

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

# Drewsteignton ParishPost

ISSUE NO. 210

DECEMBER 2023

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our latest Parish Council (PC) meeting was held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (7.30pm) at Whiddon Down Village Hall. The minutes of the meeting will shortly be available on the Parish Website. [www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)

Public Speaking time heard reports of dangerous and excessive speeds through Drewsteignton village and a disregard for children and walkers, particularly at the Lamb Park junction. DCC Highways have been unsupportive to parishioners' complaints and suggestions. Recognising the "built up" status of the village, the PC will follow up with Highways and seek the installation of 30mph signage. Separately, it was also noted that signage in Whiddon Down failing to comply with DPC by-law and the "Outdoor Advertisements and Signs: Guidance" could be removed.

Planning matters update-new applications. 0458/23 listed building consent and 0459/23 full planning permission for demolition of single storey extension and proposed two storey extension at Knowle Cottage, Drewsteignton, EX6 6QZ. The PC resolved to support the application. DNPA currently have >12 parishioner applications pending decision, dating from July 2023.

Cllrs reports & New Business. Cllrs reported all Grit boxes are full and in good condition however, a significant amount of rubbish had to be removed from several locations. Thanks to fundraising and volunteer efforts, a defibrillator has been installed in Crockernwell. A second unit will shortly be installed at Fingle Bridge.

A Census 2021 report has been prepared for the PC, detailing the characteristics of people and households in Drewsteignton Parish. The report highlights some of the most notable changes among the local population between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021) and will shortly be available on the Parish Website.

We're fortunate to have so many parishioners willing to give their time and resources to support the parish. We're all grateful for all the small and great acts of volunteerism that have been evidenced this year. Thank you for everything you do - you know who you are.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 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. [www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk) We would like to wish all residents in the parish a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year

**Cllr. Peter Brennan, Chair**

**Post Office Van - Wednesday - Drewsteignton Village Square  
12:30 to 14:00 – Use it or Lose it. 20 transactions /week are needed to ensure its continuation.**



### **WE'VE DONE IT! A PHENOMENAL COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT!**

The total amount raised to save the Drewe Arms when the Crowdfunder Campaign ended at midnight on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November was a BREATHTAKING £552,875!

We're now hoping to complete on the sale on and get our hands on those all-important keys on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Our priority is to get the pub open as quickly as possible and our Landlord Simon Saunders is increasingly spending time with us building what one would best describe as a huge 'to-do' list for an opening in early March.

On the building side, we are actively progressing two important applications for grant funding to help us with some of the more urgent repairs and then longer-term refurbishment work.

#### **More Pop-Up Pubs**

In the more immediate term, we want you to be able to say hello properly to the Drewe and get together as soon as possible to celebrate your part in bringing the pub into community ownership. We are planning to open the pub and/or Longroom up as a 'pop-up' pub on occasions in advance of the proper opening in March.

**The Big Clear Up** The building and outside space has been neglected for well over a year, so we will be organising a Big Clear Up early in December. If you can help in any way, let us know by email us at [info@drewearms.org](mailto:info@drewearms.org).

We look forward to seeing you IN the Drewe very shortly!

With very best wishes

#### **The Management Team**

**Gary, Glyn, Ian, Imogen, Jane, Liz, Peter, Steve, Tim and Toby.**

## **Drewsteignton Playing Field Bonfire Night**

Thank you to everyone who came to our Bonfire Night. We hope you had a good time. We made a profit of £3,316. This is a record.

As always, the guys did a great job with the fireworks display, the bonfire and the torchlight procession. Particular thanks must go to Dave Woolston and his fireworks team, and our main supporters Chris Gosnay from Tri-Lan IT Ltd, Drewsteignton Parish Council and Fingle Bridge Inn. Special thanks must also go to Jimmy Bell for all the time and sheer hard work that has gone into creating the bonfire over many years.

We also had a large number of people (before, during and after the event) who helped us in all sorts of vital roles. There are too many of you to mention individually but we are truly grateful for all your help. We couldn't have managed without you.

## **Holy Trinity News**

### **Christmas and the new year at Holy Trinity**

So the craft fair has just come and gone and that means that Christmas is officially on its way and I can no longer put my head in the sand and pretend otherwise. In so many ways, the craft fair epitomises what we are all about in Holy Trinity. Both provide a community space, full of purpose and endeavour. Both celebrate, value and try to promote, the achievements, skills and art of our local workers, of all ages, genders and backgrounds. In both, food and drink are shared and enjoyed, conviviality abounds and, hopefully, there is a general increase in well-being and goodwill. In addition, the church is always there for those who wish for a quiet space, somewhere to remember, to reflect and to pray in whatever way that happens in each of our lives. The very walls of the building resonate with the thoughts and prayers of all those who have gone before, and each act of collective worship, however seemingly irrelevant or anachronistic adds its pennyworth to the existing aura and atmosphere.

We have a bumper offering of carols this year, plus our usual Christmas services: 5pm 9<sup>th</sup> December Santka Lucia Concert with Rosa and the Swedish singers – no charge but donations gratefully accepted

10 – 12:30 on 16<sup>th</sup> December Community Choir singing carols – everyone welcome to join in.

5pm 17<sup>th</sup> December **Holy Trinity Carol Service** – come and start Christmas in true style at our very own village carol service. Mince pies and mulled wine – what's not to like?

9:30pm 24<sup>th</sup> December Midnight mass – such a wonderful candlelit experience. Not to be missed!

10am 25<sup>th</sup> December Family Christmas service – a short friendly communion with crackers and stocking presents. Be there or be square.

### **Community Christmas Tree**

This year, we plan to adopt a Christmas card system used very successfully in other communities which saves both the stretched finances of families and the planet's ever diminishing paper resources. (cont.)

Harriet is kindly providing an extra-large and splendid Xmas tree in the back of the church beside the shop. People can then hang cards on the tree to wish all their friends and neighbours in the village a Happy Christmas and a great new year. That way, many of us will not have to buy 40 cards, with the matching cost to ourselves and the planet. We can exchange our kind seasonal greetings and extend our well-wishes and have a lovely tree of community cards in the church. The tree will also double up as a memory tree where those of us with family members who have sadly passed away can hang small cards to remember them by. So, the Community Christmas Tree will be in the church from the week after the craft fair and we invite all villagers to use it to send out their seasonal greetings.

In January, we have Family service at 5pm on 7<sup>th</sup> with a chance to watch a short video posing the question "What d'you wanna be?" and to make New Year's resolutions and fly them across the church!

So, it's all go as we head into 2024 which looks to be a most exciting year, with the certainty that our lovely pub will once again be up and running, due to the very hard work of the wonderful committee. At Holy Trinity, we are both excited and warmly supportive, and have already been talking with those involved to devise ways in which pub and church can work together to maximise all the village resources and provide the widest possible set of amenities and opportunities for our whole community. So watch this space as we co-operate to make 2024 the year in which Drewsteignton proves that joined-up thinking and collaboration are so much better for us, our children and our planet than competition and strife. Here is wishing everyone in the village a very Happy Christmas and a new year full of promise.

**Ruth Merttens**



### **Holy Trinity churchyard**

Thank you to Tony and Chris Rowe, Sam Mudge and Nick Dixon for doing voluntary work in the churchyard. Also, David Page who strims and mows every week and Tim Hocking on the ride-on mower.

We get so many lovely comments from Locals and Visitors on how pretty and smart the churchyard looks.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas,

**Jill Locke**



## **THANKYOU, THANKYOU, THANKYOU**



to everyone who came and supported the Drewsteignton Christmas Craft Fayre. Every year I am amazed at the wonderful crafts from the immensely talented people who are on our doorstep and so very grateful for their monetary donations towards church funds. I am also extremely thankful to all those that help with getting it set up and taken down, the sign and table erectors, Hazel and her 'pop up' cafe, the bakers, the washer uppers, the soup makers and to everyone who helps in any way. Between us we were able to raise in excess of £1500 for church funds AND have a lovely, sociable weekend.

THANKYOU so much and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. **Jane Hocking.**

### **Drewsteignton Village Hall - Burns Supper**

Friday Socials will continue, pending the joyful re-opening of the Drewe Arms. Come and join us from 18:00 to 20:00 each Friday. Catch up with village gossip and put the world to rights. Share refreshment in the hall and contribute something toward costs.

**We will be holding a final Burns Supper** in the Village Hall. Save Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> from 18:30, in your diaries. Tickets will be advertised, and go on sale, early in the New Year [village.hall@drewsteignton.org](mailto:village.hall@drewsteignton.org) **Hamish Dumbreck (DVHC Chair)**

### ***STONE LANE GARDENS***

 <p>Stone Lane Gardens Chagford TQ13 8JU RHS Partner Garden</p>	
<p>Open all year round</p>	<p>Woodland and Water Gardens. National Collection of Birch and Alder. <a href="http://www.stonelanegardens.com">www.stonelanegardens.com</a></p>

### **Morecare Chagford**

New volunteer drivers are always needed

Morecare volunteers provide transport to and from medical facilities, collect prescriptions and help with other needs, where possible, for those who are registered at Chagford Health Centre or living in the surrounding area.

Expenses can be reimbursed.

If you can spare a little time to help others, please contact us to find out more on 07914 853 726. Morecare Chagford Association. [www.morecarechagford.co.uk](http://www.morecarechagford.co.uk)

## WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Merry Christmas from Whiddon Down Village Hall.

The Christmas Prize Bingo is on Monday 18th December 2023. Everyone is welcome , although children must be accompanied by an adult. Doors open at 7.15 pm, eyes down at 8 o'clock sharp. Numbers are limited . Our caller for the evening , back by popular demand , is Charles (Tich) Scott assisted by his lovely wife Debbie. Each game consists of three prizes, 1 and 2 lines and a meat dinner for a full house. There is also a prize draw. We have kept the price per book the same as last year. Come along and join us.

Thank-you to everyone who continues to support us by donating, for using the Carpark. Unfortunately, we have had further unpleasant incidents resulting in vehicles being damaged. I remind people that they park at their own risk and that the village hall can be in no way held responsible. It has been suggested that we install CCTV cameras, but as a charity , this is an expense we cannot justify. If anyone witnesses any antisocial behaviour in the Carpark, make one of the committee aware or if these acts are dangerous inform the police in the first instance. Finally on a brighter note , I would like to remind you all that pig racing returns to Whiddon Down in 2024. Watch this space!!! Happy New Year to one and all.

### Best wishes Jenny Turner

To book your team for the quiz call Debbie 07375705862 or email [debsscott@icloud.com](mailto:debsscott@icloud.com) **Any queries please call me, Jenny Turner 07708634426**

**Delivery of the Parish Post to the area north of the old A30 can no longer be confirmed. With apologies, anyone good enough to collect copies from Oinkers for distribution to your neighbours would be hugely welcomed. Failing that, please just collect your own copy from Oinkers.**



### Acorn Community Support

*I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing. And sweet to remember. We are nearer to spring than we were in September. I heard a bird sing in the dark of December." – Oliver Herford*

**And then it was December** and the end of another year! What a great year it has been in Acorn Land. Clients from both ends of our "patch" started off with the famous Dunsford Panto in January and since then have weaved their way through the year visiting every possible local attraction, landmark and beauty spot. They have patted ponies and dogs, eaten ice creams on the beach and the moors, made cakes and cards, eaten a multitude of lunched and and laughed their way around Devon. Fund-raising has been very exciting this year with our early summer Wimbledon Raffle (Centre Court Tickets) which was a great success and ending with our Christmas Carols (see below) which we are so looking forward to. The stars of the year, as always, are our wonderful, patient and kind Volunteers. Once more we salute you, for without you there would be no Acorn! **THANK YOU! From the bottom of our hearts – you are THE BEST!** (Cont.)

***“Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless”.*** We would also like to welcome four new trustees to the board, **Wendy Endacott, Sue MacPherson, Jessie Peake and Jackie Thomas** We are so excited to be hosting our very first **Acorn Community Christmas Carols with The University of Exeter Chapel Choir** | 1 December 2023, 7pm - 9pm at The Great Barn, Higher Ashton, EX6 7QP. Tickets are £12 from the website

[www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk) mulled wine & mince pies included. We look forward to celebrating everything Christmas at Acorn with you and your families at what promises to be a magical evening.

### **Activities From Cheriton Bishop**

**Lunch Club**, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023** - contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (two days in advance please).

**Shopping** is at Sainsburys – Fortnightly on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**. The bus will collect you from home and return you back with your shopping.

**Outing – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Otter Nurseries For those in any Area of Acorn’s domain!**

**Tea @ the Hub** – Fortnightly 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 making new, and catching up with old, friends.

**8th December 2023** No need to book. Just turn up.

### **Activities From the Teign Valley**

**Lunch Club – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – The Union - Moretonhampstead**

**Shopping** at Sainsburys – **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Outing – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Bernaville Garden Centre and lunch at The Stables**

**Coffee Morning - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023** at the Teign Valley Community Hall. Activities such as Bingo, Quizzes and much more with plenty of chatter to go with your coffee and cake! Our members LOVE to see new faces.

**Memory Lane Café – 14<sup>th</sup> December 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 seats allocated on a first come first served basis.**

**ACORN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 - Re-opening at 9am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**We wish you all the best of times in this Holiday Season**

**And a very Happy and Healthy New Year, Best wishes, The A(corn) Team**  
**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?**

**If you think that you know someone who could spare an hour or two a week or a month and would love to know more about volunteering then please ask them to visit [www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk/get-involved](http://www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk/get-involved) or contact Mandy or Fran on 01647 252701.**





Hi everyone

*News from the Moor*

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The Castle will be open from 2<sup>nd</sup> December Fridays and weekends and then everyday between the 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December. If you think you might be interested in joining us this Christmas, contact [Helen.bull@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Helen.bull@nationaltrust.org.uk) who will be able to chat through how it will work. a huge thank you goes out to everyone for their support this past year. All of our visitors are great of course, but we especially like to welcome our neighbours who pop in regularly and chat with the teams. I would like to say a special thank you to our incredible volunteer team who share their love and knowledge of these places every day. We really could not do it without them and it has been wonderful to welcome new people to the team this year.

We are also looking ahead to Spring when we re-open after the winter deep clean. We are planning a few volunteer drop in days at Castle Drogo for those of you who might be thinking about a new years resolution. These days are for you to pop along for a cuppa, have a chat and hear from current volunteers what it is like to be a volunteer for the National Trust on Dartmoor. The open days are 11am – 3pm on Monday 30 January, Saturday 11 March and Sunday 7 May. All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and new year. Best wishes all, Best wishes all, **Paula** Volunteering & Community Manager, 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, do please let me know and a large-format

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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 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Wishing you all a warm, loving and jolly Christmas. May 2024 be good to you. With my thanks and affection, Ed*



