

Alcester Town Council



newsletter Issue 27 Winter 2011

In this edition - Globe House news..... The Depot

Mayor's Seasonal Message



It certainly doesn't feel like it was May this year when I penned my first message in the newsletter. The past few months have been busy times for the Town Council and its councillors, and there have been some issues where the Council has tried to achieve the best possible outcomes for Alcester.

One of the main issues was the need for a long-term lease agreement between Stratford District Council and Alcester Town Council. The terms of the lease and its length - 50 years with a five yearly review - have now been agreed and approved by full Council, and I'm delighted to see the town clerk and his staff reorganising different parts of the building in the rush to provide a better and more consistent service to residents and to visitors.

Many young people are using the facilities at The Depot and the Pavilion will hopefully be able to provide a range of community-based services in 2012. Councillor Bunting continues on his quest to make the equipment on the Conway Fields the best for miles around, and we cannot wait to see what will turn up in 2012!

I am pleased to see that work has started on the hospital site. After all these years we still need to make certain that those who control our health services realise we are not going to settle for anything other than the best available care for service users.

I would like to thank staff, fellow councillors, local organisations and residents for their support for the town in what has been (and continues to be) difficult times both economically and socially, and I close by wishing everyone.....

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Clerk's Corner

2011 is nearly over and the end of another traumatic year in many respects, featuring the opening of the Environment Agency and the bulk of the Severn Trent flood relief system, and contractors finally on the old hospital site to build the new Health Centre. From the Town Council's point of view, we've completed the acquisition of the lease for the old Golf Range as the new home for Alcester Town Football Club, and opened both the Community Orchard and 'Depot Youth Club'. We've taken on the management of Globe House following Stratford District Council's removal of their staff, as well as many smaller projects such as Exercise Watermark, which will eventually lead to better resilience in the event of emergencies.

2012 will be on us before we know it; just a simple thing like Christmas to get past. It will be a case though of continuing to get to a position of closure on all the projects that are still ongoing and bringing the Council to a position where it can satisfactorily take on the next projects for the Town. The Greig Centre remains a constant worry as it is out of our hands. The remaining development of the Pavilion is still a concern in the present financial climate. Housing development in the town, particularly on Kinwarton Farm Road and between the Roebuck and Eclipse estates and the bypass, are likely to get ever nearer over the next year and the need to clearly understand the implications of the Localism Bill and the Big Society need to be taken very seriously. **Chris Wright**

What do you want from your new Community Centre?

The second phase of The Pavilion is happening! Alcester Town Council needs to hear from you - the community.

What are your ideas?

What do you want to make this a Community Centre for everyone?

Volunteers are always welcome - come and have fun helping out your local community.

We look forward to welcoming user groups on completion of this project.

Come along to our Volunteers' Recruitment Day on Wed 7 December between 10am and 3.30pm at The Pavilion, St Faiths Rd
Please contact Deputy Mayor Yvonne Hine 07771 930002 or Councillor Alison Brown 07763 492821

Meet Your New Councillor Alison Brown



Alison was born in Bletchley, Bucks and grew up in Nottingham. She is married to Steven and has three children. Alison works with her husband as a part time marketing consultant. She has spent a lot of time living abroad

and worked raising funds for a Women's Group and Playgroup in Nigeria. Having grown up in a suburb in a big city Alison likes Alcester because of the friendly community and all the activities in the town. She joined Alcester Town Council to be part of preserving the traditions of the town and to serve the local community. Alison currently serves on the Community Committee and the Recreation Committee.

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The archaeology is now complete. The finds include 4 human remains, a ceramic pot, ear pick and clothes pegs all from the Roman era. All items have been removed from site and taken back to the lab for analysis. Following this analysis, a more detailed report will be compiled and published.

Both the gas main and water main diversion works are progressing along Stratford Road, and both these utilities plan to have completed by mid November. The works across the Recreation Ground went well but the area needs to be kept fenced off for a while to allow the grass to re-grow and to protect the pumping equipment.

Work has started in Gas House Lane and will take a few weeks to complete. This is a particularly technical part of the scheme with many constraints. Thank you to the residents for their understanding shown so far.

Construction of the large diameter shaft storage tank has also started. Pipe laying continues down the Stratford Road, with the road being reopened to traffic from 30 November for the Christmas period.

Flood alleviation work is due to start in Newport Drive in early December.

The Depot at Conway Fields

The Alcester youth club, known as 'The Depot', has been running since the first week in September. It is open from 7 till 9 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are about 15 active volunteers of all ages, from 21 to 74, who come, some on both nights, some on only one. They seem to be enjoying themselves, as we have not lost any yet. The Depot is open to any youngster aged 13 or over, from Alcester or any other local place. There is also a Junior youth club for the 8 to 12 year-olds run by Kerry Faulkner on Tuesdays from 5 till 7. She is looking for more volunteers, as the membership has rocketed up with the opening of the new building, and if you fancy lending a hand, just go along and see what it's like. The youngsters are charming! The Depot has young people from all over, one or two from Stratford and Bidford. It costs nothing to come in, and you can stay as long as you like, or just come for five minutes. We get around fifty young people most evenings, and there is a lot for them to do. We have provided a safe and comfortable place to meet their friends and be as active as they want to be, under the benign supervision of the volunteers. They can play table-tennis, darts, pool, punch-ball, table football, Jenga, make cups of tea, coffee or cocoa, have some toast, or just sit in the comfy sofas and chat. We are grateful to Cutts of Campden for providing two high quality table tennis bats for us. There is music from an iPod player, an X-Box, equipment for doing art, food and drink to buy in the Tuck-shop, and plenty of room to stroll about and see what others are doing. The Depot is a sub-section of the Alcester Youth Project, AYP, and is run by its committee, which consists of all the volunteers, and five youngsters. It meets about once a month, and all major decisions are taken democratically by this committee. Money is obtained by kind donation from many sources, by grants, and by being raised by the members. Our treasurer is the AYP treasurer also. We intend to install a plasma TV screen to watch TV programmes and DVDs; we will get Internet access and WiFi later, and will have computers to this end. We will be getting more X-Boxes, Nintendos, a disco kit, and any other electronic equipment that members consider necessary. We have already staged several events. Two very popular gaming evenings were

arranged, with equipment for playing video games being brought by Nicky from Blackwell.

A Fire-Poi evening was successful, with hot dogs provided, some even free. They also collected £40 for us! We spent two evenings carving terrifying pumpkins for Hallowe'en, and another evening nail-painting, mostly for the girls, but some boys went out with pretty fingers too. We are planning a subsidised trip to the Clothes Show at the NEC, and go-karting and paint-balling are on the agenda.



We have had demonstrations of table-tennis by professional coaches, and we plan to have talks on fishing, ghosts, and many other topics, from experts in many fields. We hope to be able to stage concerts, open-mike nights, film shows in the Depot when they can be arranged by the volunteers.

The members and volunteers have agreed a code of conduct to be observed. All volunteers are CRB checked, but if you would like to volunteer and have no current CRB check, we can get it done for you free, through the County Youth Service. We have a full range of policies in place on disclosure, health and safety, accident procedures, and others.

We are still looking for volunteers. If you do want to come, just turn up. You will not be given anything to do that you are uncomfortable with, indeed, the rule is you find what to do when you get there. Just talking to the youngsters is immensely valuable, and both you and they might learn something. You can just come and watch if you want to. We are not a school, we have no curriculum, but youngsters are always keen to learn something new, if you can provide it. If you join soon, you will be able to come to the first Christmas Dinner, to be held at the Turks Head! Some of our volunteers have provided employment for a

few of the older members, and we hope to co-operate with the Town Council in the future on providing work experience with Alcester employers for some of the unemployed youngsters.

We are a volunteer organisation, and employ nobody, yet some of our volunteers are professionals in youth work, with much experience. This is because the County Youth Service was disbanded earlier in the year; our brand-new Depot youth building was completed, and had to be used. We think we have made a great start, and we intend to become a model for other volunteer youth clubs in the Midlands.

Come and join us, youngster or volunteer!

Bill Bayley

CLEAN IT UP!

People who let their dogs foul pavements and other open spaces are anti-social, inconsiderate, unhygienic and under The Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 can be fined up to £1000

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 two meetings are scheduled to take place on **Thursday 8th December at St Benedict's RC High School and Monday 5th March at Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford** 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

Recreation and Open Spaces Committee

The development of the Pavilion to provide an area Youth building, called "**The Depot**", is almost complete and is now open (see reports below).

The "**community section**" of the **Pavilion** is not yet usable and to complete everything including the car park over £150,000 is needed. The aim is to do this as money is found to get it to a usable condition. The Town Council has found itself in a difficult situation following the closure of the Greig Hall leaving many community groups without a sustainable home. The Pavilion was never intended as a replacement for the Greig, only for sustainable accommodation for groups such as the Youth Club, and with the adjacent playing fields and equipment the area is a fantastic facility for our town and district.

The community section of the new building provides us with the opportunity to introduce:

- A day centre (the existing one was closed with the Hospital).
- The use of the fields and with extra equipment opens the scope for many activities for all ages and abilities.
- A meeting place for locals groups including young parents, knitting and craft clubs.
- Prescription walks and exercise points with fitness equipment for all ages.
- A centre for fishing with disability access platforms.

We are lucky to have full co-operation, support and help from Orbit Housing Association.

Pavilion development

Work has been done to tidy and improve the exterior of the building including a patio facing the playing field; all areas will have full disabled access. To comply with Building Regulations an exterior fire door is being fitted from the toilet area and a fire door from the dining lobby to the new community room. This plus additional signs will enable us to use the complete building. Toilets, including disabled have been renovated. The original section is fully operational.

"The Depot" Youth Building News

Alcester Youth Project is responsible for running this section and has recruited helpers but needs more. The vision is to give the youth of our town somewhere to

go; to make friends; to learn a skill and to become valuable members of our society. It would be wonderful to have The Depot open as often as possible including week-ends and holiday periods

The senior youth clubs at present open Tuesday and Thursday evenings (7pm) and Wednesday afternoons when possible.

A junior youth club is on a Tuesday evening from (5pm -7pm).

Why not come down and see how your Town is helping our youngsters.

A heating system has been installed and the existing Pavilion toilets will be used as at present. In time redundant rooms within the old building will be converted to provide extra facilities.

The potential for this building for youth use is not yet fulfilled. Anyone who has interest in youth work, runs or wants to run an activity should contact or Bill Bayley Chairman of the Alcester Youth Project.

Play Areas

During the winter months the play areas will receive full maintenance. Our maintenance workers check the equipment as part of their normal routine and report or repair damage or faults as required. We are preparing a list of improvements with new equipment for all our sites. Anyone interested in helping can see catalogues at Globe House; we welcome your help.

Grants are few and the cost of equipment and installation is high. Any way you can help to raise funds would be appreciated.

Other news

Councillor Alison Brown is currently leading a project to define the Vision the Council will have for the Old Cemetery to be brought into operation. We now have permission to bury again in this area which will give capacity for many years.

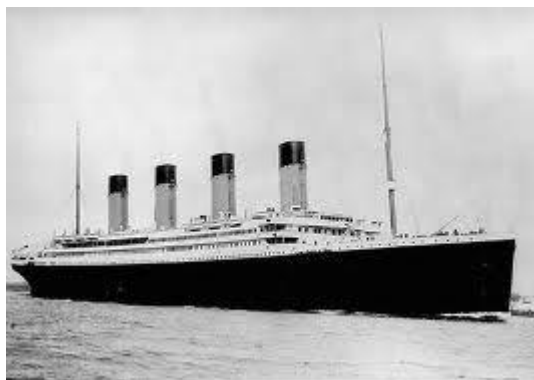
Councillor Yvonne Hine is keeping abreast of Allotment issues and the new tenancy agreement letters will shortly be received by allotment holders and we hope the emphasis on maintaining all the plots to a high level of competence will continue.

Councillor Nina Knapman is currently leading the drive to improve the environment on all the Town Council's open spaces and is currently taking advice from other agencies such as the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust who were instrumental in planting the Community Orchard. She is also working with Councillor Brown to improve the natural ambience of the Cemetery.

New Police Number

Warwickshire Police has issued a new easily-remembered phone number for members of the public to call and report non-emergency crimes. The new number, **101**, is a service to contact a local policing team, but it does **not** replace 999 which should still be dialled in emergency situations.

Titanic Event



A fund-raising event is being planned on Friday 13 April 2012 at Alcester Town Hall to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. The menu and atmosphere of the first-class dining room will be re-created, and the dress code will be black tie and posh frocks. After dinner there will be a raffle charity auction and dancing.

For more information please contact Councillor Alison Brown on 07763 492821.

Allotment News

It's that time of year again - tenancy agreements are due to be renewed on the allotments. Do remember that if you're finding your allotment becoming more of a chore than a pleasure we could always look at moving you to a smaller plot or a half-size one. We currently have a waiting list of 12 (down from 30 earlier in the year) and it would be wonderful to see this reduced even more. On a positive note it gives me great pleasure walking round the allotments and looking at all the fruits of people's labours.

Yvonne Hine



Fairtrade News.....



ALCESTER LOOKS TO EXPAND AS A FAIRTRADE TOWN

Since Alcester first achieved Fairtrade status in 2009, the Fairtrade steering group has pushed to achieve even more. "Our Fairtrade town campaign has had a very successful year", said Katherine Long, chair of the group, "We worked hard to renew our Fairtrade status which we did. It was also wonderful that St. Benedict's School also gained Fairtrade school status. And we've now got Fairtrade signage at all entry points into the town which adds to the richness of Alcester's identity and helps bring in ethically-minded shoppers".

Looking forward, the group is not resting on its laurels. It's positively seeking to grow further and that calls for more individuals, organisations, outlets and businesses to get on board with Fairtrade goods and services. That's why the group wants more people to join them to build on the success of the campaign. As Katherine said, "It doesn't matter how little time people can offer or how much they want to be involved, we'd just like more people of all ages to come forward. So please get in touch". The group is planning a community consultation in January 2012 to support engagement with the wider community and to explore how to further build on Alcester's Fairtrade Town status to bring trade into the town.

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

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

Healthcare - tremendous news Better late..... than never

Work has started on the hospital site for the building of a new Health & Wellbeing Centre. Whether it's been 10, 20 or 30 years in the making, the two GP practices, along with other community health services and a Pharmacy, will hopefully be occupying the building in Autumn 2012..... what joy! The stakeholders group will continue to work with all concerned to ensure we get the best possible resources for Alcester and surrounding areas.

Cllr Lennox Cumberbatch - Healthcare Champion



Rotary Alcester Tree of Light

The Tree of Light will shine
from 26 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. All you have to do is complete a coupon, available at Hemming & Peace or Globe House and take it to one of the collection points with your donation: Hemming & Peace, 67 High St, Town Council offices, Globe House. The Tree of Light will have been switched on by Alcester Town Mayor Lennox Cumberbatch on Saturday 26 November.

Globe House News.....

The Town Council is now managing the day to day running of Globe House. We are open from Monday to Thursday 9-5 and Friday 9-4.30. Also within the building is the Roman Museum, open 10-4 Thursday to Sunday. Other users include the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Volunteer Bureau, Stratford District Council Housing, South Warwickshire Credit Union, Alcester Heritage Network, Alcester Art Club and the Red Cross. Although there are no Stratford District Council staff based in the building any more you can still pay your Council Tax, parking fines etc. or have any other queries answered at the Customer Access Point via a video link, scanner and phone. You can also pick up tourist information including bus timetables, local walks, town guides and newsletters.



Alcester Round Table Santa Float Nights and Routes for December 2011
All routes commence approximately 6.30pm

Friday 16th

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

Saturday 17th

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 Close, Poplar Close.

Sunday 18th

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

Monday 19th

Crooks Lane, Beacon Cl, Chapman Way, St Nicks Cl, Hertford Rd, Alauna Ave, Beachamp Rd, Avon Cres, Arrow Cres, Smiths Way, Kingsley Ave, Castle Rd

Tuesday 20th

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

Wednesday 21st

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

Thursday 22nd

Greville Road, Abbey Cl, Roebuck Park, Birmingham Rd, Eclipse Estate, Ragley Mill Lane, Icknield Row, Station Rd Estate

Friday 23rd

Henley Street, Moorfields Road, Rope Walk, School Rd, Priory Road, High Street Pubs



Tracing Tommy - A Short Course



Would you like to discover the sources available for researching First World War soldiers? We are running a short course at Globe House in January 2012. The two-hour course will cover resources available on the internet, discuss problems (and solutions) in using these and suggest other non-internet

sources of information.

Depending on demand, the course will run on either Thursday 19 January 2.00-4.00, or from 10.00 to 12.00 on Saturday 21 January, fee £7.50 to include a handout and tea/coffee.

If you are interested please contact us by email on info@alcesterheritage.org.uk stating which date you prefer.



Neighbourhood Watch Alcester

The next meeting of NHW Alcester will be held on Wednesday 1 February 2012 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, and meeting last approximately one hour.

If you would like to find out more about NHW Alcester, please email nhwalcester@gmail.com or phone 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

A Very Happy, Peaceful and Safe Christmas to all NHW readers



Councillors' contact details

Alcester Ward

Mrs Alison Brown	07763 492821
John Bunting	766753
Mark Cargill	07988 485050
Mike Gittus	488027
Chris Gough	762307
Jim Kenyon	763975
Mrs Yvette Morrison	400460
Clive Neal-Sturgess	764416
Eric Payne	762577

Oversley Ward

Mrs Susan Adams	400371
Peter Carr	766473
Lennox Cumberbatch (Mayor)	766940
Mrs Yvonne Hine (Deputy Mayor)	07771 930002
Mrs Julie Styles	07813 120796
Bill Malin	763113

Oversley Green Ward

Mrs Nina Knapman	764319
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Clerk

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

Assistant Clerk

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

Mayor

Cllr Lennox Cumberbatch 766940
Email: mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Website www.alcester-tc.gov.uk

Town Council meetings

Full Council Meetings 2012

Tuesday 3 January, Tuesday 7 February,
Tuesday 6 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 Place and High Street from the Thursday before each meeting.

Town Council Surgery

Town Council Surgery dates are on the following Saturdays: 7 January, 4 February, 3 March from 10.00am to 12 noon at Globe House. (Please note change of venue). 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

Delivered by Alcester Guides to households in Alcester

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Globe House - Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Globe House will close for business at 2.00pm Friday 23 December 2011 and re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 3 January 2012

Printed by



Please let us have your comments and views

Name

Address

Comments