

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 201

MARCH 2023

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our latest Parish Council (PC) meeting was held on Monday 20th February (7.30pm) at Whiddon Down Village Hall and was well attended by parishioners. The minutes of the meeting will shortly be able on the Parish Website. www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk
The Public Speaking Time was extended to hear views and concerns regarding the Planning Inspectorate's decision to allow an appeal against the refusal of planning permission, for the development of a farm shop at the Whiddon Down A30 junction. The appeal (APP/Q1153/W/22/3309313) has been allowed, based on the appellants' claim the site is not of exceptional status. WDBC are investigating a legal counter, that would treat the appeal, as a vexatious action against the planning process. Parishioners argued the development was in open countryside and was contrary to the Local Plan. Concerns were also raised that local businesses, recovering from the impact of the pandemic, would be affected. Parishioners noted Highways had raised no objections, despite concerns regarding the poor design of the junction. Cllrs determined the location, at the edge of Dartmoor, is an exceptional site and therefore, development would have a negative impact. Parishioners wishing to comment should do so before the 20 March deadline, via the Appeals Portal acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk and enter the 7-digit case number (33093130).

Parishioners advised that an informal group was seeking to secure the future of the Drewe Arms. The group have agreed to form a Community Benefit Society and will shortly be publishing details of their plans. The group are happy to support the establishment of the pub as an Asset of Community Value and will provide information required by WDBC to initiate the process. Cllrs expressed their appreciation and encouraged the group to keep the PC informed of progress.

Planning matters update. New application 0029/23 change of use of Plant Hire Depot to holiday accommodation at land adjacent to Martin Farm, Whiddon Down Cllrs agreed to arrange a site-visit and request extension of 14/03/23 determination date.

Cllr di Battista provided an update on parishioner's actions to address the continued site clearance and habitat disturbance at Black Aller Quarry, Drewsteignton. MP Mel Stride had responded to requests by stating the response of DNPA was poor. Formal complaints have been lodged with DNPA however, responses to date have been limited to acknowledging receipt. No update was available regarding parishioners' complaints to the RSPB, Devon Birds and the Wildlife Trust. Cllr Ridgers noted the WDBC EH Team will visit the site and report their observations.

Cllrs Reports: The loss of the Stone Lane Gardens brown tourist sign in Whiddon Down was noted. Cllrs raised concerns regarding the increased theft of signs in the countryside. Anyone who can help recover the sign should report (Cont.)

any information the Police. DCC Highways are aware of a vehicle parked at Turnpike Road and are taking actions to restore full access. Noted, Whiddon Down Methodist Chapel has been sold.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 20th March 2023 at 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall, with all welcome to come along, engage and participate in matters affecting the Parish. Please note that any changes to meeting dates or venue will be posted on the website.

Cllr Peter Brennan *Drewsteignton Parish Council*

www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH LANDS CHARITY

WANTED: The above charity is looking for a new Clerk to take minutes at the Annual meeting etc. **For further details please contact Pauline Rowe email: pauline_lily@hotmail.com Tel: 01647 281638**

Drewsteignton Village Hall



The year began with the completion of repairs to the roof, which, combined with the frequent use of the hall, will keep it in better shape. The Burns supper, held at the end of January was a sellout, and everything we could have wished for. Thank you everyone who came to the supper, making it such a great evening, and especially to Shelley and Carol for the sterling work, catering for the 32 of us. Next time, we'll be sure to enlist more help to share and share out the catering tasks. After costs, we raised just over £500, which is a welcome amount toward the cost of the roof repairs. The success of the Burns Supper has inspired us to hold a **Curry Night**, for which there is much enthusiasm. We'll publish more details in the next Parish Post. The **Friday Socials** will continue for the foreseeable future, or until the Pub re-opens. Come and join us from 18:00 to 20:00 each Friday. Catch up with village news and put the world to rights. Share refreshment in the hall and contribute to costs. There will be Coffee Morning and cake sale, the first one to be held on the 25th March from 10:00 till 12:00. We look forward to seeing you at the event, if you can donate a cake, please let us know. And finally, for this edition, it'll be time to boogie, we'll be getting on down at the '**Fools Disco**' in the hall, on Saturday 1st April, from 7pm. Look out for the posters nearer the time and put the date in your diary.

Hamish Dumbreck (DVHC Chair) village.hall@drewsteignton.org

Drewe Arms - See insert**Holy Trinity News**

Village Alive and Kicking! Wow! Since the last PP, what a transformation has taken place. So, just in case anyone hasn't heard, we now have...

A store in the back of the church. Open every day from 8am to at least 8pm and often later. So, we have a remarkably large selection of products, including eggs, soups, beans, pasta, home-bake-bread rolls, crisps, snacks, hand-soap, loo rolls, and lots else. Everything is at cost price so it is remarkably cheap! And we ask you to set up a tab under your name in the Honesty Book and just add the total of the items taken and the date.

Alternatively, you can pay by cash – there is a security box. We have a card machine on order and confidently expect it to be set up within a fortnight.

A mini-market every Tuesday and Friday from 11:30 to 1:30 or thereabout. There is Milk-on-the-Moove with a selection of dairy products AND coffees! Then there are stalls with vegetables, fruit and a small amount of meat. Alongside, you will find bread pasties and sausage rolls. PLEASE come and support us at these events. We can only make it work if lots of us turn up and buy things! While you're at it, you can pick up your groceries and cleaning stuffs at rock-bottom price in the church.

Pop-up-café on Saturdays from 11 to 4pm. Nat provides lovely speciality coffee from Crankhouse Roasters in Exeter and uses local, including some home grown at the Drewsteignton allotments! They have a selection of whole leaf teas, hot chocolate, locally produced cold drinks, homemade cakes, mini quiches, cookies and slices with gluten free and vegan options available.

Pizza Van in the Square on Saturday evenings – Taste of the Wild Pizzas are currently planning to be in the square on Saturdays – picking up where the Pop-up cafe leaves off at 5pm. Delicious pizzas and they can be ordered on line prior to the van arriving. This avoids disappointment if Georgie runs out. It is fantastic to see people drinking coffee as they gather round the fruit and veg at the mini-market and also to be able to run up the church for a packet of rice or a jar of marmite when I suddenly realise, we have run out. But these things have only been possible because of the very hard work of a small but utterly dedicated volunteers. Holy Trinity is super grateful to all who have helped us get food, drink and provisions back on tap for the whole village. No longer do we have to burn up the petrol miles – we can shop at home!

Church services

Family Service – 5th March at 5pm Baked potatoes, paints and biscuits – plus a chance to sing, reflect and enjoy each other's company. And when you go home, the children are fed! What's not to like?

Reflective Service – 6pm on 12th March Peace and quiet whilst we reflect on our week, our world, our dreams, our mistakes and the challenges that face us. Take time out of your busy lives to pause and join us. You won't regret it.

Mothering Sunday – 19th March at 11:15 Lovely quiet service where we sing some favourite hymns, share flowers, make cards and celebrate all those who care for us. Everyone is most welcome – bring your mum, nan or gran along and spoil her with chocolates and cake!

Holy Communion – 26th March at 11:15 Family communion with fellowship, coffee and cake afterwards.

Easter services Palm Sunday Family Service at 5pm on 2nd April, followed by a full suite of services in Holy Week, from 3rd to 9th. **Watch this Space!**

Space in back of the church Available to anyone or any group in the community. Children's parties, group meetings, training sessions, informal get-togethers, or any other event, feel free to contact me about the church space. We rarely charge for the use of it – the space belongs to us all – so **DO USE IT.**



Keep the date!!

Drewsteignton Gardener's Club

Saturday 29th April 10am until sold out!

Drewsteignton Village Hall

Don't be late!! All sorts of plants for sale:

at BARGAIN PRICES

STONE LANE GARDENS


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

Welcome to this month's news from Whiddon down village hall committee. Our first meeting of the year was well attended. We reviewed the achievements and events of 2022 and were very pleased with our efforts. The Hall is clean, fresh and inviting now and above all more energy efficient. We have quite a few regular users which means that the hall is not dependent on fundraising to survive, an achievement in itself. We have decided not to organize an Easter bingo this year, as the Chagford Young Farmers are using the hall for theirs on Monday 27th March. It would be lovely if our regular bingo players come along to support them, watch out for details. We have yet to decide how to celebrate the Kings Coronation in May. We are looking for inspiration from the community. Please let us know your thoughts and we will try to accommodate. It would be nice to celebrate together. We will be fixing another plaque on the back wall to mark the occasion and hopefully planting a bush in the Carpark.

We have yet to schedule any fundraisers for 2023. If anyone has any suggestions please let me know. You can contact me on 07708634426 or by email

jennyturner21@gmail.com

Best wishes, **Jenny Turner**



Acorn Community Support

“Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour.”

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Whatever March brings, and it can bring all sorts, we are heading in the right direction AND we can call it SPRING!!! So, this Spring we aim to keep you warm, happy and entertained! At the time of writing there are snowdrops, crocus, (Cont.) daffodil and little reticulata irises and the birds are making the most of their last weeks of peace before bringing up their broods!

Now that the shopping trips have started up again from Cheriton Bishop we are welcoming new faces so do contact the office if you would like a stress-free shopping experience.

We would like to mention our Volunteers without whom there would be no ACORN!

Never in the history of mankind has a charity had such wonderful volunteers. They give so much more than they set out to, in time but also practically and with empathy too. Acorn is definitely blessed with Volunteers par excellence. WE THANK YOU!

We are so happy to have welcomed many new clients this year which means our minibuses are working hard and often running to capacity. We therefore ask that YOU phone to book any of the activities you may wish to join.

Spaces are allocated on a First Come, First Served basis. 01647 252701

Activities From Cheriton Bishop

- **Lunch Club**, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary **Tuesday 7th March 2023**
- contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please.) (**4th April will be the next one**) (Cont.)

- **Shopping** is at Sainsburys – Fortnightly on a Wednesday. For March this will be 1st, 15th and 29th. The bus will collect you from home and return you safely back with your shopping.
- **Outing** – 21st March 2023 – Bernaville Garden Centre.
- **Cheriton Afternoon Catch-up** – Once a fortnight on a Friday 2-4pm at the Young Farmers Head Office Building in Cheriton Bishop. Join us for Tea, Talk, Coffee and cake and a mingle with friends old and new. 3rd, 17th and 31st March 2023
From January to March
- **Warm Space** – Exeter School have invited Acorn members to participate in a “warm space” at the school. The sessions so far have included singing, craft, French Bingo and Technical Support for phones and other devices. Future sessions to include a talks, a band and much more 2.30 – 4pm on Fridays
Cheriton Bishop – Friday 3rd and 17th March 2023
Teign Valley – Friday 10th and 24th March 2023.

Please phone to book your place on the bus.

Activities From the Teign Valley

- **Shopping** at Sainsburys – Friday 3rd, 17th and 31st March 2023
- **Outings** – 13th March – House of Marbles, 27th March 2023 – Haytor and Ullacombe Farm Shop
- **Lunch Club** – Tuesday 7th March – The Welcome Stranger at Liverton
Tuesday 21st March – The Union at Moretonhamptead
- **Coffee Morning** Tuesday 14th and 28th March 2023 at the Teign Valley Community Hall. Activities such as Bingo, Quizzes and much more with plenty of chat to go with your coffee and cake! Members always LOVE new faces.

Memory Lane Café – the second and last Thursday of the month – 9th and 23rd March 2023. If you know of someone who you feel may benefit from this targeted club, then please call as below.

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

Remember 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. If you think that you could spare an hour or two a week or a month and would love to know more about volunteering then please visit www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk/get-involved or contact Mandy or Fran on 01647 252701.

The Power of AWE

Awe, what a beautiful and mysterious emotion! It's that feeling you get when you look out across the moor on a clear day or watch a stunning sunset in the evening.

According to leading scientist Dacher Keltner, who researches the health and societal impacts of awe, "one simple prescription can have transformative effects". He encourages people to "...look for more daily experiences of awe".

When life is busy and we are stressed, it is really easy to forget how *awesome* nearly everything is, and even amazing things can start to seem mundane or go unnoticed.

Here are some of the incredible benefits that regular awe can induce:

- Improved mood and enjoyment of life, better critical thinking, decreased materialism,
- increased humility, increased generosity, better connection to other people.

I don't know about you, but I'm certainly going to allow more awe into my daily life; I was totally blown away by the potential benefits.

If you're interested to find out more about this topic, I was inspired to write this short article by a podcast I listen to called *Diary of a CEO*; the guest was scientist Dacher Keltner.

With love, awe, and appreciation!

Joe Arnold (Doctor of Chiropractic, MChiro) Dartmoor Chiropractic
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National Trust *News from the Moor*

Hi everyone

Personally, I love this time of year. After the wet, wild and windy (and sometimes freezing) winter, there are signs of life popping up everywhere. The bulbs are peeping out of the soil, some daffodils are super keen and getting ready to flower and it won't be long until there will be lambs in the fields and chicks hatching.

As we reach 1 March, it is the time of year when we reach lambing season, ground nesting bird season and our local deer population will be giving birth. Butterflies have also laid their eggs close to the ground and some bird species such as wren will nest in long grass. Spring is a wonderful time to explore nature with your dog but with new life appearing all around, it's important to take care and try not to disturb the natural world. Keeping your dog on a short lead through signposted areas will help give young birds, animals and plants the start they need. It will also enable other visitors who may not be as comfortable with dogs to enjoy their walk too. Please look out for local signs or posters, and put your dog on a short lead when asked to. It isn't long now until all of the National Trust places on Dartmoor go back to full opening. Castle Drogo opens on Friday 3 March; Lydford Gorge on Friday 10 March; Finch Foundry on Wednesday 22 March. The teams are working hard to get everything freshened up, prepared and ready to welcome people again.

Thank you to those who came along to the volunteering open day at Drogo in 30 January. It was lovely to welcome new people to the team. The next open day is on **Saturday 11 March**. If you would like to have an informal chat with some (Cont.)

of our current volunteers and find out a bit more about the various volunteer roles across Dartmoor, please pop in for a cuppa any time from 11am.

We would like to say thank you to our regular local visitors who often pop up for a stroll on the estate and a cuppa in the café. If you live in the parish of Drewsteignton, please pop in to see our welcome team in the visitor centre to collect your Castle Drogo car parking pass. The passes will be available to collect from 1 March 2023 and all you need to do is pop in to the visitor centre to see the team there with proof of address (such as a utility bill) and your car registration number. We will then issue you with a car park pass which will be valid until the end of 2023. The visitor centre is open from 10am until 5pm every day.

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.

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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 25th. Thank you, Ed



