
Comment: The Parish Council work hard on our behalf, often without the acknowledgement due. There are many Parishes who are not represented by a council so please attend the Village Meeting arranged for 10th June.

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

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

1st June- Photo Group, 7.30pm

4th June - Lunch Club at The Village Inn

4th June - Ladies Skittles, 7.30pm

10th June Parish Council Meeting at 7.15pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm

12th June- Horticultural Club Outing to Ken Caro Gardens - meet in hall car park 3.50pm

13th June - Craft and Produce Fair, 1pm-4pm

13th June - PTFA Wine & Wisdom, 7.30pm

24th June - Shop AGM, 7.30pm

Advance Notice

17th July - Walking Treasure Hunt and BBQ - Parish Hall 6.30pm (BBQ 8pm), full details next month

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

PARISH HALL

There was a disappointing turnout for the Annual General Meeting held last month when the following Trustees were appointed:

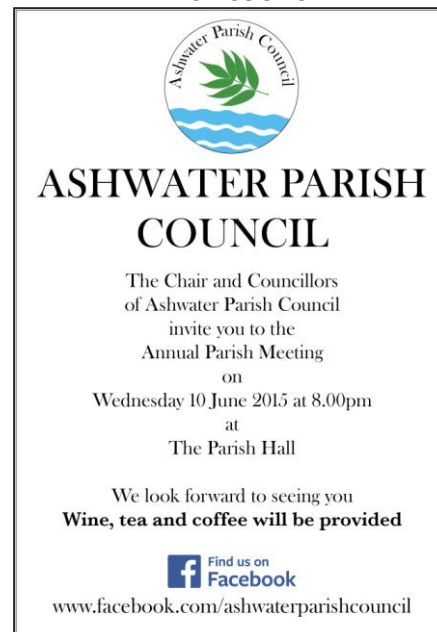
Colin Vallance (Chair)
John Forward (Vice-Chair)
Bob Griggs (Treasurer and Bookings Secretary)
Ivan Buxton (Secretary)
Judith Addicott
Helen Bone
Terry Darby
Andrew Stacey
Letitia Yetman

It was agreed other Trustees could be appointed during the year.
Date of next Trustees meeting – 18 June 2015.
Arrangements are being made with the Horticultural Society for a Walking treasure Hunt and B-B-Q on 17th July

Ashwater Shop

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the hall on 24th June 2015 at 7.30pm when the committee and officers will be elected. Nomination forms are in the shop. As previously reported both the Treasurer (Ivan Buxton) and the Secretary (Diane Buxton) will not be seeking re-election. Sue Luxton has relinquished her position as joint Chair for family reasons. Please see page 4 for this month's 'shop talk' article.

PARISH COUNCIL



The Election of Parish Councillors was an uncontested election and there are nine councillors as follows:

Mary Gliddon (Chair), Lawrence Langston (Vice Chair), Eric Burnill, Graham Hockin, Peter Jennings, Pat May, Trevor Moon, Michael Taylor, Steve Warring.

The new elected District Councillor for the ward is Zygmunt Gregorek.

A grant from Torridge District Council has enabled funding for planters to be placed around the village.

Potholes – Devon Highways would like your feedback of their “report a problem” webpage. It would be helpful for them if you could complete their website feedback questionnaire at new.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/feedback. Please continue to contact Highways to report potholes as it is necessary to draw the attention to the council of any problem.

Electoral Review of Devon - The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Devon County Council. Today is the start of an eight week public consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations on new division boundaries across Devon. The consultation closes on 6 July 2015.

Draft recommendations can be viewed at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4141> where you can find interactive maps, a report and guidance on how to have your say. The Commission has not finalised its conclusions and now invites representations on the draft recommendations.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 June at 8.00pm. Please come along to meet and support the new Parish Council.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 June at 7.15pm.

ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A big thank you to everyone who came along on the 11th May to the talk given by Dave Lamb and the plant swap. There were over 20 people in attendance and Dave gave a really interesting and informative talk on growing vegetables and annuals.

Sunflower seeds were also given out to local children and they will be contacted in August to arrange to visit them and measure the height of the sunflowers, with a prize for the tallest. If you know any local children who didn't come along we do have some seeds left, please ask them to telephone Letitia on 211131 to arrange to collect them.

The next event is a visit to the Ken-Caro Gardens, near Callington on Friday 12th June.

Ken-Caro Garden is a 4 acre well designed & labelled plantsman's garden with rhododendrons, flowering shrubs, conifers and herbaceous plants mostly planted in 1970, lily pond which has panoramic views and a good collection of aviary birds.

The gardens usually close at 5pm but will remain open especially for us so we will have them to ourselves. We will meet in the parish hall car park at 3.50pm to leave promptly at 4pm and travel to Ken-Caro for 5pm. We have then arranged to stop at the Eliot Arms at Tregadillet on the way back for dinner. We do need to have confirmed numbers for this event so could you please contact Letitia (211131) by 4th June to confirm your attendance.

ASHWATER CRAFT AND PRODUCE FAIR Saturday 13th June 1-4pm in the Village Hall.

A wide range of produce and crafts available, including fresh meat and veg, homemade cakes, cards, jams, herbs and spices, knitted items, woodcrafts and many more. Refreshments available through the afternoon. In aid of DEVON AIR AMBULANCE.

BADMINTON

Wednesday evening badminton is taking a summer break and will resume in the autumn. Occasional sessions will be organized in the meantime by those wishing to 'play on'.

LUNCH CLUB AT THE VILLAGE INN

The lunch club still meets at the Village Inn on the first Thursday of the month, booking on 01409 211200

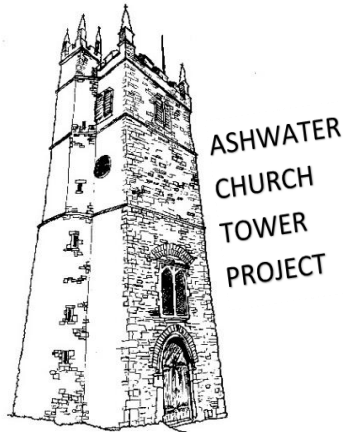
LADIES SKITTLES – 4TH JUNE

In the Parish Hall at 7.30pm – ladies of all ages are welcome to come and play a game for fun.

ASHWATER PARISH CHURCH

Tower Project Newsletter: June 2015

This is the second of the up-dates that we will publish on our major project.



Just to remind you - our lovely church (particularly the bell tower and the valley gutter between the two roofs) has been named as 'at risk' so we need to take urgent action. As we have told you before, we received a 'Grant for Places of Worship' from the Heritage Lottery Fund - development funding to survey and develop plans for the restoration of the tower and for 'reordering' of the inside of the church. The surveys have been carried out for essential work to the tower and roof, and plans for the reordering inside the church have been received. These are now available for your perusal:

Consultation: We have now displayed an A1 copy of the plans (of our aspirations) in the church – we have borrowed part of the Children's' Corner Notice Board - and we would like all of you to go in and see where we would like to put the toilet etc. We need your feedback, so we have put 'post-it' notes alongside the drawing. Please go into church and write your comments on a post-it and stick it to the drawing – thank you.

To remind you, what we would like to do is (in order of priority, in terms of funding):

Repair and restore the fabric of the tower and church valley gutter (roofing),

Reorder inside to make the church more flexible; including what we can afford from this list:

Provide a new toilet accessible to people with disabilities, with baby-changing facilities.

If we can afford it, we would also like to install a new kitchen that will fold away entirely, so that when it is not in use it will not even be recognisable as a kitchen. And if we can afford it:

We wish to move some of the box-wood pews around to make a more flexible space.

We would like to electrify the winding mechanism on the clock, and illuminate the clock face.

We would also like to improve the lighting and sound system in the church.

We are about to appoint a Quantity Surveyor to price up all the things we must do and these other reordering things that we would like to do. We will then know what we will be able to afford with the money we have already secured, and what more we have to raise – we will know where the gaps are.

Fund-raising. We are well on the way to our target, but still need to raise at least a further £8k, so the fund-raising is on-going:

A team will be running (or walking) the Ruby Run on 14th June – please sign a sponsor form.

A major tractor run, on 12th July, run by Alistair Kirk will start and end in Ashwater (with lunch).

Sale of 'merchandising' - watch out for cards, tea towels etc.

Adopting Sections of the Tower: We will be inviting you to 'adopt' a section of the tower. Each section will be numbered and be recognisable, to allow individuals / families to give us money to adopt – for example – a section of the stonework, a pinnacle, a window or a step in the staircase tower. Prices will range from £10 to £250 and names will be recorded for posterity, so you can choose who to commemorate in this way.

Ashwater PTFA Wine and Wisdom 13th June 2015

The PTFA are holding a Wine & Wisdom at the Parish Hall, 7.30pm 13th June. See notice boards for details.

Hall Hanging Baskets and Village Planters

Could volunteers please water the hanging baskets and village planters as thanks to Fiona Bull, Maureen Still and Eric Burnill these are already planted up and looking good.



Shop Talk

Wine & Wisdom.

We made a brilliant £244.64 on the QUIZ and had a great turnout of 70 people. Thanks go to ...

Bob Griggs for compiling the quiz and being our host.

Evening organizers:

Colin Vallance, Yvonne Taylor, Liz Fisher and John Lowe.

Grateful thanks to Sophie Gerry and Margaret Benjafield for helping Colin and Bob on the night with the quiz, and to everyone for putting away tables & chairs, sweeping the floor, dismantling the bar, washing-up and tidying the kitchen.

Colin and Yvonne are already planning another joint Hall & Shop quiz for autumn with Bob compiling questions



Bake off competition...

We are hoping to put together a baking competition at the Agricultural show in August, there will be an adult and junior bake off.

More details to follow soon.

In the pipeline.....

Christmas club... would you be interested in saving for the festive season? The idea is a work in progress but if you are interested please let John know.

Thank you as always for supporting the village shop, John has been busy researching new lines and your input with product suggestions is welcome.

We now have a barrow outside the shop with various plants for sale, as well as being an addition to products for sale, it brightens up the shop front beautifully.

We've gone social! Have you seen the Facebook page? We are updating it with offers and product information on a regular basis and will be linking it with Instagram to add some great photos.

We have a great team of volunteers that help John at the shop but we are in need of more, do you have an hour or two to spare? I pop an email out once a week to let volunteers know the slots that need filling over the upcoming week and if you can help just let me know. We understand that giving your time on a regular basis can be difficult, but just a few hours a month can help immensely.

Rachael

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Ashwater Table Tennis Club welcomes beginners and improvers to join us at the Parish Hall on a Tuesday between 10am and 12 Noon or Saturdays from 10am to 12.30pm. Just £2.00 a session, come and join us!

THANK YOU

Mel Rowe would like to extend a huge expression of thanks to everyone who helped rescue her mare, Lena from a distressful incident recently. She managed to fall through a fence into a ditch/sink hole being almost up to her neck in mire and presenting a predicament that was difficult to resolve. The Fire Brigade and Vetnary teams attended and particular thanks go to Mark Colwill from M & S who calmly led the rescue that involved Lena being sedated before she was winched to safety.

.....AND MORE THANKS

Barry Parsons
Conservative District Councillor,
Forest Ward (2007 - 2015), and
Devon County Councillor, Holsworthy Rural (2009 - present)

To all constituents of Ashwater, Forest Ward

I am writing to express the greatest of thanks for the huge privilege of being your District Councillor these past 8 years. As many know, I stepped down at the last election with my time at Torridge District Council (TDC) having been a great privilege and honour made only possible by yourselves and others in Forest Ward. I believe it the right time for a fresh local approach following a period of my life that I will always recall with the greatest of fondness and appreciation.

When I joined TDC in 2007 it was rated a 'Poor Council'. In March 2011, the year in which I became Leader of TDC it won the national award - "2nd Most Improved Council in the United Kingdom". Whilst, I would never suggest that all was perfect – never so in local government - the pace of change and ultimate improvements were not inconsiderable; neither, too, the enormity of effort put in by so many of our rural communities for which Ashwater has been hugely prominent.

I recall in my early days as District Councillor conducting surgeries in the old Village Hall – those cold winter nights of putting £1 coins in the meter to get a little heat into the place. Many conversations, too, I had with District planners and what a difference we have now with, for example, one of the finest rural village halls around. I would like to pay the fullest tribute to all in our parish who together made it all possible.

Our new shop – again, what a bonus! And, again what an effort by our own community with Brian Lewins taking the early lead, and, of course Ivan Buxton and the 'team' doing such a wonderful service for us all. Thank you guys (and girls!). There is little wonder this parish gained the County-wide CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Award for 'Best Kept Village' – something that for some time I had every confidence would be achieved. We now have a future of some considerable security which was always my ambition.

I would just like to say, "Thank you" for putting your trust in me these past 8 years and for giving me some wonderful opportunities. My Cabinet role at Devon County Council is, I believe, testament to my contribution not only in Torridge but County-wide as I continue to be your County Councillor (for at least another 2 years) fully representing Ashwater as an integral part of my Holsworthy Rural County Ward.

Most importantly, I extend my very best wishes to Zyg Gregorek who has just succeeded me at TDC and is your new District Councillor. I want also to say a big 'Thank you' to the Ashwater Parish Council Chaired by Mary Gliddon which continues to be of wonderful support to me and to our community.

My very best wishes to one and all,
Cllr Barry Parsons

ADVERT

Join the Revolution!

We are a local postal service operating from Brandis Corner, five miles outside of Holsworthy. Collections (EX20, 21, 22 & 23 postcodes) are made daily from local businesses, with delivery the same or next day to their customers. Geared towards business traffic, Postees offers same or next day delivery of letters and packages for a delivery charge at least 10% less than its competitors. We offer credit facilities – so use the service before you pay for it!

Postees runs alongside BAC Couriers, a delivery service for over 100 online shopping outlets such as Next, Amazon, Dorothy Perkins, Cotton Traders and many more well known brands. They currently deliver up to 6,000 parcels per week to an area stretching from Week St Mary to Whiddon Down, Tavistock to Torrington. Both businesses are looking to expand into Exeter, then Barnstaple.

Postees / BAC Director Mike Clark said: "This is an opportunity for people to both save money and support local enterprise. Currently we have created 12 jobs and believe with local support this could build to over thirty within 12 months. As we succeed and grow further we will in turn, support local charities and worthwhile causes".

For further information – or to explore the possibility of working for us – please contact Mike, Jane Drummond or John Ody on 01409 231106.

PS – We can even hire you a bouncy castle with Jump On Us via 07814 442667!



- Your local Hermes delivery agent in the EX19, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 38

postcode area

- Drivers always required for local delivery work
- Contact us on 01409 231106



Postees Mail Services

- Delivering postal services for local businesses offering safe storage, pick, pack & dispatch for would be eBay entrepreneurs and local businesses.
- Contact us on 01409 231106 for more detail.

Advertising in the Newsletter

Small adverts cost £10 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