

Alcester Town Council



newsletter Issue 24 Spring 2011

In this edition: Elections 5 May..... Fairtrade event

Working For Your Community Why Not Become A Parish/ Town Councillor?

What do parish councils do?

Councils have an overall responsibility for the well being of the local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- Representing the local community;
- Delivering services to meet very local needs;
- Working to improve quality of life in the parish

As a Parish or Town Councillor you will be involved in:

Decision making - Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where local council tax money should be spent, and if resources allow what services should be delivered.

Getting involved locally - As local representatives councillors have responsibilities towards the residents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

A local council is the best chance of having a local voice and to express a local view to those who have influence over your local community



You qualify to stand for election if you are:

- * Aged over 18
- * A British, Commonwealth Citizen or Euronational Citizen (who is a registered elector)
- * Resident for 12 months prior to the day of election – either in the parish or within 3 miles of the boundary
- * Occupied land or premises for 12 months as owner or tenant – either in the parish or within 3 miles of the boundary
- * Had a principal place of work – either in the parish or within 3 miles of the boundary

For further details contact your local parish council clerk:

Chris Wright - contact details on back cover

Remember nomination papers (available from the clerk) must be in by noon on 25 March – elections 5 May 2011



Mayor's Message

It looks as if spring has arrived and the snow and ice we hope is behind us. We must learn from the past and see if we can improve anything at local level. The new grit bins helped and arrived just in time. Once again neighbours helping neighbours swung into action. Please let us know areas of greatest difficulty you experienced during the extreme weather. The medical centre is still on track with no concerns about finance as this is committed. Demolition is due to start anytime. There are ongoing meetings regarding library services, Police presence and many other services that will be affected by the cuts.

Many thanks for the amazing response to help the Greig Action Committee, a community group set up to try and stop the Hall being demolished. We've been overwhelmed by the pledges and support offered. We have a wide range of skilled people offering time and talents. The objection to the planning application to demolish the Hall and build on the site has resulted in a resounding NO to new plans with 1360 objections recorded by the Action Committee not including those sent direct and online. Thanks to all those involved in the new business plan.

Ann and I have been representing the town at many events but the highlight for us has been the Junior Drama production of Sleeping Beauty in Space - if we needed motivation for saving the Greig Hall it would this, a group fulfilling all the reasons the Greig was built. Thank you all for a great show and all the very best for the future. Thanks for all your support - we have been encouraged and humbled by some of the people we've met around the district. It takes a lot of love and care to make a town as special as Alcester - we should all be proud of what we are achieving.

Chris and Ann Gough

Clerk's Corner



Taking a break on the Community Orchard project

The time has come to look forward rather than back. The winter has been severe, particularly December with record snow falls, but we are already looking forward to spring. The Community Orchard project is taking shape on the Weir Field in the corner between the River Arrow and the old Railway Line. 50 fruit trees will be surrounded by hedging, whilst an untidy area by the picnic benches has been cleared and the snowdrops and daffodils currently there will be supported by further planting of wild flowers to make the area more interesting and pleasant for the community to enjoy.

We are near to finalising the leases to the old golf range on the Stratford Road, which will ensure a long-term home for Alcester Town Football Club allowing them to make funding applications through the Football Association to provide exceptional sporting facilities for the young people of Alcester. With the plans progressing for the Pavilion towards a dedicated Youth Club and the continuing improvements of the play equipment at Conway Fields, with the Multi Use Games Area and Zip Wire proving very successful, there is now a firm foundation for continual improvement to provide facilities here in Alcester that are very special.

Chris Wright



Neighbourhood Watch Alcester

Digital Television Switch-Over Year - Don't Fall Victim to Door to Door Rogues.

In the Central Television Region, covering Warwickshire and many surrounding counties, switchover from an analogue signal to a digital signal is due to begin on 30th March 2011. Over the course of the year, the existing analogue television signal will be switched off and viewers will need to convert or upgrade their TV equipment to receive digital signals and a TV service. Not only are Trading Standards Officers concerned that rogue traders may attempt to sell residents unnecessary digital TV equipment but that some may use the opportunity to falsely claim their property requires other work doing, for example roofing or guttering work, something a rogue trader may point out if they are 'installing' a new aerial. For more information, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/digitaltvswitch

Warranty Scam Warwickshire consumers have reported receiving unexpected phone calls from someone claiming to be calling on behalf of Sky Television. The caller tells the consumer that their Sky warranty/guarantee is about to expire and asks them if they want to extend it. The caller possesses quite a lot of information about the consumer which makes them sound plausible and genuine. One Warwickshire consumer paid over £200 to the caller. However, the caller is not calling on behalf of Sky TV but rather represents a different company altogether with no connection to Sky. Not only was the caller misled, but was also promised a 14 day cooling off period in which to change her mind, which was then not honoured as no paperwork was ever sent. Consumers are warned never to provide their personal or financial information to anyone who calls unexpectedly on the phone, however plausible they may sound.

Smartwater This is the property marking solution which helps Police to quickly identify stolen goods and return them to their owners. Smartwater is a known deterrent to would-be burglars. If sufficient people in a street or area sign up to Smartwater, Smartwater road signs go up in that street and Police records show that this is a further deterrent - Reduction in burglaries in N. Warwickshire of 82% and in Coventry of 76%. At a recent meeting of NHW it was with much pleasure

the Chairman announced that Alcester had its first Smartwater signs put up in the Close at the bottom of Springfields Road. It is available through NHW at a subsidised price and an increasing number of people are purchasing it. For more information contact Dorrie Manders, details below.

The next meeting of NHW Alcester will be held on Tuesday 10 May 2011 at 7.30pm at St Benedict's School in the Community Room. The meeting will include a Police/Incident Report, and the latest developments in Neighbourhood Watch. Everyone is welcome. Meetings last approximately one hour

If you would like to find out more about NHW Alcester, please email: 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).

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

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust

West Stratford & Borders

Come along and have your say.....

'Developments at Stratford Hospital'

which will be led by Mr Glen Burley, Chief Executive of the Foundation Trust on Wednesday 6 April 2011, 7:00pm in the Council Chamber, Stratford District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX.

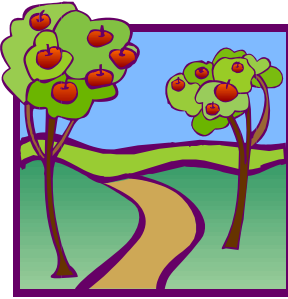
This is your opportunity to talk about existing services and future developments at Stratford hospital. You will also have the opportunity to meet and talk to the Governors who represent you and to other Members of the Trust.

The event is free to attend and is open to Members (public and staff) and non-members alike. Light refreshments will be served.

Please note that places are limited and must therefore be booked in advance.

To book your place please call the Membership Office on Freephone 0800 085 2471 or email membership@swft.nhs.uk

Recreation News.....



The Community Orchard is well under construction. This new addition has been organised by Julie Turner with help from the volunteers from

Alcester Nature Reserve and local residents and financed by generous grants. Over 50 indigenous, many local, species of fruit trees will be planted and fenced with a new hedge which will fruit with berries for the birds in the winter. This new amenity is on the Alcester Conway Fields riverside path and next to the picnic area by the old Alcester Railway Iron Bridge where we intend to provide picnic tables suitable for wheelchairs. The riverside walk is divided into 4 sections of different lengths; this is designed for exercise depending on ability. Extra seats and new fitness exercise points are to be the next task as funds become available. If any organisation can help by raising funds to provide a unit or seat contact us at 01789 766084 - we will be very pleased to provide details.

Every effort is made to keep our parks clean, tidy and free from contamination. All dog owners are welcome but please clean up after your animal wherever you walk in our parks or in our town. Disease can be contracted especially in small children. It is our intention to fence a new area on the Conway Fields and make it dog-free to ensure our children's safety.

Tenders have been received for the construction of the Youth Building and as we have to start construction by the summer so we are busy finalising the scheme. The grant of £170,000 is subject to starting early in 2011. Any extra facilities in the new building will have to be provided and any help here would be much appreciated. A Pavilion Users Group (PUG) and Alcester Youth Project have been set up to organise and facilitate users both for the Youth Building and the Kitchen and Recreation area. If you can help or are willing to help in any way or want information please contact 01789 766084.

Alcester Town Football Club has been working hard to establish their new home at Oversley old Golf Centre. This is a fine venue and Alcester Town Council has taken on the lease and sublet to Alcester Town Football Club. Our thanks go to all who are and have

worked so hard to establish this facility especially Mr Corbett and Alcester Vision Group.

In May 2011 Town Council Elections will mean new faces and committees. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to establish the Multi Use Games Area, Natural Play Area, extensions to the Pavilion and the list above of schemes in progress for their help and support in our efforts to provide residents with facilities they need and deserve.

Alcester Rotary Tree of Light

The Rotary Club of Alcester Alauna and the Rotary Club of Alcester are extremely grateful to those members of the community who once again showed their generosity during the 6 weeks that the Tree of Light stood outside the Council Offices at Globe House.

We trust that sponsoring lights in memory of loved ones brings comfort to those who gave donations during the Christmas and New Year by supporting the nominated Charities or projects.

This is the third year the community of Alcester and surrounding districts have supported the Tree of Light outside Globe House with a total this year of £1,200.

The lights were turned off on twelfth night and the following day cheques for £200 each were sent to the British Legion, Macmillan Cancer Support, Myton Hospice and Take-a-Break, whilst the two Rotary projects which in turn support the Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs and the Warwickshire Young Carers have received another £200 each.

Our next big fundraising event will be the cycle ride in May round the 5 countries of the United Kingdom to raise money to help eradicate Polio.

Royal Wedding Street Party



Alcester Chamber of Commerce and the Court Leet are hosting a Royal Wedding Street Party and Bring Your Own Picnic on Friday 29 April.

The High Street will be closed from 12.00pm and there will be children's rides, bouncy castles and ice cream vans, with bands from Alcester Live playing on St Nicholas Church Green. Come along and join in the fun!

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 8 March at Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford on Avon where the main topics will be Public Sector budget updates, Future of Health Services, the Localism Bill – what it is and what does it mean to you? and lots more...

If you have a specific concern or problem, then drop in to the local surgery from 6.30pm to 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



The Rotary Club Of Alcester

Need A Holiday?

We provide a week's holiday in a family hotel in bracing Blackpool, which includes:

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast & Entertainment
Transport to and from your home
All for £157 Per Person Per Week
sharing a room
or £182 Per Week For Single Room
Week 2 June to 9 June 2011

To reserve your place telephone:

Jim Adams 01789 400371
John Kinnersley 01789 762554

The Alcester Business Show

The Alcester Business Show for this year takes place at the Greig Hall on Wednesday 30 March from 12 noon to 6.00pm. The Town Council will have a stand and all are welcome to attend this free event.



ALCESTER & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

With the impending government cut backs across all community services, now

more than ever we need to identify and support our community's needs.

Alcester & District Lions are looking for people who want to be involved in their community to support local projects.

Recent fund-raising events have included a Caribbean party, participation at the summer Street Market and St. Nicholas night, and the Easter Egg raffle kindly run from local pubs and outlets in the area. Planned forthcoming events are a Jazz & Pudding night (9 April) and an Antiques Quiz (13 May).

Lions are ordinary people who do amazing things; like-minded men and women of all ages who enjoy volunteering their time to humanitarian causes in their local and global communities. Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organisation with 1.4 million members, active in almost 44,000 communities around the globe. Lions are dedicated to selfless, effective community service and, as a volunteer organisation, all money raised goes directly to charity. Administration costs are met by members.

For more information contact Dave on 0845 833 2794 or come to one of our meetings.

Alcester & District Lions meet 8pm on the second Tuesday of the Month at the Fire Station Social Club, Seggs Lane, Alcester

Adopt a Rose Bush Scheme

The Council gets frequent requests for some sort of memorial they can have for a loved one, many of which are for a bench in the cemetery. However, there's a limit to the number of benches that are appropriate and we have reached this limit. With this in mind we have a plan to plant roses along the old cemetery wall, next to School Road. The first 20 of these have just been planted and each year we will add to these. Each bush is available to be adopted to remember a loved one, and will be maintained by the Council at a cost of £175 for a 5 year period. This cost includes a plaque inscribed with the words of your choice. It's not necessary for the loved one to be buried in Alcester to take part in this scheme. The rose bushes will make a lovely display, and compliment those along the churchyard walls of St. Nicholas' Church. If you would like details of how to adopt a rose bush please call us on 01789 766084



**Celebrating Fairtrade
Fortnight in Alcester
Saturday 5 March
The Big Banner Bash**

St. Nicholas Church

10.30am to 2.30pm

To celebrate Alcester's first anniversary on achieving Fairtrade status and to mark Fairtrade fortnight, we are holding a special event. It's called The Big Banner Bash.

We are asking local schools, nurseries and groups to design their own banners for our Fairtrade bunting. We hope to wrap St. Nicholas Church many times over and create even greater awareness of all that Fairtrade goods and services mean to those overseas as well as promote the sale of Fairtrade in our local businesses.

The fun all kicks off at 10.30am on the green of St. Nicholas Church. Sara Coward (Caroline in Radio Four's The Archers) will open the event. There will be a brass band, stalls, refreshments and more with a superb multi-media display which will be inside the church itself. We're asking local shops who sell Fairtrade goods to get involved too and display the special bunting.

It'll be an event that anyone of any age can really enjoy so please come if you can. Also if you'd like to help or want further information just contact us on one of the numbers below. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Also Lizzie Davey will be giving a fascinating talk with pictures about her Traidcraft holiday in Malawi at Malt Mill Lane Community Centre on Friday 11 March at 7.30pm. Free wine and refreshments. Entry £1.00. Tickets are available in advance by contacting Lizzie.

If you would like to know more or help us please contact Katherine Long: email: info@alcester-fairtrade-town.org.uk or 01789 762562;

Lizzie Davey email: affgan1@supanet.com or 01789 764640;

Nina Knapman email: nina@hardy9724.freeserve.co.uk or 01789 764319. Contact for more information:

www.alcester-fairtrade-town.org.uk

For more information on Fairtrade Towns: www.fairtradetowns.org



'Blue Flag' scheme for Alcester

Severn Trent has announced that the promised sewage alleviation scheme in Alcester will commence in the summer and take approximately 9 months.

There are a few hurdles to overcome in this £2m+ scheme; namely planning, concluding the land purchase with Ragley Hall Estate, and approval from English Heritage. These issues would normally appear almost insurmountable, but with drive, determination and finance I am confident that the work will commence on schedule.

The centre of the scheme surrounds the provision of a massive underground foul water storage tank with a capacity of 3,250,000 Litres. The storage of sewage on this scale is vital in dealing with storm water inundation of the towns combined sewage system. This chamber will be located adjacent to the present sewage pumping station located on Stratford Road.

Preliminary Archaeological surveys are to commence in the fields surrounding Corinthian Court during Easter.

Town Flood Champion, Councillor Mike Gittus says 'The flood and sewage works have only been made possible due to cross border co-operation between all interested parties and organisations. These partnerships, together with our regular consultation meetings, have been mutually beneficial and enabled the scheme to proceed'.



**Vision for Alcester
2020**

Vision for Alcester comprises local community members and

was created by Stratford District Council to look at the longer term community needs of Alcester. A small group of us who had been involved in Advantage Alcester were successful in bidding to Stratford District Council West Area Committee to fund specified community projects. For four years, up to £25K a year can be spent on a range of projects approved by SDC, which would provide facilities for years to come. As 'Vision' comes to the end of its third year of this four year programme it seems a good time to see what has been achieved.

The projects had to be closely related to those identified in a previous study undertaken by SDC, Alcester Town Council (ATC) and community members, of what

Alcester's needs might be in 2020; hence 2020 Vision. At least we had the vision to develop "The Big Society" long before Westminster.

A Steering Group meets regularly to advise and suggest projects. £25K a year is a lot of money, but we realised that it would be most effective if we worked as close as possible with groups and individuals to support and facilitate their ambitions for the Town. We had the benefit of trying to support projects which might 'happen' in five or ten years' time. We were working with long term ambitions, not just projects which have to be completed in six months. With keen and ambitious partners we have managed to do quite a lot. Together we have contributed to the building the MUGA and helped raise over £170K for a Youth Club at the Pavilion, something the town has wanted for years. Hopefully even if you didn't have a youth club when you were young, your children and grandchildren will. So many people have played a part, none more that Warwickshire County Council Youth Service and young people of Alcester. The Pavilion has so much potential. Vision has supported plans for extending the area and therefore the facilities of the present building; something for the future. Next year we are looking at the possibility of building a skate park. We are going to need a lot of help and advice from people who know what they are talking about. If that's you let us know.

Whilst working on the Pavilion we couldn't overlook the 'footballers'. Up to 300 people, now women as well as men play football every week during the season. The former golf range on the Stratford Road is rapidly developing into 'The Home of Alcester Football Club'. Great support from the land owner and ATC has meant that **there is really a great club spirit developing**. Grants have been obtained, from Vision, WCC, our County Councillor and Church Street Properties amongst others, to turn a golf course into football pitches. This work is very much ongoing with a long term objective of having a functioning clubhouse with changing facilities.

Many of you will have seen the TV monitors in High Street shops informing us all of the many events which take place in the town. Hopefully by Street Market Day the High St will be 'wired for sound' enabling a PA system to be easily fitted when required for events.

Vision has also supported the development of the Alcester and Ragley Cricket Team, The

Alcester Youth Council and the Alcester Youth Project.

There has been major investment involving Warwick Museum and English Heritage to undertake geo-physical surveys in the fields west of Bleachfield St. A useful and interesting report has been written which has added to work being undertaken to develop the long-awaited riverside 'heritage' walks. The detailed public consultant phase is now complete and hopefully the continuation of the surfaced accessible footpath will soon be taking place.

There is an ongoing interest to develop car parking, particularly for the many events the Town attracts. Supporting community health projects is also a proposal for 2011, mental health and the often neglected men's health, as well as supporting the provision for young players at the Alcester Tennis Club.

Alcester Joins the Journey to London 2012

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are fast approaching, and Alcester Town Council has made a decision to play its part in the celebrations.

An Olympic Committee, chaired by local resident David Henderson, and supported by the council, has been formed to co-ordinate the strategy throughout 2011 and into 2012.

The members of the committee see the move as a springboard for sporting unity in Alcester, and to raise awareness of the benefits of sport and fitness to the health and wellbeing of individuals.

"Our planning for 2012 has started, and our aim is to bring together as many sporting organisations in and around the town to participate in a number of events during 2012 and beyond" said Mr Henderson.

Letters are going out to local organisations to invite them to a meeting at Globe House in Alcester on Tuesday 15 March 2010 at 7.00pm. If you do not receive an invitation but feel that your organisation/club/sports team would be interested in participating, do come along or get in touch with either Dave Henderson (Chairman) on 01789 765271 or Sue Adams (Secretary) at susan.adams@stratford-dc.gov.uk

"We look forward to you joining us for what could be another step in the enhancement of Alcester's well-known community spirit, as well as a platform for future sporting and leisure events in the town," Mr. Henderson added.

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 Dearling	765070
Malcolm Graham	763925
Bill Malin	763113

Oversley Green Ward

Mrs Nina Knapman	764319
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**Alcester & District
Children's Centre**

We are open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm. Please come along and see what we have to offer for you

and your child (5 and under). When you register with us you will receive a free goody bag for you and your child to enjoy at home. Come and look around and have a coffee and chat with one of our workers. We're sure you will find something on our calendar that you and your child could come along to. Contact us on 01789 764093

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Town Council meetings

Full Council Meetings

Tuesday 5 April, Tuesday 17 May (Annual Meeting), Tuesday 7 June, at 7.00pm.

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 5 April 7pm

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.

Clerk

Chris Wright 766084
Email: clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Assistant Clerk

Paula Haggerty 766084
Email: office@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Mayor

Councillor Chris Gough 762307
Email: mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk
Website www.alcester-tc.gov.uk

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Town Council Surgery

Town Council Surgery dates are on the following Saturdays: 5 March, 2 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

Please let us have your comments and views

Name

Address

Comments