After formalities the first item at the last meeting was to co-opt Peter Brennan onto the council who will represent Drewsteignton ward until the 2nd May. Peter has lived with his family in Crockernwell for a number of years, has an engineering and business background and recently taken over as CEO of Hospice care in Exeter. For the first time in many years the council is up to its full nine members but this will only be until May when we will have at least three vacancies.

Due to high winds recently it was reported a large tree was blown over near Sandy Park blocking the road and took time to clear. A wall collapsed in Stone Lane.

We are looking at new quotes for the maintenance of the car park in Drewsteignton. Stagecoach has written to the council asking for opinions on an updated service on routes 6 from Okehampton to Exeter via Crockernwell & Cheriton Bishop and 6A which follow the old A30 through all the villages. Councillors agreed to reply they were happy with the present service. It was noted the most vulnerable was the Dartline 173 which is subsidised by Devon County Council. This serves Moretonhampstead, Chagford, Drewsteignton, Crockernwell and on to Exeter and we would encourage parishioners to use the service as much as possible or it could easily be put at risk of closing.

Cllr Graham Hester reported that the Post Inn at Whiddon Down were proposing to have a personal computer which would be for use by the community.

Cllr Debi Brooks reported on a recent playing field meeting. They had been approached by a parishioner exploring the possibility of a legacy to provide a tennis court. Councillors were concerned this was a great idea but ongoing maintenance of a hard court would be expensive. They also looked at thinning some of the mature trees. Cllr Anna Imrie reported from an Eastern Links meeting the police report had identified we live in a relatively low crime area, there had been no reported knife crime but social media (non violent) crime was on the increase.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Drewsteignton on Monday 25th March. The Chairman reported we had dealt with 19 planning applications over the twelve months, Dartmoor National Park are processing our planning application for the lighting pole in the playing field for a community night landing site for Devon Air Ambulance, more and more work was being undertaken by the Parish Council in road and footpath maintenance due to cutbacks from Devon County Highways. He drew attention to the unsung heroes in the parish who did their bit in keeping the parish clean and tidy and other work for the community. Special mention was made of Dee Douglas at Whiddon Down for keeping the village tidy and Pauline Rowe for her sterling work on the Parish Post. The Chairman’s award presented each year to the person thought to have made a significant contribution to the parish was presented to Alison Chapman.

Our next meeting, which will be the last for the present council, will be on Monday 15th April 7.30pm at Drewsteignton village hall.
Local events

- - The Drewe Arms - -

Sunday 31st - Mothers Day lunches - Buy a roast, get a dessert free
Saturday 6th - Quiz Night with JT - 8pm start
From 2nd April the pub tea room will be open for breakfast and normal tea room items from Tuesday to Saturday 09:00 - 14:30
Takeaway items are available too.

Don't Miss Out!!!

Drewsteignton Garden Club - SPRING PLANT SALE
Saturday May 4th 10am until sold out! @ The Village Hall
Come early!! All sorts of plants for sale: at BARGAIN PRICES!!
Refreshments / Raffle

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
Friends of Drewsteignton Church (FODC)
The FODC Committee are very grateful to Gary at the Drewe Arms for hosting the Pancake Day for the benefit of FODC. We all had a good time and £155.19 was raised. Gift Aid can be claimed so we will get an extra 25% in due course.
The evening with the Exeter Cathedral Choir was a great success with some exceptional young men not only singing but also taking solos in song, on the oboe and the piano. We were delighted to announce our half of the profit at £516.25

Holy Trinity Church PCC
The PCC would like to thank all involved in the fabulous concert given by the Exeter Cathedral Choir in Holy Trinity Church and what a brilliant start to the FODC fund raising ventures.

Drewsteignton Playing Field
Many thanks to the Chagford Show Committee for not only putting on a great event but also donating £370 to the Playing Field to enable us to buy 5-a-side goal posts. It’s greatly appreciated.

- Alison Chapman

April Events at Okehampton Library
Tuesday 2 April 14:00-15:00 - Handa’s Surprise, story and activity
Celebrating 25 years of this modern classic, ‘Handa’s Surprise’ by Eileen Browne.
There will be a chance to win a copy of this brilliant book.
£1 per child. Booking essential. Suitable for under 5’s and their carers

Tuesday 2 April 19:00 – Permaculture talk
Using permaculture design, North Devon Permaculture will show you how to establish and maintain low maintenance, abundant growing systems which work closely with nature and help to provide individual and social benefits for wellbeing.
Tickets £3 in advance or £3.50 on the door, to include refreshments.

Monday 29 April 10:30-11:30 – We’re Going on a Bear Hunt, story and activity
Special 30th anniversary of ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’
We’re going on a bear hunt. We’re going to catch a big one. Will you come too?
Join us for this special story and there will be a chance to win a copy of this wonderful book.
£1 per child. Booking essential. Suitable for under 5’s and their carers

Saturday 6 - Saturday 20 April during library opening hours - Easter Egg Book Hunt
Find the ten egg related books that are hidden in the library and fill in their missing titles. Pick up an entry form from the counter. 20p per entry - all entries will receive a small Easter treat and all correct entries will be entered our prize draw.

Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, Okehampton EX20 1AR
01837 52805 okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Whiddon Down Village Hall.
Thank you once again for supporting our fundraising efforts. Phase 1, the kitchen and toilet windows, is now booked and will hopefully be completed after Easter.
Just a reminder about our Easter bingo on Monday 15th April at 8.00pm. Chicken and chocolate will feature in our prizes! Make it a family occasion, children are welcome.
We are still looking for someone to take on the role of treasurer. Jakki Newton has kindly agreed to stay on until our AGM on 13th June 2019. If anyone could help us we would be very grateful.
Happy Easter to you all. Jenny Turner - 01647231179
It has been funny old winter so far, such warm weather in February has seen some plants appear weeks, even months before you would expect. Traditional winter produce has overlapped with spring produce in a way I've never seen before. Winter chanterelles and scarlet elf cup fungi overlapping with new season wild garlic and rising birch sap is very unusual. There are some great fresh wild products to look out for at this time of year, cleavers, nettles, dandelions, purple dead nettle, jack by the hedge, three cornered leek and wild garlic beginning to show are all fabulous plants to eat raw or make a range of dishes with. Please make sure you do your research, wild garlic in particular grows alongside lords and ladies, arum maculatum or cuckoo pint. It is a toxic and common plant with young leaves that are similar to wild garlic, do not get them mixed up.

If you want to try something a little different try pickling some magnolia petals in cider vinegar, they taste like they smell so use sparingly but they really do add something different to a salad. You can also use the scented vinegar to make beautiful salad dressings too.

Please do harvest sparingly. When you walk away look back where you just harvested and hopefully you should see no trace. We share much of this bounty with wildlife that need it more, look after it and it will be here forever.

Our Ground up Cookery School opposite Oinkers is rapidly taking shape, the spaces both internally and externally are at the stage where we can really begin to visualise how it will look when we open for our first course in a few weeks.

The biggest question for me as the Culinary Director while planning this project was what courses to run? I thought deciding on the course list would be easy but it proved to be far trickier than I anticipated. There were many important considerations to take into account. I want to offer courses that are relevant to the area, the geography and the climate and how they impact on the local producers, to borrow a French word that sums it up, the “terroir”.

Our ethos is to offer guests the chance to learn in a fun and relaxed environment where they feel free to express themselves and comfortable enough to ask for a bit more help if needed. We want to offer courses that will be different to and compliment the already well established and excellent schools in the area.

After much thought and debate we have settled on a draft list for the first calendar year that will hopefully excite and enthuse you. Our courses range from a few hours to full day and we hope include something for everyone.

We will open with an introduction to fermenting course as a lead into our full day course, scheduled for later in the year. This is a great way to introduce seasonal, wild plants into your diet and also to preserve gluts of homegrown produce. This workshop will fill you with healthy, good gut bacteria to reportedly improve your digestion and health whilst introducing you to a whole new range of flavour and texture combinations.

Then come and meet Marc Dennis from Duchy Charcuterie. We will have a fun and delicious day teaching you how to make your own bacon, salami and cured salmon.

In the Autumn, join us for “Pheasants and Cider”, learn how to make Scrumpy with my homemade cider press and prepare pheasant in an exciting ways from salami to sous vide.

There are many interesting foraging courses available in the area, however, ours is a whole day so we can focus on practical cookery and recipes, to help you make the most of your hoard.

Finally Christmas is coming, again! We want to share the tastiest Christmas Pudding recipe ever, CHOCOLATE AND CARDAMON Christmas Pudding, it doesn’t get better than this.....even the kids like it!!!! Join us for a few hours to taste some Christmas goodies and make this special Christmas pudding to take home with you ready for the big day. That will be one job off your to-do list this year!

We can also offer bespoke courses for groups of 8 or more, just let us know what you want to learn. We can accommodate most interests.

Please visit our website www.groundupcookeryschool.co.uk to find out more and book a course or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram @groundupcookery #groundupcookery

Kind regards
Colin and Tasha
GROWING NEDCARE NEEDS MORE CARERS

NEDCare—the not-for-profit agency providing care and support for people at home in North East Dartmoor—is calling for new staff to help it meet local demand. Since achieving regulated status with the Care Quality Commission 8 months ago, the community-owned company has continuously grown. It now provides around 600 hours of care each month.

“It’s great to be supporting so many people already but we’re still a relatively new organisation, so we’re still growing” says Director, Julia Darby. “In fact, demand for care is such that we need to treble in size to meet local demand over the next 12 months or so.”

As a result, NEDCare is looking for new carers to join the team. “We have a wide range of carers working with us, from people who began with little or no experience to experienced nurses and other ex-NHS staff.” As a regulated agency, NEDCare provides comprehensive training and support for staff. “Our carer pay rates are also more than 30% higher than the national average because we believe care work is a highly skilled role and we value our care team.”

If you know anyone who might make a good carer please let them know about NEDCare. You can get in touch on 01647 279211 or email info@nedcare.org. Website: www.nedcare.org

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News from the Castle

Hello everyone

I am delighted to let you know that the Castle Drogo is open again. We actually opened on Saturday 9 March and then we were hit with Storm Gareth and some pretty impressive gale force winds. Sadly, this meant that there were several days when it was just too wild and windy for us to open. As you can imagine, we were really disappointed and it wasn’t the start to the season we wanted. However, as I write this we have some calmer weather on its way.

The south end of the castle is looking great! There is a lovely welcome film in the Library and the Drawing room and Dining room have been re-presented with ceilings freshly painted. Paintings and tapestries have gone back up and the smell of freshly polished wooden floors is back once again.

The north end is still work in progress and the rooms in that area tell the story of when the Drewe family moved in. The eagle eyed among you may have noticed that the scaffolding is still up. We lost several weeks of work over the winter thanks to strong winds, snow and ice so the scaffolding will remain until late Spring while the last of the work on the north end is completed. It will then take a few months to dismantle the big white tent at which point we can then access the Kitchen and Scullery roof sections. These are tricky as they are below ground level but we plan to tackle them over the summer. Fingers crossed for glorious sunshine!

Best wishes all,
Paula
Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk
paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk
Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be April 4th at the Red Lion. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone Jean Martin 01647 24586 / ring the Acorn Office.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury’s from Cheriton – Dates are April 3rd & 17th. Help is provided in store. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £5 return.

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 April 11th & 25th. 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 April 2nd, 16th & 30th.

Dunsford coffee morning- Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212. Village Hall, Dressing room. April 3rd & 17th. 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.

Interested in becoming a volunteer driver or escort? We would love to hear from you, call the office for more details of how you can help your community. Acorn Office: 01647 252701 for further information.

Bird Notes

March is a wonderful month, and quite probably my favourite for a variety of reasons. You get to watch the very gentle change from winter to spring just by going about your normal business and witnessing the progression via your usual routes as the vegetation starts to change and hedgerows get the first blush of green and individual trees begin to put on colour. However, over the last four weeks we have had some mixed weather, which all started with storm Freya bringing strong winds and rain over the first week. After a settled second week, we then had storm Gerard blowing in from the Atlantic with wet and windy condition again but finished off with some fine sunny days and a dry end to the month. It has been wonderful watching the hedgerows gently greening and the wildflowers and grasses begin to shoot up, and the birds have been busy. By mid-month, the rooks in the churchyard in Drewsteignton were busy with nest building and seem to favour certain trees in the churchyard to break sticks from. I also saw them gathering small lumps of mud to make the internal cups before they then line them with softer material, such as sheep’s wool prior to laying their eggs.

I recorded redwings locally as late as the 15th before they departed and then some of our summer migrants started arriving. I was speaking to a friend in St. Davids in Pembrokeshire who told me he had heard his first chiffchaff calling on the 19th. I then heard my first the following day while working at Hinkley Point, then in Cornwall on the 21st and finally in (cont.)
Drewsteignton on the 22nd. Ever since then, their very familiar call (chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff) is just non-stop from tall shrubs, copses, hedgerows and woodland edges. I consider this the first indicator of spring and they will be calling now right through the summer and well into autumn. I am hopeless at most bird calls and am again going through the process of trying to learn and remember other warbler calls, but I have seen blackcaps and whitethroats locally over the last few days.

Spring officially began on the 20th of March on the Vernal Equinox, and with the good weather, there were signs of the season in my garden with blackbirds collecting mud to make a nest and a pair of magpies gathering sticks to create their nest in a holly tree at the back of our garden. In the fine recent weather, I have been spotting good numbers of butterflies, including peacock, brimstone and orange tips while out and about locally and walking our dog.

March is also the month my peregrine season begins and so it is always quite exciting to hear of the first peregrine eggs laid and observed via webcams installed at urban sites where they nest. The fun comes with guessing which site will be the first and when the first egg will be laid, and this year it took everyone by surprise. The first egg was laid at St. Johns church in Bath at 06.30 on the 7th March, ten days earlier than at this site last year. The peregrines at Bath laid their second egg on the 9th and their third on the 11th before we heard that another site had their first. This was at Export House in Woking with their first egg arriving on the 11th at 14.08. The Woking peregrines laid five eggs last year and did it again this year with eggs on the 11th, 13th, 16th, 18th and the 20th with about a 55 to 60 hour interval between eggs. Other sites then got a look in with the Norwich Cathedral pair laying on the 15th, Leamington Spa Clock tower on the 18th along with Leicester Cathedral, and with Rochdale town hall and Kingston college on the 22nd. This all boded well for the Exeter peregrines which over the past few years have always laid on the 24th or 25th March, and so I have been watching the webcam, and waiting and still no eggs. However, I have seen behaviour that indicates we might have an egg in the nest box but unfortunately if so then it is out of sight of the camera. If this is the case, then we will not know how many eggs we will have or how many hatch or when which is quite frustrating considering that is the point of the camera. Finally, I would just like to thank all those who came to my talk on the Exeter peregrines at Fingle Bridge Inn on the 7th of March. I was overjoyed to see so many people there and having plugged the webcam, I am just hoping we will have something to watch over the next few months.

Nick

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 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
25th April - Thank You

VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR

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