## No 472 ALDERTON NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS [www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**COMMUNITY HELP HUB –** If you currently require help that cannot be provided by family, neighbours or the village volunteers then please contact the Community Help Hub on 01452 583519, Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm or [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/helphub](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/helphub)

**PARISH PLANNING –** The following application has received permission for development: Holtash, Stow Road, Alderton (20/00285/FUL) - Demolition of the existing rear conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.

**TEWKESBURY BOROUGH PLAN** – The Borough Council submitted the Tewkesbury Borough Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination on 18 May 2020. The independent examination will be conducted by the Planning Inspectorate who will appoint a Planning Inspector in due course. The inspector will assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements and if it meets the tests of soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. The plan, which feeds directly into the Joint Core Strategy, provides detailed and locally-specific planning policies on issues across Tewkesbury Borough such as housing, employment, retail, the urban and natural environment and transport. It also includes proposed sites for housing and employment development. It does not allocate any further housing development for Alderton. The Local Plan and all supporting documents can be viewed on the Council’s webpage: [www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/tewkesbury-borough-plan-examination-library](https://tewkesbury.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e78767df423514903b7a2d34&id=c37b48e71a&e=1924e48eaa)

**ALLOTMENT PLOTS –** There is just one plot (70sq m) remaining on the site so please contact the Clerk if you are interested in this plot.

**Next Parish Council Meetings: provisionally 21st July or 18th August 2020,** **7.30pm, venue to be agreed. However, this will depend on Government advice at that time. Further details will be available nearer the time on the Parish Council website and the village noticeboards.**

**Parish Clerk: Tamsin James, 9 Bowler Road, Northway, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 8RZ**

**01684 290392** **tamsin.james1@btinternet.com**[**www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk**](http://www.aldertonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**VILLAGE NEWS**

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**ALDERTON CHURCH NEWS**

 We are really pleased that the Church building is now open for private prayer all day. Following the Government announcements, we hope that the Church will soon be open for services. Don’t forget that there is a Zoom service every Sunday at 9.30am - please contact me on julia.hook@btinternet.com if you would like to join us.

**Donations:** We are so grateful to the people who have kindly given a donation to the Church and it is certainly very much appreciated. I think a lot of people have enjoyed once again hearing the clock striking the hour and being able to see the time - a lovely sign of village life that can now continue.

If other people still feel able to make a donation to support the upkeep of our Church, you could either do it via a BACS transfer to the PCC account (**St Margaret’s Church Alderton**)  Account No: **01027301**

Sort Code: **60-08-44** , or a cash donation placed in the St Margaret’s box in the shop (gift envelopes there) or posted in my letterbox at the Vicarage, Church Road.  Don't forget, for cash donations, for the PCC to be able to claim gift aid if you are a taxpayer, can you please include **your name (initials and surname), House number or name and post code**on the gift envelopeor a separate piece of paper.

We recognise there are many financial pressures on you at the moment but many thanks for considering this. With grateful thanks,**Julia Hook,**Vicar of the Oak Hill Group of Churches

We are not able to sell any books because of the Church guidelines and not able to receive any book donations. We look forward to being able to restart this.

**THE NORTH COTSWOLD FOOD BANK** is so grateful for the weekly boxes of donations collected in Alderton Shop. From 1st January 2020 until May 12th they amounted to 109.5kg. Please continue to help those in need with your donations by placing them in the basket in the shop. Thank you.

[**ALDERTON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL AND TODDLER GROUP**](https://www.facebook.com/aldertonacorns/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWH7LYaSPRhSfQ2pHD5_Qx_qHhoV5QPH8YfdjllX7xHf4Zw3ArildZY7y_BKYLRGkB2EtiIf33w7t4n8xbhD6Ap_-h7fpwrN562rvXFUNyxFWacgRrqJfbwcHy6NA0G6JYp8S7jLJX3xC58Bco7bXqT-32hsJOQjVwegNk6OU2j3A&__tn__=-UC%2CP-R)

After an enforced break due to you know what, we are all now very much looking forwards to September when we are hoping that our lovely Preschool will be able to fully open once again.

Nine of our children will be moving on to big school and we wish them well in their new adventure. That leaves space for the next group of children to join us and so we are now open to enrolling new children for September. We have space every day and we really would love some more children to join us. We are open Monday to Thursday 9am to 3pm term time only.  If you have a query or would like to ask more questions, then please do get in touch with us and we will be more than happy to help. Currently we are not inviting anyone into the setting because of the current situation but we do have a Facebook page that you can look up and get a feel for what the setting looks like and what we get up to on a daily basis.

Alderton Acorns is a welcoming Pre-School that is run by experienced, passionate and enthusiastic staff. Whilst there is structure assigned to the running of the Pre-School, child-led play is widely encouraged to enhance your child’s confidence, self - esteem and communicative skills. The children are fortunate to freely explore the safe, outdoor space that Acorns has to offer. Many a pirate has walked the plank on our wooden pirate ship; the raised beds have seen the likes of Mr McGregor chasing Peter Rabbit, but have also been a place of awe and wonder in many a child’s eye as they watch the vegetables and flowers grow from seed. The playhouses have provided a stage for the well-loved role play of ‘Mummy’s and Daddy’s’.

The staff at Acorns sympathise with that first big step towards independence for your child and also the emotions that brings to the parents/guardians. Rest assured that you and your child will be supported through this stage every step of the way. Please do contact our Play Leader on 07842 161159 or at aldertonacornspreschool@hotmail.co.uk with any queries you may have.

We are also **recruiting** for September. We would love to have another member of staff to join our team. Hours can be flexible, possibly one full day (8.30-3.30), or maybe 4 afternoons (12-3.30) a week. Lunchtime cover is also required on 4 days. Ideally, we are looking for an enthusiastic, fun loving and caring team member to join us. Some knowledge of the EYFS is preferable, and a positive approach and dedication to the role. If you are interested please contact chairperson.aldertonacorns@gmail.com

A final note on COVD-19: Acorns have taken every precaution to make the Pre-School a safe environment for all the staff, children and their families. Please do not hesitate to ask us about our COVID-19 risk assessment and precautions put in place. Unfortunately, in the current circumstances the Friday Toddler group will have to remain closed.

We look forward to welcoming you to our much-loved Pre-School.

**ALDERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Due to COVID 19 the Village Hall has been closed since lockdown, and the Village Hall Committee would obviously like to re-open the hall as soon as possible so that everyone can re-commence much-missed activities, clubs and meetings.

We are currently working through the guidelines for safe re-opening, and there are numerous requirements which we will be addressing.

As we normally have relatively few bookings in July and August, we have decided to use that time to ensure all requirements are met, and we are aiming to re-open the hall for all permitted uses at the beginning of September. The maximum number of people allowed in the hall at any time will then be based on the guidance at that time.

We look forward to welcoming hirers back into the hall in September. For booking enquiries, please contact Debbie Andrews on 07778 534121 or for general enquiries contact Judith Humphreys on 07837 402692

 **THE ALDERTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

(AAA) would like to welcome the new plot holders who have joined us recently, adding to a great community of enthusiastic flower and vegetable growers. It is most encouraging to see that new members and old hands have been so active. The allotments are currently well planted and with the recent very welcome rain it will not be long before the fruits (and veg) of all the hard work are visible. Many plot holders are starting to pick and enjoy wonderful produce already. Plot holders have benefitted from the ability to be outside during this rather tricky time of lockdown and the site has never looked so good, so productive and been so full of smiling faces. Please contact Tamsin James if you are considering joining this happy band as she holds the list of those looking for a plot. For those of you who are already members this is a good opportunity to remind you that your annual fee to the AAA gives you access to the Associations equipment (Rotavator, strimmer & lawnmower) and indemnity insurance cover. Some members have items for sale and these can be seen on the noticeboard as you enter the site. The AAA has been successful in obtaining a grant from Gretton Solar Farm Ltd through Green Fields Trust ([www.greenfieldstrust.co.uk](http://www.greenfieldstrust.co.uk/)) for 20 Water butts and 20 Composter bins, and the distribution of those items is currently being looked into. Additional thanks goes to BHGS at Evesham and GM8 group of Hitchin ([https://www.gm8group.com](https://www.gm8group.com/)) who would also like to offer the village discounts on products within the group. This has all been due to the efforts of Jim Keating and Mark Hunt – well done!
A big thank you to the Parish Council for the new wider gate at the entrance and two 2000L water tanks which have recently been installed on site adding to this village resource.one by the composting silos and at the back of the black shed by the entrance to the Allotment Garden section on the western edge.

 **ALDERTON GARDENING CLUB**

On a blazing June day the roses are looking marvellous now, pink Veronica spires are waving in the wind and the Cosmos is just beginning to flower as the white Love-in-the -mist sets its seed heads.  I am even starting to crop onions, garlic, beetroot and, of course, courgettes from my raised beds. Roses all around the village have been looking spectacular and its great to see so many butterflies and moths about. Alderton Gardening Club members can at last sit back for a few moments and enjoy the fruits of their labours.

No news yet on meetings restarting.  We will be guided by decisions about the Village Hall and Government guidance on larger gatherings.   The Alderton Gardening Club Facebook page continues to be active with 70 members and topical posts so do contact us there if you would like any gardening hints and tips.

**Let's say thanks to Yari for opening all the way through lockdown**
Alderton's own key worker, Yari kept Alderton Village Store & Post Office open all the way through the Coronavirus lockdown and kept us safe by stopping us from having to travel. From Day 1 when no-one was sure of the risks they were taking by going out Yari visited the Cash & Carry and opened every day.

To say thanks to Yari we would like to get him a small token of our appreciation. This is not a fundraise for Yari's shop but a thank you present.  To contribute any amount please go to:

[www.gofundme.com/f/aldertonvillagestore](https://www.gofundme.com/f/aldertonvillagestore)

Any questions to Mark from Alderton's Volunteer Group on 620567 or 07973 963539.

 **GARDEN BIRDS**

 Since we arrived in the village last July, we've been counting the birds in our garden. We're up to a possible 23 that have 'clawed-down' : collared dove, wood pigeon, blackbird, house sparrow, blue, great, long tailed, willow and coal tits, dunnock, starling, robin, gold, green and chaff-finch, jackdaw, magpie, greater spotted woodpecker, black cap, songthrush, sparrowhawk (minus one bluetit...) and we very much hope: lesser redpoll and tree pipit.

We're sure that some others in the village have compiled a list too, and will easily surpass ours (my friend in Dorset is up to 108 for goodness sake, but he does have a 3 acre garden with a pond, and lives next door to a wildlife reserve. And he counts 'fly-overs'!) Well, if so, there's at least crows, gulls and buzzards, redkites, martins and swifts to add to the list.

It's such a pleasure, isn't it - a free show, and each species has its own character. We love it, but one of our best sightings was on a walk, spotting a yellowhammer in full sunshine - colour that almost scalds the eyes....If anyone has any tips to encourage other species, ie different seeds etc, we'd be glad to hear about it. Tel  620053.

**EVESHAM BAT CARE**

I hope everyone is still doing ok and are able to enjoy the easing of lockdown restrictions, though this topsy turvey weather has thrown our wildlife for a bit of a loop. In spite of the recent rain I'm sure you've all noticed that the ground is still very dry and water levels are very low, and in this heat many animals are struggling to find enough fresh water to stay hydrated. Putting even a small dish of water out will be a great help for animals, particularly young hedgehogs who are just starting to leave mum. Placing small stones in the bottom of any water dish will ensure that the water stays shallow enough for even very young hedgehogs to drink out with without risking drowning.

I would also like to thank everyone for their donations of stamps and oral care items and packaging recently. Due to the covid-19 restrictions we have not been able to carry out any of our normal fundraising activities and like most charities we are starting to feel the loss of income. These donations have been our only source of income and we greatly appreciate every one. Now restrictions are starting to ease we are looking into whether we can re-start some of our activities safely and we hope to be able to bring you more news of that soon. In the meantime, if you have anymore donations of oral care items or stamps you can drop them off in the white box under the car port of 12 orchard road, or, if you're not comfortable entering the garden, you can leave the hanging on the gate. Thank you so much once again

Aimmie Woodman, 12 Orchard Road, 620373

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| **GARDENERS ARMS** gardeners1@btconnect.com. 01242 620257 [www.gardenersarms.biz](http://www.gardenersarms.biz)Hooray! We are going to open on **Saturday 4th July** at Noon…We have been working hard during lockdown to provide you all with a safe & secure experience on your return. We’ve distanced tables in the restaurant and set up our very own exclusive Garden Bar for you providing an outdoor space to relax in.Inside we have restricted numbers to 30 diners only at any one time, so we would recommend you pre-book your table to avoid disappointment. Book your table [www.gardenersarms.biz](http://www.gardenersarms.biz/)Additional cleaning & Covid 19 measures have been put in place to ensure your safety, which is our primary concern.Whether it’s food or drink, we believe we have all bases covered and we are also offering new menus but with the same fresh local ingredients we have always used.We can’t wait to welcome you all back to the new look GA. (please note the information was correct at time of going to press and might change so please check the website for details).  |  |

NEXT NEWSLETTER Deadline for copy is **Saturday 25th July 2020.** 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**](http://www.aldertonvillage.co.uk)