



Village News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL WINTER 2022



Chairman's Introduction

First, may I wish all our readers in Alderley Edge, a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that makes life better for us all!

In this edition we propose to review some of the events and projects of the past and look forward to some interesting and noteworthy developments in the future. In many respects, we have had to endure some grim times over these last few years. It's time to see some better times ahead.

We are delighted by the feedback we have received after the very successful Christmas Street Fair followed by the Christmas Lights Switch On (some of which didn't switch on!!!). A huge 'thank you' to the organising team for all their hard work – and to Craig Browne for his awesome 'Strictly Santa' dance routine on the stage! "That's beyond belief" an onlooker was heard to say! The lights were promptly fixed and apologies were received - and everyone is saying that the Village looks great. That's all we need to hear.

We were also pleased with the new style Remembrance Service held in the church gardens at St Philip and St James which again heard the children from the Community Primary School read the names of those from the village who were lost in the two world wars. Keeping our children involved in this important occasion each year ensures that it remains as a vital part of the community calendar. It was a short but moving and poignant service conducted by the Reverend Nick Thompson from our Methodist Church - and attended by The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Redmond. I have added some additional background information later in this edition.

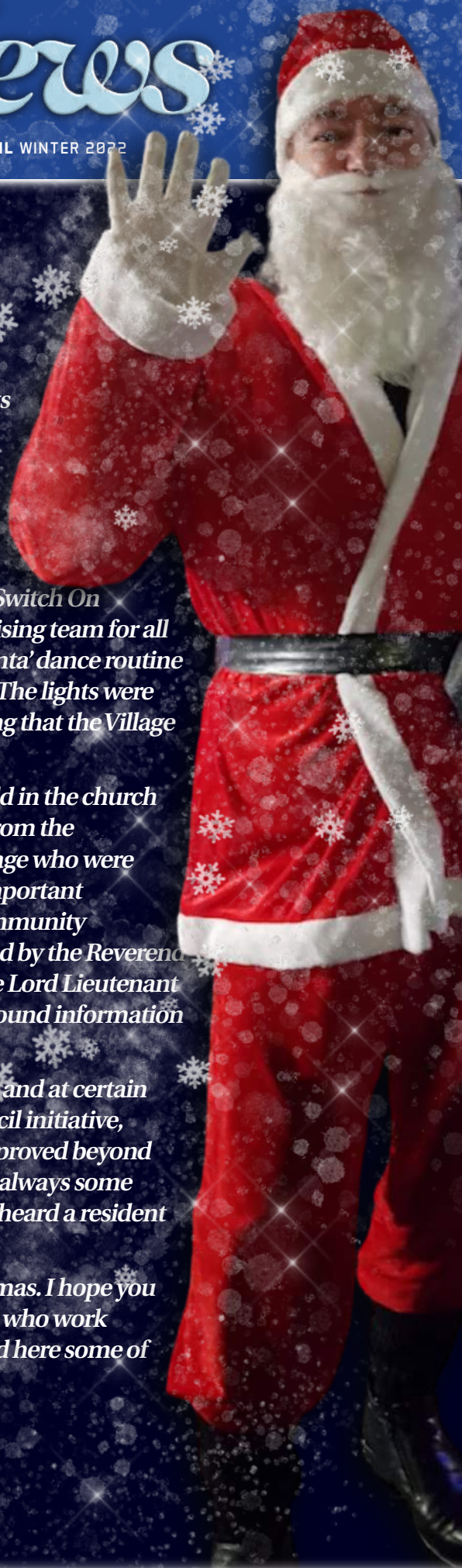
You will have seen signs announcing Free Parking on certain dates and at certain times at South Street Car Park. This is part of a Cheshire East Council initiative, but it does remind me to say that 'Parking' in Alderley Edge has improved beyond all measure over the past few years, which is good to see. There are always some free spaces on South Street car park and it is some time since I last heard a resident complain about parking here. Good news!

This edition should fall onto your door mat a few days after Christmas. I hope you have time to read it through. There are a lot of people in our Village who work hard to improve our facilities and our lives and we have highlighted here some of the things they have done, or are doing, for the future.

I hope you have a Cool Yule and a great 2023.

Mike Dudley-Jones

Chairman, Alderley Edge Parish Council



CONTACT THE COUNCIL: PARISH CLERK - ANNE ROSS, CILCA

TEL: 01625 582150 EMAIL: CLERK@ALDERLEYEDGE-PC.GOV.UK WWW.ALDERLEYEDGE-PC.GOV.UK

ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL, FESTIVAL HALL, TALBOT ROAD, ALDERLEY EDGE, CHESHIRE SK9 7HR

Warm spaces in our

As the cold weather deepens, community organisations in Alderley Edge are offering warm spaces which may ease some of the unprecedented pressures on people at this time of year due to rising costs. So, whether it's simply somewhere to spend part of your day, or the enjoyment of added company, new and old, here are some of the opportunities available in the village. You may even indulge a new hobby along the way!

WARM WEDNESDAYS AT ST PHILIP & ST JAMES CHURCH

St Philip & St James Church on Church Lane is offering a warm welcome **every Wednesday**. Everybody is welcome. The day begins at 9.30am when an art group meets at the back of church. New members are always welcome.

Then at 11.30am there is a service of Holy Communion in the lady chapel which lasts just over half an hour and offers an opportunity to anybody for some quiet reflection and prayer. At 12.15pm the church serves a lunch that is free to allcomers.

At 1.15pm an inclusive singing group called Voices Together sings a range of well-known favourite songs while tea, coffee, biscuits and cake are served. People are invited to make a £3 donation towards costs for this activity.

At 2.15pm before the singers have finished, the local history group gathers and continues its work until around 4.15pm.

The Church has plans to start a film club in the New Year which will meet at 4pm. Robin Pye, Vicar of St Philip & St James, said, 'We have to turn the heating on anyway because of the midweek service and once you have heated up the church it stays warm for a while after you've turned it off again, so we thought why not make the whole day a day of warmth and welcome for the whole community. Maybe people can turn the heating off at home and spend a few hours with us. We can always put the kettle back on for people who want to stay a bit longer.'

In addition, the Food Bank at St Philip & St James continues to operate, supporting a number of people in the village who are struggling with bills at the moment.

If you want to collect some food from the foodbank, it's as simple as texting the vicar on 07794 122602 and arranging a time for somebody to open the food bank for you. It's a completely confidential service.



RVS LUNCHEON CLUB

Our well-established Luncheon Club continues to offer a warm welcome to older people and some of the more vulnerable residents of the village. Although not free, for only £4 members will be served soup, bread, cake and coffee or tea, plus lots of great company on Tuesdays at the Methodist Church on Chapel Road.

The Club do ask all those attending to become members and as such they quickly get to know one another and receive continuing support as they need. It's a very sociable lunchtime!

Becoming a member is very easy, there is no joining fee, just call Anne on 01625 582514 and the weekly payment of £4 is made as you go along each Tuesday. **The Club resumes on 31 January 2023 and meets every Tuesday for the next 10 weeks.**

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

The Luncheon Club is organised by Royal Voluntary Service.



Our village this Winter

ALDERLEY EDGE LIBRARY

Our village library at 44a London Road is open for browsing and borrowing, and to use one of our three public computers throughout the week. It also stocks some of the local and national newspapers and offers lots of opportunities to develop a few online skills!

Read All About It!

The library now has The Times newspaper available Tuesday to Thursday, and Saturday mornings. Plus, The Knutsford Guardian available every Thursday.

Learn a new skill at the Library

Computer lessons for beginners

Need help setting up an email account or getting online? Struggling with a digital device? The library offers free 1-hour sessions to anyone wanting help with digital technology, whether on smartphones, tablets, laptops or PCs. Booking is essential.

Online family history

If you'd like to find out how you can trace your family tree online, book a 1-hour lesson and the library staff can show you how to use Ancestry, Find My Past and other online resources on the library computers. A payment of £3.00 is required; please book in advance.

Customer Service

You can call in with a Customer Service Desk (e.g. Blue Badge, Benefits, Railcards) enquiry, but there may be times when you will have to wait for a member of staff. Alternatively, you can make an appointment in advance to ensure staff are available. The Customer Service enquiry desk and the public computers close down 15 minutes before the library closing time.

Limited services available on Tuesday afternoons

Please note that on Tuesday afternoons the library is run by volunteers, and is only open for limited services. If you would like to join the library, use the public computers, or need services such as renewing a Blue Badge please visit at another time when a member of library staff is available.

Councillor Browne surgery

Councillor Craig Browne holds his surgery in the library on the last Saturday of the month between 11.00am and 12.00 noon.

Police Community Support Officer surgery

The local PCSO is in the library Tuesday afternoon once a month.

For more information phone: 01625 374030 **Email:** alderleyedge.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk

If you are thinking of starting a warm spaces initiative, Cheshire East Council are offering support. Go to their website for more information.

COULD YOU SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE? WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?

Food Bank at St Philip & St James Church

The Food Bank at St Philip & St James continues support a number of our fellow residents who may be struggling in these unprecedented times. If you would like to donate food for the foodbank, you can do so at any time by leaving donated food in the metal yellow bin the church porch which is open 24 hours. If you know somebody who is struggling, please encourage them to use the food bank. There is no point leaving it until things have got really bad.

Volunteers Wanted for the RVS Luncheon Club

In order to run the Club, the RVS need your support. Not only do they welcome financial donations, but also people to prepare food, serve the members and enjoy the company of those who attend each week. For more information, call Anne on 01625 582514.

Supporting People in Poverty

Economic turmoil is already making life very difficult for many people in our community. People do not have enough money to buy food or heat their homes. In response to the economic crisis in this country and around the world, St Philip & St James is establishing the St Elizabeth Fund. The St Elizabeth Fund is a solidarity fund which seeks to alleviate poverty in a simple and direct way. St. Elizabeth of Hungary was a princess who was married at 14 and widowed at 20 and used her dowry to build a hospital where she herself tended the poor and the sick. She became famous as an example of somebody who devoted her life around serving the poor.

She is just one of millions of people who have been inspired by the parable of the good Samaritan to help people in need, no matter who they are and what their background and including people who need help whom we stumble across in our daily lives. We are asking people to consider making a regular donation of £5 per month to alleviate poverty. Donate more if you can afford to do so.

The fund will spend the money we raise in the following way:

We will donate a quarter of it to Christian Aid which supports aid projects in the poorest countries of the world. We want to recognise that poverty is a global problem and everybody in the world is our brother and our sister. We will spend the remaining money in the UK, either by making grants directly to people in need who live in or have a connection to the parish of Alderley Edge. Or by supporting UK based charities.

The St. Elizabeth Fund bank account details are:

Barclays Bank Sort code: - 20-53-77 Acc no 33999939

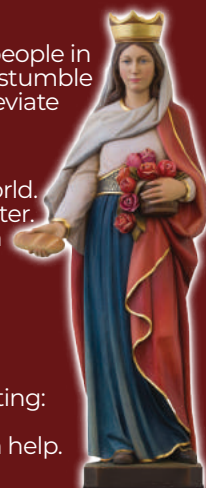
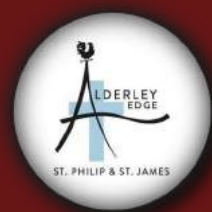
Name of account holder - The Parochial Church Council of St Philip & St James Alderley Edge

Please use ref: St. Elizabeth Fund

You can find out more details about how the fund will be administered and how to apply for a grant by visiting:

<https://www.stphilipandstjames.co.uk/st-elizabeth-fund/>

Please do not struggle alone this winter, get in touch with the community around you and see how we can help.





26
08
23



Festival Hall
ALDERLEY EDGE

THE NEW VILLAGE SHOW 2023

IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Work is underway for the re-launch of the new look Alderley Village Show which is to be held 26th August 2023 and in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

There will be a full range of entries to entice you to take part, from fruit, vegetable and flower displays, baking, crafts, painting, photography, stitchery etc. All sorts for all ages ... you name it & we'll try & fit it in, including the ever popular animals made out of fruit and veg!

So, start planning and dust off your paint and craft boxes, polish up those sewing needles, enrol on flower arranging classes, design next year's flower & veg patches but remember ... not everything is about presenting the best pair of marrows! The key to enjoying the day is to think about what you already grow or craft well and focus on carefully preparing next year's exhibits. The joy of taking part is knowing that what you have entered will impress the judges and visitors alike. You may not win, but at least you will have taken part in a great community event.

Chris Yearsley, the newly appointed Show Chairman, has suggested that you now start preparing for some great flower displays by buying your gladioli corms, dahlia tubers & sweet pea seeds etc. For those who have never exhibited flowers or vegetables at a show & are keen to know a few insider tips, there will be a couple of short presentation evenings offered in the New Year to help you. Please email Chris cyearsley@hotmail.co.uk if you'd like further information.

It is proposed that lunches will be served on the day, with the Festival Hall Bar open to visitors from 12 noon. The legendary Village Show Café will be offering delicious cakes and teas/coffees throughout the day with Prize Giving scheduled for around 4.45pm. There will be our usual wonderful raffle with donations from local businesses, clubs, and other kind folk.

Now down to the details. **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!**

Please step up & out of your comfort zone. We promise it will be fun and an opportunity to contribute to a great event supporting the wonderful MacMillan Cancer Support charity. From helping on the show committee to setting up displays or handing out the entry tickets on the day, there are many jobs we need a few hours help with. Just email Chris if you'd like to volunteer.

Let the good times roll again!



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

PLATINUM JUBILEE AND MEMORIAL GATES



The erection of the new Platinum Jubilee and Memorial Gates from Ryleys Lane Car Park into Alderley Edge Park is fast approaching completion. The Parish Council have been working closely with ANSA who will be marrying black fencing either side of the new gates once they are hung and painted.

The new gates have been configured on a one third/two thirds opening which will allow the smaller gate to be permanently open, allowing pedestrian and wheelchair access to the Park, whilst the larger gate will remain closed unless larger vehicles need to access the Park. The larger gate will carry the Jubilee/Memorial artwork and signage positioned in the centre.

VOLUNTEER

ALDERLEY EDGE STATION

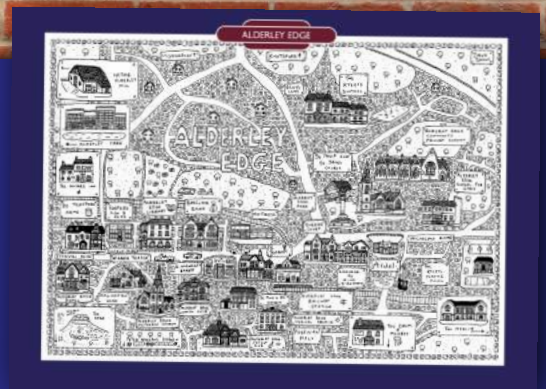
GROUP

Well it has certainly all been happening at Alderley Edge Station in 2022! Firstly, we need to pass on our thanks to the Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group, headed up by Kelvin Briggs who have put in a great deal of time and effort to make the station a much more welcoming and user friendly environment. Indeed, this hard work was formally recognised earlier this year with the *"Best Kept stations - Highly Commended Award for the Art Project"*.

Anyone who has visited the station won't fail to have noticed the amazing new artworks, commissioned by the Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group, that were formally unveiled by musical legend and local resident, Peter Hook. These artworks continue to be further added to and together with flowers and plants, have added some much needed colour to the station area.

Together with the volunteer group, the Parish Council continue to press for further improvements to the station to make it truly accessible to all. One of these discussions surrounds the relocation of one of the ticket machines to the Crewe bound platform and the larger project of bringing lift access to both platforms as well. Although we have seen increased usage in 2022 we are still at lower levels than in 2019. As we go forward, it will be more important than ever that all our residents have access to an efficient station with excellent services. Equally, having an easily accessible station will also help to bring more visitors to our village. We hope that the continued dialogue with all the stakeholders including Network Rail and the Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester Community Rail Partnerships will bring about these much needed changes.

During these recent months the Parish Council has been pressing Northern Rail to prevent last minute disruptions to the Manchester and Crewe services which have become a huge inconvenience to passengers relying on these services. Whilst we understand there is a bigger national picture in regard to strike action, we need to understand why the Manchester to Crewe line seems to have its unfair share of these cancellations and we need assurances on how these are going to be mitigated during the coming year.



New Look Remembrance Sunday

The Royal British Legion suggested that now that one hundred years have passed since Armistice Day in 1918, Remembrance Services might take on a different form and move away from the marching style of the past. Fewer and fewer residents in the village have seen military service and this seemed to us as a Parish to be a sensible way forward. I know that many people miss the sight of a band and associate it with the traditional Remembrance Day of their youth but others feel the opposite and want to focus on the Act of Remembrance itself. Over the past two years we have chosen the latter.



As you will know we asked the Village residents to let us know their feelings about this change at the end of the summer and nobody disagreed with the new service we started behind the Cenotaph but inside the church gardens in 2021. Last year's service was well attended considering we were still subject to some anxiety through COVID.

This year, numbers were up considerably and those who attended were full of compliments for the Service which was solemn, sensitive and full of respect. The involvement of our local children from our Community Primary School again this year made the service particularly poignant. To me, that is an important part of keeping the Act of Remembrance relevant for the future. We were also honoured by the visit of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire Lady Redmond.

I thought it went well - and as an ex soldier who has taken part in more marches at Remembrance Sunday over the years than I would care to mention, I have to say that the new style of service we have adopted sits well with me.

All that said, we will continue to observe the Act of Remembrance in Alderley Edge and hope that more and more residents come together in the church gardens each year for just a little under half an hour.

- MJDJ December 2022

We will remember them, always.

The New Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Alderley Edge Community Primary School

This was the year when our Primary School finally saw a long-term dream come true when their new MUGA was opened. Brilliant work by Adam and Anna Brooks and Vicki Nullis with a huge vote of thanks going to all the PTA groups and those 'friends' who have so generously given money to support the project. A huge thanks too to those who have made anonymous donations. A special thanks must go to our own Alderley Edge Institute Trust, The Lucas-Harrison Charitable Trust, the Beech Hall School Trust Limited and Alderley Edge Parish Council.

The finished area is a joy to behold; an exciting new facility for the children, who have waited for so long - but also a shining example of what can be achieved by determination and care, by so many.



**A wonderful job!
Well done, everyone!**

Year in Review

Allotments go from Strength to Strength

The three allotment sites in Alderley Edge have gone from strength to strength in recent years. Not only have Beech Close Community Allotments improved drainage on the site, but they have also upgraded access and safety by erecting a substantial boundary fence near the stream, with a grant from the Alderley Edge Institute Trust, repaired the haulway across the site, planted a wildlife highway complete with trees gifted by the Woodland Trust and cut back all the hedges. In addition, they have renovated their allotment community shed and planted a vast number of bulbs donated by Nottcuts Garden Centres.

Over on the other side of the village, Chorley Hall Lane Allotments have also been busy. Their cream teas open day is now a firm fixture coinciding with the May Fair and this year raised £404 for East Cheshire Hospice as well as allowing visitors to see the wonderful plots. The event is kindly supported by Waitrose and Rhodda's. Additionally, the plot holders raised a further £466 via the shop and café days for the charity. The Girl Guides and the Pre-school also paid a visit to enjoy learning more about growing. To top it all, the site was awarded the RHS Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Level 5 'Outstanding' award this year, well-deserved!

Finally, Heyes Lane Allotments were successful in being awarded two grants, one from the Alderley Edge Institute Trust for the new picket fence along the path to the Festival Hall and another from the National Lottery to allow for improvements to be made to site accessibility and tree management. Saplings have been planted in the Heyes Lane hedge to fill the gaps and the fruit tree pruning and extensive planting of roses around the Heyes Lane entrance and pathway border makes for beautiful viewing when walking past.

For more information about becoming a plot holder, go to the Parish Council website.

Parish Council Planning Committee

The Parish Council is a consultee on all planning applications in the village. Every month we review on average 10 or 11 applications, from small extensions to the larger developments and new dwellings we see throughout the village. We often hear from owners and developers before the application comes 'in front' of the Planning Committee, and of course from other residents and businesses in the village who feel they will be affected by the proposals. One of the most effective tools for us to use when reviewing any application in Alderley Edge, is the Neighbourhood Plan which residents and local businesses helped produce and the residents voted in favour of in 2021. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee reviewed the plan this year, as we will do each year, and found it still to be a relevant and useful set of policies.

Once the Planning Committee has considered the planning applications, against national, local and neighbourhood planning policies, we write to the Cheshire East Planning team with our comments. The Planning Officer will then take these into consideration, as they will any local consultee's comments, before making their decision to grant or refuse planning permission.

All planning applications and comments can be seen on Cheshire East's website. The Parish Council Planning Committee meets monthly to review the applications, on the same day as the Parish Council Meeting which is most often a Monday evening at the Festival Hall. Our agenda with details of the plans to be reviewed that month is always published in advance on our website and posted on the Parish Council notice board outside Waitrose. All interested parties are welcome to attend the meetings, either to let us know their thoughts on a proposal, or just to hear our deliberations.



Alderley Edge Parish Council

Subscribe to our FREE
update service



<https://alderleyedge-pc.gov.uk>

WE'VE BEEN HAPPY TO WELCOME A HOST OF NEW CLIENTS AND NOW MORE PEOPLE ARE ENJOYING CLASSES AND EVENTS. NEW CLASSES NOW ON OFFER:



Sensing Samadhi



BODY SMART
— COACHING —



In September we opened a Book of Condolence for all residents to sign in memory of her late Majesty the Queen.

Did you party with us in 2022?

We've loved that so many of you and your guests have joined us this year to celebrate special occasions:

**30TH BIRTHDAY ENGAGEMENT 40TH BIRTHDAY
WEDDING BAR MITZVAH NAMING DAY
BABY SHOWER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

Community Events included:

*Annual Tea Dance in aid of the RBL
Scottish Charity Dance in aid of Cancer Research
NHS Blood Donation Centre
Christmas Makers Market Craft Fair
Operation Christmas Child*

Welcome Back to:

*Alderley Edge Music Festival
Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra
Barnaby Choir
Siren Sounds Choir
And newcomer Saxophone Orchestra Manchester*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from all the team at Festival Hall



FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO BOOK YOUR OWN EVENT

CONTACT FESTIVAL HALL: PHONE 01625 582510

EMAIL: enquiries@festivalhall.com **WEBSITE:** www.aefestivalhall.com

Shop Local

As we all know the last 2 years have been a strain on all the businesses around the village and in particular our retail, services and night time economy.

Recently the BBC commissioned a study into how local shopping areas have been affected and changed since 2020. London Road along with 9 other high streets are part of these local results. Below we can see how the businesses operating in the village area have changed, although as you can also see its not all doom and gloom and we have seen an increase in some categories.



EATING & DRINKING > INCREASE

In March 2020, there were 92 eating and drinking businesses.

There were 8 more in March 2022 - an increase of 9%.

In Great Britain overall during this period, there was a 4% increase in eating and drinking businesses.



RETAIL < DECREASE

In March 2020 there were 171 retail shops.

There were 16 fewer in March 2022 - a decrease of 9%.

In Great Britain overall during this period, there was a 3% decrease in retail shops.



Beauty services: 2% increase

Cafes: no change

Clothes shops: 5% decrease

Fast food: 30% increase

Pubs and bars: 5% decrease

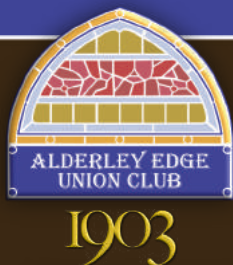
Restaurants: 8% increase



**So as January rolls around it would be great to remember
we have a High Street that needs OUR SUPPORT
all year round so please “Shop Local”.**

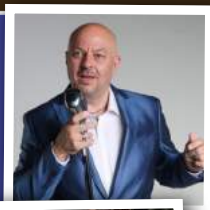
The results were compiled by the BBC and the local high streets involved in the survey were London Road, Alderley Road, Water Lane, Grove Street, Church Street, Chelford Road, Dean Row, Wilmslow Road, Altrincham Road and Wilmslow Road.





ALDERLEY EDGE UNION CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023



NEW YEAR'S EVE ROB KEEN

Rob Keen helps say goodbye to '22 and Welcome in the New Year.
Tickets on sale at the bar 1st November at £10.



4TH FEBRUARY COMEDY EVENING WITH MICK MILLER

Tickets on sale at £15 for members, £20 for guests. Hot buffet included.
Tickets on sale at the bar 1st November at £10.



1ST APRIL ELVIS TRIBUTE NIGHT

22ND APRIL BEER FESTIVAL

REGULAR EVENTS QUIZ NIGHT EVERY SUNDAY 8PM
ACCOUSTIC NIGHT LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH



WWW.ALDERLEYEDGEUNIONCLUB.CO.UK - POP IN OR CALL PAUL FURBY 01625 585586



ALDERLEY UKRAINE SUPPORT NETWORK
INVITATION

A presentation on the Ukranian Crisis
20TH FEBRUARY 2023 7PM
ALDERLEY EDGE UNION CLUB

THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN ACTION
by Paul Nixon

IDEAS FOR ALDERLEY
Discussion led by Rev Robin Pye

HOSTS & GUESTS
LOCAL COUNCIL & THE VILLAGE
CHURCHES TOGETHER
SCHOOLS

BECOME A HOST TRANSFORM LIVES WORKING TOGETHER
ACCESSING HELP HEAR THE OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

RSVP (for refreshments) revrobinpye@gmail.com



YOUR VOICE

at Cheshire East Council

CLLR CRAIG BROWNE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Didn't this year's event go well? It was amazing to see so many locals out enjoying themselves and we even had a visit from Father Christmas himself. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped out or took part, including our wonderful road closure volunteers and especially to local resident Lisa Cowley who organised our fantastic Christmas Market. After a temporary hitch, all the illuminations are now working and a number of residents have commented positively on the Parish Council's decision to replace the Christmas Tree at the Ryleys Lane junction, with wrapped lights to match those in the centre of the village on London Road.

TRAFFIC CALMING 20 MPH ZONE

Further to my update in our last Village News, the 20 MPH Traffic Calming Zone for Alderley Edge is progressing and installation is due in February 2023. Between the 12th December and 17th December, Highways engineers have been carrying out drainage investigations and gully jetting in preparation for the proposed 'speed tables'. This has been done with the minimum of inconvenience to local residents as the work was carried out between 2100 and 0300 each night.

SAVE LOCAL SERVICES

I have recently been invited to join the board of the LGA Independent Group Executive and have already attended my first meeting. The Local Government Association is a cross-party organisation which exists to promote local government, whilst lobbying central government and government ministers for a better deal for local councils. Recently, the LGA has launched the "Save Local Services" campaign, which I have been pleased to lend my support to. The LGA is estimating that, due to much higher-than-expected levels of price inflation, local authorities across England will face a funding gap of £2.4bn this year, rising to £3.4bn the following year and £4.6bn the year after that. Without government intervention, this is going to leave many local councils (such as Cheshire East) with some very difficult decisions to make about local services, if they are to avoid going bankrupt either next year or the year after.



**Save
local services**

Continued overleaf...



KEEP WARM THIS WINTER

The Home Energy Support Fund is available to help people who are having difficulty paying for their domestic fuel, to feel able to turn their heating on. Funds have been made available through Cheshire East Council; however, local people can also support the fund by making voluntary donations -

justgiving.com/campaign/CACNHomeEnergySupportFund

The qualifying criteria for the fund, which offers up to £100 per household, are:

- Be a resident of Cheshire East
- Be unable to pay their domestic fuel bills
- Be in short-term hardship causing a suspension of any regular income
- Be contracted with a utility company for domestic fuel.
- Be prepared to engage with the Council regarding better value with fuel costs.



For further details, or to apply, please scan the QR code to the right of this article, or email me (craig.browne@cheshireeast.gov.uk) for a referral form.

HIGHWAYS REPAIRS CONTINUE

As many of you will have noticed, Congleton Road (Nether Alderley) has recently benefitted from carriageway patching and surface dressing, whilst Church Lane in Alderley Edge has also had some much needed patching works carried out. Many of you have contacted me for an update on the closure of Chelford Road (Chorley) and at the time of writing, works are expected to be completed and the road re-opened by Friday 23rd December. This has been a complex project, involving the reconstruction of a large part of the brick culvert underneath the road surface, which carries water along Smoker's Brook. On 16th November, I had the opportunity to visit the site and inspect progress, along with Ward Councillor Mark Goldsmith. The image to the right gives an impression of just how much work is involved.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I would like to end by saying a huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported our collection this year in aid of Operation Christmas Child. We collected just under 30 shoe boxes filled with small gifts for children overseas, most of whom will receive no other presents to open on Christmas Day. This year, two-thirds of the presents collected will be sent to children in Ukraine, some of whom will have lost their homes and members of their families as a result of the Russian invasion. I would also like to express my thanks to my good friend and local mum, Jodie Stringfellow, who helped organise and co-ordinate the collection.

