

Comment: Now the clocks have been altered it feels like Spring and as usual there is a feast of activity in the village, Happy Easter to all our readers.

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

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

2nd April – Railway Commemoration Lunch, 12.30pm

4th Apr – Art Group, 1.30pm

4th Apr – Skittles, Arthur Palmer KO Cup, 8pm

6th Apr – Pub Lunch, Village Inn, 12.30pm

7th Apr – Steel Band Practice, 6pm

12th Apr – Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm

15th Apr – Easter Egg Hunt, 2pm

17th Apr – Camera Club Talk, 7.30pm

18th Apr – ‘New’ Gentle Pilates begins, 9.45am

24th Apr – Agricultural Show Meeting, 8pm

26th Apr – Hall Trustees Meeting, 8pm

Advance Notice

6th May Plant Sale, 10.00am

Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries

Email: ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Hall Secretary: Tel 01409 221073

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

Annual General Meeting

The Hall AGM will be held on May 24th 2017. Details will be posted on Notice Boards during April. All Parish residents may attend and those over 18 years of age are permitted to vote for election of Trustees, adoption of the accounts and any other agenda matters.

There have been changes in the way in which Charities may be governed and in January the Hall Trustees voted to recommend to the AGM that a constitutional change should be undertaken to enable the Hall Charity to become incorporated. This will be an AGM agenda item.

Trustees Meeting

Please note the date of the meeting is now 26th April 2017 at 8.00pm in the hall meeting room.

Fund Raising

The hall extension fund is gradually growing and will receive a boost of £320.00 from money allocated by Waitrose from their ‘green token’ scheme – many thanks to all who supported the hall.

The Men’s skittles team have donated £50 to the fund, thank you.

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped me have a fun time celebrating my recent birthday and especially to those who made generous donations to the Ashwater Parish Hall Extension Fund.

We raised the amazing sum of almost £800.

Many thanks again: Letitia Yetman

Railway Closure Commemoration

The newsletter went to press before the Railway Commemoration weekend took place, a report will appear in the next edition, but judging by the amount of material collated and loaned it should prove to be a fascinating event.

PARISH COUNCIL

Defibrillator Awareness Training – there has been a good response and applicants will be advised when the training will take place. The forms will stay in the Parish Hall for those that still wish to attend.

North Devon Hospice - Women across North Devon can now sign up to Nightwalk 2017. The ladies only moonlit walk takes place on Saturday 20 May and is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Those taking part will be helping raise £100,000 for North Devon Hospice nurses who provide care during the night. Sign up at www.nightwalk.co.uk.

Recycling for Torridge – a new leaflet has been published by Torridge District Council. Further information can be found at www.torridge.gov.uk/recycling.

Holsworthy Hospital is a resource very much needed in the community. It offers a local haven to patients who are terminally ill, post-surgery and community admissions. Services are on hand such as physio, occupational therapy, SSD and midwives work from the hospital base. Living in such a remote area is beautiful but having local facilities are important for such things as palliative care to enable family and friends to be around at this time without having to travel up to an hour and half to a larger option. There is an on-line petition available to sign as follows: <https://www.change.org/p/doctor-john-womersley-save-holsworthy-hospital>

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme is helping us to understand what is happening to different habitats across the UK and is set to run for a number of years. The Scheme has been running for two survey seasons and over 900 volunteers have signed up and been out surveying. Volunteers are supported by materials which are sent to them, online resources and free training courses. There are still opportunities to get involved with the scheme as a volunteer. In fact, the more volunteers we have the more information is generated allowing us to get an even better understanding of what is happening in the landscape. We particularly need to promote the scheme in remote areas as well as areas including those with coastal and upland habitats. To sign up please visit www.npms.org.uk or for further information please email support@npms.org.uk or phone 01722 342743.

Sweet chestnut blight in parts of Devon, UK plant health authorities have introduced a prohibition on the movement of sweet chestnut and oak material within two specific areas in the county. The prohibition on movement applied from Friday 24th February. Further information may be obtained from www.forestry.gov.uk.

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.

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 April 2017 at 7.30pm

GENTLE PILATES

Know you need to get fitter but don't know where to start?

Judith is starting a "gentle" Pilates class on Tuesdays at 9.45am beginning on 18th April. This class provides a gentle introduction to Pilates and welcomes older adults, people at risk of injury or those recovering from injury or illness. It is also suitable for beginners.

The class focuses on improving strength, flexibility, balance and posture.

Phone Judith to book your place and for further details on 01409 211552.

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY -6TH APRIL

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.

EASTER EGG HUNT – 15th April 2017

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday 15th April, commencing at 2.00pm.

ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB - APRIL 17th 2017

At the March meeting Gemma demonstrated the use of 'Lightroom' and the incredible effects that might be achieved using your own photographs.

The next camera club meeting will be in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday April 17th 2017. There will be a talk about "Astro Photography" by Mike Slater. This is a topic that might appeal to those not necessarily involved with photography as Mike has taken some extraordinary images of the night sky and as we know our area affords us with some excellent 'dark skies'. Why not come along to this 'one off talk' – have a cup of tea or coffee (for a donation of £1 to help defray the hall booking costs).

Tickets for the Cider Farm visit on 13th May will be on sale to members at £9.00 (Non-Members £10.00)

New club members are always welcome, annual fees of £25.00 may be paid in two £12.50 instalments if required. If you prefer to try a taster session for £5 and decide to join this sum will be credited towards the annual fee.

TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis is played in the Parish Hall twice weekly on Tuesdays from 11am for one hour and Saturdays from 10am for two hours. All levels are welcome and we can provide bats and limited tuition. There are four tables so plenty of opportunity for practice as well as contested games!

BADMINTON

Badminton is now taking place each Thursday morning at 10am until Noon, just £2 to cover hall costs. The Wednesday evening sessions will continue as usual. Everyone is welcome to either or all sessions.

ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – Plant Sale 6th May and Cider Farm 13th May

The plant sale at the Parish Hall on Saturday 6th May will be held under the canopy at the rear of the hall from 10.00am to Noon. Tea and coffee will be available. Then on 13th May a trip to Cornwall to the Apple Orchard. Meet in the hall car park at 9.45am ready to car share and depart by 10.00am. Tickets £8 for members, £10 for non-members. The event includes a guided tour of the orchard (walking or by Tractor and Trailer), demonstration of the art of cider making with a chance to sample the wares. A B-B-Q will follow with tea, coffee and soft drinks. Please confirm if you are attending as soon as possible to Ivan at ibuxton16@btinternet.com or 01409 221073.

MEN'S SKITTLES

The Arthur Palmer Memorial KO Cup match will be played at the hall on 4th April commencing at 8.00pm. Players are reminded to let Terry Darby know meal requirements and confirmation of attendance at the 10 Pin Bowling, end of season meal at Trethorne Premier Bowl on 2nd May at 7pm.

BRATTON CLOVELLY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND ART

BCF consists of a series of events spread over the year and providing a diversity of high quality music and art for local people at affordable prices. The performers and artists are often drawn from the considerable talent here in the South West, but also from further afield. BCF is run by volunteers and we're always looking for people who'd like to be involved in any capacity, so please get in touch. For more information, visit www.brattonclovellyfestival.com or follow us on Facebook/[brattonclovellyfestival](https://www.facebook.com/brattonclovellyfestival) The Next events are:

Tour of Cornish Art Historian's private collection

Sunday, 21st May, 2017.

The Old Vicarage, Broadwoodwidge PL16 0EP.

Two sessions: 11am and 2.30pm.

£5 (Numbers are limited, so book early)

A unique opportunity to view the extensive art collection of leading Cornish art historian, David Tovey. The tour will include a talk, viewing, refreshments and open garden.

To book: email: brattonclovellyfestival@gmail.com or Phone: 01837 871696

Friday, 2nd June, 2017. 7.30pm

Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall EX20 4JT

Semi-Toned, the winners of Gareth Malone's 'The Choir' - concert and light buffet

In conjunction with the Charles Causley Centenary Festival - Doors and Bar 7pm.

Praised for their creativity, uniqueness and vocal acrobatics this highly acclaimed choir from the University of Exeter embraces music of a variety of genres. After their winning performance in 'The Choir: Garth's Best in Britain', aired on BBC2 in 2016 and the Voice Festival UK in 2-15, we're very pleased to welcome them to Bratton Clovelly. Their talent and exuberance will delight you.

"... a fantastically spirited performance." Gareth Malone

Tickets: £10 adults/£8 Under 18s

To book: Email: brattonclovellyfestival@gmail.com Phone: [01837 871696](tel:01837871696) Phone or text: [07813499740](tel:07813499740)

BRANDIS CORNER WILDLIFE GROUP

Rupert Kirkwood is giving an illustrated talk at Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall on 29th April 2017 between 2pm and 5pm called:- "Even Further Up The Creek".

It is 6 years since local vet Rupert enthralled BCWG members with his 'Up The Creek' stories. Now he makes a very welcome return with more tales of his coastal kayaking adventures and close encounters with all manner of wildlife, including a brush with a huge Fin whale near the Eddystone Lighthouse, a sighting which brought him national media coverage.

Tickets cost £1.00 for members (50p Children) or £2.00 for non-members (£1.00 children. For further information contact June Green on 01409 221050 or visit the website: www.bcwildlifegroup.co.uk

The group welcomes everyone and has a varied program of events throughout the year.

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL – COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

Week commencing 17th April 2017 – all collections will be one day late for 'black bags', 'green recycling bin' and 'green wheelie bin'.

Also week commencing 1st May 2017 – all collections will be one day late.

Please ensure your Recycling box and bags and wheelie bin are placed at kerbside by 7:00am or the evening before. Black bag refuse should be placed at kerbside by 6:00am or the evening before - See more at: <http://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/14375/Refuse-and-Recycling#sthash.JdO9DZ64.dpuf>

NEWS LETTER

In these days of instant electronic messaging many events are posted 'on line', but there are still those who prefer a paper publication and indeed not everyone has access to a computer or other electronic device, so for now we will continue to produce a monthly news bulletin. Events and items of general interest will always be considered. Obviously the more things are slanted towards Ashwater the better, but as will be seen from the issue this month there is sometimes room for events in adjoining neighbourhoods that we are pleased to promote as they often support events of ours.

....and finally

We would like to wish Malcolm and Rosemary Timney the very best of luck as they depart the village to take up a new adventure in Spain. Rosemary is well known as a local artist, producing some fine images of wildlife and more recently 'pet portraits'. Malcolm served on the Parish Council for many years and was a prime mover in establishing the successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund that enabled the new Ashwater Hall to become a reality. A fine legacy to leave.

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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