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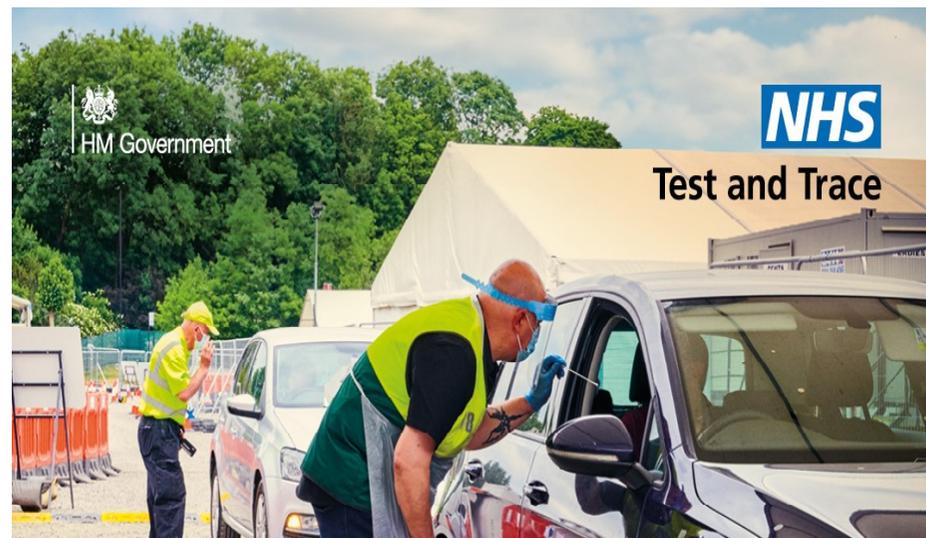
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THE LOCAL RAG
ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW
LOCK-DOWN EDITION - ON-LINE ONLY

Welcome to the
July Edition
Volume 17 Issue 6
2020



CORONAVIRUS
GOT SYMPTOMS? GET TESTED NOW

PLAY YOUR PART.
PROTECT YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

Do not leave home, except to get a test.

Find out how to get a test at

nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

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

Storm, what storm?

Well, on Tuesday 16 in the afternoon we experienced the worst thunderstorm, over Webbery Cross, in all the time we've been here and that's now about 17 years. The first lightning strike took out our power. I waited a while and then reset the trip. Then I went round and reset the clocks on the cooker and microwave etc. Just as I finished, the second strike came and took out the power again. This time I waited much longer, then I went round and reset everything again. Just as I finished, the third lightning strike, with the loudest clap of thunder I've ever heard, took out the power yet again. This time I waited until there was blue sky overhead! This time it really had moved on. I went round and reset everything again and it was

then that I realised that the phones were dead. I had three cordless phones on two base stations and they were all dead. Luckily I also had an old corded phone for just such an emergency. I've since heard that other folk had their broadband routers destroyed so maybe I was fortunate. It's June, why are we having thunderstorms and torrential rain? Because this is England. . ?

Changing the subject, does anyone know if there is a recycling point for pill foils anywhere locally? Elsie has to take 15 assorted pills every day which means we have lots of foils to dispose of. I used to put them in the bin but decided there really must be a better solution so I now put them to one side, but am running out of space to keep them!

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

Alverdiscott

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

Huntsraw

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
Huntsraw	Suzy White 07711 787853

huntsrawparishhall@outlook.com

Community Contacts**Advice Lines**

Police	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
CAB	01805 626126
FCN	03000 111999

Samaritans - Free from any phone 116 123

Western Power Enq.	0800 0963080
North Devon Council	01271 327711
Torrington District Council	01237 428700

Coronavirus Test Line 119

Sandra Brown PCSO 30096@dc.police.uk

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

torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Notice: Huntshaw Parish Hall AGM - Postponed

Due to Corona Virus lockdown restrictions the Emergency Committee for Huntshaw Parish Hall were unable to hold the AGM as planned at the end of March. The Committee have continued to care for the Hall in the mean time and hope that an AGM can be planned in the near future, once the Government allow us!

We do, however, want to keep the community involved and have therefore chosen to publish our "Officer" reports and accounts on the Parish Council Website. These will be formalised once an AGM can be held.

These reports will be available from 1st July at

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

Continued from p7.

COMING UP (COVID-19 PERMITTING!)



The Huntshaw **BIG** Picnic

Saturday 15th August 2 - 5 pm, Huntshaw village

Meet up with friends for a relaxed afternoon in the sunshine catching up with all the news that you have missed during lockdown. Bring your own picnic and beverages.

The Huntshaw 'Ride and Stride' Day

In support of the Devon Historic Churches Trust

Saturday 12th September 2 - 5 pm, Huntshaw Church



We will be launching our new graveyard survey, compiled by Richard Sears. The day will include a guided tour (or stride) around the churchyard where you will be able to find out about the graves and headstones of people who helped to make Huntshaw what it is today. There will be a collection for the Devon Historic Churches Trust.

Refreshments available.

All guidelines will be followed during events including social distancing.

From the Rector - Two Rivers Mission Community

Its hard to give an update on what's happening with our churches given the fast pace of events. I'm writing on Monday 15th June – the day upon which church buildings are allowed to reopen. Of course, reopening our buildings is not as simple as putting a key in the lock and turning a handle! But we are committed to reopening as many of our buildings for private prayer as quickly as possible, recognising their importance to the community. Please check on the mission community website for opening times for each church. Please pop in to pray or just to find some peace and reflect – of course whilst observing social distancing and obeying the health and safety instructions displayed.

The government is suggesting that churches may be allowed to open for services from 4th July. Again, we will seek to resume public worship in as many villages as we can as quickly as we can. We remain committed to holding a service in each church each Sunday.

Whilst our buildings have been closed we've found different ways of 'doing church'. Christianity is about so much more than an hour on a Sunday morning and we've tried to be as helpful in our communities as we can. Our parish nurse has supported those who need it. We've provided 'help yourself' food boxes for those who've needed a helping hand with supplies. But we have moved our worship online (YouTube and Zoom), met for homegroups and coffee mornings via Zoom and provided electronic collective worship to our schools. We've of course kept in touch with church members via email, phone and letter. Even after we've resumed meeting in our buildings some online activity will need to continue for those unable to join us or those who as yet don't feel confident entering a church building.

Over 25% of the population have reported attending an online church service since lockdown. Many have been younger people who wouldn't normally attend church in a building but felt able to look in online. Covid-19 has reminded us of our mortality and brought questions of life and death to the fore. Jesus offers both meaning and purpose in this life and hope for the future. Please don't waste this moment, pushing thinking about these ultimate questions to the back of your mind as things return to the 'new normal'. Join us for a service, either online or in person as we open. Attend an Alpha course to explore the Christian faith. Read a book about Jesus – email me for a free copy of **"Where is God in a coronavirus world"**. Drop me an email for a chat – we are here to help. **Rev Gary Owen.**

Alverdiscott Flower and Produce Show

Our mood of optimism has slowly evolved into one of realism. Given the continuing state of the Covid -19 pandemic, it is now unrealistic to plan for the **Alverdiscott Flower and Produce Show** to go ahead in August. Trying to maintain social distancing, even at 1m, would be very difficult and restrictive. Working in the kitchen and using the loo's would also present insurmountable problems.

Certainly there has been progress in containing the situation but even the most optimistic projections accept that it could all go horribly wrong as restrictions are lifted. All we can really do now is hope and pray that there is no second spike. What we really need is a vaccine that works, or at least a viable treatment for anyone who becomes infected.

Anyway, here's to next year...

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 groups in the local 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

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

24 Places in or near Devon

- WATERSMEET LYDFORDGORGE GREENWAY TOTNES HELE
- COUNTISBURY ILFRACOMBE COTEHELE ANTONY IDE
- KNIGHTSHAYES CASTLEDROGO SEATON PARKE BOW
- BAGGYPOINT PAIGNTON EXETER KENN BEER
- CLYSTONMILL SALTRAM LUNDY AISH

Last time the word was: Hurricane

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 - Black and white and red all over.

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

P	P	R
W	E	E
N	A	S

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 165

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 164

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

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



There is an update from Rev Gary on p3 explaining the latest news regarding the re-opening of Churches.

All Saints in Alverdiscott will be open for private prayer on Saturdays from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

Please observe social distancing rules.
Sanitise hands on arrival and departure.
Only use those areas not taped off.

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel
Minister Rev Rob Blackhall - 01805 628041

We are living in very difficult times.
Life feels very different, and it is hard 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 challenging 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 Huntshaw EX38 7HG
 Email: jean-huxtable@hotmail.co.uk Phone: 01271 858282

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

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

The new Parish Council website is packed with useful and relevant stuff, so do go and have a look around. If you have something that could be helpful, informative or entertaining in the current situation 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 Torrridge 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 - All the events and planned work at St Mary Magdalene Huntshaw, have been postponed until further notice pending the course of Covid -19.

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

Parish Council News

The Parish Council have no confirmed date for the next meeting. As soon as we are able to arrange it we will get it advertised.



Hope everyone is safe and well. If anyone requires any help or assistance please do get in touch with any member of the Parish Council and we will arrange whatever is required, if at all possible.

Stay safe everyone.

Planning Applications

Application Number and Date	Description <i>Full Details Available from Torridge District Council Website - www.torridge.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	Refused
1/0307/2020 02/05/2020	Proposed conversion of redundant barns to one dwelling and one holiday unit Myrtle Cottage Farm, Alverdiscott.	Emailed	Awaited
1/0340/2020	Conversion of 2 Barns into domestic dwellings & associated site works, Woodtown Farm, Woodtown.	Emailed	Awaited
1/0434/2020 17/06/2020	Erection of a dwelling & associated works (Resubmission of application 1/0210/2019) Agricultural Building at Grid ref: 250454 123756 Huntshaw.	Emailed	Awaited

UPDATE FROM FRIENDS OF HUNTSRAW CHURCH

Our lives have been turned upside down by the Covid-19 crisis however there does now appear to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Restrictions on opening churches for individual prayer have been lifted and we hope to open our church for at least one day a week soon. We are also tentatively planning some social events for the summer but are mindful that social distancing measures must be kept.

I went into the church today (20th June) for the first time since mid-March and was relieved to find it dry and intact with no leaks or other nasty surprises. Some cleaning is necessary as clearly our bats have not been self-isolating or abiding by the rules!! On the outside I found that more slates have come off the roof of the porch. This damage was started by the winter storms and has continued during the spring.

We are looking into funding for some urgent repair work which ideally needs to happen this summer. A walk around the churchyard was enriched by birdsong, butterflies and wildflowers. Unfortunately, our plans to create a wildflower area at the rear of the church were thwarted by the spring heatwave and our being unable to nurture it. But on a positive note I found a solitary poppy growing beneath one of the yew trees. This I consider to be a sign of things to come.



Finally, our long awaited survey of the graveyard is in its final stages of completion. Richard Sears, local historian, has compiled an impressive 249-page tome of all the headstones and monuments in the church and churchyard and we plan to launch this in September.

Update continues on p14.

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Having arrived late, the martins are still in the sky over Webbery Cross but they are not busying themselves repairing or building nests. The house sparrow seems to have won the war and is still in possession of his stolen nest. They must have some young as both parent birds are coming and going with beaks full of food. Hopefully we will get the chance to see the

young when they fledge.

There are already plenty of young birds around. We have blue tits, robins and dunnock all still begging for food from their parents even though they are now able to feed themselves.



As I type, a kestrel has landed on the telegraph pole across the road. He's just had a quick look around and has now flown off. He must be hunting, so probably has a nest nearby.

I should credit the RSPB for the pictures above.



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