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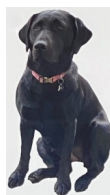
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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
Aug Edition
Volume 22 Issue 7
2025



Several People Said They Really Liked This Picture So I've Used It Again.

The keen-eyed may spot that I've reversed it.

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

The Huish to Huntshaw Bell Tour took place as planned and was a great success. There's a report and pictures on pages 7 and 9.

The Flower and Produce Show is almost here - on Saturday 2 August to be precise, but it's not too late to enter. Contact Louise on 01271 858522 for details - or email on

louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com

I really hope you enjoyed the quiz questions last month. How did you get on? If you turn to p14 you'll find the answers and maybe give yourself a pat on the back. I'll put the second lot of questions in, next time there is space.

I treated Elsie and myself to a new mobile phone each, last week. Well

the 2 old ones where about 9 years old and barely functioning. I went for a couple of mid-range Samsungs. Opening the box I found there was no manual, only a pointless getting started leaflet. So I went on line, found a user guide and downloaded it. It has 134 pages! I suppose that's why they don't put one inside each box anymore...

I guess what I really needed was a 6 year old!

And now a quick thank-you to all the advertisers who have paid for this years adverts - you know who you are. If you haven't paid yet then please do so. We don't want to lose you and the Rag relies on your paid adverts to keep going. If you don't need your advert any longer please get in touch.

Huntshaw Harvest Supper

Ploughman's followed by seasonal puddings

Saturday 13th September 7.00 pm - £12.50 pp.

Please call 01805 624490 to book.

Bring your own alcohol, soft drinks available.

Please come and enjoy the evening in the newly refurbished hall.

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Torrington Hospital	01805 622208

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Local Hall Bookings & Enquiries

Alverdiscott Hall David Potter
01271 858534

Huntshaw Parish Hall Jenny Staines
01805 624490
huntshawparishhall@outlook.com

Community Contacts**Advice Lines**

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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

For routine messages that **do not** require prompt action.

NORTH DEVON QUIZ. THE ANSWERS.

1. The Rolle Canal. also known as the Torrington Canal.
2. Financed, largely by Lord John Rolle, the canal mainly functioned to bring barge-loads of limestone for improving Lord Rolle's farmland.
3. Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay in 1865, but in 1878, he was sent to the United Services College at Westward Ho!
4. Charles Kingsley was borne in Holne in 1819, but his childhood was spent in Clovelly, where his father was curate and rector.
5. Joseph Mallord William Turner RA, known in his time as William Turner, was an English Romantic painter, printmaker and watercolourist. He visited Barnstaple and painted 'Barnstaple Bridge at Sunset'
6. The Newton Tracey church of St Thomas á Becket was built by William de Tracy as a penance. He was one of the knights who, at King Henry II's suggestion, killed Thomas á Becket in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170.
7. The paediatric ward at the NDDH is named after Caroline Thorpe, whose memorial is on the summit of Codden Hill
8. Bideford Black is a geologically unique earth pigment which was mined for at least 200 years in Bideford.
9. Bloody Corner, on the main road from Northam to Bideford.
10. HMS Revenge.
11. The Bar.
12. The Golden Fleece.
13. Sir Francis Charles Chichester KBE was born in Shirwell on 17th September 1901.
14. Bideford-based potter Harry Juniper made his first harvest jug in 1958 for the Torrington Town Crier, Burt Waldron, using the traditional sgraffito style .

Thanks again to **John Riddington Young** for all the questions **and the answers!** There are more, which I shall include as space allows.

From the Rector

On Saturday 12th July eleven intrepid members of the Two Rivers Mission Community met in the car park at Croyde and in already sweltering heat set off on the mile or so walk to Baggy Point where we prayed from 10.30am to 11.00am. And so, we joined with other Christians standing along the 630 miles of the South West Coast Path, circling the Southwest in prayer.

Croyde was packed, with many people on the beach, others swimming, surfing and bodyboarding. The cafes were crowded... although that didn't stop us availing ourselves of refreshments before we set off home. It was a joy to see so many people enjoying themselves. I know there is a balance to be had between locals and visitors, but we are lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world and if others can find rest, relaxation and fun here, then that must be a good thing.

Whilst people played in the sea, the RNLI coastguards watched on, keeping an eye out for anyone in trouble. When necessary, they gave people advice or even a warning. Their aim, of course, was not to discourage people enjoying the waters, but to help them do so safely.

Not many people will have noticed our small group praying at Baggy Point, although I hope that one or two might have caught on the wind, our rendition of Amazing Grace. But I think that in some way, we added to the wellbeing of North Devon as we offered our thanks and petitions to God; as we prayed for those who farm and work in agriculture, for those who work in the tourist industry, for local education, public services and health services, for the young growing up in a confusing world and the elderly and frail nearing the end of their earthly lives.

Prayer might not be one of the more visible things we do as churches, but I think its one of the most crucial. Let's never underestimate the power of even the most simple prayers... and let's not neglect to uphold in prayer our families and communities; the families and communities God loves and cares for even more than we do.

Gary Owen - Rector of the Two Rivers Mission Community

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

On 3 July all donations were for "Over and Above" the after care unit at North Devon District Hospital - We raised £165. Well done to all. **On 7 August we will be supporting the Harbour Community in Bideford.** So do please come along and join us between 10am and 12 noon. Then on 4 September we will be supporting the RNLI Appledore.

Garden Club

The next meeting will be on Monday 28 July, when we will be visiting Sandra Barr's garden at Lower Lovacott. Please gather at the Chapel at **2.15pm**. The cost is just £1.00.

For the latest information please contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692.



CRAFT and CHATTER

We will be taking a summer break in July and August.

So the next meeting will be on Monday 1 September.

For further details contact Wendy on 01271 858539.



Alverdiscott Parish Church

There will be a Group service at our Parish Church on Sunday August 31st at 11.00am to which you are all cordially invited.

Tea and Coffee will be served after the service.

This is in addition to the 8.00am Holy Communion service.

Many thanks

Barbara

Alverdiscott Hall Harvest Supper

Sadly, we will not be able to hold our traditional **Harvest Supper** at the hall this year, due to a lack of helpers.

Alverdiscott Hall Committee

The new bench at Alverdiscott Hall

Rest a While

We now have a bench outside the Village Hall. If you are out for a walk why not have a sit down and admire our beautiful location.



Last time the word was: RESIDENCE

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 - Interviews

Word count 15 = Good. More than 25 = Well done!

T	A	S
I	N	U
I	D	O

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 221

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 220

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

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



Huntsraw Church Services

Sunday 9th August: 11.00am Morning worship

Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday 8.00am: Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday 31st August: 11.00am Group Service

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Circuit Minister Revd Andrew Vidamour 01237 478453

Services planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel during August

03 Aug 11.00am At Parkham - United Service
17 Aug 11.00am Roy Harris **HC**
31 Aug 11.00am At Parish Church

Information about the Methodist Church
can be found here:

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





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THE NEXT ONE IS ON FRIDAY 29th AUGUST

And then again on FRIDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT

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



ALVERDISCOTT & HUNTSRAW PARISH COUNCIL

We had our bi-monthly meeting last week, where we met with our **new County Councillor, Mark Barry**. He and his Reform Party colleagues look as though they are going to shake up the council a bit, and make sure that Exeter does not collar all the funding so that the more rural areas are not forgotten.

The government have now stated that the Morocco/Xlinks project “**is not in the UK national interest at this time**”, whatever that is supposed to mean. Probably because they did not think of it first?

Xlinks are now trying to find new funding for the project, but at the moment this is on hold. If anyone has an odd £2 billion or so to spare, they would most likely be interested.....

The DCC are to consider a proposal to reduce all roads in rural areas with small villages to 20mph. We have said that a blanket measure such as this would not work, and that if specific areas were targeted, this might have most impact. The example of what has happened in Wales was cited, where many 20mph areas have now been abolished following the reaction from residents.

We are continuing to chase the Highways Department regarding the management of road closures and route diversions in the area. It would appear that they simply look on a map to see where the routes are, rather than actually going to see for themselves, and then hand over to sub-contractors, who then hand over to another subcontractor, etc, etc...

This results in closures where there is effectively no alternative, as happened recently in Guscott, where traffic was diverted along a bridlepath!

Graham White - 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 18 September in Alverdiscott Community Hall at 7.30pm - all are welcome.

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 - Vice Chair	01271 858974
Alan Matthewman - Parish Clerk	01769 560740

E&OE

Parish Clerk email: 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**

Mark Barry mark.barry@devon.gov.uk 07392 433699

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

From Huish to Huntshaw Bell Tour - Report

In celebration of Huntshaw's newly refurbished bells, on Saturday 5th July we held a tour of 5 churches ending at St Mary Magdalene, Huntshaw, with a cream tea and prosecco to celebrate the full circle ringing of the 3 bells for the first time in about 60 years.

It had been a long time coming since the start in 2019 when covid also interrupted things. Both the 600-year-old oak frame and the bell fittings were in a poor state, and it wasn't until 2024 that we got them into full circle ringing by further strengthening the frame. Taylors did the bell work, but the frame was sympathetically strengthened by Dave Belgrave, a local Master Carpenter in heritage work, with us as helpers holding his tools!

We designed the tour to be an hours ringing at each church with a 15min drive between each one. So, it was on an overcast and drizzly day that we started at 9.30am at Huish church with its 3 bells, the Estate church of Lord Clinton, with Lady Clinton who came to wish us well and 17 intrepid ringers who actually had a working Sat Nav!

We seemed to gather people on the way with about 30 ringers by the end. Two thirds were 'change ringers' from deepest N Devon, but surprisingly there were 'method ringers' joining who were on holiday from Lincolnshire, Stafford and London who had seen the advert, and either timed their holiday to coincide, or just joined us on spec.

After Huish we moved on to St George and All Saints, Beaford (6 bells), a pretty church in the centre of the village with a Norman Font and fine wagon roof, and then onto St Michael and All Angels Church in Torrington with its 8 bells.

Our next venue was St Giles-in-the-Wood (6 bells) which where most commented: - "There are no woods surrounding it anymore!"

We all got to Huntshaw as planned at about 2.30pm to ring the 3 bells. Already here and set up were Devon Cream Teas for both participants and those who'd come to listen. As we toured the churches, we had people joining to listen and by the end, together with the ringers, we numbered about 50 to 60 of us, and a glass of prosecco or beer was enjoyed by many.

Richard Sears.

See pictures on p9.

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Huntshaw Parish Hall Centenary

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the centenary. The afternoon was a great success. Thank you also to all those who researched and displayed such detailed information about life in the parish in times gone by, and to the Torridge Male Voice choir who added to the fun.

An opportunity to view the Homes of Huntshaw project will be advertised once it is complete. If you haven't had the chance to give in your photo yet, please do. There is a tin in the church porch.



Friends of All Saints Church - July Draw Prize Winners

1st	Brian Moore	£25
2nd	Linda Southgate	£15
3rd	Mandy Ridd for Amelia	£10

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their tickets for a further year, and welcome to our new members. 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

From Huish to Huntshaw - The Bell Tour



**We started at Huish at
9.30am.**

**And finished
at
Huntshaw
at 2.30pm.**



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