

Annex 4 - The Drewe Arms History

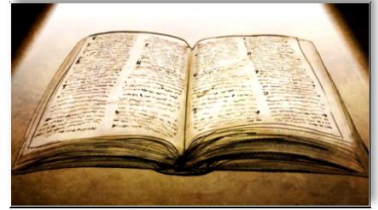
1086 - Present Day



**THE
DREWE ARMS**
COMMUNITY PUB

The Full History of The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton

1086 First mention of the place as *Taintona* in Domesday Book, when it was one of the 176 manors in Devon held by Baldwin the Sheriff. At that time there were twenty peasants and four slaves working the land and looking after 14 cows, 100 sheep and 31 goats. The woodland then extended to about 360 acres, pasture around 60 acres and meadow six acres. Before the Conquest it had been the manor of Osfrith of Okehampton.



1166 The manor was held by Ingelram d'Aubernon. It was held by the same family until 1359.



1210 First mention of the locality as Drewsteignton, due to land here being held by Drogo of Teignton in the late twelfth century (presumably as tenants of the D'Aubernon family). A later Drogo of Teignton held land here still in 1244.

1253 John D'Aubernon had a grant of free warren here, allowing him to hunt game on his land. This suggests he probably resided here, at least occasionally.



1303 The manor of Drewsteignton was referred to as Teignton Daubernon, after the family who were lords here.

1359 William D'Aubernon, the last of the family, died leaving the manor to his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of William Croyser.

1395 The manor and the advowson of the church had come by this time into the possession of Stephen Durnford of Plymouth. Probably inherited through his wife, Celia, who may have been the daughter of William and Elizabeth Croyser.

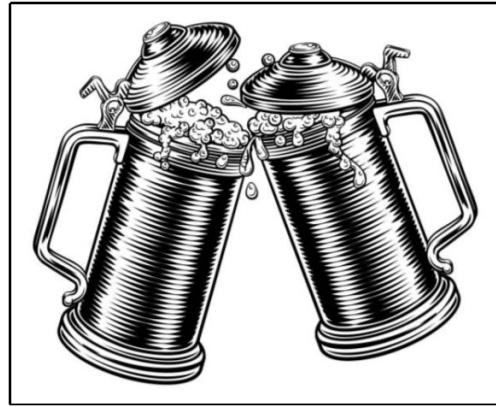
1427 Death of Stephen Durnford and the manor is inherited by his son James.



15th century: The parish church was rebuilt

1493 Marriage of James Durnford's daughter, Joan (d. 1525) to Sir Piers Edgcumbe (d. 1539) of Mount Edgcumbe. Their granddaughter, Elizabeth Edgcumbe, married Thomas Carew (d. 1564) of Antony in Cornwall, presumably taking possession of the manor with her to that family. They owned it until 1791.

1756 Earliest surviving licensing records mention John Smith (d. 1785) as a licensee in Drewsteignton. His son, John Smith (also a licensee) married Elizabeth Williams in 1791 and had a son William Smith, who was the landlord of the New Inn (later the Drewe Arms; see below).



1791 The Carew-Pole family, descendants of the Durnfords and the Edgcumbes, sold off the manor of Drewsteignton piecemeal to various purchasers.

1822 William Smith (1792-1866), 'cattle dealer, victualler and farmer' was landlord of the New Inn (which would later become the Drewe Arms). He was probably the third generation of the Smith family to be the landlord, following on from his father John Smith and grandfather John Smith (d. 1785). William was still the landlord here in 1851.



Picture not Drewsteignton but typical of farming in the 19th century

1861 Elizabeth Hole was said to be the landlady of the New Inn in the census, she being the wife of John Hole, a farmer of 120 acres. They both lived at the pub with three children, a dairy maid, a home maid and four agricultural labourers/farm servants.

1871 James Nickells was the innkeeper at the New Inn, living there with his wife Sophie and four children and three servants.

1878 John Marks, innkeeper and carpenter, was landlord of the New Inn.

1881 Henry Marks, innkeeper and carpenter, landlord of the New Inn, living here with his wife Elizabeth and two children. They were still here in 1891.

1893 The New Inn passed to Alfred Mudge, who renamed it The Druid's Arms after the cromlech at Shilstone Farm, known by many as Spinster's Rock. Spinster's Rock is the best surviving example in Devon of a neolithic burial chamber, known as a dolmen or cromlech.



Spinster's Rock



The Druid's Arms under Alfred Mudge

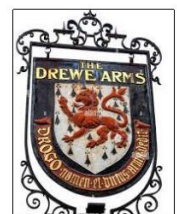
1910 Julius Drew (1856-1931), tea merchant and founder of the Home & Colonial grocery stores, the highly successful and one of the UK's first ever grocery chain stores, purchased the 450-acre estate where he built Castle Drogo. The same year he changed his name by deed poll to Drewe (with an extra 'e').



1911 Foundation stone was laid for Castle Drogo, designed by Edwin Lutyens.

1912 Around this year, The Druid's Arms was renamed The Drewe Arms at the request of Julius Drewe.

1914 Alfred Mudge is described in *Kelly's Directory* as landlord of 'The Drewe Arms family & commercial hotel & posting house; fishing tickets issued'.



1919 Ernest and Mabel Mudge (1895-1996) took on the licence of the Drewe Arms, Ernest being Alfred's younger brother.

1927 The Drewe family start to live at Castle Drogo.



Mabel and Ernest in 1944

1929 Ernest and Mabel Mudge's only child, Ernest, was born and died at the age of five months old.

1951 Ernest Mudge dies. Mabel carries on as landlady singlehanded.

1967 The Drewe Arms is listed Grade II* by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (now Historic England).

1974 Anthony Drewe, grandson of Julius, gifts Castle Drogo to the National Trust.



1994 Mabel Mudge retires as the licensee of the Drewe Arms, aged 99. Mabel holds the UK record for the longest-serving landlady (or landlord). She died two years later, aged 101. Elaine Chudley, a long-serving employee of Mabel's, becomes the interim licensee, now under Whitbread.

1996 Janice and Colin Sparks take over the pub.

...(we need some more information, details and potential corrections from here on...)

2007 Paul and Fiona Newton take on the license of The Drewe Arms tied to Enterprise Inns.

2013 The Drewe Arms shuts its doors for the first time in its history due to Enterprise Inns' terms and conditions rendering the pub unviable for the Newtons to continue trading. Six months later, Laurence and his partner Jason take on the tied license and reopen the pub.

DEVON: Legendary landlady remembered at 'timewarp' pub

Mourners raise a pint to Mabel

MOURNERS were today gathering at Devon's most famous pub in honour of its legendary landlady Mabel Mudge who died peacefully at 101.

'Auntie Mabel' was Britain's oldest and most traditional publican when she retired aged 99.

She had spent 75 years of keeping Devon's "timewarp pub" - The Drewe Arms - in the tiny village of Drewsteignton on Dartmoor.

But in all her years she never worked behind a bar, served a pub meal, emptied a fruit machine or changed the records on a juke box. For the Drewe never had any of those in Mabel's time.

The thatched and whitewashed pub resolutely resisted the '60s revolution in the

by CHRIS MILLS

Mabel a place for life at the Drewe Arms but her retirement to a Chagford nursing home brought controversy as the brewery giants announced a major renovation programme to bring the Drewe up to EU standards.

A protest committee sprang up even though some villagers thought the time had come for a change.

FOND MEMORIES: Mabel Mudge dispensing beer at The Drewe Arms.

2015 Gary Hitchin steps in to take on the license, still tied to Enterprise Inns, and strives to keep the pub open despite challenging terms and unprecedented conditions

2020 The world is devastated by Covid, a global pandemic.

2022 After surviving a number of nationwide lockdowns, Gary can no longer sustain the pub as a tied enterprise and it closes indefinitely.

2023 Stonegate, who acquired the pub from Enterprise c.2018, put the freehold up for sale. The community rally in an attempt to buy the pub and turn The Drewe Arms back into a Community Pub, just as it has been to so many for hundreds of years.



The Drewe Arms Community 2000

Special Thanks

To the Drewe Arms History Group and Ian Mortimer for researching and compiling this fascinating timeline of our pub. More information, any edits or corrections about this very special place and the generations of owners it has seen come and go over the centuries are always welcome. info@drewearms.org