

Comment: This month the newsletter is packed with (hopefully useful) information from within and without the Parish. Don't forget if you are running an event to let the newsletter know as it reaches places other missives may not reach!

Newsletter: Contributions for the next Newsletter by Tuesday 22nd March please.
ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

3rd March, Pub Lunch, Village Inn

3rd March, Ladies Skittles 7.30pm

4th March, Steel Band Practice

9th March, Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

17th March, Hall Trustees Meeting

20th March, Horticultural Society visit to Higher Truscott at 2.30pm

21st March, Camera Club 7.30pm

24th March Passover Meal, 5pm

25th March, "Play in a day" in the Church

26th March, PTFA Bingo, 7.15pm Doors open

Advance Notice

2nd April dancing Lessons commence

9th April, Craft Fair 1pm-4pm

21st April- The Queen's Birthday Celebrations

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

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR SHOP AND POST OFFICE EASTER OPENING TIMES)

PARISH HALL

Use of the hall continues to be more popular than ever. The following are just a selection of events that are taking place: - Table Tennis, Badminton, Mono Printing (Art), Pilates, Yoga, Steel Band, Camera Club, Jive Lessons, Bingo, Fashion Show, Craft Fair, Parish Council Meetings, Hall Meetings, Skittles as well as a variety of private functions such as parties, fund raisers, quizzes, weddings and dances. We post a weekly bulletin on the hall notice board.

The Hall Trustees welcome enquiries and also run their own events to help keep the cost of hire at a reasonable level. Rising maintenance and running expenses as the hall gets older (six years now) means the booking fees will have to be reviewed at the AGM this year, but don't worry that's not for a few months yet.

Meanwhile progress is being made towards finalising the business plan and bid strategy for funding the proposed annexe that will help solve some of the storage problems that have arisen through sheer success of use from all those who book and utilise the hall.

On Sunday April 24th there will be a performance from two choirs with proceeds towards the hall extension. Full details next month.

Safari Supper Saturday 16th July - please save the date

This will be a fun evening for everyone with proceeds to the Ashwater Parish Hall Extension Fund.

Small groups will enjoy starters and main courses at different houses in the village or nearby, with everyone meeting at the Hall afterwards for home-made desserts and coffee.

Please contact Helen Bone 211601 or Judith Addicott 211552 if you can provide a dessert, or would like to host a course at your home

October 1st 2016 is the date to note in your diary now, as we will be commemorating the closure of the railway in 1966 that used to connect Ashwater to the rest of the world! Any memories or anecdotes you may have, photos or memorabilia would be appreciated. The intention is to provide a display that we hope will be of interest to everyone.

PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council now has two volunteers to act as 'First Responders' in emergency situations. However, both volunteers are only available in the evening. We would welcome anyone who is available during the day to join the team. Anyone who would be interested in volunteering for this, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk – clerk@sheanddave.plus.com – 07841717913.

Footpaths are continuously monitored to make sure that they are accessible to the public.

A joint grant between Halwill and Ashwater has been received from Torridge District Council for village enhancements.

Plans are continuing to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, A beacon is being organised and there will be a gathering in the hall.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 March 2016.



FOCUS DISPLAYS

Celebrate Mother's Day & Easter with our lovely range of cards and gifts.

EASTER OPENING HOURS :

Shop

BH Good Friday : 09.00-12.00

Easter Saturday : normal opening

BH Easter Sunday : 09.00-11.00

BH Easter Monday : 09.00-12.00

Post Office

Good Friday : 10.00-12.00

Easter Saturday : closed

Easter Sunday : closed

Easter Monday : closed

NEW PO INFILL STAFF - UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome the following new infill staff to cover John's leave and lunch hours.

Rachael Martyn now PO vetted & trained. Rachael stepped-up and covered the outstanding five days of John's untaken (2015) leave in February; she was calm, cheerful and professional at all times. Well done Rachael, you were brilliant!

Ali Rowe in the process of being PO vetted and trained.

Ruth Carroll in the process of being PO vetted and about to begin training.

MOTHER'S DAY & EASTER

Come along and choose from the lovely and very varied selection of cards: all sizes of singles, 5packs and beautiful handmade originals, sweet little gifts and chocolate in a range of sizes, shapes and prices!

NEW PC COMPUTER

The five year old Shop laptop died last month, and could not be repaired. There was nothing for it but to buy a new PC that will take us through the next five years.

A big thank you to Michael Taylor who sourced the new PC appropriate to the Shop's particular needs; uploaded the necessary programs and data; installed the PC and an Ethernet cable to bring Wi-Fi into the office and make everything work faster on the PC.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Liz and Roy Graham for the new computer desk, and Louise Graham for the swivel chair. Putting stock onto the system is so much easier for John and volunteers, and the weekly accounts are finally a pleasure for Liz Fisher!!

DANCING LESSONS

Six sessions of dancing lessons for everyone from the age of 12 years upwards will be held at the hall on 4th, 11th, and 26th April 2016 plus 2nd, 9th and 23rd May 2016. Each lesson costs just £1.00 and runs from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Contact Peter Soper on 01237 428773 or Email: peter.soper@torridge.gov.uk to reserve a place.

Kindly note that suitable shoes allowing your feet to twist on the floor should be worn – NO TRAINERS as they will stick. Please also bring your own water/soft drink.

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY

The next lunch is on 3rd March please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest. 01409 211200.

ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB – 21st March 2016

The next club meeting will be on Monday 21st March in the hall from 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

After two well attended and 'hands on' sessions this month we will be showing our own work, based on the last two workshops. Please bring your photos on a memory stick to project on the screen in the hall, or prints if you have them.

Club members may display their own work on the website at <http://ashwatercameraclub.weebly.com/> and a membership group has been set up on www.flickr.com – simply sign up via Yahoo!

LADIES SKITTLES

The next Ladies Skittles evening will be held on 3rd March 2016 at 7.30pm. New players are welcome even if you have not played before as this is a social game and suitable for all age groups.

ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Visit to Higher Truscott near Launceston Sunday 20th March 2.30pm Entry £4. Teas and Plant sales. We will be visiting this very special garden owned by eminent plantsman Johnny Mann and his wife Gilly. It is a year round garden and particularly worth seeing in Spring when the Hellebores, Epimediums and other woodland species are out. As they are advancing in years, this is the last time that they will be opening their garden to the public. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members.

Please contact Letitia Yetman 01409 211131 lmynetman@btinternet.com to indicate if you will be joining us and for detailed directions.

SOUTH WEST HIGHWAYS - ROAD WORKS

Road Closure: Halwill Mill to Quoditch Cross 9th - 11th March 2016

Circumstances and weather permitting on behalf of Devon County Council, SWH will be carrying out the following works under a road closure as shown below:

Type of Works: patching North Road: Halwill Mill – Quoditch Cross, Ashwater. Date: 9th – 11th March 2016

Details of the diversion are to follow a route via Halwill Mill to Lane End, turn left and then from the main road turn off towards Bendibus Hill and then past Hunscomb and West Down or vice versa. We will endeavour to maintain access to properties within the closure where necessary, however there may be times when access is restricted/delayed, and SWH apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works.

Also, circumstances and weather permitting, road surfacing is planned for 14th -15th March 2016 from Clawton Cross to Spry's Shop, Clawton. This work has been rescheduled from the end of January and the road will be closed for the period shown.

The diversion will be via Metherell Cross, and we will endeavour to maintain access to properties within the closure where necessary, however there may be times when access is restricted/delayed, and SWH apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works. If you have any queries please email, or call me on the number below.

Regards

Joanna Cole Customer Liaison officer (SWH)

Gas Lane, Torrington, Devon EX38 7BB Tel: 01805 622395 (Ext: 2017)

RHS ROSEMOOR

"Rosemoor" have a range of activities planned for Spring and Summer, the next two are shown below:
Saturday 26th March & Sunday 27th March, 1pm – 4.30pm: Bees in the Garden with Bee Craft. Free Plant Centre event.

Saturday 16th April & Sunday 17th April, 1pm – 4.30pm: Wildlife in the Garden with Devon Wildlife Trust Free Plant Centre event.

TAVISTOCK FESTIVAL

As part of the Tavistock Festival there will be a 'one off performance' at the Wharf Theatre on 20th April 2016 to commemorate 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare. The audience is invited to be a very important part of this special performance of 'Shakespeare's Dreaming', an evening of song and music from the completely sung through musical A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Tickets cost £20 – ring 01822 611166 to book and for more details either contact the box office or check the poster displayed on the Ashwater Parish Hall notice board.

HALL FOR CORNWALL

Theatre Development Consultation.

For the last three years, we have been planning a significant redevelopment of our theatre, based in its heritage building, which will serve the whole of Cornwall as an economic driver and cultural venue. We are now seeking to share our plans and the proposed design and receive valuable feedback from the public and our loyal audiences.

Whilst the plans are still in the design phase pending funding, we aim to submit a planning and listed building application following this consultation. Our ambition is that the project will elevate HFC to a venue that will become the organisation of choice for producers and practitioners who wish to showcase excellent work in Cornwall and the South West. It will also improve HFC's sustainability and resilience, thereby securing its long term future and achieving its artistic vision to be a primary cultural driver for Cornwall.

Come and visit our exhibition, meet the team and have your say. Alternatively, visit the HFC website from 24th February to view the proposed plans and give your feedback via an online survey.

Community Consultation Exhibition

24th February - 15th March, Monday - Saturday (closed Sunday).

Venue: Trelawny Bar, Hall For Cornwall 10.30am - 4.30pm. Visit online at hallforcornwall.co.uk

HERITAGE ENGLAND

Flooding and Historic Buildings

Our guidance is aimed at those who live in, own, manage, or provide advice on historic buildings that are threatened by flooding. The guidance includes advice on preventative measures, as well as on how to inspect, conserve and repair historic buildings after flooding.

We know the risk of flooding is likely to increase due to a changing climate and the effects of increased development. Around 400,000 homes and 75,000 businesses in England are in areas where there is a significant risk of river or coastal flooding on an annual basis. Even more properties are at risk from ground, surface water or sewer flooding.

Many of these buildings were built before 1919 and are therefore likely to be of historic interest. They are not only at risk from flooding but also from the potential damage of recovery work and repairs using inappropriate materials.

This guidance is designed to assist those who live in, own or manage historic buildings that are threatened by flooding. Advice is provided on preventative measures as well as on the inspection, conservation and repair of historic buildings after flooding. **Contact the website for more details:**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/flooding-and-historic-buildings/>

BRISTOL AIRPORT – NEW COACH SERVICE

A new coach service has been introduced from Plymouth, Exeter and Taunton. Quick, easy, convenient service started on 14 February 2016. The eight brand new coaches all feature free Wi-Fi as well as air conditioning, leather seats and charging sockets. With around-the-clock departures, seven days a week, getting to the airport has never been easier. For more information go to <http://bristolairport-info.com>

DO YOU SUFFER FROM MIGRAINE?

A Migraine Insight Event is coming to Exeter on Saturday 9th April 9.00am - 1.00pm at the Mercure Southgate Hotel. Migraine medical professionals will be presenting on diagnosis, treatment, prevention and emerging therapies. Plus local complementary therapists will be providing information on treatments that have helped others take control. Please contact us to book a place - booking is essential
£7 members, £12 non members. Call 08456 011 033 or email info@migraine.org.uk

HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs are in the process of yawning, stretching and waking in readiness for what we all know will be a fantastically warm summer! These charming little mammals are under extreme threat of survival and need help. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society together with the People's Trust for Endangered Species has launched a campaign to increase legal protection for hedgehogs. This will ensure developers consider hedgehogs when they build houses. There is a campaign petition online at <http://www.hedgehogstreet.org> please help by signing up to bring further awareness to the plight of the gardener's friend! Also, if your garden is surrounded in close boarded fencing consider cutting a small hole, just 13cm round to let them in and out. Please also try and avoid use of slug pellets.

BRANDIS CORNER WILDLIFE GROUP

The Brandis Corner Wildlife Group is an active and well supported local group enjoying regular outdoor activities, such as reserve visits, bird song and nightjar walks and pond dipping. Indoor meetings are held from October to May with varied and entertaining speakers. New members are always welcome. Please visit the Events page on the recently launched website to find out more. <http://www.bcwildlifegroup.co.uk/>

IMPORTANT PLANNING CONSULTATION – LOCAL PLAN 2011 - 2031

Planning items representing important changes that could affect everyone in the Torridge District and further afield are presently open to public consultation.

Wind Turbine Policy

The draft Torridge and North Devon Council's Joint Local Plan proposes incorporation of a policy that would permit developers the opportunity to apply for wind turbines anywhere in Torridge and North Devon. This would include protected areas such as the National Park, World Heritage Site and AONB's incorporating Lundy Island.

This is despite the results of the first consultation, which showed that the vast majority of the public did not want this. The proposal means that the whole of your parish will be identified on a map as being suitable for wind turbines.

The Planning Minister responsible for renewable energy has stated that the Local Plan doesn't have to identify any areas suitable for wind energy development therefore it can be removed from the plan if local people want it deleted. Your views on the matter are important and will be considered.

Affordable Homes Policy

The draft proposals to deliver Starter Homes in the Sub-Regional Centre, Strategic and Main Centres, Local Centres and Villages will be supported on underused or unviable industrial and commercial land, subject to a variety of caveats including.

- (i) restrict initial occupation to first time buyers who are below the age of 40 at the time of purchase;
- (ii) the Starter Home will be subject to at least 20% discount from the open market value; and
- (iii) the Starter Home will not be resold or let at an open market value for 5 years following the initial sale.

The proposal that starter homes could be sold after 5 years could deplete the already small supply of such homes - questions have been raised over the need for this option and whether it should either be removed entirely or extended beyond the 5 year time frame and if the home was sold or re-let the 20% discount should be repaid. Your opinion will be taken into account.

It is up to individuals or groups to write to their appropriate council making their own views known.

The full plan is available on the Torridge District Council Website at <http://consult.torridge.gov.uk/portal/planning/localplan>

The following is an extract from the consultation document.

NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031

Consultation under Regulations 19 & 20 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 & Regulation 13 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004.

Following on from the consultations held at the end of 2015, North Devon Council and Torridge District Council ('the Councils') would like to invite you to participate in two further parallel consultations relating to specific elements of the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031 ('the Plan').

You may recall that following a series of recent changes to national planning policy and practice guidance, the Councils consider that aspects of the Plan are no longer in conformity with national policy and guidance. As such, it is considered that there is a risk that the Plan, in its current form, would not be found 'sound' when it is subject to examination by an independent planning inspector acting on behalf of the Secretary of State. In response, the Councils seek to consult on a series of amendments to the Plan, prior to its submission for examination, in order to mitigate this risk and ensure that it aligns with up-to-date national planning policy and practice.

Therefore, the Councils would like to invite all bodies and persons to make representations on a series of targeted consultations relating to: a proposed policy relating to wind energy development (non-statutory consultation in accordance with the Councils' Statements of Community Involvement); and a series of Additional Proposed Main Changes related to the insertion of Policy ST19A: Starter Homes Exception Sites & associated supporting text into the Submission Draft of the Local Plan (Regulations 19& 20).

Representation is further invited on the associated Sustainability Appraisal material in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Representations should be made during the period 11th February to 24th March 2016 and may be submitted in the following ways:

Online: <http://consult.torridge.gov.uk> or In person or by post to:

Planning Policy Team
Torridge District Council
Riverbank House
BIDEFORD EX39 2QG

FOR SALE

An electric "fold in half", bicycle for sale. New price, around £700. Offers £400 or over. It is an unwanted gift not yet fully assembled. Cycle complete with lights and dust cover. Phone (Ashwater) 01409 211203 for further information.

.....AND FINALLY

Don't forget the clocks go forward on Easter Sunday March 27th

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