


PRINCETOWN NEWS

INCLUDING MERRIVALE, TWO BRIDGES & POSTBRIDGE

AUTUMN ISSUE 2012

Village news and what's on, in and around
Princetown, Postbridge and surrounding areas.



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LET'S SHARE THE NEWS.....

As the new editor of the Princetown News, firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to the Princetown News team for such a wonderful job so far. This publication is such a blessing for the village - well done! Christine has left me a very big pair of shoes to fill and I would like to wish Christine and her family all the best in their new home in Plymouth.

As the new editor, I wondered what I could bring to the magazine and my initial thought was for me to become more pro-active in the village. I wanted to get out there in the field and find out what is happening within our community. So, I have been out and about, asking questions and talking to some very interesting people who are in the know!

I have discovered that there are many projects and activities which we are not always aware of or which may not be obvious to us, even though we often drive past them every day. So for future issues, my aim is to find out not only what has happened, but what will be happening ahead of time, so we may visit/participate/help etc. How many times do we say, "I didn't know anything about it - if I had I would have been there."

Since I moved to Princetown five and a half years ago, I have met many of the lovely people who live and work in the village, so my initial contacts have been made with those I already know or am familiar with (*and my thanks to them for being so helpful*). There are however, so very many more of you, whom I don't know, undoubtedly with interesting stories to tell which our readers would love to share, so please, do get in touch and talk to me!

I am sure some of you have a wealth of information about the area which many of our new residents have no idea about, but would love to hear. Maybe you or your parents lived in the Foggintor Quarry community like one or two members of our History Club? Or what about the train which came up to Princetown – some of you must have funny or exciting tales to share? How about 'show and tell'? It's time to turn the attic out, dust off the albums and show us what Uncle Albert got up to all those years ago!

But it's not only stories we want to hear – maybe you have an event coming up which you would like assistance with or increased visitor numbers. Why not put something on our Notice Board, so we can tell everyone for you?

During this last month I have been fascinated, learning about everything from wells which are supposed to have healing powers for curing eye sight problems, to prisoners with chain saws! O how the mind boggles!!

I hope you get as much enjoyment from reading this issue as I have had, helping to put it together.

Please let us know your thoughts and ideas - we would love to hear from you all as this is your publication.

Vicki Gavin
Editor



DIARY DATES - AUTUMN 2012

September

- 4th (Tuesday) 7.30pm, Princetown History Club, Community Centre
5th (Wednesday) 7.30pm, WI, Church Hall, Tor Royal Lane
6 - 9th Heritage Open Day (*FREE*) :01822 890 414 www.dartmoor.gov.uk/visiting
13th (Thursday) P Community Centre AGM, Community Centre
19th (Wednesday) Citizen's Advice Bureau (*drop-in*), Community Centre
19th (Wed) 7pm, Devon Air Ambulance Pasty, Pudding Quiz, Postbridge Village Hall
20th (Thursday) PRF, Totnes Cruise and lunch.

October

- 2nd (Tuesday) 7.30pm, Princetown History Club, Community Centre
3rd (Wednesday) 7.30pm, WI, Church Hall, Tor Royal Lane
17th (Wednesday) Citizen's Advice Bureau (drop-in), Community Centre
20th (Thursday) PRF, Epicurean Mystery Tour, breakfast, lunch & dinner
31st – Nov 2nd , Arts & Crafts Exhibition, Princetown Primary School

November

- 1st (Thursday) 12.30pm , PRF, Prince of Wales Resturant
6th (Tuesday) 7.30pm, Princetown History Club, Community Centre
7th (Wednesday) 7.30pm, WI, Church Hall, Tor Royal Lane
10th (Saturday) Bonfire Night Extravaganza , Community Centre
21st (Wednesday) Citizen's Advice Bureau (drop-in), Community Centre
24th (Saturday) Princetown Ball, Community Centre

Weekly Dates:

- Every Tuesday: Princetown Stay & Play, (*TACC*) 10.30am-12noon in the small hall of the Community Centre (*ages 0-5 years*)
Every Wednesday: Princetown Credit Union 11am-1pm - Community Centre
Every Wednesday: Rotary Club of Yelverton.
Every Sunday: Princetown United Church 11am-12noon

West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau

TAVISTOCK

Kingdon House,
North Street,
Tavistock
PL19 0AN

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10-2pm
Drop in or ring 08444 111 444 during these hours.

OKEHAMPTON

The Ockment Centre
North Street
Okehampton
EX20 1AR

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
10- 2pm
Drop in or ring 08444 111 444 during these hours. Website: www.westdevoncab.org.uk



West Devon CAB also offers "Drop In" Outreach advice sessions at Bere Alston Surgery and **Princetown Community Centre, every 3rd Wednesday of the month.**

For further information, or to make an appointment, ring 01837 52105.

Greetings from us all at WI.

Why not read what we get up to and then come and join us at one of our monthly meetings. We would be happy to see you. We offer two taster sessions at £1 each before you make your mind up.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7.30pm in the church hall on Tor Royal Lane. If you would like to know more about us, please feel free to contact **Sue on 01822 880395** or 'just come along'.

We really are a very friendly group so what are you waiting for!!

The ladies of HMWI have been very busy baking for the annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition held at Princetown Primary School between 2nd – 11th August. This is a huge fundraising event for us (*this year we made a fantastic £800+*) which will help somewhat towards paying for the Seniors party at Christmastime; which makes me wonder if you are, or indeed know of any eligible state pension holders in Princetown who would like to come to this ever popular lunch. Please contact me on the number at the top of the page and I will pass on the details. There will be another Arts and Crafts fair (mainly a Christmas theme) at the School between October 31st and November 2nd and the WI will provide homemade soup, bacon rolls, quiches etc. Entry is free, so why not come and look around, maybe even stop for a tasty lunch.



During the next few months we shall be helping to support exciting activities in Princetown. Let me tell you a little about them here but please come and see for yourselves what is happening in your village. In October (date to be confirmed) you can participate in The Big Chair Dance in the community hall, this hopes to bring people together in a fun activity which will be good exercise too, so come and have some fun and then some 'tea and cake' provided by WI.

November sees the arrival of some members of The Royal Ballet and a contemporary dance company called 'Freddie', who will be giving a performance, in which local school children will hopefully be taking part, in the community hall for you to enjoy. Again, WI will be providing refreshments for these 'not to be missed' events. Keep your eyes open for posters around the village from the end of August.

Once again we shall be providing the mulled wine and mince pies at the annual carol service in St Michael's Church on 10th December. As in previous years, wrap up warm and come and sing in this wonderful church, then have a warming drink.

We look forward to seeing you.

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Autumn birds – it's all change!

By now, all our favourite summer visitors are long gone to warmer climes. Swallows, Swifts, Cuckoos, House martins and all the others will, by now, be anywhere between Spain and Portugal and as far south as the equatorial regions of Africa. Where they go, exactly, is still not known, but year on year we're learning more, as I described in my last story about the Cuckoos.



However, though they've gone, we're not spoilt for variety as new species arrive to spend the winter in our 'warmer' climate. In our gardens and the local fields we can keep our eyes open for Bramblings, Redwings and Fieldfares.

Out on the moor we may be lucky enough to see flocks of Golden Plover flying over or feeding. Often they give their presence away with a single distinct and beautiful 'peep', given by the bird who's on guard duty!

Do keep your bird feeders clean and filled and, if you can, ensure there's a supply of fresh water in a shallow bowl or tray – it's very important to help the birds bathe and look after their plumage, to keep them warm.

If you have any bird questions please contact me on 890520.

Paul Stubbs.



Princetown Pre-school Disco

**Pre-Schools
70's/80's
themed night.**

Sat 20th October
7.30pm - late at the
Community Centre.
Disco, Bar & Raffle
£2 entry on the door

ADULTS ONLY



DUCHY OF CORNWALL

UP-DATE

The Duchy welcomes the invitation from the Editor to provide the community with an up-date on Estate work within and outside Princetown.

Following significant work in the centre of Princetown during 2008 and 2009 which has led to the enhancement of Tavistock Road, several projects have been taking place outside the village on the wider, agricultural Estate.

In January 2012 the Duchy completed the refurbishment of Grade 2* Listed Tor Royal Farmhouse. This 6 bedroom property was originally designed and constructed by Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, a former Secretary of the Duchy in the late 1700's. The property was later extended in the early 1900's to provide a Dartmoor base for Edward VIII.

The farmhouse now provides accommodation for the Colton family who took the tenancy of Tor Royal Farm in 2009 following the retirement of the previous tenants. The property is heated by a newly installed wood-chip boiler, with fuel being provided by the Dartmoor Woodfuel-Cooperative, which was established at Duchy owned Brimpts Farm in 2009. The Cooperative exists to provide locally sourced wood-chip to biomass boilers in the Dartmoor area and raw material is supplied by the Forestry Commission and the Duchy. It operates on a not for profit basis, with the aim of ensuring the availability of reasonably priced fuel to boiler owners.

With effect from May 2010 and linked to the re-letting of Tor Royal, the former Prison Farm reverted back to one holding and this has been let to brothers Neil and Mat Cole. When Torgate House, adjoining Tor Royal reverted to the Duchy this property was refurbished and it now provides a farmhouse for Neil Cole and his family, relatively close to the Prison.

Some residents will recall a consultation evening which took place at the Duchy office in late 2008, at which residential development proposals were presented relating to three sites in Princetown; the site of Bellever Close garages, the former Prison Officers' Club and the site to the rear of Royal Court. The Duchy has developed housing schemes for these sites and following amendments that were made to certain aspects of the designs after the original consultation event, the Duchy will be arranging a further consultation event in the next few weeks prior to the proposals being submitted to the National Park Authority for planning approval. This event will be promoted locally.

On the basis that planning consent is secured, the plots will be sold for development, with the designs in place. Housing needs surveys conducted by the local authorities maintain the opinion that at present, all new dwellings in Princetown can be for open market occupation and a range of sized properties will be developed, including flats within the former Prison Officers' Club in order to appeal to a cross section of the housing market.

The Duchy has been managing the community centre since November 2010 in order to safeguard not only the hall for public use but the doctors surgery, library and children's crèche. The Duchy is most grateful to all those who have assisted on a voluntary basis to ensure the Centre's continued operation. A new management committee is now in place, Chaired by Mr Ian Morgan and a lease agreement is very close to being completed to enable the Centre to pass back to the management of the community. The operation of the key services detailed such as the doctors will not be affected by the handover.

Devon County Council is undertaking a scoping exercise relating to the future use of the Duchy Square Arts Centre following its recent closure. The Duchy and Parish Council are being kept up-dated on progress.

The Estate has recently hosted the English National Fly Fishing Rivers Final, which took place, mainly on the East and West Dart on 15th July. Thirty two anglers from all over the Country took part, with the six highest scoring individuals being selected for the England team. A successful and enjoyable prize giving dinner was held after the competition at the Two Bridges hotel, with beef being supplied by the Dartmoor Farmers Association, a meat marketing initiative inspired by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, which began operating in 2008.

The competition took place on one of the few dry days of the summer to date and it is hoped that we can now look forward to better weather for the remainder of August.

I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable Autumn.

Tom Stratton
Duchy of Cornwall



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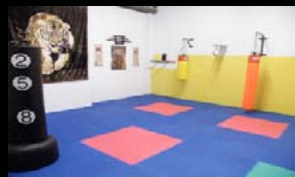
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Princetown United Church

(Tor Royal Lane PL20 6QT)

All are welcome at our simple and relaxed church services held each Sunday from 11am to noon (except 30th September when we join other west Dartmoor parishes at 10am at Meavy church).

New clergy are joining the team led by ministers Nick Shutt and Pam Stranks in September – look out for further news as they introduce themselves.

Special services:

Special services as announced – see noticeboard outside the church, Princetown News website and www.westdartmoorbenevice.co.uk

Please bear with us as we fix a problem with the hall floor.
Normal activities continue but some may change location.



On the **first Wednesday of each month 4:30pm - 6pm.**

Messy Church combines crafts, songs and stories for all ages, ending with a light meal. All welcome: children under 16 must come with an adult.

First Wednesday of each month @ 4.30pm to 6pm

5th September

3rd October

7th November

5th December

(Themes to be confirmed)



Any changes to the programme will be posted on the church noticeboard or Princetown News website.

CINDERELLA

YEAR 4 PRESENT 'A PRINCE IN TOWN' STARRING ...



From *Princetown Primary School*





GIVE IT TO ME NOW!

I WISH THEY'D SHUT UP.

IT'S MINE..

NO. IT'S MINE.

A NORMAL DAY FOR CINDERELLA AND HER SISTERS WHEN ...



ROYAL INVITE

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ROYAL FANCY BALL PLEASE COME. THE PRINCE WILL BE THERE!



I'VE GOT A LOVELY DRESS. I'LL LOOK THE PRETTIEST.

I'LL NEED A NEW HAT.

I HAVEN'T GOT A PARTY DRESS.



YOU'RE NOT GOING! YOU'VE GOT JOBS TO DO.

WHATEVER..



LATER ...

I'LL NEVER GET THOSE JOBS DONE. AND I HAVEN'T GOT A DRESS.



I LOOK SO GORGEOUS.

I LOOK AMAZING.

BUT ...



I'LL TEXT 'FAIRY GODMOTHER'!

to be continued...

Princetown Community Centre

- does it have a future?

With Ian Morgan – Chairman of Princetown Community Centre.

The centre is still in the hands of the Duchy as the new committee is waiting for the “charge” to be signed off from the Big Lottery Fund; confirmation that there will be no change of use of the building.

The new chairman of the centre is very confident about its future – something that most of us are no doubt, extremely glad to hear, as our doctor’s surgery, pre-school and library play a very important role within our community. Not forgetting the fantastic facilities which can be used for anything from ‘balls to badminton’! The centre is keen to encourage regular users such as Jess and her ‘Dance for Devon’ classes - lively ladies and energetic youngsters, keen to learn to dance under her expert guidance. Her enthusiasm and energy show no limits! Princetown’s very own football team will be able to use the facilities with their home turf once the pitch is built – for both training and home matches. Ian has also had enquires about a Real Ale festival, a Food Fest and a Barn Dance, so potentially exciting times ahead.

It seems in the past that there have been many variations in pricing for the hiring of the centre so the new committee is keen to ensure that a pricing structure is simple to understand and fairly priced, particularly for regular, local users.

When they take control from the Duchy, the new committee are looking to make it a BT hub’ hotspot’ so people can come down and use the wireless internet connection; this will be free if they bring and use their own laptop, but there will be a small charge for the use of the Princetown Community Centre laptops. There will also be scanning and photocopying facilities available and eventually a coffee machine – sounds good to me!

Until the charity actually has complete control, they cannot set up the web site properly, or spend any of the money in its bank account. Security remains a priority for the building and they have recently had a firm in with a view to the installation of 360 CCTV, possibly as a jointly funded project with the pre-school. Ian says, ‘there are huge changes aimed at the whole spectrum of village life and lots of work is going on behind the scenes to encourage new business, both for locals and the wider community’.

Sadly, there isn’t any money available for employed staff but any volunteer assistance would be extremely welcome for opening up, showing potential customers around etc. They are keen to encourage enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to be part of the future of the hub of our community. Most villages have a ‘hall’ – Princetown has so much more than that, it just needs a little help to reach its full potential!

DATE FOR DIARY: Saturday November 10th Bonfire night Extravaganza.

**Congatulations to Dartmoor
Brewery on the celebration of it's
1000th brew of Jail Ale, which took
place on Thursday 16th Aug.**



Dartmoor Brewery has won yet another Gold Medal at the South West Brewing awards held at the Tuckers Maltings in Newton Abbott. The SIBA (*Society of independent brewers*) Beer Festival with 75 breweries who entered 262 real ales in 8 different beer categories.

Dartmoor Brewery's 'Three Hares' is a 4.4% ale that is made with Heather Honey sourced only from the Moor, giving a delicious golden brown ale with a rich spicy taste of Dartmoor heather honey and a hint of Apricots.

This is the second Gold award that Dartmoor Brewery has one in just 3 years.

Notice Board

Dartmoor Martial Art Studio here in Princetown celebrates their first Brown belts after successful gradings.



Congratulations to Jessica Jones & Jasime Sharmen for receiving their Brown Belts and to Matthew Byrne-Evans and Iris Alexander for receiving their red Belts. Matthew also received the 'Most Improved Student' Award.



The younger students will have their gradings in September.

Devon Air Ambulance Pasty, Pudding Quiz

**Wednesday 19th September 7pm
Postbridge Village Hall**

£6 per person, inc quiz entry & prizes, hot pasty supper, homemade pudding, tea or coffee or bring your own drinks. Big Raffle with great prizes. Tickets available from Postbridge Postoffice & Storeor call Helen on: 01822 880218.



Postbridge Whist Drives

Whist Drives are held at the Postbridge Village Hall
Learners are especially welcome.

*Entrance fee is £2 and includes refreshments and prizes.
For more information telephone Helen on 01822 880218.*

Whist Drives Dates:

4th September
18th September
2nd October
16th October
30th October
13th November
27th November
11th December



PRINCETOWN HISTORY CLUB

Why not come along to one of the following talks at the Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm to discover the moor and surrounding area.
Further information from Roger Paul tel 01647 231080

Tuesday 4th September: “Behind Closed Doors” which is based upon the eyes of a Town Missionary in Plymouth between 1851–1869. A revealing talk on the seedier life of Plymouth!

Tuesday 2nd October: “The City of Exeter” an illustrated talk given by Tony Burgess.

Tuesday 6th November: “Victorian Watercolours of Dartmoor & District” as painted by Josephine Browne: an illustrated talk by Tom Greeves.

Tuesday 4th December: Quiz & Buffet at the Prince of Wales Pub



Princetown History Club Visit to Fices Well, Omen Beam Farm and Tinworks

On a rather typical Dartmoor Summer Evening (mizzle) 18 hardy members of the history club met on Tuesday 7th for a walk out to Fices Well and the old Omen Beam Farm and Tinworks.

Led by Dr Tom Greeves the club’s vice president they first visited the well and Tom told the story of how the well came into being, when in 1568 John Fitz and his wife had lost their way travelling on the moor from Tavistock to Chagford and had been able to drink the water from the spring. He then erected the granite roof slab and surround as a token of his gratitude.

Tom also told us that the well had healing powers and is said to cure problems with eyesight!

We then crossed the Blackbrook on the clapper bridge which is on the old route from Tavistock to Chagford centuries before the road crossing the moor as we know it today. We then found the old remains of the Omen Beam cottage now lost in the reeds, where Tom told us some history of the farm, prior to 1840 when it was taken over by the convict prison authorities.

Finally we ended up at the very large and deep Tinworks, similar in size to those found at Chaw Gulley, a lasting example of the huge amount of tin which must have been extracted from the area. It was then back to the cars and to the Prince of Wales for a welcome cup of hot chocolate and a pint of beer!

Moor Trees Biodiversity Project at HMP Dartmoor.



Many local readers will have undoubtedly noticed some activity recently in the area of ground directly opposite Dartmoor Prison. Moor Trees, a Devon based charity, has been working in partnership with the prison for a little over three years. We began by establishing three tree nurseries within the prison estate which have been tended by prisoners and the trees are now ready to be planted out over the next couple of years within the prison estate.

In June of last year we began the restoration of the Victorian reservoir opposite the prison. The Moor Trees project officer (Paul Hammett), assisted by one of the prison instructors (Nigel Melrose) and Paul Freeman, in addition to six prisoners at any one time drained the sadly neglected reservoir, dredged and cleaned it, carried out extensive repairs to prevent further leakage, fitted a sluice system to enable the water level to be controlled in the future and finally refilled it.

Last autumn several prisoners were given chainsaw training and severally thinned the then existing overgrown beech wood. From the tree trunks the prisoners built several wood stacks to encourage wildlife to the area and the tree branches were chipped and spread over the area to stem weed growth. During the summer this year the main effort has been the creation of a figure of eight pathway around the site. Again prisoners have been involved in this work and will have lain over two hundred tonnes of scalping by the time this work is complete.

The prison workshops have produced forty five nesting boxes which will be sited in time for next year's nesting season. Recently, Moor Trees has agreed to manage the prison estate for the next seven years and plans to create a nature reserve are already being formulated.

This whole project really has been a 'win-win' situation for all those concerned. The prison has had its estate improved at nil cost, prisoners have had training and gained qualifications in a variety of land based skills which will hopefully enhance their opportunities for employment on release, and of course the local area has been improved for the benefit of the Princetown community.



PRINCETOWN LIBRARY

The **Princetown Library** is located at the Community Centre.

It is open three days a week, **Monday 2pm - 4pm,**
Wednesday & Saturday from 10.00am - 12:00pm

Book Club meets on the last Saturday of every month
10:30am - 11:30am

Health & Wellbeing Week at Princetown Library
October 15th, over 50's quiz and cream tea's from 3:30pm - 4pm



PRINCETOWN CREDIT UNION

The Princetown Service Point is located in the Community Centre.

It is open once a week on **Wednesday** mornings between **11.00am**
and 1.00pm. Come along to find out more, you don't need an
appointment, just turn up.

NEW! Our Visa Pre-Paid card is now available.

You can use it on-line at major high street retailers and pay bills.

Makes budgeting easy as you can only spend what you have on the card!



PRINCETOWN RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



The Group meets on the first Thursday of each month throughout the year. During the winter months we also invite a Guest Speaker to address the meeting on a variety of interesting subjects, each usually complimented by a photographic slide-show.

Forthcoming Events include:-

Thursday 20th Sept Coach trip to Totnes Cruise, down the River Dart to Dartmouth. 3 course lunch in the Royal Dart Hotel, Kingswear.

Thursday 18th Oct Epicurean Mystery Tour.

Include breakfast, light lunch & dinner, refreshment stops in between.

For more information or to book a place call Mike on: 890 799

We meet at **12.30pm on the first Thursday of each month** in the Restaurant of the Prince of Wales, Tavistock Road, Princetown.

If you are retired, do come along. You will be assured of a warm welcome.



Having a fantastic day out and having a pleasant time strolling the streets of Exeter including a visit to Exeter Cathedral and the Quay side.

Having our photo taking outside of the Port Royal Restaurant after tucking into a lovely three course lunch over looking the Quay.



An entertaining afternoon at Betty Cottles Inn, near Okehampton. A Carvery for a king followed by a recital of Poetry, Ryymes, Limericks and Dirty Ditties. It proved to be a very entertaining, humorous and well satisfying afternoon for everyone.



Enjoying some of the excellent entertainment at Trethorne Leisure Farm. After a grand three course meal Mike Fitzpatrick got the highest score at bowling.



For more information or to book your place call Mike on: 890 799

**We on the first Thursday of each month
Do come along, you will be assured of a warm
welcome and lots of fun.**

Tavistock Area Children's Centre



There are craft activities, toys, games and a snack for the children, tea or coffee for the adults.

On the **4th Tuesday of each month the Health Visitors** will be at sessions available to weigh & measure your babies and toddlers.



We are really sorry but the **'Bounce & Rhyme'** Session at the Princetown Library on Wednesday mornings has had to stop. Why not visit the library anyway on Mondays, Wednesdays & Saturdays to borrow or read a book.

You do not need to be a member of the Children's Centre to attend our sessions, look out for new Princetown sessions in the Autumn.

Why not pop into one of our sessions. For more information about the Children's Centre or any of our services call the office on 01822-614210, or e-mail tavistockchildrenscentre@barnardos.org.uk.

**FREE sessions
for families
with children
Under 5.**

**EVERY
TUESDAY
Drop-In at the
'Small Hall'
at the
Community
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A composite image for Spirit of Adventure. It features a large stone cross in a grassy field under a blue sky. Overlaid on the image are several polaroid-style photos: one of people rafting labeled 'Young Spirit', one of a person climbing a rock labeled 'Courses', one of a colorful raft labeled 'Adventure', and one of people rafting labeled 'Water skills'. A large tag is pinned to the cross with the 'Spirit of Adventure' logo and contact details.

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Dartmoor Parish Council

What are our Councillors doing for us?



JUBILEE DAY

Many of you happily attended the Princetown get together for the Jubilee celebrations, but did you know..... Dartmoor Parish Council provided the money for and supplied all the beautiful, china Jubilee mugs for the children in the parish, along with a tasty ice-cream (*not that the weather inspired us to devour such things!*) The purse was distributed evenly between the suppliers of those frozen delights, namely the Fox Tor cafe, the Post Office and Lord's. Our thanks to Bridget Turnbull who walked the streets in the pouring rain, collecting them all ☺



THE PAVILLION & YOUTH CLUB

The Parish Council (PC) is unhappy that the Youth Leader hours have been removed by Devon County Council and is consequently holding a meeting in early September, with the Youth Service to re-establish hours for Youth Service in Princetown.



THE PLAY PARK

The Parish Council needs to raise a further £12,000 for the next phase. They currently have £4500 and Emma Derham (*one of the Councillors*) is looking for funding and will shortly be submitting a bid for an award from Biffa to help continue the improvements to this area. This money is to replace the swings and provide equipment for the toddler area.



PRINCETOWN TOILETS

The toilet block belonged to the National Park Authority but some 7/8 years ago they said they could no longer keep it, so it was given to West Devon Borough Council. They are still responsible for the day to day cleaning and disposables,



plus refurbishment etc roughly every 4 years. With the present cuts in local authority spending, West Devon advised the toilets will be closed unless funding can be found and handed them down to the Parish Council. Closing them became a reality, like the ones at Yelverton! What the Parish Council here did was – from 1/4/2010, they provided West Devon Borough Council with a donation of £5000 towards the £38,000 which it costs to run the Ladies, Gents and Disabled toilets in the village. That £5k is obtained by the Parish Council from an element of the Council Tax.

This has caused much unease amongst residents who don't use the toilets and don't see why they should pay. If we visit other areas, we expect the facilities to be available to us! Princetown receives thousands of visitors who come to walk/visit/ see the Prison etc. The Parish Council needs to come to some final arrangement which will last for years, rather than just a stop gap for now.

THE CREATIVITY CENTRE

(Arts Centre as some of us know it)

Tom Stratton called a meeting in May for business' in Princetown (all were invited) along with a representative from Devon County Council and the National Park Authority. The object was to look at ideas for re-opening the centre. Several ideas were floated around and interest has been shown by one business in particular but it's future remains uncertain for now.



P.F.C NEWS



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE NEW FOOTBALL PITCH?

You probably know by now that the field directly behind the community centre is planning to become our village football pitch, but there is a lot of work involved like drainage and surfacing. This is how it currently looks, so watch this space to see it progress.

The PFC now have secured about £80,000 thanks to Sport England and other funding. The grounds have now been surveyed and the design completed, so we are now ready to begin. In their first season the P.F.C have won acknowledgement within the league by winning the 'Most Sporting Team' voted by the other teams in the league. They have also won "Project of the Year" from Devon Sports Award. Well done team you are doing Princetown Proud.

LEARNING TO LEAD

Here is a story about a great leader learning to lead!

There was an elementary school teacher named Mrs Thompson. On the very first day of school, in her 5th grade class she told the children a lie. She looked at all of her students and told them that she loved them all the same.



In the front row, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard. She had noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. It got to the point where Mrs Thompson would actually enjoy marking his papers with a broad red pen and putting a big 'F' at the top of his papers.

Mrs Thompson was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until the very last. She was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He has good manners...he is a joy to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student... he is well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote,

"Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now of course, Mrs Thompson realised what the real problem was. The problem was with Teddy and with her. She was a mediocre teacher (leader) who took the path of least resistance and to be quite truthful, she was ashamed of herself.

She decided to do better; to be the best teacher she could be! One day soon afterwards her students brought her Christmas presents wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, all except for Teddy's. His present was poorly wrapped in heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag.

Mrs Thompson, remembering the reports, took great pains to open it right in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume.

But, she cut off the children's

laughter when she said how pretty the bracelet was. She took her own bracelet off and put Teddy's on her wrist. She then dabbed some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mum used to." After all the kids had left Mrs.

Thompson sat there and cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. She began to pursue excellence! Mrs Thompson began to pay particular attention to Teddy.

The more she worked with him, the more his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest kids in the class.

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Six years later Mrs Thompson received another note from Teddy. He had finished high school, third in his class and she was still the best teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she received another letter. He had stayed in school and would soon graduate from college with honours. He

assured Mrs Thompson that she was still the best teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Four more years passed and another letter came. Teddy explained that after he received his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. Now his name was a little longer — the letter was signed, 'Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.'

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. His father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Mrs Thompson did and she wore that bracelet with several rhinestones missing. She made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other and Dr Stoddard whispered in Mrs Thompson's ear, "Thank you, Mrs Thompson, for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

**Sometimes the students
become the teachers!**



PRINCETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We invite you to attend any or all of our regular meetings. Our aim is to keep the village as safe as possible and look out for everyone, but especially the young and the elderly to make sure they are safe.

Dave Pickles is our local Police Constable, he is assisted by Mark Canvin our Police Community Support Officer. We maintain regular contact with the local Police who keep us up to date with any issues that might affect the area we live in.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE- 101 (*for non-emergency calls*)

EMERGENCY – 999 or 112

CRIMESTOPPERS- 0800-555111

NHW COORDINATORS

David– 890545

Wendy – 890345

Mike– 890799 (*Secretary*)

Heather – 890444 (*Treasurer*)

DETER THIEVES

Mark your valuable property with a free ultra-violet pen. Identify your computer, TV, video, photocopier, power tools etc. Write your Postcode and house number on your property. If something does get stolen it can be easily identified by the police.

We have a supply of ultra-violet pens, just give us a call or pick one up at one of our monthly meetings

**Our next meetings are on Tuesday 25th
September and Tuesday 20th November
in the Prince of Wales Bunkhouse at 8pm.**



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Local Police Stations:	08452 777 444
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Doctors Princetown:	01822 852 202
Local Parish Council:	01822 853 513
Dartmoor Park Authority:	01626 836 015
Dartmoor Tourist Assoc:	01752 897 035
Postbridge Info Centre:	01822 612 938
Princetown Info Centre:	01822 890 414
Princetown Library:	01822 890 370
Citizens Advice Bureau:	08444 111 444
Princetown School:	01822 890 245
Widecombe School:	01364 621 261
Princetown Pre-School:	01822 890 348
T/Area Children's Centre:	01822 614 210
Tavistock College:	01822 614 231
Princetown Post Office:	01822 890 212
Postbridge Post Office:	01822 880 201
Crime-stoppers:	0800 555 111
Environmental Crime:	01822 813 600
Anti-Social Behaviour:	01822 813 541
(DLPS) Animal Welfare:	01626 872 253
D/moor Prison Museum:	01822 322 130
Postbridge Village Hall:	01822 880 386

Business Directory

Cherrybrook B&B:	01822 880 260
Dartmoor Financial:	01822 890 769
Dartmoor Garden Machinery:	01822 890 870
Design & Print:	07545 703 048
Duchy House B&B:	01822 890 552
East Dart Hotel:	01822 880 213
Fox Tor Cafe:	01822 890 238
JWPM Builders:	01822 616 432
Martial Art Studio:	07545 703 048
Milkman:	07813 034 118
Morris Bros:	01822 612 023
Oratory B&B:	01822 890 273
Snapstar Photography:	01822 890 273
Spirit of Adventure:	01822 880 277
Tor Royal B&B/Stables	01822 890 189
Window Cleaner:	07966 483 059
Yeltv.co.uk:	01822 584 386

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For Articles & News, email: editor@princetownnews.co.uk

(You may post or drop your articles into: The Studio, Unit 3, Duchy Yard, Princetown, Devon, PL20 6QZ)

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Deadline Dates for Winter 2012 Issue:

Next issue will be for Dec 2012, Jan & Feb 2013.

All Articles, News and Ads **MUST BE IN BY Thursday 1st Nov 2012**