

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

DrewsteigntonParish Post

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NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our latest Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 15th July (7.30pm) at Drewsteignton Village Hall. The minutes of the meeting will shortly be available on the Parish Website. www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Planning matters: 0297/24 Certificate of Lawfulness, Kiln Orchard, Drewsteignton, EX6 6PA use of land for mixed use storage, distribution, light industrial and retail, determined a neutral view. 0300/24 Full Planning Permission, addition of solar panels to roof of existing agricultural building, France Hill, Chagford, TQ13 8JT was supported. Noted 0167/24 Full Planning Permission, conversion of barn into holiday accommodation, South Cuma, Drewsteignton, EX6 6PX, has been withdrawn. The resignation of Cllr. Paul Ridgers (Venton Ward) was reluctantly accepted. Paul has served the Parish Council for 25 years and was recently appointed as an Honorary Alderman of West Devon Borough Council, in recognition of his long standing and exceptional services to our community. The PC cannot match such an award however, we can thank Paul for all he has done for the Parish and wish him and his family well for the future. Alongside the re-election of Chair, Peter Brennan (Crockernwell) and Vice Chair Andrew di Battista (Drewsteignton), the PC co-opted Sue Hember, Hobhouse, Drewsteignton as Cllr. Sue brings a wealth of experience having previously served as Cllr with Ilington PC.

Highway matters: A meeting was recently held with DCC Highways to review a growing number of potholes, signage, repairs and speeding traffic complaints. Funding remains the issue however, a new speeding survey will be implemented near Lamb Close, Drewsteignton to provide evidence for a potential 20mph zone application. Following complaints, Highways have asked neighbouring properties to the footpath between Knowle Lane & Lamb Park to cut back overhanging hedging. Highways will be issuing notices to reflect property owners' responsibility to maintain boundaries. The PC is seeking to understand the use of the community car & bus service offered by Okehampton District Community Group transport, to determine providing grant support to this DCC & WDBC supported Charity. Please email Clerk.DrewsteigntonPC@outlook.com, if you use this service. Notice of Public Rights to inspect the accounting records for the year ending 31 March 2024 opens 1st July 2024 and closes 31st July 2024. This (Cont.) window provides an opportunity to question the accounting records and appoint an independent auditor. The appointed auditor is: PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) email sba@pkf-l.com Rural crime continues to impact our parish with farm equipment and off-road vehicles being targeted. Devon & Cornwall

Police offer prevention advice website and will be attending the Chagford show to discuss concerns. Reporting rural crime is essential to support Police resources and funding. If a crime is in progress call 999 or report online [Report a rural crime | Devon & Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/report-a-rural-crime) The next **Parish Council** meeting will be held on **Monday 16th September 2024 7.30pm, at Drewsteignton Village Hall**. All are welcome to come along, engage and participate in matters affecting the Parish. Please note that any changes to meeting dates or venue will be posted on the website.

Cllr Peter Brennan *Drewsteignton Parish Council*

www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

News from Holy Trinity

So, we enter the summer holidays with wind and rain around the church, but the promise of sunshine to come! And that sense of hope is very much with us as we steer Holy Trinity into the next phase of its existence. We have very exciting plans – more about this later! In a context where churches across the land are closing at a rate of more than 7 per week, people are sometimes actually runs and continues to exist, rather than being closed and sold off as housing! Our village church has two committees of wonderful volunteers. There is the PCC, a committee which is elected

The Chair of the PCC is Chris Southgate, the secretary is Jane Hocking, our Treasurer is Prue Deane and there are two church wardens, myself and Ian. Legally, a church without a PCC cannot remain open, so we are very grateful to all 13 energetic members of our community who give up so much of their time to keep the church alive. Secondly, but equally important to the life of our church, is FODC, the Friends of Drewsteignton Church, who form the secular arm of the PCC. This committee has a chair, currently Johnny Loram, secretary, Kim Stone and treasurer, Mandy Pierce and eight other wonderful committee members. Overall, we are so lucky in this parish to have volunteers of such caliber.

Both committees are now focused on making the church sustainable and keeping it as an essential part of our vibrant village hub. First, we plan to



each year at the annual general meeting usually in April or May. Curious about how our church?

install photo-voltaic panels on some less visible parts of the south-facing roofs of the church. Then, in phase 2 of the works, we shall invest in a sustainable heating system, probably an air-source heat pump with a cylinder in the priest's vestry and modern, more efficient coil-fan radiators replacing the existing cast iron ones. For this we shall apply for a grant for matched funding, which we have been told we will be more likely to get having done the solar panels. ... Phase 3 – which could just possibly overlap with phase 2 – is to redo the lighting and also the sound system. Modern lighting can allow different areas of the church to serve different purposes, and will probably make some other improvements as well to the back area of the church at this time. In autumn, we shall be sharing details of the first phase of these plans, and we are always very enthusiastic about working with anyone in the village who has ideas which they wish to share! Both the PCC and FODC would welcome new members with open arms, so if you are interested in helping to support your church, please get in touch. A list of all members of the PCC is on the notice board in the church porch. Ruth Merttens Church Warden ruth@merttens.co.uk

Apology from Ed: Computer phoo-phaa caused me to utterly scotch HTC articles from the last TWO editions(!) Ruth demonstrated the milk of human kindness and we remain friends.

Church Gardeners - *Ed was called to conversation with a visitor to the village. She was full of praise for the beautiful, biodiverse and sustainable gardening in the church grounds. Praise well deserved.*

Flowers in Holy Trinity Church

Do you love flowers? Do you like Peace and Quiet?

Could you be persuaded to help us maintain country style arrangements in the rural quiet setting of Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton?

It can be done in your own time and your own way and we would be very pleased to help you get used to the building, the facilities and how the flowers can add to the feeling of the church.

You don't have to be a member of the congregation but just someone who cares about the church as a special space.

Please contact **Sue Honeybone- 01647 24398** or **Jane Hocking- 01647 281605**

STONE LANE GARDENS



On **Wednesday 14 August, at 7pm**, 'The Comedy of Errors' by Shakespeare will be performed outdoors at Stone Lane Gardens. Always popular and hugely entertaining, The Three Inch Fools travelling theatre company will be back at the Gardens to give their usual hilarious version of one of the Bards most popular comedy plays. Bring a seat, a picnic and enjoy and evening under the stars. Tickets at all prices are available from the website shop: www.stonelanegardens.com

THE DREWE ARMS

COMMUNITY PUB

News from The Drewe

We've been fantastically busy at the Drewe Arms, with record numbers of people coming into the pub. Nick Dixon's Swift talk had a great turnout, as did Dominie Hooper's fundraising gig.

Coffee and Cake at the Drewe

We're pushing ahead with plans to develop the food offer. From Wednesday 31st July we'll be serving coffee, and freshly baked cakes and pastries from 10.00am every day we are open.

Sunday Roast and Delicious Pies

We're also going to be turning on our eagerly anticipated Rationale Oven, which according to Simon will be turning out one of the best Sunday Roasts in the area, and much more!

Bunk Rooms: Lots of people are asking about accommodation at the Drewe. We're not ready to open the upstairs accommodation yet, but do plan to reopen the bunk rooms soon to provide simple accommodation and breakfast for village visitors, walkers and anyone who's had too much to drink to drive home! *We're on the lookout for local volunteers who are handy with a paintbrush to help with the preparation work. Give your name to Sam or Crystal if you're happy to help out.*

More up and coming events for your diary

Events for your diary Saturday 3rd August - The Riviera Ramblers Jazz Band –

A five-piece swing band from Torbay playing a mix of classic tunes we know and love. Guaranteed to put a song in your heart, rhythm in your feet, and a smile on your face!

Thursday 22nd August – Bank Holiday Monday 26th August - Drewe Arms Summer Beer Festival –

Delicious ales and food served throughout the bank holiday w/end in the courtyard garden accompanied by a mix of live music – details to follow.

Whiddon Down Village Hall

This year seems to be galloping on!! Well, the hall's AGM was held on the 18th June in the evening. Despite advertising, leaflet drops within Whiddon Down, fb, word of mouth and the promise of tasty refreshments, only one member of the public attended the meeting, along with the outgoing committee. Thank you, Neil. I was extremely disappointed that nobody else could be bothered. Being just two weeks post op myself, I chaired the meeting. We bid farewell to Alison Chapman and thanked her for all her hard work and wished her well in the future. The remainder of the committee were re-elected, and the roles Alison was responsible for have been filled by members of the existing committee. Details for booking the hall will be updated here in the Post and on the hall notice boards, any other enquiries can be directed to me by phone or email. We have no fundraising events planned until the autumn so details will be in September's edition. Hopefully, maintenance work to the outside of the hall will be ongoing and completed throughout the summer. Enjoy the sunshine when and if it appears. With summer looking a bit of a washout, it's time to look forward to those long autumn evenings. The hall committee would really like to hold a few events to ease the path towards Christmas. If anyone has any ideas, please get in touch.

If you regularly attend classes in the hall, to avoid disappointment, please check that they are on during August, as some of our regulars take a break during the summer. The village hall carpark seems to have been very busy over the last few months. So much so that our regular users have had difficulty parking. Unfortunately, this has not been reflected in the donations. I must thank those people who leave donations in envelopes with their registration details, it restores our faith in honesty and community. It would be a shame and an inconvenience, if we have to start locking the entrance, which seems a probability if things don't improve. Please spare a thought for those using the hall and park appropriately and may I emphasize that **overnight parking is a definite no, under any circumstances.**

Enjoy your summer. Best wishes **Jenny Turner.**

jennyturner21@gmail.com 07708634426

A Vandal and Thief in Whiddon Down Village

The Whiddon Down Village Community Gardens have been and are funded, by the generous financial donations of the Public, the villagers of Whiddon Down and surrounding Villages, from school children to pensioners and the PC. Many of the plants are also gifts to the gardens.
(Cont.)

This is a Crime Against Everyone. Your Help Please.

The Police have asked for assistance to identify the vandal and thief who has destroyed and removed some plants from the roundabout and the flower bed almost opposite it, which are part of Whiddon Down Community Village Gardens. The incident took place between the night of Wednesday 17th July and Thursday 18th. This malicious individual approached the flower beds from the lower walkway opposite the roundabout, waited until the coast was clear, then clambered up the densely brambled bank and proceeded to snap off branches, and stamp on the bases of many of the tall 'Yellow Candelabra type Evening Primroses' breaking them and flattening them at their base. Then this individual walked over to the roundabout and pulled up many 'Calendula Marigolds' that the local school children had raised from seed to maturity. The estimated cost of the damage to replace is £200 The police have opened a case. Crime reference 50240179443 They are appealing for ANY information that may lead to a prosecution.

The Widdon Down Village Community Gardens: For the public to keep their eyes open for any suspicious behaviour or conversations that leads one to (Cont.) believe someone has a grudge against Your Anonymity will be Protected. They ask the public to be informed and to spread the word through all methods including social media.

Safeguarding

This is an opportunity to bring to your attention, should you experience any concerns of a Safeguarding nature, that there is a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that can be used anonymously to pass the concerns on. Details are to be found in Holy Trinity Church Porch giving phone numbers and contacts.

"August is the slow, gentle month that stretches out the longest across the span of a year. It yawns and lingers on with the light in its palms." — **Victoria Erickson**

Activities From Cheriton Bishop



Lunch Club, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary **Tuesday**

6th August 2024- contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please).

3rd September 2024 is the next one) Shopping at

Sainsburys –Fortnightly on **Wednesday 14th and 28th August 2024**. The bus will collect you from home and return you & your shopping.

Outing–Tuesday 20th August 2024 Trip to Killerton HouseFor those in any Area of Acorn's domain!

Tea @ the Hub – Fortnightly on a **Friday 2-4pm** at the Young Farmers Head Office Building in Cheriton Bishop. Join us for Tea, Talk, Coffee, Cake and a mingle making new, and catching up with old, friends. **Friday 9th and 23rd August 2024** No need to book just turn up.

Memory Lane Café – **8th and 29th August 2024**. If you know of someone who you feel may benefit from this, please call as below.

Activities From the Teign Valley

Lunch Club – **Tuesday 6th August 2024** –

Shopping at Sainsburys – **Friday 2nd, 16th and 30th August 2024**

Outing – **19th August 2024** – Widecombe in the Moor

Coffee Morning - **Tuesday 13th and 27th August 2024** at the Teign Valley Community Hall. Bingo, Quizzes and much more with plenty of chatter to go with your coffee and cake! Our members make you very welcome.

If you would like to book a seat on the minibus for any of our trips, lunches or coffee mornings, please contact Mandy or Fran or at the Office on 01647 252701. Best wishes The A(corn) Team
www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk/get-involved

Bird Notes - The swifts returned to Drewsteignton in early May as normal, with my first sighting on the 5th, a day later than last year. I first saw two over our row in the early morning, three over Hillmorhayes in the evening and five over our house with one entering one of my nestboxes before dusk. Nos. increased quickly as breeding adults returned to pair up and breed. They were then joined by the non- the screaming parties, and also spend time investigating the boxes for breeders, the sub-adult birds forming future nesting groups. The weather since their arrival has not been great for birds that rely on catching insects in the air. The wind has been predominantly from the north with less sunny and mild conditions than we would normally expect. There have been the occasional sunny periods when we have had good numbers of swifts screaming around the roof tops, mainly in the early mornings and evenings. I had counted between 35 and 42 swifts over the village on odd dates in May and June, but the best count was about 70 swifts overhead in mid-July when we had three days of sunny conditions. This coincided with the Swift talk held in the Long room of the Drewe Arms on the 17th. It was well attended with over 100 people present. I would like to thank all those that came to listen to Malcolm, Jerry and I, and for the positive feedback we received and enquiries about nest boxes. The monitoring of the nest boxes in the village also started on the 17th with Aby Sampson and her team checking boxes and ringing chicks. Aby found we have 25 boxes with chicks in, but these show a wide age range. Some were nearly ready to fledge but others were too small to fit leg rings

on. This indicates that some swifts may be later to leave than normal but if we get some decent weather over the next few weeks, this will help. Some sunny days may also increase the numbers of sub-adults and so hopefully we can still enjoy the sight and sound of parties of screaming swifts whipping over the rooftops. **Nick**

National Trust News from the Moor

Hi everyone, I hope that those of you who love the sun are enjoying the weather, and those who don't have found plenty of shade under lovely trees.

It has been a hive of activity across our many sites over the past month with Great Big Green Week events taking place, community volunteering days and thank-you events as part of Volunteers Week our and visits from partners at Devon Carers during Carers Week. June is always so busy! It has been such a privilege to be able to celebrate these special weeks and say thank you. We are now starting to look ahead planning our stand for the Chagford Show which will take place on Thursday 17 August. Our theme will be the different habitats of the Teign Valley so please pop along to say hello. We are also hoping for kind weather for a performance of Robin Hood taking place at Castle Drogo on Saturday 19 August. Tickets can be purchased from The Plough Arts Centre in Torrington.

September is looking busy too with Heritage Open Days taking place.

These are days when we celebrate our beautiful heritage and you can visit for free. The Hydro Turbine House at Drogo will be open on Sunday 10 September and Castle Drogo will have free entry on Thursday 14 September. Lydford is open for free on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 September and Finch Foundry on Sunday 17 September. A perfect opportunity to bring friends along. Finally, something nice to look forward to in winter is St Clements Day. This is a highlight for the team at Finch Foundry where we work closely with the local community to celebrate the patron saint of blacksmiths. Save the date and please come and join us to see this amazing craft in action. Best wishes all, **Paula** Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor 07826 945107,

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