

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 197

October 2022

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Due to absence, there is no Parish report this month. Updates will be posted onto their DPC website as usual:

<https://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk>



### **In Memoriam – her Majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth**

#### **Drewsteignton Village Store**

We are sad to inform you that the post Office and Village Store will be closing its doors for the final time on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

We have been forced into this difficult decision for several reasons.

The first is the real terms decrease in Post Office income. As we informed you at the time, the extra payment we received to cover the loss of income when the Royal Mail moved out was only for 18 months.

The second is the changing demographics and shopping habits of those living in and visiting the Village. Since we purchased the business we have lost several regular customers as they have either moved away or sadly passed away. The rise in Holiday lets and second homes meant that these customers have not been replaced.

The COVID pandemic hit us very hard. We worked tirelessly to keep operating during the lockdowns but due to the lack of visitor income we had to inject significant capital into the business to stay afloat. In the post-pandemic era we have seen a very poor trading result for this summer despite our efforts to increase income with offerings of home-made baked goods and vastly expanded product lines.

The cost-of-living crisis has been the final straw in this situation. The Support-for-Business electricity announced recently by the Prime Minister is only for six months compared to the two-year support for domestic and still means a huge increase in costs compared to last year. The cost of stock, heating oil, consumables, fuel, Refuse collection and virtually everything we purchase has increased in price dramatically whilst our income has been decreasing.

The net result of this is that the business is not financially viable, and we are therefore unable to offer it for sale as a going concern.

We are disappointed to have reached this point. We are aware of several other similar businesses facing the same devastation in the South West region but there is nothing we can do that will plug the gap in our income stream.

We would like to thank those of you who have been loyal customers to the shop. This has been a very tough decision to make but we hope you will understand the reasons behind our action.

**Stuart & Cheryl - [shop@drewsteigntonvillagestore.co.uk](mailto:shop@drewsteigntonvillagestore.co.uk)**

### Holy Trinity News

#### Big Breakfast

Drewsteignton Church 9am - 11am, Sunday 25 September

Full English, Baps, Teas, Coffee, Cakes

Gluten free, Vegetarian and Vegan options

Takeaway available      Everyone welcome!

Donations welcome as Alice is raising money for scouts from all over the world to go to South Korea for the World Scout Jamboree in 2023

Followed by a short, informal worship service at 11.15am

### Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Fayre

\* LAST CALL FOR CRAFTERS \*

Gosh doesn't time fly!! Planning is underway for our fabulous Christmas Craft Fayre and we have a few extra crafters this year so

please put the date of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November in your diary.

If you would like a table, then please let me know by October 15<sup>th</sup> at the very latest.

Remember - No charge for table but a 15% donation from your sales to Holy Trinity Church funds.

[j.hocking05@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hocking05@btinternet.com) or 01647 281605.



**Light, Love and Loss**  
**6pm, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton**

A special short (30 mins) service for All Souls' Day which includes poems, music and an invitation to light a candle in memory of a loved one, followed by light refreshments for those who wish to stay.

I would encourage all who are able to light a candle (see below) and place them in the churchyard on 2<sup>nd</sup> November as it is so heart-warming to see their lights twinkling with love throughout the night. The votive stand in Lady Chapel is always available (with a supply of tealights) when the church is open.

**Outdoor Candles of Remembrance**

As you may know there has been a special service to remember loved ones on All Souls Day for the past few years. An important part of this is the lighting of candles of remembrance. Holy Trinity Church would like to gift, to anyone who would like one, a memoriam outdoor candle.

If your loved one rests in Holy Trinity Churchyard the idea is that candles will be placed on the graves and lit before the service: if they rest elsewhere you would be very welcome to choose a special place within the church yard to light your candle. If for some reason you will not be at the service, Holy Trinity would like to offer you a candle which someone could light on your behalf\*. Or, you may wish to collect a candle to light and place at a location special to you, at a time of your choosing.

The candles will be available from the Drewe Arms or the Church from 27<sup>th</sup> October. \*Please contact me, Jennifer on 01647 281657 or [pmjmrmdm@aol.com](mailto:pmjmrmdm@aol.com)

**Onward and upward at Holy Trinity**



September ended with a brilliant Big Breakfast, kindly provided with efficiency and enthusiasm by the Smith family. Many thanks to those who supported this – it was a great atmosphere and Alice raised nearly £250 towards the scouts' jamboree in South Korea next year. Thank you! The service that followed it, led by Julia, was equally superb, and a real breath of renewal for those who stayed.

So, we have Pet Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm, all animals and children warmly welcomed and grown-ups tolerated as well. Do come—the odder the pet the better!

Harvest festival is the following week – 6pm in the church for a short service of hymns and prayers followed by a bring-and-share supper. The church will provide soup and bread as a basis. Plus cake of course!

(Cont.)

Holy Trinity continues to encourage people to use the lovely meeting space at the back of the church – have your child's party there? Meet friends, have an exercise or meditation session or simply come and sit and work in the quiet. The space is yours to use – and there is never a charge for members of our village community who just wish to use and enjoy our lovely, old and very special building. **Ruth Merttens**

## ***STONE LANE GARDENS IN OCTOBER***

The Gardens look wonderful at all times of the year and are well worth a visit at the start of Autumn on any day of the week from 10am till 6pm, or dusk in winter. As usual, Stone Lane Gardens is part of the National Open Gardens scheme and will be donating all visitor admissions to the group charities on two Saturdays, the 8th and 15th October. The tearoom will be open to Gardens visitors on both days, serving tea and cakes.



Access to Stone Lane Gardens (TQ13 8JU) free car park is on Long Lane, Drewsteignton. For more details go to: [www.stonelanegardens.com](http://www.stonelanegardens.com)

## **Drewsteignton Playing Field**

### **1) Party in the Field**

Thanks to everyone who donated £360 at the party. Thanks also to Shelley, not only for a great party and raising the money for us, but also for demonstrating how good the Field can be for community events. **Alison Chapman**

### **2) Bonfire Night**

We start at 5pm on Saturday 5th November with the torchlight procession from 5.30pm and the fireworks at 7pm. Please be prompt if you want to join the procession, as there are limited places available and you will need to listen to the safety instructions. Please also wear wool or cotton gloves with no synthetic material, which also applies to anyone using sparklers.

Our insurance limits us to 500 people including all children (however young) and all helpers, and so this will again be a ticket only event and everyone must have a ticket. Tickets will be £4 each this year and non-refundable, but please note that everyone who gives us a decent amount of help before, during or after the event will get free tickets for themselves and their family. We expect to sell all the tickets again and so it is unlikely that there will be spare tickets at the gate on the night. Please get yours early from any member of the Committee. There will be at least one field available for parking and marshals will be directing people to the parking areas. Lamb Park and Knowle Lane will be manned and will be inaccessible for Bonfire Night parking.



## WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Not everyone in the Parish uses Whiddon Down but it's a great Hall for all sorts of events. It's been newly refurbished and is in a superb location, easily accessible for everyone. It is larger than Drewsteignton Village Hall but both Halls have the essentials for a village space, those being good lighting, the ability to quickly heat the space to a decent temperature, easy access to toilets (Whiddon Down also has a disabled toilet) and the total privacy required for exercise classes and most meetings. We have the following fund raising events coming up at Whiddon Down:

19/11/22 Table-top sale

10/12/22 Pig racing

19/12/22 Christmas bingo

We are becoming busier as the nights get longer, so please get your booking in early to avoid disappointment.

**Alison Chapman - Treasurer and Booking Clerk**

## National Trust

*News from the Moor* Hi everyone, this month is very much about looking ahead and yes, I am going to mention Christmas. Before that, a few bits of news. I am delighted to let you know that the Devils Cauldron is once again open at Lydford Gorge. I know how much people have missed the loop to see this incredible geological feature so I am sure the good news will be welcomed.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the pop-up second hand bookshop at Finch Foundry. It is going really well and people are enjoying having a browse so we have decided to leave the bookshop in place until the end of October half term.

At Castle Drogo, our team of research volunteers have been digging up stories of the Drewe family and how musical they were. Castle Drogo was often filled with music (In my mind, I'm imagining scenes similar to *The Sound of Music*). If there are any local Von Trapp families willing to perform for us, we'd love to hear from you as, this Christmas, we're asking local musicians to come and help us bring the Castle to life. We are looking for solo artists or groups, of any genre, although we would ask that it is family friendly and a little bit festive.

The Castle will be open from 2<sup>nd</sup> December Fridays and weekends and then everyday between the 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December. If you think you might be interested in joining us this Christmas, contact [Helen.bull@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Helen.bull@nationaltrust.org.uk) who will be able to chat through how it will work. We are also looking ahead to Spring when we re-open after the winter deep clean. We are planning a few volunteer drop in days at Castle Drogo for those of you who might be thinking about a new years resolution. These days are for you to pop along for a cuppa, have a chat and hear from current volunteers what it is like to be a volunteer for the National Trust on Dartmoor. The open days are 11am – 3pm on Monday 30 January, Saturday 11 March and Sunday 7 May.

Best wishes all, **Paula** Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor  
01647 434130,

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



## Acorn Community Support

*"I sit beside the fire and think*

*Of all that I have seen, Of meadow flowers and butterflies*

*In summers that have been, Of yellow leaves and gossamer*

*In autumns that there were, With morning mist and silver sun, And wind upon my hair."*

— [J.R.R. Tolkien](#)

If you are interested in finding out more about Acorn and what we do, then please visit our website [www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk/get-involved](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk/get-involved) or contact Mandy or Fran on 01647 252701.

Along with the rest of the country and indeed the rest of the world, we mourn the passing of our Queen Elizabeth II. A significant piece of history both of her own making and the times that she has lived through. We now have a new King and life moves on. We wish him well.

September ended summer a bit abruptly! The rain was welcomed by farmers, gardeners and conservationists alike. However, maybe a little Autumn sun, to prepare us for what lies ahead, is in order! Whatever the weather outside is always sunny in Acorn World! We have our usual round of activities to see you through the Golden October days!

### Activities for October

#### From Cheriton Bishop

**Lunch Club**, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary 4<sup>th</sup> October (and 1<sup>st</sup> November) - contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please.)

**Shopping** is at Sainsburys fortnightly on a Monday. Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. We would love to see more of you on the bus.

**Outing** – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Destination Exmouth.

#### From the Teign Valley

**Shopping** at ASDA/Sainsburys – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Outings** – 10<sup>th</sup> October Powderham Castle and 24<sup>th</sup> October Haytor and Ullacombe Farm. Please phone to book your seat.

**Lunch Club - THURSDAY** 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2022 – Bridford Inn (Note one-off change of day and TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2022 – Claycutters Arms, Chudleigh Knighton

**Coffee Morning** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 for at the Teign Valley Community Hall. Activities such as Bingo, Quizzes and much more with plenty of chatter to go with your coffee and cake!

Our **Memory Lane Café** is also running – held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Thursday of the month. For October that will be 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the office if you know of someone who would benefit. We have a great time.

If you would like to book a seat on the minibus for any of our trips, lunches 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**

## **Bird Notes**

This summer has been the best we have ever had for swifts in Drewsteignton since I started monitoring in 2000, with such good numbers of swifts in screaming parties over the village, more nest boxes being used and more boxes going up.

Malcolm and his team, headed by Fraser, were visible during July monitoring boxes at Churchgate, Hillmorhays and Sunnybank. This was to ring the swift chicks in the nest boxes, then watch for adults going in to feed their young.

The swift colony in the village has now become part of wider research by the RSPB into the decline in swifts through Malcolm's involvement. Some adult swifts (with chicks) were caught leaving the boxes and had minute trackers put on them via a tiny back-pack harness. They were then re-caught ten days later, again while leaving their nest boxes having fed their young and had the trackers removed to download the data. This was to determine where they were feeding and although I have not seen any of the maps yet, I am told that some were feeding on insects over fields as far away as Exeter and Teignmouth.

Malcolm and his team ringed 31 swift chicks in nest boxes in the village this season. Two chicks in a new box on Froggy Villa were not ringed and two from our row in Churchgate went to a bird rehabilitator when one adult disappeared and the other then abandoned the chicks. These birds were fed and released when their weight and wing length meant they were ready to fly. This gives a total of 35 fledged chicks from nest boxes in Drewsteignton, which is a great total and our best yet. I am also aware of at least six natural cavities under thatch eaves that were used this year, but I have no idea how many chicks fledged from these sites.

This was also the latest year for their departure date with the last swift seen over the village on August 25. This was undoubtedly due to the heatwave in late June and July that encouraged some birds to breed late while their insect food was abundant. Interestingly, I was at East Prawle over the weekend of 17/18 September and saw a single swift over the village during an early morning dog walk. I have never seen a swift so late in the year.

While at East Prawle, I walked the coast path in search of Choughs, three of which had been seen near Gammon Head over the past month. Choughs are Jackdaw-sized members of the crow family with red legs and a red curved beak and are a rarity in Devon. I would normally have to go to Pembrokeshire to guarantee seeing them but there has been a recent release programme in Cornwall to re-establish a breeding population. However, these three birds are believed to have flown across from Brittany as they do not have colour leg rings as the Cornish birds do. I was delighted to see all three of them in very close proximity while they were feeding in a close grazed sheep field for leather jackets (crane fly/daddy long legs larvae).

**Nick**

## 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.

### ContactDetails:

For Editorial Contributions	Shelley Mansfield	<a href="mailto:shelley.mansfield@me.com">shelley.mansfield@me.com</a> Tel: 07714 253484
Village Hall Bookings Drewsteignton	Alison Chapman	<a href="mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com">callum.chapman@btinternet.com</a> Tel: 01647 281197
Parish Council Business Drewsteignton	Alice Turner	<a href="mailto:clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk">clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk</a> Tel: 01837 83484
Village Hall Bookings Whiddon Down	Alison Chapman	<a href="mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com">callum.chapman@btinternet.com</a> Tel: 01647 281197
Village Space @HTC Drewsteignton	Ruth Merttens	<a href="mailto:ruth_merttens@me.com">ruth_merttens@me.com</a> Tel: 01647 281649

***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 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Ed***



