

# Alcester Town Council



## Autumn Newsletter

September 2024 Issue 75

### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The summer has ended for another year, and you recall that the days were wet, dry, cold and 'scorchio' not necessarily in that order.

Looking back over the summer months I know that many of you will have attended the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Centenary Field when wreaths were laid, a new commemorative bench installed, and the beacon set ablaze. Similarly, the Armed Forces Day was well attended with posies of poppies being laid. Both days were organised by the Alcester members of the Royal British Legion.

Like me, I am sure the vast majority of townspeople enjoyed the Court Leet Medieval Market, and Family Fun Day, as well as the many and varied lunchtime concerts, the Alcester Town football tournament, the magic of the Duck race, the Roman Museum 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and for those of you lucky enough to get tickets to see Shrek Junior at the Greig Hall, a day of laughter and fun for all the family. Not forgetting the creative imagination of Oversley Green residents in designing the Scarecrows displayed around the hamlet.

The end of summer also marks the end of school holidays and the beginning of the Autumn season bringing cooler weather, reduced daylight hours days and the end of the growing season. Not all doom and gloom because we still have things to look forward to. The celebration of the Harvest Festival is always an enjoyable period as farmers and allotment holders harvest their crops, and we will all notice the beauty of the trees as the leaves turn yellow, orange, and brown.

And, just like New York, Alcester is a 'Town That Never Sleeps' so we have much to look forward to during the coming Alcester months. To name but three, the Annual Mop Fair, the Alcester 10k race, the Remembrance Day parade and service. Be sure to get your copy of the 2024 Festival & Events Calander from the Town Council to find out what else is happening in the town including when the Christmas Lights are switched on.

As Mayor and Consort, Sue and I have been privileged to attend many Civic and Local events, sharing the good news about Alcester and witnessing first-hand the work of the vast number of wonderful volunteers that give their time freely for the benefit of all age groups living in the town.

One such group is the Alcester Cricket Club located within the grounds of Ragley Hall. I went along to a training session and met some wonderful people plus a vast number of children developing their sporting skills and having a really wonderful time. Unbeknown to me I dressed in the team colours and the challenge for readers of this article is to 'Spot the Mayor' in the photo. No prizes, just a bit of fun.



*Councillor Mike Bowe, Mayor of Alcester*

## CLERKS CORNER

I am using my column this quarter to thank our Deputy Town Clerk, Sarah Duran who retired in June 2024. Sarah had worked for the Town Council since 2017, being my first recruit after I joined as Town Clerk.

Sarah clerked the Planning Committee and her attention to detail and experience has ensured that Alcester Town Council's responses on planning applications have been effective as possible.

Sarah was also the Mayor's Secretary, managing the Mayor's diary and organising events such as the Mayor Making, Civic Service and Civic Dinner always ensuring that these were memorable, well attended occasions. Visiting dignitaries regularly said that they enjoyed coming to Alcester!

Finally, Sarah was responsible for our communications and in particular, edited this newsletter. I hope that you will agree that she has done an excellent job in keeping you all informed.

Sarah will be missed by everyone at ATC and we hope that she enjoys her well earned retirement!

*Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk*



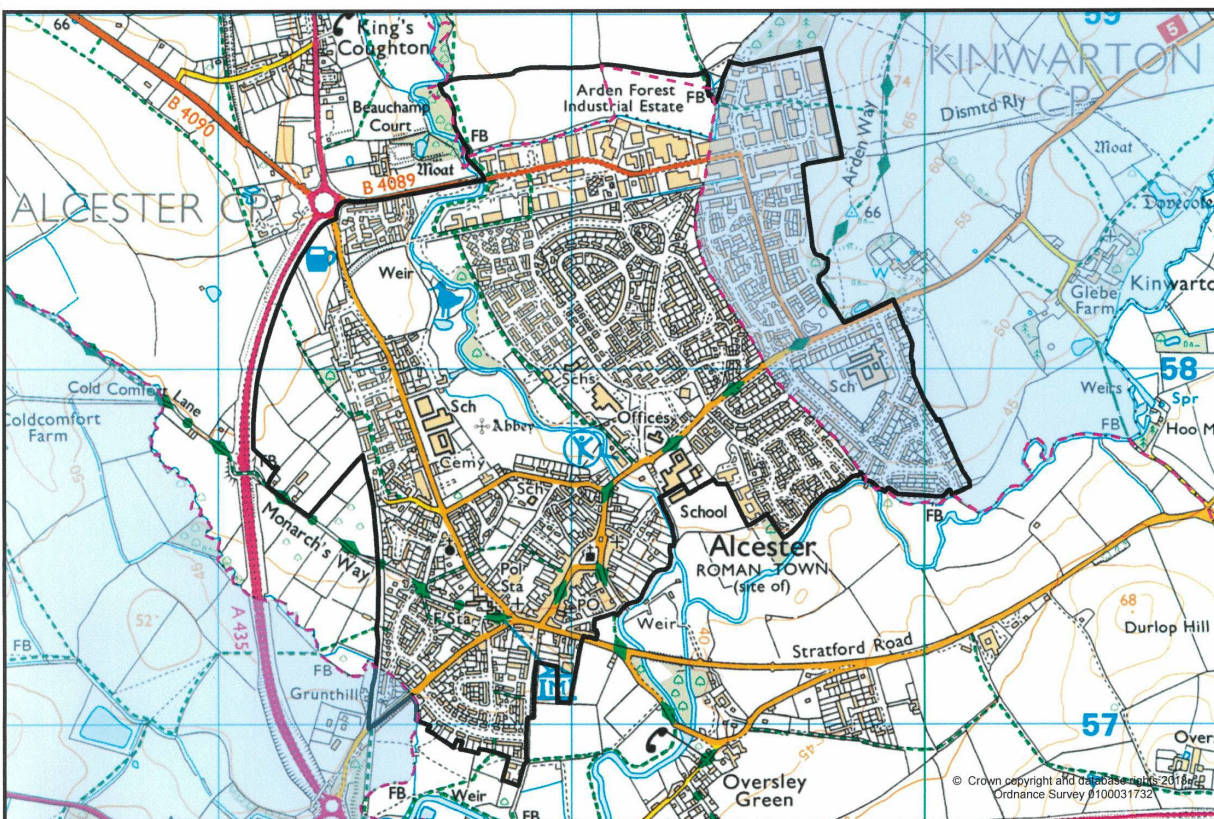
## Housing for Local People

As part of the review of the Alcester Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council Working Group is looking for small parcels of land which could be used to provide houses/flats to meet local needs.

The land would need to be within or immediately adjacent to Alcester's built-up area - which is shown edged in a black line on the map below.

In order to keep rents or purchase costs for the housing affordable, it would not be possible to pay full market value for the land but it is only by restricting the housing for local people that a planning permission for new housing within the Green Belt might be obtained. So, a landowner keen to help local people stay local wouldn't really be losing out.

If you have around 1 acre of land (0.4 ha), appropriately located in relation to Alcester's built-up area, or you know someone that does, please contact the Town Clerk for an initial discussion: [clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk) Future generations of Alcestrians will be grateful that you made that contact.



Alcester Built-Up Area Boundary

Which Council?	Topic
<p><b>Warwickshire County Council</b></p> <p>01926 410410</p> <p><a href="https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/">https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult &amp; child support, fostering</li> <li>• Library Services</li> <li>• Reporting antisocial behaviour</li> <li>• Births, deaths &amp; marriages</li> <li>• Children and family centres</li> <li>• Fire &amp; Rescue</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Gypsy and Travellers- reporting unauthorised encampments</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> <li>• Recycling centres</li> <li>• Roads, pavements and public rights of way</li> <li>• Public transport</li> <li>• Potholes- reporting</li> <li>• Schools and Special Educational Needs</li> <li>• Street lights</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stratford-on-Avon District Council</b></p> <p>01789 267575</p> <p><a href="https://www.stratford.gov.uk/">https://www.stratford.gov.uk/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refuse collection, recycling and street cleansing</li> <li>• Car parks and park &amp; ride</li> <li>• Council Tax and Non-domestic rates</li> <li>• Fly tipping- reporting</li> <li>• Food Hygiene</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Pest Control</li> <li>• Health and Safety</li> <li>• Housing advice, Housing Associations, Home Choice Plus</li> <li>• Planning applications</li> </ul>
<p><b>Alcester Town Council</b></p> <p>01789 766084</p> <p><a href="http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk">www.alcester-tc.gov.uk</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments- Allimore Lane, Bleachfield St North and South, School Road</li> <li>• Cemetery on Birmingham Road</li> <li>• Community projects- Flood Wardens, Speed Watch, Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> <li>• Eric Payne Community Centre</li> <li>• Grass cutting- Play areas (SDC cut the verges)</li> <li>• Planning applications consultee</li> <li>• Play equipment- Bleachfield St, Collins Way, Jubilee Fields, Moorfields Park.</li> <li>• Grounds maintenance on public open spaces</li> <li>• Street furniture on public open spaces</li> </ul>



My name is Kyla Brown and I am delighted to be joining ATC as Deputy Clerk from September.

I currently live in Great Alne, where I have been the Executive Officer for Great Alne Parish Council for the last 3.5 years.

I have two sons at secondary school in Alcester. Both play rugby for Alcester RFC and my husband helps coach the U13s Team.

As I enjoy the role so much, I will be splitting my working week between Great Alne Parish Council and ATC.

I am very much looking forward to learning more about my local town, looking after its residents and supporting the town councillors and wider ATC team.



## ROAD SAFETY AND SPEED AWARE WORKING GROUP

Thank you again to everyone who responded to our resident survey on road safety. We had over 100 responses with many recurring themes:

- **Speeding and Loud Vehicles:** Many residents reported issues with speeding and noisy vehicles, particularly on roads like Arden Forest Road, Birmingham Road, and Stratford Road. Suggestions included speed cameras, reduced speed limits, and traffic calming measures.
- **Illegal or Inconsiderate Parking:** Parking problems are common, especially around schools. Residents suggested better parking options, enforcement of parking restrictions, and residents-only parking schemes.
- **Traffic Calming Measures:** There is a strong demand for speed bumps, pedestrian crossings, and other traffic calming measures to improve safety.
- **General Safety Concerns:** Issues like noise pollution, dangerous driving, and the need for better road markings and signage were frequently mentioned.

Based on your feedback, the working group are exploring opportunities to roll out improvements with support from other agencies and the Police. In June the Town Council approved funding for a two-week traffic speed and volume survey on Stratford Road, with the results being a potential precursor to new traffic calming measures introduced along that stretch.

We continue to work with our schools and other local organisations in exploring tactical measures to address parking concerns especially near Birmingham Road and St Faith's Road. Many of the potential improvements are outside of the remit of the Town Council. However, with your valuable feedback we can work with all relevant bodies to improve safety on our roads.

*Councillor Andrew Foster*

## Exploring Economic Growth, Job creation and Skills Training

Alcester Town Council is exploring opportunities to support economic growth for rural businesses in Alcester and the surrounding rural community. This includes facilitating the needs of rural businesses to access local employability and skills training for young people and adults to develop skills in a particular industry or upskill to another type of work.

In close collaboration with Stratford District Council's Economic Development and Inward Investment team and Minerva Mill, a scheme is underway to create a new Rural Enterprise Hub to be located in Minerva Mill from September 2024. This will initially be a pilot programme.

### Rural Enterprise Hub – Pilot Programme Explained

#### The Brief

To create a Hub that provides a service to rural and agricultural industries within the rural landscape, fostering rural enterprise, unlocking the potential and exploring opportunities, for the rural community local businesses offering advice, material, and practical support in particular areas of interest, such as Grant Funding, Skills Training, Apprenticeships, Technological & Agricultural Innovation and Small Business Start-Ups

#### Why a pilot programme?

This pilot programme will run until March 2025 and is designed to assess the viability of an idea, to test things out on a small scale. uncover viability and scalability and enable processes and procedures to be evaluated, before knowing if it will be an option for the business.

This pilot project will help to Identify any risks and issues before committing more resources and enable an accurate budget and investment appraisal to be determined, depending on the outcome, at the conclusion of the pilot programme in March 2025.

*Councillor Mike Bowe, Mayor of Alcester*

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

It has been a busy few months filled with exciting developments and community support initiatives. I had the pleasure of reviewing sixteen fantastic applications for the £8,000 available through the Councillor Grant. I am delighted to announce the following community projects have been awarded funding:

Crafty Lunch Club, Alcester Community Fridge, The Depot Youth Club, Alcester Community Shed. Acorns, School Readiness Pilot, Warwickshire Young Carers, Alcester Bee Squared project, SPEND along with other village parish initiatives.

Our community is vibrant and full of potential, and it's an honour to support these worthy causes. Let's give a big round of applause to all these wonderful projects that will undoubtedly bring positive changes to our area!

Warwickshire County Council has secured access to a national £400M fund aimed at providing street charging for electric vehicles (EVs). I've been in discussions with our team about potential sites in Alcester and Bidford on Avon, specifically targeting areas where residents do not have off-street parking. We're working on integrating EV chargers with minimal disruption to pavements, utilising streetlights and bollards. This initiative will help our community seamlessly transition electric cars.

As 99% of my inbox is related to Highways, I wanted to urge residents to report any highways faults they encounter. This includes issues like potholes, street light problems, rights of way issues, faulty traffic lights, roadwork concerns, and blocked drains.

By reporting these issues through our website, you can help us maintain our roads, footpaths, and cycleways in top condition. Please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit>.

*County Cllr Piers Daniell*

## STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCILLORS



**UBUS:** The UBUS service has been retendered and will be replaced by a new service from the 1<sup>st</sup> September. The service is run by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) but Stratford on Avon District Council will pay £120k to ensure that the service remains for residents who cannot use public transport because of mobility issues or have limited or no public transport.



**Home Energy Grants:** Residents who do not use gas to heat their home, have a household income of under £36,000 a year, regardless of any savings, and have an EPC for their home of D, E, F or G can apply for a Home Energy Grant through Act on Energy. Call 0800 988 2881.

**Newsletter:** The District Council have a new online newsletter 'The Online View'. Residents can sign up to for information on the website.

**Station Road:** Damage done by lorries entering Station Road (a 'No Through Road' ) has been reported to the County Council and a sign requested.

**Three Tuns:** We have been in regular touch with the planning officers at the District Council about the Three Tuns. A condition of the planning permission is that work has to start by the 7th September or the permission will fail. Officers have offered to advise the architect/owner.

**15 High Street:** The state of the building and outhouses behind 15 High Street backing on to the Tuery have been reported to the Conservation team at the District Council.

*Cllrs Susan Juned (Alcester East) and Joe Harmer (Alcester West)*

## ALCESTER BREVINS

With the coming of summer, we have been able to enjoy the open air and a bottle or two of wine. For our events in June and July we were made welcome at the Welcombe Hills vineyard at Snitterfield. In June we had the annual blessing of the flowering vines, asking God to give us a fruitful harvest with a good vintage. This was led by Gill Laughlin, one of our Dames de la Duchesse Anne, the distaff side of our confrerie. Gill is a Church of England Reader and she obviously has the right connections as what started out as an iffy morning was blessed with sunshine later on.

Our return in July saw us celebrate our French connection with a boules competition celebrating Bastille Day. Twenty of us competed for the coveted trophy and none of us lost our heads. The pitch was part grass and part gravel, both with their unique characteristics to test our skill (luck?).

On both occasions we were treated to a tasty platter of cheeses and charcuterie provided by our hosts and in June they added some delicious strawberries from a neighbouring farm.

Our autumn/winter programme is taking shape and in September we are planning on visiting another vineyard. We are always pleased to welcome visitors, so please contact our Senechal, John Freeland for further details on [brevinsalcester@gmail.com](mailto:brevinsalcester@gmail.com).

David Hall



Alcester  
& Bidford

ALCESTER & BIDFORD ROTARY

It's been a busy time for us, commencing with our very successful Pimms stall at the Food Festival in May, followed by the Street Market in June. Cold weather restricted the demand for Pimms, but we had great fun dressing the stall (and ourselves) with the Medieval theme, and took first prize! We supported Alcester's Ascot organised by Mary Nash in aid of Shakespeare's Hospice, from which £200 was donated to our Rotary charities.

Our most challenging event was at Ragley Hall at the Adventure Bike Rider Festival when we sold coffee, teas and cakes on the Friday. It was the first time we have been asked to do an event on such a large scale and it was great fun to be part of the day, as well as raising over £2,500 for our charities, from which we donated funds to the bikers' charities, they are a really generous group of folk.

Donations from these events were made in August 2024. Applications for future funding should be sent to us at [alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com](mailto:alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com)



We are very proud that four of our members have been awarded the Paul Harris Award for their longstanding and unstinting contribution to Rotary, and these were celebrated at our Handover on 4 July, when our President Nigel Curtis consented to serve another year, with his Vice President Mary Nash on board. We look forward to another year of Rotary fun and fundraising.

*Kay Blake, Secretary*

## ALCESTER UNITED CHARITIES



Alcester United Charities owns and maintains the almshouses in Birmingham Road. These were built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for “needy” residents of Alcester. Nowadays these 2-bedroom cottages provide affordable housing for a single person or a couple who might otherwise struggle financially to find similar accommodation. The area for qualification has been extended to include the surrounding villages. One of the houses has become vacant and applications are invited from possible suitable residents. For more details or enquiries please contact Andrew Deeks who is the Clerk to the Trustees on 07860 648769 or email on [agdeeks@btinternet.com](mailto:agdeeks@btinternet.com).

## JUBILEE COURT

Jubilee Court Residents Social Club were awarded £500 by the Town Council as a community grant in May 2024. The Town Council received this lovely message from the committee:

“Thank you so much, that is amazing, we will really be able to go to town now with summer plants & Xmas Decorations. I'm sure all our residents will be very grateful.”



*Pictured (L to R) Cllr Mike Bowe, Cllr Lauren Martinson, Cllr Ruth Ashfield*

## STOP PRESS....

Congratulations to Cllr Ruth Ashfield and Cllr Lauren Martinson who were co-opted to the Town Council on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 following the resignations of Cllr Gavin Smithers and Cllr Erick Wilson.

Thank you to Gavin and Erick for your service to the community of Alcester.

To Ruth and Lauren - welcome to Alcester Town Council!

**LEGIONS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE**

What's the very best way to celebrate a significant anniversary?  
Ask everyone round of course!

Over 400 folk with their families came to join us on July 6th at our XXth.

There was Roman-style fun galore.

It certainly brought out the creativity side of all who got stuck in making a huge button shield, decorating a temple, painting wooden peg dolls, dressing up, meeting Roman re-enactors and so much more.

We want to thank our museum volunteers, trustees, and the incredible Library staff, for helping make it so special.

Most of all we want to thank you.

**ROMAN ALCESTER**

Find us at [romanalcester.org](http://romanalcester.org) follow us A volunteer led independent museum  
Registered Charity number 1089131



### Come and Sing with us.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September Alcester Singers will begin preparing for the 2024 Christmas Concert.

Rehearsals take place each Thursday in the hall of the Catholic Church in Priory Road, Alcester 7.30pm to 9pm.

We are an open and friendly mixed voice choir with approximately 50 members. Both new and experienced singers are welcome. We do not require an audition. We would be particularly pleased to welcome additional tenor voices.

Our Christmas concert will feature a short work called 'Mary, Mother' by British composer Bob Chilcott and extracts from Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols, the choir will be accompanied by harp and piano for these pieces. There will also be a selection of traditional Christmas favourites. Come along for the pleasure of learning new pieces and meeting weekly to sing.

The Christmas Concert is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 4pm in St Nicholas Church, Alcester.

Contact [events@alcestersingers.co.uk](mailto:events@alcestersingers.co.uk) [www.alcestersingers.co.uk](http://www.alcestersingers.co.uk) or visit us on Facebook



**BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**ALCESTER IN BLOOM**

**Bring your own food/drink**

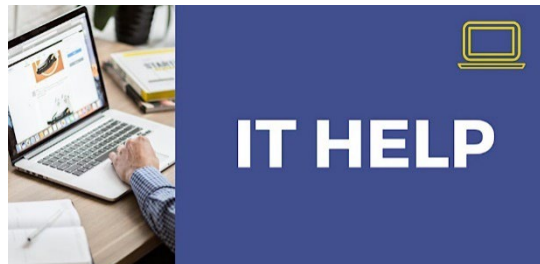
**At The Eric Payne Community Centre**

**A QUIZ NIGHT tables of 6**

**Tickets £8 each**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> 7.p.m. prompt start**

**Tickets from Maggie Payne or any Committee Member**



Get help using a computer or your own device every Thursday morning, 10-12pm. Contact Alcester Library to book your place by calling 0300 555 8171, or speak to a member of staff in the library. Please do not use the online booking option.

Build your confidence

Learn new skills

Bring your own device or use a library computer

## HEDGES



A common source of complaints to the Town Council at this time of the year, are overgrown hedges and trees blocking the pavement. If any part of your hedge borders a pavement or footpath, it is YOUR responsibility to keep it maintained and trimmed back to the point that it doesn't encroach over the pavement or risk injury to passers-by.

**August to March** is often the best time to trim your hedges before the birds start to nest and while there are still no new leaves. You should then not cut hedges from March onwards until the following autumn when chicks have left the nest.

## 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)

# Summer Holiday Fun!!!

Time Together "Keeping Children Busy on a Budget" – August 2024



SPEND trip to the Riding for the Disabled Association – August 2024



## ALCESTER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

January 2025 will see the celebration of 100 years of Alcester Women's Institute (WI), the group meet every month and have been able to continue meeting during the difficult years of the pandemic via zoom meetings and outdoor meetings and now meet every second Thursday of the month in the Lounge of the Greig Hall at 7:30pm.

The Alcester WI are a very friendly and welcoming group with a very inviting atmosphere. Our members pride themselves on being supportive, kind and ready to lend a helping hand. We offer a wide range of activities to suit all interests from crafting, guest speakers, book club and days out. During 2024 our programme has included various guest speakers giving talks on subjects such as: "Threads Through Time" –The Creative Life of a refugee from Nazi Germany, "Running a Smallholding", a demonstration on how to use a Defibrillator, making a mosaic craft session, at our Christmas meeting the Aston Cantlow Handbell ringers will attend to provide us with a evening of entertainment, hopefully we will be able to have a go ourselves. In January 2025 we will be out for dinner at the Arrow Mill to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> year.



All members are looking forward to this celebration and we will report back with photos on how the event went.

*Joan Hughes (President)  
Alcester Women's Institute*

## WINDOW WANDERLAND 2025

Advance notice that Window Wanderland is back for 2025!  
This year it will run from 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January inclusive.



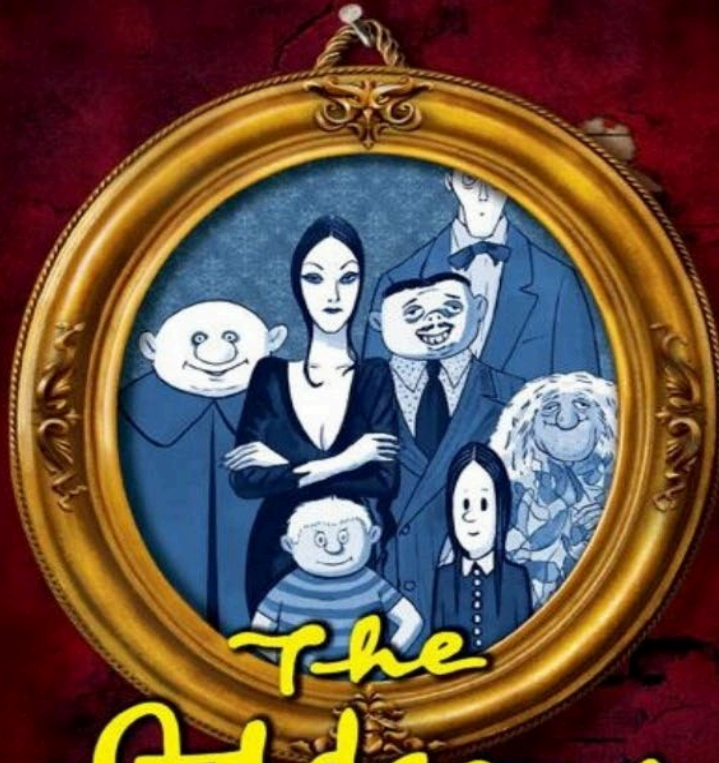
You can register to join in via this QR code:



ALCESTER MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

noda  
Be inspired by outdoor theatre



# The Addams Family

A NEW MUSICAL  
COMEDY

Book by

MARSHALL BRICKMAN and RICK ELICE

Music and Lyrics by

ANDREW LIPPA

Based on Characters Created by

CHARLES ADAMS

**PALACE THEATRE, REDDITCH**  
**9TH - 12TH OCTOBER 2024**



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

Originally produced on Broadway by Stuart Oken, Roy Furman, Michael Leavitt, Five Cent Productions, Stephen Schuler, Decca Theatricals, Scott M. Delman, Stuart Ditsky, Terry Allen Kramer, Stephanie P. McClelland, James L. Nederlander, Eva Price, Jam Theatricals/Mary LuRoffe, Pittsburgh CLO/Gutterman-Swinsky, Vivek Tiwary/Gary Kaplan, The Weinstein Company/Clarence, LLC, Adam Zotovich/Tribe Theatricals  
By Special Arrangement with Elephant Eye Theatrical

"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW).  
[www.theatricalrights.co.uk](http://www.theatricalrights.co.uk)

We have been very busy rehearsing for the spooktacular show - The Addams Family! After our award winning show 'Legally Blonde' in 2023, The Addams Family, a New Musical Comedy, is a fun show for everyone too! Just a few weeks before Halloween we will hit The Palace Theatre stage in Redditch - 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October. So get into the spirit and book those tickets.

Tickets available from The Palace Theatre directly or via our own ticket hotline - 01789 763446.

## Bee Squared



Bee part of our brand new community project

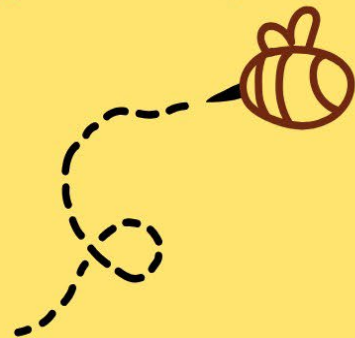
Bees and other insects are essential to life as we know it. They use a huge amount of energy to collect nectar, pollinating plants in the process.

With modern towns and gardens, bees must search for longer distances to re-fuel. We would like you to help them out by creating bee-friendly flowers in you town.

We are giving away FREE wildflower seeds to plant in any 1 metre square area so you can watch them grow into beautiful, and tasty, flowers. You can grow them in the ground, in pots, borders or anywhere you have some space.

Collect your free seeds from the following collection points -

Waitrose  
Library  
Camilla Jones  
Wild Bunch  
St. Nicholas Church



Or come along on Tuesday 17th September between 3 - 6 pm to The Eric Payne Community Centre and enjoy a demonstration from 'All Things Rural' on how to get the best from your seeds.

For more information contact:

Wendy Sherwood, Tel: 01789 766084

Email: [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk)



# THE Greig Hall

AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS - MAKE SURE YOU BOOK EARLY!

**SEP 07** **ANCESTORS**  
Presented by Professor Alice Roberts



**SEP 10** **PRIZE BINGO NIGHT**  
For the Mayor's Charity



**SEP 14** **Giltz & Glamour Gala Event**  
Dress to Impress!



**SEP 21** **LADIES' DAY**  
Loads of fun and dancing for charity



**SEP 26 -28** **Beauty & the Beast**  
The Broadway Musical!



**OCT 05** **SOUL DEPARTMENT**  
Back by Popular Demand!



**OCT 12** **BIG BREAKFAST**  
From Alcester & Bidford Rotary



# THE Greig Hall

**OCT 24 - 26** **CARRIE - THE MUSICAL**  
The girl with telekinetic powers



**OCT 31-NOV 2** **SIX - Teen Edition**  
Featuring the six wives of Henry VIII



**NOV 09** **GENESIS - Visible Touch**  
The Ultimate Collins-era Tribute Show



**NOV 16** **ART IN ALCESTER**  
Exhibition of Fine Art from Local Artists



**NOV 24** **The REDDITCH ORCHESTRA**  
Celebrating their 75th Year.



**NOV 26** **ALCESTER ROCK ACADEMY**  
New Bands Rock Music



**NOV 30** **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**  
Gifts Galore from Local Makers



More details of all events:  
[www.greighall.org.uk](http://www.greighall.org.uk)

## STAY SAFE IN THE WATER



Enjoy water safely.  
Don't jump into the unknown.



### ADVANCE NOTICE: MAYOR'S ANNUAL CIVIC AWARDS 2024

The Mayor's Awards will be open for nominations in November 2024 culminating in an evening of celebration at the Greig Hall in January 2025.

Categories include Young Person, Community Organisation, Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year.



## GOODBYE!

We say a fond farewell to Ali Buchanan (formerly Mainey), Community Development Worker for over 16 years at Warwickshire County Council and a familiar face in Alcester, who has an exciting new job at The Fred Winter Centre in Stratford upon Avon.

Ali was instrumental in setting up, fundraising and organising the annual family day trips to the seaside including the recent trip to Barry Island.

She has supported the Crafty Lunch Club, the Holiday Lunch Club and the Community Fridge amongst many others.

The community of Alcester will certainly miss her but we wish her the best of luck in her new role.

*Wendy Sherwood, Health & Wellbeing Coordinator*

## FLOODING

As we approach the Autumn, it is a good time to look at preparations you may like to consider in case of flooding near to your property. The Town Council is planning to set up a new Flood Action Group. There will be more information to follow but if you are interested in joining, please contact [administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk)



## COUNCILLORS VISIT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

In July, eight members of Alcester Town Council and the Clerk, Vanessa Lowe, enjoyed a visit to St Nicholas Church. This was at the invitation of the Friends of the church and they were given a guided tour by the Chair, David Moulson.

Following a change in legislation under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill passed by Parliament last December and new guidance from the National Association of Local Councils, town and parish councils are now allowed to contribute towards the care and maintenance of churches. This reversed an Act of 1894 when life was different, more people went to church and fundraising was easier.














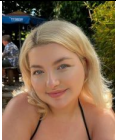


In view of this, the Councillors wanted to inform themselves of the heritage aspects of this Grade 11\* listed building, which occupies such a prominent position in the town, and of its contents such as the nationally important painted Benefaction Board made in 1632, the superb 17<sup>th</sup> century carved alabaster tomb of Fulke Greville, the stained-glass windows and Queen Anne Library cupboard.

Katie Cross, the Rector, also came and was able to explain to the Councillors that the church receives no funding from the Church of England and has to raise all the money required to maintain and repair the building and contents from, mostly, local sources. Katie also told them of the important work that the church carries out to support the community such as the Food Bank in addition to regular services and christenings, weddings and funerals.

The town can be rightly proud of this historic building and contents, which are much admired by its many visitors, and, hopefully through its Councillors, will be prepared to help look after it for future generations.

*David Moulson. Chair of the Friends of St Nicholas Church*

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