

Alcester Town Council



Autumn Newsletter

September 2022 Issue 67

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It has been a wonderful Alcester summer so far, with a crammed schedule of our much-loved annual events and others delayed by the pandemic.



There was a very special date for the British Legion in June, with commemorations being held for the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict. I was particularly touched by an interesting and moving personal account from a local veteran. Just a fortnight later we were back to celebrate Armed Forces Day. In contrast to many other military anniversaries, this is an opportunity to thank our armed forces for their service, and I was very pleased to give formal thanks to all service personnel on behalf of the town.

One of my roles as a Town Councillor is as a trustee for the Alcester United Charities, which includes the ownership

and management of the almshouses in Birmingham Road. Two years ago we were planning a garden party for residents to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Almshouses Association. This was inevitably delayed by the pandemic, but we were finally able to hold the event this year. The weather was a little less than perfect, but spirits were undampened and we had a lovely afternoon.

On 9 July we held my Civic Service at St. Nicholas and I was delighted to welcome Mayors and Chairs from neighbouring parishes to Alcester. I was especially pleased to make this a community service, celebrating the numerous charitable and voluntary groups that help make our town so special. A particular highlight was a presentation from three Alcester Academy students about their personal experience of the Plus5 project, which I am supporting as Mayor.

Also on 9 July was the annual Alcester Duck Race, so later that afternoon I was very honoured to join the launch party for this prestigious event. The crowds turned out to follow the ducks' progress to Oversley Green, where there was an opportunity to inspect the scarecrows that had been making their appearance throughout the week. A uniquely Alcester summer Saturday!

One event I always enjoy attending as a civic head is the Degree Congregation at Warwick University. This may not sound immediately appealing, spending a couple of hours applauding people that you don't know, but it is a truly happy occasion. Everybody you see is smiling and cheering as they celebrate a massive personal achievement. That happiness is infectious and extremely uplifting. It was particularly special this year, as all students had had their studies impacted by the additional challenges of Covid and were especially delighted to finally be receiving their degrees.

Closer to home, the Alcester Community Fridge has officially launched at Alcester Baptist Church. This is a great project to tackle food waste, by collecting good food that would otherwise go to waste and making it available to anyone who can use it. Keep an eye on noticeboards and social media for details of opening times.

And finally I was very excited to be invited to the Game Fair at Ragley this year as part of a royal reception party. HRH Princess Anne visited the event and I was delighted to have the opportunity to welcome her to Alcester.



Cllr Kathryn Cargill, Mayor of Alcester

CLERK'S CORNER

Star Council Awards 2022 finalist



We are delighted to announce that Alcester Town Council has been named a Council of the Year finalist for the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) Star Council Awards 2022.

These prestigious awards are the only awards in England that recognise the local (parish and town) council sector. They celebrate the positive impact local councils make on their communities. By being named as a finalist, Alcester Town Council is recognised for going "above and beyond" the traditional role of a parish council particularly in its health and wellbeing work.

The finalists were decided by leading experts within the local government sector, including representatives from organisations such as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Local

Government Association, the County Councils Network, the District Councils' Network, and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The winners will be announced at an online awards ceremony later this year following a public vote – keep your fingers crossed for us!

Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

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Planning: administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Office Administrator: office@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Health and Wellbeing: info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.alcester-tc.gov.uk



ALLOTMENT JUDGING

The annual Alcester Town Council allotment judging took place on Saturday 30 July. The judges were the Mayor, Councillor Kathryn Cargill, Councillor Gill Forman and Councillor Mark Cargill. There are 136 allotments over four sites and the judges were impressed with the standard of the allotments considering the extremely dry weather we have had this year. The winners will be announced at the Town Council's awards evening in January 2023. Watch this space!

Cllr Gill Forman

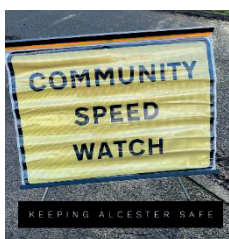
BUSINESS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP - EVENTS GUIDE 2023

Now that Alcester is returning to near normal after the pandemic, it has been decided to resurrect the Events Guide. This is an A5 double sided card showing the Town event calendar for 2023. If you have set a date for an event in 2023, and wish it to be advertised via the guide, please let

me know. I propose finalising the guide and having it printed shortly after 31 October 2022. This is therefore the closing date for entries.

I would still encourage organisers to enter their events onto the whatsonalcester.co.uk website for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023. This is a hugely useful resource both for organisers and would-be attendees of events.

Cllr Vaughan Blake, Lead Councillor Business & Tourism



ALCESTER COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Since our last update in the Summer Newsletter, we have been recruiting new volunteers for the local volunteer speed watch group. Thank you to everyone who came and spoke with us at the Alcester Street Market and signed up to the scheme. The Police will be running a training session in Alcester on Monday afternoon 19 September which will include the use of the Council owned speed gun. If you would like to join the training, you will need to pre-register for the session by emailing me at

afoster.atc@gmail.com. Alternatively, if you have any questions or would like more information then please get in touch.

Cllr Andrew Foster, Lead Councillor Road Safety and Speed Watch

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



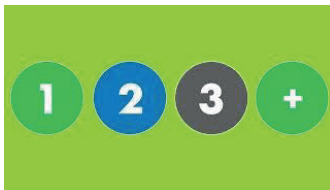
One of the biggest issues raised with me is speeding in the town and surrounding villages. We have an ongoing campaign to move the 30 mph speed limit on Birmingham Road further up towards the roundabout which is gaining momentum. I would like to thank all of those who have volunteered to take part in the Speed Watch scheme.

As the war in Ukraine continues, I am pleased to report that at the end of June a total of 1,241 Ukrainians have been matched with 492 sponsors across Warwickshire. The County Council continues to make the £200 interim payments to guests of which over £100,000 of interim payments have been issued to those arriving in Warwickshire. WCC continue to pay the £350 per month payments to lead sponsors as soon as the checks are completed.

In the coming months I will be allocating my delegated budgets for highways improvements. I would ask if anyone has any requests that I am not already aware of such as signage, road markings or even footpath improvements then please do ensure either myself or the Town Council are aware so it can be included in my report to the County before the end of the year. As always if there are issues that need urgent repairs I would urge any resident to report it straight to the council using the www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit via your mobile phone where you can include the location and a photo of the issue for a quick response.

Cllr Piers Daniell

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



By the time you read this article the new 1,2,3+ waste collection system will be in operation. As with the launch of any new complex system, there will inevitably be some teething problems. We ask for your help over this time. The scheme is being run with Warwick District Council to reduce costs and offer an improved service. When fully operational we will have 60 new vehicles, have delivered over 300,000 new bins, generated 40 different calendars and

started a new food waste collection system. All food waste will be collected in the small green caddies and taken to an anaerobic digestion plant where it will be used to produce methane gas for power generation. Food waste is collected weekly. Recycling every two weeks. General every three weeks. The '+' is your green bin garden waste which is collected every two weeks. All your recycling goes to making new items such as glass bottles, metal cans and plastic containers. If you have any concerns about the new system, please email 123collections@stratford-dc.gov.uk. There is also an app you can install on your mobile phone, see <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/waste-and-recycling-app.cfm>. This app does more than simply advise on waste collection and is a great way to find out what's happening with your district council. **Please note that as grey bins are now collected every third week, it may happen that all bins are collected on the same day.**

Cllr Mark Cargill

THE JOYFUL CRAFTY LUNCH CLUB



I recently had the great pleasure of attending the Wednesday Crafty Lunch Club, an action-packed group for adults with learning and/or physical disabilities. The Club started in November 2021 but from March this year Alcester Town Council obtained a

grant to fund it for a year. I was struck by the enthusiasm and joyful faces of all those who attended. They told me that they really look forward to coming and some have formed social groups outside of the club. Beth Clarke, the leader, and her group of volunteers are wonderful and devise new activities each week. Up to 20 adults with their carers go along for 2 hours. The time is absolutely filled with crafts, a hot lunch, dancing, singing and exercises. At the end of summer term all received an individual certificate and trophy highlighting their talents ranging from Best Bingo Caller to Best Dancer. Loz, who told me that she loves singing, received the award for Best Singer. Other comments included: 'It's good fun', 'Well structured', 'Great for socialising', 'I love to make things', 'It's wonderful and breaks the week up'.

Well done to Beth and her volunteers for organising such a worthwhile and valued group!

The cost is £10 per adult (carers come free). For more information contact Beth on 07717569948.

Cllr Wendy Mills, Lead Councillor Communications

SPOTLIGHT ON ALCESTER'S YOUNGSTERS



In recent months the Town Council has been very active in providing activities and supporting Alcester youngsters of all ages.

Youth Club members had three workshops on subjects relating to mental health (managing stress, emotional buckets and supporting your peers) and, in July, 22 of them went on a fun filled day trip to Drayton Manor Park.

The Council also secured funding to provide a football coach at the youth club for 14 weeks until October Half Term.

School summer holidays arrived and the Council obtained funding to support two holiday lunch clubs. (See separate article by Phoebe McLuskie about the clubs).

Youngsters were also encouraged to get involved in the Council's initiatives on

Climate Change by taking part in a youth competition for Clean Air Day on 16 June.

There were some inspired entries and the winners were Scarlett Edwards from St Nicolas C of E Primary School for best poster and Shannon Haden from Alcester Academy for Best short film.

The Council also undertook an online survey asking the under 18s what was important to them

and climate change was top of their list.

Finally, if you've been to Moorfields Park lately you will have noticed the brilliant new play equipment for the very young.



Scarlett Edwards being congratulated by the Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Kathryn Cargill

ALCESTER COMMUNITY FRIDGE



Let's tackle food waste together!

The second Community Fridge was launched on 25 July at Alcester Baptist Church with the support of environmental charity Hubbub UK, and Alcester Town Council.

Food Waste is a big issue in the UK. The average household throws away £700 worth of food every year! Most of this food waste is avoidable and could have been eaten had it been better managed.

This new 'fridge' is located in the grounds of the Baptist church and is open to everyone, whilst the first one is run by St Nicholas Primary School, and is open to the school community only.

Volunteers collect the food from food outlets but also, if you have fresh food to spare, for example if you're going away on holiday, it will be most welcome. It's given out free of charge so pop along to the Community Fridge during these opening times:

Monday 5:30pm – 7pm

Tuesday 12:30pm – 2pm

Wednesday 5:30pm – 7pm

Thursday 11am – 1pm

Friday 9am – 10:30am

If you would like to know more, would like to volunteer to help or would like to make a donation, please email alcesterfridges@gmail.com. Up to date information will be posted regularly on:

Facebook: Alcester Community Fridge,

Twitter: @alcester_Fridge

Instagram: Alcester Community Fridge

Cllr Wendy Mills. Lead Councillor Communications

JUBILEE FIELDS FOOTPATHS



The Town Council recently received £25,000 s106 funds arising from the Bloor Homes Allimore Lane development which had to be used to improve public open space near the development. Funds were used to resurface footpaths in Jubilee Fields.



MOORFIELDS PARK

A beautiful new bench has been installed in honour of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

CALLING ALL TOWN ORGANISATIONS- WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!



The Town Council is looking to compile a photographic record of all the town organisations and their activities. We are then hoping to make a montage to use perhaps at civic events to promote our lovely town and the fantastic array of activities we have going on here.

It would be lovely if you could support this idea and send just one or two representative photos of your organisation to

office@alcester-tc.gov.uk by Friday 30 September 2022. Please remember to include the name of your organisation either in the photo or in the covering email, especially those of you representing more than one! If you are sending photos with individuals, please remember to obtain permission first. With the new development at Allimore Park, this could present a great opportunity to promote your organisation within our wonderful town!

UPGRADING LANDLINES TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



The technology that we use to make landline phone calls is due to be upgraded over the next few years but what does this mean for you as a landline customer?

Traditionally, landline phone calls have been delivered over the old 'copper' telephone network known as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). However, the equipment used in the PSTN was developed and installed in the 1980's and is becoming harder and increasingly more expensive to maintain. BT has therefore taken the decision to retire the PSTN by the end of December 2025.

Telecoms providers have been investing heavily in new systems and infrastructure networks such as full fibre, which means that in the future, landline calls can be delivered via digital technology called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which uses a broadband connection.

Your landline provider will contact you well in advance of when the process to start migrating your old landline to your new telephone service will apply to you and your property.

More information is available at the [Future of Voice website](#).

HOLIDAY LUNCH CLUBS



Over the summer holiday, Alcester Town Council supported two amazing lunch clubs providing free meals and activities for children. The Big Lunch at The Baptist Church on Tuesdays and The Kids' Holiday Lunch Club at the Depot on Wednesdays proved extremely successful with turnouts of over fifty people. The children busied themselves with various activities from arts & crafts to litter picking, but were always ready to dig in when lunch was served. I was lucky enough to attend both lunches and to see first hand the impact they had had on families was a privilege.



Phoebe McLuskie, Work experience student, Alcester Grammar School

MOOR FIELDS CHARITY - APPLICATION FOR GRANTS



The Moor Fields charity was set up for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Alcester and the upkeep and repair of the Parish Church of St Nicholas and its churchyard. The charity is able to award grants to individuals or to organisations for the benefit of the town. In the past we have supported town celebrations, requests for Covid funds, and many other local organisations who want to start or continue particular projects. Applications for grants of up to £2500 are encouraged and the distribution of the funds will depend on the number of applications and the amount available at the time.

Applications should reach us before 1 May, for our June meeting, and before 1 October for our November meeting.

If you are eligible to apply, please contact:

Clerk to the Trustees via email on moorfieldsclerk@gmail.com

Moor Fields Charity No. 228821

Bereavement Support Group

For those experiencing the loss of a loved one

Alcester Methodist Church
2nd Thursday in the month

(14th July, 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec)

@ 2pm

An opportunity to meet others in similar circumstances to chat together and share experiences and coping strategies

For more information call
Sally on 07884 191101

FORGET-ME - NOTS

NEW BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Alcester Methodist Church 2pm.

A friendly inclusive group of both men and women, aimed at those looking for support, help and friendship from others in a similar situation.

CHATTY CAFÉ

Feeling lonely or isolated or just want to get out?

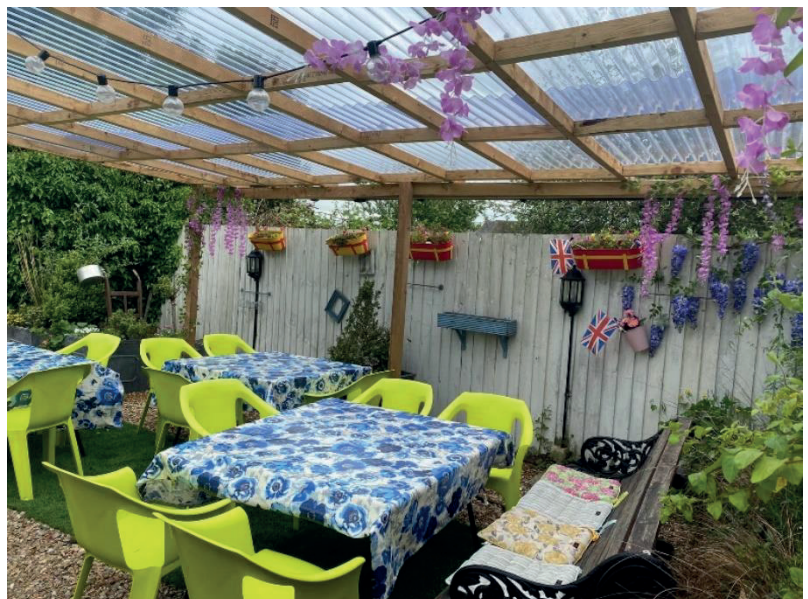
If you haven't heard about Chatty Café at Orangemabel in Alcester it's an amazing initiative to provide a safe place for people to get out and meet new people and, well, chat, without having to worry about the expense. A complimentary drink and treat are included. Donations are welcomed but not obligatory or even expected. It's held on Tuesday mornings from 10am in Orangemabel's lovely garden and there is often free entertainment too. So, if you fancy a chat on a Tuesday morning, you know where to go!

Orangemabel

59 High Street, Alcester B49 5AF

<https://orangemabel.com/>

01789 766300





ALCESTER RUGBY CLUB is a welcoming mixed ability club catering for rugby from 2 years and up.

We were established in 1959 when a few enthusiasts got together to try to form a rugby club in Alcester. Among the many challenges they faced was where to find somewhere to play. Through the generosity of a local rugby-mad farmer, early games were played on a field at Kinwarton. From there the Club moved to Throckmorton Road and, finally, in 1967 to our present location at Kings Coughton. Changing room accommodation reflected the primitive nature of the Club's early days; first a cowshed with no washing facilities; then an old London bus with some

provision via the proximity of a river; and then the comparative luxury of the stables of the old Red Horse pub in Henley Street, complete with a temperamental shower!

When the move to Kings Coughton was made, use was made of a chicken hut on site which served well thanks to the DIY skills of the members. However, by the late 1970s it had deteriorated to such an extent that it had to be replaced. A new clubhouse was officially opened in 1984 - the Club's Silver Jubilee year. This was the beginning of a process by which the Club now has accommodation which is the envy of many clubs of more senior status.

So please come on down, enjoy the club and have a "try" at the sport itself in its many guises – Mini, Junior, Tag, Touch, adult and hopefully soon for women.

ALCESTER TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB have had quite a busy time during the first half of 2022. The end of the season saw the First Team finish a respectable 7th in the Midland Football League Division 2 and we had many successes at junior level. The first team start their new season at the beginning of August under the stewardship of our new manager Aaron Blackwood. Aaron would love to see you down at the Stratford Road ground supporting the side. We have five home fixtures during August.



The Club also welcomed back their popular summer World Cup football tournament after an absence of two years. It took place over the weekend of the 18 - 19 June and we saw around 2,500 visitors watching the 96 junior teams. The Club would like to thank Lord Yarmouth and the Court Leet for attending and presenting the players with their trophies and medals. The Club are always looking to improve the facilities at our Stratford Road ground and we have been successful in receiving a grant to improve the security gates and fencing around the site.

Many congratulations to the England Lionesses on their success in winning the European Championships. Alcester Town are keen to attract girls and women to play football for the town. If you

are interested in playing or getting involved with coaching women's football then please contact us by email: atfc1927@gmail.com or phone: Gary Williams (07766) 664289

Or visit our website : <https://www.alcestertownfootball.club>

RIVERSIDE ANGLING CLUB



Firstly, Riverside Angling Club would like to thank Alcester Town Council and all concerned with the running of the Community Grant scheme for their recent kind award. We have repaired and replaced where necessary the fishing platforms along the Club's water.

Secondly, I have received an email from the Environment Agency who carried out three surveys on the River Arrow at Alcester playing fields on 17 May 2022.

Catch 1 resulted in 20 Chub, 29 Dace, 1 Eel, 7 Gudgeon, 1 Perch and 2 Pike.

Catch 2: 10 Chub, 11 Dace, 2 Gudgeon, 1 Pike and 1 Roach.

Catch 3: 5 Chub, 5 Dace, 1 Pike, Bullheads, Stoneloach, Minnows and Sticklebacks.

With the recent hot weather and lack of rainfall the rivers are very low, fish are there to be caught but you have to look for them!

Robert Jones, Hon. Secretary, Riverside Angling Club
Tel: 07745358603

MARATHON KIDS

Summer is in full swing, so why not get outside in the sunshine and enjoy it whilst getting your youngsters activated with Marathon Kids UK?

Join us at Jubilee Fields every Saturday at 9:30am, and make sure you bring water to stay hydrated! When you arrive at the park, look out for the Marathon Kids UK banners and flags. Our excellent volunteers will be providing warm-up activities, a 20-minute endurance lap challenge and relay races for children and their families to get involved in. Our events are free of charge, inclusive and for kids of all abilities/ages. Let's give the children of Alcester a summer of fun and games to remember.

Pupils at the Tudor Grange Academy Haselor are still enjoying our programme, delivered by their amazing teachers who share our passion for igniting a love of exercise and a healthier lifestyle in their students. It's great to see them progressing and achieving more than they could have imagined initially. We are so proud of all involved at the Academy and the distances they have accomplished.

Our Teens programme (Plus 5) is being received extremely well by the students and teachers at Alcester Academy and is supported by the Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Kathryn Cargill.

Phase 1 included 6 weeks of teaching the year 10s about the barriers to accessing physical activity and creating the programme alongside them. We recently finished the second phase, which was where the year 10s became the leaders and took 50 year 7 students through the programme, inspiring them to be more active and empowering them.



ALCESTER FOOD FESTIVAL



After record breaking attendance at the May Festival, the organisers are looking forward to the next Festival on 15 October. These events are a huge commitment from the many organisations and individuals who contribute to a making this such a successful event which showcases the beautiful town and wonderful community of Alcester. Many thanks to Alcester Litter Pickers, Alcester Town Council, ABLE, Court Leet, Town Hall Committee, Tony Turner,

The Greig Hall, St Benedicts School and those who help out with the build up and break down on the day. Also thanks to Steve Hine without whom there would be no electricity!

We are keen to welcome new volunteers to the team so please contact Lesley Henderson on 07774953525 if you can commit a small amount of your time to help with the many tasks involved in making these events a success.

Bookings to date indicate that we can expect just as many stalls for October as in May and we are already planning exciting developments for 2023. All of us involved in organizing and delivering the Food Festival look forward to seeing you in October.



Photo credit Mark Williamson

ST NICHOLAS NIGHT

The town of Alcester has many wonderful traditions, and one of these is St Nicholas Night. The church is dedicated to St Nicholas and his feast day is celebrated on 6 December. In previous years there has been great enthusiasm for this festive community event. The evening involves a range of fund-raising stalls hosted by local organisations, Santa's Grotto, musicians, entertainment and a parade featuring a child Bishop, chosen from the local Primary school. The evening ends with a firework display.

We are hosting this once again and are gathering volunteers who will help with the committee to plan, or, on the day, enable the smooth running of the evening.

If you would like to be involved, please contact the Rector Rev Katie Cross for further details and don't forget to put 6 December in your diary!



Rev Katie Cross Tel: 01789 764261 Email: rector@alcesterminster.org

ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS AT A SPECIAL "SING ALONG EVENING"



Alcester Male Voice Choir performing at Pershore Abbey April 2022

The popular Alcester Male Voice Choir are looking for new members and are inviting gentlemen who are interested, to come along to a special "Sing Along Evening". Here they will be able to get a taste of what the choir is all about in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Judith Land BEM the choir's Founder and Director of Music says "Joining an established choir may seem daunting, but this special evening will give potential new members an opportunity to meet the existing members, listen to the singing and join in if they would like to do so. Visitors will be made very welcome. To join our choir there are no auditions and you don't have to be able to read music. There is help and guidance available at all times. I find

that new members settle down quickly and soon form new and lasting friendships. They will also have some wonderful experiences. All we ask is that they attend the Wednesday evening rehearsals and only when they feel ready, take part in the concerts which are held regularly throughout the year."

The special "Sing Along Evening" takes place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 September at The Eric Payne Centre, off St Faiths Road, Alcester

Gentleman interested should contact Judith on 07886 139781 to find out more and book their place.



Come and Sing With Us!

Following the Summer break, rehearsals for the Christmas Concert will commence on Thursday 1st September 2022. Rehearsals take place each Thursday in the hall of the Catholic Church, Priory Road, Alcester and begin at 7.30pm.

We are a friendly mixed voice choir and are open to all. We do not require an audition. Simply come along and see if you like singing in a choir. Both new and experienced singers are welcome.

The Christmas Concert will feature "O Come, Emmanuel" by Alan Bullard and traditional Christmas favourites. Experience the pleasures of learning these pieces and meeting weekly to sing.

The concert is on 17th December at 4pm at St Nicholas Church, Alcester.

Contact:-

events@alcestersingers.co.uk

www.alcestersingers.co.uk

or find us on Facebook.

ALCESTER & BIDFORD ROTARY CLUB



It's the Alcester & Bidford Rotary

Charity Breakfast

Still only
£6
or go large for
£8

ENJOY A FRESHLY COOKED FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST
AND HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR GOOD CAUSES
IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.

Crawford Hall, Bidford
Saturday 1st October
9.00am – 12 noon

Alcester Town Hall
Saturday 8th October
8.30am – 12 noon

For more information please email alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com
or visit our website www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk



Organised by Rotary with the generous support of
Bidford Co-op, Clay Hall Farm Eggs, Freemans, Plato,
Simply Fresh, Waitrose and other local businesses

What a great year it's been so far with lots of people at our Big Breakfasts in March and at the Pimms stall for the Food Festival in May, and then winning best stall prize at the Roman Street Market in June! A fantastic Vintage Afternoon tea took place in July and we've celebrated twelve years since the club was founded with a BBQ and picnic.

Funds have been donated to local charities and used to help provide shelter tents to Ukraine.

We are delighted to have welcomed three new members to our club and look forward to others joining us soon. If you are interested in having a good time whilst helping your local community, contact us:
alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EVENTS 2022



- Poppy Appeal Launch. Saturday 29 October. Times and location to be confirmed. Volunteers required for collections etc

- Armistice Day Ceremony. Friday 11 November at 11am. St Nicholas Church Green

- Remembrance Concert. Saturday 12 November at 7pm. St Nicholas Church
- Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service. Sunday 13 November

The Royal British Legion lunch following the Remembrance Day Service will take place in Alcester War memorial Town Hall again this year at a cost of £20 per head for a three course lunch. Numbers are limited, so if you wish to attend, please contact Kay Blake at kbropewalk@gmail.com for a menu and booking form.

David Malin, Alcester RBL Branch Secretary

ALCESTER CIVIC SOCIETY

The Society was set up in 1962 "to preserve & enhance all that is best in the amenities, buildings and traditions of the town." These aims remain relevant sixty years on. We closely monitor all planning applications to see whether they satisfy our aims. Successful campaigns over the years include the preservation & sensitive refurbishment of Malt Mill Lane, one of the architectural gems of our town.

The society also arrange visits to places of historical interest. This year we organised a visit to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough, the only remaining foundry in England. In 1948 they cast the bells in St Nicholas Church that are still rung every week.

In July we enjoyed Jazz on a Summers Day with music by the George Huxley Jazz Band as we enjoyed our picnic & drinks. Good weather helped to make for a memorable afternoon!



Talks for the remainder of the year:

Tuesday 27 September BENEFACTIONS BOARD

David Moulson on this unique feature found in St Nicholas Church
7.30pm Church House, Butter Street

Tuesday 15 November FRIENDLY LINE IN THE COTSWOLDS

David Hall on the restored railway line from Broadway to Winchcombe & beyond
7.30pm Catholic Church Hall

The Society provides an excellent way to meet new friends, to find out what is going on in the Town & to help influence others in keeping Alcester the special place it is.

If you are interested in joining, please contact our secretary for more details, Mrs Diane King 01789 765029



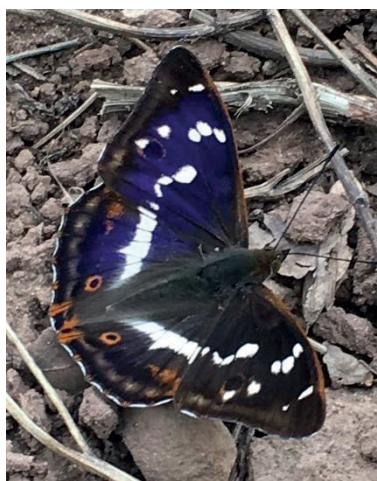
OVERSLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Oversley Green has now completed its fourth year of Scarecrow competitions and the popularity, especially with visitors, continues to grow. Every year the atmosphere is different. In 2019 it was a novelty. In 2020 and 2021, when it was difficult to meet friends and keep children entertained, it provided safe amusement for all. This year we were out of the pandemic and behaviours were close to normal so more for everyone to do, fewer scarecrows than at the peak but wonderful quality. The creativity shown by individuals is amazing. This year the winner was Maureen Smith, with her Little Princess, complete with a mobile of miniature potties. Second (Again ! How many times ?) were the Busby family with the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and third were Alex and Malcolm Steward with the Queen parachuting into the Olympic Stadium. Judging the winners is difficult. There is so much on offer. This year the judges were John and Bron Bunting and Wendy Sherwood, Alcester Town Council, and a huge thanks to them for their efforts. To the wider scarecrow making residents of Oversley Green great praise. Your creativity is amazing and win or lose your efforts appreciated by an increasingly wider public.

Richard Slatter, Chair Oversley Green Residents Association

FRIENDS OF OVERSLEY WOOD



This summer has been a fantastic year for both plants and butterflies, attracting many visitors from far and wide, some of whom spend time also visiting the High Street. We've met individuals and groups from as far afield as Reading, Bristol and Birmingham who have all come to enjoy the unique biodiversity of the beautiful woodland right on our doorstep.

On sunny days it's been possible to spot a wide variety of butterflies including the rare purple emperor (see photo), which was re-introduced to Oversley in 2004. These majestic creatures live high in the oak canopy, and swoop down to feed on unspeakable bits and pieces on the paths! Marbled Whites, Silver-Washed Fritillaries and White Admirals have also been abundant during the summer months.

We are fortunate to have a wide variety of trees throughout including the very rare Wild-Service Tree and up on the top a significant number of ancient coppiced Small-Leaved Limes. Coppicing is when a tree is cut back repeatedly creating multiple new stems of trucks. Studies have shown that

these trees are over 1500 years old. Imagine that for a moment, trees on our door step that started growing around the year 500 AD at the start of the Middle Ages!

The Friends of Oversley Wood Group is going from strength to strength. If you ever visit the wood or have an interest in it, why not visit www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofoversleywood and join the 700 plus members who care about our stunning woodland.

Cllr Steve Blackman

Oversthree Events invite you to a

CHARITY FASHION SHOW

6.30 PM ON Friday 14 October 2022

AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH ALCESTER



TICKETS: contact Mary Nash



(07780 478459 or email mary@gittus.com)

* £15 includes the fashion show & Ploughman's supper Or

** £20 to include a 30 minute preview at 6pm with a glass of prosecco & an opportunity to purchase fashion items

**In support
of local
charities**

PLANNING MATTERS - Focusing on The Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan that was adopted in July 2021

So, what is the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) and why is it important?

The ANDP began life with public consultations between 2014 – 2017 followed by a public pre-submission consultation in 2018 leading to a further public consultation on the draft plan in 2019, culminating in a public referendum in May 2021. The ANDP passed the referendum and was adopted on 12 July 2021. A lengthy process involving the people of Alcester at every stage.

It is worth remembering that Alcester Town Council are not the decision maker when it comes to planning applications affecting the town, but our neighbourhood development plan adds significant weight to the council's responses to District planning officers consideration on planning applications.

The ANDP sets out a positive vision as to how the community should develop over the next ten, fifteen, twenty years in ways that meet identified local needs for the people of Alcester.

Key Benefits include:

- Policies to influence new building design, or alterations to existing buildings
- Protection for our green spaces (wildlife corridors, allotments, parks and play areas) and our historic assets
- Access to developers to encourage the type of build our community needs and wants
- Having a say in where and what type of development should happen (new housing, or for businesses)

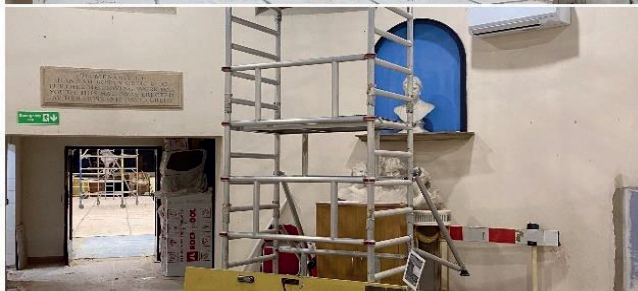
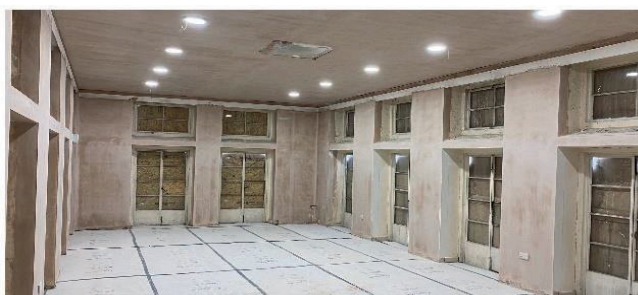
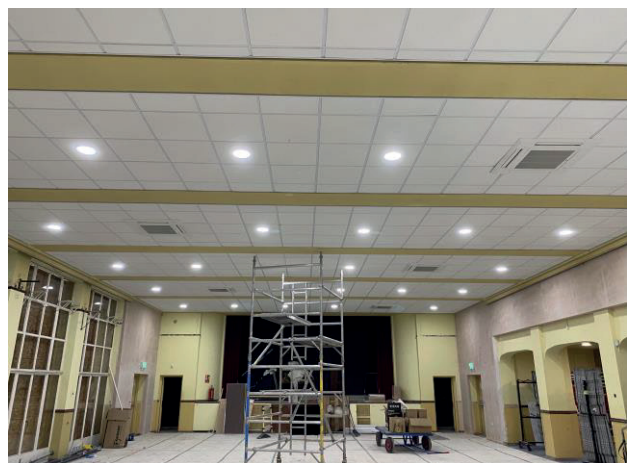
Follow the link and take an in-depth look at what the ANDP means for you <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan/>

Cllr Mike Bowe, Chair, Planning Committee

THE GREIG HALL

There has been a significant amount of work in the hall over the last few months. The old electrics have been replaced and all roofs are now watertight,

The main rooms (hall and wings) walls and ceilings have been fully insulated, new lighting and air-conditioning units installed. Painting will follow the plastering to finish it off. The protective floor covering will be removed as soon as the builders have finished. The parquet flooring needs some work to bring it to a high standard, however currently we do not have enough in the restoration budget. The all-important



kitchen will be fully cleaned and painted along with new catering equipment installed. A new fire and intruder alarm system has been installed along with a CCTV system. All the internal doors have been replaced with modern standard fire doors and outside with security doors. Due to some anti-social behavior, we have had to put up some security fencing. More will be required over the next few months. These are costs we can ill afford.

The first few events start with a Medieval Murder Mystery on the 24 September. Tickets will be on sale soon with more events to follow. These first events are to help us identify areas that still need work, so we are encouraging constructive feedback.

If you would like to volunteer to help, then please contact us on <https://greighall.org.uk/volunteer/>

Cllr Mark Cargill, Chair, Greig Working Group

CLIMATE ACTION ALCESTER

The inaugural meeting of Alcester Town Council (ATC) Climate Action Group took place on 12 July and we were pleased with the support received. Around twenty people attended, representing a significant number of Alcester organisations, including St Nicholas Church, Alcester Academy and the Country Market and representatives from Great Alne, Wixford and Stratford.



The meeting was led by Cllr Kathrin Foster and Cllr Steve Blackman and featured a keynote presentation by Stratford on Avon District Cllr Susan Juned focusing on what we can realistically achieve.

Contributors shared ideas on steps they are already taking to mitigate climate change and offered suggestions towards the forthcoming ATC Action Plan. There was no shortage of ideas including ways to improve facilities for cyclists coming in to town. It

was clear that the audience had attended with the desire to work towards tangible outcomes for the benefit of the town.

A second meeting has been scheduled where a task group will begin to develop a practical action plan for Alcester's response towards the climate emergency. This wide-ranging plan will focus on areas that can be addressed in association with organisations across the town.

We believe we will make significant difference by addressing the small things everyone can do, as well as a range of more challenging issues which inevitably will take more time and resources to fully implement. To keep up to date with developments you can subscribe to our mailing list here <http://eepurl.com/h6ET75> or follow us on the website. A great start!

Cllr Steve Blackman, Joint Lead Councillor Climate Change

Finding ways to help cope with rising energy bills this winter

Everyone is feeling the pinch of rising energy costs right now. For some this will mean "Eating or Heating", especially when we get back into the cold season. There may be some things you can do now to help you avoid making this harsh choice:

- Draught proof your home: Making sure you don't have a wind blowing through your property will keep you warm and save you money. This can be done with simple things such as thicker curtains or purchasing draught proofing equipment from your local DIY store. If you are a tenant you may be able to request this to be done by your landlord. Areas to check in your home are windows, doors, chimneys/fireplaces, floor boards, skirting boards, cracks in walls, gaps around electrical fittings in your wall, loft hatch and pipe works
- Add insulation to your loft, floors and cavity walls (there may be grants available)
There is a range of government help available that can make your energy bills more affordable. Find out if you could be eligible for any of the following here: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits>
- Winter Fuel Payment
- Warm Home Discount
- Cold Weather Payment

Cllr Kathrin Foster, Joint Lead Councillor Climate Change



Act on Energy - Support available

Are you (or someone you know) worried about the rising cost of energy bills?

Act on Energy is a charity partnering with Local Authorities to offer **FREE** support to everyone living in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Coventry, Solihull, and Birmingham.

We can offer **free expert advice** on:

- Financial assistance to help with energy bills
- Energy debt
- Broken heating systems
- Grants and funding for energy efficiency measures
- Energy efficiency tips to reduce your bills
- Billing issues with your supplier

Please note that any support is subject to eligibility and availability.

For more information call us on **0800 988 2881** or visit the website www.actoneenergy.org.uk



[@actonenergy](https://www.facebook.com/actonenergy)



[@act on energy](https://www.instagram.com/actonenergy)



[@act on energy](https://twitter.com/actonenergy)



Do you know someone who enjoys reading or listening to audio books and who is finding it difficult to get out and about?

Warwickshire Libraries Home Delivery Service is a free library book delivery to Warwickshire residents who are unable to visit their local or mobile library due to ill health or infirmity. Carers may also be eligible to receive

this Service. A volunteer calls once every four weeks with a door step delivery of a selection of books based on customer preference. We can provide books in ordinary print, large print or stories on CD. This is a completely free service.

To find out more, contact the Mobile Library Team on:

Tel: (01926) 851031 or by email on: mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk



ALCESTER HEALTH CENTRE WELCOMES TWO NEW GPs TO THE PRACTICE TEAM

Dr Harborne, is originally from the Midlands and studied a degree in Physiology in London before moving on to study Medicine at Sheffield University. During her GP career she has worked in a variety of rural and

deprived areas. Most recently, she has had roles as Clinical Lead and senior GP in her previous practice. As a forward thinking GP she is keen to use her innovative ideas to try to deliver better healthcare to patients as a whole.

Patients of Alcester Health Centre may recognise Dr Harborne, as she previously worked with the surgery until 2018 and is excited to return to the practice.

Dr Steven Jones graduated from Cardiff University in 2006 with MBBCh. Prior to GP training he worked extensively in Oral & Maxillofacial surgery as a Speciality Doctor. Following this he completed GP training in Warwickshire & Coventry with training rotations in Psychiatry, General Medicine & Emergency Medicine.

Alcester Health Centre strives to maintain the traditional family GP Surgery feel whilst using a forward thinking approach to patient care. Our mission is to continually improve the quality, range and mode of delivery of our care. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership with our patients and staff to provide the best Primary Care services possible.

Find us online at www.alcesterhealthcentre.co.uk or on our Facebook page, @Alcesterhealth, for regular practice updates.



SOCIAL PRESCRIBING AT ALCESTER HEALTH CENTRE AND ARROW SURGERY

We recognise that poor health can not only stem from physical, clinical issues, but also social, emotional and economic problems. Social prescribing works with the patient to help overcome these concerns, usually by signposting and referring to community organisations. We can support with a variety of issues, for example:

- Support for carers
- Referral to counselling
- Support with finances
- Housing support

To speak to one of the Social Prescribers at the surgery, please get in touch with reception and ask for an appointment.

POLICE WEEKLY DROP IN SURGERIES

On Wednesdays evenings 6-9pm Alcester South SNT will be opening the doors to the old front office at Alcester Police station for you to speak to a member of your safer neighbourhood team about any community concerns you may have, to gain advice on anything policing related including crime prevention or just simply to have a chat and get to know your local policing team.

Please note: Due to the nature of Policing there will be occasions where the session may need to be cancelled at short notice. If this is the case Alcester SNT will do their utmost to advertise this by social media, but this may not always be possible. We will currently be unable to run this event on Wednesday 26 October 2022.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALCESTER

What is phishing and how does it work?

You wouldn't let a thief enter your home, but what if the thief was masquerading as someone familiar, such as a postman and you opened the door. Phishing works when criminals impersonate trusted organisations by creating legitimate-looking messages and websites in order to trick people into opening the doors to their personal information. Once criminals have this information, it can be used to perpetrate fraud against you. This is a huge problem faced by individuals and businesses.



Most of the phishing scams have one thing in common; they started with an unexpected email or text message: an email or a text message asking you to "verify" your bank account details or a payment. The goal is - to trick you into revealing personal and financial information.

Simple advice you can follow in dealing with phishing scams:

1. If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly but use the details from their official website. Remember, your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.
2. If you think an email could be a scam, you can report it by forwarding the email to report@phishing.gov.uk for checking.
3. Most phone providers are part of a scheme that allows customers to report suspicious text messages for free by forwarding it to **7726**.
4. If you think you have lost money or provided personal information, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud (details below). For more advice on how to protect yourself online, visit: cyberaware.gov.uk



Communicating with the Police:

Emergencies dial **999**

The Police Non Emergency number: 101 To be used to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. 101 to your local Police. Calls cost 15p per call (landlines and mobiles).

Online reporting services are also available on the Police website - <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report>

Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team dial 101 or 01789 444815/ 444816

Please feel free to contact the team direct by email:

SGT 1685 David Ebbs alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 1672 Beat Manager Rob Davies david.ebbs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6327 Carolyn Davis robert.davies4@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6111 Gary Johnson-Jones carolyn.davis1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Online reporting services are also available on our website - <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/>

Alcester Office - 01789 444816

Twitter [@AlcesterCops](https://twitter.com/AlcesterCops) Facebook [Alcester Police](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterPolice) Instagram [southwarwickshiresnts](https://www.instagram.com/southwarwickshiresnts)

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

Contact Warwick Trading Standards on 01926 414040 to report a rogue trader. For general advice on scams and rogue traders contact 0845 4040 506.

Action Fraud Report a Fraud or Cyber Crime to 0300 123 2040

To join Neighbourhood Watch Alcester, contact nhwalcester@gmail.com or telephone Dorrie Manders on 01789 762999

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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Full Council and Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings are held in person at Globe House. Planning Committee meetings are generally held online via Zoom or by email. Agendas are published on town noticeboards and online at www.alcester-tc.gov.uk three days before each meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings and are given time at the start of the meetings to speak. Draft and approved Minutes from meetings can also be found on the Town Council website. Social media is another source of information regarding council matters- we are on Facebook www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil Twitter: www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/alcestertowncouncil/>

Town Councillor's Contact Details

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Vacancy	 <p><u>Kathrin Foster</u> 07875 609324 kfoster.atc@gmail.com</p>
 <p><u>Emma Randle</u> randle.atc@gmail.com</p>	 <p><u>Andrew Foster</u> 01789 766708 afoster.atc@gmail.com</p>
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Alcester Oversley Ward	
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 <p><u>Mike Bowe</u> 07775 500993 mbowe.atc@gmail.com</p>	 <p><u>Wendy Mills</u> 07842 596542 wmills.atc@gmail.com</p>
 <p><u>Alison Leask</u> aleask.atc@gmail.com</p>	
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<p>Delivered by </p> <p>and printed by </p> <p>on behalf of Alcester Town Council</p> 	 <p><u>Kathryn Cargill</u> (Mayor) 07745 608567 kcargill.atc@gmail.com</p>