

DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH POST

Parish Post Issue No. 238

September 2026

News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) last met on 20th July 2026 at 7.30pm in The Long Room, Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton. Draft minutes are available on the parish website. There was no meeting in August.

Planning Matters:

0208/26 Full Planning Permission, Temporary site to provide parking and storage (2no shipping containers) for contractors working on 1-3 Glebe and Trinity Cottages; supported. 0213/26 Listed Building Consent, Repairs and restoration of barn group, replacement roofs, replacement access gate, new car port, swimming pool, and greenhouse. Lambert Barn Lambert Lane, Crockernwell; supported. 1863/26/FUL. Full Planning Permission, Installation of 1 no. 200KW Ev charging unit supplying 2 no DDA-compliant charging bays, together with a LV meter cabinet, associate ducting and surfacing reinstatement. Petrol station Whiddon Down. EX20 2QT; supported.

WDBC Enforcement Officer visits regarding Advertising Board at Whiddon Down, Water Tank Drewsteignton, Hole Woods Whiddon Down and Land west of Drewsteignton noted.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 21st September 2026 at 8.00pm** at Whiddon Down Village Hall. Prior to the meeting, **The Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) will be providing Defib Training commencing 7pm.** DAAT is committed to making defibrillator use a common practice in the community, ensuring more people can step in and help someone suffering from a cardiac arrest. All are welcome to come along. There is no obligation to stay for the Parish Council meeting however, we hope parishioners will stay to 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



**West Devon
Borough Council**

West Devon committed to smooth transition, after Government makes decision on Devon's local government reorganisation

Following the Government's announcement on the future shape of local government, West Devon Borough Council has reaffirmed its commitment to working together with all of the councils of Devon to ensure a smooth transition and ensure important services continue to be provided to our communities.



The Government has selected the model put forward by Plymouth and Exeter Councils, which would see the creation of four unitary councils; Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter will all have expanded boundaries, and the rest of the county will be served by a new “Devon Coast and Countryside” council. These councils are set to replace the current two-tier county and district council system. Drewsteignton Parish will be served by Devon Coast and Countryside” council.

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A New Devon Coast & Countryside Council designed for rural and coastal communities serving a population of ~455,000. This new authority will bring together towns, villages and rural communities with similar needs and characteristics. The Gov.UK intention is to support a more focused approach to the challenges facing dispersed rural populations, from access to services and public transport to housing affordability and social care.

Elections for the new shadow authorities are due to take place in May 2027, with the new authorities becoming fully operational on 1 April 2028. For residents, bin collections, council tax, housing services, benefits, planning and customer contact arrangements will continue as normal while councils prepare for the transition.

HOLY TRINITY, DREWSTEIGTON

News from Holy Trinity

An old tree has come down in the churchyard. By the grace of God, it managed to avoid damaging any of the gravestones or another tree. But it is a sad and sobering sight. Apparently, it is a lime, and the wood of this tree has been much prized since the 17th century for carving and turning, including for making musical instruments.

Finding another tree damaged in the churchyard, albeit this one by drought rather than storm, gives us all pause for thought. The poet, Philip Larkin expressed something of my own feelings of awe and contentment when I contemplate the trees, many of which have been there for centuries.

*The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.*

*Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.*

*Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In full grown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.*



We humans may not have the *'yearly trick of looking new'* (well, I certainly don't!) but we certainly do derive immense benefit from the placid and kindly inevitable renewal of each tree each year. I do not want to imagine the diminished pleasure of my walk through the churchyard if our old trees were *not* standing guard over the dead and the living as they have done through the centuries. We need our trees – they supply oxygen for the spirit as well as for the body. The poor old lime tree, split into two and half killed by the drought, must be treated by a specialist in such a way as to best preserve its future life – to enable it to flourish and to *'begin afresh, afresh, afresh'*. The churchyard account would welcome donations toward the preservation of our trees.

Meantime, on pragmatic matters, we are very happy that our children's area has, throughout the summer, provided a lovely, cool haven for many children, grandchildren and visitors on hot days as well as really good play opportunities and entertaining story books at all times. Our solar panels have been registered with the National Grid and should now be starting to generate a small but important income for the church. I have all my fingers and toes firmly crossed that the last piece in our *'becoming-zero-carbon'* jigsaw will be provided and placed in position at the end of September, directly after the Whiddon Autumn Festival. Our two air-source heat pumps, the fan-coil heaters and related system will be installed over the following six weeks. It is due to be complete by 30th October when we have a wonderful harp concert by Lily Neil. At this point, we may become the very first Grade 1 listed church to be zero carbon in the whole south-west of England. This will be a very exciting achievement and, as I say, I still have all my fingers crossed that we can get over the line.

We continue to be hugely grateful to our wonderful community of volunteers who support everything we do at Holy Trinity. The Honesty Shop survives and provides us all with an essential amenity because of an uncomplaining and hard-working team of volunteers. The work with children and the Tuesday Market also depend on a number of kind people, equally generous with their time. My lego™ poster in the children's area is one way in which we express our appreciation.

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HTC - Services and events this month

Family Service – 6th September at 5pm – We are thinking about what it means to achieve our potential. Come and be with us and enjoy the camaraderie and food afterwards as we share our high tea.

Family Communion – 13th September at 11:15, dogs and children welcome.

Corvus Consort – Concert 6pm: Shakespeare's Tempest inspired choral music Come and be stunned by the soundscape.

Reflective meditation – 20th September at 6pm, start the week with a quiet reflection

Morning Worship – 27th September at 11:15

Family Service – 4th October at 5pm – Our ever-popular **Pet Service**, not to be missed!

Ruth Merttens –Church Warden ruth@merttens.co.uk or 07781334669



Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) is actively promoting CPR and defibrillator training events to empower the community. They have trained over 600 members of the public in the last two years and have defibrillators available in their shops. The charity aims to raise awareness and confidence in using defibrillators, especially during cardiac emergencies. DAAT volunteers will be providing a **free Defib training session on Monday 21st September 2026 at 7pm, @ Whiddon Down Village Hall.**



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

We are a busy, charity which quietly gets on with providing local peoples' medical transport needs. 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



Glebe cottages – update and opportunity for a scaffold tour.

It has been a busy summer at Glebe since work began in May. The team from Corbel have been undertaking the challenging task of carefully clearing the significant amount of debris caused by the fire. This has been a complex and often painstaking process, involving stabilising the cottages, preserving surviving historic fabric, and recovering personal belongings so that they can be returned to their owners.

We would like to thank the Corbel team and particularly the masons who have been undertaking this work for their care and dedication during this difficult first phase of the project. We are now approaching the completion of the clearance works and moving into the next stage, which will focus on reinstating the external fabric of the buildings. In recent days the structural timbers for the new roof structure have arrived on site, along with cob materials that will be used to repair the damaged walls.

We would also like to thank the local community for your continued patience, support and understanding whilst these works have been taking place. We appreciate that the scaffolding, deliveries and skip movements have inevitably caused some disruption, and your support throughout has been greatly appreciated.

As the project progresses, we would like to share some of the discoveries, challenges and achievements with the community. We are therefore proposing an **open meeting on Tuesday 22 September at 6.30pm in the Long Room at the Drewe Arms.**

Before the meeting, and while there is still enough evening daylight, we hope to offer guided tours of the site scaffolding between 5.00pm and 6.30pm for those interested in seeing the restoration work up close. Details of how to sign up, together with additional information, will be displayed on the Glebe noticeboard opposite the pub at least a week before the event. Places will be limited, although we will do our best to accommodate those interested where possible.

We are very grateful to the team at the Drewe Arms for kindly hosting the meeting, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Best wishes all,

Paula, Community,

Participation & Volunteering Manager, Dartmoor

07826 945107, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk



Tilly Pass: Keeping Our Rural Roads Safe

Agricultural trailers are a familiar sight on our lanes, especially during harvest seasons. The Tilly Pass scheme offers farmers a practical way to keep these trailers safe, legal, and ready for the road. It's a simple annual

inspection carried out by qualified technicians, and it benefits everyone in the community.

Why Tilly Testing Matters

- **Safety First** — A thorough 18-point inspection checks brakes, lights, steering, tyres, and load security. This reduces breakdowns and helps prevent accidents.
- **Legal Compliance** — The Tilly Pass helps farmers meet their responsibilities under PUWER 1998 and the new BS14200:2023 standard for trailer maintenance.
- **Clear Documentation** — Each inspected trailer receives a Tilly Pass certificate, providing proof of maintenance if requested by police, insurers, or auditors.

Benefits for Road Users

- **Improved Road Safety** — Well-maintained trailers are less likely to shed loads, suffer brake failures, or cause collisions.
- **Better Visibility** — Working lights, reflectors, and number plates make trailers safer on narrow lanes and at dusk.
- **Community Confidence** — A visible Tilly Pass sticker reassures everyone that the trailer has been professionally inspected.

Police and DVSA have highlighted several cases involving defective brakes, unsecured loads, and poorly maintained trailers. These incidents show how important regular inspections are for protecting both operators and the public.

Farmers can locate their nearest accredited Tilly technician and learn more about the scheme by visiting: www.tilypass.co.uk The website includes a technician finder, safety guidance, and practical advice for anyone operating agricultural trailers.

Working Together for Safer Roads

The Tilly Pass is run *by* farmers *for* farmers. Getting the right support is straightforward and simple.

Contact: francesallan@tilypass.co.uk or call 07967 445 223

Save the Date: Bonfire Night – Saturday 7th November 2026 - gates open at 5pm.



More details will follow in the October Parish Post.

For now, pop a reminder on the calendar. Expect flames, food, friends, and the usual good-natured debate about whose marshmallow technique is superior. **Tickets will be available from The Drewe Arms, Oinkers Farm Shop and Sally's in Chagford.**

We are always looking for new members of our community to help on the committee, with the setup, the clear down and the Bonfire event itself. If anyone would like to volunteer, please get in touch using the following email address: drew.playingfield@outlook.com

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Our AGM was tinged with sadness, as one of our long serving committee stepped down after 26 years. A huge thank you to Clare Rowe, for your dedication and support of Whiddon Down Village Hall. We are in need of more volunteers to boost our Committee team.

Our usual programme of meetings and classes are in full swing. New booking enquiries welcome.

Best wishes Jenny 07708634426 or email jennyjturner21@gmail.com or

Village Hall: 07928966744 whiddondownvillagehall79@gmail.com



Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Fayre



Save the Date



Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Fayre and Pop Up Café

Saturday 28th November and Sunday 29th November
from 10.30am

Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton

More info to follow in next edition of DPP

FOR PITCHES INDOORS CONTACT GEORGIA MUNDAY georgia.munday@gmail.com
Pitches outside first come first served subject to availability and weather £5.50 per pitch

TEIGNTON BAZAAR

in the ***LONG ROOM***

ADMISSION FREE
PARKING FREE
REFRESHMENTS
LUNCHES FROM MIDDAY
www.drewearms.org

indoor market

at the ***Drewe Arms***

Drewsteignton

EX6 6QN

Bargains are good for you

SATURDAY 19th SEPT 10am - 1 pm

If I Get Dementia...Remember

As a family, we have been touched by dementia, a life-limiting condition that has left us facing the unknown. A good friend shared a letter by an anonymous author, which has gone viral but provided a heartfelt reminder of what someone living with dementia might wish others to remember. **Ed.**

- Every time you enter the room announce yourself. "Hi it's" Never ask "Do you know who I am???" as that can cause anxiety.
- I want my friends and family to embrace my reality.
- If I think my dead friend is still alive, or if I think we're visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things.
- Don't argue with me about what is true for me versus what is true for you.
- If I am not sure who you are, do not take it personally.
- If I can no longer use utensils, don't start feeding me. Instead, switch me to a finger-food diet and see if I can still feed myself.
- When I am sad or anxious; hold my hand and listen.
- I don't want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.
- I still want to enjoy the things that I've always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read and visit friends.
- Ask me to tell you a story from my past.
- If I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.
- Treat me the way you would want to be treated.
- Make sure there are snacks for me. If I don't eat, I may get hangry and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.
- Don't talk about me as if I'm not in the room.
- Don't feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's not your fault and you've done your best. Find someone who can help you or choose a great new place for me to live.
- If I move into a dementia care community, please visit me.
- Don't act frustrated if I mix up names, events, or places. Take a deep breath. It's not my fault.
- Make sure I have my favourite music playing within earshot.
- Don't exclude me from parties and family gatherings.
- If I pick up items and carry them around, help me return those items to their original place.

Cont'd.

- Know that I still like receiving hugs and laughing.
- Remember, I am still the person you know and love.

There is a library of information available from the Alzheimer's Society – website visit **Dementia Support** www.alzheimers.org.uk/ or

Call: 0333 150 3456

If you're affected by dementia or worried about a diagnosis, or if you care for someone with dementia, our trained staff are ready to give you the support that you need. Opening hours: Mon to Weds: 9am - 8pm, Thurs



and Fri: 9am - 5pm, Sat
and Sun: 10am - 4pm.

Thank You to Our Litter-Picking Volunteers

There's something quietly heroic about the people who head out with a bag and a picker and simply get on with it. No fuss, no fanfare – just a steady determination to keep our lanes, hedges, and verges looking loved. To every one of our litter picking volunteers, whether you've done one walk or one hundred, **thank you. You make a real difference.**



Our countryside is one of Devon's greatest treasures. The winding lanes, the high hedges, the sudden views across fields and moorland, they're part of what makes this place feel like home. When litter creeps in, it spoils more than the scenery. It harms wildlife, blocks drains, damages soil and sends the message that nobody cares. But we *do* care, and our volunteers prove it every week.

No Training Required — Honestly. If you've ever thought, "*Someone should do something about that,*" here's the good news: that someone can be you. Litter picking doesn't require training, special skills, or a huge time commitment. You'll pick it up as you go along – quite literally. A pair of gloves, a bag, and a few minutes on your usual walk is enough. DCC will collect with your fortnightly black Bag collection.

Let's keep our Parish looking as it should: green, clean and cared for.

Drewsteignton Playing Field

New 25m Zip Wire Coming This September!

If you've noticed a few excited whispers around the village lately, here's why: a brand-new 25-metre zip wire will be installed in mid-September, adding a brilliant new burst of fun to our play area. It's fast, it's safe, and it's guaranteed to make children (and quite a few adults) grin from ear to ear. This project has been made possible thanks to generous support from The National Lottery, West Devon Borough Council, private donations, and several thoughtful gifts in wills. A huge thank-you to everyone who helped turn this idea into reality — your kindness will be enjoyed for years to come by small people, tall people, and anyone who secretly believes they're still 12. We'll share the official opening date soon, but expect a bit of excitement, a few happy squeals, and at least one grown-up pretending they're "just testing it for safety."

For more information email: drew.playingfield@outlook.com



Thank You to All Our Volunteers

A huge thank you to every volunteer who helped make the Chagford Show on 20th August 2026 such a success. From early-morning gate teams to ring stewards, car-park marshals, tent-putter-uppers, tea-pourers, sign-fixers, and those heroic souls who always seem to appear exactly where they're needed — you were brilliant.

The Show doesn't magically assemble itself overnight. It takes months of planning, a mountain of goodwill, and a cheerful army of people willing to give their time, energy, and humour to pull it all together. Thanks to you, thousands enjoyed a fantastic day out filled with local produce, crafts, entertainment, and that unmistakable Chagford buzz.

Whether you volunteered for an hour or the whole day, your contribution mattered. You kept things running smoothly, safely, and with the kind of community spirit that makes our Show, one of the highlights of the year.

Save the Date! Next year's Chagford Show will be held on 19th August 2027. Mark it in your diary — we'd love to see you there, whether as a visitor, a volunteer, or both.

Celebration of Life for Carole Mason

Celebration of Life for Carole Mason

Wednesday 9th September, 3pm

At the Long Room, Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton

Please join us for tea, cake, conversation and music, with a short interlude of readings and reflection.

Friends of Drewsteignton Church



Friday 30th October 2026

7Door time: 7:30pm, start time: 8:00pm in the Church

LILY NEILL has captivated audiences around the world with the dynamism and breadth of her performances, and her infectious passion for the harp. She has played for world leaders and ambassadors, luminaries in the world of music, young music students, and listeners who never dreamed they would ever hear a harp. Tickets available from <https://wegottickets.com/f/26517/>



Chagford Singers

A Community Choir in the Heart of Dartmoor

Come and sing with the Chagford Singers!

Following an exciting year including three great concerts and a successful choral workshop, the Chagford Singers are looking forward to starting their 2026 – 27 season and to welcoming new members. They will be rehearsing on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in Chagford's Jubilee Hall, starting on 9th September, and any singers (soprano, alto, tenor or bass) who are interested in joining are invited to come along to a rehearsal and try us out. There are no auditions and you will be assured of a warm welcome from us all as well as an enjoyable and rewarding musical experience under the guidance of conductor Tina Guthrie.

Highlights in the coming year include a performance of Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with harpist Elizabeth-Jane Baldry on 12th December in Chagford Church. Also, in spring 2027, performances of Fauré's *Requiem* and Poulenc's *Gloria* on 15th May.

For further information visit www.chagfordsingers.co.uk



Charity Number 1183032

Send us an email at chagfordsingers@icloud.com





“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower”
~ Albert Camus.

WELL! Who would have thought when the words “Barbecue Summer” were uttered as usual, that we and the land would end up being barbecued!! What a summer it’s been.

It has, unfortunately resulted in a few cancelled outings and Coffee mornings as our first priority is always the safety and good health of our lovely clients not to mention our equally lovely volunteers. Hopefully this month we will be able to have a full programme of fun and Oh yes..... CAKE!

Activities From C’Bishop, Tedburn, Drewsteignton & Crockernwell

Lunch Clubs, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary Tuesday 1st September 2026 - contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (2 days in advance please). (*the next one is 6th October 2026*)

Shopping - Sainsburys Alphington – Wednesday 2nd, 16th and 30th September 2026. The bus will collect you from home and return you safely back with your shopping.

Outing 8th September 2026 either **Exmouth or Knightshayes Court**

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 11th and 25th September 2026** No need to book just turn up.

Memory Lane Café – 10th and 24th September 2026. If you know of someone who you feel may benefit from this targeted club, please call as below.

Rainbow Club – Carers Support Group. **Friday 18th September 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***

DREWE ARMS COMMUNITY PUB

Community Pub Update – Volunteers Needed & AGM Reminder

After a difficult Spring, the Drewe has stayed open, welcoming, and financially steady thanks to an extraordinary effort from volunteers and the management team. Over the past four months, community members have stepped in to run regular shifts, support the kitchen and front-of-house, manage the cellar, handle accounts, maintain accommodation, and keep the pub operating without needing further loans. This commitment has helped turnover rise and staffing costs move closer to sustainable levels. But the message is clear: **we cannot rely on the same small group forever**. To keep the Drewe thriving, we urgently need **more volunteers** to share shifts, support the management team, and help spread the workload so that the joy of running a community pub outweighs the chore.

AGM – Thursday 1st October 2026 at 6:30pm

This year's AGM is a crucial moment. We encourage all members and supporters to attend, hear the full context, show your backing, and, most importantly, consider how you might contribute in the months ahead. The team hopes to welcome new volunteers and strengthen the base that keeps the Drewe alive. Please come, listen, and talk to us before the end of September if you're willing to help. **Many hands really do make light work**. We look forward to seeing you in the pub soon.

Best wishes

Clare, Gary, Glyn, Jane, Liz, Tim and Toby

Events News @The Drewe Arms: It's been a summer of parties and fundraising at The Drewe and as we move towards autumn, we've got music and theatre on the menu. **Saturday October 10th at 7.30pm: Sparko's Going Back Home** - It's back on! That's right; the legend who is John B Sparks, bass player and founding member of Dr Feelgood, is coming out to play! Sparko is taking a trip down memory lane and his new band Going Back Home will be playing Rhythm & Blues just like the old days. Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thedrewearms>
There's more coming up, including our second Original Music Showcase on 14th November and the UK's premier REM tribute band REM Pretend on 20th November. Check <https://www.drewearms.org/events> for all the details.

**STRATFORD THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE WONDERFUL COMEDY**

INTO THE BREACH

**GEORGE CROCKER
JOINS HIS VILLAGE
DRAMA CLUB TO LIVEN UP HIS LIFE.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TURNS HIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.**

"A REMARKABLE AND HIGHLY ORIGINAL PIECE OF THEATRE"
BATH ECHO

**"DAD'S ARMY MEETS
THE VICAR OF DIBLEY"**
LONDON METRO

**"THIS SHOW WILL MAKE YOU
LAUGH, CRY AND ENJOY A
DEBATE ON SHAKESPEARE"**
STRATFORD HERALD

**The Drewe Arms Longroom
Friday 11th September at 7.30pm**
Tickets £13.50 in advance or £14 on the door

WWW.STRATFORDTHEATRECOMPANY.ORG.UK

Into the Breach - a one man, multi character comedy written and performed by Mark Carey. It's "Dad's Army meets The Vicar of Dibley!" George Crocker is keen to liven up his dull life so he decides to join the village Drama Club hoping to play the panto dame. What happens next turns his world upside down and instead he finds himself taking on the role of Henry 5th! Set during the Second World War this original, inspiring show is suitable for everyone and with one actor playing all 17 parts you can guarantee it's going to be a hoot!

Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thedrewearms>

Bluetongue: Reflecting Its Impact on Our Farming Community

Bluetongue has brought real worry to many local farms this season. Although it doesn't affect people, it can cause serious illness in sheep, cattle, and other livestock, and because it's spread by biting midges rather than animal contact, it's difficult for farmers to control. Movement restrictions, testing, and the emotional strain of uncertainty all add pressure to an already demanding way of life.

For many farming families, Bluetongue isn't just a headline, it's early mornings spent checking stock, long conversations with vets, and the quiet hope that the next update brings better news. Our community feels these ripples too, and it's important we recognise the resilience and dedication shown by those who care for our countryside every day.

How Can We Help

While Bluetongue isn't something parishioners can directly prevent, we *can* however, support our farmers by:

- Respecting footpaths and keeping dogs away from livestock.
- Being patient if farms have restricted access or altered routines.
- Buying local produce and showing understanding during a difficult period.
- Offering kindness. A simple "How are things on the farm?" goes a long way.

Bluetongue reminds us how closely connected rural life is. Standing alongside our farmers with empathy and practical support makes a real difference. **Ed.**



Bluetongue is a notifiable disease.

You must stay vigilant and contact your vet if you have any concerns over the health and welfare of your animals.

Suspicion of bluetongue must be reported immediately to APHA.

England
03000 200 301

Bird Notes – A Swift Update

Bird Notes – A Swift Update

The arrival of Swifts back in the village on 23rd April was the earliest date I have recorded since 2001. Numbers steadily grew over the following days, and I heard the first screaming party of six birds on the 27th April.

In May, despite some changeable weather, we had amazing numbers over the village as the sub-adults (non-breeding birds) chase about and investigate potential breeding sites for next year. With the hot weather in June, July and early August, the skies over the village have been busy and I have recorded between 60 to 80 Swifts on warm evenings.

I have enjoyed sitting outside the Drewe watching to see Swifts periodically entering the nest chambers installed behind the louvres in the bell chamber of the church tower. These are not accessible for ringing chick's yet, but when Jerry comes to confirm which chambers have been used, we will know how many have had breeding birds in.

The non-breeding birds that made up the highly visible and vocal groups mainly went around the third week in July, just leaving pairs returning to feed their young and the occasional visit from groups heading south and hanging out for a while.

Aby and her team have been regularly coming in the early evenings since 4th July to monitor our nestboxes and then ring chicks, with her last visit to the top of the church tower on 18th August for the last brood. These were obviously late nesters and so probably first-time breeders.

I do not have the final numbers of breeding in our boxes yet but with an early arrival and some late departures, I am hoping it has been a good season for our Swifts. I have really enjoyed their presence over the last few months, as have many other residents I have spoken to. It has also been great to meet people sitting in the churchyard, who have come out from Exeter and Crediton to also enjoy our Swifts.

Nick Dixon



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



Whether the issue is personal or business related, FCN is here for you. We run a confidential, national helpline and e-helpline which is open every day of the year from 7am to 11pm and our volunteers provide free, confidential support to anyone who seeks help. Over 10,000 people a year benefit from FCN's support and we can help with a variety of issues. It can be daunting to ring a helpline for the first time and for some people this can become a blocker to seeking support. There are many reasons why someone might be hesitant to contact a charity. But FCN has a track record of helping people to explore their options and find a way forward – each year we help thousands of farmers and farming families with a wide variety of issues. Please call our Helpline 03000 111 999 or email help@fcn.org.uk – we may be able to help.

ACE Archaeology Club

The ACE Archaeology Club is an active group based in central Devon, UK, dedicated to investigating and protecting the region's archaeological heritage. The club aims to encourage members to engage with local archaeology, participate in excavation projects, and share knowledge about the area's rich history. They host regular meetings, offer opportunities for members to visit archaeological sites, and have a quarterly newsletter for updates and events. The club welcomes individuals of all ages and experience levels, making it a vibrant community for archaeology enthusiasts.

If you are interested in digging or learning about finds processing and other 'things' archaeological with us, do get in touch. For more information, email acemembership99@gmail.com



Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford, TQ13 8JU — stonelanegardens.com
 OS map ref: SX 708 907 (OL28 Dartmoor).
 What3Words: keys.trombone.crab

Calling All Young Voices!

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Do you see challenges that young people face and want to speak up about them? **We want to hear from YOU!** The Parish Council are inviting young people in the Parish to submit articles to be published in the Parish Post that explore **real issues affecting youth in our community** - from mental health and education to future employment, social justice, and more. This is your chance to share your perspective, raise awareness, and inspire change.

What we're looking for:

- Personal stories or experiences
- Investigative pieces on local issues
- Opinion articles with thoughtful insights
- Creative approaches to community challenges

Why submit?

- Your voice matters—and it deserves to be heard.
- Selected articles will be published and shared widely.
- You'll help spark conversations and solutions that matter.

Who can submit? Anyone under 18 who wants to make a difference.

Submit to: cllr.brennan.drewsteignton@outlook.com



Let's amplify youth voices and build stronger communities—one story at a time. **Ed.**

Have you had your flu jab?

Don't put it off. Get your flu jab straightaway.

**STAY WELL
THIS WINTER**

The **Stay Well This Winter** campaign being run by Public Health England and NHS England aims to raise awareness of the vulnerability of the elderly and those with long-term health conditions at winter among family, friends and carers.

Standing Together Against Rural Crime

Don't forget to sign up to the **DPC Rural Crime & Community Alerts WhatsApp Community Group**, which is designed to help parishioners share timely information, raise awareness of suspicious activity, and support one another in keeping our area safe. Simply **scan the QR code** printed alongside this article. This will take you directly to the group's joining page. We ask all parishioners to **agree to the group's terms and conditions**:



- No sharing of personal data without consent
- No speculation, naming individuals, or posting unverified accusations
- No off-topic messages or general chat
- Respect for neighbours, landowners, and emergency services

Anyone who does not follow these guidelines may have their number removed to ensure the group remains a safe and reliable resource for all. By joining the group, you are helping strengthen the safety net that protects our Parish. This initiative is not run *instead of* the police, but *alongside* them. Always report crimes or emergencies to the Police first. The WhatsApp group simply helps us share awareness quickly and responsibly. **Drewsteignton Parish Council**



West Devon
Borough Council

West Devon recognised as third friendliest place to live in the UK

We are celebrating after the borough was recognised as the third friendliest place to live in the UK. The ranking was featured in The Guardian newspaper and is based on a new index of all 296 local council areas, drawing on government data from the Community Life Survey.

It measures the strength of community life by looking at how often people speak to their neighbours, feelings of loneliness and belonging, pride in the local area, and participation in civic life. The recognition highlights the strong community spirit found across West Devon's towns, villages, farming and rural communities, where residents, businesses and community groups work hard to support one another and take pride in where they live.



The Summer heatwave may be on its way back however, down in the woods it's always been cool and refreshing to visit the FBI.

Our menu has all your favourite good pub food classics and some new additions. Indulge in our beloved Cream Teas and freshly baked cakes, served daily from 11am right up until half an hour before closing. Whether you're after a comforting bowl of soup or a full three-course feast, our menu caters to every appetite—with a focus on top-quality ingredients, generous portions, and a welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

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 -3pm & 6pm – 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



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.

Recycling & Waste Collection Dates

					
1st August	Tuesday	✓	✓	✓	
7th Sept.	Monday	✓	✓		✓
14th Sept.	Monday	✓	✓	✓	
21st Sept.	Monday	✓	✓		✓
28th Sept.	Monday	✓	✓	✓	

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@drewsteignton-pc.gov.uk

West Devon Borough Councillor: Cllr Steve Guthrie,

cllr.steve.guthrie@westdevon.gov.uk

Devon County Councillor: Cllr Sue Davies sue.davies@devon.gov.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

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

Parish Post Copy Deadline

Our next issue is the September edition, so please send your **October events** and articles by: **Sunday 20th September.**

