

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUENO. 211

FEBRUARY 2024

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Happy New Year and a huge thank you for all the amazing acts of kindness, fundraising and the volunteering of time, that is essential to keeping the parish alive. Our first Parish Council (PC) meeting of 2024 was held on Monday 15th January (7.30pm) at Whiddon Down Village Hall. The minutes of the meeting will shortly be available on the Parish Website. www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Public Speaking time produced a healthy discussion on how to manage the plethora of unofficial signs appearing in the parish. A re-statement of DCC guidance and the PC by-law will be published next month. The proposal to impose a 30mph speed limit in Drewsteignton village has been endorsed by DNPA, which will allow the PC to follow up with Highways and seek the installation of 30mph signage. The mobile Post Office trial will continue in the New Year however, the number of transactions needs to double. Lucy will be in the village square every Wednesday between 12:30 & 14:00, to help with your personal & business banking, cash withdrawals, cash & cheque deposits and vehicle tax renewals. Please use it or lose it.

Planning matters: no new applications have been received and there has been no application updates from DNPA or WDBC.

County Cllr James McInnes attended the meeting and provided a detailed report on the efforts of DCC to reduce the budget deficit in 2023 and the expectation of a 3.99% council tax increase in 2024. Funding for adult care, child services and highways would be increased however, mobile library and other services would be cut. Borough Cllr Steve Guthrie also attended the meeting and shared WDBC's priorities for 2024 – affordable housing and tackling the climate emergency.

Cllrs agreed not to increase the 2024 Parish Precept and would continue to seek grant funding for major initiatives. The 2024 budget will increase the duties of the Lengthsman to maintain verges and upkeep of the memorial garden. It is hoped the lease for the Drewsteignton toilet block can be transferred to the PC in the coming months. A proposal to install a defibrillator in the Sandy Park Phone Box is being developed. BT are happy to support and leave the phone box but would remove the pay phone. Do we need to retain this pay phone? The PC would welcome your feedback - Clerk.DrewsteigntonPC@outlook.com

Cllr Paul Ridgers had been appointed as an Honorary Alderman of West Devon Borough Council. The honorary title is given to past Members who, in the opinion of the Council, provided long standing and exceptional services to their communities and the Council.

(Cont.)

Paul served as Ward Member for Drewsteignton between 1999-2023 (24 years) as well as serving as the Chairman of the Council (2003-2005) and Chairman of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee (2015-16). Congratulations to Paul and his continued commitment and service to the parish.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 19th February 2024 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
Cllr. Peter Brennan, Chair.

News from Holy Trinity

The Christmas season was the usual wonderful and comforting cocktail of candlelit worship, carols and community. We had a great carol service, attended by so many from the village as well as visitors. Then two Christmas services, an 'early' midnight lighting and whisky for mass doors for the traditional village opened its Christmas with candles for our home-time treat, and a family service in the morning with crackers and good cheer all round.

The great thing this year was that people went from church to pub as the Drewe opened its doors for the traditional village morning get-together.



It was a turning point for us all, a public assertion that, once again, our village has a church, a pub and at least the start of a shop. The store in the back of the church is very well used and is much appreciated by the whole community. From the closure of the Post Office Store a little over a year ago and our first community meeting in the church, we have come a long way. We have shown that not only does the village unequivocally support a shop, but that a dedicated team of hard-working volunteers have made it actually happen – stocking, shopping, storing and re-stocking the shelves, running a market once a week and providing a community venue for parties, quizzes, music and other special occasions.

We are super fortunate on Market-Day-Tuesdays to have Ros and her Milk-on-the-Moove van with great coffee, cakes and milk that is nothing short of divine.

Wurlitzer Again! We have an exciting event soon with another chance to enjoy the amazing Wurlitzer, coming once more to the church on February 24th, This is an unforgettable experience – silent film and music at its best, the two so superbly entwined that they more than double the effect of either on their own. Don't miss it – put the date in your diary now!

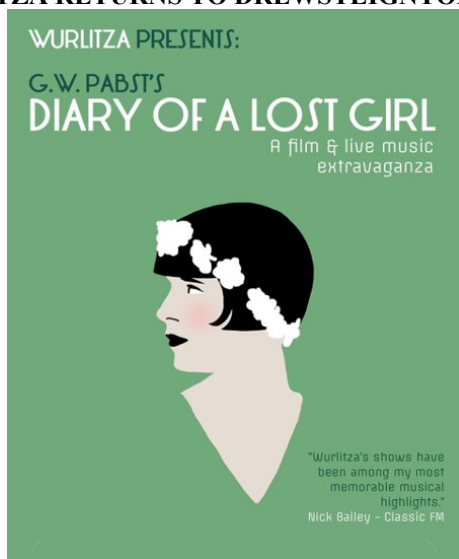
So, what else lies ahead? 2024 holds out many possibilities. One option is a store in the back of the church to supply basics and essentials at rock bottom prices, plus a shop in the pub for fresh goods, perishables and a few luxury items, home-made foods and treats. Another is that the original Post Office Store is bought by someone who wants to run it as a village shop plus. And there will undoubtedly be other options I haven't mentioned here or even thought of. But what is certain is, the committees responsible for both church (PCC and FODCA) and Pub (Drewsteignton Community Society Ltd) are utterly committed to creating opportunities and seizing all available options in order to build the essential triangle of pub – church – shop which will allow our community to thrive and prosper. So watch this space as we work together, in harmony, to bring about what will undoubtedly be some very exciting developments. I don't know exactly what 2024 will bring, but I do know that I can't wait to find out!

Ruth Merttens, ruth@merttens.co.uk

7.30pm SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2024

(Doors open from 6.30pm)

WURLITZA RETURNS TO DREWSTEIGNTON CHURCH



FODCA are delighted that we've been able to secure a date for another visit to Drewsteignton from Wurlitza. Tickets for their last performance in the village sold out in less than a week so make sure you snap up your ticket today (Cont.)

Tickets available from www.eventbrite.co.uk – Wurlitza Adults £13/Child £8
 For those who haven't yet been to one of their performances, Wurlitza are not to be missed. They are a critically acclaimed six-piece band who have been adding live soundtracks to silent films for nearly twenty years. Aiming to bridge the gap between the 1920s and modern day, Wurlitza uses an eclectic selection of music for their soundtracks, drawing from jazz, new-wave, classical, folk and pop. With five-part harmonies and a range of instruments,

The silent film Wurlitza are accompanying this year, *Diary of a Lost Girl*, is fast moving and at times shocking. It traces the story of Thymian, played by the mesmerising screen idol Louise Brooks, as her life yoyos between episodes of lightness and innocence, darkness and hope. Made in Germany in 1929 at a time of great artistic freedom, this gripping film defies convention and confounds expectation, as joy and compassion are found in the most unlikely places. What Wurlitza create bring is truly unique and magical – and something you'll be telling your friends about for months to come.

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

New Year greetings from Whiddon Down Village Hall. I hope everyone had a good Christmas. The Christmas bingo was extremely well supported and we made over £700 for hall funds. Many thanks to everyone who made it possible.

We have received a very generous donation of a CCTV set up from a resident of Whiddon Down. If it is suitable and can be easily installed, we will be able to identify those people responsible for any further incidents in the Carpark. Many thanks for such a kind, community spirited gesture.

We are very grateful for the continued donations left for Car parking. One user has left a substantial donation, albeit for several times, for which I would like to say how much we appreciate your support. I respect your anonymity, but would really like to thank you personally. Please feel free to contact me.

Finally, Pig Racing returns to Whiddon Down on Saturday 23rd March. Tickets will be available from mid February. It will be first come, first served, as we have limited space. Please watch out for details advertised locally or on our facebook page. We will endeavour to keep costs affordable and family friendly. Any queries please contact me, Jenny Turner jennyturner21@gmail.com or call 07708634426.

Here's to a Happy and prosperous 2024 for us all. **Best wishes, Jenny Turner**

STONE LANE GARDENS – OPEN ALL SEASONS



Stone Lane Gardens
 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

Exciting Opportunities - Trustee Roles for 2024

New Year, and beautiful Stone Lane Gardens is looking for five new trustees to join their friendly and committed local team. As a charitable company there is a need for strategic oversight by trustees to maintain this precious collection of birch and alder trees set in a naturalistic garden and to host artistic exhibitions and events for the enjoyment of visitors and volunteers.

At present we are a group of six trustees and we're looking for five more who can bring organisation skills, imagination and enthusiasm to help the charity to thrive. New trustees will be invited to focus initially on the following areas.

- New Income Streams and Venue Hire
- Marketing and social media
- Property management
- Fund raising
- Exhibitions and events

The 5-acre Stone Lane Gardens is an extra-ordinary place and a very important local resource. It is an exciting environment to be involved with, enabling visitors and volunteers alike to spend time in contact with nature and the arts.

Please email admin@stonelanegardens.com and one of our trustees we be delighted to introduce you to the Stone Lane Gardens and to chat to you about the role of a trustee.



Acorn Community Support Business as Usual At Acorn

“Go to the winter woods: listen there, look, watch, and ‘the dead months’ will give you a subtler secret than any you have yet found in the forest.”

— William Sharp (writing as Fiona Macleod), *Where the Forest Murmurs*

Already its February 2024! January threw some weather at us!! But at Acorn we don't care because we can still get out unless it's dangerous, of course! Safety first! We managed the Panto – a double whammy of both ends of the patch going on the same day. We had lunches (like we needed them after Christmas – but got to keep our energy up) and Coffee Mornings/Afternoons. It may be winter outside but in our heart its Spring!

(Cont.)

Our line-up for February:!

Activities From Cheriton Bishop

Lunch Club, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary **Tuesday 6th**

February 2024- contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please). (**5th March 2024 will be the next one**)

Shopping is at Sainsburys – Fortnightly on **Wednesday 14th and 28th**

February 2024. The bus will collect you from home and return you safely back with your shopping.

Outing – Powderham and Dawlish – 13th February 2024

Warm Spaces at Exeter School 2.30-4pm – Afternoon tea and entertainment **Friday 9th and 23rd February 2024**

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, Cake and a mingle making new, and catching up with old, friends. **2nd and 16th**

February 2024 No need to book just turn up.

Memory Lane Café – 8th and 29th February 2024. If you know of someone who you feel may benefit from this targeted club, then please call as below.

Activities From the Teign Valley

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO SAINSBURY'S SHOPPING DAY. WILL NOW BE FORTNIGHTLY ON A MONDAY

Lunch Club – Tuesday 6th February 2024 – The Twisted Oak - Ide

Shopping at Sainsburys – **MONDAY 12th and 26th February 2024**

Outing – 19th February 2024 – Destination to be confirmed.

Coffee Morning - Tuesday 13th and 27th January 2024 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.

Warm Spaces at Exeter School 2.30-4pm – Afternoon tea and entertainment **Friday 2nd February** (only one this month due to Half-term at the school)

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 are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Best wishes

The A(corn) Team

I don't know about you, but for me this feels, and has for a long time, really quite daunting! How am I supposed to figure out what it is that I do that's completely unique?! With this advice in mind, I have spent a lot of time and energy, particularly in my 20s, being what I like to call a 'meaning making machine', i.e. trying to figure out why it is I'm here, and what my purpose is in life. These are huge questions! I can see how you could so easily spend so much time trying to figure out what life is and then forgetting to live it!

On a bright crisp January morning, it suddenly dawned on me what my purpose was. And it was so simple, yet for me so profound. I had discovered my unique gift! This is a gift that no one else ever had, no one else has, and no one else ever will. A purpose that is completely one-of-a-kind. Something exclusive to me...and that is... *being me!* I have spent so much of my life trying to figure out what it is that I *do* which contributes to the world and makes a difference. Yet now I'm sure it's less about doing, and more about *being*. Not so much what you do, but who you are. So, what's your unique gift? *Being you!*

To each be ourselves authentically and in our wholeness, I'm sure we need to surround ourselves with the people, the experiences and the environments that polish our uniqueness and allow us to fully shine with aliveness and vitality. We can all make a difference, whether big or small, in our very own special and exceptional way just by being the truest versions of ourselves. So, enjoy sharing the gifts that only you can share!

With love and appreciation!

Joe Arnold (Doctor of Chiropractic, MChiro)

Dartmoor Chiropractic

Strawberry Hill, Dunsford

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



News from the Castle

Hi everyone

I hope that you are all well and have enjoyed the respite after the rain and high winds of December. As we begin a new year, I'd like to take this opportunity to share a highlight from the end of 2023.

On Saturday 25 November we hosted our annual St Clement's Day event at Finch Foundry. St Clement's Day sees Blacksmiths from all around the area, and some from further afield, come along to compete, meet and create in the historical environment of Finch Foundry. St Clement's Day was traditionally a feast day set between Halloween and Christmas. As Clement was the patron saint of metalworkers and blacksmiths, the day was an opportunity for them to enjoy a day of feasting and traditions such as firing of the anvil, dressing up and parading as 'Old Clem' and asking for donations for an evening of celebration.

We start the St Clement's celebrations with the firing of the anvil and then begin the competitions - two hours of forging to create a saleable item and (Cont.)

.....**the snail race** where the fastest snail maker wins. At the 2023 celebration, after a day of creative competing, Adam Greenwell was awarded with the fastest snail prize, Greg Clarke's snail was deemed the best looking and Steve Wilson from the Cornish blacksmith collective was awarded with item of the day. We would like to thank Mike Jecks for firing the anvil, Bill Murray for the judging, all the brilliant blacksmiths, volunteers and helpers for making such a great event and all of our wonderful visitors for supporting it once again.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are busy getting ready to re-open various sites ready for the new season. Castle Drogo is opening earlier this year with the visitor centre, garden and castle fully open from Monday 5 February. The Ranger teams across the whole of the Moor are busy doing all of the winter tasks. This includes the management of ash trees which have Ash Dieback. Some of these trees are in very tricky locations, including some by the road to Castle Drogo so thank you to all our neighbours for their support and patience during the road closure so we can undertake this work safely.

Easter is early this year at the end of March so here's hoping for lovely weather for the start of Spring. Best wishes everyone, **Paula** Community Involvement Manager, Castle Drogo and Dartmoor 01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

The Drewsteignton Parish Post Contact Details:

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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	Lou Butler	clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk Tel: 07764 683412
Village Hall Bookings Whiddon Down	Alison Chapman	callum.chapman@btinternet.com Tel. 01647 281197
Village Space @HTC Drewsteignton	Ruth Merttens	ruth_merttens@me.com Tel: 01647 281649

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