

**Comment:** Another summer over and the Clocks go back on 30<sup>th</sup> October, but on the bright side are the burnished leaves and a variety of events in the Parish to look forward to.

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

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

**1<sup>st</sup> October – Harvest Celebration, Ashwater Church 7pm**

**6<sup>th</sup> October – Lunch Club in the Village Inn**

**6<sup>th</sup> October – Ladies Skittles, 7.30pm**

**10<sup>th</sup> October – Horticultural Society - AGM 7pm**

**12<sup>th</sup> October – Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm**

**17<sup>th</sup> October – Camera Club Meeting, 7.30pm**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October – Ashwater Railway Closure Commemoration and Tea Party, 2pm**

**29<sup>th</sup> October – Children’s Halloween Party 5pm**

**Advance Notice**

**11<sup>th</sup> Nov - Ladies Pamper Evening**

**18<sup>th</sup> Nov – Shop Christmas Tasting Evening**

**5<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Wreath Making**

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**Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries**  
 Email: [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com)

**Hall Secretary: Tel 01409 221073**

**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 4.00pm**  
**Saturday: Closed**  
**Sunday: Closed**

**PARISH HALL**

Ashwater Railway Closure Commemoration – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 in the hall from 2pm and throughout the afternoon. There will a display of photographs and memorabilia dating back to the ‘railway years’. Entrance free and all are welcome. Tea, cakes and refreshments will be sold in aid of the hall extension project.

**Hall Extension Fund**

We recently received a grant pledge of £3,000 from the Bernard Sunley Organisation and secured £500 from the Norman Family Trust. The total raised so far is in excess of £9,000 and tickets are now on sale for the **Mega Draw** organized by the North Devon Rotary Clubs. Proceeds from every ticket sold from the hall’s allocation will go towards the Extension Fund. There are over 100 prizes to be won including cash for the first three lucky winners.

Tickets are available from Hall Trustees and will be on sale at the Railway Closure Commemoration event.

**Reminder**

The hall hire charges have been increased slightly from 1<sup>st</sup> October, details are on the Notice Board and will be available to download from the Parish website from 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**ASHWATER COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE**

At the time of going to press the Extraordinary General Meeting and Annual General Meeting notified recently by notices and communication had not been held (both due on 29<sup>th</sup> September). A full report will appear next month.

Preliminary information indicates the shop and Post Office has continued to grow with increased turnover into the 6<sup>th</sup> year, but as always extra volunteers are needed to cover serving gaps and aid John in day to day operations.

The shop is community owned and run. If you are new to the village please consider purchasing a £5 share holding (ask the Manager, John for details). Shareholders may vote at the AGM and put forward ideas or suggestions for the committee and Manager to consider.

Since opening at the end of 2010 a number of other villages and communities have visited from within and without Devon to seek advice on how to emulate our success, sometimes it is easy to forget how our village and supporters combined to sustain the Post Office (twice resisting closure proposals) and raised the money to buy the building, equipment, fittings and fixtures as well as stock.

The continued success is due to the support of the customers as well as successive committee members and staff – thank you.

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Electoral Review of Torridge: Draft Recommendations - the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Torridge

District Council. The eight-week public consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations has commenced and closes on the 31 October 2016.

The Commission's draft recommendations can be viewed at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk> where there are 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.

Potholes – residents of Ashwater are advised to keep reporting potholes using the following link:<https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>. Due to limited funds available to Highways for road repairs, residents are encouraged to use local roads respectfully to try and avoid additional problems with road surfaces.

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 October 2016 at 7.30pm.

### **ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

As the garden season draws to a close and the mellow colours of autumn take over from the vibrancy of summer, it's time to take stock. Raking up leaves, cutting back, mulching the borders, composting the vegetable garden and of course attending the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The formalities start at 7pm (see below for the Agenda) followed by a talk by Syd Cherrill on his work as a volunteer at RHS Rosemoor. Light refreshments will be provided.

#### **Agenda**

Apologies for absence  
Minutes of 2015 AGM  
Matters Arising  
Chairman's Report  
Presentation of Accounts  
Show 2017  
Election of Officers  
Ideas and Suggestions for events 2016/2017

Sunflowers – well done to those who grew lovely sunflowers for our competition. Unfortunately we couldn't judge them this year as some were blown away in the August winds. Let's hope for better weather next year.

Advance notice.....Christmas wreath making workshop, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7pm in the hall. Advance booking is essential as places are limited, details at the AGM.

### **VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY**

The next lunch is on 6<sup>th</sup> October, please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest on 01409 211200. This is a village social event with a two course set menu at a good price and is open to anyone in Ashwater and the locality from 12.30pm. It is a great way to meet people from the Parish, supports the pub and the Devon Air Ambulance.

### **BADMINTON**

Badminton takes place on Wednesday evenings commencing at 7pm for two hours in the main hall. Everyone is welcome. There are also sessions every other Thursday from 10am to Noon.

### **TABLE TENNIS**

Table tennis is played every Saturday morning from 10am to Noon – beginners welcome. We have three tables in use and can accommodate all playing ages.

### **LADIES SKITTLES**

The following dates have been booked in the hall for Ladies Skittles from 19:30 hours to 21:30 hours: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **ART GROUP**

The next Art Group Meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> October in the Parish Hall from 1pm to 3pm.

### **MEN'S SKITTLES**

The new season has started, would anyone interested in joining the two Ashwater teams that play in the Holsworthy and District league please contact Terry Darby on 01409 211229.

### **ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

The next camera club meeting will be in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The theme this month is Pet Photography. This is a practical session with well behaved pets! Guests are welcome or why not join the club?

### **CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY – 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

The party is from 5-8pm on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> October and entry is £3.50 per child, bacon rolls £1.50 - snacks and drinks will also be on sale. There will be some games, music and fancy dress is optional. The party is open to all ages and open to anyone who would like to attend not just Ashwater school children.

### **SOUTH WEST COAST PATH CHALLENGE**

Walk or run this October and raise money for the South West Coast Path improvements and repairs. Create your own challenge – any distance anywhere on the Path in October! You may also join an organized challenge – visit [www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk](http://www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk) for details.

It costs at least £1,000 every year to look after one mile of the Coastal Path. The South West Coast Path Association is a registered charity and relies on donations and funds raised to arrange essential work to the path network which is the longest in the UK.

### **ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

The following two articles touch upon important issues that may have been over shadowed by the result of the recent EU Referendum.

Neighbourhood planning has been slow to materialise in Torridge as it seems local authorities have been reluctant to grasp the nettle perhaps fearing the time, commitment and expertise is beyond their capacity. Without a Neighbourhood Plan it is conceivable that development might be imposed locally simply because of the lack of planned items such as housing and associated infrastructure.

Heart of the South West and the Local Enterprise Partnership are bodies that have been set up in response to the Government initiative to devolve some power from centralised control following the result of the Scottish referendum. Neither have received wide spread publicity, although if the proposed radical reforms are embraced they will have far reaching effects. There appears to have been little consultation with the Torridge Electorate.

#### **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Government has published the summary of responses and government response to the neighbourhood planning chapter of the 'Technical consultation on implementation of planning changes – Feb 2016'. The published document sets out how the Government will implement, via regulations, the commitments made during the passage of the Housing and Planning Act. Please see the following internet connection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementation-of-planning-changes-technical-consultation>

These reforms, to be implemented through regulations due to come into force on 1st October, are part of a wider set of planned improvements that will help more communities that want to take up neighbourhood planning to do so, and ensure individual neighbourhood plans and Orders can complete more quickly.

Broadly the new regulations will cover – the process for designating a neighbourhood area; time periods for

designating a neighbourhood forum; time periods for key local authority decisions following receipt of the examiner's report on a neighbourhood plan; and a procedure for the rare cases where the Secretary of State may intervene to send a plan to referendum at the request of a qualifying body. Government expects to update national planning guidance when the new regulations take effect.

#### Heart of the South West – Devolution

Councils across Devon and Somerset have been reassured that their devolution proposals do not require an elected mayor.

New powers would instead be overseen by a Combined Authority (CA) consisting of representatives of Devon and Somerset County Councils, Plymouth and Torbay Councils, the thirteen District Councils in the two counties and Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) would also have a non-voting seat on the CA.

Leaders of the councils and partners have already backed the plan. Each authority now has to sign up to the principle of creating a CA which would allow the negotiations towards a deal to move forward.

The Prospectus for Productivity drawn up by the Heart of the South West and the LEP says the proposed changes included in the plan would result in higher productivity and better paid jobs, improved road, rail and broadband links and more homes for the region's growing population. In respect of the latter some 179,000 houses are envisaged.

There would be radical reforms to integrate health and social care to allow the aging population to be better looked after, tailored support for growing businesses and the creation of a centre of excellence for skills development.

Those supporting the 'devolution revolution' believe it would see more powers and finance devolved from Westminster to the region to close the productivity gap and allow local people to benefit from a thriving economy.

Every Local Authority in Devon and Somerset endorsed the 'Prospectus' including Torridge and North Devon District Councils. On the other hand not everyone feels that an unelected body i.e. the LEP should be involved, for whilst currently having no voting powers it comprises many influential and some would say 'self interested' parties.

The initial 'statement of intent' containing a wealth of material is available to download as a PDF file from the website: [www.heartofswlep.co.uk](http://www.heartofswlep.co.uk)

#### .....AND FINALLY

We were very sorry to learn that Ann Shadrack passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016. Much loved and a great supporter of Ashwater, we have fond memories.

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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)