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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
May Edition
Volume 23 Issue 4
2026



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

Well it has stayed warm, mostly, and it has stayed dry, mostly. Since 22 March we've had only 33mm of rain. So something approaching "normal" for spring.

In the garden there have been more bumble bees and butterflies. Not very good at butterflies so I haven't been able to get close enough to identify them as yet, but one of them was definitely a red admiral.

On 8 April we had our first swallows over WXC, but the house martins have yet to put in an appearance.

On the 12th there was a chiffchaff flitting around in the bushes, and it has been hanging around on a daily basis since then. Assuming it's the same one! All the LBJ's do tend to look the same... All of which suggests that spring is very definitely here.

And guess what! I saw a **few** honey bees in the grounds of ACH. So now I can relax!

The Open Day at Alverdiscott Hall is getting nearer. This big event is on Saturday 9 May from 2 - 5pm. If you've not been to the hall at all or just recently this would be the ideal chance to acquaint yourself with all the new facilities. We had a major refurbishment several years ago and it really is rather good inside. The kitchen is fully equipped and the loo's are rather nice too!

It's used by all sorts of groups and individuals and some of them will be on site on Saturday happy to have a chat and tell you about themselves. So you really should just drop-in for a look around. If nothing else there's a complimentary afternoon tea! Hope to see you there...

The Elephant in the Room

It hasn't been mentioned for quite a while but it hasn't gone away. We've been looking for someone to take over producing the Local Rag for quite some time.

Sadly no one has stepped up to the plate and time is running out. The software we use to create The Rag is *Microsoft Publisher*. *Publisher* is going to stop working after the end of September this year. *Microsoft* are saying it will no longer be supported. All of which adds to the pain but gives us a date to work to. Without *Publisher* we will not be carrying on and The Rag will cease to be. Unless...

Elsie and David

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

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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.

Renewable Energy is Neither Clean nor Green...

By Dr. Phil Bratby

... is unaffordable and is thus causing increased fuel poverty, is leading to increased electricity system fragility and will ultimately lead to frequent and widespread blackouts something that is associated with third world countries. Environmental levies associated with renewable energy cost consumers about £12 billion last year. Despite all these problems, warnings and lessons from overseas, government policy remains unchanged. Power stations that provide electricity when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine continue to close without being replaced and the amount of uncontrollable, weather-dependent renewables, increases. Why is the government continuing to destroy a reliable electricity supply system?

History

Let's start with a bit of history of electricity. In 2000 the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE) announced "the 20 engineering achievements that have had the greatest impact on the quality of life in the 20th century". The achievements were nominated by 29 professional engineering societies and ranked by a distinguished panel of the nation's top engineers. They ranked electrification as the number one achievement. It powered almost every pursuit and enterprise in modern society. As well as lighting the world, it impacted almost all areas of daily life, including food production and processing, air conditioning, heating, refrigeration, entertainment, transportation, communication, health care and computers. In the NAE announcement regarding electrification it stated: "One hundred years ago life was a constant struggle against disease, pollution, deforestation, treacherous working conditions and enormous cultural divides. By the end of the 20th century, the world had become a healthier, safer and more productive place, primarily because of this engineering achievement". So we must never take electricity for granted. Without it, civilisation as we know it would rapidly collapse, The National Grid is the country's most important piece of infrastructure, Completed in 1938, in over 80 years of operation it has never failed. The reason for this is that it was designed and operated by competent engineers, Before privatisation of the CEGB in the 1990s every aspect of the electricity supply from power station to consumers was managed by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB).

To be cont'd. This is the first instalment of an article by Dr. Phil Bratby.

Farewell from the Curate

It is with great sadness but also with a huge amount of gratitude that I am bidding you all farewell this month. When I arrived in the summer of 2023, I had no idea how much I would come to love these 10 parishes, and how much they would feel like home. From the moment that I arrived I was made to feel welcome and was enabled to slot in as if I had been here forever.

Over these last three years I have learned a huge amount, I have grown in both confidence and knowledge, and that is down to the willingness of our congregations to let me try things out. I have received positive and constructive feedback, and this has helped me to discover what works and what doesn't. You have all given me an opportunity to lead different services in different places, I have observed many of you leading worship and learned something from each one of you.

Each community that I have served has had a different flavour, and I have enjoyed the variety, what I have also appreciated is how much you all support and care for each other. I do hope that you know how wonderful you all are, 'fearfully and wonderfully made' (psalm 139.14a)

As I move on, I will be doing so with memories of a wonderful curacy, it has been a happy three years in which my family has grown to include Danny, an extra poodle and a hamster.

Rev Ally is being licensed as vicar of Bishops Tawton and Newport on Monday 27th April. We wish her and her new parishes every blessing for the future.

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

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

In April all the money raised was for the Devon Air Ambulance and we made a grand total of £125. The next meeting is on Thursday 7 May and will be in aid of the **ShelterBox Lebanon Appeal**, so do please come along and join us between 10am and 12 noon. If you have a favourite charity that we may be able to support do let us know.

Garden Club

The meeting in March was very well attended. On Monday 25 May we will be visiting the garden of John and Liz Riddington Young, in particular to view the sweet peas! Meet at the Chapel at 2.15pm. Tea and coffee provided. The cost is just £1.00.



CRAFT and CHATTER

Please note there is **no meeting in May**. The next one is on Monday 1 June. Join us 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.

Huntshaw Church News

Huntshaw Church Festival – 13th & 14th June

We are planning to hold a small festival in the church and churchyard on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June, partly to gather people together and partly to raise funds for necessary (minor) repairs to the church building. We hope to offer refreshments, display historic church fabrics and parish records and displays about local history, offer the chance to ring the bells etc. Rev Gary.

More details to follow in next month's magazine, but please keep the date free.

And Now For Some Witty Quotes...

"Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future." *Oscar Wilde*

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." *John L. Mason*

"Women are wiser than men because they know less and understand more." *Anonymous* Just as well! - Asst Ed.

"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." *Abraham Lincoln*

"Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak." *Alan Dundes*

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." *Mark Twain*

Last time the word was: ISOLATING

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 - Storing

G	R	R
N	E	A
I	G	N

Word count 20 = Good. More than 35 = Very well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 229

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 228

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

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



Huntsraw Church Services

Sunday 10th May: 9.30am – Rogation Sunday

Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday: 8.00am Tradition 'said' communion
Sunday 31st May: 11.00am Morning worship

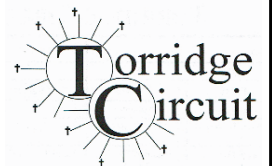
Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel
Deacon Debbie Marsh 07763 811757

Services Planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel during May

03 May 11.00am Margaret Price
17 May 11.00am Rev Andrew Vidamour **HC**
31 May 11.00am At PC

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

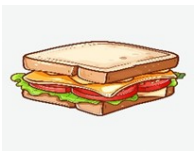
MUSICAL LUNCHES

We will be back in the church for music and lunch on

Fridays 24th April and 29th May

Please come and join us

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



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

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 21 May 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.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

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH**SPRING LUNCH**

Sunday 3rd May – Alverdiscott Community Hall

12.30pm for 1pm

£20 – 2 course meal with a glass of wine

Book your place with Louise Saunders 01271 858522 ,

louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com

*****Huntshaw Parish Hall Events for 2026*****

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.

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Call or email for full details.

Friends of All Saints Church - Draw Prize Winners

April

1st	Liz White	£25
2nd	Jon Espadas	£15
3rd	Wendy Bysouth	£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

Do you know what is inside Alverdiscott Hall?

If not, come and have a look.

Come along for a complimentary afternoon tea and see what goes on.

Information from groups that regularly meet at the Hall will also be available, with representatives from some groups there to talk to you. This will include *North Devon Canine Association, Country Music Club, Two Rivers Wind Ensemble and the Company of the Lamb.*

We are looking for volunteers to help us organise events. If you think you might be interested, come along and talk to one of our committee members.

The event is open to everyone. Even if you are a regular visitor to the Hall, come along, enjoy a complimentary afternoon tea and tell us what you think of our facilities and events. Let us know what you would like to see at the Hall.

If you can't make this event but would like more information about our Hall please contact our Secretary Dave Potter on 01271 858534 or davep.potter@btinternet.com

More Information on p11.

Huntshaw Village Breakfast

The Breakfast went really well with a lot of people attending for the first time. Thank you to everyone who came. We will be holding another one in the autumn and will advertise in due course.

With best wishes - Huntshaw Parish Hall committee.

Friends of All Saints Church Annual General Meeting

A reminder that we will be holding the Friends AGM in the church on Tuesday 5th May at 7.30pm. We will be reporting on the last year and also discussing the future of our group. Please come along, let us know what you would like the Friends to be doing. Also, an opportunity for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.