

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 158

JULY 2019

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council meeting this month the number of parish councillor vacancies was raised. We currently have two vacancies. If you would like to find out more about joining us, please come along to a meeting or contact us via clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk.

Jimmy Bell attended on behalf of the Playing Field committee and updated the councillors. The updated plans now include upgrading the slide and finishing the shed.

Editor of the Parish Post, Shelley Mansfield, was invited to speak. Shelley informed the councillors that the delivery of the Parish Post is potentially a problem and fears that it is not widely read. She had some suggestions on how the Parish Post could be updated: as an on-line resource only; a blog; printed, laminated and displayed locally, for example at the bus stops and local pubs; a small subscription fee to cover postage. Shelley would like feedback regarding these options. Cllr Ridgers thanked Shelley for taking on the work. If you would like to give feedback on this her contact details can be found on the back of this publication. Older members of the community would, irrespective of changes, have printed copies delivered to them.

The tidiness of highways and verges in the parish was discussed after a report that the bench near Trennaway cross was looking untidy. This has now been tidied by Cllr Redman. He said that Dee Douglas does a lot in Whiddon Down and all councillors noted there was very little litter in the parish. If you do see something that needs attention, please either report it to the relevant authorities or drop us a line, via the Clerk's email, with the details.

The agenda layout was discussed and agreed that an addition of public time for matters arising after Declaration of Interests would be added so that when members of the public come to speak on a subject, they can have priority at the beginning of the meeting. To comply with standing orders each member of the public will have a maximum of three minutes to speak. I will be attending my first Dartmoor National Park Association forum next month and asked if the other councillors had any matters to be raised, Cllr Imrie wanted to know if there would be more funding available for planning. Cllr Redman asked what happened at these meetings I have agreed to let him know at the next meeting.

There has been an enquiry about the Sandy Park Phone Box. Members of the parish were thinking of taking it over and turning it into a defibrillator. The Clerk has written to BT and is awaiting an update regarding this.

A reminder that the Whiddon Down overpass will be closed 7pm-7am, 8th-12th July & 15th July 2019. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways again regarding the white lines on the road, signalling the services at Whiddon Down, as they are very faint and over 70% worn away.

The Parish council received the following planning applications:

DNPA 0256/19. Prior notification of formalisation of existing track at Dog Marsh Field, Mill End, Chagford. Councillors noted that this work has been completed in a sympathetic manner. WDBC 1734/19/CLP. Certificate of lawfulness for four pod-style holiday caravans at Dartmoor View Holiday Park, Whiddon Down, was noted by the councillors.

Cllr Ridgers noted that the removal of two mature trees in his hedge near Sandy Park had created a very large passing area on this narrow road and the area made good. The Clerk was asked to remind Highways that the road needs to be kept clear.

In late matters an email from Dee Douglas regarding the Royal Mail post box was received noting that the bracket was broken and the box needed painting. The Clerk had advised her to report this to the Royal Mail directly. Cllrs James and Rowe had both checked the box by the Post Inn and noted the state of repair and that the post is indeed rotted out. Cllr Rowe reported that Whiddon Down Village Hall fundraising had gone very well and now the kitchen and western windows have been replaced. There is a possibility of a working day in September to spruce up the interior decor.

The meeting ended and the councillors were intrigued by the folder of passed beating-of-the-bounds the Clerk had brought for the meeting. There were some fascinating old maps depicting the footpaths of the parish before the current A30 was built. If you would like to get involved in the beating-of-the-bounds project, please do get in contact with any of the councillors or the Clerk.

Our next meeting is on 15th July at 7:30pm in Whiddon Down village hall. Anything you would like on the agenda should be sent to the Clerk via above email address.

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Holy Trinity Church news

Thank you

The concert on the 18th May was a tremendous success with a very full church especially considering that we were competing with Chagword! It was beautifully organised by Jess Taylor, Shelly Mansfield and other Friends of Drewsteigton Church. The two Devon choirs (DCJC) featured incredibly talented young people who ranged in age from about 7 years to 19 years. A first for Drewsteigton was a wonderful aria from The Barber of Seville sung by a parent who just happens to be an internationally known singer. The proceeds were split between the Friends and Farms For City Children. A massive 'thank you' to all who came and supported this fantastic event. **Jane Hocking**

Marg & Ian say 'Thank you'

What a lovely surprise we had to see so many of you who came to the Drewe Arms for our Retirement Presentation evening. Thank you to everyone also for the very generous gift of the many cards and good wishes received. A special thank you to those of you who made it possible especially Judy and Gary. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to stand behind the counter and serve you these last 14 yrs and 48yrs as the Maynard family. Thank you once again, Ian and Marg.

Drewsteigton 'Summertime' Craft Fayre

Thank you to all who came and supported our local crafters at our summer fayre. We had a lovely time and it was wonderful to be able to have the West doors of the church open and feel that we were part of the Teignton Fayre activities. The crafters donated 15% of their sales and were able to give over £170 to Teignton Fayre funds.

Thanks to all who helped us with the signage and table-moving and a very special 'Thank You' to Alison and Callum Chapman and their carpenter for the brilliant pew-top covers which fit perfectly and are ideal for our requirements. They certainly are better than moving those huge trestle tables!!!

We look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Fayre **30th Nov. and 1st Dec.**
(It'll come around sooner than you think!!)

Jane Hocking

Local events

Poetry in the Place

An exhibition of the village's favourite poems will be held in the church from 5th to the 12th July. Please send poems for inclusion to ruth@merттens.co.uk.

Come along to the **Open Mic Evening at 6:30 on Sunday 7th**. At this event, some of the favourite poems will be read and performed by two professional poet performers and by those who chose them. Children are especially welcome - whether to perform or not! Free nibbles and soft drinks; wine or beer for over 18s.

This event will follow on from the **Evensong service** to be held in the church on the 7th from 5.30pm - 6.30pm. **All welcome**

The PCC and all the congregation at Holy Trinity would like to convey a huge THANK YOU to our retiring churchwarden Angela Thomas and to welcome Ian Merттens who will serve with Norma until her retirement next year. We would also like to welcome Stuart and Cheryl to the village shop and Post Office and our community.

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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.

Beer, Pimms etc will be available. Entry is free.

Sorry, no dogs are allowed anywhere in the Playing Field

- D - G - C -

**Drewsteignton Gardeners' Club Village Show
Saturday 17th August**

ALL ages are invited to enter. **ALL** classes are inclusive and **FREE!**

There are classes for everyone:

Bake a cake, Take a photo, Grow a lettuce, Bring a painting or your favourite plant and lots more classes

Many classes for Flowers, Vegetables, Fruit

**Schedules are available in the Village Shop from 1st August
& must be handed in by 4.30pm August 15th**

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Tea-Time concert in St. Mary's Dunsford - Orchard String Quartet 7th July

Anna Cockcroft-violin, Ruth James-2nd violin, Nicola Smith-violola, Isabelle Woolcott-cello & Chris Gradwell Clarinet.

Boyce - Symphony no 1 in B flat major

Bruch - Kol Nidrei

Dvorak - American Quartet-1st movement-Allegro ma non troppo

Mozart - Clarinet Quintet.



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 Drewsteignton. For further details go to www.stonelanegardens.com. Find us on Trip Advisor.

What's on in July 2019

Okchampton District Community Transport Group

Please come along and join us at our AGM on Thursday 18th July at the Church Hall, Market Street, Okchampton from 3pm.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sue Wonnacott

C - B - C



Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be July 4th at the Red Lion. 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 July 10th & 24th .

Help is provided in store & we will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is £5 return.

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 - July 11th & 25th.

Meetings are held 10.30–12.30 Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall – This month it will be Tuesday July 9th & 23rd

The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30-12.00 Please drop in for tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake and to meet up with friends. Everyone is welcome.

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/to join our wonderful team of volunteers

www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

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Events at Okehampton Library

Friday 5 July 19:30 – Comedy Night at the London Inn, Okehampton

An opportunity to meet and enjoy four local comedians, including host Christian Russell-Pollock and mixed martial arts coach Andy Costello. Tickets are £10 on the door or £7.50 (+ booking fee) from Eventbrite, and proceeds will go to Libraries Unlimited.

Doors open 19:30 with the show starting at 20:00

Saturday 13 July 09:30-12:00 – Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge 2019 Launch

Join us for space stories and rhymes. This will be happening throughout the morning to celebrate the launch of the Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge 2019

Free event, no booking necessary.

Saturday 13 July - Saturday 7 September - Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge

This year's theme is 'Space Chase'. Each child who reads 6 library books to collect the special stickers and complete the Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge by 7th September will be given one **free ticket for entry to the Milky Way Adventure Park at Clovelly**, a certificate and a medal, and be able to have a photo taken in our 'flying saucer' and add a space rocket to our finishers board.

Free event, no booking necessary.

The **Milky Way Adventure Park** offers an out of this world adventure for the whole family, with rides, shows and play designed to delight all ages. New for 2019 is Ziggy's Blast Quest where visitors are invited to pilot top-of-the-range Cyber Scooters, and as they ride, use powerful Blasteroid Lasers to shoot asteroids and meteors before they enter Earth's atmosphere. The aim is to hit as many as possible before returning to Earth Base Zero – and of course, to beat your friends' and family members' scores! Located near Clovelly in North Devon.

www.themilkyway.co.uk

Saturday 13 July - Saturday 7 September – Summer Quiz Sheets

These book related quiz sheets have been compiled by the Friends of Okehampton Library. Adult quiz sheet £1 each, children's quiz sheet 50p each. Prize of a £10 book token for the first correct adult entry drawn, and a £5 book token for the first correct children's entry drawn after 7th September.

Saturday 20 July – Saturday 7 September – Space Chase Fun

Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge 2019

The following activities will be available throughout the summer during library opening hours

Treasure Hunt – Find Space Chase characters hidden around the library, free activity

Badge Making – A different character each week, six to collect, 30p per badge

Guess how many Flying Saucers in the jar, 20p per go

Wednesday 24 July 14:00-15:00 – Dogs Trust Talk

Amy from The Dogs Trust gives a presentation about the charity's work. Tea & cake included.

Space is limited, so book in advance to avoid disappointment

Tickets £2.50 booking in advance, £3 on the door

Monday 29 July 10:30-12:00 – From Rubbish to Rockets

Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge 2019

We'll be re-cycling rubbish into rockets, UFOs, planets etc.

We will provide the materials for an out of this world craft session!

Suitable for children aged 5+

Free event, donations welcome. Please book in advance as spaces are limited.

- Whiddon Down -

We held the AGM on 13th June. Jakki Newton and Clare Rowe stepped down as Treasurer and Booking Secretary respectively after many years of service to the Committee. The Committee thanked them both for their time and hard work, presenting them with gifts of appreciation.

A new Committee was elected:

Chair - Jenny Turner, Vice chair - Patrick Sullivan, Secretary - Catherine Dunn, Booking Secretary - Alex Nott. The position of Treasurer is still vacant.

We have 8 other Committee members plus 2 very keen Whiddon Down residents on side. We welcome Alex Nott as our new Booking Secretary. She has taken over from Clare Rowe. Clare is staying on hand to help Alex in her new role. Details will be updated as we move on. We have replaced over half the windows and a fire door so far by securing grants, donations and fundraising. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to our efforts.

We will be concentrating on the inside for the rest of the year, hence a maintenance day scheduled for Sat. 7th September. All volunteers are welcome. Refreshments will be available throughout the day. More details nearer the date. Any enquiries, please contact myself, Jenny Turner, on 01647231179. Thank you for your continuing support.



News from the Castle

**National
Trust**

Hi everyone

I am struggling to believe that we are over halfway through the year. Where has the time gone?

I have a couple of events to share with you. Firstly, you are warmly invited to join us on the morning of Tuesday 16 July for a small celebration event we are doing as part of our involvement in the National Lottery Heritage Fund project 'All the Moor Butterflies'. Our friends from Butterfly Conservation will be with us as we do some walks and talks to share the results of the project and the impact it has had for butterfly habitats on Dartmoor. Please come up to Piddledown Common between 10am and 1pm if you would like to join us. If the weather works against us, the event will take place on Thursday 18 July instead but keep fingers crossed for a lovely sunny day so plan A can go ahead.

We are also gearing up for the summer holidays and looking forward to seeing many of you out and about either walking on the estate, taking part in the trail around the gardens or even perhaps at the open-air theatre performance of Noel Coward's Private Lives on Thursday 8 August. Tickets are available from The Plough in Torrington. We will also be hosting National Play Day out on Piddledown Common on Wednesday 7 August from 2pm to 4pm. This event is free so please do pop up for playtime – everyone is welcome.

Finally, many of our local dog walkers will have noticed that we now have some covered seating outside the café by the entrance to the visitor centre. This is so people visiting with their four-legged friends have somewhere dry to sit while they enjoy tea and cake from the café. We also had a basket of blankets for those chillier days. Sadly, all these blankets have vanished (perhaps people got too cosy wrapped in them). If you have any unwanted blankets that you would be willing to donate, we would be very grateful. Just drop them off to our visitor welcome team in reception any day you are passing.

Best wishes and thank you all,

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

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 10th August 2019 from 11.00am to 4.00pm, tea, coffee and cake available.

For more information please contact Erica on surica47@gmail.com

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

It was hardly a 'Flaming June' in 2019, as the last four weeks have not been great, with mainly wet or dull conditions with easterly winds. There have been serious flooding incidents in the east of the country with record levels of rain falling causing some localised problems. However, in Devon, the end of the month was warm and sunny, with a heatwave moving up from southern Europe. The earlier dull and wet conditions appear not to have affected the swifts in nest boxes in Drewsteignton with a lot of activity over the churchyard and rooftops, and swifts returning regularly to many of the boxes on our row.

I found the remains of swift egg shells under four of my nest boxes indicating first hatching before the 18th of June, and heard the unmistakable high pitched twitter of calling chicks on the 19th. It will not be until the middle of July before we know how many young have been reared, when Malcolm and his team of trained and licensed ringers come to investigate the nest boxes and ring the young. With the good weather now, I counted about 28 swifts over the village yesterday evening chasing around and giving their screaming calls as they whipped over the rooftops. I am also enjoying the presence of a pair of swallows in my woodshed but despite lots of calling to each other inside, they have not laid eggs yet.

It is always about this time of year that I notice pairs of bullfinches whilst driving along the lanes in and out of the village, and this year is just the same. Bullfinches seem to be everywhere and appear in pairs as you drive around a corner just in time to see a couple of birds with white rumps flying ahead of you and disappearing quickly into the hedge. On a sadder note, I have seen many dead hedgehogs on the roads between here Exeter, Moretonhampstead and Launceston over the past four weeks, far more than in previous years when I have rarely seen any. Whilst it is alarming to see so many, I presume and hope that it is an indication that there are more hedgehogs about.

On Sunday 2nd of June, we ringed the two young peregrines in the nest box at St. Michael's church in Exeter. It is always quite an exciting event but starts with taking quite a lot of kit up the tight spiral staircase into the bell chamber before Jason ropes up the inside of the spire. This year, it was particularly good as both adult falcons were out flying so there was no disturbance as Jason removed the chicks, put them in bags and lowered them down to us. They were 24 days old and their size and weight indicated that they were both females so after taking a variety of measurements, they had two legs rings put on. One is a metal BTO (British Trust for

Ornithology) ring and the other is a blue colour ring with white letters that can be read at distance with binoculars, telescope or camera. This year's birds are now called VK and VL. We returned them to the box and left them without hearing any alarm calling from the adults, then turned the camera back on. Female peregrines normally fledge (leave the nest on their first flight) at 46 days and the first one VK flew on Monday 24th of June at exactly 46 days. Her sister VL left the box the following morning and thankfully, neither needed rescuing from the ground. Both flew well but there was some concern with the second one as she chose to perch on the church roof, above a lesser black-backed gull nest, which the adult gulls did not like. They started mobbing her until the adult female falcon came to her rescue by attacking and dispersing the gulls.

In the middle of June, I visited Pembrokeshire with my mum for a few days. She had long wanted to visit Ramsey island where I used to volunteer during the 1990's for the RSPB, having heard so much about it, and also hoped to see puffins. The best place for puffins in that region is Skomer island, so I planned for a trip out but with the northerly winds and continuous rain, it looked unlikely on the day until the boat skipper said he would sail. This was after I had queued in the rain from 6.30 until 8.30 along with many others to get tickets for the crossing. Demand was high as only 250 people are allowed on each day and no boats had gone out over the previous three days. The rain stopped as we got on the boat and fifteen minutes later, after quite a choppy crossing, we were surrounded by rafts of puffins on the water and flying around. I had no idea there are so many on Skomer (10,000 breeding birds) or how close the puffins would get. They have no fear of the visitors and were coming within a few feet of us with beaks full of sand eels before disappearing down the burrows to feed their young, safe underground from the many gulls that were attempting to steal their catches. I also spotted three short-eared owls, many choughs and a peregrine. After an amazing day on Skomer and quite a very rough crossing back, we then drove to up St. David's, which is a place I have very fond memories of. My mum was delighted to look around the Cathedral and the remains of the Bishops palace, and we managed to get to on Ramsey island the following day.

Nick

The Parish Post

Drewsteignton Parish Post

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If you have trouble reading this publication 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 29th July - Thank You