

Comment: It's 'Show Time' – will we get our usual dose of testing weather? Don't be put off, the Ashwater Show is almost unique for the size village we live in, enjoy the day as it represents a lot of planning and hard work rewarded by your support.

Newsletter: Contributions for the next Newsletter by 23rd August please. ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

3rd August – Village Inn, Lunch Club 12.30pm

4th August – Coffee Morning, 10.30am – Noon

5th August – Churchyard Survey -2pm at the church

9th August– Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm

11th August – Coffee Morning 10.30am-Noon

16th August – Hall GPC Meeting, 8.00pm

18th August – Coffee Morning 10.30am – Noon

19th August – Ashwater Show Day-the Showground

20th August– Camera Club, 4.30pm – Thorn Park

24th August – Shop AGM – 7.00pm

25th August – Coffee Morning 10.30am-Noon

Advance Notice

16th September– Craft and Produce Fair – 1pm.

Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries
Email: Imyetman@btinternet.com
Tel: 01409 211131

Ashwater Shop (Opening Hours)

Hours: Mon – Frid: 8.30am to 5.00pm
Saturday: 8.30am to Noon
Sunday: 9am to 12 Noon

Tel: 01409 211192

Post Office

Hours: Mon – Frid: 9.00am to 4.00pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

PARISH HALL

Wine and Walk

Despite the weather doing its best to dampen things and curtailing the full walk the event was still a great success with plenty of wine 'tasted'. Many thanks to Kate & Adrian and Liz and Roy for all that they did and thanks everyone for making the effort to come despite the rotten rain. It was an enjoyable evening. Thanks also to Judith and Helen for organising it, with sterling assistance from George and John Bone at the B-B-Q.

Hall Working Party

Thank you to all those for lending a hand at tidying the car park and sprucing up the Des Shadrack Room.

Hall Cupboard

If you have not noticed there is now a cupboard in the hall foyer (adjacent to the toilets) which is housing the mop, bucket, dust pan and brush for tidying up the hall rooms after use.

Hall Extension

Initial work in preparation for the hall extension is now being considered. Further detail will be announced in due course.

Reminders

When stacking the hall chairs after use please take extreme care. No more than 22 chairs should be placed on the gurneys and please make sure they are placed correctly otherwise the stack can topple and break the chair backs.

All hall bookings are now being handled by Letitia Yetman, telephone 01409 211131 or email: Imyetman@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to thank Letitia Yetman, Ivan Buxton and Diane Buxton who helped in making up hanging baskets and planters in and around the village. The displays have enhanced the beauty of Ashwater.

National Plant Monitoring Scheme is a partnership between Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI); JNCC; Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) and Plantlife and is backed by the government. The scheme will recruit and support volunteers to survey 5 plots in a kilometre square close to where they live. The plots will be surveyed twice a year. The kilometre squares to monitor have been identified by stratified random sampling. The plants have been chosen as indicators of the health of individual habitats. There are 3 levels volunteers can participate at depending on confidence and knowledge and support will be provided both through training; web and telephone. There are still lots of squares available for surveying. The live map on the NPMS website shows the squares that are available: http://www.npms.org.uk/square-near-me-public?dynamic-return_all_squares=true

Potholes – residents of Ashwater are advised to keep reporting potholes using the following link: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>. Due to limited funds available to Highways for road repairs, residents are encouraged to use local roads respectfully to try and avoid additional problems with road surfaces.

Connecting Devon & Somerset Broadband Voucher Scheme has again extended the Broadband Voucher Scheme deadline until the 30th September 2017. This is the 2nd extension for those currently holding a CDS Voucher. Exmoor Technology are the largest supplier on the voucher scheme & have successfully connected hundreds of homes and businesses in North & West Devon to the 4G network from EE.

They have access to fantastic discounts making 4G Rural Broadband an affordable and fast service that suits all users. This could be particularly useful for Ashwater residents who currently have a good EE 4G connection on their mobile phones at home. More information can be obtained from: <http://www.exmoor-tech.co.uk>.

The next monthly parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 August 2017 at 7.30pm.

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY – 3rd August

Please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest on 01409 211200. The two-course meal is priced very reasonably by Phil and Dee and is great value – join us from 12.30pm.

HOUSING APPLICATION – LAND SOUTH OF FAIRFIELD (BEHIND THE VILLAGE INN)

The recent meeting regarding the above application for circa 22 dwellings was attended by about 65 residents who had an opportunity to discuss the proposed housing development and its place within the village. The process of commenting to Torridge District Council was outlined.

The most effective way to influence the planning committee is to write a letter to the planning officer,
Mr Dave Kenyon
Riverbank House
Bideford
Devon
EX39 2QG

You can comment online. People who have difficulty in accessing the TDC web site should email: brgeorge@btinternet.com who will send a direct link to the correct page.

The final date for public comments is MONDAY 7th AUGUST

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROJECT – 5th August

Those interested in taking part in the GRAVEYARD SURVEY (which will include examining the memorial stones) are invited to a meeting to discuss the manner in which the project should proceed. Contact Trevor May (Tel: 01409 211523, or email: trevormay@hotmail.com) if you need more information, but better still come along and become part of this very interesting aspect of the project.

Meet in the church on Saturday 5 August at 2.00pm and outside if the weather permits. Refreshments will be provided.

The initial ecology survey identifying some of the lichens and mosses has been undertaken and a brief report has been prepared. We will arrange another survey for the early autumn, to record fruits, berries and late flowering plants as well as discuss suggestions for any habitat improvements that might be possible.

If you are interested in helping to record the wildlife of the churchyard please come to the meeting and provide your contact details as we hope to undertake a number of surveys in order to cover the differing seasons. These do not take more than about an hour and no previous experience is necessary.

A recording device is now available for use by the group and it is anticipated that a start will be made shortly in using it to obtain information about the village and its people as part of the project's aims to create an historical record.

Don't forget our presence at the Ashwater Show which will be based at the church's stand. There will be a display outlining the activities, and a competition relating to Ashwater and its heritage, with prizes for the oldest photograph, the most evocative memory, or the most unusual item brought in that relate to the village or parish. There will also be a children's competition, identifying mystery objects.

ASHWATER AGRICULTURAL SHOW – 19th August

This year the show is Saturday August 19th and we will have the usual cattle, sheep and horse classes at the Show. There is a tractor run again also. Fur and feather is back including rabbits. There will also be a craft tent. The horticultural society will have their marquee as usual. We start setting up the marquees etc., the Tuesday night before the show and any help would be very much appreciated. We hope to see you all there.

84th ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SHOW – 19th August

The schedules and entry forms are available in the shop or may be down loaded from the parish website: www.ashwaterparish.org.uk Please ensure your entries are in by 6pm on Wednesday 16th August 2017 to the Village Shop, Maggie Edmonds at Fir Hill or Fiona Bull at Moorhay farm. If you are new to the village and are wondering about entering any of the classes, don't be put off or think you have to be a member, entry is open and we all have to battle with our weather to produce something – it's a great leveller! Those still holding cups and trophies please return them to the shop or Fiona Bull as soon as possible, thank you.

CAMERA CLUB – 20th August

The August meeting will be held on Sunday 20th August 2017 taking photos of Caroline and Roy Gill's flower meadow at Thorne Park, Ashwater. It would be really helpful if you could let Caroline know if you can make it. The postcode won't get you there so here are directions!

From the village hall where we normally meet; turn left and go down the hill to the 'T' junction.

Turn right towards Ashmill, go over the bridge and IMMEDIATELY turn left to Thorne.

Continue up this single-track road past the houses on the right, continue for approx. 3/4 mile (mind the potholes). You will start to go up a steep hill and on the right, you will see a house (the first since the group at the beginning of the lane) go in the bottom of the two entrances and park carefully as we are a building site! From the village hall, you should arrive in approximately 5 minutes.

ASHWATER COMMUNITY SHOP - AGM 24th August

The Annual General Meeting of the shop was deferred from July and will be held at the Parish Hall on Thursday 24th August 2017 from 7.00pm. This is a public meeting when the annual accounts will be presented and notices will be circulated beforehand. There are committee vacancies and anyone interested in applying should complete a proposal form, these are available in the shop.

This is your shop and the meeting is the annual chance to discuss any suggestions you may like make as well as see how the past year has gone.

We are pleased that the new chillers have been delivered and are functioning well.

Ashwater photographs are needed for the 2018 Calendar, please send them to Stuart Marwood at stuart.marwood@gmail.com or speak to John in the shop.

CRAFT AND PRODUCE FAIR 16th September 2017

Please make a note that the next Craft and Produce Fair will be at Ashwater Hall on 16th September 2017 from 1pm. Refreshments, raffle and various stalls. Proceeds in aid of Ashwater Community Shop.

HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK

This month our Friday walks have included Germansweek which is quite a new walk for us. We parked by the Village Hall, turned right and right again down a service road which soon became a stony track leading down to the River Wolf which is the main source feeding Roadford Lake. The river is easily forded at this point or, for those not wishing to get wet feet there is a convenient footbridge. We then negotiated a couple of stiles, fields and another stony track before reaching a lane which took us down to the main road where we crossed the Southweek Viaduct. This bridge over the northern end of Roadford reservoir was opened in 1987. It replaced a small country road which previously went down through the valley, so was soon to be flooded by the reservoir. Turning right again we followed the footpath alongside a wooded area, across a couple of fields and up a grassy track back to the cars. One walker did have an unfortunate incident over the rough terrain when she tripped and hurt her wrist. Thanks must go to Pauline for her competent and solicitous care of the lady in question who is now fine.

We were pleased to host a free Walk Leader Training Course in Holsworthy Scout Hut on 1st July. Trained walk leaders and back markers are essential to the success of Walking for Health. We would like to welcome Kay and Paul to the Holsworthy Group together with four new walk leaders to the Okehampton Group and three to the Bude Group. If you would like any more information about becoming a walk leader please contact David Arney below.

Walking is one of the best forms of exercise and can reduce the risk of many common conditions including heart disease, high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes. All walks are free to attend and it is a good way to see different aspects of the district and discover some of the local history.

Our Monday walks in Stanhope Park, Holsworthy start at 10.30 am from The Scout Hut next to the Leisure Centre with tea and coffee served afterwards in the Youth Centre. The Friday walks move off at 10.30 am from various locations around the area. Details can be found on our walk programme.

For further information regarding the Monday walks please contact Gillian Aston on 01409 254642. For information regarding the Friday walks please contact David Arney on 01837 861829.

The next two Friday walks are at Buckland Filleigh, (4th August) start at the hall car park and Halwill Junction, (11th August) start at the hall car park.

.....And Finally, an Appeal

Would anyone who remembers taking home a cup cake stand from an event in the hall last year please check to see if it was theirs as Christine Drowne is anxious to trace hers and would be grateful for its return. Kindly ring 01409 211428 or if possible drop it off at 1, Manor Park.

Advertising in the Newsletter

Small adverts cost £25 per issue and help to cover the cost of paper and printing, which are otherwise donated or paid from parish council funds raised through the local precept.

Distribution of Newsletters

My thanks to those who provide articles for and distribute the newsletters. If you know of anybody who did not receive a copy please let me know: copies will always be available at the Village Shop, Parish Hall and in the Village Inn. Any information for inclusion in or offers to help please contact Ivan Buxton on 01409 221073, e-mail ibuxton16@btinternet.com. Don't forget to visit the Ashwater Website www.ashwaterparish.org.uk

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