

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 171

JULY 2020

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL (THE SPACIOUS EDITION)

I often think how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful parish and with the glorious sunshine we have been having I hope you have been able to enjoy the scenery.

At the Parish Council zoom meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June, “audit season” is on us, and we like other councils across the country have been undertaking an internal audit. We discussed the report presented by our appointed internal auditor, however as she was unable to join us for our regular meeting it was agreed that we would hold an extra-ordinary meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

We also discussed a couple of planning applications for which we decided to do a site visit for one of them, the other one was a familiar location and a site visit was deemed unnecessary. We agreed to discuss the site visit at the extra-ordinary meeting.

After some discussion with Highways via email, they have rejected our proposed new locations for the mobile speed awareness sign. But. They proposed two locations for us to consider. We agreed to look at the new locations and discuss further the viability and cost of preparing these locations for the sign.

There has been some movement on the lease of the Drewsteignton public toilets from Dartmoor National Park and they have agreed to release the previous lease holders and offered the parish council a 20-year term. The council is discussing some of the minor details with the DNP but once these have been resolved we hope to hold the lease in the near future. Meanwhile we are looking at whether it will be possible to open the toilets given the new social distancing rules.

At the zoom meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June we discussed the internal audit and I am very pleased to say that we have come a long way since the interim audit last year. Our thanks to Alice, our clerk, who has worked hard to bring us up to code and ensure that we are effective as a parish council. I think it would be fair to say that the councillors have learnt a lot and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and indeed a heartfelt thank you to Melanie Bickell for her help and guidance.

Cllr Redman brought to our attention the state of the road between the Whiddon Down flyover and Crockernwell and it was agreed that we would write to Highways to see if there is anyway this can be a priority, as it is the diversion route should the A30 close for any reason and as such often gets a high volume of traffic. There is concern, as lockdown is eased, that the increase in traffic will go up exponentially and the road will fail.

With the easing of lockdown, there has already been an increase in traffic in the lanes around the parish and as many of us have been walking locally, especially those with dogs, we need to be aware and take a little more care with our safety.

The next meeting will be held on Zoom again on 20 July. Detail will be published on the website and on the noticeboards in the parish.

**Ysanne James**

**Subject:** Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Control Articles – A Consultation  
Dear Parish/Town Clerk,

Please may I draw your attention to a press release issued by West Devon Borough Council via our Facebook and Twitter pages and also on our website notifying stakeholders of a Public Consultation starting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June running through to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 as follows:

### **Dog control Consultation – Have Your Say**

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) deals with potential anti-social behaviour in an area which could have a harmful effect on the quality of life for those in the local community. It can ban certain things, or need specific things to be done, in this case the control of dogs in public areas.

The Council know that most dog owners properly control their dogs and abide by the rules. However, they want to encourage every dog owner throughout West Devon to be responsible and these Protection Orders help with that.

PSPOs last for three years before they need to be reviewed and the current orders run out in October this year. The Borough Council now need to consult on the next set of Orders for the following 3-year period.

The current review affects all existing PSPOs within the Borough and they want to hear what you think. The Council is also considering introducing new orders within existing PSPO areas, as follows:

Dog walkers must carry dog bags or other container to collect dog waste  
Restrict amount of dogs that can be walked at up to four at a time  
Dogs to be kept on leads on roads within 30mph speed zones.

### **West Devon Borough Council want your views in a public consultation about Public Space Protection Orders for dog control in the District.**

If you would like to share your thoughts about the proposals, please contact the Environmental Protection Team on: [pspoconsultation@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:pspoconsultation@swdevon.gov.uk)  
Or by post to: **Environmental Protection Team, South Hams District Council, Follaton House,  
Plymouth Road, Devon, TQ9 5NE**

### **Drewsteignton Village Shop**

Stuart's been baking ...cakes: lemon drizzle, coffee eclairs, coconut and pineapple. Which have I not yet tried??? **Ed**

"Imagine that every person in the world is enlightened but you. They are all your teachers, each doing just the right things to help you learn perfect patience, perfect wisdom, perfect compassion."

"Treat others with justice and respect. In the long run, how you treat others will be how they treat you."

With Love from Zen x



## Drewsteignton Garden Club



Very sadly the Village Show on Saturday 2nd August has been cancelled. we still continue to sell plants for three charities and have raised over £700.00

Hopefully our Autumn programme will go ahead in September, dates in the August edition.

**Bunny Johnstone**



## THAT'S RUBBISH!!



Comments have been made recently in parish magazines across West Devon with regard to rubbish bags. The general tone as follows: CAN WE PLEASE REMIND RESIDENTS: NOT to leave their rubbish bags by litter bins outside of collection times, this is fly-tipping; to clear up adjoining pathways after they have trimmed their hedges and trees; and to take in their recycle boxes once emptied and not leave them out, cluttering the pavements.

Locally, I offer you something a little kinder - Just a quick note to respectfully ask that, if it is at all possible, to put rubbish bags (**if there is any edible material therein**) out on the morning of collection rather than the evening before as foxes/dogs/cats/rats? are breaking them open for an easy midnight snack. Packaging is then left strewn around and scattered down lanes and the Square while also inviting vermin.

Many thanks, **Ed** (Yes, I do stalk the local mags whenever I'm in another parish)

## News from Holy Trinity Church



Delighted to announce that the church building is now open for private prayer and reflection – with certain restrictions i.e. observing social distancing, ensuring that you clean your hands before and after entering the church, not entering the church if you have any symptoms of coronavirus (if so, please contact NHS111). Church services continue online and it is important to know that the church is here for you – whether you normally attend church or not, whether just for a chat or something more serious. E-mail [hmevery@aol.com](mailto:hmevery@aol.com)

Tel. 01647 432602

**Sonnet (I love to see the summer) – John Clare 1841**

*I love to see the summer beaming forth  
 And white wool sack clouds sailing to the north  
 I love to see the wild flowers come again  
 And Mare blobs stain with gold the meadow drain  
 And water lilies whiten on the floods  
 Where reed clumps rustle like a wind shook wood  
 Where from her hiding place the Moor Hen pushes  
 And seeks her flag nest floating in bull rushes  
 I like the willow leaning half way o'er  
 The clear deep lake to stand upon its shore  
 I love the hay grass when the flower head swings  
 To summer winds and insects happy wings  
 That sport about the meadow the bright day  
 And see bright beetles in the clear lake play*

**WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL**

Congratulations on keeping the Parish Post going. So many other Parish mags have been unable to publish. Here's the latest from Whiddon Down.

Hello to our first month out of lockdown. Hopefully this finds everyone still safe and well. The Village Hall remains closed for business. The repairs are finished, but unfortunately more problems have been uncovered, which means further expense. Thankfully, we are in a good financial position, due to the Government's generosity, to use the closure constructively to secure a well-maintained Hall for future generations.

Although restrictions are slowly being eased, the heightened and more stringent health and safety criteria necessary for re-opening, will need to be met and sustained for the coming months or possibly years. Hence, the doors will remain closed for the next few months to enable us to safely take the Hall, tentatively but positively forward following Government guidance.

Hopefully, " normality ", is just around the corner.  
 Best wishes to you all.

**Jenny Turner**

**FCC Sunflower Competition**

Hi All,  
 FCC Environment, our refuse and recycling contractors, have issued a press release about a children's sunflower competition. Please find attached a copy of their release for your information. You can also find this information here [www.fccenvironment.co.uk/2020/05/29/call-for-children-and-community-to-spread-some-sunshine-4/](http://www.fccenvironment.co.uk/2020/05/29/call-for-children-and-community-to-spread-some-sunshine-4/) and we will be adding this to our webpages and social media too, however please feel free to share this information yourselves locally as well.  
 Kind regards,

Vicky Croughan | Communications Specialist - BA(Hons), PGCE  
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## Bird Notes

The weather over the past four weeks has been much more varied compared to the glorious hot period we enjoyed during April and May. The rain has been needed but not appeared to impact on the swifts who have been screaming around the village in good numbers on the sunny days. On 16 June in the early evening, I was in my garden trying to count them as there appeared to be a lot over the village. Counting swifts is not easy as they are such fast fliers and are either in groups and screaming parties or individuals hunting for insects. I got to about 30 over my garden and the churchyard area but couldn't see the numbers of swifts over Hillmorhays at the west end of the village or at Netherton where they are nesting too. Thirty swifts is an amazing number and very pleasing to see as it proves that their numbers can be increased by putting up nest boxes, and I don't often see that many in far bigger villages or towns.

As I was watching the swifts, a cuckoo flew over the corner of the churchyard, over my garden and house heading south. It was quite low and one swift attempted to dive bomb it, presumably as cuckoos look slightly like sparrow hawks in flight. It was the first cuckoo I have seen this year and the first time I have ever seen one from the garden. They are no longer calling and sightings of them have diminished on the 'Devon Birds' website as they begin their migration back to Africa. It was the same evening that I first heard the high pitched 'trilling' of baby swifts in two of my nest boxes and found discarded eggshell on the ground beneath two other nest boxes.

I found it interesting that a swift should appear to mob the cuckoo due to its resemblance to a sparrow hawk as I often hear the alarm calls of swallows and house martins, and invariably there will be a sparrow hawk around. I have never heard a swift making an alarm call. Maybe they don't need to as they are fast fliers but from my study into prey selection and diet of the Exeter peregrines, swifts are predated by peregrines, and also by hobbies.

The peregrines at St. Michaels church in Exeter are still sitting on their eggs and its now day 68 (on 25 June), whereas the eggs should normally hatch after 35 days of incubation. I am constantly being asked how long the adults will continue to sit on them and I have no idea as we have not had a brood of infertile eggs in Exeter before. There are now many peregrine breeding sites across the country with webcams revealing all that goes on in the nest and the only other one where eggs have not hatched this year is Lincoln cathedral. The adults gave up incubating and abandoned the eggs at the beginning of June, but they laid their eggs a fortnight before the Exeter peregrines so the St. Michaels pair might give up at some point over the next week.

I have been fascinated by the leucistic male blackbird that I often spot by the church gate and around the side of the Drewe Arms. Leucism is an abnormal plumage condition caused by a genetic mutation that prevents pigment, particularly melanin from being properly deposited on a bird's feathers. This blackbird has a very mild case resulting in some white feathers showing on its wings, but it does make it look interesting. Normally I write about what I see that I find of interest, but I realised that a bird I haven't seen recently are the collared doves. I don't think I have seen any in the village for months, but I used to have them in the garden daily until I stopped topping up my bird feeder. They were always in the churchyard and the square, and I would hear their gentle calling year-round. If anyone in the village does have collared doves in their gardens I would be interested to know.

I have seen a hedgehog twice over the last month on late night walks around the village with my dog. The first one was in my garden and about two weeks later I found one in Froggy lane. I have no idea if it was the same hedgehog or if they are a pair but was delighted that we have them here at the moment. I was quite pleased as I have been finding what I presumed was hedgehog poop in my garden over the past two months, so it confirms what I thought.

**Nick**



## STONE LANE GARDENS – RE-AWAKENING



“Re-awakening” is the title of this year's summer show of sculpture in the gardens at Stone Lane. Although the more extensive "The Mythic Garden" Annual Sculpture Exhibition has been postponed until 2021, Stone Lane Gardens is still hosting an important showcase for West Country Artists among its magical groves and water gardens. In July, government guidelines permitting, the new visitors' tearoom will open serving teas and coffees, initially on Fridays and Saturdays from 11am till 5pm.

Stone Lane Gardens is a registered charity and an RHS Partner Garden. The gardens are open every day of the year from 10am till 6pm. Families and dogs on leads are welcome and free parking is at Long Lane, Drewsteignton. For full details go to: [www.stonelanegardens.com](http://www.stonelanegardens.com)

**Anna**

**Subject:** Email to services including information on required Road closure.

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to give you advance notice of works that shall require the closure of the following road.

Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QN

On the following dates.

05/10/2020 to 16/10/2020

Access will be available for residents.

This road closure is required to enable WP D to carry out works on our network in the area. A diversionary route will be put in place prior to commencement of works and will be signed at all times during our works.

We will endeavour to carry out our works in the shortest possible timescale to keep any inconvenience to a minimum. If you have any concerns over the impact of these works please call me on 01392 352536

Kind Regards, Zack Dore 01392 352536

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**LETTERS:**

No letters this month but a host of comments: on Robyn Petrie-Ritchie's warm and excellent introduction to us of Trelawney who has taken up residence in 1, Fox Close; on the efforts of the gardeners who are making the churchyard look absolutely beautiful and of sympathy for Cheryl and Stuart after their ordeal at the shop.

Hedgehogs, hedgehogs everywhere – in the churchyard and the car park orchard, curled up against canine exploration, snuffling around after dark

**A change to the delivery or the Whiddon Parishes Post:** Just to let you know the WPM are currently being delivered to the church porch. Please do help yourself.

**Volunteer(s) needed for deliver in the local area of the bi-monthly Whiddon Parishes magazine.**

Anyone willing to take this on please contact Norma Gillard on 01647 24263

## The Drewsteignton Parish Post

If you have trouble reading this publication please do let me know and a large-format version will 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 end of 26<sup>th</sup> July - Thank-you, **Ed**

## **PM announces easing of lockdown restrictions: 23 June 2020**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has today set out further changes to lockdown measures in England. Published 23 June 2020



Prime Minister Boris Johnson has today (Tuesday 23 June) set out further changes to lockdown measures in England to enable people to see more of their friends and family, help businesses get back on their feet and get people back in their jobs.

From Saturday 4th July, the Prime Minister has announced that pubs, restaurants and hairdressers will be able to reopen, providing they adhere to COVID Secure guidelines.

From the same date, he has set out that two households will be able to meet up in any setting with social distancing measures, and that people can now enjoy staycations in England with the reopening of accommodation sites.

In order to begin restoring the arts and cultural sector, some leisure facilities and tourist attractions may also reopen, if they can do so safely – this includes outdoor gyms and playgrounds, cinemas, museums, galleries, theme parks and arcades, as well as libraries, social clubs, places of worship and community centres.

Following a review, the Prime Minister has also set out that where it is not possible to stay two metres apart, guidance will allow people to keep a social distance of ‘one metre plus’. This means staying one metre apart, plus mitigations which reduce the risk of transmission.

As we begin to reopen the economy, it’s important that we do not increase the risk of transmission which is why “close proximity” venues such as nightclubs, soft-play areas, indoor gyms, swimming pools, water parks, bowling alleys and spas will need to remain closed for now. The Government is continuing to work with these sectors to establish taskforces to help them to become COVID Secure and reopen as soon as possible.

While the infection rate continues to fall, the Prime Minister has been clear that the public must continue to follow social distancing guidelines to keep coronavirus under control. The Government will keep all measures under constant review and will not hesitate to apply the handbrake, or reverse measures, should the virus begin to run out of control.

These changes apply in England only.