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*Comment: Congratulations to the Church on the recently announced Heritage Lottery Award.*

*This will be the last Newsletter before the Festive Season - Happy Christmas to all our readers, advertisers and those who deliver the newsletter every month.*

**Newsletter:** Please submit items for the **January** issue by **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December** to [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com)

**Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)**

**1<sup>st</sup> December – Photo Group, 7.30pm.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December – Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> December – Lunch Club, Village Inn**

**6<sup>th</sup> December – Craft Fair, 1pm-4pm**

**12<sup>th</sup> December – Shop open evening, 6.00pm**

**12<sup>th</sup> December - Craft and Chatter – 2pm to 4pm**

**15<sup>th</sup> December Mulled wine and mince pies, 6.30pm**

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**Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries**  
**Tel: 01409 211213**  
**Email: Bob.griggs1@btopenworld.com**

**Ashwater Shop (Opening Hours)**  
**Hours: Mon – Frid: 8.30am to 5.00pm**  
**Saturday: 8.30am to Noon**  
**Sunday: 9am to 12 Noon**

**Place a regular order and it will be ready for your collection**

**SEE SHOP NEWS FOR CHRISTMAS OPENING**

**Post Office**  
**Hours: Mon – Frid: 9.00am to 4.30pm**  
**Saturday: Closed**  
**Sunday: Closed**  
**Telephone: 01409 211192**

**SHOP NEWS**

**Open Evening 12<sup>th</sup> December**

“We are pleased to invite everyone to a fabulous “Christmas Tasting Evening” on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 6.00-9.00pm in the Parish Hall, to sample wines, cheeses, biscuits and Christmas food, all of which can be bought either on the night in the hall or from the shop as usual. We are sure this will be a fun evening with music and of course a raffle and lucky dip !

The Shop Committee has invited two new members, Yvonne Kulagowski and Sue Luxton to join them. We are both newcomers to the village but have a huge commitment to the shop and its importance in village life. At a time when not everyone attends church or visits the pub regularly, we are fortunate that we still have a meeting place, the shop, open every day of the week.

In an effort to get to know more people we are organising the “Christmas Tasting Evening” and hope that apart from meeting customers, old and new, who we haven’t met before, we will also meet past, present and future volunteers !

Eric Burnill has stood down as Chair, to be replaced by Sue and Yvonne who will act as joint chair. Many thanks to Eric who has seen the organisation through some difficult days of finding out how to run a shop !! I am sure he didn’t foresee running a shop as part of his retirement! We are fortunate that he will remain on the committee to share his knowledge.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm.  
Yvonne and Sue”

The 2015 Ashwater Calendar is now on sale at £5.99 and features photographs taken by parish residents of places or people of Ashwater.

The shop hamper at £35.00 to include a proper hamper basket (not a Supermarket cardboard box) represents excellent value for money, but they are going fast – fortunately if you miss out you have chance to win one by entering the draw for £1.00 a ticket.

The Post Office will be open on three Saturday mornings running up to Christmas (6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December). The PO Gift Cards make excellent presents for any occasion, especially if you need a last minute gift.

The shop/PO will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and the shop only will be open on Boxing Day until 10.30am. On 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December the shop only will open until 12 Noon. On 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December the shop and PO will close at 1pm and the shop only will open until 10.30am on New Year’s Day.

Many thanks to the Manager and all volunteers for all their hard work during the year, without them the shop or Post Office would



not be able to operate and we wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### PARISH HALL

#### Great War Tea Party

On Saturday 22 November people of all ages from across the Parish gathered together at the hall to commemorate the Great War. Over 90 people attended and enjoyed an afternoon of socialising, took part in some friendly competition with a selection of traditional games and enjoyed a fantastic tea provided by a team of volunteers. An extensive exhibition of research and wartime artefacts was kindly provided by Margaret Benjafield and Shawn Dymond as part of the Holsworthy Remembrance project. Thanks must go to them for putting on such a brilliant display which included details of some of those who left Ashwater to fight in the war. A wonderful exhibition of poppy artwork was provided by Ashwater School and the Reverend Jane Lucas reminded us of the important reason for the commemoration with some poignant words, sharing notes from a book which detailed over 120 men from the Parish who fought.

It was fantastic to see such a cross section of people, including many who had gone to great efforts wearing dress from the era as well as others who donned red, white and blue for the occasion. The trustees of the hall would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who was involved in the event, including those who volunteered on the day, ran activities and games, provided food, donated raffle prizes or supported by attending, making the afternoon a huge success, raising over £500 towards the Parish Hall extension which is planned to provide much needed storage facilities for hall users.

The next event put on by the hall committee will be a Curry and Quiz night on Saturday 31 January 2015.

#### Parish Hall Five Year Anniversary

A date for your diary.....On Saturday 21 March 2015 there will be a celebration event in the hall to mark five years since it opened. It is hoped that this will involve all aspects of the community and the committee welcome your ideas now on what the event might include. If anyone has any thoughts or would like to be involved please contact Colin Vallance – [cprv@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cprv@hotmail.co.uk) or 01409 211441, Helen Bone – [bonethreegables@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bonethreegables@yahoo.co.uk) or Letitia Yetman – [lmyetman@btinternet.com](mailto:lmyetman@btinternet.com)

#### CRAFT & CHATTER (CRAFT TEA)

Only one meeting this month on Friday December 12th, 2pm - 4pm.

If you haven't any ongoing craft please come along and join us in knitting blanket squares and chat over a cup of tea and Christmas mince pies. For further information please phone Wendy Darby on 211229.

#### ASHWATER AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Ashwater Agricultural Show is looking for a new treasurer. Any enquiries to the secretary Lynne Vallance tel. 01409 211 441 or email [lval@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lval@hotmail.co.uk) or the chairman Chris Britton tel. 07920 887 111.

#### YOGA IN ASHWATER PARISH HALL

Wednesdays 2.00pm - 3.30pm. Term finishes Wed 3rd Dec and begins again Wednesday 14th January 2015. All welcome. For more info please contact Penny Steventon 07850 247005 email: [penny@pstherapies.co.uk](mailto:penny@pstherapies.co.uk)

#### BADMINTON –WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Badminton is held on Wednesday evenings in the hall at 8pm and every other week on Thursday Mornings at 10am. Come along for a fun game.

#### PLAYGROUP CRAFT AND PRODUCE FAIR

Saturday 6th December in the VILLAGE HALL 1.00 - 4.00 pm.

More than 20 stalls selling quality gifts and produce - fresh meat and vegetables, handmade cards, jams, herbs and spices, jewellery, knitted items, wooden gifts, pet food, to name just a few. All local producers. Come along and buy that special gift or order your Christmas meat. Refreshments available throughout the afternoon. Support your local Playgroup and local producers.



#### **THE VILLAGE INN – LUNCH CLUB**

The next date is Thursday 4th December from 12.15pm. Everyone is most welcome. Booking is essential – in advance or by 10.30am on the day. Please call in to book or telephone 01409 211200.

#### **LIBRARY**

December visit is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> The 2015 time table has been published. January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup> are the New Year dates. The van stops outside the Village Inn between 14.20hrs and 14.50hrs.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP MEETING – 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**

The group meets in the hall at 7.30pm to view the photos taken during the month and discuss future projects. New members are always welcome. This month bring your camera as we will be learning about time exposure

#### **ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Evening in Ashwater Parish Hall on Monday December 15th 6.30pm onwards Raffle & Gardening Bring and Buy Stall. A friendly pre - Christmas get together for everyone, members and non-members all welcome- everyone who enjoys gardening and growing plants and vegetables. Donations of mince pies please

#### **ASHWATER PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30pm. The Parish Council wish everyone a Merry Happy Christmas and New Year.

#### **ASHWATER PTFA**

Unfortunately due lack of interest and support the community Christmas lunch that was scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December will have to be cancelled.

#### **ASHWATER PARISH CHURCH**

The Parish Church of St Peter Ad Vincula in Ashwater has won Heritage Lottery Fund support and the PCC has received initial development funding from the HLF to help develop proposals for its tower restoration & modernisation. The project has two aims. Firstly to repair and restore the fabric of the tower that has suffered from severe damp penetration and to replace the lead valley gutter along the south transept. Secondly to renovate the ground floor of the tower to provide new kitchen facilities within it, together with toilet facilities and a flexible space that could be used as a meeting place, crèche or exhibition space elsewhere within the church. It is also proposed to make the church's rich heritage and Grade I listed status more readily available to visitors through the use of digital media.

As part of the initial support development funding of £47,200 has also been awarded to help Ashwater PCC progress their plans to apply for a full grant at a later date. The development stage will provide the chance to carry out investigations and prepare the necessary reports, costing's and architects drawings by the summer of 2015, which will allow a second application to be submitted to HLF in the Autumn of 2015. If this second application is successful, works to St Peter Ad Vincula could start in January 2016. Dependent on the extent, works could take 18 months to complete. The Church is the focal point for the local community and is currently used by many groups.

Evidence points to a Church on the site as early as the 13th Century with many later alterations and additions, including the tower in the 15th Century. The project aims to carry out essential conservation and modernisation work, with the help and support of the local community and with particular emphasis on the young. It is proposed that the ongoing works be streamed both on the Internet and in the Church. An educational programme is planned that will aim to run in all the schools within the Benefice. It is also proposed that volunteers will be given the necessary training to take forward a number of programmes, such as greeters and guides. Craft demonstrations including stone masonry and carpentry are also planned.

David Bone, Project Manager for the Tower project, said. "We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has given us this initial support. With the help of the local community this will enable us to bring forward plans to preserve this important Grade I building for future generations to enjoy". The project will be officially launched in the church at the Benefice Christingle Service on December 7th 2014 at 4pm.



December Services and events

Sunday Dec 7th 9.30am Morning worship. 4pm CHRISTINGLE

Sunday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 7pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service. 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sunday 28th Dec 11am Benefice Service at Clawton Parish Church

Saturday December 13th the church will be open from 10am until 2pm for villagers to bring Christmas presents that are in need of wrapping to church for the team to wrap for them in return for donations.

Coffee and mince pies available. Professional wrapping and total discretion guaranteed.

Then at 2pm there will be an open meeting for people to come along and listen to a talk by the tower project leader David Bone, and to ask any questions about the very exciting project that is beginning to restore and renovate the tower, valley gutter and amenities.

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#### Advertising in the Newsletter

Small adverts cost £10 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](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com). Don't forget to visit the Ashwater Website [www.ashwaterparish.org.uk](http://www.ashwaterparish.org.uk)