

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Just to remind you, we do not produce a newsletter for the end of December so the next one will be printed at the end of January 2018.

I would like to thank our band of willing volunteers for distributing the newsletter every month and to John for printing it for us. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the village a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

<b>PARISH COUNCIL NEWS</b> <a href="http://www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk">www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk</a>
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**ORCHARD ROAD DEVELOPMENT** - The application for 5 bungalows, on an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, behind Orchard Road may be considered at the December meeting of Tewkesbury Borough Council's Planning Committee. There is still time to comment. Just go onto the Tewkesbury Planning Portal and follow the process outlined. You can also read comments to date.

**CHANGING FACILITY SOLAR PANELS** – These were installed on 6th November and as solar panels are designed to work on daylight, not sunlight, they are already generating energy for the building. The Parish Council are most grateful to Greenfields Trust for providing the grant funding to enable this project to be completed.

**B4077 ROAD SAFETY** – The Parish Council have asked County Councillor Roger Wilson to help us get a response from Gloucestershire Highways as to when the Speed Indicator Device will be fitted. Speed surveys were carried out in Gretton Fields at the beginning of November by Gloucestershire Highways. The survey indicated that the mean speeds at both sites fell within the appropriate range for the posted speed limit.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE – MOBILE SPEED ENFORCEMENT** - Police officers recently carried out speed checks on the B4077 near Frampton Cottages. Below are the findings (each visit lasts between 45 minutes to an hour):

September 2018 - 2 checks and 32 offences detected

October 2018 - 4 checks and 52 offences detected

**DOG FOULING** – The Parish Council have again received complaints of dog fouling around the village. If you see an owner failing to clear up after their dog and you recognise the owner and are willing to give a statement to this effect, then please contact Tewkesbury Borough Council who will consider a prosecution (Environmental Services, 01684 272191). A reminder to any dog owners who fail to clear up after their canines – it's illegal, it's anti-social and there isn't a dog poo fairy out there. Bag it and bin it in the dog waste bins please – we do have seven bins located around the village.

**VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR** – Alderton's defibrillator can be found in the old phone box in Cambridge Square, Alderton, GL20 8TZ. Cambridge Square is at the junction of Blacksmiths Road, Beckford Road and School Road in Alderton. The defibrillator is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. To use it you must call 999 to get a code to access the defibrillator. Note: you can't call 999 from the telephone box - as the line doesn't work – so you will need to either call on a mobile, or at home first, to get the definition code. The defibrillator is designed for use by non-experts and will talk you through its use.

**ALLOTMENT PLOTS** – Please get in touch with the Clerk if you wish to add your name to the waiting list.

Next Parish Council Meeting: 15th January 2019, 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. All welcome.

Parish Clerk: Tamsin James, 9 Bowler Road, Northway, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 8RZ  
01684 290392 [tamsin.james1@btinternet.com](mailto:tamsin.james1@btinternet.com) [www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## VILLAGE NEWS

Residents are concerned that some cars parked close to the junction with Beckford road by the Gardeners Arms are causing a safety hazard. Cars coming from the Beckford direction must approach the junction in the middle of the road and if vehicles are coming around the corner from Willow Bank Road, an accident is highly likely. Please consider other road users when parking your car.

### CHURCH NEWS

#### **St Margaret's Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 1st December 2-4pm**

Christmas Bazaar: Roll up, roll up for St Margaret's Xmas Bazaar on Saturday 1st December 2-4pm in the Village Hall! As usual, there is something for everyone - from a whistle stop visit from Santa to brilliant gift and craft stalls, from delicious Xmas delicacies to fun tombolas. Don't forget to bring your raffle tickets or buy them on the day. The final draw for the 2018 Grand Christmas Raffle will take place at the close with some great prizes to cross your fingers and wish for. £1 entry children free.

**The Christingle service** is on **Sunday December 16th** at 3.30pm at St Margaret's and we do hope you will join us for this lovely informal candlelit event, which is the 50th anniversary of the Children's Society holding it. It is enjoyed by people of all ages and it is a fitting start to the Christmas period. The Children's Society for whom the collection is given, is a national charity that works with the country's most vulnerable children and young people.

**Alderton charity xmas fair 2018:** A very big thank you to everyone who came along to support this event on the 10th November. Our grand total this year once again just exceeded £2000, money which went directly to good causes. £222 was also raised for the Village Hall Fund and nearly £300 for MacMillan from the sale of homemade cakes, quiches and pies donated by our generous local supporters. "We had a lovely warm welcome" said one of the charity reps attending for the first time this year. Well done to Alderton.

**Village Hall Coffee Morning** will be held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December** 10.15am – 12 noon. We raised £77.00 last month for village hall funds. Thank you to everyone and we look forward to seeing you all next week.

### VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Tickets are selling fast for our **New Year's Eve Party**.

No tickets will be available on the night so book your table now. Tickets cost £20 and include a live band, disco and buffet. Lots of fun, food and festivities.

Contact Sian on 620906/07790342157 or email [stryner@btinternet.com](mailto:stryner@btinternet.com)

Activities for 2019 kick off with a **History Talk on Thurs Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30**.

£2.50 entry. We have two speakers coming to tell us all about Schools at the turn of the 19/20<sup>th</sup> Century and The Winchcombe Workhouse. No need to book, just turn up. Put the date in your diary now.

The Village Hall committee are looking for extra help with the maintenance side of the Village Hall and ensuring it is kept in a good state of repair. If you are a handy DIYer and have a few hours spare you might be just the person we need. Get in touch with Judith on 620376/07837 402692, or email

[aldertonvillagehall2017@gmail.com](mailto:aldertonvillagehall2017@gmail.com).

We are also looking for someone to take over the role of Bookings Secretary.

### ALDERTON GARDENING CLUB

Over 50 people enjoyed Dr Michael Jones talk – 'Mistletoe, Fact, Myth and Legend' at the November meeting. We are fortunate that our local area has an abundance of mistletoe possibly linked to many historic apple orchards - a favourite host of the plant. Amazingly there are over 1000 varieties of this plant which includes both European and tropical varieties. Michael's travels had taken him to Europe and Africa and to churches and towns across the UK.. The 1st December is mistletoe day so let's all celebrate this fantastic plant.

Our next meeting is the Christmas Social on **Thursday 13th December** and all members and guests are welcome to join us for drinks and nibbles. Do come and have a gardening conversation! Free to members and £2.50 for guests. All welcome at the Village Hall - open 7 for 7.30pm.

### **ALDERTON ACORNS PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP AND TODDLERS**

Rainy, Dark November and a Jolly, Magical December!

With darkness creeping in both ends of the day, the children have wondered at the moon, watched in amazement as the sky exploded with ears covered but eyes open wide! Fireworks are sparkling on fridges all around Alderton as the children recreated the magic with paint, glitter and teabags!

With twinkling lights and familiar songs playing EVERYWHERE, it's that time of year again! The children are singing of a very special baby and watching the skies for that happy chap in red. This year, the nativity will be 'The Special Journey'. Which, as always, will fill the hearts of families with joy and their eyes with tears. Children are busy making cards, cooking and creating beautiful masterpieces with sparkly crafts. The final month of the year offers the little ones the opportunity to marvel at the magic that Christmas brings. Each year the wonderful charity Samaritans Purse runs 'Operation Christmas Child' which sends boxes full of toys and items to children around the globe, who, for whatever reason, will not be experiencing the wonder of Christmas. This year, Acorns filled to the brim four beautifully wrapped boxes full of toys and essentials for children between two and four years of age. The Acorns' children really wanted to support this. They had many questions and they all agreed that every child should have presents at Christmas. We hope to follow the journey the boxes take, sharing this with the children in the months to come.

Friday mornings 10 am -12 pm Toddler-Stay and Play

From stories, gardening, painting, music and movement (with Boogie Beats) and now with the introduction of baby massage, even the smallest members of our community have had fun at Acorns! This session is open to all ages from bump to school. No need to book just pop along and join in the fun.

For more information relating to any aspect of the group, please call 07842161159 within school hours or, alternatively, email [aldertonacornspreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aldertonacornspreschool@hotmail.co.uk).

Acorns preschool hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm, Toddlers-stay and play Friday 10 am-12 pm.

**Christmas Party-Friday 21st December** 10 am - 12 pm last day of term - Boogie Beats special, party food and a visit from you-know-who!

**Baby Massage-December 7th and 21st, January 18th** 9.15 am - 9.45 am - please bring a towel, any questions contact Judith on 07837402692

Welcome 2019-**7th January** - Term begins for all with Toddlers'-stay-and-play starting back this week

Quiz and Curry Night- **Saturday 2nd February** - 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm  
Back again by popular demand, Alderton Acorns' Quiz and Curry night

Delicious curry, delectable desserts and a well stocked bar  
Don't miss out on the fun Teams of 6, £15 per person.  
To book your table, call Sian on 620906/07790 342157 or email [stryner@btinternet.com](mailto:stryner@btinternet.com)

From all at Acorns, we wish Alderton a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

## **BOXING DAY MORNING WALK**

Alderton Grange Residents Association warmly welcomes all villagers and friends to join us in this. We will be meeting on the playing field at 11:00am and finish up at the pub for a drink and a chat. There will be a longer walk or a gentle stroll around the village to choose from with clues to collect on the way. Don't forget to wear your Christmas jumpers, hats, socks, ties etc

## **Paintings Inspired by Alderton's beautiful surroundings**

Do you, or someone you know love the stunning countryside around where we live? I do, so I painted it! Years of dog-walking around Alderton and Dumbleton Hill has inspired a large range of paintings of the hill and further afield. Most of these are available as limited edition, signed, giclée prints in various sizes. If you'd like to give a gift of a small piece of our countryside this Christmas, I can deliver to Alderton, or feel free to visit outlets in Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucester or Tewkesbury. Visit [www.trudihayden.co.uk](http://www.trudihayden.co.uk) for outlets, to see my work and play 'spot-that-scene', or find me on Facebook etc. Contact: [trudi@trudihayden.co.uk](mailto:trudi@trudihayden.co.uk) / 0777 6441203

## **Hedgehogs and Birds during the winter**

I would just like to thank everyone once again for all their hedgehog sightings over the summer, they've really helped me build up a picture of where hedgehogs are in Alderton, mainly around St Margaret's and Willow Bank Road. As it's now colder at night they should be starting to hibernate but if you could all keep an eye out for any small hedgehogs that are out in the day that would be great.

I've also noticed that more birds have started to come back to the bird feeders in our garden as well. Feeding birds can really make the difference for them getting through the winter. High energy foods such as mealworms, peanuts, fat balls and sunflower hearts are particularly good for them. They will also happily eat table scraps such as any unsalted meat fat (birds cannot process salt so please don't put salted foods out), pastry, cheese, fruit and baked potatoes. If you have bird feeders and/or bird baths please clean them regularly as germs and parasites can build up and easily spread from bird to bird. One problem is trichomonosis or canker, which is a parasite that builds up in the throat, preventing the bird from swallowing, and has helped cause the large decline in Greenfinch numbers since 2006. Affected birds show signs of general illness (lethargy, fluffed-up plumage) and may show difficulty in swallowing or laboured breathing. Some individuals may have wet plumage around the bill and drool saliva or regurgitate food that they cannot swallow. In some cases, swelling of the neck may be evident. The disease may progress over several days or even weeks. If you see any signs of this please immediately clean your feeders & baths and leave them empty for a couple of days to try and halt the spread. If you can catch any affected birds and take them down to Vale Wildlife Hospital that would be fantastic as well.

Thank you once again for all your help. Any questions please contact me (Aimmie Woodman) at 12 Orchard Road 620373 [aimmie55@hotmail.com](mailto:aimmie55@hotmail.com)

**Thank you** I would like to say a huge, heartfelt thank you to friends, neighbours and people I know in the village. The help and support that you gave me was fantastic before, during and after a very sad and stressful time for me when my Dad, Terry Brookes, passed away. So again, to you all, thank you very much. With love from Lorraine.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all who have remembered me over the year. Please note The Grange Care Home, is soon to be renamed The Magnolia Care Home, same address. From Joyce Keirons

Ivona in Blenheim Close wishes all her friends and neighbours a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. A donation in lieu of cards, will go towards the printing of this News Letter. (Thank you Caroline, Keith and the Parish Council for all your hard work over the year.)

**GARDENERS ARMS** [gardeners1@btconnect.com](mailto:gardeners1@btconnect.com). 01242 620257

December's Gin of the Month is the international award-winning 6 o'clock Damson Gin, created by Bristol-based family business Bramley & Gage. An abundance of luscious hand-picked British damsons from Cumbria, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire are brewed in small batches. The slowly matured fruits result in a rich, spicy, ruby-red gin with a velvety smooth body and an intense depth of flavour. Aromas of damsons and marzipan waft out of the glass, fruity plum and date flavours are followed up with a flash of citrus and spice, then subtle tannins on the finish to refresh and balance out the sweetness. Talk to a member of our staff about the best mixers to drink this with.

The best thing about Christmas is having beautifully crafted food that makes everybody happy. This year's Christmas menu offerings include an amazing traditional roast turkey, ten sensational vegan dishes, a wide range of gluten-free choices and even a crispy filo lamb wellington! Using local produce from local suppliers,

our expert chefs will make your Christmas party truly memorable. We offer a relaxed atmosphere with amazing food and drink, masterfully created by our highly trained chefs, and it promises to be an amazing day. Visit our website for the menus and book your table by calling us on 01242 620 257.

Everybody knows that the best way to start your day is with a hearty breakfast. That's why, here at The Gardener's Arms, we're open from 9am every day (10am on a Sunday) and serve the best breakfasts in the world (probably) right up until midday! From a quick bacon butty to a freshly ground coconut latte and a hearty vegan full English breakfast, we have something for every stomach's desires.

We like to keep our community up to date with our latest events and news. If you haven't yet signed up for our newsletter, please drop us an email at [gardeners1@btconnect.com](mailto:gardeners1@btconnect.com). You can also pop by to view our menus, or phone 01242 620 257 for more information about our events and to book a table.

<p><b>NEXT NEWSLETTER</b> Deadline for copy is Thursday <b>25<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>. All items must have Name &amp; Tel No. of sender. Our e-mail address is: <a href="mailto:AldertonNewsletter@googlemail.com">AldertonNewsletter@googlemail.com</a> or deliver to Caroline Page, Corner Cottage, Stow Road. The newsletter is also available at <a href="http://www.aldertonvillage.co.uk">www.aldertonvillage.co.uk</a></p>
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