

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUENO. 180

APRIL 2021

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

As I write this the sun is shining. Spring has definitely arrived and with it renewed hope for the year ahead. Although vaccinations have hit a bump in the road, the most vulnerable will have had their first jab before the supply is interrupted. This, we are told will give protection against the most severe of symptoms if you are unlucky enough to catch Covid. This will allow more freedom to socialise as lockdown is eased. I, for one, cannot wait to see my loved ones, even if only on a park bench.

**Unfortunately, I have made the hard decision to step down from the position of Chair of the Council and therefore at our meeting this week the first order of business was to elect a new Chair. Cllr Brennan was nominated and accepted the position and I accepted the position of Vice Chair.** We will sign to that effect as soon as physical meetings resume. We have been informed that they might start as early as May and discussions on how this will be safely done are underway. I have just booked a zoom call at the end of March to help the council understand our options and duties to enable us to start face to face meetings again. Safety of the public and the council members are paramount.

Cllr McInnes was able to join us for some of the meeting and reported that 98% of Devon primary school pupils have returned to school while 94% of secondary school pupils have had a staggered return, Cllr McInnes commended students and staff on their handling of their return which has included testing both students and staff.

Cllr McInnes also informed the council that, reluctantly, Devon County Council have agreed to a 4.99% increase in Council Tax, the income being split between Adult social care, Children's services, Highways and some money being given to district and borough councils to help them support people who have lost their jobs but are not eligible for benefits.

Cllr McInnes commended the rollout of the vaccination program and stressed that people, once vaccinated, still need to be careful when out to ensure that the infection rate is kept as low as possible.

Cllr McInnes has been very impressed with the action of Team Devon and hopes that the momentum will continue in the future. Cllr Ridgers agreed with this sentiment. Cllr Brennan queried the re-start project and hoped that all those who are out of work for example the long term unemployed disabled or the homeless would not be forgotten out in the implementation of this.

The council were very pleased to approve the very last document (Disciplinary procedure) recommended by the internal audit. Cllr Brennan raised the issue of the files on the DNPA website were not able to be opened (cont.)

and the Clerk agreed to raise this issue with DNPA. Items 0080/21, 0093/21, 0091/21 and 0092/21 were discussed. Cllr Brennan declaring an interest in item 0093/21, this was discussed without him, this item was not supported as this was a site the Cllrs had previously visited and the reasons for not supporting this application had not changed - full details in the parish minutes.

**The Clerk has written on behalf of the Parish Cllrs to Steve Utting, National Mailworks Manager at Post Office Ltd and to the Rt. Hon. Mel Stride MP to support the retention of the sorting office at the Drewsteignton Post Office. Cllr Ridgers has also contacted Mel Stride MP and will liaise with the Clerk when he hears anything on this matter.**

The Clerk reported that she has been unable to find paperwork relating to the ownership of the Village Garden Land. Cllrs agreed to take responsibility for maintenance of the Garden and the assets within but noted that they do not accept responsibility or liability for the actual land or surrounding boundary.

Consultation on Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay Consultation documents can be found at DCC Consultation on Draft Resource & Waste Management Strategy for Devon & Torbay. The Public Consultation runs from Wednesday 3rd March to Wednesday 14th April, and the responses will help shape how Local Authority Collected Waste is managed in Devon up to 2030. Cllrs agreed to make responses as private individual with no formal response as a Council.

The Council was asked to approve Mrs Bickell as Internal Auditor for 2021/22 (Inc. 2020/21 year-end and they received the formal conclusion of external audit 2019-20. Cllr Redman Reported that the Apple trees have been pruned. Cllr James has arranged for the removal of the cut wood.

I will continue to write the article for the Parish Post.

Finally, it is great to see the winning poster up on the village gates in Crockernwell.

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th May at 7pm via Zoom and the next Council meeting will be held on Monday 19th April 2021 7.30pm also via Zoom.**

### **Drewsteignton Village Store (repeat)**

Dear friends

As most of you will know the future of your little Village Shop and Post Office is under threat by the closure of our Sorting Office operated by Royal Mail.

We are overwhelmed by the kindness from all those who have written letters, sent emails, made phone calls and signed petitions which have now gone to our MP and the Royal Mail, and we await their responses. We are also extremely thankful for the full support from the Parish Council itself.

So, what else can you do to help? The simple thing we need to be able to demonstrate is that this is a valued community asset and I'm afraid that the only way we can do this if we can show how many people are using the Shop and Post Office. So, we need your support. We need you to keep shopping local so that we can show just how much the community values having a local Shop and Post Office. Although this seems a very simple thing, it is the best way in which you can show your support to us and to prove remains a viable asset for the future. (cont.)

**So even if you just need to post a letter please don't put it in the post-box outside. If we are open, please come in and let us put it in the mail sacks. This way each letter can be counted by Post Office Limited, and we can show just how many valued customers we have. You could also stop and have a chat and say 'hi' at the same time!**

We look forward to seeing the return of visitors in the near future, as government rules allow, and hope that everybody will be able to enjoy beautiful Dartmoor this summer. With many thanks from all of us at Drewsteignton Village Store & Post Office.

**Thanks, Cheryl & Stuart**

### Holy Trinity News

Spring is definitely with us now and the daffodils and primroses making a much-awaited appearance, and even woody woodpecker has been heard around the village. Vaccinating has been underway for a while and hopefully we will be emerging from one of the most challenging times in recent history over the next few months.

We now have to plan for the future and think about ways that our church can emerge from the pandemic. Just keeping going with business as usual will not help us to meet the challenges ahead and thrive as an important Christian and community resource. The removal of more pews has opened up an exciting space which will allow for new ways of working and being together and thanks must go to Simon and Charlie for their care and craftsmanship on getting this project completed.

One area of real challenge which cannot be ignored is around our day-to-day finances. Along with many others, these have been badly affected by the pandemic. We have been running a deficit budget for some years and it is just not sustainable.

We have 22 people on the electoral role and more who support the life of the church, for which we are incredibly grateful. However, we have to raise around £20,000 each year just to meet our day-to-day commitments. We must, therefore, take a fresh look at our assets and decide what might be a possible way forward.

One of these assets is the Church Rooms. For many years the day-to-day running of the building was the responsibility of the PCC but in recent times an Albemarle scheme has been in place so that the building can operate as a Village Hall.

The time has come to re-appraise this situation as the hall is deteriorating rapidly, being excessively damp and struggling to find users. In the original charitable gift from the Malan Trust there are restrictions on how the building can be used, which adds to the difficulties.

The Church Warden and members of the PCC plan to produce a detailed briefing paper. We then hope that as many people as possible will join us in a discussion about the future of the Church Rooms. Please read, think, pray and join us in making a decision that will help us to serve the needs of the community. We will actively seek feedback on any future, more concrete, proposals, but in the meantime, if you would like to contribute to the ongoing discussion please contact either Hazel, Ruth or Ian.

Hazel Craddock – [hazelcraddock@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hazelcraddock@hotmail.co.uk)

Ian and Ruth Merttens: [ruth@merttens.co.uk](mailto:ruth@merttens.co.uk) and [ianmerttens@icloud.com](mailto:ianmerttens@icloud.com)



**Thank you, People of  
Drewsteignton**

For doing **YOUR** bit in saying



The 3 hampers of goodies that you have very kindly donated over the past few months have been included in the many gift bags given to almost every member of the NHS in the Exeter Nightingale Hospital, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, local hospitals, GP surgeries, NHS pharmacies and all who have worked tirelessly over the past year in the battle to keep us safe and well.

Most of us will (thankfully) never know how much has been sacrificed by so many of these wonderful people in their dedication to the services they all provide and for us to be able to show our appreciation in this small way has been gratefully received and acknowledged by them.

THANK YOU.

Keep safe and stay well, **Jane Hocking**

An advertisement for Stone Lane Gardens. It features a central text block with a green background at the bottom. On the left and right sides, there are images of trees and a white swan in a garden. The text includes the garden's name, location, and details about an exhibition.

 **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  
[www.stonelanegardens.com](http://www.stonelanegardens.com)

## **Drewsteignton Gardener's Club**

Just to keep you all up to date!

We are now holding Zoom lectures every month until we can have our summer outings. As for our hugely popular Plant Sale (Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May) if we are not able to hold it we intend to sell plants from members gardens as we did last year. (Profits will go to 3 charities as in 2020)

**Bunny Johnstone**



## **Drewseignton Allotment Gardens**

**Interested in renting a plot and living in the parish?**

**Call to see about**

**availability on 01344 624**

**690 (business hours only)**

## **In Memoriam**



A small but very real sadness for many locals has been the destruction of eighty mature beech trees in the woods bordering the drive at Castle Drogo. Despite many emails from myself and others, the National Trust proved unbending in their determination to 'thin' the woods. In the event, 'thinning' is a gross

understatement since approximately 70 trees are gone and the remaining 'woods' hardly merit the name, being more like a few scattered trees. It is believed that mature trees absorb more CO<sub>2</sub> and give off more oxygen, beech being particularly efficient. I am not alone in mourning these old and stately trees. Every time I walk up the drive past the piled trunks, I feel depressed that an organisation I have always trusted has behaved this way. It may be a small thing against other more major griefs currently, but it does somehow represent a betrayal. Next time, I would plead for a lot more consultation and a lot less demolition.

**Ruth Merttens**

## **WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL**

### **Light at the end of the tunnel at long last!!!**

Hopefully, the Village Hall should be able to open its doors to our regular users after 17th May. Obviously, we will still be bound by guidelines for some time, but we will endeavour to keep everyone safe.

As we have adequate funds in the bank at present, the Committee have decided to spend some to improve facilities at the hall. We shall be having a spot of decorating done and perhaps a new window or two during the coming weeks. Please be assured that we will be prudent in our spending. By investing in improvements, hopefully we might attract new business for the future.

Thanks again to all the Committee members who have helped me to keep our heads above water during the last twelve months. Long may it continue.

Best wishes and a Happy Easter to everyone. **Jenny Turner**

### **Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay**

The Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay has been published for consultation – see link:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/draft-resource-and-waste-management-strategy-for-devon-and-torbay/> .

The Public Consultation runs from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, and the responses will help shape how Local Authority Collected Waste is managed in Devon up to 2030.

The new document will present how the 10 councils responsible for waste collection or disposal in Devon, will continue to work with residents to try to reduce the amount of household waste created and continue to ensure that waste is managed in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner.

The last review of Devon's Resource & Waste Management Strategy was in 2013, and since then there has been a range of developments which impact on waste management services. These include changes in national waste policy with the publication of the Government's Resource and Waste Management Strategy in 2018 as well as other waste consultations around a consistent waste collection service, deposit return scheme for drinks containers and an extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging materials. Other impacts include climate change and Brexit.

Consultees are invited to read the draft strategy and then respond to a series of questions on subjects including reducing carbon emissions, food waste, reducing waste, increasing recycling and reuse.

The consultation responses will then be reviewed, and an amended strategy will be presented for final approval to the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) and individual councils this summer, with the intention to publish the final strategy at the end of the year.

*If you have any queries please use the contact details below:*

Email: [waste@devon.gov.uk](mailto:waste@devon.gov.uk) or Address: Strategy Consultation Team, Waste Management Team, Matford Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD

**Pick up your dog's poo in the churchyard!** We are picking up one or two poos a day and are fed up. **It is not fair** on those who keep our churchyard so beautiful!



## **Acorn Community Support Has Spring Sprung?**

As I write this the sun is shining. We have had our roadmap from the PM and all is progressing towards a great summer. Although it's too early to start celebrating there is HOPE!

Our Dial-in Clubs have been flourishing we would love to see more people joining in so we have kept them in the Bulletin so that you don't have to look for last month's magazine.

**Tuesday morning – Bingo called by Peta Cupper**

**Thursday – Memory Lane Café – Led by Jane Hancock with Fran Peake in attendance**

**Friday – Crossword Puzzle day – clues and inspiration by Jo Clunie**

All the start times are 11.00 am so you can get your coffee and your cake and sit down with Acorn. We are working on a telephone Balance/exercise class which by the time you read this should be up and running on a Wednesday afternoon and we are still working on ideas for Monday of each week.

We recommend that your phone contract allows you unlimited daytime calls for free. **Call Mandy or Fran at the Office on 01647 252701** to book your places and get the dial in details.

We are in the process of updating all our records so if you have changed your number/discarded your landline or have an email address that you think we may not have then please contact us. If you have an email you could email us at [office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](mailto:office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk) which means we will automatically have your email address to add to your records.

We have started a Newsletter to keep in touch with everyone volunteers and clients. Contact the office if you would like a copy and haven't received one. This is where email addresses are best.

Of course, Acorn continues with all its usual services so please do call us for:

- 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

In the meantime, please keep yourselves safe and healthy and enjoy the Spring flowers and sunshine. Best wishes **The Acorn Team**



## News from the Castle

Hi everyone

I don't know about you, but it feels like nature is giving us a glimpse of new beginnings. The garden is full of daffodils and catkins and buds starting are starting to burst in to life on the trees and plants.

The good news is that it is looking positive that we can start re-opening our places. As you know, the countryside sites have remained open throughout this lockdown for local people to take their daily exercise. From the end of this month, we are also re-opening the garden at Castle Drogo and the waterwall walk at Lydford Gorge, again with the steer for people to stay local. Entry is via a pre-booked ticket so just head to the website to get booked on. There is a takeaway offer available from the cafes at both sites too.

We have to wait a little bit longer to open the indoor places. We hope that we government guidance will enable us to open the Castle mid-May and the delightful Finch Foundry will hopefully be open from the beginning of June, again with pre-booked tickets. As you all know, this is all depending on how the release from lockdown goes so please keep washing those hands, wearing those masks and keeping the 2metre distance. The website is always the best place to look for the latest information.

In the meantime, keep enjoying your local walks and the joy that spring brings. I will keep everything crossed that we will see you very soon. Stay safe all! **Paula**

Community Involvement Manager, Castle Drogo and Dartmoor

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

## 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

### ContactDetails:

For Editorial Contributions	Shelley Mansfield	<a href="mailto:shelley.mansfield@me.com">shelley.mansfield@me.com</a> Tel: 07714 253484
Village Hall Bookings Drewsteignton	Alison Chapman	<a href="mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com">callum.chapman@btinternet.com</a> Tel: 01647 281197
Parish Council Business Drewsteignton	Alice Turner	<a href="mailto:clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk">clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk</a> Tel: 01837 83484
Village Hall Bookings Whiddon Down	Alex Nott	<a href="mailto:whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk">whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk</a> Tel: 01647 231331

***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 25th. Thank you***