

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 189

FEBRUARY 2022

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A belated Happy New Year. Our first Parish Council meeting of 2022 took place on Monday 17th January (7.30pm) at Whiddon Down Village Hall. The Chair welcomed members of the public who shared further concerns regarding speeding through the 30mph zone in Whiddon Down and the lack of response from the Police to address complaints. The Clerk was able to provide an update from the Police Forum Meeting for the Okehampton Area and the commitment to conduct a speed survey and deploy enforcement vehicles.

New Applications: DNPA 0695/21 Demolition of existing single brick garage to create a double garage with storage over at Bay Tree House, Crockernwell and 0707/21 Demolition of two structures at Black Aller Quarry, Drewsteignton were reviewed. The PC agreed to provide a neutral view. A pre-application consultation letter has been received from Grendon, acting on behalf of Vodaphone, to upgrade the existing base station at Whiddon Down. The proposed new mast is intended to improve existing 4G provision. It was noted that WDBC had received a report from Reeves Retail Planning Consultancy Ltd regarding application 2530/21 Farm Shop at Whiddon Down. The report recommends WDBC refuse the application, as the new material provided by the applicant had not addressed previous concerns, failed the sequential test and would impact existing local businesses.

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. Parishioners are already discussing holding a variety of events which has also been encouraged by the UK.Gov. There is a helpful website providing key dates, ideas and an opportunity to register events <https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/> to celebrate Her Majesty's historic reign.

The Parish Council 2022/23 Budget was discussed and approved to freeze the Parish Precept at £13,410.00, which would set the Band D Parish rate at £37.93. Changes in the Council Tax Base will deliver a £0.49 or (1.28%) decrease in comparison to 2021/22. The finances of the Parish Council remain in good health. A draft copy of the full meeting notes will shortly be available on the PC website.

The toilet block in Drewsteignton will remain closed until a cleaner can be appointed. Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 21st February 2022 7.30pm at Drewsteignton Village Hall. Please note that any changes to meeting dates or venue will be posted on the Website. We extend an open invitation to all parishioners to come along.

Cllr. Peter Brennan

Drewsteignton Parish Council

Part-Time Cleaner Required – 2-3 hours per week.

The Parish Council is seeking a part-time cleaner to clean the Drewsteignton toilet block. The expected start date is the 5th January 2022. Applicants should apply by email to the Parish Clerk - clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Drewsteignton Village Store & Post Office

We would like to thank you all for your support while we undertook some renovation over Christmas and the many positive comments we have received. We are nearly there now, just a few odd jobs left for the coming weeks.

If you haven't visited for a while why not pop in and see what we have been up to. As well as the new look we have lots of new products for your enjoyment. Keep a look out for our Beer Festival which will be coming soon with a wide selection of bottled Real Ale to tempt those taste buds. These will run for a limited time alongside our house Ales from Black Tor Brewery.

Please continue to support our Post Office counter. Post Office Ltd will only keep the facility available if we can prove it is used. As well as all your postage needs we offer everyday Banking, Foreign Currency, Drop & Go and Local collect.

If you are shopping on Amazon you can arrange for most of your shopping to be delivered Local Collect at the Post Office. Your parcel will actually be delivered earlier than if an Amazon driver is delivering to you, most Amazon deliveries arrive in the Village sometime in the afternoon whereas we usually get the local collect parcels mid-morning. Your item will be securely held for you to collect during normal opening hours and we do earn something for this service.

Thank you for your custom, please remember the Village will only have a Shop if you support it.

Cheryl, Stuart & Judy

Holy Trinity News



Christmas was a cheerful time at Holy Trinity. Many in the village appreciated the chance to gather safely outside for the carol service, sing well-loved tunes and hear the Christmas story in its traditional form. Midnight mass was a joyous occasion, joined by visitors from Exeter and those staying in the village for Christmas. On Christmas morning, Chris led a friendly short service complete with crackers and a pile of presents. A New Year family service enjoyed resolutions, written on paper aeroplanes, were sent flying from the pulpit. Epiphany was marked by a superb Evensong, courtesy of Chagford church choir. Beautiful music framed Chris's thought-provoking talk, including a new anthem written by a member of the choir. Sadly, Harriet was unable to lead us through the Christmas services, as she had succumbed to Covid. She was sorely missed but we are so glad that the new year sees her feeling better and getting back to her usual levels of activity.

The new village space at the back of Holy Trinity is open and heated from 8am to 8pm for anyone who wants a quiet, safe space to work, meet or simply sit and meditate. Tea and coffee in the kitchen, milk in the fridge and biscuits in the tin welcome all comers, and the advantage of meeting for a chat on the comfy sofas or a cuppa at the cheery tables is that the height of the ceiling and size of the area makes it a super-safe space in these scary Covid times. So, we warmly invite anyone and everyone in the village – it is yours to use.

Dates for the diary include 1st March, St David's day but also – importantly – pancake day. Come for pancake races, pancake eating and hot sweet chai – prizes for ALL children. 4:00 Holy Trinity Church. Also, Ash Wednesday for the traditional reflective service at 7pm.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

Free compost. If anyone would like some compost, please come and take some from the Middle bin (covered in carpet). The bins are at the bottom of the churchyard, before you go into the car park.

Jill Lock

Drewsteignton Village Hall

Lily (lilygriffiths@gmail.com 07713 638 970) is starting up her yoga classes again on Thursdays 6-7pm from 13th January at Drewsteignton Village Hall. Depending on interest she may add another day as well.

Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Fayre 4th and 5th December

Our very popular Christmas Craft Fayre was the busiest so far and a huge THANKYOU to everyone that came and supported the very talented crafters, who kindly gave 15% of their sales to the church funds. We were also very lucky to have some other generous donations, in particular from – The Edible Garden Nursery and Simon Ekins Carpentry - which helped swell the funds. The pop-up café had a continuous flow of people who sat chatting with friends whilst enjoying the wonderful soups, cakes and refreshments – all of which had been donated.

You **ALL** helped raise over £1250 for our church so a massive THANKYOU to everyone who helped in so many ways, it really is appreciated, and as it was such a successful event.....we probably will do it all again next Christmas!

Thankyou – **Jane Hocking**

Drewsteignton Gardener's Club January -March 2022

March 14th AGM + a talk about Dan Pearson's Garden

May 7th Plant Sale (Drewsteignton Village Hall)

(do put this popular event into your diary)

All meetings held now held in Whiddon Down Village Hall 7.30pm

Annual Membership £ 5.00 or £ 2.00 per meeting

Everyone most welcome



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

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Happy New Year everyone. 2022 has started off with exciting news. Last month the final window was fitted in the Village Hall, three years from the first, fitted in February 2019. Along the way, we have had part of the building repointed, the end wall of the main hall re-plastered and the kitchen, toilets and entrance hall redecorated. Work has been scheduled to replace all the light fittings for more energy efficient units and the re-decoration of the main hall. The extra funding from the Government has enabled us to update the facilities and make the hall more user and environmentally friendly for future generations. Covid 19 has proved to be an ill wind for our community!!

Good news! The BHF collection bins have now been emptied in the village hall Carpark,. Please feel free to place your donations inside.

On the subject of the Carpark, donations are still a bit slow and I have noticed many vehicles regularly using our space. I will be noting registration details and inviting owners to participate in making a regular donation towards the upkeep.

Looking forward, we will hopefully be reviving our Chicken and Chocolate Easter binggo this year. Watch out for details next month. Stay happy and healthy.

Thank-you and best wishes,

Jenny Turner 01647231179 or jennyjturner21@gmail.com



Acorn Community Support

“There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer.”

— Gertrude Jekyll

AND just like that the year is moving on!

The days are slowly getting longer and the sun, sometimes, has that edge of warmth. We are definitely heading towards Spring!

In January Acorn lunches/coffee mornings and outings were well attended and much appreciated especially as January can be rather long and somewhat grey!

The Cheriton Lunch Club, at The Red Lion in Tedburn St Mary. Always room and a big warm welcome for a few more so if you are interested then please do contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book. **Next one is 1st February 2022.**

Dunsford Coffee morning has been discontinued. We extend our warmest thanks to Margaret Barker, and indeed John Barker too, for giving so much time and energy to this lovely Coffee Morning for so many years. They will be sorely missed.

From Cheriton Bishop

Shopping at Sainsburys - **Monday 7th and 21st February 2022**

Outing date and venue yet to be decided. Phone Mandy or Fran at the Office.

From the Teign Valley

Shopping at Sainsburys - **Friday 4th and 18th February 2022**

Outings – **Monday 7th and 21st February 2022 (Venue TBA)**

8th and 22nd February are dates for **Lunch Club** (different venues each time)

1st and 15th February for Coffee Morning at the Teign Valley Church Hall.

Please contact the office if these activities appeal to you, and we will book you on.

We ask that EVERYONE whilst inside (buildings or transport vehicles) wears a face mask and observes safe hand-sanitising practices. We also ask that everyone take a lateral flow test on the morning of any Acorn activity. Acorn can supply these tests if you are unable to source them. We want you all to have fun and keep safe!

If you would like to book a seat on the minibus for any of our trips or coffee mornings, then please contact **Mandy or Fran at the Office on 01647 252701**

Acorn continues with all its usual services so please do call us and if you just want a chat then you know where we are.

Best wishes

The A(corn) Team

A message from Acorn Community Support Trustees

Through the covid pandemic of 2020 and 2021, Acorn Community Support Trustees have prioritised the health and welfare of clients, volunteers and staff. Back in March 2020, we restructured all our services so that we could maintain our engagement with clients and provide support where necessary, all in a covid secure way. In May 2021 Acorn cautiously resumed some face-to-face services as a result of having been offered vaccinations for 30 of our volunteers.

(cont.)

As services re-opened we constantly consulted with clients, volunteers and staff to ensure that we all moved forward together and in a collaborative manner ensuring that everyone felt safe.

Throughout this challenging period, the Trustees of Acorn have taken very seriously their commitment to consulting the emerging science and medical evidence to further ensure the safety of everyone in the Acorn family.

It is our belief that all our clients, volunteers and staff have taken up the opportunity to receive covid-19 vaccinations and are intent on following the booster vaccination programme. We believe, having consulted the science and medical evidence, that this offers the best protection for everyone who engages with Acorn and it is enabling us to maximise the services that we offer. For any new clients, staff or volunteers who wish to join Acorn we would prefer that you are vaccinated and are following the booster programme. For anyone who is unvaccinated and wishes to join Acorn as either a client or volunteer, we would ask that you please contact the Chair of Trustees, Jo Clunie on 01647 252701.

Best wishes for 2022

The Trustees of Acorn Community Support

The A(corn) Team

office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

What's in a Smile?

A lot of my clients ask: “what can I do now to help support my care?”. Usually, I think people are expecting me to prescribe lots of exercises or movement – which I agree is incredibly important. But honestly, my main recommendation beyond anything else, is to *smile*.

This could come across as flippant or odd, but the chemical domino-effect associated with more smiling is immense; let me share just a few benefits with you: Probably the most acknowledged side effect of a genuine smile is stress reduction. The hormones and chemicals of stress can have many harmful effects on people's health and are often the root cause of many symptoms, such as chronic pain, insomnia, gut health changes, libido loss, weight change, mood change etc. Potential immune system boosting, this is again mainly related to the lowering of stress hormones such as cortisol, which is an immune system suppressant. It stands to reason that when there is lowered stress hormones there will be greater function of the immune system, who doesn't want that! You look great! I mean seriously, you look your best when you smile; that's why we do it in pictures!

The nature of the recommendation is light-hearted, but the message is important, and I truly believe that if we can authentically smile just a little more, life can offer more peace, joy, and an elevated level of health. DO try this at home!

With love and appreciation!

Joe Arnold (Doctor of Chiropractic, MChiro)

Dartmoor Chiropractic, Strawberry Hill, Dunsford

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

On 14 January 2022, the Government announced changes that close a tax loophole which allows second home-owners to avoid paying any business rates or council tax on their properties.

Last year, West Devon Borough Council councillors resolved to lobby Central Government on this issue as part of a suite of plans to address the local housing crisis. As a result, the Council is delighted with today's news, which ensures second home owners will pay their fair share for essential local services including the police and fire service whilst protecting genuine holiday lets and local tourism.

Currently, people who own second homes in England can avoid paying council tax and access small business rates relief by declaring an intention to let the property out to holidaymakers. The change, which will come into effect from April 2023, will see second homeowners forced to pay council tax if they cannot show they are genuinely renting out their properties on a commercial basis.

As well as ensuring that second home owners pay fairly for services, it is hoped that the new change may also see more short-term holiday let properties switch to long-term rental. This would help to ease the chronic shortage of long-term rental accommodation at an affordable rate, making it easier for local families to remain in the communities they love.

Under the new rules, holiday lets must be rented out for a minimum of 70 days a year to qualify for business rates. Holiday let owners will have to provide evidence such as the website or brochure used to advertise the property, letting details and receipts. Properties will also have to be available to be rented out for 140 days a year to qualify for this relief.

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/8666/Second-home-owners-to-pay-their-fair-share-for-local-services>

DEVON CPRE

The Voice for Devon's Countryside

Winners of Devon's Best Young Landscape Artist Competition '21

Matilda Baker and Christopher Moore have each won £100 and the prestigious title of 'Devon's Best Young Landscape Artist' 2021.

Do, please, go to the CPRE website to see some of the gorgeous paintings from the competition: www.devoncpre.org.uk



Hi everyone

News from the Moor

I hope that you are all keeping well and making the most of the cold and dry winter days we have been seeing in January. I am starting to see little hints of Spring in the garden at Castle Drogo and I am already daydreaming of swathes of daffodils.

The teams across Dartmoor are turning their attention to re-opening the built places in our care. The deep clean of Drogo is well underway and each time I walk (cont.)

Around the castle, there is an extra sparkle to the precious items on display. The garden team have been busy too, working on the parking area next to the castle. They are using the historic architectural drawings as inspiration to transform this area in to the 'servants' garden' Lutyens originally imagined. The area transformed, seemingly overnight, and looks incredible already.

At Finch Foundry, maintenance work is taking place on the historic machinery so it will be ready to wow visitors again when it re-opens on 30 March for pre-booked guided tour. At Lydford Gorge, the Ranger team are working their way through a long list of jobs including path maintenance, tree checks and rock face inspections. If you have taken a drive from Okehampton to Tavistock recently, you may have noticed some scaffolding at Wheal Betsy engine house. We were able to secure funding to undertake re-pointing work to the house and it certainly looks impressive. Finally, I would like to share news of a lovely activity the Drogo team did just before Christmas where they worked with local care homes and an organisation called Ladder to the Moon to create a virtual tour. It was very well received by all of the residents who took part and it was a joy to share our beautiful castle with people who would find it tricky to visit in person.

Best wishes all, **Paula**

Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

The Drewsteignton Parish Post

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

ContactDetails:

For Editorial Contributions	Shelley Mansfield	shelley.mansfield@me.com Tel: 07714 253484
Village Hall Bookings Drewsteignton	Alison Chapman	callum.chapman@btinternet.com Tel: 01647 281197
Parish Council Business Drewsteignton	Alice Turner	clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk Tel: 01837 83484
Village Hall Bookings Whiddon Down	Alison Chapman	callum.chapman@btinternet.com Tel: 01647 281197

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, Ed

