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**THE LOCAL RAG**

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the  
March Edition  
Volume 22 Issue 2  
2025



Hares often stand up on their hind legs and paw at each other like boxers. This may be a struggle for social dominance, or a Jill rebuffing a Jack.

**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

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**From The Assistant Editor**

The picture on the front cover, I copied from an old Readers Digest book. *A Field Guide to the Animals of Britain*, one of a series of 6 books covering animals, birds, flowers etc.

I looked up hares because there were 2 of them in the field next to our cottage. Sad to say they weren't boxing, simply chasing each other around in the long grass. Great to see though. Well it is March...

We are back to our full 16 pages for this edition. Spring is in the air and there's plenty going on. Easter is approaching so there are services planned at the local Chapels and Churches.

There are also Big Breakfasts to go to. They're on different days so you could make it to both of them...

Huntshaw Parish Hall has posted its planned events for the year on p15. Full details will be posted in the Rag as they come around.

Also, they are commemorating their Centenary this year so there will be extra celebrations to enjoy, see p11.

And staying with celebrations there will be a St George's Day Dinner at Alverdiscott Hall on Saturday 26th April. Full details are on p14.

There is also a splendid piece from John Riddington Young on the subject of St George, starting on p9. It makes really interesting reading.

And there's more good news, thanks to having enough copy this month I have not needed to fill the empty space with dubious jokes.

So a real win, win...

***HUNTSRAW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Village Breakfast 9-11 am*

*Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Hall AGM 7.30pm*

*Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June - Hall Centenary Celebrations!*

*Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Harvest Supper.*

*More details and dates will follow.*

*All events will be in the Hall. Hope to see you there.*

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

**Medical**

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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](mailto:huntshawparishhall@outlook.com)

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

<b>Police</b>	<b>101</b>
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**

**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.

**St GEORGE'S DAY DINNER**

Saturday 26th April 2025

6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

ALVERDISCOTT HALL

A Convivial Evening of English Food, Music, Beer  
and Verse to Celebrate our Own Patron Saint

Traditional Beef Dinner, Recitations and Patriotic Community Songs

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

£25 (£12.50 under 11 years)

Includes entertainment, 3 course meal and a St George flag

CONTACT: Liz White 01271 858441

or

[bulworthy@aol.com](mailto:bulworthy@aol.com)**From the Rector**

Different seasons bring their own joys and challenges. It's a delight for me that the nights are drawing out and very soon the sun will have much more warmth in it. The garden... and all the hard work that goes with it... beckons.

At church we are about to enter the season of lent; traditionally a time to engage in the 'work' of spiritual disciplines, to spend time with the Lord, and where necessary get back on track following Jesus.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, and we are offering 3 services:

**10.00am: Morning prayer and litany in Alverdiscott church.**

**10.30am: Communion with ashing in High Bickington church.**

**7.00pm: Communion with ashing in Beaford church.**

There will be time to pause and reflect, and set our faces towards using lent well; mindful that it is the God of love who calls us to seek him and who promises to be found by those who do.

**We are then offering 5 lent groups across the mission community.** We hope people will feel free to travel to whichever group is most appropriate for them. All are welcome, whether regularly in one of our churches or not. You can find out more about each course on our website:

<https://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org/lent-2025/lent-groups/>

**...And a new church service for early risers**

Because sometimes people can't get to church mid-morning on a Sunday... And because some people love the old Book of Common Prayer (1662) service... And because we are working towards offering a service at the same time, same place every week in all of our churches, so everyone can go to church where they live... we will be trialling through lent an 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) service in **Alverdiscott church**. The service will last 45 minutes so you can get away to other things. It will include a sermon but no hymns. The first service will be on Sunday 9th March and we plan to run through to Easter Sunday on 20th April.

**Please spread the word to those who might be interested... all are welcome.**

Gary

Rector of the Two Rivers Mission Community

**Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel**

**Coffee Morning**

The Coffee Morning in February was for the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. We raised the sum of £120. Well done and thank you to all who attended.

The next meeting is on Thursday March 6, when we will be **raising funds for the Chapel**, so do please come along between 10am and noon, hope to see you there. On April 3 the charity will be Children's Hospice South West.

**Garden Club**

The meeting in November was about rescuing hedgehogs and other wild animals, and was really interesting and enjoyable. The next one will be on Monday 24 February when John Turner will be talking about Butterflies.

Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00. For the latest information contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692.

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

**Monday 3 March - 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.

For further details contact Wendy on 01271 858539.

**Alverdiscott Parish Church**

**Rev Gary Owen** will be leading extra services at Church during Lent as follows:  
 Ash Wednesday - 5 March at 10.00 am. Morning prayer with litany.  
 Each Sunday during Lent at **8.00am** a service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer, with sermon but no Hymns.  
 Dates March 9th. 16th. 23rd. 30th. and April 6th. 13th. 20th.

The service on 30 March will be a united service, followed by the usual refreshments, all are welcome - Barbara Ford.

*(Continued from page 9)*

It is of great interest that some Muslims also venerate George as a monotheistic martyr. According to Muslim legend, under the rule of Diocletian, he was killed three times but resurrected on every occasion. The legend is more developed in the Persian Islamic version in which he himself resurrects the dead, makes trees sprout and pillars bear flowers.

St George is probably best known in English mythology for slaying a dragon. However, this story only became popular in the 12th Century, long after he had died. In the Middle Ages, it was common to use dragons in stories to symbolise the Devil and the forces of evil.

St George's Day celebrations are sadly rare in England, but in 2015, there was a memorable one at the Barnstaple Hotel at which over 120 people attended. Patriotic songs were sung by all. Hand-held little English flags were waved, as a soprano sang 'Rule Britannia.' Quotes from Shakespeare were recited (23rd April was also the Bard's birthday and the anniversary of his death). I was asked to give the speech of King Henry V, urging his army to go "once more unto the breach" in the wall of the besieged city of Harfleur. Unfortunately, as I lifted my sword above my head to shout, "Cry God for Harry, England and St George!" I scored a deep gash in the Artex ceiling!

For those Local Rag readers who wish to join a similar fun-filled dinner to celebrate our own national saint, the ladies of Alverdiscott are cooking a roast beef dinner; flags will be provided and appropriate patriotic entertainment has been arranged. This extravaganza is planned for Saturday 26th April 2025 (6.30 for 7 pm). See p14 for more details.

**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 - Vital

L	S	E
I	E	T
N	S	A

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

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 216

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 215

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050



Huntsraw Church Services

Sunday 9th March 11.00am

A service for the start of Lent... to follow on from the breakfast in the village hall... why not have a good breakfast and then join us for some really good spiritual food.

Church Electoral Rolls

Every six years, every parish church in England is required to wipe its electoral roll (membership list) and create a new one. 2025 is one of those years. If you are over 16, live in the parish, or attend worship in the parish, and are a member of the Church of England or another Christian church, you are welcome to join. If you would like to join your church electoral roll you can pick up an application form from church, or you can email [revgary@tworiversmissioncommunity.org](mailto:revgary@tworiversmissioncommunity.org) and he will send you one.

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for Alverdiscott Chapel during March and April

02 March	11.00am	Rev Rob Blackhall	<b>HC</b>
16 March	11.00am	Duncan Withall	
30 March	11.00am	<b>At Parish Church</b>	
06 April	11.00am	Margaret Price	
18 April	11.00am	Rev Blackhall & Frank Watson	<b>Good Friday</b>
20 April	11.00am	Elsie Potter	<b>HC</b>

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 for April

THE NEXT MUSICAL LUNCH IS ON FRIDAY 28th MARCH  
AND WILL BE AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL.  
FROM FRIDAY 25th APRIL WE WILL BE BACK AT ALL SAINTS.  
Light lunch available from 12.30pm, music from 1pm.



**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**

**Huntshaw Parish Hall Centenary**

It will be quite an exciting year for the Hall as it will be 100 years old! In view of this we are planning the centenary celebrations - which hopefully will attract more people to find out about the history, see the refurbishments we are planning to try and complete before then, and maybe have a game of skittles on our new alley. I will be in contact again with more information.



**Caroline Lewis**

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

Vacancies still exist on the Parish Council.

Council meetings now take place **every other month on the third Thursday**, alternating between the two village halls.

**The next meeting will be on Thursday 20 March in Huntshaw Parish Hall at 7.30pm - all are welcome.**

We would especially 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
Bernard Hardwicke	01271 858676
Helen Bolton	01271 858885
Caroline Lewis	07890 764234
Gill Ross	01271 858392
James White	01271 858580
Paul Matthews	01271 858652
Andy Reed	01271 858974
Alan Matthewman - Parish Clerk	01769 560740

E&amp;OE

Parish Clerk email [alvhuntpc@gmail.com](mailto:alvhuntpc@gmail.com)

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](mailto:linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk) 07828 758360


**District Councillors**

Rosemary Lock [councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:councillor.lock@torridge.gov.uk) 01805 804254

Thomas Elliott [councillor.elliott@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:councillor.elliott@torridge.gov.uk) 01805 804473

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

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



## Huntshaw Village Breakfast

Sunday 9th March

Call 01805 624490 to book

9 am – 11 am in the Hall

£8 pp

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**The Alverdiscott Spring Big Breakfast  
On Sunday 23 March from 9am to 1pm.**

**Start with Porridge, Cereal or Juice.  
Then The Full English, or Choose your Favourites.  
Finishing with Tea, Coffee, Toast.**



**Profits will be shared  
between Hall Funds and  
the  
North Devon Hospice**

**Adults            £10  
Under 10's       £5**

**Friends of All Saints Church February Draw Prize Winners**

1st	Lornie Yewdall	£25
2nd	Josie Stevens	£15
3rd	Roy Courtenay	£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](mailto:louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com)

**“CRY GOD FOR HARRY, ENGLAND AND SAINT GEORGE!”**

The Mayor of London is evidently organising a massive St Patrick’s Day Festival this year to celebrate Ireland’s patron saint. Here in North Devon, there were at least half a dozen Burns Night celebrations last month, giving me the opportunity to get my kilt out of moth-balls and eat haggis, whilst listening to Scottish poetry at the ND Yacht Club.

Visit anywhere in Wales on St David's Day, and you will see both adults and children wearing traditional Welsh costumes or national rugby shirts, often with a bright green leek or daffodil pinned to their clothes.

Why then don't we English show a bit more enthusiasm to have a bit of fun on St George's Day? Sadly a lot of our compatriots do not even know when it is! St. George's Day is on 23 April and an easy way of remembering this is "2,3,4" (the 23rd of the 4th). This isn't always the case however for the Church of England. When St. George's Day falls between Palm Sunday and the Second Sunday of Easter, poor St. George gets his celebration moved to after the Second Sunday of Easter. In 2011, 2014, 2019, and 2022, the Anglicans celebrated St George's Day on the Monday after Easter Monday. The official reason for this is that Sunday is a day to celebrate Christ's resurrection, which is much more important than celebrating a saint.

The former Labour Leader, Jeremy Corbyn promised to make St George's Day a bank holiday in his party's 2017 election manifesto, but then of course, telling lies is what politicians of all colours do best.

St George (AD 275 - 23 April, 303) was born in Cappadocia (now part of Turkey) and became a soldier in the Roman army. He rose to become a member of the elite Praetorian Guard of Emperor Diocletian, but was tortured and executed in Palestine for refusing to recant his Christian faith. Saint George was chosen to represent England during the Hundred Years' War after the Battle of Crécy in 1346. This was one of the most significant victories in English military history, when against overwhelming odds, Edward III's little expeditionary force defeated the forces of Philippe VI of France. George was the patron saint of King Edward, (being an exemplar of Christian loyalty and chivalry) and the king's men-at-arms had worn St George's colours throughout the battle. We share our patron saint with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Ukraine, Malta, Ethiopia, the regions of Catalonia and Aragon, and the city of Moscow.