

Alcester Town Council



Autumn Newsletter

Issue 34 Autumn 2013

YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU!



I am Julie Styles, Councillor with responsibility for youth issues and Chair of Alcester Junior Drama Club. I am writing to you because we have reached a bit of a crisis point with some of our town organisations, namely the Junior and Senior Youth Club, Junior Drama and the upcoming new Cinema Club starting soon.

All of these groups have recently lost a number of volunteers due to people moving away or retiring and really, really need more to help run them, you don't need any particular skills just a willingness to be involved. Now how many times have you seen pleas for more volunteers? Many I would think, I certainly have. Your first instinct will probably be to shake your head and say, I've got work, family, commitments, studying etc, can I really fit anything else in? What I was

hoping you might consider though before you shake your head and politely decline is what you might get out of volunteering because it is a two way thing and you will gain from it.

It is a great way of meeting and getting to know new people, make new friends, find a new interest and maybe pick up a few new skills. I got to know some of my best friends through junior drama and I can vouch for the fact that it is hugely rewarding, as my drama kids will testify, I get choked up at every single performance because I am so proud of them and what we have achieved.

If you're looking for a new job, or hoping to go to University then a stint of volunteering is a good thing to add to your CV or personal statement, it demonstrates lots of the things employers look for, such as; commitment, team working and being able to use your initiative.

So, if you can spare a couple of hours a week and would like to get involved then contact one of the names below, we are the people who can tell you more about what we do. I can assure you that we are all really friendly people and will warmly welcome anyone who can offer any kind of help even occasionally. If CRB checks are needed then the groups involved will take care of that for you.

Senior Youth Club meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7:00 - 9:00pm at the Depot Youth Club, within the Jubilee Centre ages 13+:

Contact Cliff Williams williamsaces@aol.com or Sylvia Eden sylvia.eden@uwclub.net

Junior Youth Club meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00pm at the same address ages 8 - 12:

Contact Jenny Theobald jitheobald@hotmail.co.uk

Alcester Junior Drama Club meets on Monday evenings 6:00 – 8:00pm currently rehearsing at the Jubilee Centre ages 8 to 17, all volunteers welcome no experience necessary:

Contact Julie Styles jules_045@btinternet.com

New Cinema clubs to be held at the Jubilee Centre - we are currently ironing out the details but they will likely run on Friday evenings and or Saturday afternoons they will run at different times for various age or interest groups or parties. No technical skill required we need people to take the money on the door, shepherd people to their seats, sell refreshments etc, with the added bonus that you get to see the film for free.

Contact Cllr's Eric Payne or Yvonne Hine contact details on the back of the newsletter

Mayor's Message – A Summer To Remember

Where has the time gone? It seems only yesterday that I was made Mayor but so much has happened since May. First of course is that Alcester has had a successful summer so far, with amongst other things, the Street Market and various Festivals the town is buzzing. The High Street is busy with hardly any empty shops. All of which bodes well for the future of our town.

I have discovered that Mayoral life consists of many meetings (day to day running of the town) and civic events (allow us to establish relationships with our colleagues from other councils). The importance of civil networking has been in evidence during the Allimore Lane planning application. The first, North Scheme, was rejected by the councillors on the West Area Planning Committee. This was a significant victory as it sets the tone for future applications. The links we have made allowed us to get our opinions across. The core strategy has now been published by Stratford District Council however; it will not have full force for a number of months as it has a period of consultation prior to it being sent to the inspector for final approval.

In tandem with this we are re-launching the Neighbourhood Plan. We now have the revised boundaries and can therefore define the area and scope of the plan. This is a vital piece of work and is mentioned in this newsletter. Please do consider volunteering for this scheme. We need as much help as we can get to progress this as quickly as possible to help protect our town from inappropriate development.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Steve Payne and Chris Brannigan to the council, both of whom have been seconded into the role until the next elections in May 2014. Steve is a very active member of Alcester and of course is the immediate passed High Bailiff, while Chris is also very well known in the town, as he has been active on many groups and brings a breadth of knowledge with him. These new appointments strengthen and complement our Council and I genuinely feel that we are represented by excellent Councillors all of whom are working for Alcester.

The Jubilee Centre is now fully operational and hosting many events, I want to congratulate everyone involved as all their hard work is paying off in such a splendid way. Projects like this do not just happen. It takes vision, dedication and hard work.

We mustn't forget the Greig Hall and Globe House, please be assured that negotiations are still proceeding with regards to retaining both of these important buildings and facilities for the community and while nothing is certain I am truly hopeful for a positive outcome.

Of course the major event affecting the town this Summer was the CLA game fair at Ragley Hall. It was a splendid event with excellent weather. Alcester was represented on all three days and we had a number of visitors to our marquee. It was lovely to see all of those 'I Love Alcester' stickers around. I understand that businesses in town did very well over this period. The fair will be back in three years' time, so we all need to start planning now!

There are many ways of keeping in touch with what is going on in the town, one of which is the new and excellent web site. Also I do a regular blog on there so you can keep abreast of my life behind the scenes.

It just remains for me to thank all the Councillors and Officers for their hard work so far this year and wish you all a pleasant time during the remainder of this summer.

Mark Cargill - Mayor



Alcester Royal British Legion

Alcester Royal British Legion is looking for two new trainee Standard Bearers to represent the Branch at public and private events in Alcester and around the Midlands. The positions are extremely important and necessary. Training and equipment will be provided. The posts are open to all, aged between 15 and 85, and candidates must be able to handle the heavy Standard and Pole in all weathers.

Don't forget November is the start of Alcester Poppy Appeal.

For further information contact the Secretary on 01789 400427



NEW COUNCILLOR – CHRIS BRANNIGAN

Chris has lived in Alcester with his wife Jennifer for some fifteen years and through two floods, but still enjoys being here. Jennifer and Chris have five grown up children, three daughters, two sons and six grandsons.

In his professional life he has worked in child and adolescent psychiatry, been employed in three local universities, taught and held honorary posts in America, Africa, Australia, Asia and many European countries, with a special love of working in community health in rural Kenya.

He has been on many local national and international committees, chairing a fair number of them. He has acted as an organisational consultant within the EU and worked on several UK Government Committees and agencies as well as commercial organisations. He is slowly retiring from being Professor of Psychotherapy at the University of Derby.

Since being in Alcester, Chris has been very fortunate to have worked alongside some great people on the Boards of Advantage Alcester and more recently Vision for Alcester. Both AA and VfA were involved with many other committed individuals, groups and organisations, who together managed to secure a considerable amount of funding and facilitate many projects to enhance the social and economic life of Alcester. Chris is currently on the Committee of the Alcester Youth Project and a Trustee of the Alcester Dementia Café.

Professor Chris Brannigan August 2013



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALCESTER

Police Message: Many burglaries across the county are being committed by opportunist thieves who are trying door handles to see if they are unlocked or, reaching or climbing through windows left open. In some cases, thieves are entering homes whilst the residents are in the garden. Please ensure that you close and secure all ground floor windows overnight or when leaving your home unattended. Always close and secure upper windows that may be accessed via a flat or sloping roof. Please ensure that you lock your door when you are in your garden.

Cold Calling Health Questionnaire Warwickshire residents are warned to beware of cold calls from people asking health questions, this is most likely to be a Marketing Company gathering information that they can then sell on. **Never** provide personal or financial information to unexpected or cold callers.

Burglar Alarm Sales Warwick Consumers in Warwickshire are warned to beware of cold calls from companies offering 'free' burglar alarms. Such alarms typically come with expensive monitoring contracts and may be completely unsuitable for the needs of the individual resident. Always speak to your local Police crime prevention officer or NHW before making any security alarm purchasing decisions.

Phone Microsoft Scam A consumer reported to Warwickshire Trading Standards that his father had experienced unexpected problems with his computer, ending in a pop up appearing on his screen asking him to phone Microsoft on the number given in the pop up to resolve the problem. He did so and spoke to someone he believed was a Microsoft representative. The consumer provided his credit card to pay for the 'fix' but fortunately his bank prevented any transactions being made. The consumer's computer had in fact contracted a virus that caused the problems and created the pop up, directing the user to the bogus Microsoft employee!

NHW Alcester will next meet on **Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 7.30pm** at **St Nicholas Church House** (NEW VENUE)

Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team **01789 444816** Email: alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Alcester attracting many visitors with its Beauty and Community Spirit

This Year the Town has looked beautiful and has attracted many visitors during recent months. Organisations such as Alcester in Bloom and Alcester Bunting and Lighting and others must be congratulated. Grants by the town Council for the water system in Malt Mill lane and watering the hanging baskets by Blenheim Nurseries is all part of keeping our Town looking beautiful, safe and good place to live. Everything that is done requires the help and support of all.



In the last 3 months, thanks to a massive grant from Alcester Lions we have managed to fence off the play area at Jubilee Fields. This dog free area has attracted families to a safe and clean Environment to enjoy the fine weather

We have more projects planned for our parks and activities, however this is made difficult because our income is capped and most projects rely on goodwill and funded income from grants and Community held events. More



than ever we need help from our Community to ensure our Town continues to grow and develop in these difficult financial times. If your Club, Group, Society or Road can raise money or take over a project then please contact the Council at Globe House.

In addition, it is every resident's responsibility to



keep an eye on all our Community Assets to prevent abuse and damage, to ensure that everyone now and in the future can continue to benefit from our Beautiful Town. Please report any vandalism or misuse to the police in confidence on 101. Here is our current shopping list;

- 4 x Seats
- 4 x Litter bins
- 3 x Picnic benches, suitable for wheelchair use
- Youth shelter
- Fishing platform for disabled and youth
- Junior football posts that are easy to assemble and put away
- Junior climbing frame for Collins Way
- Junior play equipment which is also suitable for wheelchair use

If you want to know how you can help please visit us at Globe House or at www.alcester-tc.gov.uk

Alcester Town Football Club

Alcester Town F.C developed an interesting way to raise funds for the club by joining up with a local sign company to produce standard sized hoarding that will be positioned around the adult pitch perimeter. Each panel is 8ft x 3ft and constructed from aluminium sandwich laminate which is both hard wearing and waterproof. These panels will be covered by printed media to give a high impact advertisement as people visit the club to watch the first team play as they progress through the football pyramid from the prestigious Athium Midland Combination League. Each board will cost £250 including artwork for the initial first year; the cost will then reduce to £150 per annum.

For more information please contact ATFC <http://www.alcestertownfc.co.uk>

'Doing' Local History

This September, Alcester Heritage Network (AHN) celebrates 2 years since its launch in 2011. In the hands of a dedicated team of volunteers, beaver away in a back office at Globe House, the 'Community Archive' has been quietly growing and recording life in the town, past and present.

Volunteers collate and sort, scan or photograph, catalogue and index all sorts of things relating to the district, for posterity. They work on things that have been donated to the project, or shared by their owners or discovered in repositories and these include (but are not limited to): deeds and property particulars; minutes; burial documents; business ephemera; event programmes and flyers; news clips; church and school magazines; recordings and media clips - and of course many photographs. The collection is incredibly diverse and quite fascinating.



Bill Duker from Canada discovering his Alcester Ancestors



This year the archive has helped people around the world find information on their Alcester ancestors and one volunteer, Karyl Rees, has published a book about Alcester's National School from the records we hold. The book will be launched at the Town Hall on **Heritage Open Day, Sunday 15th September**, where the first copies will be available for sale and Karyl will be book signing.

Next year we plan to commemorate the start of WW1 by making the first part of a **Community Roll of Honour** available to the public and by holding a series of research workshops for anyone who would like help finding information on their own First World War family heroes,

no matter where they were from.

Volunteering with the project is both interesting and flexible, and new volunteers are always needed. Anyone who'd like to 'Do Local History' with us should have a chat with Joy Pegrum:

Call 07857 364383, email info@alcesterheritage.org.uk or pick up a leaflet in Globe House.

The Alcester Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) is progressing

What is a Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)? It is part of the new legislation under the Localism Act. It is a means of local communities having more say over their future planning than at present. It will run from 2013 to 2028.

What are we doing?

Following initial consultations on the needs/wishes of the community, the areas of interest identified have been grouped into Economic, Cultural, Education and Health, and we are looking to

establish working groups in these areas. We have held initial discussions with officers of both the Chamber of trade and the Civic Society, and these discussions have been positive in their support. As a necessary initial step we have applied to Stratford District Council for our "Designated Area" which, following a decision by the Alcester Town Council, we have defined as the area contained within the Alcester Parish Boundaries.

To obtain wider input and feedback we are also going to establish a NHP Forum, consisting of 20-30 residents, in addition to the working

groups, to whom we will present our initial ideas and gain wider feedback.

So will you help? We are looking primarily to recruit members to the Forum, which will meet every 3 months, and also we are also looking for volunteers for the working groups. If you want an input into the future of Alcester please contact Cllr Clive Neal-Sturgess via the webpage or on email at: c.e.n.sturgess@bham.ac.uk.

More details can be obtained from the Alcester NHP website; <http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan/>

REMEMBER - Alcester is now a Heart Safe Town, with AED's located at different locations. In the event of an emergency dial 999 who will direct you to your nearest device and release the code.

Alcester and the CLA Game Fair



Alcester Town Councillors Alison Brown, Lennox Cumberbatch and Steve Payne joined High Bailiff John Mills, Low Bailiff Steven Brown and officers of the Court Leet and Sam Rath from the Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce at the recent CLA Game Fair to promote the town.

The partnership team worked together to host an information and tourism stand, provide publicity information and tourism signs and also organised free transport to bring visitors into the town in throughout the weekend. Many local pubs, restaurants and businesses benefited from extra trade.

Volunteers from the Roman Museum and the Civic Society were also in attendance to explain and demonstrate our historical significance. The Court Leet attracted much attention on the Saturday when they performed traditional Assizes, such as Ale Tasting, Fish and Flesh Tasting and checking the quality of Leather goods. The partnership team hope that many of the visitors will come back to the Town in the future.

Tug Of War Champions Visit Alcester

Alcester played host to a further round of the Tug of War Association National Championships at the Jubilee Centre and Fields over the Bank Holiday Weekend. Teams attended from across the country.

The Town welcomed the British Champions, pictured here, fresh from their Silver Medal victory in Columbia.



District Councillor Eric Payne, and Chairman of the Jubilee Centre Committee, said. *"Tug of War is a sport growing in popularity worldwide. We were very lucky to share our new facilities with the national squad. We wish them every success at the European Championships to be held in the Netherlands in September."*

It was no surprise that the national champions, from Norton, won the competition at the weekend.

For enquiries regarding team membership, please contact Roger on Tugger@talktalk.net

CSW Broadband Update

The CSW broadband project entered into a £14.57m contract with BT in June this year. The money will be spent on bringing improved broadband to those areas that will not be uplifted through the commercial plans of BT and other providers. The targets for the project are 100% coverage at the Universal Service Commitment (a minimum of 2Mbps, which could in practice be up to 23 Mbps), and 90% coverage at Superfast speeds, which is over 24Mbps. Some areas will get considerably more than 24Mbps, and the actual speed achieved depends on a number of factors such as geography, topography, current infrastructure etc. We aim to achieve fibre to 93% of our area under the current project and are awaiting additional funding to take it further

Once the re-alignment planning work is complete CSW will be publishing a 12-month rolling programme of works, which will be updated on a quarterly basis, which will show which exchanges, cabinets and other infrastructure are to be upgraded next.

All information is available through the project website <http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/>

Jubilee Centre

Have you been to the Jubilee Centre lately? Many residents have, as we are now taking bookings for many individuals, Clubs and Associations who are becoming more aware of what a fantastic facility the Town now has, in recent weeks alone the following organisations have utilised this super place for their events or meetings; U3A, Pilates, NHP Community Forum, Alcester Male Voice Choir, Hi5 Children's Summer Clubs, Slimmer's World, Regular Lunch Club, Alcester Lions 'Nostalgia Evening, British Legion Lunch and Tuffs Toddler Club.

In addition Alcester Town Council with the support of Great Alne are endeavouring to establish a Community Cinema with its first film showing in the near future – please look on local notice boards for further information. As well as this we are holding a 'Golden Oldie' afternoon which will be a step back in time with afternoon tea and a film.

Don't forget if you have a family or business occasion that is going to require a large room with seating for approx. 100 people, kitchen availability, free parking and excellent audio and visual facilities why not try the Jubilee Centre.

For Booking call 01789 766084, or email your interest to info@alcester-tc.gov.uk.

Recent Events

Alcester Male Voice Choir



The Lion's Nostalgia Evening



Sam and Jorga – Winners of the Poster Competition at the recent Community Forum



Future Events

- Under 5's Disco** - Alcester Children's Activities for under 5's Group is a voluntary organisation for the whole Community to use, the aim is to hold one event per month for the Town's toddlers to be held on Saturday 29th September at the Jubilee Centre. Refreshments will be available for a small charge. Cost of entry is £1 a child all money goes towards putting on future events.
For further information contact: www.facebook.com/alcesterchildrens
- A Model Exhibition** - where exhibitors will be attending from all over the country including local enthusiasts. Exhibitors are showing amongst many things; model railway lay outs and working Fairgrounds. The completed Jubilee Centre is ideal for exhibitions of this kind and we have been very lucky to have the help of Mr Martyn Sanders in organising this first of hopefully many exhibitions. The exhibition will be on 26th of October and start at 10.00am and close at 16.00am. Admission; Adults £2.00, Children aged 5-15 £1.00, Family ticket 2 adults & 2 children £5.00. Refreshments will be available. All proceeds will go towards providing new inclusive play equipment for the children of Alcester.
- Golden Oldie Afternoon** – Join us for afternoon tea and a film show on October 11th at 2pm. Tickets £5

Town Council Surgery - Dates for 2013

7th September at Globe House, 5th October at Hopkins Precinct, 2nd November at Jubilee Centre,
7th December at Globe House. 10.00am to 12 noon

Councillors will be in attendance to answer your questions and a Police representative will attend. Please come along and enjoy FREE refreshments

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 <http://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: (<https://www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil?fref=ts>) 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	01789 763975
John Bunting	01789 766753	Mrs Yvette Morrison	01789 400460
Mark Cargill (Mayor)	07988 485050	Clive Neal-Sturgess	01789 764416
Mike Gittus	01789 488027	Eric Payne	01789 762577
Chris Gough	01789 762307		
Oversley Ward			
Mrs Susan Adams	01789 400371	Mrs Yvonne Hine (Deputy Mayor)	07771 930002
Steve Payne	07817 963265	Mrs Julie Styles	07807 894635
Lennox Cumberbatch	01789 766940	Chris Brannigan	07850 026155
Oversley Green Ward			
Mrs Nina Knapman	01789 764319		
Globe House			
Chris Wright (Clerk)	01789 766084	Email: clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk	
Facebook: www.facebook.com/alcester		Website: www.alcester-tc.gov.uk	

Alcester Events - Calendar 2013

Sept 7th - Last Night of the Proms
 Sept 29th - Mayor's Church Service
 Sept 30th - Oct 1st Mop Fair
 Oct 19th - Food Festival
 Oct 20th - Court Leet Church Service
 Oct 26th – Model Exhibition

Nov 9th - British Legion Remembrance Concert
 Nov 10th - Remembrance Day Parade
 Nov 11th – Armistice Day Parade and Service
 Nov 24th - Christmas Light Switch
 Dec 6th - St Nicholas Night
 Dec 22nd - Town Carol Service (Nine Lessons)

