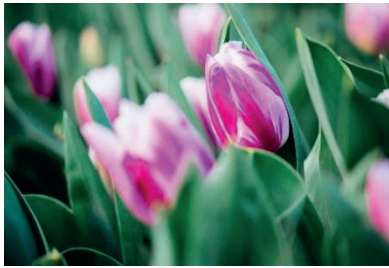


# Alcester Town Council



## Spring Newsletter

March 2025 Issue 77

### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The Mayor of Alcester usually holds the office for one council year although on occasions, such as during Covid, some have done two consecutive terms. Experiences in the role can be wide and varied, but there is one thing common to all Mayors whatever their duration, and that is the end of term report. So here is mine.

Did you know that there are over 45 volunteer and charitable organisations in Alcester? These volunteer members give their time freely to put together events without expecting recognition or praise. Such events include the Food Festival, Court Leet activities, St Nicholas' Night, Bunting & Lighting, Hanging Baskets, and lots of Health & Wellbeing activities benefiting all sections of the community. It is easy to see why Sue and I feel privileged to spread the word about this fabulous Roman Town when we are connecting with other Mayors and the High Sheriff in Warwickshire and surrounding counties (collectively and affectionately known as the Chain Gang).

### Looking back on 2024



There were a number of standout moments, including helping to judge the schools' Bread Baking competition at the Food Festival. The Oversley Green Scarecrow tournament was full of amazing exhibits including a scary one hidden in the back garden 😊! We also attended prize-giving at Alcester Town Football Club and met the young members of the Alcester & Ragley Cricket Club with, thankfully, no obligation on me to play! Other enjoyable events include the Baptist Church 'Elvis Themed' Toy Service when I knew all the songs (*showing my age here*), and the High Bailiff's Halloween Night fundraiser where Sue was dressed as an enchanted witch, and I gave a great impression of Friar Tuck.

It was an honour for Sue and I to attend the five poignant memorial services involving the Alcester Royal British Legion when solemn, respectful appreciation from the townspeople was once again in evidence.

### Looking ahead to 2025

Our year began with the Court Leet parade and service, followed by the Alcester Academy Careers Fair, designed to give students an insight into the world of work.

The Mayor's Awards Night recognised the endeavour of Alcester allotment holders, the town's Window Wanderland creative window illustrations, and celebrated outstanding individuals, organisations, and businesses within the community. We have recently attended the University of Warwick's Graduation Ceremony and the Court Leet Wassail Torchlight Procession to the community orchard, which is growing in popularity as a fun, early evening activity for all the family. We joined several charity fundraising activities and various civic dinners in January and February. The Pancake Race in March put a smile on people's faces with loud support from cheering onlookers. All competitors received certificates, and individual awards went to the winners.

We are very much looking forward to other upcoming civic and local events in April.

**Councillor Mike Bowe, Mayor of Alcester**



## CLERKS CORNER

### Precept 2025-26

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 7 January, the Town Council agreed to request a precept of £410,120 from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the year 2025-26. The precept in 2024-25 was £369,340.

Residents will be well aware that everything is going up in price and bills paid by Councils are subject to exactly the same pressures. In particular, the Council will be paying almost 50% more in national insurance contributions for staff in 2025-26.

The agreed precept will result in an increase in the precept charge to Alcester residents (Band D) from £156.54 to £168.97 per annum. This rise is equivalent to just over £1 per month 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 Priors Meadow, Centenary Field and other open spaces and miscellaneous street furniture such as signs, benches and bins.

### Cllr Vaughan Blake

Cllr Vaughan Blake resigned in January 2025. I would like to express my thanks to Vaughan for his service as a Town Councillor and as Mayor in 2023-24.

*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 Wednesday 2 April 2025**

## Advance Notice - Annual Parish Meeting

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk)**

## ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel: 01789 766084

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PROGRESS ON THE SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN (SWLP)

Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council are continuing to work on this development plan which will cover the period until 2050 and take into account Government housing targets.

The latest version of Stage 1 of the Plan, contained in the preferred options consultation documents, was the result of assessment of sites put forward by landowners and other sites identified by the District Councils.

Bleachfield Street North Allotments land had previously been put forward for development but has been assessed as not suitable, so will not be included in the Plan. There are 7 sites in Alcester that will be subject to further assessment, one of which, designated Strategic Growth Area 21, is partly in Alcester Parish but mostly within Arrow and Weethley Parish.

The Town Council has carefully considered the proposed sites and has responded to the consultation on behalf of residents. If you would like to see a copy of this response, please email the Deputy Clerk, [administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk).

More information is on the SWLP website, <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/preferred-options.cfm>. There is considerable technical information, but the interactive map is most useful to explore the proposals.

There will be further public consultation later in the year as sites are further assessed and the Plan is refined.

**Cllr Wendy Mills**

*Member of ATC Planning Committee and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Steering Group.*

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

*Council Agrees New Budget Ahead of Local Elections*

The County Council has agreed on the budget for the coming year, with a base budget of £588.434 million. The differences between parties were minimal, showing broad agreement on how resources should be allocated.

This is the last budget I will oversee before the local elections in May, making it a particularly poignant moment. It has been a privilege to play a role in shaping the financial decisions that impact our community, and I am proud of the work we have done to protect essential services while ensuring financial stability. To balance the budget, £5 million in reserves will be used.

Social Care remains the largest expense, accounting for nearly half of the council's budget. Adult Social Care currently supports over 8,000 Warwickshire residents, with 5,700 receiving assistance to remain independent at home. This year, demand has risen significantly, with a 5% increase in older people supported and a 4.4% rise in working-age adults receiving care. The cost of care has also increased, leading to a £15 million overspend by Quarter 3.

To address these pressures, the council will invest £46.8 million in adult social care, ensuring our elderly and vulnerable adults receive the support they need. Children's services will receive an additional £8.1 million, including £5.5 million for children's placements and £7.4 million for home-to-school transport, which has been impacted by rising costs and increasing demand, particularly for SEND pupils.

To fund these commitments, council tax will rise by 4.99% in 2025/26, with Band D set at £1,822.95. As we now have confirmation that elections will take place in May and reform of local government in Warwickshire will not be in the first wave, I would like to thank residents for their engagement and support throughout my tenure.

**Councillor Piers Daniell, Warwickshire County Council**



## OVERSLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A new year and a new focus for OGRA. After six years of creativity and originality, this year will be a fallow year for the Scarecrow Competition. Thriving during COVID and with a hardy core of dedicated supporters, numbers have decreased in recent years, and we have decided to give everyone a chance to recharge their scarecrow batteries and give it a break. This is a pause rather than an end and we will be looking for creativity when the event is reintroduced. In place of scarecrows, we are investigating a form of Oversley in Bloom event, where we will be looking for old pans, wheelbarrows, watering cans etc. to be recycled as improvised flowerpots. There will also be a photo competition aimed at capturing the essence of Oversley Green. More on the local OGRA channels. Sticking with tradition, we did manage to create some garden fertiliser again this year with Xmas Tree shredding: useful for Oversley in Bloom. It's a long-term plan.

**Richard Slatter Chairman OGRA (Oversley Green Residents Association)**

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In December, the Government announced changes in the way that local government is organised. Instead of a District Council and a County Council, they want to see only one Council, called a Unitary Council covering the functions of both. They also want to see regional level 'strategic authorities', (with Mayors), to handle big issues such as road and rail projects and bus franchising. The West Midlands already has a strategic authority and a Mayor covering the big cities across the West Midlands.

Those Councils that were well prepared for the potential changes were told that they could apply to postpone the County Council elections in May 2025. Warwickshire County Council applied to be in this first phase.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, we heard that Warwickshire County Council would not be in the first phase. Their request to postpone the elections was refused. However, proposals for Unitary local government will still go ahead, but in our area, at a more considered pace. We hope that this allows for proper discussion of all the options and what outcome would be best for the residents of Stratford on Avon District.

Reorganisations have taken place in many other areas of the country. They are complex and costly, particularly where they are not planned properly; and should not be rushed.

Stratford on Avon District Council held an Extraordinary Council meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss all the options available. We will need partnerships, including with Parish and Town Councils, of those who must be involved.

*Susan Juned, Leader, Stratford on Avon District Council*

## ALCESTER UNITED CHARITIES IS SEEKING A NEW CLERK

Alcester United Charities manages the six almshouses on Birmingham Road for the benefit of residents and also provides occasional small grants from the other 2 charities.

Due to the retirement of the current Clerk, we are looking for a well organised and numerate person to take on this role, which carries an honorarium payment commensurate with the time commitment of approximately 15 hours per month. In supporting the Charities' Trustees to carry out their responsibilities, the Clerk's job involves communicating with residents, keeping the accounts and maintaining the budget, organising property repairs, ensuring Charity Commission procedures are followed, and arranging and minuting quarterly Trustee meetings. Training and support is available through the membership of the Almshouse Association.

If you are interested in the role please contact Andrew Deeks, the current Clerk, for more information. His email address is [andrew.g.deeks@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.g.deeks@btinternet.com) or phone him on 07860 648769.

## ALCESTER BRETIVINS

With the completion of the harvest and the pressing of the grapes, autumn is always a busy time in our calendar and, although the 2024 harvest was disappointingly low because of bad weather, we have continued with our celebrations in their traditional form.

This has included two trips to our founders in France; the first in November was to celebrate the award of the 'Golden Bottle' to the area deemed to have produced the best wine overall – for the first time this was Vertou; the second in January was to celebrate the feast of St Vincent, the patron saint of wine, with a service led by the Bishop of Nantes in the parish church at Gorges, near the lovely ancient town of Clisson. Being winter, it was of course cold, but this was kept at bay by the frequent nips of muscadet, along with excellent French cuisine, which always accompany these celebrations.

In November, we joined with our colleagues in London as the Baillage of Great Britain instituted their new Bailli, again accompanied by a magnificent meal in a London club. The Bailli was subsequently recognised by the Order at the St Vincent celebrations.

Closer to home, we had our Christmas meal at the Golden Cross, Ardens Grafton, and enjoyed a French film (with English sub-titles) in January. We also took part in the annual Court Leet service at St Nicholas' Church. Our next event is our annual Chapter in Alcester Town Hall at the end of April.

*David Hall, Chancellor*

## MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARDS

Outstanding contributions from members of the Alcester community were recognised at the Mayor's Civic Awards evening held at The Greig Hall in January. This was a very celebratory yet humbling occasion providing an excellent opportunity to showcase the brightest and the best of Alcester in terms of volunteering, community spirit and commitment to the town.

The Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Mike Bowe, made the following awards for 2024 (see photos below) from a strong group of nominations:

**Young Persons of the Year**- Joint winners Louie Styler, Jacob Woodfield and Monty Payne

**Community Organisation of the Year**- Church Street Properties

**Business of the Year** – Waitrose, Alcester

**Citizen of the Year** – Maggie Payne

In addition, Cllr Bowe awarded a special **Lifetime Achievement** award to Chris Wright in recognition of his significant contribution to the town of Alcester.

Prizes were also awarded to the winners of the 2024 allotment competition. Mr J Coton was the overall winner and awarded the Reg Grummett trophy. For the first time, the winners of the 2025 Window Wanderland competition were also announced.



Photographs courtesy of Jake Lambourn Photography

## ALCESTER BOWLS CLUB

If you are interested in trying a new sport, keeping fit and making new friends, then Alcester Bowls Club is the place for you! The Club holds social bowling sessions at its green, at the end of Meeting Lane, on Monday and Thursday mornings (10am) and Saturday afternoon/evenings from 3 pm. Open days are held when anyone is welcome to try their hand at Crown Green Bowling. In addition, our members are always available to help anyone, at any time, who is considering taking up the sport. No experience is necessary as we will show the basics of how to play, the skills and the tactics.

The club also has teams playing in leagues in the South Birmingham/Warwickshire area and matches are played on Tues/Fri mornings and Weds/Thurs evenings. The club hosts social evenings and barbecues during the summer, where members can get together and have fun. The bowling season runs from early March through to the end of October, so if you are interested then please contact our secretary John Westmoreland for further information:

Email: [westmorelandjohn90@gmail.com](mailto:westmorelandjohn90@gmail.com). Phone: (07483) 240465 or send us a message on our Facebook group.



## ALCESTER FOOD FESTIVAL

Alcester Food Festival returns to the town on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for a fantastic day of fabulous food, drink and more. The festival is run by a Community Benefit Society which gives any surplus funds back to the community as grants. It is organised by a small group of volunteers and is made possible with the support of Alcester Town Council, local organisations, businesses and individuals who are passionate about how events in the town contribute to making this a special place to live and work.

The hugely popular schools baking competition will return at this event with a 'Marvellous Creations Traybake Competition' involving Alcester Academy, St. Benedict's and Alcester Grammar school pupils displaying their bakes for judging in the Town Hall. Prizes will be awarded for the winning pupils in each age group, and for the overall highest scoring school.

And new this year...

- ✓ Do you work with engaging young people in food?
- ✓ Do you teach kids cooking skills?
- ✓ Are you passionate about sharing how food grows, how to make meals, what healthy foods look like, or how our food choices impact the planet?
- ✓ Are you one of the army of people out there passionate about children being more connected to where food comes from?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, then come and hear from experts celebrating their success of food education, and the many ways they address challenges. This will be followed by an informal networking brunch with refreshments funded by Countryside Classroom. Here is the link to Food Educators Brunch

<https://forms.office.com/e/56v3WGhfAf>. For more information and to book a ticket to this funded event please email [elizabeth@countrysideclassroom.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth@countrysideclassroom.org.uk).

News about the event and information for exhibitors, visitors

and more details about the Community Benefit Society are available on our website: <https://www.alcesterfoodfestival.org.uk/> and on Facebook and Instagram.

Finally, we are always looking for new volunteers who are willing to give up a small amount of their time to make sure that our events continue to be successful. If you can help in any way, please email Lesley Henderson on [alcesterfoodfestivalsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:alcesterfoodfestivalsecretary@gmail.com)

## ALCESTER WELCOMES NEW TOWN COUNCILLOR

Welcome to Cllr Colleen Chester who was co-opted on to the Town Council for Alcester West at Full Council on Tuesday 7 January 2025.

Originally from the North West of England, I moved to the Midlands to complete my post-graduation training to qualify as a chartered surveyor in 1985. My now husband, Ian and I bought our first home together in Alcester in 1988 and, having raised our family here, remain in the same house today.

After a career in land and property development and management, finance and procurement, I retired six years ago. Since retiring I have been fortunate to be able to enjoy participating in some of the numerous groups and clubs that Alcester has to offer. Most recently I volunteered to participate in the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Steering Group. Through this group I have come to appreciate the challenging task of unlocking the town's potential whilst protecting its environment.

Alcester is a special place that has a rich heritage, unparalleled community spirit and great prospects for the future. I'm looking forward to contributing in any way I can to support this great town.

You can contact Colleen on 07581 029506 or by email: [cchester.atc@gmail.com](mailto:cchester.atc@gmail.com)



**Please complete the following survey in the middle of this newsletter, pull it out and return it to the box in the library.**

# WE CARE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT CARE.



Alcester Town Council is working with Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care System to help decision makers understand the health and social care needs and challenges facing our community.

Help us to improve health and social care in Alcester and across Warwickshire by taking part in this important research.

## HOW TO TAKE PART

### ONLINE

Access the survey online at <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/integrated-care-in-rural-communities/>

### ON PAPER

Alcester Town Council will publish this survey in the Spring edition of our Newsletter.  
Secure collection boxes are available at:  
Alcester Library

### IN PERSON

Alcester Town Council will be attending local community group meetings.

Contact Wendy about a visit.  
[info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

*Scan the QR code for the survey*



## FIND OUT MORE

Visit <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk> for information about the research, meetings or to arrange a visit.

For more information about the Integrated Care System in Coventry and Warwickshire, visit [www.happyhealthylives.uk](http://www.happyhealthylives.uk)



# YOUR HEALTH IN ALCESTER

(PLEASE COMPLETE AND POST IN THE SECURE COLLECTION BOX IN THE LIBRARY)

## 1. What health services do you use? (Please tick)

	Weekly	Monthly	Twice/ year	Yearly	Hardly ever	Not applicable
GP						
Pharmacy						
Dentist						
Private						
Charity/ volunteer- led						

## 2. How do you access the health services you use? (Please tick)

	Walk or cycle	Car	Taxi	Bus	Commun ity transport	Other means	Not applicab le
GP							
Pharmacy							
Dentist							
Private							
Charity/ volunteer- led							

## 3. If you use "other means of transport" please tell us more.

## 4. What (if anything) stops you from accessing the health services you need? E.g. time/transport/internet/no local support groups



## YOUR SOCIAL CARE IN ALCESTER

**5. Are you or is someone in your household receiving social care at home?** Please circle your response.

Yes

No

**6. If you answered 'yes' do you have any comments on social care in the home?**

**7. Do you support or visit an immediate family member (or neighbour) in social care outside of the home?** Please circle your response.

Yes

No

**8. If you answered 'yes', how often (on average) do you visit or support?** Please circle your response.

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Yearly

Not  
applicable

**9. If you visit or support an immediate family member (or neighbour) in social care, how do you get there? Please circle up to 3.**

Walk/cycle

Car

Taxi

Bus

Community Transport

Other means

**10. If you need social care, what (if anything) stops you from accessing the services you need?** e.g. Time/transport/internet/no local support groups

## YOUR VIEWS ON HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

We would like to know your views on health and social care as an Alcester resident. This helps to inform services in the community.

- 11.** What other things do you think could make your personal health and wellbeing better in Alcester?
  
- 12.** What do you think are the key reasons that prevent residents in Alcester being as healthy as they can be?
  
- 13.** Is there anything else you would like to tell us?
  
- 14.** How do you prefer to hear our news?

**ARE YOU:**     **18 – 25**  
                  **26 – 40**  
                  **41 – 65**  
                  **66+**

**YOUR POSTCODE:**

**Thank you for taking part in this valuable research into health and social care in rural communities. Please return completed questionnaires to Alcester Library. Contact Wendy at [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk) for more information.**

## ALCESTER TOWN FOOTBALL

We are excited to announce that construction of our new clubhouse is set to begin in March! This is the first step toward making our vision a reality. We have received incredible support from local businesses and the community, which has greatly helped our fundraising efforts, and we are truly grateful.

In addition, we are starting preparations for our annual football tournament taking place 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. Over the weekend, we expect to host more than 2,500 attendees, with approximately 1,000 children participating. The event is immensely popular and promises to be a wonderful weekend for friends and family.

We are completely volunteer-run and are always looking for local individuals interested in getting involved with the club, no matter what your skills may be! If you would like to learn more, please get in touch at [alcestertownfootballclub@gmail.com](mailto:alcestertownfootballclub@gmail.com).



## ALCESTER DEFIBRILLATORS

24-hour Defibrillators available at:

- ✓ Alcester Academy, Gerrard Road
- ✓ Alcester Bowling Club, Meeting Lane
- ✓ Alcester Grammar School, Birmingham Road
- ✓ Alcester Guide & Scout Centre, Moorfield Road (also with Bleed Control Kit)
- ✓ Unionist Club, High Street
- ✓ Eric Payne Community Centre, off St Faiths Road
- ✓ Minerva Mill, Station Road
- ✓ Alcester Football Club, Stratford Road
- ✓ Alcester Rugby Club, Birmingham Road
- ✓ Alcester Health Centre, Fields Park Drive

Defibrillators (not 24 hours) available during opening hours:

- ✓ Alcester War Memorial Town Hall
- ✓ Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, St Faiths Road
- ✓ Dentist (Unique Smiles Dental Practice), Priors Road
- ✓ The Greig Leisure Centre, Gunnings Road



**Alcester is a HeartSafe town- please share this information. Quick access to defibrillators saves lives**



## MALT MILL LANE HANGING BASKETS

A huge and grateful thanks to the generosity of residents and the Church Street Properties Trust for raising sufficient funds for the provision of the hanging baskets that traditionally have adorned Malt Mill Lane every year and will do so again in 2025.

In the past, the money has been raised by the Malt Mill Lane Residents' Association which unfortunately folded following the Covid lock-downs.

There was a risk of not having funds to provide the baskets in 2025. The floral displays in Malt Mill Lane and the surrounding gardens have always been a feature within Alcester for many years and attract visitors and photographers every summer.

The idea of not having the baskets any more led to a flurry of fund raising and the generous response particularly from Church Street Properties. Thank you all again for your support.

*Dianne Williams*

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ALCESTER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2024 marks fifty years since the ADLHS was established by our first president, G. Edward Saville. He would have been delighted that the Society has lasted so long and continues to thrive. The committee decided that we should mark the anniversary with some special events in addition to our monthly meetings.

These monthly meetings covered such diverse subjects as Feckenham Forest, Richard Neville - Kingmaker, Alcester area in the last Ice Age, Local Roads and Railways and the History of Needle making, plus a private visit to Ragley Hall.

The highpoint of the year was a splendid talk by Professor Alice Roberts to a capacity audience of 300 in the Greig Hall. It was a fascinating talk, expertly delivered, on what can be learned from burials and DNA analysis. She is, after all, a pathologist!



Our second special event was held in the Town Hall with a display downstairs of photos and records from our extensive archive, whereas upstairs three talks were given by members of the Society on the Romans in Alcester, an overview of the history of the town and a history of local pubs, past and present. All three talks were well supported with a total of 170 attendees with a number of those having come to learn about the town to which they had recently moved!

Our monthly meetings are well publicised and held on the second Wednesday of each month in St Benedict's 6<sup>th</sup> Form centre at 7.30pm. All are welcome!



**Vivaldi Gloria**

**&**

**Eternal Light: A Requiem by Howard Goodall**

Featuring three professional soloists and an orchestral ensemble

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm**

**St Nicholas Church, Alcester**

Tickets £15; under 14s free

Available from Humphries Shoes (cash only) High Street, Alcester or on the door.

[www.alcestersingers.co.uk](http://www.alcestersingers.co.uk) [events@alcestersingers.co.uk](mailto:events@alcestersingers.co.uk)

### 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. In the past year these are some of the organisations we have supported are: - Alcester in Bloom, St. Nick's Night, Defibrillator, Hanging baskets for Malt Mill Lane, and Civic Society. 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.

Applications should reach us before 1<sup>st</sup> October for the November meeting and before 1<sup>st</sup> May for our June meeting. Application forms are available from the Clerk to the Trustees at [moorfieldsclerk@gmail.com](mailto:moorfieldsclerk@gmail.com) (Moor Fields Charity No 228821).

# THE Greig Hall


SPRING HIGHLIGHTS – MAKE SURE YOU BOOK EARLY!

**MAR 05** **CHELTENHAM PREVIEW NIGHT**  
Focused on the Racing Festival 

**MAR 07-08** **LEGEND OF THE BLUE DIAMOND**  
Alcester Youth Theatre 

**MAR 08** **CHARITY BIG BREAKFAST**  
Alcester & Bidford Rotary 

**MAR 14-15** **Murder at the Music Hall**  
Alcester Musical Theatre Company 

**MAR 19** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
The Greig Hall Charity 

**MAR 22** **CRAFT FAIR**  
Come along to explore! 

**MAR 28-29** **Les Misérables**  
School Edition from Top Box 


**MAR 30** **STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
Spring Concert 


# THE Greig Hall


GREAT UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2025

**APR 05** **Alcester Male Voice Choir**  
Annual Concert 

**APR 11** **CALENDAR GIRLS**  
The Inside Story! 

**APR 12** **QUILL - featuring Bev Bevan**  
Back by popular demand! 

**APR 26** **Last Night of the Proms**  
Presented by Symphony in a Day 

**APR 27** **ANTIQUES FAIR**  
Come and find something special! 

**MAY 09** **BEATLES COMPLETE**  
Direct from their Cavern Club Residency. 

**JUN 01** **Lady Windermere's Fan**  
From Aunty Jen Productions 



[www.greighall.org.uk](http://www.greighall.org.uk)



ALCESTER MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY  
PRESENTS

# MURDER AT THE MUSIC HALL

BEHIND THE VELVET CURTAINS OF THE  
60S CABARET, LIES A DEADLY MYSTERY

14TH & 15TH MARCH 2025  
FRI 7.30PM / SAT 2.30PM & 7.30PM

THE GREIG HALL, ALCESTER

Murder at the Music Hall is written by Mary McMahon and produced with the permission of Maverick Musicals and Plays  
[www.maverickmusicals.com](http://www.maverickmusicals.com)

[WWW.ALCESTERMUSICALTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.ALCESTERMUSICALTHEATRE.COM)  
FACEBOOK: ALCESTERMUSICALTHEATRE



## Alcester Musical Theatre Company

Alcester Musical Theatre Company is currently in full swing of rehearsals for 'Murder at the Music Hall' which is on at The Greig Hall on 14th March (7.30pm) and 15th March (2.30pm & 7.30pm).

A thrilling 60s Musical murder mystery, where glamorous cabaret performers and shady characters collide in a night of suspense, music and deadly secrets...

Tickets £12 Adult and £6 Child

Online - <http://bit.ly/4h9LNvo>

Or from JAG Hair Studios, 37 High Street, Alcester

Or From Mrs C Hill - 01789 763446

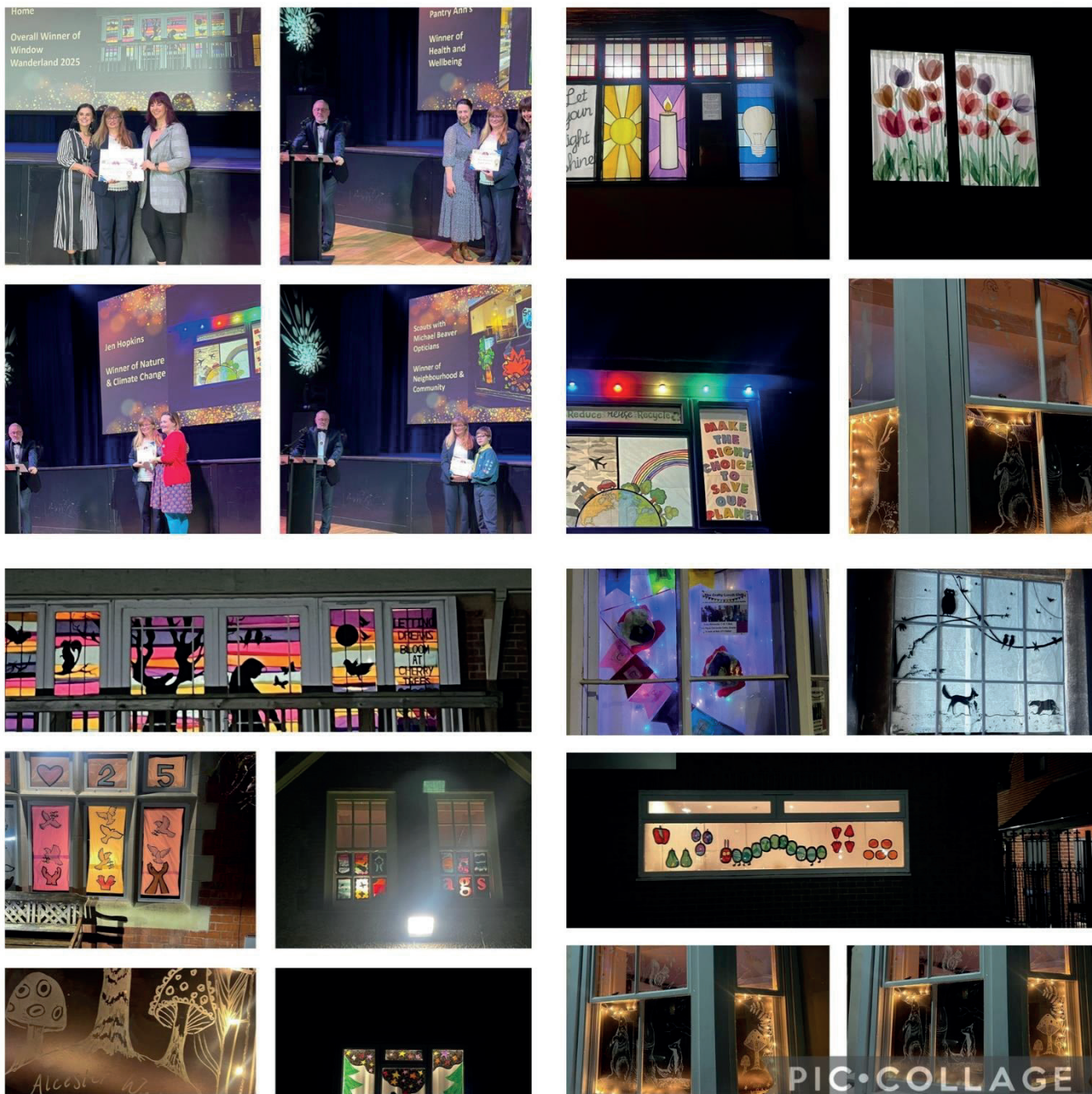
We will then be bringing Grease - The Musical to The Palace Theatre, Redditch in October!

# ALCESTER WINDOW WANDERLAND 2025

This year has seen the sixth annual Alcester Window Wanderland to brighten up Alcester's streets during the dark winter months. We worked very hard this year to get more community organisations and Alcester businesses involved in the event.

This year's three categories were Nature & Climate Change, Health & Wellbeing and Community & Neighbourhood. Alcester Town Council is very pleased to have been able to link a number of Alcester's shops with organisations such as the Scouts, Park Kids and Run Alcester to name a few. The judging was a real pleasure- although it was a massive challenge to choose between the 21 entrants to the festival! Our 2025 winners are: 33, Castle Road, Jen Hopkins for Nature and Climate Change; The Scouts with Michael Beaver Opticians for Community & Neighbourhood; Run Alcester at Pantry Ann's for Health & Wellbeing and finally Cherry Trees for Best Overall Window.

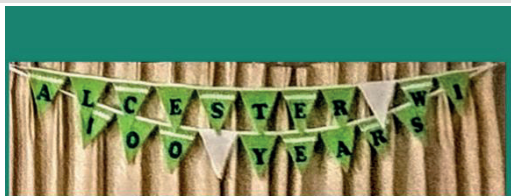
The Town Council would like to hear what you thought about the event; and you can help to shape the future of Alcester Window Wanderland by completing this very short multiple choice questionnaire via the QR code or this link: <https://forms.gle/f9wDzBMkqBZemeWa6>



## ALCESTER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

*Celebrates 100 Years of Community and Friendship*

On 9th January 2025, the Alcester Women's Institute (WI) proudly marked its Centenary Year with a special dinner celebration at the Arrow Mill. Members and invited guests gathered to honour this significant milestone, enjoying warm hospitality, exceptional service, and a delicious meal provided by the Arrow Mill team.



The evening was filled with reflection and celebration. A display of memorabilia showcased the rich history of Alcester WI since its founding in 1925, while crafted decorations created by members added a personal touch to the venue. Guests were treated to a moving reading about the WI's history, as well as poems written by both current and past members, evoking memories of camaraderie and resilience over the decades.

The Alcester WI was delighted to welcome several special guests, including Kathryn Cargill, whose mother-in-law was a long-standing member and past President of the Institute, Tracy Parkes, the first lady High Bailiff of Alcester, and Sue Postlethwaite, Warwickshire Federation Chair and WI Advisor.

Looking ahead, the Alcester WI has an exciting programme planned for 2025, designed to appeal to a variety of interests. Events include guest speakers, demonstrations on silk painting, a unique performance by Jennifer Rigby titled *Albert Worms and*

*George, Don't Do That*, and craft sessions featuring stone painting and mosaics. Members will also enjoy opportunities to explore prose, poetry, and more, ensuring a dynamic and engaging calendar.

The Alcester WI remains a warm and welcoming group, committed to fostering friendship, kindness, and support within the community. New members are always welcome.

## ALCESTER PLAY AREAS

Alcester Town Council manages four play areas in the town: Collins Way, Moorfields Park, Jubilee Fields and Bleachfield Street. Have you visited the playground on Bleachfield Street since the new play equipment was installed last autumn? Most recently, the new fencing at the Jubilee Fields was installed at the end of September. The fence and gates comply with the latest recommendations by RoSPA Play Safety. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents inspects all play equipment for Alcester Town Council on an annual basis. These inspections take place alongside weekly checks by Town Council staff and any repairs and improvements are undertaken following those.

Winter is generally a quieter time for our play areas. The Town Council usually uses that time to complete more intensive maintenance work such as surfaces.

We would like to ask the public to report any issues in our play areas, ideally with a photo if it relates to equipment to the Town Council office via [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk) or alternatively phone 01789 766084.

*Cllr Kathrin Foster, Lead Councillor for Play Areas*



## NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS WEEK 2025

The national Allotments Week 2025 will run from 11th-17th August. The theme for this year is Cultivating Health & Wellbeing Together. Alcester's annual allotment judging will take place during this week.

If you are interested in having an allotment, contact Tim on 01789 766084 or via email at [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk) Happy gardening!

## 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](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk) three days before each meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings and are given time at the start of the meetings to speak. 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](http://www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown](http://www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown) and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/alcestertowncouncil/>

### Town Councillors' Contact Details

Alcester East Ward	Alcester West Ward
 <p><u>Ruth Ashfield</u> 07894 321084 <a href="mailto:rashfield.atc@gmail.com">rashfield.atc@gmail.com</a></p>	 <p><u>Mike Bowe</u> (Mayor) 07775 500993 <a href="mailto:mbowe.atc@gmail.com">mbowe.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p><u>Mark Cargill</u> 07988 485050 <a href="mailto:mcargill.atc@gmail.com">mcargill.atc@gmail.com</a></p>	 <p><u>David Henderson</u> (Deputy Mayor) 01789 765271 <a href="mailto:dhenderson.atc@gmail.com">dhenderson.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p><u>Gill Forman</u> 01789 763828 <a href="mailto:gforman.atc@gmail.com">gforman.atc@gmail.com</a></p>	 <p><u>Kathryn Cargill</u> 07745 608567 <a href="mailto:kcargill.atc@gmail.com">kcargill.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p><u>Kathrin Foster</u> 07875 609324 <a href="mailto:kfoster.atc@gmail.com">kfoster.atc@gmail.com</a></p>	 <p><u>Corin Elliott</u> 07970 926130 <a href="mailto:celliot.atc@gmail.com">celliot.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p><u>Dougie Gordon</u> 07802 302727 <a href="mailto:dgordon1.atc@gmail.com">dgordon1.atc@gmail.com</a></p>	 <p><u>Andrew Foster</u> 01789 766708 <a href="mailto:afoster.atc@gmail.com">afoster.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p><u>Keith Greenaway</u> 01789 766818 <a href="mailto:Keithgreenaway.atc1@gmail.com">Keithgreenaway.atc1@gmail.com</a></p>	 <p><u>Wendy Mills</u> 07842 596542 <a href="mailto:wmills.atc@gmail.com">wmills.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p><u>Alison Leask</u> <a href="mailto:aleask.atc@gmail.com">aleask.atc@gmail.com</a></p>	 <p><u>Clive Neal-Sturgess</u> 01789 764416 <a href="mailto:csturgess.atc@gmail.com">csturgess.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
	 <p><u>Colleen Chester</u> 07581 029506 <a href="mailto:cchester.atc@gmail.com">cchester.atc@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Delivered by  and printed by  on behalf of Alcester Town Council</p> 