

Comment: Back to School this month and the pre-school will now feature as part of the school itself, so we send our best wishes to all pupils and teachers for the new term.

Newsletter: Contributions for the next Newsletter by Saturday 24th Sept please.
ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

1st Sept – Lunch Club in the Village Inn

7th Sept – Badminton re-commences, 7pm

14th Sept – Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm

17th Sept – Children’s Activities Afternoon, Ashwater Church 1.30pm – 4.30pm

18th Sept – Stowford Singers, Ashwater Church – 7pm

19th Sept – Camera Club Meeting, 7.30pm

24th September – Craft and Produce Fair, 1pm – 4pm

30th Sept – Macmillan Coffee Morning 10.00am - Noon

Advance Notice

11th Nov – Ladies Pamper Evening

18th Nov – Christmas Tasting Evening

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

Post Office

Hours: Mon – Frid: 9.00am to 4.00pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed
Telephone: 01409 211192

PARISH HALL

Railway Closure Commemoration – date change to 22nd October 2016
Arrangements are progressing for this event but please note the date change. Further details will be in the next news letter.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to welcome John Webber as a new Councillor. John relocated to the South West in 1989 from Hertfordshire. He has worked in business centres in Liskeard, Launceston and Holsworthy. He is also a 41 Club treasurer. He is keen to devote some of his spare time within the parish.

The defibrillator has now been installed on the village green. The Parish Council are going to invite a trainer to give a demonstration on how to use the machine and will advise the community of the date when it has been booked.

The Parish Lengthsmen have been working in various areas of the village to clear the gullies.

Power Cut – Call 105 – this is a new three-digit number that people can call to report or get information about power cuts. You can also call 105 with any welfare concerns related to a power cut, or if you are worried about the safety of over or underground electricity cables or substations. 105 is free of charge and will put you through to your electricity network operator. You can call 105 from most landlines and mobile phones. It will be launched in September 2016 and will be available to people in England, Scotland and Wales. The powercut105.cm website will be live for launch, providing people with more information and signposting them to their network operator.

Torrige District Council has allocated every Ward in Torrige £10,000 from the Governments New Homes Bonus Scheme. The funding is available to give local community groups the opportunity to bid for money as a means of creating and developing long lasting projects to the benefit of their communities and areas. The criteria for the scheme is fairly relaxed and so a diverse range of projects can be supported, up to now the funds have supported many different schemes such as play park regeneration, community shop development, Health and safety equipment, and a community hall kitchen re-fit to name a few.

There is also an overarching corporate grant pot of approximately £200,000 which again all Local Parishes, Town Councils, voluntary organisations and community groups can bid in to for support for larger projects and schemes. The funding is available until the end of March in 2017 and the Authority is keen that everyone is aware of, and has the opportunity to, access the funding and support their ideas. I would therefore be extremely grateful if via your various contacts and networks you could please pass on this opportunity. All of the information regarding the project can be found by visiting the community grants website www.torrige.gov.uk/communitygrants if you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the

Commercial and Leisure Services team on: 01237 428700 or via email, leisure@torridge.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/>

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 7.30pm.

SHOP TALK

SHOP @ THE ASHWATER AGRICULTURAL SHOW Saturday 20th August

Despite the wind and rain the Shop Marquee did a brisk trade taking £50 in donations for slices of cake, *Gentle Dog Food* samples and humiliation in the stocks for John Lowe & Rachael Martyn! *****Check out August in the 2017 Calendar for an epic cream pie shot!*****

Sales of soft drinks, crisps, sweets and chocolate were £113.58

Best Wine Competition Results:

1st Prize : Tim Luxton; Pinot Grigio

2nd Prize : Mel Lowe; Cherry Brandy

3rd Prize : Ivan Buxton; Blackberry Liqueur

Best Beer/Cider

1st Prize : Mel Lowe; Sparkling Cider

Thank you to everyone who supported the shop + gave us lots of ideas for next year.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Friday 30th September – 10am to 12noon

At the Village Hall – we'll have seating outside again if it is sunny!

Donations of cakes/biscuits gratefully accepted; email secretaryashwatershop@gmail.com

LADIES PAMPER EVENING

Friday 11th November – details to follow in the October Newsletter

CHRISTMAS TASTING EVENING

Friday 18th November – details to follow in the October Newsletter

ASHWATER VILLAGE SHOP CALENDAR

WE NEED MORE ADVERTISERS!

2017 CALENDAR size A3

Advertising available to local businesses | Please get in touch to book, contact details below.

(A) FULL - £50 (297mm x 70mm)

(B) HALF - £25 (148mm x 70mm)

(C) QUARTER - £15 (74mm x 70mm)

*Funds raised for **Ashwater Village Shop, Ashwater School PTFA and Ashwater Playgroup.***

POST OFFICE /BANK – Do you sell online? Send lots of parcels?

- Whether you're selling a few items on Ebay or large quantities for an online business **please use Ashwater Village Post Office/Bank** to send your parcels.
- Drop-off when convenient and we'll process your items throughout the day.
- Why not drop in and have a chat with John about how we can help you.

Telephone: 01409 211 192

Email: managerashwatershop@gmail.com

Volunteer Enquiries: volunteerashwatershop@gmail.com

Find us on:

www.facebook.com/ashwatervillageshop/

www.ashwatervillageshop.co.uk

65th ASHWATER AGRICULTURAL SHOW

A big thank you to everyone who visited and supported the 65th Ashwater Agricultural Show, on Saturday 20th August presided over by Mr Derek Banbury, our president for 2016 with his wife Linda. Despite falling on the worst day of the week, with the high winds and short sharp showers the show was well supported.

There was an array of beautifully turned out stock in the cattle and sheep classes, while 17 farmers of the future, demonstrated their excellent skills in the young handler's classes. Family pets including Guinea pigs and chickens were showcased in the Fur and Feather tent while numerous dogs took part in the family fun dog show which this year included fun agility and novelty classes run in aid of Lakeland Trailhound Welfare.

Horse classes commenced bright and early with a good number of entries. The morning saw strong competition in the horse, pony and novelty classes, while children enjoyed taking part in the Gymkhana. The horse events were rounded off in the afternoon with show jumping competitions.

The show was officially opened by the President at 1.00pm, following a parade of vintage tractors in the main ring where Mr and Mrs Banbury awarded 'Presidents choice award' sponsored by Pat May Drainage and Groundwork's to a beautiful 1974 Massey Ferguson 188, owned by John Tribble from Bradford. This tractor has done over 12,000 hours and was chosen as it was in complete original condition. A parade of the South Tetcott Hunt hounds followed.

The show was held in conjunction with Ashwater Horticultural Show, where people from across the Parish demonstrated their skills in a range of classes from flower arranging to homemade preserves. The craft tent was bursting at the seams with a showcase of local products and the various village organisations were represented including the Church, the PTA with a cake stand and the Community Shop showcasing their goods and bringing out the village stocks to raise funds.

The daytime events were rounded off with a sponsored haircut in which the Chairman's wife, Vikki Moon had 14 inches cut off her hair to donate to the Little Princess Trust who make and provide wigs at no charge, for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment. Over £500 has also been raised for the charity and anyone wishing to donate towards this cause can visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/vikki-moon

The show saw many prize winners, the results can be found on the village website www.ashwaterparish.org.uk

In the evening everyone let their hair down with the after show party, packed with locals and supporters for a great community get together dancing to JJ and the Sixes and a Disco.

The Committee would like to reiterate its sincere thanks to all our sponsors, judges, programme advertisers and donors for their generous support of this year's show as well as to our President, Mr Derek Banbury for carrying out his role admirably. Thanks also to Holsworthy Army Cadet Force for their hard work again this year with various activities throughout the day. In addition the Chairman, Mr Paul Moon, would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, the members of the committee and all those non-members, family and friends who also generously gave their time to make the show a success, helping in preparation, setting up, fetching and carrying, selling dance tickets, lending equipment, providing refreshments, running bars, parking cars, cutting the road verges and hedges to the Show Field and many other things, as well as clearing up afterwards! Finally a very big thank you to everyone who came and supported the show on the day, entered classes and took part in activities! Without the help and support of so many people the show would not be possible.

83rd Annual Ashwater Horticultural Show

After a one year absence the show returned with a bang, literally, as the wind removed one marquee overnight on the Friday, but in true tradition the show went on successfully.

A wide range of entries were received with some excellent and colourful competition in the flower classes, especially the themed categories celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday and Rio Carnival/Olympics.

Vegetables produced some fine specimens, although it seems sun ripened tomatoes were in short supply as were raspberries in the fruit section, but runner beans were in abundance

As usual the bakery and preserves section contained some tasty goodies giving the judge a difficult choice, yet probably the hardest decision was to separate the children's novelty entries, ranging from a cleverly constructed jelly fish to a smartly dressed penguin, a mighty turtle through to a cheeky mouse made from a lemon.

The President of the Agricultural Show Mr Derek Banbury presented the cups and trophies with Gordon Bennett receiving the award of Judges Choice for his prime dahlias and Fiona Bull being presented with the cup for gaining most points overall.

Thanks are due to the Judges who always take on the task with enthusiasm, all who helped behind the scenes, those erecting and dismantling the marquees, running the raffle, the proceeds from which help pay for the show expenses. Special thanks to Maureen Still who woke at the crack of dawn to see our tent upside down which enabled prompt action to be taken and to Eric Burnill and Pat May for spending Friday afternoon strapping the main tents down. We must also mention the Agricultural Show Committee who allocated the Horticultural Society a prime spot to exhibit their entries.

Finally one winning horticultural raffle ticket (blue 300) has yet to be claimed. The prize (£10) is currently in the shop.

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY

The next lunch is on 1st September, please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest on 01409 211200

BADMINTON

Badminton will start again in the hall on Wednesday evenings from 7th September, commencing at 7pm for two hours (except for Wednesday 21st Sept when we are playing on Thursday 22nd).

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AFTERNOON – 17th September 2016

Saturday 17th September from 1.30pm – 4.30pm at Ashwater Church as part of the Ashwater Church Tower Project. Families are invited to this afternoon which will include- a Medieval Tent with furnishings, artefacts and authentic costumes. Charcoal sketching, decorating a pottery tile, Knights and ladies in costume, a photo trail scavenger hunt (with prizes), ice cream sundae (add your own toppings) – this is a free event – everyone is welcome. Light refreshment available. For any further information please contact Helen Bone 01409 211601 bonethreegables@yahoo.co.uk

STOWFORD SINGERS AT ASHWATER CHURCH – 18th September 2016

The Stowford Singers will be performing in Ashwater Church at 7pm on Sunday 18th September in aid of the tower funds. Tickets £5 to include tea/coffee & light supper.

ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB – 19th September 2016

The next camera club meeting will be in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 19th September 2016 and includes a quiz. Don't forget to bring along any photos you have taken that could be displayed in the hall, including any of the Ashwater Show. There will be some small prizes for the entries judged to be most representative of the show.

ASHWATER CRAFT AND PRODUCE FAIR – 24th September 2016

The next Craft and Produce Fair will be held between 1pm and 4pm at Ashwater Parish Hall on Saturday 24th September 2016. There will be a raffle and a various assortment of craft and produce stalls. Refreshments will be served during the afternoon. Proceeds will be in aid of Ashwater Village Shop.

NIGHT BLIGHT – A REPORT FROM THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has produced a report on how much light is spilling up into Britain's night skies. Using data captured by satellite at 1.30am throughout September 2015 an accurate picture has been secured.

The South West is on average, the darkest English region with the Isles of Scilly heading the list. Ten of the darkest districts are in the South West with West Devon and Torridge featuring in the top five at second and fifth places respectively.

What is the problem with bright skies and why does this matter? Firstly excessive light at night is a form of pollution, often using unnecessary artificial energy and secondly it damages both the character of rural areas and its wildlife.

A recent study has indicated that spring arrives early in areas where light pollution is at its worst. You may think this is a welcome factor, but it is actually harmful as it causes confusion to wildlife and upsets the ecological balance. Pollinating insects for example, hatch too early and some flowers bloom prematurely both succumb to the cold and prevent fruit and vegetable crops from forming.

Government, local planning and highway authorities, together with businesses and large facility owners are all being urged by CPRE to monitor, control and implement policies that protect dark skies. After all wasting money and energy by burning unnecessary lighting when the vast majority of us are asleep hits all of our pockets.

We can all help by use of the maps to help shape future development in our area, lobby local councils about light pollution or as an educational resource for our children – even perhaps by turning off our own lights and simply enjoying the stars in the Milky Way.

The full report –“ Night Blight: Mapping England's light pollution and dark skies”, is available as a pdf file from the CPRE National Website www.cpre.org.uk › Resources › Countryside › Dark skies
If you are interested in helping or supporting the charitable work of the CPRE, especially in Devon log on to their local website at www.cpredevon.org.uk and follow the 'support us' link.

REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF A DELIBERATE FARM FIRE

A fire on a farm can be devastating; resulting in the loss of machinery, stores of hay and straw, livestock and the destruction of buildings. Over the last few weeks there have been several barn fires across Somerset.

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service has been working with their colleagues from Avon and Somerset Police and investigations have led the police to conclude that these have been deliberate acts of arson. Fire Investigation Officer Andy Justice said: “Every year the Fire Service attend 100's of fires and emergency incidents on farms and small holdings and a serious fire on a farm can affect the financial stability of even the most well run business. A percentage of these fires are [started deliberately](#), either as an act of mindless vandalism or as a fraudulent insurance claim. Farms are also particularly vulnerable to a deliberate fire with their isolated location, open boundaries, readily ignitable hay and straw stacks making them an easy target.”

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service are working alongside our partners from Avon and Somerset police as investigations into these incidents and those responsible are on-going. Chief Inspector Mark Edgington, Local Policing Commander for East Somerset, said: “We take incidents of arson extremely seriously. They have huge financial implications for farmers in addition to the enormous danger they pose to people and livestock. We will work with our partners to identify those responsible and they will be dealt with robustly. We want to hear from anyone who has any information about these incidents or any other suspected arson. You can call us on the 101 number or alternatively you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. We want to prevent any further fires before someone is seriously hurt.”

Prevention

By considering the following steps you can avoid the risk of fire on your farm.

1. Ensure machinery is well maintained and serviced regularly – clean machinery regularly to keep it free from hay, straw, oil and grease.
2. Remove hay and straw from fields as soon as possible after harvesting. Ensure it is dry before storing to prevent spontaneous combustion – many fires are caused by storing damp or wet hay.
3. Store hay and straw away from other buildings especially those containing fuels or chemicals and separate from livestock. Store in stacks at least 10 metres apart and ensure there is sufficient space between the top of the stack and the roof lighting.
4. Only carry out hot work, i.e. welding or grinding, in clear areas.
5. Electrical safety checks should be carried out regularly, especially in areas where straw or hay is stored.
6. Ensure any fuels, chemicals and hazardous materials are stored in clearly labeled containers. They should be locked away in locations away from other buildings.
7. Have designated areas for smoking away from combustible materials and ensure cigarettes and matches are extinguished properly.
8. Keep escape routes clear at all times and keep all areas free from rubbish, oily cloths and other combustible materials.
9. Ensure that your family and employees know what to do in the event of a fire; make sure everyone knows where the nearest phone is. Carry a mobile phone at all times, especially if working alone.
10. Keep firefighting equipment in good working order and ensure it is serviced regularly. Ensure it can be accessed easily at all times and that everyone is aware where it is located.
11. Make sure that the entrance to your farm is clearly sign posted and keep all access routes clear for emergency vehicles.

Top tip...

Make sure you have an animal evacuation plan for your livestock in the event of a fire.

A survey of your farm may reveal the need to:

Provide, repair or replace damaged fencing or gates.

Install intruder sensors and security lighting.

Maintain security of outbuildings.

Replace or re-site security and warning notices.

Maintain firefighting equipment in good order.

If you have information about someone deliberately starting fires call Crimestoppers on: 0800 555 111. For additional Arson Safety & Prevention Advice please visit the National Arson Prevention Forum site at www.stoparsonuk.org.

.....AND FINALLY

Although the proposed modifications to the A30/A303 route to and from Devon is some way from our Parish it will (if it proceeds) impact on Devon as a whole, what with the proposed increase in housing by many thousands by 2031 and the continued push for tourism links, it is worth looking at the Devon County Council information web site <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/a30-improvement/> and joining the **consultation process**. There are two suggested routes, the “orange route” has no junctions (like the Ilminster by-pass), whereas the “blue route” permits traffic to join and leave at several places with possible delays and accidents spots, but has greater effect on local tranquility. If you have an opinion or any views let DCC know.

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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