

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 116

NOVEMBER 2015

The October meeting is when councillors give their footpath reports to the Dartmoor National Park Ranger identifying any improvements or maintenance that is needed. Pete Rich attended the meeting and gave us an update on his work and what can & cannot be achieved within the current financial constraints on the DNP ranger department. We also welcomed Cllr Simon Hill from Chagford who is our recently elected representative on the DNP committee.

A replacement sign had been sourced by Cllr Brown for Drewsteignton car park and we agreed a quote for the removal of vegetation along the side of the public toilets prior to the decoration taking place. A volunteer group based in Chagford have agreed to restore the metal benches in the parish at a cost of materials only to the Council. After much research by the Clerk at the county records office, it has been established the lamp post in the Drewsteignton churchyard which is in need of repair was purchased by the Parish Council but the electricity supplied by the church. Despite there being no trace being found in the Parish Council minutes from 1996 to 2000 as to the continued ownership or maintenance of the light, we have agreed to pay for the repair as it is a case of urgency. The future maintenance will be decided on at a later date.

At Barn Close Whiddon Down, West Devon Borough Council, the owners of a small open space, have agreed they would grant a licence for its use as a recreational area. A meeting of interested parties will be arranged to progress the matter. More meetings have been held regarding traffic calming at Chapel Hill Whiddon Down but it does appear, at long last, some progress could be made with some slight alteration of the junction with Turnpike Road. More details when we

know them.

Cllrs Imrie & Hardie reported on a meeting held with a senior Highways Officer from Devon County Council at Whiddon Down where it is alleged the plans regarding the old road being by passed would be altered to those published. Councillors expressed considerable concern this could take place without consultation. A definitive answer will be given after we receive a reply from Highways.

Mr MacDonald a resident of Crockernwell, addressed the Council on recent parking issues in the village. He had complained to Devon County Council but they were unable to help as budgets for any improvements were nonexistent. He has agreed to explore the possibility of some limited off street parking to be made available in the village and we will help if we can.

It appears that soil is again being fly tipped along the old Harepath Straight and also on the bank at Whiddon Down leading out of the village to the west. This appears to be road scrapings or that from the gullies being emptied. It is concerning because some of the material could be hazardous. It was resolved to invite Andrew Parrot from Chagford to update & maintain the Parish website and further details when we have them.

We are looking forward to the bonfire night celebrations at the Drewsteignton playing field and have donated, as agreed, £250 towards the fireworks. This was seen as a benefit to the whole parish and would help with the maintenance of the playing field.

Our next meeting is at **Whiddon Down Monday 16th November 2015 at 7.30pm** and prior notice of our December meeting is going to be held a week earlier than normal on Monday 14th at Drewsteignton

On the instructions of the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd.

TO LET BY INFORMAL TENDER PART DREWSTEIGNTON GLEBE

Approximately 3.20 acres with potential for grazing and/or agricultural use to be let under a Farm Business Tenancy or Common Law Tenancy wef 25th December 2015

For particulars apply to: **Michelmores Hughes, 26 Fore Street, Totnes TQ9 5DX**

Ref: JSA/TLB/0/3 Tel: 01803 862002 : www.michelmoreshughes.co.uk

Drewsteignton & Chagford Cubs

Could you be the next Cub leader?

Drewsteignton and Chagford Cubs meet once a week during term time (on a Thursday in Jubilee Hall in Chagford) and are a thriving, happy pack. Our current Akela, Isabelle, is retiring in July 2016 and we are looking for a new leader and assistant leader. The role of Akela involves running the weekly session, taking the cubs to two church events per year and taking the cubs to a camp (once a year in June). Isabel estimates that she spends about an hour a week on admin and planning the session. The assistant leader helps Akela with the planning and running of the each session and the camps – there is scope to get more involved but you can just turn up each week and help! Leaders don't need to have any previous experience – just lots of enthusiasm! Our current pack are a lovely bunch of children and are all aged between 8 and 10 years old.

If you are interested in hearing more about what running Cubs involves please contact:

Isabel Bowbeer Isabel@bowbeer.mail.co.uk or

Amy Hassell amyhassell13@gmail.com 0777 8898 478.

We hope to hear from you soon - **it really is loads of fun!**

Superfast Broadband Meeting

As you may be aware, the Connecting Devon & Somerset program is making good progress in rolling out Superfast broadband across Exmoor & Dartmoor. You may also recall that at the end of June, as part of this process, we awarded a contract to Worcester-based Airband to deliver Superfast Broadband across Dartmoor & Exmoor. Now, following a couple of months of preparatory surveying work, we'd like to invite you to meet the team and hear more about their plans.

We have arranged a series of evening sessions across Dartmoor which will consist of;

- An introduction from Dartmoor National Park, setting the context for the evening
- A briefing from Matt Barrow from Connecting Devon & Somerset providing an update on the Superfast programme as a whole.
- Lizzie Whitchurch, Kate Doodson or Nina Goodwin from the Get Up to Speed team talking about their menu of free community technology & connectivity workshops.
- Dan Jones from Airband who will explain their Superfast fixed wireless solution for Dartmoor.

The second half of the evening will consist of an informal Question & Answer session, with team members then making themselves available afterwards to answer individual's questions.

Your nearest session will be held at the **Whiddon Down Village Hall on 1st December**, starting at **19.00 & running until approximately 21.00.**

This particular session is intended for the parishes / meetings of:

Belstone, Bridford, Cheriton Bishop, Doddiscombleigh, Drewsteignton, Dunsford, Okehampton, South Tawton, Sticklepath, Tedburn St Mary & Trusham, though we welcome interested residents from any part of the moor. The complete list of sessions for Dartmoor is as follows;

Whiddon Down Village Hall – 01/12/15 19.00 to 21.00

We very much hope that you will be able to attend, the sessions are open and there is no need for anyone to RSVP, however if you'd like to let us know that you'll be coming along that would help give us an idea of numbers.

Chagford Bowling Club

Our Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation Evening was held at Endecott House on the 24th October this year. Sara Mears catered the event and provided an excellent three course dinner which was enjoyed by members and their guests. The season's trophies were presented by the Club President Noel Walter and ably assisted by Bobbie Blake.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about playing bowls at Chagford and joining a very friendly club, please contact;

Mike Kennedy on 07846 106687 or via the clubs website www.chagfordbowlingclub.com.

Bird Notes

We are well and truly into Autumn now, the clocks went back over a week ago, Halloween and Bonfire night have just gone and hints of Christmas can be seen in almost all the shops in Exeter. Despite the darker evenings, it has been a very mild October and a warm, wet and windy start to November. However, I have read predictions in the newspapers that this winter is going to be a very cold one, due to the fact that bewick swans have arrived back at Slimbridge (the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust reserve in Gloucestershire) earlier than usual. Bewick swans breed on the far North East tundras by the Arctic Ocean but spend the winter in NE Europe.

I am seeing and hearing a lot of our other winter visitors, such as redwings, fieldfares and mistle thrushes. The first migrant birds I noticed in the Parish this year were redwings, which I saw on the 14th of October. These were then followed by fieldfares towards the end of the month. Both of these species are members of the thrush family, and breed in Northern Europe but spend the winter here. Fieldfares are the same size as song thrushes but have a blue grey head and rump, and are often to be seen in flocks flying overhead or feeding in fields. Redwings are smaller and when seen clearly have an obvious white eye stripe and red patches along their flanks and under wings. Redwings can often be heard on clear nights as they fly overhead, uttering their 'seep' call as they fly by day. On still nights, I often hear them calling unseen and overhead, as they migrate under the cover of darkness. All of the thrushes have a liking for berries and, during periods of cold weather, can strip a holly tree of its fruit before anyone has chance to take a few branches for Christmas decorations.

I have just started to see a large flocks of wading birds flying high overhead, and these are mainly golden plover or lapwings (green plovers). These are birds that will spend the winter on the rich feeding grounds of our estuaries, but can also be seen in large flocks or grass and recently ploughed fields locally. Over the last couple of weeks, I have watched the numbers of starlings build up where I work in Cornwall. At first, there were just a few hundred moving round the valley and now there are hundreds of thousands streaming overhead before dusk on their way to the roost site in Davidstowe woods. The starlings come in to roost in these woods every winter and about five years ago, it was estimated there were about 12 million birds coming from all over Cornwall and west Devon to roost here.

I have begun feeding the garden birds again with kibbled sun flower hearts, suet blocks and niger seeds. The combination of these feeds attracts a wide variety of species and I have been enjoying seeing greater spotted woodpeckers and nuthatches along with the more familiar birds. We get many chaffinches and greenfinches, and I have noticed the occasional one appears to be unwell, or has been found dead. These birds have Trichomonosis, a disease first seen in finches in the UK in 2005. It is most commonly spread by food or water being contaminated by an infected bird, and is more prevalent during milder weather than in cold spells. If you suspect that greenfinches or chaffinches that visit your feeders may have this disease, the advice is to stop putting food out for two weeks. It is important to keep bird feeders and drinkers as clean as possible.

Nick

Whiddon Down Methodist Church

Annual Christmas Fair

In the Village Hall

Saturday 5th December

2.00pm

Cakes, Cream Teas, Refreshments

Come along and enjoy a tea with your friends.

Carol Service

In the Chapel

Sunday 13th December

6.30pm

Tea and mince pies

All welcome

An Evening Of MED Theatre Young Company Plays

Friday 27th November, 7:30pm

Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

On Friday 27th November MED Theatre's Young Company will be performing a showcase of short plays, which they have devised and written this term during their weekly drama sessions at the MED Theatre studio. Subjects, stories and settings for this year's plays include a Victorian mining town, an unconventional love triangle, the story of a refugee living with a Dartmoor family, a relationship reconciled, and the separation of two young lovers. The performance will begin at 7:30pm in Moretonhampstead Parish Hall. **Ring MED Theatre on 01647 441356 to book tickets**

ACE Archaeology Club Autumn 2015.

We are just about recovered from our 'dig' back in August/September. We had a great time with a great team. We had some new members, who were brilliant and carried on despite, in at least one case, a visitor from Sheffield, being flooded out of their tent. We were so pleased to have attracted a digger from so far afield.

We found more cobbles! We seem to have a house with cobbled floors both indoors and out. Something like a Devon longhouse? We don't know yet but it is exciting.

The weather was variable but we didn't have to spend too much time in the mess tent eating cake. Our new tent, which was the finds and administration tent, was great and we are now hoping to raise some money to buy another tent to replace the old, dark and leaking mess tent.

We had a visit in October with the Kingsteignton History Society, who had asked us to have a look at what might be an Iron Age Hill fort but isn't typical. We wondered if it might be Roman in fact. We hope the Society will do more work on the site.

We had a major problem with our website, thanks to hackers, and it is now being rebuilt from scratch. So apologies if anyone has been trying to get in touch. If you want more information please use the e-mail address below.

We have our AGM in November and that involves a planning meeting with our members so we hope to have some interesting things planned for next year.

We will let you know.

Erica Williamson Secretary

ACE Archaeology Club

ace@acearch.org.uk



Stone Lane
garden sculpture nursery

Vodka & Vanishing Trees!

There's bears in them there hills!.....and Georgians with guns, shepherds with big hearts and every meeting is an occasion for the vodka to flow.

Join Stone Lane Gardens manager, Paul Bartlett, as he recounts his recent plant hunting exploits in The Caucasus Mountains.

Discover the sharp end of conservation in a wonderful country, where the scenery is breathtaking and every guest is welcomed like family.

Endecott House

Friday 20th November 7pm start

Tickets £5 in advance from the website/ £7 on the door

Refreshments available

For more information: phone Paul on 01467231311

Or see website [www: stonelanegardens.com](http://www.stonelanegardens.com)

December Events at Okehampton Library

Tuesday 8th December 1-4pm:

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop – be inspired by nature and create a beautiful Christmas wreath with Learn Devon tutor, Gill Cairns. Use a willow base and greenery to make a wreath for a door or table. All equipment provided and no experience necessary. Cost £24 per person – to book and for further information call Learn Devon on 01822 613701

Bored over the festive period? Try our Friends of Okehampton Library **Christmas Quiz**. Pick up a copy from the library £1 per sheet. Closing date **9th January 2016** £10 book token for first correct entry drawn, £5 for second.

Win the contents of our **Christmas hamper** in the Friends of Okehampton Library draw, just £1 a ticket. The lucky winner will be drawn on **Saturday 19th December** just in time to enjoy all those festive goodies at Christmas.

Treasure hunt for children during library opening hours from **1-24th December**. Pick up an entry form at the counter and search the library to find hidden snowflakes. Discover them all to collect a special badge.

On **Monday 14th December** from 10.30-11.30am we have a Christmas song, story and craft session for children under 5 and their parents or carers. Join in the festive fun!

Volunteers needed – If you like meeting new people and looking to do something different, Okehampton Library may have just the volunteering experience for you. We are looking for a number of willing and enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to assist customers with the self-service kiosks, help library staff shelve books and keep the library looking welcoming and tidy. If you are interested in reading, have a warm, friendly attitude and enjoy helping people, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested then please call in to Okehampton Library to pick up an information pack and application form.

Okehampton District Community Transport Group

100 Club

Thank you for your support which is a great help to ensure our scheme can continue to offer as many people as possible the services they require. You may receive a written or telephone reminder when it is time for you to renew.

Congratulations to the winners of our recent draws – Thank you for your support. You can join the 100 Club at any time during the year, just send a cheque, payable to ODCTG for £12 to me at the address below. Please note new address.

Saturday Trips

We will be taking bookings for these and will require clients to pay a deposit of £5 for each trip to ensure that they are viable as we will be using a driver from Holsworthy which will obviously incur us in extra costs. The higher charge quoted is for those not in Okehampton or along the route of the trip.

November 21st	Crediton	£10/14
December 12th	Tavistock	£10/14

Community Car Service Drivers

We are actively seeking more volunteer drivers, particularly in Okehampton itself and those willing to drive our wheelchair accessible vehicles, as several of our current drivers are not available due to various reasons. If you know of someone who might be available for a few hours a week then please ask them to get in touch!

Christmas Holidays

Please note that the office will close at **4pm on Wednesday 23rd December**.

On Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th December the office will be open for a few hours to pick up any messages and deal with urgent appointments and the Ring and Ride service will be running.

The office opens again as normal from Monday 4th January.

If you require transport over the holiday period please give us as much notice as possible, the answer phone will be on for messages.

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

Tillys Parish Post

Before we broke up for half term, I was fortunate to visit the Hall for Cornwall with 30 or so other students from Okehampton College. We went to see 'Lord of the Flies', a novel by William Golding first published in 1954. It tells the well-known story of a group of English boys who become stranded upon a desert island. As the story progresses the boys divide into two groups, one set are the Warriors, they chase around the island searching for the infamous 'Beast' (spill its blood!) whilst the other group, led by the main characters Ralph and Piggy keep a fire going and try (in vain) to assemble all students for a meeting in order to try and create some rules for this Island.

As the story continues it becomes more and more violent and gory and culminates in an abrupt end to their current freedom. The book focuses on some very key issues such as: War, Evil, Friendship and Violence. It is a great book, and to anyone who has not read it, I thoroughly recommend it.

I thought the play was really good. On arrival at the theatre, we were seated and left to gaze down at the stage set from our high up panoramic seats. The play involved various aspects of physical theatre and the set was of a crashed British plane (see below). For my GCSE options, I took drama as a subject, and we are also studying 'Lord of the Flies' in drama so by the end of this year I will understand that book inside out. Either that or I won't be able to stand it! It was a very good play with some great young actors.

I was surprised to find out that mum studied this book for her GCSE English, so it has been in the curriculum for many years. Perhaps it is time to mix up the books? You never know, they may add a novel which had some female characters, to show a change in society since it was first introduced... **Tilly**



Granny's Lentil Soup

Serves four

In a large pan on a low heat, slowly soften a chopped clove of garlic and a chopped onion in a little butter, until translucent. Add two tablespoons of tomato puree and a teaspoon of sweet paprika, and cook, stirring, for two minutes.

Add 200g red lentils, three tablespoons of bulgur wheat (optional) and 1.2 litres of chicken or vegetable stock.

Bring to a boil, and then simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent the soup catching.

Once the lentils are soft and starting to fall apart, take off the heat and blitz until fairly smooth.

Season to taste, then serve sprinkled with chilli flakes, a pinch of dried mint and a squeeze of lemon.



News from the Castle



Hello everyone

I can't believe we are already heading towards the end of another year! Where has the time gone? It has been a great year for us in so many ways. There have been some fab community events – from the inter school cross country race and our community open evening, to evening theatre performances and welcoming Diane and Marielle during Devon Open Studios. We also saw the scaffolding come down from the south end of the building which was a real high point, exposing beautiful pointing and gorgeous windows once again. We are looking forward to the central section coming down very

soon, albeit a bit later than planned! Building work can be very tricky.

We hope to finish the year in style with visits from a very special gentleman in a red outfit and a big white beard (I'm sure you all know who I mean) and plenty of festive fun. You are all invited to our special late night Christmas shopping on Tuesday 1 December from 4:30pm until 6:30pm. There will be mulled hot drinks, mince pies, Christmas music and 5% off for local people when they spend over £30 just for this night. We will also be offering a free Christmas wrapping service (donations welcome). I hope to see you all there so make sure you leave a mince pie for me.

Please note that Castle Drogo will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day as we will be spending time with our families and friends. The estate is always open though if you need some fresh air or want to walk off the turkey or those chocolates!

As we start to turn our thoughts to what exciting things 2016 will bring, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for your continued support for Castle Drogo. The Drogo team work so hard to keep this building project going forward and the support from local people makes such a difference and gives us the energy to keep going.

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Best wishes and see you soon,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

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

What's On At The Drewe

You'll be pleased to know that there is plenty going on over the run up until Christmas:

As far as food goes:

- 2 meals at £15 from our special Early Bird dish of the day served between 6pm and 7pm. Available Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Full menu also available.
- Fish and chip night on Wednesday – eat in or takeaway.
- Traditional roast dinner available between 12pm and 4pm on Sundays, with takeaways at just £7.50
- We are now taking Christmas bookings. Check our website out, or pop in for a menu.

Other events:

- Folk in the Bar this month falls on 28th November and we're delighted that Glen Hawkins, and Paul Whittall will be in residence from 8pm to perform an eclectic set. FREE
- Our Winter Ale Festival will be running between Friday 4th – Sunday 6th December. We have a Charity Cabaret Night on the Saturday, a Christmas Market on Sunday afternoon, a visit from Santa, and a Christmas Quiz to round things off Sunday evening. The weekend will be raising funds for St Petrocks Homeless at Christmas in Exeter. If you make things and would like a stall at The Christmas Market, contact the pub on 01647 281409.

Look forward to seeing you.

Gary and The Team

01647 281409 www.thedrewearmsinn.co.uk

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 on 3rd December. 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 18th November and 2nd December. 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 - This month it will be 26th November and 10th December. 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 10.30 - 12. This month it will be Tuesday 17th November and 1st December. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. Please ring Jackie on 06147 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 24 hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or Jackie in the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

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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Business

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 December - Thank You