

Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Sandy Park, Venton & Whiddon Down

# DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH POST

Parish Post Issue No. 234

April 2026



Fingle Woods, Drewsteignton. As early morning light spilled into the valley, it caught the bridge and turned it into a quiet symbol of Easter's hope and crossing into new beginnings.

## News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council met on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to the sound of church bells welcoming us to the wonderful Church Space, in Drewsteignton. Public speaking time heard a report from Inspector Dan Jones, Devon & Cornwall Police, who is seeking to add three officers to support nighttime patrols and tackle rural crime. A polite nudge to our wonderful volunteer litter pickers to please wear Hi-Visibility clothing when out and about on the lanes – be seen, be safe. Reminder for Cllrs and parishioners to promote and share the **DPC Rural Crime & Community Alerts WhatsApp Community Group** link. Fly tipping continues to blight the parish and it is essential offences are reported via the WDBC website: [www.westdevon.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/report-it). The Environmental Agency have been alerted to the burning and burial of waste at Black Aller Quarry. Draft minutes will shortly be available on the parish website.

The next **Parish Council** meeting will be held on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - 7.30pm, in the Long Room, The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton**. All are 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)

### Invitation to Quote: Pathway & Toilet Block Repairs

The Parish Council is seeking **expressions of interest from local trades and contractors** to quote for repair and improvement works to a number of footpaths and garden areas within the parish. The work is expected to include general surface repairs, addressing uneven areas, and improving safety and accessibility where required. Exact locations and specifications will be provided by the Parish Clerk.

The village toilet block is also in need of some TLC to repair the roof, tiling and rehang/replace doors. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Drewsteignton Parish Clerk & RFO:** Lou Butler 07764683412 or [Clerk.drewsteigntonPC@outlook.com](mailto:Clerk.drewsteigntonPC@outlook.com)

### Parish Post Copy Deadline

Our next issue is the May 2026 edition, so please send your events and articles by: **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

**Parish Post Editors** [cldr.p.brennan@drewsteignton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.p.brennan@drewsteignton-pc.gov.uk) & [Shelley.mansfield@me.com](mailto:Shelley.mansfield@me.com)





West Devon  
Borough Council

## Battery waste sparks fire safety warning from council

West Devon Borough Council and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service are urging West Devon residents not to throw away items containing lithium-ion batteries, following a rise in fires linked to damaged batteries. Parishioners are reminded to:

- Do not put electrical items or loose batteries in general waste
- Use designated battery recycling points available in many supermarkets
- Take unwanted electrical items to local recycling centres.
- Follow local council guidance on small electrical collections where available.

How can you tell if something contains a lithium-ion battery? Most lithium-ion batteries are found in items that are:

- Rechargeable
- Charged with a USB cable or charging plug
- Designed to be used without being plugged in all the time

Please can carry on recycling common household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries you might use in household appliances, remote controls, clocks and other things around the home. Please put these in Recycling Box 2

## HOLY TRINITY, DREWSTEIGNTON

### News from Holy Trinity

Well, life in Holy Trinity is a proper roller coaster. No sooner do we have a big sigh of relief because we have averted one crisis, than another crisis looms over the horizon like a massive storm cloud and we all dash for the lifeboats again! So, here is our latest good news/bad news story below...

**Good news** – We have most definitely got permission to install our solar panels from the DNP, the planners and the diocese.

**Bad news** – When the solar panel engineers came to look closely at the slates, they found that, on the roofs where the panels are going, we need

to re-pin the slates. Apparently, the pins in these southwest-facing roofs have degraded over the last 100 years!

**Good news** – Good contacts in our wonderful local pub community have led us to a local Devon family firm of roofers who can undertake the work on the roofs for the panels at a very reasonable cost.

**Bad news** – The extra cost of doing all this has meant that we now may not have enough for our zero-carbon heating system.

**Good news** – MAYBE! On 8<sup>th</sup> April, the Church rooms will be auctioned and, if it meets its reserve and, even better, sells at just 15% over that, we can do the heating! (More about this auction below.)

**Bad news** – after all my careful work, I still got turned down by the Bernard Sunley Foundation to whom I applied for the funds to set up the long-awaited Children's Area in the church. Big sigh



**REALLY good news** – several wonderful local organisations have stepped up to help me fund this! Chagford Show Community Fund have awarded us a grant of £400; the Parish Council and West Devon have also given positive support and the Mustard Seed Fund at Exeter Diocese have awarded us a grant of £500. We are TRULY grateful for all this support and feel we will get the £2000 needed. We have been waiting a long while to get our Children's Area in the back of the church, so it is long overdue.

We fully intend to get it up and running over the Easter Holidays. Believe me, I am determined!

**CALLING ALL CARERS AND CHILDREN** – I am planning on Montessori climbing equipment, children's tables and chairs, storage units, construction equipment, soft toys, role play equipment, books, art equipment and of course, Lego and Duplo. If you want to be involved in setting this up OR Have good quality toys you want to get rid of, please let me know! All help gratefully received.

## Church Rooms Auction

The Church Rooms is currently up for sale. The DNP and the Charity Commission have both accepted that it is no longer required as a Village Hall. Thus, it would be possible, with a suitable application, to get change of use. In these circumstances, we are hopeful that this beautiful and unique building will be sold to someone who wants to use it either as a family home or something which will benefit the whole community. **The auction is on April 8<sup>th</sup> at midday** and we plan to arrange a small gathering with wine and sandwiches to watch the auction together in the Community Space in the Church. Anyone who is interested is very welcome to join us!

## Our Easter Celebrations and following April Services are below:

**2<sup>nd</sup> April – Shared Meal and Holy Communion at 7pm** – Our traditional Maundy Thursday commemoration of the Last Supper.

**3<sup>rd</sup> April – Stations of the Cross 11am** in the Church Yard with Harriet leading. All welcome.

**5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday Family Communion and Egg Hunt 11:15** – Children (and dogs) welcome. Come and join us for our Easter celebration. Lots of chocolate on offer so what's not to like?!

**12<sup>th</sup> April – Holy Communion 11:15am** with the Archdeacon, Douglas, joining us here at Holy Trinity. All welcome.

**19<sup>th</sup> April – Reflective Service 6pm** a quiet thought-provoking reflection on a Christian subject with music and prayer. A really good start for your week.

**26<sup>th</sup> April – Morning Worship 11:15am** An informal service of hymns, prayers and reflections. Come and be inspired.

**PS North Dartmoor Magazine** – Marg and Jane have done some wonderful work sorting out six routes for deliveries round the parish of the Whiddon Parishes Magazine every two months. Members of FODC have agreed to assist with taking on these routes for which we are super grateful. BUT we still need people to deliver in Crockernwell. If anyone in Crockernwell feels they could help with this, we would be SO grateful.

Ruth Merttens –Church Warden [ruth@merttens.co.uk](mailto:ruth@merttens.co.uk) or 07781334669





West Devon  
Borough Council

Sign up for our  
garden waste  
collection service  
online today

recycle for West Devon  
[westdevon.gov.uk/  
gardenwaste](http://westdevon.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

### **It's time to renew garden waste subscriptions in West Devon**

Residents of West Devon can now sign up to or renew their subscription for the borough's garden waste collection service.

A year-long subscription to West Devon Borough Council's garden waste collection service will cost £70 for 2026/27. One subscription provides four generous reusable sacks, which are collected every fortnight on the same day of the week as your recycling collections, in the opposite week to your black bag refuse collections.

Subscribers can put grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, cut flowers and plants, small branches, weeds, leaves, twigs, and vase flowers in their bags for collection.

You can sign up for 2026/27 collections from now, with collections starting from 1 April 2026. The year's subscription will run until 31 March 2027. If you're already a subscriber to the garden waste service, there will be no changes to your service if you renew your subscription by 1 April, and you can continue to use your current garden waste sacks.

If you're a new subscriber, the council will deliver garden sacks straight to your door. After that, you will simply need to fill them and leave them along with your household recycling and waste on your next scheduled collection day from 1 April.

If you're subscribing for the first time, the council aims to deliver your green sacks within ten working days of you signing up.

The annual cost of £70 applies for fortnightly collections running until 31 March each year, excluding the weeks in December when the service is suspended for Christmas. For more information and to sign up, visit: [www.westdevon.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

 **National Trust** News from the Moor

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well and have enjoyed the moments of kinder weather that we have been treated to. It has been a mix of highs and lows at our various places over the past month. One of the highs has been the fabulous 'A Woman's Place' exhibition, which has been on display throughout the castle during March. It has been very well received by our volunteer team and visitors, especially as it features a portrait of our very own Bunny Johnstone and our longest serving volunteer Pat, who has been with us for 35 years. In light of this warm response, we hope to extend it's time in the castle through April.

A low has been a delay in reopening the Devils Cauldron entrance to Lydford Gorge. Our annual rock face surveys were completed in February. During these checks, the team identified movement in a large section of rock above the Devil's Cauldron trail. This means the area cannot currently be signed off as safe for visitors. The exceptionally wet winter has likely contributed to the natural movement of the gorge's rock. We are now assessing the best way to secure the section safely. We had hoped to reopen the Devil's Cauldron trail on Saturday 14 March, but this work is likely to delay the opening. We'll share updates as soon as more is known, and we hope to reopen by the end of March. The waterfall entrance opened as planned on Saturday 14 March.

Another high is at **Finch Foundry**, which is my main topic this month. Winter is always a busy time in the garden and this winter at Finch Foundry has been no exception. The fabulous StOC team laid the hedge on the picnic area side of the Secret Passage in November. Laying a hedge like this creates good habitat for wildlife allowing small mammals and birds to move around safely in the scrub and providing food for them to eat in the form of insects and berries.

We had planned to coppice the holly trees on the hedgeline by the Quaker Graveyard last year, but time got away from us, so it was great to get our ranger team along to take these trees down. Holly is one of those trees that will quite happily re-grow if it is cut down to a stump, so we are going to leave these trees to re-generate. As they re-grow, they can be managed as hedge so that they don't get too big and unmanageable again. We needed to reduce these trees as they were getting too big and their roots were starting to push the wall out. The regenerated holly will provide good wildlife habitat once it starts to re-grow.

We have used some of the 'arisings' from the holly to create a dead hedge to screen our compost heap area from the rest of the garden. Building dead hedges is an excellent way of making use of woody material in gardens. Not only can you build a screen (or sculpture), but the material provides wildlife habitat for birds, mammals and insects as well as the bacteria and fungi that will eventually contribute to the hedge rotting down. We noticed a robin rootling about in our hedge within seconds of our finishing its construction.

There is still quite a lot of holly brush left over and we have piled this in Mill Meadow for the time being. Our plan is to continue our dead hedge theme and build a dead hedge sculpture on Mill Meadow. Again, this creates an attractive wildlife friendly space and hopefully may inspire people to try building their own structures in their back gardens!

Finally, I am not able to confirm a date for the next community meeting about Glebe Cottages just yet. I must confess that I am grateful not to be involved in building contractor appointment as it is clearly very complicated. As soon as Ts are crossed and Is are dotted, I will get a date confirmed and share it through the various local channels. Thank you for your ongoing patience. So, as always, lots going on! I very much hope to bump into you out and about soon.

Best wishes all,

**Paula**

Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor.

Tel: 07826 945107

email: [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

Our usual programme of meetings and classes are in full swing.

New booking enquiries welcome.

Stay warm and well. Best wishes Jenny

07708634426 or email [jennyjturner21@gmail.com](mailto:jennyjturner21@gmail.com)

or **Village Hall:** 07928966744

[whiddondownvillagehall79@gmail.com](mailto:whiddondownvillagehall79@gmail.com)



## Heartbreak as Drewsteignton Parish eliminated from Tidy Parish Competition

“A landfill, only less sympathetic” was how Tidy Parish judges described Drewsteignton Parish, when explaining why our beloved parish had been eliminated in the first round of this superficial beauty pageant. A draft report noted the only sense of community spirit was evidenced in the HTC cemetery and the appalling discovery of a partially dissected hippopotamus at the Playing Field, had led Paignton Zoo scientists to conduct forensic tests on the Air Ambulance landing site (results are awaited).

The **Parish Post** spoke with Gary (not her real name) of the so called Anti-Tidy Militia (ATM) and asked why there was such resistance to the competition. “It’s our democratic right to be filthy” she said while other members of ATM dug more potholes at Veet Mill. “A clean parish is no parish at all, its like putting concealer on a leper. Those anti-litter Nazis are mad! They want everyone to take their litter home – surely that’s what hedgerows are for”.

The Drewsteignton Tidy Parish Committee failed to provide a spokesperson however, there will be a meeting next month and applications for a new Chair are invited. **Ed.** 1st April 2026 😊

## Be tick aware

**6** If you find a tick, safely remove it as soon as possible

**1** Use a repellent that prevents ticks

**2** Wear long sleeves and long trousers to reduce direct skin exposure

**5** When you're back indoors, check for any ticks on you, your children and pets



**4** Regularly check for ticks and brush off any you find immediately

**3** Keep to clearly defined paths and avoid brushing against vegetation



## Chagford Singers

A Community Choir in the Heart of Dartmoor

Chagford Singers and guests present:

### **The Shakespeare Connection**

The Chagford Singers, under the direction of Tina Guthrie, are looking forward to their next concert and are delighted that they will be joined by baritone soloist Freddie Crowley, as well as lutenist Roxana Gundry and bassist Jim Rintoul.

As the title suggests, the overriding theme of the concert is William Shakespeare. As such the varied programme will explore the musical landscape which formed the backdrop to Shakespeare's writing and also give a taste of the way his words have inspired composers through the centuries.

The first half will consist of music from Shakespeare's time and place, including a selection of Elizabethan madrigals (part-songs) such as 'Now is the month of maying' by Thomas Morley and 'The Silver Swan' by Orlando Gibbons alongside the beautiful 'Ave Verum' by Shakespeare's contemporary William Byrd. It will also feature some music for lute solo, played by Roxana Gundry, and some lute songs by John Dowland sung by soloist Freddie Crowley.

The second half, in contrast, will comprise more recently composed songs set to Shakespeare texts. Rutter's beautiful 'Blow, blow thou winter wind' will set the scene for the wonderful song cycle 'Let us Garlands Bring' by Gerald Finzi, which Freddie will perform. This will then be followed by George Shearing's 'Songs and Sonnets' – seven songs for choir, piano and double bass, in a light, jazz style, with words from several Shakespearean sources.

There promises to be something for everyone in this unusual and exciting concert!

The date is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm, at Jubilee Hall, Chagford, TQ13 8DP and tickets, priced £15 (inclusive of programme and interval drink) can be obtained from Sally's Newsagents, Chagford, or online at [ticketsource.co.uk/chagfordsingers](http://ticketsource.co.uk/chagfordsingers)



Chagford Singers  
*present*



Including Elizabethan madrigals,  
Rutter '*Blow, blow thou winter wind*'  
and Shearing '*Songs and Sonnets*'



**Saturday 16th May, 7.30pm**

Jubilee Hall, Chagford, TQ13 8DP



Conductor: Tina Guthrie  
Accompanist: Nigel Guthrie  
Baritone: Freddie Crowley  
Lute: Roxana Gundry



Tickets £15 – including programme and interval drink.  
Available from Sally's Newsagents, Chagford, on the door or online at:

[ticketsource.co.uk/chagfordsingers](https://ticketsource.co.uk/chagfordsingers)



## Celebrating St George's Day – 23rd April

*A cheerful nod to England's patron saint*

Every year on 23rd April, England quietly straightens its tie, brushes the crumbs off its jumper, and remembers St George – our patron saint, dragon-slayer, and all-round symbol of courage. It's a day that often sneaks past us, overshadowed by Easter eggs, spring cleaning, and the first brave attempts at mowing the lawn. But St George's Day is well worth celebrating, not least because it gives us an excuse to wave a flag, enjoy a slice of cake, and remind ourselves that bravery comes in many forms.

Historically, St George wasn't English at all. He was born somewhere in the Eastern Mediterranean, served as a Roman soldier, and—spoiler alert—almost certainly never met a dragon. But the medieval storytellers knew a good tale when they saw one. A fearsome beast, a damsel in distress, and a hero with a shiny shield? It was practically the Marvel film of the Middle Ages.

By the 14th century, George had become England's go-to role model for courage and chivalry. His red-and-white cross fluttered on banners, shields, and eventually the English flag. And while dragons may be thin on the ground these days, the spirit of St George lives on whenever someone stands up for what's right, helps a neighbour, or faces life's challenges with a bit of quiet determination.

So, this St George's Day, why not embrace the tradition? Put a flag in the window, enjoy a cuppa, or tell a tall tale of your own heroic deeds (rescuing the washing from a sudden rain shower, definitely counts). After all, if George can defeat a mythical dragon, we can certainly tackle whatever April throws at us.

Happy St George's Day to all!

## Dear Valued Customers.

Thank you for your continued support of **Oinkers**. As many of you know, we have been looking forward to moving into our new purpose-built shop this year. Unfortunately, this move is unlikely to happen in the immediate future. This has been a devastating blow to all involved, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the new shop a reality.



To safeguard our business, we have secured our current site at Higher Fingle until the new premises are completed. However, after a difficult winter and exceptionally low shop sales, we are facing significant challenges. Like many small businesses, in recent years we have navigated sharp energy price rises, increased staffing and product costs, rent and maintenance increases, and the undercutting and might of supermarkets. These factors, combined with lower sales, critically impact our margins and long-term viability.

If we stay at Higher Fingle, we need to invest in our current shop building. However, given the current level of customer spending, we are carefully evaluating whether that investment is justifiable. We have always strived to support our local organisations and groups, and with our families, we are part of the local communities.

We need your support now more than ever to ensure the survival of our business and to support our staff.

There are several ways you can help:

- Visit our shop: Stop by and browse our local selection
- Click and Collect: Order via our website, call us, or send an email. We can arrange after-hours collections for those unable to visit before our 5pm closing time.
- Home Delivery: Order online, call or email by Thursday evening for delivery on Fridays.

Thank you for your help and see you soon,

Colin & Kim Drake

[www.drakesfarm.net](http://www.drakesfarm.net)

01647 281 580

[oinkersatdrakesfarm@gmail.com](mailto:oinkersatdrakesfarm@gmail.com)

A decorative border of various green tropical leaves, including palm fronds and monstera leaves, surrounds the text.

**DREWSTEIGTON GARDENERS' CLUB**

# **PLANT SALE**

**IN**

**THE LONG ROOM**

**AT**

**THE DREWE ARMS**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**10 AM UNTIL SOLD OUT**

**DON'T BE LATE**

**ALL SORTS OF PLANTS**

**BARGAIN PRICES**



## Stone Lane Gardens: Spring Awakens

Stone Lane Gardens is stirring back to life — and there's never been a better time to visit. The much-loved tearoom reopens on Good Friday, 3rd April, marking the start of the season in style. Whether you're looking for a peaceful escape or a family day out over the Easter holidays, the gardens offer the perfect backdrop for a spring adventure.

April is a magical time at Stone Lane. The arboretum holds a remarkable collection of rare trees gathered from across the northern hemisphere over more than fifty years, and spring is when they truly come into their own — fresh green shoots, wildflower meadows alive with early pollinators, and the famous birch collection putting on a display all of its own. It's the perfect time for a first or repeat visit.

There's plenty to look forward to later in the year too. The popular summer sculpture exhibition opens on 30th May, weaving art through the woodland paths and clearings. Before that, a print-making workshop on Tuesday 19th May (1–3pm) and a spoon carving workshop on Saturday 13th June (9.30am–4.30pm) offer hands-on creative days in a beautiful setting — both must be booked in advance through the website.

For families, the Easter holidays offer a wonderful opportunity to explore somewhere a little different. Children go free, and the grounds provide plenty of space to roam, discover and get curious about the natural world. The gardens are open Thursday to Monday, 10am–6pm. Adult admission is £8.00, with students and children free.

*Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford, TQ13 8JU — [stonelanegardens.com](http://stonelanegardens.com)*

*OS map ref: SX 708 907 (OL28 Dartmoor). What3Words: [keys.trombone.crab](https://www.what3words.com/)*



We welcome everyone aged 10-28 to our very active club with a meeting & social each month. Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cheritonandtedburnyfc/> or follow us on Instagram.



**The**  
**DREWE ARMS**  
Presents - Live in the Long Room

# CLIVE CARROLL

*'genre bending' guitarist*  
*played banjo parts on 'A Complete Unknown'*

**Thursday 23rd April 7.30 - 10.00 pm**

**£12.50**

plus Booking Fee



Tickets available from [tickettailor.com](https://www.tickettailor.com)  
<https://buytickets.at/thedrewearms/2005837>



### **MORECARE - Providing transport to get you to your medical and other healthcare appointments.**

Morecare volunteers can provide transport services to and from medical facilities, collect prescriptions and help with other needs, where possible, to those registered at Chagford Health Centre or living in Chagford and the surrounding area. Instead of set charges, donations are suggested for our services. If you need health-care related transport, please contact Morecare by phone or text on 07914 853 726 or email via our website [www.morecarechagford.co.uk](http://www.morecarechagford.co.uk)

## **Standing Together Against Rural Crime**

Don't forget to sign up to the **DPC Rural Crime & Community Alerts WhatsApp Community Group**, which is designed to help parishioners share timely information, raise awareness of suspicious activity, and support one another in keeping our area safe.

Simply **scan the QR code** printed alongside this article. This will take you directly to the group's joining page. We ask all parishioners to **agree to the group's terms and conditions**:

- No sharing of personal data without consent
- No speculation, naming individuals, or posting unverified accusations
- No off-topic messages or general chat
- Respect for neighbours, landowners, and emergency services



Anyone who does not follow these guidelines may have their number removed to ensure the group remains a safe and reliable resource for all. By joining the group, you are helping strengthen the safety net that protects our Parish. This initiative is not run *instead of* the police, but *alongside* them. Always report crimes or emergencies to the Police first. The WhatsApp group simply helps us share awareness quickly and responsibly. Together, we can make our parish a harder place for rural crime to take root — and a stronger, more connected community in the process.

**Drewsteignton Parish Council**

# TEIGNTON BAZAAR

Buy and sell things   indoor market   Drewsteigton

**10am**  
**-1 pm** **SATURDAY 9th MAY**

in the ***LONG ROOM***

at the ***Drewe Arms***

EX6 6QN

**ADMISSION FREE**  
**PARKING FREE**  
**REFRESHMENTS**  
**LUNCHES FROM MIDDAY**  
**[www.drewearms.org](http://www.drewearms.org)**



# TEIGNTON BAZAAR

FOR PITCHES INDOORS CONTACT GEORGIA MUNDAY [georgia.munday@gmail.com](mailto:georgia.munday@gmail.com)

Pitches outside first come first served subject to availability and weather £5.50 per pitch



““Winter’s done, and April’s in the skies. Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!” — Charles G.D. Roberts

We are promoting our **BEST EVER Spring Raffle:**

## **FIRST PRIZE**

### **Two Wimbledon Ladies Finals Tickets**

Tickets are on sale from both Cheriton Bishop and Christow surgeries, Village Shops, Acorn Clubs and Head Office. Tickets £1 each or £5 a book. The Draw will take place on 14/4/2026

#### **Activities From Cheriton Bishop**

- **Lunch Clubs**, at **The Kings Arms** - Tedburn St Mary **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026** - contact Jean Martin on 01647 24586 to book (a couple of days in advance please). **5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 will be the next one**
- **Shopping** at Sainsburys Alphington – **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. The bus will collect you from home and return you safely back with your shopping.
- **Outings –14<sup>th</sup> April 2026** – Powderham and Dawlish

#### **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. **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026** No need to book just turn up.
- **Memory Lane Café –9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. If you know of someone who you feel may benefit from this targeted club, then please call as below.
- **Rainbow Club** – Carers Support Group. **17<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Do you care for a partner or a close family member? Then perhaps a monthly get together with other Carers in a similar position might be just what you need. Free informal/confidential chat with a cup of tea. Please call the office number below to learn more.

**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.**



## **Irresponsible dog ownership will face unlimited fines**

From the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 the updated Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025, increased protection for sheep, cows and other farm animals, with owners found guilty of irresponsible dog ownership facing unlimited fines. The update now recognises alpacas and llamas as livestock, and incidents occurring on roads and public paths will now be treated as offences, in addition to incidents occurring in fields or enclosures.

Livestock worrying is when a dog attacks, chases or causes stress to one or more farm animals. Chasing, biting, barking or stalking causes the animals to panic and, even without physical contact, they can experience severe suffering which can lead to injury, death or the abortion of unborn lambs. Under the updated law, police officers will have wider powers to investigate and act on incidents of livestock worrying, including:

- Seizing & detaining dogs suspected of chasing, attacking or threatening livestock
- Entering premises under a warrant to collect potential evidence
- Take forensic samples from dogs by collecting DNA or mouth impressions


Devon & Cornwall Police's Livestock Lead, Rural Affairs Officer PC Jules Fry, said: "Many dog owners may not be aware of livestock worrying laws or may think their dog momentarily chasing farm animals is harmless, but these incidents can cause animals to experience extreme stress, which can lead to pregnancy loss, injuries and fatalities. The best way to protect both dogs and livestock is for owners to keep their dogs on a lead anywhere near livestock or where livestock could be encountered.


"The only exception to this would be if you are chased by cattle; in which case, you should release your dog and move quickly and calmly away from the herd. The changes in the new bill will bring stronger powers which will allow us to thoroughly investigate incidents of livestock worrying and to take action against irresponsible owners whose dogs are proven to have caused harm to innocent animals."

Anyone witnessing livestock worrying is urged to report it. Call 999 if an incident is in progress, or 101 if it has already occurred.



**Spring is here and the FBI is buzzing or is it the bees stirring? We have a new menu with lots of good pub food favourites returning and we look forward to seeing you all soon.**

 **Cream Teas & Cakes** Indulge in our beloved Cream Teas and freshly baked cakes, served daily from 11am right up until half an hour before closing. Whether you're after a comforting bowl of soup or a full three-course feast, our menu caters to every appetite—with a focus on top-quality ingredients, generous portions, and a welcoming atmosphere.

 **Sunday Carvery** Join us for our ever-popular Sunday Carvery, featuring a tempting selection of roast meats alongside vegetarian and vegan choices. Each plate comes with a bountiful array of fresh, seasonal vegetables. Available from 12pm to 2:30pm in the bar, restaurant, or out on the sun-drenched terraces. Please note reservations are taken in the restaurant only, and we kindly ask that dogs remain outside this area.

### **Current Opening Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday** open 11am– 4pm (food available 11am – 3pm)

**Friday** open 11am– 4pm 6pm - 9pm (food available 11am – 3pm & 6pm – 8pm)

**Saturday** open 11am – 9pm (food available 11am – 8pm)

**Sunday** open 11am– 5.30pm with food available 11am – 4.30pm

Many thanks for your continued support, The FBI Team  
Tel: 01647 281287 or email [info@finglebridgeinn.co.uk](mailto:info@finglebridgeinn.co.uk)

# Calling All Young Voices!

One of the greatest strengths of our parish is the mix of voices, experiences, and news that gather here each month. Yet there is one group whose perspective we don't hear from nearly enough—and that's *you*, our young people.

You see the world with fresh eyes. You notice things adults sometimes miss. You care deeply about issues that shape the future: the environment, fairness, mental wellbeing, kindness, community, creativity, faith, and the challenges facing your generation. These are not small things, they are the very things that shape the world.

So next month, we'd love to hand the microphone or at least a page of the Parish Post over to you.

## **What would you like the parish to understand better?**

Perhaps there's something you wish older generations knew about growing up today. Maybe you're passionate about climate action, online safety, equality, or supporting local charities. Or perhaps you want to share a story of hope, a piece of art, a poem, or a reflection on faith from your own journey.

Whatever it is, big or small, serious or joyful, we want to hear it.

## **Why your voice matters**

When young people speak, communities grow wiser. When young people share, others learn. And when young people lead, the whole parish becomes more open, more compassionate, and more connected.

Your contribution could spark a conversation, inspire a project, or simply help someone understand the world a little better.

## **How to take part**

Just send us:

- A short article (anything from a paragraph to a page)
- Your name and age (optional if you prefer to stay anonymous)
- A photo or drawing if you'd like to include one

Send it to our Editor or Parish Clerk.

## **A final word**

This is *your* parish too. Your ideas, your concerns, your hopes, they belong in these pages every bit as much as anyone else's. We're excited to learn from you, to be challenged by you, and to celebrate the things that matter most to you.

**Go on—be brave, be bold, and let your voice be heard.**

**THE DREWE ARMS**  
COMMUNITY PUB

## Easter Opening Times

Good Friday: 11am - 11pm  
Saturday: 11am - 11pm  
Easter Sunday: 12pm - 6pm  
Easter Monday: 12pm - 6pm

Easter Sunday and Easter Monday: Food served 12pm - 4pm

[drewearms.org](http://drewearms.org)






**THE DREWE ARMS**  
COMMUNITY PUB

## Friends or family coming to stay?

Beautifully furnished Church Cottage is available to rent!

[drewearms.org](http://drewearms.org)

## Recycling & Waste Collection Dates

			 		
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓	✓	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	✓	✓		✓
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓	✓	
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓		✓
<b>27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Monday</b>	✓	✓	✓	

**Check Bin Day!** <https://westdevon.fccenvironment.co.uk/mycollections>

## Useful Contact Information

### Doctors Surgeries

Cheriton Bishop	01647 24272	Out of Hours	111
Chagford Health Centre	01647 433320	Emergency	999

**Drewsteignton Parish Clerk & RFO:** Lou Butler 07764683412

[Clerk.drewsteigntonPC@outlook.com](mailto:Clerk.drewsteigntonPC@outlook.com)

**West Devon Borough Councillor:** Cllr Steve Guthrie, **West Devon**

**Borough Councillor:** Cllr Steve Guthrie,

[cllr.steve.guthrie@westdevon.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.steve.guthrie@westdevon.gov.uk)

**Devon County Councillor:** Cllr Sue Davies [sue.davies@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sue.davies@devon.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament:** Mel Stride MP, [mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk)

**Whiddon Down Village Hall:** 07928966744

[whiddondownvillagehall79@gmail.com](mailto:whiddondownvillagehall79@gmail.com)

**Acorn Community Support:** 01647 252701

**Parish Post Editor** [Cllr.Brennan.Drewsteignton@outlook.com](mailto:Cllr.Brennan.Drewsteignton@outlook.com)

The Parish Post reserves the right to edit contributions and wishes to state that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Council.

Contributions for the next edition by the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Thank you. Ed.