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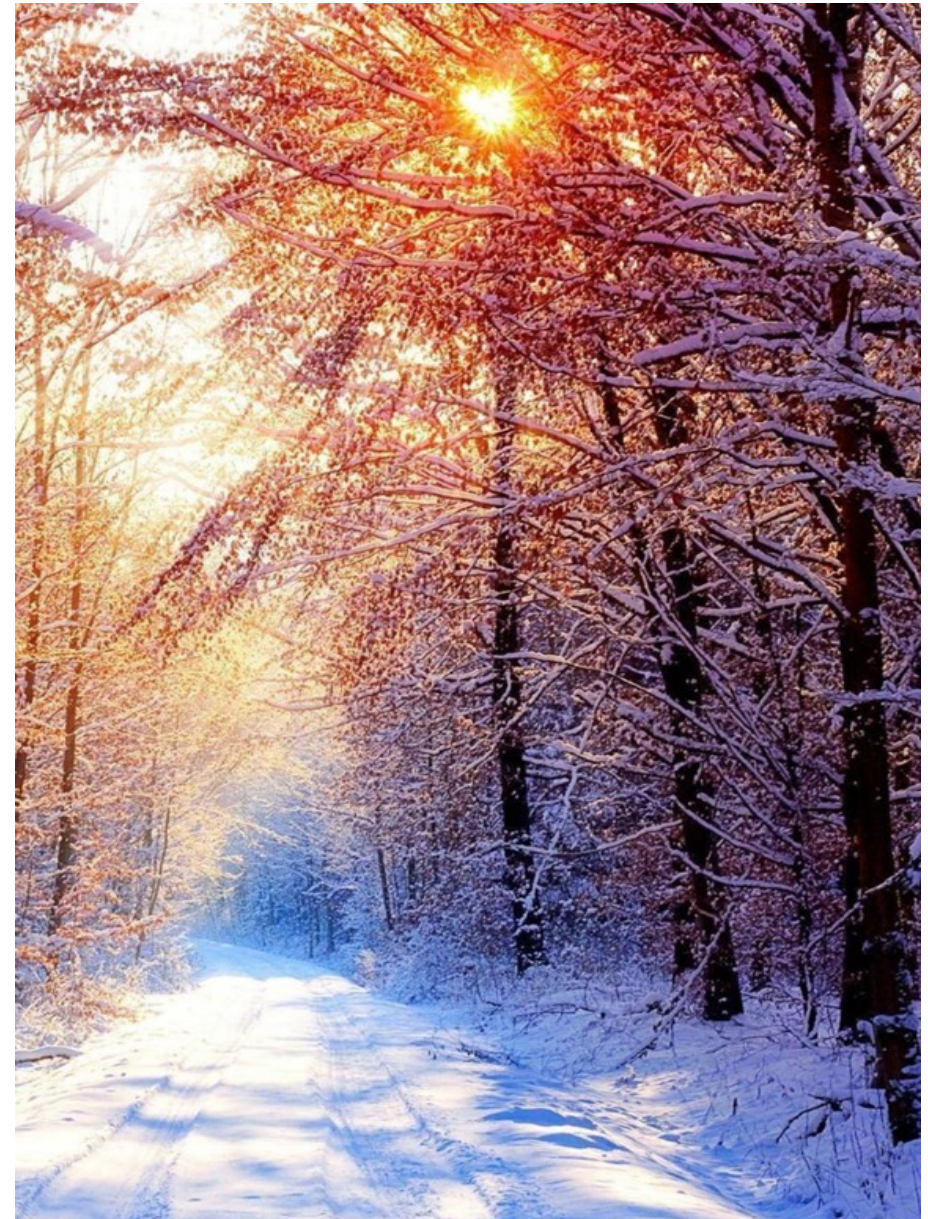
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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

**Welcome to the
December Edition**
Volume 21 Issue 11
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

!And then here we are in December!

There's no point in pretending. It really is **CHRISTMAS**.

In case you haven't booked your team yet, on 7 December there is the **Christmas Quiz Night** at Alverdiscott Community Hall. Details on p7.

The Musical Lunches have finished for this year. However they will be continuing in the Methodist Chapel schoolroom. The first one will be on Friday 31 January 2025. Make a note now. Details on p6.

The Big Breakfast was a success with 131 breakfasts served and enjoyed, and I'm assuming the Lunch at Huntshaw was also well attended. Did anyone get to do both of them?

Remember there is no Local Rag in January, and so the deadline for the February issue is by 20 January.

And also remember the issue of who will take over the editorship of the Rag is still to be resolved... Could it be YOU???

And on the subject of new ownership we need a new cleaner to take over at Alverdiscott Hall. If you have a couple of hours free during the week, get in touch with the Rag or any committee member.

Sad news about **Auto-Mo-Beel**. Viv and Kate are going to retire! Didn't see that coming. See p14.

Have a great Christmas and see you next year!!! Elsie & David.

Alverdiscott Community Hall Stuff

The hall requires a new cleaner. Could you be that person? If you are looking for just a couple of hours light work per fortnight, please do have a word. You can get in touch with the Rag or any hall committee member. Or email Liz and Graham on - bulworthy@aol.com

We are also in the process of revising the Terms and Conditions for hiring the hall, to take into account various recent changes. Once we have completed the process the new T&C's will be available on the Parish Council website, to view and download.

Emergencies

Police - Fire etc.	999
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

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.



It is with a heavy heart that we write to inform you of the very difficult decision we have made regarding the future of Auto-Mo-Beel Ltd. After much consideration, we have decided to cease trading and jointly retire as of April 30, 2025.

Having been in the motor trade since leaving school, and starting Auto-Mo-Beel in 1985, this business has been our life and passion. We have loved (almost!) every minute of it and have cherished the relationships we have built with each and every one of you over the past 35 years in North Devon.

Your support and loyalty have been the cornerstone of our success, and we cannot thank you enough for being part of our journey. We are deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in us and for allowing us to serve you throughout these decades.

Although our doors will soon close, the memories and friendships forged will remain with us forever. We have no intentions of moving from Huntshaw Cross, and we will be around and welcome anyone to call in for a chat and a cuppa.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support.

Warmest regards,

Viv and Kate

Auto-Mo-Beel Ltd

From the Rector

As another Christmas approaches, and the second one for me in the Two Rivers Mission Community, I can attest to just how busy December is for those leading churches. In our Mission Community we have a grand total of 54 services happening in the lead up to Christmas day, that doesn't even include the children's activities that are happening. Yet advent is supposed to be a meditative time of watching and waiting, as Christians we should be preparing ourselves through reflection and prayer, not just for the celebration of Christ's birth, but for the second coming.

So why are we so busy? December offers us a whole host of opportunities for connecting with people, it is a time when we can offer up times of celebration, teaching and joy. In my many years being involved in children's ministry, it has been interesting to note that a lot of toddlers only know Jesus 'the baby'. They haven't learnt about the great man that he became, and the Messiah that he truly was, they haven't learnt the significance of Jesus on their lives. I think that this is not only true of toddlers, but also of many adults, celebrating Jesus has become an activity just for Christmas.

Yet knowing Jesus enriches our lives, his teaching is as relevant today as it was back when he walked the earth. Knowing that we have a God who was willing to give up everything to be born as a helpless baby, that would later grow into a man who was then put to death by mankind, tells us that our God is a loving and selfless God.

In this knowledge it is our responsibility to examine our own lives to ensure that we too are loving and selfless, this is part of the preparation we should undergo in the lead up to Christmas day.

However, I urge you to also make this an activity for the new year, learn more about Jesus, and reflect more on your own lives. This year, make sure that Jesus isn't just for Christmas, make him part of your everyday lives.

Rev Ally Hope.

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel**Coffee Morning**

The Coffee Morning in November was for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and we raised the sum of £135.

The final date for this year will be Thursday 5 December when we will be raising money for **The Harbour Community in Bideford**, so do please come along, **between 10am and noon**, and support this important local cause, hope to see you there. There is no Coffee Morning in January so the next one will be on **Thursday 6 FEBRUARY**. The charity will be *Hearing Dogs for the Deaf*.

Garden Club

The visit to Philip Squire's own garden at **Bron-y-garth** was declared a success in spite of the weather being a little damp! The next meeting - the last for this year - is on Monday 25 November at 2.30pm in the school room, when there will be a talk about **hedgehog rescue**.

Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00. For the latest information contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692. **The club will start again in January.**

*****CRAFT and CHATTER*****

Monday 2 December - from 2pm to 4pm.

Meeting in the School Room at Alverdiscott Chapel.

Bring your knitting, crochet, sewing, painting or whatever craft you enjoy.

Plenty of parking. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided all for £1.

We start again on Monday 3 February.



For further details contact Wendy on 01271 858539.

**Alverdiscott All Saints Church**

Wednesday 18 December 7.00pm **Carol Service**

With mulled wine & mince pies

Sunday 29 December 11.00am **United Service**

Followed by Tea - Coffee and Biscuits or maybe more mince pies...

Jokes and Witticisms**Sub-set:****School Reports.**

My daughter's Latin teacher wrote an end-of-term report that brought our family great joy:

"Sarah has had a year of peaceful apathy. It would have seemed a shame to wake her. Her exam result was marginally better than her somnolence led me to expect."

"The recent improvement in your son's handwriting has only revealed his complete inability to spell"

My favourite report was: *"Alan gives the impression of knowing far more than he actually does."*

One of my reports said: *"When Jane walks across the classroom without causing a disturbance, the entire class will benefit."* I didn't excel at school!

One of my aunt's reports, from the 1920's included the accurate comment: *"Generally speaking, Evelyn is generally speaking."*

My daughter's school science report once read: *"Katie can now light a Bunsen burner with no visible sign of terror."*

My late partner always said his finest prep-school report ended, *"... but his sewing does him credit."*

Last time the word was: WAISTLINE

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 - Occasionally

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

M	T	S
S	M	E
O	E	I

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 214

Good Luck...

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



Solution to Su Doku No. 213

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



Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050

Huntsy Church Services

08 December 11.00am Advent Service
 22 December 7.00pm Carol Service



Alverdiscott Church Services

18 December 7.00pm **Carol Service**
With mulled wine & mince pies
 29 December 11.00am United Service
 With Tea - Coffee - Biscuits & Mince Pies???

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel during December January & February

01 December 11.00am Rev Blackhall **HC**
 15 December 6.00pm Elsie Potter **Carol Service**
 29 December 11.00am At PC
05 January 11.00am At Torrington
 12 January 11.00am Sue Macbeth
 19 January 11.00am Nancy Hall-Tomkin
02 February 11.00am Linda Davis
 16 February 11.00am David Ley **HC**

Information about the Methodist Church
can be found here:

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





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FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Please note change of venue

MUSICAL LUNCBES IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH

WILL BE AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL

PLEASE JOIN US ON FRIDAY 31 JANUARY

Light lunch available from 12.30pm, music from 1pm.



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The Parish Council are considering forming a team of local residents to monitor speeds in the area.

I am sure that you are aware of the increasing speeds on both main and side roads, together with the increased use of rural roads due to the number of new housing developments.

If you would consider joining our team, then give me a call or email me. My contact details are in the list of parish councillors.

Graham White
Chairman

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN THE FUTURE?

There are currently two vacancies on Alverdiscott & Huntshaw Parish Council, and there will shortly be a third.

Are you prepared to spend a few hours a month to help influence the future of the local area, including housing, roads and infrastructure?

It is important that the residents of this area have a say in these, and especially with the advent of the Moroccan power line into Alverdiscott, we need a full council consisting of residents with knowledge of the area.

I am sure that you do not want our affairs run solely by the District Council, which is what will ultimately happen if we are unable to run without at least a minimum number of members.

If you feel that you would have something to contribute, please get in touch with me, or any of the other councillors – our contact details are in the Rag.

Graham White
Council Chairman

Parish Council News**Notice of Parish Council Meetings**

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 16 January 2025 in Alverdiscott Community Hall at 7.30pm - all are welcome.

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

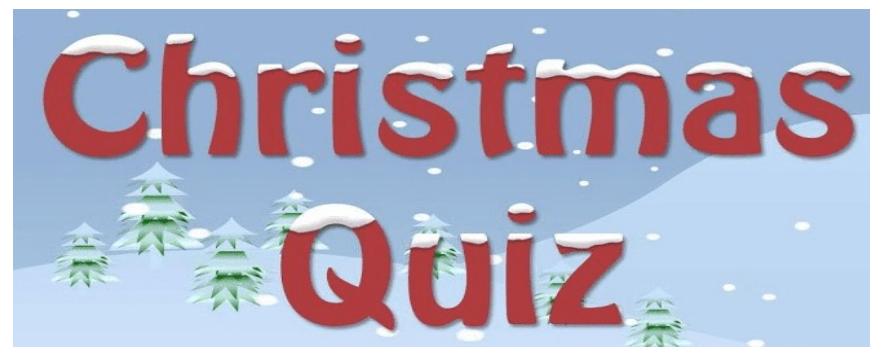
Rosemary Lock councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk 01805 804254

Thomas Elliott councillor.elliott@torridge.gov.uk 01805 804473

PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Alison Hernandez alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk 01392 459808

ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL and FRIENDS of ALL SAINTS CHURCH



SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

7pm for 7:30pm

Teams of up to 6 people-£5 per head

Includes refreshments- with licensed bar

Money raised will be split between the Friends and Hall

Book your place with Liz White

01271 858441 or bulworthy@aol.com

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Tree Planting

Members of the ACH Committee are seen here planting a tree in the grounds of the hall, in recognition of the work done by Gerald Broughton over many years as an active member of

the original team. Gerald's wife Pat provided the oak sapling.

As well as the young oak tree, the committee have created a paved area with planters, and in the spring, next year, there will be a wooden bench to enable anyone passing to take time out for a quiet rest.

Friends of All Saints Church November Draw Prize Winners

1st	Paul Bysouth	£25
2nd	Liz White	£15
3rd	Maggie Harvey	£10

Anyone who is not a member of the Supporters Club but would like to join should contact Louise Saunders on 01271 858522 or, email louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com

Carol Services

There are several Carol Services planned - well it is Christmas - so here they are all listed together:

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Sunday 15th 6pm. Followed by Christmas Refreshments.



Alverdiscott All Saints

Join us for carols, mince pies and mulled wine.

Wednesday 18th December - 7pm.

The Friends of St Mary Magdalene Huntsraw

Invite you to join us for the Christmas Carol Service.

Sunday, 22nd December at 7.00 pm.

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome.



Other services around our area include a crib service for all, at the Hunters Inn car park Newton Tracey at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve, Dec.24th.

Christmas Day Family Service at Horwood at 9.30am.