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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
March Edition
 Volume 23 Issue 2
 2026

MARCH

March is the third month of the year in both the **Julian** and **Gregorian** calendars. Its length is 31 days. In the Northern Hemisphere, the meteorological beginning of spring occurs on the first day of March. The March equinox on the 20 or 21 marks the astronomical beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, where September is the seasonal equivalent of the Northern Hemisphere's March.

The name of March comes from Martius, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus.

March's birthstones are

Aquamarine



and **Bloodstone.**



These stones symbolize courage.

Its birth flower is the **Daffodil.**



The zodiac signs are **Pisces**



until approximately March 20

and **Aries**



from approximately March 21 onward.

Thanks go to Wikipedia for this information.

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

Welcome to the March edition - and the days are gradually getting longer. The rain and the high winds have reduced and the weather report is even predicting higher temperatures next week. So spring is in the air. What more could we want?

Well, a Big Breakfast or two would be good and that's exactly what we've got coming up. Details are on pages 7 and 11.

On page 9 we also have the dates of the planned events for the year at **Huntshaw Parish Hall**, so things are definitely looking up!

Sir Geoffrey Cox is also going to be in our patch in March. On Friday 13th he will be at Alverdiscott Hall from 3pm. He will be holding an open surgery and hopefully reporting

back on the Bulworthy Solar Farm and associated BESS, following the previous meeting in September last year. Please try to attend if this is something that affects you.

On Saturday 14 March Revd Gary Owen is hosting an **"Understanding Bereavement"** event at Alverdiscott Hall - details are on page 3 >>>.

We are also planning an **Open Day** at Alverdiscott Community Hall on Saturday 9 May - details on page 13.

Other events planned at ACH are:

Spring Big Breakfast	22 March
Flower Show	1 August
Harvest Supper	4 Sept
Autumn Big Breakfast	25 Oct

Put them on the calendar, now...

Where the gnomic Mr Noon trots on the 365 acre open green spaces and 20 miles of footpaths (including a golf course) (10, 7) (_ O _ _ I _ _ _ O _ / _ O _ _ O _ S)

Torrington Commons (gnomic Mr Noon trots)

She carried her two wads onto to the Burrows (8, 2) (_ E _ _ _ A _ _ / _ O)

Westward Ho! (her two wads)

A day my father always went to Great Torrington (6) (_ A _ _ _ _)

Mayday (A day my)

Where did the lonely buck rabbit from St Giles go with no doe (2, 3, 4)

(_ _ / _ _ _ / _ O _ _) **in the wood** (with no doe)

Don't get your ear lopped off on the ferry from Instow. (9) (_ P _ _ E _ _ _ E)

Appledore (ear lopped)

How did you get on? I managed all but 3.

Thanks go to John Riddington Young.

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.

CROSSWORD WITHOUT A GRID - The Answers**By John Riddington Young**

Henry allows mini story about a fish eating mammal (10) (_ I _ _ I _ _ S _ _)

Williamson (allows mini)

Have two centenary pints at the Hunters' Inn (6, 6)

(_ E _ _ O _ / _ A _ E _)

Newton Tracey (two centenary)

Have a beer and kiss Mr Nag on Bideford Quay (5, 4) (_ I _ G _ / _ R _ S)

King's Arms (kiss Mr Nag)

Where does Sir Karl Jenkins tow his boat to? (6) (_ _ S _ O _)

Instow (Jenkins tow)

Overt cads utilised IT near Huntshaw TV mast (12) (_ L _ _ _ D _ _ C _ _ T)

Alverdiscott (IT Overt Cads)

You can stay in bed longer or sail to Lundy (9) (_ L _ E _ _ E _ _)

Oldenberg (bed longer)

Buying produce from a large Devonian indoor arcade can be a permanent irk

(7, 6) (_ A _ _ _ E _ / _ A _ K _ _)

Pannier market (a permanent irk)

Where does Madonna's bra awaken the dark maternal instinct? (8, 7)

(L _ _ D _ A _ _ / T _ E _ _ _ E)

Landmark Theatre (the dark maternal)

Who made this woman pregnant in a denim shirt down by Ilfracombe harbour?

(6, 5) (_ A _ I _ _ / _ I _ _ _)

Damien Hirst (a denim shirt)

The Town Mayor needs to hug ill lad in his ancient chambers (9)

(_ U _ _ D _ A _ _)

Guildhall (hug ill lad)

Throw a robbed dried fig over the parapet into the River Torridge. (8, 6)

(_ I _ E _ _ _ _ / _ R _ _ _ E)

Bideford Bridge (Robbed Dried Fig)

Albert's pan turned up in the oldest borough in England (10)

(_ A _ _ S _ _ _ _ E)

Barnstaple (Albert's pan)

Be sure to fasten your car belt lock if you park by Barnstaple's 'four-faced liar'

timepiece. (6, 5) (A _ _ E _ _ / C _ O _ _)

Albert Clock (car belt lock)

There are some risky challenges outside Victoria Park (7, 8)

(_ H _ _ _ E _ / _ I _ _ S _ E _)

Charles Kingsley (Risky challenges)

Cont'd on p15

From the Rector

We are now well into the season of Lent. I wonder if you've given something up? And if you have, have you managed to stick at it? Or maybe you've taken something up, such as a time of prayer or solitary walk each day?

At the start of Lent we read the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. If you missed it in church you can read it yourself in Matthew 4.1-11. Being 'in the wilderness' will not sound very positive to many of us. But whilst the wilderness in the Bible is often a place of testing and temptation, it can also be a place of meeting with God; think of Moses meeting God in the burning bush or God through the prophet Hosea wooing his unfaithful bride, Israel, through a time in the wilderness.

Sometimes being in a solitary place, or stripping away unnecessary things, can create space for spiritual encounter. It's not too late to take some time before Easter to simplify things, to set aside some time to think and pray and read the Bible or some other spiritual writings.

And whilst not seeking out times or trial (Jesus taught us to pray that we would not be led into such times) we need to be realistic that trials and temptations will come. Being ready to face the well will help us stand firm and grow. Sometimes facing testing times or even temptations can force us to seek the Lord and his help, help us to experience more of his love and grace, and help us to grow.

Gary Owen - Rector of the Two Rivers Mission Community Churches
01769 560792 or 07947 358050

Being a Good Friend to those who are Bereaved

Saturday 14th March. Alverdiscott Village Hall 11.00am – 3.00pm

An event led for us by national charity **Care for the Family**, to help us understand bereavement and how we might be a good friend to those who have lost a loved one. Everyone is welcome.

Please sign up with revgary@tworiversmissioncommunity.com

Arrive from 10.30am for tea and coffee. Bring your own packed lunch. This event is free, but a donation on the day to cover costs would be welcome.

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

The meeting in February was for Chapel Funds and we raised £135. A good start to the new year, well done to all. The next Coffee Morning will be on Thursday 5 March when we will be raising money for **Parkinson's UK**, so do please come along and join us between 10am and 12 noon. Hope to see you there. If you have a favourite charity that we may be able to support do let us know.

Garden Club

The meeting on Monday 23 February will include a talk on "Heathers" by John Turner. The March meeting will be on Monday 30th.

Tea and coffee provided. The cost is just £1.00.



CRAFT and CHATTER

We meet on **Monday 2 March** from 2 to 4pm 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.

Huntsraw Churchyard tidy-up afternoon – with tea and cake! PLEASE HELP!

Saturday 7th March, 2.00 – 5.00pm. Please come down armed with whatever gardening equipment you can put in the back of your car! We need to pick up rubbish from undergrowth and strim, trim hedges, cut dead wood out of the holly, weed the gullies round the building, clean paths of moss, chop old wood and remove from the shed etc. For those who are less energetic, you might like to bring a duster and get to work inside. Tea and cake will be in plentiful supply for the workers... and anyone else who just turns up for a chat and to cheer the workers on!

ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL

Stony Cross, EX39 4PZ



Saturday 9th May - From 2.00pm to 5pm

See the facilities we offer

Find out about regular events

Meet the organisations who regularly use our hall

Tell us what you would like to see at the Hall

Complimentary afternoon tea

Everyone welcome

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 - *Turdus Pilaris*

D	E	F
E	A	R
I	L	F

Word count 25 = Good. More than 30 = Very well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 227

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 226

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050



Huntsraw Church Services

Sunday 8 March 9.30am followed by Church AGM at 10.00am
 Friday 3 April Good Friday all-age worship followed by hot cross buns 9.30am
 Sunday 5 April Easter day communion followed by chocolate cake 9.30am

Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday 8.00am Book of Common Prayer holy communion
 Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday morning worship (joined by Horwood and
 Newton Tracey) 11.00am

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

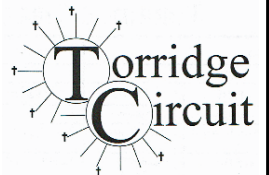
Circuit Minister Revd Andrew Vidamour 01237 478453

Services Planned for
 Alverdiscott Chapel during March and April

01 March 11.00am Dave Watson
 08 March 11.00am At Torrington
 15 March 11.00am Duncan Withall
 22 March 11.00am At Torrington
 29 March 11.00am At PC
 01 April 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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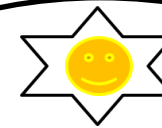
- ❖ Decking
- ❖ Patios
- ❖ Walls
- ❖ Sheds
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**FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH
 MUSICAL LUNCHES**

We will be holding our lunches on 27th February and
 27th March in the Methodist Chapel

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



HuntsyAW Village

Breakfast

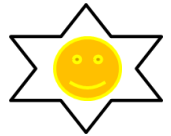
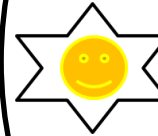
Sunday 12th April

9.00am – 11.00am

£9 per head

All welcome

Call 01805 624490 to book



Pot Holes...

You may have noticed the occasional pothole on the roads recently.
 Apparently these are deliberate police actions to try to eliminate drunk driving.
 If they follow a car driving in a straight line, then the driver is nicked for being
 over the limit...

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 19 March 2026
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.comParish 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

SPRING BIG BREAKFAST

at

Alverdiscott Community Hall



Sunday 22nd March
From 9:00am to 1:00pm
Adults - £10 under 10s - £5

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**210 Local Rags are distributed every month, some find their way out
of the local area. The Rag is also available to view in colour
on the Parish Council website.**

Small-ad's and items for sale are usually included free of charge.

Call or email for full details.

Friends of All Saints Church - Draw Prize Winners

February

1st	Stuart Mair	£25
2nd	Wendy Bysouth	£15
3rd	Chris 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

Frank Grills

On Tuesday 17th February over one hundred and fifty family and friends gathered together at Alverdiscott Methodist Church to say goodbye to Frank Grills who died recently, and to commend him to God's care and keeping. The service was conducted by Mr Frank Watson lay pastoral minister of the Torridge Methodist circuit. Harvest hymns were sung reflecting Frank's life and work as a farmer.

There was often humour, in the meeting of the two Franks whenever they were together. Frank was a much loved and respected member of the community and will be sorely missed. He was laid to rest in All Saints' Churchyard alongside his wife Dorothy.

Goodbye Frank, rest in peace and rise in glory.

*****Huntsyay Parish Hall Events for 2026*****

Friday 10th April Hall AGM 7.00pm

Sunday 12th April Village Breakfast - See Advert on p11

Saturday 12th September Harvest Supper

We are hoping to host some talks / workshops during the year and will advertise them in the Local Rag.

**We are also planning a Sausage, Mash and Skittles evening in
December. Date TBC.**