

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 185

SEPTEMBER 2021

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held two Extra-ordinary meetings on the 10th August and the 23rd August to discuss a number of planning applications that required a PC response ahead of our next meeting. The following provides a summary of the applications and PC decisions.

0379/21 Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for use as B1 light industrial - light carpentry and joinery works, ancillary wood storage, office, etc. at Weir Mill, Drewsteignton. A site visit had previously been conducted by Cllrs. The PC agreed to support the application.

0392/21 Application for listed building consent for new loggia, window alteration and re-open existing doorway at Netherton House, Drewsteignton. A site visit was not possible due to both Agent and owners being unavailable. The PC agreed to provide a neutral view of the application.

0438/21 Application for building consent for erection of self-build carpentry workshop and studio space at Higher Hopsyard, Drewsteignton. A site visit had previously been conducted by Cllrs. The PC heard from members of the public who spoke both against and in support of the application. The PC agreed to support the application noting several recommendations to DNP.

0427/21 Application for building consent for the renewal of cement-based render to north elevations and insulated lime render to east, west and south elevations of farmhouse and repair cob and stone walls at East Fingle Farm, Crockernwell. Cllrs noted the intent to correct previous repairs and restore the building using traditional materials. The PC agreed to support the application.

0455/21 Application for building consent for erection of timber framed building for storing swimming pool equipment, hot tub, keep fit area and sauna at West Fingle, Crockernwell. The late notice of this application, had not provide time to arrange a site visit. The PC agreed to provide a neutral view of the application.

No further update on 0319/20 (Woodland Springs Caravan Park - additional pitches).

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

Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 20th September 2021 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall.

Cllr. Peter Brennan Drewsteignton Parish Council

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club resumes its regular monthly meetings on September 20 when we are invited to visit Cheriton Bishop Garden Club at 7:30 in the Cheriton Village Hall. The speaker is the Rev. Ian Johnson and the topic is "Live composting, Live soil".

October 11 at 7:30 we will be meeting in our new venue in Whiddon Down Village Hall. Our good friend and nurseryman Peter Cantrill will be coming to speak to us and bring many of his wonderful plants for sale.

It will be so good to see all our members together again after so long!

Carole Mason, Joint Sec. Tel. 281185

Drewsteignton Village Shop & Post Office

The end of July was the end of an era for our Post office as the Royal Mail removed their sorting facility from our Kitchen. The Royal Mail have been sorting Mail here for many years, at one time there were 4 Postal Staff working in the building. You shouldn't notice any changes in the deliveries you get, Dave is still our regular postman, with Emma covering his day off assisted by Dani and Anthony.

WE ARE STILL A POST OFFICE. There are no changes to the Post Office side of our business and we are still here for all of your Postage, Banking, Travel Money, Savings accounts and Mobile Top up needs as well as a good chat with us when you come in.

In line with the current government guidance we are not requiring you to wear a mask in the Shop, it is entirely your choice. However, if you are not comfortable coming in we are still more than happy to serve you outside, just knock on the window. We are now also pleased to accept card payments on the retail side of the business.

As the summer holidays draw to a close please remember your local shop that has been here to serve you through these unprecedented times. We can only survive with your support. We have an ever-increasing range of products and are always happy to consider adding product lines where sufficient need is demonstrated.

Thank you to those who come in regularly and to those who haven't been in for a while, why not come and see what's new

Stuart & Cheryl

The Drewe Arms



The Drewe Arms is delighted to announce that we are now serving delicious local food, cooked fresh on the premises by our new chef.

Open daily 12:00 – 23:00

Jayne 01647 281377

Holy Trinity News



The last day of the Whiddon Down Autumn Festival opens with a joyful celebration of choral Eucharist. Music by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina sung by the Corvus Consort 11:00am on Sunday 12th at Holy Trinity Church

Harvest Songs of Praise

The Harvest service at Holy Trinity is to be on 10th October at 11.15am and will be followed by a light lunch at 12.30pm.

The flower ladies will be decorating the church on the 8th/9th and would appreciate any offers of flowers and seasonal foliage and help. There are only 2 of us (and we are both amateurs) so please do come along and enjoy coffee and biscuits while creating a wonderful Harvest atmosphere in our beautiful church. Please contact Sue Honeybone on 01647 24398 if you would like to offer flowers and/or help.

More details of the lunch will be in the next issue of the Parish Post.

Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Fayre

I know it seems ages away but it will soon creep up on us!!!

The Christmas Craft Fayre will be in the church on Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th December (Covid restrictions may apply). There will be more details in future issues of the Parish Post but in the meantime I will be contacting all of you who have booked spaces by the end of September. Should I not have spoken with you by this time please do get in touch with me (my memory is not as good as it could be!!!)

If you have not booked a table and would like to be involved please let me know asap on 01647 281605 or j.hocking05@btinternet.com and the deadline for this is November 1st. As usual there is no charge for the space but we ask for 15% of your sales to be donated to church funds.

Also If you are able to help set up on Thursday 2nd in the afternoon or evening then I really would appreciate some help as some of the tables are quite heavy. (I may just get a drink in for you at the pub!!!)

Thank you – and it really is great to be able to start and get our village back to some normality.

Jane Hocking


Stone Lane
 garden sculpture nursery

Stone Lane Gardens,
 Chagford, TQ13 8JU
 RHS Partner Garden

Open all year round
 Woodland and Water Gardens
 National Collection of Birch and Alder

Summer Sculpture Exhibition
www.stonelanegardens.com



Acorn Community Support

"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here.
With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer."

– Helen Hunt Jackson

The golden month of September. Where did summer go? One thing for sure, there has been plenty of socialising to make up for the rather dull days of last year. We are continuing with a full calendar of social events for September!

The Cheriton Lunch Club has been well attended as usual but always room for a few more so if you are interested then please do contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book. Next one is 7th September 2021 and then 5th October 2021.

The Dunsford Coffee mornings will be on the 1st, 15th and 29th September in the Dunsford Village Hall dressing room and everyone is welcome, no booking necessary, just turn up and enjoy.

The social trips from Cheriton Bishop and the Teign Valley have been so popular and now we are able to fill the minibus again, the trips will be fortnightly starting in September. Hopefully once the crowds diminish we will be able to go to the seaside.

From Cheriton Bishop

Outings - Tuesday 14th & 28th September 2021

Shopping at Sainsburys - Monday 6th & 20th September 2021

From the Teign Valley

Outings - Monday 6th & 20th September 2021

Shopping at Sainsburys - Friday 3rd & 17th September 2021

Fortnightly coffee mornings in the Teign Valley Community Hall are also back in full flow on Tuesday 14th and 28th September with loads of chatter and cake! On the alternate Tuesdays we will be organising the lunch club again so please contact the office if you would like to be included.

We ask that EVERYONE on our bus trips however short the trip, wears a face mask and observes safe hand sanitising practices. We want you all to have fun and keep safe!

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

Acorn continues with all its usual services so please do call us and if you just want a chat then you know where we are.

Best wishes

The A(corn) Team

office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Defibrillator

Fiona Rynn will be resigning 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 would be kind enough to take on this vital village role, please contact Fiona on 281617 or fiviva@yahoo.com

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

WDVH Committee held an informal meeting at the end of July, at which we discussed the way forward. As we have money in the bank, it was decided unanimously to complete the window replacement and the hall re-decoration this Autumn. We will endeavour to cause as little disruption to our regular bookings.

It was also decided to suspend large gatherings such as fundraisers, bingos etc. until the New Year.

The Hall is available for new bookings, although numbers will be still at the discretion of the Committee. When booking, organizers will be encouraged to follow guidelines such as social distancing and hand sanitation wherever possible.

Alison Chapman has agreed to take over as booking secretary, from Alex, following the AGM. Booking details will be updated after that date.

The AGM will take place Wednesday 22nd September @ 7.30pm. Last year's minutes are on display inside and outside the Village Hall in accordance with Charity guidance.

Members of the public will be welcome.

During lockdown, it has been obvious that many people other than Hall users, use our Carpark on a regular basis. We have collected some donations from the honesty box, but not nearly enough to contribute to the upkeep. We will be erecting a new sign in the Carpark reminding users it is private property. We will also be chaining off the entrance at random times when the hall is not in use. If you are one of these people who regularly park and car-share please contact me or one of the committee members to set up a regular donation to avoid being locked in.

Best wishes

Jenny (Chairman) 01647231179 or jennyturner21@gmail.com



National Trust

News from the Moor

Hi everyone

It always amazes me how quickly the school holidays whizz past. It has been such a privilege to be able to provide some much-needed access to beauty for people after so much uncertainty. The majority have responded by continuing to wear masks indoors and be thoughtful of others when visiting.

As I start the virtual tour of Dartmoor, it's fair to say that the summer has not been without its challenges. At Finch Foundry, the guided tours have been going really well but we then, like so many places, hit some staff shortages and had to close for a few days. Thankfully, as Finch is staying on the booking system, we were able to let people know in advance and those who turned up were still able to enjoy the outside spaces and take advantage of the very excellent local walks, shop, café and pub.

The unexpected highlight and star of the show at Lydford Gorge is the secondhand bookshop which opened in April. It is proving to be a big hit with locals and visitors alike and we are very grateful to the lovely people who have turned up with donations of books. The team there are also loving sharing tales of the huge variety of wildlife that call Lydford home and I joined them at the Meldon Wildlife Festival recently which was such a joy to be part of.

Finally, to Castle Drogo. It was a bit of a shock to be so busy again! It took us a bit of time to get used to seeing so many people. I would like to say a big thank you to all our neighbours for their patience on the lanes and directing people who have trusted their Sat Nav

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instead of the evidence before their eyes. Thanks to some very patient people giving directions, visitors have found their way to us and it has brought a lot of joy to share this wonderful place again.

On a personal note, it has been a huge relief to start looking forward instead of just reacting to the latest news and restrictions. Our partnerships with fabulous local organisations such as Med Theatre, Learn Devon and OCRA are once again active with all sorts of activities being planned. Watch out for return of the school cross country run in November – keep everything crossed it can go ahead!



White Lady waterfall

Lydford Gorge

Take care everyone, **Paula**

Volunteering & Community Manager,

Dartmoor 01 647 434130,

paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

In response to the compartmentalized buildings and the fence panels constructed by the disconnected housing associations

HEDGEHOG

Please don't fence me in
 I can't get through the wood
 So I can eat the grubs,
 Tasty, on the other side
 And the gravelly ground
 In my compound
 Has nothing planted in it
 And the human's tiny patch
 Hasn't got a little hatch
 So I can travel on through it
 I once had a shared hedge
 Was diverse and gave me shelter
 Where the new life could fledge
 And now the summer's here
 I fear that I will swelter
 Not even a log
 For a little lonely hedgehog!

Julia Whatley



Beaver consultation now live

The long-awaited government [consultation on the future of beaver re-introduction in England](#) was launched earlier today.

Running for 12 weeks, this is your opportunity to tell the government why you want to see the return of the beaver to English rivers. Find out more on the [Beavers page of the DWT website](#).



SALMON A bright burst of pure hope

Local arts organisation, MED Theatre, are enjoying their relaunch into the world of live theatre having already performed their latest dance drama, 'Earth Wind Fire' to a full house, and are excited to introduce their latest community play commission, 'Salmon'.

Written by Artistic Director Mark Beeson in collaboration with three young writers and Freelance Consultant Florrie Taylor, 'Salmon' aims to encourage communities along the river to engage with its history, nature and future.

The Dartmoor based theatre company has partnered with The River Teign Restoration Project to raise the profile of The River Teign among the local community and to ask questions about why the numbers of Salmon and other fish have declined in the river in recent years.

MED Theatre's other contributions to the project include their education outreach workshops which will tour schools and youth settings near the River Teign, and a poetry and creative writing competition open to the public, which will be launched in September after the production.

The play will be performed beside the river at Fingle Bridge on the 4th September at 2.30pm and 7pm and in Hearn Field, Haccombe-with-Combe on the 5th September at 7pm.

'Salmon' aims to engage people with the issues facing the river, as well as encourage them to enjoy the riverside environment whilst learning about how the river affects people from all walks of life.

Visit MED Theatre's website at www.medtheatre.co.uk for tickets and more information

Bird Notes

As August draws to a close, the skies over Drewsteignton are quieter now than they were last month. The swifts have left us after their three-month stay and are now on their way back to their winter occupation of south and east Africa. Swallows and house martins are still here, and good numbers can be seen overhead, as this year's youngsters join the non-breeders and adults in their quest for flying insects

The swifts arrived back in the village on May 2, unfortunately coinciding with the end of the lovely sunny weather of the previous few weeks. We then had about three weeks of wet and windy weather which seriously delayed the start of the breeding season but on the occasional dry and mild evening, I spotted a few in groups chasing fast across the roof tops and occasional birds entering the nest boxes.

When the weather got better in June and July, we had really good numbers over the village as the non-breeders screamed overhead in groups, numbering up to fifty birds in total, especially in the warm evenings. Malcolm and some of his helpers came up during July to check the nest boxes and see how good the season had been for the swifts. The poor weather in May not only delayed the start of egg laying but resulted in smaller broods than last year. Despite this, Malcolm ringed 24 swift chicks from thirteen active nest boxes in the village and found some nests abandoned with unhatched eggs, possibly due to inexperienced first-time breeders and the late start to the season due to the poor weather.

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Malcolm was also able to fit tiny little satellite tags to a few of the adult swifts, which he caught as they left the boxes after feeding their chicks. He then caught the same birds again about ten days later to retrieve the tags and after downloading the data, was able to determine where the swifts have been feeding. He sent me some fascinating maps showing one had been feeding over specific fields with a few miles of the village whereas another had been feeding over Exeter and its surrounds. This is an amazing look at their feeding habits and I hope to write more as I learn more about where our swifts have been feeding.

The majority of the swifts left the village with the first wet and windy period at the beginning of August, just leaving a few adults feeding their late broods. This year is the latest I have ever recorded swifts with chicks still in the nest boxes or adult birds seen over the village and on August 24, I spotted an adult over the west end and a single chick looking out of one of my nest boxes on our row.

On my way to work in the mornings, I have been stopping in the layby in Crockernwell and watching up to eight swifts prospecting potential nest sites on a thatched row and am delighted to see three swift nest boxes have gone up on a property nearby. If anyone in Drewsteignton would be interested in helping swifts by putting up nest boxes on their property, please get in touch.

This has been the best year for hedgehogs that I have ever experienced in the last 24 years of living in Drewsteignton. I first spotted hedgehog poop in my garden back in May and have regularly come across both adult and young hedgehogs in my garden, the churchyard, down Froggy lane and in the car park.

Nick Dixon (tel: [07761 422850](tel:07761422850))

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