

Alcester Town Council



Summer Newsletter

June 2026 Issue 82



Mayor's message

I am extremely proud and honoured to have been elected as the Mayor of Alcester by my fellow Town Councillors on 5th May 2026 and I would like to thank them for placing their trust in me again.



I am honoured to be the Mayor in the year which marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of Alcester Town Council. Look out for the celebrations later in the year. With my husband, Tim, as my Consort, we are looking forward to the coming year with great enthusiasm.

I have been privileged to be the retiring Mayor Cllr David Henderson's deputy this past year and I am astonished at the energy, enthusiasm and sheer hard work David and Lesley have put into their roles. They are, for sure, a hard act to follow.



I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Councillor Ruth Ashfield on being elected as Deputy Mayor for this year.

I am now looking forward to the exciting challenge of leading the Council, which includes a number of new Councillors. Town Councillors will continue to work hard on the many projects and challenges over the coming months.

I have lived in Alcester for most of my life and I think that our town is a wonderful, unique place to live with a fantastic community spirit embedded in the character of the people of Alcester. Many great events take place throughout the year, for example the Food Festival, Court Leet Street Market, Alcester in Bloom and the bunting and lighting none of which could happen without the army of wonderful volunteers that the town relies



upon. What an amazing community we are privileged to have! I am looking forward to representing the Council at all of these events and it will also be a great privilege to represent and promote our town at events in the surrounding towns and cities.

I have chosen to continue to support Alcester Day Care as the Mayor's Charity for the coming year. This was a pledge that David and I made at the start of his Mayoral year. Alcester Day Care is a day centre to support people with memory issues or dementia, their carers, family and friends.

I plan to run more fund-raising events over the course of the next 12 months and I am sure you will help support our worthy cause. I am very keen to get to the total of 100 coffee mornings that David and I set as a target for our 2 mayoral years. These "coffee mornings" do not have to be coffee, you can make them afternoon tea, cocktail or Pimms evenings and they are not just about raising money, it's about getting to the target of 100. So please hold an event for your family, friends and neighbours and together we will get to the 100 coffee mornings and continue to raise awareness of the charity before the end of my Mayoral term in March 2027. Please email mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk with the details so that we can record your event. Wishing you all a lovely long and sunny summer, and I look forward to meeting with you during my time as your Mayor.

Councillor Gill Forman - Mayor of Alcester

Clerks Corner

NEW MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

At the Mayor Making event on 5 May, I was very pleased to oversee the election of the new Mayor, Cllr Gill Forman and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ruth Ashfield.

Congratulations to Gill and Ruth on their appointment to these important roles. I look forward to working with you both.

Just by way of reminder, all Town Council meetings are held in public and the dates and times are published on our website and notice boards. If you are interested in what the Council does, please come along to a meeting.

There is a public participation session at the beginning where you can raise issues or ask questions. We hope to see you soon.

Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk



The Great Big Green Week is taking place between 6th - 14th June 2026 and is more exiting than ever, where more than a million people - just like you - will come together and take action for climate and nature. To find out what's going on in your area, pick up a booklet from Alcester Library or PSW or use the website below.

www.greatbiggreenweek.com



Alcester Town Council is pleased to announce the installation of 3 new cycle hoops next to the Town notice board on Alcester High Street to give our cyclist friends a convenient parking place for their bicycles.

Vandalism and damage in Alcester Parks

There have been a number of recent incidents in our local parks where property and facilities have been vandalised. This includes willful damage to a recently-installed memorial bench in Moorfields Park; various items being removed from the outside area of a local school and dumped in Jubilee Fields; and a school chair subsequently being set on fire which melted the tarmac of the footpath near the skatepark. Other recent incidents include dog faeces being smeared on the shelter in Jubilee Fields, bottles being smashed around the grassed area, damage to the retaining wall of the MUGA (multi-use games area) near the Eric Payne Community Centre, and general incidences of anti-social behaviour.

As a result of these incidents, all local schools have been notified and asked to speak to their school communities about the damage being caused in the town. The Town Council has also now removed the shelter from Jubilee Fields, as this was the focal point for a number of the incidents. Dealing with the mess or damage is not only unpleasant and time consuming for the Town Council's staff, but it also costs residents money through the precept.

Evidence of criminal damage including CCTV footage has been forwarded to the local police who are carrying out their investigations and will follow up with all those identified and involved.

Alcester Town Council Contacts

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel 01789 766084

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

Deputy Town Clerk and 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 WendySherwood@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.alcester-tc.gov.uk

Community Grants Awarded 2026-27



Alcester Town Council has awarded the following grants for the financial year 2026-2027:

No	Organisation	Purpose of grant	Grant awarded
1	The Crafty Lunch Club CIC	Operational costs	£1000
2	Alcester Youth Choir	Operational costs	£500
3	Alcester War Memorial Town Hall	Replacement of chairs	£1000
4	Alcester & District Community First Responders	Replacement pads/batteries for defibrillators	£1155
5	The Greig Hall CIO	Replacement window	£1083
6	Alcester Male Voice Choir	Operational costs	£500
7	Alcester Bowling Club	Replacement bench and table	£300
8	Alcester Court Leet	Security costs for Street Market	£250
9	Alcester Town Walking Football Club	Defibrillator	£400
10	Oversley Green Residents Association	Litter picking equipment	£302
11	Alcester Town Football Club	Replacement goals	£1000
12	Alcester Singers	Operational costs	£350
13	Alcester Bunting & Lighting Executive	Replacement bunting	£1000
14	The Shakespeare Hospice	Hospice at Home	£200
15	1st Alcester Scout Group	Camping equipment	£1000
16	Arden Food Bank	Equipment for community hub	£500
17	Run Alcester	Operational costs	£500
18	Alcester Day Care	Music activities	£960
	Total		£12,000

STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCILLORS



Tom Ballinger - Alcester West



Susan Juned - Alcester East

Stratford on Avon District Council (SDC) is No 1 council in the whole of England for recycling, thanks to our residents and council staff.

Alcester Town Council was successful in getting a grant from the District Council to improve the environment in and around the town.

Approval for the sale of Orchard House (at the Greig Centre) to Alcester Day Care will go to the SDC June Cabinet. Alcester Day Care supports people with memory issues or dementia, their carers, family and friends. They are a local charity group not supported by government funding.

Councillors had a helpful meeting with the police in Alcester to discuss community safety.

The District Council is repeating health screening events in partnership with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust.

Orbit - A meeting was arranged with Orbit for residents of Malt Mill Lane and Colebrook Close to discuss recent service charge increases. The residents of Henley Court have new bins after Orbit and SDC reached an agreement. Regular meetings are held with Orbit Housing.

A Warwickshire County Council proposal to introduce parking charges on the High Street was unsuccessful.

The Three Tuns - SDC officers are working with the property owners to move work forward. Responsibility ultimately sits with the owner, but the council is helping to drive progress.

The South Warwickshire Local Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in December. The Plan has to address the requirements of Government to double housing numbers by 2050 across the district.

tom.ballinger@stratford-dc.gov.uk

susan.juned@stratford-dc.gov.uk

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE



James Norris

Recently, I've been working with residents and council officers to deal with local issues and make practical improvements across Alcester and the surrounding area.

A major focus has been road safety, highways and maintenance, including speeding, worn markings, damaged or obscured signs, pavement parking and, in particular, potholes. Potholes remain an ongoing problem locally, and I know how frustrating, and damaging, they are. I've been putting sustained pressure on Warwickshire County Council and National Highways, to get defects repaired and to make sure urgent problems are not ignored. While repairs don't always happen as quickly as residents would like, I continue to push hard for action and follow-up.

School parking and traffic are also a key concern. Earlier this year, I took part in the Alcester Schools Traffic Summit, bringing together schools, highways officers, Alcester Town Council, housing providers and the office of Manuela Perteghella MP. I also attended a site meeting at Our Lady & St Joseph's Catholic Church to explore whether additional off-street parking could help ease congestion at busy times, while continuing to press highways officers on blocked pavements and unsafe parking during drop-off and pick-up.

I also spent a significant amount of time trying to prevent the closure of Great Alne Primary School. Despite those efforts, the decision to close the school was ultimately taken. While I was disappointed by the outcome, I made sure local concerns were clearly heard and recorded, and I continue to support affected families.

I am also continuing to press the County Council to bring forward clear plans for the old school site at Moorfields, as this site remains an eyesore and security risk.

If you have a County Council issue you'd like help with, please feel free to get in touch.

jamesnorris@warwickshire.gov.uk



Alcester Rugby Club

Alcester Rugby Club has just finished its most successful league season in the club's history. The team is still set to play in the Warwickshire Shield final against their local rivals, Old Leamingtonians. With hope, by the time you read this article, the club will have added even more trophies to its collection.

We are a welcoming, community-focused rugby club for all ages and abilities, with teams from Atoms (4–5) to Veterans. This season, our 1st XV came second in Counties 1 Midland West (South), the 2nd team finished sixth in their first formal league outing, with our Veterans playing a number of times over the season.

We sincerely thank Head Coach David Miles (Milo), who will step down after the final against Old Leamingtonians. Milo has elevated the club to new heights and leaves Alcester in a strong position. We wish Dave all the best in his future endeavors.

Club Activities and Training

The Mini & Junior section will resume activities on Sunday, September 6th. Senior players will begin pre-season training in July. We invite everyone, regardless of age or experience, to join us at the club: Seniors train on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while Minis & Juniors meet on Sunday mornings.

Our refurbished clubhouse is available for hire. We welcome all guests and players—new or returning. For details, contact Mike Walmsley at alcesterrfcsecretary@gmail.com.



Alcester 1st team in their new Away Kit sponsored by Evtech after beating Newbold-on-Avon to reach the Warwickshire Shield Final.

Upcoming Events

Alcester RFC Comedy Night — June 26th

Alcester RFC Beer Festival — August 15th & 16th

DOG CRIMES

THE EVIDENCE IS EVERYWHERE.
PICK UP THE POO.



In recent months Alcester has seen an increase in the amount of dog faeces that are being left behind by irresponsible dog owners and this is very evident in the High Street. This is particularly unpleasant for residents and visitors alike and can cause all sorts of issues for shop owners if it is inadvertently taken into shops via the soles of a shoe.

Please pick it up!

Run Alcester



A life-saving bleed kit has been donated to the town by local running club Run Alcester, providing vital emergency equipment that could help save lives.

The kit contains essential materials, including trauma dressings and tourniquets, enabling members of the public to provide immediate assistance in the event of a severe bleed while awaiting the arrival of emergency services.

The bleed kit was presented on 27th April by Run Alcester Chair Helen Bowen, and was formally received on behalf of the town by the Mayor, Councillor David Henderson.

Also in attendance were volunteers Tim Cronin and Bill Goodall from Alcester & District Community First Responders, who installed the kit in a defibrillator cabinet housed within a newly refurbished and repurposed red telephone box on Church Street. The installation forms part of a wider national effort to improve access to emergency bleed control kits. In a campaign by The Daniel Baird Foundation - established in memory of a young man fatally stabbed in Birmingham in 2017 - more than 30,000 bleed kits have been distributed across the UK so far.





ALCESTER COMMUNITY ORCHARD BIOBLITZ

DISCOVER THE WILDLIFE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Date : 9th June 2026
Location : Alcester Community Orchard, Jubilee Fields B49 6AG
Time : drop in between 12pm – 2pm or 5pm – 7pm
(Allow 30 mins to take part)

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY – JUST CURIOSITY AND ENTHUSIASM! EVERYTHING ELSE PROVIDED

HELP RECORD REAL WILDLIFE DATA AND LEARN FUN FACTS ABOUT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

JO FROM HAVEN 4 WILDLIFE WILL BE THERE TO GUIDE YOU AND HELP COLLECT THE DATA PLEASE WEAR SUITABLE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR



CLIMATE AND NATURE FAMILY DAY

9th June 3pm - 6pm @ Eric Payne Community Centre

FUN
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS
FREE TEA COFFEE AND CAKES



MEET LOCAL GROUPS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
 EASY IDEAS TO GO GREENER AT HOME
 FRIENDLY EXPERTS WITH HELPFUL TIPS
 MAP YOUR FUTURE WALL - SHARE YOUR IDEAS
 ENERGY SAVING ADVICE & EASY ECO SWAPS
 CREATE YOUR OWN SAUSAGE DOG DRAUGHT EXCLUDER
 HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP WITH DISCOUNTED HOT AND COLD COMPOSTING BINS

<https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com>



ALCESTER BOWLING CLUB

COME AND JOIN US !!



- **Inclusive Community:** Alcester Bowls Club is a welcoming multi-generational Club, accessible to everyone regardless of age, gender or physical ability. We ensure everyone feels at home.
- **Friendly Atmosphere:** You'll find a community of supportive and enthusiastic members who are always ready to share tips and celebrate your success.
- **Beautiful Grounds:** Our well-maintained Green is the perfect setting for a relaxing yet engaging sport located at the end of Meeting Lane & often described as the most beautiful environment in the region.
- **Regular Events:** Participate in a variety of social and competitive events throughout the season, including tournaments, league matches and social bowls.
- **Coaching and Support:** New to bowling? We offer free coaching sessions to get you started.
- **Mental Health Benefit:** Bowling is proven to help mental and physical health & well being

• Contact Us:
 Why not message us through our Facebook page
Alcester Bowling Club.
 Or feel free to get in touch via our Secretary:
 Email: robert.evo12abc@gmail.com
 Address: Alcester Bowling Club,
 Meeting Lane, Alcester, Warwickshire B95 5QT




Royal British Legion

The British Legion was formed in 1921 to support veterans returning from the First World War. It was granted a Royal Charter in 1925 and given the name Royal British Legion on its 50th anniversary in 1971.

Over that time, the goals of the RBL have not changed with its core values of supporting our Armed Forces, our veterans and their families, ensuring their unique contribution to our safety and security is not forgotten.

The Alcester branch has now been in existence for 105 years being one of the first formed in Warwickshire. It has a proud and continuous history of supporting our veterans and commemorating the important military events in Britain's history.

The Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day are extremely well supported by our community. However, the Legion is not just about Remembrance Day. We commemorate many special dates throughout the year such as Armed Forces Day (27th June), Merchant Navy Day (3rd September) and Armistice Day (11th November). We welcome your support, now more than ever. You do not need to be a veteran to become a member of the Royal British Legion and help support our work in the community.

To join, please visit us at www.britishlegion.org.uk

Mark Cargill - Chair Alcester Royal British Legion



Alcester Day Care

Alcester Day Care supports people with dementia and their carers. Currently it operates weekly at the Baptist Church Hall on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Clients chat, play games and generally have fun keeping their minds and bodies active and enabling their carers to have free time.

Progress to have a dedicated dementia centre in Alcester continues. The scheme aims to create a specialist centre at Orchard House, an empty building adjacent to the Greig Leisure Centre. It will need to be purchased, modernised, extended and equipped to expand the service ADC offers to people with dementia and their carers. Discussions with Stratford District Council to finalise the purchase continue.



After months of work, ADC supporters and fund raisers are close to turning an idea into the start of a reality. As the retiring Mayor's year of service comes to an end, Councillor David Henderson's charity, ADC, will benefit from his fund raising campaign of over £19,584.83. And the good news continues because new Mayor Gill Forman has agreed to have ADC as her charity this year too.

ADC chairman Carole Zambonini said, "We thank David, Gill and their partners Lesley and Tim. They've worked so hard for us raising money and awareness of who we are and how we can support those with dementia. Thanks must go to all our volunteers, committee members and dedicated staff for everything they do too."

For a taster session, volunteering or information contact Carole

T:01789 765971 E: info@alcesterdaycare.org or check us out on Facebook.

The Centurions

The Centurions are a group of volunteers and supporters of Alcester Roman Museum and they have an annual programme of events that brings the volunteers and supporters together once a month at the Greig Hall for talks and social get togethers.



If you have an interest in Roman history, particularly around the Alcester area, then please come along and join us.

The new 2026 programme of talks is shown on the Alcester Roman Museum website – no booking is necessary, just come along.

Entrance is £2 for Centurions (Museum volunteers and ex-volunteers) and £5 for visitors. The entrance charge includes refreshments.

All meetings are held at 3pm on Wednesdays – over the summer these include May 20th, June 17th and July 15th. The venue is the Lounge at The Greig Hall.

Susan Juned - Chair, Alcester Heritage Trust (Roman Museum)



Alcester Court Leet

The spirit of Alcester shone through on Shrove Tuesday (17th February) at our annual pancake race. A massive crowd filled the High Street to cheer on competitors as they raced, flipped and occasionally dropped pancakes along the way. The event included pubs, businesses and individuals with a wide range of age and ability. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped on the day.



In March we held the inaugural Court Leet Quiz, hosted by the Dog and Partridge. This was held to raise funds for Prostate cancer research and included talks from survivors of the disease.



As part of our Royal Charter (held since c1262) we have to assize (test/inspect) the boundaries, rivers and streets within the manor of Alcester. We also have to assize goods and produce that are being sold within the manor.

We are pleased to report that all establishments were found to be good and honest, with produce that is wholesome and fit for the people of Alcester.

This year we concluded the event with a something slightly different – a Yard of

Ale competition, hosted by the Royal Oak. Our Low Bailiff (Marc Venables) won the full yard competition – just three seconds ahead of second place!

Coming Up

June 14th: Street Market. A Mardi Gras, with fancy-dress, best-dressed shop window, stalls, food and music, including a steel band to get the party started!

22nd August: Family Fayre. Fun for all the family; this year the event will include a flower and produce show – see FB for details!

ALCESTER COURT LEET FAMILY FAYRE DAY SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 2026

This year Alcester Court Leet are proposing to hold a Flower & Produce Show alongside their annual Family Fayre Day.

We are inviting children to take part by growing their own sunflower, to bring along on the day of the show. We hope to create a 'Sea of Sunflowers' outside the Scout hut. The sunflowers will make up part of the competition as well.

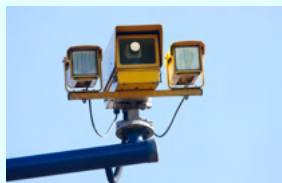


ACL have visited both junior schools to hand out plant pots, compost (donated by Shop 4 Allsorts) a sunflower seed for children (in one or two year groups) to grow in school & eventually take home to continue growing. If anyone else would like to grow a sunflower, feel free.

Why not enter the baking, produce, painting or photography sections of the show? There is something for everyone. Please download from Alcester Court Leet website www.alcestercourtleet.co.uk details of sections you might want to enter. Or print off the sheet, fill it in & drop off at Wild Bunch Florist or Ciao Bella Chic. Sealed envelopes with cash please.

Family Fun Day is just that; a day of games and fun for all the family to enjoy. A fabulous BBQ, bar, cakes, scones & light refreshments, Tombola, our famous egg throwing competition, centre ring games, face painting, meet some of the Guide Dogs, Alcester Fire Brigade, fun rides, ice-cream, join the longest 'Oops upside your head' line Alcester will have seen! Look out for more details on Facebook.

Reporting Speeding Concerns



Speeding remains a concern for many Alcester residents, particularly along the A46, A435 and areas around the industrial estate. Excessive speed not only affects road safety but can have a significant impact on quality of life within our community. Speeding isn't just about safety, it also brings constant traffic noise, vibration and disruption. It's important that concerns are raised, recorded, and acted upon.

To help tackle this issue, the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership - which includes Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire County Council – has introduced a clearer and more joined-up way for residents to report speeding concerns. Every report is looked at using a data-led approach, combining collision history and average speed data, so partners can properly understand what's happening and decide what action may be needed. One Important message is this: the more concerns that are raised, the stronger the evidence becomes. When residents take a few minutes to report a problem, it helps build a clearer picture of local issues and can speed up how quickly they are reviewed and addressed. If speeding or traffic noise is affecting you or your neighbourhood, please report it.

Visit www.warksroadsafety.org/safe-speeds/

Click on 'Reporting Speed Concerns' and submit details of the location you're concerned about.



Oversley Green Residents Association

Spring having finally arrived, and with no major events on the calendar this year, OGRA has turned its attention to giving Oversley Green a well-deserved spruce-up. The "Great Oversley Tidy" is underway, starting with three projects: Signs, Furniture and Litter with Plants to follow.

The Signs team has been busy cleaning road signs and nameplates, scrubbing away years of fungus and grime, and trimming back the vegetation that had swallowed some of them entirely — one had vanished from view altogether. Meanwhile, the Furniture team has taken on benches, railings, the curious cluster of Roman-style columns on the old Stratford Road, and even the Mill Lane phone-box-turned-library. And as of yesterday, Alcester Town Council have granted the funding to buy our own litter picking kit, which will give us greater flexibility. Thanks to them for making our litter picking lives easier.

So far, three benches and three road signs have been restored. It's a modest start, but early days — and we hope you'll notice the difference as Oversley Green gets a little tidier each week.

Richard Slatter - Chair, OGRA



Thank you to all those who attended our recent Spring Concert. The choir is commencing preparations for its relaxed Summer Concert which will take place on the evening of Thursday 25th

June 2026 in Our Lady's Church in Priory Road, Alcester.

The concert will have a Musical Theatre theme. There will be popular songs from well known stage productions. The songs to be performed feature in Kiss Me Kate, The Sound of Music, Oliver, Carousel, Mary Popkins, Matilda the Musical, Aspects of Love, The Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, and A Chorus Line.

The performance will be followed by refreshments for the audience, family and friends of the singers, and supporters of the choir.

If you are attracted to singing the great songs of Musical Theatre, come along and sing them with us.

Rehearsals take place each Thursday between 7.30 and 9.00pm in the Hall of Our Lady's Church in Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DY. The first rehearsal is on Thursday 7th May.

If you wish to know more about the choir, come along to these rehearsals and see if you would like to sing with us.

We are an open and friendly mixed voice choir. Both experienced and new singers are welcome. We do not require an audition. We would be particularly pleased to welcome additional tenor voices. If you require further information, Contact: events@alcestersingers.co.uk

www.alcestersingers.co.uk or Visit us on Facebook

Alcester Bretvins

The Annual Chapter of our Confrerie was held in Alcester Town Hall on the last weekend in April. There were just over forty members and guests present, including the Baillis of Grande Bretagne and Pay de Galle. Our friends from France were sadly diminished as many are also members of the Alcester/Vallet Twinning Associations. As this arrangement will regrettably be coming to an end in May, some have chosen to come with that organisation instead, but we look forward to seeing them here in Alcester. We intronised two new members, both Dames de Duchesse Anne, and welcomed back Mark Venables, the Low Bailiff, who has been intronised in the past. We then went to Abbots Salford for our celebratory meal, after drinking from the new muscadet harvest.

The weekend once again coincided with the celebration of Shakespeare's birthday in Stratford. A number of us supported this on the Saturday morning and our visiting vigneron had the privilege of unfurling the French tricolor. We then repaired to the Boathouse for an excellent lunch arranged by John Freeland.

Our next event is the Blessing of the Vine in June (venue to be confirmed) and then our annual boules competition to celebrate Bastille Day on 12th July. Following a successful event last year, we shall be returning to the proper boules pitch in Waterside Park, Evesham. This is a public venue and anyone who would care to join us would be most welcome. Details from bretvinsalcester@gmail.com

David Hall - Chancellor



After our March Big Breakfasts we were delighted to be able to donate £3,000 to local causes, and a further £1,000 to International organisations. Through Rotary Foundation we supported Shelterbox, which provides temporary shelter for



those caught up in disasters such as earthquakes, flooding etc, and we were also able to support the Ekika Trust, a local Charity that supports school children in Tanzania, providing basic essentials education and food. Sue and Taj Sabatowski run the charity

(no 1183980) from their home in Shipston on Stour and ensure by regular visits that the money raised goes directly to the school. The chair of Trustees, Gill Forman, met with President Vaughan and other Rotary Members for a presentation photograph. Gill is an Alcester Town Councillor and Mayor, and we were delighted to support the charity.

If your organisation is in need of funding please contact us for an application form, we hope to make further donations later in the year. If your organisation is in need of funding please contact us for an application form, we hope to make further donations later in the year.

Look out for our 70's Disco at the Greig Hall on 19 June when we will be reprising the 'Summer of 1976', profits from which will go to Arden Foodbank, our President's charity this year. Tickets £10 each from the Greig and from PSW, get the date in your diary and put on your glad rags to dance the night away!

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

www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk

Kay Blake - Secretary

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

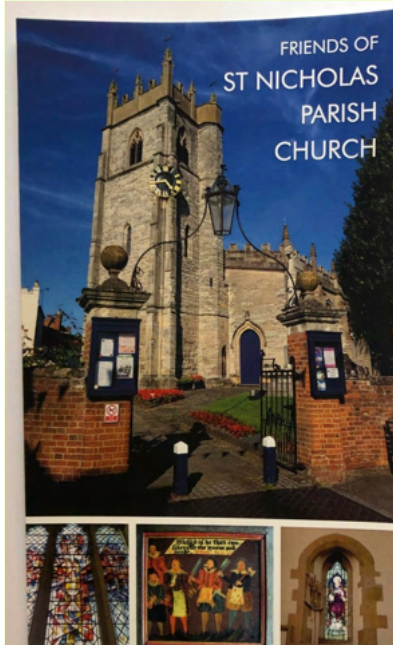
Raising Funds for Arden Food Bank

**Scan the QR code or
cash only from PSW
(Monday - Saturday)**

QR code

Logos: Greig Hall, Rotary, Alcester & Bidford, PSW

Future-proofing St Nicholas Church



St Nicholas Church is a vital part of Alcester's heritage and town life. It is a wonderful building prominently situated on the High Street. The tower dates from the 13th century with the clock uniquely placed so it can be seen down the street. The Georgian nave houses several important artefacts and sculptures such as the nationally important Benefaction Board from 1632, the old clock mechanism from 1682 and the Queen Anne library cupboard c1709.

The building itself has been listed as Grade II star by English Heritage and, as such, is the responsibility of the whole community, not just the church congregation. Two years ago, the "Friends of St Nicholas Church" was formed to secure funding for the maintenance of the church in the long term. Neither the Church of England nor Government provide funds for repairs or maintenance.

This is to be achieved by establishing a fund of £300,000 which would provide sufficient investment income to fund repairs going forward. A good start was made in the first year with £26,000 raised, we are now appealing more widely to supporters of the town's heritage to help us reach our target.



Please consider joining the Friends. There are various options for joining as detailed in the leaflet which can either be found in the church or an email on dmoulson@hotmail.com or by calling on 07530 900237 and I will ensure that you get one. Alternatively follow the QR code or this link to find out more and register your interest.

<https://www.alcesterminster.org/church-locations/alcester-st-nicholas/SNfriends>

LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)

Students from Alcester Grammar A Level Year 12 Business Studies group recently enjoyed an inspiring and curriculum-linked visit to Blackdown Growers, a leading producer of LEAF Marque certified salad leaves and herbs.

The visit gave students a unique opportunity to experience first-hand how sustainable farming and modern agribusiness work together from field to fork. During the day, students toured the farm to learn about crop production, environmental stewardship and the principles behind LEAF Marque certification, which recognises sustainably farmed products.



A highlight of the visit was exploring the processing factory, where students followed the journey of produce after harvest, gaining insight into washing, packing, quality control and distribution. The visit brought classroom business studies topics to life, with students seeing supply chains, production processes, marketing and sustainability in action. The experience linked farming, food production and business education in an engaging and practical way.

Students asked thoughtful questions throughout and enjoyed learning directly from industry professionals about careers in agriculture, food production and environmental management.

The day was both educational and enjoyable, offering a fun-filled experience that deepened students' understanding of the food industry and the importance of sustainable farming. Visits like this showcase the value of connecting young people with local businesses and real-world learning opportunities.

Alcester & District Friends of CRUK
**34TH ALCESTER
 GARDEN WALKABOUT**
Sunday 21st June 2026
 ADMISSION from 12.00 to 5.00pm

Around 18 gardens large and small will be open for viewing behind the ancient houses in the centre of this historic town. Also open the award-winning Malt Mill Lane area and St Nicholas Church.

LIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS,
 CREAM TEAS, REFRESHMENTS,
 PLANTS FOR SALE AT BARGAIN PRICES!

TICKETS £6 EACH (Cash or Card)
 (Accompanied Children under 12 Free)

ON SALE ON THE DAY AT OUR STALL IN CHURCH STREET

Sorry, but
 dogs are not
 allowed in the
 gardens.

cruk.org
 In aid of
**CANCER
 RESEARCH
 UK**
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
 SUE BLACKBURN - TEL 01789 764756
 Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464) and Scotland (SC0415663).

ALCESTER MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY
 PROUDLY PRESENTS



CALENDAR GIRLS
 THE MUSICAL
 A Musical by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth

Originally Produced by David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers and The Shubert Organisation
 Based on the play CALENDAR GIRLS written by Tim Firth and on the motion picture
 CALENDAR GIRLS written by Tim Firth and Juliette Towhidi

7TH - 10TH OCTOBER 2026
REDDITCH PALACE THEATRE

NODA
 For every stage



Release Your Mind
 AMTC
 Musical!

This amateur production of CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL is presented by
 arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk www.alcestermusicaltheatre.com

Alcester Musical Theatre Company

After a very successful Spring Show – Name That Musical, in March, we are now into rehearsals for our next production: Calendar Girls The Musical.

Written by Tim Firth and Gary Barlow, the musical is based on the true story of a group of women from a small Yorkshire village who became a global phenomenon with the launch of their 'artistic' WI calendar. The original story went on to raise millions for charity worldwide and continues to do so today.

With heartfelt moments, plenty of humour, and unforgettable songs, it's a celebration of friendship, courage, and the extraordinary things ordinary people can achieve.

Tickets can be purchased from Cynthia Hill on 01789 763446 (no booking fee), from The Palace Theatre Box Office on 01527 65203, or by scanning the QR code on the flyer to book online.



Alcester Youth Project

Alcester Youth Project (AYP) has been championing young people in the town since 1996—and it's still going strong. As an independent community organisation, AYP is all about creating opportunities for young people to learn, socialise, and try new things in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Over the years, AYP has helped bring some fantastic ideas to life. From transforming a building into the much-loved youth club, The Depot, to funding equipment, first aid training, and youth leader development, the project has made a real difference. It has also supported the creation of a local skate park, run vibrant summer arts projects, and backed numerous clubs and initiatives for young people.

AYP also knows how to bring people together. Through the Alcester Schools Growing Greener Together project, students from local schools teamed up to plant trees and spring bulbs across the town—brightening green spaces while building pride, teamwork, and environmental awareness.

Today, AYP continues to be a place where young people can grow in confidence, make friends, and feel part of their community. To keep the momentum going, they're looking for new volunteers to join the team.

If you'd like to get involved and make a difference, please contact Elizabeth at Elizabeth.lake@leaf.eco.

Alcester Male Voice Choir

Alcester Male Voice Choir's 52nd Annual Concert took place at the Greig Hall on April 18th.

Selection of comments:

The High Bailiff : *'What an absolutely fabulous evening; please pass on my thanks and admiration to AMVC. Peter and I thank you for including us in a 'feast for the ears and balm for the soul'.*

'What an amazing concert, Chris thought it was really brilliant and my daughter Catherine was blown away and said her 3 children would have loved it.'

'The children had a wonderful evening; thank you so much for inviting them to perform and giving them such a fantastic opportunity'.

The concert with the theme 'Cross Generational Sounds' was a sell-out showcasing performances by Alcester's new talented Youth Choir, Alcester's young professional Rock Academy and long-standing friends, Occasional Brass, alongside the well-established popular Alcester Male Voice Choir accompanied by principal Joachim Lim who has worked with many international conductors in concerts and festivals.

In character with the title, the music ranged from Handel across the centuries to present day. Two highlights included collaboration between the audience and all performers in 'Rock Around the Clock' along with a surprise appearance by Paddington Bear, delighting both children and adults.

The evening concluded with the National Anthem and heartfelt thanks, ultimately fulfilling the aim of Founder Artistic Director of Music Judith Land BEM of fostering fun, enjoyment, and community spirit through music.



Thinking of joining a choir? – Why not Contact 07886139781 or visit alcestermvc.org.uk. We would welcome between 6 -8 gentlemen from beginners to more experienced singers.

Street Cleaning and Drain Clearance

Stratford District Council's Street Scene Department cleaned the roadway at Gas House Lane, on 10th May.



The clearance of the extensive build-up of debris revealed that several road drains are severely blocked. These will be reported to Warwickshire County

Council Highways for clearing.

The cleaning would not have been possible without the agreement of SDC to attend the site at a date and time as requested by Alcester Town Council; Alcester Town Football Club's generous loan of traffic cones and a volunteer to demark the no-parking areas; and most importantly, the co-operation of residents who re-located their vehicles from Gas House Lane to enable access by the road sweeper. Thank you to all concerned. It is proposed that this event be rolled out to other areas of Alcester that suffer from similar issues.



Visitor Information Boards

Residents may not have noticed how out of date the two Visitor Information Boards had become, having not been changed for circa 20 years. Having received a grant from Stratford District Council, the Town Council has refreshed the boards, one in the main car park and the other in Bleachfield Street car park.

When these photos were taken 2 visitors from Birmingham were looking at the boards and, of course, they told me how they enjoyed coming to our lovely town!

In the next few months we will also be replacing the 7 fingerposts so that they too are up to date.



River Arrow & Alne Revival (RAAR) Summer Update



River Arrow & Alne Revival continues to grow as more people get involved in caring for our rivers.

Since the first community river walk in January, RAAR has become a regular presence in Alcester, with monthly walks exploring stretches of the Arrow and Alne, alongside hands on volunteering, seasonal events, and creative work inspired by the river, including a history walk and a dawn chorus gathering. Weekly water testing is now taking place at Pebbly Beach and Gunning's Bridge as part of Safe Avon,



which is working to stop sewage pollution in the Warwickshire Avon, which the Arrow and Alne flow into. Testing at Pebbly Beach is led by the Alcester Court Leet, with results published online.



At Gunning's Bridge, biodiversity improvements are underway with Stratford-on-Avon District Council through the Community Climate Change and Nature Recovery Fund. Work includes Himalayan balsam removal, litter picking, signage, weekly water testing, and the start of riverfly monitoring. Native planting is planned for the autumn to strengthen riverbank habitat and support biodiversity.

RAAR is also developing plans for habitat improvements at Jubilee Fields, working with Alcester Town Council as landowner.

Come and join a walk, a practical session, or simply spend time by the river with us. Monthly walks take place at 1pm on the first Saturday of the month, starting and finishing at the Eric Payne Community Centre.

Find us on Facebook: @raarcic Email: riverarrowvolunteers@gmail.com



Warwickshire Federation of the WI annually has a chair's challenge. In 2026 it is to raise funds for the Esther Project. This is run from Leamington

Spa to raise funds to support women who are experiencing challenges from mental health issues, or transitioning from prison, facing homelessness or escaping domestic abuse. Although Alcester WI is a small branch compared to many others in the county we have decided to raise funds for this worthwhile charity. So far this year we have held a raffle for a lovely simnel cake baked by one of our members, and last month we were treated to a talk by a friend of one of our members who donated her fee to the charity by giving us a talk on her hobby of mudlarking on the Thames. She brought along an interesting display of her finds from coins and pottery to clay pipes, and trinkets that the pilgrims had dropped en route to Canterbury. She has donated several of her finds to the London Museum.



We will continue to raise funds throughout the summer, and we will be having a stall at the street market in June to increase our donation.

MOOR FIELDS CHARITY APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

The Moor Fields Charity was set up for the general benefit for 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 £2500 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 year the grants we have given include Schools, Methodist Church, Court Leet, Alcester in Bloom and St. Nicholas Church. 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.

ALCESTER YOUTH CHOIR

IS LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC, MUSIC LOVING
8 - 14 YEAR OLDS TO JOIN OUR GROUP!

LOVE TO SING?

THEN COME ALONG ON
THURSDAYS FROM 6-7PM!

WE COVER POP, ROCK AND
MUSICAL CLASSICS!

MAKE NEW FRIENDS, DEVELOP YOUR
PERFORMANCE SKILLS AND HAVE FUN!

Please email alcesteryouthchoir@gmail.com
to sign up or for more information

MAYOR'S CHARITY 

Coffee Morning

100 COFFEE MORNINGS WITH NET
PROCEEDS GOING TO ALCESTER DAY
CARE

IT'S NOT
ABOUT THE
MONEY BUT
LET'S GET TO
100 COFFEE
MORNINGS



100 COFFEE
MORNINGS IS
WITHIN REACH.
WHEN ARE YOU
HOLDING YOURS?

EVERYONE CAN HELP BY HOSTING A
SIMPLE COFFEE MORNING FOR FAMILY,
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

PLEASE EMAIL ADMINISTRATION@ALCESTER-TC.GOV.UK
WITH THE DETAILS SO THAT WE CAN RECORD YOUR EVENT.



Alcester Day Care
Supporting people with Dementia
and their carers
CHARITY NUMBER 1170274

THE
**Greig
Hall**

www.greighall.org.uk



JUN 18

SPARK YOUTH MUSIC
New musicians & new music

JUN 19

70s DISCO
Fundraiser for Arden Food Bank

JUN 20

U2 v SM
Two Rock Legend Tributes

JUN 21

SOUND OF STRONG VOICES
Musical Theatre Academy Showcase

JUN 25

CINEMA
Afternoon & Evening Choices

JUN 27

School of Rock
Young Actors' Edition

JUL 02-04

MADAGASCAR
A Musical Adventure, Jr Edition

JUL 05

Stratford Symphony Orchestra
Featuring guest Oboist Nicola Hands

THE
**Greig
Hall**

www.greighall.org.uk



JUL 10

ALTER EAGLES
No Finer Tribute

JUL 17-18

tick, tick... BOOM!
Musical from the creator of RENT

JUL 19

SUMMER FAIR
Stalls, Entertainment, & Fun!

JUL 22

ALCESTER COMEDY CLUB
Four Top-class Comedians

JUL 23&25

CINEMA
Afternoon & Evening Choices

AUG 01&31

iDance
Two-room Freestyle Dancing

AUG 28
AUG 29
SPT 03

CINEMA
Afternoon & Evening Choices

Why not join us as a volunteer?

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 X (formerly Twitter) <https://x.com/AlcesterTown> and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/alcestertowncouncil/>

Town Councillor's Contact Details

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