

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

*Merry  
Christmas*



# Drewsteignton Parish Post

*From the  
Parish  
Post*

ISSUE NO. 117

DECEMBER 2015

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please remove any untaxed vehicles from the car park in Drewsteignton, DVLA will be notified and they will take action to clamp and remove them, thank you.

We have at last received an apology from West Devon Borough Council concerning the poor service to residents who complained about excessive noise at the old travellers site at Whiddon Down in the summer.

Work has been undertaken at the toilets in Drewsteignton to remove overgrowing foliage and we are putting on hold until the spring, redecorating to give that side of the building time to dry out. Mike Rowe has agreed to incorporate keeping a check on this in the future over and above his other duties, many thanks Mike.

Repairs to the lamp post in the churchyard are in hand thanks to Pete Rich DNP ranger, but it means the light will have to be removed for a short time. If you use this footpath in the dark please be aware it will not be there and bring a torch!

The Council are happy to support residents writing to businesses whose vehicles use Chapel Hill Whiddon Down illegally. We have been asked to clarify the position of buses using the road. In May 2013 the Council was of the opinion the bus should not use the road and asked Okehampton Police to clarify the position. Their reply as recorded in the minutes 066/13 "buses using Chapel Hill are within the law if a Hail & Ride service is available"

The Council resolved to support a planning application at Stonelands Crockernwell 0535 & 0536/15. We are asking DNP to look at possible breaches of planning regulations at Whiddon Down and plan to monitor the increase in advertising signs unlawfully placed on the side of the road.

Our next meeting will be at **Drewsteignton on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm** and at **Whiddon Down on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

A Very Happy Christmas to all parishioners and their families.

### Outdoor 'In Memoriam' Candles

After the service of Light, Love & Loss several people have asked me where they can get outdoor 'In Memoriam' candles as they would like to have one to light at Christmas. As I have some left over I shall pop them into Holy Trinity Church, on the right hand side, by the candle tree, adjacent to the Lady Chapel.

Jennifer

### Drewsteignton Post Office

**We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**We are now taking orders for cream, mince pies, bread, sausages and bacon for collection on Christmas Eve.**

**The shop will close at 1pm on 24th December and will re-open Tuesday 29th December 8.30am-6pm**

**Margaret and Ian**

## Whiddon Down Methodist Church

### Carol Service

In the Chapel

**Sunday 13th December**

**6.30pm**

Tea and mince pies

## Wanted

Grass keep for quiet, electric fence trained sheep. Anything considered, large or small areas. We would look after it as if it was our own.

Please contact **Louise, East Fingle Farm 01647 281301 or 07977 229065**

## ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club** – Are now having 1 lunch a month which will be the first Thursday of each month, starting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 followed by 4<sup>th</sup> February. 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016. 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016. 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. Starting 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016. 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 and she will call you back. If you have not heard back within 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or Jackie in the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours. Acorn Community Support would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and to thank everyone for their support throughout 2015.

## Tilley's Post

Over the past month I have been abuzz with mountains of homework, but still had some time for sport, mainly hockey. Unfortunately there have been very few football matches, due to the fact that they keep being rained off, because of horrendous weather conditions or saturated pitches. So this month I've decided to write about something different, or really something other than sport.

I am now part of a new group called Chagford Youth Theatre and we are participating in the National Theatre Connections scheme and performing a play called 'Bassett'. Mum and Dorothy Muir organised this and applied to participate in the scheme and then when we were successful, teamed up with Paul and Jo Diffey who will be directing the show. The adults then had to cast their eye over 12 different plays and pick 3 different options and rank them in order of which they'd like to do best.

Luckily we got our first choice! As part of the scheme you have to do 3 'home' performances, in your local area and one of these is at The Jubilee Hall in Chagford on Friday 18 March at 7pm and

one more at a proper theatre.

To those of you who know the Theatre Royal in Plymouth you will know they have 2 theatres and for our final performance we get to show our piece off in the Drum Theatre! The Theatre Royal hold a Connections Festival for an entire week in April where ten plays will be presented. Our group is the first to perform at the festival on Tuesday 19 April. The play itself covers some issues such as: Warfare, Sexuality and Violence and is set in the town of Wootton Bassett.

This town became famous for turning out to pay its respects when the bodies of deceased soldiers who had died fighting abroad were returned home. The town's name was changed to Royal Wootton Bassett in recognition of this.

The play is set in a classroom in which 14 students have been left locked inside (6 girls, 8 boys), I will probably continue to update this as the show draws nearer including where you can buy tickets to come and see it. So spread the word far and wide!

**Tilly**

## Playing Field

Thanks to everyone who attended our Bonfire Night at the Playing Field on Saturday 7th November. I hope you had a really good time. The fireworks were great and the torchlight procession was special and very unique. Personally, I found the Land of Hope and Glory section quite moving. We made an amazing profit of £1,236, some of which will go towards maintenance but a large part can go towards the new climbing frame. We are way over half way there.

Many thanks to all the people who contributed to making this event such a success. There are loads of you who made contributions or put a lot of work in and I hope you agree that it was all worthwhile. Particular thanks must go to Chris Gosnay and Drewsteignton Parish Council who each contributed £250 to the fireworks enabling us to put on such a good show and still make a sizeable profit.

Hope to see you all next year. Thanks again. **Alison**



## Superfast Broadband Meeting Summary Parke 28 Oct 2015

Peter Harper (**DNPA Chairman**) introduced the event, saying that he believes that Dartmoor NP should not be a museum, but should evolve. There are currently 35,000 residents, at least 2,000 businesses, and 2.3 million visitors.

Matt Barrow (from **Connecting Devon & Somerset**) said that detailed mapping of Superfast availability has been carried out and property by property details will be available shortly. Current mapping is based on postcodes. Properties within 1.2km of a cabinet will get the full benefit, those within 2.2km will see improvement.

This work is being done nation-wide, the Devon & Somerset section is the largest, in area, population and funding. To qualify for the EU funding meant a 'step change' was required, rather than any gradual progress.

Dartmoor & Exmoor are treated separately from Devon & Somerset for companies who want tender for the installation work.

Cabinet installation is notably early in the procedure, so seeing a new cabinet doesn't mean Superfast doesn't mean the service is imminent.

Kate Doodson (from **Cosmic**) talked about the 'internet of things' as opposed to the internet as a source of information, mentioning gadgets that can tell you how stressed you are, how far your dog has walked, etc

Cloud based storage and software will be more flexible, easier to upgrade, and safe with back-up. Businesses should use their customer data to expand and diversify their options.

Various training seminars are available.

Redman Peel (from **Airband**) said that the technical solution to the installation challenge is to use fixed wireless with microwaves. Using Western Powers fibre optic cabling along the 'spine' routes, and then microwave technology to get to more remote places. This relies on discreet masts, about 50 to cover Dartmoor, with a small (30cm ish) receiver installed on or near each house.

Their brief is to weight each area partly based on current Broadband speeds, the worst areas gaining some priority on installation timing.

BT have taken all the commercially viable areas, and CDS find suppliers who can tackle the rest with EU & government funding to support the financial aspect. Some BT areas may be handed back to CDS.

Airband have already worked on Superfast Broadband in remote areas in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire amongst others. They have about 25 employees and work with local sub contractors to achieve their targets

All these organisations are happy to be contacted, and residents can get updates from their websites.

[www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/dartmoorandexmoor](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/dartmoorandexmoor)

[www.get-up-to-speed.co.uk](http://www.get-up-to-speed.co.uk)

[www.airband.co](http://www.airband.co)

## What's on at The Drewe

The festive season is now upon us. Our special Christmas menu is available throughout December so why not book a celebratory meal with friends, colleagues or family? We are offering a delicious choice of starters, mains and desserts; choose two courses for £17.95 or three for £21.95.

On Christmas Eve, we are serving fish and chips from 6pm, so why not join us for some good company and cheer? Or pop in on Christmas Day between 12 - 2.30pm for some complimentary mince pies and mulled cider.

On New Year's Eve, we are having a party with the fabulous Johnny Fuller Band playing from 8pm til late. Tickets are now available: £5 in advance, £7.50 on the door.

Let's make it a night to remember!

Have a very Merry Christmas!

**Gary and the team.**

**01647 281409**



## Okehampton District Community Transport Group

### 100 Club

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 us at the address below.

### Community Car Service Drivers

We welcome Brian and Jane Hignett from Sticklepath, Robert Reddington from Okehampton, Jacqui Slade from Chagford and Terry Alford from Bridestowe to our team.

We are actively seeking more volunteer drivers, particularly in Okehampton itself, if you know of someone who might be available for a few hours a week then please ask them to get in touch!

### Christmas Lunch – 25<sup>th</sup> December

We have been asked to share this information from Jacqui and Kirsty Reynolds –

We are holding a Christmas Day lunch and tea for people who would be on their own on Christmas Day. We are catering for 60 people plus any carers and drivers. We are asking for a booking fee of £10 per person, to be paid in advance to secure place, carers and drivers eat for free but will still need a place booking so we know how many people we are catering for. If we receive enough donations for the day we will refund the money on the day. This is to be held at Fairplace Church Hall, it is open to people of all ages, single parent families, people who for whatever reason are finding themselves on their own this Christmas. The Christmas dinner will be for everyone who books but we are opening the doors at 3pm to anyone who wants to come down and spend some time with us.

### Christmas Holiday

Please note that the office will close at 4pm on Wednesday 23rd December. On Tuesday 29th and Thursday 31st December the office will be open for a couple of 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 answerphone will be on for messages,

### Hospital Admissions

Please could we ask that if you are admitted to hospital that you ask someone to let us know if you have a journey booked. We have recently had a couple of instances when the driver has called to collect a client and been unable to get them to answer the door, we then tried ringing the telephone with no success. We then try neighbours, contact doctor and family if we can. Unfortunately if all this fails then we ask the Police to break in to ensure that the client is safe and well. It can be distressing for the drivers and sometimes takes a lot of time and calls to solve the situation but the health and safety of our clients is important to us and we have in the past discovered clients who have fallen and been unable to call for help so will continue to take these steps.

### Pulmonary Maintenance Group

For people who have been diagnosed with respiratory diseases, both obstructive, like COPD, or restrictive, such as asthma, this group provides a weekly exercise programme, designed and instructed by a level 4 qualified instructor. The group is purely exercise based, not at all medical. Participants are introduced to a daily and weekly routine of exercise that will promote a better quality of life and help participants remain independent. It offers support and encouragement to continue functioning as normal despite the breathlessness. They have a few laughs in between and within this uplifting environment, participants find a social interaction that builds well-being. The group takes place at the OCRA Pavilion in the Park, Wednesdays 11.45 – 13.00. There is a £2 fee. Parking is free next to the tennis courts. If you think this group may be for you, please get in touch or go along. Please contact Lynne Rogers 07827787867 with any queries. Ideally referred participants would have been assessed and referrals to have been made by a doctor, or the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Group, as offered through NHS. They do try to give each participant their own programme individualised to allow for other medical considerations or restrictions, so receiving the referral beforehand would be preferable.

Referrals can be emailed to [lynneandbrett@hotmail.com](mailto:lynneandbrett@hotmail.com) or participants can take them to the session.

### Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms/Door Safety

We have a number of alarms, door chains and spyholes available in the office, for a donation towards our funds. Please speak to one of us if you would like further information.

**Sue & Liz,** [sue.odctg@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.odctg@btinternet.com) [www.odctg.co.uk](http://www.odctg.co.uk)

## Bird Notes

From time to time, I write about ringing birds, either the juvenile swifts in my nest boxes on our row at Churchgate or the peregrine falcons on St. Michaels church in Exeter. The BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) organise the British and Irish ringing schemes and around 750,000 birds are ringed each year by over 2,000 trained ringers, most of whom are volunteers. Bird ringing aims to understand what is happening to birds in the places they live and how this affects population increases and decreases. This knowledge is vital for conservation. It also gives information on the movements individual birds make and how long many live for.

In Exeter, we ring the juvenile peregrines in the nest, normally when they are 16 to 21 days old, with a unique numbered metal ring around the lower leg, and also with a larger coloured ring with two letters. The purpose of the colour ring is to get information from live sightings, whereas the metal rings mainly provide information if the ringed bird is re-trapped or recovered dead.

We first ringed the Exeter juveniles in the nest in 2013, and two females and a male were ringed and colour banded (Light blue rings with black letters: FV on the male, FT and FX on the females) on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, and they subsequently fledged in early June. They all stayed around the city until they sought independence during the autumn. The male 'FV' was recovered at Shoebrooke, near Crediton on the 18<sup>th</sup> October with a fractured wing, just perched on a bank beside the road. He had probably stuck overhead wires, and his injuries were such that he was put to sleep by the RSPCA. He was found 12km north of the ringing site and 154 days after ringing.

The last sighting of a female juvenile at the church was on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, and nothing more was heard about the remaining two 2013 females until this year when I was sent a ringing recovery report for 'FX'. She had been found dead in Halifax, west Yorkshire on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015, and the details revealed she 'had entered a building', was recovered 'not fresh' and found 'at the bottom of a mill chimney'. This was 662 days after ringing and a distance of 356km.

This was fascinating information and I contacted the finder for more details on this bird as it was the furthest distance that any of our ringed birds had been recovered. The maintenance manager explained the peregrine must have entered the top of the 220 foot high chimney of a carpet mill then been unable to get out and was found dead at the bottom. The redundant chimney was on a building that had once been the biggest carpet mill in Europe and was now used for retail outlets and office space. When I asked where it was now, he said it was still there in the base of the chimney. I asked if he could send it to me so I could get it x-rayed to confirm it had not been shot.

When I received the sealed package a week later, I was amazed to find the bird looked reasonably fresh but it did smell a bit. I passed it on to the vet we use in Exeter to check the juvenile peregrines if they come down to the ground, and it went into his freezer. When he x-rayed it, he called me to say it had been shot and when I got the email, there were 5 shotgun pellets clearly visible on the image. Two pellets were located in the birds neck, two more in the right leg and one in the abdomen.

I was angry that someone had tried to kill this peregrine by shooting it. This was a bird I had handled when it was about 18 days old, and it was a wildlife crime, albeit an unsolvable one. It was highly unlikely the peregrine had been shot in the centre of Halifax where it had been found, and so it could be argued that it may have been shot at anywhere between the outskirts of Exeter in 2013 and Halifax in early 2015. I sought advice from a local Wildlife Crime Officer and then got it registered with the West Yorkshire Police, and was given a Crime number for the case.

To highlight this incident, I gave all the information and the x-ray to the 'Express and Echo' and the 'Western Morning News' who featured it in the papers and online, along with comments from the RSPB, and the story was picked up by BBC 'Spotlight' and shown on the local news programme.

We will never know where 'FX' was shot, or by who, but it is more likely that this incident took place closer to where she was found than where she was from. Peregrines need to be fully fit and in perfect condition to live from day to day, and catch the prey they need to survive. We do not know how long she carried those pellets or how debilitating they were.

The RSPB have just published 'Birdcrime 2014, Offences against Wildbird legislation in the UK', in which there were 179 known incidents of shooting and destruction of birds of prey last year. Next year, when the RSPB publish their 'Birdcrime 2015' report, it will include the illegal shooting of FX, a female peregrine reared at St. Michaels church in Exeter. **Nick**

## Granny's Scottish Recipe - Selkirk Bannock

### Ingredients:

**1 lb flour**  
**8 oz sultanas (seedless)**  
**4 oz sugar**  
**2 oz butter and 2 oz lard**  
**2 oz chopped mixed peel**  
**Quarter pint milk**  
**1 teaspoon dried yeast**  
**1 tablespoon of milk and sugar for the glaze**

### Method:

Sieve the flour and sugar into a bowl, add the yeast and mix well. Melt the butter and lard in a saucepan on a low heat. Remove as soon as it is melted. Warm the milk in another saucepan and then pour it into the melted fats.

Create a hole in the middle of the flour, sugar and yeast and mix well into a smooth dough. Cover the bowl with a warm, damp towel (or plastic cling film) and leave in a warm location for 45 minutes. The dough will rise, doubling in size.

Knead the dough (with flour on your hands to stop it sticking) for five minutes. Add the sultanas and mixed peel and knead well again for another five minutes. Place the dough in a loaf tin and cover with a plastic polythene bag (tied at the top) and leave in a warm place for 20 minutes to allow it to rise again. Remove the tin from the bag and bake in a preheated oven at 350F/180C/Gas Mark 4 for an hour. Mix the tablespoon of milk and sugar. Remove the cake tin from the oven and place on a heat-resistant surface. Brush the top with the milk and sugar, using a pastry brush. Return the cake tin to the oven (using oven gloves - it's still hot) and bake for another twenty minutes. Test with a skewer - if it is wet, continue baking for another ten minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool before removing. Store in an airtight container



## Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone who very generously gave money towards my sponsored bounce in aid of the 'Children in Need' appeal 2015, on Saturday 14th November.

### **I raised a total of £121.50**

I did 1,000 bounces on my trampoline (in the rain) in my garden. The bounces were counted by my mum, dad and grandma. Thank you again to everyone who helped me to raise money that can save lives and really make a difference!!!!

**Flora Dixon**

## Drewsteignton Branch Royal British Legion Women's Section

Once again a very big thank you to everyone who came along to our Soup and Sandwiches on November 14th and afterwards to the WW2 exhibition in the Church.

Soup and Sandwiches raised £368

World War2 Exhibition raised £215.50

Thank you to Jennifer Mullins for organising the exhibition and everyone who helped.

We recently received a letter from Tony Wright at headquarters.

**"Dear Miss Smith**

**Thank you very much for your branch donation of £2,000 to the Benevolent Fund.**

**Please thank everyone at Drewsteignton for this very generous donation. You have clearly been hard at work fundraising for our organisation. These are difficult times economically and this will provide a welcome boost to our welfare work."**

**Yours sincerely**

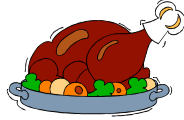
**Tony Wright**

**Accountant and Acting National Secretary.**

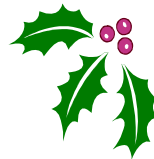
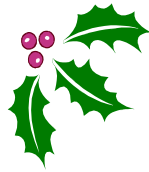
## WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL



### CHRISTMAS FRESH POULTRY BINGO (SUPPLIED BY MARTIN'S, CHAGFORD)



MONDAY 21st DECEMBER  
DOORS OPEN 7.30PM  
EYES DOWN 8.00PM



## The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes. Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too. Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below.

If you don't tell us we can't print it

**John and Pauline**

## Drewsteignton

## Parish Post

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If you have trouble reading this publication please let me know and I will arrange for a large format version to be sent to you

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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 January - Thank You