

CRAWFORD NEWS



Reliable Newspaper Deliveries

SIX DAYS A WEEK

Alverdiscott & Surrounding Areas

Tel: 01805 625592 Mob: 07850 617372

Towers

Country Kennels

North Devon's Premier Country Kennels
"Where dogs have more fun"

Tel. 01271 858366 or 07720 844429

Proprietors: Chris and Vicky Jarman

www.towerskennels.co.uk



C.T.A. CENTRE - West Park Yarnscombe EX31 3LZ

YOUR LOCAL TRAINING PROVIDER FOR ALL YOUR INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION TRAINING NEEDS.

We are able to handle all the classifications of plant for which Construction Skills offer CPCS cards. The centre opened in 1991 and comprises a site which replicates all construction site conditions. There are 40 acres of dedicated training area plus 7 acres of woodland (for chainsaw training) which means that it is possible to carry out more than one type of training at any one time.

Contact the team on: 01271 858575 Email: training@ctacentre.co.uk



P D B Plumbing

Plumbing - Heating - Gas

01271 858549

07957 218532

****Free Estimates****

24 Hour Call Out

THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
October Edition
Volume 22 Issue 9
2025



Turn to page 14 to learn what this intriguing Victorian structure actually is - it's answer number 10.

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

Locally there is much talk about one subject at the moment, and that is Solar Farms.

This is followed closely by Battery Electric Storage Systems. We appear to have become the centre of attention, and we thought the Xlinks cable project was crazy...

There are brief reports of both the meetings held at Alverdiscott Hall re, the above subjects, turn to pages 7 and 11 for details.

In the previous issue the restored phone box in Stony Cross got a lot of coverage. So far it does not appear to have created much response. If anyone has any sensible suggestions about how it could be put to good use please get in touch.

As some of you will know two local pillars of our community are both in hospital at the moment.

Philip Squire is in Musgrove Park in Taunton and Peter Ley had to be airlifted to Derriford in Plymouth. We wish them both speedy recoveries and hope that they are soon safely back at home.

The next big event at Alverdiscott Hall will be my personal favourite, the Big Breakfast on 26 October, details on p9. Make a note now! Hope to see you there.

There is also a Quiz Night coming up in November - see p8. And a Pie & Mash and Skittles night at Huntshaw in December - see p13.

On p14 you will find the answers to the Devon quiz.

Bideford Music Club

Bideford Music Club is pleased to announce the first concert of the 2025-26 season.

This will be on Wednesday 1st. October at 7.30 at St. Mary's Church Bideford. We are welcoming violinist Joel Munday (a Tillett Debut Artist 2025) and Julian Trevelyan pianist. They have called their programme **"La Belle Epoch"** and will be playing works by Ravel, Bonis Poulenc and Faure. We look forward to hearing them perform, and hope that many of you will join us **on Wednesday 1st. October.**

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

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 PART TWO - THE ANSWERS.

- 1 Baron Claude Patrice Bourget, Lord of Horwood lives in Provence, but occasionally visits Horwood.
- 2 Barnstaple Town, Barnstaple Quay, Barnstaple Victoria Road and Barnstaple Junction.
- 3 It was owned by Babcock Marine Appledore from 2007 to 2018.
- 4 The Vikings who died in the Battle of Bloody Corner.
- 5 (B3232) Main road from Barnstaple to Great Torrington: Belladown Hill up to Newton Tracey and Bartridge Hill up to Alverdiscott.
- 6 It was known as the Athenaeum and was a Library and a Gentleman's Club.
- 7 Henry Williamson was the author of 'Tarka the Otter,' 'Salar the Salmon' and many other books. He lived in Georgeham, where he is buried
- 8 HMHS Glenart Castle was sunk off Hartland Point. A memorial stone stands near the spot.
- 9 Verity is the name of the huge (10 inches taller than the 'Angel of the North') statue created by Damien Hirst in 2012, which stands on the pier at the entrance to the harbour in Ilfracombe. It has been loaned to the town for 20 years. Verity means truth and Hirst describes his work as a, "modern allegory of truth and justice."
- 10 These surreal tall structures are in fact, Victorian sewage ventilation pipes to allow the noxious gases to escape from the underground sewers. The four trumpet-like openings are the vents and the arrow is not a wind-vane; it signifies the direction of flow of the underground sewage.
- 11 Poet and playwright John Gay was born in Barnstaple to an aristocratic though impoverished family. The Beggar's Opera (1728) was a great success and was a satire of the then prime minister Sir Robert Walpole. Details of Gay's life and work adorn the walls of the pub in town, 'The Panniers.'

Thanks again to **John Riddington Young** for all the questions and the answers.

From the Rector

We are now well into harvest season in the Two Rivers Mission Community churches. Even for those of us who do not earn our living from the land, or perhaps especially for those of us who don't, the season of harvest gives us the opportunity to pause and be thankful for the fruits of the earth. **We owe both God, from whom all good things come, and those who bring us the fruits of the earth, our thanks.**

We try to take time in our harvest services to pray for our local farmers and those involved in agriculture... and then to extend those prayers further to those who work in other parts of the food chain and even those who shop and cook meals for us... and then further still to all those who use their God given gifts and talents to help harness and make use of the earth's resources. We recognise that this can sometimes be challenging and complex, and possibly involve difficult choices. If you are part of one of these groups, please know that you are in our prayers.

We are also keen to remember the Christian principle of helping those who are in need.

Many of our churches this year are getting behind **the toilet twinning project run by Tearfund**. For £60 you can twin a toilet, receiving a certificate showing your "toilet twin". The money donated helps provide clean water and sanitation for communities overseas. Huntshaw church has already raised enough to twin one of the toilets in the village hall. If you might like to twin your toilet at home, or encourage a group of which you are a member to raise funds and twin local toilets (maybe in a community hall, school or pub) you can find out more at www.toilettwinning.org or get in touch with me on 01769 560792.

Gary Owen - Rector of the Two Rivers Mission Community Churches

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

On 4 September we were supporting the RNLI station at Appledore and raised the sum of £110. The next meeting is on **2 October when we will be raising money for the Devon Air Ambulance**, so do please come along and join us between 10am and 12 noon to support this important cause.

On 6 November we will be supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Garden Club

As some of you will know, Philip is currently in hospital and unable to arrange or attend any visits. We all wish him well, and a safe and speedy return home.

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.



CRAFT and CHATTER

The next meeting is on **Monday 6 October** 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.

Bravo to Kate Goldstone for her response to Mr Graham White's comments (recently published in the Local Rag). I was also appalled that Mr White chose to use the Local Rag as a vehicle for expressing his personal views and thank Kate for reminding him of the boundaries and responsibilities of Chair of the Parish Council. There are ample opportunities to express personal opinions/objections via the public consultation and planning processes and I would respectfully urge Mr White to follow these processes when it comes to airing his own views.

Hilary Vowles

**Only
£10 pp**

**Huntsraw
Parish Hall**

**Pie & Mash
and
Skittles!**

**Saturday
6th
December**

7pm



Call 01805 624490 to book

Last time the word was: BELITTLED

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 - African or Indian???

Word count 28 = Good. More than 35 = Well done!

E	T	A
E	P	L
H	N	S

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 223

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 222

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

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



Huntsraw Church Services

Sunday 12th October 11.00am Morning Worship

Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Circuit Minister Revd Andrew Vidamour 01237 478453

Services planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel during October & November

05 Oct	11.00am	Rev Paul Booth	Harvest Festival
19 Oct	11.00am	Elsie Potter	
02 Nov	11.00am	Mike New	
16 Nov	11.00am	David Ley	HC
30 Nov	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/>





ANTS CLEANING SERVICE

Offering various types of cleaning.

Residential and holiday accommodation catered for.

Regular or just a one off clean. Excellent references available.

Own cleaning materials supplied.

07504 244542

01271 858 974 (answerphone)



DEL MAR Landscaping

Garden Design ❖ Construction ❖ Maintenance

- ❖ Decking ❖ Fencing ❖ Block paving
- ❖ Patios ❖ Paths ❖ Ground clearance
- ❖ Walls ❖ Steps ❖ All year round
- ❖ Sheds ❖ Ponds ❖ Free estimates
- ❖ Hedgework ❖ Turfing ❖ Fully insured

Mobiles 07720 179615 or 07791 030025

e-mail delmar.landscaping@tiscali.co.uk

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

MUSICAL LUNCHES

THE NEXT ONE IS ON

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH ALVERDISCOTT.

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

After that we hope to be going back to the Methodist Chapel. WTS



A Brief Summary of Sir Geoffrey Cox's Surgery

The MP for Torridge held a surgery on 19th September which mainly focussed on the planning application for Bulworthy Farm.

A presentation was given by the Action Group on behalf of the audience, which numbered around 60 residents of all three affected parishes. This was a concise outline of the main objections to the plan, and Sir Geoffrey was sympathetic to the views put forward.

In his answer to this presentation, and subsequent detailed questions, he announced that he would be placing his own objection on the planning portal. This was despite his being an MP, which would normally preclude this course of action. He stated that as this was part of a much wider subject affecting the nation as a whole, he was therefore able to proceed with this action.

He would also be meeting with Devon Highways and the Torridge planning authority regarding several contentious aspects of the proposal, including road access and safety, and the high probability that once built, there would not in fact be any connection to the National Grid due to capacity constraints at the Alverdiscott substation.

He quoted Professor James Lovelock (he of the Gaia hypothesis) who said that solar arrays were "an irrelevance" in terms of reliable future power supply, and also expressed concern that the democratic process was being overridden by the government in pursuit of an ideological commitment to net zero.

He emphasised that comments on the application must keep to the established planning parameters in order to be taken into account.

In conclusion, he promised to come back to the parish in 2-3 months after having talked to all parties, including the developers, and gathered more detailed information on the project. It was highly unlikely that any joint meeting between Torridge and North Devon would take place before at least the New Year.

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 November in Huntshaw Parish 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

**BULWORTHY SOLAR FARM MEETING
A SHORT SUMMARY**

The public open meeting held on Thursday Sept 4th was well attended, with approximately 90 residents of the three parishes of Horwood, Lovacott & Newton Tracey, Westleigh and Alverdiscott & Huntshaw turning up, together with county and district councillors.

Penny Mills and Steve Crowther gave a joint presentation, not only on solar farms in general, but also guidance on what could and could not be considered in a planning response.

They pointed out that the application in respect of Bulworthy Farm was considerably lacking in detail with respect to several aspects of the project, and also that the battery storage did not appear to be connected in any way to the solar farm. It should therefore be treated as a separate application.

It should be remembered that any decision on the solar farm would be specifically for its construction, without any consideration of whether or not it could be connected to the National Grid. This at present is unlikely, as it was established several years ago that the substation at Alverdiscott is unable to accept much additional capacity, and that this situation is unlikely to be resolved until the Grid finalise their upgrade plans in the next few years. This implies that if the farm were to be built, it would simply sit there doing nothing apart from potentially increasing the market value of the land.

While not relevant to any planning approval, it was also pointed out that the government is currently paying millions of pounds annually to solar and wind farm owners not to produce power at certain times, as this would overload the grid network. With the national total of power produced being 120% of the nation's requirements, and virtually all new homes being required to have solar panels installed, the question arises as to whether this farm is needed at all.

Farmers are regularly being bombarded with offers from installers to put solar farms on the land; many of these firms are one-man bands jumping on the bandwagon without having the necessary financial backing to proceed. There have been several instances where such companies have gone bust, leaving half completed projects.

Following the meeting, a WhatsApp group has been set up under the name of Bulworthy Solar Action Group. Their first formal meeting was held on 11th September. It is also likely that a Facebook group and a website will be set up.

By the time you read this, Sir Geoffrey Cox will have held his surgery on 19th September, at which he was apprised of the situation and the progress so far by representatives of the action group. See p11 for a summary of this event.

HEDDENS OF WOODTOWN FARM BESPOKE VEGETABLE BOXES and FARM SHOP

Carrots - Broccoli - Onions
Parsnips - Cauliflower - Swede
*****Local Delivery Available*****

Enquires and Orders phone Michael: 07738 163912
email - woodtownfarm@outlook.com
Or visit our Website
www.heddensofwoodtown.co.uk



ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL & FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH



Saturday 29th November 7:00pm for 7.30 pm
Alverdiscott Community Hall Stony Cross, EX39 4PZ
Licensed Bar

Teams up to 6 - £5.00 per person
(Includes light supper)

Contact Liz or Graham White to book a table
01271 858441 or bulworthy@aol.com



Friends of All Saints Church - September Draw Prize Winners

1st	Maggie Edwards	£25
2nd	Mrs C. Wood	£15
3rd	Michelle Huxtable	£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

Autumn BIG Breakfast

Sunday 26 October
From 9:00am to 1:00pm.
Adults - £10 Under 10s - £5



Start with cereal or juice then
Choose your favourites or go for the
Full English
Followed by Toast and Marmalade
Tea or Coffee. Simply the best...

FLUSH AND SAVE

STOP! BEFORE YOU CHANGE YOUR BOILER

Is it completely broken? Is it just getting old?

OR Is it not giving you heat through your radiators as much as it should?
BEFORE doing anything.

Ring this number and talk to the experts free of charge on **01271 379663**.

It costs nothing to listen but it could cost you a lot not to.

CALL TODAY - DON'T DELAY