

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

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 127

NOVEMBER 2016

It is a sign of the times when modern technology takes over from the old village telephone kiosk. British Telecom are looking to close 38 kiosks in the Dartmoor National Park. 2 of those are in our parish: there have been 12 calls made in 12 months at Whiddon Down and only 1 call in 12 months at Crockernwell. The council felt there was little point in objecting to these closures as previously when the subject has come up, no one has wanted to "adopt a kiosk" Individuals can still contact the forward planning department at the DNP if they wish.

The council are investigating installation of a visitors' information map at Drewsteignton, probably in the car park. There is of course the obvious information on walks and shops to be included, but we would like to hear from anybody who has an idea of what else should be shown for the benefit of locals and visitors alike, please contact the clerk or a councillor.

Original negotiations by Wainhomes for a development at Whiddon Down have stalled and they are now looking at the possibility of another site. This is still at a very early stage and no firm planning applications have been made.

At long last we have had a reply from the sector inspector from the police who has agreed some monitoring of the no left and no right turn signs at Whiddon Down will be undertaken by his staff. The clerk has suggested times when repeat offenders are ignoring the traffic orders so the police can target their resources appropriately. Devon County Council have also now agreed to remove a redundant traffic sign which may have been obstructing one of the new signs.

The newly installed bollards at Chapel Hill do appear to have reduced the speed of vehicles but will be monitored further. The unsafe pedestrian fence

in Crockernwell remains unsafe!

DCC have notified us that the winter grit bins will not be automatically refilled in order to save money (as it took 3 men to shovel a small amount of salt into the bin at Stanbury's Orchard, Crockernwell this time last year, I can see the saving!) They will be filled on request either by using Devon CC website [devon.gov.uk](http://devon.gov.uk) or calling 0845 155 1004 and quoting the bin number found inside the lid and its location.

The clerk has received an anonymous donation of money to be used for the community garden projects in Whiddon Down.

The council agreed to support the campaign to oppose the closure of Okehampton Hospital.

We have been notified by the DNP of a consultation document on a local plan for the park which will cover the future of planning applications and decisions. Initial responses to the 24 page document are due by the 16<sup>th</sup> December and councillors will be discussing our reply at the next meeting. Individuals are also requested to respond.

Chagford Parish council have told us there is a groundswell of opinion on the proposed works at the school. They would be grateful to receive letters from anyone affected in neighbouring parishes either in support or objection to the works. They propose to have a formal consultation when the plans are submitted.

The clerk is to write a letter of thanks to Tony Thomas who has renovated the bus stop next to his property in Drewsteignton, it now looks much better than it did.

We also agreed to support the Mayor of Okehampton Jan Goffey in her effort to improve the traffic congestion in the town.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 7.30pm at Whiddon Down**

**Drewsteignton Post Office**  
**Christmas stamps go on sale on 8th November.**  
**Please support your local Post Office.**

## Dartmoor Local Plan

### LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION: Drop-in Events

Dartmoor National Park Authority have started a review of the local plan. The local plan is an important document which guides development in the National Park and will influence Dartmoor's future. We are currently consulting on an Issues Paper which sets out the likely scope and main issues which will need to be addressed by the new local plan. As part of this consultation we would like your views. If you want to know more about the local plan, what is in it, how it may affect you or would like to give us your views, please come along to one of our drop-in events:

**Endecott House, Chagford, TQ13 8AJ - 10th November 4.30pm - 8pm**

**Princetown Church, PL20 6QT - 14th November 4pm - 8pm**

**Moretonhampstead Community Club, TQ13 8NQ - 16th Nov 4pm - 8pm**

**Buckfastleigh Town Hall, TQ11 0DD - 22nd November 4pm – 8pm**

**Ashburton Town Hall, TQ13 7QQ - 23rd November 4pm – 8pm**

## Holy Trinity Church

Owing to the sad loss of several members of the congregation and the increasing age of many others, we are unable to put on a Christmas Bazaar this year. However, we will be working, in conjunction with Jane Hocking's Craft Fair, to provide tea, coffee and cakes for the duration of the Fair e.g. Saturday 3rd December all day with home made soup and puddings from 12.00 to 2pm on both days. Sunday 4th December refreshments will start at 12.00 following Morning Service. In addition on the Saturday we will have a Christmas Stall all day selling home made cakes, savouries, mince pies, Christmas puddings, preserves, decorations etc. This is a great chance to stock up the larder/freezer in good time for the festive season. All proceeds to Holy Trinity.

**The Candlelit Carol Service will be at 4pm on Sunday 18th December followed by mulled wine and mince pies. There will be Christmas Eve Communion, again candlelit at 10pm on the 24th and family communion at 10am on Christmas Day.**

*As always, everyone is warmly welcome to all these events.*

## What's on at Okehampton Library

**Staff recommendations – as part of the BBC #LovetoRead campaign**, staff have chosen some of their favourite books for customers to read. Available throughout November.

You are invited to vote in the Society of Chief Librarian's poll to find the nation's favourite read

[www.goscl.com/lovetoread/](http://www.goscl.com/lovetoread/)

**Active Life, Active Mind events:**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1.30-3.30pm. FREE Yoga and Relaxation workshop**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1-3pm. FREE Christmas Card Printing Workshop**

These two workshops are provided by Learn Devon as part of their Drink Wise, Age Well project for people over 50. Book through Learn Devon-learndevon.co.uk Tel. 01822613701

**Friends of Okehampton Library Christmas Draw:** Chance to win the contents of our festive hamper 50p per ticket. Draw to take place at Okehampton **17th December**

**Friends of Okehampton Library Christmas Quiz:** Puzzle over our fun festive questions for a chance to win a £10 book token. £1 per quiz sheet, closing date 7th January 2017

**Saturday 3rd December 10:00-12:00. Book & DVD Sale and Coffee Morning:**

Pick up a bargain and enjoy free refreshments served by the Friends of Okehampton Library.

**1st-24th December** during library opening hours. Find all the Elves hidden in the library - receive a Christmas treat. For children of all ages, 10p a go, no booking necessary.

**Wednesday 7th December 11:00-12:00. Christmas Story & Craft.** For children under 5 and their carers. Free, no booking necessary.

**19-24th December during library opening hours. Christmas Activity Table:**

For children and their carers. Free, no booking necessary.

## WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

### CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE

SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

8.00PM



### CHRISTMAS BINGO MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

DOORS OPEN 7.30PM

EYES DOWN 8.00PM



## DREWSTEIGNTON CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 11am - 5pm

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 11am - 4pm

In Drewsteignton Village Hall



Local Crafters — for that ‘something different’

15% of sellers sales to Holy Trinity Church

Refreshments available in Holy Trinity Church

In addition to the craft stalls there will also be new and used books and QUALITY bric-a-brac. We have plenty of books but if you would like to donate any good quality items suitable for the bric-a-brac stall please bring along to the Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> December (after 11am) or call me on 01647 281605 if you need it collected. Clean childrens toys welcome – but no puzzles or electricals.

All proceeds from these 2 stalls will go to Holy Trinity Church.

Thank you and hope to see you there.

## Friends of Holy Trinity Churchyard

### The Big Quiz

Saturday 26th November at 7.00 p.m.

At

Fingle Bridge Inn

Another chance to pit your wits against local teams

Teams of six, £6 pp includes sausages & chips

Quizmaster — Alastair Greener

**Entry forms, for return not later than 22nd November, from Angela Thomas 01647 281602  
or Drewsteignton Village Shop**

Last year we had a full house again for this event and numerous requests for a repeat this year, so book your team place early. We look forward to seeing you for another fun evening.

## Bird Notes

The mild conditions during October resulted in a truly spectacular display of autumn colours across the countryside. It has been great to see the variety of leaf colour on different tree species in the woods, hedgerows and in gardens. The leaves stayed on until the first week of November, and with a few frosts and colder temperatures, the trees are now beginning to look a little sparse. Along with the Autumn colour, we now have a lot of winter migrants in and around the village. Many of the bird species that stay with us for the winter come from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. What I have noticed most are huge flocks of woodpigeons moving around the county and the number of redwings in and around the village. Redwings are a small thrush and give a thin 'seep' call when in flight, and can be heard overhead by both day or night, as they often migrate during darkness. Fieldfares are also here now and often seen in flocks in fields or hedgerows. Fieldfares are bigger than redwings, being about the size of a mistle thrush, but when seen in good light, they show very striking colours with a grey head and an ochre chest.

I occasionally write about the Exeter peregrines in these articles, depending on the time of year and what is happening at the time. I first visited Saint Michael and All Angels church at Mount Dinham in June of 1997, as I had heard that peregrines were breeding there. On that visit, I collected many fallen feathers and one or two skulls from the pavement and surrounds below the tower. These were from birds that the peregrines had caught and returned to the church to feed on, and I was interested to see what Devon's first urban nesting peregrines were feeding on. Twenty years later, I am still recording what bird species the peregrines are feeding on, and my study into diet and prey selection is now the longest running and largest prey sample in Europe.

During the twenty years that they have been nesting on the Church, there have been a few changes of the adult birds, but breeding has occurred every year and fifty-five juvenile falcons have fledged from the Church over the period. There have been two different nest locations during their tenure at Saint Michaels, and both have had webcams broadcasting developments from the nest via the internet. In 2013, we started to 'ring' the juveniles in the nest (putting on a unique numbered small metal ring on the leg by a trained, licensed ringer), and due to this we now know exactly what has happened to 50% of the fledged young over the past four years.

It was in 2013 that the current webcam was installed, and it is great for observing and recording the whole breeding season from the date and time of the first egg laid, through incubation, hatching and right up to the fledging of the juveniles. However, the current camera is a low-resolution camera, and we have had a few enquiries as to whether this is going to be upgraded to a high-res camera, which will provide much more detail, enable good screen images to be saved and hopefully raise the profile of the Exeter Peregrines.

Due to my involvement with the Peregrine Project at St. Michaels, I have decided to take on the fund raising for the new camera, and to ideally have it installed before the 2017 breeding season. To raise the necessary funding for this, I have written a 24 page A5 size colour booklet 'The Exeter Peregrines, A brief history of the peregrine falcons at Saint Michael and All Angels Church'. It gives the full story of their history at the Church and is illustrated with some great images taken by local photographers. I am hoping to have it ready by the time this issue is out, and will be selling it for £5 through a variety of sources, organisations and outlets. If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy, Marg at the Post office in the village has kindly said she will keep copies there for sale.

**Nick**

## Cicely Drewe

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Cicely Drewe. Over 200 people attended her funeral in Holy Trinity Church, evidence of the high esteem in which she was held, much loved and respected by all who knew her, she will be very sadly missed.

## Okehampton District Community Transport Group

### 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 say goodbye and thank you to Brian and Jane Hignett who are moving to Scotland.

### Staying Steady On Your Feet

Our risk of falling increases as we age but falls are not inevitable and there are things you can do to stay steady on your feet:

Exercise to help keep muscles strong and improve your balance

Eat a balanced diet to reduce your risk of falling

Talk to your GP if your medications are making you feel dizzy

Get your eyes and hearing checked and look after your feet

Make your home safer by keeping it well lit and clutter free

Get a home hazard assessment and find out about adaptations and aids

Watch out for tripping hazards while out and about

Give your eyes time to adjust to changing light conditions when moving from inside to outdoors

### Co-operative Foodstore and Funeralcare – Community Funding

We have been selected to receive funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund. It means that we will get a contribution towards our service but we need your help. The more support we get, the more funding we could receive. So, if you're a Co-op member, log in to your Co-op membership account at [www.coop.co.uk/register](http://www.coop.co.uk/register) and choose us. If you're not a member, please join and support us. You can pick up an application form in store.

### Going into hospital?

What would you take with you?

When you're about to go to hospital the last thing you want is to be worrying about what to take with you. So be prepared and make a list in advance. It can be reassuring to have something familiar with you. Here's a checklist to get you started:

**Clothing** – your own nighties or pyjamas, dressing gown, spare underwear, slippers or comfortable footwear which won't fall off easily

**Personal Care** – Toiletries, a comb or hairbrush, a small mirror, nail file, razors and shaving cream, anti-bacterial wipes

**Other** – your medication, any mobility aids that you use, your glasses, your hearing aid/s and boxes for storage overnight plus spare batteries, small change and a credit card, mobile phone and charger or people's phone numbers, something to occupy you, such as books and magazines, music player plus headphones, a notebook and pen to write down any questions you have when the doctor is not available

### NEDCARE

Community led care in North East Dartmoor. Need a carer or know someone who does? Are you a carer looking for work in the area? Please get in touch on 01647640722 or email [info@nedcare.org](mailto:info@nedcare.org) for more information [www.nedcare.org](http://www.nedcare.org)

### Wiser£Money

Free, confidential and impartial money and debt advice in Torridge and West Devon. You can have help with welfare benefits, budgeting and income maximisation, fuel and energy advice, money and debt advice and accessing other support services. If you are unable to reach one of their outreach surgeries they can visit you in your own home.

Ring 01823 461099 for more information or email [enquiries@wisermoney.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wisermoney.org.uk)

**Sue & Liz, ODCTG, Unit 3 Okehampton Business Park, Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1FJ 01837 55000** [sue.odctg@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.odctg@btinternet.com) [www.odctg.co.uk](http://www.odctg.co.uk)

PLEASE NOTE WE NOW HAVE AN OUT OF HOURS MOBILE NUMBER FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY 07484525577 IF YOUR CALL WILL NOT WAIT UNTIL THE OFFICE IS OPEN

## Escape the Cold With a Hot Punch

### Ingredients:

4 cups of very hot water.

Juice of 3 lemons.

Zest of 3 lemons cut into several pieces with a potato peeler.

1 packed cup of brown sugar.

½ cup of brandy.

2 cups of dark rum.

More sugar to taste

### Method:

Heat the water until almost at boiling point.

Add the lemon juice, lemon zest and brown sugar.

Stir until the sugar has dissolved, keeping the water hot, but not boiling.

Once the sugar has dissolved add the brandy and rum, bringing it up to a high heat, but not boiling.

Retrieve the lemon zest. And serve in a suitable heatproof glass.

Sprinkle a little nutmeg.

***Thank you to all who organised the Bonfire Night celebrations. John Shiel***



## Bonfire Night at Drewsteignton

Thank you to Alison Chapman and her helpers for another spectacular bonfire night.



## Drewsteignton Gardener's Club

**Autumn - Winter Programme**

**December 12th - Members Christmas Dinner at Fingle Bridge 7:00 for 7:30**

**January 9th - Member's night with Illustrated Talk by Philip Evans**

**All meetings 7:30 pm Village Hall**

**All welcome. Members free, visitors £1**

## Iceland

The 2010 ash cloud, a football team that knocked England out of Euro 2016 and Björk. That was the sum total of my knowledge about the Land of Fire and Ice until I went there on a geography field trip in October half term.

This sparsely populated country of 323,000 - less than the populations of Plymouth and Torbay combined - is a land of extremes and a geographer's heaven. Slightly smaller than Cuba, it lies at 64° north, just south of the Arctic Circle on the north-west edge of Europe.

Driving from Keflavík airport our coach passed snow tipped mountains that sprung from the otherwise completely flat land, lava fields from past eruptions, purebred Icelandic horses standing hoof deep in snow and a severe shortage of trees.

Our first stop was dramatic – a bridge that joined two different tectonic plates: the Eurasian and North American. These plates on a constructive boundary are moving apart at about the same rate your finger nails grow and the gap between the two tectonics was impressively large.

Over our five-day visit, 'Discover the World Education' led our party of fifty GCSE and A'level geographers round lots of famed sites such as the Golden Circle route which takes in the spectacular Fire and Ice extremes (excuse the cliché) including Geysir, Gullfoss Waterfall and Thingvellir National Park.

We visited a geothermal area at Geysir and saw Strokkur, the most active geyser in Iceland, which erupts every six minutes billowing steam to heights of 15-20m. It was really quite a spectacle and the trademark geothermal sulfur smell was a small price to pay for this marvel!

Our next stop was Gullfoss, or 'Golden Falls' in Icelandic, located in the canyon of the Hvítá River. This huge two-tiered waterfall plunges 32 meters into the deep gorge at the rate of around 140 cm<sup>3</sup> per second. As the rain pounded relentlessly, the railings provided vital walking support, yet despite the conditions we still felt hypnotized by the masses of tumbling water.

Later we visited the miniscule village of Vik, home to 291 people on Iceland's South Coast and later the magnificent Reynisfjara black sand beach. The volcanic sand was new and unfamiliar to all of us and I felt slightly unsettled by it after the golden sandy beaches of Devon and Cornwall I'd become accustomed too. Under a layer of fallen snow, the coastline became almost surreal and I took an unintentional reminder of it back in my boots.

To the left of the beach are towering basalt columns resembling a rocky step pyramid known as a 'Gardar' and sea stacks lay just out from the shore.

According to our guide, two trolls had once attempted to drag a ship to land but were turned to stone as daylight broke, turning them into the Reynisdrangar stacks.

My personal highlight was most definitely the Blue Lagoon - not a natural wonder as many, including me, first assumed but actually the by-product of a nearby geothermal power plant (Svartsengi) created in 1976. The water is renewed every two days and as we made a quick dash in just our swim wear from the heated changing rooms out into the Icelandic morning chill, the warm blue water looked invitingly steamy. Plunging into the delicious hot waters – it's between 37 – 40°C we smoothed our faces with a silica face-mask and lay floating in the milky water. The mineral rich lagoon is meant to do wonders for your skin and the skin care products are sold for a small fortune in the gift shop.

On our un-crowded early morning visit, mist and clouds rolled across the steamy water as bathers lolled around in the silica and sulphur mineral water. It was incredibly relaxing and it's easy to see why this is Iceland's main tourist destination.

On our last day we visited the small capital city Reykjavik, which means stormy bay, it has a population of 120,000 (around the same as Exeter). With a few hours to see the sights, we strolled round the quayside around 'Harpa', Reykjavik's beautiful opera house, built completely of glass and internally covered with mirrored hexagonal shapes. We investigated the flea market and after a surprisingly cheap-for-Iceland hot chocolate in a nearby café to warm us up, we walked through stalls of Icelandic goods that included homemade jewellery featuring lava stones, salt liquorice, woollen jumpers and piles of postcards including a selection of erotica ones. We joked about sending some of these to our grandparents, but decided against it.

This short but amazing visit to Iceland was my first, but certainly won't be my last.

**Tilly**

## What's on at The Drewe

### November 25th

Andy Kershaw

A legendary DJ set from a legendary DJ - playing 40s, 50s and 60s R&B

Tickets at the bar £8, £10 on the door

### November 26th

Folk in the bar: Crow Puppets. "their harmonies provide absolutely spine tingling moments... I'm a big fan" James Santer BBC Introducing.

From 8pm. FREE entry.

### December 10th

One Woman Richard III - back by popular demand!

### December 31st

New Year's Eve Party

Party the new year in with live music, a brilliant atmosphere and a bar open until 3am!

## 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

### Contact Details:

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](mailto:plrowe43@gmail.com). 281638

For Editorial John Shiell [drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk) ☎ 281282

Contributions Pauline Rowe [plrowe43@gmail.com](mailto:plrowe43@gmail.com) ☎ 281638

For Drewsteignton Alison Chapman [callum.chapman@btinternet.com](mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com) or  
Village Hall bookings ☎ 01647 281197

For Parish Council Bella Snook [clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)

Business ☎ 231046—[www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)

***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