

Crime Report and Guidance

There continue to be reports of break-ins or attempts to gain access across our parish. There are also numerous incidents of vehicle crime, including theft from vans or cars on drives. 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/>. Or you can sign up to the Warwickshire Police community messaging system - 'Warwickshire Connected' - <https://www.warwickshireconnected.com>

The police, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Watch Network, have recently published a Crime Prevention Booklet. This covers topics such as burglary, dog theft, rural crime, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, car crime, cybercrime, scams and street harassment. The booklet provides practical guidance including how to protect your home and property, recognizing and reporting ASB, password protection and guarding against fraud. For a copy of the crime prevention booklet please visit www.ourwatch.org.uk or call 0116 402 6111.

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 Council:

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

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

Tel no: 07833 790375

greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com

Any thoughts on the newsletter? Please let us know below!

Request a new electric charging point

WCC is looking at ways to make it easier for residents to switch to an electric vehicle. As part of this initiative, they are asking residents to suggest locations for new electric vehicle charging points, particularly in rural locations.

If you would like to suggest a location for a new electric vehicle charging point, please fill out the following form:

Request a new car charging point form

The form will ask for some personal details and your suggested location, as well as information about your vehicle. The feedback will help WCC identify areas where new charging points are most needed. There will be no individual responses, but all requests will be added to a list for consideration when planning new locations soon.

Flooding issues

GAPC is working with WWC to see what we can do as a parish council to ensure our area is resilient to flooding. There are a number of ideas and options currently being considered.

One suggestion is creating a volunteer flooding group that will identify and clear easily accessible blocked drains and ditches. If you are interested in 'adopting a drain' that you are prepared to regularly monitor and maintain (we will show you how!) or if you are interested in volunteering, or have any relevant experience, please contact the Clerk at greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com

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. It's a great way to keep in touch with what's happening where you live.

All residents are welcome to join!

ISSUE

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AUTUMN 2023

Great Alne Parish Council

www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk



Important dates for your diaries:

Sat 14 October – 10am-1pm – *Litter Picking Event*. Base camp at Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall. All equipment will be provided.

Tues 21 November - 7pm- *General Meeting*- Function Room at Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, B49 6HX

Tues 23 Jan 2024 - 7pm - *General Meeting* - Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, B49 6HX

Sat 2 March 2024 – 10am -2pm *Community Action Day* followed by *Great Alne Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting @ 2pm-3pm.*

Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband in Great Alne

Great Alne may benefit from the Openreach Fibre Community Partnership (FCP) scheme. This means Fibre to the Premises broadband connection which is not only very fast but also more reliable. There is more information from CSW here <https://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/>

For Great Alne to proceed, a certain number of households need to pledge their support for the scheme. Once pledged, you will receive an email to validate your voucher – which is the important bit! If there are enough validated vouchers, the scheme will go ahead. At this stage you are committing to a full fibre broadband service so please check your individual supplier's terms and conditions as costs will vary. We are currently at 75% of the target number of households required.

You can pledge your support here <https://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity>

MAKING GREAT ALNE GREENER

Stratford District Council (SDC) and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) have declared a Climate Emergency and developed a plan to tackle the impact of climate change in our area. Great Alne Parish Council has recruited a group of volunteers (the Climate Action Group 'CAG') to understand how we can best prepare and protect our parish and help deliver local improvements to support SDC and WCC's plan; but we need your views to ensure we understand what is important to you about where you live. CAG has prepared a survey to help prioritise our community's views across a number of areas and provide focus for the actions we need to deliver to improve our local environment.

We need the views of all generations to help us. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete, and ALL family members are encouraged to share their views – either online via the URL link or QR code below, or via a paper copy (available from the Clerk – greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com). Please could you complete the survey by 31 October 2023. The CAG will provide feedback on the survey data in the next newsletter once the results have been analysed. Thank you for your support.

Access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KS6YSJF>
Or here:



Traffic calming

Speeding is one of the main issues we discuss with residents. We are working with WCC and Inspired Villages Group to undertake a village-wide speeding survey this autumn.

The results of this survey will hopefully enable GAPC to work with WCC to install traffic calming measures in the worst locations. Any proposals will take time to come to fruition, but hopefully any new measures, along with the ongoing work of our brilliant volunteers in the Community Speed Watch Group, should result in noticeable traffic improvement going forward.

We will keep you posted with developments.

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?



Did you know?

- GAPC's streetlight upgrade project to LED lamps with steel columns is well underway and should be completed in the next few weeks. We will report back with the electricity consumption and costs savings as soon as the information is available.
- Waitrose in Alcester has a recycling facility for single use plastic, including film, packaging and bags. It is located behind the self-check-out tills.
- You can now use Alexa to check your waste collection days, ask which items go in which bins and much more! See the set-up guide: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/set-up-alexa-for-your-waste-collections.cfm>.
- You can find out how to correctly dispose of your household items using Recycle Now's useful A-Z: <https://www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item>
- Just over 10% of households in Great Alne receive this newsletter electronically. We could save paper, ink and costs if we could increase this number to 50% by the end of next year. Please email GAPC through the QR code below to register your address for an electronic version of the Newsletter. The information will be used for the purposes of the newsletter only. Our Privacy Notice is available at greatalnepc.gov.uk.



Food waste in black bins costs money!

Not something you'd really expect, but we're going to tell you why... When food decomposes in landfill it creates methane, a flammable gas which makes managing landfill more expensive. Money isn't the only reason to keep food out of your black bin, Methane contributes to global warming. According to a Reuters article in August 2022, landfill waste is responsible for about 11% of global methane emissions*. This contrasts to food specific waste handling, which does not produce methane and costs less to process.

That's not the only reason why the green bins that we've been given are so important. Seeing what we waste can really help us reduce that waste and ultimately reduce our food bill. Here are just a few things that you might be able to ponder when you're walking to the curb to drop your food bin off:

- What do I keep wasting? Is there something I can change?
- Can I freeze some of my food before it goes off?
- Could I keep one dinner a week free for "use up night"?
- Can I give food to the community fridge or neighbours before I go away for a few days?
- Am I storing my food in a way that maximises its life?

Recent data from SDC indicates that in the first year of operation of the new 123+ waste collection service, the separate weekly food waste collection service has seen 4,888 tonnes collected. Although this is a good start, there is a long way to go.

The same data provides that from August 2022 to July 2023, 16,226 tonnes of residual waste was collected, which is 5,635 tonnes less than the same period the previous year. Overall, 68% of the District's rubbish was recycled and 26% less residual waste was collected.

*Reference: [Landfills around the world release a lot of methane - study | Reuters](#)

Have you seen an Asian Hornet?



The British Beekeepers Association is asking members of the public to keep a look out for the Asian Hornet. This is not to be confused with our native European Hornet, who is in fact a 'friend'. A record number of Asian Hornets have been found in the UK this year - more than in the previous six years combined, and this will inevitably increase. If they get established it is predicted they will have a devastating impact on our insect population and ecosystem as they feed on ALL types of pollinator, including honey-bees.

Asian hornets are slightly smaller than native European hornets, have distinct yellow legs, an orange face and predominantly black body with one yellow/orange stripe; whereas our native European Hornet is predominantly brown and yellow. You may see them feeding on fallen fruit or working an ivy hedge looking for a meal. If you suspect you have seen an Asian hornet, take a picture and report it immediately using the phone app 'Asian Hornet Watch' where you will find lookalikes or use the online [reporting form](#). Do NOT approach a nest if you find one. For more information visit www.bbka.org.uk.

Support for residents this winter

As winter approaches, the current cost of living continues to be of concern. If you need help, support is available at parish, district, county and national level.

Food support: Great Alne Primary School, and 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 may be available via the Acts 435 Charity (through Alcester Minster) and the Great Alne Parochial Charity – for information, please contact the Clerk in strict confidence. The Stratford Energy Support Fund provides financial help with energy bills. The scheme is administered and managed by Act on Energy on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council <https://www.actonenergy.org.uk/project/sesf/>

Cost of living: Help is available if you are struggling to afford food or pay household bills. Information and support is available on 01789267575 or via costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk, or email info@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

Winter warm hubs: WCC and the Warwickshire Rural Community Council have set up over 90 warm hubs for residents, including locations in Great Alne, Alcester, Studley, Wootton Waven and Stratford. A new interactive map is available which shows the warm hub locations. The Great Alne Chatty Café and huff space are both registered: www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/wrcc-warm-hubs/warm-hubs-network/

Active travel

Transport is the single largest source of carbon emissions in Warwickshire, generating over 40% of the total. If we reduce the number of car journeys, we can lower our carbon emissions. Active Travel is a means to achieve this.

Active Travel refers to making journeys by physically active means such as cycling or walking. There are several benefits: reduced carbon footprint, less wear and tear on roads, cost savings from reduced fuel consumption, improved air quality, and possibly health benefits. How can we apply this in Great Alne? Well, consider walking to the pub, the Memorial Hall or the church. And if you're feeling really energetic why not walk to the pub at Aston Cantlow for a treat? For longer journeys, say to Alcester or to our neighbouring villages, cycling would be an ideal solution. Of course, road safety is an issue, and these concerns would need to be addressed. For example, for school trips to Alcester, a Cycle Train could be established, where a 'peloton' of cyclists would be shepherded by experienced adult cyclists at each end. In addition, WCC has introduced initiatives such as Cycle Buddies, where experienced cyclists are connected to adult beginners to help build confidence and identify safest routes, and Love to Ride, an online cycling community.

There are further implications if we wish to promote the uptake of active travel, such as improved pavement surfaces and footpath access. There are also therefore cost implications, but funding is increasingly available from a number of sources for climate-related projects.

Get Busy in the Garden!

Autumn in the garden can feel like nature is settling down to sleep, but nothing could be further from the truth. There are lots of things you can do for nature at this time of year.

Try not to be too tidy. Stems and seed heads left standing can be beautiful when touched by early frosts, but they can also provide hiding places for insects to keep cosy during colder days.

If you haven't already, consider introducing water into your garden. Even a shallow dish can provide drinking water for birds, and insects too if you add a few pebbles so they can safely escape if they fall in. Remember to keep it topped up and change the water regularly. A washing up bowl sunk into the ground can make a mini pond, but please remember to have a sloping log or ramp so creatures can crawl out and add a native water plant or two for hiding places. If you have bird feeders, please ensure these are cleaned regularly to prevent disease.

Logs, sticks and leaves can be piled up in an out of the way corner to make a place where invertebrates can feed and survive during the winter. You may even get a hibernating hedgehog take up residence.



Please remember, if you are planning to have a bonfire, make it on the day to ensure no wildlife is sheltering there.

Enjoy nature in your garden this autumn.