



Comment:

Another year gone and the jolly fat bloke is still as popular as ever – Merry Christmas to all.

Newsletter: Contributions for the next Newsletter by 26th December please to ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

5th December, fingers crossed for the shop at the Plunkett Awards in London

6th December – Pub Lunch, Village Inn 12.30pm

6th December – Ladies Skittles, 7.30pm

7th December – Coffee morning and stalls 10.30am – 1pm

8th December – AFC Wine and Wisdom, 7pm

10th December – AHS Wreath Making, 7.00pm

9th December 2018, Christmas High Tea, in the church from 3pm (booking essential)

16th December 2018, Shop Quiz, in the pub 6.30pm

21st December 2018, Carols, meeting in the hall car park at 6.30pm

Advance Notice

Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries

Email: lmynetman@btinternet.com

Tel: 01409 211131

Ashwater Shop (Opening Hours Over Christmas are displayed on Page 2)

Hours: Mon – Frid: 8.30am to 5.00pm

Saturday: 8.30am to 12 Noon

Sunday: 9am to 12 Noon

Tel: 01409 211192

Post Office

Hours: Mon – Thurs: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Friday: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

PARISH HALL – Happy Christmas to all our users

Tesco Bags of Help

Thank you to everyone that participated and used their tokens to support the hall extension project. The Hall has been awarded £1,000, which has to be spent within 12 months. This means we need to get the project started as soon as possible, but we are still some way short of the target. Donations would be appreciated and we are hoping to arrange two fund raising events in the New Year, which we hope you will support. Including the above award, we have now raised £43,757 against a projected requirement of up to £75,000.

Hall Refuse Collection

Torrige District Council have declined to collect black bags, food waste and recycling from the hall – this is less than helpful and we are trying to get them to change their stance. Meanwhile to avoid a build-up of refuse could hall users kindly take away any rubbish etc., accumulated during their hire periods. The hall will try to set up a system to store glass and cans and arrange a rota for disposal in due course. We are trying to avoid hiring a commercial waste disposal firm as this would inevitably impact on hall hire charges.

Hall Bookings

A recent booking enquiry raised the question of use of a ‘bouncy castle’ in the hall. Regrettably activities involving these items is not permitted by the hall insurers. They are specifically excluded from cover along with such things as events involving weapons, animal rides, firework displays, bonfires, jousting competitions and ‘it’s a knockout’ competitions. Insurance cover is a vital, but costly part of administering the safe use of the hall facilities and we are sure you will understand why it is essential we comply with the terms and conditions of our policy. We would also like to remind hall users that by law, smoking is not permitted inside the hall and where alcohol is served/consumed it must be within the confines of the building and not in the car park or on the grassed area behind the hall, even in a marquee if one is erected by prior agreement at the time of hiring. Sorry if this sounds pedantic, but it is in the best interest of everyone that these rules are in place.

Hall Electrical Items

Periodically the hall is required to have electrical equipment and supplies safety tested. This has been recently carried out and one or two portable items failed the testing procedure, we are awaiting a full report, meanwhile we regret the sound system and stage lighting are not available for use, both having been broken or damaged.

Hall Trustees

Would anyone interested in becoming a trustee please let any of the existing trustees know – details are on the notice board next to the front door.

Hall Coffee Mornings

The regular Friday Coffee Mornings have raised about £2,000 towards the extension fund, thank you. On 7th December there will be a few stalls as well as coffee, please come along, everyone is welcome.

ASHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

"The Parish Council would like to thank Nigel and Edwina of Stacey's Christmas Tree Farm for providing the Christmas tree for the village green.

Father Christmas will be at the Christmas Tree Farm in December on 1st/2nd, 8th/9th and 15th. Check out their website for more details of this and their range of Christmas trees, festive lights and decorations.

Open from 24th November, seven days a week, 9.00am – 5.30pm.

www.staceyschristmastreefarm.com

Tel: 01409 211 467"

Please see the advert at the end of the newsletter.

ASHWATER SHOP

This month saw the Christmas tasting which was a great chance to try some of the delicious foods that you can order now from the shop to make your festive season perfect. Why not visit the shop early and sort all your Christmas shopping so you can sit back and relax over the festive holiday.

The ladies pamper evening as usual was a fun evening with a great turn out, thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Diary date:

Currently sold out - the Pub Quiz Night - 16th December, 6.30/7.00pm at The Village Inn. However, if still interested please check in the shop in case there are any return tickets.

Make your Christmas extra special by winning our raffle of a Christmas tree covered in £50 worth of scratch cards. Tickets £1 each from the shop. Winning ticket to be drawn at the Pub Quiz.

Friday 21st December, 'The Strangled Turkey Singers' AKA the shop committee and volunteers will be carol singing around the village.

Exciting news: the shop has been shortlisted for the Plunkett Community 'Investing in Local People' award. Three members of the committee will be going up to London on 5th December for the awards, fingers crossed!

Shop opening times over the festive season will be as follows:

24th - 8.30-1pm

25th CLOSED

26th - 8.30-10.30am

31st - 8.30-5.00pm

1st - 8.30-10.30am

We would like to say a big thank you to our dedicated volunteers who give time over Christmas.

Finally, we wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas (plenty of alcohol available at the shop to help you on your way!) and a Happy New Year. We look forward to your continued support in 2019.

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH – 6th December 2018

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. Air Ambulance donations are now being collected in the shop.

LADIES SKITTLES – 6th December 2018

The next Ladies skittles game is on Thursday 6th December at 7.30pm. This is the pre-Christmas session and all are welcome to come along and share the fun.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH HIGH TEA AT ASHWATER CHURCH. SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018

Two sittings: 3.00 p.m or 4.30 p.m. Please buy your tickets well in advance from:

Ashwater Shop, Chris March or Wendy Darby (we must know how many meals to prepare and regret we will not be able to take bookings on the day). Adults £7.00 Children £4.00 (suggested donation)

ASHWATER FOOTBALL CLUB WINE & WISDOM - SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

The doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 6 at £5 per person. There will be a Draw during the evening. Contact Lin Jennings 01409 211213 for more details and tickets.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING – 10TH DECEMBER 2018

The annual Christmas Wreath Making Evening will take place on 10th December at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone most welcome, but numbers are limited so booking is essential by Friday 7th December at the latest with Letitia Yetman 0149 211131 or Email: myetman@btinternet.com. Members £5.00 Non-Members £6.00. Mulled wine and mince pies included.

ASHWATER ART GROUP

We are currently meeting at the studio of JAN USHER printmaker, making lino cut images which we are going to print.

TIME as usual 1.30 – 4.00 every Tuesday.
COST £10 per session which includes materials (except fabric).
WHERE Holsworthy, lifts are available from Ashwater
INTERESTED? Please contact Kate 211241 or Sue 211419

HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK

The first walk of our current programme started from the Village Hall car park in Halwill Junction. We walked down quiet country roads and a bridleway, learning several interesting pieces of information along the way.

With Remembrance in mind Paul, our walk leader for the day, told us of **William Stanlake** who was born at Upcott Farm in Halwill in 1830. At the age of 23 William Stanlake joined the Coldstream Guards as a Private, fought in the Crimean War and was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

The event which earned him this award took place on 26 October 1854 near Inkerman, Crimea. Private Stanlake, when employed as a sharpshooter, volunteered to reconnoitre, and although he was warned of the dangers he would encounter, crawled to within six yards of a Russian sentry and brought back such information that the officer in charge of the party was able to make a surprise attack. He is buried in Camberwell Old Cemetery in South East London. His Victoria Cross is displayed at The Guards Regimental Headquarters (Coldstream Guards RHQ) Wellington Barracks, London, England.

Coming back to more mundane matters our Christmas lunch this year is on Friday 7th December at The Half Moon Inn, Sheepwash. For any past or current walkers who have not had sight of a menu please contact David Arney below.

Thanks to all of our walkers who come and enjoy the countryside and interesting snippets of information both from our walk leaders and from chatting amongst other walkers. We are all familiar with the physical health benefits of walking (you should be if you read our articles each month!) but the psychological benefits too cannot be over emphasised. Added to which all walks are FREE.

All that remains is for us to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Our Monday Level 1 walks in Stanhope Park, Holsworthy start at 10.30 am. We now meet outside the Holsworthy Area Sports Pavilion with tea and coffee served afterwards. The Friday walks move off at 10.30 am from various locations around the area. Details can be found on our walk programme.

For further information regarding the Monday walks please contact Gillian Aston on 01409 254642. For information regarding the Friday walks please contact David Arney on 01837 861829. Gillian Aston.

SMART METERS

The Parish Council has asked that if anyone would be interested in attending a briefing (see below) then to get back to The Parish Clerk (parishcouncil@ashwaterparish.org.uk) and if enough people are interested then they will organise an event.



DCT briefing service on Smart Meters

Smart Meters, that automatically transmit gas and electricity meter readings to suppliers, have had a bad press recently, some of it deserved and some of it 'fake news'.

Devon Communities Together has been providing a briefing service on Smart Meters to community leaders, local organisations and members of the public and we "tell it as it is"! No hype, no official 'speak'.

With a new generation of meters about to be launched, there will be increasing pressure from the industry to switch to a Smart Meter and so, during November we are looking for opportunities to:

Speak to community leaders (local councillors, organisers of local clubs and activities, those providing support to their community) to give them a concise insight into the Smart Meter debate, so that they can give informed advice to those who might seek their help. Attend local events where we can supply an information service. Come and give a short presentation to community groups, clubs, meetings etc. and answer questions.

We particularly want to reach 'senior' members of communities as they are perceived to be more resistant to technological changes, but then that's one of the faults of the roll-out programme, and so we are happy to talk to any group that wants to find out more.

If you would like to set up a session, then please get in touch.

Please also pass this information on to others in your locality.

Martin Rich

Community Projects Advisor

Email: martin@devoncommunities.org.uk

telephone 01392 248919 *141

Mob: 07984 001542

www.devoncommunities.org.uk

Carer Awareness Survey

Did you know that 1 in every 8 people in the UK are caring for someone?

Over 84,000 people in Devon self-identified as a carer in the 2011 census.

At Devon Carers we provide advice and support to unpaid carers around the county of Devon. We want to be able to offer this support to as many carers as we can, and we're hoping that you can help us by circulating this short survey to your parishioners.

The anonymous survey is for any Parishioner, including yourself, to complete and will take approximately 5-8 minutes, depending on the answers given. The results of this survey will help us shape our service and enable us to target our efforts where they are most needed. We will gain a better understanding of general public views, and specifically of the people we aim to reach.

I would ask you to simply forward the link below by email to your parishioners. However, if you would prefer, I can send you a supplementary email addressed to your parishioners for you to forward to them. It would explain the survey but not include the additional information from this email. I can also provide you with paper copies and prepaid envelopes upon request. Please do let me know if you feel either of these options would be better for you.

<https://kwiksurveys.com/s/ZszDcpCM>

In my role as Lead Practitioner for Awareness, I work throughout the community of Devon raising awareness of carers and am happy to attend Town and Parish Council meetings to talk about the support available to carers. I can also provide you with informative material or introduce you to your local carers support team, so that we can better support carers together.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss any of this further.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your time and for helping us to help carers across Devon.

Your faithfully,

Ellie Taylor *Lead Practitioner - Awareness* Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (subject to change) 03456 434 435
www.devoncarers.org.

CYCLE RACES

It is anticipated that in February 2019 around 80 cyclists will participate in the Primavera Cycle Race that will be run locally to embrace Hatherleigh and Halwill Junction. Key junctions will be manned by Accredited Marshalls and the race run in accordance with Cycle Racing on The Highways Act. There will be lead vehicles and members of the National Escort Group of motorcycles. Delays at junctions will be minimal. More details when to hand.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

"Eric and Dilys Burnill wish all their friends in Ashwater and the surrounding area a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year".

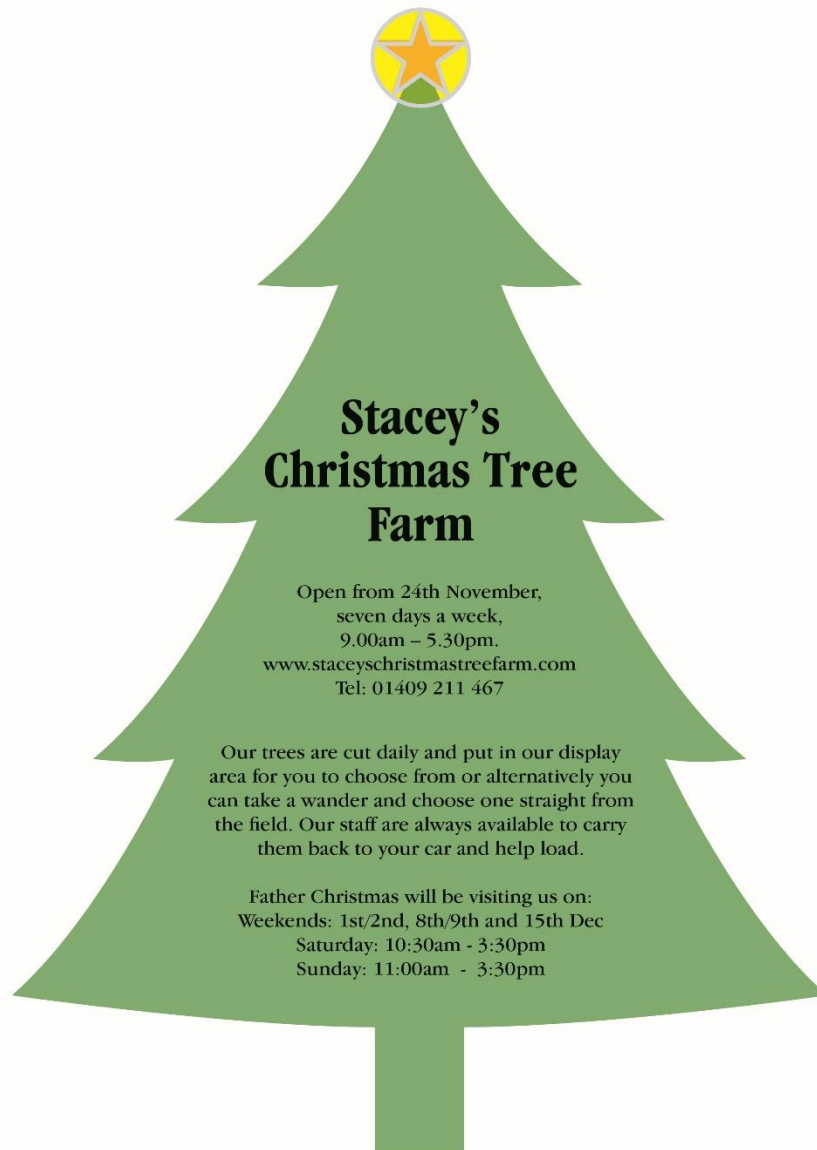
The Newsletter wishes all those who print, deliver and contribute articles, items and news a very merry Christmas and a hearty, healthy New Year.

THANKS

Many thanks to Carol and Trevor Moon, Michael Taylor and the Ashwater School Children for producing such a magnificent display of poppies around the War Memorial to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the armistice of 1918. Thank you also to those that attended at the war Memorial and those officiating at the service in the church afterwards as it is fitting that we should never forget those who served and gave their lives in both world wars as well as all subsequent conflicts.

.....AND FINALLY

The best of luck to the shop at the prestigious National Plunkett Investing in Local People Awards where they have been short listed for recognition on 5th December 2018. The ceremony is in London at the St Bride Foundation.



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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