

# Alcester Town Council



## Summer Newsletter

Issue33 Summer 2013

### A NEW MAYOR FOR ALCESTER – Mark Cargill



Mayor Cargill and his wife Kathryn

It was with great pleasure and pride that I was made Mayor of Alcester on Tuesday 7th May. I was born and bred in Alcester so have a passionate interest in how the town progresses. Some of you may be aware that my mother was the very first Mayor of Alcester and my father was Chairman of the Council, I suppose it must run in the family!

I look forward to the challenges ahead and know that there may well be many. Alcester is about to go through major changes, some for the good and some we are not as yet, sure about. On the positive side Alcester is a town to be proud of and one that is a pleasure to live in, for example;

- ✓ The new Health Centre of which we should all be very proud, especially as this is a fine example of what can be achieved through lots of hard work, determination and the dedication of a fine community over a number of years
- ✓ Alcester is now better protected from flooding following the Big Tank installation
- ✓ The Jubilee Centre and Fields in addition to being a excellent community facility, the fields have just been awarded trust status ensuring it will be always be an excellent green space for the town to celebrate and enjoy many community projects and activities.
- ✓ Alcester has many Festivals and events throughout the year and is attracting attention from many organisations as a town that is fun, organised and a pleasure to visit.

However, there are many more changes on the horizon that will affect the look and feel of the town forever. I refer, of course to the new housing schemes both in Kinwarton and the proposed Allimore Lane development. While evolutionary change is necessary; a town should not stagnate and needs to develop with our increasingly diverse society. Nonetheless what we are presently faced with is a step change which is always more difficult to absorb. I and my fellow councillors need the help and support of the community to better control this potential development. That is why we have already begun to develop our Neighbourhood Plan which allows a community to act together to define the growth of their region.

Alcester is in a strong financial position and is ready to meet the hurdles ahead. We have not increased the precept this year but will still provide all the services you have come to expect. I am fortunate in having an excellent team including our new Deputy Mayor Yvonne Hine supporting me to meet that challenge; but we do need the support and understanding of the community in these financially troubled times. Commerce in Alcester is still quite strong and we tend to have fewer empty shops than many other towns. Let's keep it that way by supporting our local businesses. This is all part of the cycle that makes for a thriving town and an engaged community.

I wish you all a fair and warm summer and hope you have a very enjoyable year.

**Mark Cargill Mayor of Alcester**



Deputy Mayor Yvonne Hine and  
Consort Mr Steven Hine



## TUG OF WAR ASSOCIATION - Midland Open Championships

As part of Alcester's drive to become The Premier Festival Town in the Midlands, the Tug Of War Associations Midland Open Championships took place on the Jubilee Fields on Sunday 12th May. Despite the poor weather later in the day, the Event was well attended by spectators, who had the pleasure of watching competitors from Wales and Scotland along with local teams from the central England Area. The organiser's gave a vote of thanks to Alcester Town Council

for the use of their fine facilities on the Jubilee Fields and Recreational Areas.

During the afternoon the newly named Jubilee Centre and Fields were officially dedicated by the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the occasion. This confirms that the area is now protected in perpetuity for the benefit and use of residents as a green open space for leisure and recreational purposes. The Mayor of Alcester, Councillor Mark Cargill said at the dedication ceremony "The registration and dedication of this area, establishes the commitment that Alcester Town Council has to the continuing provision of first class open space, for the future use of our community"



## New Councillor – Steve Payne



Steve was born in London in 1960 and has lived in a number of places around the country before moving to Alcester in December 1999 with his wife Fiona as well as their two children, Michelle and Dan. He is Managing Director of an IT Consultancy and director of two other businesses.

Steve joined Alcester Male Voice Choir in 2005 and has had the pleasure of performing with the Choir in the Royal Albert Hall, Birmingham's Symphony Hall as well as touring Cornwall and France. A member of the Alcester Court Leet since October 2009, Steve became the High Bailiff in October 2011 which was a fantastic year for Alcester. The normal Court Leet activities including Pancakes Races and Street Market were augmented by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations giving Alcester both national and international press coverage as well as the visit of 2012 Olympic Torch.

Both Steve and Fiona play an active role in the Town and its activities so when Steve was asked to become a co-opted member of the Town Council in May 2013, he found it difficult to say no especially because he loves Alcester, its people and the amazing community spirit that exists. Steve looks forward to help keeping Alcester a wonderful place to live.

## Alcester & District Lions donation

Alcester & District Lions presented a £5000 cheque to The Mayor of Alcester for Alcester Town Council to fence a dog-free area on the Jubilee Fields. The fenced area enclosing the play equipment and a small sports pitch will ensure that children and vulnerable adults can enjoy the facilities in a safe, hygienic environment. Dave King President of the 'new' Alcester & District Lions said "We are delighted to give back to Alcester a much needed facility with money raised in Alcester. Some of the money came from the funds of the original Lions Club which closed in 2003." He continued "Alcester Lions are a small band of enthusiastic men and women who raise funds for local causes through fun social events. All money raised goes directly to charity, administration costs are met by the members. New members are always welcome".

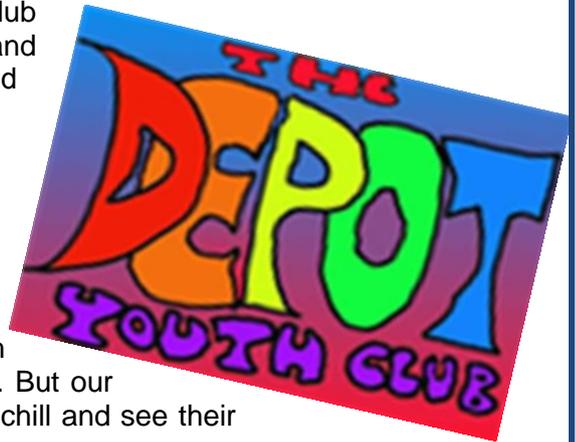


*For further information or to join as a Lion member contact 0845 833 2794*

The Depot Youth Club (ages 13 -17) and the Junior Youth Club (ages 8 - 13) are open for business at the Jubilee Centre and Fields. Alcesters' young people gather in a comfortable and informal atmosphere to enjoy social and sporting activities.

The Junior Club meets each Tuesday between 5pm and 7pm and the Depot Youth Club meets each Tuesday and Thursday evening between 7pm and 9pm.

During the past year we have organised an outing to Blackpool Pleasure Beach and participated in the Jubilee celebrations with a Tug of War team made up of older members and volunteers. But our main purpose is to offer a place for young people to come and chill and see their friends (our sofas are always full ! )



Recently we've lost some volunteers and could really do with more adult helpers as we are sometimes not able to open for normal club sessions. All you need is a sense of humour and a willingness to view the role in a flexible way. Please consider coming along at a club session to speak to any of our volunteer team.

Contact Cliff Williams on 01789 762489 or Sylvia Eden on 01789 763118 for an informal chat.

### County Councillor Mike Gittus - Straight back to work.



Councillor Mike Gittus (Conservative Alcester) went straight back to work for the community of Alcester and District after his Election Victory. 'I have had a number of successes in Alcester in the last four years and my vision and direction for the continuing prosperity of Alcester has been endorsed by the strong support the town gave me at the County Elections' 'I have always been so proud to represent the town and I use every opportunity to promote the area, in every way I can' 'Alcester will continue to be a wonderful place to live, work, visit and play. My challenge will be to provide the services

required to support all regardless of age and ability. I made promises four years ago, all of which I kept, and I make the following promises to the community of Alcester for the next four years.

- > I will continue to work for you full time.
- > I will continue to fight for funding to keep our town and rural communities flood free.
- > I will continue to invest WCC money towards speed reduction in town and rural areas.
- > I will involve myself within community life attending and supporting many local organisations.
- > I will seek out and find opportunities to provide local, affordable and accountable services through encouraging partnerships within local government.
- > I will fight tooth and nail to ensure that our rural communities retain their individual ancient characters.
- > I will support Alcester Town, ensuring a continuity of Retail, Health and Fine Education.
- > I will fight to ensure that any homes built in the future will benefit residents and communities alike. Right place, Right Infrastructure, Right Quality, Right Type.
- > I will fight to retain community buildings in public ownership and use. Particularly 'The Greig Memorial Hall' and 'The Globe House and Museum'
- > I will fight for the vulnerable where ever and whoever they are by always being available.

*'I would like to thank the town for giving me the opportunity to continue to represent them and I look forward to a fantastic future for the community'* *'I would like to thank the town for giving me the opportunity to continue to represent them and I look forward to a fantastic future for the community'*

**Councillor Mike Gittus JP**

## (VASA) Alcester Volunteer Services - Volunteer Transport.

Due to an increasing demand in voluntary transport for mainly older people with a genuine need to attend Hospitals, Doctors and health related appointments, we would appreciate having more volunteer drivers in Alcester and its surrounding villages. If you have time, care and patience and enjoy helping people, we would like to hear from you, even if you can help only on an occasional basis. You may drive to suit yourself and help just locally around the Town if you prefer shorter journeys. A mileage rate of 45p is paid for authorised journeys with a minimum of £3 for mileage up to 6 miles.

We transport to Hospitals at Stratford, Warwick, Coventry, Birmingham, Redditch, Worcester, Oxford, etc., and take many clients to Day Care on behalf of Social Services, Mental Health and Alzheimer Groups. 27,800 passenger trips were undertaken across the District last year of which 6,320 were from the Alcester area. With a growing older population our service is in greater need and often clients tell us they would not be able to attend their vital appointments without our volunteers and how much they value our service.

*For further information, please contact, Clarissa Roberts MBE - 01789 262886*



## Neighbourhood Watch - Alcester

### Top tips for a safer garden.

Gates, fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in. Grow prickly plants close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes. Consider attaching trellis to the top of wood panels to increase the height of fence. (acts as a further deterrent) Laying a thick gravel path makes it impossible for a thief to approach without making a sound. Don't leave expensive equipment like garden tools, mowers, mountain bikes and power tools in the shed. If you have nowhere else to store valuable equipment, take measures to secure your shed. Keep your garden shed in good condition. Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door. Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed. Fit grilles or mesh to the windows. Invest in an alarm. Make sure large items such as bicycles are chained together. It is much more difficult for a thief to carry away a lot of large heavy items all at once. Ladders and tools should not be left lying around the garden. These could be used to break into your home. Ladders should be locked to a

secure fixture in the shed or garage so they cannot be used to reach top floor windows of your house. Use **Smartwater** for property marking.

### Warwickshire Trading Standards 5 Simple Rules in the fight against scams.

1. Never send money to anyone in the hope of receiving money in return.
2. You can't win a lottery you did not enter.
3. Some scams such as bogus psychic mailings are designed to frighten or pressure you into responding – don't!
4. Never give out your bank account details or other personal information to people you do not know or trust.
5. If something sounds too good to be true it probably is!

**Why not join NHW?** The more people who join NHW and receive Police messages about local crime incidents, the more informed they are and the more alert they will be to what is going on in their community. There is no other obligation to members other than to receive these messages. Messages can be sent by email or by telephone. With email it is just a click on the computer. In Alcester, happily, there is a relatively low number of incidents and we want this to continue. Currently there are over 400 people on the Alcester NHW email database and over 40 by telephone.

**The next meeting of NHW Alcester will be held on Wednesday 26 June 2013 at 7.30pm** at St Benedict's School in the Community Room/Digital Studio. Everyone is welcome. Meetings last approximately one hour.

*For more about NHW Alcester email: [nhwalcester@gmail.com](mailto:nhwalcester@gmail.com) or call Dorrie Manders on 01789 762999*

## National Youth Elections

Alcester Town Council would like to congratulate Academy pupils Joshua Ellis (Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament) and Izzy Morse (VOX Warwickshire Youth Council) on their success in the recent National Youth Elections. This is an exceptional result for both the students and the Academy

**REMEMBER – If you are aware of any potholes in or around Alcester then please notify Alcester Town Council who will then report them to the relevant department for repair.**



Alcester Mayor Lennox Cumberbatch cutting the ribbon watched by Dr Wallis, Dr Lambert and Dr Sidhu.

## Alcester Health Centre - NOW OPEN

The new Health Centre Building was officially opened on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 attended by local dignitaries, NHS Executives, associated doctors and children from Our Lady's school who had buried a time capsule on the site during the build.

Both surgeries and the Hopkins pharmacy are now fully operating from the new centre, which also has on site sessions with visiting consultants, a Physiotherapy Suite including a recovery gym and nurses unit. In addition, the building itself has been designed and built to achieve a BREEAM rating of 'very good', scoring an impressive 63.8 points against the required

55. To accomplish this, the building has a host of excellent features such as;

- > All the rainwater collected on site is diverted into rainwater gardens which are designed to evaporate/soak away into the local aquifers rather than joining the traditional drainage system thereby avoiding flooding at its outfall into local rivers.
- > The building is heated using an air sourced heat pump which works like a refrigerator in reverse and has an efficiency of 120% over the energy used in providing the heat.
- > The lighting used in the building is of a high efficiency and is controlled using sensors which automatically turn off when no movement is detected or energise when the lighting level externally drops in common areas.
- > All plumbing fittings are low water content usage in the flushing of toilets etc. and the taps are temperature tempered and have movement sensors.
- > All the aggregates and stone used in forming the car park were sourced from recyclable materials.
- > The construction materials used in this project were responsibly sourced, especially the timber which was bought from sustainable, renewable suppliers.
- > The building itself has an EPC rating for the construction of 'B', due to the high level of insulation in the cavity walls and roof, maximising the efficiency of the under floor heating system.

Proof indeed that Alcester really does have a Medical Centre to be proud of!

## Making Alcester a Heartsafe Town

During the last year local resident Ann Delany and Councillor Alison Brown have been raising funds to make Alcester the first Heartsafe town in the country. Placing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the community can dramatically reduce the time from collapse to defibrillation and greatly improve survival rates.

So far over £8400 has been raised, enabling the purchase of 3 AEDs and 1 defibrillator which are located throughout the town; AEDs are now in position on the outside walls of Alcester Academy and the Alcester Unionist Club, in addition a defibrillator has been supplied to St Nicholas School, St Benedicts High School are awaiting planning permission to put one on their outside wall, which when installed, along with St Nicholas's will be only be available to the community during school at this time. An AED is also in position at Alcester Grammar School.

Ann and Alison would like to thank the many businesses, schools, organisation's and individual residents who have given their time, money and support in enabling us to achieve what we have so far.

### What to do in an emergency

Dial 999 the ambulance control will ask a series of questions and direct you to the nearest AED with the code to open the cabinet, remove the device and take it to the patient.

**For more details or to make a donation contact Alison on 07763 492821 or Ann on 07857 558534**



Children from the Academy with Acting Headmaster Paul Hyde and Cllr Alison Brown, next to the AED.



## We're going bloomin' wild!

Are you bee-friendly? You've probably heard about the plight of our native bees. They are under threat from loss of bee-friendly flowers, the weather and neonicotinoids that are found in some pesticides – so why should we care? Just take a look at the extract below from Friends of the Earth...

**The Bee Cause** - Our bee populations are declining at an alarming rate with a big drop in managed honey-bee colonies, two species of bumblebee becoming extinct and big drops in numbers of solitary bees. Without them the whole food chain is under threat. Without bees, food prices will rise – because pollination of UK crops by bees and other insects is worth over £500m a year. It would cost the UK farming industry £1.8b to pollinate their crops by hand. Without bees, many other insects, flowers and animals might disappear – bees play such a pivotal role in our existence.

**So what are we doing in Alcester?** - For starters, the Environment Committee at Alcester Town Council have requested that the grass in the Community Orchard on the newly-named Jubilee Fields is not cut lower than four inches to allow our wild flowers to grow and flower.

In the same area, the Weir Field as it's called, we're preparing, and will be shortly seeding, a test wild flower area. We'll be using an annual wild flower meadow mix that was used so effectively for the Olympic sites. Along with this we'll also sow official free 'Bee World' seed. Now any wild flower area takes time to get established so you may well start to see the real benefit in the second year rather than the first but we feel that if you and other residents are prepared to be patient it will definitely be worthwhile. Not only will it go some way to helping the pollinators but also will look very attractive. We also want to encourage those that can to look at having a patch of wild flowers in their garden or at least grow bee-friendly plants like lavender, buddleia, good old cottage garden flowers and more.

Not satisfied with that, we're also proposing that we become the first Bee-Friendly town in Warwickshire

– we'll let you know more about that in the next newsletter.

**A Master Gardener** - A member of our committee, Frankie Carroll, has just become a master gardener. We're working hard to progress Garden Share – and still need possible garden owners to contact us. St. Benedict's School are also willing to let a small area of their front grounds to given over to the scheme as long as it is naturally kept in keeping with the school's appearance and we are very grateful to them. Frankie says that she would be very willing to give advice and in particular help any family group that wished to start growing veg.

*If you have any questions or wish to get involved, please email [nina@hardy9724.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:nina@hardy9724.freeserve.co.uk), call Nina Knapman on 01789 764319 or email [frances@jandfpartnership.co.uk](mailto:frances@jandfpartnership.co.uk).*

## Recreation & Open Spaces News

### Alcester Jubilee Fields

This area has been substantially improved over recent months and will continue to be further developed through 2013, it is the responsibility of the whole community to appreciate and maintain this super recreational area, Future Projects planned for this area include: Disabled fishing platform, Skate park, Youth shelter, Additional exercise equipment, Tarmac the car park, picnic tables and additional equipment for older children. If you, your club, association or business can help and raise funds for any of these projects it would be a greatly appreciated.

*Please report in confidence any misuse on 01789 766084 or email [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk)*

### Jubilee Centre

The Centre is an ideal community facility furnished to a high standard which is reflected in the fact that we are already accepting bookings from both businesses and private individuals for parties, conferences, Lunch Clubs, Sports Clubs etc. In addition, the Community Cinema will be launched in the very near future.

*Please contact Alcester Town Council on 01789 766084 or email [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk) if you are interested in booking this facility*

### Moorfield

Two new trees have been planted to replace three dead ones

### Allotments

All the Allotments have been taken with two individuals on the waiting list.

**DOG OWNERS ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE IF YOU DO NOT PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG IN PUBLIC PLACES.**

The Rotary Club of Alcester Alauna are holding a **FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT** on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July @ the Jubilee Centre, St Faiths Rd in aid of Alcester Blind Club & other Rotary charities.

Tickets are £8 per person or £30 for team of four. Teams of up to 4 per table.  
Ticket price includes a Ploughman's supper and a glass of wine/soft drink.

*Tickets from Sue Adams on 01789 400371 or 07767 893886 or [susan-adams@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:susan-adams@tiscali.co.uk)*

**\*STOP PRESS\***

Alcester Community Forum –Time to have your say!

Held at the Jubilee Centre, St Faiths Rd, Alcester @ 7pm on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Please come and meet representatives from your local Police Team, Councillors and voluntary organisation

### Clerk's Corner

May is proving to be a very busy month on the planning front, the Stratford District Council West Area Committee meeting on the two applications for the land North of Allimore Lane, pre applications consultations on a Churchill Retirement Homes facility on Priors Road in Alcester which will involve the purchase and demolition of three currently occupied private residences. There is no doubt that activity involving house purchasing is increasing.

The Jubilee Centre and Fields are also increasing in popularity, shown by the recent Tug of War championship and the launch of the Community Cinema facility there. The potential for use is well on the way to being realized and the facilities are being added to as new enquirers start to come on board.

The Neighbourhood Plan has had to take a back seat due to the Boundary Review undertaken by Stratford District Council, which will define the designated area that will be used for the Neighbourhood Plan and an essential document which the Neighbourhood Plan has to comply with is the Stratford on Avon Development Framework, which is now not due to be finished until late summer and then has other hoops to go through before it can be published. These are two essential parts, along with the National Planning Policy that form the foundation of the Neighbourhood Plan and as a consequence the overall project management of the plan can only be superficial until their publication, but watch this space.

*Chris Wright– Town Clerk*

### Alcester Food Festival

Alcester Food Festival held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May was a huge success with visitor numbers exceeding 8000 throughout the day. There was approx. 100 stalls selling everything from cheeses, pies, breads, cakes, meats, fruit and vegetables, a pig roast and ox roast, handmade chocolates, local beers and wines. All of which only added to the charm of the High Street and the already excellent shopping experience provided by our local retailers. The event was well organised and the weather was kind enough to stay dry for the whole day.



# Alcester Festival & Events - Calendar 2013

2 June – Garden Walkabout  
9 June – Georgian Street Market  
21-23 June - Folk Festival

6 July Duck Race  
19-21 July - CLA Game Fair, Ragley  
25 August Alcester Beer Festival

## Town Council Surgery - Dates for 2013

Saturdays - 1 June, 6 July, 3 August, 7 September from 10.00am to 12 noon at Globe House. Councillors will be in attendance to answer your questions and a Police representative will attend. Please come along and enjoy FREE coffee/tea and biscuits.

## Town Council meetings

Full Council Meetings 2013 – Please refer to Council Notice Boards at Market Place and High Street from the Thursday before each meeting or [www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk)

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.

In addition we are trying to get information out to residents quickly by using the Town Facebook page: ( [www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil](http://www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil) ) Please sign up to the page by clicking “like”, and get your friends to do it. The more people we can contact on the site the better.

## Councillors' contact details

Alcester Ward			
Mrs Alison Brown	07763 492821	Jim Kenyon	763975
John Bunting	766753	Mrs Yvette Morrison	400460
Mark Cargill ( <b>Mayor</b> )	07988 485050	Clive Neal-Sturgess	764416
Mike Gittus	488027	Eric Payne	762577
Chris Gough	762307		
Oversley Ward			
Mrs Susan Adams	400371	Mrs Yvonne Hine	07771 930002
Steve Payne	07817 963265	<b>(Deputy Mayor)</b>	
Lennox Cumberbatch	766940	Mrs Julie Styles	07807 894635
Oversley Green Ward			
Mrs Nina Knapman	764319		

## Globe House Contact

Clerk: Chris Wright 766084 [clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk)  
Mayor: Mark Cargill 07988 485050 [mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Alcester](http://www.facebook.com/Alcester)  
Website: [www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk)

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