



Police matters

Main contacts for Great Alne are:

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(Beat Manager)

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Contact information for the

Alcester South Safer

Neighbourhood Team is on the

village noticeboards or see

www.warwickshire.police.uk

CRIME REPORT

PC Rob Davies has reported the following incidents in Great Alne for the period April- July 2018 to include:

*Attempted burglary x2

*Burglary x2

* Stolen number plates

PC Davies would like to remind everyone that all the contact details for Alcester South SNT are on the website and to call 101 for non- emergencies.

Residents in Warwickshire can now report Traffic Offences using digital evidence from dash cams. See <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/operationsnap>

Teddy Bear's Picnic and Bear Hunt

On a lovely warm sunny summer afternoon, the village of Great Alne celebrated the arrival of the new play equipment in the Toddler area in the park with a Teddy Bear's Picnic and Bear Hunt.

Families gathered with their teddies to join in all the fun. The new play area is a big improvement to the park and a fabulous addition for the village. The wider community also seem to be enjoying it. In addition to the new equipment in the Toddler area, there is also a superb Bird's Nest swing. Please come along and see for yourselves!

This has been a project that has taken a long time to come to fruition. However, it has been well worth the wait! Great Alne Parish Council would like to thank the Playground Advisory Committee for all their invaluable help and support over the years.

Financial support for this project has come from development agreements with the retirement village at Great Alne Park (formerly Maudslay Park) and the new mixed housing development in Sernal Lane.

Coffee and a chat with Mrs Diane Wright

Mrs Diane Wright MBE, the oldest resident born in Great Alne at 85 years young, graciously agreed to open the Teddy Bear's Picnic by untying the ribbon on the Toddler area gate. It was a delight to see the children rush in to enjoy the new equipment! Mrs Wright had many stories to relay about the park and her life in Great Alne and she very kindly agreed to an interview.

Born in 1933 in the Boot Inn which stood on the corner of Mill Lane and Henley Road, Mrs Wright recalls that there was only a shallow step between the property and the very narrow road used for horses and wagons. Stables were attached to the inn. She and her brother Denis used to collect pears and apples from the orchard at The Knoll and then take them to the Cider Mill at Walcote. They used to race home from school so they could lead the horse around the cider press.

Flowers Brewery sold the land for housing but Denis, now 83, bought the land to farm and runs and owns it still!

Memories about the park

At nearly 5 years old Mrs Wright was walked to school by other children as her parents had a milk round. She came home for her lunch as only the children from Alne Hills were allowed to stay. School dinners were introduced for all when she was 8. Mrs Mable Wright, Sernal Lane, used to have 3-4 goats on leads that she would take to the park. She would stake the goats on chains in various places. The children used to love to go and see them on their way to school.

There was a tennis court in the back corner of the park at the Austen Cottage end. There wasn't any play equipment- just a couple of goal posts. The park was used by the school (now Seymour House) for games as they didn't have any playing fields of their own. Austen Cottage was built and given as a gift to Mr Blundell, chauffeur to Mr Neal of the Long House where Mrs Wright's mother worked. Mr Neal, who worked for the Austin car company, bought the playing field land, built the cottage and then in 1927 gifted the park to the residents of Great Alne parish.

Great Alne then and now

There used to be a Blacksmith's shop, but no house, on Sernal Lane where the bungalow Woodleigh now stands. Horses were shod and ironworks such as gates undertaken. Mrs Nightingale's Philomena café used to be the 'go to' venue for the young people in Great Alne. Everyone would congregate there and have parties. Forever Autumn now stands on this site.

Mrs Wright notices that there are a lot more new people who have moved into the village and she doesn't know them so well. Please say hello if you see her! But there is still good community spirit.

Best event

As a child of 12, Mrs Wright cherishes the memory of celebrating VE Day and the war being over. Celebrations included Fancy Dress and a Sports Day on the field over the railway line and Denis won prizes including the sack race. Top tip- you need to get a good sack and be able to get your feet in the corners. Mrs Wright could not take part as she had a bad leg.

The Millennium celebrations in 2000 both at her home and in the village were very special. Wonderful to see the night sky lit up everywhere with fireworks.

Worst occasion

The fire at their home at The Boot was devastating. The damage was mainly to the stables.

During the war The Maudslay was quite a target because of the engineering works. The factory had been moved from Coventry but the Germans knew roughly where it was. Bombs were dropped in the area and it was very scary. In wartime a Searchlight party was based at the Cricket Pitch. One night there had been an unexploded bomb and the soldiers were evacuated to the inn. They were joined by the District Nurse and her husband from East Lodge as it wasn't safe for them to stay in their property. Mrs Wright's parents gave up their bed and when Mrs Wright came down in the morning there were soldiers sleeping on the floor everywhere! On another occasion there was an unexploded bomb on the back of a wagon and it stopped at the inn. Mrs Wright's father moved the wagon on very quickly!!

Favourite memory

Mrs Wright was extremely proud and honoured to be awarded the MBE in June 2000. She remembers with great fondness being offered the use of a car and PC Paul Clark acting as chauffeur (complete with hat!) to get her to Buckingham Palace on time. At the end of the day they had to do a detour to the Memorial Hall for a bit of a 'do'. She remembers the terrible weather that night and awful flooding.

Mrs Wright was the school crossing patrol lady for an amazing 34 years. She has been a strong supporter of Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall serving on the Management Committee for over 30 years and a member of the WI for over 40 years. At the Memorial Hall her 'official duties' have included opening the new ladies and disabled loos in 2015, oak tree planting for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 2012, opening the Millennium extension and the new stage.



The Boot Inn, Mill Lane

The Silver Line

A helpline for older people that offers information, friendship and advice 24 hours day, 365 days a year. Originally founded by Dame Esther Rantzen, it is the only national, free and confidential helpline for older people in the UK. The Silver Line also offers telephone and letter befriending by matching up a Silver Liner to a volunteer for regular conversation. So if anyone is lying awake at night - or feeling lonely at any time - or is worried about a problem that they have - and think that a chat with someone friendly who cares might help, please call The Silver Line on 0800 470 8090 www.thesilverline.org.uk