

THE DRINKSTONE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

A report on 2025 for the Drinkstone Annual Parish Meeting on 1st June 2026.

Drinkstone Educational Charity (DEC) was established following the closure and sale of the Drinkstone Church of England School. The money from the sale was used to set up a charity and the interest earned on that money is used to support Drinkstone residents, of any age, for educational purposes. When assessing applications, the word 'educational' is interpreted in the widest possible sense.

In 2025, the committee of trustees were: Anne Lane (Secretary), David Ford (Treasurer), Jo Stark, Melanie Nock, Christine Emery, Sheila Beswick and Mark Campbell (Chair).

Three meetings were held in 2025: on 11 March, 22 July and 25 October.

For the year ending 31 December 2025, The DEC had an income of £3,099 and awarded grants totalling £2,774 towards individual residents and village activities.

Awards in 2025 were made towards:

- Course fees for qualifications in gym, personal training and nutrition
- A new Village Hall laptop for use by the Archive Group and others
- Private tuition in English, Maths and Biology
- A five-week Adult Nursing placement in Japan to learn about robotic surgery, neurosurgery and specialist cancer treatments
- A horseracing riding hat and body protector, to meet safety regulations
- Village Hall hire fees for the History Club
- Village Hall hire fees for the DrinksTones choir, and sheet music and copyright payments
- Putting a 'time capsule' (items in a plastic box) under the renovated floorboards of the south nave in All Saints' church
- A gimbal (camera equipment device to stabilise the camera) to help with coursework

In the meeting of 11 March 2025, the Trustees also agreed to award £3000 towards the purchase of a 'Cone Climber', a new piece of equipment intended for the village playground, on provision of the receipt and to be used within two years of the meeting date.

The advertisement in the Parish magazine, booked for the year, was upgraded to a whole page, with images such as sport, books, laptop, etc., to make the advert more interesting. It also includes some history of DEC.

The Trustees have continued to promote the Charity within Drinkstone to encourage more applications.