

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

Drewsteignton Parish Post

ISSUE NO. 204

JUNE 2023

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Updated DPC Cllrs details. Note two vacancies are currently available.

Councillor	Ward	Email Address
Cllr Andrew Di Battista	Drewsteignton	Cllr.diBattista.drewsteignton@outlook.com
Cllr Julie Macey	Drewsteignton	Cllr.Macey.drewsteignton@outlook.com
Cllr John Redman	Drewsteignton	Cllr.redman.drewsteignton@outlook.com
Cllr Ian Rowe	Whiddon Down	Cllr.Rowe.drewsteignton@outlook.com
Cllr Anna Imrie	Whiddon Down	Cllr.Imrie.drewsteignton@outlook.com
Vacancy	Whiddon Down	
Cllr Paul Ridgers	Venton	Cllr.Ridgers.drewsteignton@outlook.com
Cllr Peter Brennan	Crockernwell	Cllr.Brennan.Drewsteignton@outlook.com
Vacancy	Crockernwell	

The sun is back ☀ and during May we have had a series of Parish Council (PC), Extraordinary and Annual Parish meetings. The draft minutes will shortly be available on the Parish Website. **www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk**

The PC acknowledged and thanked Paul Ridgers for all his hard work and commitment to the parish, in his previous role of WDBC Cllr. The PC is fortunate to be able to retain his expertise and continued representation of the Venton Ward. Newly elected WDBC Cllr Steve Guthrie also thanked Paul and committed to represent Drewsteignton with the same energy and passion for local issues. Steve's WDBC email address is now active cllr.steve.guthrie@westdevon.gov.uk

Planning matters update - new applications. WDBC: 0734/23/FUL conversion of existing barn and WDBC: 0735/23/LBC Listed Building Consent for conversion of existing barn into 2 holiday let units at Martin Farm, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QL. Cllrs have conducted a site visit and generated a detailed visit report. Cllrs agreed to support the application. DNPA: Listed Building Consent 0175/23 Replacement cable operating the portcullis mechanism and installation of a handrail to basement staircase at National Trust Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton, EX 6 6PB. Cllrs agreed to support the application. (Cont.)

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All Year End Financial documents were reviewed and approved. The Internal Auditors report noted no issues to address, Chair completed and approved the Annual

Governance Statement 2022-23 and Annual Accounting Statement. The finances of the Parish Council are judged to be well managed and meet the current needs of the Parish. Parish Council has agreed to receive a Deed of Surrender from the surviving trustee of Drewsteignton Playing Fields. The 99-year lease has 62 years left on the term however, the Trustee wishes to return the responsibility for the playing fields to the PC. Commencement of the legal process has been agreed. Cllrs noted the Playing Fields Association is unlikely to take on a new lease and that future maintenance and groundscare costs will need to be raised from the Parish Precept. Cllrs also approved legal costs to draw up a lease with the National Trust (NT) for the Drewsteignton toilet block. Cllrs noted that significant making good costs would need to be provided, if the NT does not undertake repairs.

We have been fortunate to fill the position of Parish Clerk and effective 5th June 2023, Louise Butler will begin her PC induction. During the interview process, we were impressed with her related experience, knowledge of local issues, HR skills and financial background. Lou will qualify as an accountant later this year, which alongside her knowledge of licensing laws, preparation of business accounts and farming background, have provided her with rich practical experiences that will benefit DPC. Formal appointment will be retrospectively approved at our June PC meeting. PC contact details will be updated in due course.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 19th June 2023 7.30pm, at Drewsteignton 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 Village Hall

Friday Night Socials continue on Friday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00

Come along, catch up on the news and share a glass or two.

We have had a lot of positive comments about the newly upholstered chairs in the Hall. We would like to do more for which we need additional fabric, so, if you have any spare fabric that would be suitable, can you let me know please? My contact details are on the back page. **Alison Chapman**

Drewsteignton Playing Field

1) We are having a maintenance morning at the Field from 10am on Saturday 24th June. If you can't help then but can take on tasks for another day, that would be great. Please let me know.

2) **Afternoon tea @ Ford House**

Thank you to the people who came to the Afternoon Tea on 20th May and to everyone who donated money and/or food. We made £398.

3) Thank you also to the people who raised £124 for us at the Village Games event at the Field. **Alison Chapman**



Saturday 6th May Village Games raised £124 for the Playing Fields



Thank you all for the fun and the delight of seeing the children playing Ed



Gardeners' Club Plant Sale 29th April



A huge thank you for all your support, we sold most plants in 45 minutes! and raised just over £650.00

This will go to speakers who are getting more and more expensive. The very, very few remaining plants we donated to two local Charity Plant sales & we continue to give more plants to these two charities over the summer **Bunny Johnstone**

Holy Trinity News

Shop and Markets The shop and market now boast a card reader, which enables people to pay using the now ubiquitous 'tap' payments on their phones or with an actual card. So you are most welcome to add up your bill and pay the tab you have run up in the honesty book using the card machine. Just cross out all the listed amounts and write PAID across it. I will then not worry about billing you. It is also the case that we are very happy that people continue to run up a tab (Ian and I do this) and then pay it off when it reaches a certain amount. That works very well for many of us who don't want to have to use a card every time we run up for loo rolls! I cannot stress enough that it is a Community Store – it is yours and so make it work for you. As long as you pay, we really don't mind how! Whatever suits.

Tuesday markets, with *Milk-on-the-Moove* are going really well: they provide an occasion when people can meet, chat, catch up on the latest village news AND have a coffee and bun from Ros. Since the weather is now warm, we hope to be outside when possible. We all want our market to survive so please DO USE IT. If you can't be there, we will get your milk for you if you leave bottles labelled with your name on a table in the church before Tuesday morning. We will trust you to pay in the honesty book or with your card when you collect the full bottles later that day.

Air-Source heating and Solar Panels We have now reached the point where we are preparing to draw up the detailed plans to submit to the DNP and to the diocese, which stands in for English heritage. We have had advice from an extremely helpful architect who has suggested the perfect position for the Air-Source heat pump and also for the interior buffer cylinder and circuit boards.

We have decided to locate the pump to the east wall right in the far eastern corner of the church, behind the bushes and near where the current (ugly) oil cylinder now is. This is barely visible to anyone and as unobtrusive in all ways as it can possibly be. The large and not very beautiful buffer cylinder will go inside the vestry and therefore will not disfigure the actual church at all. We also now plan to relocate the solar panels on the three south facing roofs of the church, but lying landscape rather than portrait so as to allow for the crenulations and also reduce to a minimum visibility.

We would like to apply for permission to have a tulip-style wind-generator on the top of the church tower, but we won't be doing this instantly. We would be very interested to know peoples' views about this, so if you feel strongly – or mildly! – either way, for or against such an idea, then please do let us know. All views are welcome. My email address is below.

Church Cottage Since the cottage has not yet sold, in January we provided a licence to inhabit to a lovely gentleman and his daughter Kitty. It is super to have the cottage inhabited and I understand that Kitty was a complete star at the Coronation Playing Fields event. Welcome to Drewsteignton.

We would like people to note that we are very sad to have to sell the cottage, but in the absence of permission to sell the village rooms, we don't have a choice. However, it will be so exciting to have a sustainably lit and heated church and one that is WARM in winter!

As we are always concerned to stress – it is **YOUR Community Space so do use it!** Ruth Merttens, ruth@merttens.co.uk 281649

Church mice!

A few weeks ago our resident Church mice decided to go on holiday - complete with their box - and must be having such a good time as they have not returned. However following a plea on the magnificent poster made by Matilda some more mice have moved in and taken up residence and we would dearly like to thank the person who donated them.

Let's hope that they like their new home and stay with us for quite a while. **Jane**

STONE LANE GARDENS



JOB OPPORTUNITY AT STONE LANE GARDENS TEA ROOM

Stone Lane Gardens has an opportunity for a serving assistant in our friendly tea room at weekends, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the summer months. Previous experience in catering or retail an advantage, but not essential. Training given. Job-share a possibility. www.stonelanegardens.com Please email: pressoffice@stonelanegardens.com or phone 01647 433 771. www.stonelanegardens.com

Let's Get the Drewe Arms Open Again!

As I'm sure you're all aware, now that Stonegate have finally put the freehold of The Drewe Arms up for sale, the community are embarking on a campaign to buy it and run The Drewe as a community pub.



A Drewsteignton steering group led by Toby Rubbra is looking to raise the funds needed through crowdfunding and government grants. The plan is to have our pubback,m serving at the heart of the community before the summer's done. Ambitious maybe, but there is a lot of drive, happy memories and goodwill for The Drewe Arms. As bank holidays and sunny evenings come and go, many of us are distraught to see it closed.

The pub for many is much more than a building. With its no-fuss character, its warmth and welcome, it's a near personification of Mabel who served behind the bar from 1919 to 1994 and to this day, holds the record as the UK's longest-ever serving landlady.

The Drewe, in the near three hundred years it's been licensed as a pub has seen generations pass through its doors and pack its front bar, as tankards of ale and door-step sandwiches are passed through the bar's hatch. It's seen many a mad knees-up in the long room out back, and pies galore served up in the dining room that was once Mabel's Kitchen. And how many new years has it seen in? With revellers staggering back in over the threshold having exited briefly to sing Auld Lang Syne altogether in Drewsteignton's Square.

As CAMRA notes, The Drewe Arms is more than a pub, it is "a legend in the annals of historic rural pubs", the hub of our community for centuries gone by, which is why we can't bear to be without it.

Getting the Drewe open again means spreading the word. The website is now live and the communication campaign rolling. We need as many people as possible who might be interested in buying a stake in the pub to go to Drewearms.org and sign up to receive the e-newsletter. The newsletter will keep everyone up to date with all we're doing and when the crowdfunding campaign will kick off.

Send us your Drewe Stories!

The Drewe Arms Community Pub Facebook page is also live, and we'll be regularly posting stories and memories of the Drewe to remind us all what a constant presence the pub has been over the years.



If you have a story/memory (ideally with a photo) of the Drewe we'd love to hear it, along with what this pub means to you. Please send your story/memory with your photo to info@drewearms.org and we'll post them on the Facebook page. We've all got at least one story or cherished memory involving the Drewe. We want to demonstrate the extent to which this pub has touched so many lives over so many years, just as we hope it will do for many more years to come.

Drewearms.org

WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Glorious June. Many thanks to everyone who helped celebrate the Kings Coronation at the Village Hall on Sunday 7th. A lovely afternoon tea and prize-giving. We now have a wonderful fresh selection of framed drawings, a stunning addition to the planter in the Carpark and a plaque to commemorate the King's Coronation. A fitting tribute.

Donations towards the upkeep of the Carpark are still forthcoming. Several vehicle owners who use the Carpark regularly leave their donation in an envelope with their registration details. If they prefer, they could make an annual donation. Please contact myself, Jenny Turner, or the treasurer Alison Chapman for further details. Thank-you for your support.

This year's AGM is on Tuesday 20th June at 7.30pm.

Several committee members are looking to step down, so we are in need of some fresh blood, so to speak. The Hall has many regular users but needs a competent committee to manage it successfully. If you think you could contribute something new please come along and join us. If you'd like to know more please call me, Jenny Turner, on 07708634426 or email jennyturner21@gmail.com. Enjoy the sunshine.

Best wishes, **Jenny Turner**

Acorn Community Support



Far up in the deep blue sky, Great white clouds are floating by; All the world is dressed in green;

Many happy birds are seen, Roses bright and sunshine clear Show that lovely June is here.— F. G. Sanders (Cont.)

There have been street parties, bands, dancing and singing and of course, food and drink as everyone celebrated the King and Queen and/or the extra Bank Holiday

May was awash with bank holidays (it was also awash with the wet stuff from the sky too but enough about that!!)

As usual we had lots of outings and fun at Acorn too and if you would like to join in during June then get in touch.

Please phone to book any of the activities you are interested in.

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 6th June 2023** -

contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please.)

(4th July will be the next one)

Shopping is at Sainsburys – Fortnightly on a **Wednesday 7th and 21st June 2023.**

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

Outing – Tuesday 13th June 2023 – Sidmouth Beach/Esplanade.

For those in any Area of Acorns domain!

Tea @ the Hub – 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. **9th and 23rd June.** No need to book. Just turn up.

Activities From the Teign Valley

Shopping at Sainsburys – **Friday 9th and 23rd June 2023**

Outing – Monday 19th June 2023 – The Homeleigh Garden Centre at Crediton

Lunch Club – Tuesday 13th June 2023 – The Union at Moretonhampstead

Coffee Morning - Tuesday 6th and 20th June 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 – the second and last **Thursday** of the month – **8th and 29th**

June 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, lunch or coffee mornings, please contact Mandy or Fran on 01647 252701

Remember Acorn continues with all its usual services such as befriending, transport

to medical appointment, prescription delivery for the housebound, equipment loan

and Time for You sitting service, so please do call us or if you just want a chat then

you know where we are. www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk/get-involved or

contact Mandy or Fran on 01647 252701. **Best wishes**

The A(corn) Team

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

News from the Moor *Hi everyone It feels like summer is just around the corner and there are so many lovely sights and sounds to enjoy.*

At Lydford Gorge, now is the perfect time for a hike along the most captivating section of the River Lyd, while escaping the crowds. The full Lydford Gorge trail has now reopened. This challenging 3-mile circular walk is well worth the effort; it's like exploring an ancient world full of water and life. There's also the option of one of the shorter walking trails to experience the raging Devil's Cauldron or towering Whitelady Waterfall.

Back in October 2022 we had to close the main riverside trail to do some major repair work on a section of the river path that had started to sink. The ranger team have been shoring up the path by building a new log revetment made from tree trunks sourced from tree safety work in the gorge. It has been a lengthy process due to the restrictive access; the path is narrow with steep slopes either side, and 400m from the nearest vehicle access point. The rangers have used hand-powered winches to move the heavy logs, which have then been pinned in place. They will be checking this section on a weekly basis, alongside their usual safety checks around the gorge, to make sure the path is settling in correctly.

At Castle Drogo, we are celebrating Bees in the garden. There is a lovely display in the Luncheon House with plenty of bee related facts and you can do a bit of bee spotting too. There is also a fascinating display in the Nursery rooms with some items which have never been on display before which belonged to Mary Drewe.

Please pop in to find out more – the photos of the family dogs are a must for any dog lovers out there. Trusty the Old English Sheepdog is my favourite.

Finally, the guided tours at Finch are going really well with refreshed displays in the gallery and Carpenters shop. The running of the machinery is always a favourite with visitors and is a full sensory experience. The garden is looking beautiful too and, in late September, will be the location for a pop-up exhibition by local artists.

Donations in the second hand bookshop have gone really well so thank you to everyone who has supported.

Best wishes all, **Paula** **Volunteering & Community Manager – Dartmoor National Trust, Castle Drogo** 07826 945107

<http://nationaltrust.org.uk/>

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