

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

Drewsteignton Parish Post

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE NO. 125

AUGUST 2016

Surprisingly July was a relatively quiet month for the Parish Council with the meeting lasting less than an hour!

The complaint regarding the increase in yellow signs at Whiddon Down has resulted in James Aven, a planning enforcement officer at the National Park, telling the Council he has viewed the problem but he needs more time to establish whether or not they are breaching planning or advertising regulations, so we await his reply.

Also at Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down, Devon County Council have told us they will shortly be installing bollards at the junction with Turnpike Road outside the Methodist chapel. This is being done to try and deter motorists unlawfully using the road as a shortcut. We know this will probably not be the complete solution but it was the best we could get Devon County to come up with. If it does not work, please rest assured the Parish Council will keep this on our agenda.

Councillors discussed a planning matter (DNP 0346/16) which was a variation of a condition to planning at Woodland Springs, Venton granted on application 0690/14 and resolved to take a neutral view on the application (This means we have no strong views for or against and leave it to the planning authority to make their decision).

Due to personal circumstances Cllr Ben Brown at Drewsteignton has decided he can no longer continue as a councillor and has resigned. Cllrs thanked him for his input and wished him well for the future.

Initial reports on the work being carried out by Warren Dawes, the Parish lengthsman, have been favourable and further works have been listed. From the Annual Parish Meeting, Alison Chapman reported the new doors were in place in Drewsteignton Village Hall and new windows were next on the list. Norma Gillard reported from

the Parish Church that congregations have been slightly reduced over the year but festivals were well attended. Some essential repairs were needed as was work on the bell ropes. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) appreciate the support of local events and the burial grant from the Parish Council. The Friends of the Churchyard continue regular maintenance and some recent pruning has revealed some hidden gravestones! Margery Wonnacott reported from Whiddon Down that the Methodist Church was continuing to function and a recent inspection resulted in praise for the condition of the building and graveyard. Fund raising events meant finances were "comfortable" but more people would be very welcome.

The 2016 tour of Britain cycle race will be travelling through the Parish at Whiddon Down on Friday 9th September when it travels from Sidmouth to Haytor. Their route takes them from Bow (estimated time 1324) to Moretonhampstead (eta 1400). This is quite a spectacle if you have not seen it before and puts us on the international and national sports television reports.

Please be aware there have been recent cases of sheep worrying in the Parish so keep your dog under control. A farmer is quite within his rights to shoot dead your dog if he finds it worrying his livestock. There continues to be sporadic cases of sheds being broken into and garden machinery being stolen. Again please secure your sheds and if you see anything you think suspicious telephone the police on 101 with descriptions and registration numbers of vehicles, or if offenders are still present then 999. The Police can do nothing about these events without our help.

That's it for this month, our next meeting is at **Drewsteignton on Monday 15th August 2016** (Just before Chagford Show!)

Tour Of Britain To Visit Devon On Friday 9th September

After a year off in 2015, the Tour of Britain will once again return to Devon on Friday 9 September. Stage six of the race starts in Sidmouth before covering a punishing 93mile (150km) route around Devon lining up for the grandstand finish at the summit of Haytor on Dartmoor.

The Tour of Britain is the UK's leading professional cycling event and the biggest free to watch spectator event in the country! The race has visited Devon nine times and brought in more than £33 million to the local economy, been watched by hundreds of thousands of spectators and also showcased the county to a global television audience.

The 2016 route takes in a number of communities including; Ottery St Mary, Honiton, Willand, Halberton, Tiverton, Bickleigh, Crediton, Coplestone, Bow, Moretonhamstead, Ide, Haldon, Chudleigh, Chudleigh Knighton, and Bovey Tracey.

You can see the full route at www.devontourofbritain.co.uk/route/

If you come out to watch, we suggest you are in place well before the peloton is due to pass. It will pass very quick but there will be a lot of support crew passing through first so it will be very exciting.

These timings could be subject to change so please check www.devontourofbritain.co.uk for any route changes and timing updates.

Location	Estimated Time
Start:	
Sidmouth, The Esplanade	11:30
Ottery St Mary	11:49
Chineway Hill (King of the Mountains)	11:50
Honiton	12:01
Willand	12:25
Halberton	12:30
Tiverton (Sprint near Blundells School)	12:36
Tiverton (Fore Street)	12:40
Bickleigh	12:48
Cadbury Hill (King of the Mountains)	12:49
Crediton (Sprint nr Queen Elizabeth School)	13:09
Coplestone	13:16
Bow	13:24
Moretonhampstead	14:01
Longdown	14:22
Ide	14:29
Dunchideock (King of the Mountains)	14:35
Haldon Forest Park	14:39
Chudleigh (Sprint on Fore Street)	14:50
Chudleigh Knighton	14:53
Bovey Tracey	14:57
Haytor (King of the Mountains)	15:00
FINISH: Dartmoor, Haytor	15:09

**WHIDDON DOWN METHODIST CHURCH
HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES**

**ON
SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER**

at 6.30pm

Preacher – Mr J Powell

and

MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

at 7.15pm

Led by Rev. Bruce Sawyer

Followed by the sale of produce,

Proceeds are for Church Funds

COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME



Creation and Creativity:

**A Celebration of the
Fruits of the Earth and
Our Talents'**

**In Holy Trinity, Drewsteignton
on**

Friday 30th September,

Saturday 1st October,

Sunday 2nd October

from 10.30am to 5pm daily

Ending with a

Harvest Service and Supper

Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club

The Gardeners's Club gets underway again on

Monday September 12th at 7:30

in the Village Hall.

Dick Fulcher from Pine Cottage Plants will be giving us tips on Seed Collection and Growing from Seed. He may have some plants available for sale.

Our **October 10th** meeting (same time same place) should be interesting as well as we will have Penny Townsend as our speaker whose topic is Strawberries and Other Garden Fruits.

Membership of the Gardeners' Club is £5.00 per year and all are welcome to join, even those with no garden! Meetings are followed by refreshments.

Drewsteignton Village Show

August 20th in Village Hall

Open to the Public at 2pm

Tea, coffee and DELICIOUS cakes

All ages are invited to enter and all classes are **FREE!!**

There is something for everyone so bake a flapjack or take a photo or grow a lettuce or take your favourite house plant for an outing and enter!!!

You can even make and dress a **Scarecrow**, there will be someone at the village hall to help you put it up.

Entries are put up between 9 & 10 on Sat morning.

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ???

Entry forms are available in the Village Shop and must be handed back in to the shop by 4pm on Thursday August 18th.

So mark your calendar **Saturday, August 20th 2pm**

This is YOUR show so come along and see the lovely exhibits and enjoy an **ABUNDANT and DELICIOUS** tea.

Bird Notes

The skies over Drewsteignton are considerably quieter than they were a month ago, and it is because the swifts have left on their long journey back to Africa. There are still small groups moving around, but they are generally drifting south and last night (2nd August), I watched as seven swifts briefly chased each other over the village before disappearing high into the skies over the Teign valley. I still have one or two juveniles in my nest boxes but they are so near to fledging, that the adults that were feeding them may have already left. I have not seen an adult swift bring food back for four days now, but they are so quick to return and enter a box, it is highly likely I have missed them.

It was in the middle of July that we had some glorious weather and the highest counts of swifts over Drewsteignton this year. I counted 35 on two consecutive evenings but swifts are really difficult to count as they are often in a number of smaller groups and parties, each going in different directions and often splitting groups to join others or flying out of sight.

Malcolm and his group of ringers came over on two evenings and spent one ringing juvenile swifts in the nest boxes at Churchgate, and the other boxes we have up on the thatched row at the other end of the village. The second visit was to catch adults in nets after they had left the nest boxes, to confirm which adults are returning to breed in which boxes, plus putting rings on any new adults caught. They were highly successful with fourteen juveniles ringed from eight nests in boxes and ten adults caught with one new adult swift ringed. I enjoy knowing that the nest boxes I have put up for swifts is making a difference and contributing to a really healthy number of swifts here. I would still like to increase the number of breeding pairs in the village, so if anyone is interested in putting up nest boxes or thinks they have swifts nesting under their eaves, do please get in touch with me.

While I derive enormous pleasure from watching and hearing the swifts over the village for the few brief months they are here, I get equal pleasure when others tell me they enjoy it too. A couple of weeks ago, I met a walker sitting on a bench in the churchyard early one evening, who said he had been watching the swifts over Churchgate for over an hour, and it was the most he had seen in Devon while he had been walking the Two Moors Way.

I wrote last month of the Exeter peregrine falcons and our three rescues of one of this year's juvenile males, who was known as 'PG' due to the letters on his coloured leg ring. On the 28th July, I received an email from an estate agent in Exeter, reporting with great sadness that she had got one of the Exeter peregrines having found it dead on the pavement. Since we started ringing them with unique numbered and coloured leg rings in 2012, there can be no mistaking when a member of the public spots one alive, or finds one either dead or injured. I contacted her to find out when and where it was found and learnt it was lying on the pavement in Paul Street, just 250m from the church and under the glass walkway between the Harlequin and Guildhall shopping centres. I went in to Exeter after work, and collected the dead peregrine from the office just before it closed. The bird was in perfect condition but it appeared to have a broken neck, so maybe had collided with something whilst in flight. I checked the church before I left Exeter in the hope of seeing the other falcons and luckily saw both adults on regular perches, and then the other juvenile male 'PH' flew across the valley calling noisily, before settling at the rear of the church tower. I was relieved to see all three of the falcons as it effectively ruled out the likelihood of 'PG' having been poisoned.

During the following weekend, I was in Exeter and had a really close look at the glass walkway. Although initially difficult to see, there were signs that birds had hit the glass. Most of the impressions appeared to be of pigeons, and effectively a 'print' of the bird caused by the fine powdery material that they carry amongst their feathers which deposits on the glass if they collide. I have seen a variety of impressions left by birds on glass windows including owls, chaffinches, a robin, a swallow and pigeons, immediately after they collide but never a peregrine falcon. There were about nine impressions on the walkway glass, but they all appeared to be pigeons. Maybe the peregrine was chasing a flock of pigeons, misjudged an attack and collided with some part of the walkway. As far as I am aware, it is the first time one of the Exeter peregrines has been found dead in the street, with the likelihood being that it collided with a building. It is a real shame that from four eggs laid in March, of the two hatchings, we only have one juvenile left now.

Nick

Work Experience

In my penultimate week of school before we broke up for the summer holidays, the Year 10's had five days of work experience. It was a very open week and there was a lot of variety in what my friends and peers did. I had managed to secure a placement at the 'Western Morning News' newspaper company based in Plymouth, with thanks to Jennifer Mullins for the introduction.

So on Monday morning at 9 o'clock, I entered their offices. It was quite overwhelming with about 50 journalists, editors and reporters all packed onto one floor. The aim of work experience is to discover a bit more about the profession you've picked in the hope this can give you some idea of what you want to do in the future. During the week, I wrote several articles which have actually been in the Western Morning News, with my name in the bi-line!

On one day, we drove to Cornwall where I watched Simon Parker (editor of the 'West Country Life' supplement and my boss for the week) interview a man who had set up a small festival called 'Knee Deep'. On another day, I conducted many phone interviews with a variety of people such as artists and historians to attain extra information which I used to incorporate into my pieces. I was given many tasks over the 5 days, such as re-writing press releases, composing articles and even watching how the newspaper was compiled; it was all very engaging and interesting to see just how much work goes into every page of the newspaper.

Throughout the week, I experienced many of the goings on of a proper working environment, including the umpteen cups of tea that were made constantly throughout the day and the long commute. In conclusion though, I had a very enjoyable, educational but tiring week!

I apologise, yet again for the small Parish Post contribution but hope everyone enjoys their summer holidays, however short they may be. **Tilly**

Harvest Festival

This year we are having a special event to celebrate harvest festival and to raise urgently needed money for repairs to the church fabric.

Starting on **Friday 30th September** and ending on the evening of **Sunday 2nd October** there will be an exhibition in the church celebrating "The Fruits of the Earth and the work of Human Hands"

This will take the form of a display of local crafts and handiwork ranging from art to woodcarving and including such varied subjects as needlework, pottery, thatching and winemaking, to name but a few.

Admission by programme at the door, price £1

The event will be open daily from 10am to 5pm with light refreshments being served all day culminating with a Harvest Songs of Praise at 5pm on Sunday evening.

We are inviting the whole community to lend items that they have made together with anything pertaining to them i.e tools, raw materials, etc. If you would also like to do an appropriate floral decoration to accompany your exhibit, that would be great or one of our arrangers will do it for you. Flower arrangers will also be very welcome, you don't have to be hugely experienced.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact Sue Honeybone 24398 or Angela Thomas 281602.

Harvest Fruit and Vegetables



Harvest Supper

Demand for tickets for Harvest Supper has been in decline over the past few years and the time and energy required of those running it is becoming unsustainable so this year it has been decided that we will have a buffet supper and auction of produce in church following the Songs of Praise. Attendance at the Songs of Praise is not required for coming to the supper.

No tickets will be sold but generous donations will be welcomed. As usual proceeds from this evening will go to Water Aid.

Hunt For Missing Garden Plants

Many of our once loved garden plants are quietly disappearing - once they've gone they've gone, lost for ever. Plants fall out of fashion or just get superseded by 'better' cultivars.

Plant Heritage - National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens was formed to minimize this risk across Britain and Ireland. There are over 600 National Plant Collections around the UK - holders of these collections search out and grow the widest range of their specialist interest plant group. Devon is the home to more than 40 National Collections (www.plantheritage.devon.org.uk) including the lovely agapanthus collection at Eggesford.

The Threatened Plants Project is working to identify garden worthy plants with the highest risk of extinction with the ambition that these can be conserved in National Plant Collections and the Plant Guardian scheme. The hunt is on for 12 'missing' plants that have disappeared from the UK's gardens and maybe are at risk of becoming extinct e.g. crocus chrysanthus 'E.A.Bowles' - who knows what treasures might be lurking in your garden.

The Plant Heritage late summer fair is at R.H.S Rosemoor on 28th August 10am - 3pm - usual garden admittance (free to RHS members). There will be a great range of rare and unusual plants to tempt you. Late summer is a good time to stand back and evaluate your garden - what's working and what isn't. If you've looked at a plant for three solid years and been constantly disappointed with it - turf it out - it won't get any better. Don't dither and say 'oh but it's pretty for a week in April'; harden your heart and do what must be done and think of the pleasure in choosing its replacement.

Late summer/early autumn is the time to lift and divide those plants that haven't flowered so well; they've used up all the goodies in the soil and need shifting. A good, sharp spade is the tool for the task - obviously leave the late flowering plants and deal with them in October or the Spring; likewise if you suffer with a heavy clay soil, dividing is also best kept until the Spring. After dividing, water the sections into their new homes with a handful of bone meal and chop off most of the top foliage to say 4 inches above the base to avoid too much strain on the unestablished roots.

Reversion - this is a problem that occurs to mainly variegated plants. You can instantly see a reverted shoot as it will be pure green and much more vigorous than its neighbours. I have identified this in two Yew trees recently- in this case they were beautiful golden Yews, bred to be pencil shaped and grow slowly but unfortunately the reversion wasn't spotted and dealt with at an early stage and now it is too late to cut it out. In fact you probably could but it would leave very ugly, malformed trees which would look unsightly for a long time. So, as soon as you see a strong green shoot popping out of an otherwise variegated shrub or tree prune that branch right back.

Here's hoping your beds and borders are looking gorgeous and you are enjoying your garden - as always Happy Gardening, **Philippa Allom**



What's on in August?

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, 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 Wednesday 24th August and 7th September. The fare is just £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 25th August and 8th September. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

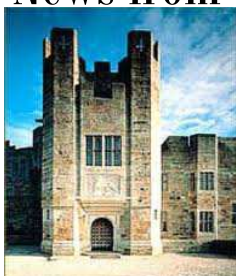
Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. This month it will be Tuesday 23rd August and 6th September.

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

Who should you contact - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered please phone Sylvia Tripp on 01647 24267. Please leave a message on her answering machine if she is not at home and she will call you back. If you have not heard back within 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or Jackie in the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Acorn Office Telephone number 01647 252701 for further information

News from the Castle



Hello all

The central scaffolding is down! The completed sections look amazing and we can see the gorgeous lion above the front door again. What a treat. There is still some work to be done, such as on the stairs down to the chapel, but it is clear that we are heading in the right direction. It's quite good fun to compare 'before and after'. There is a clear line on the granite walls so you can see what great work the builders are doing. Scaffolding will start going up on the north end of the building very soon. No time to rest!

It's all been go, go, go here. The evening theatre performance of 'Blithe Spirit' by the Hatherleigh Players was brilliant and raised £330 towards the building project. Thank you to all the brave souls who came along despite it being a bit damp. We had several school visits at the end of term too, with children from Chagford Primary walking up to us on a very lovely sunny day.

The summer trail is going down a storm with families taking part in all sorts of sports day activities such as a sack race and tug-of-war. Competition has been high! Before we know it though, the children will be back at school and we will be starting our September events including Heritage Open Day on Saturday 10th September, when EVERYONE can come and visit for free, and our Country Fair weekend on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September. Then, our Festival of Crafts starts where we will be celebrating the highly skilled craftsmanship that is throughout this incredible place.

How exciting! Please do pop along if you get chance.

Best wishes everyone

Paula Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

ACE ARCHEOLOGY CLUB



Well, summer seems to have come and gone, it was nice while it lasted. We are hoping for a little more summer, but not quite so hot perhaps, for our 'dig' in August/September. It isn't much fun digging in the rain or sitting in a tent watching it rain, although we do usually get to eat cake then or catch up on sleep.

As usual in July, we took part in the Council for British Archaeology's annual Festival of Archaeology, through the Step Back in Time Festival [http://](http://www.step-back-in-time.co.uk/)

www.step-back-in-time.co.uk/. We gave people the chance to have a go at digging.

We had some very young would-be archaeologists and the rest of us found more cobbles. If you want to come and have a look at what we do, our Excavation Open Day is on the 27th of August at Moistown, Pattiland Farm near Winkleigh from 11.00am and we would really love to see people. There will be tea and coffee and maybe cake and biscuits as well. If you would like more information about the Open Day or ACE in general please contact me on -mail@ericaonline.plus.com or look at our Facebook page; our website is still a work in progress, unfortunately. **Erica Williamson**



Drewsteignton Playing Field

Thanks to all of you who came to support our fun day at the playing field. I hope you had a great time. The weather wasn't bad and we were lucky to avoid the rain. Our magnificent water slide was again the star of the show. We made about £700 which was very good.

Special thanks to all the many people who helped to make the day such a success, whether before, during or after the event.

Our next event is the Bonfire Night on Saturday 5th November. Hope to see you there.

Generator Shed

We no longer have to store the generator in the main shed, where it was always in the way, as it now has its own special shed. Many thanks to Chip Davies, Pete Hodge and Dave Woolston who spent a lot of time building it for us. **Alison Chapman**

The Friends of The Churchyard

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in aid of the above on 30th July. We raised £267 towards the upkeep of the churchyard. This was mainly due to Jacqueline Page who organised the event and made all the superb cakes on offer. We owe her, not for the first time, a huge debt of gratitude.

If you have not been round the bottom of the churchyard recently you will not have seen the big clearance at the bottom. With the exception of some specimen trees, the area against the car park wall has been cleared of the accumulated rubbish of many years together with decades of spoil from grave excavations. The area is now fairly level and will be seeded out at the end of the summer. The west end, nearest the Drewe Arms, will have bays for the disposal of flowers, etc. for composting and burning. Bins will be provided for re-cycleable glass and plastic, and for rubbish i.e wire wreaths. Please note that this facility is for those tending graves or doing church flowers, not as a village dump as has happened in the past.

The Friends of the Churchyard's contributions pay for the employment of someone to strim and mow once a week March to October and monthly over the winter. In addition someone is paid to operate the ride on mower on an irregular basis and members of the congregation help out as and when able. We are hoping to purchase a blower/collector to keep the paths clear. The upkeep of the machinery involved plus fuel is added cost.

If anyone would like to become a Friend, making a monthly or annual donation, however small, or if you would like to make a one off donation, please contact Philip Evans, our Treasurer on 280285 or speak to one of the Churchwardens, Norma Gillard or Angela Thomas.

The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes.

Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too.

Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below.

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

John and Pauline

Drewsteignton Parish Post

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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 September - Thank You