

# Alderton Newsletter - March 2025

Edition 523

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[www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/newsletter-signup](http://www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/newsletter-signup)

## 1. PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

[www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[clerk@aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### PLANNING UPDATES

#### **Proposed Development – Land south of Beckford Road [now 32 houses] 24/00393/OUT**

No further news. Still waiting for some information.

#### **Proposed Development – Land Behind 52-74 Willow Bank Road [ 48 houses] 2400801/FUL**

Changes from original proposal to be considered by the Borough Council. The Parish Council have commented about the housing mix. Some clearance work has been completed. The Parish Council have queried whether some of it was premature.

#### **Proposed Development – Land East of St Margaret's Drive [48 houses]**

**24/00655/APP, 24/00129CONDIS, 24/00678/DEM**

Application for Reserved Matters approved. Awaiting development.

#### **Proposed New Development – Land West of Willow Bank Road [9 houses] 23//01148/PIP**

The Inspector has rejected the appeal.

#### **25/00064/FUL, 26 Orchard Road**

Extend front porch. rear extension, and alterations and demolish rear lobby building.

#### **25/00090/FUL, 36 Beckford Road**

Remove wall tile hanging and replace with white render to front and rear elevations.

### DEVOLUTION

The Government has published a white paper advocating removing district councils in favour of unitary authorities, combining the role of a borough and a county council. Gloucestershire is not in the first tranche of Councils to be impacted.

### FLOODING

A further meeting is being arranged associated with the March Parish Council meeting to discuss progress in implementing flood prevention measures on the hill. The Parish Council has obtained empty sandbags and a supply of sand which are at the allotments.

Those villagers whose houses are at risk of flooding can fill [ needs a spade] and take away bags. Please let the Parish Clerk know if sandbags or sand are running low.

### **ROAD CLOSURE**

May affect the B road to Toddington to complete gas pipe replacement.

### **CHURCH HEATING**

The existing gas system is coming to the end of its serviceable life and the Parish Council have agreed to part fund a new carbon neutral electrical heating system using money from the Community Infrastructure Levy .

### **DEFIBRILLATOR**

Freemans, the developer on land east of St Margaret's Drive, have offered the village a new defibrillator.

### **PLAYING FIELD**

Ways of dealing with the mole problem on the Playing Field are being investigated. A better surface has been laid at the entrance to the Field.

### **OLD VILLAGE SHOP IN ALLOTMENTS**

Renovation work is due to commence in March.

### **NEWSLETTER**

The Parish Council would like to thank Mark Watts-Jones as he takes on the Editorial role.

ANNUAL MEETING - A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES, TUESDAY 22 APRIL, 7PM, VILLAGE HALL.

Information about the Parish Council can be viewed on [www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk).

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: at 7pm Tuesday 18 March 2025 in the Village Hall.

## **2. ALDERTON & GREAT WASHBOURNE NEWS**

Welcome to any new residents, wherever you live in the village. This newsletter is published monthly and tells you what's going on. The village website is at [www.aldertonvillage.co.uk](http://www.aldertonvillage.co.uk) and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/aldertonglos>

We also have WhatsApp groups:

- 'Alderton residents' is for time sensitive information and answers to questions that locals know,'
- 'For Sale/Free' is our group for selling and exchanging
- 'Alderton chatter' is for chatting!
- 'Thursday Girls' is women supporting women.

To join the first two message Mark on 07973 963539 or email [mwjmail@gmail.com](mailto:mwjmail@gmail.com). To join the chat and women's group message Mary on 07826 019476

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

[www.aldertonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.aldertonvillagehall.co.uk)

[bookings@aldertonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@aldertonvillagehall.co.uk) / [enquiries@aldertonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aldertonvillagehall.co.uk)

### COFFEE MORNINGS

Our monthly café/coffee mornings are held on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to 12 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for fresh coffee, tea or hot chocolate and delicious homemade cakes made by the Village Hall volunteers. Come along on your own or meet up with friends.

#### **March 1st – Book Swap Café**

Have you finished reading a good book recently? Bring it along to swap for a new one.

#### **April 5th – Plant Café**

In addition to the normal refreshments and cakes, Alderton Gardening Club have arranged for 3 plant suppliers to come along with plants to sell, ready for our spring planting season.

We are looking for villagers who would be interested in having a table/stall at our monthly Village Hall coffee mornings to sell your products or promote your business. This could be an opportunity to introduce yourself to the Alderton community and all we ask in return is a prize for the raffle. There will be no other cost. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact Sian on 07790 342157

## GARDENING CLUB NEWS

[www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/alderton-gardening-club](http://www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/alderton-gardening-club)

Phil Kitson/Tom Cullimore

The Alderton Gardening Club's February meeting featured a fascinating talk by Andy Mills, Head Gardener at Blenheim Palace, accompanied by his longtime colleague Bryan Hedges. Despite the cold, around 70 attendees gathered, including new members. Chairman Tom began with gardening tips before Andy and Bryan took the stage.

Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the birthplace of Winston Churchill, boasts 90 acres of gardens designed by the renowned Capability Brown. Andy, who became Head Gardener in 2022, leads a team of 16 in maintaining and restoring the gardens, a project spanning 10 years. Bryan, a lifelong Blenheim gardener, expressed admiration for Andy's leadership.

Andy's presentation showcased historical photographs alongside present-day images, highlighting restoration efforts. His philosophy balances preservation with sustainability, promoting biodiversity by reducing mowing, limiting herbicide and pesticide use, and restoring lost garden features. Excavated ponds in the rose and walled gardens will provide irrigation, and a historic rockery is set

for revival. The former Butterfly House now hosts succulents, orchids, and pelargoniums, replacing tropical plants.

The 300-year-old ornamental kitchen garden continues to produce food for the café, staff, local residents, and food banks. Andy emphasized that all restoration work relies on visitor admissions, encouraging more people to explore Blenheim's evolving landscape. His talk captivated the audience, followed by a lively Q&A session and enthusiastic applause.

Tom concluded the meeting with club updates, including the AGM, a coffee morning and plant sale on April 5th, and ticket sales for Pippa Greenwood's June 12th talk. He also announced a bulk compost discount from Vale Gardens Ltd. The evening ended with a generous raffle drawn by the guest speakers, another round of applause, and cheerful conversations among attendees.

The next meeting on March 13th will feature garden photographer Adrian James discussing "Folklore and Legends Associated with Plants." Doors open at 7 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. start, welcoming both members and visitors.

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

### CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE, SAT 5TH APRIL, 11AM

We would love it if you would come along to help us tidy up the churchyard on Saturday April 5th from 11am. Please note the slightly later start time - because of the Coffee Morning and Plant Sale in the Village Hall at 10am. So we can go up and enjoy a coffee and cake to give us energy and buy some plants then come down to the churchyard! As it is a special place, it is worth keeping it looking smart and we would appreciate your help. Please bring along a few tools, kneeler and a bucket if you can!

### MOTHER'S DAY CAFE CHURCH, SUNDAY 30TH MARCH, 10:30 AM

Which is on Sunday March 30th at 10.30am in St Margaret's Alderton and this will be a short relaxed service. Coffee and croissants served and a small present as a thank you for people who care for us!

### MUSIC FROM THE MUSICALS, ST MARGARETS CHURCH, SAT MARCH 8TH

Thanks to everyone who's bought tickets, this event is now sold out.

## THE GARDENERS ARMS

[www.gardenersarms.biz](http://www.gardenersarms.biz)

We're excited to share our latest offerings:

### MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Treat Mum to a special day out with our tasty Sunday menu. **BOOK NOW for Mother's Day – call 01242 620257** and make her day unforgettable!

### DELICIOUS WEEKEND DEAL

- Enjoy **20% off your food bill** when you indulge in any two courses every **Saturday and Sunday** throughout March 2025. Yes, that includes our hearty Sunday roasts!

### WEEKDAY SPECIAL OFFERS

- **Wednesday:** enjoy a two-course set menu for only **£14.95** – available at lunch or as an evening treat every Wednesday.
- **Thursday:** our irresistible burgers are half price every Thursday.
- **Friday:** classic fish and chips for just **£10.95 every Friday**.

### CHELTENHAM RACES 11<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

- Join us for breakfast, drinks, or a satisfying meal during the Cheltenham Races. It's the perfect spot to soak up all the excitement!
- **LIVE MUSIC** on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Kings of the Hill return to play the night away!

### EVERYDAY ENJOYMENT

- Our wine selection starts at **£19.95 per bottle**, on Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc.
- We open every day at **9:30am for breakfast**, start your day right!
- And for a perfect pick-me-up, **Coffee & Cake** (or swap it for a bacon butty!) for only **£7.95**.
- **Dog friendly!** Check out our doggy menu, which includes your four-legged friends favourites!

We can't wait to welcome you soon!

## 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/MISCELLANEOUS

### FREE PICKLEBALL TASTER DAY AT BECKFORD TENNIS CLUB, SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2-4PM

Pickleball has arrived in Beckford with 4 courts plus all the equipment and we're offering you a FREE taster day to come and try it out.

Pickleball is fast becoming a very popular sport in the UK. It's a sport for all ages and abilities. It's a fun game that can be played at different levels, it's easy to learn but hard to master! So, put Saturday 29th March 2-4pm in your diary and come give it a go. Coaching and equipment provided.

You'll receive a warm welcome - no need to book. Beckford Tennis Club is a friendly, active venue which also offers 2 new clay courts and 2 hard courts and tennis lessons that will suit everyone at any level. The club is there for you and your family to play, compete, keep fit and have fun.

Beckford Tennis Club, Main Road, Beckford, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 7aa

**Send contributions to the Alderton Newsletter to [aldertonnews@gmail.com](mailto:aldertonnews@gmail.com) by the 25th of each month for inclusion in the following newsletter.**