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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

**Welcome to the
February Edition**

Volume 18 Issue 1
2021



Publication and Distribution

The **Alverdiscott and Huntsnap 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 again and welcome to the February issue. Hope you all had a good Christmas and survived the lockdown. The situation was always likely to get worse before it got better, and it has. Even our quiet corner of the forest has seen Covid cases rising and hospital admissions growing. We all need to follow the rules and keep our heads down. That is the only way we stand any chance of getting through this. Even with the vaccination programme gaining speed it will be some time before we see any positive results.

The weather isn't helping. Any more rain and my chicken will need wellies. But as always there are others much worse off than we are. Up country the Covid figures are much higher and the heavy rain is causing some serious flooding. **Roll on Spring.**

The snowdrops on the front cover are not in our garden, sadly, but we do have a few showing through already. And lots of daffodils coming.

The garden birds are also making their presence felt, so the fat balls are still disappearing at a pace. The robins, 4 or 5 of them, are always squabbling. There is a blackbird which has learned to hang on the feeders just like a blue tit. He used to hop around picking up the scraps that fell from the feeders but obviously that wasn't good enough.

We've also had a pair of bull finches in the bramble hedge looking really pretty. They are one of my favourite birds.

And we have a new President in the White House. Hooray, I think...

Yes, Two Thousand and Twenty was a difficult year,
But there were brighter moments that brought us 'good cheer',
Who can forget Captain Sir Tom with his frame?
Walking in his garden - to raise funds was his aim!
The millions that were raised was to help with the stress
On 'key workers' and our wonderful, brave NHS!
Captain Tom's humble efforts - a real inspiration
Had lifted the spirits of our 'Covid hit' Nation!

Some other good news was the kindnesses shown

To elderly neighbours and folk living alone,
The Community spirit was a 'Beacon of Light',

Midst the worry and sadness of the Pandemic's blight!

Other news in the year, had to take second place,
But we did hear Donald Trump lost the 'President's Race'!!

Also Boris succeeded - with just days to spare

In a 'Brexit Trade Deal' that we hope will prove fair!

So now it's the start of the New Year 'Twenty-one'!

Vaccinations are promised and have already begun!

Captain Tom said "Tomorrow will be a good day"!

What better sentiment can we hope for and pray?

Muriel Moore - Completed on January 4th 2021

Emergencies

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

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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 & Enquiries

Alverdiscott	David Potter
	01271 858534
Huntsnap	Suzy White
	07711 787853

huntsnapparishhall@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

2020 - That Was The Year That Was!

Two Thousand and Twenty was a very strange year
 When disruptions to life caused a lack of 'good cheer'!
 Who could have forecast as the New Year was dawning
 That the 'Covid' pandemic would strike without warning?
 The first signs of a problem had seemed far away,
 And looked highly unlikely to reach the UK!
 But by March we had 'Lockdown' - we were shocked to the core,
 'Covid' cases kept rising - each day more and more!
 All functions were cancelled - there was nowhere to go,
 Many businesses struggled - with the lack of 'cash-flow'!
 Workers were furloughed as their jobs disappeared,
 A global disaster was by then plainly feared!
 Exams were suspended - as the Schools had closed down
 In nationwide villages, cities and towns!
 Home learning 'on-line' a modern innovation!
 Helped so many pupils to receive education.
 All Sport fixtures banished - both indoors and out,
 The 'Olympics' postponed, bringing anguish no doubt,
 Wimbledon cancelled - seldom heard of before!
 Not since the 40's, during the Second World War!
 Real hardships continued and no end was in sight,
 But as weeks trundled by there were glimpses of light,
 Sporting fixtures resumed - but the

'Grandstands' were bare!
 No clapping or cheering could be heard anywhere!
 Restrictions kept changing - sometimes hard to digest,
 And we weren't always sure what to do for the best!
 All we could wish for, was a time when it ends,
 And again to meet safely with family and friends.
 By September most pupils had returned to their schools,
 With new measures in place to adhere to the rules,
 Church Services had resumed - but no singing allowed!
 And 'Social Distancing' rules, excluded a crowd!
 In spite of restrictions, the virus gathered pace,
 It then became law to conduct 'Track and Trace'!
 A 'Tier' system followed - we were placed in 'Tier 2',
 But it still seemed confusing just what we could do!
 Christmas was approaching - big decisions to make!
 Just how many risks was it prudent to take
 So that families could gather as they do every year?
 'Five Days' was the answer, to bring some welcome 'good cheer'!
 But within days a new strain of the virus emerged,
 Far more contagious than the original scourge!
 An announcement soon followed - 'Five Days' changed to 'One'!
 Christmas Day now the only day for family fun!

From the Rector Rev Gary Owen - 01769 560792

For Christmas I was given the book ***A Cheesemongers Guide to the British Isles***. It's proving a fascinating read, telling the history of how cheesemaking developed in the UK in the context of wider historical developments.

Apparently cheesemaking took significant steps forward in the early medieval period in the monasteries. These great institutions had the resources to experiment and experiment they did. Monasteries were not just places of prayer, but centres of learning and economic hubs, with a surprising amount of interaction across the continent of Europe.

Monasteries were at the forefront of scientific experimentation and discovery. Behind this endeavour was a belief that the world was made according to God's purpose and plan. Science was a means to discover more about that world, and its creator, and harness the resources of the world for the good of humankind.

I find it sad that so many people today seem to think that there is a conflict between science and faith, when the two should compliment each other. It's a simplification, but science can help us understand how the world works and faith why it is that way and the point to it all.

Not too long ago, when it was still possible to meet in person, I ran an Alpha course, to help people explore the Christian faith. One participant had for years assumed that he could never be a Christian because he believed in science. It was a revelation to him to discover that it was quite possible to do both. And indeed, many of the great scientists of our day are people of faith, including Francis Collins who led the human genome project and has been working on the USA's response to Covid. Interestingly Francis Collins became a Christian when he realised that he was a scientist, who relied on open minded inquiry for his work and yet he had dismissed Christianity without ever exploring it properly for himself. An honest and open inquiry led to his accepting the truth of Christianity and his commitment to Jesus.

Science can neither prove nor disprove Christianity. Scientists will differ in their views of faith. But if you have never seriously explored the claims of Jesus, my encouragement is to do so. Watching the Alpha course videos on YouTube is a great way of getting started. And the great thing is, you can do it during Covid from the comfort of your own home - maybe with a glass of wine and some cheese...



Old Newspapers Required!

Before Christmas Claire and Roy had too many duck eggs. That problem has been resolved, but now they have a need for old newspapers, for lining the various duck and chicken houses. If you can help, then please give them a call on 858587. Roy will collect them if that helps.

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.

Local Rag Accounts Jan - Dec 2020

Brought Forward	£600.93		
Income		Outgoing	
Advertising	£192.00	Printing	£414.00
Donations	£52.00		
PC Grant	£320.00		
Totals	£1,164.93		£414.00
Carried forward	£750.93		

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

Desserts to Savour 21 To Find

TREACLE TARTS	BANOFFEE PIE	SORBET	JELLY	SUNDAE
BAKED ALASKA	CHARLOTTE	CAJETA	FOOL	
BLANC MANGE	GATEAU	SPONGE	ICES	
BANANA SPLIT	MOUSSE	CRUMBLE	PAVLOVA	
SPOTTED DICK	CUSTARD	FLAN	TRIFLES	

Last time the word was: Christmas

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 - Vaccine

Word count 35 = Good. More than 40 = Very Well done!

R	A	M
N	E	T
T	E	T

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 171

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 170

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

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

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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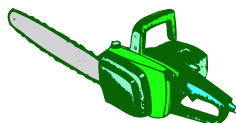
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**CV19 Update from Devon County Council Newsletter - 14 January**

- Think twice before leaving home**

Devon's Director of Public Health, Steve Brown, [has called on us all to be extra vigilant in following the Government's COVID-19 lockdown rules, and to "think twice" before we leave our homes.](#)

This follows a stark warning from the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty, that the next few weeks will be "the worst" of the pandemic for the NHS, and that the UK will go through the "most dangerous time" in the weeks before the vaccination rollout has an impact.

- Vaccine scam warning**

[Trading Standards is warning the public to be on their guard following reports that fraudsters are sending out fake texts offering a COVID-19 vaccine in an attempt to steal bank details.](#)

The text offers a link to what police call an "extremely convincing" fake NHS website.

Once on the website people are asked to input their bank details to register for a vaccine.

The scam message reads; 'we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine' and then prompts you to click on a link for further information or to 'apply' for the vaccine.

If you receive a text or email that asks you to click on a link or for you to provide information, such as your name, credit card or bank details, **delete it immediately.**

Remember, the NHS will never ask for your payment details.

- COVID-19 Fund launched to help communities**

[Devon County Council has launched its third round of COVID-19 funding to help provide valuable financial support to organisations working in communities that have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak.](#)

The scheme sees grants of up to £700 available.

These and other updates can be found on the DCC website. Follow this link:

[Think twice before leaving home, vaccine scam warning, COVID-19 fund launched to help communities \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Parish Council News

There have been some changes to the Parish Council. A new Parish Clerk has been appointed and new councillors have been elected. There is an up to date list below. There is no planning application information at the moment but hopefully normal service will be restored shortly.

The next meeting will be held, via Zoom, on Wednesday 17th February at 7:30 pm. Please contact one of the councillors or checkout the Parish Council website for further information, if you would like to attend.

Parish Clerk - David Branston

07913 977106

Parish Council Email: contact@alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk

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

Parish Council Website: <https://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk>

Remember The Local Rag is available on the PC website

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

Tony Goldstone - Acting Chairman	01271 858437
Peter Ley	01271 858230
Donald Easterbrook	07971 278984
Eddie Staines	07831 262808
Helen Bolton	01271 858885
Bernard Hardwicke	01271 858676
Alan Saunders	01271 858522
Des Thorpe	01805 893105
Jean Huxtable	01271 624199
Colin Webber	01271 858419

County and District Councillors**County Councillor**

Linda Hellyer linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk 07828 758360

District Councillor

Rosemary Lock councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk 01805 804254

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT

Our Christmas efforts to raise some funds were more successful than anticipated. The Quiz Sheets and sale of homemade mincemeat, plus some donations, raised approximately £300. Liz thought she would be making about 20 jars of mincemeat but ended up with 95! At least it kept her busy during the November lockdown! A huge thankyou to everyone who supported our efforts.

We are hoping that we will be able to hold some fund raising later in the year but will wait until the Covid position improves and restrictions are lifted before making any specific plans. The most likely events, which can be held with social distancing are Sunday Lunch and Musical Lunches. We look forward to meeting with our supporters later in the year.

Graham White

Church Services at All Saints

At the time of writing, we have had to cease holding services in some mission community churches, whilst managing to keep others open. We recognise that attending a service can be important for mental as well as spiritual health and want to offer the opportunity to attend church where we can do so safely. We also recognise the importance of staying home, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

The situation is too fluid to give details of services in a written magazine – things are changing almost by the day! Please see our website for up to date information: www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

We are holding services via Zoom for those staying at home and log in details can be obtained by contacting Rev Gary on revgaryowen@gmail.com. We are also posting a weekly sermon and prayers on YouTube – type “Two Rivers Mission Community” into the search bar of YouTube to find us.

Most churches remain open at least one day per week for private prayer – again check out the website for up to date information.

Help and a Prayer

Church has always been the people of God. Whether we can meet in person in our buildings or not, we are still the people of God and still want to bless and serve our communities. If we can be of any help, or even if you just want a chat or someone to pray (for you or someone else) **please get in touch.**

Rev Gary

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What Price Technology?

Twelve months ago I, along with many other people, had never even heard of "Zoom" but now it figures quite largely in my life. I have even attended a Zoom training course - via Zoom - run by the Methodist Church.

The Torridge Methodist Circuit, led by the Reverend Robert Blackhall, holds a Church service every Sunday morning via Zoom which I, and almost a third of the circuit, regularly attend. Weekly Bible Studies and prayer meetings are held via Zoom, and several Church business meetings have also been held via Zoom.

Although it has some disadvantages it also has several advantages. Firstly, I don't have to go out in the wind and the rain and secondly I don't have to drive home in the dark, if it's an evening meeting!

Before lockdown I was attending **Wendy's Fitness for Life** exercise classes once or twice a week. Since lockdown Wendy has been running these classes via Zoom so now I can join in the exercises from home.

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Well - Elsie



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