



Comment: This month is Valentine's Day- check out the shop for something different and take the opportunity to welcome John Lowe into his new position.

Newsletter: Contributions for the next Newsletter by Wednesday 25th February please ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

2nd February-Photo Group, 7.30pm.

2nd and 23rd February, Craft & Chatter2pm at Ashgreen

5th and 26th February – Art Group, 1pm

11th February – Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm

28th February – Horticultural Society visit to RHS Rosemoor

Advance Notice

21st March, Hall 5th Anniversary Celebrations

4th April, A Musical Feast, Parish Hall 7pm

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

Post Office

Hours: Mon – Frid: 9.00am to 4.30pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

Telephone: 01409 211192

ASHWATER SHOP

I would like to thank everyone for all the leaving cards, presents and flowers which were given to me. Also, a big thank you to all the people who visited the shop, some especially, to say goodbye and wish me well in my new job.

I am now starting to settle in to the different routine and finding my way around all the software, log-ins and passwords!

I hope to see some of you at social events, agricultural shows and around the towns.

Many thanks and best wishes to Ashwater!

Christine

SHOP TALK from Sue & Yvonne

John Lowe starts in the shop on Monday 2nd February, for those of you who have not met him yet, pop into the shop and say ‘Hullo’ next week.

We had a lot of interest in the *Paid Shop Operative* position. The panel, made up of Sue Luxton & Yvonne Taylor (Joint-Chair), Ivan Buxton (Treasurer) and Rev Jane Lucas, interviewed the candidates on Friday 23rd January. There was very strong competition and after much discussion we are delighted to announce that John Lowe has been offered and accepted the position.

On Friday 9th January Sue & Yvonne visited the Spreyton and Blackawton village community shops, met their paid staff and volunteers and talked about what makes their shops a successful part of these two communities. We’ve now got a good idea of what we’re doing right and the things we can change to improve our shop.

Volunteers are the backbone of any community shop, not just in giving their time but so vital for ideas and enthusiasm. We held the first ever volunteer evening on Monday 12th January with a ‘Bring and Share Supper’ at Sue’s. 16 people came and had a great time. Sue & Yvonne outlined plans for increasing sales and improving the look and interior of the shop, and the volunteers developed an impressive number and range of ideas - over 50 suggestions, brilliant! Once John has settled in we’ll have time to implement these and involve volunteers with the particular interests and specialisms they have identified.

The next temporary display will be **Valentines** with romantic cards by Hazel Thomas and ceramic hearts by Michael Taylor, along with all the ingredients needed for a perfect evening with your loved one, in reds and pinks of course!

We have an exciting few months ahead of us culminating in our 5th Birthday celebrations in November. After that we hope that the shop will run like a well-oiled machine!!

Sue & Yvonne

Shop Joint-Chair



THE POST OFFICE

Until John Lowe has become familiar with the day to day routine of the shop, Post Office duties will be undertaken by volunteers – at present only Ivan Buxton is fully authorized and trained to take on these responsibilities. Bob Griggs is currently undergoing training with a view to assisting for part of one day. John will be trained in due course, but more Post Office volunteers are needed to cover the full opening hours. Please advise either Ivan, John, Sue or Yvonne if you are interested in helping sustain this vital village facility.

PARISH HALL

21st March – The 5th Anniversary celebrations. Please see the panel at the end of the newsletter for details and make a date in your diary. The opening ceremony 5 years ago was over-subscribed, so don't leave it to book a ticket. Anyone wishing to buy tickets for the dance now can email me or call me (Colin Vallance) on cprv@hotmail.co.uk or 07807 705096.

YOGA

Please note the following dates for Yoga in Ashwater::
4th, 11th and 25th February 2015. 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March 2015. The new term will then start on Wednesday 15th April 2015. Ring Penny Steventon on 07850 247005 for more details and booking.

CRAFT & CHATTER (CRAFT TEA)

Craft & Chatter at 'Ashgreen' on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (9th & 23rd Feb) from 2pm until 4pm. As usual if you haven't any craft please come along and join us in knitting blanket squares and a chat over a cup of tea. Any more details please phone Wendy Darby on 211229.

BADMINTON –WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

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

ART GROUP

The Art Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 1pm– everyone including beginners are welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL

The four year term of the present PC ends in April and a new council will need to be formed. If enough people wish to stand (more than 9) an election will be held on 7 May 2015. The present council has run for much of its four years without its full complement of nine councillors. We would like to encourage anyone interested in becoming a member of the parish council to consider standing for election in May. For more details please contact the parish clerk (clerk@sheanddave.plus.com / 07841917913).

The road will be closed from St Peters Church to Ashmill Cross from the 10 March - 16 March to carry out essential works.

The parish council would like to thank Nigel Stacey for supplying the Christmas tree for the village green. The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a statutory local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It has fifteen members who advise on the "improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area." The Forum gives independent advice to a number of Government bodies in addition to Devon County Council, district and borough councils and parish and own councils.

Devon County Council is currently appointing members to the Forum and would like to receive applications from anyone with an interest in recreational access. They would love to hear from landowners and managers, access users and people with other relevant professional interests such as planning, education, sport, sustainable transport and business, or people who could represent groups currently under-represented such as young people or ethnic minority groups. Although membership is voluntary, a generous mileage rate is paid.



For details and an application form, please see www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf The closing date is February 20th 2015.

The Rural Services Network works closely with ACRE to support our rural communities.

DEFRA is currently considering options to reduce its budget for the year ahead and one of the options being considered is the removal of funding for the ACRE network.

This nationwide network of rural community councils carries out crucial work to help our communities thrive. It funds, leads or enables thousands of projects to help people tackle the challenges they face – from lack of affordable homes, broadband or public transport to supporting the young, the elderly and the most vulnerable in our society.

Funding from DEFRA to the ACRE network helps to lever in a significant amount of additional funding – providing value for money for the communities it serves. Click here to sign their e-petition: [E-Petition to continue funding for community action in England.](#)

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 February at 7.30pm.

ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The AHS met on Saturday 28th January at the Weir, Whalesborough, Bude and enjoyed a beautiful walk, under blue skies with the herons and kingfishers making appearances en route. This was followed by an excellent roast beef lunch at the Weir Bistro, highly recommended!

The next event is on Saturday 28th February 2015 - visiting RHS Rosemoor, Torrington. The visit has been booked for between 11am and 4pm. If you are already an RHS member then you can enter for free anytime. However if you are not a member would you please meet us at the entrance at 11am, where you will then gain free entrance as part of our group. Lunch has not been booked, you are free to do as you please, however RHS Rosemoor have asked us to confirm the number in our group so that their coffee shop and restaurant can cater accordingly. Would you therefore please confirm to Louise Webber, AHS, Secretary if you will be joining us - 01409 221466 or webber_louise@hotmail.com

THANK YOU – FROM THE CAROL SINGERS

The Carol Singers would like to say a BIG thank you for your donations and they are going to be passed on to the Devon Air Ambulance – Happy New Year.

ADVANCED NOTICE - EASTER SATURDAY APRIL 4TH "A MUSICAL FEAST" AT ASHWATER PARISH HALL 7PM

An evening meal including "many suites" accompanied by LIVE , familiar, light classical music. Tickets will soon be available from the village shop priced £10.00 - In aid of St Peter's Church Tower

For more information, contact Tim Luxton 211 419

USEFUL NUMBERS (Courtesy of Holsworthy Newsletter)

Animal Welfare Officer	01237 428855	South West Water	0800 1691144
Citizens Advice Bureau	01409 253372	SWEB	01392 444005
County Cllr. Barry Parsons	01409 211234	Torrige District Council	01237 428700
Devon County Council	01392 382000	Manor Offices (Holsw'thy)	01409 253336
Green Box Collection	01769 573081	Western Power	0845 6012989
Health Centre	01409 253692	Visitor Info Centre	01409 254185
C & D Post (Newspaper)	01566 778221	Viridor Trade Waste	01271 345123
Holsworthy Hospital (No A+E)	01409 253424		
North Devon Hospital (A+E)	01271 322577		
Library (Holsworthy)	01409 253514		
Recycling (Anvil Corner)	01409 253823		



.....AND FINALLY
Many thanks to all who donated paper for the newsletter

SAVE THE DATE.....

AHWATER PARISH HALL 5th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 21 March 2015

Afternoon Tea Party

3.30pm to 6.00pm

FREE FOR EVERYONE

Ashwater Steel Band, traditional games,

further details to follow

Bar and raffle



Evening Party

7.30pm to 1.00pm

Band to be confirmed

further details to follow

£6.00 per ticket

Food and Bar Booking Essential



For more information, if you would like to get involved or have ideas about what the event might include email Colin: cprv@hotmail.co.uk

Charity number 1016238

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. Don't forget to visit the Ashwater Website www.ashwaterparish.org.uk