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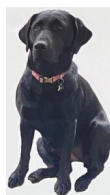
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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
July Edition
Volume 23 Issue 6
2026

THE COUNT DOWN HAS BEGUN...

The clock is ticking... This could be one of the last Local Rags you will ever see. At the beginning of October 2026 your Local Rag may cease to be produced. That means there could be only 3 more issues and this is the first of those 3... If you want the Local Rag to continue you need to act now. Elsie and David are standing down and will not be producing any more Rags. At the same time the software we currently use to create the Rag will cease to be supported. This all means that the Rag may no longer be coming through your letter box. If that matters to you and you would rather it continued then you need to make that clear. **Get in touch and let us know that you care.** If you want the Rag to carry on each month then maybe you could become the new editor, take over the job and keep it going for another twenty three years!!! How about it... ?

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

I am finishing this edition of the Rag on Sunday 21 June which means it's the **Summer Solstice**.

The summer solstice occurs when one of Earth's poles has its maximum tilt toward the Sun. Yes, really...

It happens twice a year, once in each hemisphere. It is usually called the "longest day" however there are still only 24 hours in the day! What it does have, is the longest period of daylight and the shortest night of the year, in that hemisphere.

At either pole there is continuous daylight at the time of its summer solstice.

Which is all very fine, but what it also means is that from here on the daylight hours are going to be getting shorter and we are quietly sliding nearer to **CHRISTMAS!!!**

It seems to have been a good year, so far, for our local bird life. We started off well with the prompt arrival of some swallows and house martins. The martins have done well nest wise, I think there are 5 active nests at the moment - there's certainly enough poo on the car and the windows - including the old one from previous years that the sparrows have been using. This year it finally started to fall apart so the sparrows couldn't use it but the martins have repaired it and appear to have a brood of chicks in it. We also currently have young blue tits and robins in the garden. There must be a goldfinch nest somewhere near-by as the parent birds are often seen and then there is the chaff chaff who is still flitting around searching for food and splashing around in the bird bath. Happy days...

approaching 20% on spring and summer demand poses real difficulties for control room operators since they are working with a fleet of wind and solar that is mostly uncontrollable. With a minimum demand for electricity of about 15GW and generation of up to 23GW of wind and 12GW of solar power, there are real difficulties when it is both windy and sunny. **With excess wind power, National Grid has so far been able to manage by paying large wind farm operators not to generate electricity (constraint payments discussed above).** On 22nd May 2020, 82 wind farms were paid a total of £9.3million to reduce their output or to stop generating electricity altogether. Of these, 68 were onshore wind farms and 14 were offshore wind farms. **The total cost to consumers over the bank holiday weekend of balancing supply with demand was over £50million...**

To be cont'd. This is the third 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

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 - Part 3

Cont'd from last month. The main concerns of engineers fall into three categories:

1. Closure of too many conventional synchronous power stations (coal, gas and nuclear) which provide inertia, frequency control and thus stability to the grid and at all times provide a reliable source of electricity at a frequency of 50hz. The concern is that there will not be enough generation when it is cold and dark and demand for electricity is high, leading to the need for rolling blackouts.

2. Too much uncontrollable asynchronous renewable generation with no inertia when it is hot and sunny and/or windy and demand for electricity is low. The concern is overload of the grid, leading to uncontrollable blackouts.

3. Increasing fragility of the electricity network as the result of increased sources of asynchronous generators such as wind and solar together with High Voltage Direct Current inter-connectors to Europe. The system has less inertia and is less stable. Faults develop faster and are increasingly likely to cascade and lead to widespread blackouts. **Because of its high level of wind and solar power, the South-West of England has been identified as a region at high and increasing risk of blackouts.**

The first concern can be overcome by having sufficient conventional generation available to meet peak demand, regardless of how much renewable generation exists. In other words, intermittent and uncontrollable renewable energy generators are surplus to requirements and are an expensive waste of money. There are many occasions when wind and solar together provide less than 2% of the electricity consumed. Analysis of their life cycles shows that they have negligible impact on reducing "carbon emissions" and in many cases actually increase CO₂ emissions. They are not "low carbon", or to use modern jargon, they are not "clean and green".

The second concern has recently been highlighted by the impact of the corona virus lockdown on demand for electricity. As a result of the restrictions on economic activity and personal movement, domestic consumption rose slightly but a fall in industrial and commercial consumption meant that the overall demand for electricity fell by about 20% compared to normal. National Grid must retain sufficient conventional, synchronous, rotating plant with large inertia to maintain the grid frequency stable at close to 50hz. A reduction of

(Continued on page 15)

From the Rector

It was with great sadness that our 53-year-old Volkswagen campervan was recently towed away to a new home. "Vera" had been a part of our lives for the last 25 years, but recently the work needed to keep her on the road had become beyond us. It was time for someone with the necessary skills to restore her to her former glory and give her a new lease of life. I told myself, that she was an inanimate object and it was silly to become so attached to rusting metal and mechanics. But "Vera" has brought us so much pleasure as a family and she held so many happy memories. And symbolically she was important. For a vicar, who is very much part of the establishment, and expected to perform his duties with a certain measure of professionalism, Vera reminded us to be just a little unconventional... to have fun... to chase the wind.

Symbols are very important. They are invested with meaning, remind us of things beyond themselves; sometimes things unseen or barely understood. They enable us to express thoughts and feelings for which words are inadequate. We have a small prayer area in Tawstock church where people can tie a woollen thread onto a prayer tree to pray for a loved one, or place a pebble at the foot of a wooden cross as a means of laying down burdens or confessing sins. In many churches it's possible to light a candle to express prayers too hard for the mind to form or words to express; and as the flame flickers into life something stirs (faith? hope?) in our hearts in a God who sees and hears and responds.

Our church buildings themselves are symbols. Even those who rarely attend services find comfort in the ancient building where prayer is offered and a quiet churchyard where wild flowers grow and the mortal remains of the faithful departed rest in peace. Truth be told, it's getting harder and harder to maintain our buildings, as costs rise, bureaucracy burgeons and the burden of care rests on fewer people. We could manage with 3 or 4 buildings in our mission community and people could travel to church as they do to the supermarket. But what symbolically, would the loss of a church to its parish say?

The preeminent symbol of Christianity is of course the cross: a Roman instrument of torture and death. How can two pieces of rough wood speak so deeply and meaningfully to billions of people from different times and cultures? To even scratch the surface of this question would take a library of books... There is a hymn by Thomas Kelly on p4.

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

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel**Coffee Morning**

The June meeting was for Action for Children and raised £120. On 2 July we will be supporting the **Royal Devon Hospitals Charity specifically, the "Fern Centre"**, the new name for Over and Above. So do please join us between 10am and 12 noon, to support this important charity.

Garden Club

The sweet peas were amazing! See the report on p9. Our next visit is on Monday 29 June when we will be visiting the gardens of **Ken Stoate at Mutton Hall**, to enjoy the herbaceous beds and woodland. 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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Last time the word was: HURRICANE

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 - It's not here.

S	E	W
R	E	E
H	E	L

Word count 20 = Good. More than 28 = Very well done.

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 231

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 230

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

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



Huntsraw Services

From 12th July we'll be moving back to our old service time of 11.00am.
Sunday 12th July 11.00am Morning Worship

Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday at 8.00am.

Due to a shortage of clergy, the services on 5th and 12th July will be

BCP morning prayer.

The services on 19th and 26th July will be **BCP communion as usual.**

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel
Deacon Debbie Marsh 07763 811757

Services Planned for
Alverdiscott Chapel during July and August

05 July	11.00am	Elsie Potter
19 July	11.00am	Margaret Price
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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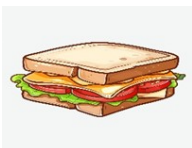
MUSICAL LUNCHESES

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

Fridays 26th June and 31 July

Please come and join us

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



A Bird Quiz by John

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

Answers next month - I hope...

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 16 July and please note It will be 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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louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com 01271 858522

*****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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ALVERDISCOTT FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

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 June

1st	Paul Bullock	£25
2nd	Adrian White	£15
3rd	Anthony Yewdall	£10

The June draw will be the final for the year. Louise will be contacting club members to arrange renewal. 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

A GARDEN CLUB VISIT

With the kind permission of Elizabeth and John Riddington Young, on Monday afternoon of 26th May 2026, over thirty of us, including some guests, descended upon their house and garden in Horwood. The main objective was to view John's famous sweet peas. We were not disappointed!

It became the hottest day of the year, a sweltering 29 degrees. It was of no surprise that the visit was extended when Liz gave a very interesting talk about the history of this fine, listed Elizabethan house. We all sat in their living room, which despite the heat outside, was characteristically cool and comfortable.

Afterwards, bravely perhaps, and wearing as much head cover as possible, we went out into the garden. We saw a beautiful mature garden, full of interesting plants, shrubs and a few trees. This included a fine fig tree full of fruit, and an Indian Bean tree (Catalpa).

Eagerly, we then went to John's sweet peas! We were not disappointed! He showed us a collection of probably fifty plants uniformly grown on well-structured uniform canes. The subtle pale colours gave off a wonderful sweet perfume. He told us we were lucky to see them at their very best! Also he shared with us a few of his growing secrets- plant early before Christmas, and always use good seed. We then had some very welcome refreshments. So thank you again Liz and John for a memorable afternoon. We missed Philip Squire being with us but we hope he will be back with us soon.

J.T. Stepps Cottage.