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THE LOCAL RAG
ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
December Edition
Volume 16 Issue 11
2019



Publication and Distribution

The Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Local Rag is produced by the Editor Elsie Potter and Assistant Editor David Potter and is distributed, free, by a team of volunteers to every residence in our area. Finance is provided by the Parish Council, income from advertisers and donations from community organisations and individuals. Local reporting is easy -

e-mail your items to:
thelocal.rag@btinternet.com or drop in to Webbery Cross Cottage. The more articles you send the more likely the Local Rag is to continue.

The date for inclusion in the next issue is **20th of each month**. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or amend any article submitted. Any article published does not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team.

The Local Rag
 Webbery Cross Cottage
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 EX39 4PU
 Phone 01271 858534

e-mail thelocal.rag@btinternet.com

From The Assistant Editor

Well here we are then, as this is the December edition, it must mean that another year has flown by. Where on earth do they go?

It only seems a moment ago that we were enjoying another Big Breakfast, then Fireworks at Alverdiscott Hall. After that another excellent Friends Sunday Lunch last weekend. Aren't we fortunate. And now we have an Election to look forward to... Joy!

The editorial team wish to thank all our contributors for their support throughout the last year. Without you the Local Rag would not survive. We also want to say a big thank-you to our distributors who faithfully play their part each month. And finally to all our readers, without whom it would all be pointless, we want to

wish you all a **Cracking Christmas** and a truly amazing **New Year**. I sincerely hope that 2020 brings joy and happiness to everyone in our local area and indeed to the whole country. We all deserve something better than that which we have had in the last 3 years!

And finally... I've noticed the word "**NEW**" appears several times in this issue. Not just in *New Year*, but we have a **New Committee** starting up for Huntshaw Hall. We have a **New Facebook page** set up for the Parish Council, there's the **New Project** hoping to support **Great Torrington and 16 Villages** and then there is the **Engaging Rural Micros** project looking to stimulate small businesses, locally. We are indeed fortunate.



CHRISTMAS BINGO

at Lovacott Village Hall

Wednesday 11 December at 7.30pm

Meat Prizes and a Raffle

Call Sandra Barr for Details on 01271 858564



CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for someone (or a small team of people) to volunteer to unlock the church in Huntshaw in the morning and to lock it up at night. As part of our plans to make the church more accessible we want to offer an open church for visitors from January 2020. This is likely to be a short term commitment as we are currently fundraising to have an automated lock fitted.

Further information from Audrey audreyalimo@yahoo.co.uk or 07952 028013 or any member of the Friends group or PCC.

Emergencies

Police - Fire etc.	999
Electricity	0800 6783105
Gas	0800 111999
Water	0800 1691144
RSPCA	0300 1234999

Medical

NHS - Advice Line	111
Barnstaple Hospital	01271 322577
Bideford Hospital	01271 322577
Torrington Hospital	01805 622208

For a GP out of hours call Devon Doctors on 0845 671 0270

Community Hall Bookings

Alverdiscott	David Potter 01271 858534
Huntshaw	Lorraine Hooper 07912 503992

lorrainehooper489@btinternet.com

Community Contacts

Advice Lines

Police	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
CAB	01805 626126
FCN	0845 3679990
Samaritans	0845 7909090
Western Power Enq.	0800 0963080
North Devon Council	01271 327711
Torrington District Council	01237 428700

Sandra Brown PCSO 30096@dc.police.uk

Your local neighbourhood policing team at Torrington Police Station email address:

torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Local News

Are you a rural micro business or sole trader? Are you interested in shaping the future of business support?

Then the Engaging Rural Micros project wants to work with you!

Engaging Rural Micros is a research trial to learn how to stimulate positive mind-sets towards improving business efficiency. Micro businesses, freelancers and sole traders (less than 10 employees) make up 90.1% of Devon's rural economy*. Research suggests that there is a need for these rural micros to overcome their tendencies towards overworking, and increase time working on the business rather than in the business.

Are you a business owner who can relate to this? Is your dream to increase efficiency within your business, free up time, and reach that elusive 'work-life balance'? Then get involved in this new research trial!

The trial will look at different ways of providing support to these businesses. All participating businesses will receive:

- business monitoring for up to 12 months, completing three business analysis surveys over the course of the trial.
- a business insight report at the end of the project.
- information on the trial outcomes and future support.
- an invitation to an event at the end of the project, which will be a great networking opportunity for local businesses.

The trial will be based in rural areas of Devon (outside of settlements with a population over 10,000).

If you are a micro business owner, a freelancer or sole trader, sign up online at www.engagingruralmicros.com - or contact engagingruralmicros@devon.gov.uk before the end of December 2019.

*statistics excluding Exeter.

**Engaging Rural
Micros**

Services at the Methodist Chapel in January 2020

Sunday 05	11.00	Rev Rob Blackhall Covenant US
Sunday 12	11.00	Rev Andrew Baguley
Sunday 19	11.00	Mrs. Rosemary Quinnell
	5.00	Café Worship Rev R Blackhall S
Sunday 26	11.00	Local Arrangements

News from Huntshaw Parish Hall

A new emergency management committee has been put into place with a view to holding an AGM in March. We are holding an open event on Saturday 25 January, 2 – 4 pm as part of *Village Halls Week 2020 so come along and hear about our plans for 2020. Refreshments will be served.

We would like to thank the trustees and former committee members for their hard work and commitment in keeping the hall going in recent years.

To hire the hall

Contact Lorraine on 07912 503992 or lorrainehooper489@btinternet.com

*Village Halls Week is an annual and national celebration of rural community spaces and the people whose time and dedication keep them going. Organised by ACRE - *Action with Communities in Rural England* - and the ACRE Network, the campaign runs in January with a huge variety of events across England.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT

The end of the year is rapidly approaching and it has been a successful one for the Friends. A significant amount of works have been undertaken on the church and our events have all been successful. Our year of events will conclude with A Christmas Social Evening on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm at Alverdiscott Hall. Entry will be £3.00 which will include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie or sausage roll. Tea and coffee will also be available.

The main aim of the evening is to relax, meet your friends and sing some carols round the Christmas tree. We will have a Christmas Bring and Buy stall so if you have anything you would like to donate to this please bring it along on the evening. There will also be a Picture Quiz for anyone who feels like taxing their brain and a raffle. Any donations of prizes will be gratefully received.

We thank Frank Grills for offering to donate a tree again for our Christmas event, it will help to make the evening more festive. The tree will be moved to All Saints for the Christmas service on Sunday 22nd December. The Friends will be serving refreshments after the service.

The amalgamation of our parish with Newton Tracey has gone ahead, with effect from 1st November. The new parish will be known as Newton Tracey with Alverdiscott. The main difference will be that there will be one Parochial Church Council with representatives from both former parishes and the Friends Group. The Friends will continue to raise funds for the maintenance of All Saints church building and churchyard, and these funds will be separated from the parish running costs.

Activities at the Methodist Chapel

Our Coffee Morning in November raised £100 for SW Air Ambulances. The next Coffee Morning, which will be on December 5 from 10am until noon, is for local charity **“Encompass SW”**. Come and enjoy good coffee, good company and support a very worthwhile cause. Our Coffee Mornings are very popular and enjoyable social occasions.

Café Worship - The next Café Worship is on Sunday 22 December at 5.00pm. Come and enjoy your tea and maybe learn a thing or two.

EXPLORE Services - An interactive Bible Study. Fellowship, starting with tea or coffee, with a choice of hymns and shared prayers. The date for the next EXPLORE service will be advised in the February issue of the Local Rag.

Gardening Club - The meeting fee is £1 which includes tea and biscuits. Please note, there is no meeting in December. The next meeting will hopefully be on 27 January 2020 at 2.30pm.

Alverdiscott Craft Group - The Craft group meet at the Chapel on the second Tuesday of the month - the next meeting is 10 December at 10.30am, but you can pop in when you want and leave when ready. The Chapel has ample car parking. The cost is £1 per meeting. All are welcome. For more information call Stuart Fuller on 01271 858258 or email stuart.fuller454@gmail.com

****See note on p7 for details of special event at the 10 December meeting.**

—————o—————
Dates for Your Diary

The ever popular Carol Service featuring the Children from Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School is on Sunday 15 December at 6pm.

**West Barton Farmhouse
 Alverdiscott**

Holiday accommodation for relatives or friends visiting North Devon and needing somewhere to stay. Reasonable terms.



Telephone 01271 858230 for details

Leisure

D	N	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	F
S	E	E	Q	S	A	S	S	R	S	A	I
G	E	C	X	L	A	T	E	A	I	S	R
N	R	S	O	O	A	G	N	R	G	D	T
I	T	L	R	R	N	T	Y	I	E	R	R
K	R	E	S	A	A	L	F	K	I	E	E
C	A	G	M	C	I	T	A	E	P	H	E
O	E	N	L	G	S	C	I	Y	E	P	L
T	P	A	H	O	U	S	E	O	C	E	B
S	U	T	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	H	A
S	S	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	I	S	T
S	U	S	E	J	Y	B	A	B	M	Q	S

**Christmassy Things
 24 To Find.**

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| GIFTS | ROAST | STABLE | STOCKINGS | WISEMEN | PEARTREE |
| CAKE | OXEN | MANGER | FAIRYLIGHTS | FIRTREE | SHEPHERDS |
| ASS | ANGELS | CAROLS | SANTACLAS | MINCEPIE | BABYJESUS |
| KEY | HOUSE | STARS | DECORATIONS | CRACKERS | MISTLETOE |

Last time the word was: Screening

Only For Fun. You have 15 minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters shown in the grid. Each word must contain four or more letters, one of which must be the central square. No letter may be used more than once in each word. No proper nouns, plurals or foreign words allowed. There is one nine letter word for which the clue is - Where you live

E	I	E
N	E	C
D	S	R

Word count 29 = Good. More than 35 = Well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 159

Good Luck.

			5		4			
		3	9		8	1		
	9			6			2	
1	4						5	8
		2				3		
3	5						4	6
	2			9			3	
		4	2		6	7		
			3		5			

Solution to Su Doku No. 158

9	8	7	6	1	4	3	2	5
3	5	2	8	9	7	6	4	1
4	1	6	2	3	5	8	9	7
5	6	1	7	4	2	9	8	3
7	9	3	1	6	8	2	5	4
8	2	4	3	5	9	7	1	6
2	3	8	5	7	1	4	6	9
1	7	9	4	8	6	5	3	2
6	4	5	9	2	3	1	7	8

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen
01769 560792 07947 358050



December 2019

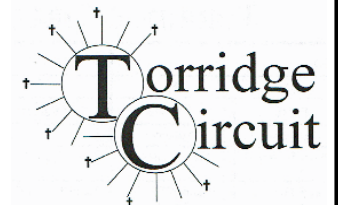
Sunday 1st	Advent 1		
Alverdiscott		11.00am	At Methodist Chapel
Newton Tracey		11.00am	Informal Communion
Tawstock		11.00am	Morning Worship PCC
Sunday 8th	Advent 2		
Huntsraw		11.00am	All Age Worship
Tawstock		11.00am	Holy Communion
Horwood		5.00pm	Carols and Tree
Sunday 15th	Advent 3		
Newton Tracey		11.00am	Christingle
Tawstock		11.00am	Morning Worship
Yarnscombe		6.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	Advent 4		
Alverdiscott		11.00am	Carols US
Tawstock		3.30pm	Christmas Service
Huntsraw		4.00pm	Carols
Yarnscombe		6.30pm	Carols
Tuesday 24th	Christmas Eve		
Newton Tracey		4.00pm	Round the Crib
Tawstock		10.30pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th	Christmas Day		
Horwood		10.00am	Holy Communion
Tawstock		11.00am	Christmas Service

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel - Minister Rev Rob Blackhall - 01805 628041

01 December	11.00	Mr J Wood US
	6.30	Rev Lynne Burgon
08 December	11.00	Mr D Watson
	6.30	Rev Rob Blackhall S
15 December	6.00	Mrs E Potter Carols
22 December	11.00	Carols at PC
	5.00	Café Worship
29 Dec	11.00	Mr R Harris

www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk/



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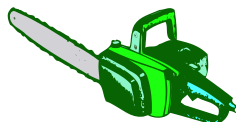
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New Facebook Page for our Parish Council

We now have a Facebook page for the Parish Council. You can find it either by visiting Facebook and typing the username **@alverdiscotthuntshaw** into Facebook search, or searching for '**Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Parish Council**' in Facebook.

Anyone with a Facebook account can access and use the page. It's really easy to set up a Facebook account, and if anyone has problems there's masses of really good guidance online.

The Parish Council will be posting meeting Minutes and other information on the page as well as using the physical noticeboards in both villages.

New Project Launched for Great Torrington and 16 villages.

www.torrington100.co.uk

A new local pilot project, *Torrington 100*, started in August this year, will aim to help connect people across Torrington and its surrounding villages by finding out what activities are already on offer and whether village residents would like help to develop or add new ones to those they already have. The project is supported by Torridge Volunteer Service, the NHS, the Care Forum, The Plough Arts Centre and Great Torrington Town Council who all work together to try and improve the quality of life for local people. An exciting launch day has been held with people aged 3-75 years taking part in free activities at The Plough Arts Centre. The first part of the pilot project is to meet with villagers and learn as much as possible about the skills and resources that the village already has. A get-together for people from different villages was held, to meet one another and share information, challenges and hopes for the future. I am busy meeting Parish Councils to introduce *Torrington 100* and also hope to meet with village groups to talk about the project and how we may help. If you would like to get in touch it would be great to hear from you and perhaps visit your group in Alverdiscott or Huntshaw. In the meantime, wishing you all a lovely Devon Christmas and a great 2020!

Cathy Richards, Community Developer, *Torrington 100*. catheriner@ttvs.org.uk
07939 154 436

Parish Council News

The next Parish Council meeting is due to be held in Huntshaw Hall on Wednesday 8 January 2020 at 7:30pm.



The Parish Council would like to wish you all a very **Happy Christmas** and best wishes for 2020.

Parish Clerk - Jean Huxtable Garnacott Farm Huntshaw EX38 7HG

Email: jean-huxtable@hotmail.co.uk 01271 858282

The Parish Council Facebook page: [@alverdiscotthuntshaw](https://www.facebook.com/alverdiscotthuntshaw)

Planning Applications

Application Number and Date	Description <i>Full Details Available from Torrridge District Council Website - www.torrridge.gov.uk/plans</i>	Parish Comment	LPA Decision And Date
I/0399/2019 06/05/2019	Proposed extension to shed, Staines Trailers Ltd. Huntshaw Torrington Devon EX38 7HH	Emailed	Awaited
I/0862/2019/ FUL 29/10/2019	Conversion of agricultural building to 1 no. Dwelling house including erection of extension and porch Nethercott Farm Alverdiscott Barnstaple Devon EX31 3NA	Emailed	Awaited 29/10/2019

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

Chairman TBA	
Andy Rickard V Chairman	01271 858470
Francis Courtenay	01271 858322
Peter Ley	01271 858230
Donald Easterbrook	01805 623113
Eddie Staines	01805 623255
Colin Webber	01271 858419
Bruce Millar	07392 304567
Mark Holmes	07767 888000

A Message from the Team Rector

I'm a 'summer' person. I love some warmth in my bones and a good game of cricket! But there is one thing guaranteed to cheer me up in the middle of a cold dark winter, other than a Test Match Special commentary from the Caribbean, and that's Christmas. Yes, it is a bit of a long slog for a clergyman... especially now Christmas starts in November! By Christmas day I generally can't face another mince pie (although my ability to put away a second piece of *Stollen* often remains undiminished). But I wouldn't miss Christmas for the world.

Christmas is of course one of the three main Christian festivals, along with Easter and Pentecost (Whitsun). The celebrations of Jesus birth sets off a series of seasons and special days in church during which we follow the life of Jesus through his childhood, adult teaching and healing to his death, resurrection and ascension to heaven. I never cease to be amazed that in Jesus God has revealed himself to humanity, and that in Jesus God has reached out to me with his love and brought me into a relationship with him closer than that of parent to child or husband to wife.

But I also love Christmas because I get to welcome many people into church who I don't see so much during the rest of the year, or I'm even invited to special events in the community. I get to share something of God's love shown in the tiny baby lying helpless in a manger. Please do check out what's going on around the local churches and make the most of the Christingles, crib service and carol services.

And on behalf of the ministry team may I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Rev Gary Owen.

ALPACAS AND SOAP

Next month, on Tuesday December 10th the Craft Group that meets in the hall at Alverdiscott Chapel is holding a workshop on making Alpaca felted soap pads for washing or as gifts.

Sue Ashmole will also talk about the Alpacas she keeps on a farm near Torrington, and bring other Alpaca goods for sale.

The workshop will start at 11.00am and finish by 2.00pm. We are open from 10.30am. The cost is £2 per person. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits will be provided.

Please book with me if you would like to join us.

stuart.fuller454@gmail.com or 01271 858258

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**CHRISTMAS IS COMING AND IT'S TIME TO
PARTY**

**Saturday, 7th December at
Huntsraw Village Hall
6.30 for 7pm**

Come along to a fun evening including a
 festive buffet complete with lots of
 delicious puddings and sweets.
 £12.50 per person (£6.00 per child) to include a
 glass of mulled wine or a soft drink.

Tickets available from Lesley on 01271 858552 or Lorraine on 07912 503992.



FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING
 WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER AT
 ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL
 FROM 7PM - ENTRY £3



TO INCLUDE A GLASS OF MULLED WINE AND A MINCE PIE OR
 SAUSAGE ROLL

Carol singing round the Christmas Tree, Christmas Bring and Buy,
 Picture Quiz, Grand Draw



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