



**Comment:** Merry Christmas one and all!



**Newsletter:** Contributions for the next Newsletter by Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec please. [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com)

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - Pub Lunch, Village Inn**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - Ladies Skittles, 7.30pm**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec - Craft and Produce Fair 1pm - 4pm**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dec - Shop Pub Quiz, 5.30pm for 6pm in the Village Inn**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Wreath Making, 7pm**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec - Art Group, 1pm - 3.30pm**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm**
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec - Art Group 1pm - 3.30pm**
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec - Hall Trustees Meeting, 8.00pm**
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - A Caribbean Christmas in the Church at 7.30pm**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - Camera Club, 7.30pm**
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Holy Communion, 11.30pm in the Church**
- Advance Notice**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Jan - Ladies Skittles, 7.30pm**
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jan - AHS Post Christmas meal and walk**

**Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries**  
Email: [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto: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  
Telephone: 01409 211192

**PARISH HALL**

**HALL TRUSTEES**

The next Trustees meeting is at 8pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The status of the Hall Constitution is to be discussed and we would welcome any suggestions from hall users. At present the Memorandum of Association drawn up in 2006/7 is the base document and the hall charity is an unincorporated body. The Charity Commission now offer the opportunity to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The hall is a valuable community asset (see below for the latest insurance valuation) and will increase in value when the extension is added. The advantages and disadvantages of becoming a CIO require consideration as any constitutional alterations must be presented at the next Annual General Meeting for adoption. This may seem some way off, but it will take time to put in place any recommendations for legal changes.

**HALL FINANCES**

The hall publishes details of finances at the AGM plus an outline is available on the Charity Commission Website. This year we are trying to raise extra money towards an extension, but still have to carry out essential maintenance, which now the premises have been open and 'well used' for nearly seven years inevitably mounts up.

As a community building administered by the Trustees on behalf of the Parish we felt you should be aware of the basic income and expenditure figures for the 6 months (30<sup>th</sup> September 2016) since the end of the financial year on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The following is a summary (rounded to the nearest £):

Income:	£
Hall Hire and sundries	3292.00
Fund Raising, grants	1593.00
Expenditure:	
Premises costs, fees etc	2270.00
Surplus for period	2615.00

We have sustained the current account with a half year closing balance of £11,918 and added to the reserve account bringing the balance up to £6,214, which is secured towards the extension.

Since the half yearly balance sheet we have incurred redecoration costs of £1,603 and obtained a pledge of £3,000 towards the extension fund. Further maintenance/repairs have also been commissioned and undertaken. The hall insurance premium is due in December and having obtained a professional property valuation, the sum insured will be increased to £783, 533 plus contents of £18,679.

Your Trustees are actively exploring other grant sources towards the anticipated extension costs and would like to extend thanks to all who support our fund raising activities and wish every hall user a very happy Christmas and healthy prosperous New Year.



#### FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

##### Coffee & Cake

The hall is holding a series of Friday Coffee Mornings between 10.00am and Noon with donated proceeds and a draw in aid of the new extension fund. Stalls and cakes most weeks. Please come along for a chat and information on how things are proceeding. Your support is invaluable.

#### TRUSTED CHARITIES

It is often said that 'charity begins at home' and to some extent the following article seems to confirm this comment:-

*"An online survey of more than 2,000 people carried out last month by the polling company Vitreous for the Open University Business School's Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership found that 43 per cent said they trusted small and local community charities, compared with 29 per cent for national charities and 17 per cent for international charities.*

*Local charities came second behind only doctors on the overall most-trusted list, which was compiled by presenting participants with a list of 18 institutions and professions and asking them to select those they trusted. They could choose as many answers as applied. Teachers came third on the list on 40 per cent, with the police in fourth on 38 per cent. National charities came fifth.*

*Researchers also found that the same proportion of people who trusted small charities – 43 per cent – said they were likely to donate to small and local charities. But only 17 per cent said they were likely to donate to national charities, compared with 29 per cent who said they trusted them.*

*Respondents were also asked to say what would put them off donating to charities from a list of 13 suggested answers. The most popular response was "bad publicity about the charity", selected by 60 per cent of people, followed by "not sure that donations are used effectively", which was chosen by 53 per cent of respondents. Slightly more than half of respondents – 52 per cent – selected "their fundraising techniques", and 49 per cent chose "charity spends too much on overheads".*

Probably the most worrying result of this survey is that it seems from the percentage figures quoted it could be inferred almost 60% do not trust charities at all! Perhaps a question that should also have been asked in the survey was "do you support volunteer run charities that provide benefits that we might need both personally and locally?" Many such organisations operate within local communities and are run entirely by volunteers without receiving payment of any kind, unlike many of the large organisations that seem to have 'employees' on quite astonishing salaries!

#### SHOP TALK

Thank you to everyone who attended the Ladies' Pamper evening. It was very successful and raised £260 towards new fridges and freezers for the shop.

The Christmas tasting was also a great success with many people coming and trying the various produce from our suppliers. Christmas Shop Order Forms are available in the shop. Please come and pick one up for a "hassle free" Christmas!

Completed forms must be returned by 14<sup>th</sup> Dec

The Ashwater Village Calendar is now available and in stock, featuring the winning photographs that were displayed at the Agricultural show, price £5.99

The Christmas Hamper raffle is running and will be drawn on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Tickets are available in the shop. The hamper basket is filled with a selection of shop goodies. Empty hampers are on sale in the shop and can be filled and sent to any location in the British Isles.



A reminder for all our young parishioners; there is a post box in the shop for all letters addressed to Father Christmas. His address is Santa's Grotto, Reindeer land XM45HQ . Please make sure that these are in the post box in the shop by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, and also include your name and address in order that Santa can reply to you.

Tickets are on sale shop for THE PUB QUIZ. Date is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. £7.50 per head to include a meal. Limited number of tickets available.

Do come to the shop and have a look at our exciting range of Christmas items such as "Christmas Pudding Chocolate", fudge, small gifts, wrapping paper and cards and much, much more.

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Liz Fisher has been co-opted to the parish council and was welcomed at the meeting last month.

It has been reported to the parish council that people are allowing their dogs to foul on the green at Longlands Cross. The parish council would like to remind everyone that they should clear up after their dogs.

The Ashwater Parish Council would like to thank Nigel and Edwina Stacey of Stacey's Christmas Tree Farm for their kind donation of a Christmas tree for the village green. [www.staceyschristmastreefarm.com](http://www.staceyschristmastreefarm.com), Tel: **01409 211 467**.

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 7 December 2016 at 7.30pm. We would like to wish the residents and community of Ashwater a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

#### VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY -1<sup>st</sup> December

Please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest on 01409 211200

#### ASHWATER CRAFT AND PRODUCE FAIR – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016

The next Craft and Produce Fair will be held between 1pm and 4pm at Ashwater Parish Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016. There will be a raffle and a varied assortment of craft and produce stalls. Refreshments will be served during the afternoon. This is a great opportunity to buy something local and special for Christmas.

#### ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Christmas Wreath Making will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> December in the hall at 7.00pm, members £6.00 and non – members £7.00. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL and please bring some greenery and secateurs with you. There will be mulled wine/apple juice and mince pies included and instructions on how to create a magnificent wreath. Kindly ring the Secretary, Letitia Yetman on 01409 211131 to reserve your place by 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the latest. A schedule of 2017 Society events is being drawn up -the post Christmas meal and walk has been arranged at The Weir, Bude on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 12noon for 12.30pm, booking is essential – please contact Letitia Yetman as above as soon as possible..

#### A CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

This year Ashwater is doing something a little different in the lead up to the 'big day'. A Caribbean Christmas is being held in the Church at 7.30pm starring our very own steel band. The band as featured in the November Newsletter, have been busy in the past year and their 'fame' is spreading. They need to raise funds to continue the good work as equipment is expensive. Suggested donations of £5 and £1 for accompanied children will aid funds and go towards emergency repairs to the church organ. The evening includes light refreshments and promises to be fun for all.



**ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

The next camera club meeting will be in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. This will be a practical session covering ‘abstract photography’, so bring your camera and tripod. The meeting dates for 2017 will be issued at the December meeting and membership fees will be due at the January meeting. New members are more than welcome to come along, either for a taster session or to join for 6 months or a year.

**ASHWATER CHURCH**

Please note the following dates and events:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Dec Morning Worship 9.30am
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec Holy Communion 9.30am
- 11 Dec Christingle Service 4.30pm, especially for the children!
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec A Caribbean Christmas - Presented by the Ashwater Community Steel Band 7.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec Carol Service 7.00pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Crib Service 4.00pm – loved by young and old
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Holy Communion 11.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Celebrations 10.30am (Enjoy a simple family service while the turkey is cooking)

**TABLE TENNIS**

Saturday mornings, 10.00am to Noon table tennis facilities are available for all – please note due to the Craft Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> December the session will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am instead.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Love it or hate it, use or abuse it? Social media is a powerful tool, brings pleasure to many and keeps people informed and in contact, but it also has a down side. Parents are often worried because their children are subjected to cyber-bullying, but this can also happen to anyone using the format. When sending messages ask your-self will this message be hurtful? People don’t all feel the same way about written comments, what seems funny to one person can be distressing to another. Use of social messaging to vent our feelings might make us feel good, but what about the recipient? A flippant throwaway remark that is quickly lost by use of the spoken word could easily remain ‘out there - forever’ when written electronically.

In the worst case scenario a remark that could be construed as defamatory might end up with a claim being made for damages. The sharing of information can also involve ‘over-sharing’ with people you don’t know and wouldn’t want to know and don’t forget when posting photos this could lead to an unknown recipient being able to establish your exact location from data imprinted by your camera.

Instances of use of social media to comment adversely about people within small communities like Ashwater can cause unwanted friction as well as division – sometimes irrespective of the urge to say something about someone it is better not to use the medium as a punitive measure, especially if it could be construed as threatening as these things have a habit of rebounding when least expected.

We cannot rely on the providers of messaging services to audit or edit our use of their facilities and it is up to us to act responsibly, fairly and equably and simply enjoy this modern equivalent of the bush telegraph.

**.....And finally for sale**

Nearly new 4ft 6inch double mattress, still in its plastic cover and bought last April for £160 which we would like to sell for £100 approx. Tel: Kate or Bryan 01409 211241

**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](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com). Don’t forget to visit the Ashwater Website [www.ashwaterparish.org.uk](http://www.ashwaterparish.org.uk)

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