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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

**Welcome to the
June Edition**
Volume 18 Issue 5
2021

Common Raven - Corvus Corax



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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

Has anyone seen a raven in the Webbery Cross area??? I first noticed a large black bird at the beginning of May. It was in the field behind our cottage being mobbed by a couple of crows. My first thought was maybe it was sick or injured. However it was fighting back and didn't seem all that bothered by their antics. I've since seen it several times, and have now convinced myself that it really is a raven but I haven't been able to get a properly good view of it.

I then happened to mention it to Kate and Viv at Huntshaw Cross and they said - "oh yeah, there are lots of them hereabouts!" So my significant sighting wasn't significant at all! Oh well, it's a first for the field behind WXC, unless you know different... And what is it with the weather? All

this rain is crazy. For March and April we had a combined total of 76.5mm - so far, up to 22 May, we've had 168mm! That's a lot of rain. And as well as that it's been really cold - for May. I remember reading somewhere that global warming would likely lead to the UK having a Mediterranean style climate, which I seem to remember, from my old geography lessons, means hot dry summers and warm wet winters. Of course that was a long time ago so maybe I've got that wrong!

The swallows are definitely back, there are scores of them overhead in spite of the awful weather. Sadly I have not seen a single house martin. In previous years they have arrived late April or early May. Twice, in 2013 and 2014, they arrived in June so maybe there is still time.

Progress on Funding Repairs for Huntshaw's Bells

At the turn of the year we were granted a Faculty from the Diocese in Exeter for repair to the 3 bells and medieval oak bell frame, and so in January we set about putting in for grants to pay for it. (The tower was added onto the church in 1439 and the earliest bell dates from the very early 1500's).

The good news is, out of about £30k needed, we are almost halfway there. To date we have the following allocated:- £5,000 from **Garfield Weston Foundation**, £2,000 from **Allchurches Trust** and just in before going to press in May, £4,500 from **ChurchCare** supported by the Pilgrims Trust, plus several smaller amounts from people like **The Sharpe Bell Trust** and **Elmgrant** down in Dartmouth.

We hope also to put on some 'bell related' events of talks/exhibits etc. later in the Summer but this of course depends on Covid, and the relaxation of the rules after June. If all goes to plan and we can complete funding from grants and fundraising, the work can go ahead either in the Winter or early next year.

Richard Sears – for Friends of St Mary Magdalene Church, Huntshaw.

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 & Enquiries

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alverdiscott Hall | David Potter 01271 858534 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Huntshaw Parish Hall | Suzy White 07711 787853 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|

huntshawparishhall@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

Huntsraw Parish Hall

Huntsraw have been busy planning some events for the coming year. Obviously it will all depend on how things evolve regarding CV19 but please put these dates in your diary and let's hope they can all take place.

Saturday 3rd July - time tbc - Community Bonfire @ Jenny's

Saturday 7th August - 12 noon? - AGM & Summer Sausage Sizzle

Saturday 18th September - time tbc - Harvest Supper

Saturday 30th October - time tbc - Halloween Skittles and Social night

Saturday 11th December - time tbc - Christmas Party

The committee at Huntsraw Parish Hall have been busy preparing for re-opening. We have given the front elevation a fresh coat of paint and have some beautiful flowers out too. We have plans for a new noticeboard and sign. We also have plans to install an overhead projector and some renovation/improvement work. The Hall is open for hire (subject to Covid restrictions) enquiries welcome to huntsrawparishhall@outlook.com

Coming up! Post lock down gathering on the 3rd July 6pm +/- bonfire (If the blackbird moves out). Meet at the Hall at 6pm for a social gathering. We will aim to be outside for food and drink and a good catch up. Further updates will be in the July Rag and posted on the Alverdiscott and Huntsraw community Facebook page.

We really hope you can join us. Come and say "Hi!" (numbers may need to be limited based on Covid restrictions in place at the time so just Email us to say you are coming!) Thank you - **Suzy White**

Name that Poo!



OK, is there someone out there who can identify this poo? I found it in our garden, there were a couple of patches nearby. The 2 flowers in the picture are daisies that give some idea of the scale.

The poo is black but has white streaks in it. I tend to associate white with bird poo, but this seems a bit on the big side for a bird.

If you have any ideas please get in touch and I'll publish them next month. **David**

From the Rector Rev Gary Owen - 01769 560792

Do you ever pray? I seem to remember a recent survey showed that more people pray than believe in God! Maybe there is something deep inside us which longs for a connection with something, or someone, bigger than ourselves.

Many of us will have been taught, as a child, simple bedtime prayers of blessing for our families. We may have learned to say the Lord's prayer in school, not always understanding that we aren't praying to a God called "Harold" but rather wanted God's name to be 'hallowed'! Maybe, we call out to God in moments of crisis when there doesn't seem anything else left to try.

But prayer is all about a relationship. When Jesus' disciples asked him how to pray, he taught them to talk to "Our Father". Through a relationship with Jesus, we can know the Creator of the universe as one closer and more loving than any human parent could ever be. In the Lord's prayer, we pray collectively "our Father", recognising that all Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ and we have responsibilities to each other and the wider world.

But prayer is also deeply personal and we need to find a way to pray that 'fits' with the way God has made us. Some of us might find it easiest to pray sat in a comfy chair whilst nursing our morning coffee. Others will prefer to pray whilst walking the lanes and hills and feeling the wind, sun, or more likely rain on our face. Praying with others energises some of us, whilst others need quiet and personal space. There is no right or wrong – just variety.

Between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday churches in the Two Rivers Mission Community joined in a global wave of prayer called **Thy Kingdom Come**. We prayed for people to find the joy of a relationship with God as 'heavenly Father' through his Son, Jesus.

Perhaps you aren't even sure if you believe in God... and yet there is something niggling away inside you, urging you to pray. Let me encourage you to give it a go. A good start might be: "I'm not sure if you are real, but if you are, it would be great if we could have a chat" and then share what's on your heart and mind with God. And take some time to listen. It may just be that God has something he wants to say to you.

If you are more used to praying, but would like some help to grow in prayer, check out www.24-7prayer.com/helpmepray, or get in touch with the Christians at your local church.

Please see www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org for up-to-date information.



Now more than ever is the time to
take up music.

Ever wanted to try a sax, a flute
or the liquorice stick (clarinet)?

Playing the piano can be so therapeutic.

My adult pupils have found it really calming during these trying times
Contact me for details as to how to start thinking about it.
Anne - 07739 581839 or Email - gilksanne@gmail.com

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Rivers of the World

20 to Find

AMAZON

NILE

DEE

TIGRIS

DANUBE

RHINE

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URAL

NIGER

SEINE

VOLGA

YANGTZE

LOIRE

THAMES

MOLE

ELBE

OB

TIBER

ZAMBEZI

DON

Last time the word was: Pizzicato

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 - Beetles Hit - in USA.

Word count 25 = Good. More than 32 = Well done!

| | | |
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| S | E | T |
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Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 175

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 174

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

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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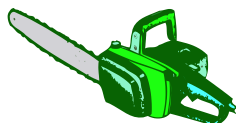
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Covid Update One Million Milestone Reached in Devon Covid Update
as Over 38's Invited to Book Vaccination

Two-thirds of UK adults have received their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, and in Devon vaccinations have passed the one million milestone, thanks to the enormous efforts of vaccine staff and volunteers over the last five months.

Residents aged over 38 years old are now being invited to [book their vaccination appointments via the NHS website](#) or by calling 119.

On 10 May 2021, the [UK Chief Medical Officers recommended](#) that the UK Covid-19 alert level moved from level four to level three.

It means that, although coronavirus is still in general circulation, transmission is no longer high or rising exponentially, and so restrictions can gradually be relaxed.

The joint statement said:

"Thanks to the efforts of the UK public in social distancing and the impact we are starting to see from the vaccination programme, case numbers, deaths and Covid hospital pressures have fallen consistently".

"However Covid is still circulating, with people catching and spreading the virus every day, so we all need to continue to be vigilant. This remains a major pandemic, globally".

"It is very important that we all continue to follow the guidance closely and everyone gets both doses of the vaccine when they are offered it."

Director of Public Health Devon Steve Brown is
encouraging everyone to Go for the Flow

One in three people with coronavirus don't have any symptoms, and even if you've been vaccinated you can still catch and spread the virus. By taking twice-weekly rapid lateral flow tests you can play your part in keeping Devon safe and control the spread of the virus.

Find out more about how and where to access rapid lateral flow tests on our website: devon.cc/flow or call 0345 155 1015.

Parish Council News**Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers**

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Peter Ley | 01271 858230 |
| Donald Easterbrook | 07971 278984 |
| Eddie Staines | 07831 262808 |
| Bernard Hardwicke | 01271 858676 |
| Alan Saunders | 01271 858522 |
| Des Thorpe | 01805 893105 |
| Jean Huxtable | 01271 624199 |
| Colin Webber | 01271 858419 |

E&OE

Parish Clerk - TBAParish Council Email: contact@alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.ukParish Council Facebook page: [@alverdiscotthuntshaw](https://www.facebook.com/alverdiscotthuntshaw)Parish Council Website: <https://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk>*The Local Rag is available to view on the PC website***County and District Councillors and Police & Crime Commissioner****County Councillor**Linda Hellyer linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk 07828 758360**District Councillor**Rosemary Lock councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk 01805 804254**PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**Alison Hernandez alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk 01392 459808**Jokes and Witty One Liners - 'cos Right Now We All Need Something To Laugh About!**

A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked: "Why do you think I wear this collar?" One child answered: "Because it kills ticks and fleas for up to 30 Days?"

Last night I made a lamb curry, but apparently they prefer grass.

How good is my speech therapist? It's hard to say...

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH**A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Take-away Supper.**

The evening was such a great success that we are planning another one on 4th June. **Full details are in the separate advert on p9.**

With lockdown restrictions easing further we are starting to think about other events. All being well we will hold a Sunday Lunch in July but we will confirm in the next edition. We would like to have the first draw of our **Supporters Club Lottery** at that event but still need a few more people to sign up to make it worthwhile. In case you missed the information in the last edition of The Rag here are the details:

- ♦ The Club will be open to all local residents and their families and friends.
- ♦ Members will pay an annual fee of £12 for each number purchased.
- ♦ There will be a draw each month and 50% of takings will be paid out in prizes. The other 50% will be used for the maintenance of the church and grounds.
- ♦ The Club will have a set of rules which will be available to all members.

Friends of All Saints Church Supporters Club

I would like to join the Supporters Club and purchase tickets at £12 per ticket for one year.

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Telephone No.

Email address

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louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com

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