

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE No. 213

APRIL 2024

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our latest Parish Council (PC) meeting held on Monday 18th March (7.30pm) at Drewsteignton Village Hall, was well attended. The minutes of the meeting will shortly be available on the Parish Website. www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Planning matters: application 24/0010 works to trees in conservation area (fell a cypress tree), Finglemoor, Crockernwell, EX6 6NE was supported. Application 0056/24, full planning permission for change of use to bunk/camping barn & shepherd's hut, located to the east of Ford House, Drewsteignton, EX6 6RD. Report from site visit discussed. Cllrs determined a negative view of this application for development in open countryside.

Highway matters: Notice of road closures Knowle Lane, Drewsteignton 15th April 2024 & A3124 Whiddon Down 26th April 2024. Highways will be conducting a speed survey to determine the need for 30mph signs at the entrances to Drewsteignton village.

The planned defibrillator at Sandy Park can no longer be installed in the phone box, as OFCOM have determined that mobile coverage is insufficient in the area and the land line should be maintained for emergency calls. The Sandy Park Inn have stepped into the breach and offered to locate the heated AED box on the pub wall. The Chagford Show Committee have approved a DPC grant application and agreed to match fund the cost of the defib unit – thank you.

The Drewsteignton Community [Benefit] Society (DCBS) presented their revised plans to develop a vehicle access from the village car park to the rear of the pub, to improve access to the rear pub car park. Additionally, the Board have options to develop 11-25 new car parking spaces on the grassed upper level of the village car park. The entire proposal would be included in a larger grant application to the Gov.UK Community Ownership Fund. A structured and healthy discussion concluded:

The PC understands the business need to develop a vehicle access from the village car park to the rear of the pub and subsequently develop the rear pub car park.

The PC cautioned that additional development of the village car park should be considered against the loss of a popular and loved green space.

The PC recommended that ahead of additional development of the village car park, consideration should be given to the use of alternative sites and the development of a transport plan to support larger events in the Long Room.

The PC cautioned that other stakeholders' views should be respected.

The PC is keen that future maintenance costs do not impact the parish precept.

Next steps and timescale are with the DCBS.

Next Parish Council meeting **Monday 15th April 2024 7.30pm, at Whiddon Down Village Hall**. 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.**

A massive thank you to everyone who came to our opening party last week and packed the place out! You really made it a day - and night - to remember.

The party marks the end of remarkable period in the long history of the Drewe - when the community raised over £550k to buy it and turn it into a community pub.

Now begins a new chapter, when we set about turning the Drewe into the brilliant pub that it deserves to be. We can all look forward to great beer, great pub food, a warm welcome and a pub that functions as real hub for the community. Visit our Facebook page for some great films of the event.



The Drewe Arms

Monday: Closed

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: Midday - 11:00pm

Sunday: Midday – 6:00pm

Note our new Opening Times

Tuesday: Open 4:00 - 11:00pm



The top 100 crowdfunding projects

The results are in! Introducing the top 100 crowdfunding projects from the last 12 months, as nominated by the Crowdfunder staff. Together, these projects have raised an astounding **£18,001,681**, supported by **405,876** individuals.



24.
Building a pub for the community

Raised: £547,210
Supporters: 508

When a local village community want to buy, renovate and run a thriving community pub and social hub, there's really no stopping them.

The Drewsteigton community took to creating a [community share project](#) that welcomed locals and visitors alike to invest into the running of their dream. With the climate of pubs and restaurants closing down across the country, this is a heartwarming story of how pubs can be repurposed to meet the needs of a community.

[View project here →](#)

The Drewe Arms has raised £550,566 from 2 projects with 548 supporters.

Drewsteigton Allotment
All plots now taken.
Thank you for your interest.



Don't Miss Out!!!



Drewsteigton Garden Club
The very popular
SPRING PLANT SALE
Saturday 27th April
10am until sold out!
Drewsteigton Village Hall
Come early!!
All sorts of plants for sale:
AT BARGAIN PRICES !!



On behalf of the Playing Field Committee and the local community

Alison Chapman has led the Playing Field Committee admirably in her role as Chairperson for the last 12 years. Her enthusiasm and generosity have greatly supported our community on so many levels; from our wonderful Summer Family fun days, to opening her own garden for fundraising cream teas and the organisation of our fantastic and very popular bonfire night, Alison has been a steady leader. Her attention to detail and thoughtful consideration of all aspects of management of the playing field has been great and she will be very much missed. We all wish to say a very big 'Thankyou' to her and her able assistant, Callum!

Georgia Munday - Secretary

If you are interested in joining our team as a committee member or just an occasional volunteer, please contact Georgia on 01647 281675 or Alison (her details are on the back page).

Holy Trinity Church

Eggsellent News!!

Williams Farm Fresh Free Range eggs are back and can be found in the Community store at the back of the church. (Initially it was thought that they were going to be loose in trays but are in fact in boxes which can be recycled in your blue recycling box)

A huge THANKYOU to all who have ensured a supply of eggs throughout the interim period and who continue to keep us going with staple ingredients...and chocolate!!! **Best wishes – Jane Hocking**

Easter's coming up and we all hope that better weather is on the way! Meantime, this great festival of the church is celebrated with a number of services. Everyone from the village, the surrounding community and all visitors are most welcome to join us at any time.

- Maundy Thursday at 7pm we have a communion service organised by the House Groups, with a bring-and-share meal and a short vigil in which we remember the last supper.
- Good Friday we have Stations of the Cross at 11am with Harriet leading the prayers and reflections.
- Easter Saturday at 11:30pm we have our Easter Vigil with a bonfire to bring in the new day.
- Easter Sunday at 11:15am there is the Easter Family Communion service complete with Easter eggs hidden around the churchyard.

Then we resume our usual monthly round of Sunday worship:

- Family Service on 7th April at 5pm with high tea for everyone and general productive chaos.
- Family Communion at 11:15 on 14th April – all welcome
- On 21st April at 7pm we have a short evening reflective space, with music and poetry, where we think of our broken world and pray for peace.
- Morning worship on 28th April – a quiet and thoughtful service provided by one of our lay readers.

The space in the back of the church continues to be a shared asset for the community and we warmly welcome any comers. It is free for all to use and, thanks to Andy and Alexis, we now have a brilliant coffee machine at the back near the shop, where anyone can make a cup of real coffee and sit, relax and use the free WIFI. We generally have milk in the fridge, tea as well as decaf coffee are also on hand. We have toys available for children and we love to see them playing in the aisles and using the pews with doors as pretend houses! So, do remember that the church belongs to the whole village and is heated and welcoming and might be a refuge for anyone in a whole variety of circumstances – from needing some peace and a quiet cuppa to wanting somewhere out of the rain for the children to play! For larger or more formal bookings, do email me: ruth@mertens.co.uk

PLEASE COME TO FODC's COMMUNITY MEETING AND AGM

IN DREWSTEIGNTON CHURCH AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL

FODC (Friends of Drewsteignton Church) is a non-religious committee of local people who are united in our appreciation of this village's beautiful church building and our wish to ensure that it remains open all year round (unlike so many rural churches which are facing closure) and for use by the whole community. Over the last year, the church has been a venue for a wide range of events including children's parties, a village quiz, a local business' Christmas 'do' as well as the recent sell-out silent film night by Wurlitza.

We need your help, energy and ideas to make the church building even more attractive as a venue for local people and groups. The ownership of the Drewe Arms by the community is a gamechanger as it opens up exciting opportunities for the pub and FODC to work together in all sorts of ways to support the community and maximise our assets. Conversations are already underway about how we can work collaboratively to benefit both pub and church. If you want to hear more about these ideas and how you can help, please come to our **Community Meeting on Wednesday 24th April**. Refreshments will be provided. Our committee is very informal and we meet about once every 3 months for an evening meeting.

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

As you read this the dust will have settled and all the pigs are safely in their sty looking forward to Easter. A great time was had by all and hopefully a profit made for hall funds. Thank-you to everyone who came and cheered along and for all the local businesses who sponsored the races.

During the next few months necessary maintenance work inside and outside the hall will be ongoing. This is to satisfy insurance and health and safety regulations and our own peace of mind. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum but will apologize in advance if it does happen.

As an elected committee, we have a duty of care to consciously manage and maintain the Village hall which belongs to the community to the best of our ability . I have been Chairman for 6 years, a post that was forced upon me due to surprise resignations. Since then there have been a few new faces, but basically the committee has remained the same. As a charity, the Hall committee are Trustees and can be held personally responsible if things go wrong . So , it is essential that everyone is aware of that fact when important decisions are made. I have always tried my best and can say that I am proud of our achievements, but to move forward we need some new ideas and new commitment from local people. Our AGM is in June and we will be in need of a person or people to fill the roles of Treasurer, Booking secretary and possibly Chairman. The future of the hall is in the hands of the community. Thank-you again to the local people who regularly support our events. Enjoy the springtime and, hopefully, more sunshine.

Best wishes, Jenny Turner

STONE LANE GARDENS

Job Opportunity:

www.stonelanegardens.com) is looking for someone local who would like a summer job starting at Easter and continuing until mid-September, five days a week, including weekends.



"April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year."

– Vita Sackville-West

Well – March was a bit wet, wasn't it? But it didn't stop Acorn – didn't even slow us down. We went on outings, lunches, drank coffees and ate cake (the lifeblood of Acorn is CAKE!) For April maybe we can be more ambitious and adventurous but there will always be CAKE!

Activities From Cheriton Bishop

Lunch Club, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary **Tuesday 2nd April 2024**- contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please). (**7th May 2024 will be the next one**)

Shopping is at Sainsburys – Fortnightly on **Wednesday 10th and 24th April 2024**. The bus will collect you from home and return you safely back with your shopping.

Outing – Newton Abbot with a trip to Plants Galore and Bovey Tracey – 16th April 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. **12th + 26th April 2024** No need to book just turn up.

Memory Lane Café – **11th and 25th April 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 2nd April 2024** – The Union - Moretonhampstead

Shopping at Sainsburys – **Monday 8th and 22nd April 2024**

Outing – **18th March 2024** – Shaldon Beach and The Ness pub for lunch.

Coffee Morning - **Tuesday 12th and 26th March 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 always LOVE to see new faces.

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 DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER or 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 or contact Mandy or Fran on 01647 252701.

This is to assist in our visitor tearoom five days a week, including weekends. The position will be paid at National Living Wage hourly rate. If you are interested in knowing more about This opportunity, please contact pressoffice@stonelanegardens.com



News from the Castle

Hi everyone! I hope that you are all well. The brief glimpse of Spring seems to have vanished. As I write this, it has been raining for 5 hours. Thank goodness for daffodils bringing some brightness and joy.

Speaking of the weirdness of the weather, we've had to take proactive action against the effects of climate change at Lydford Gorge. Extended periods of drought followed by heavy rain have taken a toll on the thin soils and steep slopes of the gorge. It has required increasing costly interventions, in both time and money, to open safely to visitors each year. The path along the river, between Whitelady Waterfall and Pixie Glen, has suffered several significant landslips in recent years and we've made the tough decision to close this part of the route.

A new operating model will start from Saturday 16 March with two feature trails, the Devil's Cauldron trail and the Waterfall trail, available for visitors. The higher path through the woodland, that links the Devil's Cauldron entrance and Waterfall entrance (renamed the Lyd link), and the path to Tucker's Pool will open as two-way routes during quieter times only as these paths are so narrow.

Visitors will still be able to enjoy the temperate rainforest as the trails to the Devils Cauldron and Whitelady waterfall both have some lovely temperate rainforest habitat. The Devil's Cauldron trail is better to see lower plants like mosses, liverworts and ferns that love the damp and shady environment there. The Waterfall trail is better to see trees and plants, especially wildflowers in spring, that thrive in the humidity created by the waterfall.

Finch Foundry re-opens for the new season on Wednesday 20 March and the team there are eager to share the sights and sounds of the forge with visitors on the guided tours. Castle Drogo is gearing up for Easter with the usual trails around the grounds and lost to see and do in the castle itself – including trying on a top hat similar to the one Mr Drewe wore! Finally, our Ranger team in the Teign Valley have a couple of new volunteer opportunities including Volunteer Ranger, Workshop Volunteer and a Trail Inspector role. If you are interested, or know of anyone that might be, the team have a drop-in event planned on Tuesday 30 April for a 'Meet the Team and Task' day. The Ranger team will be in Rectory Woods from 10am until 2pm completing some footpath maintenance and woodland aftercare. You can find Rectory Woods by using What Three Words: reduction.questions.ambitions. Please use the car Park at Fingle Bridge and wear stout footwear, waterproofs and gloves. Ranger Lucy will be at Fingle Bridge Inn from 2pm if you'd rather drop in for a chat there. If you can't make that date but would like to know more about volunteering, please drop me an email: paulaclarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Bird Notes Swifts are a species under threat - a population decline of 60% over the past 20 years. The main factor is the loss of traditional nest sites under the eaves of older buildings due to demolition, refurbishment, repairs and modern building methods (cont.)

The good news is that swifts respond well to the provision of artificial nests.

I installed my first swift nest box on our row at Churchgate twenty-four years ago and since then, the Drewsteignton Swift Project has grown with the help of other enthusiastic homeowners in the village. There are now around 46 nest boxes installed on ten different properties and buildings in the village. They are not all in use, but the number of breeding pairs is steadily growing, and to date, Malcolm and his team have ringed 295 swift nestlings in the boxes since 2008.

I don't normally write about swifts this early in the year but in mid-March, the number of nest sites available for swifts in Drewsteignton was given an almighty boost with 48 installed in Holy Trinity church. In August last year, I was contacted by Jerry Horn about a Swift Nestbox Project, focusing on installing colony boxes (multiple nests) in the louvered windows of church bell towers in Devon. Jerry is an experienced joiner from Dawlish with a passion for practical conservation, and swifts. He has already installed colony boxes on 14 churches, mainly in the Teign valley and south Devon, with ten more in the pipeline, including Exeter cathedral. His is funded by 'Devon Birds' and the Devon Environment Foundation, after previously undertaking a viability survey of the bell chamber and measured the windows, then issued a proposal and method statement to the Church. Following approval by the PCC (Parochial Church Council), consent was then sought from the Diocese and the Archdeacon. Jerry arrived with Alistair Whybrow (Kingsteignton Swift Project) and four prefabricated colony boxes with 12 nests in each. The tricky bit was getting the boxes up the spiral staircase, but they were all fitted within a couple of hours. There was time for me to give them a quick guided tour of the village, show them the variety of properties with nest boxes and tell the story of our swifts. If anyone would like to read about the Drewsteignton swifts, there is a copy of an article in the church, published in 'Devon Birds' magazine last august.

I have been enjoying the sight and sounds of the many hundreds, possibly thousands of starlings that have been seen in and around the village from the first week in March. They have been seen widely in the parish and mentioned by many people I have spoken to. I rarely see more than about 12 each winter in the village, mainly perching on the church tower, so it was great to have this overwintering flock passing through and hanging out for about ten days.

Spring is now with us, and the first migrant birds are arriving. I first heard a chiffchaff on 18 March and their song will be with us through the summer months,

Nick Dixon

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