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**THE LOCAL RAG**

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSNAY

Welcome to the  
**November Edition**  
Volume 17 Issue 10  
2020**COVID-19 at NDDH – update from Andrew Davis, Deputy Medical Director - 16 October.**

You may have seen posts on social media about COVID-19 cases at North Devon District Hospital. I am writing to update you on our position.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, Northern Devon has been fortunate to see low rates of COVID-19 in our community. However, as in other parts of the country we are now seeing a gradual resurgence of infections.

We currently have a low number of COVID positive patients, who are on a separate COVID ward. Our testing quickly identified these patients as COVID positive and they were immediately isolated. Contact tracing was implemented to reduce the risk to anyone else. NDHT numbers are still low compared to elsewhere in the country.

We have measures in place at the hospital to ensure that we can care for COVID positive patients whilst continuing with urgent care, planned elective procedures and outpatient appointments. COVID positive patients are cared for in a separate area of the hospital and all patient care is running as normal. People should still keep their appointments. We very much want to see our patients. Our visiting restrictions remain in place and are detailed on our website: [www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk/patient-information/visiting/](http://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk/patient-information/visiting/)

I'd like to reassure you and all our patients that it is our top priority to keep everyone safe. We have learned a lot from the first wave and continue to use this knowledge and maintain thorough infection prevention practice to keep staff and patients safe. We are well prepared to handle an increase in COVID-19 cases in Northern Devon and have robust plans in place to manage winter pressures alongside.

The continued threat of COVID-19 is real. You can help us by following the government guidelines: **Hands, Face, Space**. Please don't ignore symptoms, in yourself or in your household. We all need to look after ourselves and each other. Stay Safe.

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<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/>

### Publication and Distribution

The **Alverdiscott and Huntsraw 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](mailto: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

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### From The Assistant Editor

We have a good sprinkling of birds in winter.

the garden at the moment, so consequently the fat balls are disappearing at an alarming rate. All the tits are present and correct along with sparrows, wrens and robins. There is a great spotted woodpecker which drops in from time to time and then our local sparrow hawk swoops in and sends everything diving for cover. There is also a chiffchaff, flitting around in the hedge, maybe it's decided to stay here rather than migrate back to the

Med. The two resident collared doves looked as if they were building a nest but now seem to have changed their minds, probably for the best. Then in the field next door we've already had redwings and mistle thrushes in small flocks. I do hope that does not foretell a severe

Talking of severe winters, this one could be particularly hard if the resurgence of CV19 continues. Having spent so much time and effort getting the infection rate down in the first half of the year it seems like we've dropped the ball and are about to let it run riot again. Even here in the south west there are signs that "the numbers are going in the wrong direction".

The update, from Andrew Davis, on the front page says it all. While trying to be reassuring and explaining that NDDH is prepared to deal with whatever comes, he also says that they cannot do it all on their own. We all have to play our part and do the right thing.

### The Future of Huntsraw Church

You will recall that in the last edition of the Local Rag we reported that the future of the church was in jeopardy due to a prolonged closure.

After a well attended AGM it has been agreed that we will explore becoming a Festival Church. The Diocese is about to publish guidance on becoming a Festival Church and the newly elected PCC will take this forward in the new year.

Audrey Alimo

### Emergencies

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Water	0800 1691144
RSPCA	0300 1234999
Calor Gas	0345 7444999

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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](mailto:huntsrawparishhall@outlook.com)

### Community Contacts

#### Advice Lines

<b>Police</b>	<b>101</b>
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](mailto:30096@dc.police.uk)

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

[torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

*Cont'd from Page 9*

The group, under various Chairmen through 2018 and 2019, had fallen foul of revised accounting procedures, as a result missed account submission deadlines and subsequently were fined by the Auditors for lateness. Jean was upset and pressurised by some councillors to resign so, taking the full blame, she offered me her resignation.

As acting Chairman, I have reviewed her performance and conclude that with the turnover of previous Chairmen and councillors (3 chairs + 3 councillors in just over a year!) managing of the situation became disconnected. From the remaining group and with newcomers co-opted, I thought we had identified and corrected procedures and agreed to move on with parish, community endeavours. Based on this and Jean's exemplary service over the past 25 years I persuaded her to stay on, especially in light of my inexperience as acting Chairman - the role I inherited. Jean graciously consented to continue to help and supported me through several months of real pressure trying to unite the Parish Council. I can honestly say I would have thrown in the towel in the face of the constant criticism if not for her support and guidance.

However, following continued calls for her to go from the vocal minority and discrediting online attacks aimed at her and her family she feels she can no longer take the intolerance of certain people, supposedly colleagues and I have therefore, for her wellbeing, now reluctantly accepted her latest request to stand down.

At the time of writing we are looking to recruit a Parish Clerk.

Bruce Millar

Acting Chairman A&H Parish Council

### **From the Rector**

As I get older, it becomes harder and harder to remember things. My excuse is that there is just too much to hold in a very small brain. Maybe it's getting full!

Remembering has always been important to the people of God. Foremost in the Old Testament was Passover, recalling how God saved his people from slavery in Egypt and led them through the desert to the Promised Land. For Christians, the celebration of Holy Communion is central, as we remember Jesus' sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. Remembering God's saving acts in the past increases our faith that he will continue to act for us in our own times and in times to come.

The first two Sunday's in November are important times to remember. The first Sunday in November, the Sunday nearest the feast of All Souls, is used by many churches to remember loved ones who have died; especially those who have departed during the last year. The second Sunday is Remembrance Sunday, and a day to remember those who have given their lives in conflicts passed and to pray for peace.

We will be marking these two special occasions in churches across the Mission Community this year, albeit within the confines of the current circumstances. We would like to invite you to attend these services or join us online. You can find more details on the Mission Community website:

[www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org](http://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org)

Another way the church remembers is through saints' days – special days of the year when we ponder the life of a particular saint. Of course, all Christians are saints, but those with special days tend to be either disciples of Jesus we read about in the bible, or people who subsequently have set an example of how to follow Jesus in the nitty gritty of everyday life. 11<sup>th</sup> November, Armistice Day, is the feast of St Martin of Tours. He served as a soldier in the Roman army during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. One night he met a poor beggar and cut his cloak in half, giving the poor man something to keep warm. That night, Martin had a vision of Jesus wrapped in his cloak. Jesus said, "as you do to the least of these, you do to me". Martin reminds us that we can show our love for God in our love for the poor, and indeed James (Jesus brother) tells us that we cannot claim to love God *unless* we love the poor.

We live in difficult times. Our communities have rallied round to help each other. But it looks like its going to be a tough winter ahead. Let's make sure we keep looking out for each other, and as we do, show our love for the God who loves us all.

**Rev Gary Owen - 01769 560792**

**Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel**

There will be a service at the Chapel on 29 November at 3pm  
led by Rev Rob Blackhall.

Face coverings must be worn, hand gel will be provided and social  
distancing will be maintained.

-----OOOOO-----

**Cleaner Required**

The Chapel requires a cleaner. The work involves 2 hours per fortnight  
at the rate of £10 per hour. If you are interested and would like to know  
more please telephone Elsie Potter on 01271 858534.

**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.

**More Quick Wit**

***Until further notice, the days of the week will be know as Thisday,  
Thatday, Otherday, Someday, Yesterday, Today and Nextday.***

Keep in mind, even during a pandemic, no matter how much chocolate  
you eat, your earrings will still fit.

***The daftest thing I've ever purchased was a 2020 year planner!***

*Elaine Banks - MWiB Weekly email.*

**Leisure**

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

**Poets  
29 To Find**

SHAKESPEARE	WHITMAN	HOPKINS	BYRON	GRAY	OTWAY
WORDSWORTH	ROSETTI	THOMAS	SMITH	NASH	POE
TENNYSON	SHELLEY	SCOTT	KEATS	YEATS	GAY
BROWNING	COWPER	POPE	BURNS	ELIOT	NOYES
COLERIDGE	DRYDEN	AUDEN	LEWIS	OWEN	

**Last time the word was: Secretary**

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 - May be expanding?

Word count 24 = Good. More than 30 = Very Well  
done!

A	S	L
N	I	E
T	I	W

## Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 169

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 168

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

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



**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](http://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/>

<http://torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk/>



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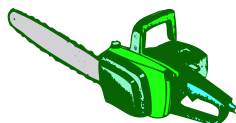
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Parish Council Facebook page: [@alverdiscotthuntshaw](https://www.facebook.com/alverdiscotthuntshaw)

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 Details**

Bruce Millar Acting Chair	<a href="mailto:dbmillar@btinternet.com">dbmillar@btinternet.com</a>	07392 304567
Peter Ley	<a href="mailto:westbarton26@gmail.com">westbarton26@gmail.com</a>	01271 858230
Donald Easterbrook	<a href="mailto:deasterbrook38@gmail.com">deasterbrook38@gmail.com</a>	01805 623113
Eddie Staines	<a href="mailto:eddie@stainestrailers.com">eddie@stainestrailers.com</a>	07831 262808
Tony Goldstone	<a href="mailto:tone4u@googlemail.com">tone4u@googlemail.com</a>	01271 858437
Helen Bolton	<a href="mailto:helen1bolton@btinternet.com">helen1bolton@btinternet.com</a>	01271 858885

**County and District Councillors****County Councillor**

Linda Hellyer [linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk) 07828 758360

**District Councillor**

Rosemary Lock [councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk) 01805 804254

**PLEASE NOTE - All the original events and planned work at St Mary Magdalene Huntshaw have been postponed until further notice, pending the course of Covid -19.**

**\*\*\*See p15 for the latest news\*\*\***

You can also keep a watch on our website [www.huntshawchurch.com/](http://www.huntshawchurch.com/) for the most up-to-date information.



### Parish Council News

#### Tribute To Long Serving Alverdiscott & Huntshaw Parish Councillor

It is with regret we have another vacancy on the Parish Council for Alverdiscott. Notices are on the Notice Boards. Councillor Francis Courtenay has dedicated around 40 years service to the Parish Council, our longest standing member. We would like to thank Francis for his attendance over the years (not many meetings missed) and numerous stories he has given us one time and another. Thank you Francis we will miss you and your knowledge of the local area and our community.



Please see page 9 for an update from the Acting Chair Bruce Millar.

### Planning Applications

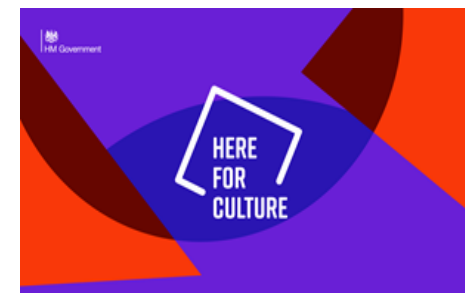
Application Number and Date	Description <i>Full Details Available from Torridge District Council Website - <a href="http://www.torridge.gov.uk/plans">www.torridge.gov.uk/plans</a></i>	Parish Comment	LPA Decision And Date
1/0399/2019 03/12/2019	Proposed extension to shed and formalisation of B2 (General Industrial) Use (amend description, revised plans, transport and noise reports) Staines Trailers Ltd Huntshaw.	18/12/19	Awaited
1/0624/2020 28/07/2020	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house And associated building operations under Class Q (affecting a public right of way) Nethercott Farm, Alverdiscott	Emailed	Approved
1/0542/2020 3/08/2020	Erection of 4 holiday lodges. Land at Grid Ref: 252226 123009 Huntshaw. Adjacent to Foxdown Woods.	Emailed	Awaited
1/0340/2020	Conversion of 2 Barns into domestic dwellings & associated site works, Woodtown Farm, Woodtown.	Emailed	Approved
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
1/0777/2020 23/09/2020	Replacement windows at Rice Mill Cottage Alverdiscott Road.	Emailed	Awaited

#### Good News from the Friends of Huntshaw Church

We were thrilled to hear we have received funding thanks to the government's -

#### #CultureRecoveryFund.

The Church is one of 445 heritage organisations across the country set to receive a lifesaving financial boost from the government thanks to the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.



The 445 organisations will share £103 million to help restart vital reconstruction work and maintenance on cherished heritage sites, keeping venues open and supporting those working in the sector.

The Friends of the church have been awarded £11,900 to fund urgent repairs arising from storm damage and to revive our restoration and conservation programme. The funding has to be used by 31<sup>st</sup> March, so we have a busy winter ahead. Further guidance from the #CultureRecoveryFund is awaited.



We are #HereForCulture

More information on the above will be posted on the Friends website [www.huntshawchurch.com/](http://www.huntshawchurch.com/) and on the church notice board.

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### Alverdiscott & Huntshaw Parish Council an Update

Following the resignation of our friend and long serving Clerk, Jean Huxtable, I, as acting Chairman, feel it is necessary to inform parishioners of the current situation and some background to Jean's situation.

As many will be aware the Parish Council has long been a forum for local issues, obtained funds for example to build the bus shelter, works in the parish and a supporter of local amenities such as the village halls, church's up keep, etc. We are currently working with our local County Councillor Linda Hellyer on measures to address speed issues through our Parish. She is a great servant in our community helping for example to sort road access, pothole, and flooding issues.

The current council group and their families have given their time freely over the past 40+ years and I'm impressed with their depth of local knowledge and trust in each other. In the course of our efforts we've discovered that previously accepted ways of doing things are no longer acceptable in these days of digitisation and rigid procedure.

*Cont'd on Page 14*



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