

Crime Report and staying connected

There has been an increase in break-ins and attempted break-ins across our parish and wider local area recently. There are also numerous incidents of vehicle crime, especially on driveways. Residents are encouraged to keep all doors and windows locked and to remain vigilant.

A regular update on these issues is issued by Warwickshire Police and can be found on their website <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/>. The Warwickshire Police community messaging system - 'Warwickshire Connected' – encourages direct engagement between the Community and the Police. This is a free messaging service where you decide when and how you hear about the issues that matter most to you, whether that be getting regular crime updates, the latest information on ongoing incidents and emergencies or learning more about what your local police are doing. It is also the place where you can get involved in helping to shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and communicate on what matters are causing your communities harm. It is very quick and easy to sign up here: <https://www.warwickshireconnected.com>

Police matters

Main contacts for Great Alne are:

PC Rob Davies (Beat Manager)

PCSO Carolyn Davis

PCSO Gary Johnson-Jones

Alcester Police Station, Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DZ

Tel: 01789 444816 (Team voicemail) or 101

E-mail: alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @AlcesterCops

Instagram: southwarwickshiresnts

Facebook: Alcester Police

Great Alne Parish Councillors:

Lynn Bowring (Chairman): The Old Cottage, Henley Road, B49 6HR

Paul Clark: 66 School Road, Great Alne, B49 6HQ

Ian Millard: West Meadow Barn, Manor Court, Henley Road, B49 6HR

Diane Francis: 6 Millway Lodge, Woodland Drive, Great Alne, B49 6FX

Melvyn Jenkins: 5 Millway Lodge, Woodland Drive, Great Alne, B49 6FX

Kyla Brown (Clerk): 2 Gunn Court, Park Lane, Great Alne, Alcester, B49 6HS

Tel no: 07833 790375

greatalne.parcishcouncil@googlemail.com

Any thoughts on the newsletter? Please let us know!

Local Elections are coming!

The District and Town elections are being held on 4th May 2023. Our local polling station will be at Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall, Henley Road, B49 6HS.

From 4th May 2023 onwards, electors wishing to vote at polling stations will have to show an acceptable form of photo ID. Full details of the new requirement are available on the SDC website here:-

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/voter-id-at-polling-stations.cfm>

The Warwickshire Association of Local Councillors will be holding an online event for prospective councillors on 28th February (more details to follow). It is an opportunity to find out how to stand for election, what can be expected of you, and how the role of parish councillor can be rewarding.

For further information on anything to do with these local elections, visit:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Consultation

The SWLP Issues and Options consultation runs until Monday 6th March. The new Local Plan will affect the way we live, work, visit and play in South Warwickshire up to 2050, so it's really important that as many people as possible have their say on the proposals. Register your views online at: www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/issuesandoptions - or in local libraries.

Keep in touch

The 'Great Alne Parish Council' Facebook page provides regular updates and information concerning our local area, including road closures, events and news from across the Parish, District and County. All local residents are welcome to join.

ISSUE

11

WINTER 2023

Great Alne Parish Council

www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk



Important dates for your diaries: everyone is welcome to join all meetings

- **Sat 11 March** - 12pm-3pm – Planting of the Coronation Copse and Family Fun Day at the Great Alne Recreation Ground
- **Tues 21st March** - 7pm- General Meeting- Function Room at Maudslay House, Great Alne Park
- **Thurs 4th May** – District & Town Council elections. Polling station at the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall
- **Thurs 18th May** - 6pm (official Parish Assembly); 6.30pm (Annual Meeting) and 7pm (General Meeting) - Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park
- **Sat 3rd June** – 11am – informal Parish Assembly at the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall.

Dog Fouling

We have noticed a worrying increase in dog fouling around the parish recently. It is unhygienic, offensive and unpleasant for everyone.

While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not pick up after their pets. Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000.

The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse. So please pick up after your dog – any public bin can be used for dog waste so there is no excuse to leave it.

Community Event: Planting of The Coronation Copse

On **Saturday 11 March from 12pm-3pm**, everyone is invited to take part in the planting of the 'Coronation Copse' in the Great Alne Recreation Ground, School Road, to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III.

Climate Action is top of Great Alne Parish Council's (GAPC) agenda, and this is a perfect way for us to come together to create a natural lasting legacy in our beautiful park, as well as celebrate the Coronation of our new King. The first tree to be planted in the copse was the Queen Elizabeth Acer, as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022. Once planted, the copse will be registered on the map as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative which has been extended by King Charles, in honour of his late mother.

There are 55 trees of different sizes and species to be planted – all native woodland trees and pollinators which thrive in our local environment. Residents are invited on a first-come-first-served basis to sponsor a tree for £10 which provides the tree, ties, stake, tree-guard and compost. The Heart of England Forest is kindly helping us with the planting plan. On the day you will be directed to the marker where your tree will be planted. You are invited (with guidance if required) to dig the hole (tools provided apart from gardening gloves) and plant the tree; you will also be responsible for watering it (ideally every day for the first year, unless it rains!). Children from Great Alne School will be on hand to help you with the digging and planting!

There is also the opportunity to dedicate your tree – to yourself, your family or a loved one. There are two options available – Timpsons (High Street, Stratford – opposite Waterstones) has agreed a preferential rate for a plaque with a ground spike and 4 lines of engraving. Alternatively, we have sourced aluminium tags which you can arrange to be engraved, and then attach to the tree. If you would like to sponsor a tree, please email Cllr Melvyn Jenkins at Melvyn.jenkinsgapc@gmail.com who will be able to register your details, arrange for sponsorship payment and provide an information sheet, including options on dedicating your tree.

This is a free family afternoon, filled with lots of fun and games including a bouncy castle and pocket money games for the little ones; archery (for all those aged 8 years+); a bottle tombola courtesy of, and to raise funds for, Friends of Great Alne School; a rowing machine competition and free exercise demos courtesy of Great Alne Park. There will also be a moment of reflection at 2.30pm (or once the copse is planted), and thanksgiving for our new Monarch - presented by our new Alcester Minister, Rev Steve Kelly OMS, who has recently moved with his family to Great Alne.

Planting is hungry work – but fear not, as there will be delicious winter-warming food and drink available to purchase from The Mother Huff Cap.

Please note that card payments are accepted for the bar, hot food and bottle tombola, but cash is required for the children's pocket money games.

Please complete and return this form to Kyla Brown – 2 Gunn Court, Park Lane, Great Alne, Alcester, Warwks B49 6HS

Do you have any comments about the condition of the footpaths, pavements or overhanging trees for example?



Housing Needs Survey for Great Alne Parish

A lack of suitable and affordable housing in rural communities has been a serious problem for many years, with house prices outstripping average incomes by large margins. This can often lead to local people moving away.

The last housing needs survey was undertaken in 2014 so, to assess the extent of the problem in the local area, we are conducting a new survey, which has been delivered to you with this newsletter. Alternatively, you can complete the survey online: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GreatAlne23

This survey is being undertaken on behalf of GAPC by Warwickshire Rural Community Council (an independent charity that supports rural communities across Warwickshire) for the purpose of identifying parish-wide housing need only.

We intend to report back the results of the survey to residents at the GAPC meeting on 18 May 2023.

Climate Action Group

GAPC has established a Climate Action Group with a number of volunteers from the parish. Although we are a small community, there is a lot we can do in the short, medium and long term to achieve a number of priority climate change goals. You will be hearing a lot more about this over the coming months; if you would like to get involved, the next meeting is on **Sunday 26th Feb at 7.30pm** in the back room of The Mother Huff Cap.

Parish Council Update

Following a successful application to Warwickshire County Council for a Cost of Living grant of £1,000, GAPC is delighted to announce that we are setting up a number of free or subsidised clubs and activities for Great Alne residents, as part of our goal to provide the community with a Good Neighbour Group and a Young People's Group.

With the support of our friends at The Mother Huff Cap, we will be starting 'huff space', a session for 11-16-year-olds on the first Saturday night of every month (starting 4 March), and a Chatty Café every Thursday afternoon for all residents (starting 16 Feb). If you would like to volunteer for either group, please email the Clerk at greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com



huff space.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
£2 ENTRY | 7-9PM
11-16 YEAR OLDS
DBS REGISTERED STAFF

DO YOU LIVE IN GREAT ALNE? LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO ON A SATURDAY NIGHT?

COME ALONG AND HANG OUT IN A DEDICATED, INCLUSIVE SPACE AT THE MOTHER HUFF CAP

DITCH THE FOLKS, CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS AND ENJOY SOME PIZZA AND FRIES.

THE MOTHER HUFF CAP



We are also working with local business, Activity B's, an activity group for younger children based in Great Alne. Starting the first Monday after half term (27th February), we will be providing a subsidised hour-long session on a Monday (3.15pm-4.15pm) for children of the parish to attend the after-school club at the Memorial Hall, Henley Road, Great Alne.

The session will cost £2 per child which includes collection from Great Alne Primary School. The children will be provided with a light tea, followed by loads of fun activities. The Monday session is for a limited number of places (to ensure ratio numbers with staff) and will be available on a first come first served basis when the slots are released each week. Booking is available via email at activitybys@outlook.com

The club runs for two and a quarter hours (3.15pm-5.30pm) on a Monday- if parents wish their child to stay for the full duration of the club, they will be charged for the additional hour and a quarter at a special rate of £4 per child.

For more information, please visit the FaceBook page, 'Activity B's After School Club'. Or contact Bethany at activitybys@outlook.com



EVERY THURSDAY | 1.00 - 3.00PM
THE MOTHER HUFF CAP, GREAT ALNE

The Chatty Cafe is a warm, cosy space where everyone is welcome, whether on your own or in a group; or you could join one of our Chatter & Natter tables if you fancy a chat.

A Chatter & Natter table creates a space for people to talk; whether it is for five minutes while you drink a brew, or an hour of good conversation.

Bringing people of all ages and from all walks of life together. We want to mix everyone up!

THE MOTHER HUFF CAP



Support for residents this winter

Many of us are worried about the rising cost of living. If you need help, there is a range of resources and support available at parish, district, county and national level. The WCC Winter Wellness newsletter circulated in November contained a large amount of information on where to seek support. Copies of that newsletter are available from the Clerk if required. GAPC is working with WCC, SDC, and other local community groups to help support local residents. The following is information of local support within Great Alne and Alcester:

Food support: Great Alne Primary School, and now GAPC can provide vouchers for the Arden food bank in Alcester (<https://arden.foodbank.org.uk/>). Email GAPCfoodbankvouchers@gmail.com or call 07833 790375. See also Warwickshire.gov.uk/foodsupport

Energy support: Emergency funding support may be available via the Acts 435 Charity (through the Alcester Minster) and the Great Alne Parochial Charity – if anyone needs further information, please contact the Clerk in strict confidence.

Emergency funding may also be available for Warwickshire residents via Act on Energy, through the Stratford Energy Support Fund or the Warwickshire Household Support Fund: <https://actonenergy.org.uk/location/warwickshire/?current=1> or call for free on 0800 988 2881

Cost of living: Help is available if you are struggling to afford food or pay household bills. Information and support is available on Warwickshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living or call 01926 410410.

There is also a very comprehensive package of support options available at www.https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/

Winter warm hubs: Warwickshire County Council and the Warwickshire Rural Community Council have set up over 90 warm hubs for residents, including locations in Alcester, Studley, Wootton Waven and Stratford. <https://www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/wrcc-warm-hubs/warm-hubs-network/>

Our local libraries, museums and public spaces are providing a warm and safe space to visit this winter: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3622/public-spaces-offer-a-warm-welcome-this-winter>

Alcester Library has a varied range of events that might interest all residents, including IT support on a Thursday morning; sessions for those with dementia and their carers; Library Lovers Week (13-18 Feb) and activities and clubs for little ones over half-term. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/alcester-library-amp-information-centre-13469527272>

Xmas Hamper Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Hamper Appeal this Xmas. We were able to provide large hampers of food essentials, plus Xmas treats for 20 families in our parish.

Thank you to Great Alne School for their assistance with distribution of the hampers; to the Great Alne Parochial Charity for their very kind donation of a supermarket voucher for each hamper; to Waitrose for their generous supply of provisions; and to local luxury skincare company Pasture (<https://pasturenaturals.com/>) for the wonderful gift sets donated for each hamper.

It was wonderful to be able to support our Great Alne families in such a practical way: so much so that one of our residents suggested we might do it all over again for Easter. And why not?! Watch this space for local collection boxes and a list of items required in the run up to Easter.

We're going paperless

We have created a QR Code which can be scanned by most mobiles and electronic devices. This QR Code will take you to a link where you will be asked to register your address details to confirm that you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of the parish newsletter. All registered addresses will soon just receive an electronic version.

The information will be used for the purposes of the newsletter only. Our Privacy Notice is available at greatalne-pc.gov.uk.

