

Alcester Town Council



Winter Newsletter

December 2025 Issue 80

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Well, another winter is now upon us. A cold season, but it can be a time of comfort, relaxation and a time to spend with your family and friends. I can't believe how quickly it has come around. I spoke to you all in the Autumn Newsletter about everything I had either done or experienced during the summer months as your Mayor; a period which was extremely busy for both me and my wife, Lesley. The last few months have proven to be equally busy, with many events attended by us both.



So where has the focus been during the last few months? We have seen the continuation of our push to make Alcester a Neurodivergent Friendly Town and many businesses in the town and beyond have taken a pledge to make their premises a friendly place to visit if you, your family or your friends have to live life with any form of neurodiversity. This has been a wonderful thing to be involved with, and we will continue for the foreseeable future making sure that as many of our businesses, community organisations, schools and sports clubs both understand and fully support this initiative.

Many hours have been consumed on raising funds for our nominated charity, Alcester Day Care. For those who don't know much about the charity, Alcester Day Care provides facilities and support not just to people with memory issues or dementia, but also their carers, family and friends. It is an absolute privilege to be working with this charity. We continue to make progress on the delivery of 100 coffee mornings which will run through to April 2026. I would strongly encourage you to run your own coffee morning and assist us in raising funds for our chosen charity. No coffee morning can be too small! Just invite some

friends or family round and get them to make a donation. It's just a wonderful thing to do for such a great cause.

Many of you will have attended the Remembrance Sunday parade and service on 9 November (more on this later in the newsletter). For those that came along, I would like to thank you for joining us on such a special day of commemoration.

It's been great to see new businesses establishing in Alcester. In the High Street, we have the new JT Bookshop, which has been really well received and supported: I strongly encourage you to go and have a browse if you can. Also, I had the pleasure of opening a new fitness studio, Fin Fit, in the centre of town. I also attended the official opening of Browns at Oversley Services following significant refurbishment.

In terms of events leading up to Christmas, don't forget to come along to St. Nicholas Night on Saturday 6th December and enjoy the parade, stalls and fireworks during the evening. Lesley and I both plan to be there.

On behalf of Alcester Town Council, we send you the warmest of wishes for the Christmas period and we look forward to serving you all in the New Year.



Councillor David Henderson, Mayor of Alcester

CLERK'S CORNER

At the Full Council meeting on 4th November 2025, the Mayor, Cllr David Henderson, signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of the Town Council.

The Armed Forces Covenant, which was launched in 2015, is a nationwide promise to ensure that members of the armed forces community – serving personnel, veterans and their families – are not disadvantaged by their service.

By signing the Covenant, the Town Council pledged to ensure that those who serve or have served are treated fairly and with respect in the community they defend.

The meeting was attended by Mike Gittus, BEM, JP, the President of the Alcester Branch of the Royal British Legion who thanked the Mayor and Councillors for signing the Covenant and for the continuing support provided for Alcester members of the Armed Forces, both past and present.

Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk



ALCESTER WELCOMES NEW TOWN COUNCILLOR

We are delighted to announce that a new Town Councillor was co-opted at Full Council in September 2025.

Joining the team of councillors representing Alcester West is Sharon Bardha. We are sure you will extend a warm welcome to Sharon as she settles in to her new role.

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel: 01789 766084

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

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

Facilities Manager: office@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Planning: administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk

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

Website: www.alcester-tc.gov.uk

MOOR FIELDS CHARITY APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

The Moor Fields Charity was set up for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Alcester and the upkeep and repair of the Parish Church of St. Nicholas and its churchyard. The Charity is able to award grants to individuals or organisations (but not usually to businesses) for the benefit of the town. Applications for grants of up to £2,500 will be considered and the distribution of the funds will depend on the number of applications and the funds available at the time. In the past we have given grants to Schools, Oversley Green Residents' Association, and Alcester Town Council.

Applications should reach us before **1st October** for the **November** meeting and before **1st May** for our **June** meeting. Application forms are available from any trustee or the Clerk to the Trustees at moorfieldsclerk@gmail.com.

Moor Fields Charity No 228821



ROMAN ALCESTER MUSEUM

Councillor Jo Andrews took her four-year-old granddaughter to enjoy the annual Roman crafts morning hosted by the Roman Alcester Museum during October half term. The Roman crafts morning has become an annual event and is aimed at children aged between four and ten years. Delivered exclusively by volunteers, the session surpassed all expectations! During the morning several Roman themed activities were on offer, including colouring, paper bracelet making,

reconstructing Roman coins, and creating a paper copy of the Roman "glycon" snake god. Jo commented, 'We left after a couple of hours, armed with a carrier bag containing home-made Roman 'artefacts'. Apparently, my granddaughter was talking about the event to her parents and friends for the next two days! Certainly, the Roman helmet she made (and wore for the rest of the day) turned heads when we visited the High Street for our lunch.'

For more information and opening times for the museum, see <https://romanalcester.org>.



STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCILLORS



Community Grant Scheme - Stratford on Avon District Council has recently announced its Community Grant Scheme 2025 to allow Town and Parish Councils, charities and community groups to apply for a share of £350,000 to support community assets such as community centres, village halls, parks and recreation areas, and outdoor spaces following the 80th anniversary year of VE and VJ day. More details can be found on the website: [Community](#)

[Grant Scheme 2025 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#).

Deadlines for applications are 31st January for Small Grants and 27th February for Large Grants.

Climate Change and Nature Fund - Alcester Town Council has been awarded £10,000 as part of the Climate Change and Nature Fund. It was a positive application, and we look forward to seeing the results.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - 15 projects have been recommended for support, including contributions to natural flood management in Alcester and support for Alcester Academy.

Three Tuns (Cllr Tom Ballinger) - Since my by-election win in May 2025, I've taken my role as District Councillor extremely seriously. The state of The Three Tuns has been top of my list to get sorted for my residents and the town - it has been an eyesore for many years and totally unacceptable.

I've had concerns about potential health and safety issues and weed growth. Following conversations with officers in SDC and myself, the weeds have now been cut back.

Officers are working closely with the new owners on their short-term and long-term plans for the site. I look forward to seeing what the new owners will do, as this is an important building for the town. I will continue to share information once it is available on my Cllr Facebook page (cllrtomballinger) or you can email me on Tom.Ballinger@stratford-dc.gov.uk. I am optimistic that this will be the start of some progress. As we lead up to the festive season, we hope you stay safe and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us.

Cllrs Tom Ballinger (Alcester West) and Susan Juned (Alcester East)

 The countryside charity
Warwickshire

BECOME A HEDGEROW HERO WINTER 2026

England's hedgerows offer a valuable habitat for wildlife, amongst many other benefits and CPRE are working to protect them and create more. Not only are they beautiful, they also store carbon and help slow climate change.

We are looking for volunteers to join us, and get involved with hedge planting this winter. We will be running planting days during January 2026. We aim to plant approximately 200 metres of hedges in Alcester.

If this is of interest, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Wendy Sherwood
info@alcester-tc.gov.uk
<https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/information/natural-environment/>





NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION FOR UNDER 18'S

Calling all nature lovers, photographers and curious explorers! Join our Nature Photography Challenge to discover, record and celebrate Alcester's amazing wildlife and habitats

OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 - AUGUST 2026

We are looking for photos of wildlife, plants, trees, flowers, birds, insects or landscapes from around Alcester

No need for a fancy camera - smartphone entries welcome

Submit your best photos and the winners will feature in the 2027 Alcester in the Wild Calendar

FOR FULL INSTRUCTIONS PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW OR USE THE QR CODE ABOVE

<https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/information/natural-environment/>

ALCESTER IN THE WILD - A YEAR THROUGH YOUR LENS





REMEMBRANCE 2025

The weather held for our Remembrance Parade and Service on 9 November 2025, as we remembered all those who have lost their lives through conflict.

The parade was led by Alcester Royal British Legion accompanied by Alcester Victoria Silver Band, followed by serving members of HM forces and veterans, Lord Hertford, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Alcester Army Cadet Force, Alcester Town Council, Emergency Services, Alcester Court Leet, Alcester Churches Together, town organisations, youth organisations, schools and junior sports clubs. 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 was led by Revd Katie Cross on Church Green where wreaths were laid and standards presented.

A second outdoor service on Church Green was also held on Armistice Day, Tuesday 11 November 2025. We enjoyed watching the BBC coverage of our Armistice Day service on Midlands Today.



'When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.'

Kohima Epitaph

THE GREEN PAGE - CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FLOOD PANEL

WE'RE RECRUITING



ARE YOU WILLING TO STEP UP,
MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND
BECOME A FLOOD WATCHER?

Unlike the egrets watching out for rising river levels, you won't be required to stand in the river. All roles are **RISK FREE**, do not involve entering flood water, are observation only and some of the roles can be done from home, including via bridge monitoring cameras.

No experience required as training will be given, just a level headed disposition, a sense of responsibility and a willingness to help. Open to all ages and genders, so whether you're young, middle-aged, or re-energised pensioners, you are all welcome to join the team.

OPEN POSITIONS / • Road Drain Surveillance Watchers • River Flow Watchers • Flood Watchers
Data Compiler • Gunnings & Oversley Bridges Surge Observers

2-3hrs of your time, once every 1-3 months is all that's needed.

WE'RE RECRUITING IMMEDIATELY!

Email: administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk **Tel:** 01789 766084 **Text:** 07775500993 or 07581029506

Hedgehogs in Your Garden – A Community Evening

Date: Tuesday 24th February 2026

Time: 6:30pm – 8pm

Location: Eric Payne Community Centre

Did you know hedgehogs are in serious decline across the UK?
Come and find out how you can help these prickly garden visitors thrive in Alcester!

- Talk by Haven 4 Wildlife on hedgehog behaviour and threats
- How to make your garden hedgehog friendly
- Demonstrations of hedgehog homes, feeding stations and tunnels
- Free hedgehog highway for everyone
- Activities for children
- Hot drinks and cakes



Hedgehog Evening

Alcester Connected for Climate and Nature

<https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/information/natural-environment/>



RAAR

RIVER ARROW & ALNE REVIVAL

We are local people working together to create healthier rivers, richer wildlife, and stronger, happier communities.

Join us!
Scan the QR code to find out how you can get involved.
Or email:
riverarrowvolunteers@gmail.com

ALCESTER DAY CARE – THE MAYOR’S NOMINATED CHARITY 2025-2027

So far this year, fundraising for a new day care centre for people with dementia and their carers has reached more than £4,000 in a little over two months from coffee mornings alone.

Councillor David Henderson’s call for 100 ‘coffee and cake mornings’ during his year as the Mayor of Alcester, has been taken up with enthusiasm. Ten events have already been held at locations including Great Alne Park, Jubilee Court and Alcester Academy with more to follow.

The Mayor commented, “The response from the Alcester community has been fantastic, and we’re confident we’ll raise even more.”

Plans for the new Day Care Centre involve refurbishing and extending Orchard House near the Greig Leisure Centre on Kinwarton Road, at an estimated cost of £800,000. It will offer customised facilities to help those with dementia and their loved ones. Currently, the day centre operates three days a week at the Baptist Church in Henley Street. People with dementia are looked after by staff, while carers take a well-deserved break.

Councillor Henderson jointly hosted a Cocktail Masterclass in November with the Earl of Yarmouth and St Maur. The fundraising campaign has future plans for a quiz night and a Burns Night supper in January. And next year’s mayor, Councillor Gill Forman, has promised to carry on the campaign as her designated Mayor’s Charity when she takes on the office of Mayor in 2026.

If you wish to get involved in the campaign, contact and register on 01789 765971 and leave your name, telephone number and email together with the planned location and date.

Details are on info@alcesterdaycare.org or follow on Facebook.

Donations are always welcome.



Mayor’s Civic Awards 2025

Nominations Required for the following Six categories

- Young Person of the Year
- Community Organisation of the Year
- Business of the Year
- Citizen of the Year
- Initiative of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year

**Nominations are open from
Monday 24th November to Friday 9th January 2026**

**Presentations will be made at an
Awards Evening on Thursday 5th February 2026**

**For more information and nomination forms
see <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk>**



Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

Pre-Submission Consultation: 15 December 2025 - 30 January 2026

Introduction

The Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan was adopted in July 2021. It is subject to a review every 5 years. The Plan contains planning policies which are important to the local community and which the planning authority take into account when deciding on planning applications.

The decision to undertake a review of the Plan was publicised in September 2023. In January 2024 a Steering Committee was formed comprising residents, business and community organisation representatives, and Town Councillors. That Committee has reviewed the exiting Plan and proposed changes. Some of these changes update the Plan to align with updates to higher level plans and references to other documents. There are also some changes to existing policies. The version of the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan showing all the highlighted changes, and a clean version can be found on the relevant Town Council website page using the QR code here: –



A reference copy of the Plan is also available in Alcester Library.

Have your say!

We now wish to consult residents on the policy changes which are summarised below. We seek your feedback. Please complete the form below and return it to Alcester Town Council, Globe House, Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DZ or alternatively, use the QR code above to access the consultation documents. The deadline is **30 January 2026**.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES

HOUSING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Policy HBE 1 – Residential development within the Built Up Area Boundary – AMENDED

A Housing Survey indicated that affordable housing is in short supply so it is proposed to add to this policy a statement that the use of small sites to address this shortfall would be encouraged.

Policy HBE 5 - Specialist accommodation – DELETED

It is proposed to delete this policy. Since the existing Plan was made some specialist accommodation has been built. Deleting the policy does not mean that applications for new specialist accommodation will not be supported but each application would be considered on its merits and against compliance with other plan policies.

Policy HBE 6 - Healthy living – DELETED

It is proposed to delete this policy which aims to ensure all developments protect occupants' health. These requirements are now covered by other planning provisions and building regulations.

Policy HBE7 - Electric car charging points – DELETED

This policy requires all new houses to have charging points. It is proposed to delete this policy which has been superseded by higher level policies which require charging points.

Policy HBE 9 - Public realm – AMENDED

This policy seeks to make public areas more attractive. A new proposed requirement is that all development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how design has been influenced by the need to plan positively to minimise crime. Developers should achieve Secured By Design silver level certification.

Another proposed change to this policy adds that public realm includes street furniture such as litter and dog bins, benches and noticeboards. Recent experience of new build developments has shown the need for this change.

ECONOMY

Policy EC 1 - Development with the Town Centre – AMENDED

This policy supports development which enhances and supports the vitality of the Town Centre. An addition to the policy is proposed to state a preference for reusing existing commercial premises. This is to retain a compact, sustainable and attractive Town Centre.

It is often difficult to find a parking space in the Town Centre so it is also proposed to support additional parking provision and improved signage.

Policy EC 3 - Supporting business start-up – PART DELETED

It is proposed to delete the part of the policy which refers to supporting residential developments which include specific home office space. This is no longer required; working from home is now more common-place and residents use suitable space if they have no home office.

Policy EC 4 – Employment land changes of use and mixed use development – AMENDED

This policy supports changes in employment use to provide a mix of employment and residential. The proposal is to add that such support will be provided only if the residential part is secondary. This is to ensure that employment stays the major use of the site.

Policy EC 5 – Support for commercial development -AMENDED

This policy supports commercial development that demonstrates direct benefits to the area and promote the use of local workforce and products. The policy states that adequate parking should be provided. To reduce car journeys it is proposed to add to this policy that retail development outside the Town Centre should be accessible by footpaths, cycle ways and public transport.

Policy EC 6 – Education and childcare provision – AMENDED

This policy supports development proposals for new or extensions to education and childcare facilities. To reduce car journeys and parking issues it is proposed to add to this policy that such developments should be accessible by appropriate public transport.

Policy EC 7 – Further and adult education and training – AMENDED

This policy supports the development of further and adult education facilities and requires them to be accessible by footpath and cycle ways. To reduce car journeys and parking issues it is proposed to add that new facilities should be accessible by public transport.

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy TI 1 – New development and connectivity – AMENDED

This policy requires residential developments of ten or more units to provide connectivity to existing public networks. It is proposed to extend the policy to commercial development.

Policy TI2 – Telecommunication – AMENDED

This policy supports new and enhanced telecommunications development subject to certain factors. It is proposed to add that there is a preference for underground cabling, which is less obtrusive and does not require poles, rather than overhead cabling.

Policy TI3 – High speed broadband – DELETE

This policy requires all new development to include high speed broadband. It is proposed that this is deleted because Alcester now has superfast broadband.

COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND WELL-BEING

Policy CLW 1 – Community and leisure facilities development – AMENDED

This policy supports development proposals which improve existing community or leisure facilities. A list of the existing facilities in the neighbourhood area has been added for clarification. It includes sporting facilities, play areas, and community buildings.

Policy CLW2 – Enhancing access to and utilisation of open green spaces – AMENDED

It is proposed to add that access consideration should be given to cyclists – currently it only mentions wheelchair user and pedestrians.

Since the existing plan was made access to Oversley Wood has been limited by the Forestry Commission, so it is added as a space that access to would be supported.

Policy CLW 3 - Health provision – AMENDED

This policy supports any development that creates or enhances facilities for mental or physical health provision. It is proposed to add that any such development must be in an accessible location.

Policy CLW 4 – Allotments and growing spaces – AMENDED

Part of this policy states that any development that would result in the loss of an existing allotment space would not be supported. It is proposed to delete this because under Policy NE3, below, existing allotments have been added as Local Green Spaces which will give them greater protection. The second part of the policy supporting new allotments will be retained.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Policy NE 2 – Biodiversity – AMENDED

This policy supports developments that minimise impact on biodiversity and provide net gains, but the policy does not set a minimum. It is proposed to add that development, unless exempt, will not be supported unless it provides at least 10% net gain and above that level will be encouraged where possible.

Policy NE 3 – Local Green Spaces – AMENDED

It is proposed that the following additional sites, which are well used by residents, are made Local Green Spaces.

This gives them greater protection from future development:

LGS 12 Land adjoining Old Stratford Rd	LGS 16 Bleachfield St allotments South
LGS 13 Alcester Park Green Space	LGS 17 School Road allotments
LGS 14 The Bowling Green	LGS 18 Allimore Lane allotments
LGS 15 Bleachfield St allotments North	LGS 19 Alcester Park allotments

ALCESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW - CONSULTATION FORM

Please complete this to let us know what you think about the proposed policy changes.

If you agree with all the changes please tick here:

☐

If you wish to feedback on each policy separately, please tick the appropriate Agree or Disagree

HOUSING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

		Agree	Disagree
HBE 1	Residential development in the Built-Up Area Boundary		
HBE 5	Specialist accommodation		
HBE 6	Healthy living		
HBE 7	Electric car charging points		
HBE 9	Public Realm		

ECONOMY

		Agree	Disagree
EC 1	Development of the Town Centre		
EC 3	Supporting business Start-up		
EC 4	Employment land change of use		
EC 5	Support for commercial development		
EC 6	Education and childcare provision		
EC 7	Further and adult education & training		

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

		Agree	Disagree
TI 1	New development and connectivity		
TI 2	Telecommunication		
TI 3	High speed broadband		

COMMUNITY LEISURE AND WELL-BEING

		Agree	Disagree
CLW 1	Community and leisure facilities development		
CLW 2	Enhancing access to public open green space		
CLW 3	Health provision		
CLW 4	Allotments and growing spaces		

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

		Agree	Disagree
NE 2	Biodiversity		
NE 3	Local Green Spaces		

Please explain here why you disagree with any proposed changes. Please continue on another sheet if necessary.

Please return this form to Alcester Town Council, Globe House, Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DZ by 30 January 2026 or email: administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk

ALCESTER FOOD FESTIVAL GRANT SCHEME SUPPORTS LOCAL GOOD CAUSES



The Alcester Food Festival has once again given back to the community that makes it so special, with a series of grants awarded to local charities and community groups through its annual grant scheme. This year's recipients include Alcester Youth Choir, Alcester Youth Project, Arden Food Bank, Alcester in Bloom, Jubilee Court

Resident's Association, The Crafty Lunch Club, and Young Minds Matter – all organisations that make a real difference to the lives of local people.

The grants are funded by proceeds from the hugely popular Alcester Food Festival, which draws thousands of visitors to the town each year to enjoy a celebration of local food, drink and community spirit.

Festival organisers said they were proud to support such a wide range of good causes. "Every penny raised at the Food Festival goes straight back into our community," said a spokesperson. "These groups do amazing work, and it's wonderful to see festival funds helping them continue their efforts."

The next Alcester Food Festival, happening on Saturday 16th May 2026, promises to be another highlight of the town's calendar; combining delicious food with a shared sense of pride in the community it serves.

OVERSLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Do you know a wheelchair user who would love to explore Oversley Woods?

A recent post in the OGRAnet WhatsApp group brought attention to a troubling incident: a wheelchair user became trapped inside the western gate of the woods. Since the closure of the car park, both entrances have been secured with metal gates that unfortunately restrict wheelchair access. The individual had entered via Exhall, where access remains possible, but was unable to exit through the western gate. Thankfully, a member of the group knew the padlock code and was able to arrange a quick, safe release. The incident, however, has highlighted a broader issue - how to ensure inclusive access to one of our most beautiful natural spaces. Forestry England has responded by confirming that while both gates are padlocked, they are willing to share the code for the western gate with registered disabled visitors. If you or someone you know qualifies and would like to obtain the code, please contact Richard Boles at Forestry England on 07801 910983.

While the spotlight of the upcoming BBC series *The Hairdresser Mysteries* has largely been on Alcester High Street, Oversley Green has quietly played a grislier role behind the scenes with two local houses being transformed into crime scenes for the show.

We eagerly await the premiere of the first series in the new year—keep an eye out for familiar sights!

Richard Slatter, Chair, Oversley Green Residents Association

ALCESTER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Alcester WI are a group of women from a variety of backgrounds who meet together on a regular basis to hear an interesting mix of speakers, partake in activities and enjoy each other's company.



In September, we had a wonderful visit to Hellens Manor near Ledbury – an historic building and interesting gardens where we enjoyed an informative tour and afternoon tea. In October, we had one of our regular coffee morning outings to Hillers. Also in October, a few of us went to the Warwickshire Federation AGM at Stoneleigh. We listened to some really inspirational speakers, including television presenter Sameena Ali-Khan and Denise Nurse, a lawyer and more widely known for presenting 'Escape to the Country'. Highlights of the day for us were being presented with our 100-year certificate, being awarded the Lane Cup for being



the best table centrepiece made from re-cycled materials, and highly commended for the 2025 Chair's Challenge.

If you would like to join us, we meet usually on 2nd Thursday of the month at the Greig Hall at 7.30pm. Guests are always very welcome at our meetings. Our calendar for the start of 2026 includes:

- January 8th - speaker Jo Haven on 'The Secret Life of Trees'
- February 12th - Sian Love – printer and artist
- March 12th - speaker on mudlarking on the Thames

For further information contact our secretary Jackie Walsh – 07775975316 jaewal@hotmail.co.uk

Jenny Cox (joint President Alcester Women's Institute)



The choir's new season began with the first rehearsal on 4th September 2025. We are delighted to have welcomed new members who from the outset have contributed to the to the choir's vitality.

The choir is reaching the closing stages of its preparations for the Christmas concert on Saturday 13th December. Our Musical Director Victor Wong has chosen a creative selection of music for the concert including the classical choral pieces *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Vaughan Williams and the first movement of a *Magnificat* by the American composer Taylor Scott Davis. These pieces are complemented by both traditional and new Christmas songs and carols to complete the concert programme.

The baritone soloist Paul Mocroft will once again sing with the choir, and the audience will be invited to join in with singing well known and loved Christmas Carols.

Alcester Singers are pleased once again to launch the local festive period and look forward to welcoming you to our concert:

Alcester Singers Christmas Concert. Saturday 13th December at 4pm.

St Nicholas Church, Alcester.

Tickets £10. Under 14s free.

Festive Refreshments during the interval.

Tickets from Humphries Shoe Shop Alcester; from choir members; or on the door.

www.alcestersingers.co.uk



Both Alcester and Bidford Charity Breakfasts were well supported by our local communities, and thanks to our hardworking friends, volunteers and our generous suppliers, we were able to serve 198 full English Breakfasts in Bidford and 254 in Alcester, giving us funds available to donate to our local charities and organisations. A list of the donees will be published and we are delighted to provide support to so many worthy causes.



We had fun times with the annual skittles challenge from Redditch Kingfisher Rotary, when we swept the board to win both the challenge cup and the killer round. It was a lovely sociable evening and our thanks to John Scott for organising.



Look out for us on St. Nicholas Night, 6 December, with Santa's Grotto in the Town Hall; and after Christmas we'll be hosting our Youth Debates competition in conjunction with Stratford Rotary, with schools from both towns competing in both junior and senior categories. The winner of each will go forward to the District competition.

Coming up on 7 February at the Town Hall will be an up-market jumble sale in aid of Arden Foodbank, our President Vaughan's chosen charity this year, so put the date in your diary and come along to grab a bargain.

Any information about our forthcoming events and how you can join in can be found on our website www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk, or email us at alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com, including for any requests for funding.

Kay Blake, Secretary

MAKING AN IMPACT FOR WORLD POLIO DAY!

Rotary GB&I Support Centre staff, local Club Members, the Mayor of Alcester and family members, all met up at Alcester Community Orchard on 24th October to celebrate World Polio Day. As well as raising awareness of Rotary's global campaign to end polio, the event was the latest in our series of Impact Days, developing inclusive volunteering activities to support local community projects. During the course of a glorious autumnal morning, more than 3,500 crocus corms were planted near the main path and around the trees in the Alcester Community Orchard.



The outdoor exercise gave everyone a healthy appetite for cakes and hot drinks back at Rotary's Support Centre afterwards! A plinth will shortly be installed at the spot to tell residents about Rotary's work and explain the symbolism of the purple flower, which represents the purple mark added to a child's finger to show they have been vaccinated against polio. The Mayor, Councillor David Henderson, also invited everyone to meet up again at the orchard next Spring, to enjoy the future show of beautiful purple blooms. Amanda Watkin, Rotary GB&I Chief Executive, said: "We're delighted that Rotary members, staff and guests have all come

together to volunteer today, and had a lot of fun too! It's been a great opportunity to partner with Alcester Town Council to support this lovely community space, which benefits so many local people, as well as to promote Rotary's global campaigning work to end polio.

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. FAITHS ROAD
ALCESTER
B49 6AG

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2025

CALL US OR EMAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION
07414 851644 ALCESTERCHRISTMASDINNER@GMAIL.COM

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Can you spare an hour or two on Christmas Day, or a few hours prior to the big day?

call 07414 851644
email alcesterchristmasdinner@gmail.com

lighting up the dark in Alcester

WINDOW WANDERLAND

FROM SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY TO SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

Theme for 2026 is HOPE

- Everyone welcome to enter
- Workshops available to attend
- Prizes for the winners

THE Greig Hall

www.greighall.org.uk



WINTER PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS - BOOK EARLY!

DEC 4-6

FROZEN JR

The Disney story for all the family



DEC 07

QUILL featuring Bev Beran

Back by Popular Demand!



DEC 13&14

Beauty & the Beast Jr

A Family Fun Musical Event!



DEC 15

CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

From Alcester Youth Theatre Company



DEC 20

iDance

2-room Freestyle Dancing



DEC 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Celebrate 'til late with Soul Department and DJ Danny



THE Greig Hall

www.greighall.org.uk



WINTER PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS - BOOK EARLY!

JAN 02 & FEB 06

Contradance

Folk Dancing in the American style



JAN 04 & FEB 08

Afternoon Tea Dance

Refresh before the week ahead!



JAN 11

Rumpelstiltskin

A Pantomime for all the Family!



FEB 05

MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARDS

Presented by the Alcester Town Council



FEB 07

Bee Gees Gold

Your ticket to Disco Fever!!



FEB 20

Cinema at The Greig

A first night of big screen magic!



MAR 07

EVENING OF MUSIC FOR CHARITY

Excellent entertainment for good causes



JOIN MKMA KARATE - ALCESTER!

Confidence • Discipline • Respect • Fitness

Looking for a fun, confidence-building activity for yourself or your child?

At MKMA Karate, we offer professional martial arts training for all ages and abilities — from Little Warriors to advanced students.

FIRST SESSION FREE — come and try us!

- ✓ Build confidence & resilience
- ✓ Boost fitness, focus & coordination
- ✓ Learn real-world self-defence
- ✓ Friendly, supportive, family-run club
- ✓ Fully qualified black-belt instructors
- ✓ Dedicated to empowering women through self-defence training

Venues & Training Times

THE ERIC PAYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE, ALCESTER (SATURDAYS)

Little Warriors (3-7 yrs): 9:00am - 9:50am
General Class All Abilities (7-97 yrs): 10:00am - 11:00am
Advanced Class: 11:00am - 12:00pm

ALCESTER LEISURE CENTRE (THURSDAYS)

All Abilities (7 yrs+): 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Contact

Master Sarah Martin

SENCO

Assistant Chief Instructor

Phone: 07734 810941

Email: sarah-martin@sky.com

Start your martial arts journey today — your first class is FREE!
Train hard. Stay humble. Be inspired.

Burns Night

Eric Payne Community Centre
off St Faiths Road, Alcester. B49 6AG

In support of Alcester Day.Care

Supporting people with Dementia and their carers
Charity No. 1170074

£30 per person

3 Course meal

Cash raffle on the night

QR Code for booking



Saturday
24th January 2026
Bar available

Tickets available from:
Mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk



ALCESTER COURT LEET NEWS

Alcester Court Leet would like to introduce the officers of the court for 2025-2026, following the elections in October. The new High Bailiff, Sharon Constable, will be guiding us through the next year, taking over from Tracy Parkes.

We are looking forward to another fantastic year of organising events for the town and raising money for worthy causes in the Alcester area. We will also be performing Assizes, to ensure that the food, drink and goods for sale within the Manor of Alcester are of a suitable quality and fit for human consumption. Our calendar of events started with a celebration of loved ones who have passed – a lively 'Day of the Dead' party, on November 1st.

Sunday 11th of January: we will be parading along the High Street to the church of St Nicholas, for the High Bailiff's church service.

Saturday 17th of January: Wassail! - a magical night with a torchlit procession to bless the apples in the community orchard. There will be Morris dancing, crown making, free hot dogs for the children, an apple-based game and a spectacular musket demonstration.

Tuesday 17th of February: have some 'flippin' good fun at our Shrove Tuesday pancake race. It's great to watch or take part - there are categories for all ages and abilities.



We will also be supporting many other events throughout the year, including St. Nicholas Night (06/12/2025) where you can play our 'Human Fruit Machine' and the Toy Service (07/12/2025) at the Baptist Church.

Stay up to date on our Facebook page, or go to our website for more information: www.alcestercourtleet.co.uk

Wassail!

Join Alcester Court Leet for a magical evening, with a torchlit procession and a blessing of the apple trees in the community orchard.

The White Hart Morris men will provide music and dance, and the Sealed Knot re-enactment group will demonstrate their muskets in a spectacular display. There will also be a number of activities, including:

- Make a natural crown (with a prize for the best one)
- Free hot dogs for children
- Hot dogs, burgers, cider & hot drinks available (cash bar)
- Hook-an-Apple game



Saturday 17th January, 2026 - there is no charge to take part.

Activities will take place in the Eric Payne centre from 2pm, with the procession leaving at 4:30pm. Please dress warmly, wear shoes suitable for wet grass and bring a torch. **Plus** - bring a saucepan & wooden spoon, to make some noise!



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS




















Full Council and Committee meetings are held in person at Globe House. Planning Committee meetings are sometimes 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. Minutes from meetings can 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 Councillors' Contact Details

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 <p><u>Gill Forman</u> (Deputy Mayor) 01789 763828 gforman.atc@gmail.com</p>	 <p><u>Kathryn Cargill</u> 07745 608567 kcargill.atc@gmail.com</p>
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