

**Comment:** The future of the Village Inn largely rests in the hands of the parish and there is an opportunity to turn this into a community owned business – is anyone up to the challenge?

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**Newsletter:** Contributions for the next Newsletter by 24<sup>th</sup> April please to [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com)

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

3<sup>rd</sup> April – Men's skittles Arthur Palmer Memorial Trophy, 7.30pm

4<sup>th</sup> April – Camera Club at Roadford Lake, 10am

5<sup>th</sup> April – Lunch at the Village Inn, 12.30pm

7<sup>th</sup> April – Big Breakfast, 9.30am – 11.30am

10<sup>th</sup> April – Men's skittles 10 pin bowling, Trethorn 7.30pm

11<sup>th</sup> April – Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm

12<sup>th</sup> April – Ladies Skittles, 7.30pm

14<sup>th</sup> April – Horticultural Society visit to Made Well, Hatherleigh, 9.45am in the hall car park

18<sup>th</sup> April – Hall Trustees Meeting, 8pm

19<sup>th</sup> April – Hospital Public Meeting, Holsworthy Sports Hall, 3.30pm and 7.00pm

21<sup>st</sup> April – Camera Club, visit Dartmoor Zoo

**Advance Notice**

25<sup>th</sup> May – Plant Sale, 10.00am - Noon

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**Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries**

Email: [lmynetman@btinternet.com](mailto:lmynetman@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01409 211131

**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

## THE VILLAGE INN

Many of you will be aware that Phil and Dee have been looking to sell the Village Inn without success to date and are considering an application for change of use, which if successful would likely lead to the loss of public house facilities in the village.

The pub has been registered as a 'community asset' as this permits the Ashwater community an opportunity to bid for the business including the building. If there is interest in endeavouring to purchase the pub for the community an expression of intent has to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Torridge District Council.

The following notice has been received from Torridge District Council:

ACV0018 Village Inn Ashwater

Further to the above we have received notification of intent to dispose of this site and the owner has been informed of the initial 6 weeks moratorium. This expires on the 20 April 2018 and is on the Asset of Community List on our website also. Can you notify the Parish Council and via your Parish Newsletter that this is in effect?

Within this period, we would need a relevant community interest group (as defined in the legislation) to indicate whether they intend to bid for the asset. If we receive this intent then the 6-monthly full moratorium will come into effect.

Please contact me with any queries and full details of the process or on our online webpages.

Regards

[Andrew Waite](#) | Senior Estates Officer

[Torridge District Council](#), Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG

Tel: 01237 428752 | Fax: 01237 428758 | DX: 53606 Bideford

Email: [andrew.waite@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.waite@torridge.gov.uk) | Web:

[www.torridge.gov.uk/property](http://www.torridge.gov.uk/property)

Please Note that my working days are Monday-Wednesday and normal office Hours.

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Over the past few years there have been many examples of communities purchasing and successfully running their 'local', but it requires **very early and strong commitment** by those who wish to save the facility.

Some years ago, the community established the present shop and Post Office by raising funds and securing a loan. Considerable advice and help was given by the Plunkett Foundation and they can be actively involved in a scheme to help under their 'more than a pub' programme if there is sufficient village/community interest in attempting to retain our popular hostelry as a community run enterprise. See [www.plunkett.co.uk](http://www.plunkett.co.uk)

There is a very limited opportunity to take action, so if anyone wishes to explore the matter further they need to act immediately.

### PARISH HALL

A provisional date of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm has been set for the Parish Hall Annual General Meeting (AGM). Would anyone wishing to be considered as a Trustee or undertake one of the officer duties, Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary please advise the current Secretary: Ivan Buxton, Valley View, Quoditch, Ashwater, EX21 5BY or email: [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com).

Nomination forms will be made available in the hall shortly and nominees should be prepared to stand and must be seconded. Trustee appointment is by election at the AGM. New trustees are needed as once the revised constitution and status of Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been approved by the Charities Commission it will be possible to appoint up to twelve trustees in total.

The hall cannot function without Trustees. Trusteeship involves attending quarterly meetings to oversee finances and all hall governance matters. The Trustees appoint the officers and a General Purposes Committee (GPC) to handle the day to day running of the hall covering such things as maintenance, bookings, events and fund raising. The GPC meet frequently, usually monthly and operate within a financial remit.

All Trustees and Officers are volunteers. Sub-committees may be created as necessary for specific purposes. There will be a Trustees Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 8pm in the small meeting room and if you are interested in being nominated for election to the new committee you are welcome to attend as an observer.

#### Circus Bezercus

Around 70 children and adults enjoyed the mad-cap performance of Circus Bezercus on 25<sup>th</sup> March in the hall, thankyou everyone for your support and those who provided prizes and 'goodies'.

#### Craft Fair

About £200 was raised at the Craft Fair in the hall on 24<sup>th</sup> March and this will be divided equally and donated to the Longhouse and Ashwater Church.

### PARISH COUNCIL

Ashwater Parish Council is looking to co-opt a new member.

The Parish Council meets at the Ashwater Parish Hall on the second Wednesday of every month. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please email: [parishcouncil@ashwaterparish.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@ashwaterparish.org.uk)

The Parish Council would like to hear from any local residents who regularly walk the Parish footpaths and who would be interested in reporting back any issues such as gates/stiles which need repairing. Please email the Parish Clerk: [parishcouncil@ashwaterparish.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@ashwaterparish.org.uk)

### ASHWATER CHURCH

#### Flowers

We urgently need more volunteers to help with the flowers at church as numbers have dropped drastically as people have moved away. No expertise is needed, honestly! If there are enough people who are interested I hope to organise a training session to help give us hints and ideas. If anyone is interested please contact Liz Martin on 01409 211240.

#### Church Bells

Bellringing practices are to restart on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Bellringing is a great way to meet people and make new friends as well as learning an ancient art. It is suitable for young and old, big or small, male or female. We really need some new ringers so if you are interested in learning or re-learning please come along and see what is involved.

If you require more information please call Liz Martin on 01409 211240

#### Big Breakfast – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Please support the 'big breakfast' in the Parish Hall from 9.30am – 11.30am on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018. There is a choice of large at £7.50 or small at £6.00. All proceeds towards the church funds.

### **ASHWATER COMMUNITY SHOP**

Volunteers needed

We need some more volunteers in the shop, it's a lovely environment to help in and a great way to meet new people. There are various tasks that need doing during the day including sorting the morning papers, helping with the bread order when it arrives, cleaning the shop, stock taking, date checking, putting out stock and serving behind the till. If you can spare us an hour or two it would be really appreciated and help us keep this vital asset in the village thriving. Just mention your interest to John when your next in the shop.

### **VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY – 5<sup>th</sup> April 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.

### **ASHWATER STEEL BAND**

The Ashwater Community Steel Band continues its work throughout Devon and Cornwall.

2017 was an extremely busy year with performances at many differing events at a wide range of venues. Several garden fetes, Watchet Railway Station, Watchet Street Market, Bude Classic Car Show, Holsworthy Vintage Rally. Special events such as Launceston Parkinson's Group, The Launceston Breathe Easy Group, St Giles on the Heath, Pyworthy Christmas Lights and many, many, more.

We still continue with our work with schools and into 2018 where we already have a good many bookings for schools both in Devon and Cornwall, several garden fetes, helping with fund raising in chapels and churches throughout our county and wider afield. We are booked for a huge schools' music event in Exeter later in the year with several thousand children in attendance.

Bookings are coming in thick and fast and during certain times of the year we are having to sadly turn away requests due to being already booked. We try to fit as many of our players into these performances as availability and space allow.

We have a small group which we use for small venues especially when we perform in local small chapels or village halls.

Our practice nights are the first Friday in every month [posters in the village hall and village notice boards with dates and times]. Please come and have a go you might enjoy it. Most of us have never thought we were musicians, but have reached a very good standard, if you don't believe me come and have a go, we are always very happy to see new faces [YOUNG or OLD!!].

Look forward to seeing you either at a practice in the Parish Hall, the Ashwater Garden Fete in July, Ashwater Show or somewhere in the South West during 2018.

Chris and Tony March.

For further information or to enquire for a booking please telephone Chris on 01409 211340.

### **LADIES AND MEN'S SKITTLES**

The next Ladies Skittles evening is 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the hall and we welcome new players. The men improved their form recently picking up a flurry of points but are still in relegation position. The Arthur Palmer Memorial Competition will close the season in the hall at 7.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The following week, 10<sup>th</sup> April the 10-pin bowling alley at Trethorne has been booked for the end of season meal and friendly bowling competition. Commencing at 7.30pm. Wives and partners are also invited, please book with Terry Darby 01409 211229.

### **ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB**

On 21<sup>st</sup> April we will visit Dartmoor Zoo. Members tickets are half price at £6.25 and non-members are welcome to join us. There will also be a short session at Roadford Lake 10am on 4<sup>th</sup> April followed by coffee in

the café. Unfortunately, the weather meant the landscape photo shoot at Two Bridges in March was postponed (twice) and a new date is being organised. The May meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm in the hall with a 'Lightroom' Demonstration. Don't forget the closing date for the Parson Jack Russell Competition is 5<sup>th</sup> May. There will be an illustrated talk by Nigel Hicks on 18<sup>th</sup> June in the hall at 7.30pm, free to members, £7 on the door to non-members to include refreshments. Nigel is an experienced professional photographer specialising in Dartmoor landscapes, nature and travel, this promises to be an evening of interest to all, not just photo club members.

Contact Caroline Gill, Secretary (email [doodlewiz@gmail.com](mailto:doodlewiz@gmail.com)) for full details.

#### **RAILWAY EXHIBITION PHOTOGRAPHS**

Last year at the commemoration of closure of Ashwater Railway Mrs Pat Williams hosted a number of visits to her home, the former Ashwater Station House and she would be interested in receiving copies of any photographs taken at that time. Please let her know if you can help by contacting her either at Ashmill House or telephone 01409 21206.

#### **ART GROUP**

The group meets most Tuesdays in the Village hall from 1.30pm – 4.00pm. We have a varied programme including tutored sessions of drawing, painting and print making. We also take sketchbooks outside, sometimes despite the weather and visit galleries and exhibitions. New members always welcome, regardless of ability.

Email or telephone for details. Kate 211241 [katestroud@hotmail.com](mailto:katestroud@hotmail.com) or Sue 211419 [sueluxton@mac.com](mailto:sueluxton@mac.com)

#### **ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Saturday 7th or Sunday 8th April, weather permitting, those interested propose to visit the Cornwall Garden Society Flower Show at Boconnoc, East Taphouse near Liskeard.

The CGS Spring Flower Show is firmly established as one of the most widely respected flower shows in the UK. It's also known as one of the most friendly and inclusive shows and as such it attracts exhibitors and visitors from all over the country. Expect to see over 120 nurseries, brilliant horticultural trade stands and new for this year an Artisan Craft Marquee. Bring the whole family (and dogs on leads), there's plenty to keep children entertained including face painting, willow weaving, reptiles and raptors and much, much more. There will also be delicious food and drink stalls on offer to keep you going through-out the day. You can find out more information on the Cornwall Garden Society website. <http://www.cornwallgardensociety.org.uk/>

Saturday 14th April - Visit to Made-Well at Hatherleigh

A day service for people with learning disabilities & mental ill health. Open to the public; cafe, play area, animals, meat, veg & plants for sale. Vernon Anning who lives in Ashwater and works at Made-Well has kindly offered to show us around in the morning. Afterwards we can have lunch in the cafe - we will need to pre-order our food.

Meet in Ashwater Parish Hall carpark at 9.45 am to share cars and offer lifts. Arrive at Made-Well at 10.30, coffee and quick chat about our aims with clients and gardens. Site tour, and lunch.

Saturday 26th May. 10am - Noon Annual Spring Plant Sale and Refreshments. Please bring plants - help on the day most welcome. The proceeds from the sale normally go towards the cost of running the annual show and help subsidise events organised throughout the year.

Sunday 24th June. A visit to Docton Mill and Hartland Abbey. Further details nearer the day.

Sunday 8th July. A visit to Trebah and Glendurgan. Further details nearer the day.

Saturday 18th August - 85th Annual Show. General help most welcome on the day and beforehand, see Fiona Bull in the Shop on Saturday mornings.....Don't forget to enter! Show schedules will be available from April.

Tuesday 4th December Christmas Wreath – making in the Parish Hall, bring your own greenery please. Bases will be provided. This is a popular event so be prepared to book a place.

Plus.....

Helping with Ashwater School Gardening Club Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm - most weeks in term-time.

Help with digging etc most welcome. Please turn up at 3.30pm with tools etc the second week back after Easter

The 'Tallest Sunflower Competition' - will be organised after Easter

For further information on all these events please email [lmyetman@btinternet.com](mailto:lmyetman@btinternet.com) or phone 01409 211131

Finally - thank you to all who have paid their subs for the year £5 pp or £7 couple.... those that haven't please see Ivan 01409 221073

#### **ST PETER'S DRAW – 2017**

The following were the monthly draw prize winners for 2017:

March	June
1 <sup>st</sup> Mrs D Burnill	1 <sup>st</sup> Mr W Rockey
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mrs L Yetman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mrs K Furse
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mrs L Yetman for 2018.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mr C Saunders

Christmas: 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs S Furse 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr & Mrs March 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs L Yetman 4<sup>th</sup> Mr C Vallance

I am now collecting for 2018. Thanks: Chris Drowne

#### **PUBLIC MEETING – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Holsworthy Sports Hall**

The Northern Healthcare Trust have temporarily closed the inpatient beds at Holsworthy Hospital. You are invited to attend a public meeting to find out exactly what's happening regarding reopening of the inpatient beds and what future care in Holsworthy may be. In attendance will be key decision makers from The New Devon Clinical Commissioning Group & The Northern District Healthcare Trust. Please show your support for Holsworthy Hospital. There two sessions, 3.30pm and 7.00pm Holsworthy Sports Hall.

#### **HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK**

Our new programme of walks is now available listing dates and locations until June. We have some new walks to look forward to including Week St Mary and a bluebell walk at Meldon near Okehampton.

If you are planning to get out and about a bit more once the warmer weather arrives or would like to get to know the local area better our walks are a good way to start. All walks are graded on the programme to give an indication of the level of intensity or terrain to be expected. For those new to exercise or returning following illness or surgery our Level 1 and 2 walks would be a good introduction. Research has shown that regular exercise, especially after a lifetime of inactivity, can go a long way to reversing the effects of heart damage. Walking is a particularly good form of exercise and can also help conditions such as Type 2 diabetes and cancer. For those looking for more of a challenge our Level 3 walks take us off road and offer an interestingly different perspective on the local area.

6<sup>TH</sup> April – Walk in Witherdon Woods, about 2.5 miles. 13<sup>th</sup> April – Chilsworthy from the hall car park.

20<sup>th</sup> April – Week St Mary from the hall car park. 27<sup>th</sup> April – Germansweek from the hall.

Our Monday walks in Stanhope Park, Holsworthy start at 10.30 am from The Scout Hut next to the Leisure Centre with tea and coffee served afterwards in the Youth Centre. The Friday walks move off at 10.30 am from various locations around the area. Details for April as above and can be found on our walk programme. All walks are free.

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.

**HOLSWORTHY MEMORIAL HALL MANOR SUITE - Forget-Me-Not Friends**

Drop in between 2.00pm till 4.00pm. Every second and fourth Monday of the month. They offer tea, cakes and a friendly atmosphere for those wishing to socialise for an hour or two. Everyone welcome, especially people affected by memory loss and their carers. If you or anyone you know would be interested in receiving more information about Forget-Me-Not Friends Cafe, please contact: Rebecca Poet 07572180100 or Trish Burke 07814740055

**BUDE GEO-WALKS**

Dr Roger Higgs conducts very interesting walks covering the geological aspects of the Bude beds. Each walk is around 2 hours in duration on beach and level paths on Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm departing from Bude Tourist Information Centre. The cost is £15 for adults and £8 for children aged 7yrs-15yrs. There is a limit of 25 people per walk. Payment at the Tourist Office.

**BUMBLEBEES**

Bumblebees are becoming scarcer and need some help, especially in our gardens as it is there they can flourish and of course pay the rent by pollinating our flowers and vegetables. There are 25 types of bumblebee found in the UK one of which, the short-haired bumblebee is only surviving due to reintroduction assistance.

As social insects they have an interesting life cycle with the queen emerging from hibernation in early spring to feed, so we can help by ensuring there are plenty of nectar-rich flowers to find. (Crocus, bluebell, lungwort, flowering current are examples). The queen then finds a nest site, collects pollen, lays a batch of eggs which she nurtures to produce all female young and they in turn then look after the next and following hatched eggs as well as the queen as she rarely leaves the nest during summer. Towards summer's end she then produces more eggs that hatch into male offspring as well as new queens. The colony gradually dies leaving a few fertilised queens to emerge and establish new colonies the following year. It is important that sufficient food is available in the garden all summer so please plant bee friendly flowers, especially perennials, such as fox gloves, lavender, herbs and wild rose and leave some areas 'wild' and undisturbed (they love Devon banks) for nesting. Other summer flowers like cranesbill, poppy, sweet pea and allium are also favourites. By the way bumblebees have smelly feet that leave a scent on flowers where they have just fed thus signalling to other bees "it's a waste of time on this flower as I have emptied the nectar and pollen reserves!"

Visit [www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org) if you would like to help the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

**.....And Finally**

Now Eric Burnill has left for pastures new we need someone to deliver the newsletters in the part of the parish he covered. This entails visiting around 45 dwellings from Thorney Cross through Viza, West Venn, Blagdon, New Buildings, Sandrymoor Cross, Spry's Shop, Heggadon, Swingdon, Burrow, Hunscoot, Braddon, East Venn, Heath, Berrington, Whiddon and part of Priestacott.

If you can help please contact the newsletter. (See below).

Don't forget if you would like a copy by email or no longer wish to receive one then please confirm to: [ashwaternewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:ashwaternewsletter@btinternet.com)

Meanwhile extra copies will be in the shop and hall.

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**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)

Printed by: Parish Magazine Printing, Northmoor, Whitstone, Holsworthy EX22 6TD Tel: 01288 341617 Email: [phillip.tucker@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk](mailto:phillip.tucker@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk)