The very latest news is the planning application for a shop and cafe at Whiddon Down went before the West Devon Borough Council’s Development Management & Licensing Committee (Planning Committee) on Tuesday 26th February 2019. The application number 2701/18/FUL was refused. To view the reasons why and any other details, the minutes of the meeting will be published on the WDBC website. The committee is made up of very experienced district councillors from diverse backgrounds and their decision will have been made on genuine and valid planning reasons, not as some would have you believe, self interests or prejudices. At our last meeting the complaint by two residents about parking on the entrance to Drewsteignton from Drogo direction was discussed. No further complaints have been received. Representation was made by residents Tony Thomas, who was unable to attend the meeting but wrote to the council, and Peter Clements who attended and spoke to councillors. As we had previously heard from Dartline bus service who had not experienced too much trouble at that location, we had had a site visit by Darryl Jagger from Devon County Council, councillors decided that they would purchase a “no parking” sign and put on the wall of the village garden in an attempt to discourage parking on the bend leading into the square. Parking along the road is similar to that in other villages where there used not to be cars owned by the occupants of roadside property there now is, Crockernwell being a good example. Drivers must drive according-ly and it has been noticed by residents that the speed of vehicles entering the village has been greatly reduced by the reduced road width which can only be a good thing for the safety of residents especially children. Councillors agreed to review the situation in twelve months time.

The access to Castle Drogo from Sandy Park was again reported on. One simple solution to widening the road was to ask Devon County Council to plough the edges to get the road width back to its original width when two cars could pass each other. We have heard from DCC that they do not have any money in the budget to do this work. Councillors unsurprisingly were not happy with this reply. Drogo is a major tourist attraction and certainly the biggest in the area, visitors have a positive effect on all our local businesses and it is simply not good enough for DCC to say they cannot plough back a mile or so of verges. We are now going back to DCC and to Cllr James McInnes who is our representative at DCC to expedite this work for the benefit of all. We received an update from Cllr Ian Rowe on the replacement windows at Whiddon Down village hall. A total of £12,000 is needed and fund raising continues having replaced one window already. DCC have agreed to a risk assessment to be undertaking following the complaint about school buses now using Hooperton Cross rather than the bus stops in Crockernwell. DCC have refused to place a sign indicating Harepath being unsuitable for Large Goods Vehicles as all the lanes were!
Ten years ago the Parish Plan steering group were looking forward to receiving back the questionnaires sent to every household, the police had dealt with 18 speeding drivers in Whiddon Down & Crockernwell most of whom were local (nothing changes there then!!), Biosolids had arrived in the parish and Wayne Mudge gave a report on his charity skydive.

A reminder we are still looking for new councillors in May.

Our next meeting is Monday 18th March 2019 7.30pm at Whiddon Down.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday 25th March 2019 7.30pm at Drewsteignton. If you normally give a report and have not heard from the Clerk please contact her.

Local events for March

MED Theatre’s new community play ‘Rocks’ puts Dartmoor’s unique tors centre stage. MED Theatre is touring ‘Rocks’ in March 2019

Rocks have protected Dartmoor for centuries but are they now under threat?

Rocks – A Futuristic comedy about the guardians of Dartmoor

The year is 2050 and the Mayor of Dartmoor, now a seemingly independent stage surreptitiously controlled by The Authorities, attempts to lead his citizens despite an ever watchful surveillance system. Meanwhile, the residents of the National Park are facing the possibility of nuclear waste being stored in the granite under their feet.

The dates of the performances are:

- March 8th & 9th - Manaton Parish Hall,
- March 12th - Cornwood Village Hall,
- March 14th - Meldon Village Hall and
- March 15th & 16th - Moretonhampstead Parish Hall.

All performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 / £5 children under 16.

For bookings and more information please contact MED Theatre: info@medtheatre.co.uk, 01647 441356, or visit www.medtheatre.co.uk

Whiddon Down Village Hall.

A huge thank-you to everyone who has supported our last three fundraising events. To date, we have raised enough money to fund phase 2 of our window project, which was the most urgent. This was completed 15/2/19.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have secured a grant from Invest in Devon, of £2000.00 and a donation of £500.00 from Chagford Show Committee. This means that we can go ahead with phase 1, the kitchen & toilet windows.

This has only been possible because of all the hard work and dedication of our present Village Hall Committee. Well done everyone.

**Next scheduled event Easter Bingo 15th April 2019. All welcome.**

**The post of treasurer** has become available on the hall committee. If anyone feels that they would be able to join our happy band and help with this important role call me Jenny Turner on 01647231179

Many thanks
Exeter Cathedral Choir at Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteignton
Saturday 23rd March 6pm - 7pm Doors open 5:30
Tickets £10:00 including a glass of wine and nibbles - available from the Post Office, The Drewe Arms and Amy’s Flowers in Chagford

Calling all local crafters.........

If you would like a stall at

**Drewsteignton ‘Summertime’ Craft Fayre on**

1st and 2nd June

Please contact Jane on 01647 281605 or email j.hocking05@btinternet.com

No charge for table but 15% of sales to Teignton Fayre funds

**There are limited spaces so please let me know as soon as you can**

News from the Castle

Hi everyone

Not long now until the castle re-opens for the new season and we have been busy painting, plastering, moving collection items and getting ready to welcome everyone. The big day is Saturday 9 March and the castle is then open 7 days a week until the end of October. We are really looking forward to sharing the ongoing re-presentation of the castle which will continue throughout the year as the final parts of the building conservation work completes.

For the past few years, we have had a second hand book shelf in the café which raises money for conservation projects at Castle Drogo. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that all monies raised this coming year will go towards restoration of the stained glass windows in the Chapel and replacement benches for the garden.

If you have any spare books (decent quality please!) please do drop them off with the visitor centre team. We especially would like children’s books as they fly off the shelves as quick as we
put them on! We would also like travel, gardening, and crime/thriller but would welcome all genres. If you have loads (i.e. 10 boxes) we may be able to help with collection too. We are also looking for a couple of people to join the book team. The role is to check stock levels and display, and we would especially like help on Sundays. You can easily tie it in with other volunteering too so, if you have been thinking about being one of our brilliant story-tellers in the castle, you can easily do both. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more. Thank you to everyone who has supported the book shelves through donating or buying books over the past years. The biggest thanks must go to the brilliant team of volunteers who manage and organise the bookshelves and have been instrumental in making it such a success.

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Best wishes all,
Paula
Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
01647 434130,
paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

What’s on in March 2019

www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be March 7th at the Red Lion. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 or ring the Acorn Office on the number below for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury’s from Cheriton – Dates are March 6th & 20th. Help is provided in store. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return. (cont.)

NEW! Acorn monthly Cheriton Bishop Outing - Date & venue to be confirmed! £5.00 per person for a return trip. Call the office for more information.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be March 14th & 28th. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. Please drop in for a tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake & meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday March 5th & 19th.

Dunsford coffee morning- Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212. Village Hall, Dressing room. March 6th & 20th. 10:30 - 12:00 pm. All welcome

What else do we do? – We have a fantastic group of volunteers who help to provide transport to medical and wellbeing appointments, we can deliver prescriptions, we can also loan equipment to assist you in the home.

Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information.

**Acorn Community Support – Job Vacancy - Community Care Manager**

Acorn, a registered charity operating in the Teign Valley and the Cheriton Bishop area, has a vacancy arising for the post of Community Care Manager to commence summer 2019. The role requires someone who is able to work constructively within our team and compassionately with our elderly clients to ensure they access the social, emotional and prac
tical support that Acorn can provide. The Community Care Manager will need to signpost clients to other services where appropriate. The role involves working alongside our Office Manager, liaising with professionals at the GP surgery and our many supportive volunteers and reporting to a Board of Trustees. The role is broad, varied and interesting and requires a dynamic, confident individual who is able to work on their own initiative.

The role is a part-time post of 17.5 hours per week (flexible hours) based at Christow Surgery and annual pay scale in the range of £8,190-£9,555 per annum (£9.00-£10.50/hour). Computer literacy is required with competence in word, excel and email, along with excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Must hold a valid drivers licence and be prepared to travel within Cheriton Bishop and the Teign Valley. A background in nursing/care giving preferable but not essential.

For further details or an application form please contact:
Jo Clunie, Chair of Trustees on 01392 491047 or email joclunie@btinternet.com

The Closing Date for applications is the 14th April 2019.

I like my Mother!
- Art Paul Schlosser

There's candy
Icecream
Chocolate
Good dreams
And I like my Mother!

Mothers are sweet
Mothers are nice
They help you
Give you good advice
And they make you cookies!

I like my Mother!
I like my Mother!
I like my Mother!
I like my Mother!
I really
Like
My Mother!

A Dandelion for My Mother - Jean Nordhaus

How I loved those spiky suns,
rooted stubborn as childhood
in the grass, tough as the farmer’s
big-headed children — the mats
of yellow hair, the bowl-cut fringe.

How sturdy they were and how
slowly they turned themselves
into galaxies, domes of ghost stars
barely visible by day, pale
cerebrums clinging to life
on tough green stems.

Like you.
Like you, in the end.
If you were here,
I’d pluck this trembling globe to show
how beautiful a thing can be a breath will
tear away.
The weather over the past month has been very dry and pleasant and it was officially declared the warmest February for 178 years. Whilst it was mainly mild throughout, it was at the end of the month when day records were broken with a high temperature of 20.3 degrees Celsius at Aberystwyth on the 25th followed by 21.2 degrees at Kew gardens on the 26th. While it was officially termed a heatwave, we were also reminded that this time last year we were in sub-zero temperatures and being battered by the ‘beast from the east’.

With the mild/warm weather, there has been much discussion as to spring coming early this year; and some migratory species have been arriving early. Swallows, sand martins & wheatears had all been recorded in Devon and Dorset by mid-February, which is considered about three to four weeks early. I have been watching bumblebees on a winter honeysuckle shrub in the garden and am expecting to hear chiffchaffs calling soon, which I always take to be one the first signs of Spring. On a wet walk today (Sunday 3rd March), I heard and then saw a large flock of redwings over the village, but they will be leaving soon to return to Scandinavia to breed. The huge numbers of starlings that I see at work in Cornwall throughout the winter left last week in the good weather for their summer territories.

The redwings, fieldfares and mistle thrushes that overwinter in the south west normally strip most of the holly berries by Christmas, and a large holly in my garden was devoid of its berries by mid-December; but just this week, I noticed a holly in Drewsteignton church yard that is dripping in bright red berries. I have no idea why the birds have left this one alone, maybe it’s a variety that has unpalatable fruit, but it looks no different to the normal holly trees that have all been stripped locally.

Another winter visitor is the woodcock, a brown pigeon-sized wader that unlike the majority that are found on estuaries and marshland, has adapted to life in woodland. They are mainly crepuscular, meaning most active at dawn and dusk unless disturbed by day from the undergrowth, when they will burst into a whirring zig-zag flight through the trees and disappear. Over the last two weeks of February, I have occasionally seen one flying over the churchyard and our garden at dusk, which is always unexpected but pleasant. I have seen woodcock take almost the same flight line, at the same time for as long as I have lived at Churchgate, which is now about twenty-two years, so it can’t possibly be the same bird, but the flight line is identical. I will have to find a woodcock expert to see if they follow known flight lines in the winter. Earlier in the month, We drove up to London as Kate was running in the Hampton Court half marathon. I had thought it would be interesting to record every bird of prey we spotted on the journey up the A30, A303 and M3 to see what was most prolific in each county and in which county I saw the most, but unfortunately, the weather was dull and I only saw one buzzard on the entire journey. I did however find peregrines in Kingston after I dropped off Kate early at the start. Peregrines have been nesting on the top of Kingston college for about eight years, and it was a perfect opportunity to see them. I then managed to find a very good vantage point on the Thames at Kingston bridge to watch the runners before meeting Kate at the finish line. She was delighted with her time of just under two hours and it was a personal best for her. On the way home, I did count the birds I spotted, and to my surprise, Hampshire won with ten red kites, five buzzards and one kestrel. Part of the journey took us along the 30 mile section of the A303 in Somerset which was my study stretch looking at barn owl road mortality in the mid 1990’s, and thankfully, I did not see a single road casualty there.

We have now turned on the Exeter peregrines webcam and I have been checking it most evenings to see if the adults are roosting in the box. Both adults can be seen in the box most evenings with the female at the trefoil entrance and the male inside, either on the rock just inside the entrance or in a corner. I am expecting egg laying to begin sometime around the 23rd of March so do check it out. The nest camera can be found at: www.stmichaelsmountdinhamp.org.uk
## VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Pancakes</td>
<td>Friends of the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Service</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>FBS: Nick Dixon talk</td>
<td>Fingle Bridge Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>A New Season at Castle Drogo</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Gardeners Club AGM</td>
<td>Drewsteignton Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day event</td>
<td>Drewe Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Bible Read Through</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Parish Council meeting</td>
<td>Whiddon Down Village Hall</td>
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<td>22-24 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chagword</td>
<td>Chagford (various)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Exeter Cathedral Choir Concert</td>
<td>Friends of the Church</td>
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<td>25 March</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Annual Parish Meeting (DVH)</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mothers Day</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
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<td>10am Community breakfast</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
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<td>11.15 short service: songs &amp; posies</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church</td>
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<td>4 April</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>FLS talk: Dormice (TBC)</td>
<td>Fingle Bridge Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Drewe Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 April</td>
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<td>Volunteer Open Day</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 April</td>
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<td>Community Open Day</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 April</td>
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<td>Volunteer Open Day</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 April</td>
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<td>PCC meeting</td>
<td>Hillside House</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 April</td>
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<td>Parish Council meeting</td>
<td>Drewsteignton Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 April</td>
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<td>Maundy Thursday meal &amp; service</td>
<td>Village Hall &amp; Church</td>
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<td>19 April</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 April</td>
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<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
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<td>Duck Race Teignton Fayre</td>
<td>Fingle Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
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<td>St George’s Day</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
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<td>Artist Postcard Auction</td>
<td>Chagford School</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 April</td>
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<td>Hydro Turbine Open Day</td>
<td>Castle Drogo</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>PCC AGM</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Drewsteignton Parish Council

Please note the address for correspondence and the phone number for the Clerk has changed with immediate effect.

For those of you who send invoices by post we are happy to receive them by email.
The new correspondence address is:
Drewsteignton Parish Council
c/o 27 Court Street
Moretonhampstead
Newton Abbot
TQ13 8LG
Contact number is 07538 130973

The Parish Post

SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHOUT ABOUT? GO ON, TELL US ABOUT IT …..
The Post is designed to keep everyone in touch with life in the Parish. We’d love to hear about your forthcoming events and calendar entries, hair-raising experiences, fundraising efforts, funny stories, memories, recipes.
Your thoughts, opinions, comments, views and concerns are important too. Please tell us. You don’t have to be a great writer. Just email Shelley

Drewsteignton Parish Post
Contact Details:

If you have trouble reading this publication please let me know and I will arrange for a large format version to be sent to you

shelley.mansfield@me.com

drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk

For Editorial Contributions
Shelley Mansfield
drewsteigntonparishpost@hotmail.co.uk
shelley.mansfield@me.com

Village Hall Bookings
callum.chapman@btinternet.com or

Drewsteignton Alison Chapman Tel: 01647 281197
Whiddon Down Clare Rowe whiddondownvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01647 231643

For Parish Council Business
Lucy Bruckner clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk
Tel: 07538 130973

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 1st April - Thank You