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**THE LOCAL RAG**

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSYAW

Welcome to the  
 September Edition  
 Volume 22 Issue 8  
 2025

**September**

In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological autumn is on 1 September. In the Southern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological spring is on 1 September.

*In the past September was called the "harvest month" while the Anglo-Saxons called the month **Gerstmonath**, barley month.*

In 1752, the British Empire adopted the Gregorian calendar. As a result September 2 was immediately followed by September 14, losing 11 days in the process!

**September's birthstone is the sapphire.**



**The birth flowers are**

the forget-me-not

the morning glory

and the aster.



Some Libras and Virgos are born in September, with Virgos being born on September 1st through to September 22nd and Libras September 23rd through to September 30th.



Virgo



Libra

### 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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### From The Assistant Editor

So here we are in September and it is beginning to feel a little autumnal. The dry spell is continuing and the grass and some of the trees are looking a little "tired".

At our last Garden Club meeting there was much talk about the bumper crops some of us have enjoyed this year. Apple trees groaning under the weight. More runner beans than you could ever eat, and fruit bushes laden with berries. Even **our** tomato plants have done well this year! So maybe the hot dry weather we've had recently has been good news for some.

As some of you will know, the ex-BT phone box in Stony Cross was looking a bit sad. It had been used as a "library" but over time the paint

work had peeled and rust had set-in. The door was damaged and it was no longer weather-proof, and so fell out of use.

Now, due to the efforts of 2 local residents it is really looking good again. Richard and Tony have worked hard, the door has been repaired and the paint work looks like new. There are pictures on p9.

So now we need to find a use for it. Maybe it could be used as a "book exchange" again or maybe you have a better idea?

We also need someone to take on the role of looking after it, so if you have any ideas do get in touch.

On p14 you will find the second part of the "North Devon Quiz". Let us know how you get on. Answers next month...

### Open Gardens and Afternoon Tea

Gordon and Ann-Marie Ford would like to thank everyone who attended their Open Gardens and Afternoon Tea on Sunday 22nd June in aid of All Saints Church Alverdiscott.

Everyone had a great afternoon visiting the gardens and enjoying an afternoon tea. Special thanks to Barbara, Colette and Louise for organising and preparing the cakes, Wendy for her tea/coffee making skills and Thelma for washing up.

**A great afternoon raising £436.50 for All Saints Church Alverdiscott.**

**Thank you all for your loyal support.**

#### Emergencies

Police - Fire etc.	999
Electricity	0800 678 3105
Gas	0800 111 999
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RSPCA	0300 123 4999
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#### 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.

**NORTH DEVON QUIZ - PART TWO.**

- 1 When King Charles III was Prince of Wales, he bestowed the Lordship of Horwood to an old friend as a 40th birthday present, but where does the Lord of Horwood live?
- 2 Over the last centuries, Barnstaple has had four railway stations. Name them.
- 3 The shipyard at Appledore is the second largest covered shipyard in the world. Since 2020, it has been owned by Harland and Wolff, but what was the name of the previous owners?
- 4 The bones of almost 1000 men are said to be buried at Bone Hill in Northam, but whose bones are they?
- 5 Bartridge Hill and Belladown Hill are two steep hills on the road connecting which two North Devon towns?
- 6 During the early part of the 20th century, what is now the Barnstaple Museum served a different community role. What was it?
- 7 What is Henry Williamson famous for?
- 8 Name the Royal Navy Hospital Ship sunk by a German U-boat in a war crime in 1918.
- 9 At the entrance to Ilfracombe harbour is an 83 feet tall statue in stainless steel and bronze. What is it called and who is the sculptor?

10 **PICTURE QUESTION ONE:** Around a dozen of these strange tall columns could be found in the streets of Bideford. A few still remain. What was their purpose?



11 **PICTURE QUESTION TWO:** This famous poet and dramatist was born in Barnstaple in 1685. He is chiefly remembered as the author of *The Beggar's Opera*. What is his name?



Thanks again to **John Riddington Young** for all the questions.  
Answers next month.

**From the Rector**

Never has the view from my kitchen window, which stretches across the Taw valley to Exmoor, been so brown... well at least in my experience.

Admittedly it's not as brown as parts of the midlands we visited recently on holiday... but nonetheless Devon doesn't seem quite as green as we've become used to since moving down in 2019. Many of the plants in our garden are showing signs of the need for a good downpour...

Was it a dry spell that prompted King David to write in the first Psalm:

<sup>1</sup> *Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
<sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.  
<sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither –  
whatever they do prospers.*

(Psalm 1, Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV® Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide).

“Dry” periods come to most of us; times when life's challenges get us down, or sap our energy or joy. Being “rooted” in Jesus can give us the nourishment we need to keep going. It takes time for a tree to put down good roots... and it takes time for us to develop good habits of steering clear of evil and growing in relationship with God. But I believe it's well worth the investment. I'd encourage us all to make the time and put in the energy.

**For more information about a “Day of Prayer and Feasting”, and a Confirmation Service please turn to page 7.**

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

**Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel**

**Coffee Morning**

On 7 August we were raising funds for the Harbour Community in Bideford, and made £100 - so well done to all. **On 4 September we will be supporting the RNLI station at Appledore.** Then on 2 October we haven't decided who to support, so if you have a suggestion please get in touch. As always do please come along and join us between 10am and 12 noon.

**Garden Club**

The July meeting, at Sandra Barr's garden at Lower Lovacott, was well attended with pretty gardens and beautiful weather. As was the August visit to the "work in progress" of Hayley and Andy. Most enjoyable. The next visit will be to John Turner's garden on Monday 29 September. Meet at the Chapel at 2.15pm  
The cost is just £1.00.

**For details of the next meet please contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692.**



**\*\*\*CRAFT and CHATTER\*\*\*  
!!!We are Back!!!**



The next meeting is on **Monday 1 September** from 2 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 just £1.

For further details contact Wendy on 01271 858539.

**Alverdiscott Flower and Produce Show**

The Flower Show went off really well and was well attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day and we finished with approximately £500 surplus including the sum of £175 from the raffle which will go to **Cancer Research UK - the Race for Life**, which local lad Andy Rickard took part in.

**A Few More JOKES - (Allegedly)**

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway.  
One said to the other: "You stay, I'll go on a head."

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

**Boom - Tish!**

**Last time the word was: AUDITIONS**

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 - Disparaged  
Word count 17 = Good. More than 30 = Well done!

D	E	T
B	L	I
T	E	L

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 222

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 221

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050



Huntsraw Church Services

Harvest Festival: Sunday 14th September 11.00am

A traditional harvest festival service giving thanks for the harvest and praying for our local farming community.

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Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday 8.00am: Book of Common Prayer Communion  
 Sunday 31 Aug 11.00am: Harvest Service

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Circuit Minister Revd Andrew Vidamour 01237 478453

Services planned for Alverdiscott Chapel during August, Sept and Oct

31 Aug 11.00am At Parish Church  
 07 Sept 10.30am At Bideford for Circuit Service  
 21 Sept 11.00am Rev Lynne Burgon HC  
 05 Oct 11.00am Rev Paul Booth Harvest Festival  
 19 Oct 11.00am Elsie Potter

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

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THE NEXT ONE IS ON FRIDAY 29TH AUGUST  
 THEN FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER AND AGAIN ON

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER.

AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT.

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



## ALVERDISCOTT & HUNTSRAW PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a public meeting at Alverdiscott  
Community Hall

on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm.**

To discuss and hear public comment on the proposed  
solar installation at Bulworthy Farm, prior to the parish  
council submitting comment to Torridge District Council.

Residents of Newton Tracey, Horwood and Lovacott, and  
of Westleigh are also invited to attend.

### In Response

Further to the articles by Mr Graham White, Parish Council Chairperson, in the July and August issues of the Rag, I'd like to point out that parish councillors have a dual role. One: they represent the views and concerns of the residents of the parish to the parish council itself and, through it, to the district, county or unitary authority. Two: they report back to residents on issues affecting the parish. It is not a political appointment, nor does the role involve furthering one's own opinions.

As such it is disturbing to see Mr White promoting his personal feelings in the Rag under the Alverdiscott and Huntsraw Parish Council banner. His views do not reflect those of everyone in our parish. Other people are horrified to have a Reform Party County Councillor. They support the X-Links project, are not climate change deniers, and believe a 20mph limit is wise bearing in mind our lethal rural roads - because every blind bend and summit could conceal a child on a horse, a pedestrian, livestock, workers or wildlife.

Our Public Servants must reflect Parishioners' varying opinions, not their own. **Kate Goldstone.**

**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&amp;OE

Parish Clerk email

[alvhuntpc@gmail.com](mailto:alvhuntpc@gmail.com)Parish Council Facebook page: [@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](mailto:mark.barry@devon.gov.uk) 07392 433699

**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

**Day of Prayer and Feasting – Wednesday 17th September**

Our termly day of prayer will take place on Wednesday 17th September between 7.00am and 7.30pm. We aim to pray in each of our parishes. We'll focus on the term ahead at church, the needs of each parish, and our concerns for the wider world. There will be a chance to listen to anything the Lord might be saying to us.

We're encouraging folk to fast on Tuesday 16th in preparation for the day. This might be done by fasting from an evening meal on the Tuesday or even going without food for the whole day. Alternatively, it could be a fast from snacks between meals or social media.

**Opportunities to pray and feast on Wednesday 17th are as follows:**

7.00am:	Beaford church (followed by bacon butties)
8.30am:	Alverdiscott church (BCP morning prayer)
9.30am:	Newton Tracey church (before coffee morning in the Hunters Inn)
10.30am:	Huntshaw church (followed by coffee and cake)
12 noon:	St Giles church (following Coffee, Cake and Company)
1.00pm:	Atherington church
2.00pm:	Roborough church
3.00pm:	Tawstock church (followed by tea and scones)
4.30pm:	Yarnscombe church
5.30pm:	Horwood church
7.00pm:	High Bickington church hall (followed by a meeting of the benefice council at 7.30pm).

A liturgy for use at home can be found on the mission community website: <https://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org/whats-on/day-of-prayer-and-fasting/>

**Confirmation**

The Bishop of Exeter will be holding a confirmation service in Great Torrington church on Sunday 2nd November at 3.00pm.

Young people who might like to consider being confirmed are invited to attend a youth preparation sessions take place on Wednesdays 1st, 8th and 15th October at 7.30pm in High Bickington Rectory.

**Please contact Rev Gary if you would like more information.**

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Huntsraw 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.

**Friends of All Saints Church - August Draw Prize Winners**

1st	Adrian Ley	£25
2nd	Paul Bysouth	£15
3rd	Helen White	£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](mailto:louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com)



The old BT phone box in Stony Cross was looking a bit shabby. The wind and rain had taken their toll. Then the 2 guys below *Richard May and Tony Falconbridge* stepped in, and after several months hard work it's now looking really good again. All we need now is a new use for it. If you have any good ideas get in touch...



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