

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO 153

FEBRUARY 2019

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Firstly a great big THANK YOU to Pauline Rowe who has, for around ten years, been responsible for the publishing of the Parish Post. We welcome Shelley Mansfield who has taken over from Pauline and we look forward to working with her. The first Parish Post was published in the middle of 2005 and was the brain child of the then Parish Council Clerk Brenda Lunt. She recognised the value of keeping this widespread parish up to date with what was happening in the separate villages and communities. It was recognised in the Parish Plan by over 80% of residents as the best method of receiving news of the parish. We do now have a parish website and Facebook page.

Vacancies on the Parish Council was mentioned last month with the 2019 elections being held in May. We now know that there will be at least 3 vacancies on the Parish Council which will need to be filled. Please give serious consideration to how you could help the parish by giving a couple of hours a month to attend a meeting and maybe a planning site visit. Full training will be available which is normally an evening meeting with Devon Association of Local Councils. The decision on our planning application for lighting at the playing field in Drewsteignton is awaited from the Dartmoor National Park.

Cllr Paul Ridgers reported on a successful meeting with representatives from Castle Drogo concerning the traffic movements to and from the castle and Sandy Park. The National Trust have agreed to place information on their website that the roads are unsuitable for the use by motor homes. They also intend to inform the Caravan Club. It was noted that because of the lack of maintenance by Devon County Council over recent years, the edges of the road leading from Sandy Park have grown in to such an extent that in many places where cars were able to pass this is no longer possible. Council agreed to contact DCC for edge ploughing to take place. Paul has also agreed to meet with a representative of Dartline Coaches to discuss the problems they are experiencing trying to negotiate Sandy Park with their bus to serve Drewsteignton and the inconsiderate parking stopping them from doing so.

Peter Joyce from Hooperton Cross Crockernwell attended the meeting and drew councillor's attention to the school buses now stopping outside his premises. Concern over the safety of the children crossing the road was identified. This has only started since the autumn term and councillors agreed to contact DCC to ask why the bus stops in Crockernwell were not being used as

this would be much safer and make little difference on the bus route.

James Clifton from Silkhouse Drewsteignton had contacted the council to report a recent incident when an articulated lorry had become stuck outside his premises in the lane. The driver had said he was following his sat nav. This is not the first time concerning similar incidents so councillors agreed to contact DCC to see if a sign can be erected at Harepath indicating the lane is not suitable for HGVs.

It is the January meeting when councillors have to make a decision on the parish precept (the Parish Council's share of your council tax) After a detailed discussion on the information supplied by the Clerk who is the Council's responsible finance officer, council-

lors agreed that, thanks to prudent management of our finances, no increase was needed.

West Devon Borough Council have confirmed the Sandy Park Inn has now been registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This basically means should it ever come on the open market for sale, the community have the first opportunity to purchase it.

Poaching has been reported in the Great Tree area recently, the Chairman reminded councillors of the need to report any suspicions to the police, as with any other crime, if they do not know about it how can they be expected to do anything about it!

Our next meeting is Monday 18th February 2019 7.30pm at Drewsteignton.

---

## What's On At The Drewe Arms in February

Great news: Dry January is over!



- 2nd** **BIG** quiz then every 1st Saturday of each month
- 14th** Valentine's steak night. Free bottle of Prosecco per couple when ordering steak meals
- 16th** Papa Gator and the Levee Breakers 8pm in the Long Room £4 on the door
- 23rd** Cockney Night - pie and mash and a London pianist. Free entry (snug piano)
- From now up until 12th Feb buy 1 steak get 1 half price**  
**Ale Happy Hour Friday 6pm to 7pm every week**  
 Quiz with JT
- March**  
**2nd** Pancake day - free pancakes. Bring your own topping. Donations to the church  
**5th**



## Local events for February

"Snowdrop Weekend" at RHS Partner, Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford, TQ13 8JU.

Snowdrops in the green are requested from anyone who can spare some from their own garden. Contributors are invited to come to Stone Lane Gardens with their plants and to help put them in on Saturday, 2 March and Sunday, 3 March from 10am till 4pm. Stone Lane Gardens is a charitable trust. [www.stonelane-gardens.com](http://www.stonelane-gardens.com)



MED Theatre is touring its new community play 'Rocks' during March 2018, playing in Manaton, Cornwood, Meldon and Moretonhampstead.



'Rocks' is a futuristic comedy written by playwright Mark Beeson set on Dartmoor around the year 2050, looking at issues such as artificial intelligence, surveillance and nuclear waste. The play also looks backward, charting Dartmoor's geological history down the ages.

The dates of the performances are March 8th and 9th in Manaton Parish Hall, March 12th in Cornwood Village Hall, March 14th in Meldon Village Hall and March 15th and 16th in Moretonhampstead Parish Hall. All performances start at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be purchased on the MED Theatre website ([www.medtheatre.co.uk](http://www.medtheatre.co.uk)), by emailing [info@medtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@medtheatre.co.uk) or calling 01647 441356. 'Rocks' is part of MED Theatre's Moor Connection programme, supported by the National Lottery through a grant from Big Lottery Reaching Communities. 'Rocks' continues MED Theatre's tradition of producing and touring community plays with and for local Dartmoor people, stretching back over three decades. 'Rocks', like most MED community plays, is a bespoke piece written for its large multigenerational cast by artistic director and playwright Mark Beeson.

Many thanks to every one who supported our first two fundraising events, the Christmas fair and bingo. So far we have raised nearly £700 towards the halls new windows. Our next event is on 9th February, an evening of pig racing and pasties! Hopefully when you read this, the evening was a sellout and we made lots of money. We already have enough funds to proceed with Phase I of our refurbishment, so please continue to support our fundraising efforts. Watch this space.....

Jenny Turner

Whiddon Down Hall Committee.



## What's on in February 2019

[www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be February 7th at the Red Lion. 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 February 6th & 20th . Help is provided in store. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return.

NEW! Acorn monthly Cheriton Bishop Outing - Tuesday 12th February, venue to be confirmed! £5.00 per person for a return trip. Call the office for more information. Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be February 14th & 28th. 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 & meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday February 5th & 19th.

Dunsford coffee morning- Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212. Village Hall, Dressing room. February 6th & 20th. 10:30 - 12:00 pm. All welcome

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

Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information

### **A Call for Trustees**

We hope you are well aware of Acorn Community Support and its activities in your community and are asking you if you are interested in becoming a Trustee of this very worthwhile and very local charity?

If so we would very much like to hear from you!!

Our purpose is the advancement of health and wellbeing with elderly, frail and disabled people in our community. We help our adult community in a variety of ways, delivering medicines, transport to medical and dental appointments, running a Memory Café and other social events including regular lunches and coffee mornings.

The users of Acorn tell us how much they value it. By joining us you could help us maintain and develop this beneficial local service.

To register your interest please call Donna at the Acorn office on 01647 252701 or email [office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](mailto:office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)



## Events at Okehampton Library - February

### **15:45-16.45 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Author Visit**

If you enjoy fantasy or a tale that takes you on a journey through life this is the book for you. Come along and hear Janet Smith talk about her debut book 'Tony Plumb and the moles of Ellodian'. This book will suit readers aged 9+ through to young adults/adults. Free event - no booking necessary

### **10:30-11.30 Thursday 21st February – Fidget Spinners**

Make and decorate a unique fidget spinner from scratch!

£2 per child - booking essential - suitable for ages 7+

## Regular events - Adults

### **13:30-14:30 Every Tuesday – Knit & Natter**

Bring along your knitting, stitching, crochet or other portable project, for a chat with

like-minded crafters. Tea and coffee available at 50p a cup.

## Children

### **Tuesdays 10:00- 10:30 - Bounce & Rhyme for over 1 year olds**

Free, no booking necessary

### **Tuesdays 11:00-11:30 - Bounce and Rhyme for under 1 year olds**

Free - no booking necessary

### **1st Tuesday of the month – Bookworms Book Club for ages 7 – 11**

(except Aug/Sept) 15:45 – 16:45 Free - no booking necessary

### **Wednesdays 09:30 – 10:15 - Duplo Builders & Storytime for ages 0-5**

Free - no booking necessary

### **Saturdays 10:30 – 11:30 Lego Builders for ages 5+**

Free, no booking necessary

**Book Track for ages 6+** during library opening hours. Free, ask staff for further details

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

As I am writing this, the snow that arrived at the tail end of January is melting quickly after a couple of days of sunshine. For the majority of the past month, the weather has been quite mild and dry and it has been interesting watching some daffodils in and around the village start flowering. We then had some light snow followed by a heavy fall over Devon and Cornwall, resulting in many motorists being stranded on the A30. The snow-covered countryside around the village looked glorious, those that couldn't get to their schools and colleges, or work took the opportunity to go tobogganing, and some marvellous snow sculptures were to be seen in and around Drewsteignton.

It was during the period of snow cover and subsequent freezing conditions that the birds really needed additional food putting out and I was keeping all my bird feeders well topped up. There were huge numbers coming in and I did a rough count and got to about 40 birds on and beneath my bird table with others waiting to feed in a near-by bush. This was a real mix of all the regular birds, but in greater numbers: blue tits, great tits, coal tits and long tailed tits, siskins, chaffinches, goldfinches, robins, house sparrows, blackbirds, great spotted woodpeckers, dunnocks and, to my delight, I counted about 5 greenfinches and a song thrush. I have not seen a song thrush in my garden for ages and greenfinches have suffered a serious decline in recent years, so it was good to see two male and two females feeding on the crushed sunflower hearts in my feeder. I have not seen a nuthatch on my feeders this winter, despite hearing them calling recently from the churchyard and some of the larger trees in nearby gardens.

I took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch which takes place every January, but this was the weekend before the snow fell and I did not record any greenfinches during the hour that they ask participants to observe and record all the species seen in the garden. I can only presume the extreme weather conditions brought them in and I will be keeping an eye out for them now the snow is melting.

I was invited to speak at the 2019 Irish Raptor Study Group Conference which was held in Dublin on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, to give a talk on the increase in peregrines nesting in urban environments and on built structures in the UK. When I was originally asked to do this, I managed to persuade the organiser to let me give a second, albeit shorter, talk on the unique territorial behaviour of the Exeter peregrines towards common buzzards. Kate and I flew from Bristol to Dublin on the Friday afternoon and went in to the city centre for some Guinness (obviously) and food before we headed for the hotel and conference centre where we were staying. The conference was very interesting with talks relating to species mainly being studied in the Republic, such as golden eagles, hen harriers, merlins and barn owls. There were about 120 people attending and I was one of two guest speakers, the other speaker has been studying kestrels in lowland Scotland for 45 years. It was great to catch up with old friends and colleagues from both the Republic and Northern Ireland, meet new people and put faces to names whilst talking about birds of prey.

I have also been asked to give a talk on the Exeter peregrines as part of the Woodland Trust Fingle Lecture Series 2019. This will be at Fingle Bridge Inn on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of March at 7pm. This talk includes the history and ecology of the peregrine falcon, plus fascinating findings from 22 years studying the fastest creature on the planet. Look out for posters advertising this event nearer the date.

Nick

## News from the Castle

Hi everyone.

As I write this, there is a decent dusting of snow on the ground and the sun has just come out. It looks beautiful outside but the cold weather is playing havoc with our plans. The builders need it to be a consistent 5 degree plus in order to complete the lime mortar pointing of the castle. Too cold and it won't set correctly so the pointing is on hold until it warms up a bit.

On a more positive note, the representation work inside the castle is coming along really well. The ceilings in the Drawing room and Dining room have been re-painted and the chandeliers will be going back up very soon. Protection work has also been put in place in the Chapel and Nursery corridor ready for plastering to take place. Windows are returning at a good pace too and we look forward to moving the giant ginger jar back to its normal location over the next few weeks.

With only 5 weeks to go until the castle re-opens for the new season on 9 March, there is still lots to do. We are really excited about this year as we carry on cleaning collection items and displaying the rooms.

**Don't forget that we have the locals' open day taking place on Wednesday 10 April from 11am until 3pm. Please bring your National Trust membership cards or a copy of this parish post with you for free entry.**

Best wishes all,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

01647 434130, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)

---

### ***Drewsteignton Parish Council***

***Please note the address for correspondence and the phone number for the Clerk has changed with immediate effect.***

For those of you who send invoices by post we are happy to receive them by email.

The new correspondence address is:

Drewsteignton Parish Council

c/o 27 Court Street

Moretonhampstead

Newton Abbot

TQ13 8LG

Contact number is 07538 130973



The Friends of Drewsteignton Church (FoDC) was formed and Committee Members appointed at an open meeting in The Drewe Arms on the 22nd January. This committee works with and sits below the PCC. Our aim is to support the needs of the community through greater use of St. Michael's church, thereby assisting with raising funds for the maintenance of the church fabric. Our thanks to all who attended the meeting and for your comments and helpful input. Events for the coming year are being discussed and details will be published shortly - Shelley Mansfield

Thank you to everyone who came to the afternoon tea at Ford House on 26th January. I hope you all had a good time. We raised a total of £864 which includes one very generous donation. This money will go to the new Friends of Drewsteignton Church - Alison Chapman

## 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 Shelley Mansfield

### Drewsteignton Parish

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. Shelley Mansfield: [shelley.mansfield@me.com](mailto:shelley.mansfield@me.com)

For Editorial

Contributions

Shelley Mansfield

[drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk)

[shelley.mansfield@me.com](mailto:shelley.mansfield@me.com)

Village Hall Bookings

[callum.chapman@btinternet.com](mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com) or

Drewsteignton

Alison Chapman

Tel: 01647 281197

Whiddon Down

Clare Rowe

[whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 01647 231643

For Parish Council

Lucy Bruckner

[clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)

Business

Tel: 07538 130973

***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 March - Thank You