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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSYAW

Welcome to the
March Edition
Volume 21 Issue 2
2024



Publication and Distribution

The **Alverdiscott and Huntsraw 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

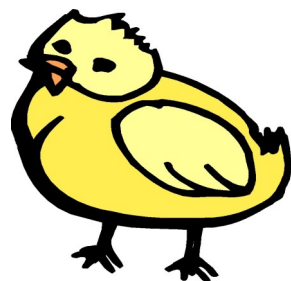
Welcome to the March Local Rag. Last month's was a shade slimmer than normal due to a shortage of articles. It may also have been a little late being delivered, so apologies for that. This month normal service has been resumed, so thank you to all who contributed.

The weather continues to be overly wet. Our "lawn" is really soft and squidgy. It's maybe a little warmer than average but the rain is really tedious and the forecast is for more to come over the next couple of days.

Total rainfall in 2023 was 1313mm or almost 52 inches. That was the third highest figure since 2012, which was in turn the wettest since 2005, when my records began. In 2010 the figure

was 834mm. Every year since then has been wetter. My figures are only a snapshot of what has happened over the last 19 years but the trend does seem to be for wetter weather in June and/or July and then again in October, November and December. February is often a drier month, but that may not be the case this time!

Please note that we have the Alverdiscott Community Hall AGM coming up on Monday 25 March at 7.30pm at the hall.



You Couldn't Make it Up!!!

Three tourists were driving through Wales.

As they were approaching **Llanfairpwllgwyngyll** on the Welsh island of Anglesey, they started arguing about the correct pronunciation of the town's name.

It's "Llan-fair-poo-wee..." said the first.

"No no, it's Llan-fair-pi-well..." argued the second.

"I think we need to ask a local about this," the third one sighed.

They argued back and forth until they finally stopped for lunch.

As they stood waiting to order, the third one said to the young lady: "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are - very slowly?"

"Sure!" said the girl. She leaned forward and said:

"Burrrrr-gerrrrr Kinnnnng."

Emergencies

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Electricity	0800 678 3105
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

Huntsraw Parish Hall Jenny Staines
01805 624490

huntsrawparishhall@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.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is currently carrying out its recruitment. The Forum is a statutory local access forum set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to give independent advice on how to enhance and improve public access to land for open air recreation and enjoyment.

Each Forum has to include a wide and balanced spectrum of interests to include access users (e.g. walkers, riders, cyclists, carriage drivers and off-road bikers); land managers and those with other interests such as health and conservation. Members respond to consultations and initiate work on particular issues, such as disability access.

The Forum currently has seventeen voluntary members and Devon County Council, the appointing authority, is now carrying out its annual recruitment process. We would like to hear from you if you are enthusiastic about recreational access to the countryside or urban green space; have a professional involvement, or are a landowner or land manager with recreational access on your land. No formal qualifications are necessary and all applications are welcome. Training is given.

Applications from land managers, including forestry management, and those with conservation or cycling interests would be particularly welcome.

For information and application forms:

Please ring - 0345 155 1004
See the website www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf
Or email: devoncaf@devon.gov.uk



From the Rector

I'm sure we all love a bargain! In the Old Testament, through his prophet Isaiah, God offered his people a bargain like no other:

'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. (Isaiah 55.1 - NIV version).

Jesus reiterated the invitation in John 7 vv 37-39

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. (NIV version).

At the end of this month, we will celebrate Holy Week and Easter. Good Friday reminds us that Jesus laid down his life for us. He took our sins upon himself and dealt with them for us. He offers us forgiveness, freedom and the hope of eternal life; as none other than children of God. We don't need to pay for this. Indeed, we can't... its way out of our price range! God simply offers it to us for free. But we do have to "come". Come to Jesus in repentance and faith; turning away from the bad stuff in our lives, turning to Jesus, following him.

If you'd like to find out more about this free gift of God, and how you can come to him to receive it, we'd like to invite you to join us over the Easter weekend.

There's a full list of our services and activities on our website at:

<https://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org/services/lent-and-easter/>

And of course, I'm very happy to talk to anyone who would value the opportunity.

Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning in February for the Devon Air Ambulance was well attended and we raised £120. You might say we got off to a flying(!) start, well done everyone. The next one is on Thursday 7 March and is for the local charity, **North Devon Talking Newspapers**.

Please do come along - between 10am and noon - to support our good causes.

Garden Club

The Garden Club 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. The next one is on 26 February and then 25 March.

Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00.

For the latest information contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692.

ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL

7pm for 7:30pm.



Teams of up to 6 people

£5 per head,

Includes refreshments.

Licensed bar.

Book your place with Liz White on 01271 858441 or email bulworthy@aol.com

Leisure

THE BENEFITS OF WALKING

Now the weather is slowly starting to improve it feels like we are able to come out of hibernation.

The daffodils and snow drops start to appear on the roadside and verges and it feels like Spring is finally on its way.

The improved weather brings an inclination to leave the house and get out in the fresh air after being cooped up inside for what feels like an eternity.

We are blessed with living in a beautiful part of the UK with amazing scenery and an abundance of wildlife so what better way to appreciate it than a walk.

Not only is walking a great way to see the area in which we live but it also has many health benefits.

Just 30 minutes every day can improve mental health, increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance.

It can also reduce your risk of developing conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis and some cancers. **What's more, it's free!**

So grab the dog lead, the children, your husband, wife, son, daughter, grandparent or a friend and get walking - it's a great social activity too!

If you see me walking to and from Woodtown along Alverdiscott road with my dog (a white English bull Terrier), give me a wave!

Hope to meet some more locals on my walks soon.

Jessica Henderson - Summerleaze

Last time the word was: VALENTINE

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 meal or a dish...

S	R	E
A	O	C
L	E	S

Word count 20 = Good. More than 25 = Well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 205

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 204

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

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



Huntsraw Church Services

Friday 1st March: St David's day celebration, 11.00am

A short bilingual service to celebrate St David's day, followed by Welsh cakes and Bara Brith

Wear your daffodil, rugby shirt or something red. Warm up your vocal cords to sing Cum Rhondda

All welcome whether Welsh or not.

Sunday 10th March: Mothering Sunday service, 11.00am

Join us to celebrate all things "motherly".

Friday 29th March: Good Friday all-age worship, 11.00am

A simple service to reflect on Jesus' crucifixion and its significance for us Followed by coffee and hot cross buns.

Sunday 31st March: Easter Day communion, 11.00am

A simple communion service with rousing Easter hymns to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

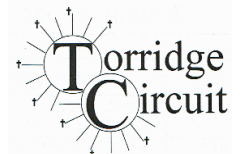
Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel in March - April - May

03 March	11.00am	Nancy Hall -Tomkin
17 March	11.00am	Rev Rob Blackhall - HC
29 March	11.00am	Rev Rob Blackhall - Good Friday
31 March	11.00am	At Parish Church
07 April	11.00am	Elsie Potter
21 April	11.00am	Julia Spencer
05 May	11.00am	Stephen Hill - HC
19 May	11.00am	David Ley

Information about the Methodist Church
can be found here:

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





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Contact the team on: 01271 858575 Email: training@ctacentre.co.uk

Easter Sunday at Alverdiscott Parish Church

There will be a service on Easter Sunday, March 31st at 11am. We extend a warm welcome to you all to come and celebrate with us. There will be light refreshments served after the service and maybe even some Easter Eggs for the children. Hope to see you there.

Barbara Ford.

Parish Council Update

Readers may well be thinking that the **Xlinks Morocco-Alverdiscott Power Project** seems to have gone very quiet recently.

There has in fact been a considerable amount of work going on behind the scenes, to the extent that Xlinks has applied to the government's Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for its opinion on an Environmental Statement relating to the proposed development. This is referred to as a Scoping Opinion.

The report accompanying this request can be accessed at the following site: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> and searching under South West projects. Be warned – this report is 541 pages long!! The parts relevant to this area however “only” run to around thirty pages, these being sections 3.2, 4.6 and 9.3.

The parish council has to be consulted before the Inspectorate adopts its Scoping Opinion. We have therefore constructed a response which hopefully takes into account the concerns expressed at the Xlinks open days and the subsequent public meetings attended by Sir Geoffrey Cox. This can be viewed on the parish council website; this address is given elsewhere in this edition of the Rag.

On a more mundane level, the parish council has submitted its request for next year's precept, which forms part of your rates bill. This shows a 22% increase over this year. This may seem a large jump, but is £1150 across the whole parish, and covers an increase in insurance costs, and also a recent pay award to parish clerks made by the National Association of Local Councils. A new defibrillator to be sited at Alverdiscott Hall has been funded from our reserves, and thus does not affect the charge.

In addition, we have made provision for costs associated with the Road Warden Scheme. This is a scheme whereby local volunteers can be involved with minor highways maintenance on the many minor lanes in our area. Devon County Council will give training to team leaders, and will also supply some of the required equipment and materials.

We feel this could be a very worthwhile project to be involved in; I am sure that you all are fed up with the number of potholes on the minor roads, which are given lower priority by Devon Highways than the major A and B roads. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please contact me in the first instance.

Finally, the council is still looking for two extra members. Again, please contact me if you are interested.

Graham White - Chairman - 01271 858441

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

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS - ALVERDISCOTT

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL

7.30PM START

RAISING MONEY FOR CHURCH FUNDS

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

On 8th February we held our first fundraising event of the year. One hundred people enjoyed a sausage supper and were entertained by shanty singers, **Anchors Aweigh**. It was a fabulous evening with the audience joining in some of the songs.

Anchors Aweigh perform to raise money for their chosen charity which, this year, is the **North Devon Hospice**. They ask for a donation of £100 for their attendance. We were so delighted with the success of the evening that we were able to give them £150. Collection buckets were passed round and another £277 was collected. What a generous audience we had. In addition to the money for the Hospice we also raised just over £800 for our church funds. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event.

Our next fundraising event is an Easter Themed Bingo Session on Wednesday 20th March at Alverdiscott Hall. See advert above for details.

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Friends of All Saints Church Supporters Club – February Draw Prize Winners

1st	Ken Ford	£25
2nd	John Courtenay	£15
3rd	Gordon Ford	£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.

Huntshaw Village Events 2024

We are planning some different events this year and look forward to welcoming old friends and new to Huntshaw.

APRIL

Huntshaw Village Breakfast

Sunday 21st, 9.00 – 11.00am. £7 pp

Call Jenny, on 01805 624490 to book.

JULY

Huntshaw Village BBQ & Treasure Hunt

Sunday 21st details to follow.

SEPTEMBER

Huntshaw Village Harvest Supper

Friday 13th pm. Details to follow.



OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

We are hoping to host a

Huntshaw Village Pub/Race Night

Details to follow.

DECEMBER

Huntshaw Village Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December 7.00pm.

Please come and join us at any or all of the above.

Huntshaw Village Hall needs your support.

Our AGM is on Friday 12th April 7pm in the Hall. All welcome.