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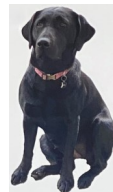
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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSNIAW

Welcome to the
August Edition
Volume 23 Issue 7
2026

THE COUNT DOWN CONTINUES...



The clock is ticking down...

If **you** want the Rag to carry on each month then maybe you could become the new editor, take over the job, make it your own and keep it going for another twenty odd years!

How about it???

Publication and Distribution

The **Alverdiscott and Huntsnay 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

We've just watched the first episode of the latest series of **The Piano** on Channel 4. It is absolutely one of the best programs on TV at the moment. I can't play the piano but I enjoy watching people who can. Obviously you need to record it as the adverts would ruin it if you couldn't F/Fwd thro' them.

If you haven't see it give it a try, Claudia is just brilliant...

The response to the message that the Local Rag was about to come to an end was, **to say the least**, really underwhelming!

Not a single comment, or message or suggestion.

If anyone does feel like keeping it going please get in touch soon. Or the next edition - September - really will be the final one.

Elsie and David.

The heatwave and drought continues without end. The birds in the garden seem to be coping but they are using the birdbath more than I've ever seen before. It's quite deep so I put a rock in the middle so they have somewhere to climb out to, if it's too deep for them. It's the young birds that have the most trouble. They've never seen water before but they copy the parent birds and then find that being soaking wet does nothing to help their flying. It's quite comical to watch them flopping onto the lawn because they can't make it to the bushes in one go.

The other thing that's happening is that some of the trees must be really suffering from the lack of rain, and so they are dropping their leaves early. It looks like autumn on the driveway already, as it's covered with dried up leaves.

electricity. They have so far been able to manage grid stability problems because of their connection to the wider European grid. They give away surplus electricity to neighbouring countries when it is too windy, and import expensive electricity when the wind does not blow. For some inexplicable reason, Germany is phasing out its "low carbon" nuclear power and building coal-fired power stations.

South Australia has rocketing electricity prices and frequent blackouts. These result from an over-reliance on wind and solar power, the forced closure of power stations and inadequate interconnectors with neighbouring states. When the wind drops and the sun doesn't shine, blackouts are the inevitable result. Other Australian states appear to be heading down the same path without learning the lessons...

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

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

Huntsnay Parish Hall Jenny Staines
01805 624490

huntsnayparishhall@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 - Part 4

Cont'd from last month. However, it is the solar fleet that is of most concern. The concern is that if on a sunny summer day, generation of 12GW of uncontrollable and variable solar power were to occur with only 15GW of demand, there would be a huge risk of instability of the grid. When low demand coincides with high levels of solar power that is not synchronised with the grid, inertia is lower meaning that the impact of any faults is greater and more rapid. The operators may need to give "Emergency Instructions" to one or more generators to cease generating, even to the extent of having to trip off the system immediately, regardless of inconvenience or cost. It is a severe level of warning, and at a national level would be unprecedented. Or perhaps parts of the network with a large amount of excess solar power will suffer an automatic blackout as a means to prevent overload of the system. The National Grid operators will clearly have, as they say in the control rooms a '**difficult day**'. It might also be difficult for the rest of us, as well as very expensive!

What is not clear is how embedded solar sites, of which there are about 700,000, would be taken off the system by such an Emergency Instruction. Perhaps all people with solar panels on their roofs will be instructed to stay at home and turn on all their electrical appliances to get rid of the unwanted electricity. We have seen a recent example where a renewable electricity supplier has been paying its customers to use excess electricity! So on the one hand we are told by the government we need to be more energy efficient and insulate our homes, on the other hand some people are being paid to waste electricity. We are also in the situation where half of the synchronous Sizewell B nuclear power station is being paid to shut down, not to produce reliable electricity at a cost of about **£25/MWh** so that weather dependent asynchronous offshore wind farms can continue to produce electricity (**when the wind blows**) at a cost of over **£140/MWh**. It is difficult to think of a more ludicrous situation, but I am sure that the politicians and bureaucrats are working on it.

Lessons from Overseas

There are several examples of the future problems we face if we don't learn from overseas experience. But so far the government is ignoring this real world experience. **Germany** and **Denmark** have the highest proportion of installed renewable energy capacity in Europe and also the highest priced

(Continued on page 15)

From the Rector

The completion of children's exams in June meant that we were able to take our main summer holiday a little earlier this year, and so we have just returned from two weeks in the Vendee, on the French Atlantic coast.

We stayed at a Christian campsite, where the pool and air-conditioned bar made the very high temperatures manageable. We were truly blessed by the opportunities to worship and receive some bible teaching as well as spend time with others who share our love for Jesus and outlook on life.

One morning, I visited the church of St Giles in the nearby town of St Gilles Croix de Vie. Behind the altar was a beautiful stained-glass window of the saint with his beloved deer. Legend has it that Giles lived as a hermit in the lower Rhone at the end of the seventh century; his only companion being a deer. One day the deer was being pursued by the king's huntsmen, who shooting at the animal hit and wounded Giles instead. Giles subsequently became the patron saint for the disabled. Our own mission community church of St Giles (in the Wood) has a beautiful banner depicting Giles with a deer.

Spending time with other Christians on the campsite, many from the UK, but others from France, Germany, the Netherlands and the USA, as well as visiting a church linked with one of my own by virtue of a common dedication, was a good reminder that the church is a beautiful, multi-faceted group of people. Christians come from different cultures and express their faith in different ways, but there is a common bond that unites us: a love for Jesus and a commitment to live according to his direction. In a world that seems increasingly fragmented and ill at ease with itself, this is a beautiful thing; and a pointer to a day when all who love Jesus will be gathered from the far-flung corners of the earth to the home Jesus is preparing for us.

Gary Owen

Rector of the Two Rivers Mission Community Churches

01769 560792 or 07947 358050

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

On 2 July we were supporting the Royal Devon Hospitals Charity specifically, the "Fern Centre", and raised £100. On **6 August** we'll be raising funds for the **Venezuela Earthquake Appeal**. So do please join us between 10am and 12 noon, to support this vital charity.

Garden Club

The visit to Mutton Hall was well attended and enjoyed by all. The next trip will now be **to John Turner's garden, not as previously advertised**. Meet at the Chapel at 2:15pm.

For more details contact *The Rag*.



CRAFT and CHATTER

We are on our **Summer break**. The next meeting will be on Monday 7 September. Join us from 2 to 4pm in the School Room at Alverdiscott Chapel.

For further details contact Wendy on 01271 858539.



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Upcoming Acts

28 July John Luxton

11 Aug Roger Colome



The Two Rivers Mission Community

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- 1st Sunday of the month: Lovacott village hall
- 2nd Sunday of the month: Beaford village hall
- 3rd Sunday of the month: Tawstock church
- 4th Sunday of the month: High Bickington church hall

Doors open at 9.30am
Service starts at 9.45am
Starts 6th September 2026

Book now at
www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org/services/bubblechurch



Last time the word was: ELSEWHERE

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 - Academic term

R	M	S
R	E	E
T	I	T

Word count 25 = Good. More than 32 = Very well done.

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 232

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 231

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

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



Huntsy Church Services

Sunday 09th August 11.00am Morning Worship

Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday at 8.00am: BCP 'said' communion.

**On Sunday 23rd August the service will be conducted by
Bishop Rod Thomas, and will include a confirmation.**

Sunday 30th August at 11.00am: Morning worship.

**Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel
Deacon Debbie Marsh 07763 811757**

**Services Planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel during August**

02 Aug	11.00am	Mike New
16 Aug	11.00am	David Watson
30 Aug	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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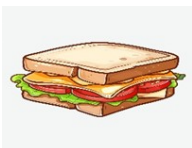
MUSICAL LUNCHES

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

Fridays 28 August and 25 September

Please come and join us

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



A Bird Quiz by John AND now with ANSWERS

1. It really did **gall Sue**, when this creature snatched her jam croissant (7)
SEAGULL
 2. He noisily proclaims he's certainly not a **raptor** (6)
PARROT
 3. A **hen or** this creature loves eating fish (5)
HERON
 4. It's 11 in the evening and a **lightening** creates a beautiful melody (11)
NIGHTINGALE
 5. It made baby **Ron bawl** when it woke him up (4,3)
BARN OWL
 6. Near Instow, you might find one of these **yacht erectors** up to his ruddy thighs in water (6, 7) OYSTER-CATCHER
 7. All the **rogues** go to the moors on the 'Glorious Twelfth' (6)
GROUSE
 8. Its **all "wows"** when this and the crocus show up as harbingers of spring (7)
SWALLOW
 9. **A shower pours** on this insignificant little fellow (5, 7)
HOUSE SPARROW
 10. Are the holes in the **crooked pew** in church due to termites? No! (11)
WOODPECKER
 11. This beast is now **alleged gone** from England and Wales (6, 5)
GOLDEN EAGLE
 12. This dark creature makes a raucous enthusiastic **row** (4)
CROW
 13. **Ashen Pat** trembled when she heard the hunter's shotgun (8)
PHEASANT
 14. **Am in golf** gear, eating shrimps and in the pink(8)
FLAMINGO
 15. Not well known for a **strong hush** (4, 6)
SONG THRUSH
 16. A bright yellow and green one came out of a **big red rug** from Australia (10)
BUDGERIGAR
 17. This freckled chap can sometimes be found on shady edge of a **leafed fir** tree (9)
FIELDFARE
 18. He will both illness **feign** and **shirk** work to go angling (10)
KINGFISHER
 19. Even with no ring, it doesn't stop this **dope wooing** his lady love (4, 7)
WOODPIGEON
 20. The cook at the rectory gave the **deacon a sago** pudding for Christmas Dinner (6, 5)
CANADAGOOSE
- Really excellent clues John! Many thanks David.

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 17 September at 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

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7PM FOR 7.30PM

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

Saturday 12th September Harvest Supper see p9 for details.

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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Saturday 1st August

Doors open 2:30pm Entry 50p

*If you need another copy of the
Show Schedule please get in touch.*

Friends of All Saints Church - Prize Draw Winners July

1st	Sarah Andrews	£25
2nd	Brian Moore	£15
3rd	Kath Hedden	£10

A huge **thank you** to everyone for renewing their Supporters Club Tickets for another year. Anyone who is not a member but would like to join should contact Louise Saunders on 01271 858522 or, email louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com

YOU'RE INVITED TO HUNTSHAW HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER . 7PM

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**Bring your own alcohol.
Soft drinks, including elderflower
cordial, will be available.**

£12.50 per person

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