

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton, Whiddon Down

# Drewsteignton



## Parish Post



ISSUE No. 212

MARCH 2024

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our latest Parish Council (PC) meeting was held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February (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 a report from members of the Drewsteignton Community Society, who have recently purchased the Drewe Arms. The re-opening of the pub is on track for the 16<sup>th</sup> March – more news elsewhere. The pub Management Team would like to develop vehicle access from the village car park to the rear of the pub, the intention being to improve access to the rear pub car park. The Team also envisages the need for additional car parking spaces to support events planned for the Long Room. With a licensed capacity of 150 they estimate that 40-50 vehicles may travel to the village to attend events. With the scarcity of parking in the village, they view developing the existing village car park, as an essential element to hosting these events. Funding from the Gov.UK Community Ownership Fund is being sought.

The Management Team have been encouraged to provide transparency of their plans and hear the views of all stakeholders to these proposals, recognising that the DPC continues to own and maintain the car park. Cllrs noted several concerns regarding the proposals, construction methods, long-term maintenance, loss of greenspace, regularity of large events in the Long Room and recent parishioner complaints. The PC agreed that the proposals should be formally discussed during the March PC meeting, with the emphasis on the Management Team providing greater detail to their thinking.

Planning matters: two new applications 021/24 Access to Whiddon Down graveyard from public highway and 056/24 change of use of barn, to bunk/camping, extension & shepherd hut, located east of Ford House, Drewsteignton would be subject to site visits.

A proposal to install a defibrillator in the Sandy Park phone box has received positive support and the PC has subsequently approved the purchase of the phone box from BT.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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. [www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk)  
Cllr. Peter Brennan, Chair.

[www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk](http://www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk) Cllr. Peter Brennan, Chair.

## Drewe Arms



## It's a Sign!



### **Drewe Arms Opening Party**

It's with great excitement that we can announce the reopening of the Drewe Arms as a Community Pub. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March we'll be celebrating this big occasion with a grand opening party.

Doors open at 12.00 midday and the entire pub, including the Long Room will be open till late. We'll be serving food from 7.00pm.

If you're a rugby fan, we'll be showing all the Six Nations 'Super Saturday' games on widescreen TV. That's happening in a marquee with outside bar in the courtyard to the rear of the pub.

The whole event will be hosted by Simon Saunders our new Landlord, along with Sam and Crystal, the new management team who have moved into the pub. Be sure to welcome them and say hi!

In true Drewe tradition we've organised some live music. We've got a very talented line up of local musicians playing in the Long Room from 6.00pm:

**The Johnny Fuller Band** - Playing a mix of classic songs from a wide range of musical genres

**Henry Hassell and Friends** - Entertaining us with a mix of cover versions and original material, including 'The Drewe's not going under' – Henry's spin on a Sam Fender classic which featured on ITV News.

All that will be followed by a Disco till 11.00pm!

### **Immediate plans for the Pub**

Once the pub is open we'll be pressing ahead with our plans to turn it into a real hub for the community with a range of activities for local people to benefit from and get involved with. Follow us on Facebook and sign up to our newsletter for all the latest details.

We're making a number of grant applications. We've applied to the Community Ownership Fund for a grant to replace the thatch and repair the windows and exterior render. We've also put in an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to refurbish the Long Room. Please excuse our slightly shabby exterior appearance for the time being - that's all set to change!

(Cont.)

**Come and admire the sparkling new pub sign!**

Strong winds a few weeks ago practically blew our iconic pub sign over. We've taken that 'opportunity' to refurbish it. Special thanks to Dave Brampton-Green and Pete Mullins for a great repainting job and repairs to the ironmongery. And also, Emanuel Hendry for supplying us with a new and very sturdy oak post!

**Opening Times** - Our intention is to be open from 12.00 midday to 11.00pm everyday, although opening times will be slightly reduced initially to help get things organised behind the scenes:

Monday: Closed

**Tuesday:** Open 4.00pm – 11.00pm

**Wednesday:** Open Midday – 11.00pm

**Thursday:** Open Midday – 11.00pm

**Friday:** Open Midday – 11.00pm

**Saturday** Open Midday– 11.00pm

**Sunday** Open Midday – 6.00pm



**Don't Miss Out!!!**

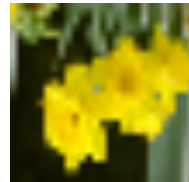
**Drewsteignton Garden Club**

**The very popular SPRING PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 10am until sold out!**

**Drewsteignton Village Hall**

**Come early!! All sorts of plants for sale:  
at BARGAIN PRICES!!**



**Drewsteignton Allotment Gardens**

**Do you live in the parish and want to rent a plot?**

**Call to register your interest on 01344 624 690 (business hours only, please)**

**With thanks,  
Sam Johnstone**

**Leisure**

WHAT is this life if, full of care,  
 We have no time to stand and stare?—  
 No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
 And stare as long as sheep and cows:  
 No time to see, when woods we pass,  
 Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:  
 No time to see, in broad daylight,  
 Streams full of stars, like skies at night:



No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
 And watch her feet, how they can  
 dance:  
 No time to wait till her mouth can  
 Enrich that smile her eyes began?  
 A poor life this if, full of care,  
 We have no time to stand and stare.  
 WH Davies

So **time** is of the essence at the moment, it seems.

We are just far enough into the year for me to be panicking about all the things I know I should complete before Easter and which I have not yet even started!

Despite my best efforts, and also being old enough to know better, I seem to spend my life prioritising what is urgent over what is important. Like the Welsh poet above, I feel that too much **time** is spent on being super busy rushing around, and definitely not enough on appreciating the beauty of where we live and the moments of grace that can be found like a thread of gold running through daily life.

So at Holy Trinity, we do try to make sure that, despite the busy shop in the back, the cosy space for meetings or chats and the events that we are lucky enough to host, there are many times when anyone is welcome to sit in the quiet of this ancient building and reflect or ponder in the knowledge that people have been doing the same in the exact same space for many centuries.

We hope to be given a pop-up piano within the next month, and our discussions – which were entirely positive – did focus around how best to protect our ‘moments of silence’ whilst also encouraging people to come and play!

Other matters we want to open to village discussion include a proposal that people can bring along home-made food items to sell at our weekly market. These could consist of soups or biscuits or sweets or any other saleable goodies. We have found that the ‘fruit ‘n veg’ sales have dwindled to nothing, although bread and Ros’s milk & wonderful coffee continue to be popular. Any ideas for how to boost our mid-week market are very welcome – do feel free to email me. Meantime, we always have a weekly service: evenings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and 11:15 mornings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. See church door for details. The wonderful shop stays open 8am to 8pm and all are welcome to use our lovely space at the back for informal occasions or for more organised events (for which you need to contact me). We hope that March will bring everyone less hassle and more time to do the things they enjoy doing so that we can all appreciate the advance of spring! Ruth Merttens – [ruth@merttens.co.uk](mailto:ruth@merttens.co.uk)

## WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Back by popular demand, The Pig racing extravaganza comes to Whiddon down for its third visit, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. Tickets are £5.00 in advance. BYO drink and nibbles (no pasties this year.) Tea and coffee available. An evening of fun for all the family. Concessions may be available for multiple ticket purchase. Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm start. To book your tickets call me Jenny Turner on 0778634426 or email [jennyturner21@gmail.com](mailto:jennyturner21@gmail.com) payment by bacs preferred, details on booking. Please come along and have some fun!

Again, we have Car parking issues. Can I please remind everyone that if they park without using the hall, could they do so at the far end, away from the building. We have had a few occasions whereby hall users have been unable to park. At the end of the day, they are our bread and butter and without them the hall will no longer be viable. Please be mindful of this when using our facilities, it would be sad to lose such an amenity which so many people over the years have worked hard to preserve for future generations.

Hall hire charges have been increased by £1 per hour across the board. It is still affordable at £7.00 for residents and £8.00 for non-residents of Whiddon down. Please use it or lose it.

Lastly, we are going to experience significant changes to our committee at our AGM in June. To be able to continue managing the hall proficiently we need to have several new members volunteering their time and expertise. Without a strong, able committee the future of the hall is in jeopardy. If you think you can help keep the hall open, please let me know. Enjoy the sunshine.

**Best wishes, Jenny Turner**

## STONE LANE GARDENS



### Job Opportunity:

[www.stonelanegardens.com](http://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. 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](mailto:pressoffice@stonelanegardens.com) Stone Lane Gardens is an RHS Partner Garden and registered charity

### 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](mailto: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.

*“Now when the primrose makes a splendid show, And lilies face the March-winds in full blow,  
And humbler growths as moved with one desire; Put on, to welcome spring, their best attire...”*

William Wordsworth



**SPRING!** That Magical word and a magical season. No matter that in March it can snow, rain and freeze like no other month it is *still* **SPRING!** February was short but Acorn folks still managed to fill it with plenty of great activities (and CAKE) as always. And some great things to come in March!

### Activities From Cheriton Bishop

**Lunch Club**, at The Kings Arms - Tedburn St Mary **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**- contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please - **next one 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**)

**Shopping** is at Sainsburys – Fortnightly on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. The bus will collect you from home and return you safely back with your shopping.

**Outing – National Trust - Knightsshayes Court – Tiverton – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Warm Spaces at Exeter School 2.30-4pm** – Afternoon tea and entertainment **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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. **1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024** No need to book just turn up.

**Memory Lane Café – 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March 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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – The Welcome Stranger - Liverton**

**Shopping** at Sainsburys – **MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Outing – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Powderham – (castle visit optional).**

**Coffee Morning - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Warm Spaces at Exeter School 2.30-4pm** – Afternoon tea and entertainment **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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?

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.



## News from the Castle



Hi everyone,

I hope that you are all well and finding some joy in the signs of spring which are starting to appear.

It has been a busy few weeks for the National Trust team on Dartmoor. At Castle Drogo, we re-opened for the new season on 5 February. This is a month earlier than normal but was well worth it with lots of our local neighbours and Devon folks coming for a visit and dodging the February showers. We also opened for a weekend at Finch Foundry at the end of half term. Thank you to everyone who has popped in. Our volunteer team tell me that they have had some great chats with visitors and I think people enjoyed being able to visit before Easter.

We are also just reaching the end of tree management season. This is when we focus on the health of our trees and woodlands, removing any diseased or damaged trees, clearing self-set trees from areas which should be heathland and planting new trees in our wooded areas.

We have been very lucky to have some lovely support from local groups to help us with this work. Chagford youth club joined us in Warcleave woods just outside Chagford to clear Holly which has crept in and is blocking light to the natural ground cover. A team of National Trust staff and volunteers from North Devon came to help us clear saplings from Piddledown Common, an area of heathland which is very important habitat for 2 extremely rare fritillary butterflies. Finally, the StOC conservation volunteers and a team of Explorer Scouts from Cheriton Bishop, Tedburn St Mary and Bow came and helped us plant trees in the Teign Valley. Huge thanks to all of these groups for helping us care for these different habitats which will make a difference to the species that make their home there. We have a very short window to complete this work as it must be done before 1 March when birds start nesting so the help was much appreciated.

Speaking of nesting season (and lambing of course)..... as we head into this intensive time for nature, it is especially important for us, and our four-legged friends, to keep to the paths when out walking, riding or cycling. This then gives nature the space it needs to thrive and we might get to see interesting species. Last year I saw a Pied Flycatcher at Fingle Bridge for the first time – what a treat.

Best wishes everyone,

**Paula**

**Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor**

**07826 945107, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)**



Our thanks go to the **FoDC** team who brought **Wurlitza** back to the village last evening with a black and white showing of Louise Brooks in *Diary of a Lost Girl*.

Holy Trinity was packed with a sell-out attendance, a well-attended bar and popcorn to-go. This is the group’s third presentation to the village and they seem to get better and better. If you’re hesitant about silent movies in black and white, might I humbly suggest you try them out on their next visit to the village. It’s much more fun than you may think, We look forward to their return.



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If you have trouble reading this publication, please do 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 25<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you, Ed*



