

# DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH POST

Parish Post Issue No. 236

June 2026

## News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on 18th May 2026 at 7.30pm in Whiddon Down Village Hall and hosted the Annual Community Meeting, which heard reports from a wide variety of our volunteer groups. FODC, Acorn Community Support, WD Village Hall, Morecare, Drewsteignton Gardeners Club, the National Trust, and WDBC Cllr Steve Guthrie all attended and presented their annual reports. A written report was received from Drewsteignton Playing Fields. Apologies were noted from Drewsteignton Community Society Limited and DCC Cllr Davies.

We are truly blessed to have so many volunteers in the parish who pour their energy into maintaining a viable community. Their generosity, commitment, and community spirit make parish life vibrant, resilient, and truly possible. All reports will shortly be available on the parish website once the May meeting notes are drafted.

Parish Council Chair Peter Brennan and Vice Chair Andrew di Ballista were re-elected for a further term. The finances of the parish remain healthy; however, a number of planned projects will draw on reserves and require additional grant funding.

Planning Matters: Supported applications - 0126/26 Old Rectory, Drewsteignton, EX6 6QT, variation to planning permission 0401/24 to install LED lighting; 26/0036 Works to trees in the conservation area, Old Rectory, Drewsteignton, EX6 6QT, Fell T1 Beech, fell T2 Poplar, and fell G2 Cypress; Tilford Cottage, 1 Stonelands, Crockernwell, EX6 6NB, T1 Holly: removal of branches close to house roof. Negative view determined - 1105/26/PDM Land at SX 683 928 (Land at West Farm / Martin Farm), Whiddon Down, for change of use of 3 buildings on an agricultural unit to 7 dwellinghouses (Use Class C3);.

Glebe & Trinity Cottages Update: Corbel Conservation Ltd have now begun removing tenant belongings, setting up the site, and completing the necessary behind-the-scenes work required now that the project is properly underway. The proposed contractors' parking area is not yet ready. However, during the current phase of works, only a small number of

personnel are required on site. The demolition team will consist of approximately 2–3 operatives, which should keep vehicle movements and parking needs to a minimum at this stage. Corbel's Site Manager, Jake Shufflebotham, is on site during working hours to answer any concerns.

Parking remains an issue, and with five spaces being lost for up to twelve weeks to allow scaffolding to be erected along the wall of The Old Rectory, additional pressure is expected. Works to the car park edges and pathway will commence on 1st June 2026, with completion expected within five days. Quotations for general repairs and a new roof for the toilet block are invited — please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Draft minutes will shortly be available on the parish website.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 15th June 2026 at 7.30pm** in the Church Space, Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton. 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: [www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)

## 2026 Parish Community Recognition Award

This year, the Parish Council proudly recognises Shelley Mansfield, whose dedication and quiet determination have shaped the heart of our community.

For over thirteen years, Shelley has poured her time, energy, and care into producing the *Drewsteignton Parish Post*. Month after month, she has coordinated content, proofed every page, and juggled deadlines to ensure our volunteer distributors can deliver 400 copies of the Post to households across the parish.

Thanks to Shelley, parishioners stay informed, connected, and engaged. Her work has strengthened the fabric of parish life, and we offer our sincere gratitude for all she has done. Her commitment exemplifies the very best of community spirit, and the Parish Council extends its profound appreciation for her invaluable contribution.

Shelley has taken the difficult decision to step down as Editor, and she is hopeful that one or two parishioners will come forward to continue the wonderful success of the Parish Post.

This is a great opportunity for new editors or contributors to help shape the next chapter of our much-loved magazine and keep this valued community tradition thriving.

## HOLY TRINITY, DREWSTEIGNTON

### News from Holy Trinity

Great news this month! Tom and his family of wonderful roofers have got well underway with the re-pinning of the slates on the roofs for the solar panels AND these should be installed this week! So exciting. I have promised champagne all round when all 24 panels are on the three roofs. I am also determined to get our children's area up and running! I am waiting on the PC, who are kindly ordering some equipment for us, then



you will see changes inside as well as great improvements to the roof!

It being half term as I write this, not only children and parents but also grandparents are gearing up to a week of childcare. I have just returned from 3 days looking after some of my teenage grandchildren. Obviously, being a Nana is easier than being a mum, as the teenagers gave me no trouble; they were well-behaved, helpful and communicative about their lives and schoolwork. Their parents were pleased that all had gone well, but also, I suspect, a tad irritated that

grandparents have it so easy whilst they mostly get the truculent, unhelpful silence characteristic of adolescents.

It reminded me of the really important life-lessons that having teenage children taught me, first 25 and then 15 years ago. I mention two dates because Ian and I had two 'batches' of children – 4 in five years, a 10-year gap, then another 2. My grandmother told me, when I got married aged 19, that married life was like writing a **W** – you start at the top, things are brilliant, then, when you have young babies and no sleep, you go down the slope to the pit, then you come back up when they go to school, then, when they are teenagers, you go down into another dip, then you gradually come back up again. Ian and I used to complain that we were at the bottom of two dips at once when we had teenagers AND babies.

Back to the life-lessons that being a parent of adolescents taught me. There were many, but one sticks in my head. I had to relinquish control. As a parent of young children, you are in control – this is both necessary

and good. Gradually as they enter school and grow older, there are areas of life which are no longer within our control. Still, their lives, friends and pursuits largely remain within the parental arena.

However, teenagers, gradually or suddenly, challenge that status quo and eventually overthrow it. Like butterflies emerging from the cocoon, they must throw off the protective shells of parental control and act and choose for themselves. I found this so hard, and having four, very close in age, made it all worse. It was like trying to keep four plates in the air at once! If one teenager wasn't acting in an unexpected and undesired way, another was taking a risk in a different field. It was all very traumatic for us. But we survived and, mercifully, they have all grown into wonderful adults. I know that I am very lucky.

I learned back then that control is a dangerous illusion. We wish to control things; we want to be the one 'in the driving seat' making the decisions. But actually, life goes much better when control is in the hands of the many not the few. I learned, not only within my family, but also at work and in community life, that there really is no 'I' in 'team'. When we share information, when decisions are shared, when we relinquish control and learn to listen to others and hear what they are saying, things get done in a better way and with greater and more lasting effect. This lesson was one my children needed to teach me, and it has stood the test of time. Now, on both the community groups which 'run' the church, our motto is always the same. *There is no 'I' in team, and we are all in this together.* Let's make sure we support each other and muddle through as best we can. Decisions are often made almost imperceptibly but always with consensus. There is rarely disagreement and never animosity. And that's the best tribute we can pay to our ancient church.

### **Services this month**

**Patronal Festival Service** – 31<sup>st</sup> May at 11:15 with Pimms and homemade snacks to follow.

**Family Service** – 7<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm with a Lego Fest – come and build!

**Family Communion** – 14<sup>th</sup> June at 11:15, dogs and children welcome.

**Reflective meditation** – 21<sup>st</sup> June at 6pm, start the week in peace.

**Morning Worship** – 28<sup>th</sup> June at 11:15

Ruth Merttens –Church Warden [ruth@merttens.co.uk](mailto:ruth@merttens.co.uk) or 07781334669

## **Courteous Parking in the Village Square**

Drewsteignton's village square is a shared space, used daily by residents, visitors, local businesses, farmers and community groups. To keep it safe, accessible, and welcoming for everyone, the Parish Council (PC) is asking for greater consideration, courtesy and care when parking.

Over recent months, complaints to the PC have increased due to difficulties with vehicles moving safely around the square. Cars left at awkward angles, vehicles parked for long periods along the side of the scaffolding, and unlicensed trailers left on the roadside, have all contributed to growing frustrations. In one case, a trailer and van blocked access to the old telephone box, preventing weekend refurbishment work. We are also asking organisers of village events to help by marshalling parking and encouraging greater use of the village car park, which is only a short walk away. This small step makes a big difference, reducing pressure in the square, improving safety, and ensuring emergency, delivery, and farm vehicles can pass through without obstruction.

The square belongs to all of us, and with a little extra thought, we can keep it functioning smoothly and looking its best. The Corbell team, working on Glebe and Trinity Cottages, are adhering to their traffic-management plan and working hard to secure additional temporary parking. With five spaces being lost for up to twelve weeks, to allow scaffolding to be erected along the wall of the Old Rectory, there will be additional pressure on parking this summer and a need for greater consideration.

Thank you to everyone who already parks considerately and supports the village in maintaining this important shared space.

### **A Blooming Welcome to Whiddon Down**

Anyone arriving in Whiddon Down this season will have noticed the wonderful display of flowers brightening the entrance to our village. The colours, the care, and the sheer cheerfulness of the planting have caught the eye of many visitors, several of whom have taken the time to pass on their appreciation. Their comments all share the same message: the flowers make Whiddon Down feel welcoming, well loved, and full of community spirit. It brings real delight to those passing through.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who helps to make it happen and, of course, it's thanks in large part to you-know-who! Your hard work and dedication have created something truly lovely for us all to enjoy.

## Devon Association of Ringers' Six Bell Major Final

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, Holy Trinity Church will be hosting the Devon Association of Ringers' Six Bell Major Final. This will be the first time in the centenary of the Association's existence, that the county's premier competition will have been held in Drewsteignton. Previously a couple of southern qualifying rounds have made it to the parish.

<https://www.devonbells.co.uk/index.php/history/teams-roll-of-honour/>

Starting with a short service @2pm (thank you, Harriet!), this competition involves 12 teams from across the county, from Swimbridge down to Stoke Gabriel - this year, seven from the northern half, with five from the south including ourselves & neighbours Dunsford, and Sampford Courtenay & Bow amongst those from the north. Several teams have been to practise during the spring, with the southern qualifying winners, South Brent, having come up twice. Following the exceptionally wet winter, which saw unprecedented water ingress in many of the local granite towers - ours included - we are sprucing up the ringing chamber to make it more appealing (😊), and our lovely old Westcountry Pennington six <https://dove.cccb.org.uk/tower/10159> will prove a suitable challenge for the county's best 6-bell teams.

During the break in the afternoon's proceedings, we will be providing the traditional ringers' tea in the Drewe Arms' Long Room. As shareholders, we are hoping the day will provide some good trade for our community pub: ringers are well-known for their fondness for a pint, or two - well, it can be thirsty work! So, all in all, it should be a most enjoyable day, at such a fitting venue.

Finally, The Plug! We are looking for recruits to join our team in order to maintain the unique & centuries-old vernacular art of Deb'm Call Change Ringing, so do please contact me if you'd be interested in learning!

Jon, Tower Captain

07967 374593



We welcome everyone aged 10-28 to our very active club with a meeting & social each month. Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cheritonandtedburnyfc/> or follow us on Instagram.

## CPR and AED Update

Sudden cardiac arrest is a significant cause of death in people of all ages. The major factor determining survival rate is the availability of defibrillation within a critical time. The chance of **survival decreases by around 10% with every minute that defibrillation is delayed**. It is rare that an ambulance arrives in time, and the best way of ensuring prompt defibrillation is for someone nearby to use an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) to deliver the shock that may save a life.

Where to find an AED? Call 999 and give your location, they will tell you where the nearest AED is. In Drewsteignton Parish we have defibrillators at the following locations:

- Crockernwell bus stop
- The Sandy Park Inn
- The Post Inn
- Fingle Bridge Inn
- Drewsteignton Square/Old Post Office



### How to use them?

AEDs are fully automatic and talk the user through what to do. It is also important to deliver CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) as part of the process.

There is also useful interactive online training provided free by the British Heart Foundation – RevivR. It allows users to learn CPR in just 15 minutes, receive a CPR certificate, and practice on a cushion. The training covers recognizing cardiac arrest symptoms, performing CPR, and using a defibrillator. RevivR is accessible to individuals and organizations, with options for individual or team training.

The tool is designed to be user-friendly, providing real-time feedback on CPR technique and ensuring safe practice. It is a valuable resource for anyone looking to improve their CPR skills and contribute to a safer community.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes>



**Save the date:** 21<sup>st</sup> September 2026 7pm, Devon Air Ambulance volunteers will be providing “Defib Training” @ Whiddon Down Village Hall. More details in the July/August Parish Post.

# North Dartmoor Parishes Magazine

I guess by now you will have received your copy of the **North Dartmoor Parishes Magazine** (the glossy church one), which would have been hand delivered to you, by our group of volunteers.

We are very lucky in this parish to have so many kind and considerate people who recognise the importance of getting local information to you – as do the deliverers of this Parish Post. I would personally like to thank everyone involved with the NDP Mag from the Editors, the Chagford sorters, the team who collects the magazines from St. Micheals and delivers to Holy Trinity and the sorters this end and of course our wonderful team of deliverers. These are all volunteers who will deliver to you as soon as they can after publication and do not ask for any reimbursement of fuel costs etc.

Your magazine takes quite a journey to get to you and we hope that you find the information useful and are able to use the services of some of our advertisers.

With very best wishes

Jane Hocking



## **MORECARE - Providing transport to get you to your medical and other healthcare appointments.**

Morecare volunteers can provide transport services to and from medical facilities, collect prescriptions and help with other needs, where possible, to those registered at Chagford Health Centre or living in Chagford and the surrounding area. Instead of set charges, donations are suggested for our services. If you need health-care related transport, please contact Morecare by phone or text on 07914 853 726 or email via our website [www.morecarechagford.co.uk](http://www.morecarechagford.co.uk)

## **Parish Post Copy Deadline**

Our next issue is the bumper Summer edition, so please send your **July & August events** and articles by: **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June.**





**Current Opening Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday** open 11am– 5pm (food available 11am – 3pm)


**Friday** open 11am - 9pm (food available 11am – 3pm & 6pm – 8pm)

**Saturday** open 11am – 9pm (food available 11am – 8pm)

**Sunday** open 11am– 5.30pm with food available 11am – 4.30pm

Many thanks for your continued support,

The FBI Team. Tel: 01647 281287 or email [info@finglebridgeinn.co.uk](mailto:info@finglebridgeinn.co.uk)



**Medication Delivery Service**

Acorn offers a medication delivery service for those who have no other way of getting their medication delivered. Please call Mandy or Fran at the Office on 01647 252701 for more information.

**DREWE ARMS**  
COMMUNITY PUB

**OPENING TIMES**

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	4pm – 10pm
Wednesday	11am – 10pm
Thursday	11am – 10pm
Friday	11am – 11pm
Saturday	11am – 11pm
Sunday	11am – 6pm

**FOOD SERVED TUESDAY TO SATURDAY**  
12.00 - 2.30 AND 6.00 - 8.30

**SUNDAY LUNCH 12.00 - 4.00**



## Stone Lane Gardens: An offer for local residents

Ever since becoming a charity in 2011, Stone Lane Gardens has aimed to create a friendly welcome and a strong sense of community. We want visitors to return throughout the seasons and feel part of the garden's evolution. To support this, we introduced a 'Friends' scheme—an annual membership offering year-round access, newsletters, and other benefits for a small fee. Many Friends have been loyal supporters in numerous ways.

Now we are taking this idea further. As a community-focused charity, we provide free trees for local planting projects, offer an imaginative outdoor space for schools, and welcome volunteers who gain satisfaction and well-being from their involvement. Our Trustees come from nearby communities, bringing skills and enthusiasm to the charity. We also host events, exhibitions, and provide an attractive outdoor setting for local artists to display their work.

Local communities matter to us, and we want as many residents as possible to enjoy the gardens. This year we have introduced a new, great-value season ticket. For just £1 extra, your admission becomes a season ticket, giving free entry for the rest of the year. At a time when prices keep rising, this allows everyone—regardless of income—to enjoy the garden. There are no catches or hidden costs; the offer is designed to benefit local people, though holidaymakers may also use it. We simply ask you to complete a short form so we can claim Gift Aid, meaning the government contributes just over £2 for every season ticket taken up.

So please visit Stone Lane Gardens and enjoy our peaceful woodland and water garden. Dogs on leads are always welcome, and the wildflower meadows in the new arboretum offer lovely walks with stunning Dartmoor views.

With our annual sculpture exhibition running until the end of August and several summer events planned, we hope you will return often to enjoy this community asset on your doorstep. Gardens open Thursday–Monday, 10am–6pm. Tea Room 11am–4pm. Adults £8, students and children free. Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford, TQ13 8JU — [stonelanegardens.com](http://stonelanegardens.com) | What3Words: keys.trombone.crab



“Early June, the world of leaf and blade and flowers explode and every sunset is different.”

*John Steinbeck, The Winter of Our Discontent.*

The Spring Raffle raised an amazing £1662 for ACORN and we would like to thank *YOU* for buying tickets and all of our wonderful Prize donors:

Wimbledon Foundation, The Drewe Arms, Fingle Bridge Inn, Darts Farm, Devon Shire Carriage, Jo Malone – London, Milk on the Moove, Wild Hart Venison, Oinkers Farm Shop, Sweet Sensations, Fran Peake, Mandy Vellacott, Acorn Trustees

### **Activities From Cheriton Bishop, Tedburn, Drewsteignton & Crockernwell**






- Lunch Clubs, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 - contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please). (*7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 will be the next one*)
- Shopping at Sainsburys Alphington – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The bus will collect you from home and return you safely back with your shopping.
- Outing – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – Buckfast Abbey

### **For 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026 No need to book just turn up.
- Memory Lane Café – 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026. If you know of someone who you feel may benefit from this targeted club, then please call as below.
- Rainbow Club – Carers Support Group. 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Do you care for a partner or a close family member? Then perhaps a monthly get together with other Carers in a similar position might be just what you need. Free informal/confidential chat with a cup of tea. Please call the office number below to learn more.

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.

## Recycling & Waste Collection Dates

			 		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓		✓
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓	✓	
<b>15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓		✓
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓	✓	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓		✓

**Check Bin Day!** <https://westdevon.fccenvironment.co.uk/mycollections>

## Useful Contact Information

### Doctors Surgeries

Cheriton Bishop	01647 24272	Out of Hours	111
Chagford Health Centre	01647 433320	Emergency	999

**Drewsteignton Parish Clerk & RFO:** Lou Butler 07764683412

[Clerk.drewsteigntonPC@outlook.com](mailto:Clerk.drewsteigntonPC@outlook.com)

**Borough Councillor:** Cllr Steve Guthrie,

[cllr.steve.guthrie@westdevon.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.steve.guthrie@westdevon.gov.uk)

**Devon County Councillor:** Cllr Sue Davies [sue.davies@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sue.davies@devon.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament:** Mel Stride MP, [mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk)

**Acorn Community Support:** 01647 252701

**Whiddon Down Village Hall:** 07928966744

**DPC Rural Crime & Community Alerts WhatsApp**

**Community Group** – scan the QR code to join



**Parish Post Editor (Temp)** [Cllr.Brennan.Drewsteignton@outlook.com](mailto:Cllr.Brennan.Drewsteignton@outlook.com)

The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Council.

Contributions for the next edition by the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026.

Thank you. Ed.