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**THE LOCAL RAG**

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
August Edition
Volume 18 Issue 7
2021

Common Sense – An Obituary

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, **Common Sense**. He had been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

1. Knowing when to come in out of the rain. **2.** Why the early bird gets the worm. **3.** That Life isn't always fair, and **4.** OK, maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies – don't spend more than you earn – and reliable strategies – adults, not children, are in charge.

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate: teens suspended for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition. Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do, namely, disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a real beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar, in your own home, and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a customer failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilled a little in their lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents: Truth and Trust. By his wife: Discretion. By his daughter: Responsibility, and by his son: Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers: I know my rights; I want it now; Someone else is to blame; I'm a victim and, Pay me for doing nothing. Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing...

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

So here we are, most of the Covid restrictions have been lifted by dear Boris. But it feels a bit like **"Groundhog Day"**. Could we be jumping the gun, again?

I know we've all had enough and want to get back to the normal as it was BC - Before Covid - but that's not going to happen.

We are going to be stuck with it for the foreseeable future, maybe for ever.

Washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing have all helped to keep us safe since March last year. The proof, if needed, is that there have been very few cases of other "normal" infectious diseases during that period. Coughs and colds, sore throats and even flu have all been reduced. Every time the number of Covid cases falls we have relaxed the

restrictions and guess what, Covid comes back to bite us. It is always looking for a way in. That's what it does and it's very good at it.

So we are going to have to be very good at defeating it...

On the other hand, some things are starting to look more normal. In Huntshaw there are activities being planned at the Church and the Parish Hall, with details on p11 & 14.

And on p7 & 9 there are details of proposed events at Alverdiscott Hall. Obviously, all these plans come with a Covid health warning! We also have some bookings coming in at Alverdiscott hall. There's a keep-fit class on Tuesday mornings and a local band are holding their practice sessions on Thursday evenings. The Dog Club and Country Music Club are both keen to get started again.

Important Announcement

Tent Café

**At St Michael's Church Horwood
Throughout August 2021**

**Tuesdays 2 to 4pm
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Water	0800 1691144
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Calor Gas	0345 7444999

Medical

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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 & Enquiries

Alverdiscott Hall	David Potter 01271 858534
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Huntshaw Parish Hall	Suzy White 07711 787853
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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

Huntsnash Parish Hall - Latest Updates

Huntsnash 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 7th August - 12 noon? - AGM & Summer BBQ *Note below

Saturday 11th September - time 7pm - Harvest Supper *Note below

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

Saturday 11th December - time tbc - Christmas Party

The committee at Huntsnash 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 huntsnashparishhall@outlook.com - **Suzy White**

Saturday August 7th from 12 noon. Free BBQ for all residents of Huntsnash Parish, and a talk from **Richard Sears** on the history of the bells in the Church. Meet at the Hall. Just let us know you are coming!

Email: huntsnashparishhall@outlook.com

Notice of AGM

HUNTSNASH PARISH HALL

Saturday 7th August @ 12.00 noon

Nominations welcome to join committee

Email: huntsnashparishhall@outlook.com

Huntsnash Harvest Supper - 11th September at 7pm

Cold cuts, wide variety of salads and delicious deserts.

Tickets in advance from Jenny Staines 01805 624490

£12 per adult, £8 under 12s. In aid of raising **Community Spirit**, the Church and Hall funds!

From the Rector Rev Gary Owen - 01769 560792

It's been a real joy to resume weddings in church. So many of the weddings booked for 2020 had to be postponed. The first few weddings of this year have taken place with limits on the numbers attending and the wearing of face masks. Couples have been very inventive. One couple supplied blue masks to those on the groom's side and pink for those on the bride's.

A church wedding is special for many reasons and not just the beauty of the building. The traditional vows enable couples to make solemn yet joyful promises deep from the heart. Offering God's blessing on a couple as they are united in marriage and the whole congregation praying for them surely gives a husband a wife the best start to married life.

There is of course plenty of opportunity for each couple to 'customise' their wedding and make it their own. We always let couples choose their own bible reading. Many opt for 1 Corinthians 13, in which St Paul talks about the nature of love. You may well be familiar with the words: "love is patient, love is kind, it does not ..."

These words, apt as they are for a wedding, were not written primarily for couples getting married, but to a church struggling to live out the Christian life in the context of a permissive, licentious society. Society was urging people to chase their dreams and to seek personal fulfilment. St Paul said to love others by putting their good before your own.

The most famous verse of the bible, John 3.16 says, "for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him might not perish but have eternal life." God is a God who shows his love by giving of himself for others. Paul encourages Christians to love in the same way. This is the recipe for building happy and fulfilling marriages... and it's also the recipe for building successful families, communities and societies.

I pray that all this year's wedding couples might enjoy long and happy marriages; with their love being not just a blessing for themselves but overflowing to those around them. I pray too that as churches and communities we might look to Jesus to learn what it means to love and show that love to those around us.

Cont'd on Page 4

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

ALVERDISCOTT - OLD STABLES at LUPPINCOTT FARM

I am looking for someone to clean house after visits by family and friends, and prepare for the next. **Weekday** changeovers, once or twice a month.

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Cont'd from Page 3

Did you know that recent changes in marriage law mean that:

- When a marriage takes place in church, clergy now supply details of the wedding (signed by the couple and witnesses) to the government's registration service for inclusion in a digital database.
- Mothers' names and occupations can now be recorded in the marriage register along with fathers.
- Couples can apply for a marriage certificate from the registration service.

Other rules relating to marriage in church remain the same.

Leisure

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

“World-ly” Things

18 to Find

ANCIENT	CUP	NEXT	SMALL	WATER
ATLAS	LOST	OLD	THIRD	WEARY
BANK	MAP	ORDER	VIEW	
CLASS	NEW	OTHER	WAR	

Last time the word was: Direction

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 - Speedy

Word count 25 = Good. More than 30 = Well done!

D	A	M
M	E	E
I	T	I

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 177

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 176

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

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 continue to live in difficult times.
Life still feels very different, and it is hard not
meeting and worshipping as we used to.

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.

Services planned at Alverdiscott Chapel during August

8 August	11am	Led by Lorna Dawe
22 August	11am	Led by Duncan Withall

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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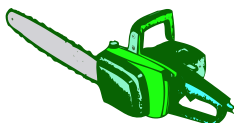
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**FRIENDS OF HUNTSRAW CHURCH**

As I write this, Freedom Day has arrived and we are being told that we have to 'live with covid'. So, it is with some trepidation that I announce that we are opening the church on the weekend of 7th August. We are planning an open day on Sunday, 8th August, 11 am – 5 pm, that will see the launch of the graveyard survey, completed in 2020 by Richard Sears' but not yet unveiled to our friends from Alverdiscott and Huntshaw.

There will also be displays on the bell project and on Cuthbert Mayne, Huntshaw's first and only saint. We hope to put on tours and talks, and light refreshments will be available. The day will finish with a service in the church yard (Time tbc). The church will also be open on Saturday 7th August to coincide with our **Summer Sausage Sizzle aka BBQ**.

We will keep a close eye on government advice in the lead-up to these events and take the necessary precautions to keep people safe. This will include hand gel, ventilation and restricting numbers to ensure sufficient space for those who wish to maintain social distancing. Please access our website www.huntshawchurch.com or the Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Facebook page for updates. Audrey Alimo.

Harvest Festival Saturday, 11th September. A service will take place (time tbc) followed by a Harvest Supper in the parish hall.

Jokes and Witty One Liners - 'cos Right Now We All Need Something To Laugh About!

The second time **Hansel and Gretel** found a house made of cookies and candy, they sent someone else in to test nibble it first.

This technique became known as "Munch Housen by Proxy"... *Feel free to groan!*

Parish Council News**Parish Council Meeting**

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Alverdiscott Hall on
THURSDAY 29 July at 7.30pm.**

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

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

E&OE

Parish Clerk - TBA

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>

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

Alverdiscott Community Hall

The Hall Committee recently held its first meeting for nearly a year. It was agreed that, because of the ongoing covid situation, event planning will proceed with caution. Whilst it would be great for the community to be able to get together again the committee does not feel it wants to organise events where a lot of people will be gathered in close proximity. With that in mind we will be holding a Garden Party at the Hall on Saturday 28th August. There will be a free cream tea for everyone who comes along plus a selection of stalls and outdoor activities. We are hoping for fine weather so that everything can be outside. However if it should be wet we will go ahead indoors and spread everything out around the Hall.

Assuming life continues without further covid restrictions we plan to have our **Harvest Supper on 24th September** and **A Not Quite so Big Breakfast on 31st October**. Further information will be available closer to the dates but we expect to restrict numbers for both events, and will take bookings for the Breakfast.

Due to covid restrictions we have been unable to hold our AGM this year. The first part of our next committee meeting on 16th August will therefore be used to approve the accounts and annual report for 2020, and to formally appoint the officers for this year. This will be a very brief part of the meeting but anyone can attend.

The committee is hoping that in 2022 we will be able to run a full programme of events and that life will feel normal again. **We live in hope!**

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT

Thank you to everyone who supported our July Take Away, we raised another £600. We will be taking a break from our Take Aways in August and what we do in September will depend on the Covid situation. If case numbers are down we hope to run a Sunday Lunch, although we will still look at keeping numbers low to keep everyone safe. If case numbers remain high we will go ahead with more Take Aways. They certainly seem to have proved popular.

The committee is also thinking about other events that can be run safely. The Musical Lunches are a definite possibility – look out for more news of these next month.

Our first Supporters Club Draw took place this month. The winners were:

1 st	Frank Grills - £18
2 nd	Richard and Angela Ford - £11
3 rd	Liz White - £7

Thank you to everyone who is supporting this venture. We now have over 70 supporters participating but still have space for more. If you would like more information please contact Louise Saunders on 01271 858522 louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com

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ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL
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at the Hall
Saturday 28th August
2.30pm to 5pm



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Grounds

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