

# Alcester Town Council



## Winter Newsletter

December 2023 Issue 72

### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It has certainly proved to be a busy autumn in Alcester with many events being held. An unexpected pleasure was to judge the annual allotment competition. I was most impressed with the standard of maintenance achieved by the majority of allotment holders. My thanks go to Cllr Gill Forman for her assistance with this difficult assignment.

In October I assisted with the start of the Alcester 10K race which saw a record entry with in excess of 1,000 runners. I then had the pleasure, along with Martin Burden the new High Bailiff, to present the trophies to the winners in each class.

I was pleased that my Charity Italian Night was well supported by both townsfolk and visiting dignitaries. Thanks go to Sue Adams for doing the catering and her epic lasagne. The evening raised around £900 for my chosen charities.



November is time for remembrance of those who gave their lives for this country. I was pleased to formally open the launch of the 2023 Poppy Appeal. It was my honour to lay wreaths on both Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day itself. Well done to all those organisations involved with the commemorative events. The Alcester Victoria Silver Band concert on Saturday night was, as ever, excellent.

I was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Canon David Capron. David served the parish of Alcester very well as its incumbent, and was well regarded by all who knew him.

It was, as always, a delight to attend the Alcester Musical Theatre Company's annual show at the Palace Theatre

Redditch. This year's production was the musical 'Legally Blonde'. A great production done very professionally, and enjoyed by both the audience and cast alike. AMTC is a great organisation and a benefit to the Town, letting young people work with adults on various productions.

Finally, Kay and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

*Councillor Vaughan Blake, Mayor of Alcester*



## CLERKS CORNER

The Town Council manages four play areas in the town – Jubilee Fields, Moorfields, Bleachfield Street and Collins Way.

In order to review our provision and to plan for the future, we are looking for feedback from the users of our play areas.

We have compiled a short survey to see what you think.

One version is for parents/grandparents to be completed on behalf of younger children and one version for older children to complete themselves.

Your views will be very helpful in identifying which play areas need to be improved and what equipment we might purchase when funds allow. The survey closes on 31 December 2023.

Thank you in anticipation.

In the meanwhile we should like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk*

## ALCESTER PLAY AREA SURVEY



*To complete our play area survey.*

*Scan the QR code to access the survey that relates to you.*

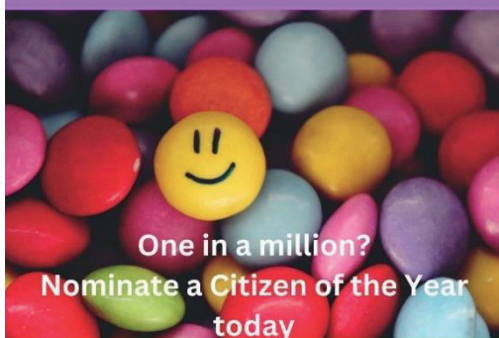


Young  
People



Adults

### Mayor's Civic Awards 2023



**One in a million?  
Nominate a Citizen of the Year  
today**

See [www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk)

## MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARDS

It's that time of year again where you have the opportunity to make a nomination for the annual Mayor's Civic Awards.

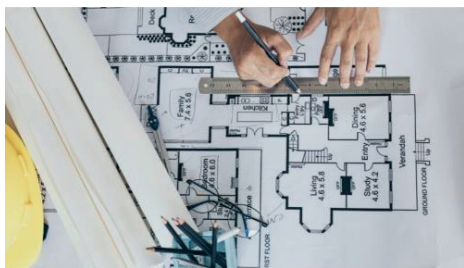
There are four categories of awards - Young Person of the Year, Community Organisation of the Year, Business of the Year (new for 2023) and Citizen of the Year. Nominations are open from Monday 13 November until Wednesday 13 December 2023.

Nomination forms are available to download from the Town Council website/News page or hard copies are available from the office. Nominations need to say why the nominee should receive an award plus the benefits resulting from the nominee's service to a particular field, area, group or community. Criteria apply to nominees and this information is on the form.

The Civic Awards will be promoted on the website, social media, newsletter and on noticeboards.

The Mayor selects the winner from each category and a presentation is made at an Awards Evening which will once again be held at The Greig Hall on Friday 19 January 2024.

See <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/latest-news/> for more information



## PLANNING MATTERS

### Housing Needs Survey Findings

An ongoing major project for Alcester's Planning Committee is identifying the types of homes local people need that are in high demand, but in short supply. To that end a Housing Needs Survey was undertaken earlier this year, aimed specifically at residents that had a need for alternative housing and wished to live within the parish of Alcester. It was important to gather this evidence to assist

the Town Council in considering if there were possible future courses of action that may overcome those needs and if so, what they might be.

The report from the Housing Needs Survey highlighted that a majority of respondents indicated, in order of preference, their need for the following.

- In first place, a 'starter/first home'
- In second place, a more accessible home
- In third place, looking to downsize

Two-bedroom dwellings were the most popular choice followed by three-bedroom dwellings, with more than half of all respondents preferring to rent.

### Where do we take the project from here?

Further research to guide the Council's approach on the direction and strategy going forward is underway. This part of the project is initially being undertaken by a working group of councillors, supported by the Town Clerk. Their task is to develop Terms of Reference that will enable the formulation of a plan with emphasis on identifying if there are parcels of land or brownfield sites within the parish of Alcester which would be suitable to provide development opportunities for quality affordable, social and open market housing.

**The Working Group are expected to present the recommended Terms of Reference for approval in February 2024.**

*Councillor Mike Bowe, Chair, Planning Committee*



## ROAD SAFETY AND SPEED AWARE WORKING GROUP

In the Autumn Newsletter we gave an update on the work being done by the Town Council's Road Safety group. The group consisting of town councillors and residents, are working with other organisations to address an issue which we know is a concern to many people. In October we were delighted to meet with the Principal of Alcester Grammar School, Ms Thorpe where we discussed how the school is working with the local community to find solutions to issues on Birmingham Road (see photo).

The Town Council is keen to hear about your experiences of



road safety and parking locally and have launched a survey of residents and visitors to the town. You can use our QR code to register your views. Paper copies of the survey can be obtained from Alcester Library and the Town Council office which are both located in Globe House.

*Cllr Andrew Foster, Lead Councillor, Road Safety and Speedwatch*



## ALCESTER HERITAGE TRUST

The Roman Museum is planning to celebrate its 20th anniversary next year. There will be a Festival in the Museum and the Library on Saturday 6 July 2024 - the same day as the Duck Race. There will be re-enactors, mosaics, togas, games, photo displays and involvement from schools and community organisations and Warwick Museum Service.

In addition, the RSC will be supporting the event, providing visual material from past productions to be used as stimulus material for displays of Roman helmets and shields.





## COMMUNITY SHED PROJECT IS LAUNCHED!

The Town Council has approved an ambitious project to turn the old redundant squash courts at the rear of the Greig Hall into a dedicated space for the community to make, do and mend. The building, which the Council took over with a 125 lease from Stratford District Council in 2021, requires significant repairs to make it watertight and safe. Following on from the resounding success of the Repair Café, a number of repairers formed the Alcester Community Shed group. The group has already been successful in securing some funding for the project and many residents have indicated their support for it.

The aim is for the venture to be modelled on the Men's Shed movement. This recognises that men are not necessarily good at discussing health issues and Men's Sheds were founded to contribute to both men's mental and physical health as well as providing a safe space to talk and share practical skills. The Alcester Community Shed will be open to all – men and women, young and old. It is planned to have 2 workshop areas, one fitted out with machine tools and the other a multipurpose space which will also become the permanent home for the Repair Café.

If you have skills which you think could be useful in the conversion please contact Cllr Mark Cargill, who is leading the work, by email to [mcargill.atc@gmail.com](mailto:mcargill.atc@gmail.com).

*Cllr Wendy Mills, Chair Squash Courts Working Group*



## WELL CONNECTED?



There are many advantages of being able to use computers and the internet, from connecting with family and friends, to shopping for groceries. Yet many people are missing out. If you would like to make the most of the internet, find out about WhatsApp or learn how to download apps, come along to our relaxed and friendly Well Connected Computer Group, where our experienced volunteers will help you out. Meeting every Wednesday morning, 9:30 – 11am at the Alcester Unionist Club, High Street, Alcester. Free to attend and everyone is welcome, whether you are new to technology

or more advanced. We will even make you a cup of tea or coffee!!! Learn how to:

- ✓ Send emails
- ✓ Use WhatsApp
- ✓ Video call
- ✓ Use Facebook and other social media
- ✓ Download apps
- ✓ Fill in forms online
- ✓ Use your mobile phone
- ✓ Shop and bank online
- ✓ Use Microsoft Office

For more info, contact Wendy Sherwood, Alcester Town Council, Tel: 01789 766084 or email: [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk)  
[facebook.com/WellConnectedAlcester](https://facebook.com/WellConnectedAlcester)





## SUSTAINABLE LIVING SAVES MONEY AND THE PLANET

It is safe to say that living in a more sustainable way has now gone beyond being a trend. It affects all areas in business as well as life at home and has shifted for many to be the new, expected norm. At Alcester Town Council we continue to review our processes to become a sustainable council.

But is it easy or costly to make that shift? The answer is yes, it can be easy and no, it doesn't have to be costly. In fact, it can save you money to go green.

- Recycling has been made very easy for most items we use in our homes. Even most takeaway or ready meal containers can be recycled as long as they are clean. If you want to check you can visit this website: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/our-recycling-collection.cfm>
- Metal straws can be used with re-usable cups for the coffee shop or with re-usable bottles. Metal straws are easily cleaned and can be used again and again. If you bring your own coffee mug to the shop you are not only more sustainable but your coffee will stay hot for longer
- Storing food in re-usable containers, including your sandwiches from home is much better for the environment than buying expensive zip lock bags or cling film
- Buying second hand clothing from charity shops or second hand online retailers will save you lots of money whilst reusing perfectly good clothes that someone else has just got a bit tired of
- Composting organic waste such as food waste or putting it in your food caddy for collection each week

Search "sustainability in everyday life" online for many more tips on sustainable living.

*Cllr Kathrin Foster, Lead Councillor Climate Change*

## ALCESTER FLOOD RESILIENCE

As we are only too aware, Alcester has a history of flooding with the most recent serious events in 1998 and 2007 when the town centre was submerged, and many forced to move out of their homes in the aftermath. The Town Council coordinates a team of volunteer flood wardens as part of its emergency planning who during poor weather, monitor conditions and stand ready to help and prepare residents who are at risk of flooding.

After prolonged rain over a few hours during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October, the Environment Agency issued a Flood Warning which prompted the team to be on standby. Additional sand was ordered by the Town Council and sandbags were made available to residents living in areas at risk.

Around 60 filled sandbags were handed out, primarily to people living in Oversley Green, Ragley Mill Lane, Tibbets Close and School Road. At one point in the early evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> October, river levels on the Arrow upstream in Studley were only 9cm lower than were seen in the flooding of 2007. Sadly, this time some residents were impacted by water in their homes and the School Road allotments were badly damaged. Thankfully however the rivers did not breach the town's flood defences on this occasion.

The experience serves as a reminder of our risk of flooding, and that despite best endeavours, the Town Council has insufficient resources to protect all vulnerable residents from future impacts. It is a homeowner's personal responsibility to protect their own property. Considering recent events, the Council's Community Safety Working Group is reviewing its Flood Plan and will seek to engage with residents including support with personal flood plans and recruitment of additional volunteer flood wardens. If you are interested in volunteering as a flood warden, please contact Cllr Clive Neal Sturgess for more details.

*Cllrs Clive Neal-Sturgess & Andrew Foster, Community Resilience*



## POSITIVITY ROCKLINE

During the Covid 19 pandemic of 2020 over 5000 painted rocks were contributed by residents. A sample of these rocks were saved and displayed in the Community Orchard to remind us of the way the Alcester Community came together during this difficult time (see left).

Sadly, over the intervening months more than 100 of these rocks have been deliberately removed and the remainder are in a poor condition.

As a result, we plan to refresh/replace the rocks and move them to a new,

more secure site closer to the centre of our town.

We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

*Cllr Erick Wilson, Lead Councillor Open Spaces & Trees*



**Judith Land BEM founder-  
Alcester Male Voice Choir**

## ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR CELEBRATES SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

The Alcester Male Voice choir are celebrating their 50th year, a remarkable achievement. But what is even more remarkable is that fifty years later Judith Land, then a young school teacher who founded the choir, is still the choir's Director of Music and the driving force behind the choir's many successes.

It all started back in 1974, when Judith was Head of Music at Alcester Grammar School and was having trouble persuading male students to join her mixed choir for a one off concert. She turned to male colleagues and parents for help and rapidly achieved the numbers required to create a well balanced mixed choir. After the concert the new male members asked Judith if they could continue, and with the addition of a few more members from the wider community, the Alcester Male Voice Choir was born.

When Judith started the choir, little did she think that she would still be running it 50 years later and be starting on a journey that would be life changing. For Judith this is an incredible achievement and represents a lifetime of dedication & commitment. From those humble beginnings Judith has become one of the most respected and well known leaders in the male voice choir movement.

The choir will be marking this special year with a service of thanksgiving at St Nicholas Church on Sunday 14 January 2024 at 3pm and with two concerts at Ragley Hall over the weekend of 20 and 21 April 2024.



## Christmas Concert Christmas Songs & Carols

Including **In Terra Pax by Finzi**

With guest soloists and organist

**Saturday 9th December**

**4pm**

**St Nicholas Church, Alcester**

**£12.50 Under 14s free**

**Tickets: Humphries Shoes (cash only), Alcester**

**Or on the door**

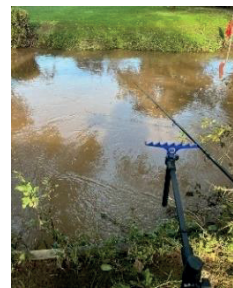
**[www.alcestersingers.co.uk](http://www.alcestersingers.co.uk)**

**[events@alcestersingers.co.uk](mailto:events@alcestersingers.co.uk)**



## RIVERSIDE ANGLING CLUB

As I write this article in November, we have just recovered from storm Babet which left devastation in its wake. The local rivers bursting their banks in several areas, flooding fields and roads leaving cars abandoned. How do the fish survive in conditions like these? Some fish do get swept out of the river and end up in pools in the fields. Look out for seagulls and herons waiting at the side of the pools hoping to catch fish as the pools dry out.



The force of the water will have changed some spots, leaving shallows where the deep holes

were and vice versa. Good fishing can be had after the rivers settle back to normal levels. Handle the fish with care, they have been through a rough time. Good luck.

**Robert Jones, Hon. Secretary,  
Riverside Angling Club**





## ALCESTER BRETIVINS

Early autumn has been a quiet time for the Bretvins.

We did however celebrate the grape harvest (the 'vendange') in style with an excellent dinner, preceded by a Muscadet reception, at Hillers restaurant. Some thirty six of us including spouses enjoyed good food, good wine and good company. What more could be desired? The harvest this year has been particularly good.

The harvest theme continued with the Golden Bottle weekend in France (the Golden Bottle is awarded to the commune in the Muscadet region that is judged to have produced the best wine

overall) which was held on the 11/12 November. Before that, a number of us went to London for the annual Chapter and dinner of the 'Bailliage de La Grande Bretagne' of which we here in Alcester are a confrerie. We shall then meet in December for our Christmas meal together.

If you would like to join our merry band, enquiries to John Freeland at [bottleandpop@gmail.com](mailto:bottleandpop@gmail.com)

*David Hall*



**Alcester  
& Bidford**

## ALCESTER & BIDFORD ROTARY

We've recently held two very successful Charity Big Breakfasts raising funds for local charities and organisations both in Alcester

and Bidford, supported very generously by local businesses in both towns. Alcester's new venue of the Greig Hall proved very popular, serving over 240 breakfasts, with Bidford close behind at the Crawford Hall and the combined total raised for distribution is a whopping £2,500. A donation of £1,000 is ear-marked for Bidford Community Fridge and the members are considering several other donations to needy causes.

We hosted a successful demonstration by Alcester First Responders at our meeting on 19 October 2023 and a donation was made to them of £300. Our next event was supporting Alcester Bunting & Lighting by providing mulled wine and mince pies at the Lights Switch-on on 29 November 2023. Watch out for Santa's Grotto and our mulled wine stall on the High Street at Alcester's St Nics Night on 6 December.

Alcester & Bidford Rotary would like to thank all our friends and volunteers who regularly help out



*President Nigel Curtis and Steve Bennet from Alcester First Reponders receiving Rotary's donation.*

at our events, without whom it would be impossible to run them. If you would like to be part of Alcester & Bidford Rotary, or sign up to support us as a friend, please get in touch.

[alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com](mailto:alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com)

[www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk](http://www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk)

*Kay Blake, Secretary*

## ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel: 01789 766084

Town Clerk: [clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Mayor's Secretary: [mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Facilities Manager: [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Planning: [administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator: [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk)







## ALCESTER TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB UPDATE

The 2023/24 season is now in full swing with all our adult and junior teams representing the town with pride.

The Men's First XI have started their Midland Football League Division 2 campaign well, and currently lie second. The hope is that the team can push for promotion this season.

The Junior section of the club continues to thrive with over 300 children taking part each week either in teams or the Sunday morning development squad (*photo of u11 Squad*).

This season has seen the first two Alcester Girls teams taking part in the Central Warwick Girls Youth league.

We continue to actively raise funds which are vital to the running and future of the club. Look out for our Annual Calendar in the coming weeks which can be purchased for £5 with a donation to Prostate Cancer UK.

If you are interested in supporting the club please contact Gary Williams on 07766 664289. [www.alcestertownfootball.club](http://www.alcestertownfootball.club)



## RUN ALCESTER

Set up in 2016, Run Alcester is a friendly, welcoming and inclusive community running group.

The club offers sessions, training and coaching for runners of all abilities - even those who have never run before. Runs are supported by trained Leaders in Running Fitness (known as LIRFs) and their aim is to make everyone feel at ease, safe, motivated and challenged.

Everyone has access to advice and support to help them get to their chosen distance be that round the block, 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, Marathon, Ultra... or further!

The health and well-being of all members is incredibly important to Run Alcester. In addition to running, we gather to walk, kayak, paddle board, cycle and much more. We have been known to support our local public houses too! Regardless of ability or running history, Run Alcester is here to help with everyone's running journey.

For more information, visit the website: [www.runalcester.co.uk](http://www.runalcester.co.uk) or find us on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing some new (and old) faces.

*Ruth Ashfield*

## CORONATION PLAY AREA BLEACHFIELD STREET

Alcester Town Council is pleased to announce that the new play equipment purchased to mark the coronation of King Charles III is now open.

The much-needed renovation of the Bleachfield Street play area would not have been possible without generous donations from two of Alcester's charities – Alcester Food Festival and Church Street Properties Trust. Many thanks go to them for providing some of the funding for the project.





# THE Greig Hall

## ❄️ Time to celebrate! ❄️

After a tough year for us all,  
The Greig Hall is anxious to please  
❄️ and provide you with opportunities for special treats ❄️  
Amongst the events on offer are:

### **Porky's Christmas Disco**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 8pm until late**

❄️ Another opportunity to dance the night away to great music and with a DJ pleased to ❄️  
receive your requests. Get on the dancefloor for just £8 per ticket.

### **New Years Eve 2023 (SOLD OUT)**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 8pm until the early hours of 2024**

❄️ Voyager will play music from the 60s to the 90s, and also The Reggae Busters Tribute ❄️  
Join the fun for just £12 per ticket.

### **Treasure Island**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 2.30pm**

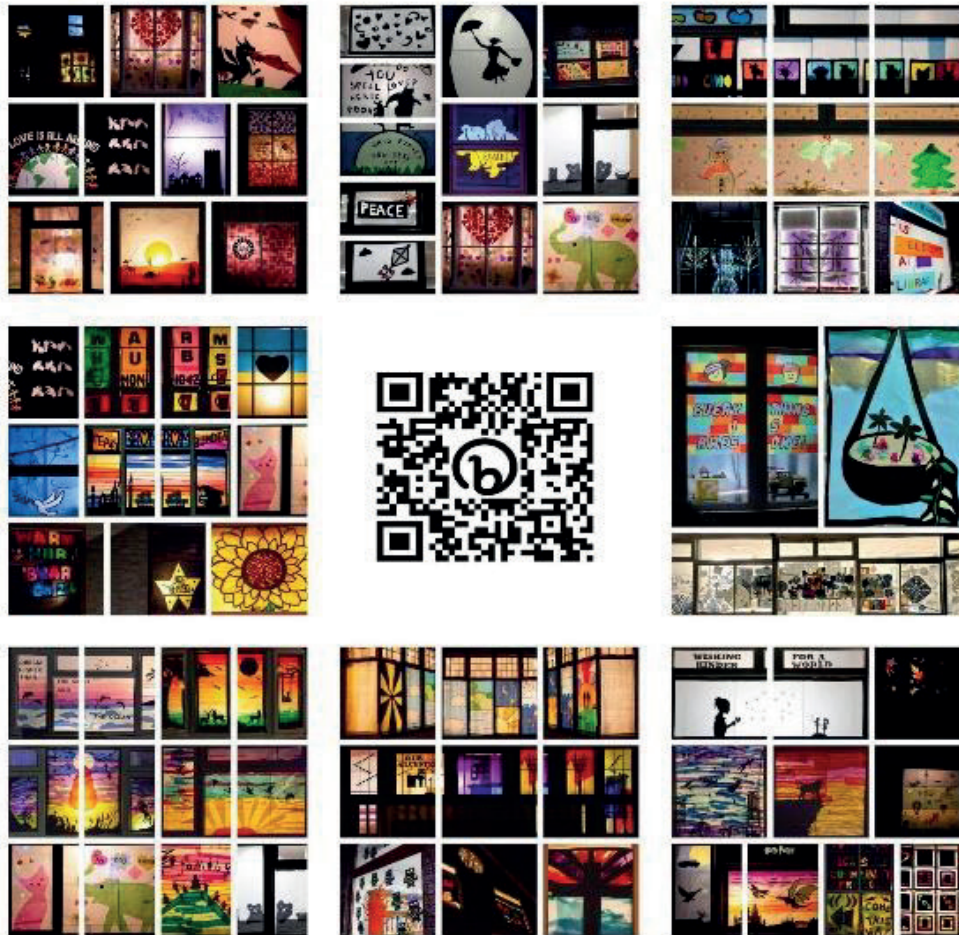
❄️ Another great family panto from Caramba with plenty of fun and laughs. Panto is a ❄️  
magical time for children of all ages. Tickets £5 adults, £3.50 under 16s, under 3s FREE

**Use the QR code below to view the full programme at the Hall & to book tickets online (via [www.greighall.org.uk](http://www.greighall.org.uk)) or visit the PSW shop (on Bull's Head Yard) where you can buy tickets with cash. Also see the website to book a space for your own event.**



# Alcester Window Wanderland

20th – 28th January 2024



[windowwanderland.com/event/alcester-2024](https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/alcester-2024)

Scan the QR Code or call 01789 766084 to assist  
you in getting your window on the map.

## CALLING NEW AND EXPERIENCED WINDOW MAKERS...

We are excited about this year's event and hope that we will have in excess of last year's 40 window makers. We have a new Award for 2024 to reflect the urgent need to act on the climate emergency crisis the world is facing. Here is the list of the 2024 Awards up for grabs:

- The Creative Award
- The Community Window Award
- Save the Planet Award
- The Positive Message Award

To put your window display on the map (which will be published again in January 2024) you can scan the QR code or visit the website via the link: <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/alcester-2024>

Alternatively, you can phone the Town Council office on 01789 766084

Let's make 2024 Window Wanderland another wonderful experience for residents and visitors 😊

Cllr Kathrin Foster





## ALCESTER MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY HITTING NEW HEIGHTS!

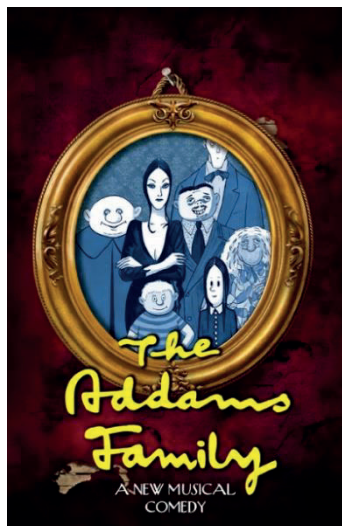
Fresh from our critically acclaimed production of "Legally Blonde" at the Palace Theatre, Redditch in October, Alcester Musical Theatre Company (that's us, known as AMTC) are straight back into rehearsals for our Spring Concert being held in March 2024 "The Magic of Music" (see the poster for details). There will be a heady mixture of music from different musical shows - both modern and traditional, popular songs from ABBA to Adele; featuring soloists, groups and the whole company. In the mix will also be some short comedy sketches enabling the company to fully demonstrate not only our musical abilities but also our acting skills too.

We are delighted once again to be performing at our spiritual home - The Greig Hall in Alcester. Tickets are £10.00 for adults and only £5.00 for children aged 16 years and under. So why not book your tickets now and have something to really look forward to during the dull days of winter?

Rehearsals take place every Thursday at the Baptist Church Hall in Alcester, opposite the Town Hall. We start at 7.30pm and any budding adults who would like "to have a go" are welcome to join us. We are a friendly group representing all ages and experiences and recent new members have been able to acquire, upon audition, lead parts in our shows as well as joining the main company as a singer and sometimes a dancer too.

Our next major production at the Palace Theatre Redditch, is "The Adams Family" and rehearsals and auditions will be held in March/April for our production which will be in October. If you think this could be for you, why not come to rehearsals or better still, book your tickets for the Spring Show at the Greig Hall and see who and what we are. You can bring the whole family as we will be holding a Matinee performance on the Sunday afternoon. Come along enjoy and say "Hello !!"

Tickets are available from Mrs Cynthia Hill 01789 763446 or JAG Hair Studios, 37 High Street (card sales only) or scan the QR code on the poster.



### ALCESTER MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

# The Magic Of Music

15th & 16th March 2024 - 7.30pm

17th March 2024 - 2.30pm

The Greig Hall, Alcester



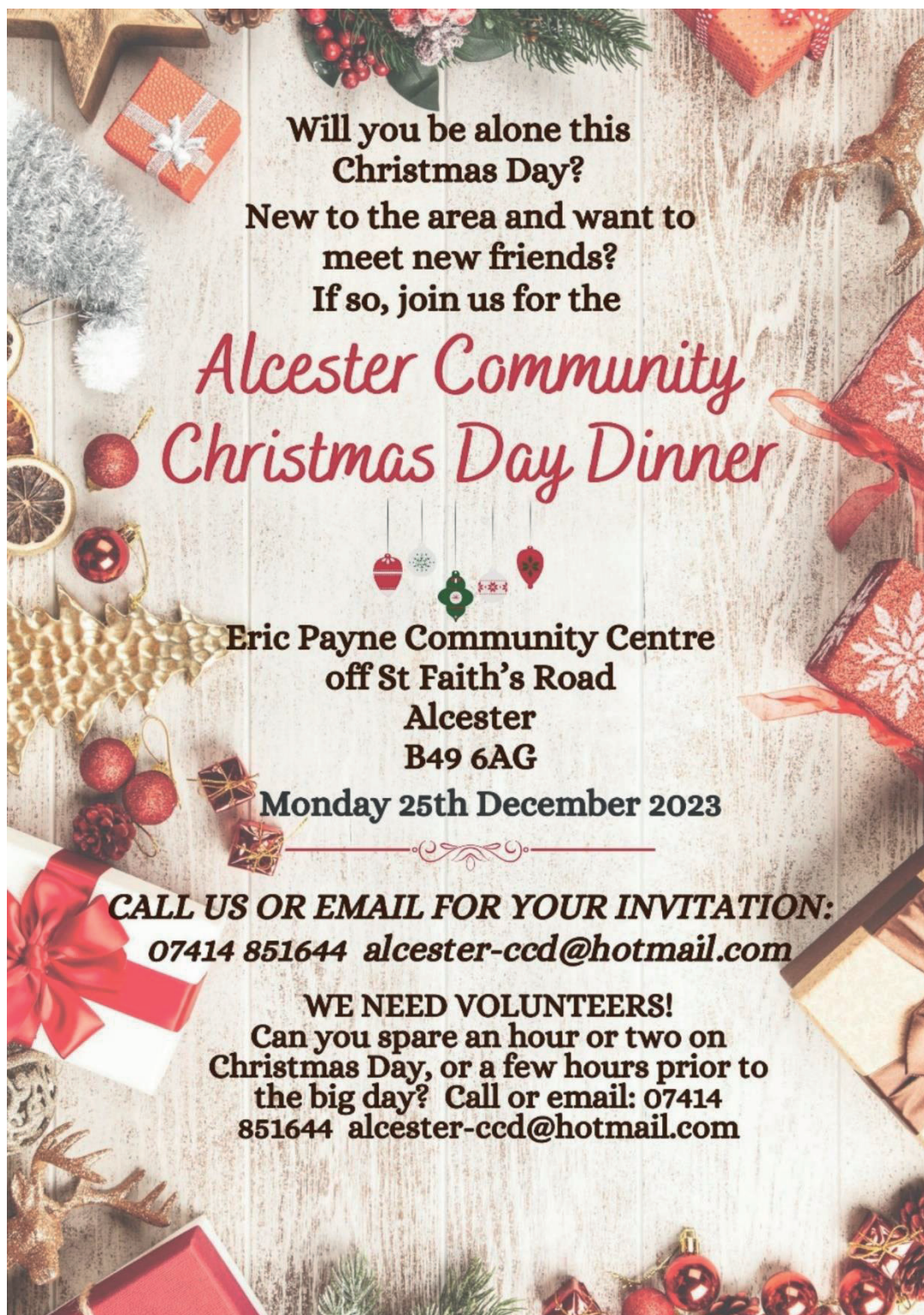
Adult £10 Child £5

Tel: Mrs C Hill 01789 763446

In Person: JAG Hair Studios,  
37 High Street, Alcester (Card only)  
Or Scan the QR Code







Will you be alone this  
Christmas Day?

New to the area and want to  
meet new friends?

If so, join us for the

## *Alcester Community Christmas Day Dinner*

Eric Payne Community Centre  
off St Faith's Road  
Alcester  
B49 6AG

Monday 25th December 2023

**CALL US OR EMAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION:**

**07414 851644 [alcester-ccd@hotmail.com](mailto:alcester-ccd@hotmail.com)**

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

**Can you spare an hour or two on  
Christmas Day, or a few hours prior to  
the big day? Call or email: 07414  
851644 [alcester-ccd@hotmail.com](mailto:alcester-ccd@hotmail.com)**

**u3a** Alcester

**IS EXPANDING!** Since moving to The Greig Hall in June this year, Alcester u3a has gained 35 new members and there's room for more retired or semi-retired people to join us! So, if you fit into this category and would like to join our very friendly and welcoming group, why not make it your New Year's resolution? Our monthly meeting, featuring a guest speaker, is held at the Greig on the first Tuesday of each month (except January, when it will be 9 Jan) at 2.30 pm. We also have 25+ Interest Groups to cover all tastes, social events such as theatre trips and an annual holiday, *not forgetting of course the most important aspect for our age group, ie the chance to combat loneliness by getting out of the house, socialising with like minded people and making new friends!* For more information, come along to our next monthly meeting, look on our website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/alcester>) or contact me by phone (01527 453628) or email ([membership.u3aalcester@gmail.com](mailto:membership.u3aalcester@gmail.com)). I look forward to welcoming you!!!

*Lyn Pickering, Membership Secretary, Alcester u3a*





## NEW DISABLED ART SCHEME

An innovative pilot scheme to improve the experience of disabled people going to theatres, concerts and festivals was unveiled by the Arts Council England in November. It includes the right to a free companion ticket for anyone who needs support from another person to attend an event. There has been concern over a lack of consistency in pricing such tickets. The scheme will be up and running next year.

Participation is not mandatory, but creative and cultural organisations that want to take part can visit a pilot website (<https://allin.online/>) to register their interest.

All In is a partnership between Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Creative Scotland and will apply to museums, galleries, theatres, libraries, performing arts venues and festivals.

It follows the success of Hynt, Wales's access scheme for theatres and arts centres. A new report, funded by Arts Council England, found that Hynt has led to a decade of increased accessibility for cultural events in Wales.



## WARM WELCOME HUBS IN ALCESTER

Warm hubs are where people 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 we currently have the following Warm Welcome Hubs on offer.

**Mondays** - Coffee morning Alcester Library at 10am on the third Monday of every month.

**Tuesdays** - 10am- 2pm at Alcester Methodist Church, includes cakes and biscuits and soup for lunch and at Orangemabel (Chatty Café scheme) 9am- 12pm which includes a hot drink.

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

**Friday**- 1:30pm at the Library, Crafternoon Tea with free hot drinks and biscuits.

Find out more about this initiative from [Warm Hubs Network - WRCC \(wrccrural.org.uk\)](http://Warm Hubs Network - WRCC (wrccrural.org.uk))

Struggling with your finances? Try [www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk)



## SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS

A Christmas campaign encouraging Warwickshire's independent town businesses to shout about why shoppers should buy from them this year is making a comeback.

The Warwickshire Christmas campaign, organised by Warwickshire County Council, is returning this year to highlight the quality businesses in the county's towns and villages and to encourage customers to shop locally for their gifts this year.

In the lead up to Christmas, the campaign will show off businesses and their gift ideas all over the county and showcase individual towns and villages where residents and visitors can shop.

Buying local not only supports local businesses – for you it often means getting that extra level of customer service and satisfaction which is difficult to replicate with large multinationals. Help your High Street!

Get involved with the campaign by using the hashtag #WarwickshireChristmas, and praising your favourite shops!

To follow the campaign, visit @WarksTN on Instagram or like Warwickshire Towns Network on Facebook.



## WALKING FOOTBALL...Male and female players WANTED in

Alcester! Sessions at the Greig Leisure Centre at 11.00am on Wednesdays. For more details call Tom at the Greig Leisure Centre on 01789 400073 or Alan on 07753 209268.

## ALCESTER WI

We've moved! We are now meeting in The Lounge at The Greig Hall monthly on the second Thursday at 7.30 pm. Do come and join us.





## OVERSLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (OGRA)

The end of another calendar year and the beginning of a new year for OGRA. The AGM in September was again well attended and is becoming an innovative source of new ideas. One of these from last year that we are still pursuing, is the "Interpretation Panel" for Oversley Bridge, celebrating our historic listed building.

Courtesy of Alcester Town Council, we now have a much

appreciated grant to add to our own fundraising and research has now led us back to around 1447. Anyone with records before that please get in touch.

Other events this year included Open Gardens and the now traditional Scarecrow Competition. OGRA is lucky in the support that it receives from the residents in Oversley Green and to them and the Committee many thanks for your creativity and resilience.

Again, on the bridge theme I last asked how many arches? Now difficult to see, but it is seven although not all carry water. Six are visible in this photo, taken in the early part of the last century.

I wonder where the boy sitting on the parapet is now?

*Richard Slatter Chair, Oversley Green Residents Association*



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE AT ALCESTER ACADEMY

The Mayor, Councillor Vaughan Blake, and his Consort, Mrs Kay Blake, had an interesting visit to Alcester Academy in November where they met Year 10 students participating in the Young Enterprise scheme. Students enjoyed sharing and discussing their ideas.

Young Enterprise is a national charity which aims to motivate young people to succeed in the changing world of work by equipping them with the work skills, knowledge and confidence they need.

The scheme empowers young people to discover, develop and celebrate their skills and potential. Young Enterprise believes

that the best way to learn essential life skills such as money management and entrepreneurship is by putting them into practice.



## ALLOTMENTS

Ever wanted to grow your own food?  
Combining sustainable living and great exercise!  
Community and camaraderie!

**Allotments now available at Bleachfield Street North and South sites. Hurry!**

Contact Tim at the office on 01789 766084 or email: [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk)





## REMEMBRANCE 2023

Another great turn out by Alcester on a rather dreary rainy grey Remembrance Sunday, 12 November to remember all those who had lost their lives in conflict.

The Parade started at Bleachfield Street car park then marched up the High Street to Church Green. The parade was very well supported this year - led by Alcester Royal British Legion accompanied by Alcester Victoria Silver Band, followed by serving members of HM forces and veterans, representatives of the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff, Alcester Army Cadet Force, Alcester Town Council, other Council representatives, Emergency Services, Alcester Court Leet, Alcester Churches Together, town

organisations, youth organisations, schools and junior sports clubs.

A short outdoor service was led by Reverend Katie Cross on Church Green where wreaths were laid, standards presented and lives remembered (see photos below).

The Remembrance Sunday parade was organised by Alcester Town Council in partnership with Alcester Royal British Legion and St Nicholas Church.

A short outdoor service on Church Green was also held on Armistice Day, Saturday 11 November.



L E S T  
W E  
F O R G E T





## 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](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown](https://www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown) and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/alcestertowncouncil/>

### Town Councillors Contact Details

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