

# Alcester Town Council



*newsletter* Issue 23 Winter 2010

***In this edition: Community Orchard..... Santa Float.....***



## **Mayor's Seasonal Message**

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who attended our town meeting regarding the plight of the Greig Hall. The interest and offers of help has been overwhelming. The people who have signed up will have already received a letter informing them of progress made so far. A new Action Committee has been formed; **look out for the Community Action Group sign-up form in the centre of this newsletter**. Please show your support. It will only work with the community's help; it does not matter at what level. The town needs your help - please support your Action Group.

One of the great privileges of representing you as Mayor is that Ann and I get invited to some great events, which can be very thought-provoking and uplifting. The Carers' Support Service and Youth Club Association show how important the role of community takes in making our towns and villages better places to live. In the last few days Ann and I have been to see a show put on by the Side by Side Theatre. The cast is made up from both able and disabled people; it was hard to see the difference. It has been the highlight of our year for us both. It was so entertaining - costumes, lights, singing and dancing. Who needs to go to London or Broadway? What a great start to Christmas.

As we move into the time when the weather becomes colder, and even with the threat of some snow, can we all be more aware of our neighbours - check they are OK, warm and with food etc.

People tell me this is a great place to live, and it is. What makes it so is not just its location, it's the people; let's make it so for all.

We have a lot to look forward to in the new year; we are looking forward to seeing many of you in the next few weeks. Have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas. **Chris and Ann Gough**

## **Seasons Greetings**

Alcester Town Council wishes all our readers  
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



## **Clerk's Corner**

There is no doubt that the ongoing concern over the long term future of the Greig Hall has brought an air disappointment to say the least, both in the town and within the Town Council itself. However this should not in any way dampen what has been a tremendous year in so many other ways.

Work has started on the Hospital site and there is no evidence any cuts will hamper progress towards the long awaited Health Centre, and the news that both Bidford and Studley Doctors are now partaking in the various extra facilities that the overall site will bring is a tremendous step forward.

Environment Agency Work has also started on the flood relief pumps, in particular the biggest one on the South Bleachfield Street Allotments. Plans are also being considered for the Severn Trent improvement to their pumping station on Stratford Road.

Work will also be starting in the new year on the 'Depot' Youth Centre at the Pavilion on Conway Fields, the Community Orchard on the Weir Field and some associated work to enhance the area with new picnic tables to improve access to our natural wildlife. Put this alongside the Multi Use Games Area, the additional equipment for young people on the Play Area, where some tree planting will also take place before the end of this year, and the promises that the Town Council gave to meet its Town Plan are materialising fast.

We should therefore look forward to a Happy New Year and not be down-hearted.

## **Being a Town Councillor** by Yvonne Hine

When you become a town councillor you are a member of a team of volunteers, all with very different skills. A day in the life of a councillor can see you dealing with various community issues that might affect the town, or meetings of committees and groups. When I became a town councillor it was to put something back into the community that I love, but I have benefitted from being part of an organisation that cares. Town Councillors may also be members of other organisations. Some are school governors and some sit as council representatives on charity committees. We all have different opinions but also have one common aim, and that is to maintain our quality of life and keep our town how its residents want it to be. Our powers are more limited these days but it does not stop us have an opinion on matters that concern us. The main qualifications for a

town councillor to have are time, commitment and a sense of humour.

Town Council elections will take place on Thursday 5 May. Please contact us if you are interested in standing to be a town councillor.



## **Neighbourhood Watch Alcester**

**GOOD NEWS** Warwickshire Police is in the top 5 best performing forces in the country in terms of burglary reduction according to latest national statistics. Assistant Chief Constable Neil Brunton said: "This is an excellent achievement and reflects the hard work and dedication of officers and staff who have been working to reduce burglary in the county. Domestic burglary has reduced by a staggering 16.8% in Warwickshire during the 12 months ending September 2010 compared to the 12 months ending September 2009. This is against a national average of a reduction of 6.7% of burglaries during this period. These successes can, in part, be contributed to the tremendous work undertaken by **Neighbourhood Watch Associations** in Warwickshire who have assisted the police in encouraging homeowners to protect their property and report suspicious behaviour."

**Number Plate Theft from Vehicles** From April 2009 – March 2010, 12% of all thefts in the Stratford area were thefts of number plates. In order to counteract this, Stratford Police are making available free of charge, one way metal screws which can be fitted to number plates that cannot be unscrewed. If a number plate is stolen, the owner of the vehicle, through no fault of their own, may well have to deal with possible speeding fines, congestion charges etc. Anyone wanting these screws can contact the Police by email [watch@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:watch@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk) or phone 01926 684355 and leave a

**Severn Trent Password Protection Scheme** Severn Trent (ST) has initiated a password scheme to protect householders from bogus callers trying to enter properties. Their advice is to always check however convincing their reason for entry is. Genuine representatives rarely need to enter a property. To register call 08457 500 500 or online at [www.stwater.co.uk/access](http://www.stwater.co.uk/access) Once registered you can tell any caller claiming to be from ST or "Water Board" that you are password protected. If genuine, the caller will contact ST to get your password. Leanne

Town from ST will attend the next NHW meeting on 5 January to promote and explain how the scheme works.

**The next meeting of NHW Alcester will be held on Wednesday 5 January 2011** at St Benedict's School. The meeting will include a Police/Incident Report, a presentation by Severn Trent and the latest developments in Neighbourhood Watch. Everyone is welcome.

**If you would like to find out more about NHW Alcester**, please email: [nhwalcester@aol.com](mailto:nhwalcester@aol.com) or telephone Dorrie Manders on 01789 762999

**Communicating with the Police**  
Emergencies dial 999  
Report a crime or serious incident 01926 415000

Stratford Police Station 01789 414111  
Alcester Police Station 01789 762207

Globe House (open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) for Police public enquiry services (personal callers only).

Call **Crimestoppers** anonymously with information about crime on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is a charity who will pass on information to police without revealing any details of the caller.

#### **Alcester Community Policing Team**

Please feel free to contact the Community Policing Team direct:

Inspector Patrick Devereux 01789 414111

Sgt Andrew Moss (Team Leader) 01789 444816 or 01789 762207, Voice Mail (VM) 10128

Sgt Robert Shaw 01789 444816 or 01789 762207 (VM) 10542

PC Tony Hall 01789 762207 (VM) 11647

PC Steve Monckton 01789 762207 (VM) 10094

**PCSO Andrew Hyman 01789 762207 (VM) 16236**

PCSO Ally Streatfield 01789 762207 (VM) 16206

PCSO Rebecca Morris 01789 762207 (VM) 16903

Contact **Warwickshire Trading Standards** for advice on scams and rogue traders on 0845 4040 506. For access to latest information on scams go to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/latestscams](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/latestscams)

**Alcester is a relatively crime free area. We work together to keep it that way.**



## **Allotment Association**

An Allotment Association has recently been formed and meetings are held once a month. The Chairman is Keith Greenaway, who can be contacted on [keithslandscapes@aol.com](mailto:keithslandscapes@aol.com) The AGM will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday 15 February at 7.30pm. All Alcester Town Council allotment holders are welcome to attend.

## **Royal British Legion**



In June 2011, the Alcester Branch celebrates its 90th Birthday. Alcester's Royal British Legion is the oldest branch in Warwickshire and has a great reputation for its enthusiasm and continued support for the Legion cause. To mark the occasion the branch would like to gather photographs, newspaper clippings and legion related stories etc in order to produce a birthday display next year. If you can help or have any suggestions please contact David Malin on 01789 763113.

In honour of this special year, the Town Council is to have the War Memorial on the church green cleaned.

## **Recreation News.....**

A great amount of canvassing, planning and development has been the theme of this committee in the last 4 months. **The Town Council elections** for new councillors is in May 2011 and before then it is hoped work will be well advanced. An agreement is imminent with **Alcester Town Football Club** to have a permanent home at the old Golf Centre at Oversley Green. This site has fantastic possibilities and thanks to Mr Corbett the club is already operating there. Residents should go and watch and support our clubs and youth teams and see them in action. Our sports clubs - rugby, cricket, tennis and football are all doing a great

service to our community. **Conway Fields** continues to progress. An agreement is now in place for the schools to use the MUGA in term time. This unit is open, floodlit and free to 9.30pm, with plans for additional facilities. In January 2011 the new play equipment area is to be supplemented with some planting of traditional English trees. **The Community Orchard** is to be planted in January 2011 and volunteers are needed to help. A grant to upgrade the accessibility to this park has been submitted to include the upgrade of the picnic place by the old railway line. **The Pavilion kitchen** is now completed and is used by two senior luncheon clubs plus junior and older youth groups. **The new youth building** is scheduled to start in January 2011 with completion by June 2011. **The Pavilion Users Group** (PUG) has been formed to operate, promote and develop clubs, societies and groups at the Pavilion. Items such as a drop-in cafe, nature groups and fishing lessons are all possible. For more information or if you want to help please contact Alcester Town Council on 766084, or Cllr Yvonne Hine on 07771 930002.

### ***Alcester Round Table Santa Float for December 2010***



**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - St Nicholas Night - see Santa on the High Street**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Seggs Lane, Augustus Dr, Cross Rd, Sherwell Drive, Roman Way, Hadrian's Walk, Stratford Road, Corinthian Court, Gas House Lane, High Street & pubs to Holly Bush

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Evesham St, Newport Dr, Birch Abbey, Chantry Cres, Willow Cl, Bleachfield St, Flax Close, Oversley Green – Mill Lane, Oversley Mill Park, Old Stratford Rd, Elm Dr, Beech Cl, Poplar Cl.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Gunnings Rd, St. Faiths Rd, Vallet Ave, Hawthorn Cl, Blackthorn Way, Springfield Rd, Kingfisher Way, Plover Cl, Meadow Rd

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Crooks Lane, Beacon Cl, Chapman Way, St Nicholas Cl, Hertford Rd, Alauna Ave, Beauchamp Rd, Avon Cres, Arrow Cres, Smiths Way, Kingley Ave, Castle Rd

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Gerard Rd, Riddell Cl, St. Marys Rd, Winchcombe Rd, Barlich Way, Seymour Rd, Rufford Cl, Purton Cl, Devonish Cl, Horton Cl, Wain Cl, Fenwick Cl

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Captains Hill, Throckmorton Rd, Ten Acres, Fields Park Dr, Alne Bank Rd, Collins Way, Fairwater Cres, Alcocks Rd, Weatheroak Rd, Riverside, Haselor Rd, Wharrage Rd

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Henley Street from Holly Bush, Moorfields Road, Rope Walk, School Rd, Priory Road

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Greville Road, Abbey Cl, Roebuck Park, Birmingham Rd, Eclipse Estate, Station Rd Estate.

### **Have you heard about Community Forums?**

Community Forums are public meetings led by the County Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council to engage the public in council business. Warwickshire Police promote 'Safer Neighbourhoods' through the Community Forums. Additionally the Safer Neighbourhood Teams hold a surgery prior to the forum during which time tea/coffee is available.

Your Community Forum's next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 7 December 2010 at Great Alne Memorial Hall, Great Alne B49 6HL**, where the main topics will be **Where should the axe fall? What will go, what will stay? Have your say; Flooding - would YOU know what to do; identify YOUR priorities for local policing; and lots more.** If you have a specific concern or problem, then drop in to the local surgery from 6.30pm – 7.00pm where you will be able to speak to your Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team, Councillors and Officers from Warwickshire County Council and Stratford on Avon District Council.

**If you would like to suggest an issue for a future Community Forum meeting, or find out more, please contact Amanda Wilson-Patterson on 01789 260135 or email: [amandawilsonpatterson@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:amandawilsonpatterson@warwickshire.gov.uk)**

## **Alcester Pavilion Drop-in Centre**

The Drop-in Centre at Conway Fields is open to every member of the community from young to old. We offer totally confidential help with any kind of problem from just someone to talk to who will listen, right through to form-filling help, to violence issues or just to meet up and have a cuppa and a chat with others. We also offer drink and/or drug advice; even bullying help.

No problem can't be solved if it's shared, and if we can't directly help we will probably know who can.

Volunteers are always welcome to help. If you care and can keep sensitive issues confidential then please call in for a chat. Volunteers will be needed in the new year. If you want or need any further information please leave a message with Yvonne on 07771 930002.

## **Alcester Rotary Tree of Light**



Would you like to be part of the Rotary Tree of Light? All you have to do is complete a coupon (available at Globe House or Hemming & Peace) and take it to one of the collection points with your donation: Hemming & Peace, 67

High St, Brownings, 35 High St, Council Offices, Globe House. A light will shine on the Rotary Tree of Light by Globe Island from 27 November throughout Christmas and the New Year, until 6 January, in memory of that special someone. The names of those remembered will be displayed on a noticeboard at Globe House for all to see.

The Tree of Light will have been switched on by Alcester Town Mayor Chris Gough on Saturday 27 November at 4.30pm.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual St Nicholas Night Monday 6 December**



This community event is an opportunity for the townsfolk of Alcester and district to come together to officially mark the start of the festive season and to raise money for local good causes at the same time. The event starts at 5.30pm, with the road closure from 5.00pm. Stalls will line

the High Street and shops will stay open later. The Boy Bishop parade at 7.00pm marks the official start of the event, and will include vintage cars and cycles. Music will play a prominent part with a number of local schools, bands and choirs taking part. Festivities are expected to last well into the evening with a traditional spectacular fireworks display at 8.30pm. The Compline Service in St Nicholas Church is at 9.00pm.

## **Census 2011**



You may be aware that the next Census will be taking place from 27th March 2011, and we are looking to achieve as high a response rate as possible so that our local figures are accurate and we can respond to community needs as effectively as we can. Census figures are used to help the government and other public sector bodies to distribute funding for healthcare, education, transport and other similar services, and the statistics that we use stand for 10 years before the next Census is carried out. We would like to ask for your help in beginning to promote how important it is for you, your friends and neighbours to complete the Census questionnaires when they are distributed, especially to those groups of people who might be more unlikely to do this, for example people who are very elderly, have disabilities, language difficulties etc. Help with filling in the census forms will be available from the Town Council on request. There are also some job opportunities available now for people interested in helping with the Census in this area too, so if you or anyone you know might be interested in finding out more, please visit [www.2011.census.gov.uk](http://www.2011.census.gov.uk)

The Area Manager for the Census 2011 in our area is Karen Boyland so if you would like to speak to her about how you can help or what job opportunities are available email her on [F113@census.gov.uk](mailto:F113@census.gov.uk) or call 07801 331376.

## Snow Warden Scheme



Warwickshire County Council is looking to launch and trial a network of voluntary Snow Wardens. The Snow Warden will be appointed by the Town Council, Housing Association, Resident Group or District Council and their functions during severe weather will be:

To provide information to the County Highways Team on the local situation during the period of severe weather conditions;

To consult with the Area Teams on the local needs and determine jointly what local action to take, if necessary, to supplement the operation of the department. Priority will be given to busy footway areas and areas outside shops and schools and steep areas agreed in advance;

When conditions warrant it the Area Teams will sanction the treatment of agreed village/town footways from salt supplied from the existing grit bins or at agreed locations from additional sealed bags as resources allow;

Any works undertaken will follow the suggested guidelines released in the government Snow Code as highlighted below.

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public space.

If an accident did happen it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you are careful and use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before.

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

## New Public Flood Warning Service From the Environment Agency

We use our Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD) system to send messages to our customers to warn them about flooding from rivers and the sea.

In late Autumn this year (weather dependent) we will be changing our flood codes to make them clearer to understand and more visible. The messages will provide more relevant and local information, will be simpler to understand, and clearer about what actions to take.

We will have three types of warning - **Flood Alert**, **Flood Warning** and **Severe Flood Warning** as shown below.



**A Flood Alert** will be used to warn people of the possibility of flooding and encourage them to be alert, stay vigilant and make early preparations for flooding. This will replace the previously issued Flood Watches, and will have a new definition, icon and accompanying advice. A Flood Alert will be issued earlier than a Flood Warning, to give customers advance notice that flooding is possible.

**A Flood Warning** will be used to warn people of expected flooding and encourage them to take action to protect themselves and their property.

**A Severe Flood Warning** will be used when there is a significant risk to life or significant disruption to communities and we need to encourage customers to take action to protect themselves and follow the advice of the emergency services.

*To check if you are at risk from flooding or to register for our free Floodline Warnings Direct service, please call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or visit our website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodmidlands](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodmidlands) You can also request or download a personal flood plan template, find general advice and information about flooding.*

The Environment Agency's new public flood warning service will go live in late autumn 2010.

## Operation Watermark

In March 2010 Alcester Town Council will be taking part in 'Exercise Watermark'. This will be a nationwide exercise to test Emergency Plans. In Alcester we will be testing our own Emergency Plan as a 'Table Top Exercise'.

To enable the exercise to be as accurate as possible, over the next few weeks we will be accumulating information from areas deemed to be at most risk from a serious flood, such as that experienced in July 2007, and a questionnaire included for you to fill out. Any information requested is done so at your own discretion and if you have no wish to participate then we fully understand.

To help us complete the exercise a number of sixth form students from Alcester Grammar School have volunteered their time and energy to collect the completed questionnaires. This will be taking place between Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December. They can be identified by a lapel card with their photograph and name clearly on the card.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

## Alcester Community Orchard

The Alcester Community Orchard is a project partnership between Alcester Town Council and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Funding received from Warwickshire County Council Stratford Development Fund and Orbit Heart of England Community Investment Fund will be used to plant the Orchard, develop a Friends of Alcester Community Orchard Group who will be able to continue with the future management of the project and deliver activities and workshops for the local community which will encourage people to explore their local area and the wildlife it holds.

The project will be planting 50 mixed fruit trees with some traditional varieties like the Wyken Pippin and Warwickshire Drooper to create Alcester Community Orchard; it will have a quiet seating area in the centre for relaxing in and of course the fruit to pick in the future.

Orchards have a significant ecological value - the spring blossom provides food for insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies and this can be a benefit to the surrounding area as it will encourage more pollinators into that area.

The buds and fruit can be important for birds such as bullfinches, fieldfares and redwings.

Orchards also provide an important habitat for insect eating birds and are also an important local habitat for mistletoe.

We will be planting the trees with help from local volunteers at the end of February and we need your help, if you would like to get involved in any aspects of this project or would like more information about the project or how to become involved in the "Friends of Group" please contact Julie Turner by email [julie.turner@wkw.org.uk](mailto:julie.turner@wkw.org.uk) or Tel: 07818579303



## When going for a night out - please Keep SAFE



When going out for the night, there are some simple things you can do to reduce the risk of falling into harm's way:

### Say where you're going:

Tell your parents or carers as well as your friends where you are going and when you are coming home.

### Agree how you're going to get home:

Plan your night before you go out  
Keep money aside so you can get home  
Have a number for a trusted taxi company with you before you go out.

If you take a taxi, make sure it's licensed  
Never get into a car if you know the driver has been drinking.

### Find help:

Avoid aggressive people and walk away from someone who wants to fight.

Don't be shy of talking to a police officer if you feel threatened.

Don't be afraid to step in if you feel one of your friends has had too much to drink. If you're worried about them find a responsible adult or call an ambulance.

### Everyone counts:

Keep a close eye on at least one friend  
Never leave one of your friends out alone.

Councillors' contact details

**Alcester Ward**

John Bunting	766753
Peter Crabtree	762660
Mike Gittus	488027
Chris Gough (Mayor)	762307
David Hancox	763393
Mrs Yvonne Hine	07771 930002
Jim Kenyon	763975
Ron Leek	762574
Eric Payne	762577

**Oversley Ward**

Mrs Susan Adams	400371
Peter Carr	766473
Lennox Cumberbatch (Deputy Mayor)	766940
Nick Dearing	765070
Malcolm Graham	763925
Bill Malin	763113

**Oversley Green Ward**

Mrs Nina Knapman	764319
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**Clerk**

Chris Wright 766084  
Email: [clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

**Assistant Clerk**

Paula Haggerty 766084  
Email: [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

**Mayor**

Councillor Chris Gough 762307  
Email: [mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Website [www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk)

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Please let us have your comments and views

Name

Address

Comments

***Town Council meetings***

**Planning Committee** Monday 13 December at 7.00pm, Monday 10 January at 6.30pm, Monday 24 January at 7.00pm, Monday 7 February at 6.30pm, Monday 21 February at 7.00pm, Monday 7 March at 6.30pm.

**Community Committee** Monday 13 December at 7.30pm, Monday 10 January at 7.30pm, Monday 7 February at 7.30pm, Monday 7 March at 7.30pm.

**Amenities Committee** Monday 13 December 7.30pm, Monday 24 January at 8.00pm, Monday 21 February at 8.00pm.

**Recreation Committee** Monday 13 December at 6.30pm, Monday 24 January at 7.00pm, Monday 21 February at 7.00pm.

**Full Council Meetings**

Tuesday 7 December, Tuesday 4 January, Tuesday 1 February, Tuesday 1 March, all at 7.00pm.

*All meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Globe House, Priory Road, Alcester (Seggs Lane entrance). Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the council meetings. Please see the agendas on the notice boards on Market Way and High Street and on the website from the Thursday before each meeting.*

***Town Council Surgery***

Town Council Surgery dates are on the following Saturdays: 8 January, 5 February, 5 March, 3 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December from 10.00am to 12 noon at Church House, Butter Street. Councillors will be in attendance to answer your questions and a representative from the Police will attend. Please come along and enjoy FREE coffee/tea and biscuits