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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
February Edition
Volume 20 Issue 1
2023

**ALVERDISCOTT & HUNTSRAW PARISH COUNCIL
MOROCCAN POWER CABLE &
CONVERTER STATION**

There was a public meeting held at Alverdiscott Village Hall on the 9th December 2022 with Sir Geoffrey Cox MP called to address the communities concerns over the Xlinks proposed project. In attendance was a large number of the public (between 70 -100) who were able to put forward their concerns on this proposal to our local MP.

Sir Geoffrey spent around 2 hours discussing the issues and addressing numerous questions raised during the meeting. He has since called a meeting with the CEO of Xlinks and will put forward the communities concerns. He will then call another local public session at a later date, when he has further information.

Earlier in the week the PC held an extraordinary meeting and the majority of the Parish Councillors attended the 9th December session. The Parish Councils' report on this can be viewed on the PC website, <https://alverdiscott-huntshaw-parish.org.uk/>

More information can be found on Sir Geoffrey's website:

<https://www.geoffreycox.co.uk/news/xlinks-solar-project>

Xlinks website also has information

www.xlinks.co/devon

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

Hello and welcome to the February issue of the Local Rag. As always there are lots of things going on. Plans are being hatched for new events in 2023.

The Parish Council now seems to be getting its act together. Which is good news.

On a national level however, things are not looking so clever. Am I the only one who thinks the whole fabric of our society is slowly falling apart? We seem to have lost the knack of doing things properly. We are in danger of becoming what used to be called a "Third World" country, I think that has been replaced by "Developing Country" but whatever it's called we are in danger of losing out. After the shambles that was Ms L Truss, we still have two or three foot-in-mouth moments per week.

The government is in disarray. We deserve better and I don't think any of us voted for the daily disasters we are being treated to at the moment. It is hard to see how we get out of the this mess, but we need to do something soon.

Rant over, and on a brighter note, the days are getting longer and the rain has stopped, for the moment. The daffs are showing through and we have some snowdrops out in the garden. Spring is getting nearer and that can only be a good thing.

The Xlinks project, to bring a supply of electricity from Morocco to the UK, has "**exploded**" into life. The residents of the Gammaton Cross area have mobilised against the planned DC/AC Converter buildings that would be a huge blot on their landscape. See front cover and p11.

Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Parish Council require a Parish Clerk.

The Council meets six times a year on the second Wednesday of the month. Additional meetings may occasionally be required, although these would be only in exceptional circumstances. Hours would be expected to average no more than 2 hours per week.

Working from home, duties would include managing the day to day business of the council, attending evening council meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, advising and ensuring decisions are carried through, assisting in maintenance of the council website and publications, and ensuring statutory provisions governing the running of the council are observed.

Previous experience is desirable, but not essential, as training can be arranged. The applicant should have good communication and organisational skills, and be conversant with Microsoft Office. A dedicated laptop and printer are provided.

A nominal salary of £2000pa would be paid, along with relevant expenses. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact the council chairman, Graham White FCMA, on 01271 858441 to have an initial talk.

Emergencies

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Water	0344 346 2020
RSPCA	0300 123 4999
Calor Gas	0345 744 4999

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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 Hall David Potter
01271 858534

Huntshaw Parish Hall Suzy White
07711 787853

huntshawparishhall@outlook.com

Community Contacts

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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:

torridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

For routine messages that **do not** require prompt action.



Friends of Huntshaw Bells

The Last Leg – A Race with the Bats!



It's hard to think that it's almost been a year now since the bells came out and were sent off to Loughborough for repair in March of last year.

But the bat deadline at the beginning of April will again be shortly upon us – when the short eared bats currently in hibernation come out from their caves (wherever they may be) and return to the tower to use it as a base to hunt for flies at night in the warm spring air. (And all bats as we all well know, are legally protected from being disturbed too much in their 'roosts' in summertime).

Currently we are doing some minor strengthening works to the frame this month prior to the bells return, and we are hoping Taylors can come back to rehang them before the April bat deadline.

If all goes to plan, we are aiming to have a service of thanksgiving and first official ring on one of the Saturdays in April with refreshments available afterwards.

We have not got all the money needed by a couple of thousand, but Taylors say that we can pay the balance after they're reinstalled. The final price is uncertain as we are negotiating possible savings (e.g. refurb and reuse of the old bell wheels) but it is likely to come down from the original 36k to the 28k mark. We have managed to source seasoned Elm Headstocks for £300. Wooden headstocks are what bells always used to hang off – but because of Dutch Elm disease they're are virtually unobtainable now and the modern equivalent are made of cast iron.

Our plan is to have a couple more fundraising events, the next, following the success of last year's one, is entitled: - ***"Huntshaw – Doomsday and before"*** by local archaeologist **Michael Griffith-Jones on Sat 25th March at Huntshaw Parish Hall at 7pm, with entry on the door at £7.**

There will be tea and coffee halfway through and Michael will cover 1000 years of history before the writing of Doomsday Book – and what it was like to live in and around Huntshaw in Saxon going into Norman times. What was on the church site before it was built in the 1200's? Why was the Village and Manor of Huntshaw placed up on a hill – and why not down in the valley where it was easier to collect water from Huntshaw Mill Stream?... What the houses were like to live in and what the tensions were like between the different groups of English, from those descendants who built and lived at Berry Castle in Huntshaw Woods, and the Saxon and Norman peoples?

During the interval we can update you on progress with the bells and we shall also hold a raffle – So, please do come along to support the project and we'll hope to see you there on the night.

Richard Sears

A message from the Rector

When I last wrote we were about to celebrate the birth of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem. Now as I write for the February edition our thoughts are turning to Lent and preparing ourselves for Holy Week and Easter, and the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection. It's a good reminder that God's son, born as a baby in Bethlehem, came to earth for a purpose – to show and tell us what God is like, and then to die and rise again.

Why would the Son of God, do this; leaving the glories of heaven to live a human life, suffering at the hands of evil men and then dying on a cross?

Jesus gives us the answer in the words he spoke to the disciples at the last supper:

"Greater love has no man than this; that he lay down his life for his friends".

God loves us.

And in Jesus, on the cross, God took the punishment for our sins and died our death for us, so that we don't have to; so that ***"all who believe in him might not perish but have eternal life"*** - (John 3.16).

An accusation that is sometimes levelled at Christianity is that "it's just pie in the sky when you die". Pie in the sky sounds great to me. I love pie! But I want to suggest that for those who follow Jesus there is pie to be had now too. The bible is full of God's promises to those who love and follow Jesus... including food for the hungry.

Following Jesus is not always easy, but it is the best way to live life now, and it promises a perfect eternity when this life comes to an end.

This is the good news that Jesus has entrusted to his church to share and to invite people to discover for themselves.

If you'd like to know more, why not pop along to church and ask... or give me a call...

Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Mornings

Our coffee morning on 1 December raised £75 for the Harbour Community in Bideford. There was also a full box of food donations which was handed over. Thank you and well done to all who contributed. The first Coffee Morning for the new year will be on Thursday 2 February and all monies raised will go to **Prostate Cancer**. Please do come along between 10am and noon - hope to see you there.

Gardening Club

Garden Club meetings are on the last Monday of each month (except Bank Holidays when it will normally be the Monday before) at 2.30pm in the chapel schoolroom. Our next meeting will be on 27 February. Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00.

Quiz Night

We are holding a Quiz Night on Thursday 27 April. Refreshments available. Teams of 6. Donations will go to Chapel funds. Book your table with Elsie Potter on 01271 858534.

Events at Huntshaw Parish Hall

Winter Warmer - Huntshaw Parish Hall are taking part in National Village Hall Week and invite you to join friends and neighbours for a free lunch and chat in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Soup, roll and hot drinks provided you just need to bring the chat! Drop in anytime between 12 and 3pm. Saturday 28th January.

SHROVE TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY - If making pancakes / crepes is a bit of a palaver, why not come to Huntshaw Parish Hall and let us make them for you? Drop in any time between 6 – 8 pm. Tea/ coffee available – but if you want something stronger bring your own! No charge – just a chance to meet up.

Let's keep building a sense of community!

A lively team of people work together in and around Huntshaw to build community spirit in the Parish and are keen to find like minded folk to join us. If you think you would be interested in helping us do this in any way, with any spare time you may have, the committee members at Huntshaw would love to hear from you. Catch us at an event for a chat or send us an email or give us a ring!
Suzy, Jenny, Les, Colin, Lesley, Caroline, Audrey and Adam. Suzy - 07711 787853

Leisure

A Few Witty One-liners

Because I think we could all do with a good laugh...

I've decided I want a pet termite. I'm going to call him Clint - Clint Eatswood.

Dad, can you tell me what a solar eclipse is? No sun.

I've figured out why Teslas are so expensive. It's because they charge a lot.

Elevators terrify me... I'm taking steps to avoid them!

I had a dream that the ocean was filled with orange soda.
It was a Fanta sea.

In college I was so broke I couldn't afford the electricity bill.
Those were the darkest days of my life.

I can hear the groans from here...

Last time the word was: Commander

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 - A Herb

I	T	P
R	M	A
E	S	N

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

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 193

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 192

Santa did bring me a new book of puzzles - but they are 16x16!

So now I have to work out how to make them fit on the page!

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792

07947 358050



Huntsraw Church news

Sadly, the Christmas service planned for Sunday 11th December had to be postponed due to the snow and ice, but we rearranged for Christmas Eve and 15 of us shared in a service of lessons and carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We hung stars on our Christmas tree to remember loved ones at Christmas. Nine of us gathered on new year's day for a simple service to see in the new year, this time followed by coffee and bacon butties.

Thanks go to everyone who helped clear away the Christmas decorations on Thursday 5th December. The crib remains out for the season of epiphany.

The church building is looking tidy and welcoming. If you haven't been in it lately, do pop in for a look. Its open each day.

Our next services are:

Sunday 5th February, 11.00am: Candlemas – bring a candle!

Wednesday 22nd February, 11.00am: Ash Wednesday communion with ashing

Sunday 26th March, 11.00am: Morning service and AGM

All are welcome, whether you are a committed Christian, lapsed, not sure, cynical or just curious.

You can find out more at - www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for Alverdiscott Chapel in February

5 Feb	11 am	Rev Paul Booth
19 Feb	11 am	Paul Bate

Information about the Methodist Church can be found here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

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



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**Residents near Gammaton Cross win a review of the proposed site of a Double DC/AC Converter Station.**

Residents near Gammaton Cross have gained a commitment by Xlinks for a re-evaluation of an alternative Site for the Double DC/AC Converter Site for their Devon project with the cables being laid from the coast at Cornborough.

Xlinks have announced that following feedback from their Public Information Days the viability of potential alternative sites for the Double DC/AC Converter Station will be re-evaluated. Their previous proposal required the use of a 54 acre greenfield site in the rolling Torridge countryside south of Gammaton Cross and requiring a 65 metre wide access corridor from East The Water through more farmland. Xlinks state that the old Showground site at Webbery is being reconsidered but other possible sites in their review are not named.

As a result, Xlinks are extending their project timeline. The company now plans to submit a planning application for the Devon project to Torridge DC in Spring 2023 with a view to starting construction in 2025 and completion in 2030.

The residents affected by the project arranged a meeting at Alverdiscott Village Hall on Friday 9th December to share their concerns for the siting of the Double Converter Station with Sir Geoffrey Cox, MP for Torridge and West Devon. The attendance was estimated at more than 80 people and, after the meeting, Sir Geoffrey stated that: ***‘It is important that alternative sites with less impact on these small rural villages and hamlets should be closely considered.’*** He added, ***‘I have written to the Chief Executive of Xlinks to this effect and I am meeting with the company’s representatives this week when I shall be making the same representations’.***

Linda Hellyer, County Councillor for Bideford East Division said: ***‘I am delighted that Xlinks have listened to feedback from the general public, and to our MP, Sir Geoffrey Cox. At first this seemed like a David and Goliath battle, with individual residents up against huge business interests. Thankfully, Xlinks have listened, and have now agreed to investigate other more suitable sites. They have also postponed this going before planning at Torridge District Council until the spring. I sincerely hope that when this item does go before the planning committee, that the councillors are aware of the groundswell of public concern about this project’.***

Patrick Smith, a spokesperson for the residents of the hamlet of Gammaton Cross said: ***‘The Gammaton Cross site has not yet been rejected by Xlinks, and Torridge District Council have yet to acknowledge our concerns, so we must all remain vigilant to this very negative and destructive threat to our living environment and ongoing welfare’.***

For further information please contact Patrick Smith on 07751 267113.

Parish Council News

Notice of Parish Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held at **Alverdiscott Community Hall** on
Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7:30pm.

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

Graham White - Chairman	01271 858441
Bernard Hardwicke - Vice Chairman	01271 858676
Helen Bolton	01271 858885
Caroline Lewis	07890 764234
Peter Ley	01271 858230
Liz Meaney	01805 624990
Gill Ross	01271 858392
James White	01271 858580
Ann White	01805 622621
Paul Matthews	01271 858652

E&OE

Parish Clerk email alvhuntpc@gmail.com **Please note new address**

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



Friday 24th February
7:00pm for 7.30 pm

Alverdiscott Community Hall
Stony Cross, EX39 4PZ

Licensed Bar
Teams up to 6 - £5.00 per person
(Includes light supper)

Contact Liz or Graham White to book a table
01271 858441 bulworthy@aol.com

LUNCHBUNCH - RETURNS

On Wednesday January 11 amidst much chatter and many greetings of old friends, 23 people sat down in Lovacott village hall to enjoy a meal together as 'Lunchbunch' restarted after the break enforced by Covid.

A team of cooks prepared an excellent meal and everyone who was able to, helped with the chores. Some people whom we hope to see next time, were still kept at home by chest infections and other factors.

We plan to meet on the second Wednesday each month at 12.15 for 12.30pm, so the next Lunchbunch will be on February 8th. The cost is £5.00 per person so if you would like to join us ring Stuart or Paul on 01271 858258 to book your place. If you usually come but are prevented any month please ring Stuart or Paul to let us know so we can tell the cooks how many to expect. **Stuart Fuller.**

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Friends of All Saints Church

Supporters Club – January Draw Winners

1st	Louise Saunders	£25
2nd	John Hobbs	£15
3rd	Joyce Ley – for Joseph	£10

There will be a service at **All Saints on Sunday 29th January at 11 am.**
The Friends will be providing refreshments after the service.

Kenneth William Moore - "A Lovely Man"

The funeral took place at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel on December 21st of Kenneth William Moore - Ken was born at Luppincott Farm, Alverdiscott on September 18th 1934 and the Chapel was an important place for him throughout his life!

He attended Sunday School there until he moved to Lovacott Green Farm with his Parents in 1945, but the family still remained regular Worshippers at the Chapel, and later on Ken was a Sunday School teacher there for several years.

Before his health began to fail 3 years ago he had been the treasurer for some time and he regularly took his turn as the Steward at Sunday Services and also cutting the grass etc.

Almost 200 people attended the Very Special Service on December 21st - led by the Reverend Rob Blackhall - with Frank Watson reading the Lessons, Graham Moore the Eulogy and Hazel Barwise a poem.

The singing of the hymns - accompanied by Gordon Ford on the organ was really amazing - worthy of a spot on BBC's 'Songs of Praise'!

Miss Tamsin Ball - a young lady from North Devon - and a favourite Soloist of Ken's - sang 'The Holy City' and 'Time to say Goodbye' - He would have loved that!

The Service was a fitting tribute to Ken, who has been referred to as 'A Lovely Man' by so many people - he will be sorely missed by his family and those who knew him.

Many thanks for Sympathy Messages sent to our family and to those who attended the Service - also special thanks to those who prepared the Chapel the previous day and then returned it to normal soon after - to David Potter for preparing and showing photos of Ken on the screen before the Service, Elsie for the floral arrangement, the Bearers, Barbara and Rose taking the names and everyone who helped in 'Any Way' to make Ken's Tribute Service so special.

Also thanks to David Gayton for all the perfect Funeral Arrangements, to Caroline for the very attractive floral tributes on the coffin - and Harracott WI for the delicious refreshments - all much appreciated!

From Muriel Moore and Family.