

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

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO 138

OCTOBER 2017

It was good to see a number of parishioners attending our last meeting and not just for one subject but several. Interest in the way the Council conducts its business, which is your business, is always encouraging to Councillors and makes the volunteering worthwhile, thank you.

The anti social behaviour in and around Drewsteignton is unfortunately ongoing but progress is now being made with Devon & Cornwall Housing and several meetings are now in the pipeline. A letter, including the Community Impact Statement, is being sent from the Council to the Chief Executive Officer of DCH.

Some small items are being looked at to progress in the near future including the provision of a defibrillator in Crockernwell, the future of the BT telephone boxes in Crockernwell & Whiddon Down, and the refurbishment of the parish notice board at Sandy Park. The list of Parish assets is being reviewed and re-drafted. This is especially necessary for insurance purposes and, when complete, will be published on the parish website and in the Parish Post if there is room.

The Playing Field committee have asked the Council, as owners of the field, if they have any objection to restricting access to the Bonfire Night celebrations to 499 and by ticket. The night is becoming so popular, as others around the area have stopped, that they need to restrict entrance to below 500 to comply with public liability insurance. The clerk is checking the covenants on the field but it looks likely to be confirmed. The alter-

native would be to cancel the event which would be a great loss to the parish and fundraising for the playing field.

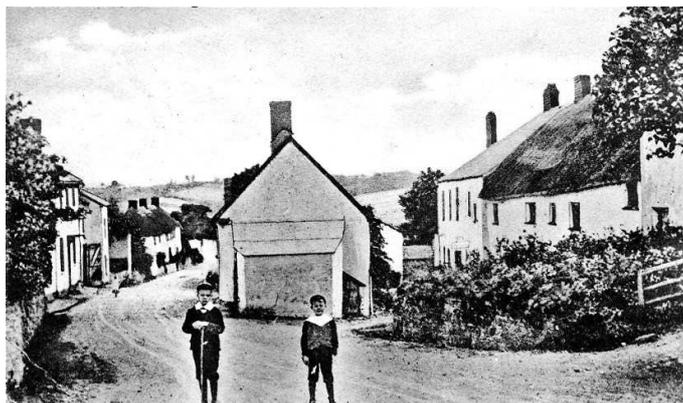
A reply from Highways England was not very forthcoming about the placing of chevron boards at the westbound exit from the A30 at Whiddon Down to help lower the amount of collisions at the location but we are not done yet! Devon County Council have replied to our idea for a traffic scheme at Sandy Park and, not surprisingly, have said it was neither practical or affordable. We are now going to liaise with Caste Drogo and see if an improvement on their signing might make a difference.

We discussed a West Devon Planning application 2476/17/HHO at Moorview, Whiddon Down and agreed to a neutral view on the scheme.

We have been asked by Sticklepath Parish Council to join them in applying for grant money to purchase a mobile speed monitoring device. This will be discussed at our next meeting when it is hoped a representative from Sticklepath will be present.

Some snippets from the Parish Post in 2007 include Elaine Evans having lost her kitchen scissors at the village hall, Jennifer Mullins as chair of the Parish Plan committee trialling a questionnaire and Claire Rowe reporting spirits at Whiddon Down Fete were not dampened by the inclement weather!!

Our next meeting is at **Drewsteignton on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm**



## Whiddon Down Methodist Church

Come and join us in the Village Hall

on

**Saturday 2nd December**

**At 2.00pm**

for

Christmas Cream Teas. Cakes.

Draw

Bring and Buy

and Christmas Wreaths

Come along and enjoy a tea and a chat with your friends



**Carol Service**

At the Chapel

**Sunday 10th December**

at

**6.30pm**

Collection for Action for Children  
Tea and Mince Pies

All Welcome



## STONE LANE

garden sculpture nursery

**CALL FOR ENTRIES – MYTHIC GARDEN SCULPTURE EXHIBITION 2018**

### 'The Mythic Garden' - 25 YEARS

In 2018, Stone Lane Garden celebrates 25 years of the annual Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition with the theme "Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of The Mythic Garden Sculpture Exhibition".

Artists who wish to exhibit in 2018 are cordially invited to submit work on the above subject. Presentation of sculptures in all media should reflect the joy of celebration, possibly silver in colour, or perhaps the symbolism associated with the metal.

The gardens and the anniversary exhibition will be promoted in a broad range of press, social and other media throughout the year.

Submissions should be accompanied by an artist's statement, up to three images of past work and a summary of ideas for work appropriate to the exhibition's topic.

Please send all email correspondence to: [admin@stonelanegardens.com](mailto:admin@stonelanegardens.com)

**Stone Lane Garden, Chagford TQ13 8JU, SX708907.**

## Drewsteignton Gardener's Club

Congratulations to the following entrants who were cup winners in the Drewsteignton Village Show:

**Chairman's Cup:** Angela Thomas and Bunny Johnson.

**President's Cup:** Angela Thomas.

**Paul Greener Plate:** Tony Thomas.

**Manley Cup:** Joy Taylor.

**Westaway Cup:** Bunny Johnson.

**Clerks Cup:** Kath Eley.

**Wood and Rush Bowl:** Rosemary Payne.

Thanks to all who entered and who came to look and have tea!

The Gardener's Club programme for the next 2 months is as follows:

October 9th Graham White: Gardening with Bulbs.

November 13th Sue Fisher: Making the Most of a Small Garden.

The Gardener's Club is a friendly group, some of us have gardens *and some of us don't*, but we enjoy gardens and like to learn about growing things. We meet once a month to listen to a speaker and socialise a bit over tasty refreshments. We also go on garden outings in the summer.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Why not come along to an evening and see what you think? Should you then wish to join, membership is just £5 a year

## Devon Rural Skills At East Fingle Farm

We are every lucky to be able to host the Devon Rural Skills Trust open hedge-laying competition on the **21st October** at the farm. The event organisers are looking for competitors for three classes - novice, intermediate and open. These classes are open to anyone who has competed before or would like to have a go at hedge laying in a competition for the first time. Usually the event attracts around 30 - 40 competitors from all areas of the UK, but due to its location this year, the numbers of entries are expected to be higher. The event is open from 9 am and usually finishes around 5 pm.

The event is open to the general public and everyone is welcome. We also have room for anyone wanting to hold a stall (cakes, plants, brick-a-brac for example) or promotional stand (all in the dry) with a donation going to the Devon Air Ambulance. Please feel free to get involved or come along and have a look.

### Sloe Day 13th October

Sloe gin, whisky, jam and jelly - do you fancy making some presents for Christmas or a tippie or two with your close friends around an open fire on a cold December evening. Hopefully that's got you in the mood for picking the main ingredient - sloes. We are opening our gates from 10 am to the local community to come along and pick sloes from our hedges, ahead of our hedge laying competition on the 21st. Donations will go to the Cheriton Bishop Preschool. Any further detail please call Louise 01647 281301 or 07977 229065.

## Drewsteignton Playing Field

### Basketball Hoop

We now have a basketball hoop in the Field. This is adjustable which means it can be used by adults as well as children. You will need to bring your own ball.



### Bonfire Night - MAJOR CHANGES

There are two major changes to the way the Bonfire Night will operate this year, both as a result of the number of people we attracted last year. This year will be ticket only and we will need to control parking. The event will take place on **Saturday 4th November**. Food and drink will be available from **5.00pm** with the torchlight procession starting at **5.30pm**, followed by the lighting of the bonfire. The fireworks will start at **7pm**.

#### Tickets

Our event licence limits us to a maximum of 499 people, including all children (however young) and all helpers on the night. The only way to achieve this is to have a ticket only event and no-one will be able to enter the Playing Field without a ticket. I'm sorry that this is going to be more awkward for everyone, but we see no way around this. Tickets will cost £1 each and will be available from Drewsteignton Post Office. Please note that there may well be no tickets available to sell at the gate on the night, and so there is a very real risk that families with children could be turned away. I apologise in advance but this is necessary if the event is to go ahead.

#### Parking

People parked anywhere last year and there could have been a serious problem if some people in the village had needed emergency assistance. There will be at least one field available for parking on the night and we will have marshalls to direct people to the parking areas. It would be helpful if people could car share as much as possible although I appreciate that this will be difficult/impossible with families in many cases.

**Thank you for your patience and understanding.**

**Alison**



## Two Moors Way Association

I am one of the small band of people that has come together over the past 18 months to breathe new life into the Two Moors Way Association an entirely voluntary organisation that supports the development of the route that crosses Devon from coast-to-coast, Wembury to Ivybridge as the Erme Ply Trail, and then on from Ivybridge to Lynmouth via Dartmoor, mid Devon and Exmoor.

We have worked with staff of the two national parks and DCC and have secured funding from the national lottery to enable us to establish a website, commission a short promotional film, liaise with small businesses along the route, and support improvements to signage and path maintenance.

We are now keen to draw on more people to become involved in our work, and will be running a Volunteers Welcome day at Chudleigh on Saturday 4th November at 11.00am - 2.00pm (buffet lunch).

If you are interested please don't hesitate to contact me for more information.

**Les Bright - on behalf of the Two Moors Way Association**



## A year in the life of Chorister Family....

I write on the most spectacular sunny Autumn morning which to me typifies this wonderful season, when the light is low in the skies and the acreage around us turns to a beautiful blend of burnished browns, yellow, orange and purples. I was walking the dog only yesterday across a recently harvested field and it occurred to me that rural life has so much in parallel to the life of a Chorister family. There is no five day week for Chorister families, rehearsals and services take place with a certitude and seasonality which is deeply connected to both farming and nature.

We moved to Drewsteignton Parish in April 2017, and that Trinity term at school was the term our eldest son Josh started his probationary Choristership at Exeter Cathedral, we were delighted to find that Drewsteignton is already home to another Chorister, Joseph, with whom we can share stories and school runs. Having a child with the musicality, temperament and a passion for singing like this, is a terrific family commitment, but it also brings great joy. Over the coming seasons I hope to write a little about what it entails and what it brings to all of us as a family, and I hope Josh will add a little colour to my musings when he has a moment to catch his breath.

To get started in September alone; Chorister families have participated in more than twenty one rehearsals, involving early starts a minimum of four mornings a week, sung in three Sunday services, at a beautiful Cathedral Wedding and more than ten Evensong services. There have been a number of special services this term including the Ordination of Deacons and the announcement of the new and 71<sup>st</sup> Dean of Exeter Cathedral. Evensong has been a delight to discover for the whole family, there is something quite moving and strangely stilling about choral voices at the remains of the day. It's a mindful moment for reflection and calm, without the constant intrusion of social media or otherwise. For Josh and Joseph there is something magnificent about the fact that children before them have been singing in this tradition in those stalls in Exeter Cathedral for more than 900 years.

## **Exeter Cathedral at Christmas Time: 21st November – 15th December, Exeter Cathedral**

Unlike many Cathedral Choirs, Exeter Choristers don't benefit from endowments. Instead fundraising to support them is co-ordinated by the Matthew Locke Society who are hosting a fabulous collection of artworks of the Cathedral. Christmas cards and notelets featuring a selection of these works are available from the Drewsteignton Village Stores and from the Exhibition itself, which promises to be a stunning celebration of our wonderful and ancient Cathedral during the festive season. If you are in Exeter during that time please go along and enjoy it, and maybe even stay for a heart-warming dose of choral music!

**Jessica Taylor**

## Acorn Community Support.



**Acorn Community Support** relies 100% on the generosity of volunteers to provide transport and support our many clients.

We are specifically in need of minibus drivers and accompanying volunteers to help us deliver the following services:

**Tuesdays - 9.30am - 1.30pm** - transporting clients, in our minibus, to our Coffee Club in Christow.

**Tuesdays - 10am - 2.30pm** - transporting clients, in our minibus, to our Lunch Club.

**Thursday - 9.30am - 1pm** - transporting clients from Cheriton/Tedburn, in our minibus, to our Memory Cafe.

**Thursday 9.00am - 1.30pm** - transporting clients from Christow to Sainsbury in Alphington, using our minibus.

If you can make a commitment to help on one of these days, each month, then please do get in contact with us. **01647 252701** we would really love to hear from you.



## Bird Notes

The house martins have now left the village, and followed the swifts and swallows as they head off to spend the winter in sunnier climes. My last sighting here of swallows was on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, and of house martins on the 17<sup>th</sup>. I had well and truly thought I had seen my last swifts of 2017 when I sent off my Parish Post copy to get in the previous issue. However, shortly afterwards, I saw two flying high over the outskirts of Stroud in Gloucestershire on 12<sup>th</sup> of September. Despite being almost eight weeks after the resident swifts left Drewsteignton, I saw another one on 28<sup>th</sup> September. It was only a fleeting view as it flew past and away over buildings, but it was in view long enough for the colleague I was with, to identify it too. This one wasn't a sighting in the UK though, as we were in Budapest, attending the 4<sup>th</sup> International Peregrine Conference. I have never been to Hungary before, and as such, knew little about it or Budapest. We didn't have a huge opportunity to see that much of it as for the majority of the time I spent there, it was attending lectures from peregrine experts and researchers from around the globe. Peregrines have an almost world-wide distribution, and the many presentations reflected this. There were contributions from Americans, Canadians, Japanese and Russians, with the majority of presentations being from European researchers. It was a great conference, and I enjoyed it far more than the previous one I attended in Poland in 2007. It was good to meet up with old friends, and also to put faces to names of people I have been in contact with via email and telephone calls.

On the third day of the conference, I gave a presentation about the peregrines on St. Michaels church in Exeter and their unique behaviour towards over flying buzzards. The current pair of peregrines, working co-operatively have now knocked down 70 buzzards in defence of their territory, and this is not happening anywhere else in the UK. I was intrigued as to whether this is occurring anywhere else in

Europe as we have been unable to find any published references to this aberrant behaviour. The only feedback I got as to this behaviour occurring elsewhere came from a Belgian who told me the peregrines that nest on Brussels cathedral also show high levels of aggression towards buzzards over flying the city, but as far as he knew, they had only attacked and knocked down three. There were about 65 of us in total, and the day's events ran from 9 until about 4. On the first evening, we all attended an organised meal on a restaurant boat on the Danube with incredibly good food. On the second evening, we met up in the centre and one of the organisers took a group of us on a guided walk around before ending up in a nice restaurant. We saw the Parliament buildings, Heroes square, the Cathedral (complete with an adult female peregrine perching on a high tower and scanning the city skies) and many well-preserved buildings revealing the baroque architecture for which Budapest is famed. Budapest at night with views across the Danube and the illuminated buildings and bridges was truly beautiful. It proved to be a wonderful and vibrant city, with an interesting mix of buildings based on its rich and varied history. We were staying in a very reasonable hotel about 15 minutes from the city centre by tram, and about 25 minutes from the conference centre by bus. This gave us the opportunity to see the real city and the 'less touristy' parts of the city, that were a mix of old and new, and Budapest's cultural history. It was surprisingly easy to get around on the trams, buses and metro. Unfortunately, I had to leave on the Saturday lunchtime to get my flight back so I missed some interesting lectures in the afternoon, plus the closing event, which was another meal in the city. My real disappointment was missing the Sunday excursion out to the surrounding hills to hopefully see local birds, including peregrines, saker falcons and imperial eagles. I have subsequently heard that no sakers or imperial eagles were seen on the trip. I was just delighted to have seen a peregrine on the cathedral in Budapest. **Nick**

## Donation To Drewsteignton Playing Field

In 2006 a group of lads from the village, namely Zak Peirce, Simon, Timothy and Will Ekins, Liam Bradbury, Jake Rowe, Seth Hocking and Tom Bates (apologies to anyone I have forgotten), took up skateboarding, which was the craze at that time! They decided to raise money, so they could buy materials to build jumps etc.

The boys washed cars during the winter when it was freezing cold, and also did a sponsored walk to Chagford, dressed in girls' clothes! You can guess they had many strange looks as the cars passed by. They raised about £350 in total, but, unfortunately, they couldn't find a permanent site for the jumps, and as a Skateboard Park had just been built at Chagford, they spent their time there. It has been decided that we give the sum of £350 to the Playing Fields to add to their funds, for which the committee are really grateful and thank them for this donation.

## News from the Castle



Hi everyone,

Autumn is here and the colours through the gorge are just incredible. I am keeping everything crossed for some lovely autumn sunshine.

If I have to choose just one date for good weather, it has to be Friday 20th October. At 2pm on that date we will be holding a small ceremony to officially switch on the newly reinstated turbine house down by the river. Work started in January to refurbish the turbines and get the technology ready to cope with operating again. Thank you to everyone for their interest, enthusiasm and support of this work. If you would like to join

us for the switching on ceremony, please contact me directly for an invitation.

The big work on the castle is still moving along well. The windows in the office corridor have just been removed for refurbishment – luckily it wasn't too windy that day! We have another Meet the Builders day coming up in half term too. Please pop along on Tuesday 24th October to have a go at pointing, chat with our masons and take a sneaky peek on to the building site (height restrictions apply). There will be plenty of people on hand to talk about the work currently underway on the castle, plus art and craft activities too.

Finally, we have started some lovely community projects relating to the First World War, especially focusing on the story of William George Arscott – a young lad from Drewsteignton. We are working with our friends at Okehampton College on a creative performance project to tell his story which we plan to perform at Castle Drogo in the new year. Also, in Drewsteignton, we will be looking at the correspondence that took place during the war, by letter and postcard, and where these letters travelled. Please do get in touch if you would like to know more or if you have any information or stories that you think would add to these projects. Take care everyone and see you soon.

**Paula Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo 01647 434130**

**[paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)**

### Holy Trinity Church

#### THANK YOU

#### Holy Trinity Church Coffee Morning for ShelterBox at Hillside House

A huge thank you to everyone who gave so freely to the Hurricane Irma Disaster Appeal. There was a good attendance at Hillside which resulted in £513.00 being raised. In addition, there were some incredibly generous donations amounting to £750.00 meaning that we were able to send a cheque for £1,263.00, sufficient to buy two complete shelter boxes.

#### Harvest Festival Exhibition 'A year in the life of our church'

We were delighted to see so many familiar faces among the visitors to the exhibition. Hopefully, you left having learnt a lot about how this particular outpost of the Church of England operates, besides enjoying the flowers and the food on offer. A tremendous amount of work went into the preparation and mounting of this exhibition and we are grateful to everyone who supported it in any way. The concert by Mains Gas was a big hit and deserved a larger audience, we will be asking them back on another occasion by which time we are sure that the word will have got around. There was a good turnout for Harvest Songs of Praise and it was pleasing to welcome a number of children. Holy Trinity will, again, be providing all day refreshments for the Craft Fair on Saturday & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we hope to see you then.

#### THE BIG QUIZ

The annual Big Quiz will be taking place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 7.00 p.m. at Fingle Bridge, quizmaster, as always, Alastair Greener. Teams of six, tickets £6.00 each including sausage & chips. We are already getting enquiries about this popular event. Several teams missed out last year because we were up to capacity, so book early on **01647 281602, Tony & Angela Thomas**.

# Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor National Park Authority is reviewing the Local Plan for Dartmoor. The Local Plan is the basis for all planning decisions in the National Park, and in some towns and villages also identifies areas for future housing or employment development. We are starting to talk with communities about their thoughts on where may be the most appropriate place for housing or employment development which may be needed locally. We will be attending open meetings with the Parish and Town Councils of Dartmoor's largest settlements over the coming weeks. These are the towns and villages where we expect we will need to allocate some land for development.

At these meetings we will talk about the Local Plan review, the process for identifying potential sites, and

Settlement	Date	Venue	Start time
Moretonhampstead	17 October 2017	Parish Hall	7.30
Buckfastleigh	01 November 2017	Town Hall	7.00
South Brent	13 November 2017	Old School Centre	7.30
Ashburton	14 November 2017	Town Hall	7.45
Yelverton	21 November 2017	Clearbrook Village Hall	7.30
Princetown	23 November 2017	Community Centre	7.30
Chagford	27 November 2017	Endecott House	7.30
Horrabridge	28 November 2017	Village Hall	7.30

We encourage you to share your views as early on in the process as possible, though there will be further formal opportunities for you to comment on a draft Local Plan next year. You can find out more about the Local Plan review and potential sites at [www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan), and follow updates at [www.facebook.com/dartmoorplan](https://www.facebook.com/dartmoorplan) and [www.twitter.com/dartmoorplan](https://www.twitter.com/dartmoorplan).

**Dan Janota**  
**Forward Planning Manager**  
**Dartmoor National Park Authority**

## Drewsteignton Parish Post

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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 October - Thank You