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THE LOCAL RAG

ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW

Welcome to the
June Edition
Volume 23 Issue 5
2026



Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* - Courtesy of Wikipedia and Pierre Dalous.

Publication and Distribution

The **Alverdiscott and Huntsraw 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

The first house martins arrived just a few days after the swallows. They've been engaged in a battle with the local house sparrows who have always regarded the old martin nests as fair game and claimed squatters rights. Right now I'm not sure who's winning!

Had a real treat on Wednesday, a sparrowhawk came and landed on the bird bath. It must have been there for a good 20 seconds, a real treat. Sadly, not enough time to get a picture.

The Open Day at Alverdiscott Hall was quite successful. The rep's from the regular hirers that came along all had a chance to talk to each other and to those locals who dropped in. I think it's fair to say that the Sgt at Arms from the **Company of the**

Lamb re-enactment group drew the most attention. His name was *Spider* and he was dressed for the part. He also had a goodly selection of armour, weapons and clothing proper to the period. He was very willing to engage with all who wanted to learn more.

The **Country Music Club** were also keen to attract new members and so you will find an advert on p13 and a list of the Acts who will be performing at the hall over the next three months.

To enable the hall to continue, and indeed flourish, we all need to support it and help to keep it alive. If you haven't been to a function at the hall for a while then maybe think about giving it a try. Keep an eye out for the adverts in the Rag, there's always something going on...

There is a complete lack of numeracy and scientific/engineering understanding among our political elite and the supporting bureaucrats, and the consequence of this is a failure to understand basic concepts.

Concerns for the Future

For over 20 years now, power engineers have been warning successive governments about the problems that uncontrollable and intermittent (weather-dependent) renewable energy schemes connected to the transmission grid and embedded in the local distribution networks are likely to create for our electricity supply. These warnings have fallen on deaf ears because of the over-riding political commitments to meet renewable energy targets at all costs, and regardless of the impact on reliability of supply.

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

Emergencies

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Calor Gas	0345 744 4999

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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

Huntsraw Parish Hall Jenny Staines
01805 624490

huntsrawparishhall@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 2

Cont'd from last month. Power stations were strategically located close to the fuel sources or close to the major consumption areas. The power stations were connected to the High Voltage National Grid (the transmission network). After privatisation and the break-up of the electricity supply system, government ministers and their bureaucrats decided what future power stations and other generators would be built and where they would be located. Small generators were allowed to be connected to (embedded in) the local distribution networks, a function for which the networks were not designed. **Engineers were essentially locked out of the decision-making process.** The National Grid and local Distribution Network Operators (such as Western Power Distribution in Devon) were instructed to manage whatever system they were given. Instead of the electricity system being designed by engineers, it was largely placed into the hands of the civil service and bureaucracies such as the National Infrastructure Commission, the Committee on Climate Change and the Planning Inspectorate, with decisions being made by government appointed Planning Inspectors and by local authority planning officers and planning committees. The result has been that large amounts of generating capacity (wind farms) have been built in Scotland, far from the major consumption regions in England and without sufficient grid capacity to transmit the electricity to where it is needed. This has resulted in consumers paying wind farms to **not** generate electricity when it is too windy! *These are called constraint payments.*

It has also resulted in what is known as distributed power. This is mainly wind and solar power embedded in the distribution networks rather than connected to the transmission grid. The network was not designed to operate this way and it means that the operators of the electricity supply (the National Grid operators) are not aware of how much power is being generated on the distribution network. They see an apparently reduced demand for electricity rather than seeing the increase in distributed generation.

Instead of the priority being to provide a reliable and affordable electricity supply, government policy changed to providing increasing amounts of electricity generated from renewable sources, regardless of the impact on reliability and cost and regardless of the impact this would have on industry, commerce and domestic consumers. Energy ministers do not last long in the job, none of them being in post long enough, nor having the skills, to understand what is happening.

(Continued on page 15)

From the Rector

I've heard that a growing number of people in our country are on a spiritual search, seeking answers to life's big questions:

Is there a God?

Does my life matter?

How can I find peace, happiness, forgiveness or healing?

Perhaps covid, economic uncertainty and war have rocked peoples' old certainties. Perhaps people are discovering that the promises of secular humanism are empty and unfulfilling.

But Bible sales are rocketing. Young people, especially, are turning up at church. Baptisms and church attendance are on the rise, even in the Church of England! I have to confess to being a bit jealous of the church where a young man turned up one morning because he'd asked an AI engine where he should go to find out about faith and it had directed him to the church around the corner. So, I've been praying, "God, please would you prompt this sort of spiritual awakening here!"

And just recently I have begun to see small signs that God is, with people sharing quite deep spiritual experiences, or asking to talk about faith. So, if you are one of those people who feels a stirring inside... it might even be something you can't put your finger on or explain... but you'd like to explore,

here's my phone number: **01769 560792.**

and my email address: revgary@tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Please get in touch and we can talk. Or you could speak to the focal minister where you live, or a Christian you know, or even type: "How can I explore the Christian faith?" into your AI website of choice and see what it comes up with!

Best wishes

Gary

Team rector of the Two Rivers Mission Community

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

Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

In May we were raising funds for ShelterBox and made £95. On 4 June our charity will be **Action for Children**, 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

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. On Monday 29 June we will be visiting the gardens of Ken Stoate at Mutton Hall to enjoy the herbaceous beds and woodland. For more details contact *The Rag*.



CRAFT and CHATTER

Our next meet 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.

Two "new" clergy for the Two Rivers Mission Community

On Saturday 27th June Jen Steele and Sue Turner, our focal ministers in St Giles and Horwood, will be ordained deacon by the bishop of Exeter in Exeter Cathedral. Both will serve as part time, non-stipendiary, curates in their respective parishes and the wider Two Rivers Mission Community.

We wish Jen and Sue every blessing and a fruitful ministry amongst us.

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Upcoming Acts

2 June	Simon	14 July	Brian Mann
16 June	Texans	28 July	John Luxton
30 June	Bit of Luck	11 Aug	Roger Colome

Last time the word was: **GARNERING**

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 - Alex, maybe?

R	A	I
U	E	R
N	C	H

Word count 20 = Good. More than 30 = Very well done!

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 230

Good Luck...

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

Solution to Su Doku No. 229

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

Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050



News from Huntshaw Church

Sadly we have had to postpone our proposed festival.

We'll look to do something later in the year instead to bring people together and raise a few pennies towards the upkeep of the church.

Huntshaw Services

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

Sunday 14th June: 9.30am – Morning Worship

Sunday 12th July 11.00am Morning Worship

Alverdiscott Church Services

Every Sunday: Traditional 'said' communion at 8.00am

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Deacon Debbie Marsh 07763 811757

Services Planned for

Alverdiscott Chapel during June and July

07 June 11.00am Margaret Price

21 June 11.00am David Ley

05 July 11.00am Elsie Potter

19 July 11.00am Margaret Price

Information about the Methodist Church
can be found here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/> and at
<http://torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk/>





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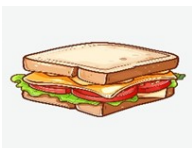
e-mail delmar.landscaping@tiscali.co.uk

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH MUSICAL LUNCHE

We will be back in the Church for music and lunch on
Fridays 29th May and 26th June

Please come and join us

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



Last Postings...

It has been my privilege and pleasure to be the **Royal Mail Postman for Huntshaw**, for many years.

Unfortunately I became unwell after Christmas, and suddenly vanished without explanation of which I'm sorry. Too much repetitive jumping in and out of the van had taken its toll, I was in a lot of pain, and I decided on medical advice to stop.

I have seen quite a few of you, but many not, and I just wanted to express my sincere thanks for all the kind words and wishes I have received. The ladies (you know who you are!) who went round with a leaving card to sign, presented me with a "book" of words, which left me quite emotional. Also the Big Breakfast at Huntshaw village hall, became a place to catch up with many of you, in a relaxed informal way. Thank you.

I came to work as a postman by accident; a temporary job to fill in a gap in a stressful career as a structural engineer; I enjoyed the total change, and temporary has become 25 years! Nearly all of my colleagues have come from other careers or occupations, and they are a wonderful bunch, and great in all they do. 13 of those years have been on the Huntshaw round covering both town and rural addresses.

Being your "regular" postman has been very rewarding, and it is a privileged role. Although my route would essentially be the same, every day was different: the weather; the items you have to deliver; the road hazards and closures; the people you would meet that day; their stories; and the overbearing worry of the van breaking down... again!! Come rain or shine the familiar red post van would weave its way through the lanes and in and out of your drives and farms and lives. It's an image we all love, and find reassuring, and which was very important in our recent pandemic. A sign of continuity and connection in our community.

Over the years, whilst travelling my "round", I have by small increments and fleeting conversations, got to know a large number of you very well, and the words "customers" and "friends" become easily interchangeable for me. There's been a confidence in exchanging a few words, maybe about the weather, or politics, or upcoming health appointments... I don't think Royal Mail today realises how much more their deliveries mean. Sometimes I would be the only soul someone, maybe you, would speak to. People say you could "write a book on it", and one could, but I won't, because it is too personal and special, and much in life is best left quiet, unsaid, but understood, just like the leafy lanes of Huntshaw on a wild wet day.

I hope to stay involved with Huntshaw parish, but I will miss seeing you on a regular basis as your postman. Keep well, and thank you so much for your very kind wishes.

Mike Taverner.

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.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

*You should have found a Show Schedule
inside this Rag. If it's missing or you need
another copy please get in touch.*



Friends of All Saints Church - Prize Draw Winners May

1st	Maggie Edwards	£25
2nd	Paul Matthews	£15
3rd	Muriel Moore	£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

ALVERDISCOTT HALL - AFTER THE OPEN DAY

On Saturday 9th May the Hall Committee held an Open Day hoping to raise awareness of what goes on at the Hall, to find out what events our community would be interested to attend and recruit some more volunteers to work with us. Representatives from groups who book the Hall on a regular basis joined us in the hope of publicising their meetings and events.

It was a pleasure to welcome a few local residents and newcomers to the area who are keen to get involved in the community. Disappointingly though, not as many as we had hoped we might attract.

The Hall is run by a committee of volunteers, most of us have been working to organise events and keep the Hall in good order for more than 15 years. Our programme of events has remained very much unchanged over the years and are generally well attended. However, none of us are "spring chickens" and getting close to the age where we need to stand back and let others take over.

Are you someone who would like to become involved in running the Hall? It is a great way to get to know your local community and can be very rewarding. If you think you can help in any way, please contact one of our committee members listed below.

The Hall is much admired by the users; it would be a very sad situation to see it not being cared for or used on a regular basis.

Liz and Graham White	bulworthy@aol.com	01271 858441
Dave Potter	dave.potter@btinternet.com	01271 858534
Louise Saunders	louisesaunders4bp@gmail.com	01271 858522
Paul Matthews	paul.k.matthews7@gmail.com	01271 858652