

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk

CALA HOMES - as you will have seen, preparatory work has now been started to clear the hedgerows on Willow Bank Road.

The Parish Council is working very closely with CALA Homes to ensure that the development adheres to the plans submitted to and approved by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Any proposed amendments are always fully reviewed and discussed at Parish Council meetings and actioned as necessary.

PARISH PLANNING - no new planning applications received.

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARDS - new village noticeboards are now in place in front of the Village Hall, in the Churchyard and Playing Fields.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - The Parish Council is seeking a grant from the Arts Council to fund some of the celebrations in the village. For more information on the weekend's activities and how you can volunteer, please contact Sheilarussell10@btinternet.com or tel: Nicki and Sheila on 01242 620960.

Next Parish Council Meeting: 15th March 2022 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

Parish Clerk: Ruth Waller

aldertonpc@gmail.com

www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk

CHURCH NEWS

Mothering Sunday: there will be a Cafe Church service for all 4 parishes at 10.30am in Alderton Village Hall on **Sunday March 27th**. This will be an informal service where all ages are very welcome, and drinks and croissants will be served with an opportunity to chat to everyone. Bunches of flowers will be given to Mums and some craft activities available for the children (and adults!) There will also be an opportunity to listen to several of the iSing Pop songs that the Oak Hill pupils learnt before Christmas that all 4 churches contributed to. It would be great if some of the children came along to join in with them!

Easter Monday Cream Teas: these will be held in the Village Hall on **Easter Monday, April 18th** in the Village Hall. More details to follow in April's newsletter.

Books and Cards in Church: just a reminder that there are a wide range of books for sale, all priced 50p and handmade cards available in Church.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the recent questionnaires. We received 70 replies with lots of helpful and interesting comments. Unfortunately, we are not able to respond to you individually.

Thank you also to everyone who has offered to help with the various activities (joining the committee, fundraising, building maintenance etc) We will be contacting you, if we haven't already. If anyone else would like to volunteer to help, please email aldertonvillagehall@gmail.com

Here is a brief summary of the results:

100% of respondents were supportive of a plan to redevelop the hall.

43% of respondents attended Gardening club with Sustainable Alderton being the next popular at 23%

16% of respondents were happy with the current facilities with 70% feeling they could be better.

22% of respondents felt the kitchen facilities were inadequate and that the furniture was cumbersome. Poor access and too cold came in next at 15%.

Energy efficient heating and air-con were the most popular internal design priorities at 57% with improved toilet facilities (54%) refurbished kitchen (49%) fully accessible (45%)

The most popular activities were A local produce market (36%), keep fit for all ages (32%), A Community Christmas Show and Fund-raising events (both 30%) film club (29%) and Live music/recitals (28%)

Of the 36 people who answered the question regarding climate change and environmental issue 34 people felt this should be taken into account.

Fundraising and grants were the most popular ways to raise funds for the development with most people being in favour of a combination.

A lot of respondents commented on the floor. The existing floor needs to be stripped and repolished and the committee are hoping to get this work carried out by a team of volunteers during the February half-term break. Failing this it should be done in the Easter holidays.

The Committee now need to work out the best way to move this forward and we will keep you updated via the village newsletter.

ALDERTON GARDENING CLUB NEWS

A new year and the start of our 2022 programme. Despite the freezing cold evening, 40 people attended a presentation by our good friend Roger Umpleby. A renowned entomologist and chairman of Beckford Gardening Club. His talk was entitled "useful, beautiful but unloved, an alternative look at weeds". Roger talked about virtually every aspect of this subject, with a comprehensive but amusing lecture describing the negative and beneficial aspects of these plants as well as their culinary and medicinal uses. He also featured the toxic weeds and the consequences of ingesting or even touching them. Naturally being an entomologist there were also many superb photos of insects and butterflies, illustrating their connection with these plants. Roger is one of the most prolific and regular speakers on the gardening club circuit and it is always a pleasure to have him visit us from his home in Ashton under Hill. He was a valuable source of advice to us when we started the club in 2018.

It was encouraging to see those attending renewing their membership or joining the club for the first time. The 5 raffle prizes were drawn, and the audience brought up to date with changes on the committee and the news about the forthcoming seed potato and onion sets supplies from Vale Gardens Ltd. A few gardening jobs and tips were described by chairman Tom. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 10 February** when Jo Haven will be giving us a talk on Bumblebees. See you there.

THE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL AND TODDLER GROUP

Have you booked a table for the return of our **Quiz and Curry night** on **Saturday 12th March** 7 for 7.30pm start? Tables are selling fast so don't delay. We have a new quizmaster, along with delicious food, a well-stocked bar, a fabulous raffle and best of all, lots of fun. Get your friends together to make up teams of 6. For more details or to book your place please contact Sian on 07790 342157 or email stryner@btinternet.com

Running alongside our Quiz night, we have a **Spring Raffle** with some fabulous prizes. Tickets to local attractions, Vouchers from local pubs, A picnic hamper and lots more. Tickets are £1 each and are available from the shop (thanks Yari for supporting and helping us) or from anyone at Preschool.

If you are interested in sending your child to our lovely Preschool, please phone 07842 161159 to arrange a visit or email aldertonacorns@gmail.com . We take children from 2 and a half years old and we aim to provide a happy friendly and caring environment to allow them to thrive.

Our friendly **Toddler group** runs every Friday 10am -11.30 (term time only) from Alderton Village Hall and is £3 per family. The Toddler group is open to all families and is a great way of socialising and meeting new families in a safe and nurturing environment, whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of cake...what is not to love!

For more information about Preschool check out our website at aldertonacorns.org.uk.

GREAT WASHBOURNE NEWS

Great Washbourne will be holding a Family Fun Quiz in St Mary's Church on **Saturday 9th April** 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 £12 adult (£6 kids) to include a hot 2-course supper and are available from Jane or Karen in Great Washbourne. Please email Jane Kent (cjanekent@btinternet.com) or Karen Cox (rupert.cox@btinternet.com) to book your table. There will be a pay bar and raffle. All proceeds are to the church.

THE WINCHCOMBE AREA U3A is holding an Open Meeting at 2:00pm on **Tuesday 8th March** at the Abbey Fields Community Centre in Back Lane Winchcombe.

Please come along and find out about your local U3A - we currently have more than 30 groups who meet regularly to pursue diverse particular interests such as foreign languages, History of Art, walking, photography, cycling, table tennis and wine appreciation. In other words - something for everybody! For those of us in our 'third age' the U3A offers a chance to socialise with like-minded people while keeping our minds sharp and having fun.

SPRING UPDATE

I hope you all doing ok, and the recent storms didn't cause too much damage for you. Luckily, it seems like most of our wildlife was able to hunker down, and there's only been a small number of injured animals who were caught in the high winds or flood waters. This is leanest time of year for much of our wildlife, as winter food stores start to run out. Any food that we can put out for our wildlife to help them get through this last little bit of winter before the fresh growth of spring will be a great help. Signs that spring is on its way are starting to appear though, as I have noticed bulbs shooting up and birds starting to sing more and gather nest material, so hopefully it won't be too much longer, and the village will once again be bursting with new life.

I also wanted to thank everyone who donated oral care items as part of the Teracycle scheme last year. We raised a total of £35, which kept us supplied with milk, mealworms and rehydration fluids

for our care bats for the entire year. You've all been a huge help, and we couldn't have got through these last few years and all the difficulties they've posed for fundraising without your regular donations. As a reminder, if you have any items you would like to donate the white box is around the side of 12 Orchard Road. We also have another pub quiz and raffle at the Queen Elizabeth Inn on **Wednesday 30th March** at 7:30pm. The Queen Elizabeth is a lovely village pub in Elmley Castle, and I personally enjoy the food there. This is always a fun evening and is usually quite popular, so we recommend booking a table to eat then staying for the pub quiz. This will probably be our last major event before bat season starts and we're all sleep deprived from feeding baby bats throughout the day and night, so it would be lovely to see you all before then.

Thank you once again

JOYCE KIERONS who died recently was a valued and respected resident of Alderton who had many friends in the village. We remember all of her support and help at village events. Some friends brought the flowers from the funeral service to be used in the church in Joyce's memory, there has also been a generous collection of money to provide church flowers at Easter.

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ALDERTON GOLF.

With spring coming, time to think about joining our group.

We have 4/5 events a year playing local courses and returning to the Gardeners for food, drink and prize giving.

Open to Alderton golfers of ALL standards and genders we want to welcome new members. Objectives are sporting fun and social.

To join contact Nigel Roe 07762735165 email nmroe@hotmail.co.uk

Next event in the spring will be organised by Simon Finch who will announce details soon. Brian Spence coordinator 07768182307 brianlspence@hotmail.com

TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks? Walking in Gloucestershire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. John Harris www.walkinginengland.co.uk john@walkinginengland.co.uk

NEXT NEWSLETTER Deadline for copy is Friday 25th March 2022 . 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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