

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 2020.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk

LAND PARCEL 0088, WILLOW BANK ROAD, ALDERTON (19/00772/FUL) - RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT UP TO 28 UNITS, INCLUDING MEANS OF ACCESS AND LANDSCAPING. This is the planning application from CALA Homes for 28 new houses on the site immediately south of the existing CALA development. Villagers are now encouraged to comment on the formal planning application using the comments form provided by the Local Authority at www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/planning then search using the reference 19/00772/FUL. This development is outside the village boundary, not in the Neighbourhood Development Plan and would come on top of the 75 new houses already built in the last few years in the village. **Your comments are important.**

If you wish to send photographs when submitting your comments then please send them to developmentapplications@tewkesbury.gov.uk who will forward them on to the Planning Officer. The Borough Council's website does not have the facility to attach photographs when submitting comments.

OTHER PLANNING – The following planning application has been received: 9 Beckford Road, Alderton (19/01009/FUL) - Erection of 2 No. two storey semi-detached dwellings and provision of associated vehicular access and parking areas and hard and soft landscaping

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.

What3words – Gloucestershire Police and South Western Ambulance Service are now using what3words. This means if you need to contact the emergency services and are having trouble describing where you are, you can use the app to tell them your exact location. Visit what3words.com to find out more.

Next Parish Council Meeting: 17th December 2019, then 21st January 2020, 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 www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk

VILLAGE NEWS

Lovely Cat Needs a Home!

Thank you to everyone from Alderton who has called or visited me since I have been at Malvern View Care Home - it has been lovely to hear from you all. I am trying to make plans for the future and would be very grateful if someone in the village could give my cat, Polly, a good home. She is a lovely cat, friendly but very independent. She has been good company and no trouble to look after. If you can help, please contact my son, Robin on 07540 328523. Thank you. Stella Daunter

ALDERTON VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE IS NOW OPEN. 01242 620201

Good news is the Post Office is up and running in time for Christmas & Christmas Stamps are on sale now. Once again you can do all your bankings as well as your normal postal services at your local shop & save yourselves time and fuel.

We are now taking your orders for Christmas turkeys and other goodies. So, don't leave it too late to put your orders in. After the recent problem we had with post office & the shop, the shop needs your support more than before.

Alderton christmas cards are available in the village shop.

. PRIZE DRAW RAISING FUNDS FOR PARKINSON'S UK Don't forget to buy your tickets in Alderton Village Stores for the chance to win a lovely hamper or prizes. Abigail Keys-Clark is aiming to raise £4,500 towards vital new treatments and hopefully a cure, eventually, for Parkinson's Disease. Abi's father, Tony Keys, of Ellenor Drive, has Parkinson's as do others in our village. Abi's main fundraising is based on her challenge to climb Kilimanjaro, nearly 20,000 feet high, in September 2020 - just to test the result of her total hip replacement of both hips !! **Our thanks to our lovely shopkeeper, Yari, for hosting the prize draw.** The draw will take place on 14th December. If anyone requires further information, please contact Sandy Keys: sandy.keys@btinternet.com

CHURCH NEWS

Church Christmas Bazaar will be on **Saturday December 7th** in the Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Raffle tickets are on sale and there are some excellent prizes, including 2 tickets to the Prescott Hill Climb (with champagne!), GWR tickets and vouchers for meals at local pubs, to name a few. Tickets are available from a variety of people and from the shop. Once again there will be a variety of stalls - cakes, delicatessen, gifts, preserves and other craft stalls. And there might be a visitor dressed in red...

Urgent reminder

Could everyone who has raffle tickets to sell for the grand draw ,please return the stubs and monies to Sheila Russell at 10 Church Road (last house on the right) on or before **2nd December**. Any unsold tickets should be returned to Sheila by 5th December or handed in early to the village hall on the afternoon of the Bazaar.

If you haven't yet bought your tickets, don't miss out... the excellent prizes this year include two tickets to the Prescott Hill climb with a bottle of champagne for refreshment, a Teddington Hands Store hamper to tuck into over Christmas, a gardening club hamper of seeds and tools to kickstart the spring, a premium family ticket to the GWR steam railway plus meals for two at local inns. There are also lots of smaller prizes to gladden your Yuletide! Buy your tickets ASAP and see what you can win!!

Thank you to everyone who has donated gifts and items for the raffle at the Christmas Bazaar. Please note that as we have limited space in the Village Hall, we are now closing the appeal for donations for the Gift Stall. Thank you for your support and generosity. And do come along and enjoy what's on offer.

Carol Singing at the Gardener's Arms on Friday 20th December starting at 7.30pm - it would be fun if you came to join us for a good old sing!

Christmas Services

Christingle Service on **Sunday December 15th** at 4pm - a lovely candlelit start to the Christmas season in aid of the Children's Society.

Candlelit Carol Service on **Sunday December 22nd** at 4pm - please do choose a favourite carol for this - contact Helen West on helenmarywest4@gmail.com or 620587

Christmas Eve Nativity Service on **Tuesday 24th December** at 4pm when some of our local children will perform a short Nativity Play followed by the Blessing of the Crib. It is a wonderful way to start your celebrations as the children remind us of the true meaning of Christmas in their own way. We are looking for children of all ages to come and help us. Please contact Gill Cogzell 620303 or Carla Edelston 620600 if you are interested.

Christmas Day 10.30am - an informal Communion Service and once again we would really like you to choose a much loved carol to sing. Contact Helen as above.

We would love you to come to all of these services where you will be given a warm welcome.

As Christmas is a time for thinking about others and of giving, please do bear in mind people less fortunate - remember that Yari in the shop keeps a box where you can donate food for the Food Bank and there will also be a box in the church.

Cafe Church on **Sunday December 29th** will be at Dumbleton Church at 10.30am - an informal service of songs and short readings and there will even be bacon sandwiches.....

ALDERTON CHARITY CHRISTMAS SALE

Charity Christmas Fair - the results are in! Thanks to you, generous people, we raised just over £2500 for charities at the Fair on 9th November, beating last year's total by a whisker. The proceeds go to the charities directly and in full, so what you buy really does make a difference to those good causes. Thanks to everyone who took part and worked hard to make the Fair so successful.

STEVE BOWLES RAN THE CHELTENHAM HALF MARATHON FOR THE SUE RYDER HOSPICE IN MEMORY OF TASH PARRY.

The final update for the Cheltenham Half marathon in support of the Sue Ryder Hospice, Leckhampton, in memory of Natasha "Tash" Parry.

I wanted to share the news that the totals raised by all 111 members of *Team Incredible* collectively for Sue Ryder Hospice has been added up to be approximately £54,520.00 with all the expected sponsorship now in. What an amazing effort by all who took part and to everyone who supported and sponsored the Sue Ryder Hospice charity

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH- 29th December, 12.30pm Kick Off

The Annual Alderton "Marrieds v Singles" Football Match is on again this year and will take place on **Sunday, 29th December with a 1.30pm Kick Off**. The event was a great success last year and brought in several new faces to both teams. This year's charities will again be local organisations to include the Pre-School, School and sports teams. There will be the usual fundraising activities such as a Raffle, BBQ (Bacon and Sausage rolls), cake store, Man of the Match, "Bottle-Coin toss", plenty of players fines and of course the 4 Man Utd VIP tickets. This year's tickets will be for the Man Ut v Wolves match on the 1st February and rather than auction the tickets we will be raffling them. There will be just 100 tickets to be sold at £10 each. Just a reminder that these tickets include parking at the stadium, a meal and drinks and would have a face value of over £1000.00. Anyone interested in playing or would like more details about the Man Utd tickets please contact Rupert Kinder on rupert@davidbrucerecruitment.com or 01242 620126

ALDERTON GARDENING CLUB

Unfortunately, the November meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions and difficulties in accessing the village. However, we are delighted to say that Julie Henderson has been rebooked and will attend our Christmas Social. Please note that this meeting is on a **FRIDAY** and starts at **7.00pm**. The Village Hall will open at 6.30pm.

Next Meeting: Friday 13th December The Christmas Social and a talk about The 12 Plants of Christmas - a festive look at our favourite Christmas plants with Julie Henderson

Julie will be giving a talk which explores the folklore, history, botany, horticulture and interesting facts behind the plants contributing to our Christmas festivities. This will be followed by drinks and food for all.

Entry for this event is free for members. Guests are welcome as always – entry £5.00

All welcome at the Village Hall. **Opens 6.30 pm for a 7.00pm start.**

January and February 2020

In the new year, the first meeting will be held on **Thursday 9th January** and will start at the usual time of 7.30pm. We will welcome Gail Plant who has an interesting talk about scented gardens. On **February 13th** the club addresses the vital topic of composting with Mick Poultney.

Trip to view snowdrops at Colesbourne Park - February 13th 2020

This trip is to Colesbourne Park's Snowdrop Open Days for garden clubs

(see www.colesbournegardens.org.uk). The Park is just south of Cheltenham and will take place in the afternoon – returning around 4.00pm. Entry will be £11.00 for Alderton Garden Club members plus the

coach fare which we are investigating. If you are interested please email aldertongardeningclub@gmail.com or let us know at the Christmas social.

ALDERTON ACORNS PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP AND TODDLERS STAY AND PLAY

Nice weather for ducks...(as our Grandmothers used to say!)

Well, our November has been a challenging month for outdoor exploration. As you know, we tackle all winds and weather, however, with what seems like virtually no break from the rain, nothing has dried and areas have been waterlogged and slippery; so here's hoping for a dry December! Despite the rain, the onions and cauliflower seem to be coping, making amazing growth, the children, however, are struggling to not give them a regular watering!

Woosh, Bang, Colour!

November brought us colourful skies, which with the 5th falling in the week, lasted for many nights. The children created some beautiful bursts of colour using the 'good old' toilet rolls cut at the edges, lots of bright paints and yes, of course, glitter; listening to dramatic instrumental sounds and torches for light the outcome was fantastic! (our facebook has a small clip of a display the children made).

Remembrance Day

An important date for us all, as we talked about how we are so lucky to have people who keep us safe and how this date is to remember those who have given their lives while doing so. The children brought to the conversation the Police and how they do a dangerous job, we felt this was something we all should remember. Using a stopwatch, we sat together in silence (well as silent as two and three-year-olds can be!), with most being able to have some understanding of why the nation holds this moment with such respect. Like last year, Acorns used knitted poppies, so this year, with GREAT THANKS to Liz Palmer who spent hours knitting them, we sent a box full to Alderton stores where they were a huge success, selling out and filling the British Legion pot. Well done Alderton!

Save the Date...

Nobody wants to think too far ahead as we all need to deal with the busy nature of this festive period, BUT the annual Quiz and Curry Night is fast approaching so diaries out and pens at the ready...

Alderton Quiz and Curry Night 2020 will be on **Saturday 29th February**. More information will be available after Christmas so watch out for posters!

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

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

You can always find out a little more about the fun things we get up to on our Facebook page.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Thank you to everyone for your continued support during the past year. We now have a lovely new boiler in place in the kitchen. It is working very efficiently and the hall is once again nice and cosy. The radiators have also been spruced up and the committee room painted. Thanks go to the volunteers who assisted Steve Bowles with the boiler and worked hard to do the extra painting and cleaning jobs which made all the difference.

We are looking for a volunteer to join the Village Hall Committee as Secretary. It would involve coming along to meetings, which are held every 6 – 8 weeks, taking minutes and circulating them; and obviously having a say in the running of the hall. Please contact either Judith at judith.humphreys64@gmail.com or Kaye at kaye@mahunt.plus.com to find out more.

The recent Games Night was a great fun evening. We had lots of different board games to try out and coupled with yummy food and good company, it made up for the miserable weather outside. Come and try it out next time.

A few years ago, there was a thriving Indoor Bowls Club in the village, and it would be great if there was sufficient interest to revive this. Please let us know if you are keen to give this a go!

THE KNIT AND NATTER GROUP (Aldertonknitters@gmail.com)

continues to chug along and although only small numbers at the moment it is hoped that it will grow. A weekly attendance is not obligatory and of course we all have other commitments that sometimes clash. But, in case you're interested the group meets 2-4pm on a Monday in The Gardeners Arms, Alderton. Sometimes it may be that there are just a couple of people and that's fine – what's wrong with taking the afternoon off to sit and knit? And I have been when it just ends up being me but that's OK too. So, if you're interested then pop along, have a coffee in the welcoming pub and get your needles out.

Wildlife facts

If any of you saw Autumnwatch this year, you would have seen that the results for Gardenwatch are in. Gardenwatch was a collaboration between BBC Springwatch, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Open University (OU). This project set out to conduct the UK's biggest ever garden audit, mapping the resources available for wildlife in gardens up and down the country, and surveying some of the wild visitors they attract. The scheme was launched on BBC Springwatch in May 2019 and remained open to submissions until August 2019. As our country becomes increasingly urbanized, gardens are becoming an ever more important resource for wildlife, so projects like this are vital for understanding how are gardens can help. According to the BTO website <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gardenwatch/gardenwatch-results-first-findings>

"The responses have given us fascinating new information on how people help wildlife in their gardens, and where there is still more that can be done. For example, relatively few people reported leaving leaf litter piles, long grass or rock piles in their gardens, and only a small proportion of people provided homes for wildlife such as bat boxes or Hedgehog houses. The maps show interesting variation across the UK, including the fact that climbers, including autumn-flowering Ivy, are less common in gardens in northern areas."

They have prepared several results maps showing the distribution of wildlife friendly garden features across the country and our area came up low for rock piles, compost heaps, leaf litter, long grass, vegetable plots, nut bearing plants, bat boxes, hedgehog houses and hedgehog feeding, butterfly houses, bee & bug hotels, frog/toad shelters and other wildlife shelters. Adding even one of these features can really help boost our local wildlife, even if it's just a small patch of our garden we change. For more information and further results, please see the BTO website.

Once again, I would just like to thank everyone for the donations of empty pringle tubes, toothpaste tubes, old toothbrushes and stamps. We're hoping to send off a package to Terracycle scheme this coming month so we should have a final total for this year soon. If you any items to donate you can still drop them off at 12 Orchard Road. Thank you once again Aimmie Woodman 620373

Happy Christmas

Ivona wishes all her friends in the Village a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. A donation in lieu of cards will go towards the printing of village Newsletters

GARDENERS ARMS gardeners1@btconnect.com. 01242 620257

There's lots of festive fun to be had this month as we dive head-first into December! The Cheltenham Races are taking place on Fri 13th and Sat 14th with racing from 12pm until 3:40pm each day. Organisers are encouraging everyone to don their Christmas jumpers—the more garish the better,—to get into the holiday spirit. Of course, three hours on a racecourse's

sidelines can give you the shivers! So why not pop into the Gardeners on your way home for a warming mulled cider and a filling cottage pie to chase Jack Frost away from your door?

If, like me, you're someone who eagerly awaits the winter solstice, you'll be happy to hear that it's taking place this month too! On Sun 22nd December, our days will reach their shortest ebb, with just 7 hours and 48 minutes of daylight that day. But they'll then swiftly start to turn around. By the end of next month, we'll be experiencing a whopping 9 hours and 4 minutes of daylight each day and that figure will keep increasing. So, you can start celebrating the upcoming light nights that'll see you enjoying evening drinks in our pub garden again soon!

I almost forgot. It's also Christmas! We've got lots of delicious holiday food to tickle your taste buds on our Christmas Party and Christmas Day Menus. From traditional turkey with pigs in blankets, buttered roast parsnips and cranberry sauce to mushroom and cashew wellington with tarragon and roast almond cream sauce. Book now to avoid disappointment! Give us a call on 01242 620 257 or visit our website www.gardenersarms.biz to find out more.

Happy December everyone!

NEXT NEWSLETTER Deadline for copy is Saturday 25th January 2020 . All items must have Name & Tel No. of sender. Our e-mail address is: AldertonNewsletter@googlemail.com or deliver to Caroline Page, Corner Cottage, Stow Road. The newsletter is also available at www.aldertonvillage.co.uk
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