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THE LOCAL RAG
ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
February Edition
Volume 21 Issue 1
2024



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 new year, 2024. So far it doesn't seem much different/better than last year, but it's early days yet.

How was your Christmas? I hope Santa brought you what you asked for...

You may quickly notice that this is a slimmer version of the Rag than is usual. That will be because there were fewer articles and adverts sent in and rather than fill the blank pages with recipes, doubtful jokes and maybe some pictures of cute kittens I decided to reduce their number - the pages - not the kittens.

Hopefully next month normal service will be resumed, please!

So looking ahead, the Alverdiscott

Hall committee held their first meeting of the year on Monday and came up with a list of some events we will hope to hold throughout 2024.

The following is provisional and there will of course be details in the Rag before each event.

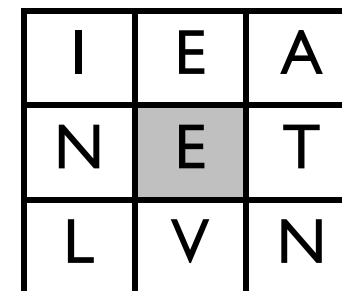
Quiz Night Friday 12 April. Spring Big Breakfast Sunday 5 May. Flower and Produce Show Saturday 27 July. Harvest Supper Friday 20 September. Autumn Big Breakfast Sunday 27 October. Finishing with a Christmas Quiz on Saturday 7 December.

And so that's another year gone by!

The good thing is the spring flowers are starting to show through. The snowdrops are out and the daffs are not far behind. Roll on Spring!!!

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 - The month of love...



Word count 30 = Good. More than 35 = Well done!

Emergencies

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Gas	0800 111 999
Water	0344 346 2020
RSPCA	0300 123 4999
Calor Gas	0345 744 4999

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

Local Hall Bookings & Enquiries

Alverdiscott Hall David Potter
01271 858534

Huntshaw Parish Hall Jenny Staines
01805 624490

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 DC 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.

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 204

Good Luck...

This one is from a new book, let me know how you get on, Colin...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 203

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

From the Rector

Firstly, a very big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make Christmas such an enjoyable celebration in our group of churches. More than 60 services took place across our 11 parishes in December, ranging from traditional carol services to nativity services to carol singing in an old carriage house and pub car parks. I was delighted that all our local schools and some of our pre-school groups, came to church to celebrate. Its great when we can work together as community. Our doors are open and if you run a community group and would like to make use of your local church at Christmas, or another time of year, (Easter, harvest etc) please get in touch.

We have then started the year with services to renew our commitment to God and with a day of prayer and fasting. Part of our commitment to love and serve our local communities is to pray for them. We've ranged widely in our prayers, including asking God's blessing on all who live and work in our communities, those who provide our public services, educate our children, care for our health, farm the land or run businesses, those who serve in public office and all those who give their time and energy to making our communities a wonderful place in which to live. We'll do our best to continue those prayers throughout the year ahead. If there is anything in particular you'd like us to pray for, please ping me an email.

On Wednesday 14th February we begin the season of Lent and our preparations for Easter. For some people, Lent may be a chance to give something up, perhaps chocolate, in an attempt to get going again on resolutions made at new year but that have already fallen by the wayside. I'd like to suggest that it might even more be a good time to slow down and ponder the deeper questions of life. The Church of England is offering a short daily bible reading, thought and prayer on the theme, "Watch and Pray". You can sign up to receive these electronically. Google "Watch and Pray Church of England" in the week before Lent. Or if you would like a paper copy of the Watch and Pray booklet, let me know and I'll get one to you.

Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning on Thursday 7 December, which was for the Harbour Community Bideford, was very successful. We had many donations of food items and also raised the sum of £110. So thank you, and well done to all who came along.

The first meeting for 2024 will be on **Thursday 1 February and will be for the Devon Air Ambulance**. This was supposed to happen in November last year but ironically had to be cancelled due to the bad weather!

Please do come along - between 10am and noon - to support this local cause.

Garden Club

The first Garden Club meeting for 2024 will be on 29 January. Our meetings are normally on the last Monday of each month (except Bank Holidays when it will usually be the Monday before) at 2.30pm in the Chapel schoolroom. Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00.



Job Opportunity



The Two Rivers Mission Community is looking to appoint an administrator to work mainly from home, to support the mission council, leadership team and rector. Expected hours are an average of six per week (largely to suit the administrator) at an initial rate of £12 per hour.

For more details and an informal conversation please contact

Rev Gary Owen on 01769560792 or revgaryowen@gmail.com.

Parish Council News

Notice of Parish Council Meetings

Two vacancies have arisen on the parish council, one to represent Alverdiscott, and the other for Huntshaw. Council meetings will now take place **every other month on the third Thursday**, alternating between the two village halls.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st March in Huntshaw Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

We would welcome those interested in becoming a councillor, and invite you to come along and give a (**very!**) short presentation about yourself.

Graham White - Chair.

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

Graham White - Chair	01271 858441
Liz Meaney - Vice Chair	01805 624990
Bernard Hardwicke	01271 858676
Helen Bolton	01271 858885
Caroline Lewis	07890 764234
Gill Ross	01271 858392
James White	01271 858580
Paul Matthews	01271 858652
Alan Matthewman - Parish Clerk	01769 560740

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 Councillors

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

Thomas Elliott councillor.elliott@torridge.gov.uk

PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Alison Hernandez alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk 01392 459808

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Advertising in your Local Rag is easy and produces great results.

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**Friends of All Saints Church Supporters Club – January Draw
Prize Winners**

1st	Gordon Ford	£25
2nd	Martin Sluman	£15
3rd	Dave Potter	£10

If you are not a member but would like to join, please contact Louise Saunders on 01271 858522 or, louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com. The cost of a year's membership is £12. As a member you will be helping us to keep our church in good order and stand the chance of winning a monthly prize. All Members also receive the monthly Newsletter.

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen
 01769 560792 07947 358050

Our next Sunday service in Huntsnaw
 is on Sunday 11th February at 11.00am.

Mission Community St David's day celebration:

Friday 1st March, 11.00am in Huntsnaw church
 A short (bilingual!) service followed by Welsh cakes. All welcome, whether Welsh or not. Wear your daffodil, Welsh rugby top etc. Warm up your vocal cords for a rousing rendition of Cwm Rhondda.

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel
 Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

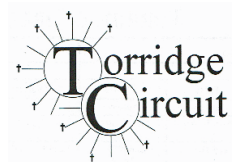
**Services planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel in February**

04 February	11.00am	Frank Watson
18 February	11.00am	Rev Rob Blackhall - HC

In the event of extreme weather conditions services may have to be cancelled.

**Information about the Methodist Church
can be found here:**

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



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Sorry, I couldn't resist just a couple of these...

How do you make a tame duck wild? You annoy it!

How do you keep an idiot in suspense? I'll tell you tomorrow!

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS ALVERDISCOTT PRESENT

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL

6.30pm – Sausage Supper followed by an entertaining evening.

Licensed bar.

£10 per person. Book your place with either:

Louise - 01271 858522 louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com

Or Liz 01271 858441 bulworthy@aol.com

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS - ALVERDISCOTT

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL

7.30PM START

RAISING MONEY FOR CHURCH FUNDS