

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 183

JULY 2021

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 (7.30pm) at Whiddon Down Village Hall in accordance with the latest Covid-19 safety protocols. The current capacity of the Village Hall is limited to 15 people. The Election of Vice-Chair, carried over from the previous meeting, was conducted, and by unanimous vote Cllr. Paul Ridgers was elected.

Cllr. James McInnes was congratulated on his re-election success. He provided an overview of his new role as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health Services. His responsibilities as Lead Member for Adult Social Care relates to the statutory functions, powers, and duties of the Council for the care and welfare of adults, including those with additional needs. A challenging brief with the additional post-pandemic demands for long Covid funding provision.

Existing Parish Council Anti-fraud and Corruption, Lone Worker and Equality & Diversity policies were reviewed and approved. Parishioners can view all policies online <https://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk/>.

There were no new planning applications to consider and no further update on 0319/20 Woodland Springs Caravan Park (additional pitches) and 0093/21 land to the west of Crockernwell (new housing development).

Councillors are liaising with DCC Highways and the National Trust to improve the condition of the final section of road to Fingle Bridge. Options to improve surface water drainage are currently being reviewed. Parishioners are encouraged to continue reporting potholes using the Devon CC online reporting facility. Please do not assume a pothole has been reported by someone else – multiple reporting is encouraged.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

Parking issues in Crockernwell was discussed. The Parish Council has no powers in this matter, and it is a police enforcement issue. It was noted that the Police & Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez had visited Crockernwell during her election campaign to observe the problem of speeding drivers. The Parish Clerk will write to the Commissioner to address the parking issue and her commitment to “catch speeding drivers”.

The finances of the Parish Council remain in good health and within budget.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall.

Cllr. Peter Brennan

Drewsteignton Parish Council

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

## *A Vision for Drewsteignton Village*

In medieval times, rural villages were **communities**, commonly centred around a church with a tavern and one or more shops. It seems to me that we forget this history at our peril.

**Villages need these three: pub, church, shop** – and they need them irrespective of whether any one person uses all three, just one or two or none. People who never darken its doors need the church as much as those who eschew the camaraderie of the tavern need the pub. And we all need the shop, even if we only realise it when we are ill or the car breaks down or we're back in lockdown!

**All three are interdependent** – the shop struggles without the pub being open to increase the footfall to the village. Weddings, christenings and funerals – alas too many of the last recently – also bring much needed extra custom to the shop and to the pub. The shop provides an invaluable local service, including working to ensure that housebound or elderly people get regular deliveries from villagers whom they know and trust and who stay for a chat or a cuppa-on-the-doorstep.

**But does modern life require these?** An unreflective incomer might imagine that one needs neither pub nor church nor shop to live happily in a picture-book village, with its thatched cottages and olde-worlde square. You can get a Tesco's delivery, you can drive to a pub, and anyhow who needs church nowadays? But, although it may be painful to recognise it, human beings have souls, and no-one with a soul wants to live in a one-dimensional picture. We are communal creatures and there is a world of difference between a genuine community and a string of nodding acquaintances.

**So: Pub, Church, Shop.** These three pillars are crucial to the well-being of our community. And they need each other. If the pub and the church are thriving, the shop will flourish too.

**The shop:** In Drewsteignton, the shop is under a very real threat. Royal Mail, anxious to preserve its pre-tax profit of £756m pounds, is moving the sorting office to Cheriton. The shop can survive without this but only if we ALL use it a LOT more.

**Holy Trinity church** has just completed the opening up of a space which will make a superb village asset – suitable for everything from yoga classes to toddler groups and a pop-up café with working wi-fi. It needs the money and the vision to make it happen and both are within our grasp.

**The Drewe Arms** needs to re-open, and as soon as possible, before the building deteriorates further. Enterprise Inns need a 'road-to-Damascus' conversion to produce a community-minded, ethical business-plan for our village pub.

**It's our choice:** Within five years, not only Drewsteignton but many Devon villages could be dead. They will remain as paintings on the wall, but that's it. Or they could be vibrant communities, neighbourhoods in which people do activities, shop, (cont.)

reflect, play, create artefacts, grow food, marry, give birth and bury their dead. The choice is ours. Do we want to put in the effort? If for you, the answer is yes, try doing one or all of these things:

**Use the shop.** You don't have to avoid the supermarket entirely, none of us do that. But buy as much as you can in the shop. Always use the post office. Get papers, and bread and talk to Stuart or Cheryl about other things they can get for you on a weekly basis. If we all prioritise the shop, we will keep it.

**Come to an open meeting** about the village space at the back of the church: July 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm Drinks and Nibbles available. Many of us have ideas about how to organise this but we need your input, your creativity and your ideas.

**Join forces** to put pressure on Enterprise Inns and think about creative ways to re-open the pub. A little bird tells me that there are several good people already on to this so Watch This Space.

### Ruth Merttens

#### Footnote from the Flopsy Bunnies

Um, sorry to intrude, but, as you know, we have a special interest in the National Trust, given its history.

It is *such* a pity when they don't step up! The clue's in the name: Trust – which depends on visible truth not obfuscation. The ancient beeches were not 'thinned': too large a proportion were felled. The 33 replacement new saplings are not beech, as was implied, b conifers.

Pity the NT doesn't face up to a sad decision instead of pretending it's all fine. And now for the camomile tea...



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## Holy Trinity News

### Celebration time!!

What a joy it is to be able to hold weddings again in our beautiful church and that the first of them was a very local couple - Gemma Bowden and Rich James. Even though the weather wasn't perhaps quite what was hoped for it didn't dampen the ceremony and our congratulations and good wishes go to them both. A few weeks later we were delighted to have another very local wedding on June 12<sup>th</sup>. That of Gemma's' brother – Bradley and his fiancé Rachel Cocker. Again 2 people who have been born and grown up in Drewsteignton, are a big part of our community and have found happiness together. Our congratulations and very best wishes are sent to them also. The church is also due to hold its first baptism in a long while on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, with others following later in the year and it is so wonderful that these events are able to take place again and are a reminder of what the church means to so many people – whether regular churchgoers – or not, those wanting to use it to hold their celebrations, or some who just need a quiet place to sit for awhile in the middle of a very busy day. Holy Trinity Church is there for everyone.

THREE INCH FOOLS  
PRESENT

# ROBIN HOOD

FIVE ACTORS STRUGGLE TO REMEMBER BRITAIN'S BEST-KNOWN FOLKTALE

**STONE LANE GARDENS**  
**8 JULY . 7PM**

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE. GATES OPEN FROM 6PM. PICNICS WELCOME.  
TICKETS & INFORMATION: [WWW.STONELANEGARDENS.COM/SHOP](http://WWW.STONELANEGARDENS.COM/SHOP)  
£15 ADULT / £10 UNDER-18 / FREE UNDER-5 / £45 FAMILY (2+2)  
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SEATING (BLANKETS/CAMPING CHAIRS/ETC), AND DRESS FOR THE WEATHER  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT [THREEINCHFOOLS.COM](http://THREEINCHFOOLS.COM) OR EMAIL [BOXOFFICE@THREEINCHFOOLS.COM](mailto:BOXOFFICE@THREEINCHFOOLS.COM)

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As weather patterns change  
Four weeks rain  
Here comes the sun again  
Something called climate change

We must refrain from our habits  
As patterns in nature guide us  
As clear the eye can see  
Its defiantly down to you and me!

**Julia Whatley**



## Acorn Community Support Happy Summer!!!

Here we are in June on the day that the Government will probably announce an extension to the final release which is a shame for all those who had events planned but perhaps better to extend than to throw caution to the winds and then have another big lockdown.

Clubs are back up and running again with small groups but so much fun. The fortnightly Coffee morning in Christow has been a resounding success with Bingo and “Horse Racing” coffee, cake and chatter! Likewise the Cheriton Lunch club, although they have only had one lunch so far, it was a happy occasion with plenty of room for more to join in.

Memory Lane Café at Strawberry Hill is slowly getting back going again too. If you know anyone who you think might benefit from this type of interaction, then please contact Mandy or Fran at the office as below.

The Dunsford Coffee morning resumed on 9<sup>th</sup> June 10.15-11.45 – all are welcome at the village hall for a catch up with the obligatory coffee/tea and of course CAKE!

Acorn Monthly Trips became weekly due to Social Distancing on our minibuses cutting the capacity in half. This past four weeks both minibuses have taken lovely groups to Bernaville Garden Centre for a bit of a look around, shopping and again a visit to the café. Sainsbury’s Shopping trips have also resumed from both locations – Teign Valley and Cheriton Bishop. Again Social Distancing means that we can only half fill the buses.

If you would like to book a seat on the mini bus for any of our trips or coffee mornings then please contact **Mandy or Fran at the Office on 01647 252701**

Do contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 regarding bookings for the Cheriton Monthly Lunch club.

Of course Acorn continues with all its usual services so please do call us

So with the summer sun, hopefully the summer fun will resume – as always take care.

Best wishes

**The Acorn Team, Mandy Vellacott, Office Manager**

Working Hours: Monday - Thursday 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Tel:01647 252701

[office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](mailto:office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)

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

**Anthea and Duncan from The Old Inn** would like to thank all those who have spoken to us of their sadness and condolences at our recent loss of our wonderful, loyal, funny and very special pack member Tyne (Oeuf or Log-Dog to some!). We are (all three) of course, heart-sore and very sad but consoling ourselves with thoughts of the excellent life he lead and also his very good and speedy death.

So thank you for taking the time to share with us.

**Best Wishes,**

**Anthea, Duncan and Teign.**

***If you do not care for each other, who will care for you? Love Zen x***

### **WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL**

[jennyturner21@gmail.com](mailto:jennyturner21@gmail.com) or by phone 01647231179. Best wishes to you all.

Well let's try again, July 19th will bring new hope (we hope).

The Village Hall has again been fortunate to receive further financial assistance from the Government. We are exceedingly grateful for this support. This will ensure we are able to provide a well-maintained community facility for many years to come.

Our regular users are meeting as usual albeit still with restricted numbers. I think it will be a while before people have the confidence to attend larger functions, so we will hold off planning any fundraisers until later in the year.

Sadly, Alex has decided to step down from her post as booking clerk, for personal reasons. She has done a wonderful job since taking over from Clare and her knowledge of all things Covid has been invaluable. This leaves us with a vacancy on our Committee. Alex has agreed to explain what the job entails to anyone interested. If this could be of interest to you or someone you know please contact me on 01647231179 for details.

We will be holding our AGM in early August, date to be confirmed as yet. Watch this space. Best wishes, **Jenny Turner**

***A big thank-you to my Committee for the lovely bunch of flowers I received, thanking me for doing my job as Chair. It was totally unexpected and a lovely surprise. Thank you. Jenny***

### **Bird Notes**

The summer migrants returned as they always do, and I heard my first Chiffchaff on March 9 while working in Wellington and then locally at Castle Drogo on 16 March.

I spotted a swallow near Crockernwell on 30 March and then over Drewsteigton square on April 6. House martins were later than usual with my first seen on 17 April over Crockernwell and the village on 21 April. Cuckoos were heard and seen from the Hunters path right down to Clifford bridge from 28 April through May into early June. I had many reports from others but failed to see/hear one this year.

After fairly good weather in April, the Swifts returned with the first seen over the village on 4 May and my first sighting on 6 May was of a group of eight, so I opened up all the nest boxes on Churchgate. I hadn't even moved the ladder from one to the next in the row when a swift headed straight for a box. From the speed, skill and accuracy of the swift going into the entrance hole, I guessed this was one of last year's adults returning for a well-earned rest having been on the wing since it left last August. The next day saw the weather take a turn for the worse into what proved to be the wettest, coldest May for years, resulting in the swifts leaving again. There were a few nice evenings through the month where I saw occasional swifts but overall, it was poor weather to get into condition for breeding. Finally, at end May, better weather returned, as did swifts in good numbers with many occupying their boxes in the village. It's been a joy to see and hear their screaming parties as they whip across the roof tops and I've managed regular counts of between 35 and 40 birds but they are (cont.)

difficult to record! I often see large groups feeding over the Teign valley or high over the fields. Just last week, I counted fifty over woodland by the quarry.

We will be undertaking the usual ringing of the young swifts in their boxes in July but expect later laying dates due to the bad weather in May. If anyone should find a ringed swift on the ground, either live or dead, could they contact me as it all adds information to our swift project. In fact, if anyone finds any wild bird with a leg ring on, contact me and I can submit the ring to the British Trust for Ornithology.

We have more nest boxes up this year with nine new ones on Froggy Villa and the Reverend Paul Seaton-Burn has very kindly allowed us to put up boxes on the church. We put three up on the castellations, providing six nests and installed a swift call system to alert them to potential accommodation on the tower. The calls are played mornings and evenings - the main times swifts prospect for new nest sites. Watching from the ground, we have seen swifts flying close to the boxes and will check them in July to see if any prospecting birds are making nests in preparation for next year.

If anyone is interested in hosting swift boxes, get in touch on 281681 or 07761 422850.

**Thanks, Nick**



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National Trust

*News from the Castle Moor*

Hi everyone

The eagle-eyed among you may have spotted the change to the title of this article. Now that the building project at Castle Drogo is complete, my role has changed and I now help out at all the places that the National Trust cares for across Dartmoor. This is such a treat for me to start to get a better understanding of the work the teams are doing across the patch. Plus I get to visit them! I am a very lucky lady. I thought it would be nice to give you all a virtual update from the comfort of your home. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin...

Let's start off at Finch Foundry. I am delighted to let you know that, after a whole year of being closed, we re-opened on 1 June. As Finch is so small, the team are now running visits by guided tour so pre-booking via the website is crucial. The team has refreshed the displays and you will be shown around by passionate, knowledgeable experts. The sights, sounds and smells of the machinery is just wonderful.

Next is Lydford Gorge. The team there have managed to keep a one-way circular route down to the waterfall open through spring, which has been much appreciated by locals. They are now working hard to complete all the tasks needed to re-open the riverside track which will open soon. As always, check the website for the latest news. Finally, back to Castle Drogo. The castle reopening on 17 May was followed by gale force winds (typical!). Half term was wonderful though with lots of (but not too many) visitors arriving for their booked time and enjoying seeing the castle once again as a family home instead of a building site. We are keeping everything crossed that some outdoor theatre organized by Plough Arts will be able to go ahead this summer. Please visit the Plough Arts website for more info and to book.

Take care everyone, **Paula**

Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor

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

**Change to distribution of the Drewsteignton Parish Post**

Following the removal of Sorting Office facilities at the Village Shop, the postmen and women will no longer be delivering copies as they make their rounds. Instead, an army of your friends and neighbours are delivering your copy.

Joining with the wonderful villagers who already assist with distribution, this should ensure that everyone in the parish receives their copy. However, should you not receive yours, there will be a stock of copies available at Drewsteignton Village Store and, if you e-mail me on the address below, I can ensure that we include you in one of the delivery rounds.

The upside should be that you will be receiving your copy before the end of each month and so, once the Events Calendar is up and running again, you should never miss that chance to buy plants, or local arts and crafts and to dance in the Square. Wishing you health, happiness, and fun once more as we anticipate the end of restrictions on the 19th July. Ed.

Fiona Rynn would like to resign her position as defibrillator account administrator and needs someone else to pick up the reins. Currently, the safety checks on the box (located outside the Drewsteignton Post Office) are being carried out by someone else and she simply follows up any queries by the Community Heartbeat Trust who are responsible for the hardware. If anyone is interested in taking on this vital village role, please contact Fiona on 281617 or [fiviva@yahoo.com](mailto:fiviva@yahoo.com)

**The Drewsteignton Parish Post**      If you have trouble reading this publication, do please 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 25th. Thank you, Ed***