

Alcester Town Council



Spring Newsletter

March 2026 Issue 81

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Well, I now find myself writing my last Mayor's Message before handing my chains of office over to Cllr Gill Forman, my Deputy, who will take up her position as Mayor in May. It is hard to believe that my term in office is nearly over; but what a wonderful time both myself and Lesley, my wife and Consort, have had whilst representing our town at many events - with still more to come.

When I reflect on my time as your Mayor so far, I think of some of the wonderful things that have been achieved in the town. We have witnessed the introduction of Alcester Town Council's Neurodivergent Friendly Town project, aimed at making Alcester "A Town for All". This means we are committed to becoming a town more accessible for people who are neurodivergent; a town where they are truly accepted and where different ways of communicating, thinking and behaving will always be accepted. It is a brilliant project with 34 businesses and organisations having signed up to the Neurodivergent Pledge so far, with hopefully many more to follow.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to take part in the Alcester Park street naming ceremony, organised by Bloor Homes and Alcester Town Council. What an event that proved to be. We honoured seven remarkable members of our community, each of whom had a street named after them. Both families and friends came along on a bitterly cold day in November to remember their loved ones and celebrate their lives and remarkable achievements.

I must also mention my nominated charity, Alcester Day Care, and thank all who have supported the charity during my year in office. We have seen several different events so far, ranging from a quiz to a Burns Night Supper, and let's not forget the brilliant Cocktail Masterclass in November, which was the first event of its type to be held in Alcester. The 100-coffee morning schedule continues to generate significant funds and will run until April 2027. If you would like to host a coffee morning, please contact Alcester Day Care for more information. We have organised a charity concert in the Greig Hall for Saturday 11th April starring the Era Boys – all of whom have starred in various West End shows. This will be the final fundraising event of my year. I hope that the ticket price proves to be affordable to you all, and I look forward to seeing you there for a great evening's entertainment of singing and dancing. I can't finish without mentioning the Mayors Civic Awards evening in early February. What a night, now known as the Alcester Oscars, and truly worthy of that accolade! It was a night when we celebrated the contributions of many businesses, organisations and individuals from within our community who make Alcester such a special place to live. Everyone was a worthy winner, regardless of whether they went home with an award.

I would now like to thank all those who have made my time in office as your Mayor truly memorable:

the Town Council staff, Vanessa, Kyla, Wendy and Tim; my fellow councillors and my Deputy, Gill; the team who keep our lovely town clean and tidy every day - Paul, Jack and Chris; and my wife Lesley, who has made sure that I'm always seen to be on top of things at all times. And finally,

you, the people of Alcester, who have supported me through my year so far. I look forward to representing you until 5th May 2026.

Take care, David.



Councillor David Henderson, Mayor of Alcester

CLERKS CORNER

Precept 2026-27

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

At the Full Council meeting on 6 January 2026, the Town Council agreed to request a precept of £429,177 from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the year 2026-27. The precept in 2025-26 was £410,120.

Residents will be well aware that everything is going up in price and bills paid by Councils are subject to exactly the same pressures.

The agreed precept will result in an increase in the precept charge to Alcester residents (Band D) from £168.97 to £175.88 per annum. This rise is equivalent to 13p a week for a Band D Council Taxpayer.

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

Cllr Ray Howells

I am sorry to report that Cllr Ray Howells resigned as a Councillor in November 2025. We thank him for his contribution and wish him well in the future. We hope to co-opt a replacement councillor shortly.

Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk

COMMUNITY GRANTS

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

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

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

The deadline for this year's grants is Friday 27 March 2026

Advance Notice - Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 7th April at 7pm

Eric Payne Community Centre

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

It is not a meeting of the Town Council

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

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

Please contact Alcester Town Council for more information on:

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

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel: 01789 766084

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

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

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

Planning: Kyla Brown - administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk

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

Website: www.alcester-tc.gov.uk



STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' UPDATE



Fly-tipping and new bins: Cllr Tom Ballinger received several complaints from residents regarding waste issues and fly-tipping on Henley Street, linked to Henley Court. These concerns were raised with officers in Stratford-on-Avon District Council, who, alongside Cllr Tom Ballinger worked swiftly with Orbit Housing Association to address the issue. Cllr Tom Ballinger is pleased to confirm that, following persistent follow-up with Orbit, new bins have

now been ordered and will be installed shortly to stop this from happening again.

Pay and display success: Huge well done to everyone who stood up and opposed the County Reform Administration's proposal to implement Pay & Display on Alcester High Street. This plan has now been scrapped, and our High Street remains, at this time, free from Pay & Display.

Safe building issue: Cllr Tom Ballinger received a complaint regarding an unsafe building on Alcester High Street. He quickly got to work with SDC Building Control to make sure the building was safe. He arranged for officers and builders to attend site immediately – and the building was made safe the same day.

Councillor Surgery: County and District Councillors held a Councillor Surgery on 31st January. This was a fantastic success, and we received considerable interaction from residents and businesses. We are looking to hold these surgeries monthly and will be announcing upcoming sessions soon.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

The Government has launched a consultation to invite residents, businesses, and key stakeholders, to have their say on what LGR should look like in Warwickshire.



Currently, Warwickshire has two-tiers of local government, Warwickshire County Council as one tier and the five District and Borough Councils as the second tier. LGR is planned because central government has set out a national policy to reorganise the current two-tier system of local government in England to one tier. Warwickshire is one of the areas affected by that policy.

In November 2025, the Councils submitted their preferred options to the Government. The Government is now looking to consult with the public and stakeholders to help them to make their final decision. The Government is consulting on whether residents would prefer one unitary council for Warwickshire, or separate north and south unitary councils.

How to take part - If you would like to share your views on Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, the

easiest way to take part is to provide your feedback through the on-line survey:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/>

You can also access the survey via the above QR code.

Responses to the questions can also be submitted by email: lgrconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk.

Paper copies are available from Alcester library and written responses can be sent to:

LGR Consultation

Fry Building 2NE

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

The consultation is open from Thursday, **5 February, until Thursday, 26 March 2026.**

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

ALCESTER UNITED CHARITIES IS SEEKING A NEW TRUSTEE

Alcester United Charities manages the six almshouses on the Birmingham Road for the benefit of residents and also provides occasional small grants from our other two charities.

The Charity is run by nine Trustees, and due to a resignation, we have a vacancy for one Trustee. The main responsibilities of a Trustee are: overseeing the Charities' finances, complying with charity law, and to ensure the Charity carries out its purpose. The Trustee's meet quarterly.

If you are interested in the role please contact the clerk Gill Forman for more information. Gill's email address is clerkauc@gmail.com

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Standing Up for Great Alne Primary School

As the County Councillor for Alcester, I have been working closely with parents and residents to oppose the proposed closure of Great Alne Primary School by Warwickshire County Council. When the Council leadership approved the start of the closure process on 31 October 2025, I immediately submitted a formal objection. The meeting was called at extremely short notice, leaving little opportunity for scrutiny or public input. Great Alne has a long history as a valued and popular village school. Temporary dips in pupil numbers are not unusual. I was a school governor at Haselor Primary School which suffered very low pupil numbers and has since recovered and thrived. With the right support, Great Alne can do the same.



Over the past few months, I have worked with the families campaigning to save the school. Their dedication has been outstanding, and I especially want to recognise the work of Mariah Clarke, whose efforts have helped secure lots of media coverage including BBC Midlands Today and in the Stratford Herald. At a recent Council meeting, I challenged the administration on the evidence behind their decision, and I made clear I believe their figures on surplus places in Alcester schools are wrong.

On 30 January, the Council confirmed that they will continue with the formal closure process. I was very sorry, though not surprised, to hear this. However, it is essential to stress that this is not the final decision. We can still fight for Great Alne and work to persuade the Council leadership to change their minds.

Cllr James Norris, Warwickshire County Councillor for Alcester

MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARDS

Alcester Town Council was delighted to host the Mayor's Civic Awards at The Greig Hall on Thursday 5 February 2026. The evening celebrated the best of Alcester in 2025.

The public had been asked for nominations for each award. There was a very strong field of nominees in each category with the winners being chosen by the Mayor. The winners were:

- Business Organisation of the Year - Camilla Jones, Jewellers
- Community Organisation of the Year - Alcester Town Walking Football Club
- Initiative of the Year (new award category for 2025) – River Arrow & Alne Revival (RAAR)
- Volunteer of the Year (new award category for 2025) – Phil Hodges
- Young Person of the Year – joint winners Harriet Busby, Luke Poole & Dylan Davis
- Citizen of the Year – Ali Buchanan

In addition, Cllr Henderson awarded a special Lifetime Achievement award to Sue Adams in recognition of her significant contribution to the town of Alcester over several decades.

Prizes were also awarded to the winners of the 2025 allotment competition. Mrs Liz Coxwell, the overall winner, was awarded the Reg Grummett trophy by Lead Councillor for Allotments, Cllr Keith Greenaway.



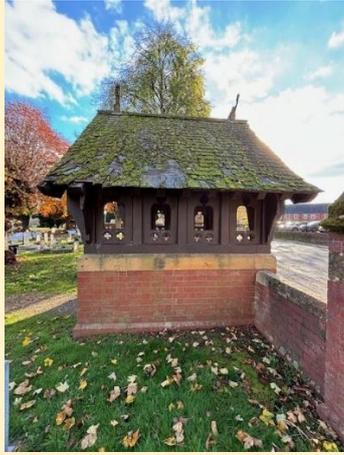
Photographs courtesy of Kelvin Cornwall of Jake Photography

WINTER MAINTENANCE



Despite the relentless rain this winter, there is always a 'to do' list of jobs and repairs. Over the last couple of months, you may have noticed that Kevin the Kiosk on the High Street has had a makeover and is now ready for the new life-saving defibrillator to be installed. Watch this space for updates.

Another major project has been the refurbishment of the lych gate roof at Alcester Cemetery on Birmingham Road. A new cedar shingle roof has been installed by a specialist company, along with replacement wooden crosses at either end. Further work will be undertaken in the spring, and replacement gates will be fitted. We think the before and after shots speak for themselves!



ALCESTER POPPY APPEAL

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Alcester District Poppy Appeal has raised just over £15,300 for the 2025 to 2026 period, with some donations still to be allocated.

Poppy Appeal Organiser David Malin said, "We have a fantastic team of volunteers, schools, groups and businesses and a very generous community that assist and donate to this very important cause. The total this year has been boosted by a number of special events, one being a Sponsored Poppy Field at Alcester Academy that raised £503 and a collection point by Alcester Army Cadet Force that raised £1000." All the money raised goes towards providing lifelong support for serving and ex-service personnel and their families.

We thank everyone involved for their continued support and dedication.

For further information on the Poppy Appeal visit our website www.britishlegion.org.uk or if you are ex-service and need assistance ring our helpline on 0808 802 8080.



David Malin, Alcester Poppy Appeal Organiser

BECOME A VOLUNTEER, MAKE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT ALCESTER'S ROMAN MUSEUM



Our volunteers are an essential support for the museum.

Some volunteers make our visitors feel truly welcome; whilst others lend a hand at our events, have the educational experience to help run our children's learning activities or assist with invaluable admin.

We welcome anyone who wants to get involved.

Get in touch if you want to find out more - we'd love to have you on the team!

Drop us a line now at alcesterheritage@gmail.com

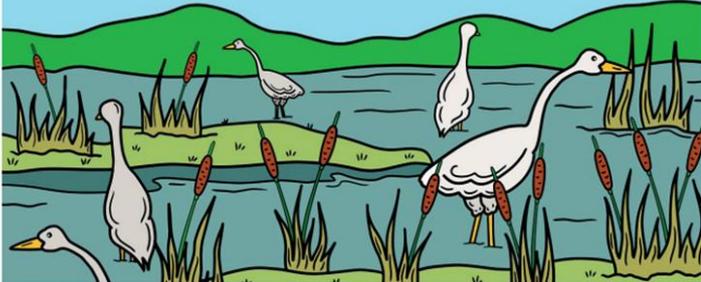
Susan Juned - Chair, Alcester Heritage Trust

THE GREEN PAGE – CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FLOOD PANEL

WE'RE RECRUITING



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

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.

Thank you to those volunteers who have signed up to be a Flood Watcher for our Town. These volunteers are already signed up and are out there actively helping. There is a new Facebook Group called 'Alcester Flood Watchers' so for anyone interested in finding out more about the role and what's involved, we would encourage you to take a look. Alternatively, contact Alcester Town Council on the details provided in the poster.

RIVER ARROW AND ALNE REVIVAL – RIVER WALK

More than twenty people joined RAAR for their inaugural River Walk in January. The group followed a loop through Jubilee Fields and the nature reserve. We explored the fundamentals of a healthy river: natural meanders, mixed flows, light and shade, gravel beds, messy rooted banks, and space for the river to move. We also looked at places where straightening, deepening and outfalls have limited the river's ability to function naturally. One of the richest parts of the walk was the conversation about how different groups use and value the river - ideas ranged from school engagement to creating designed access points to protect more fragile river banks. There was strong enthusiasm for bringing school groups to the river later in the year for water testing and seasonal river learning.



let us know. Lots of you shared enthusiasm for water testing, habitat improvement and a river celebration. All of these are still in the works, and we'll have more on these ideas soon.

RAAR only works if it is shaped by many voices, ideas and skills. It isn't meant to be a one-person or one-perspective project. If you have thoughts or questions, suggestions or concerns, please email riverarrowvolunteers@gmail.com, or post on [RAAR's Facebook page](#). As we grow, we would like to reach out for support from anyone who can provide assistance with

- Social media and communications
- Website building and maintenance
- Fundraising research and applications
- Helping run activities and connecting with schools
- General admin and volunteer coordination

No experience needed - just curiosity and willingness. And if you have a skill you'd like to offer that isn't listed here, we'd love to hear about it.

Eleanor Cooke, Director, RAAR



LEAF OPEN FARM SUNDAY RAISES FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

Following a successful Open Farm Sunday event at Ragley last summer, and thanks to the support of local suppliers, the estate has raised £800 to support two local charities. In January, guests from each of the charities went to Ragley Hall

to meet Lord Hertford for presentation of the funds.

Lord Hertford chose to support the Mayor of Alcester's selected charity – **Alcester Day Care**. This charity was formed in 2016 by Carole Zambonini and supports people with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. The sessions are small groups with paid caring, professional staff and volunteers helping. They currently meet three times a week at Alcester Baptist Church Hall but are raising funds to move to a more permanent home with better facilities on the site of The Grieg Hall in Alcester. This move will also allow them to expand their facilities to support those with Parkinsons or following a stroke.

The second charity is **LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)**, who are the organisation behind the Open Farm Sunday initiative. Their mission is to inspire and enable

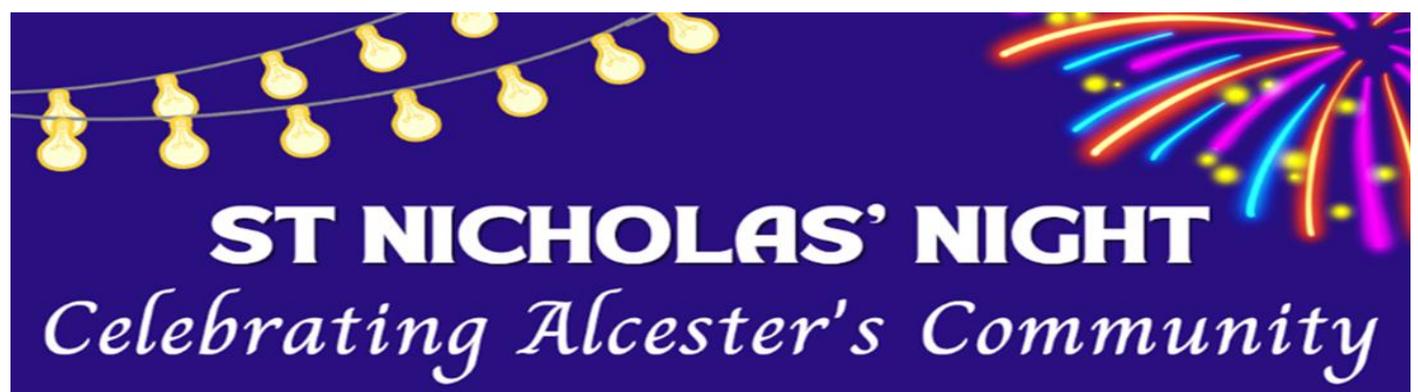
more circular approaches to farming and food systems through integrated, regenerative and vibrant nature-based solutions. Their education programme is something that regularly brings schoolchildren to the estate for a range of hands-on activities. This helps to engage, inspire and empower them to make decisions that ensures we have a world that is growing, eating, and living sustainably.

Open Farm Sunday is made possible by the volunteers from local businesses that we work with on a regular basis, and a selection of invited food and drink providers, many with their own connections to farming. They were offered a space at the event free of charge, in exchange for a donation to Lord Hertford's selected charities.

We are grateful for the support of all of the suppliers who supported the event. We would also like to thank LEAF Open Farm Sunday for their support and guidance in helping us to continually improve our Open Farm events.

More information about the LEAF Open Farm Sunday initiative can be found on their website - www.farmsunday.org.

Details of Ragley's plans for Open Farm Sunday 2026 will be released shortly through the website. <https://www.ragley.co.uk/event/ofs/>



ST NICHOLAS NIGHT ASSOCIATION

Are looking for new volunteers to join the organising Committee with immediate effect.

We particularly need a new Event Manager – someone to take the lead on the run up to the event and on the night.

Our team of 3 needs to expand to at least 5 but preferably 6, including the new Event Manager to enable the event to take place in 2026.

All the roles require excellent admin, organisation and teamwork skills.

We also need volunteers, on the night, to act as marshalls.

Can you help?

If you can help, or would like some further information, please email alcesterstnicksnight@gmail.com by the end of March.



ALCESTER FOOD FESTIVAL



BAKE OFF

Bake **6 cupcakes** using no more than **£5** worth of ingredients including fruit and or veg that otherwise may go to waste



Saturday 16th May

Venue: Alcester Town Hall
Time: 15:30

ALCESTER FOOD FESTIVAL- 16 MAY 2026

Alcester's young bakers are being invited to rise to the challenge at this year's Alcester Food Festival Bake Off - and Alcester secondary school students are right at the heart of it. The competition is calling on pupils to bake six cupcakes using no more than £5 worth of ingredients, with a creative twist: competitors must include fruit or vegetables that might otherwise go to waste. Think overripe bananas, soft apples, spare carrots or even beetroot - it's all about sustainability, cutting food waste and showing how great baking can be on a budget.

The Bake Off will take place at Alcester Town Hall on Saturday 16th May at 3:30pm, and organisers are especially keen to see entries from students across all secondary age groups. There will be awards for the top bakers in each of the three categories Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, as well as a trophy for the overall Bake Off Champion. Judges will be looking for flavour, creativity, presentation and how well entrants meet the waste-reducing challenge.

Whether you're a regular in the kitchen or just enjoy trying something new, this is a great chance to showcase your skills, support sustainable cooking and be part of a brilliant community event. Time to get baking! For more details on how to enter please contact Elizabeth.lake@leaf.eco



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-martin6@sky.com

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

ALCESTER CONNECTED FOR CLIMATE AND NATURE

HEDGE, TREE AND WILDFLOWER PLANTING

BEE FESTIVAL

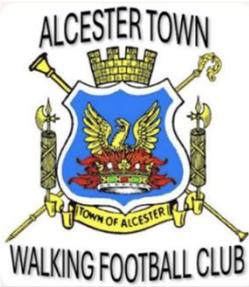
Bee Festival
Saturday 30th May
10am – 2pm @
Coughton Court

save the date

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

6th – 14th June
‘Together for Good’
Take action in your local area, for climate and nature.

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



ALCESTER TOWN WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB

Alcester Town Walking Football Club celebrated a significant milestone in December 2025, marking its second anniversary with a special visit to St George's Park in Derbyshire - the prestigious home of all England football teams. More than 30 members took part in an inter-club tournament inside the impressive Sir Alf Ramsey indoor facility, enjoying two hours of spirited and good-natured competition. The celebrations don't stop there. On 31 January, the club hosted its first Annual Dinner at Great Alne Park Retirement Village, the home of its official sponsor. Fifty members attended, reflecting the club's continuing growth and strong sense of camaraderie.

Now boasting more than 100 members, Alcester Town Walking Football Club runs six weekly sessions for men and women. It also fields competitive Over-50s and Over-60s teams in the Worcestershire League, with the Over-60s currently sitting proudly at the top of their division. Looking ahead, the club plans to enter a women's team into this year's WFA National Cup, marking another exciting step in its development.

Community at the Heart - Alongside activity on the pitch, the club's Community Outreach Programme continues to expand. In December, members donated 125 Christmas selection boxes to the Arden Foodbank, adding to the 300 packets of biscuits and Easter eggs delivered earlier in the year. This commitment to giving back earned the club the Mayor's Community Organisation of the Year 2025 Award at the annual Civic Awards event at The Greig Hall in February.

"Enjoying Life One Step at a Time" - Committee Chairman Phil Kay reflected on the club's achievements with pride.

"Our club slogan is Enjoying Life One Step at a Time, and that's certainly been the case over the past few months. As it embarks on its third year, Alcester Town Walking Football Club continues to exemplify what grassroots sport can achieve: fitness, friendship, and a vibrant, inclusive environment where everyone is welcome - one step at a time.



RIVERSIDE ANGLING CLUB

The Riverside and the Needles Industries Angling Clubs recently held a meeting with Eleanor from River Arrow and Alne Revival (RAAR) and Ed, from the Wild Trout Trust (WTT).

Several items were discussed in relation to both the Rivers Arrow and the Alne including habitat and the water quality of both rivers. Further meetings are planned within each organisation, to be reported back to the other in the hope of future collaboration. Both the WTT and RAAR are looking forward to partnership working on this very interesting and positive project.

Robert Jones, Hon. Secretary, Riverside A. C.



Litter Free Alcester is a group of local volunteers who love our town and wish to keep it **LITTER FREE**

LITTER FREE ALCESTER

We've been doing our Spring Cleans every year since 2014!

Come along and join us for our next Spring Clean on 21 March 2026.

We will meet at the Eric Payne Centre from 10am and will be collecting until 1pm.

Susan Juned, Litter Free Alcester

ALCESTER BOWLING CLUB COME AND JOIN US !!



Make new friends, Keep fit, have FUN !!

Beginners & established players welcome

All age groups from 7 upwards

Social Bowling, fun days

Club competitions, BBQ's

Local League & Cup teams

No experience necessary

Full coaching given



Contact our Secretary on:

robert.evo12abc@gmail.com

Meeting Lane, Alcester, B49 5QT

Rotary Alcester & Bidford

We are now looking forward to our activities in 2026, and it looks like another busy year ahead.

We are delighted to sponsor 'What's On Alcester' for 2026, as we believe this is a valuable facility for the Town. Our President's chosen charity for his year is Arden Foodbank, and our profits from our Up-Market Jumble Sale on 7 February supported this, so thank you to all who came to grab a bargain and contribute.

Our 70's Disco Night at the Greig Hall on 19 June is also in aid of Arden Foodbank, so get that date in your diary!

Prior to that, we're gearing up for our Big Charity Breakfasts on 7 March at the Crawford Hall in Bidford and on 14 March at the Greig Hall in Alcester, and we'll be selling our popular Pimms on the High Street at the Food Festival on 16 May, after which we'll hopefully be able to make some more donations.

We have some other exciting events later in the year, including a Big Family Lunch on 25 October following our October Charity Breakfasts, and a concert by the brilliant Tarantara on 21 November to kick off the festivities for next Christmas – more of this later.

Any information about our forthcoming events and how you can join in can be found on our website or email us at alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com, which is the same email address for requests for funding.

www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk

Alcester & Bidford Rotary Presents.....

50th Anniversary of the summer of '76,
when Britain was at boiling point



1970's Disco

Friday 19th June

7:30pm - 11:30pm

at

The Greig Hall

Put your glad rags on and dance to the groovy
sounds of the Cybertones Wheels of Steel

Tickets £10

Raising Funds for Arden Food Bank

Scan the QR code or

cash only from PSW

(Monday - Saturday)



Kay Blake, Secretary

Alcester Male Voice Choir

Present a Gala Concert
of 'CROSS GENERATIONAL SOUNDS'
featuring talented local musicians

Saturday April 18th at 6.30pm
at The Greig Hall, Alcester



Judith Land BEM
Artistic Director and
Founder-Conductor



Award winning Alcester Male Voice Choir presented by the High Sheriff of Warwickshire in recognition of great and valuable service to the community



Joachim Lim
Principal
Accompanist



New Alcester Youth Choir
Conductor Catherine Brexton



Occasional Brass



Renny Badham
Teacher of Performing Arts

Come and listen. We look forward to meeting you

TICKETS £20

Contact details:

Concert Secretary AMVC Box Office ☎ 07752 563068

✉ amvcboxoffice@gmail.com

Online payment, use QR code, or navigate to <https://alcestermvpay.org.uk>

Following the concert there will be a retiring collection in support of Riding for the Disabled Association
Registered Charity No. 514970



Proud members of
making music

Sunday 22 March 2026

2.30pm

Brahms - Academic Festival Overture
Dvořák - The Noonday Witch
Mozart - Horn Concerto No. 4, K. 495, in Eb
Glazunov - Symphony No. 6
Conductor- Dan Watson
Leader - Tim Bugg
Horn Soloist - Alexander Boukikov

Greig Hall
Kinwarton Rd, Alcester, B49 6AD



Tickets - £15

£5 for accompanied under 16s

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FNDS>

and from members of the Orchestra

Registered Charity No. 1120845

THE Greig Hall

www.greighall.org.uk



SPRING PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS - BOOK EARLY!

MAR APR MAY
06 10 08

Contradance

Folk Dancing in the American style



MAR 07

EVENING OF MUSIC FOR CHARITY

Excellent entertainment for good causes



MAR 13-14

Warriors of Ezerald

Story of Mystery, Magic & Drama!



MAR 14

BIG BREAKFAST

From Alcester & Bidford Rotary



MAR 20-21

CHICAGO

Longest running Broadway musical



MAR 22

Stratford Symphony Orchestra

Music from Brahms, Dvorak & Mozart



MAR 24

Warwickshire Music Concerts

Music Festival & Live Lounge Concert



THE Greig Hall

www.greighall.org.uk



SPRING PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS - BOOK EARLY!

MAR 27-28

NAME THAT MUSICAL!

Alcester Musical Theatre Company



MAR 29

WONDERDOME PLANETARIUM

Shows for small groups every 30mins



APR MAY MAY
06 04 25

iDance

2-room freestyle dancing



APR 11

CRAFT FAIR

Come along to explore



THE ERA BOYS

Fundraiser for the Mayor's Charity



APR 18

Alcester Male Voice Choir

A Concert of Cross Generational Sounds



APR 24

Meet Janie Frampton OBE

A special, football focused evening



APR 25

TARANTARA

With the Alcester Victoria Silver Band





Alcester Court Leet

The festive season saw the Alcester Court Leet join the Toy Service at the Baptist Chapel for a fantastic 'If Queen Did Christmas' service; and at St. Nick's night we raised funds with a 'Christmas Fruit Machine'. The new year started with the High Bailiff's church service, where representatives of many Alcester organisations paraded along the High Street to St. Nicholas' Church. This was followed by a reception in the town hall (with Court Leet cupcakes!).

The Wassail was a great success - there were nature's crowns for all, song, dance, and a blessing of the orchard; the evening was rounded off with a boom by the Sealed Knot Musketeers.



The High Bailiff and Fish & Flesh taster visited Alcester Academy in January, to help judge some amazing Year 7 history projects. An impromptu tasting was undertaken to demonstrate part of the historic assizes.

The bailiff boards in the town hall have been gently restored; layers of wax, varnish and nicotine have been gently removed and the gold paint subtly restored (where needed) to make them glow again.

Coming up...

- **March 24th: Quiz Night.** Test your knowledge in aid of Prostate cancer research at the Dog and Partridge. Entry is £12 per team of 4-6 people, book a team at the pub directly, or email: highbailiff@alcestercourtleet.co.uk
- **April 4th: Town Criers Competition.** Criers from around the UK will compete to see who has the loudest, clearest and most interesting/amusing cry - a loud and colourful spectacle.
- **April 25th: Assizes & Yard of Ale Contest.** Join us as we perform assizes around the town; this a tradition dating back to the 13th century. It will be followed by a yard-of-ale competition at the Royal Oak - contact the pub to enter!
- **May 14th: Inner Ale Taste.** See the Ale Tasters in action as we check that ale is good and fit for the people of Alcester.
- **May 16th: Food Festival.** We'll be supporting the event by assizing a range of vendors' goods.

ALCESTER BRETIVINS

The winter months are a time to particularly enjoy the result of all the hard work that goes into producing a good bottle of wine. Hard work alone does not, however, guarantee a successful outcome. Divine assistance is also necessary to produce the right conditions for a successful vintage.



What better way than to start the new year than with a celebration of the Feast of the Patron Saint of all things to do with wine, St Vincent? Three of our members, the Bailli, Chancellier and Prévot, accompanied by the Bailli's wife, went in January to St Philbert de Grand Lieu, on the western edge of the muscadet producing region of southern Brittany, to join with others in the Order to ask for the saint's assistance in 2026. Only time will tell whether he was paying attention or not. In the meantime, the labourers in the vineyard have been hard at work, completing the pruning and tying of the vines ready for the spring growth. By the time this is published, we in Alcester will have had an evening at Hiller's restaurant to

celebrate this important milestone in the annual cycle. We shall also be preparing for the most important event in our calendar, with our Chapter meeting to be held in Alcester Town Hall on Sunday 26th April. If you would like to join us, contact our Senechal, John Freeland at bretvinsalcester@gmail.com, for details of our programme.

David Hall, Chancellier, Alcester Brevins



Following a break after the Christmas Concert the Choir recommenced singing in early January. We are delighted to have welcomed new members who from the outset have contributed to the choir's vitality. We wish to recruit additional tenor voices and would be most pleased to have you join us. In this new year so far choir members have been singing at local Alcester events including the Court Leet's Wassail and the Mayor of Alcester's Civic Awards ceremony. The choir is presently rehearsing for the Spring Concert on Saturday 25th April. For this performance our Musical Director Victor Wong has chosen John Rutter's *Requiem* and his *Magnificat*.

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 so why not come along to a rehearsal and decide if you like our approach to singing and learning together. Rehearsals take place each Thursday between 7.30 and 9.00pm in the Church Hall, Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DY.

We look forward to welcoming you to our concert:

Alcester Singers Spring Concert.

Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm.

St Nicholas Church, Alcester.

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

Contact events@alcestersingers.co.uk

www.alcestersingers.co.uk

Visit us on Facebook

ALCESTER MUSICAL THEATRE

AMTC are very excited for our upcoming Spring Concert - 'Name That Musical'.

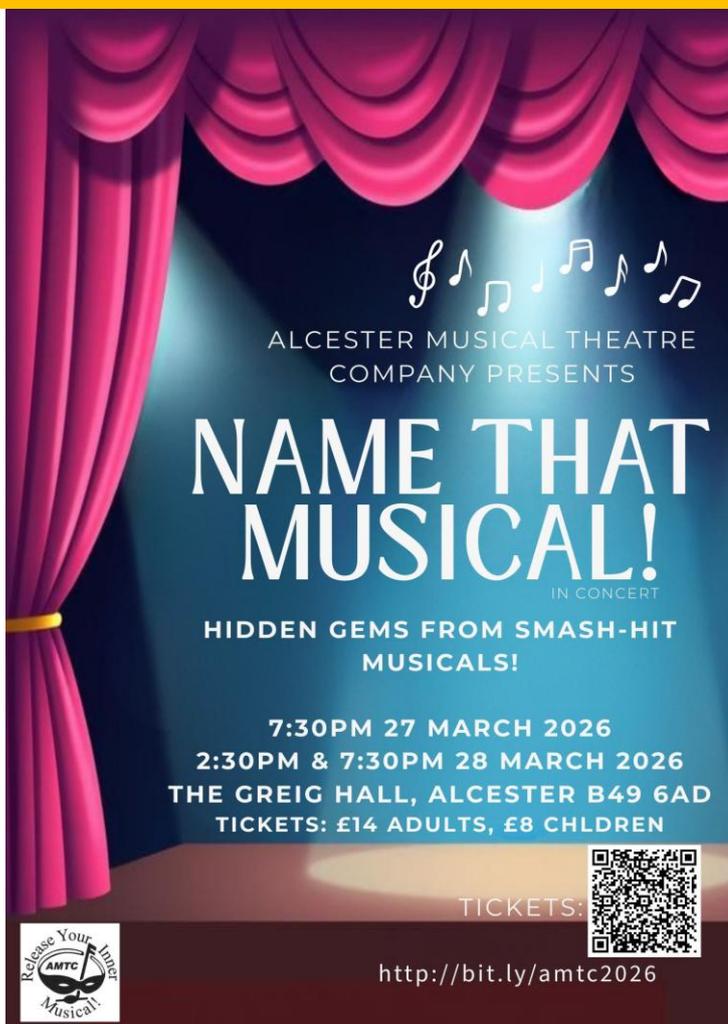
Coming to The Greig Hall in March, we focus on those hidden gem songs from smash-hit musicals that we all know and love! A night (or afternoon) full of toe tapping music, is something for all to enjoy. A show to look forward to after a long winter!

The Greig Hall, Alcester, B49 6AD

Friday 27th March @ 7.30pm
Saturday 28th March @ 2.30pm
Saturday 28th March @ 7.30pm

Tickets - Adults - £14 Children - £8

Online - bit.ly/amtc2026
Telephone - 01789 763446 (Cash)
In Person - JAG Hair Studios, Alcester (Card)



ALCESTER MUSICAL THEATRE
COMPANY PRESENTS

NAME THAT MUSICAL!

IN CONCERT

HIDDEN GEMS FROM SMASH-HIT MUSICALS!

7:30PM 27 MARCH 2026
2:30PM & 7:30PM 28 MARCH 2026
THE GREIG HALL, ALCESTER B49 6AD
TICKETS: £14 ADULTS, £8 CHILDREN

TICKETS: 

<http://bit.ly/amtc2026>



Regular events at
ALCESTER LIBRARY

MONDAY
Coffee Mornings (every 3rd Monday): 10:00am - 11:00am
Board Games & Puzzles for 4-11 year olds: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

WEDNESDAY
Rhyme Time for 0-2 year olds: 10:30am- 11:00am
Sip & Paint (every 2nd Wednesday):
6:15pm - 7:45pm (*Booking required*)

THURSDAY
I.T Help: 10:00am - 12:00pm
Story Stomp for 2- 4 year olds: 2:15pm - 2:45pm
New time from March 2026

FRIDAY
Crafternoon Tea: 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Warm Hub: 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Chatterbooks for 7-11 year olds (every 4th Friday): 3:45pm - 4:45pm
Lego Club for 4-11 year olds: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

SATURDAY
Lego Club for 4-11 year olds: 10:30am - 11:00am
Saturday Story Adventures (last Saturday of the month):
3:15pm - 5:00pm (*Booking required*)

All events are free!

Scan the QR code
or check our Eventbrite
for all upcoming events



Alcester Library is turning 10!



 From the 13th of April 2026 we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of our new building.

 Share a memory
We would love to hear your stories and memories of the Library over the years. If you would like to share a memory with us, please speak to a member of our team to fill out a reminiscence form.



More details of upcoming events and activities to come - watch this space!



THE
**Greig
Hall**

**SATURDAY 11th
APRIL 2026**



Alcester Mayor's Charity Event

THE ERA BOYS



7pm - 10.30pm



This incredible three piece vocal harmony group out of the West End celebrates the greatest artists from the golden age of music such as: Elvis Presley, Neil Sedaka, The Monkees, The Beatles, Tom Jones, Stevie Wonder and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

**TICKET
£18**

**Tickets from PSW Alcester
Monday - Saturday (cash only)
or online (scan the QR code)**



The Greig Hall, Kinwarton Road, Alcester B49 6AD Charity No. 1195635

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WWW.GREIGHALL.ORG.UK

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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