
Comment: Well here we are again with Christmas knocking on our doors, what can we do, but wish everyone we know and those we don't a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!



Newsletter: Contributions for the next Newsletter by Monday 28th December please. ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

2nd December, Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

3rd December, Pub Lunch, Village Inn

5th December, Craft Fair 1pm-4pm

5th December, Quiz doors open at 7pm

7th December, Xmas Wreath making 7pm

12th December, PTFA Quiz Night

Advance Notice

18th January 2016 – Camera Club at 7.30pm

23rd January 2016 – Horticultural Lunch and Walk from the Weir, Bude

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

Due to a variety of reasons the re-decoration work in the main hall has yet to be carried out. It is envisaged this will be started in the New Year and every effort will be made to work around bookings. The Trustees wish all hall users a very happy Christmas.

ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB – 18th January 2015

Thank you to everyone who braved the wet weather and supported the coffee morning.

The Ashwater Calendar is now on sale at £5.99 featuring photos taken in and around the Parish.

The first meeting of the new club will be in the hall from 7.30pm – 9.30pm on Monday 18th January 2016 when we will be exploring and experimenting with water, fruit and flash. No previous experience is required, just bring your camera.

The club and the hall have paid for a new picture rail in the hall meeting room where we hope to regularly display different photographs taken by club members at the various sessions held throughout the year.

Membership is open to all at just £25.00 for the year (payable monthly, 6 monthly or annually). Non-members are welcome to attend a particular session at a one off fee of £5.00.

Members will be able to display their work on the club website at <http://ashwatercameraclub.weebly.com/>
We have the benefit of a professional photographer as a member who will be on hand to provide guidance, tuition and help with your camera and technique.

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY

The next lunch is on 3rd December and we thank Dee, Phil and all their staff for hosting us every month throughout the year. All are welcome to come along but as spaces are limited please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest. 01409 211200.

Don't forget the Christmas menu is available at other times up to Christmas Eve with choices for each course at £20.50 per person. Please advise your choice of starter and main course in advance. Menus are on display in the pub.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is compiling an Emergency Plan (to be published soon), with advice on what to do in adverse weather conditions, helping neighbours and useful telephone numbers, a lot of it is common sense, but we hope that it will prove to be a useful document. As part of the plan the Parish really needs people who would act as 'First Responders' in emergency situations, should they arise. Anyone who would be interested in volunteering for

this, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk – clerk@sheanddave.plus.com - 07841717913)

The Christmas tree on the village green will be erected by the Parish Council on Sunday 6 December. The Parish Council would like to thank Staceys for supplying the tree free of charge to Ashwater Village.

Ashwater Parish Council would like to wish the residents and community a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 December 2015.

STACEY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

Stacey's have kindly donated a Christmas Tree to the Parish again this year. As our local supplier of indoor and outdoor lights as well as fresh trees why not pop in and see their display or give them a call on 01409 211467.

ASHWATER PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS FAIR - SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1PM TILL 4PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

20 plus tables selling a wide range of local crafts and produce for that individual gift or treat.

Teas and refreshments available throughout the afternoon so come along and support your local pre-school.

ASHWATER FOOTBALL CLUB

Wine & Wisdom - Saturday 5th December at Ashwater Parish Hall 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of 6 £5 per person to include a drink & nibbles. Ring Lin Jennings on 211212 to book a table.

ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Horticultural Society will be Christmas Wreath Making on Monday 7th December starting at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. Straw bases will be provided but please bring some greenery and don't forget your secateurs. Please book for this popular event – either by email: myetman@btinternet.com or phone 01409 211131. Entry cost £5 for members and £6 to non-members. Mince pies and mulled wine or apple juice are included.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS NOTICE BOARD

During the Festive Season the notice boards at the end of the hall adjacent to the shop are being made available for village/parish residents to post Christmas 'good wish' messages. The fee will be £3.00 per message with funds split 50:50 between the hall and shop. The shop has agreed to accommodate the notices of importance during the period and will promote the initiative. Please ask John for details.



Shop Talk

Shop 5th Anniversary party.

Thank you very much to everyone that supported the shop 5th Anniversary party. To all the performers, you were excellent, all the helpers, to the people that provided such delicious desserts, the queue for desserts said it all really! And to everyone that came along and enjoyed the evening with us, we raised £685 for the Devon Air Ambulance.

Your Village shop this Christmas.

We have a lovely array of gifts for Christmas, including, beer & cider gift packs, wine, spirits, and chocolates. Our 'personally picked' Christmas hampers, filled with items chosen by you. Order all your Christmas meat and veg with ease.

Made your Christmas cake yet? We have all the ingredients you need to mix up a delicious cake for Christmas.

Our monthly Plea.....

Every bit of time given to the shop makes the overall running easier for John, so please, if there is something you could do to help, or if you know someone that could be interested, come and speak to John or the committee, we'd love to hear from you.

A CHRISTMAS TALE

Father Christmas was tired and fed up. The Elves had spent all year celebrating instead of working. The Reindeer had tattooed their buttocks after over indulging on magic mushrooms. He was cold since burning Yule logs was banned due to worries over climate change. The runners on the sleigh needed repair following collision with an unexpected wind turbine and at the last census most people were sceptical about his ability to distribute parcels all over the world quicker than the internet delivery services. Not only that, he had eye strain from trying to fathom all the text messages from children who couldn't spell.

In the past he enjoyed reading their letters and was proud of his infallible filing system, but since it was now illegal to store young children's data all correspondence had to be shredded. Burning the resultant detritus was forbidden due to carbon emissions and he now had to pay for disposal under licence. This meant most of his spare sacks were full of potential chicken litter instead of presents waiting for collection.

Despite half the world not believing he existed, population growth meant more houses on his rounds, the majority without decent chimneys and it was becoming impossible to land on roof tops due to the risk of damaging solar panels. All his adverts for an apprentice had been fruitless, mainly because he couldn't ask for male applicants only anymore and nobody would just work for job satisfaction since introduction of the minimum wage and a compulsory pension scheme.

On top of all this misery he had to shave off his beard because of food hygiene regulations and he needed a new outfit since medical opinion considered his rounded figure was obese and not the right example to set as a role model for impressionable young minds. The shops had been full of pseudo jollity since August, no-one had written a catchy Christmas song or a decent new Carol for decades and now he thought he was suffering from man-flu.

"I have a mind to skip Christmas this year," he muttered and added savagely, "let them put that in their politically correct 'E-Cigs', no presents, equals no happy children on Christmas morning. Mayhap I will be appreciated a bit more if the stockings are empty...and that's another thing since when was it necessary to put a recycled, pre-printed sack at the foot of the bed?"

Just then from the corner of his eye he saw the small pile of misdirected mail waiting for collection. The top envelope was addressed to "God in Heaven" in a child's neat but wobbly writing and had been over stamped with the words "Gone Away – Return to Sender." Picking it up, he looked in vain for a return address, so he opened the envelope and began reading:

"Dear God I know you exist because when my baby sister stopped crying Daddy said you had taken her to walk with the angels, so could you ask Father Christmas to cancel her order and send my Mummy a smile instead. Thank you."

Father Christmas then knew what he had to do.

A CHRISTMAS ILLUSTRATION COMPETITION

As it is Christmas Kate Tomlinson has devised a competition to keep idle hands busy. The idea is to produce 4 illustrations that go with the following short story:

THE VERY SKINNY WHIPPETY DOG

Once upon a time there was a very skinny whippety dog who lived in Devon. She lived with a person called B. The skinny whippety dog was brown and ginger with black stripes that zigzagged from the end of her pointy nose to the tip of her whippy tail and all the way down her long legs to her bony feet and hooky claws. So she looked like a very skinny zebra or a tiger with very long legs.

When she was at home she was very good and quiet and walked slowly beside B and looked up with melancholy eyes and the corners of her mouth turned down. B took her for a walk every morning and every afternoon. And the whippety dog's mouth turned up at the corners and her eyes grew bright. She bounced

along at the end of her lead like a yoyo that sprang nearly as high as B's head. And because in Devon it is very wet and muddy, when they came home they looked like a splatter painting.

Because of the skinny dog's colours, she was very good at camouflage. Sometimes on her walks she skittered away very, very fast and disappeared. On the beach she looked like rocks and sand; in the cornfields she looked like the brown and yellow stalks of wheat and in the woods she looked like bracken and the shifting patterns of leaves. B looked and looked but had to come home without her. But the whippet dog knew every inch of the woods and fields; she was never lost. At last she came home and settled down to sleep. In winter, she curled herself very small into a round dog bed in front of the fire. In summer she stretched out on the sofa in a sunbeam and pushed with her long, bony legs until B only had a little corner beside her.

And then she went to sleep and twitched, dreaming of rabbits, squirrels and leaping deer.

There is an entry form at the end of the newsletter.

DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

At Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service we recognise the vulnerabilities of our rural communities and the difficulties of reaching everyone with our fire and road safety messages and the services we offer free of charge.

Please see below some links to our website home page and a link giving our free home safety visit number which also offers a free alarm. If your community has a Facebook page, please would you "like" our Facebook links which will then give your members up to date regular and local information relating to road and fire safety.

www.dsfire.gov.uk is a link to our website

<http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/YourSafety/SafetyInTheHome/Index.cfm?siteCategoryId=4&T1ID=35> is where you can find the number for the free home fire safety visit and free alarm

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/Dsfireupdates> Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Government Organization

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/firekills?fref=ts> Fire Kills Government Organization

Please take extra care over Christmas – check those festive lights, make sure any mains operated sets have a properly fused connection. Candles should never be left unattended once lit, ensure any decorations are well away from them and never, never put tea lights on any surface that is not completely fire resistant and finally, make sure you have properly working smoke and carbon dioxide detectors in place. These few simple checks will help everyone to have a safe and happy Christmas.

Torridge and North Devon Local Plan

North Devon Council and Torridge District Council are carrying out the consultation until Thursday 3 December on the following specific areas only: providing affordable housing on development sites; a new draft policy relating to starter homes on exception sites; new policy options for wind energy development

<http://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/15700/Local-Plan-consultation-begins-following-changes-in-government-policy> This plan affects all who live in the Parish – comments are invited.

In Memoriam – Mrs Jan Sawyer

We were very sorry to hear that Jan recently passed away and our thoughts are with her family at this time. Jan served as a volunteer in the shop and Post Office even when she was not feeling well and her ever present calm and cheerful attitude was an example to us all.

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

