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**THE LOCAL RAG**

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the  
**March Edition**  
Volume 20 Issue 2  
2023



**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](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

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Webbery

EX39 4PU

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**From The Assistant Editor**

Greetings and welcome to March. January and February always seem to pass by really quickly. The daffs are well and truly out and the snowdrops are looking really brilliant. Spring is just around the corner and is, I think, definitely the best season of the year.

Just read on the BBC news website that there has been another large earthquake in southern Turkey. Some of the buildings that survived the first quakes have now collapsed and more people are trapped and injured. The report says there have been more than 6,000 aftershocks since 6 February, which is incredible. It is impossible to imagine what those poor people are going through tonight. Even after the tremors cease, the recovery and rebuilding will take years and a massive amount

of support from the international community. And we think we've got problems...

As always, there is lots going on in our part of the forest.

Both of our halls have their AGM's during this month. The *Arts and Craft Group* are starting up again, due to popular demand, see p4.

*All Saints Friends Group* have a **Spring Lunch** planned, see p7.

The *Lunchbunch* are/is going well, see p7 for details of their next meet.

There's a **Huntshaw History Talk** in March, details are on p14. Also **Newton Tracey Cricket Club** are checking their bails, and looking for new talent, see p14.

Further ahead, there are Easter Church Services planned and the **Coronation** to look forward to.

**THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER...**

... which means we are entering the season of **Lent** (lengthening) and that will lead us up to the festival of **Easter**.

At St. Giles in the Wood the display of pictures by **Elsie Anna Wood** has been changed to reflect the stories of Christ riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, followed by his arrest, trial and crucifixion, and then the triumph of his resurrection.

The church is open each day from 9am till 4pm. On Fridays the church helpers are serving soup and rolls between 12 noon until 1pm. All free but you are invited to make a donation.

**Stuart Fuller.**

**Emergencies**

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RSPCA	0300 123 4999
Calor Gas	0345 744 4999

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Bideford Hospital	01271 322577
Torrington Hospital	01805 622208

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**Local Hall Bookings & Enquiries**

**Alverdiscott Hall** David Potter  
01271 858534

**Huntshaw Parish Hall** Suzy White  
07711 787853

[huntshawparishhall@outlook.com](mailto:huntshawparishhall@outlook.com)

**Community Contacts****Advice Lines**

<b>Police</b>	<b>101</b>
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FCN	03000 111999

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**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:**

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

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



### Friends of Huntshaw Bells

#### **“Huntshaw – Doomsday and Before”**



**“Huntshaw – Doomsday and Before” a talk by local archaeologist Michael Griffith-Jones on Saturday 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.

### Newton Tracey Cricket Club

Newton Tracey Cricket Club welcomes new members for the 2023 season.

Good range of senior and junior cricket available ,  
Saturday league - Sunday league plus friendlies.

Please contact me, Graham Moore, on 07760 197550 for full details.

### A message from the Rector

On **Sunday 19th March** we will be celebrating **Mothering Sunday** across the mission community churches. In times past, young people in service in the great stately homes of our land were often given time off on the fourth Sunday in Lent, and many would walk home to visit their families, picking flowers for their mother from the hedgerows. They would attend a service in their 'mother' church.

Mothering Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to our mothers, and if our mothers have passed away, to remember why they were so special to us. Not all mothers are perfect. For some people, their relationship with their mother will have been, and may continue to be, painful. But at the very least, our mothers gave us the gift of life and we owe them a debt of thanks.

Mothering Sunday gives us an opportunity at church to pray for all mothers, and all who act as mother figures. We mustn't underestimate the strain on parents these days and praying is just one way we can offer support.

Mothering Sunday might also give us opportunity to remember that the Bible doesn't only present God as a father. We refer to God as 'He' and Jesus taught us to relate to God as 'our Father, which art in heaven'. Despite recent reports to the contrary, at church we will continue to speak of God in these terms! But the psalmist and prophets also described God as being like a mother. Jesus as he wept over Jerusalem longed to gather up its people as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing to protect them (Matthew 23.37).

St Paul encourages us to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn' (Romans 12.15). We'd like to invite you to join us in church on Mothering Sunday. We'll try to set the right tone, of celebrating all things good about mothering, whilst recognising that for some people its not an easy day. And we'll try to point you to the God who says:

**“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I [God] will not forget you!” (Isa. 49:15).**

**Mothering Sunday service in Newton Tracey Church: Sunday 19th March, 9.30am**

*Rev Gary Owen*

01769 560792 07947 358050

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

**Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel**

**Coffee Mornings**

We raised £140 for Prostate Cancer in February, an excellent result. On 2 March all money raised will go to the **Disasters Emergency Committee** in support of the Syria, Turkey Earthquake appeal. Looking ahead to Thursday 6 April, we shall be supporting **All We Can** and their Ukraine Emergency appeal.

Please do come along between 10am and noon - to support these worthwhile appeals.

**Garden 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 March. Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00.

**Arts and Craft Group** - Starting up again.

Having had several people who have expressed an interest in starting up again, our first meeting will be on Tuesday 7 March, in the chapel schoolroom, from 10.00 till 12.00.

**Chapel 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 **now** with Elsie Potter on 01271 858534.

**Parish Hall AGM's**

**Alverdiscott Community Hall Committee will have their AGM on Monday 20 March at 7.30pm.**

**Huntshaw Parish Hall Committee have their AGM on Saturday 25 March at 4.00pm.**

This is just before the history talk being organised by Richard Sears for the Huntshaw Bell fund, full information on p14.

**Leisure**

**A Few More Witty One-liners**

**Because I know how much you enjoyed them last month...**

So many people these days are too judgemental. I can tell just by looking at them.

Guess who I bumped in to on my way to get my glasses fixed? Everyone!

My wife blocked me on FB because I posted too many bird puns. Well, Toucan play at that game.

I got into a fight with 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. The odds were against me.

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done...

Just once, I want the prompt for Username and Password to say: "Close enough".

**And the good news is, there's loads more where they came from...**

**Last time the word was: Spearmint**

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 - Short Stay?

I	R	V
H	E	T
O	N	G

Word count 26 = Good. More than 35 = Well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 194

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 193

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792

07947 358050



News from Huntshaw Church

Candlemas

Ten of us joined in a special service for Candlemas on Sunday 5th February. We pondered the story of Mary and Joseph taking baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem and the prophet Simeon speaking of Jesus as a 'light to the nations'. Rev Gary blessed candles for us all to take home as a reminder of Jesus, the light of the world.

New electoral roll and AGM

We are updating our church electoral roll at Huntshaw Church. If you live in the parish and would like to join the official church membership list, please email:

[revgaryowen@gmail.com](mailto:revgaryowen@gmail.com)

We will hold our AGM on Sunday 26th March after a short service at 11.00am. All are welcome.

Easter

Good Friday all-age worship: Friday 7th April, 9.30am

Easter Sunday Communion: Sunday 9th April, 11.00am

You can find out more at - [www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org](http://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org)

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for Alverdiscott Chapel in March & April

	5 March	11 am	David Ley HC
	19 March	11 am	Vivienne Sheriff
Good Friday	7 April	11 am	Rev Rob Blackhall
Easter Sunday	9 April	11 am	Elsie Potter HC
	23 April	11 am	Rev Rob Blackhall
	30 April	11 am	At Parish Church

Information about the Methodist Church can be found here:

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

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



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**News from up Huntsraw Tower – and how to repair a cracked bell!**

The Friends Group have been busy up the Tower this past month, with strengthening works of the medieval oak frame before the bell’s return, which hopefully will be in early April. After 600 years much of the frame is still solid, but where some of the oak members of the trusses rest on the masonry cills, some parts have just rotted to compost due to hundreds of years of damp and decay. So we have had a carpenter in to carefully reinstate new oak supports for it – prior to putting the refurbished bells back. (The tenor weighs over 600kg).

The other main job for this month is to send away the cracked No 2 bell for welding. Welding bronze is a specialist job, and there are only 2 places in Europe that can do this - one is called **Soundweld**, near Newmarket in Suffolk, and the second is in Amsterdam! It is quite common for old church bells to crack. This is because at the top an iron ‘crown staple’ (holding the clapper) is always cast in with the bronze, and over the centuries this rusts and expands causing pressure on the weaker metal which cracks.

**Huntsraw’s Cracked No2**

Once the bell is delivered to Southweld, the exact makeup of copper and tin in the bronze will be analysed and rods of the exact same content will be made. The bell will then be heated for 24 hours and when at the correct temperature the welding will take place. In total the process will take around 42 hours. Including being lowered slowly back to room temperature.



At least 4 dye penetrant tests will be performed on a bell from arrival to completion of repair. These will determine the extent of the cracking and the success of the repair.

Previously, cracked bells were melted down to be recast, but the process of repairing bells by welding was developed, and in 1988 Southweld carried out the repair of the 3.25 ton “**Great Dunstan**” from Canterbury Cathedral. This was to prove the spring-board for the widespread welding of cracked bells both nationally and internationally.

**Richard Sears – March 2023**

## Parish Council News

## Notice of Parish Council Meeting

Please note change of venue

The next Council meeting will be held at **Huntshaw Parish 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&amp;OE

Parish Clerk email [alvhuntpc@gmail.com](mailto: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 &amp; Crime Commissioner

## 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

## PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Alison Hernandez [alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk](mailto:alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk) 01392 459808

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SUNDAY 12th MARCH

12.30pm for 1pm

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Make your reservation with Liz White on

01271 858441 or [bulworthy@aol.com](mailto:bulworthy@aol.com)

**Book early - places are limited.**



**LUNCHBUNCH - RETURNS Again!**

The second Lunchbunch on, Wednesday 8 February, was another great success. Over 30 people sat down in Lovacott village hall to enjoy a meal together. This time it included the ever popular raffle!

A team of cooks prepared an excellent meal and everyone who was able to, helped with the chores. Numbers were up and it was good to see so many friends, old and new, enjoying themselves.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.15 for 12.30pm, so the next Lunchbunch will be on March 8th. The cost is £5.00 per person. 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 – February Draw Winners

1st	Michael Lee	£25
2nd	Tony Yewdall	£15
3rd	Jeanette & Paul Matthews	£10

Coronation Celebrations see p9 for details



**ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL  
CELEBRATION OF KING CHARLES III  
CORONATION**

**Buckingham Palace** has issued plans for neighbours and communities to share food and fun together to celebrate the coronation.

**Sunday 7th May will be Coronation Big Lunch Day.** It is suggested that communities lay on some form of event, not necessarily lunch, for everyone to get together.

**Monday 8th May has been designated the Big Help Out.** In tribute to the King's public service, people will be encouraged to join volunteer work being undertaken in their local area.

In response to these plans The Hall Committee will be organising an **Afternoon Tea for the local community on Sunday 7th May.** This will be a free event and everyone from our local community is invited. Further details will be available closer to the date but please make a note in your diary now.

On Monday 8th, if there is sufficient support, we will get volunteers together to do some work in our local community. This could involve a litter pick, some work at the Village Hall, the Church or the Chapel. Refreshments could be provided at the Village Hall. If you would be interested in helping out on this day please let Liz know on

[bulworthy@aol.com](mailto:bulworthy@aol.com)

