

Alcester Town Council



Spring Newsletter

March 2023 Issue 69

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

After nearly two years as Mayor of our wonderful town, I find myself writing my final Mayor's Message. So much has happened since I became the first, and hopefully last, virtual Mayor. A time of social distancing and wearing facemasks, it seems a little surreal looking back.



The things I enjoy most about being Mayor are the many local events to which I am invited. It was lovely to be asked to open the Christmas Fair at Our Lady's Primary School, although I do feel that the children were rather more excited to see Santa! I also had a wonderful evening at the Alcester Academy production of *The Greatest Showman* (photo left). The standard of their performances goes from strength to strength, with so many young people taking part and giving it their all. Congratulations to them!

Also, in the run up to Christmas, I was invited to two parties to celebrate the 90th birthday of the Dowager Marchioness,

Lady Hertford (see photo below). These were organised by Alcester Male Voice Choir and the Court Leet and succeeded in surprising Lady Hertford, not once but twice!

More recently, many of you will have enjoyed the colourful and imaginative displays of Window Wonderland. This event is now firmly on the Alcester calendar and I look forward to seeing how this continues to grow in future years. The Greig Hall will shortly be handed over from the Town Council to the new Greig Hall charity. When I started my first year as Mayor, we had just opened the doors for the first time in over ten years and were feeling more than a little daunted by the scale of the work ahead. But less than two years later we were able to hold the Mayor's Awards Evening there, and what a fabulous venue it is becoming. It was also a joy to have panto back in town, and for people to have family entertainment on their doorstep once again. The project to restore the Greig has been a triumph for the town, with so many people involved in so many different ways. I would like to thank all of you who have helped to make this happen, and to urge you to support the events that are planned for the months ahead.

And finally, I would like to thank all of you who have made my time as Mayor so special and memorable. It has been an honour and a delight to serve Alcester in this role and to meet so many people who give their time, skills and enthusiasm to make our town quite unique.

Thank you.



Councillor Kathryn Cargill, Mayor of Alcester

CLERK'S CORNER

PRECEPT 2023-24

The Town Council sets the precept each year in January. The precept is the primary source of income for the Town Council and is a small part of the Council Tax which residents pay to Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

At the Full Council meeting on 3 January 2023, the Town Council agreed to request a precept of £329,813 from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the year 2023-24. The precept in 2022-23 was £306,536.

Residents will be aware that everything is going up in price and inflation is currently at about 10%. Councillors tried really hard to keep the increase in the precept as low as possible but options for savings were extremely limited.

The agreed precept will result in a 5% increase in the precept charge to Alcester residents (Band D) from £137.60 to £144.57 per annum. This rise is equivalent to 13 pence per week for a Band D Council Taxpayer.

The Town Council uses the precept to run council business and to provide a range of services to residents. These include four allotment sites, four playgrounds, the cemetery on Birmingham Road, civic and community events such as Remembrance Sunday, grants to voluntary organisations, Health and Wellbeing projects, maintenance and upkeep of the Eric Payne Community Centre, maintenance of Priory Meadow, Centenary Field and other open spaces and miscellaneous street furniture such as signs, benches and bins.

Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel: 01789 766084

Mayor's Secretary: mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk

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

Advance Notice - Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 4 April 2022 at 7pm

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting for all the local government electors of the Parish.

It is not a meeting of the Town Council

Anyone may attend and registered electors of the Parish may speak and vote during the meeting.

The Town Council would like to invite all local voluntary trusts and organisations to attend.

Please contact Alcester Town Council for more information on:

01789 766084 or clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Alcester Town Council awards small grants to community groups and organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to benefit Alcester by:

- Providing a service
- Enhancing the quality of life of community members
- Improving the environment
- Promoting Alcester in a positive way

The application form and full details are available on the Town Council website <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/>. Paper copies are also available from the Town Council office. If you need support completing the application form, please contact Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk on 01789 766084.

The deadline for this year's grants is Friday 31 March 2023



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

With the launch of Alcester Alert, work has begun in signing up restaurants, pubs and shops to join the Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative. I am supporting the scheme as it helps prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour for all its members. It has been running successfully across Warwickshire and now we want to bring the benefits to Alcester. By working together businesses can identify offenders and utilise exclusion orders to prevent further crime. Over 500 members are currently part of the scheme and it is hoped that businesses across the area will sign up. For further information please email me or directly to wrcisouth@wrci.org.uk.

At the end of last year, we suffered a significant snowstorm which disrupted the town and villages. This storm highlighted roads which are not gritted as standard by the County. Currently 45% of Warwickshire's roads are gritted, one of the best in the country, but that means over half are not which include roads to our schools such as St Faiths Road and Gerard Road. I am working to try and get this reviewed but in the meantime parishes have been installing new grit bins which will provide residents with the ability to source grit should it be needed again in the near future.

Councillor Piers Daniell, County Councillor

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOORFIELDS

I have been approached numerous times with queries and concerns over the state of the old St Nicholas Primary School. Since closure, it has become quite derelict and is a magnet for both vandalism and vermin; something needs to be done. I recently held a multi-agency meeting with the Environment Agency, Warwickshire County Council, Stratford on Avon District Council and the Town Council in an attempt to resolve the situation. To release the Moorfields site from flooding and open it up for development, a number of things need to happen. The flood defences in the town are ageing, are being stretched due to climate change and desperately need upgrading. Currently the defences offer a 1 in 75 year flood event protection. The defences need upgrading to 1 in 100-year flood protection because, without this happening, around 165 homes and businesses in Alcester will still remain at flood risk.

If successful, then there is a plan to build an affordable extra care facility on the Moorfields site. Other main rural centres in Stratford District have such developments, but it is something Alcester lacks yet desperately needs.

Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, public consultation events will be held where you will be able to see the proposals and make your comments.

Councillor Mark Cargill, Alcester and Rural



PLANNING MATTERS

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Rural communities like ours have experienced a lack of **suitable and affordable housing** over many years. The Town Council would like to understand the extent to which this problem still exists within the Alcester Parish.

To gain greater awareness of the need for suitable affordable housing in our town, Alcester Town Council has joined forces with Warwickshire Rural Community Council, an independent charity supporting rural

communities across Warwickshire.

To this end, you will find with this newsletter a questionnaire that we believe will help establish the type of housing needs mostly in demand. Your answers will help provide focus on the areas that could bring a beneficial change to the future of housing development in our community.

We should like to hear from residents that have a need for alternative housing and wish to live within the parish, so please, only complete the form if this applies to you.

Those needs can vary so, by way of example, if you are wanting to downsize maybe to a bungalow or smaller house or are currently living at home with parents and want your own home, we would like to hear from you.

I want to stress that there is no magic wand, and we cannot conjure up an immediate fix however your participation could influence how Alcester accommodates those needs going forward.

Councillor Mike Bowe, Chair, Planning Committee



Warwickshire Connected

Get connected with what is happening in **your local area.**

Warwickshire Connected is a **free community messaging system** brought to you by Warwickshire Police.

You can sign up to receive real time email updates about the things that matter to you most, including:

- 🔔 News from your local policing teams
- 🔔 Updates and appeals on local incidents
- 🔔 Useful crime prevention advice
- 🔔 Information about policing events happening in your area



To sign-up visit: www.warwickshireconnected.com or scan the QR code.



Spring Concert

Handel's MESSIAH

Saturday 13th May 7pm

St Nicholas Church, Alcester

Tickets £15; under 14's free

Available from Humphries Shoes (cash only)

High Street, Alcester or on the door.

www.alcestersingers.co.uk

events@alcestersingers.co.uk

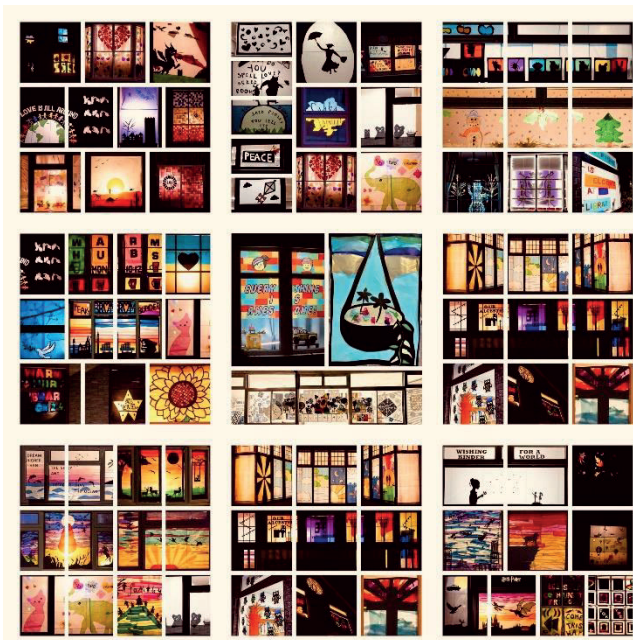
Facebook

HEART OF ENGLAND TOWN CRIERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Taking place again this year on Saturday 8 April, when Town Criers from all over the country will process from Alcester War Memorial Town Hall at 12.45 pm and compete in the Championship round commencing at 1.15 pm in Malt Mill Lane. Come and enjoy the colourful spectacle and listen to the cries as contestants compete for the trophies, including one for Best Dressed Crier. The judges are drawn from our local community and everyone is invited to share in the fun.

Councillor Vaughan Blake, Championship Co-Ordinator





WINDOW WANDERLAND 2023

January 2023 saw Alcester's streets being transformed into a magical window walk-about for the fourth year running. There were 36 Window Makers helping to create the magic. In addition, Councillor Alison Leask created some amazing windows promoting Warm Hubs around town.

A generous donation from Seco Tools enabled the event plus two workshops which were both well attended and helped many to get their creative juices flowing. Window Wanderland brings together our community and neighbours of all ages. As part of the event Councillor Kathrin Foster supported the Tuesday Guides' group creating some lovely window displays at the Scout & Guide Hut in Alcester.

This year's winners were, Denice Mosson for the Creative Award, Jen Hopkins for the Positive Message Award, The Old Station Nursery for the Best Classroom Window Award and Barchester Cherry Trees Care Home for the Community Window

Award. However, having seen all the windows, everyone was a winner, including the Window Wanderers who walked the trail around town. A big thank is extended to Sally Poffley and Sean Macgreavy in helping to run both workshops. Sean also took a photo of every single bright window which you can see in the collage here. Lastly, concerns raised over the impact on climate change were considered carefully. All Window Makers were encouraged to use LED lighting and a timer to switch their displays on and off automatically.

Next year's event will take place from 20 - 28 January 2024.

Councillor Kathrin Foster

TREE PLANTING AT ABBEY FIELDS

More than 50 children from four schools in Alcester have been working together recently in the newly established Abbey Fields Nature Corner on recreational land owned by the Town Council.

The initiative, part of a project led by Alcester Youth Project, saw pupils from Alcester Academy, Alcester Grammar School, St Benedict's High School and Our Lady's Primary school help create a new woodland at Abbey Fields, alongside the River Arrow.



The nature area is being managed by local schools and charitable groups as a place for outdoor learning. Alcester Youth Project volunteer Liz Lake, an environment education consultant by profession, has been hosting a range of outdoor events for young people, Liz said ...

"Each workshop is designed to give children a fun, interactive experience whilst also empowering them to tackle climate change and learn about strategies to encourage wildlife".

Maggie Gourlay, Head Teacher at Our Lady's School, said ...*"learning outdoors has so many proven benefits for the children, our students are passionate about tackling climate change and have been delighted to work with other schools to make a real difference."* Alcester Youth Project, established in 1996, is a community group dedicated to raising money to enhance facilities for young people in the areas of leisure, information and educational opportunities within the town of Alcester.

Elizabeth Lake, Central Regional Education Consultant / LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)



ALCESTER CEMETERY INSPECTION

Notice is given that there will be an inspection of Alcester Cemetery taking place between 1 April and 31 June 2023.

The purpose of this inspection is to ensure that graves and monuments meet the Burial Authority Rules and Regulations (2020) and are maintained and remain in a safe state.

Contact Tim Forman with any questions or queries on 01789 766084 or via email office@alcester-tc.gov.uk



MORE WARM HUBS

The cost of heating our homes has soared this winter so new 'warm hubs' are springing up across the country where people can go and get cosy. Residents can drop in, get warm, have a hot drink and be in the company of other people.

Alcester is taking part in this initiative, and currently has the following Warm Hubs:

Mondays- Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church Hall 10am- 12noon & Alcester Library 2- 4pm

Tuesdays- Alcester Methodist Church 10am- 2pm and Orangemabel 9am- 12pm (Chatty Café scheme)

Wednesdays- Alcester Baptist Church 9.30am- 11.30am and Church House, Butter Street 11am- 4pm

Fridays- Jubilee Court fortnightly (from 13 January 2023) 10am- 12pm

Check out our website for more updates <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk>

Or see <https://www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/wrcc-warm-hubs/> for further information about this initiative.

ALCESTER ACADEMY

The Town Council would like to thank Mike Dean (Chair of Governors), Carol Hodgetts and Cllr Gill Forman for their long service as governors at Alcester Academy. This outstanding commitment has recently been recognised by Warwickshire County Council. Congratulations!



Have your say on the Council's objectives for the next 4 years

Alcester Town Council has won several awards culminating in the national Star Council Award last year. But we are not resting on our laurels and want to produce a strategy for the next 4 years. We need your views and thoughts on what we should focus on. By completing the survey below, please tell us what you feel is important to our community.

1. What is your postcode?

2. What do you love about living in Alcester or the surrounding area?

3. If the Town Council had £20,000 to spend on an improvement in Alcester in the next 4 years, how would you spend it?

Please tick your favourite option(s) or select 'other' and provide your own ideas below.

- ☐ New play equipment
- ☐ New visitor information boards
- ☐ Climate Change initiatives eg cycle racks, water refill station
- ☐ New kitchen for the Eric Payne Community Centre
- ☐ Other

Please add your own ideas here:

4. What do you think are the key issues affecting the quality of life in Alcester?



Please pop your completed form in to the Alcester Town Council Offices or in the box at the Eric Payne Community Centre, when it is open, by **Friday 17 March 2023**.

Alternatively, please scan the QR code and complete the survey online.
Thank you for your time!



A Warm Welcome from Alcester Library

Everyone is welcome at the library. It is a warm, safe space where you can sit and spend time reading books or newspapers, using a computer, or joining in with our free events. It's free for Warwickshire residents to join the library, and once you are a member it's free to borrow books, and use a library computer. You do not need to be a member to come into the library and read, use the public wifi on your own device or to attend library events.

Free Warm Welcome Events for Adults at Alcester Library

Warm Welcome Drop-in (every Monday 2pm– 4pm, Dec 2022—March 2023)

Drop in any time 2-4pm for hot drinks, board games, puzzles and chat.

IT Help (every Thursday 10am—12pm, starting from 5th Jan 2023)

See a member of library staff to book a free session with one of our helpful volunteers who can assist you with IT—on the library computers or your own laptop, tablet or phone.

Crafternoon Tea (every Friday 1.30pm—3.30pm)

Come along with your own art or craft projects and enjoy free refreshments and friendly chat. Just drop in, no need to book.

Library Drop-ins - from 11th Jan, as follows:

For people with Dementia and their carers (1st & 3rd Wed of every month 2-4pm):

Drop in any time 2-4pm for hot drinks, dementia-friendly books, puzzles and chat.

For former carers of people with Dementia (2nd & 4th Wed of every month 2-4pm):

Drop in any time 2-4pm for hot drinks, board games, puzzles and chat.

We also have an extensive programme of free family and children's events. Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for Alcester Library or pop into the library for more info.



Alcester Library, Priory Road, B49
Open 9.30am—5.30pm Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri
10am—1pm Sat



NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS WEEK 2023

National Allotments Week 2023 will run from 7 - 13 August and Alcester's allotment judging will take place during this week.

For information about the four allotment sites at Bleachfield Street North and South, Allimore Lane and School Road in Alcester please contact Tim by email on office@alcester-tc.gov.uk or phone 01789 766084
Happy gardening!

MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARDS

Following our article in the Winter edition of the newsletter, outstanding contributions from members of the Alcester community were recognised at the Mayor's Civic Awards evening held at the newly refurbished Greig Hall in January. This was a very humbling occasion and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the enormous amount of good going on in our town.

The Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Kathryn Cargill, made the following awards for 2022 (see photos below) from a very strong group of nominations:

Young Persons of the Year- Daisy & Cerys Dillon-Cambridge and Isobel Parker (bottom middle).

Community Organisation of the Year- The Crafty Lunch Club (top middle).

Citizen of the Year- Sheilagh Goode and Andrew Matheson (bottom right).

In addition, Cllr Cargill decided to recognise the significant contributions to the town of Alcester over many years by Mike Gittus, JP, BEM with a special **Lifetime Achievement** award (left).

Prizes were also awarded to the winners of the 2022 allotment competition. Mr Harrington was the overall winner and awarded the Reg Grummett trophy for the third year running! (top right).



Photographs courtesy of Jake Lambourn



USED STAMPS- THANK YOU!

Craig would like to extend a big thankyou to everyone who saved used stamps for him in Alcester. Last year Craig raised over £100 which he donated to Alcester Foodbank, Studley Christmas Lights, Headway and Acorns. A fantastic achievement!

If you would like to help Craig with his fundraising, collection points for used stamps in Alcester include the Town Council offices, Orangemabel, Ciao Bella Chic, Alcester Post Office and the National Schoolwear Centre.

ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR ANNUAL CONCERT - SATURDAY 22 APRIL

Alcester Male Voice Choir are returning to The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester to stage their 49th annual concert.

The concert is the highlight of the choir's year and has always been a popular event in the town. Under the direction of choir founder and Director of Music, Judith Land BEM, the choir will be performing a mixed programme of songs of contrasting styles and genres which we hope will appeal to all musical tastes. On stage they will be supported by the Alcester Victoria Silver Band, conducted by Nick Smith and the choir's accompanist, Irina Chagunava, a talented classical pianist from Georgia who has performed in concerts both in the UK and Europe.

Tickets for the concert cost £18 each and are available by calling the choir's box office on 07752 563068 or by emailing amvcboxoffice@gmail.com



In concert at the Ecumenical Church Centre Redditch

The choir is always keen to support other charities at their annual concert and this year will be no exception. Following the concert there will be a retiring collection in support of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Interested in joining the choir?

The choir are always delighted to welcome new members. There are no auditions and it's easy to join. Just pick up the phone and call Judith on 07886 139781 for an informal chat and she will explain the benefits and what it means to be a member of Alcester Male Voice Choir.

Email: judithamvc@hotmail.com

ALCESTER & BIDFORD ROTARY CLUB



It's Big Breakfast time again! Alcester and Bidford Rotary will be at Crawford Hall, Bidford, on 4 March and at Alcester Town Hall on 11 March serving up a 'full English' with all profits going to our local community. Our charity breakfasts are our primary

fundraisers when we are helped by our volunteers to serve breakfasts to up to 200 people. Please come along and enjoy a great breakfast and help support our community.

This year we have been able to donate to many local groups, including Dementia Day Care, Alcester Food Bank, the Community Fridge, Alcester Scouts, Depot Youth Club, Rainbows, Alcester First Responders, ABLE and the Community Christmas lunch in Alcester, and in Bidford- Dementia Day Care, Christmas Lights and Crawford Hall. We have also donated to Parkinsons, Shelterbox and the Ukraine crisis as well as hosting coffee mornings for Ukrainians and their host families in the area. None of this would be possible without the support of our generous local traders and our Alcester and Bidford communities.

Along with other Rotary groups we are supporting the Shelterbox Boat which sails on the Avon from Stratford to Tewkesbury calling at Bidford Meadow on the afternoon of 29 April, raising funds for Shelterbox. Come and join in the fun and enjoy the spectacle; donations can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/shelterboat2>. We are a small, friendly group and would welcome anyone interested in joining us to help our community. Contact Jackie Walsh on 07775 975316 (Shelterboat) or email: alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com Website: www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk



RIVERSIDE ANGLING CLUB

The weather has certainly been against the angling fraternity over the last few months. Well done if you managed to get out and do some fishing during the lulls in the snow and floods! Just a few more weeks left to the end of the coarse fishing on the rivers. No doubt the riverbed and the banks will have been altered by the floods.

Normally at the end of the season the dace will be getting ready to spawn, depending on the temperature of the water and if the conditions are right. If you manage to get on the rivers before the close season with the water

warming up- you should be able to make a catch.

All the very best for the rest of the season.

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

THE Greig Hall



By the time you read this article, The Greig Hall will have been handed over by the Town Council to the newly formed charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) who will be running The Hall going forward. The official opening was on 17 February with two free concerts for residents on 18 February. It has been a monumental task, both rescuing The Hall from developers and then reopening it. Huge thanks goes to all who made it possible. From the new roof, insulation, electrics, bar, air conditioning system, and refurbished floor, it now means that Alcester has a modern, fit for purpose 300 seat venue that can accommodate many events and performances. If you are interested in becoming a friend of The Greig, I urge you to visit the web site where you can register <https://greighall.org.uk/membership/> or you can scan the QR code. It is free this year with a small charge being made in subsequent years.

Councillor Mark Cargill, Lead Councillor The Greig Hall

ROAD SAFETY AND SPEED WATCH UPDATE

At January's Full Council meeting, the Council voted unanimously to pass a motion to ask Warwickshire County Council to extend its precautionary gritting routes to include roads leading to all primary and secondary schools in the area. Currently parents and children attending the schools and nurseries on St Faiths Road are forced to cross the busy road during icy conditions. The Town Council's view is that this presents a significant health and safety risk and have called on the County Council to act to keep the routes safe. In agreeing the motion, the Town Council is also calling on all impacted town and parish councils in Warwickshire to support the campaign.

I was delighted to visit St Faiths Road recently and speak with parents, residents and Cherril Turner who is the local School Crossing Patrol about their concerns including poor weather conditions, speeding and inconsiderate parking. Thank you for your excellent suggestions which I will be following up with the relevant bodies and organisations.

The Alcester Community Speed Watch group continue to monitor speeding traffic on a regular basis and have recently recruited and trained additional volunteers. We were delighted to take part in the Neighbourhood Policing Week in January. This was a chance for Safer Neighbourhood Teams to showcase their work and we were happy to conduct an extra Speed Watch session to support the initiative. If you have any concerns or feedback about any aspects of road safety please do get in touch.

Councillor Andrew Foster, Lead Councillor Road Safety and Speed Watch



ALCESTER BRETVINS

The Ordre des Chevaliers Bretvins ('Bretvins') is a French organisation established in Nantes after the Second World War to promote the culture and customs of the local south Breton area. Chief amongst these is the local wine, Muscadet, which is extensively produced in the area. At the heart of the Muscadet producing area is the town of Vallet with which Alcester is twinned. As a result of this association, a branch of the Bretvins was established in Alcester in 1994 with the signing of a protocol of friendship between the Alcester Court Leet and the Ordre in France. We meet formally three times a year and also support events in France on special occasions. We also try to hold informal social events every month where, of course, much Muscadet (and other

wines) is consumed.

Our next event in Alcester is our annual Chapter at the end of April when we welcome guests from France and elsewhere. Annually, at the end of March we support the French at their annual agricultural and commercial fair (ExpoVal).

We are always looking for new members and, while no formal qualifications are required, a love of France and good wine are at the heart of what we do. All are welcome.

If anyone is interested in joining or would like to find out more, our Facebook is Bretvins Alcester Muscadet or email John Freeland at bottleandpop@gmail.com

David Hall

CORONATION WEEKEND- NATIONAL EVENTS

Saturday 6 May- The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Sunday 7 May- The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together. In addition, a Coronation Concert will be staged and broadcast live at Windsor Castle by the BBC and BBC Studios.

Monday 8 May- Members of the public will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.



Alcester is organising various events in the town over the weekend- watch out for further news!



ALCESTER BOWLING CLUB

Are you looking to try a new sport in 2023? Then why not have a go at Crown Green bowls?

Alcester Bowling Club are on the lookout for new members. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced bowler, please come along and visit our friendly bowling club. The club holds social bowling sessions at its green, at the end of Meeting Lane, on Monday and Thursday mornings (10am) and Saturday afternoon/ evenings from 3pm.

Open days are held where anyone is welcome to try their hand at Crown Green bowling. In addition, our members are always available to help anyone at any time who is considering taking up the sport. No experience is necessary as we will show you the basics of how to play, the skills and the tactics – all that is needed is a willingness to have a go and learn how to play a new sport which is both skilful and enjoyable.

The club also has teams playing in leagues in the South Birmingham/ Warwickshire area and matches are played on Tuesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday and Thursday

evenings. In addition, the club also host social evenings and barbecues during the summer, where members can get together and have fun.

The bowling season generally runs from early March through to the end of October, so if you are interested please contact our secretary John Westmoreland for further information:

Email: john.westmoreland@lineone.net Phone: (07483) 240465

Or you can visit our website : <https://alcester-bowling-club.business.site> and Facebook page.

MARATHON KIDS

STEP INTO SPRING

Our local park sessions for Alcester children continue to attract youngsters and parents alike, so if you have not yet come along to join in the fun, bring yourselves to Jubilee Fields, at 9.30am every Saturday.

We want to activate as many children as possible. Therefore, as we move into spring, we hope that you will come and take part with us, warming up

whilst exercising and having fun. Our park sessions are a great way to instil a love of physical activity in your little ones, a passion that will hopefully last them a lifetime. Why not bring them along to see just how fun exercise can be?

Our Community Ambassadors lead the session, providing fun games and relays to help our participants reach the Marathon Milestone. All are welcome and it's also a great place for the kids (and parents) to make new friends who share similar passions.

Many of our participants feel a sense of accomplishment with each distance tackled, growing in confidence on their fitness journey. It's great for us to see children who felt side-lined and disengaged in physical activity (perhaps in school) taking part and enjoying themselves. The sharp contrast is clear to see during the time that they are with us and it's brilliant to know that the work we are doing is bringing kids into a healthier lifestyle and removing barriers.

We would love it if even more of you were a part of this! For more information see www.marathonkids.co.uk

ALCESTER TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Alcester Town FC first team currently sit 4th in the Midland Football League Division 2 and are through to the third round of the Birmingham FA Vase Cup competition. Come on down and support the Romans pushing for promotion and Cup victory!

This summer the club will be hosting their popular Champions League Football Tournament on the weekend of 17-18 June. This event is the third largest in the town, after the Food Festival and Street markets, and attracts around 2,500 visitors from Warwickshire and Worcestershire watching the 96 junior teams.

The club will also be hosting the football veterans from our twin town in Vallet, France on the weekend of 27- 28 May.

The club are excited to announce that they have received planning permission from Stratford on Avon District Council to improve and extend the current clubhouse facilities. This will mean there will be improved catering and rest facilities for all our players and parents and also a large function room. The project has received approval from the Birmingham FA who will assist in providing the necessary finance. The club will now embark on its own fundraising exercise and are looking for ideas and support from the local community. If you are an individual or a local business who would like to be involved in this exciting development then please contact us: Email: atfc1927@gmail.com Telephone: Gary Williams (07766) 664289

Or visit our website : <https://www.alcestertownfootball.club> and Facebook and twitter pages



ALCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Alcester Rugby Club are calling all players and rugby fans! We are looking for players of all ages and abilities to join our club.

We have fully qualified coaches for all ages from 3 to 17 years for our Atoms, Juniors, and Colts teams through to our two Senior teams. Our first team is currently 'Top of the League' and battling for promotion!

It doesn't matter if you haven't played before as we have outstanding coaches throughout all age groups. We'd also like to extend an invitation to all local residents to come and watch

our teams play. We have wonderful facilities with hot and cold drinks available along with incredible breakfasts and other fabulous hot food from Annie's @ ARFC Café which is open from 9.30am on Sunday mornings.

Our first team plays on Saturdays with kick off times usually around 2pm. Again, we have hot food and hot & cold drinks available to all guests. Our junior teams all train and play on Sundays so you're all more than welcome to come and support.

Keep an eye on our social media pages for all upcoming fixtures.

If you or your child is interested in joining our Club, or you'd like to join yourself, please email our Club Secretary, Adam Green, at alcesterrfcsecretary@gmail.com

We all really look forward to seeing you at ARFC soon!

TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Warwickshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/warwickshire> has loads of walks to download and print, free of charge. The website also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Warwickshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you".

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the website and get walking!



ALCESTER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Slideshow. Friday 24 March. 7pm Eric Payne Community Centre (see poster)
- Coffee Morning. Saturday 22 April. 10am- 12pm. Church House
- Trip to National Memorial Arboretum. Tuesday 6 June. £15 per person
- Armed Forces Day. Saturday 24 June. 11am Centenary Field
- Merchant Navy Day. Sunday 3 September. 11am Centenary Field
- AGM. Tuesday 26 September. 7pm Alcester War Memorial Town Hall
- Poppy Appeal Launch. Saturday 28 October. 10am- 1pm Alcester Methodist Church.
- Armistice Day Ceremony. Saturday 11 November. 11am St Nicholas Church & Church House
- Remembrance Concert. Saturday 11 November. TBC
- Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service. Sunday 12 November
- Veterans Social Fund Lunch. Sunday 12 November. 12.30pm Alcester War Memorial Town Hall

*David Malin, Branch Secretary,
Alcester Royal British Legion*



The Royal British Legion Alcester Branch

'Royal Occasions In Alcester'

Queen Victoria to

Queen Elizabeth II

!!Photographic Slide Show with Commentary!!

7pm Friday 24th March

Eric Payne Centre

Raffle, Coffee and Cakes Tickets £10

Available from Sue Adams 07767 893886
or Guys Menswear, High Street, Alcester.
(All proceeds to Alcester Branch RBL)

IMPORTANT- NEW VOTER ID SYSTEM

From 4 May 2023 onwards, the Elections Act 2022 requires voters who are on the Register of Electors to show photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper.

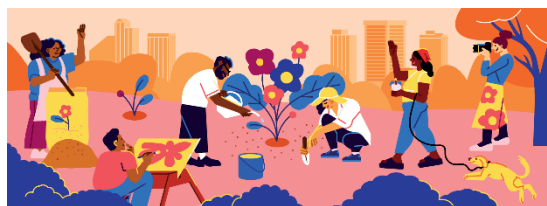


This can be a Passport, a Photo Driver's Licence, a Blue Badge, an Older Person's Bus Pass, a Disabled Person's Bus Pass and others. Accepted documents can be found on the SDC website - [Voter ID at Polling Stations | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) or you can scan the adjacent QR code.

If you do not have photo ID, a free Voter Authority Certificate can be issued by SDC. You can still apply for a postal vote at [Postal and Proxy Voting | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

This change could affect your ability to vote

District Councillor Mark Cargill, Alcester and Rural



ALCESTER ARTS HUB INVITATION

Would you like join a creative community of artists to promote arts and crafts in Alcester?

If you think you would be interested please contact:

Helen Watson

Facebook message via [Alcester Arts Hub](#)

07867533571

hawatson20@yahoo.com



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no. 1173349

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALCESTER

Dorrie has been running NHW Alcester for the past 14 years and has seen membership grow from ten to 650 on the database today. However, Dorrie would now like to hand over the reigns to this successful and smooth running operation by 1 May 2023. She is happy to assist with handover and to provide support during the initial months.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please give Dorrie a call or send an email (details below).

THINK 'WIDEN' TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

Nearly two-thirds of us are worried about our home being broken into, yet there are simple, proven measures we can all take to halve our chances of being burgled. NHW Network UK has joined forces with primary smart security partner, ERA Home Security, to Think **WIDE(N)** a burglary prevention campaign highlighting simple, evidence-based **WIDE** measures for all homes. NHW believe neighbours should keep an eye out for each other as a key to reducing burglary, so we've extended the WIDE acronym to **WIDE(N)** (see checklist opposite):

- **W: WINDOWS:** Keep your windows locked
- **I: INTERIOR:** Put inside lights on a timer/smart bulb
- **D: DOORS:** Double or deadlock your doors
- **E: EXTERIOR:** Put outside lights on a sensor
- **(N): NEIGHBOURS:** Keep an eye out for your neighbours

Leaving home? The handy free home security checklist opposite is also available at:
ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden



COMMUNICATING WITH THE POLICE:

Emergencies and to report a crime in progress dial **999**

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

Online reporting services: <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

david.ebbs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 1672 Beat Manager Rob Davies

robert.davies4@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 1329 Steven Hope

steve.hope@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6330 Sanjay Singh

sanjay.singh@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6350 Brooke Avery

brooke.avery@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

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

Neighbourhood Watch Alcester please email nhwalcester@gmail.com or call on 01789 762999

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST



Supported by

ERA

Leaving your home?

Use this handy checklist
to ensure it is left safe
and secure.

THINK WIDE(N)

-  WINDOWS **LOCKED**
-  INTERIOR **LIGHTS ON A TIMER**
-  DOORS **DOUBLE OR DEADLOCKED**
-  EXTERIOR **LIGHTS ON A SENSOR**
-  (NEIGHBOURS) **KEEP AN EYE OUT**

WINDOWS

- ☐ Are your windows closed and locked?
- ☐ Are your window sensors activated?
- ☐ Have you secured your garage and shed windows with locks?

DOORS

- ☐ Is your front door double or deadlocked?
- ☐ Are all the doors to your home locked?
- ☐ Are your door keys kept out of sight (but to hand in case of emergency)?

INTERIOR

- ☐ Are your inside lights on a switch timer or smart bulb with timer?
- ☐ Is your home alarm on?
- ☐ Are your valuable items such as jewellery, car keys, laptops, iPads, cash and phones out of sight?
- ☐ Are your chargers and cables for laptops/iPads out of view?
- ☐ Have you created a written and photographic record of any items of value (financial or sentimental)?

EXTERIOR

- ☐ Are your outside lights on a sensor?
- ☐ Have you cut down tall hedges around the outside of your home?
- ☐ Is all packaging from expensive items i.e. laptops, tablets, phones, games consoles out of sight?
- ☐ Are your vehicles locked and valuables removed?
- ☐ Are your sheds, side gates, garages and outbuildings locked?
- ☐ Are items that can be used to break in, i.e. bricks, rubble, ladders, garden equipment put away?

NEIGHBOURS
















- ☐ If you are going away for a while, have you let your neighbours know?
- ☐ Have you joined your local Neighbourhood Watch group? [Find your local group here.](#)



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

Alcester West Ward	Alcester Oversley Ward (contd)
 <p><u>Mark Cargill</u> 07988 485050 mcargill.atc@gmail.com</p>	 <p><u>Gill Forman</u> 01789 763828 gforman.atc@gmail.com</p>
 <p><u>Gavin Smithers</u> 07955 687341 gsmithers.atc@gmail.com</p>	 <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>
 <p><u>Clive Neal-Sturgess</u> 01789 764416 csturgess.atc@gmail.com</p>	 <p><u>Keith Greenaway</u> 01789 766818 keithgreenawayatc1@gmail.com</p>
 <p><u>Erick Wilson</u> 01789 764366 ewilson2.atc@gmail.com</p>	Vacancy
Alcester Oversley Ward	
 <p><u>Vaughan Blake</u> (Deputy Mayor) 01789 764128 vblake.atc@gmail.com</p>	 <p><u>David Henderson</u> 01789 765271 dhenderson.atc@gmail.com</p>
 <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>	
	Oversley Green Ward
<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>