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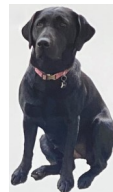
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## THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSNIAW

Welcome to the  
**May Edition**  
Volume 22 Issue 4  
2025



Picture courtesy of the RSPB website

### 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

Webbery Cross Cottage

Webbery

EX39 4PU

Phone 01271 858534

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### From The Assistant Editor

Spring is coming on apace.

As well as bumble bees and wasps we've now had house martins over WXC. They arrived on 9 April but then promptly disappeared! Then we had swallows over Alverdiscott on 11 April. Hopefully they've stayed! Since then we've had a black cap in the garden, hence the cover picture. And the barn owl is still hunting over the field behind our cottage.

The warm dry weather certainly got things moving and was very pleasant, but since then the rain has returned and cooled things down. Still, I suppose we needed it...

Huntshaw's Centenary Celebrations are almost upon us, there's more information available on p9.

If you get your copy of the Local Rag before 1st May I would ask you to please consider coming to the Coffee

Morning at Alverdiscott Chapel. We will be raising money for the **All We Can Myanmar Earthquake Appeal**. I know this disaster has dropped out of the news, but the damage from this huge earthquake will take forever to sort out. There are reckoned to be at least 3,000 people dead, and many more hundreds more still missing. Food, shelter and sanitation, everything has gone. Give it some thought.

On a lighter note, the Parish Council has re-roofed Alverdiscott Bus Stop Shelter, who knew, and is keen to find a new home for the old tiles - for a small fee... see p7.

And on p15 there is an advert for the **Holsworthy Players** who are putting on a show to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. Enjoy.

# LET'S CELEBRATE

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII.  
Written and directed by Lesley and Mike Wonnacott



**Thurs 8th, Fri 9th and Sat 10th May 2025**

**7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)**

Tickets £12/10 available from [www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk](http://www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk)

Box Office Open Saturdays from 26th April 10am-2pm

Ticketsource: 0333 666 3366

(Lines open Mon-Fri 9am - 7.30pm & Sat 9am - 5pm)

Holsworthy Theatre, Bodmin Street, Holsworthy, EX22 6BH

Charity Number 1110237

### 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

<b>NHS - Advice Line</b>	<b>111</b>
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](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.

## Calling All Bell Ringers!

On Saturday 5th July to celebrate Huntshaw's newly refurbished Bells we are organising a tour of bell ringing at 5 churches, ending at Huntshaw with a cream tea and prosecco.

The tour is starting at 9.30am at Huish and ending at Huntshaw with ringing starting at approx. 2.30pm, where cream teas will be served to both those who have been on the tour and locals who would like to come and sit and listen to the bells with a glass in their hand! The ringing at Huntshaw will be from about 2.30 to 3.30pm.

Many different bands ranging from Exeter up to Torrington and Bideford will be on the tour ending at our church but if you are a bell ringer or member of a band that would like to participate and want more info please contact [rsears2017@gmail.com](mailto:rsears2017@gmail.com).

Also, if you're not a ringer yourself and are keen to hear more of the 'music' you can go to the following locations at the times below: -

9.30am to 10.30am Huish church – 3 bells

10.45am to 11.45am Beaford church – 6 bells

12noon to 1pm – Great Torrington – 8 bells

1.15pm to 2.15pm – St Giles in the Wood – 6 bells

2.30pm to 3.30pm – Huntshaw church – 3 bells

We have organised clear blue skies and a warm sunny day so come along at 2.30pm on the Sat to listen and enjoy a lovely cream tea and prosecco while you're there.

Richard Sears

## From the Rector

A recent survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of the Bible Society has turned up a surprising result: the percentage of the UK population attending church has risen significantly over the last 6 years, so that 12% of the population claims to attend church at least once per month. The biggest driver in this quiet revival is an increase from 4% to 16% amongst younger people (Gen Z - born between 1997 and 2012). The survey of 13,000 people noted that the desire for community was a key factor in this growth in church-going, that people who attended church were engaging in more spiritual practices than previously, and that people who attended church experienced a higher level of mental wellbeing. Church is also becoming more diverse.

Now, this survey may prove to be inaccurate, or to have just highlighted a flash in the pan. Or it may have captured a move of God which is quietly taking place in our country. Only time will tell. But I do think that perhaps it gives the lie to the tired, old, narrative that church is just for "old" people and that when this generation passes away, so will the church. Maybe younger people, in the midst of all the uncertainties and troubles of this world, are looking to God in a search for deeper meaning, connection and purpose. Maybe in God they are finding it!

If I am honest, our little churches across the mission community are struggling to keep up with all the requirements of keeping the "institution" of the church afloat... and to maintain on behalf of the community, historic buildings and churchyards. We are doing our best, and hopefully as more people join our churches there will be more people willing to help with practical tasks. Should there be a revival in the spiritual life of our nation I want our churches to be open, and ready to support those seeking ultimate meaning and truth. But of one thing I am certain, God still loves the people of this nation, and our little communities here in north Devon. Jesus, the good shepherd, is still going out to seek and save the lost. And Jesus' promise still holds true, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7.7-8, NIV translation).

**Gary Owen - Rector of the Two Rivers Mission Community**



### Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

#### Coffee Morning

In April we raised the sum of £100 for The Children's Hospice. Thanks go to all who contributed. On Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> the charity will now be **All We Can and their Myanmar Earthquake Emergency Appeal**, so please come along between 10am and noon, and help to raise some money for this disaster fund. On Thursday 5 June the charity will now be Action for Children.

#### Garden Club

The meeting in March was enjoyed by all. The next meeting will be on Monday 26 May, yes I know it's a bank holiday, when we will visit the home of Linda and Fray Southgate, at Horwood Farm. Please gather at the Chapel at **2.15pm** so we can carshare.

The cost is just £1.00. **For the latest information contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692.**



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



There is **NO** meeting in May as it's a Bank Holiday so

we resume on

**Monday 2 June - 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.



#### From the Parish Council

Notifications of road closures in Torridge to take place between the end of April and the end of September.

The closures most immediately affecting our area are:

Road from Huntshaw Water to Twitchen Cross

Road heading east from Gammaton Moor Cross

Road heading north from Huntshaw Water

**Specific closure notices will be placed prior to work commencing.**

### News from Huntshaw Church

We enjoyed a full holy week and Easter weekend in church. On Palm Sunday we processed from Knockworthy Cross to church behind two enthusiastic donkeys. Good Friday saw us gather around a cross in church to reflect on Jesus' death... and then eat hot cross buns. On Easter Sunday our numbers were swelled by visitors and 23 adults and 6 children enjoyed a communion service, followed by chocolate cake.

We held our church AGM after the Palm Sunday service, electing a small Parochial Church Council (PCC). Two council members gave notice that this would be their last year of service. We will need to find more people to join the council next year if we are to continue to maintain the church building and worship within it.

The PCC has posted a copy of the Diocese of Exeter churchyard regulations on the noticeboard outside church. We thank everyone who tends graves and keeps the churchyard looking nice for the whole community. We would ask that people take notice of the regulations and act accordingly. We'd be very grateful if people would remove old flowers and other items from graves and take them away to dispose of, rather than leaving them for the PCC to deal with.

#### Last time the word was: APRIL FOOL

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 - Very small ripple?

Word count 25 = Good. More than 30 = Well done!

O	A	V
C	E	I
M	W	R

## Leisure

## Su Doku Puzzle No. 218

Good Luck...

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

## Solution to Su Doku No. 217

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792

07947 358050



## Huntshaw Church Services

**Sunday 11th May:** Morning service, 11.00am**Wednesday 14th May:** Bacon butties, coffee and short prayers for the parish, 10.00am – 11.0am. This is part of the Two Rivers Mission Community day of prayer and feasting.**Sunday 8th June:** Morning service, 11.00am (Pentecost)**Sunday 22 June:** Service to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the village hall, 11.00am.**Turn to page 13 for more information about Huntshaw Church**

## Alverdiscott Church Services

**We have decided to continue our 8.00am communion service** each Sunday in Alverdiscott church. Between 5 and 9 people have gathered each week during Lent and we've decided to continue and try to build further.

The service follows the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

We do hope that residents of Alverdiscott will join us, as well as those from further afield who appreciate the traditional BCP service and those who need an early morning service due to other commitments later in the day.

## Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041

Services planned for  
Alverdiscott Chapel during May

04 May 11.00am Frank Watson

18 May 11.00am Rev Rob Blackhall **HC**Information about the Methodist Church  
can be found here:<https://www.methodist.org.uk/> and at  
<http://torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk/>



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### FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH AGM

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 6th May at 7.30pm in the church. Everyone welcome.

Please come along and hear everything we have achieved in the last year. We will be interested to receive any suggestions for future fund raising events and any ideas for improvements.



### ALVERDISCOTT & HUNTSNAY PARISH COUNCIL

We still have **two vacancies** on the council, if anyone wishes to have a say in the future development of our area. Please contact me if you are considering becoming a member – **we will need all the help we can get if the Morocco power project gets underway.**

Talking of which, I am sure that most, if not all, of you will have received the latest update from Xlinks regarding the Morocco - UK power project. Whilst there are many hurdles to overcome before any final approval is given, you will have noted that Xlinks have been talking with Torridge District Council and Devon County Council about setting up a Community Benefit Fund.

This is likely to be a not inconsiderable amount, and it would be of great assistance if residents in the area could come up with ideas for such a fund. I would like this to be a kind of brainstorming exercise, so don't be afraid to propose what might seem like silly suggestions. There have been many examples in the past where such ideas have led to constructive outcomes.

As I have said, the project has not yet had final approval, but nevertheless it would be of great assistance if we had ideas ready for submission.

**Please put your thinking caps on, and let either me or Jim White have any ideas – our contact details are on page 10.**

**Graham White**  
**Parish Council Chairman**

**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 15 May in Alverdiscott Hall.**

**This will be the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.00pm followed by the Parish Council AGM at 7.30pm.**

**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

**FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

THE NEXT MUSICAL LUNCH IS ON FRIDAY 30TH MAY

AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT.

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

**Alverdiscott Flower and Produce Show - 2nd August**

You should find a copy of the Flower Show schedule inside this copy of the Rag.

If it's missing or you would like another copy please get in touch. Asst Ed.

**The Parish Council have now had the bus shelter at Alverdiscott re-roofed.**

They have retrieved the old roof tiles, and these are available if anyone has a use for them.

There are 175 x 50cm x 25cm, and 11 x 50cm x 38cm.

They are available to take away for a small consideration to help offset the cost of the repairs.

Graham White - 01271 858441

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email - woodtownfarm@outlook.com  
Or visit our Website  
www.heddensofwoodtown.co.uk



### **FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH SUNDAY LUNCH**

25th May - Alverdiscott Community Hall 12.30pm for 1pm.



Tickets £20 - 2 course meal with a glass of wine  
Book your place with Louise Saunders 01271 858522 ,  
[louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com](mailto:louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com)

### **Friends of All Saints Church - April Draw Prize Winners**

1st	Michelle Huxtable	£25
2nd	Alan Saunders	£15
3rd	Pat Broughton	£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)

*What are you doing on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>  
June? From 2.00pm to 6.00pm.*

### ***It's Huntshaw Parish Hall's***

**100<sup>th</sup>**

*Anniversary  
1925 - 2025*

*There will be displays of  
local history*

*Launch of a  
booklet on the  
history of the hall*



*Torridge Male Voice Choir  
at 3.00pm*

*The Homes of Huntshaw Project  
A chance to see the recent  
refurbishments*

*Free entry Free cream tea Free parking*

*There are lots of road signs pointing to  
Huntshaw, and this would be an opportunity  
to see where those roads lead!*

**EX38 7HH**

*Come and enjoy the afternoon.*