

Drewsteignton

Parish Post

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NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

With the easing of lockdown, we have been able to start meeting our friends and family more and this has been welcomed by most. Economic recovery can begin. It is sad to hear that the Drewe Arms has fallen victim to the pandemic and with a heavy heart we say goodbye to Gary and Andrew who have brightened our days, and give them our thanks and blessings for a brighter future. They will be missed greatly.

On a positive note, we have been able to open the toilets in Drewsteignton. A full Covid risk assessment has been carried out and Mr Rowe is cleaning on a regular basis.

The playing fields will remain closed until the Playing Field Committee have confirmed that all the actions from the recent ROSPA inspection have been completed, a full Covid risk assessment has been carried out and all additional measures for the control of Covid have been put in place to keep our children safe.

We are pleased to say that our internal Audit has been responded to and the parish council has improved so much since the interim audit. Our annual Governance statement is complete, the annual accounting statement approved and submitted. Accounts and financial records will be available for the exercise of public rights from Monday 31st August to Friday 9th October.

Parish planning applications were discussed - application from Woodland Springs for the use of land as 14 touring pitches (in lieu of previously approved camping pods ref. 0690/14) and relocation of 2 pods onto existing touring pitches. Cllr Brennan proposed that the Council offer a neutral view on application 0319/20 - seconded and carried.

Cllr Brennan reported on the current status of the Whiddon Down Farm Shop Appeal to consider further response to Planning Inspectorate invitation (deadline 23 July 2020). Cllrs discussed the matter and agreed that they were in favour of requesting a public hearing on site rather than the decision being made by written representation alone.

The council received correspondence regarding Whiddon Down roundabout, Cllrs discussed the correspondence and agreed our full support of the volunteers who are working hard to maintain and enhance the appearance of Whiddon Down. Council was concerned to hear reports of volunteers being verbally abused. Harassment of volunteers and destruction of areas planted is **not** acceptable. Okehampton Police are aware and have spoken to the volunteers about their concerns. The Clerk will ask the volunteers if they would benefit from attending training to support their work.

The work on the entrance to the carpark in Drewsteignton has been very well carried out and Cllrs thanked Cllr Redman for all his work on this matter.

Cllr Rowe reported trees needing attention between Barn Close and Whiddon Down (WDVH) chapel graveyard. This has been reported to DCC Highways. Cllr Rowe reported WDVH are carrying out external/internal works and look to reopen soon.

Cllr Brennan reported that the MVAS' battery had to be replaced after 3 weeks, as opposed to the usual 6 weeks. It is currently in Crockernwell. The traffic lights in

Crockernwell have been removed, opening up the road, and motorists have taken advantage of this. MVAS seems to be doing its job and traffic is slowing down again.

The next parish meeting will be on 17 August via Zoom. Until the village halls are able to open, we will continue to hold zoom meetings and hope you can join us.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Keep alert and control the virus.

Cllr. Ysanne James

Drewe Arms – a farewell

The news unfortunately isn't good. Negotiations didn't go how we wanted them to. We have decided to leave the pub whilst the business is still afloat. This is a mutual decision between Enterprise and myself and they do have plans to open the pub in the near future.

In the meantime, we have decorated everywhere and the pub looks lovely and is ready for the next tenants to move in,

Our removals arrive on Thursday next week and we hand over on Friday 31st.

I have had such an amazing time living and working in this village and will miss you all.

Drewsteignton truly is a very special place.

I'm not one for goodbyes, more like a 'see you later'. We won't be too far away and

I'm sure we will be around the village on occasion to catch up with you all.

Thanks again everybody for putting up with a high-energy ex-military man with a face like a slapped arse!!!

See you all soon, **Gary**

News from Drewsteignton Village Store and Post Office

From 24th July it is required that everyone wear a face covering in shops in England unless they are exempt. We have been told by the government that it is not the responsibility of the shopkeeper to enforce this. We will therefore not be making any comment if you come into the shop without a face covering. We will assume that you are exempt.

Please note that the staff are not required to wear masks under these new laws.

We are going to continue with our one at a time policy for the foreseeable future but please note this does not apply to your own 'Bubble'

The Post Office remains open for all of your banking and postage needs. Our old-fashioned Post Office counter with its glass screens has been a real blessing recently.

We are happy to continue with our no contact shopping options, if you need any help please just call us.

We are delighted to announce that from the 1st August we will be able to sell foreign currency again. The Post office has removed this service from 90% of Post Offices as the licence fee for each office has been increased by HMRC from £115 per office to over £300. We have decided however that we feel this is a valuable service to this rural community and have chosen to pay this licence fee ourselves. Please support us in this choice, we will be holding Euro in stock and other currencies can be ordered for next day collection. If we had not done this, your nearest Post Office offering foreign currency would have been Okehampton or Exeter.

We believe that the Post Office and store are there to serve the local community but please remember that the little shop for which you were so grateful during the lockdown can only survive if **YOU** use it all the time. It would such a shame if we weren't there if (God forbid) there was another lockdown.

Cheryl and Stuart

Do not judge yourself harshly. Without mercy and love for ourselves we cannot love the world. With love from Zen

STONE LANE GARDENS

Visitors' new tea-room

On the edge of Dartmoor, the gardens at Stone Lane are about at their summer best, thanks to the abundance of sunshine and just enough rain.

Plenty of shade is provided by the arboretum and a little spring water is slowly trickling through the birch and alder glades. The gardens open every day, year-round, from 10am until 6pm and summer parking is at Long Lane, between Whiddon Down and Drewsteignton.

Whilst visiting the gardens, the tearoom is a new experience for individuals and families seeking refreshments. Open from 12 noon until 5pm, tea and cakes as well as traditional Devon cream teas are proving popular with everyone. All tearoom profits go towards the maintenance of the gardens.

Managed and run by volunteers, the tearoom is always looking for more help. If you would like to offer a few hours a week, or month, please email us via the web site at www.stonelanegardens.com.

Anna Imrie

Latest Covid-19 Updates and Resources from Devon Communities Together - 23rd July

Face coverings become mandatory in shops from Friday 24th July.

We have been required to wear face coverings on public transport for some time, and from Friday 24 July this requirement will be extended to include visits to shops and supermarkets.

The following is information from Devon County Council's 'All you Might Ever Want to Know About Face Coverings' and we strongly advise making yourself fully aware of the guidance.

You can buy them. You can make them. You could also wear a scarf, bandana, or a religious garment. The important thing is, it's got to fit securely around the side of the face and cover the nose and mouth.

They're actually more intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the spread of infection. It's because the virus can spread by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. Those droplets can be picked up on surfaces. That's why social distancing, and regular hand hygiene is so very important. And covering any coughs and sneezes of course with a tissue and disposing of it properly.

It's the combination of these three measures that helps stop the spread of coronavirus:

- * Keep your distance, as per social distancing
- * Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly
- * Wear a face covering, that fits over your nose and mouth

And those symptoms again; If you have any of these - a new continuous cough; a high temperature; or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of smell or taste, then you must arrange to have a test and self-isolate until you get your results.

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Hello everyone. Work has started to remove and make good the blown plaster in the main hall. We had planned to redecorate throughout after this was completed, but it may be necessary to do this in stages to keep money in reserve, as we are still closed for business.

We have had lots of enquiries as to when we will re-open and I can assure you it is a work in progress. As we have to adhere to Covid guidelines, a lot more documentation is required and practical measures put in place to achieve this. We are aiming for September, but this will be subject to changing government advice.

Now summer is with us and lockdown has eased, use of the Carpark by the public has noticeably increased. Although we don't mind occasional use, we do ask that people leave a donation in the box at the end of the Carpark. The Hall committee reserve the right to restrict access if we feel it is being abused, so there may be times when the entrance is padlocked.

We are planning to hold our AGM in the next few weeks, providing this can be done safely, observing social distancing. Details will be posted on our Facebook page.

Finally, thank you to our Committee members who have helped maintain the hall during lockdown. Enjoy the summer.

Jenny Turner



An update from Acorn

Acorn is continuing to offer support to individuals across our communities and we would therefore encourage anyone who needs any help to contact us. Specifically we can easily provide the following although the list is not exhaustive!

Telephone befriending

Shopping buddies

A cashpoint machine

Transport to medical appointments

Delivery of food from the food larders

We are delighted to welcome Mandy Vellacott to the Acorn Team as our Office Manager. You may know Mandy from your visits to both surgeries where she has worked on reception for a number of years, so a familiar face to many.

We are also looking to recruit Trustees to our Board. We are specifically looking for people who can provide the following skills/expertise: Social Care, Administration, HR/Marketing. If you feel you can support us then please do not hesitate to contact the Chair, Jo Clunie on joclunie@icloud.com

Our trustees, staff and volunteers are willing and able to help in any way we can, so please do contact us on 01647 252701 or

email office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk if you, or someone you know, needs support www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Peta Cupper

Stepping backward, jumping forward.

I'm certain a lot of people are not sure whether they have gone forwards, backwards or sideways in achieving their goals for 2020. Perhaps we have excelled in some personal or relationship goals whilst struggling in some business goals, maybe it's all just been a bit of a mess. No judgement here! I was listening to the great spiritual teacher Eckhart Tolle last week, and something he said really struck a chord with me, so much so that I sat down to write this article (to find the full video just search Russell Brand and Eckhart Tolle on YouTube).

Among many gems that he shared was the quote with which I have titled this article:

“Sometimes taking a step backwards is a preparation for a jump forward.”

As I said earlier, I'm sure most of us over these past few months have taken one or several unexpected backward steps in our endeavours. I know I certainly have! It is painful when this happens, especially when some or all of it may be completely out of your control. I empathise with all those who have had their world turned upside down. However, it can seem exciting then to consider these times of lateral or backward progression as potentially a spring forward to a potentiality we had never considered!

I will use myself as an example here: my partner and I started a Chiropractic business at the end of 2019. We worked for nearly 6 months investing time, energy and resources. We envisaged big things! Then of course we had to close the business for around 6 weeks, and then had to reopen in a limited way. The business model that we had put everything into was made redundant. We experienced a good deal of pain and sadness. During the tough times I also managed to take a leap forwards in other parts of my life. I was able to dedicate serious time to study and take many online seminars that I could have only dreamed of during a normal working week. As a result, it is my firm belief that I am now doing some of my most profound work with the people that choose to use my services; A. because I've taken the time to deepen my skill set, and B. I'm the most grateful I have ever been for every customer that walks through the door!

I have found incidentally that my lowest ever period of turnover and business growth has been my most personally and professionally fulfilling time. I would have never believed it if you told me this before March 2020!

Whilst I can only draw on my personal experience here, I'm certain that as a community we can take a meaningful leap forward together. As we emerge from periods of isolation with grace and gratitude, we can really take pleasure from things that we perhaps took as routine before. That pint back in the pub tastes all the better, those walks and chats with loved ones seem more precious, that summer BBQ with the pals feels like it could last forever!

What could a leap forward mean or look like to you? I wish you every success in discovering this!

With love and appreciation!

Joe Arnold (Doctor of Chiropractic, MChiro)

Dartmoor Chiropractic

Strawberry Hill, Dunsford

www.dartmoorchiropractic.co.uk | 07308148159 | dartmoorchiropractic@gmail.com

DARTMOOR CONNECTIONS 2020 Welcome! Today marks the start of our first virtual festival Dartmoor Connections.

From today until 16 August, we'll be delving into Dartmoor's history and exploring its brilliant bogs, birds and butterflies (plus other species too).

Our programme of online events, videos and hints and tips will help you discover more about this wonderful National Park.

We will also bring you inspiration and ideas for where to go and what to look out for when you visit Dartmoor, plus much more.

And you can do this all for free and from the comfort of your own home!

LEARN

- * Dip into our Bronze Age story to learn more
- * Test your prehistoric knowledge with our factsheet
- * Download our fact-filled poster and colour in the picture

Donate for Dartmoor supports a variety of projects across Dartmoor.

Donations of time and money are essential for us to be able to look after the heritage and wildlife of Dartmoor and to make it a place for everyone to enjoy today, tomorrow and for the future.

For details of all events, go to <http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk/>

Cllr. Peter Brennan

Smoke and bonfires

In light of the current Coronavirus pandemic, we are asking residents to be considerate to their neighbours by not lighting bonfires or using wood burners during the lockdown period.

Whilst there are no laws or by-laws preventing residents from having bonfires within the Borough, the smoke, ash and odour created by bonfires often has an **impact on surrounding residents** and, most severely, on residents suffering from respiratory symptoms or those who are vulnerable.

Garden bonfires: dos and don'ts

The law allows you to have a bonfire at any time of the day providing that the smoke given off from the fire does not cause a nuisance.

You might be breaking the law if:

smoke enters people's houses

smoke blows across gardens, preventing your neighbours' normal use of their gardens

smoke affects people's washing

smoke blows across a highway (road or footpath).

Tips for having a bonfire without causing a nuisance:

only burn dry material

never leave a fire unattended

never use petrol, paraffin, diesel, lighter fluid or old oil to encourage the fire

avoid having a bonfire at weekends or bank holidays

warn people nearby that could be affected and

avoid damp or still-weather conditions as the smoke will not disperse effectively.

Annoyed of Drewsteignton @x

Bird Notes

Over the past month, the volume and variety of bird song has diminished considerably, and the countryside sounds much quieter than earlier in the spring. The songbirds have now got established territories, partners and are busy bringing up their young, including the chiffchaffs which can still be heard calling from the hedgerows. We have already had two broods of blackbirds fledge from our garden and there must be another nest as there are a pair constantly taking worms by the beak-full into a honeysuckle covered wall. We seem to have successful nesting by robins as there have been juvenile robins constantly in our garden over the past month, some of which have got quite tame.

I am really pleased we have a nest with young four swallows in our woodshed again on a small wooden flat ledge that I put up on a beam for them a few years ago. I did this after I became aware that quite a few established nest sites in the village had been lost following changes of ownership of properties with access lost to sheds and garages.

It has been a wonderful summer for swifts in Drewsteignton, and I have so enjoyed the sounds of them screaming over the roof tops and heard that others have enjoyed their presence too. We have had so many over the village with normal counts of up between 30 birds to over 60. The high numbers are due to non-breeders staying around as the good weather has lasted, meaning there has been a good supply of airborne insects around. Many of the non-breeders have been noisily investigating potential nests for next year in groups of four or five birds. I have been really pleased to regularly see swifts over Cheriton Bishop and Crockernwell this year in both good and poor weather. The presence of swifts in wet or windy weather indicates there could be breeding sites in both villages, which I would be delighted to hear about from any residents as I have not seen regular swifts over either village before.

Malcolm came over for a few evenings in early July to investigate our swift nest boxes. On the first visit, he concentrated on the 14 nest boxes on our row at Churchgate and ringed 17 chicks and then on his next visit ringed a further 12 from the eight nest boxes on Hillmorhays. During both visits, he caught adults after they had brought food back for the juveniles and we are learning a huge amount about the age of resident breeders, recruitment into the population and movements between various local colonies. He also ringed the swifts in nest boxes at Burrow farm and Upperton adding to the tally of fledged swifts from Drewsteignton this year, which we are going to write up all of our swift monitoring and submit to 'Devon Birds' magazine. I am also delighted to see more nest boxes have gone up on Froggy villa in Netherton hill, one of the most recent houses built in the village, and by playing a recording of swift calls from a nearby window, swifts appear to have found the boxes and we hope they will occupy them next year.

I went down to East Prawle for a couple of days on 22 July and there were hundreds of swifts in the skies over Kingsbridge and West Charleton, so obviously gathering in the south of the county and making use of the good weather to feed up before their epic return flight to overwinter in south Africa. I wondered whether any of them were from the village as we have been ringing swifts here for 12 years. On my return to Drewsteignton, the weather was not as good as it had been and the majority of swifts had left, leaving only the adults with young to feed. It will be interesting to see how long before they have all gone as we had quite an age range of young chicks during the ringing evenings. I have found about four juveniles that came down to the ground when they were fledging and three of which I let go from a tall vantage in the churchyard and one

I was able to return to its nest box as I had the ring numbers of each chick from each box. I suspect that by the time this Parish Post comes out, our skies will be a quieter place and the swifts will have gone.

The peregrines on St. Michaels church in Exeter finally gave up incubating their eggs after 75 days of sitting. The eggs were obviously infertile as they normally hatch after 35 days of incubation, so this is the first year since 1997 that we have not had breeding success at the church. It has been a very strange year with the Exeter peregrines due to the late arrival of a new male and a lack of knowledge as to what exactly was going on due to the lockdown.

House-hunting

I am going off on a bit of a tangent here, but we are looking for a new house. At some point over the next few years, we are looking to move from Lady House and hoping to find a new home, ideally in the village or parish. We are looking for a more modern house (the earliest document for this property dates from 1542 which was the 33rd year of King Henry VIII's reign) with a more manageable garden. We have been at Churchgate for over twenty-three years now and during that time have lived in three of the four cottages in the row, but it now feels like time for a change. So, if for whatever reason you are planning to put your house on the market, please will you let us know. It may be too big, too small or it might just be what we are looking for, but it would be useful to know in advance.

Nick

nickdixondevon@aol.com

TheDrewsteignton ParishPost ContactDetails:

If you have trouble reading this publication please do let me know and a large-format version will be sent to you

For Editorial Contributions	Shelley Mansfield	shelley.mansfield@me.com Tel: 07714 253484
Village Hall Bookings Drewsteignton	Alison Chapman	callum.chapman@btinternet.com Tel: 01647 281197
Parish Council Business Drewsteignton	Alice Turner	clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk Tel: 01837 83484
Village Hall Bookings Whiddon Down	Alex Nott	whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01647 231331

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 25th August -Thank-you, **Ed**