



Thank you!

As we look forward, perhaps a little apprehensively, to rebuilding the vibrancy of our village this Parish Update will seek to say a huge 'thank you' to those amongst us who have kept us safe and who have placed themselves into a vulnerable position to ensure that our basic needs were met.

Thank you to all our doctors and nurses; our care workers; our pharmacy staff; our church volunteer 'shoppers' and food bank helpers; our shops and our retail staff; our milk and grocery delivery teams; our postwomen and postmen; our mail order delivery drivers; our ANSA refuse collection teams and street cleaners; our ANSA Parks maintenance teams; our

charitable (Fosters) fish and chips deliverers; and all those who have looked after those vulnerable residents around them with acts of kindness and generosity. Thank you to you all.

Even as we distribute this edition to all our residents, the pandemic crisis we are all facing will still be far from over and we all recognise that life will perhaps never be quite the same again. It is not for me to suggest how we approach the future only to say that I am certain Alderley Edge will play its part in coming forward with innovation and ideas that were never considered or needed in our past lives.

I am certain too that we all feel sad and downhearted for those of our businesses who have worked so hard to become a major part of the fabric of our community. As the days with no turnover go past and the future restrictions surrounding social distancing start to impact on their re-opening plans they must each be looking to all of us to support them in any way we can. Shopping local will be a huge boost! SHOP LOCAL - BUY LOCAL!

...and I can assure everyone that we will do everything we can, as your Parish Council, to support the rebuilding of a 'vibrant' Alderley Edge.

Mike Dudley Jones



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Geoff Hall

Geoff Hall tendered his resignation from the Parish Council on Thursday 7th May 2020 - as he had indicated to us all that he would do.

Geoff Hall has been an exceptional Parish Councillor and a huge asset for our Village. Without him, Alderley Edge would not be able to boast a new state of the art Medical Centre or indeed the fine rebuilding of what had become a somewhat run-down Festival Hall.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan, the newsletters, planters, and boundary signs all carried Geoff's mark but he also played an immense role in the not so visible aspects of Parish Council life such as our sound financial planning and controls, our active support of voluntary groups, our friendly inclusive approach to our fellow residents and he was always a helpful advisor to Councillors wrestling with problems.

And without him Alderley Edge First would not have been born either. Our success in the elections of 2015 meant that Alderley Edge could at last have a Parish Council without any 'political' leanings or influence, made up of 9 wholly independent 'thinkers' drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. The formula worked thanks to the overwhelming support from our residents. It was right that Geoff Hall became our first Chairman.

Under his guidance, influence and example we remain a strong team displaying honesty and integrity at all times and communicating our thoughts and aspirations well. Geoff has made a huge contribution in helping us to earn the respect of our residents and our election result in 2019 reflected this when the Village again showed their confidence in the style of our approach. As a Village, we owe him a huge vote of thanks. He did not miss much - but he will be much missed!

THE FESTIVAL HALL IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The Festival Hall team have been busy – preparing this special venue for parties and celebrations, whilst ensuring that all the restrictions surrounding 'social distancing' and your safety are in position. If you are planning a party or gathering of any type come and chat to us and let us show you how our great facilities at the Festival Hall can work to make your event a huge success.

The answer is YES! What was your question?



'Thank You' Garden in the Park

Although our Park in Alderley Edge is maintained by ANSA, we have asked them to delay their proposed replanting of the small triangle of ground next to the bandstand. The reason for this is the number of requests we have had to create something of a 'Thank You' Garden – a small area for peaceful contemplation to remember those who dedicated themselves to look after others during the Global Pandemic of 2020, those who lost their lives and those who lost loved ones so unexpectedly. Some ideas...



Inspired by the brilliant fundraising brass plaques at Southwold Pier in Suffolk which helped that small town raise over a £1million to rebuild their Pier it has been suggested that we raise funds in a similar way. The plaques could be mounted on a teak wall all along one side of the garden and would allow each person donating a plaque four lines of script for their personal message at the 75mm x 50mm size. Discussions locally have suggested a cost of say £100.00 would leave a contribution of around £60.00 towards the fundraising appeal.

Fund Raising for the 'Thank You' Garden

We are looking for supporters of this idea to help bring it about for the Village. The Parish Council will act as advisors and facilitate liaison with ANSA and other parties to assist with the project but feel that it should be a 'Friends of the Thank You Garden' project. If you feel that you would like to be involved with the design, the fundraising or the building and planting of the garden we would love to hear from you.



Please contact: clerk@alderleyedge-pc.gov.uk or bevchapmanaepc@gmail.com

The Wood Gardens Project



Wood Gardens circa 1975



Wood Gardens circa 2020

There are changes afoot at Wood Gardens! Led by the new Bollinfields Community Group with Cheshire Peaks and Plains and The Parish Council as partners Wood Gardens is already enjoying a facelift.

The Bollinfields Estate was built in the mid to late 1940's for the men and women returning after the war. The roads on the estate were all named after trees – and the trees planted there all those years ago matched the road names. Elms in Elm Crescent; Beech trees in Beech Close. Sadly, only a very few are left now. Hedges had become overgrown and the central area at Wood Gardens looked a little uncared for but not so now.



The Bollinfields Estate Community Group is up and running, determined to make a major contribution to our community. We have our own Facebook page and we are looking for supporters and helpers to transform the look of where we live! With the help of the Parish Council and a growing number of willing helpers who have already pledged their support we have already uncovered the old stone paths on the central island and new planters for the summer are moving into position.

The central area needs attention before a new tree is planted in the dormant November period this year. Bartlett's, the Tree Specialists, are advising our new Group and the Parish Council will lend support with funding. This mature tree planting will carry our Christmas lights and decorations into the future and will be a growing feature and centrepiece for Wood Gardens. What type of tree would you like to see? Please tell us what you think.



Karen Robinson
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Beech Close Community Allotments

Proud to be Independent

In December 2019 our members decided to look after the interests of our site ourselves, without outside influence. So, in January 2020 the Beech Close Community Allotment Company was formed with support from Alderley Edge Parish Council, our Landlords, to whom we offer our grateful thanks. The setting up of the company offered an exciting challenge, and whilst there were obstacles to overcome, we are delighted with the progress we have already made. Our aim is to serve the local community, by providing a safe friendly environment to enable our members to enjoy growing their own fruit and vegetables in a peaceful and tranquil place. We work to promote organic principals and water conservation.

Having taken over the management of the site our talented manager and plot holders have worked together rebuilding gateways, clearing years of accumulated rubbish, improving drainage and clearing neglected waterways for the benefit of plot holders and wildlife alike. While there is a great deal of improvement work still to be undertaken, we feel confident about the future. Already we have seen an encouraging upsurge in applications for allotments from local residents who we are keen to accommodate as soon as possible.



One particular feature of Beech Close Community allotments is the diversity of wildlife on our site. We have installed bird boxes, a wildlife area and pond. We hope that by reducing the use of herbicides and pesticides to encourage more wildlife; only recently we have noted at least two resident hedgehogs now living on the site.

It has been encouraging to hear of the changes planned for Wood Gardens too, located so close to us. Beech Close Allotments is a thriving community and we all look forward to playing our part in neighbourhood activities in the future. www.beechclosecommunityallotments.co.uk

Alderley In Bloom



Despite the challenges and limitations of 'Lockdown' our Britain in Bloom volunteers have continued to contribute to the look of our village. Recently we were able to remove all our winter displays on the Waitrose railings replacing them with summer displays.

Our plans for summer floral displays were cancelled with the lockdown. Our volunteers continue to litter pick and garden even though there will be no Britain in Bloom awards this year. But our efforts in 2020 show that our volunteering is first and foremost for the good of the village and not about receiving awards, as welcome as that might be.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Leslie Cox on coxlja@hotmail.com or by phone on 07774 48845



St Philips and St James Church Volunteers



Providing Pastoral Care throughout the Village during the Covid-19 Pandemic

After preliminary discussions with the Reach Out Group and with the support of Reverend Robin Pye, around 40 wonderful volunteers were willing to undergo our rigorous Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process to create a new support system for the local community as the pandemic took hold. The main aim was to quickly reach and meet the needs of the local vulnerable residents. This meant establishing excellent working relationships with our shops, pharmacies, GP practice, Parish Council and other neighbouring support agencies. There are 4 main areas of support:

- 1: Shoppers – households who are self-isolating have been buddied up with volunteers to help with shopping and errands. Some important new relationships have developed with volunteers taking on complex responsibilities, often requiring guidance and advice. Wendy Davies, reporting to Ian Standen, headed up the cashless payment process allowing a simple payment/reimbursement system to operate. A Cash Float fund provided by the Civic Fund and the Institute Trust ensured that no volunteer was ever 'out of pocket'. The 14 Shopping Volunteers have made 104 shopping trips, with an average spend of £37.00 per shop for 16 self-isolating households. The total transactions amount in and out of the Float Fund has amounted to £3903.31.
- 2: Foodbank collectors – headed by Jen Pound, with a team of collectors for daily pickups from Tesco and Waitrose. This is either delivered to the Church Hall or taken to sister organisations in Wilmslow, Styal and Macclesfield.
- 3: Foodbank distributors – headed by Sarah Williamson, with a team of food sorters, and distributors. The Church porch is always open for food deposits, and Sarah phones those in need of Foodbank groceries, plus an open shop on a Sunday morning for folk to come and choose their groceries. Foodbank distributors take food to those who are unable to come and choose their own provisions.
- 4: Fish and Chip distribution – Fosters (with a small grant from the Parish Council) have provided free fish and chips for 50 people per week for 3 months. Often a difficult task to administer, as the numbers change weekly, but it has been a lovely way to maintain contact with some of the most vulnerable and isolated - and by swapping round the team of deliverers, we provide a fresh face visiting with each meal!

I would like to thank all the shoppers, collectors, distributors, money sorters and organisers for their “can do” approach and the fun way they have tried to meet everyone’s needs. We do hope this scheme can be built on in the future and enhance how we support each other, as we leave “lock down”.

Sue Mills - St Philips and St James Church



The Denerley's Memorial Bench



Many residents may remember John and Audrey Denerley who lived at Lynton Court, Lynton Lane for 27 years. They both moved to Sussex around five years ago to be close to their son, Dr Paul Denerley. Paul was keen to place a teak bench into the village in memory of his parents. Audrey died in 2015 aged 95 and John Denerley died in 2018 aged 104. The Parish Council looked for a perfect spot to place the bench and with the help of St Philips

and St James Church the bench now sits next to and behind the War Memorial – looking back in the general direction of Lynton Court. There is a plaque on the bench in memory of John and Audrey.

The Shell Trophy

The Shell Trophy time is here again. Sometimes known as 'The Front Garden Competition' this is an annual event, in Memory of Ian Miller, judged by a mixed panel in late July and early August.

There is no need to enter; judges cover all the roads, streets and crescents throughout the Village looking for the most spectacular front gardens viewed from a public road. In addition to the Residential Display Award won last year by Brian and Jane Kerr of Moss Road, there are Awards for the Best Retail Display won last year by Grantham's Fine Food and Wine, Best Café, Restaurant or Bar Display won last year by The de Trafford Hotel, Best Non Retail/Office Display won last year by McAlister Law and Best Community/Charity/or Church Display won last year by St Philips and St James Church.

Presentation of Awards would normally have been made at the Annual Village Show in the Festival Hall - but sadly this year's show cannot take place.

An alternative presentation event and location will be announced in early September 2020.

Your Voice at Cheshire East *Cllr Craig Browne*

Deputy Leader, Cheshire East Council

Covid-19 Response

The last three months have been incredibly difficult for many residents, businesses and charities; none more so than those who have lost loved ones, family and friends as a result of the pandemic. At the time of writing, there have been almost 1,300 recorded cases of Covid-19 across Cheshire East and sadly almost 450 people have lost their lives. The Council has responded to the crisis, launching the People Helping People service, which has linked over 3,500 vulnerable residents with a local volunteer; in addition, through the Shielding Hub we have supported over 3,000 isolated residents and delivered emergency food parcels. Cheshire East Council has also distributed over £90m to support around 7,000 eligible businesses across the borough. As we begin to recover and as businesses slowly re-open, Cheshire East Highways have temporarily closed off some of the parking bays on London Road and on South Street, to widen the footpaths and help social distancing.



Your Voice at Cheshire East Cllr Craig Browne

£5m Additional Investment in Road Repairs



Meanwhile, we have been keen to ensure that the business of the Council continued as much as possible and to that end, we have approved an additional £5m of investment in road repairs during the current financial year. Road repairs fall into three categories: Category 1 (pothole filling), Category 2 (carriageway patching) and Category 3 (full resurfacing); of the additional £5m we are investing, £4m will be invested in extra carriageway patching and £1m in full resurfacing. To put this in context, for each of the last five years Cheshire East Council has received about £3m from central government towards road repairs, so in 2020/21 we will be

more than doubling the level of investment. In Alderley Edge, this means that Moss Road (in June 2020) and Trafford Road (upper section) will benefit from carriageway patching this year (similar to the work carried out on Mottram Road last year. Recently, the pelican crossings on London Road have been upgraded, which has been funded from the wider annual budget for highways maintenance.

Supercars: A Public Nuisance?

Many residents have contacted me over the course of the last few weeks (and indeed over recent years) about the growing problem caused by supercars in our village. Mostly, they are not exceeding the speed limit, but they are frequently being driven noisily, carelessly and with rapid acceleration. In 2019 I asked Cheshire East Highways to carry out a traffic assessment on Wilmslow Road, London Road and Congleton Road, with the results supporting the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the centre of our village, backed by traffic calming measures to help enforce it. It is clear to me that whilst these measures may address some of the reckless behaviour we see from some of drivers of these vehicles, a Public Space Protection Order will also be needed to support Cheshire Police who also have existing powers under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act (2002). A Multi-Agency Group meeting comprising representatives from the police, Cheshire East Highways & Cheshire East Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team will take place on 1st July, to consider the options.

Park Masterplan Update

Those of you who have continued to use the park for your daily exercise during the pandemic will have noticed that pest control fencing has been erected around the bowling green; this is to help protect the playing surface, which has suffered extensively from rabbit and squirrel damage over the last couple of years. More recently, ANSA (Parks Maintenance) have carried out some repair work to the roof of the bandstand and have also levelled off the flower bed in the centre of the park. You will have already read that the Parish Council is seeking to fundraise for the creation of a raised memorial bed at this location, but in the meantime I have arranged with Cheshire East Council for the purchase of some low-level planters as an interim measure. At a future date, the planters will then be moved to another area of the park, for example by the bowling green or at one of the park entrances. We will also shortly be installing a new “Welcome to Alderley Edge Park” noticeboard by the children’s play area, whilst the existing noticeboard will be re-located to its new home at Beech Close Community Allotments.

