

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 177
JANUARY 2021

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

✪ 2021 A Better Year ✪

Happy New Year! Let us hope things improve this year and that we finally have Covid on the run! I also hope that the festive season wasn't as bad as everyone was anticipating, and you at least heard from your beloved relatives during this time. I also hope that you managed to have a break and get some rest and relaxation and can face the new year with renewed energy.

Our December meeting was quite short, mainly given over to planning discussions, most of which we had to give a neutral view as we have been unable to make any site visits. There was one bit of good news in that the appeal for 2701/18/FUL, the proposed 'farm shop' at Whiddon Down was dismissed.

We discussed new ways of working and one of the outcomes was the introduction of 'in the cloud' file sharing, this means that Cllrs no longer need to download documents to work on them, they will be accessible and safe for the council to work on in the virtual environment.

We discussed the precept and the Councillors have asked for it to be reduced by 2% This may mean some re-prioritising of the budget, but it is manageable.

We are still looking for people to join us on the Parish Council, so if you are interested or just curious, please come along to a virtual meeting or contact Alice on the Clerk's email address. We are also hoping to start an email subscription to augment the dissemination of information we receive, this is NOT to replace the Parish Post that we all know and love dearly, this will be things that come in and need circulating sooner than the Parish Post can respond. If you would like to be put on this mailing list, please let the Clerk know.

Due to technical issues the judging of the poster competition has been pushed to the 18th January meeting. Apologies for the delay.

Cllr James McInnes joined us for the latter part of the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New year.

Ysanne James, Chair

Drewsteignton Village Store

Our opening hours over New Year are as follows

Thursday 31st December 8.30am – 1.00pm

Friday 1st January CLOSED (Newspapers in Box)

Saturday 2nd January Normal Hours

Cheryl & Stuart

Holy Trinity Church



Many thanks – to Chris and Gill for their work in restoring the wooden benches around the churchyard. Also to David and Ashley for their work in tidying the edges of the churchyard, inside the walls. It's all looking wintery but very smart.

Before: Beautiful but covered in lichen and very, very dry.

After: rubbed down, polished and well oiled.



STONE LANE GARDENS – OPEN ALL SEASONS



The banner features a green background with a white central text box. On the left, there is a photograph of tall birch trees. On the right, there is a photograph of a white crane standing in a field of yellow flowers. The logo for Stone Lane Gardens is at the top, with the text 'RHS PARTNER GARDEN' and 'Royal Horticultural Society' on the left. The main text in the white box reads: 'Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford, TQ13 8JU, RHS Partner Garden, Open all year round, Woodland and Water Gardens, National Collection of Birch and Alder'. Below the white box, the text 'Summer Sculpture Exhibition "The Mythic Garden"' and the website 'www.stonelanegardens.com' are displayed in white on the green background.

Stone Lane
garden sculpture nursery

Stone Lane Gardens,
Chagford, TQ13 8JU
RHS Partner Garden
Open all year round
Woodland and Water Gardens
National Collection of Birch and Alder

Summer Sculpture Exhibition "The Mythic Garden"
www.stonelanegardens.com

Cerne Abbas Open Gardens



Cerne Abbas Open Gardens hopes that you kept safe during this exceptional year. It is excellent news that we have vaccines coming online which gives us hope that we might be able to open our gardens again in 2021 and raise funds for organisations desperately in need of support.

We recognise that even with the vaccines the future is uncertain, and some garden openers and visitors might not feel that they want to open/visit gardens until they feel absolutely safe from Covid 19, but we wanted to let you know what plans we are making.

Past garden openers have been canvassed 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 provided 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.

PRESS RELEASE

Moor Trees receives grant of £478,000 from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund

68 projects have been awarded grants between £62k and £3.8 million to kick-start a pipeline of nature-based projects while creating and retaining jobs

First funding round sees £40 million pot allocated, second round of funding to open in early 2021

If you would like more information, please contact Adam Owen or visit our website at www.moortrees.org or find us on [facebook.com/moortrees.org/](https://www.facebook.com/moortrees.org/) and [instagram.com/moortrees/](https://www.instagram.com/moortrees/). You can also email us info@moortrees.org or telephone 01364 649 277.



Acorn Community Support Happy New Year 2021

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” Winston Churchill November 1942p

We hope that the festive season was as fun and happy as possible, under the circumstances, and you all kept warm, well fed and safe.

Here we are in a brand new, fresh year. Perhaps entering this year with a little fear and trepidation but most importantly we can start the New Year with hope in our hearts that during this year we will be able to return to some sort of normal.

At the time of writing this, we are unsure as what activities will be available during January 2021 but you can rest easy that we will contact you as and when we are able to run activities.

Despite the restrictions of 2020, Acorn managed to maintain contact with all our clients through the help and support of all our volunteers and staff. It was a huge achievement is testament to the team spirit and caring nature of everyone involved in our fabulous organisation. In addition, through the efforts of a team of cyclists we managed to raise the money required to replace the Christow Minibus which we hope to do early in the New Year. Thank you to everyone who has supported Acorn over the last year.

We finally held our Annual General Meeting on 15th December 2020 and we formally welcomed two new Trustees, Pat Corbett and Kate Cobbold. We are delighted that both were able to join us.

Acorn continues to be able to offer support to anyone in our community who needs a helping hand. Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01647 252701

or office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk. We are YOUR community organisation!!!
Happy New Year wishes to you all

The A(corn) Team.

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Castle Drogo

A glorious, moody day allowed for a contrast in the sky last week. Castle Drogo's café and toilet facilities are open every day. It's worth a walk.



Our shop café and toilets are all open | 11am-3pm. The car park and countryside walks are open down till dusk. The castle and garden are closed. We encourage everyone to observe social distancing measures. Please stay local to avoid creating hotspots

Tuesday 10 November 2020 With [news today of record redundancies in the UK](#) during the three months to September, we want to let you know about what support is available if you're worrying about money. It's reported that companies have made more workers redundant in anticipation of the end of the furlough scheme, now extended until the end of March 2021. Over the summer at least 30% of Devon's workforce were furloughed and the number of people in the county claiming Universal Credit has risen by 55% since March.

If your income has changed and you're struggling to pay for basic household essentials, [we've made money available via local District Councils](#) to provide small emergency grants to people in financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

The funds can be used for different things such as access to emergency short term support through shopping vouchers, utility top ups, paying for essential travel needs or essential advice and support services.

We've also published information on our website about [financial help in your local area](#), including links to national support and information on what to do if you were employed but have now lost your job. The latest national advice on coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on the [Government website](#) and [NHS website](#). You can find local guidance and information about the impacts on our services on the [Devon County Council website](#). Please forward this email to anyone you think would find it useful and [encourage them to sign up](#). **Please note that all of our sites and**

offices are closed to the public, except for necessary prearranged visits, but you can still contact us if you need to.

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I'd rather be loving than right

It seems, now more than ever, that everyone has strong opinions, views, and ideas that they genuinely believe to be right. It is good to be aware, however, that being right, is not necessarily a positive thing. Being right is great, if what you're after is an inflated head and ego boost. However, being right, means that you *always* make someone else wrong, which can cause separation, judgement and blame amongst even the most tight-knit families, friends and communities. Is being right really worth that?

There was a time, when people genuinely believed they were right in thinking that the entire Universe revolved around the Earth. So much so that if you didn't believe this, and were vocal about it, you were labelled as a heretic ('conspiracy theorist' is commonly used today) and sentenced to imprisonment or death! Can you believe that? Sentenced for not believing a view which we now know to be scientifically and unequivocally false! Proof, that even the most fundamental of beliefs, whether individual or societal, can dramatically change. Probably not a good idea to get attached to something like beliefs, which are so fleeting in nature.

We can break free of the boxes that our beliefs keep us in and open our minds with a sense of wonder and curiosity to any and every possibility. Maybe giving up the fight to be right can make space for something more nourishing and wholesome love.

I don't know about you, but I would rather be accepting, tolerant, understanding, and *loving*, than right. It's so important to build bridges rather than walls. We are strongest when we unite, support and are understanding of one another. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, after all.

Article inspired by Stew Bittman (great podcasts at bittmanbliss.com) & Deepak Chopra
With love and appreciation!

Joe Arnold (Doctor of Chiropractic, MChiro) & Jess Gordon

Dartmoor Chiropractic
Strawberry Hill, Dunsford

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

As humans congratulate themselves on being guardians and earth stewards of this planet.

The Christmas tradition, which many feel compelled to indulge in every year.

Because the marketing and media will always dictate to us on Christmas, Easter, summer holidays, etc, we are dangerously addicted to consumption.

If it's not already too late, time to reign it all in and look at the alternatives for a sustainable existence, for a happier fruitful life, where 'less is more'.

We have reached a tipping point between the balance of man and nature.

A winter festival of family and food can be enjoyed without all the trappings.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SELF-ISOLATING AND CHRISTMAS

Anyone who contracts the virus, or who is identified as a close contact of a positive case, regardless of when that might happen, will have to self-isolate. [19]

VACCINATION SITES ANNOUNCED IN DEVON

Eight GP-led vaccination centres in Devon have been involved in the first phase of the coronavirus vaccination programme, [20] NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group announced this week.

Nurses, paramedics, pharmacists and other NHS staff will be working alongside doctors at the centres to vaccinate people aged over 80 and care home workers, who have been identified as priority groups for vaccination, along with care home workers and NHS staff.

Over the coming weeks and months, the rate of vaccinations will increase as more doses become available and the programme continues to expand. People in priority groups will be contacted when it's their turn and do not need to request an appointment.

Vaccinations have started at the eight sites in Devon, serving 49 of the county's GP practice areas.

In this first phase, those sites are:

- * Abbey Surgery, Tavistock
- * Exmouth Tennis and Fitness Centre
- * Limes Surgery, Exminster
- * Okehampton Medical Centre
- * Riviera International Centre, Torquay
- * St Boniface House, near Buckfastleigh
- * Seaton Community Hospital
- * The Staddy function centre, Plymouth

A second group of sites will be announced in coming days and phase three and four sites will be announced over the next few weeks, ensuring coverage across Devon. The programme will also expand to care homes soon.

The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital is also now delivering the coronavirus vaccine. Again, please wait to be contacted with an appointment, rather than contacting them.

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Comment

Whilst Covid-19 is keeping many of us at home – and possibly alone – over Christmas and the New Year, please remember that you can contact me on the number or e-mail below if you want to have a chat.

Letters

Dear Parish Councillors and Parish Post,

I have become increasingly concerned about safety at bus stops in the parish. On the junction of the Hittisleigh road and the old A30, the bus stop is just past the junction, and in the mornings at around 7.50 and then again at 5 - 5.30, cars are stopping on the Hittisleigh road, blocking the junction and causing a hazard to pedestrians and drivers. See photo attached. At times there have been 3 vehicles parked in the road. In the evenings, the late bus returns from Okehampton College to Whiddon Down at around 5.20 and on at least 2 occasions, parents waiting for their children who are on the bus, are parking in the bus stop and blocking the bus stop. This means that the bus has to stop in the road and the students have to get off the bus into the road, which is not safe.

I am hoping that you may be able to discuss this and maybe put up some signage to prevent these dangerous situations

Yours sincerely

Catherine Gillard – Photograph available. Please contact Editor

The Drewsteignton

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

Parish Post

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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