

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

# Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 190

MARCH 2022

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our latest Parish Council (PC) meeting was on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. (7.30pm) at WDVH. New Applications: 0027/22 Demolition of barn at Cross Farm, Drewsteignton and 0017/22 Partial conversion of garage block with store and workshop above to ancillary accommodation and erection of Bat Loft at Dormouse Lodge, Chagford advised; site visits to arranged prior to next PC meeting. DNPA planning decisions noted: 0646/21 Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton resurfacing of the visitor car park - granted, 0707/21 Blackaller Quarry, Drewsteignton demolition of two structures – prior approval not required & DNPA 0695/21 Demolition of existing single brick garage to create a double garage with storage over at Bay Tree House, Crockernwell – granted.

The PC received a report on the Platinum Jubilee plans to hold a beacon lighting and street party in Drewsteignton. Volunteers are asked to come forward to share the planning and execution roles.

During 2022, Wildlife Crime Officers and the Rural Affairs Team in Devon and Cornwall Police will be promoting Project Wingspan, a wildlife crime initiative. Officers will be raising awareness and conducting operational work. A programme of activities has been agreed: February/March: Badger Persecution May/June: Raptor Persecution July/August: Bat Persecution September/October: Illegal wildlife trade November/December: Poaching (deer and freshwater fish) For more details please contact either [Martin.BECK@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Martin.BECK@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) or

[Kerry.WHITTING@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Kerry.WHITTING@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Dartmoor National Park Authority are seeking nominations from the Parish to fill a representation seat (West & Mid Devon) on the DNPA Board. To fill this seat as quickly as possible, a timetable has been agreed for nominations as set out below: • Nominations to be returned by 5:00pm by: Thursday 7 April 2022 • Ballot Papers to be sent out by: Friday 8 April 2022 • Ballot Papers to be returned to DALC by: 2:00pm on Wednesday 20 April 2022. More details are available on the DNPA or PC websites.

**The toilet block in Drewsteignton will shortly be re-opening, following the appointment of a cleaner.** A revised maintenance contract for the upkeep of PC grounds was agreed. The Parish Clerk will be on Annual Leave from the 28<sup>th</sup> February for 1 week. 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.

**Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 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     Chair, Drewsteignton Parish Council**

### Drewsteignton Village Store & Post Office

We are really pleased to announce that we have managed to find a new supplier for Milk and Dairy produce who will deliver to us on a regular basis.

We have been trying for over 2 years to find another dairy as we have not been happy with the Milk we have been receiving from Riverford. This came to a head recently when we were getting products where the use by date was not printed on the container (which is illegal) and when we challenged them about this the reply we got told us that if we weren't happy to go somewhere else. So sadly, we are doing what they have suggested and will be stocking products from Trewithan dairy.

Trewithan offer a full range of Milk, Cream and Butter and we hope to develop the range over time. They are a family-owned dairy which has been awarded the highest possible rating for standards and pride themselves in paying above the market rate to the farms. They invest heavily in equipment; their milk is cooled to below 5 Degrees within 5 minutes of milking which gives a much better shelf life for the finished product. We hope you will enjoy this new product and we look forward to a long-term relationship with Trewithan **Cheryl, Stuart & Judy**

### Holy Trinity News

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb we held another candlelit service in the style of worship from the Taize community. Taize worship is distinctive by its use of repeated chant, readings, prayer and most of all silence. Our church looks so beautiful when lit solely by candles and this creates a wonderful atmosphere for this simple worship style, giving peace and time just to be. We marked the festival of Candlemas, when Jesus was presented in the temple, and moved to look towards Lent Holy week and Easter. Keep an eye out for more services like this as we explore different styles of worship on the second Sunday of each month. **Stuart**

**PANCAKE DAY** on 1<sup>st</sup> March kicks off with a free party at 4pm - treasure hunts, balloons and pancake races. Buy 1, 2 (or 3!) to take away! All are welcome – especially children.

**Village Space – All welcome:** The lovely space at the back of the church is open from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm for you to come in, meet friends, have a meeting, work or just sit quietly. A current advantage is Covid-safety. An huge space with a thigh ceiling, it is like being outside, yet warm! The church is heated, there is tea, coffee and cake or biscuits – all freely available. ***This is your space – do use it!***

**On towards Easter...**

**Ash Wednesday** – 7pm traditional quiet reflective service

**Family Service** – 5pm on 6<sup>th</sup> March – high tea with sausages, bread and cake

**Evening meditation** – 7pm 13<sup>th</sup> March: quiet, reflective, candle lit service

**Mothering Sunday** – 11:15 27<sup>th</sup> March – Flowers, hymns, bonhomie

**Family Service** – 5pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April – high tea with baked potatoes, salad, and cake

**Easter services** kick off at 11:15 on Palm Sunday on April 10<sup>th</sup> with services throughout Holy Week to Easter Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt and celebration communion.

### **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](mailto:lilygriffiths@gmail.com) 07713 638 970) is holding yoga classes again on Thursdays 6-7pm at Drewsteignton Village Hall.  
Depending on interest she may add another day as well.



### ***Drewsteignton Gardener's Club May 2022***

**Don't Miss Out!!!**

**By popular demand the PLANT SALE is back!  
30<sup>th</sup> April 10am Saturday until sold out!**

**Don't be late!! All sorts of plants for sale:  
at BARGAIN PRICES!!**





**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)

### **Vacancy for a Tea Room Manager 2022**

\* Part-time, fixed term \* 4th April-31st Oct. 2022 \* 24hrs per week, flexible hours  
Are you ready for something new and special this Spring? We need an organised and enthusiastic person to manage our pretty garden tea room. We are looking for someone with an eye for detail who would genuinely enjoy welcoming our garden visitors and friends.

We can offer a flexible 24 hrs per week (incl. one weekend shift) at £15 per hour, a beautiful location, great local suppliers and a fantastic volunteer team. Experience in catering or hospitality is ideal, but not essential for the right person.

Further details:

[www.stonelanegardens.com](http://www.stonelanegardens.com) > support us or contact Ruth on 07967 979613.

Stone Lane Gardens is an RHS Partner Garden and a Charitable Trust (No.1141252).

# WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Hello from Whiddon down village hall. Hopefully you haven't been blown away! March is going to be an exciting month for us, as the hall is undergoing some much-needed cosmetic surgery!! We will be closed from 14<sup>th</sup> March until 27<sup>th</sup> inclusive for the work to be completed without interruption. We are sorry for any inconvenience, but it is necessary and will be well worth it.

We had a well-attended meeting last week and covered a lot of ground. I am happy to announce our first fundraiser since Covid began. We will be holding a Spring bingo on the last Monday before Easter, 11<sup>th</sup> April. It will be in the traditional form of Chicken and chocolate. After discussion, it was decided to limit numbers, so it will be first come first served. In the past we have crammed as many people into the hall as possible, but we feel this will not be acceptable at this present time. Please watch out for more details next month.

Many thanks to the people using our Carpark who have given donations, some of which have been very generous.

We have discussed the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations and have decided to work with the Post Inn to centralise events in the village. We also decided it would be appropriate to plant a shrub in the Carpark with a commemorative plaque. We will also support other events in the Parish on the other days. Let's hope the weather improves so we can enjoy our new-found freedom. Take care.

Thank-you and best wishes,


**Jenny Turner** 01647231179 or [jennyturner21@gmail.com](mailto:jennyturner21@gmail.com)

## Mobile libraries 2022

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries>

Our 2022 timetables will come into effect from 1 January 2022. There are some small adjustments from 2021 to give people longer to visit at busy stops, re-site some stops at locations communities have told us they prefer, and remove underused stops.

Changes to the 2021 timetable will come into effect on 1st January 2022. To check where and when we visit please see our Full A-Z of stops 2022 below. PDF timetable downloads and change information are also available.



Exmouth Mobile Library  
Timetable 2022

**Week 1**

**Monday**

Jan 24	Apr 22 (Fri)	Jul 11	Oct 3, 31
Feb 21	May 10	Aug 8	Nov 28
Mar 21	Jun 13	Sep 6	
Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Abbotskerswell	Priority	10:15	10:30
Abbotskerswell	Village Centre	10:35	11:15
Abbotsmill Park	Car park	11:25	11:45
Camboay	Corner	12:20	12:45
East Copse	Old Post	13:45	14:30
Opwell	Margaret Road	14:40	15:00

**Tuesday**

Jan 25	Apr 19	Jul 12	Oct 4
Feb 22	May 17	Aug 9	Nov 1, 29
Mar 22	Jun 14	Sep 7	
Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
East Sutton	Village Hall	9:40	10:10
Croston	Eden Way	10:30	11:00
Wesdon	Brook Meadow	11:15	12:00
Wesdon	Wesdon Lane	12:15	12:45
Wells	St Martin	13:30	14:00
Melcombe	Lower Broad	14:20	14:50
West Hill	Beech Oak	15:00	15:45

**Week 1**

**Wednesday**

Jan 26	Apr 20	Jul 13	Oct 5
Feb 23	May 18	Aug 10	Nov 2, 30
Mar 23	Jun 15	Sep 7	
Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Beckton	Green	10:15	11:00
Stokepath	Oak Tree Park	11:15	11:45
Spen Trafton	Seven Stars	11:50	12:10
South Zeal	Zeal Head	12:20	12:50
Restone Corner	The Beeches	14:00	14:20

**Thursday**

Jan 27	Apr 21	Jul 14	Oct 6
Feb 24	May 19	Aug 11	Nov 3
Mar 24	Jun 16	Sep 8	Oct 1
Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Lusheigh	Clawson Inn	10:10	10:40
Postbridge	Cartmoe Centre	11:20	11:40
Manaton	Parish Hall	12:15	13:00
Brimley	Chapple Cross	14:15	14:45

Disclaimer: Due to operational circumstances, the mobile library may need to be off road and unable to visit on some dates. Details will be published closer to the time. These timetables may be subject to change.

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity (1170592) responsible for running Devon, Lincshire and Torbay Libraries. You can support us to continue delivering the amazing library services, find out more: [librariesunlimited.org.uk/support-us](http://librariesunlimited.org.uk/support-us)

facebook.com/devonmobilelibraries  
twitter.com/devonmobilelib  
mail@librariesunlimited.org.uk  
devonlibraries.org.uk



## Acorn Community Support

*“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade.”*

— Charles Dickens

Who can believe it's now the third month of the year? It's a bittersweet moment when you realise you have moved quickly past the darkest months of the year, but you want to hold on to the glorious days of Spring.

At Acorn we have Spring in our hearts always, and we hope we made the darker months more enjoyable. We have such plans for the warmer months but may have to wait for the Mad March Winds to dissipate first.

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. **1st March 2022 followed by 5<sup>th</sup> April '22.**

### From Cheriton Bishop

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

Outing date and venue yet to be decided. Please phone Mandy/Fran at the Office.

### From the Teign Valley

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

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

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

**1st and 15th March for Coffee Morning** at the Teign Valley Church Hall. Please contact the office if either/both of these activities appeal, and we will book you on.

We are still requesting EVERYONE, whilst inside (buildings or transport vehicles), wears a face mask and observes safe hand sanitising practices. We ask that everyone take a lateral flow test on the morning of any Acorn activity. We can supply these 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 its usual services so please do call us and if you just want a chat then you know where we are.

**The A(corn) Team**

[office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](mailto:office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk)

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

### **FRIENDS OF DREWSTEIGNTON CHURCH - CALLING ALL CHURCH LOVERS - AGNOSTICS, HERETICS, AND NON-BELIEVERS!**

Our church needs you! To be clear, not THE church but our beautiful village church building. FoDC was set up in 2019 to respond in good time to the very real prospect that the church building might have to close its doors within the next few years, once the faith community becomes so small that it can no longer support it on its own.

The church has always been as much a village asset as a religious one. As a village community, we are now faced with the question of whether we wish to take steps to keep it open and, if so, how we want to use it - because if we don't use it, we may lose it. In its first year (before the pandemic intervened), **FODC** contributed nearly £2,500 towards the costs of the pew removal at the back of the church.

(cont.)

Hopefully, you've all had a chance to see what a great improvement this is, opening up the space for a variety of activities. The church now has excellent Wi-Fi as well as comfortable seating and sofas. It's available for everyone's use. The FODC committee is made up of primarily non-churchgoers. It works with the PCC to support the development of the building for secular events and its use by the whole community. Some members of the current committee are standing down so we are looking for new committee members from the Parish. The commitment required is not huge; the committee meets every couple of months and decides for itself how much or how little it wants to do. It can call on a host of supporters who are willing to provide practical assistance. So, if you love our church building and are interested in finding out more, please come along to a public meeting at

**7.30pm on MONDAY 21ST MARCH IN DREWSTEIGNTON CHURCH.  
FREE WINE/BEER AND SOFT DRINKS PLUS SOME NIBBLES**



## News from the Moor

Hi everyone

I hope that you have all stayed safe after the battering of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. As I write, now that wind speeds have finally dropped below 40mph, the Dartmoor teams are out assessing the damage. The phrase 'it could have been so much worse' seems to be the one most used but it is going to take some time to clear all the damage.

On a more positive note, we are mere days away from re-opening Castle Drogo and we are looking forward to welcoming our volunteer teams back into the Castle ready to share the delights of the building and collection with visitors. For me, the magic moment is as you walk down the drive and the castle appears, perched looking across the Moor. It looks so wonderful (especially if Dartmoor is in a good mood) and it never fails to remind me how lucky I am to work here.

As many of you know, we have had a lot of support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Saving Castle Drogo project. We are going to take part in the National Lottery thank you week from Saturday 19 March to Sunday 27 March. This is where anyone showing a lottery ticket will get free entry to Castle Drogo and it is our chance to thank all the lottery players who make projects like ours possible. It also ties in nicely with the new display in the Gun Room which is part of the Lottery Funded River Teign Restoration Project so please do pop along to take a look.

We are also a partner with Dartmoor National Park, SouthWest Lakes Trust and Woodland Trust in another Lottery funded project called Changing Lives, Nurturing Nature. This one-year project is aimed at creating new green job opportunities focusing on nature enhancement, conservation and connecting people to what makes Dartmoor so special. As you can see, we have a lot to thank Lottery players for!

Best wishes all, **Paula** - Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor

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



Once again, MED Theatre seeks to bring communities together to consider pertinent social, scientific and environmental themes that affect the National Park and beyond. **'Peat'** aims to engage and educate audiences about this current multifaceted issue facing the people, places and wildlife of Dartmoor.

Performances will be held in Manaton Parish Hall on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th March, Chagford Jubilee Hall on Thursday 17th March and Moretonhampstead Parish Hall on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th March.

Visit [medtheatre.co.uk](http://medtheatre.co.uk) for more information and how to book your tickets.

**Posy Sparey, MED Theatre Tel: 01647 441356**

*I work part-time 2 days a week* **To find out more about MED Theatre, please visit [www.medtheatre.co.uk](http://www.medtheatre.co.uk) or [www.dartmoorresource.org.uk](http://www.dartmoorresource.org.uk)**

## Bird Notes

The months of January and February have been fairly mild, leading to early displays of snowdrops and daffodils, and catkins are now hanging visibly on hazel branches. I hope the spring flowers are all still standing after storm Eunice (currently battering the county and my windows as I write) has passed.

Swifts will have already started their long journey back from their wintering grounds in Mozambique and will now be in the Congo, before heading north to Europe in April. We now know their locations on route, and the time spent in these areas from scientific studies where swifts have had tiny backpack geolocators attached to them as adults. They are then re-trapped the following year to remove the backpacks and download the data. I am delighted that some of our swifts in Drewsteignton have been caught and tagged to add to this important research project.

In November of 2021, it was sadly announced that Swifts have now been moved on to the Red List of 'Birds of Conservation Concern', indicating the species is in severe population decline and shows contraction of its breeding range over the past 25 years. It is not always easy to determine the exact cause of decline for a migratory species such as swifts, but one of the most important factors in the UK is believed to be the loss of breeding sites under the eaves of buildings.

The opposite is true in Drewsteignton where we have more swifts in the summer than many much larger villages and towns in Devon. This is purely due to the increasing number of swift nest boxes that are being put up and becoming occupied on properties in the village and the parish. I have been monitoring the swifts here since 2000, and as far as I am aware, we only have six natural nests left on properties and these are all beneath the eaves of thatched houses. (cont.)

There are 86 houses in the village of various age, shape and size, and 22 are thatched, yet only 6 have natural nests on them. However, the number of nest boxes installed increases each year and slowly they are occupied, so we are able to ring more chicks and learn more about their movements, their productivity and survival rates. While the science is vital in understanding more about any declining species, one of the reasons I want to increase the numbers of swifts here is much more altruistic. One of my greatest joys during the summer is the sight and sound of the swifts in their frenetic screaming parties as they chase high over the roof tops on sunny evenings, and I know that many other residents in the village share this too. If anyone is interested in information or advice regarding putting up swift nest boxes on their property, please get in touch with me on 281681.

In mid-February, I attended a talk on swifts in Belstone village hall which was given by Malcolm Burgess, who works for the RSPB, and is a good friend who has been putting leg rings on the nest box swifts here since 2008. His talk included much of what we have discovered about Drewsteigton's swifts and featured many photos of the village and our nest box project. I am very proud of the fact that what we have achieved here is increasingly being highlighted as a blueprint for many villages around the county, and both Malcolm and I are continually being asked to advise other community groups on how they can aid this amazing bird that really needs our help.

**Nick**

## The Drewsteigton 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	<a href="mailto:shelley.mansfield@me.com">shelley.mansfield@me.com</a> Tel: 07714 253484
Village Hall Bookings Drewsteigton	Alison Chapman	<a href="mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com">callum.chapman@btinternet.com</a> Tel: 01647 281197
Parish Council Business Drewsteigton	Alice Turner	<a href="mailto:clerk@drewsteigtonparish.co.uk">clerk@drewsteigtonparish.co.uk</a> Tel: 01837 83484
Village Hall Bookings Whiddon Down	Alison Chapman	<a href="mailto:callum.chapman@btinternet.com">callum.chapman@btinternet.com</a> 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*



