

13 / 04 / 2015.

Dear Axmouth Parish Council.

An up to date report of 'The Friends.'

As you will have probably heard, the urgent repairs needed to our Parish Church have now been completed. This was to the lower church buildings. Which included quite a bit of work on the Church stonework, guttering, down pipes, slates and valleys work being carried out by R.W. Dack and sons, and Bruce Dack, Stonemason.

Fund raising has been started again immediately now, to start and complete phase two Which is the Tower. What I can tell you is that the Lead work is all sound, this has been checked out by Ross Dack. The slats in the Tower itself have been re-covered with wire mesh, to stop birds getting into the tower interior.

What we don't know is what amount of damage needs attention on the stonework of the tower. We know there are cracks, and that the down pipes and brackets need urgent attention. But until the Scaffold has been erected and a full examination is carried out of the stonework, we won't know what figure of expense we are looking at.

What we are now raising money for, is Scaffolding and repair work, all in one.

As you will have seen, the commemoration seat opposite the Parish War Memorial, is now in place in memory of the men of Axmouth Parish who laid down their lives in two world wars. This seat has recently been treated again after the winter, the brass plates cleaned and sealed with varnish. And the tree planted is now in bud. The tree was a gift from Barbara Newbery, in memory of her husband Edwin, and son Ian. The seat was dedicated by our Vicar 'Kate Woolven' On Remembrance Sunday in 2014.

At this period in time also, the churchyard had a visit from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission team, who came to clean the four war graves in the churchyard, As it was the centenary of World War 1. Three are World War 1. And one is World War 2.

On this subject also, may I add that a full record is now in place in book form of the men from Axmouth Parish who were lost in World War 1. Where they lived in the Parish, their ages, Regiments and Ships, they served in, and where their graves and memorials are recorded in France, Belgium, Plymouth Hoe Naval Memorial, and elsewhere.

Likewise in the near future a similar record will be put together of the Men and Women in World War two. Plus the Home guard.

The church has also been presented with a Poppy from the Tower of London display.

This is currently being placed in a suitable display case, and will be placed above the interior church War memorial in the near future.

The ancient paintings on the pillars in our Church have been cleaned and restored, by a team. And at the time of writing this letter, the painting on the South Wall of the Church interior is being enhanced and cleaned also. This one was water damaged, prior to the lower church wall and guttering being restored, the wall since restoration has had to dry out naturally, before restoration on the painting could commence.

A book has been placed near the font, which gives full details of these paintings, for visitors to our church.

The Wednesday Gardening team, has now started again for 2015, meeting at 6.30p.m. Until 7.30.p.m. This year there is a magnificent display of primroses, in the churchyard. As well as the gardening team, there is also a church cleaning roster for twelve months. And of course our fund raising activities and events, which is placed in the Parish Magazine, and on Posters throughout the village.

The wooden seats in the Churchyard are all getting a clean up and repaint, ready for the two 'Music on the Green' nights, on Saturday 25th May. And Saturday the 8th August. This is done jointly with the Village Hall Committee.

We have also had a report done on the Church Bells, two were from the 1700 hundreds and one from the 1600 hundreds, these are in reasonable good condition, but nothing will be done on this until after the Tower has been restored. That at the moment is our first priority.

I must say the response we have had from the people of Axmouth Parish in fund raising and support has been absolutely phenomenal. Without their support The Friends wouldn't have achieved anything like what we have done so far.

Yours Sincerely.

Mike Clement . Chairman.
'Friends of Axmouth Church.'