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*Comment: It's the growing season and the Horticultural Club are inviting all children to try their hand at cultivating Sun Flowers. Good luck!*

**Newsletter:** Contributions for the next Newsletter by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May please [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com)

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

**4<sup>th</sup> May- Photo Group, 7.30pm**

**5<sup>th</sup> May Hall AGM 7.30pm**

**7<sup>th</sup> May- General and Council Elections, 7am-10pm**

**11<sup>th</sup> May - Horticultural Club, 7pm**

**17<sup>th</sup> May - AFC Big Breakfast/Car Wash. 9am-11am**

**Advance Notice**

**24<sup>th</sup> June - Shop AGM**

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**Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries**

**Tel: 01409 211213**

**Email: [Bob.griggs1@btopenworld.com](mailto: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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015, 7.30pm

The Hall Annual General Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

### Agenda

1. Minutes of Annual general Meeting 2014
2. Matters Arising
3. Treasurer's Report – Presentation of Accounts
4. Chairman's Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Any Other Business at Discretion of the Chair

Nominations for officers may be submitted in writing to the Secretary 7 days before the meeting by email to [ibuxton16@btinternet.com](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com). Nominations may also be accepted on the night but in either case must be proposed and seconded.

Two important vacancies require filling as I Buxton will not seek re-election as Hall Secretary and R Griggs will not seek re-election as Bookings Secretary but proposes to stand again as Treasurer.

Everyone in the Parish is welcome to attend the meeting.

### ASHWATER SHOP AND PO – BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

The shop will open between 8.30am and 10.30am on both May Bank Holiday Mondays. 4<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> May. The Post Office will be closed on both days.

### BADMINTON –WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Badminton continues on Wednesday evenings in the hall at 8pm and every other week on Thursday Mornings at 10am. Come along for a fun game.

### ART GROUP

The Art Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 1pm– everyone including beginners are welcome.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

The photographic group meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall – new members always welcome.

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

Two sections of road will be closed temporarily as follows:  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May (for a maximum of 5 days, but anticipated finish on the same day) – Road past West Venn, Ashwater from Longlands towards Thorney Cross.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May (for a maximum of 5 days, but anticipated finish on the same day) – Road from Thorney Cross to Cross Lanes. Full details and maps are displayed on the hall notice board next to the shop.

**ASHWATER F C**

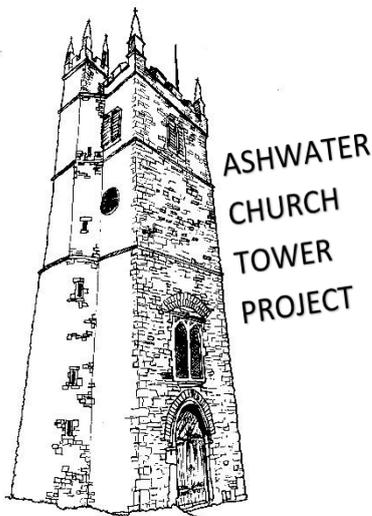
BIG BREAKFAST & CAR WASH - Sunday 17th May 9am -11am at Ashwater Parish Hall. Breakfast £6.00  
Child's price 11yr and under £4 ,5yr and under free. Carwash £5.00. Raffle. To book a breakfast please  
ring. Lin 01409 211212

**DOMINOES 2014/2015**

Singles League  
Winner- Bill Fanson  
Runner-up- Rodney Brock

Doubles knock out  
Winners - Pete Jennings & Phil Sargent  
Bill Fanson & Steve Blackmoor

The weekly dominoes draw raised £500 which is being donated this year to the Devon Air Ambulance

**Tower Project Newsletter: May 2015**

*This is the first of what will be regular up-dates on our major project to save the tower (and the valley gutter of the church) and is based on the short talk Ali Rowe gave at the Musical Feast in April.*

Our church is Grade 1 listed, and is of great archaeological and architectural importance, but our tower is in trouble. It was built a long time ago, probably in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century (some of the base may date from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century) so it has stood for around 600 years - no wonder it is in trouble.

Records show that it has been leaking since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century so the bell-ringers have been getting wet for about 400 years! The problem now is that the water is forcing itself into cracks in the tower, and parts of the tower are leaning – the tower is not only leaking onto the bell-ringers but is essentially

pulling itself apart. Our lovely church has been named as 'at risk', so we need to take urgent action.

We applied for a 'Grant for Places of Worship' from the Heritage Lottery Fund in May 2014. For all this work so far, we have to give a great vote of thanks to David Bone (who has taken on overall leadership of this project with our vicar) and Ben Longhurst-Prior (one of our Church Wardens). The good news is that we were awarded development funding so that we can survey and develop plans for the restoration of the tower and of other parts that require urgent attention (the valley gutter above the south aisle) and for what we are calling 'modernisation' of the inside of the church. This £47,000 is essentially 'stage 1 funding' which allows us to pay for the investigations, engineering surveys, reports and architectural planning work necessary to plan for stage 2. We will apply for stage 2 funding in autumn 2015. To apply for stage 2 we have to raise about £40,000 ourselves and will be holding events and fund-raising activities, but the good news is that at the end of 2014, through various incomes, we had £10,000 left to raise. We are very grateful to the Ashwater Agricultural Society who reduced the sum needed to £9,000 and to the organisers and participants of the Musical Feast, who reduced it to £8,200. We still have our work cut out, but are well on the way.

To obtain the stage 2 funding we have to develop plans that not only repair and extend the life of the tower and church into the future, but also allow the church to become more of a community facility. We have a list of works that we would wish to carry out, and dependent on the cost of these, and the money we receive and raise, we will carry them out in order of priority:

- 1) **Repair and restore** the fabric of the tower and church valley gutter (roofing),
- 2) **Renovate** areas of the church, so that we do not spoil the essential historic beauty, but we make it more flexible.
  - a. We wish to provide a new **toilet** that will be accessible to people with **disabilities** and will have **baby-changing facilities**, so that young and old, and people who have difficulties with mobility are all more



**WINE & WISDOM QUIZ – 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

Despite rival events in Halwill and St Giles, around 70 people turned out to support the Village Shop and Parish Hall fundraising activities. 13 Teams participated in the quiz which, surprisingly, ended in a dead-heat with 'The Recs' and 'Four Plus Two' both finishing with 91 points out of a possible 120. Fortunately a tie-deciding question was to hand, but both teams failed miserably to identify the correct number of occupants at the 'Gnome Reserve'! 'Four Plus Two' were closer and declared the victors. 'Famous Five' were third, and special mention should be made of 'The Odd Couple' who finished 5<sup>th</sup> despite, or possibly because, they were a Team of two rather than the six of most others.

Only 6 of the 110 questions failed to elicit correct answers. Nobody identified Mrs Page & Mrs Ford as 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'; Newton Abbot was not recognised as being the first place to proclaim William of Orange as King William III. Unsurprisingly nobody realised that an octopus has only two legs in addition to its six arms! The Beaver remained unidentified as Canada's national animal, as did Miguel Indurain as the most successful winner of consecutive Tours de France. Foinavon's 1967 Grand National victory went unnoticed despite being mentioned on TV only a few days earlier! Future competitors will need to brush up on their Sport and History knowledge, but the Geography round saw the most correct answers!

Thanks are due to Ashwater Village Shop, Ambrosia, B & N Farms, Dunstaple Farm, Endecott's and numerous individuals who kindly donated the raffle prizes. The contribution of all those who worked so hard to obtain prizes, food and drink and were kept very busy on the night to help make the event a success should be recognised – a task I omitted at the end of the evening! Thanks also to those who collected Answer Sheets and managed the Scoreboard, as well as the many who helped with the clearing up afterwards.

The final amount raised had not been finalised at the time of 'going to press', but is expected to be in the region of £500 to £600, split between the Hall and Shop.

Bob Griggs

**GREAT BRITISH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER – FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015****"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury"**

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2015 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)

**BRANDIS CORNER WILDLIFE GROUP**

The wildlife group is hosting an illustrated talk about Butterflies by Jenny Evans on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm in the Bradford and Cookbury Hall. Jenny is an active member of both Devon and Cornwall branches of Butterfly Conservation and the event promises to be a colourful presentation. Members £1.00 (Children 0.50p), and Non-members £2.00 (Children £1.00). For further details contact June Green 01409 221050.

**MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 7.00PM ASHWATER PARISH HALL**

David who sells plants regularly in Halwill Junction will be joining us to give us a talk.

Please bring along those surplus plants and swap with your fellow gardeners.

Calling all local children, please come along at 7pm, you will be most welcome and you can collect your sunflower seeds (pots and compost will be provided) to take home and grow. At the end of August we will then come round judge and give a prize for the tallest sunflower.

**VILLAGE PLANTING**

There will be no Best Kept Village Competition this year as the organizers and sponsors are revising the criteria for the future. The prize money that Ashwater won last year will used, together with some TAP funding from the Parish Council to purchase new planters for strategic road junctions around the village approaches and to plant them up along with the hanging baskets around the hall.

.....AND FINALLY

As if you would forget! 7<sup>th</sup> May is the General Election and Ashwater Parish Hall is the Polling Station open from 7am until 10pm. In addition to the General Election you may also cast your votes for candidates in Forest Ward of Torridge District Council. This is your opportunity to exercise your franchise both Nationally and Locally. There will not be a Parish Council Election on this occasion.

**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](mailto:ibuxton16@btinternet.com). Don't forget to visit the Ashwater Website [www.ashwaterparish.org.uk](http://www.ashwaterparish.org.uk)