

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 157

JUNE 2019

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Former Chairman Bill Savage opened the Annual General Meeting and presided over the election of a new Chairman, Councillor Imrie nominated Councillor James and Councillor Ridgers seconded this, a show of hands carried this decision unanimously, therefore, I was duly elected as Chair of Drewsteignton Parish Council. Bill Savage then congratulated me and handed over the Chain of Office. I, and the Council, thanked Bill for his help and for his services before he left the meeting. Councillor Brennan was proposed for Vice Chairman, again carried unanimously which Councillor Brennan accepted and was elected. Mr Wood was co-opted on the Parish Council, and this was carried unanimous too. Each Councillor was then asked to take on various local organisations and duties for the council, so if you have interests in any of the following the councillor whose name is next to it would be the one to contact or, of course, our Clerk Lucy Bruckner.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

Cllr Ian Rowe

Playing Field sub-committee

Cllr Barrie Wood

Drewsteignton car park

Cllr John Redman

Drewsteignton Village Hall

Cllr Anna Imrie

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Cllr Ysanne James

Eastern Links

Cllr Anna Imrie

Providence School

Jennifer Mullins

Facebook + Parish Post

Cllr Ysanne James

That concluded the Annual General Meeting, Councillor James then opened the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

An update on the ongoing traffic issue to Castle Drogo was given, which seemed much improved and Councillor Ridgers will continue liaise with Castle Drogo on this matter.

Councillor Rowe was please to confirm that all the gates were in place at Whiddon Down and Crockernwell, promoting a village feel to them. It was decided that, like Sticklepath, a small round sign or similar would complete the look and perhaps a reduce speed message could be introduced. Graham Hester agreed to request quotations for the signs, Graham also agreed to continue to look after the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) Sign and is awaiting costs for post for the VAS to be situated in other areas within the Parish.

The Councillors balloted for the Parish member for Dartmoor National Park Authority for Mid Devon and West Devon and after discussion they voted for Gay Hill and Derek Webber to represent our Parishes.

Councillor Brennan discussed re-introducing the tradition of 'Beating the Bounds' and this will be on next months agenda, if anyone is interested in getting involved in what we hope will be a great family event, please join us at the next meeting or contact Councillor Brennan. On the subject of walking there is also a new 'Welcome to Dartmoor' walking project which seeks to join up the footpaths on the boundaries of Dartmoor, more details on the project's website.

(cont.)

Other items discussed at the meeting was the need and availability of training for the Councilors, that Ashley Whatman should continue the garden maintenance and hedge cutting (cont.) as directed by the Gardening Club, and a reminder for Councillors to keep up to date their Register of Interests, which is online at West Devon Borough Council.

A grant of conditional planning permission was given to the Drewsteignton Playing Field, Councillor Wood will attend the next committee meeting to let them know about the Permission and Conditions.

In late matters it was agreed that when the resurfacing is undertaken on the flyover at Whiddon Down, that the Clerk would email Highways to ask if they could re-paint the white lines on the lanes leading to Whiddon Down and the Services, and ask for 'Services' or abbreviation to be added to aid motorists who don't always know which lane to take.

Agenda items for the next meeting were suggested as Sandy Park phone box and Beating the Bounds.

**The next monthly meeting of Drewsteignton Parish Council will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Drewsteignton Village Hall at 7.30pm, as usual all welcome.**

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### Shutters down and feet up for Marg & Ian



After fourteen glorious years of serving the village, Marg and Ian Maynard celebrated their retirement from the Village Store and Post Office on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month. Gary at The Drewe Arms hosted a large gathering of we villagers who wanted to say 'thank you' and wish them well.

Amid speeches, laughter and lots of hugs, Judy reminded us of their years behind the counter, around the village and .. down the stairs!

They gave care and affection to members all of the community, inviting us in as friends, going out of their way to help those who needed a hand and ensuring

that no-one was forgotten. If you wanted to know what was going on, how to find someone to 'do', who to talk to about an issue, what to buy for lunch - you'd go to the store.

They will be much missed but can now be found on the other side of the village and, I'm sure, be happy to see us all.

As a token of gratitude from the parish, funds were collected for their farewell gift: Hays Travel vouchers for £1,500 and Garden Tokens for £110. The latter figure made up of money that came in after the deadline for obtaining the travel vouchers. **Angela**

While one lovely couple move on, another moves in: we all extend a warm welcome to **Cheryl and Stuart Payne - our new keepers of the village shop and Post Office.**

- D - G - C -

### Drewsteignton Gardener's Club Plant sale

We had a most successful plant sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, we almost sold out by 11.30am.

A huge thank you to all of you who gave, brought, helped raise over £ 741.00.

The money raised goes towards our speakers, who are becoming more and more expensive.

**Bunny Johnstone**

- F O D C -  
**Friends of Drewsteigton Church (FODC)**

Thank you all for the terrific effort put in to make the Devon County Junior Choir and Schola Exe concert on the 18th May happen. The children and their families had a terrific evening and their performances were exceptional. **Farms for City Children** were delighted for the contribution and the chance to get their message out to a new audience.

The audience at this event was made up of a rich cross-section of local community, the choir's traditional audience of parents and family members and also some people who have travelled from beyond the parish boundary specifically to see the performance.

It does take an undeniable effort from many hands to make these things a success - so once again my thanks to everyone for all your help. **Jess Taylor**

Donations and bar takings brought FODC's share of profits to £261.92 **Alison Chapman**

**Local events**

**TEIGNTON FAYRE 2019**

Saturday 1st June from 3:00 til late in Drewsteigton Square

FREE ENTRY

Stalls, Barbecue, Cakes, Puddings, Pony Rides, Bouncy Castle, Coconut Shy, Shaky Hand and many more fun stalls! Dog Show at 4:00

Children's Fancy Dress Competition 4:45 and Ozzy D's Magic at 5:00  
 (Principally) On behalf of Darmoor Fire and Rescue

**C - R - A - F - T — F - A - Y - R - E**



Drewsteigton 'Summertime'

Craft Fayre

Saturday 1st June 2pm - 8pm

Sunday 2nd June 11am - 5pm

Holy Trinity Church

Drewsteigton

**Talented Local Crafters supporting**

**Teignton Fayre**

Home-made cream teas on Sunday

from 2.30pm

\* \* \* \* \*

**CREAM TEAS IN THE GARDEN**

for

ShelterBox

Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>

3.30 – 5.00 p.m.

at

Hillside House

*Under cover if inclement*

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## The Mythic Garden' Sculpture Exhibition 2019

Stone Lane Gardens, TQ13 8JU

As spring turns to summer Stone Lane Gardens is glorious in its array of verdant greens. Scattered throughout the arboretum and water gardens are this year's captivating 'Mythic Garden' sculptures. Over 20 artists from Devon, Hampshire, Surrey, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire are showing work as diverse as clouds suspended from trees to cast marble barn owls, in media ranging from ceramic to wood to stone. The exhibition is on from May until 31 October. The gardens are open all year round every day from 10am to 6pm. Dogs on leads welcome.

"Stone Lane Gardens is a gem" - Joe Swift, The Times.

Stone Lane Gardens is an RHS Partner Garden near Chagford, Whiddon Down and Drewstington. For further details go to [www.stonelanegardens.com](http://www.stonelanegardens.com). Find us on Trip Advisor.

### What's on in June 2019

[www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)



**Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club** – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be June 6th at the Red Lion. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 or ring the Acorn Office on the number below for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are June 12th & 26th. Help is provided in store. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return.

**NEW!** Acorn monthly Cheriton Bishop Outing - Date & venue to be confirmed! £5.00 per person for a return trip. Call the office for more information.

**Teign Valley Memory Café** - This month it will be June 13th & 27th. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

**Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall** – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. Please drop in for a tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake & meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday June 11th & 25th.

What else do we do? – We have a fantastic group of volunteers who help to provide transport to medical and wellbeing appointments, we can deliver prescriptions, we can also loan equipment to assist you in the home.

**Acorn Community Support AGM on 11th July 2019 at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall 6.30 - 7.30 pm. All Welcome.** Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information.

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### June Events at Okehampton Library

**Book Trust Pyjamarama - Car, Car, Truck, Jeep**

**Tuesday 4 June 10:00 - 11:00 – Read & Rhyme Time**

As part of Book Trust's Pyjamarama, join in our themed Bounce & Rhyme, story and craft session and take home a copy of the book (subject to availability). This activity replaces our normal Bounce & Rhyme sessions. Suitable for children under 5 and their carers. Free event

**Wednesday 5 June 9:30 - 10:15 – Duplo Storytime**

Come along to our themed Duplo storytime session – make some vehicles with the Duplo bricks then use them in our storytime. Take home a copy of the book (subject to availability) Suitable for children under 5 and their carers. Free event

**Friday 7 June 10:30-11:30 – Volunteer Coffee Morning**

Volunteers Week - To celebrate all our wonderful volunteers that help to give added value to the Library Service. If you are interested in volunteering with us, come along and have a chat over a free cup of coffee.

**Wednesday 12 & 19 June 10:00-12:30 - Basic Computer Training**

Are you confused by computers? Sign up to our free IT sessions for beginners! The sessions will be delivered by Elite Training South West. Course runs over 2 sessions – booking essential.

**Thursday 27 June 18:00-20:00 – Artist's Workshop – Glass Painting**

Local artist, Vicki Highet, will be teaching the art of glass painting. Using a template or your own design, create a uniquely decorated wine glass to take home. Vicki will also be bringing some pieces of her own artwork which will be available to purchase.

£7 per person, places limited – to be booked and paid for in advance.

- **Whiddon Down** -

Just a quick reminder WDVH AGM., Thursday 13th June at 8.00pm. All welcome.

We are still looking for a new treasurer and new Committee members so if anyone could spare a few hours a year, please come along .

The kitchen and toilet windows and new fire exit door are being fitted the week commencing 3rd June. Unfortunately, we may have to rearrange some of our regular bookings. Please check with the class instructor.

Thank you for all your support.

**Jenny Turner**

**News from the Castle**

Hi everyone. All is going well at Castle Drogo with the weather making it possible for the builders to catch up on some of the time they lost during the cold snap. It has been wonderful to welcome visitors back to see the Drawing and Dining rooms in their glory and the gardens have been full of colour.

This year presents some exciting opportunities in research as we are looking to start an oral history project. We'll be recording the memories of those associated with, or with memories of, Castle Drogo in the past, from the early days or in more recent years. If you have any memories, or know someone who might have, and is willing to talk to one of our trained interviewers, then please get in touch. You can find out more about the project in the Rayners' Room in the castle where there is a place for people to record their contact details, or please email: [oralhistorycastledrogo@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:oralhistorycastledrogo@nationaltrust.org.uk). We are really looking forward to hearing the memories from people.

I wanted to let you all know as soon as possible that we will be closing Foresters track for around one month in mid-June. Foresters Track is a permissive bridleway running on the South side of the river between Fingle Bridge and Whiddon Deer Park. There will be an alternative route for those wishing to do a circular/ longer walk, or for those cycling or on horseback. However, the public footpath on the north side of the bank (fisherman's path) will remain open and provides the most direct route to avoid the closure, but only on foot.

The closure is to allow over 200 metres of major track repairs to take place to fix erosion caused by the river Teign. The resulting track surface should make the path more accessible for all users, and improve access for our own work operations, as well as reinforcing the river bank. The timing of the work is to take advantage of minimum water flow within the river and all works should be completed by the summer holidays. The track will be entirely shut at all times including weekends due to the risk of falling rocks and unstable surfaces.

Best wishes, Paula, Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo,

01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Family Fun Day**  
**Drewsteignton Playing Field**  
**Saturday 13th July from 3pm**

Tea and cakes will be served from 3pm with the BBQ starting at 4.30pm.

We will again have our fantastic giant water slide.

Refreshments will be available. Entry is free.

Sorry, no dogs are allowed anywhere in the Playing Field.

Hope to see loads of you there.

**ACE Archaeology Club**

We are now focusing on our Moistown excavation; advertising for diggers and other helpers at the dig Our Director is busy getting last year's Interim Report ready and that will be on the website as soon as it is finished.

Please check our website for all details of the dig dates and our other activities. You will also be able to have a look at a couple of our past Newsletters.

<https://acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com/>.

Between now and the dig we have a couple of archaeological themed walks on Dartmoor.

If you can't manage any of those do come to our Moistown Dig Open Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019 from 11.00am to 4.00pm, tea, coffee and cake available.

For more information please contact Erica on [surica47@gmail.com](mailto:surica47@gmail.com)

**VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1 June	3:00 - late	Teignton Fayre	Village Square
1 June	2:00 - 8:00	Craft Fayre	Holy Trinity Church
2 June	11:00 - 5:00	Craft Fayre + Cream Tea 2:30	Holy Trinity Church
2 June	9:30	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Church
6 June	7:00	Talk: Beavers	Fingle Bridge Inn
9 June	5:00	Family Service	Holy Trinity Church
13 June		Gardeners Club Trip	
15 June	1:00 - 5:00	Summer Fayre & Bellringing Festival	Spreyton Village Hall
16 June	11:15	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Church
17 June	7:30	Parish Council Meeting	Whiddon Down Village Hall
22 June	3:30 - 5:00	Cream Tea for Shelter Box	Hillside House
23 June	11:15	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity Church
27 June		Gardeners Club trip	
6-7 July		Poetry in the Place	Holy Trinity Church
7 July		Sung Evensong (TBC)	Holy Trinity Church
7 July	11:00 - 4:00	Hydro Turbine Open Day	Castle Drogo

**- - Vacancy, Drewsteignton Post office - -**

We are looking for drivers to deliver newspapers and groceries on a job share basis. 7 day fortnight for each person.

Living wage paid plus mileage allowance. Early starts, 2 hours per day.

To apply please contact: Drewsteignton Post office 01647 281220

## Bird Notes

The swifts are back, and the first I saw over the village this year were two over Churchgate on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May at 6.30 in the evening. This was three days earlier than their return last year. I immediately opened up all the swift nest boxes on our row at Churchgate, which I block up over the winter to stop the house sparrows filling them up with nest debris and prevents the swifts from using them. There were three swifts overhead the following morning and I spotted one whip into a nest box on our house on the 6<sup>th</sup>. As often happens, the weather turned cold and wet following their arrival and so numbers stayed low until mid-month when there seemed to be warmer conditions and far more birds present with one count on the 16<sup>th</sup> May revealing 20 plus airborne, with at least seven calling from nest boxes on my house. I am always keen to hear if people think they have swifts nesting in their property or would be interested in putting up nest boxes to accommodate our increasing population. We now have about 30 swift nest boxes up in the village and while I know some are not being used, we will have to wait until later in the season to see how many nesting pairs we have and what the productivity is. Swifts are in serious decline in the UK and the RSPB states that loss of nest sites through house renovations and improvements is one of the main reasons that 53% of our swifts vanished between 1995 and 2016.

The warm weather in mid-month also coincided with an influx of red kites in Devon, with these spectacular birds of prey being recorded across the county. I was told of kites seen over the A30 between Whiddon Down and Okehampton, and another over the old A30 by Hooperton cross. I have yet to see one in the county this year but according to the latest sightings page on the 'Devon Birds' website there are plenty still around. Red kites do not breed in Devon yet but are slowly expanding their range from release sites in southern England where they are now quite common in many regions.

I have been getting reports of cuckoos calling locally throughout the month and I have heard more this year than in the previous few years from a variety of locations including Piddledown Common, Cranbrooke Castle and the valley below Burrow farm. Thanks to all who reported calling and sightings to me over the month, including Jane and Glyn Martin who had one calling at Woodbrooke on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Jane and Glyn, Apologies for my error in last month's issue). In the last Parish Post, I reported that the Exeter Peregrines had laid three eggs and we were expecting hatching in early May. This duly happened on the 9<sup>th</sup> with the first egg hatching around 6.30 in the morning and the second some time around 5.30 in the evening, so both hatched 35 days after the last egg was laid. The third egg didn't hatch and has now been inadvertently pushed away into a corner by the movements of the two chicks. They will stay in the nest until they fledge at around 42 to 46 days depending on their sex. Male peregrines are smaller than females so they tend to develop quicker and fledge earlier, but at the moment and just by looking at the web-camera in the nest, we can't confirm what sex they are, but I think they are both females based on how large their talons are. Their sex will be determined when they are ringed. We have been ringing the juveniles in the nest since 2013 when we installed the camera and the equipment required to access the nest box which is about 12 metres up the inside of the church spire. We take a variety of measurements from the juveniles before putting a small metal BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) ring with a unique number on one leg. A large coloured plastic ring with two letters is put on the other leg, and this ring can be read at distance by binoculars, telescope and camera once the young peregrine has left the nest, and helps to identify individual birds and where they have come from once they set up a new territory and subsequently breed. The peregrines at St. Michaels church will only be visible via the webcam for the next month so do have a look while you can. They can be found at: [www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk) and click on the peregrine link.

Nick

**Wessex**  
Resolutions CIC



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\*Subject to eligibility

## The Parish Post

SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHOUT ABOUT? GO ON, TELL US ABOUT IT .....

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events and calendar entries, 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 Shelley

### 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  
26th June - Thank You