

DIBDEN LANE & WILLOW BANK ROAD PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Both of these applications will be going to the Borough Council's Planning Committee on 17th March for determination.

At the time of writing there are over 100 letters of representation about the proposed development by CALA off Willow Bank Road and 78 letters about Greenvolt's proposal for 41 houses off Dibden Lane. Thank you to all villagers who have expressed their view.

There is also still time to write in about both planning applications.

Details of Dibden Lane are: **reference 19/00781/OUT**. This proposed development off Dibden Lane is :

- Not in the Neighbourhood Plan
- Outside the village boundary
- On top of 75 houses already built in the last few years
- On a narrow lane
- On a large field close to the Old Rectory
- Bringing extra traffic into the village
- Put forward without any new consultation

Details of Willow Bank Road: reference **19/00772/FUL**. This proposed development is :

- Not in the Neighbourhood Plan
- Outside the village boundary
- On top of 75 houses already built in the last few years
- In the vicinity of a known flooding area
- Closing the historic gap between the village and the B4077

Full details of both applications can be found on the Tewkesbury Borough Planning Website. Comments should be made via the Tewkesbury Borough Council website using the comments form provided by the Local Authority at www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/planning then search using the appropriate reference. Alternatively write to the Planning Department, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT.

Please note that names are not published, individuals rather than households can express a view under separate cover and non-residents can also comment.

CAR PARKING – AROUND JUNCTIONS AND ON PAVEMENTS - the Parish Council have received comments regarding the danger of congestion due to parked cars on the junction of Beckford Road and Willow Bank Road. Instances of cars parked on pavements have also been noted. Obstructing the pavement causes serious problems for pedestrians, older people and those with small children and pushchairs.

PLAY AREA VOLUNTEERS - We have a group of volunteers carrying out weekly checks at the playground, making sure the equipment is in working order, clearing up any litter and doing some general tidying up etc. The group is now looking for more volunteers to help with the weekly checks which only take about 10 minutes to complete. If you'd be interested in joining this group, or would like to know more, then please get in touch with Simon Finch on 07729 073267.

SMALL ALLOTMENT PLOT – One small 'Apprentice Plot' has become available and is suitable for those who would like to take on an allotment, but don't want a large area. The rent is £15 per year. Please get in touch with the Clerk if you would be interested in this plot.

ALLOTMENT RENTS – will be collected between 7pm and 7.30pm in the Village Hall on 17th March.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – This will be held on **31st March 2020, from 7pm**, for a 7.30pm start, in the Village Hall. At this meeting residents are given a chance to hear the latest news on what has been happening at the Parish Council and within the local community. Village organisations, the School and Borough Councillors are all invited to provide reports and presentations. Refreshments from 7pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting: 17th March 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

THE ARC GROUP will meet for Coffee on **Wednesday 4th March** at 10.30 am in Webb's Garden Centre

ALDERTON VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE 01242 620201

At Alderton Store, our aim is to get as much organic products and as local as possible in the shop, Our Bread, Large Free-range Eggs, Dairy Products, and most of our Delicatessens are local. You can also order your bread and ORGANIC milk or cream daily. Your feed-back and suggestions can help and are much appreciated.

Unfortunately, due to slow trade I have had to reduce some of products to minimum order. As a result I have changed our "French Bread day" to Friday only until further notice or if the demand picks up. So please place your orders for french bread by Thursday 1pm.

I have also changed **the Saturday opening hours to 8am to 1pm.**

Lots of our new customers are still unsure about the post offices banking system. As the major banks are closing their brunches, Post Office Is taking more of the high-street banking roles. So before driving to town check with me, I may be able to save you time and petrol.

I also would like to welcome all new residents, who have recently moved to the village and thank you all for your support, and for those of you who have not been in our shop yet,... it is worth a visit. We love to meet you. We are open six days a week from 8am to 5pm (Wednesdays 8am to 1pm & Saturdays 8am to 1:00pm). Please continue supporting your local shop and Post Office.

Oak Hill Primary School Fundraiser

A Bags2School collection has been booked for **Friday 6th March**. Bags can be left at either base on 5 March or BEFORE 9.00 am on the 6th. This is a great chance for a clear out of unwanted good quality adults' and children's clothes, paired shoes, belts, hats, handbags, scarves, ties and soft toys.

Thank you for your support. Friends of Oak Hill School

ALDERTON GARDENING CLUB

Alderton Gardening Club's first trip of the year was to Colesbourne Park, one the great snowdrop gardens in the UK. Despite a sprinkle of rain at the start the sunshine followed and members were impressed by the swathes of snowdrops out across the park. The Spring garden, with colourful Cyclamen and Hellebores and the huge drifts of snowdrops by the lake were particularly impressive. 21 members braved the weather and photographs are on the gardening club website and Tom Cullimore's Facebook page.

47 members attended the talk on all elements of compost by Mick Poultney who came along to our meeting on the 13th February with a generous supply of compost 'boosters' for the raffle. We learnt that all manner of content can work as to enhance our compost – if shredded and prepared sufficiently well. Mick impressed with a four month turn around to make compost and was generous with his advice and ideas.

Thursday 12th March

Shakespeare's Gardens with Glyn Jones

Glyn joined the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as Head of Gardens in 2016 having worked for 17 years at Hidcote Manor Garden. He is responsible for maintaining and developing the five Shakespeare Gardens in Stratford with a team of gardeners and volunteers. He will talk about the challenges of working with our heritage and restoration and innovation of this group of iconic national garden sites.

Entry £2.50 for members and £5.00 for Guests. The Village hall will open at 7.00pm for a 7.30 pm start.

GREAT WASHBOURNE NEWS

Great Washbourne will be holding a Family Fun Quiz in St Mary's Church on **Friday 27th March** from 6.30pm to 10pm. As in previous years, this is suitable for all ages and we hope you will come along with your friends (teams 4-5 or join one on the night). Tickets cost £10 adult (£5 kids) to include a hot 2-course supper and are available on the night or in advance from Jane Kent/Karen Cox (Great Washbourne) and Carla Edelston (Alderton). Please ring or email Jane Kent (01242 620291/cjanekent@btinternet.com) to book your table! There will be a pay bar and raffle. All proceeds are to the church.

The Great Washbourne Summer Supper will be held on **Friday 26th June** at 6-30pm, in the garden of Great Washbourne House. Please put this date in your diary - more details to be available nearer the time.

ALDERTON ACORNS PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP AND TODDLERS STAY AND PLAY

With dark skies, trees bowing and waterfalls tumbling, the lights from the Village Hall still continue to shine! We have spent less time outdoors than last month, with much of our learning focusing on the effects of extreme weathers. We have been collecting broken branches, emptying the excessive amounts of water from the sand pit and always finding our boots to walk on the heavily saturated grass. We are starting to understand the power and energy a storm can create, and just how this affects the environment. Despite it all, our daffodils are standing strong and the netting has had to be raised on the vegetable beds as the beans head for the sky (sadly no signs of a giant yet, but we live in hope!).

Focusing on differences...

Our key topic has been the differences between villages and cities. The children created a 3D model of London, making the London Eye from straws and bottle tops then Tower Bridge as well as many of the other iconic buildings with giant blocks and chalks. Little people, trains, boats and buses were used to demonstrate the busy atmosphere felt within a city.

The children at Acorns have made their very first interactive board with a giant London double decker bus (which they are all on) and a large tractor, both of which have been attached on a pulley to allow the children to indeed travel from one place to another. It is truly brilliant, so please if you can find the time to take a look, the children love sharing their work.

As this goes to press, the Annual Acorns Quiz and Curry Evening will be happening. As before, this fundraising event is only made possible by the hard work and support of the local community. Our thanks, as always, goes out to you all for your continued support of our community Preschool and Toddler group.

If you are interested in joining the fun at Acorns during the up coming year please let us know either by calling 07842161159 within school hours or, alternatively, email aldertonacornspreschool@hotmail.co.uk so you may receive your welcome information pack and register your child's space.

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

For the past three years, every month I have written in the Alderton Newsletter. From heatwaves to floods, allotments to sunflowers, sharing as much fun and learning as possible (without taking up too much of the newsletter!). It has been lovely to have feedback from so many of you, both in person and via email. I have thoroughly enjoyed writing your monthly updates, so it is with a heavy heart that I inform you this will be my last update. The new Playleader will be passing on updates and keeping you informed.

ALDERTON CHURCH NEWS

Mothering Sunday will be a Cafe Church Informal service in Alderton Village Hall on **Sunday March 22nd** at 10.30am so please do join us for fun, fellowship and refreshment. Real coffee, croissants and fruit juice and some fun activities for young and old! Children will be given a posy of flowers to hand to their Mothers so why not come along and celebrate all that the people who care for us do?

Churchyard Clearance is on **Saturday March 28th** starting at 10am - we would love to have some help to make the churchyard look smart ready for the warmer weather and for you to enjoy when you walk through it. We work hard on our Conservation Area to encourage a variety of insects to visit the flowers we grow there so it would be an opportunity to come and see what is there.

Children's Society: Thank you to everyone who collects money throughout the year for this charity. Because of your generosity a total of £722.22 was raised – an excellent amount. And in particular special thanks to Yari, who collected £253.18 which is fantastic, and to everyone who donated to it! If you would like to collect money for the Children's Society - who improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children - please contact Helen West 620587 or helenmarywest4@gmail.com

2020 is going to be an amazing year for developments at the village hall. To kick off we are planning a show case day on April 25th for all to come and see what's on offer: who does what, what people plan to do and most importantly ideas for converting our village hall into a more versatile space by making use of some exciting funding opportunities . Over the last few years we have had coffee mornings, barn dances, crafting, pamper nights, bingo and games nights. We have gardening club quiz and curry nights, fitness classes, produce shows.

So, we need you to come along and see what's going on and come and make suggestions. We did do a survey a couple of years ago and as a result some of the activities suggested were organised thanks to lots of support from villagers. If you would like to get involved, then email us at aldertonvillagehall@gmail.com

ALDERTON DOG FEST

Alderton Dog Fest on Friday May 8th 11am to 3pm (Bank Holiday) - join us on the Playing Field for the Canine Event of the Year - all proceeds shared between 3 village charities - the Preschool, the Village Hall and the Church.

Agility Demonstration, Dog Show Classes, fun events and stalls together with a BBQ and Bar. Join us for a great family day out. Don't forget to bring your dog! We're looking for sponsors to help cover costs so if you're interested or in helping on the day, contact Sarah Hughes 07989 048123 or sarah.hughes@rocketmail.com

WILD LIFE AND WEATHER

I hope everyone has managed to stay safe in the recent storms and no one has suffered too much damage. According to the latest weather reports we're on track for the wettest February in 30 years in this country, so it's no wonder the floods have been bad. Just like us, wildlife has been struggling to cope with this weather as well. Storms have washed hibernating hedgehogs and other animals out of their nests and made it difficult to find food just when most animals are trying to prepare for the coming breeding season. The mild weather also means some individual animals have come out of hibernation early, and so are incredibly hungry right now. We can help our local wildlife through these difficult conditions by putting out food and providing homes and shelter. The RSPB Give Nature a Home website has loads of great ideas on what we as individuals can do, and while no one can do it all if we all do a little bit it will make a big difference overall. If you spot any potentially sick or injured wildlife out and about then Vale Wildlife Hospital is open 24/7. If you're not sure if an animal is genuinely in need of help then you can call them on 01386 882288, they're always happy to advise people.

I would again like to thank everyone for their continued donations of stamps, pringle tubes and oral care items. Our terrycycle total currently stands at just over £90 so we hope that when we send of the next box we'll reach £100. This would be a massive achievement for such a small, fairly new charity and it's all thanks to all your kind donations. If you have any more items you'd like to donate there is a white box with a poster on it under the car port at 12 Orchard Road, Alderton. Thank you once again, I hope you all continue to stay safe and the weather improves soon. Aimmie Woodman, 12 Orchard Road, 620373

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GARDENERS ARMS gardeners1@btconnect.com. 01242 620257 www.gardenersarms.biz

The first big event in our calendar for this month is the Cheltenham Festival on March 10th, followed by the Gold Cup on March 13th. As we're only a short, nine-mile drive from Cheltenham Racecourse, we'd love you to join us for a meal or drinks to celebrate your good luck!

What better way to work off all that Valentine's chocolate than a dog walk through the picturesque Cotswolds? Check out our suggested walks on our website! But don't forget to stop by The Gardeners Arms on your way back for a drink and perhaps something off the doggie menu. We even offer towels for particularly wet or muddy dogs!

Just in case you've forgotten, Mothering Sunday is fast approaching, and we've got the perfect way to treat the most important lady in your life with a fabulous meal at The Gardeners Arms! We have something for everyone, including vegan and gluten free options, a huge array of speciality gins and wines and even our very own doggie menu!

<p>NEXT NEWSLETTER Deadline for copy is Wednesday 25th March 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</p>
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