

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 178

FEBRUARY 2021

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

With the New Year well underway and another lockdown to contend with I have been looking forward to spring, which is just around the corner, when getting out and about will be a little easier. We are incredibly lucky to live in such a beautiful parish and this makes our daily exercise a treat even in the cold weather (though I am not so keen on the wet!).

With the approval of a new Councillor Email & Own Device Policy, the Parish Council has completed all actions arising from the 2019/20 Internal Audit and is ahead of many other larger Parishes in complying with the latest Local Government regulations. Thank you to Alice for all her hard work and to the councillors in supporting this body of work. New Planning applications were received - 0609/20 Construction of outdoor riding school (private use) at East Tordown, Drewsteignton was supported. Retrospective planning for 0011/21 Rose Cottage, Drewsteignton "use of existing garden building for ancillary accommodation was given neutral support due to C-19 restrictions on site visits and DNPA approval for 0537/20 Sandsgate Lodge, Chagford, modifications to previous application, was noted.

The Drewsteignton Parish Council "Poster Competition" was won by Sam (10) from Crockernwell. There were a number of high-quality entries however, the judges were super impressed with the quality of Sam's drawing", the wonderful detail and the time taken to produce a great poster. As the competition winner, his poster will be printed and "displayed" on the boundary gates of the Parish. The Runners up and Highly Commended entries will shortly be receiving their certificates.

Our Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) now has 2 new Highways approved locations to take us to 7 locations in the Parish. The MVAS is jointly owned with Sticklepath PC and is moved between the 10 locations by our fantastic volunteer. With the additional posts the MVAS will be moved every 2-3 weeks/site in order to tie in with battery life and driver awareness "psychology". The battery life is dependent on "activations" with the new location in Crockernwell lasting just 4 days. If you have seen the MVAS in operation and been testing to see if it is working, please do now "slow down" thank you for conserving the battery.

Councillors have been diligently checking all the various Parish assets, noting condition and location. There will be a number of "volunteering opportunities" for parishioners to "spruce up" a few of the more tired benches. More details to follow.

Councillors considered the 2021/22 draft budget and approved the submission of reduced precept budget to West Devon Borough Council. The budget considers several "new cost items - the Council's adopting of the Drewsteignton toilet block from the

National Trust, running costs of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust "landing light" at the Playing Fields and various anticipated maintenance/repair costs.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and if you need support please do reach out to friends and neighbours or visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for advice and guidance. There are also some very good wellbeing resources on the internet to support your mental health.

Ysanne James, Chair



People of Drewsteignton

Please help us to say THANKYOU to our wonderful NHS doctors and nurses with a hamper of gifts from our community.

The doctors and nurses working with Covid 19 patients need our help.

They must shower after every shift and not only is this very costly but it also means that they have to ensure they have the supplies. If you are able to donate any men and womens' shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, moisturisers, hand cream, face cream, lip balm or any other items that you feel would be beneficial then please leave in the box in the church porch. (Chocolates would also be appreciated)

If you know of someone who would like to donate but is unable, for some reason, to come to the village please call me on 01647 281605 and I will arrange collection.

THANK YOU

Jane Hocking

Playing Field – Devon Air Ambulance Trust Night-Landing Light

Excellent news – final checks are being done on the DAAT landing site at the bottom of the playing field and should be active from the second week of February. The lights will be controlled centrally by the DAAT.

Not only does this mean that the air ambulance will shortly be able to use the site but also, their having put electricity cabling into the field, the Shed will now benefit, being powered from the grid, and will no longer be reliant on the old generator.

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Belated wishes for 2021 from Whiddon Down Village Hall.

Obviously, being in yet another lockdown, the Hall remains closed until further notice. For the record, we could have accepted bookings from a few groups under the current guidance, but the Committee decided against doing so, at this time. Hopefully, now the vaccination programme has been rolled out we may be able to open by Easter. Fingers crossed!!

I'd like to thank the Committee for their continued support throughout this nightmare, especially Alex, Alison and Sandra for keeping us up to date, above board and squeaky clean. Thank you, ladies. Let's stay positive and look forward to sharing happy times with friends and family again later this year.

Best wishes Jenny Turner.

STONE LANE GARDENS – OPEN ALL SEASONS



Stone Lane Gardens call to artists

This year we are reinvigorating our long-standing annual sculpture exhibition. Starting in the 1990s we have over the years exhibited early work by artists who are now well known. Continuing that ethos, we are reaching out to emerging and early career sculptors, installation artists and ceramicists, inviting them to apply to show work on the theme of 'regeneration'. We have introduced the £1000 Ashburner prize in memory of the founder of the exhibition June Ashburner. The prize will be awarded to the piece that best articulates the 'regeneration' theme. The work to be exhibited and the prize winner will be selected by internationally recognised sculptor Peter Randall-Page RA, contemporary art curator at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter Lara Goodband, and Stone Lane trustee Ruth Duerden. The exhibition opens on 1st June 2021 and closes on 30th October 2021. If you know any artists who might be interested, please ask them to visit our web site www.stonelanegardens.com and submit an application.

Stone Lane Gardens, arboretum and water gardens, are open every day all year round from 10am till dusk. Stone Lane Gardens is an RHS Partner Garden.

Cerne Abbas Open Gardens

Past garden openers have been canvased and given overwhelming support to a plan for opening at our normal third weekend in June (19th and 20th) with a backup date in August (14th and 15th).

Normally we have about 30 gardens open and 1000 visitors. In 2021 we will open if we have 10 or more gardens open and will be even more grateful for every visitor.

We will update our website www.cerneabbasopengardens.org.uk as the situation becomes clearer but please feel free to contact us (bob@cerneabbasopengardens.org.uk).

Please extend our seasonal greetings to your groups. And please let us have any feedback.



Acorn Community Support Business as Usual At Acorn

Acorn Community Support continues to be available to anyone who needs a helping hand. If you personally, or you know of a friend or neighbour who needs some help, please do not hesitate to contact us. Over the last 10 months we have been able to flex and adapt and help everyone who has come to us, regardless of what help has been required. Some examples of the support provided are:

- Provision of shopping buddies and telephone buddies
- Access to Acorn's Cashpoint machine
- Transport to medical appointments
- Transport to Vaccination Clinic appointments
- A regular befriending service
- A listening ear
- Prescription deliveries
- Financial support

Particularly over the coming weeks, if people need transport to get to the vaccination clinics, please do not hesitate to ring. We have plenty of lovely drivers who are happy to help and will transport you to your appointment in a Covid secure way.

Financial Hardship

For any individuals or families who are feeling financial pressures as a result of the pandemic, we have been alerted to a hardship fund that is accessible through St Basils Church Neighbourhood fund. The community fundraised pot of money is there to enable emergency grants (up to £300) to help if someone is unable to buy groceries, pay bills, fix a car, replace household appliances etc. All applications will be confidential and for more information you can

visit <https://www.stbasils.church/neighbourfund> or email felicity@stbasils.church.

In the meantime, please keep yourselves safe and healthy and we very much look forward to getting some of our more usual services up and running asap.

Best wishes **The Acorn Team**



News from the Castle

Mr Drewe's study which has just been unpacked and re-presented



Hi everyone

As I write, it is a gloriously cold, crispy and sunny morning and the garden at Drogo is starting to come back to life. I'm working from home though and, although my garden isn't quite up to the standard of Drogo, I have snowdrops in flower - definitely what I need to boost the energy levels.

It is tricky to write an update with any certainty at the moment. Like everyone, we are taking each day as it comes. The aim is that we will be able to re-open in the spring, subject to Government guidance and restrictions of course. Many staff are still on furlough and there is a reduced number of people on-site keeping on top of the essential tasks and those jobs that can't be done from home.

I was delighted to hear from our Collections and House team that they are busily working on the rooms on the Green Corridor. Using photographs from when the Drewe family owned and lived in the castle mid 20th century, we are carefully presenting the rooms as closely to the that warm and welcoming feeling is returning

I shared with you before the work the Rangers are doing on the drive, felling some of the beech, especially those with severe squirrel damage. Most of the felling has now been cleared and tidied and the team are starting to interplant with young Scots pine.

To finish then, thank you to everyone who has been in touch saying how much they miss the garden and castle but are enjoying being able to walk locally through the gorge. Please keep an eye on our website and social media pages for all the latest opening information. Stay safe everyone!

Paula

Community Involvement Manager, Castle Drogo and Dartmoor
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Your Covid Heroes Who Went Above And Beyond
18 January 2020



Last year, West Devon residents voted for their local heroes who had selflessly helped others during the pandemic. After considering the nominations, the judging panel at West Devon Borough Council has announced that all the nominees are winners.

Cathy Hipsey - Key Worker

Cathy is the volunteer co-ordinator with Tavistock Area Support Services

Chris Proctor - Keeping Spirits Up

Chris organised a weekly virtual quiz on Zoom for residents of Bridestowe

Jackie Butler - Keeping Spirits Up

Jackie organised a weekly bingo night, keeping people in her community connected during lockdown and raising money for local charities who had seen their income

Kirsty Reynolds - Key Worker

As a Key Worker, Kirsty worked her usual day job throughout lockdown, but in her spare time she did shopping for elderly and vulnerable people in the community.

Okehampton and District Community Transport Drivers - Organisation

The volunteer drivers of this already vital service worked throughout the pandemic to make sure that existing and new clients could get to medical appointments safely

West Devon Borough Council Waste Collection Crews

The WDBC waste crews received a nomination from a member of the public who wanted to thank them for consistently collecting their waste and maintaining a cheerful attitude throughout the pandemic.

Riverside Stores and Post Office

Colin and Michaela Arthurs both worked extremely hard through the lockdown period to make sure that new and existing customers were able to access food supplies and deliveries.

weren't able to offer deliveries. They made sure that residents were able to order and receive food deliveries including fresh meat and fish from local suppliers.

The Square Shop, Northlew - Organisation

Northlew Parish Council nominated their local shop for this award, after they provided provisions, support and a focal point for the village throughout the lockdown period.

Valerie Langham - Key Worker

Valerie works for WDBC and during the pandemic was working to distribute the business rates grants.

Linda Freeman - Star Volunteer

Linda was nominated by her daughter Kelly, in recognition of her setting up the Bere Alston Covid group.

Olivia Dunn - Community Leadership

Olivia created "Team Horrabridge - COVID and beyond" - a group of volunteers that co-ordinated a food bank and prescription deliveries for those in need in the area. She has provided a vital service to so many people in and around Horrabridge.

Cllr Neil Jory, Leader of West Devon Borough Council said:"It's been humbling to hear how each of these local heroes has helped others in our communities.

Victoria Bendle, who nominated Cathy Hipsey for an award, added: "Cathy already worked with commitment and determination beyond the call of duty to ensure that isolated people were cared for.

If you would like to help out in your community during the current restrictions, or you think you have skills that would be useful, there are lots of ways you can get involved. Visit our web page to find a local group or organisation to get in touch with: [Coronavirus: Community Support in West Devon - West Devon Borough Council](#)

Julia Whatley

If the planet could speak
 What would it say?
 I have a virus and humans are
 Making me sick
 With the things that you do
 Poisoning the air, soil and sea
 And irradiating species
 At such a rate
 I am asking you urgently

To re-create,
 Intelligent beings
 I am earth and you are
 Just passing through
 So please take action
 As we all depend on you!
 From mother earth
 Your only friend



Do you recognise this man?

A shout out to **Mr David Pidgeon**, thatcher and long-time resident of Drewsetignton.

Happily now without the moustache but still just as well-thatched!

Our thanks to him for caring so professionally for the roofs of our cottages and long houses and for being a wonderful neighbour, never shy to help out.

If you have a local tradesman or woman that you would like to thank and support, please send a photo and your comment.

Letters

Were you given a gift of a grafted apple tree?

The late Wilf Rice who lived on Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop, was well known for his skill in grafting any plant from tomatoes to fruit trees. He was generous in gifting his 'surplus' successful apple tree grafts to friends and acquaintances who had space to grow another tree.

I was lucky enough to be given several named standard tree whips some 20 years ago. As the trees have started to bear fruit, their apples have not matched the descriptions given in books and catalogues. So, over the past few years I have sent 8 leaves from each apple tree to be DNA tested. For one tree, there was no known match, and it has now been registered as Richard's Cheriton Red on the Register of Local Cultivars.

But Wilf must have acquired the scions (graft wood) from someone, and the hunt is now on to find those 'parent' trees. If you know of anyone who also received the gift of grafted whips from Wilf or who allowed him to take scions from their trees, it would add to the knowledge of these old varieties. Maybe these trees may have other local names.

Please contact Persis Bower, 01647 24303, South Orchard, Cheriton Bishop

The old standard apple trees at South Orchard were planted about 1913. Unfortunately, the storm of Michael Fish fame uprooted and destroyed about 14 trees. The names of the varieties of these trees had been lost over the last hundred years but have now been identified by DNA testing. These varieties were relatively new introductions around 1900!

The Drewsteignton Parish Post

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

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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 28 December. Thank you