

PARISH HALL

Comment: This month we have a slightly unusual request. The Dennis Family Tree has been researched (see page 4 of this bulletin) and any information would be appreciated.

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

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

4th February, Pub Lunch, Village Inn

4th February, Ladies Skittles 7.30pm

10th February, Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

15th February, Camera Club 7.30pm

15th February, Jack Moon Hall decoration work begins

Advance Notice

25th March – Play in a day, Ashwater Church

21st April- The Queen’s Birthday Celebrations

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

Decoration Work

The internal decoration work that was going to take place at the end of 2015 will now be carried out in the Jack Moon Hall between 8:00am and 6:00pm from Monday 15th to Friday 19th February (inclusive). Other Hall areas will remain available as usual and some limited evening activities will be able to take place in the main Hall.

Hall users during this period are requested to be careful of the scaffold tower and be aware that the freshly painted walls may be damp. Please let the bookings secretary know if you wish to alter any prearranged booking for this period.

The Queen’s Birthday Celebrations

The hall has been provisionally reserved on 21st April 2016 for celebration of the Queen’s 90th Birthday. Arrangements are being discussed, but it is hoped a Beacon will be lit and if anyone has printed records of events featuring Ashwater that have involved Royal celebrations from 1926-2016 please contact either Lawrence Langston 01409 211437, any member of the Parish Council or simply email the newsletter.

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY

The next lunch is on 4th February please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest. 01409 211200.

ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB – 15th February 2016

The next club meeting will be on Monday 15th February in the hall from 7.30pm – 9.30pm. It is another ‘hands on’ session as we will be drawing pictures with light and photographing the results. We also hope to show a few of the images taken during the January meeting when some excellent photos were secured using fruit, food colouring and appropriate camera technique. Please bring along any images you wish to show on a memory stick.

The previous meeting was well attended and membership is open by subscription for 6 or 12 months. If you prefer to simply attend a single session to see how things go the charge is just £5 – you do not need any previous experience as tuition and guidance is available on the night if required, just bring your camera.

Club members may display their own work on the website at <http://ashwatercameraclub.weebly.com/> and a membership group has been set up on www.flickr.com – simply sign up via Yahoo!

We were hoping to combine a visit with the Horticultural Club to photograph snow drops in bloom during February, but the mild weather has made choosing a date difficult as many of the flowers have already passed their best. Why not try a few shots of your own as in March we will be showing work from our own port folios, so get snapping or dig out your best images as prints or on memory sticks. The club meets every 3rd Monday of each month.

2016 Calendars – there are few left in the shop at a reduced price of £4.00 each.

PARISH COUNCIL

Grass Cutting on Village Green

Contractors are invited to tender for a period of three years for cutting the grass on the village green for commencing 2016.

The quotation should be for approximately 15 cuts plus strimming planters, strimming Church walk twice during the season and all the cuttings taken away.

The contractor should have public liability insurance, and be able to supply a copy to the parish council.

All tenders should be submitted to the parish clerk:

Sheila Myers, Wilena, Lower Middle Hill, Pensilva, Cornwall PL14 5QS - clerk@sheanddave.plus.com – 07841717913

As part of the Emergency Plan for the village the Parish really needs people who would act as 'First Responders' in emergency situations, should they arise. Anyone who would be interested in volunteering for this, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk – clerk@sheanddave.plus.com - 07841717913)

Torridge District Council is trying to find out how much interest there is in self-building housing across Torridge and North Devon. If you are thinking of building your own home or have land suitable for self-building, then sign up to their free self-build register. To find out more visit www.torridge.gov.uk/selfbuild or collect a registration form from council offices. Or call 01237 428748

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 February 2016.

LADIES SKITTLES

The next Ladies Skittles evening will be held on 4th February 2016 at 7.30pm. New players are welcome even if you have not played before as this is a social game and suitable for all age groups.

Church of Peter ad vincula Ashwater GOOD FRIDAY 25TH MARCH

We are going to present a 'Play in a day' about Easter. We will rehearse on Friday afternoon for the evening performance which will be very informal.

We need:

MUSICIANS SINGERS SPEAKERS all ages and ability welcomed.

please contact **Rev Jane Lucas** therev.rectory62@gmail.com or

Cathie Bowness ladyandfool@yahoo.co.uk or text Cathie 07771 934 523

ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The lunch at the Weir was almost a 'full house' and the rain held off long enough for the walk afterwards along the canal paths. There were plenty of signs of an early spring mixed with wintering birds such as the lapwing still flocking in the fields. Thank you to all who supported what is proving to be a successful annual event.

A visit to see snow drop displays had been planned during February, but the warm weather has brought forward flowering with the best of the blooms already over so the next venture will be a March visit to a local plantsman's garden. Details will be in the next newsletter. Meanwhile we are pleased to announce that after a break last year arrangements are in hand for the Annual Show to take place again in conjunction with the Ashwater Agricultural Show in August. A plant sale and barbecue is also planned for the 30th May Bank Holiday Monday of which more details will be announced nearer the date.

Don't forget the Parson Jack Russell Art and Photography Exhibition at St Mary's Church, Black Torrington will be held between 3rd and 6th June 2016. This is an open exhibition and if you wish to enter exhibits you have drawn, painted or photographed contact the Exhibition Secretary at The Old Forge, Black Torrington, Beaworthy EX21 5PX Telephone: 01409 231598 or Email: bill.smithers@utdsl.com



FOCUS DISPLAY

Celebrate St Valentine's Day with a romantic gift, card & bottle of pink fizz!

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY JOHN!

Amazingly John has now been our Shop Manager for a whole year. He began on 1st February 2015 and has worked hard to steer a massive year of positive, successful and profitable changes to our Ashwater Community Shop. This last year has been an uphill yet rewarding one. John has had to get to grips with the Post Office, and he has amassed huge amounts of information about stockists, bravely increased popular product lines and edited out slow/non sellers. Customers and village community groups alike appreciate his polite, cheerful and helpful disposition.

The shop is now more a part of the community, we have an area for donations of fruit/veg/flowers, plants, seeds and anything else appropriate. Together with the village we raised £302.05 for Macmillan with our Coffee Morning, and the 5th Year Party & Musical Evening raised £685.35 for Devon Air Ambulance. From summer onwards John organised drinks and snacks for eight village events and took the shop to the Ashwater Agricultural Show. We all had fun with the games, including a lucky dip, giant draughts and tug o' war, the home brew & wine challenges, and the cake competition, with bakers kindly donating their cakes to the shop stand after judging.

Despite various concerns about the viability of the Post Office and the logistics of staffing it we are cautiously optimistic about its' 2016 financial future. John was very busy with parcels and letters in November and December, this is reflected in the increased monthly PO payments. As previously reported we are in the process of recruiting occasional, infill PO staff to enable John to book a proper holiday, have a day off and catch a cold!

Finally, the shop is going from strength to strength and we are making money! The high spot of the year was our Christmas Tasting Evening, which was a huge success and led to fantastic November and December takings. On Thursday 23rd December the till total rung-in at £955! Sales for December 2015 were £11,812.12, which is 21.6% up on December 2014 and the first time we have broken the 11k barrier. Sales were up year on year by 8.66%.

A huge amount of work went into getting to this wonderful, undreamed of £11,812.12 by John, the volunteers and our wonderful customers - without you none of this last year's success would be possible. John would like to thank shop volunteers and the village for supporting the shop, and together let's make 2016 even better.

DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST

We want to know about your local biodiversity and the experiences you've had getting to know it. Help Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) collect records of wildlife and act as a central reference point about wildlife in Devon. We're interested in all wildlife so it's suitable for beginners and experts. Please report sightings to: www.dbrc.org.uk/tell-us-about-your-sighting

Are you a Dennis of Ashwater?

My husband and I have been researching my family (Dennis) for several years now, and we have got back to 1684 with documented proof each step of the way. My branch of the Dennis family lived in east Cornwall for many generations, until my 3 x great-grandfather George moved from Egloskerry to Ashwater when he married Joannah Hockaday in 1785 in Ashwater Church. Following the death of Joannah, George then married Sarah Headon in 1799 in Ashwater Church.

We know that the family were basic farm labourers, and George apprenticed three of his children to other farmers, each child being described as "a poor child of this parish". My 2 x great-grandfather John (b. 1803) was indentured at the age of 7 to a farmer in Quoditch, his brother James (b. 1804) was also indentured at age 7 to another farmer, as was his daughter Mary (b. 1790) by his first wife. A fourth child, Elizabeth (b. 1802) remained at home.

John Dennis could not have had a bad life as he chose to remain on the farm after the ending of his apprenticeship: he was taught to read and write, and later married and had 6 children – John (my great-grandfather, b. 1850), Sarah, James, Elizabeth, Mary, and Martha Earl (named after her mother). John Dennis (senior) became a member of the Bible Christian movement and his son John, my great-grandfather, eventually moved to Torquay and became a lay minister in the church.

We understand from records, that there were no Dennises in Ashwater until George moved there in 1785, but we are aware that there are now a number of Dennises in the area.

We have made many visits to Ashwater, seen the cottage on the farm where George Dennis lived, worked and died in 1839, and have visited the farm where John Dennis was apprenticed when he was just 7 years old. We have also met with many people along the way, and now feel very much "at home" in this delightful village.

Are you one of the Dennis family? Do you have any early records, or are you able to add any more information, to help us put some more "meat on the bones" of the Dennis family? If so, we would love to hear from you!

Lesley (nee Dennis) and Mike Allwood-Coppin, Bristol
E-mail: mikeandles@blueyonder.co.uk

THANK YOU

Eric Moon would like to say thank you to everyone who came to his surprise Birthday Party and for all the donations to the Church Bell Fund.

The residents of Dot's Close would like to thank the Parish Council for switching on the lights to the footpath.

.....AND FINALLY

Please observe the notice on the Village Green and do not permit dogs to use the space at all. There have also been instances of vehicles travelling past the green and through the village at inappropriate speeds (whilst it is a 30mph zone this is not really safe when children are playing and the road is shared by pedestrians).

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