



Village News SUMMER 2026

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL



Chair's Introduction

It has certainly been a busy few months since the last edition of Village News landed on doorsteps across Alderley Edge.

As we move into summer, I would like to start by thanking everyone involved with Alderley Edge in Bloom. Throughout the year, the Bloomers work tirelessly to help keep our village looking its very best, often carrying out work that many residents may never notice, but which makes a real difference to the appearance of Alderley Edge.

Their hard work will once again be recognised when they welcome judges for the RHS North West in Bloom regional competition on 8th July. Preparing for a visit of this nature requires an enormous amount of effort, and the Parish Council is grateful for everything they do on behalf of the village.

This year is particularly exciting as Alderley Edge has also reached the national finals, with judges due to visit on 3rd August. The national competition is very much a village wide effort. Residents, businesses, schools, community groups and volunteers all play their part in creating an environment we can be proud of and one that visitors enjoy spending time in.

In fact, the impending visits have even shamed me into paying a little more attention to my own front garden than usual! On a serious note, these visits provide a wonderful opportunity to showcase the pride people take in Alderley Edge, and I know everyone involved will do the village proud.

This edition also marks a significant change for the Parish Council as we say farewell to our Clerk, Anne Ross. Anne has served Alderley Edge Parish Council for more than fifteen years and has been at the heart of countless projects, events and initiatives during that time. Her knowledge, professionalism and commitment to the village have been invaluable, and many of the things we now take for granted simply would not have happened without her hard work behind the scenes. On behalf of the Parish Council and the wider village, I would like to thank Anne for her service and wish her every happiness in her future.

Whilst we say goodbye to Anne, we are fortunate to be welcoming a familiar face into the role. Claire Tout, who has served as Assistant Clerk since 2021, has been appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council. Claire already has a strong understanding of the Council, the Festival Hall and the many projects and activities that support village life. I know councillors, staff and residents will join me in congratulating Claire and wishing her every success in her new position.

At the time of writing, it appears increasingly likely that Alderley Edge School for Girls will be unable to secure its future. This will come as disappointing news to many residents. The school has been an important part of village life for a number of years, educating thousands of young women and contributing greatly to the local community. Whilst the outcome remains uncertain, it would be wrong not to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of parents, staff and supporters who have fought tirelessly to keep the school open. Their determination, passion and commitment have been evident throughout.

Elsewhere, the Parish Council continues to progress a number of projects and initiatives across the village, some of which you will read about in this edition. Whilst many of the results are visible, much of the work takes place behind the scenes. From supporting community projects to maintaining village facilities and representing residents' interests, there is always plenty going on to help ensure Alderley Edge remains a place people are proud to call home and enjoy visiting.

I would also encourage residents to join us at our monthly Parish Council meetings, which are open to the public. They provide an opportunity to hear about current projects, planning applications and other matters affecting the village, as well as seeing first-hand how decisions are made on behalf of the community.

Finally, whilst summer is only just beginning, there is one date already worth putting in the diary. Following the success of last year's event, the Alderley Edge Christmas Lights Event will take place on Saturday 21st November. We hope to see many of you there as we once again bring the village together to celebrate the start of the festive season.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Village News and wish you all a wonderful summer.

Vince Fogharty

Chair, Alderley Edge Parish Council

Vincefogharty@alderley-pc.gov.uk

Contact The Council: Parish Clerk – Claire Tout

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



Save The Date

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL
WITH THE SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENT STREET EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 21ST NOVEMBER 2026

FROM 4PM WITH STALLS AND FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT

MORE TO FOLLOW...

JUDGES TOUR VILLAGE IN SEARCH OF BEST FRONT GARDEN WINNER

The annual Best Front Garden Competition is coming closer. The judges will be spending their days in June touring the village to admire the impressive displays of flowers, shrubs, and creative landscaping put together by local residents.

With a keen eye for detail, the judging panel will be looking critically at front gardens across the village, carefully assessing each garden on criteria including design, maintenance, colour, variety of planting, and overall presentation. The competition, which has become a much-loved tradition, aims to celebrate the hard work and dedication of gardeners while encouraging pride in the local community.

The Best Front Garden Competition not only recognises individual achievement but also contributes to the overall appearance and attractiveness of the village. Visitors and residents alike benefit from the vibrant displays that brighten streets and create a welcoming environment throughout the summer months.

The winner will be announced at the forthcoming Village Show which will be held at St Philip and St James Church, Ryleys Lane, Alderley Edge on August 29th where the winner will be awarded with the Shell Trophy.

Until then, villagers can take pride in the outstanding floral displays that continue to make the community such a beautiful place to live.



Alderley Edge Village Show

Saturday 29th August 2026
St Philip & St James Church, Alderley Edge
(New Venue)

Doors Open at 12.00 noon
Awards & Trophies at 3.30pm
Raffle Prize Draw at 4.00pm

We would like to invite **EVERYONE** IN THE VILLAGE to take part. Taking part can be nearly as much fun as winning a prize!

Admission to the Show
ADULTS £2.00
CHILDREN £1.00

Organised by The Alderley Edge Village Show Association
in aid of the North West Air Ambulance Charity

IN AID OF
**NORTH WEST
Air Ambulance
CHARITY**

Icons at the bottom: heart, dog, flower, person, wheel, camera, scissors, apple.

The Alderley Edge Village Show takes place this year on **Saturday 29th August** with an all-new venue at **St Phillips and St James Church**.

Organised by The Alderley Edge Village Show Association to celebrate crafts, nature, creativity and community. The show is being held in aid of The North West Air Ambulance Charity this year, doors will be open from 12:00pm to 4.30pm.

There will be an array of classes from flowers and fruit & vegetables to domestic crafts, photography and cookery, along with exclusive categories for under 18's and Newcomers who have never exhibited before. Whether you're a first-time participant or a seasoned veteran it costs just £1 to enter an item. Everyone is encouraged to join in, get involved and possibly win an award or even a trophy!

Whether you're entering an exhibit or just coming along to enjoy the atmosphere, there's something for everyone — from giant vegetables and flowers to stunning crafts and homemade delicacies. Take a well-earned break in our friendly pop-up café, and don't miss your chance to enter the raffle with a range of fantastic prizes up for grabs.

Save the date and come along for a day full of community spirit, creativity, and friendly competition.

Admission to the show is £2 for adults and £1 for children.

Doors open 12 noon // Awards and trophies 3.30pm // Raffle prize draw 4pm

For the categories, schedule and further information visit:
www.alderleyedgevillageshow.co.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS



WWW.AEFESTIVALHALL.COM TEL. 01625 582150

JULY 4		DISCO BLISS FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION www.discobliss.co.uk	
SEPT 18		MANFORDS COMEDY CLUB 7.30PM www.manfordscomedyclub.com	
OCTOBER 24		DISCO BLISS FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION www.discobliss.co.uk	

CELEBRATING A BIG BIRTHDAY OR SPECIAL OCCASION, **THE BALLROOM** IS THE PERFECT BLANK CANVAS TO DRESS THE VENUE TO YOUR OWN TASTE AND USE YOUR PREFERRED CATERERS.

	A POPULAR VENUE FOR CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES . PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. BOOKINGS OPEN FOR 2027
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Alderley Edge Medical Practice

Dr. Peter Speake // Dr. Tom Hunsley // Dr. Hannah Hayes
Dr. Alex Garvey // Dr. Jessica Searle

I wanted to open with a huge thank you to all of our patients from myself and the GP Partners for all your support in our recent CQC inspection - you can now find the report on the CQC website and we have been rated as 'Good'.

NEW STAFF

GP Registrars - *Dr Twain Edmonds, Dr Lucy Rigg, Dr Imran Muhammad*

GP Locums - *Dr Emily Dorrington and Dr Imogen Johnson will return to the practice in June 2026 as GP Locums, you may remember them from their days training to be GP's here with us.*

HCA's - *Kim Shaw*

Dr Emily Pegg is currently on leave.

Three new receptionists have joined us in the last 3 months so please come on down and say "hello".



Alderley Edge Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council
Monday 7.30pm

Finance Committee
Follows PC meeting

Plans Committee
Follows PC meeting

2026

JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
13	10	14	12	9	14
JULY 13			OCT 12		
JULY 13	AUG 10	SEPT 14	OCT 12	NOV 9	DEC 14

2027

JAN	FEB	MARCH
11	8	8
JAN 11		
JAN 11	FEB 8	MARCH 8

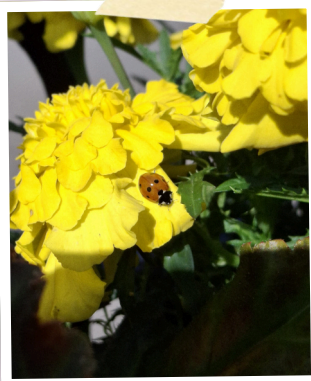


Alderley Edge in Bloom

NATIONAL FINALISTS 2026

Alderley Edge has been honoured with selection as the North West finalist in the RHS Britain in Bloom "Best Kept Small Town" category for 2026. It is a tremendous achievement and a privilege to represent the region, having been chosen from a strong field of villages and small towns across the North West.

As you can imagine, it is an exceptionally busy year for the Alderley Edge in Bloom team. We are fortunate to receive support from a wide range of individuals, organisations and businesses, including Alderley Edge Parish Council, our Village Ranger Paul, Holden Clough Nurseries especially John Foley, The Ryleys School, Alderley Edge Community Primary School, Nether Alderley Primary School, Waitrose, the Station Volunteer Group, St Philip's Church, Costa Coffee, Nook & Cranny, Kiss Dental, Alderley Edge Allotments, Bridgfords Estate Agents and many, many more generous local sponsors and supporters.



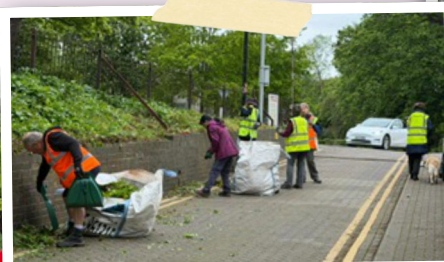
Before the national judging takes place, Alderley Edge will first welcome judges for the North West regional assessment on Wednesday 8th July. This important stage of the competition will determine how the village is performing at regional level and provides an opportunity to showcase the hard work, community spirit and environmental improvements that have taken place throughout the year. The judging team will visit a number of locations across the village and meet some of the volunteers whose dedication helps make Alderley Edge such a special place.

Preparing the village for judging on Monday 3rd August is no small undertaking. Volunteers have been working tirelessly to ensure Alderley Edge looks its very best. Whatever the outcome, our lasting legacy will be the creation of beautiful floral displays, enhanced habitats for wildlife, and a cleaner, greener village for everyone to enjoy.

One of our regular activities is supporting the Station Volunteer Group, led by Kelvin Briggs. Each month volunteers help tidy the station area, cut back overgrown planting and maintain the appearance of this important gateway to the village.

Visitors may also have noticed the enchanting woodland area beside the steps to Waitrose. The resident fairies have been particularly busy this year, renovating their homes and preparing a new five-star hotel for local insects and wildlife. Our thanks go to Tina and Stephen for creating these wonderful structures, also a special mention to the talented Ed Pilkington who has created such amazing chainsaw carvings with the tree stumps but mostly our thanks go to Christine Munro and her team, whose dedication keeps this magical corner of Alderley Edge looking so special.

Of course, much of our work is less glamorous. Our dedicated litter-picking team, expertly organised by Stewart Dyer, meets every Monday morning to remove litter, cigarette ends and other discarded waste from around the village. In all weathers, volunteers can be seen in high-visibility jackets armed with litter pickers and bags, kindly supplied by Cheshire East Council.





Alderley Edge in Bloom is community spirit at its very best. We share a common goal: to keep our village beautiful, tidy and welcoming. We work closely with local shops, restaurants and businesses, helping to maintain planting areas and ensuring the village remains an attractive place to live, work and visit.

A LITTLE BIT OF "TRASH TALK"

While most residents take great pride in the village, we are continually surprised by the amount of litter that finds its way into planters, hedges and flower beds. Plants are occasionally removed or damaged, and some planters are unfortunately used as makeshift ashtrays.

To help address this, Alderley Edge Parish Council has funded several cigarette and chewing gum disposal bins in key locations around the village. They have made a noticeable difference, but volunteers still collect large numbers of cigarette ends each week. We kindly ask everyone to use the bins provided and help keep our streets, planters and green spaces clean. After all, the fairies in the woodland may be magical, but they don't clear away the rubbish. Our volunteers do!



JOIN US

If you can spare an hour or two and would like to help maintain our wonderful village, we would be delighted to welcome you. Whether your interests are in gardening, watering, weeding, planting or litter picking, every contribution makes a real difference.

Alderley Edge in Bloom litter pickers meet every Monday at 10.00am at the Bloomers' Shed in South Street Car Park.

The first Friday of every month you can usually find us at Waitrose Carpark alongside John Foley of Holden Clough Nurseries from 10am.

New volunteers are always welcome, so please come along, introduce yourself and discover how you can help make a positive difference in our community.



FRIENDLY FACES WARM WELCOMES

Have you ever wished for a friendly face, a good chat, or simply some company during the week? Alderley Edge is fortunate to have a number of welcoming groups where you can enjoy conversation, companionship, refreshments and activities in a relaxed and friendly setting.

Whether you're looking to meet new people, reconnect with familiar faces, or simply enjoy a cuppa and a chat, there is something happening throughout the week. We'd love to welcome you.

MONDAY

COMMUNITEA & COFFEE

Festival Hall Ballroom
1.30pm – 3.00pm

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, kindly provided by Alderley Edge Parish Council. Hosted by a wonderful team of volunteers, it's the perfect opportunity to enjoy good company and friendly conversation.

TUESDAY

RVS LUNCHEON CLUB

Methodist Church School Rooms
12 noon

Enjoy a delicious two course lunch for a small charge, hosted by Anne and her fantastic team of volunteers. A wonderful opportunity to share a meal and catch up with friends.

WEDNESDAY

WARM WEDNESDAY

St Philip & St James Church

The day begins with arts and crafts from 9.30am, followed by Holy Communion at 11.30am. A free communal lunch is served at 12.30pm, with Voices Together beginning at 1.30pm. Whether you attend for one activity or stay all day, a warm welcome awaits.

THURSDAY

COMMUNITEA & COFFEE

Union Club, Stevens Street
1.30pm – 3.00pm

Enjoy another chance to get together before the weekend. Come along for a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit, generously supported by a local sponsor and hosted by our dedicated volunteers.



SATURDAY

SATURDAY CAFE

Methodist Church Foyer
10am - 12 noon

Drop in for a hot drink, biscuits and friendly conversation. Browse the stalls, look through the books on offer, or try your hand at jigsaw but mostly enjoy a relaxed morning in good company.

Alderley Edge has a strong community spirit, and these groups are a wonderful way to stay connected, enjoy new experiences and spend time with others. Whether you come regularly or are visiting for the first time, you'll always find a warm welcome and a friendly face.

Exciting Improvements Planned for Beech Road Park



Alderley Edge Parish Council is delighted to announce plans to enhance Beech Road Park following the successful award of a grant from the Alderley Edge Institute Trust. The Parish Council has matched this funding to enable a programme of improvements to the Cheshire East owned park.

With limited resources currently available for investment in the site, the Parish Council has taken the initiative to upgrade this valued community space for local residents. The planned improvements will create a more welcoming, functional, and inclusive park, catering for a wider range of ages whilst ensuring all equipment and facilities meet current safety standards.

The aim is to provide a high quality outdoor space that children, families and residents can enjoy for many years to come.

Further details of the proposed improvements and project timescales will be shared in the coming months on the Parish Council website www.alderleyedge-pc.gov.uk



The Alderley Edge Royal British Legion branch have put plans in place to change its status. It will become a County supported branch with no need to run a sizeable committee. This will enable the branch to retain members, stay active and to retain the use of the Standard for services such as Remembrance Sunday.

Instead of having a traditional committee, the branch will only need to elect two people to act as points of contact. Steve Taggart and Kelvin Briggs have been elected and will act as the Points of Contact. Steve and Kelvin will be the link between the branch and the Cheshire County RBL Headquarters. County supported branches do not have their own bank accounts. The current bank balances of the Alderley Edge RBL will be passed up to the County organisation and the bank accounts then closed. The branch membership will retain the right to decide how the funds are used (within RBL rules).

Kelvin Briggs commented 'This is good news given the current small number of just 15 village members and the difficulties there have been to run a functioning committee. The branch will retain the use of the Standard on Remembrance Sunday and continue to partake in activities in the village. We will hold a minimum of two meetings per year, one of which will be the branch AGM.'

Kelvin is also the local Poppy Appeal Organiser. The village Poppy Appeal was revived in 2025 raising over £8200 and there are plans to add two additional collecting days at the Waitrose Supermarket if sufficient volunteers can be recruited to man the collection point. If you can spare an hour or two to help, please get in touch with Kelvin for more details. Email:- kelvinbriggsae@gmail.com or phone **07825 213205**



We recently enjoyed a very special day at Waitrose, as the Alderley Edge community came together for a wonderful collaborative planting project.

Three planters outside the Waitrose exit have been transformed thanks to the generous donation of plants, time and expertise from John Foley, RHS Master Grower of Holden Clough Nurseries.

Pupils from Alderley Edge Community Primary School, Nether Alderley Primary School and The Ryleys School got their hands muddy planting alongside volunteers from Alderley Edge in Bloom, Alderley Edge Parish Council, Heyes Lane Allotments and Waitrose.

The result is a vibrant and colourful display that will be enjoyed by the many residents, visitors and shoppers who pass through the village each day. The project is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when local businesses, community groups and schools work together to enhance our shared environment.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in helping bring this project to life.





YOUR VOICE

at Cheshire East Council

CLLR CRAIG BROWNE, WARD COUNCILLOR FOR ALDERLEY EDGE

Alderley Edge School for Girls

It is difficult to begin my column in this edition of the village news without mentioning the impending closure of Alderley Edge School for Girls. The sense of disappointment at losing a school which has served as both an asset to and an institution within our community for over a quarter of a century (and of course for much longer as the predecessor schools of St Hilary's & Mount Carmel) is hard to quantify. No doubt the details behind the governors' decision will eventually become public knowledge; however, it is notable that as both a charity registered with the Charity Commission and a company registered with Companies House, no accounts have been submitted on behalf of the school since 2024. Registered charities are generally required to have a Dissolution Clause listed within their Articles of Association, stating what is to happen to the assets of the organisation in the event that the charity is wound up – in the case of Alderley Edge School for Girls, the beneficiaries are listed as the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition; and the Woodard Corporation, both of which are also registered charities. I remain hopeful that some way of rescuing the school may be found and will continue to offer any support I can to the Parents Rescue Group who have fought hard to save this important village institution.



Work Begins on New Cheshire East Local Plan

Cheshire East Council has recently announced that it is to commence work on a new Local Plan, starting with a "scoping exercise" which will begin this summer. Local councils are required to review their Local Plans every five years and with the current Plan having been approved in 2017, a refresh is now long overdue (this has been deliberately delayed due to changes made by the current government in the way Local Plans are to be developed). Following the government's decision to increase the borough's house building target by approximately 40%, development of a new Local Plan is now absolutely essential as the borough can no longer demonstrate a five-year supply of land to meet that increased target within its existing Local Plans. As we have already seen, this is leading to a number of speculate planning applications by developers, recognising that if the borough has no five-year land supply in place, then our green belt policies are effectively considered out of date. As a consequence, it now feels as though our precious green belt (and character as a village) is under attack from all directions.

Funding Approved for Highways Schemes

As Ward Councillor I am granted a budget of £4,500 per year from Cheshire East Council to allocate to local highways-related priorities. The budget can be spent on minor repairs or on small pieces of infrastructure (such as Speed Indicator Signs or Lamp Columns). I have decided to combine my Ward Budget for the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 in order to invest in the following road safety priorities: the installation of a further speed table and crossing point on Ryleys Lane (close to the junction with Eaton Drive & Redesmere Drive); the installation of a further speed table on Congleton Road (between the junctions with Beechfield Road & Hazelcroft Gardens); and the creation of five new on-street, time-limited parking bays on Heyes Lane (adjacent to Heyes Lane Allotments). These schemes will be introduced at a cost of around £33,000 and I would like to thank Alderley Edge Parish Council for providing the necessary match-funding to allow them to go ahead. A further scheme of footpath "build-outs" has been drawn up as a traffic calming measure on Macclesfield Road, to be funded through a private sector contribution. The schemes will proceed to public consultation later this summer/autumn.



Best wishes, Craig.

