



Drewsteignton Parish Post



ISSUE NO 146

JULY 2018

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following on from last month's Parish Post, the planning application for a farm shop at Whiddon Down did not appear on the West Devon Borough Council's planning agenda on 19th June so remains undecided. This Council has not been informed on what the applicants' intentions are so we wait and see.

The disused telephone boxes at Crockernwell & Whiddon Down have now been removed but we are still waiting to hear from British Telecom as to their intentions on maintenance of their listed boxes at Drewsteignton & Sandy Park.

Cllrs. Bill Savage & Anna Imrie met and discussed our needs with Karena Marshall of the Community Payback Scheme and visited four sites which require attention. An update on this, a group are this morning in the village of Crockernwell cutting back verges, weeding and generally tidying up the village. This group does work for several parish councils in the county and if satisfactory we will almost certainly be using them again. It is a great opportunity to provide useful voluntary work to those who are looking to turn their lives around and subsequently improve the environment we all live in, it goes without saying the Parish Council is grateful to those already voluntarily working to keep the villages clean and tidy, it was noted recently yet another resident of Crockernwell has been cleaning the road edges near his home, thank you!

We have reviewed the Council parish assets which were all agreed, but can anyone help

us to establish the ownership of the millennium boundary stones. One is at Sands Cross, Venton and another on the road from Whiddon Down to Hittisleigh at Fursham Cross. Does anyone know who paid for them?

Cllr. Graham Hester is in the process of agreeing a memorandum with Sticklepath Council on the ownership and use of the Visual Activated Speed sign shortly to be purchased. Its use will be shared 50/50 with them.

Problems with parking have again been identified on the main road at Mill End with some drivers parking their vehicles on the bridge! Continued problems in Whiddon Down with drivers parking all around the junction of Turnpike road waiting to pick up children from a school bus.

The Council had received a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act from a parishioner. We are legally obliged to deal with this type of request but it took the Clerk an extra 5 hours, over and above her normal work. Councillors agreed she should be paid for this extra time.

It does appear that the repairs at Great Tree have at last been completed and the road is fully open.

The Council supported a planning application for repairs to a wall and roof at Hillside, Drewsteignton (DNP 0272/18)

In the Parish Post ten years ago the council were talking about how many new houses in Turnpike Close had been let to local people and the parish website was

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Quiz night in aid of the Alzheimer's Society

On Sunday 9th. September, Mum and I will be joining 57,000 other runners and taking part in the world's biggest half marathon, The Great North Run from Newcastle to Gateshead.

We are running to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

A fundraising quiz will be held on Friday 14th. September in the Long Room at the Drewe Arms at 7.30pm and snacks will be provided. We can promise fun rounds suitable for all ages and prizes for the winners. We decided to hold the quiz after our run as more people tend to be on holiday in July and August.

Teams - maximum of six people. Tickets £5 per head. Please come along and support this worthy cause!

A sponsorship form will also be available in the Post Office from the end of July.

Tilly Dixon

Drewsteignton Gardeners Club

Annual Show

Saturday 18th August 2:00 to 4:00

All residents of Drewsteignton Parish are encouraged to enter. This is your Village Show so start planning your FREE entries now! CHILDREN may enter any of the Classes and win a cash prize.

Flowers, vegetables, cakes, crafts, photos and MORE.

Lots of classes with something for everyone.

For the first time some classes will be displayed in the Church Schedules and Entry Forms available in the shop from 20th July.



Thank You

Following Marg's accident, we would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone, for all the good wishes and acts of kindness we have received. The support we have had has been overwhelming.

We would like to mention how grateful we are to Judy who has worked tirelessly around the clock to enable us to keep the shop open.

Ian and Margaret Maynard. Drewsteignton Post Office.

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Other matters mentioned included Sam Pierce campaigning to save rural post offices, the National Trust having finished work on restoring Glebe Cottage after the fire, and the Gardner's Club trip to Tresillick Gardens near Newquay.

Just a thought on Highways matters, "reported on social media councils are very happy with the hot weather as it is melting the tar which is filling the potholes" – I wish!!

Our next meeting is **Monday 16th July 2018 7.30pm at Whiddon Down**

Summer Events at Okehampton Library

Saturday 14 July – Saturday 8 September – Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge This is an annual programme produced by the Reading Agency and delivered by libraries to encourage children to read over the long summer holidays when a child's reading can 'dip'. This year's theme is 'Mischief Makers' and is part of the 80th Anniversary of The Beano.

Each child that reads 6 books to complete the Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge by 8th September will be given a free ticket for entry to the Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre.

23 July – 8 September during library opening hours

Treasure Hunt – Find the Mischief Makers characters hidden in the library to be entered into our 'Beano' prize draw. Free

Marble Mischief - Guess how many marbles in the jar, the nearest guess drawn on 8 September wins the marbles. 20p a go

Make a Beano character badge – come and make your own Beano badge, different character to collect each week, materials provided at the library – 20p per badge

Saturday 14 July 10:00-12:30 – Making Games Workshop

Family workshop with Learn Devon to make games including pairs and picture dominoes For children aged 4-11 and their carers. Free - booking essential

Wednesday 1 August 14:00-15:30 – Slapstick Comedy Workshop

With Rob Pudner from Entertainingly Different - Lots of family fun for adults and children, with refreshments during an interval and a finale of stories and poems

Tickets £3.00 per child – bookable in advance

Tuesday 7 August 16:00-19:30 – Library Open Evening

Join us for a tour of our spaces available for hire, including the newly refurbished meeting room. Staff will be on hand to provide an informal introduction to the library and all our usual library services will be available. Free refreshments will also be provided. We look forward to seeing you!

Monday 6 August 14:30-15:30 – Operation Balloon

Make a mini-balloon and plan some mayhem in Beanotown

For children aged 5+. £1 per child, no booking necessary

Thursday 16 August 10:00-12:30 – Puppet Making Workshop

Family workshop with Learn Devon to make puppets including glove puppets and stick puppets

For children aged 4-11 and their carers. Free - booking essential

Tuesday 21 August 13:30-16:00 – Making Gifts Workshop

Family workshop with Learn Devon to make Beano themed gifts including bookmarks and greetings cards

For children aged 4-11 and their carers. Free - booking essential

Saturday 25 August 10:00-12:00 – Face Painting

Come along and finish the Summer Reading Challenge and have your face painted by Rachel from ProPaint. Free, no booking necessary

Saturday 1st September 10:00-12:00 – Slime time!

Get ready for some gooey fun and make your very own slime!

For children aged 5+. £1 per child, no booking necessary

Children under 8 must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult



Visit our **NEW** website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 or ring the Acorn Office on the number below for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday July 11th & 25th. Help is provided in store. We will also help carry your shopping! The fare is just £5 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be July 12th & 26th. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. Please drop in for a tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday 24th.

What else do we do? – We have a fantastic group of volunteers who help to provide transport to medical social and wellbeing appointments, we can deliver prescriptions, we can also loan equipment to assist you in the home.

Who should you contact - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered, equipment hire and any other Acorn service, please telephone the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information.

ShelterBox

Very many thanks to everyone who came to the ShelterBox Cream Teas in the Garden at Hillside House on the 23rd June. Through your generosity we were able to send a cheque for £700.00 to the charity, enough to buy a fully equipped Shelter Box with money to spare for other essentials.

Holy Trinity Church

Nearly 70 people gathered in the Church to listen to the very talented Songlines Choir. Based in London, 25 members of this 40 strong choir treated us to an evening of eclectic songs from around the world, many of which were African in origin and involved superb close harmony singing with little instrumental backing. Their energetic and charismatic leader even managed to get the audience singing along, no mean feat, in one roof raising rendition.

The provision of a bar, courtesy of the Drewe Arms, serving wines and unusual gins before the performance, may have contributed to the latter success. Our sincere thanks to the Choir, who only charged expenses, and especially to Gary Hitching from the Drewe who organised the event. £330 was raised for the Church window restoration fund.

Thanks also to those who came along and supported, particularly those who had also been at the ShelterBox Cream Tea only a couple of hours earlier. Your generosity to both causes was much appreciated. **Angela Thomas**



Okehampton District Community Transport Group

SeaMoor Lotto

We have registered as one of the good causes to receive funds from this new lottery. This has been started by West Devon & South Hams Borough Council as a way of bridging the gap as they are phasing out our grant.

Okehampton & District Community Transport Group provides a much loved and valued service for the community. We have been serving the community for 28 years.

We need your help so we can continue to offer and even expand our service! We are currently fundraising to replace one of our Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

Please support us if you can - the first draw takes place on 4th August so you need to register before this date to join in.

There are lots of prizes on offer with a top prize of £25,000 each month.

Mrs Susan Wonnacott

Playing The Lottery

SeaMoor Lotto is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in South Hams and West Devon. All good causes supported by the lottery will benefit South Hams and West Devon and its residents.

Play the lottery, support South Hams and West Devon - it's that simple!

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week. Each ticket has a **1 in 50** chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000! That's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery!

Each ticket will consist of 6 numbers and each number will be between 0 and 9. There will be a draw every Saturday night when a 6 digit winning combination will be picked. Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match the first or last 2-6 numbers from the winning combination. Match all 6 and you win the JACKPOT!

Lotto tickets can only be purchased online, using a bank account or payment card. Go to: www.seamoorlotto.co.uk

Teignton Fayre

The Teignton Fayre Committee are delighted to announce that following this year's Duck Race, together with June's Teignton Fayre, this year's events have raised over £2500 for good causes.

Teignton Fayre's main charity for 2018 - Alzheimer's Society - will receive over £850 of the money raised, with the rest being donated to local causes including pre-schools, churches and youth initiatives across Dartmoor. Much needed funds for all.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who came along to any of this year's events, got involved, donated and ultimately had some fun.

"We are so very grateful to volunteers, sponsors, business who donated prizes, and local residents of Drewsteignton, who helped make this year's activities a success. A special thank you to Drewsteignton Post Office, The Drewe Arms, Fingle Bridge Inn, Oinkers, Burts Crisps and Exeter Chiefs who all generously contributed."

Planning for 2019 events is already underway. Should anyone wish to join in, volunteer, run a stall or contribute to activity ideas then please do get in-touch with the Teignton Fayre Committee (fayre@drewsteignton.org).

Bird Notes

The high pressure that has dominated the UK over the past five weeks resulted in June being the 5th hottest since records in the UK began in 1910. The effects of this heat wave can be seen with the local countryside looking very parched and little sign of green in the grass fields. This is not good news for farmers and their grazing stock, but it has provided ideal conditions for the swifts.

After their initial late arrival and slow start to the season in May, we have seen very good numbers of swifts through June as the non-breeders arrived and started investigating for nest sites for next year. It has been a joy to wake to the sound of swifts screaming over the roof tops in Drewsteignton as they chase around in groups, and hear them into the long evenings just as the sun is setting. I have been hearing the high-pitched trilling of hatched young swifts from some of my nest boxes which began about the 20th of June. Malcolm and some of his team will be coming to check the nest boxes in the village soon which enables us to confirm how many breeding pairs we have, age the young and work out the best time to put leg rings on them. It all seems odd to think that at the time of writing this (5th July), the swifts will be on the verge of leaving us in about a month's time. Enjoy them while they are here!

In early June, I watched a green woodpecker fly over the garden, which is the first time I have seen one (in or over my garden) since we moved to this house in 2003. I know neighbours see them feeding on ants nearby and I have heard their explosive and raucous calls much more over the last couple of years. Another good sighting I had in early June was of a hedgehog in Froggy lane. I did see one outside my front door last year, which is the first I've seen in the village for many years, so it was a joy to see another one, maybe it was the same one! I have also starting to notice an increase in sightings of pairs of bullfinches in the lanes with tall hedgerows around the village. These sightings are always the same and involve driving around a corner to catch a glimpse of a pair of birds flying briefly away before quickly seeking shelter in the hedge. The giveaway is the white rump that both sexes show above the dark tails.

I have a brood of 3 newly fledged swallows in my woodshed which is a delight, considering many people I speak to seem to be without 'their' regular swallows this year, and the general consensus is that swallow and house martin numbers are well down. I have also had a second brood of robins fledge from a nest box I put up in a bush near my back door. The Exeter peregrines fledged on the 20th and 22nd of June, at 47 and 48 days after hatching. Unfortunately, we had minor problems with both coming down to the ground and the first to go was VF (her colour ring prefix) who was found early in the morning having come down in a garden about 150m from the church. She was captured in a cardboard box and returned to the church where our local vet and I put her back on a nearby house roof. She immediately took off and flew 100m down the road before landing on a low 'Residents parking only' sign. We caught her again and replaced her back on the original roof where she sat for about 6 hours just watching the world go by and getting her bearings, before flying straight up and onto a perch high on the church.

VG waited two days until Friday 22nd before leaving the nest after her sibling, but all she did was drop down about three metres onto a wide ledge and sat there for a few hours. She wasn't seen again so when I was in Exeter on the Saturday, I went looking for her at the church. Both adults and a very vocal VF were present, but there was no sign of her, until I heard a juvenile calling on the opposite side of the tower from where I could see her sister. She was stuck down a steep roofed gulley and it was a hot day, and so, luckily I was able to access the long ladder kept in the church.

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News from the Castle



Hi everyone.

I'd like to say a massive thank you to you all for your patience with the recent road closure. As you can imagine, we also had very short notice of the road closure so I was unable to include it in my previous article at the beginning of June. BT only got approval to go ahead one week before work began. I have received a really helpful suggestion (sadly, the person didn't give their name) of popping a poster in the shop should something like this happen again in the future. I will of course make sure that happens.

Isn't it hot! I must confess that we have been struggling up at Castle Drogo in this heat. The garden team are working their socks off trying to keep the garden looking fabulous – so far, they have been able to do it. Thank goodness for the shade from the trees. It has been lovely and cool inside the castle, (hurrah for granite), but the builders have been having a tough time trying to work in the heat. It has also been too hot for the lime pointing as it dries out too quick.

I'm hoping some of this lovely weather will save itself for the Edwardian Country Fair which is taking place on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September. We will have swing boats, Punch and Judy, music and loads of games so please do pop up to see us.

It seems very wrong to mention Christmas in the middle of summer, but we are looking for a brass or silver band or small orchestra for the Christmas Fair taking place on 8 and 9 December, 11am-4pm. If you are part of a small band that would like to come up to perform, please get in touch. We would make sure you have plenty of refreshments and you would be very welcome to have a collection tin next to you.

Finally, just a heads up that Heritage Open Day is fast approaching. We will be opening the doors for free on Saturday 8 September so please do make the most of the opportunity to have a look around.

Best wishes to you all, **Paula Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo**
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

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With the help of a church warden, we got the ladder up and I climbed up to get her. Rather than catch her, I managed to shoo her along the gully, under a buttress and onto the external drain hopper, at which point she flew, or rather glided straight down to the ground. A towel was quickly placed over her and we then got her in a box. She was very hot and possibly de-hydrated so we took her to the vets, and she was collected the next day by the RSPCA. They kept her in care, fed her up then put her in a flight aviary, and after 10 days she was brought back and released. She made a good flight straight up to the lower roof level parapet and perched for 20 minutes before taking off, flying around the church and heading east. There was little else we could do as her flight was strong and so we left. I contacted a variety of friends who either keep an eye out for the falcons and live locally or are involved with the project to ask for a sighting of both juveniles together or at least at the same time. I didn't hear anything other than just one juvenile with one or both adults at the church until exactly 48 hours after the release, when a friend texted me to say there was one juvenile on the south tower of the cathedral and another being fed on the church, He was on the top level of Mary Arches car park which is half way between the two sites and with good views of both. So all in all, a very successful, albeit slightly stressful fledging period for the Exeter peregrines in 2018! **Nick**

Whiddon Down Village hall

Maintenance Day.

Saturday 4th August

Come and impress us with your painting / D.I.Y skills...from 10am.

Any help greatly appreciated.

Please let us know if you can help as refreshments will be provided



The Parish Post

The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We'd love to hear about your forthcoming events, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes.

Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too.

Please tell us. You don't have to be a great writer, just email or phone John Shiell or Pauline Rowe, details below. If you don't tell us we can't print it **Pauline**

Drewsteignton Parish Post

Contact Details:

If you have trouble reading this publication please let me know and I will arrange for a large format version to be sent to you
Pauline Rowe: plrowe43@gmail.com.281638

For Editorial	Pauline Rowe	drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 281282
Contributions		plrowe43@gmail.com ☎ 281638
Village Hall Bookings		callum.chapman@btinternet.com or
Drewsteignton	Alison Chapman	☎ 01647 281197
Whiddon Down	Clare Rowe	whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 01647 231643
For Parish Council	Lucy Bruckner	clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk
Business		☎ 01647 252306

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
1st August - Thank You