillys Parish Post

I'm afraid, to those football fans out there that that the premier league isn't the only league that's almost over. The Under 15s Devon Girls League Cup has been won by non-other than West Exe's girls side again, but there was very little room for error.

Our last match of the season was a home match against our title rivals, Dawlish. It was a crucial match, for if we lost we'd claim silver. It was a mid-week evening match as the football season should have already been over but we had to play our back log of games we accumulated over the rainy winter months and there just weren't enough Sundays left. So on Thursday, we pitched up at our home ground Cowick Barton along with our ever faithful band of parent supporters and did a thorough warm up and stretch. Dawlish play a strong and physical game, so we really had some competition for they needed this win as much as we did. One of their key strikers, and most plentiful goal scorer was, thankfully missing, yet they weren't lost at all without her and within 20 minutes of the first half, despite many excellent saves from our goal keeper Sophie, we were 1-0 down. We were playing, but not to the fullest of our ability, so after a motivational team talk at half time; we returned to the pitch with renewed spirits and considerably more hydrated.

Despite many on-target shots from our strikers, their goal keeper remained as solid as ever and it wasn't until West Exe played a nice bit of zig zag passing down the left wing before the ball was crossed into the box that Charley Melton found the target with her shot. 1-1. After a very tough final ten minutes of heavy defending, we heard the final whistle blow. However it wasn't until Dawlish had played their final match of the season, the following weekend, that we got a text from Nick (our manager) confirming that we had actually won the league for the 5th year running. That makes it two out of three cups, as we also won the knockout league cup. Hopefully, we will win the treble next year, but right now we're very happy to wallow in the success of the double.

I also mentioned in my previous Parish Post how I was in a play called Bassett and that we (Chagford Youth Theatre) performed the play in three local village halls, and were also to do a day of workshops with a final evening performance at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. On the 19th April we travelled down and after a morning of fun filled workshops, an afternoon tech run/ dress rehearsal (to smooth out any lighting and staging issues), we went out for a short walk in Plymouth; predominantly to the ice cream shop and back before we were escorted to our dressing rooms, that yes, had lights around the mirrors, to prepare for our evening show. It wasn't only us performing that evening, there was also another youth group there who were performing a comedic play called 'Gargantuan' about a giant destructive baby. We had a very smoothly run show and everyone was very proud of it, it was a really brilliant ending to an incredible experience. Thank you again to Paul and Jo Diffey for putting up with the outspoken lot of us and directing the show incredibly well! **Tilly**

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

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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 June - Thank You