

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 167

March 2020

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

This month there were a few updates on matters that have been ongoing for a while, the first being the Drewsteignton WC's. Alice, our Clerk, has been in touch with the National Trust who have not yet received the resignation of the previous trustees, so Alice is pursuing matters to enable us to move forward. Whilst we are on the subject of the WC's, the Parish Council have been looking at the work that needs to be done on them and an estimated sum will be set aside for when the lease is sorted out.

We also discussed the work to be done on the carpark and have decided that two bodies of work need to be undertaken, the road into the carpark – this has a large pothole and needs some drainage work - and the actual carpark which needs resurfacing and general maintenance. We will be discussing quotes received next meeting.

There were a couple of planning matters for which an extraordinary meeting was held on 24 February after a site visit at the weekend. One was at Stone Lane gardens for which Cllr Imrie excluded herself because she volunteers at Stone Lane gardens and her husband is a trustee. The other was an appeal from Barley Meadow Caravan park. Cllrs agreed to support the Stone Lane gardens application for change of use for the barn and held a neutral view for the BMC Park appeal.

Cllr Imrie met with the Doing What Matters team (Highways) and discussed the issues around the Parish. Cllr Imrie reported that the meeting was very positive and she was hopeful that some works would be carried out as and when funds became available

The road through Crockernwell is open with traffic light and works seem to be ongoing. It is expected that works will continue for the next couple of months. Cllrs requested that this item will be next raised on the April agenda.

Cllr Brennan reported that he had attended the AED training in Drewsteignton. The session will be run again in hopes of improved attendance. Cllr James reported that she attended the DALC Being a Good Employer course and found it very informative.

Alice has been updating and producing policies to ensure that the Parish Council is compliant and is also attending training to ensure that the Parish Council continues to comply with all legislation and regulations that apply.

A future agenda item will be Flooding. Cllr Imrie reported that there are currently two registered flood areas in the parish, but she felt that this requires updating. The last survey was undertaken by the parish council in February 2011. If you know of an area that floods within the Parish boundaries, please do let us know.

Our next Parish Council meeting on 16th March at 7:30 in Whiddon Down Village Hall
Ysanne

Friends of Drewsteignton Church (FODC)

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING, VILLAGE HALL 7.30, TUESDAY 24 MARCH

The FODC Committee's first objective is to encourage the enjoyment of the church building and its use by the whole community. The pews at the back of the church will shortly be removed, providing the village with a unique space in a beautiful building.

How do we, the whole village community, want to use it? Do we want a warm, attractively lit space with comfy seating plus free reliable Wi-Fi and music in the background where we can meet with friends to chat or play a board game, add a few pieces to a giant village jigsaw, get out of the house to do some work? Do we want a place to hold a toddler group or a book club? Do we want somewhere we can screen films? Or a place to get together to make music? Do we need an information hub in the village or a place to borrow/exchange books or a community tool store or a collection point for surplus vegetable and fruit produce? Or a place to exhibit art or perhaps host a talk? Or maybe just a place for a Saturday morning café to read the papers and meet our neighbours?

These are just a few ideas coming out of a few minutes brainstorming among our Committee. But we'd much rather hear from you about how you think we could make good use of this historical building in the very centre of our village. As other small villages like ours have discovered, if we don't use it, we'll lose it so please come and share your ideas with us. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served.

Saturday 7th March 6:30



WURLITZA
AT
DREWSTEIGNTON
CHURCH

Wurlitzza are a critically acclaimed five-piece band who specialise in post-World War 2 to present films. Come and enjoy them live at Drewsteignton Church.

BUSTER
RUSTEN
ONE WEEK

WURLITZA
COLLAGE
DANCE

"I loved Wurlitzza's pop to classical mix" - Baddeley, the Guardian
"I particularly enjoyed how Wurlitzza's skill in fitting the music to the film. Whistling Dicks was a masterpiece!" - Nick Bailey - Classic FM

Saturday 7th March
6.30 - 8.30pm

Bar before and after the performance
£10 Adults, £7.50 children
Tickets available The Dance Arms and Drewsteignton Post Office

FRIENDS OF DREWSTEIGNTON CHURCH



Don't Miss Out!!!



Drewsteignton Garden Club

SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday May 2nd
10am until sold out!
Village Hall

Come early!!

All sorts of plants for sale:
at **BARGAIN PRICES!**

Refreshments / Raffle

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Hello everyone. The new fire exit door has now been fitted and the village hall is safe and warm ready for our next fundraising extravaganza. Back by popular demand, Byngs game show road show presents an evening of pig racing. Saturday 21st March 2020. Tickets are on sale, call 01647231179 to reserve yours now, as numbers are limited.

The cost is £5.00 a ticket to include a hot pasty or sausage roll (for kids). BYO alcoholic beverages. Soft drinks, tea and coffee will be available during the evening. A prize will be awarded for the best piggy outfit, child or adult. Dressing up is not compulsory!!

The Easter bingo, chicken and chocolate, is on Monday 6th April, eyes down 8.00pm.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last 12 months. We have raised over £6,000.00 by fundraising and donations and have replaced 7 windows and 2 fire exit doors as well as renewing all the exit signs and undertaking all the necessary electrical testing in the hall. This would not have been possible without our hard-working committee, who give up their own time and of course those of you who support our events. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Jenny.

Okehampton District Community Transport Group #66

Coffee Morning

Saturday 21st March

9am – 12noon

The Charter Hall, Market Street, Okehampton

Raffle and Bric-a-brac/Books

We are also being joined by independent stallholders including Petes Homebake, Usborne Books, Scentsy – come and find a bargain!



December Events at Okehampton Library

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day - Celebrations all day at Okehampton Library! From opening until we close, we will have tea/coffee and a piece of homemade cake for just £1.

Listen to short stories all day. Husband and wife authors AJ MacKenzie will start the day, reading their short story 'The Stable Door', followed by author Morgen Witzel reading 'Kitwancool'. Bring along your own favourite short story to read or pick one from our shelves. Are you a budding author who has written a short story you would like to read? Or just sit and enjoy listening to others reading!

Take a chance with our wrapped up 'Pot Luck' books – donated stock for you to buy at only £1 for adults and 50p for children. You get to keep what you unwrap.

Friday 20th March 10:30-11:30 – Mother's Day Story, Craft & Cake

Book our fun Mother's Day event for under 5's. £1 per child, bookable in advance.

Listen to a story, make a family flowerpot to take home and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee at 50p a cup, add a piece of cake for just 50p.

Saturday 28 March - Saturday 11 April - Find the Chicks - Can you find all the chicks hidden in the library to be entered into a prize draw? 50p a go

The Power of Community vs Storm Dennis!

Storm Dennis proved a formidable adversary over the weekend of 15th/16th February and once again we were reliant on a willing team of volunteer 4x4 drivers. They covered around 80 miles, braving the wind and floods to get our Carers to essential visits across north east Dartmoor.

Given the warmer, wetter weather, we may be lucky and avoid significant snow this year, but the likelihood of both floods and snow the importance of having a strong volunteer driver base.

If you think you can offer even just an hour or two of support during bad weather, please do get in touch to join our 4x4 Force. Training is provided and expenses covered.

Our Carer recruitment continues as we steadily grow to meet demand and we are always interested to hear from potential new care staff. Please do get in touch to find out more or visit our website at www.nedcare.org Tel: 01647 279211, email info@nedcare.org

WHIDDON DOWN METHODIST CHURCH

Invites you to a Sacred Concert given by

The Unity Gospel Choir

on

Good Friday 10th April

at 7.15pm

All welcome

Ghost squirrel at Clifford bridge

Back in May last year, my wife Jenny and I took our grandchildren for a walk along the Teign at Clifford Bridge to go and see the spotted flycatchers who are summer visitors to the area and who use the nest boxes put up especially for them. Whilst we were on our way, we spotted a very strange looking creature in the woods on the left-hand side which at first sight looked like a domestic white rat. However, as we got closer, we could see that it was chasing around with a grey squirrel, and eventually we realised that it was a squirrel, but not an albino one. It was a very strange mixture with a black head, a white body and a grey tail. Initially I wondered if I'd had too much to drink the night before until other members of the party were able to confirm that I wasn't seeing things. I couldn't get a picture as it was too far away for my phone, and also quite fast moving. However, when I described it later in the pub to Steven Park, after some clever Googling he was able to identify it as a fox squirrel which are apparently relatively well known in the United States, where grey squirrels originated. However, they seem to be regarded there as a separate species, but this cannot be the case unless there have been some very recent imports. The conclusion is that this must be a genetic variation of the grey squirrel, probably as a result of a recessive gene or genes. I'd be interested to hear if anybody else has spotted this squirrel, and I imagine it's quite likely that it is still around.

Of course, the spotted flycatchers were well worth the visit - a bird I had never seen before even though I've been interested in birds since childhood. Much to my surprise they are very small, about the size of a blue tit. I think we'll be back there next spring to see what other surprises await us.

Hugh Clench

There's No Planet B

Britain's bees are in trouble. Insects in general are dying at a rate of 2.5% every year and could be extinct within a century. Right now, they need us almost as much as we need them. The decline in bees' diversity and abundance would have a serious impact on how our natural world functions, including how much food we can produce. Bees pollinate much of the food that makes our diets healthy and tasty – from the apple in our lunchbox, to the tomatoes on our pizza. According to Friends of the Earth, it would cost farmers an extra £1.8 million to pollinate their crops without bees. There is little you can personally do to help tigers or pandas, but **fortunately**, bees are easily pleased and there are several ways in which you can help them to thrive.

TOP TIPS for March:

- Plant flowers with open flowers, rather than pompom heads. If you can see the pollen, it is easier for a bee to collect.
- You could mow your lawn less - leaving your grass to grow to 3-4" (8-10cm) will allow clover, daisies and buttercups to grow (and it will save energy!)
- Dandelion season is nearly here. Dandelions are brilliant pollinators as each plant contains around 100 individual flowers containing nectar and pollen. So, instead of mowing or spraying them, let the dandelions flourish.



Whiddon Down Tree and Shrub Planting Club



A small Charity has been set up by interested people in the Whiddon Down area to promote the planting of Trees, Shrubs, Bulbs and Wildflowers in areas where they will improve the environment and assist wildlife habitat.

It is also hoped this will be helpful in reducing littering and other antisocial behaviour by increasing the public profile of the area. We have not had a good start in this respect as some of the planting already carried out has been vandalised or stolen.

The Parish Council already help with our efforts by paying for the grass cutting along the verges through the village.

Members:

Graham and Jill Hester, Dee Douglas, Mark and Karen Bailey, Titch Scott, Jane Ross
Anyone interested in joining can contact us at wtdspclub@gmail.com



SNOWDROP PLANTING DAY



Stone Lane Gardens, near Chagford, is open to the public every day and is a registered charity.

Every March we hold a special Snowdrop Planting Day, which this year will be on
Sunday the 1st of March, from 10am until 4pm.

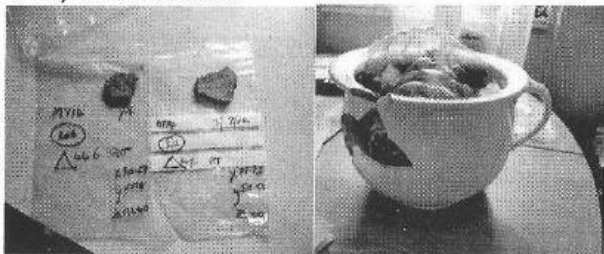
Garden owners, who can spare a few plants and are kindly willing to donate wild Snowdrops from their own garden, will be welcome to drop by and help us increase the display of Snowdrops, sheltering under the trees in the arboretum, for all our garden visitors to enjoy for many years to come. Find us at Stone Farm, Stone Lane, Chagford, TQ13 8JU. Stone Lane Gardens holds a National Collection of Birch and Alder trees and is an RHS Partner Garden. Registered Charity No.1141252. For more information on Stone Lane Gardens go to www.stonelanegardens.com



What do Archaeology clubs do in the winter?

Well, some dig of course, and ACE has done that in the past but to be honest digging mud in sideways hail palls after a while. We tried walks of archaeological interest but kept having to cancel them due to the weather. So, this year we decided to stay indoors and get on with identifying and cataloguing finds.

We started digging at Moistown near Winkleigh in 2013 and since then we have amassed over 3000 finds, mostly pottery but some metal finds, environmental finds, bones, shells and the like but also plastic and other modern materials. When the find is excavated its co-ordinates are recorded and it is given a finds number, and these are recorded on the plastic bag that we keep the find in. One we start the post excavation work the find number is written on the find, where possible. Difficult when it is a bit of baler twine and that is why we keep the finds together with the plastic bags they are in, at all times. All the information also goes onto a spreadsheet, some of this is done on site. In the winter session we fill in the rest of the spreadsheet. Each find is identified, weighed and measured and dated and all this is entered on the spreadsheet. We have been learning as we go along, especially in terms of the pottery, of which we have the biggest number of finds. Eventually, when we have managed to raise some funds, we will have an expert to look at the more interesting pieces but, in the meantime, we are learning to separate the industrial pottery from the medieval and so on. We have our own inhouse expert on bones looking at the environmental finds. We have a few bones but there is no need to get too excited as they are animal bones.



Two finds bags with possibly medieval pottery, all duly numbered.

The oldest piece of pottery we have found, so far, has been identified as Saxo-Norman, so around 1066. We seem to have quite a bit of medieval pottery. Industrial pottery is plentiful and to some, not very interesting. Think of the blue and white ware that you dig up in your gardens, but in some cases, we intend to put pieces together and rebuild the original plate or cup or.....chamber pot !!!!

So, if you don't think excavation is for you, perhaps doing this sort of post excavation work would interest you? If so, do get in touch.

Erica Williamson

www.acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com

suerica47@gmail.com

or our Facebook page.

1	05:00	Family Service	St. David's Day	HTC
5	19:00	Fingle Talk: 2020	Conifers of Canada	Fingle Bridge Inn
5	20:00	Open Mic Night		Drewe Arms
7	18:30	WURLITZA	Two films, ices, bar	HTC (FODC)
8	09:30	Holy Communion		HTC
9	07:30	Gardeners' Club AGM	Peter Follard: Flowers of the Pyrenees	Drewsteignton Village Hall
11	20:00	Fingle Bridge Music Night		Fingle Bridge Inn
12	20:30	Open Mic Night	Poetry & Spoken Word	Drewe Arms
14	See pub	Irish supper	Supporting Defib fund	Drewe Arms
15	11:15	Holy Communion		HTC
16	19:30	Parish Council Meeting		Whiddon Down Village Hall
17		St Patrick's Day	St Patrick's Day	St Patrick's Day
21	09:00-12:00	ODC Transport Group	Coffee Morning	Charter Hall, Okehampton
21	20:00	Pig Racing +		Whiddon Down Village Hall
22	11:15	Mother's Day	Community Breakfast + Morning worship	HTC
24	19:30	FODC Open Community Meeting – all welcome		Drewsteignton Village Hall
28	19:30	Whist Drive		Whiddon Down Village Hall
29	11:15	Holy Communion		HTC
*	11 th April	Easter Monday	Duck Race	Fingle Bridge Inn



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News from the Castle

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all keeping safe in this wet and blustery weather. I must confess that I am counting down the hours to spring! Some sunshine would be much appreciated. The weather has definitely slowed progress at the castle with several days work lost due to winds over 60 mph. Very frustrating for everyone. However, there has still been progress and the Kitchen and Scullery roof sections are starting to come together nicely. (cont.)

Don't forget that you are all warmly invited to a community open weekend on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March, 11am – 4pm.

The castle will be open, fresh from the winter clean and with new displays.

The team will be on hand to share the latest project news and to chat about future plans. It would be the perfect time to find out about ways to get involved too, whether that is volunteering or how to make a difference for nature. I will be there too (please don't let that put you off) and we will have some live 30s style music in the castle from The Hummingbirds.

Please keep fingers and toes crossed for nice spring weather for the open weekend. We always update our website if we have to close due to high winds or heavy snow. If you are a member, please bring your card. Otherwise, please bring a copy of this magazine to get free entry. Everyone is welcome and I hope to see you all there.

Are you swan or a swallow?

At Castle Drogo we are redesigning our volunteering offer to be more flexible and responsive to how people want to get involved - whether you are a swan that commits long term or a swallow that swoops in for a few weeks. So, if its birds of a feather you are looking for, or the freedom to fly away at any time, we want to hear from you.

We're holding a week of volunteer taster days from the 27th April – 3rd May 2020 where we will help you to decide whether you are a swan or a swallow. These are bookable online via our website, just let us know what you would like to try and we'll be in touch to set it up. Get in touch at drogovolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk to find out more

Paula Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

The Drewsteignton

Parish Post

Contact Details:

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

For Editorial Contributions	Shelley Mansfield	shelley.mansfield@me.com
Village Hall Bookings Drewsteignton	Allison Chapman	callum.chapman@btinternet.com Tel: 01647 281197
Parish Council Business Drewsteignton	Alice Turner	clerk.drewsteigntonPC@outlook.com Tel: 01837 83484
Village Hall Bookings Whiddon Down	Alex Nott	whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk 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 March - Thank-you, Ed