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THE LOCAL RAG
ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW
LOCK-DOWN EDITION - ON-LINE ONLY

Welcome to the
May Edition
Volume 17 Issue 4
2020

This isn't one of mine, sadly.



STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home)
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

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

Webbery

EX39 4PU

Phone 01271 858534

e-mail thelocal.rag@btinternet.com

From The Assistant Editor

Hello to you all. I sincerely hope that you are keeping well and managing to stay safe and sane!

As I said in the April issue, the Local Rag will continue to be published, but only on the Parish Council website -

<http://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk/>

This will have to be the way it is until we get on top of this thing and we can go some way towards getting back to normal. I realise that not everyone has access to the internet and some may not want to have access. In that case if anyone would like a printed copy I will knock out a few at

home and post them to you. Just give us a call and let me have your details.

I can remember only a few years ago there was much discussion about stopping the printed copies and having the Rag available only online. That idea soon died a death once we realised how few in our community had internet connections, or even a computer.

Things have changed on that front but there are still many who won't be able to read these words, so if you know someone in that position let them know, a printed Rag is available if they really would like one.

Planned Events during 2020 at the Village Halls
Please note - All Events have been cancelled up to August.
This is not based on any information received.
It is just me trying to be positive!

Alverdiscott

Big Breakfast	Sunday 3 May	Cancelled for now
Friends Spring Lunch	Sunday 10 May	Cancelled for now
Treasure Hunt	Sunday 5 July	Cancelled for now
Friends Safari Supper	Saturday 25 July	Cancelled for now
Flower and Produce Show	Saturday 8 Aug	May go ahead???
Harvest Supper	Friday 18 Sept	May go ahead???
Big Breakfast	Sunday 25 Oct	May go ahead???
Friends Autumn Lunch	Sunday 22 Nov	May go ahead???

Huntsaw

VE Day Celebrations	Cancelled for now See p11
A Bat Evening by Bats in Churches	Cancelled for now See p11

Emergencies

Police - Fire etc.	999
Electricity	0800 6783105
Gas	0800 111999
Water	0800 1691144
RSPCA	0300 1234999
Calor Gas	0345 7444999

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
Huntsaw	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

It Started in China

It started in China - far away so we thought,
No need for sheer panic - we're unlikely to get caught!
It's a virus unknown - but we've heard that before,
No need to lose sleep - it will blow over we're sure.

That virus in China then took a sharp turn,
But still seemed remote, to cause UK much concern!
The neighbouring Countries like Thailand and Iran,
They now had several cases, and so did Japan.

But within weeks as the news of the virus unfurled,
It transpired it had spread to most parts of the world!
The US and UK had confirmed cases galore,
While Italy and Spain had diagnosed even more!

Countries were in lock-down from morning til night,
High Streets were deserted, a sad sorry sight,
Death tolls kept rising - hospitals struggled to cope,
Volunteers coming forward - offered glimpses of hope.

Prince Charles and Boris - they were also struck down,
Self-isolating as in each City and Town,
Supermarket shoppers with their trolleys piled high,
Stripped shelves of their products - leaving little to buy!

'Loo-rolls' were like gold dust - they had flown off the shelves!
People surely bought more, than they needed themselves?
Hand Sanitisers - seldom heard of before,
Had now disappeared, from every 'still open' Store!

Tales of much kindness were reported everywhere,
Support for the elderly, and others needing care,
Clapping was heard weekly, for our great NHS
And others still working under constant duress!

Nightingale Hospitals were assembled in days!
Designed to treat thousands - in separate bays,
Measures were taken, that few had witnessed before,
Nothing quite like it since the 'Second World War'!

We were then into April - the past months had sped by,
Normal life as we'd known it, could no longer apply,

Everything cancelled - businesses brought to their knees,
So much was affected, by this deadly disease!

Messages and phone calls have kept us in touch
While self-isolating - and have helped us so much,
'Take Care' and 'Keep Safe' have been the often-used
greetings,
Our prayers are that soon, we're allowed 'face to face'
Meetings!

The Queen in her message - broadcast to the nation,
Repeated the pleas for strict 'home-isolation'!
She praised all 'Key Workers' who are feeling the strain,
And promised that in time - 'We will meet up again'!

That very same evening the Queen gave her address,
A 'bombshell' announcement was released by 'The Press'!
Boris in hospital - he had 'worsened' it said,
Then transferred the next day to a Special Care bed!

Restrictions still continued - no sign of a break,
With no indication of how long it could take
To conquer this virus - unabated and rife,
Which has disrupted the world in all aspects of life!

I finished this poem over the Easter weekend,
No normal Church Service anywhere to attend!
But Archbishop Justin Welby, was still able to bless,
And at his own kitchen table gave his Easter Address!

The Prime Minister Boris - his health much improved,
Was discharged and went home - and was clearly so moved
By the wonderful treatment he'd received every day,
As the outcome of his illness 'could have gone either way'!

When it's all over, there will be questions to ask,
And for the World's many Leaders, the gigantic task
Of striving to prevent such pandemics again,
A virus that has caused so much anguish and pain!

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Muriel Moore - April 2020.

From the rector

I never thought I would be a rector who couldn't enter his church buildings or hold services! But I don't think many of us ever imagined a pandemic like Covid-19. Even if the number of cases in North Devon have thankfully been few (so far) all our lives have been deeply effected. Please let me assure you of my prayers.

One MP, Jack Lopresti, questioned why off-licences were permitted to open on Easter Day but churches were not. Bishop Stephen Cottrell's reply was interesting – that to get food someone needs to go physically to pick it up but that God does door to door deliveries!

During lockdown we've moved church online – holding services via YouTube and home-groups via Zoom. For those without the technology we've used the phone and even the Royal Mail! After his resurrection Jesus entered a locked room to be with his disciples and offered them peace. God can meet with us anywhere, any time. One of my prayers is that we all learn to spend time with God on our own, reading the bible and praying, in a way that continues to sustain and bless us even when we can meet together again.

But I do look forward to the time when we can go back into our church buildings and worship together, when we can meet in homes to read the bible and pray, and when we can have a coffee and cake. God has made us physical beings. Our bodies are an important part of who we are. The Christian hope is that when we die we don't just float off into the ether but are clothed with a new, resurrection body, like our current bodies, but transformed for the new heaven and earth. I do believe that things will change as a result of this virus, although it is too early to tell how. Much more might happen online. But maybe too, our experience of social distancing will bring us to value much more the importance of community, neighbourliness and of being rooted physically in the place where we live.

If Covid-19 has raised questions for you about life, death and faith then I have 10 copies of a book "Where's God in a coronavirus world" – email me your address and I'll send you one. Or download a copy from <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/where-is-god-in-a-coronavirus-world>

Need to chat or need some practical help: contact Rev Gary 01769 560792 or revgaryowen@gmail.com

Church services during social distancing: type "Two Rivers Mission Community" into the YouTube search bar.

Rev Gary Owen.

Alverdiscott Flower and Produce Show

In a mood of optimism, we are hoping that the **Alverdiscott Flower and Produce Show**, planned for Saturday 8 August, will still go ahead. It is a whole 3 months away, so it could happen. In that case it could be an excellent way to help celebrate a return to normal.

One positive that may come out of the current situation is that all you gardeners, cooks and “handicrafters”, who are currently in lock-down, must all have more time than you normally would to prepare!!!

So watch this space and as the weeks pass we will be see what might be possible.

Do You Need Assistance During Covid -19?

If you live in the Local Rag area and are having problems due to the current situation there are several local groups in the area who are offering to help out. They will take on tasks such as shopping, collecting prescriptions and even walking the dog, all of which can be more difficult than normal, right now. Please get in touch with the Rag and we will see if we can find someone to help you.

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Leisure

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

32 Fish to Catch

- MACKEREL STINGRAY PERCH PLAICE TUNA CARP
- STURGEON GRAYLING SKATE TURBOT COD HAKE
- LEMONSOLE GOLDFISH BREAM GOBY EEL
- STICKLEBACK HALIBUT TROUT BASS RAY
- NEEDLEFISH HERRING SHARK CHAR IDE
- HADDOCK SALMON CHUB DORY SCAT

Last time the word was: Isolating

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 - Yummy

Word count 20 = Good. More than 25 = Well done!

L	C	H
T	E	A
O	O	C

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 163

Good Luck... I thought this one was quite difficult.

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 162

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

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



Latest guidance from the Church of England relating to Covid-19 is available on this link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Caring%20for%20church%20buildings%20during%20the%20pandemic%20-%20advice%20for%20parishes%20v.2.pdf>

It covers questions like these:

Q. Are we allowed to cut the grass and do other gardening?

A. No. Tending to the churchyard cannot be considered an ‘essential journey’ and as such we do not recommend it during the lockdown, unless it is for security or safety reasons such as pruning a tree which is considered unsafe, or removing climbing plants from walls if they are causing damage to the building or could be used to facilitate breaking in.

Q. I regularly visit to tend a grave. Can I still do this?

A. No. We appreciate how important it is for people to visit and tend to graves, but unfortunately during the current lockdown this cannot be considered an ‘essential activity’. As with the closure of church buildings for private prayer, we know this will be very painful for some people.

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel - Minister Rev Rob Blackhall - 01805 628041

We live in very difficult times.

Life already feels very different, and it is difficult to imagine not meeting and worshipping as we usually do.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to ask. I might not immediately know the answer, but I will endeavour to find out.

These are tricky times, but we are the Church, and we will carry on, just in a different way.

Please pray, read your Bibles and share in Worship in your homes. And to start your Bible reading - try Psalm 91 - we are all under the care of Almighty God.

Current advice from the Methodist Church can be found at

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/>

www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk/



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Parish Clerk - Jean Huxtable Garnacott Farm Huntsraw EX38 7HG
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Parish Council Facebook page: [@alverdiscotthuntsraw](https://www.facebook.com/alverdiscotthuntsraw)

Parish Council website: <http://alverdiscott-huntsraw-parish.org.uk/>

As mentioned previously the new Parish Council website is under construction right now, so do go and have a look around. If you have any constructive comments or suggestions please get in touch, via the website or the Rag.

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

Bruce Millar	V Chairman	07392 304567
Francis Courtenay		01271 858322
Peter Ley		01271 858230
Donald Easterbrook		01805 623113
Eddie Staines		07831 262808
Tony Goldstone		01271 858437
Helen Bolton		01271 858885

Vacancies on the Parish Council

There are three vacancies on the Parish Council which will be advertised in the near future - when we get the relevant paperwork from Torrington District Council. It will be displayed on the two hall notice boards and on the website.

If anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council please do let any Councillor know or contact the Parish Clerk.

PLEASE NOTE - The Huntsraw VE Day Celebrations and the Bat Evening have been postponed until further notice pending the course of Covid-19.

Keep a watch on the website <https://www.huntsrawchurch.com> for the latest updates.

Parish Council News

We hope to hold our next meeting in **Huntshaw Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 13 May** providing it is permitted to go ahead and not cancelled due to a virus.



Cancelled

It will be the Annual Parish meeting followed by the Parish Council AGM, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

ALL Meetings are cancelled until further notice

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
1/0399/2019 03/12/2019	Proposed extension to shed and formalisation of B2 (General Industrial) Use (amend description, revised plans, transport and noise reports) Staines Trailers Ltd Huntshaw	18/12/19	Awaited
1/1166/2019 30/01/20	Retrospective application for engineering works and change of use of land to B2 and B8 use including diversion of existing Public Right of Way. Staines Trailers Ltd Huntshaw	30/01/20	Awaited
1/0029/2020 16/01/2020	Prior notification for the change of use of Agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling under Class Q and associated operational Development. Barn at Nethercott Farm, Alverdiscott	16/01/20	Awaited
1/0044/2020 06/02/2020	Change of use of land and siting of 30 storage containers for B8 use. North Devon Dry Storage, Yarnscombe	06/02/20	Awaited
1/1163/2019 05/02/2020	Change of use of ancillary building to holiday let, demolition of garages and Conservatory. Alterations and replacement Single storey side and rear extensions to the Existing dwelling and associated landscaping. Longstone House, Woodtown, E T Water	09/02/20	Awaited

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISOTT

You will all obviously realise that our normal fund-raising activities are on hold for at least the next few months, but we must nevertheless continue to maintain All Saints to the best of our abilities.

Regular maintenance of the churchyard is being continued, but any more major work is being put on hold, partly due to the current situation, but also because we have a Quinquennial Inspection due this year and we need to see what this comes up with, before we decide on any course of action.

The Friends Committee feel that some regular source of income is desirable and are keen to establish a regular giving scheme. The Group has now registered with HMRC as having charitable status, which means that we can claim Gift Aid on this type of donation. If you wish to contribute on a regular basis, please contact me and I will provide you with details of the scheme.

The Friends appreciate the support given by the Community which enabled us to raise in excess of £4,500 last year. The money we can raise is unlikely to be enough to keep the church in good order so any other donations, what ever their size, will always be welcome, especially in the current situation. If you feel unable to make regular donations but are able to offer a one-off donation to help us while we cannot fund raise it would be so much appreciated.

Graham White
Chairman, Friends Group
01271 858441
bulworthy@aol.com



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The First Swallows Sighted

Had a phone call, on Sunday 12, from Betty who lives in Hiscott to say that she had seen a swallow overhead on the Saturday. We both agreed that this was a good sign and that it seemed a little earlier than previous years. Hopefully the skies will be full of swallows and martins in the days to come.

And Gill has just emailed to say she has seen swallows over Alverdiscott.

We've had a chiffchaff in our garden, several days ago, and there is much activity in the trees and bushes with all the usual suspects flying back and forth. We might all be in lockdown but the local birdies are not. They are busy doing what they always do in the Spring...

*Spring is sprung, the grass is riz,
I wonder where the birdies is,
They say the bird is on the wing,
but that's absurd, the wing is surely on the bird.*

Anon.



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