

Alsager Town Council achieves Quality Status



Alsager Town Council is delighted to announce that it has achieved Quality Status by the National Association of Local Councils.

The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continually seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

To achieve the Quality Award a council demonstrates that it meets all requirements of the Foundation Award and has additional evidence of good governance, effective community engagement and council improvement. Since the appointment of Nicola Clarke as Town Clerk in September 2017, one of her objectives was to review and refine internal processes in order to achieve Quality Status.

The Chairman of the Council, Honorary Freeman Cllr Shirley Jones commented *"I am delighted the Town Council has achieved the Quality Award and it is a recognition that Alsager Town Council is committed to improvement. The award shows the community of the hard work of the staff and councillors to ensure legal compliance and governance in the local council sector. I congratulate the Town Clerk and her officers for their continued support to the council."*

Alsager Town Council is committed to working with residents on achieving the best for the town. The emerging Neighbourhood Plan has identified many projects which the council will work on with other voluntary bodies.

It's all about Health & Wellbeing

Saturday 2nd February 2019

On Saturday 2nd February, from 11am until 3pm, at the Alsager Civic, Alsager Partnership will once again be showcasing an exhibition 'All About Health & Wellbeing'.

The day itself promises to be jam-packed with information delivered by over 30 health, wellbeing and fitness organisations that will help you discover how you can make your family's lives healthier, improve your general wellbeing and explore ways to be more active.



On the day, there will be many health organisations represented, alongside the following health screening checks available: Blood Pressure Checks, Body Fat Measurements, BMI Checks, Nutritional Advice, Diet and Diabetes/Blood Sugar Checks. You can also come along and enjoy sample treatments of reflexology and more. In addition, there will be a schedule of talks/workshops and taster sessions from various organisations, this will give visitors an opportunity to find out more and get a good feel for what they do and can offer. There really is something for everyone!

The Alsager Civic kitchen will be open, providing healthy lunches and snacks by the team from The Honey Pot Tea Room, Alsager and every visitor that comes through the door will be entered into a FREE healthy raffle.

All ages are encouraged to come along and take advantage of the many free health checks and information on offer. For more details please call Alsager Partnership on 07825776921 or email info@alsagerpartnership.com

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Alsager & District Round Table

Alsager & District Round Table would like to thank the people of Alsager & the surrounding areas after raising over £11,500 for charity over the last few months.



The annual bonfire & firework display was a huge success raising over £4,500

In November, the annual bonfire & firework display was a huge success which raised over £4,500 and this year's ever popular 3 week long tour of the town by Santa raised over £7,100 in the run up to Christmas.

The money raised has been put aside and will be used to support local community events and to help local people.

In recent months, funding has been allocated to Heydays, a local group that provides a Christmas Day experience for elderly people living alone in the area (including a full Christmas Dinner, transport to and from the venue where needed and a raffle) and to a local family who needed a specially produced child seat for their son who suffers from cerebral palsy in addition to other very worthy causes.

Anyone who would like to apply for funding can do so by using any of the Alsager Round Table social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram).

Membership of Alsager & District Round Table is open to men aged 18 to 45 and anyone interested in getting involved can find out more by contacting the group through their social media outlets.

Turn your winter blues green!

Winter is upon us and the outside – and inside – of your window systems are probably in need of a good deep clean.

Gutters and down spouts may be getting blocked with moss and leaves – which will mean big problems if there are heavy frosts. Your conservatory roof is almost certainly developing an algae overcoat – and it's also likely that your paths, driveways and decking will be getting dangerously slippery – which can prove absolutely lethal – especially for older members of our communities.

Some maintenance problems won't wait until Spring. With a Clean&Green house valet you can ensure that you end this year – and begin the next – both happily,



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Choir strikes a chord with singers

The Alsager Community Choir is going from strength to strength as more and more people realize the positive health benefits that singing provides.

Singing is recommended by health professionals as a way to relieve stress and the choir also has a large social element which helps people make friends.

Rehearsals take place at Wesley Place Methodist Church on a Monday night, 7:30-9:30pm, and from Tuesday 5th March there will also be an afternoon choir every Tuesday, 1-3pm. Each session features a break in the middle with refreshments included in the £4.50 session fee. Although attending on a regular basis will give you the most benefit you just pay for the sessions you can make and if you just want to attend rehearsals and not concerts that is also ok, enjoyment is the key factor.

Daniel Keen, the Choirs Conductor, holds a firm belief that everyone can sing. Some people might need a bit more coaching than others but everyone is able to enjoy the benefits that music can give you. The choir usually sing in 3 and 4 part harmony and all the words and music are provided for you. Daniel draws on his wealth of choral singing and conducting experience to bring the most out of everyone and make the rehearsals an enjoyable experience.

All are welcome so why not start the year with a new hobby and get to know people at the Alsager Community Choir.

More information can be found on the choirs website: www.alsagercommunitychoir.co.uk



MP calls on Rail Minister to improve Alsager rail services

Alsager MP Fiona Bruce spoke in a debate on 'Rail Services in North Staffordshire' calling for better rail services in Alsager.



Fiona Bruce MP has called for better rail services in Alsager

Mrs Bruce pointed out that there were a number of issues concerned residents had raised, she said, "Earlier this month, I held a surgery late one evening at Congleton station. I was impressed, though not entirely surprised, that no less than 30 to 40 residents came along on a dark wintry evening. I know from my postbag that there are considerable concerns in my constituency about train services.

"Many of the points raised by residents at that meeting are echoed by residents in Alsager. They include a lack of joined-up thinking by rail companies on the services and timing of trains; trains are too infrequent and often overcrowded, and they stop too early in the evening; and there is some confusion and a perception of unfairness about charges."

Andrew Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport responded:

"One particular feature of colleague concern has been communication and collaboration between the different parts of our rail network, whether on the detail of the timings at Alsager, or on the services to London – which I believe will continue but, from May next year, are likely to go via New Street station in Birmingham.

"My hon. Friend the Member for Congleton (Fiona Bruce) highlighted a number of other questions, as have a lot of colleagues, and I will go through the record of the debate to ensure that I write to everyone with the detailed answers they sought. From May next year, however, she may at least expect an attractive service via New Street."

Road works could cause disruption for drivers

Works have started (7th January) to install a new roundabout on Linley Lane as part of the development of the old Twyfords factory.

Traffic control will be in operation with temporary traffic lights (two-way signals) while the work on forming a new roundabout on A5011 Linley Lane between the junction with Crewe Road and the Railway Bridge takes place.

Drivers are warned that the temporary traffic control systems are expected to cause some disruption to traffic in the area and to take this into account when planning their journey.

The works are expected to take around 7 weeks and are due to be completed by the 1st March 2019.

The Junction: Refurbishment of Lawton/Sandbach Road

The refurbishment of the shopping area at Lawton and Sandbach Road, is now complete.

The new scheme, named 'The Junction' has transformed the buildings with a cleaner, more modern look at one of the most prominent spots in Alsager.

As part of the scheme, three new units have been created on the crossroads. One of these has been taken by Poole Alcock solicitors as part of a wider refurbishment of its first floor premises.



Drivers can expect delays on Linley Lane



Work renovating the 'Junction' is now complete

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Alsager Arts Association

This Pastel of 'Woods in Summer', by Linda Webb was one of three painting voted 'Best in Show' at our recent exhibition in Alsager Library.



The other two were - 'Storm over Formby Point', Pastel by Mike Frost and 'Great Crested Grebe', Silk Painting with machine embroidery by Christine Clowes.

We are now concentrating on our next exhibition which will be held during 'The Snowdrop Walk' at Rode Hall, Rode Heath. We exhibit along with two other Art Groups - Ann Roach and Sandbach Art.

Opening hours are 12 noon - 4 pm, Tuesday - Sunday (closed Monday), 5th February - 1st March.

Previous exhibitions at this venue have been visited by people from all over the UK and many have remarked on the variety and excellent quality of the paintings.

New classes at Alsager High

Works comprising the construction of a new two storey classroom block and single storey dining hall extension at Alsager School started in January.



The additional classroom block will provide eight additional classrooms inclusive of WC's, stores area and newly formed multi-functional space to the ground floor.

The dining hall extension will provide a new and extended kitchen and servery areas with additional dining facilities, including separate area for sixth form use.

A ground ceremony formally celebrated the start of building works at Alsager High School

Richard Heaton, Managing Director of Read Construction undertaking the work said, "We're delighted to be working with Alsager High School on the latest phase of their school expansion and improvement works which is targeted for completion later this year."

School on the latest phase of their school expansion and improvement works which is targeted for completion later this year."

Alsager Family History Group

The Alsager Family History Group meets on the third Monday of the month at Wesley Place Methodist Church, 7.30pm.

The meeting on 18th February will be given over to short talks by members covering family or local history and family heirlooms. In March, under the title "Knocking Down Brick Walls" David Guyton will illustrate how to get through some difficult problems in family history. He will give some general principles and use a case study to illustrate them.

Topics for future meetings include "Prosecution Associations in South East Cheshire" (local mutual protection societies); "Unearthing Cheshire's Quaker Community"; and "Poison: A Woman's Weapon".

Visitors are always welcome to come along to the meetings. After the talks there is an opportunity to discuss family history with other members. The entrance fee - which includes tea/coffee and biscuits - is £1 for members of the Family History Society of Cheshire and £2 for non-members. For further information visit www.fhsc.org.uk email alsager@fhsc.org.uk or have a look at facebook or Streetlife.



Alsager Community Police

Dates for the Surgery/Drop in times held by PCSO Branfield @ Alsager Fire Station, Brookhouse Road, Alsager, ST7 2PA:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 06 February 2019 11:00 - 12:00 | 06 March 2019 19:00 - 20:00 |
| 12 February 2019 18:00 - 19:00 | 11 March 2019 10:30 - 11:30 |
| 23 February 2019 15:00 - 16:00 | 21 March 2019 14:00 - 15:00 |
| 28 February 2019 12:00 - 13:00 | 27 March 2019 17:00 - 18:00 |

Police Community Meetings

PCSO Bowman will conduct meetings directly in the community from 1st Feb at a choice of locations.

Dates/times will be available to from the library, community support centre & through social media - Facebook & Twitter.



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The Town Council is seeking to appoint a part time Facilities Assistant, to ensure the Town Council's assets are managed in a manner that complies with statutory standards and to achieve a good standard of maintenance. Reporting to the Asset Manager, the Facilities Assistant will primarily be carrying out health and safety routine checks, assets and inventory audits, minor repairs and handy person duties, and the set up of the outdoor market stalls which requires early morning attendance once a week.

The successful candidate should have a background in minor maintenance work and DIY. Knowledge of Health and Safety at work will be a bonus but training will be provided. He/she will assist the Asset Manager in the delivery of any Town Council major maintenance projects and management surveys and would include attendance on site to grant access to contractors and deal with minor issues.

Please visit www.alsagertowncouncil.org.uk to find out more about Alsager Town Council and what services it delivers within the Town.

For further information about this role please contact Eddison Attu on 01270 876440 or for an application pack please contact:-

Tel: 01270 876440, email: admin@alsagertowncouncil.org.uk

Post: Alsager Town Council, 3 Lawton Road, Alsager, Cheshire, ST7 2AE

Closing date for receipt of applications is 31st March 2019



ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL TOPICS



Fairtrade Fortnight

Monday 25th February – Sunday 10th March
Fairtrade Fortnight takes place from Monday 25th February until Sunday 10th March 2019. So look out for local events.



Free Wednesday Market

The Town Council are launching a new initiative! One market pitch at Alsager's Wednesday Market will be allocated FREE of charge every week (with the exclusion of the fee for gazebo and tables hire at £6.50)



for use by charities, not for profit organisations and community groups!

To apply for a FREE market stall please contact the Assets Manager Eddison Attu on 01270876440 or assets@alsagertowncouncil.org.uk

The Town Council Budget 2019/20

The Town Council is required by law to prepare a budget in order to calculate its precept requirement.

The budget must give details of planned expenditure for the financial year ensuring that financial resources are aligned to the priorities of the Council.

The Town Council is keen to provide local services for Alsager residents, as your first tier of Local Government. Its aim is always to provide value for money for the Council Tax payer in serving the needs of the Communities of Alsager. The Town Council has thoroughly debated in public its priorities and service requirements for the forthcoming financial year. On the 15th January 2019, the Council determined the full value of its 2019/20 budget that contains net spending plans to a total of £412,107. Earmarked reserves, the capital reserve and general reserves are being utilised to finance expenditure and a Precept request of £385,465 has been made to Cheshire East Council, the Collecting Authority in this respect.

Your annual Council Tax charge is built up by the annual charges of Cheshire East Council, Alsager Town Council, Cheshire Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Council Tax charge relating to Alsager Town Council for 2019/20 will be £82.73 per annum per Band D equivalent household, which represents an increase of 3.0% from 2018/19. The annual charge equates to £1.59 per week per Band D equivalent household.

The following services are provided by the Town Council and are included within the Town Council's 2019/20 budget:

Acting as the first tier of Local Government influence on all matters affecting Alsager and its community well being; Alsager Civic; Alsager Institute; Public conveniences on Crewe Road; Wednesday Market; 4 allotment sites at Cedar Avenue, Lawton Road, Coronation Avenue and Talke Road

We also contribute to:-

Town centre services – Planters, litter bins and signage; CCTV service funding; Grants to voluntary clubs and organisations Planning application consultee; Local licensing consultee; Funding activities for young people; In Bloom initiative; Community events – Christmas lights and market amongst others; Community networking – our Councillors are elected to represent the Town Council on many groups and organisations in the Town; Consulting on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan

HOW TO CONTACT ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Call in: | The Town Council offices are open between 10am and 1pm Monday to Friday. |
| Phone: | 01270 876440 |
| Email: | clerk@alsagertowncouncil.org.uk admin@alsagertowncouncil.org.uk |
| Write to: | Alsager Town Council, 3 Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AE. |
| Website: | www.alsagertowncouncil.org.uk |

HOW TO CONTACT ALSAGER CIVIC

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Phone: | 01270 879711 |
| Email: | enquiries@alsagercivic.org.uk |
| Write to: | Alsager Civic Centre, Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AE. |

Alsager Neighbourhood Plan goes to consultation

Your town, your plan, Alsager's future

ALSAGER RESIDENTS were invited to have their say on a draft Neighbourhood Plan which was submitted to Alsager Town Council on 15th January and to Cheshire East Council.

The Plan has been under development since January 2017 and is now entering a stage known as Regulation 14. This stage last six weeks and residents will have the opportunity to consider the policy proposals and comment both online and at a series of public consultation events. Additional copies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan will be available for reference in Alsager Library. Printed comment forms will also be available from the Town Council offices, from Alsager Civic and from the Library. Completed forms can be returned to each of these locations.

The final date for receipt of comments is 28th February 2019. A further six week consultation period, formally known as Regulation 15, will then take place with statutory bodies. Cheshire East will then arrange for an External Examiner to assess the Neighbourhood Plan to determine whether it can be adopted. Once the Examiner is happy with the plan and any revisions then Cheshire East will organise a Referendum in the town for local people to vote on its adoption. If more than 50% of those who vote support the Plan then it will be adopted as a Development Plan by Cheshire East and have statutory force. It is currently anticipated that the Referendum will take place in September 2019.

Public consultations were scheduled during January in public buildings and venues across the town.

Following the Town Council meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday 15th January the draft Neighbourhood Plan became available on the Alsager Neighbourhood Plan website www.alsagernelighbourhoodplan.org.uk. Residents are invited to comment online or to use the printed comment forms available from a number of venues around the town.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan comprises a wide range of policies aimed at influencing future development in Alsager in areas including:

- * Economy and Employment
- * Town Centre
- * Housing
- * Natural & Built Environment
- * Community & Well-being
- * Traffic, Transport & Services



Christine Marsh, Chair of the Alsager Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group said:

'We are delighted to be able to put the draft Neighbourhood Plan forward for public consultation under Regulation 14. The Plan has involved thousands of hours of hard work and consultation by volunteers who have collected evidence, carried out surveys and assessed the views of individuals and organisations.'

'We are a voluntary, non-party political steering group supported by Alsager Town Council. We aim to develop a planning framework to guide the development, regeneration and conservation of our town.'

'We hope that local residents will consider and comment on the policies we are putting forward for consultation. It is vital that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views of the community.'

For more details about the Neighbourhood Plan and the consultation process contact: Christine Marsh, Chair of ANSPG 01270 486010.

February meetings

| | |
|---|--|
| Planning, Environment & Community Committee | Tuesday 19 th February 7:15pm |
| Alsager Institute, Green Drive, Alsager | |
| Alsager Civic and Services Committee | Monday 25 th February 4:30pm |
| Alsager Civic | |
| March meetings | |
| Annual Parish Meeting | Tuesday 5 th March 7:15pm |
| Alsager Institute, Green Drive, Alsager | |
| Planning, Environment & Community Committee | Tuesday 12 th March 7:15pm |
| Alsager Institute, Green Drive, Alsager | |
| Finance, Policy and Governance Committee | Tuesday 19 th March 7:15pm |
| Alsager Institute, Green Drive, Alsager | |

Agendas for all Town Council and committee meetings will be displayed prior to each meeting and will be available for inspection at the offices of the Town Council buildings and are being made available on the Town Council website alsagertowncouncil.org.uk 3 days prior to each Town Council or Committee meeting.

Members of the general public are most welcome to attend the meetings and there will be a public participation period at the beginning of each meeting.

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For the benefit of newcomers to Alsager, here are details of its location -it is rather hidden from view; It is off the foot-path from Sandbach Road North via Mere Court to Wilbrahams Way.

This path is known locally as the Donkey Path. Apparently some eighty years ago a local family kept its pet donkeys on what is now Alsager cricket ground.

The mild weather this autumn has been kind to tennis. All three winter teams managed to retain their place in Divisions 1, 2 and 4 respectively, though the B team in Division 2 had to win their last fixture to avoid relegation.



As usual tennis coaching for beginners will be available on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. and for improvers at 10am. For further details contact Phil Ingram on 01782 514184. Phil has been coaching tennis at Alsager and elsewhere in the area for some 25 years now. He started playing tennis in Burslem Park with a mate before becoming a member of Bucknall Park tennis club. He then did his professional qualifications and became a tennis coach. In his young days he also played table tennis in the Premier Division of the Potteries & District League and played football for various clubs.

Overall the club had a good 2018 but it is a pity so few girls and young women are taking up tennis. The courts are heavily used on weekday mornings by the older generation. Even on a misty drizzly Thursday 10th January all the courts were full. Sadly, Moira Howell, a member of the club in the 1970's died on 23rd December. The club would like to express its condolences to Brian and all his family. Three generations of Howells have played at Alsager.

Moira played in the original ladies second team in the 1970's, partnering Wendy Cox. Her husband, Brian, still plays regularly. Some eighteen months ago a chance conversation at tennis revealed a coincidence, namely that Moira and Brian Howell and Wendy and Rodney Cox had celebrated their golden wedding on the same day.

A final note unrelated to tennis. Moira must have been known to hundreds of former pupils of Alsager School, since she worked as a much appreciated dinner lady there for some twenty five years. Many people will miss her.

Alsager in it's Heydays

Due to the kind gesture of the use of The 13 Club and generous funding from Alsager Round Table and Plus Dane Housing, Heydays was able to host a Christmas Day unlike no other in Alsager!

Heydays Co-ordinator, Kath Knight said "We are thrilled that this year we were able to offer this four hour event for free which included transport, a three course festive lunch with wine, free raffle prizes and activities plus a take home Santa Present for everyone!"



This day was not just about providing a hot festive meal, it was about togetherness for older people on what can be a very emotionally difficult or lonely day for many especially if they do not have family/friends to spend this day with.



For some of the more 'vulnerable elderly', even making a journey to their family can sometimes be too much and therefore distant relatives were able to relax and enjoy their day knowing that their family member was enjoying theirs too!



This is the second year of running this event and more people than ever were able to benefit from coming. We had 33 guest and 14 volunteers all sharing the day together! Our brilliant team of volunteers enjoyed the day as much as the guests! We all took part in a light hearted quiz, looked back in time with our popular slideshow and enjoyed Christmas Carols and mince pies together whilst our kitchen volunteers, organised by Joyce Key, were busy cooking the most lovely food. The atmosphere was really warm, friendly and funny! "The look on people's faces just about made our day" commented Pia Baxter who helped organised the event. Guests were warned beforehand that this day would be an 'experience' and so in the usual Heyday's manner, the banter was flowing and so was the music and dancing! Everyone thought it was brilliant and are already putting their names down for next year!

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped support this day; the many volunteers, the wonderful contributions from Phoenix Tanning and Flower Passion and the many other individuals who kindly donated to us.

Heydays runs every Friday 11-2.30pm at The 13 Club in Alsager for the over 65.s. If you wish to join us then you are more than welcome but be warned..... IT IS FUN! Please ring Kath Knight 07443 492573 for more info.

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2019 Events at Alsager Civic

February 24th

Wedding and Party Open Day
2pm – 4pm



March 8th

Civic Comedy Club



March 29th

UK Bjorn – a tribute to ABBA
Chairman's Charity Live Music Event

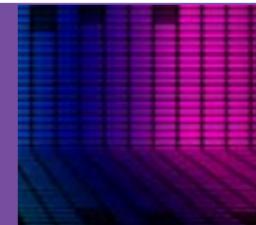


April 20th

Easter Bunny Hunt
Organised by Alsager Partnership



May 11th
80's Mania Party Night



Sept 8th
Alsager Italian Festival
Organised by Alsager Partnership



Sept 22nd
Wedding and Party Open Day
2pm – 4pm



October 18th
Civic Comedy Club



November 24th
Alsager Christmas Light Switch On
Organised by Christmas Events Committee



December 6th
Guilty Pleasure Christmas Party Night



December 7th
Club Classics Christmas Party Night



December 31st
NYE Family Party



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A new year and a change to the organisation of Alsager and District U3A.

On behalf of the committee we offer a fulsome thank you to the people who have served in previous years and who have now stepped down. We welcome our new chair Roger Poole and the new people who have joined the committee and look forward to more success in 2019. The roles and names of committee members can be found on our website. Photos of the new committee are displayed on the notice boards at the Monday morning meetings at Alsager Civic Centre.

Spring/Summer terms commenced on the 7th January and will run until the 31st May 2019. The majority of classes occur within term times but some continue throughout the summer. These are mostly the physically active groups such as table tennis, bowls and walking.

Our membership fee has not altered and is still £9 for the year. We introduced the ability to enrol online through our new administration system, Beacon. This has been successful with about 200 members rejoining online this year reducing queuing at the help desk on Monday mornings. hopefully we will build on this success next year when even more members use this facility.

Two new groups have been introduced.

 **Brush Up Your French** will meet on Thursdays 2-3.30. Please phone Marie Potter on 01270 368972 as there are places available.

After we leave the EU the French might not let us speak English.

 A new **Ukulele group** is being proposed at the time of writing this article and hopefully will be running at time of publication. It will be led by Carole Rowland.

If you are interested ask at the help desk which is held on Monday mornings at Alsager Civic Centre.

Walking Netball which was started last term has grown in popularity as enough people turned up for us to play a full game. It is difficult to just walk with some of us getting the whistle blown for running, jumping and other illegal moves!



The Digital Photography Group displayed their best Photos in the Library in November and raised more than £200 for Library funds by selling the prints. This success has led the library to request that we have another Exhibition / Sale next year. This group are currently in progress with another community activity, in conjunction with the Two Doors Studio, by providing

black line drawing images of local scenes for an adult colouring book. All profits will go to Alsager in Bloom.

The Outings Group continues to be very popular and if you are interested the outings and holidays are displayed on Monday mornings at the Civic Centre.

U3A Orchestra.

A concert was held on 20th October 2018 by the U3A Orchestra conducted by Bill Freeman and family members. This concert was sold out and as usual was excellent.



As there is some concern that all our information is concentrated on being displayed on Monday mornings, Roger Poole has commenced a concise and informative monthly newsletter which he is sending via email.

If U3A members have not yet provided an email address to the U3A, please do so to get all the latest news.



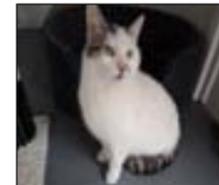
Well, what did Christmas bring? Many donations, and gifts for the cats and dogs, we thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for such generosity.

Dog wise, being quiet, but plenty of calls for help/advice at unreal times of night, but that's all part of it.

The only dog we took in was *Oliver*, a Westie, when his owner died on Boxing Day. Many thanks to fosterer Chris for giving B&B to this anxious little dog, with an extremely bad skin condition, causing him to become aggressive. Thankfully he was returned to relatives of the deceased after a week.



Cat fosters urgently wanted. This is the type of cattery you could have in your garden.



This is Harvey still waiting for his forever home

Alsager Animals in Need



weighed in with us at over 1.5 stone, (left in the drive, abandoned in her carrier) has dropped from 10.59kgs to 8.24!!

Still needing homes are petite tortie female *Charlie*, and *Harvey*, white with tabby markings. Both very affectionate.

Dog News

CoCo the Shar-Pei cross dog enjoyed his second Christmas with us, along with *Leyna* the blind Rott. They had a wonderful time ripping open the beautiful shoe boxes filled with goodies, which were presented to us by Simon Garwood, representing Alsager Social Group. The presents were also presented to our dogs in Sanctuary, so a good time was had by all. Our latest entry is a 14 month old Beagle, called *Bailey*, who needs an understanding home, that have the time to train and exercise him.

Finally, to close, we have an alert re anti-freeze. One of our adopted cats *Marley* unfortunately came into contact with anti-freeze and sadly died. Please store carefully, and do not leave any spillage on drives etc.

Our next Coffee Mornings are on February 9th in the Civic Centre Alsager, 9.30 – 11.30am followed by March 9th.

We have an auction on April 12th with another Coffee Morning April 13th.

Do come and support us, for without your support, we would not be able to continue our work. Hilary.



This is Oliver we took him in when his owner died at Christmas



This is blind Sheba one of our dogs in sanctuary opening her Xmas box

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Alsager Library News & Events

February/March 2019 - 01270 375325

Mondays 2.00pm-4.00pm **Adult colouring**. Come along to colour, relax and chat.



Pencils and sheets provided or bring your own. Refreshments included for 50p donation.

citizens advice

Tuesdays 9.00-12.00 **Citizens Advice Bureau**. Citizens Advice provides free, confidential and independent advice to help people overcome their problems. Customers are seen on a "first come, first serve" basis. If you need help feel please free to come along.

Wednesdays 10.00-12.00 **Coffee Morning**. Our Coffee Mornings are held regularly on Wednesdays, where tea, coffee and biscuits are served by "Friends of Alsager Library". We warmly welcome everyone for an enjoyable social event. Why sit at home alone? Come along to have a chat.



For visits from specific groups please see below for details on separate dates.

Wednesdays 10.00-12.00 **Alsager Chess Club**. Want to have a game of chess? Drop-in & challenge members of Alsager Chess Club. Perhaps you may be interested in learning how to play this fascinating game?

Alsager Chess Club is a friendly welcoming group who are always looking for new members.

Thursdays 3.30 - 4.30pm **LEGO Club**. Come along and make a LEGO model.



04 Feb and 5 March 11.00-12.00 **Short Story Group**. Come along and join our Short Story Group. All welcome. Listen to a story, have a cup of tea and relax.

04 Feb and 5 March 2 - 4pm **Alsager Creative Stitchers**. Alsager Creative Stitchers meet on the first Tuesday of the month for talks, workshops etc. Fee charged. Visitors welcome.

13 & 25 Feb and 13 & 27 March 10.00-12.00 **Nat West Community Banker**. Come and meet Jane, the Nat West Community Banker who can offer help and support with online banking and offer alternative ways to bank.

06 Feb & 20 Feb 10.00-12.00 **U3A**. Are you a member of Alsager U3A-need to re enrol? Thinking of joining? Want to find out more? Pop into the library for a chat.



08 & 19 Feb and 5 & 19 March 2.00-4.00 **Craft Group**. Bring along your chosen craft to work on over a cup of tea and crafty conversation-50 pence charge for refreshments.

12 Feb and 12 March 2.30pm **Book Group**. Enjoy mysteries and thriller? Come along to a hopefully enjoyable and interesting chat about these books - why they are so popular and which authors we should be trying.. Refreshments will be available.



Alsager Library News & Events

Saturdays Children's Activities



1st Saturday of every month 10.00-12.30 **Saturday LEGO Club**
2nd and 3rd Saturday of every month 10.30 **Storytime**
4th Saturday of every month 10.00 - 12.00 **Family Crafts** - children must be accompanied by a responsible adult
For further information about our upcoming Children's events please go to our webpage or check out our Facebook page.

Yoga sessions - Tuesdays 10.30-11.30am
Thursdays 10.30-11.30am

Tai-Chi sessions - Thursday afternoon 2-3pm

Please check with the Library to confirm dates of Yoga & Tai-Chi.

WiFi Alsager Library has free Wi-Fi for Library members.

Do you know anyone in the Alsager area who is Housebound and would like Library books delivered? You do? Please contact Alsager Library for more information.

Your Library needs you.... Are you interested in helping out at an event, can you spare an hour to garden, tell a story, make tea or help in any way? Contact the library on 01270 375325 to find out more.



22 Feb and 29 March 10.30-12.30 **Alsager Memory Café**. A drop-in session for carers, families and people living with Dementia. A friendly, safe, social group run by trained volunteers.

06 Feb 10.00-12.00 **Iris Vision Resource Centre**. This local charity is able to help to help people achieve Independence and Rehabilitation for those with impaired sight. Do you or anyone you know need some help? Come along to find out more.

06 Feb 10.00-12.00 **Deafness Support Network**. Deafness Support Network is the service provider organisation for Cheshire. Come along to see how they can help.



Wed 13 Feb 2.30-3.30 **Award winning poet John Lindley**. Reading from his prize winning new collection, 'Love & Crossbones'.

Free event but booking essential, refreshments available.

Charities Clubs Societies

Wednesdays 10.00-12.00 **Coffee Morning** An ideal way to promote your work. Chat to customers, hand out information and attract new members or volunteers. Sessions are free and refreshments are available. To find out more please contact the Library

Rhymetime for pre-school children - Mondays 10am

Baby Rhymetime Fridays 2 pm Term Time only. Free. Please contact the Library for details.

Little Bookworms for pre-school children - Fridays 10 - 10.30am. Free. Please contact the library for details.

For sessions please contact the Library.

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The Enclosure of Alsager Heath - Part 1

Have you ever wondered why Alsager developed as it did, from a scattered rural community into a suburban town. Clearly the coming of the railway in the eighteen forties had much to do with this but the former heath or manorial waste played a very significant part also.

Like many Cheshire townships Alsager had a large area of open land over which common rights existed until the early nineteenth century. Common rights meant rights enjoyed in common by a select number of people, not rights enjoyed by the public at large. These people were those who owned land with rights in common, usually the freeholders, who would normally pass on these rights to their tenants for the time being. One reason for the heath remaining unenclosed was the poor nature of its soil, a mixture of peat and sand, which would not support sustained cultivation. Anyone who has gardened on former heath land knows how thin and light the soil is. The heath consisted of 350 acres in 1834, as shown on the map attached. It included all the land to the north of the Crewe Road - Lawton Road axis, from Close Lane to a point about 200 yards beyond Fields Road, together with a triangle bounded by Crewe Road, Station Road and Sandbach Road South roughly as far as the site of the station. Evidence of it remains in such names as Heathwood Drive, Heathend Road and Heath End Farm and Heath House Farm which stood in Well Lane close to where St. Gabriel's school stands today.

Enclosure of heath, common or waste involved extinguishing the rights of the commoners over the land in question. In the case of Alsager the Heath was owned by the lord of the manor but it was not his to do with as he wished, his ownership was subject to the interests of those who held such common rights as pasturing, the digging of peat, the taking of wood and other rights on the land. Those who had the benefit of these common rights were "the commoners",



Plan showing the extent of Alsager Heath in 1821

they are referred to as "the proprietors" in the Award. These rights would almost certainly have been very carefully defined with individual farmers being able to pasture a specified number of animals on the heath between certain dates and to take prescribed quantities of other commodities. The long lanes leading northward from the farms lying to the south of the railway probably functioned as cattle roads for stock pastured on the heath. Brook House Road is a typical example of this. Enclosure came about because the commoners or freeholders could see more profitable ways of using the land than leaving it as open heath. When the common rights were extinguished by an Enclosure Act and Award the proprietors who held them were compensated by being awarded portions of the freehold interest of the land enclosed, proportionate to their freehold interest in the land from which their common rights arose. It was therefore in their interests to co-operate with one another to secure enclosure. The losers of course were the tenants of the freeholders who lost the right of commoning which had previously accompanied their rented holdings.

The Alsager Inclosure Award of 1821 by which two commissioners, Charles Heaton of Endon, representing the lords of the manor, and Joseph Fenna of Baddeley representing the proprietors, were appointed who began work in the same year. The Surveyor was Charles Smith of Endon, possibly an associate of Charles Heaton. In its opening paragraph the Act, reads as follows:-

"... whereas Margaret Williams and Susannah Williams, spinsters and Catherine Sheridan, Widow, are the Ladies of the said Manor, and as such are Owners of the Soil of the said Commons and Waste Grounds, and all Mines and Minerals within and under the same and whereas the Right Honourable John Lord Crewe is the Patron of the Rectory of the said Parish of Barthomley and whereas Willoughby Crewe, Clerk, is the Rector thereof: and whereas the said Margaret Williams, Susannah Williams and Catherine Sheridan, the said John Lord Crewe, with Randle Wilbraham Esquire, John Latham Doctor of Medicine, Thomas Twemlow and certain other Persons, are proprietors of and claiming to be interested in the said Commons.... And whereas it would be of great Benefit and Advantage to the

several Persons who are Proprietors...if the same were divided and inclosed, and specific Parts and Shares thereof assigned and allotted unto the several Proprietors..."

The Act was an expensive measure resulting in the freeholders selling 70 acres of the heath at an auction held at the Lodge Inn, then in Lodge Road, on 29th November 1821, this realised £1258.50; a further sale on 4th August 1826 of 39 acres produced £597.50. The remaining land was divided between the eight freeholders who were the proprietors of the common rights in 1834 when enclosure took place.

Before dealing in detail with the allocation of land the Commissioners were required by the Act to survey all public roads and footpaths and if necessary to divert or make new roads. All roads included in the survey were to be "kept in good repair by the owners and occupiers of Estates in the Township of Alsager." Until the passing of the 1835 Highways Act introduced the new principle of Highways Authorities

The following roads are named in the Alsager survey:-

Public Carriage Roads 30 feet wide.

Barthomley Road. (now Crewe Road and Lawton Road)

"over Alsager Heath into the Ancient Lane near a house in the occupation of Joshua Farroll...towards Church Lawton."

Alsager Lodge Road. (now Chancery Lane, Lodge Road and part of Sandbach Road North)

"...into the Ancient Lane which leads towards Smallwood." In the Award parcel No.45 is allotted to the Trustees of Alsager School "In respect of Land given to widen Alsager Lodge Road". (Reference to the map suggests that Lodge road may at one time have run closer to the Mere than it does today and that it was much narrower.)

Hassall Road.

"...over Alsager Heath into the Ancient Lane near a Farm House formerly in the occupation of William Thorley now Samuel Hargreaves...towards Hassall." (the farm referred to is Heath End Farm)

Church Road.

Alsager Road. (Sandbach Road South)

"...leading out of Barthomley Road near a house in the occupation of John Pimlot (at Bank Corner) over Alsager Heath into the Ancient Lane near a house in the occupation of Samuel Warburton, Wheelwright,...towards the village of Alsager." (Samuel Warbur-

ton's house was close to what today is the "Railway Inn".

The Pinfold or pound, (the enclosure used to pen straying animals, was in Alsager Road in the area of the station.)

Occupation Roads 18 feet wide.

Sandhole Road. (Station Road)

"... leading out of Alsager Road (Sandbach Road South) at a house now or lately in the occupation of John Wildblood."

Hole House Road. (Cross Street and Well Lane, extending to Hole House Farm, now the Willow House.)

Bankhouse Road. (marked Brook House Road on the map and now Brookhouse Road.)

"...from the Bank House (the farm)...across Sandhole Road (Station Road) into Alsager Road (Sandbach Road South) near a house in the occupation of John Holland."

Back o' th' Meer Road. (Sandbach Road North)

"leading out of Barthomley road (Bank Corner) near a newly erected house belonging to the representative of Samuel Barnet deceased...into Alsager Lodge Road near a cottage lately in the occupation of Thomas Bosson deceased."

Haslington Road. (Close Lane)

(Haslington and Wheelock were approached from this road which was on the boundary between Alsager and Haslington townships.)

School Road. (probably on the line of the modern school drive off Lodge Road.)

"...to be kept in repair by the Trustees of Alsager School or their tenants." (The Reverend John Richardson, 'Minister of Alsager', is mentioned as one of the occupiers of adjoining land.)

Twemlow's Road. 15 feet wide. (probably the route through the former University site leading to Manor Farm, owned at the time by the Twemlow Family.)

"...opposite School Road aforementioned...set out for the use of John Latham Esquire and Thomas Twemlow."

Public Foot Roads or Ways 4 feet wide.

Lettered A to E on the map and described in detail similarly to the other roads. They were to be kept in repair by the owners of adjoining land in proportion to the value of their allotments in this Award.

In my next instalment I will describe how the enclosed land was distributed to the proprietors and give an account of the sales which took place in 1821 and 1826.

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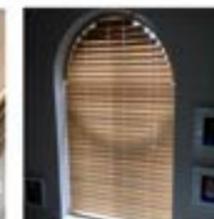
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Alsager Girl Guiding

Volunteer?? How could I possibly find the time for that?

This is what I asked myself whenever I saw an appeal for help from Alsager Girl Guiding. I told myself one day I would. But that day never seemed to come - there was always so much else to do...

A plea for a parent helper at my daughter's Guide Unit changed all that. It was only one night so I thought why not? Fast forward a couple of years and I'm now coming to the end of my training to be a Unit Leader.

If, like me, you think it all sounds great but you're too busy and you certainly haven't got time to do any training - do what I did - just try it, just for a week. If you enjoy it, try another! Take it at your own pace and see where it leads.

You might decide you want to train to be a leader or you may just stay as an occasional helper, helping as and when you can. If you decide it's not for you that will be absolutely fine too. You won't be expected to explain and no one will think badly of you. We will just be grateful you gave it a chance.

One thing's for sure, you will be made very welcome and any help you offer will genuinely be appreciated. You will never be put under any pressure to do anything you do not want to do and you will not be asked to make a commitment that you are not ready or able to make. You will be given support and encouragement by every single member of the guiding team, make new friends and feel a part of something special in your local community. You will help some fantastic girls grow and develop into confident young women who are ready to find their place in the world.

I'm proud to be a part of an organisation that provides such exciting opportunities for girls of all ages, giving them a safe space to explore and develop their own ideas, develop the self-confidence to express themselves, build self-esteem and learn ways to keep themselves safe and well whilst having loads of opportunities for exciting outdoor adventures and skill building for their futures.

All units rely on volunteers to keep them going. Without people like me and you taking that first uncertain step, Girl Guiding cannot survive in Alsager and Rode Heath. Girls will miss out. So don't hesitate like I did - just go for it - do it now! Make that call or email, just to say 'I might be interested in helping...' - the girls and young women of Alsager and Rode Heath need you!

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Alsager Townswomen's Guild

Guild Members were transported to Rudyard Lake at their November meeting thanks to a fascinating talk by Ray Perry.



A fascinating talk on Rudyard Lake was the subject of November's meeting

Ray gave Guild Members a fascinating overview of the development of the reservoir and its leisure facilities; in its heyday Rudyard Lake was a hugely popular Victorian holiday destination and provided an opportunity for fun, fresh air and a chance to relax to the thousands of people employed in the Potteries.

Post-war the area suffered a sad decline as we all began to look further afield for our holiday destinations but it has been given a new lease of life following the establishment of the Rudyard Lake Trust in 1996. Guild Members are now looking forward to afternoon tea at the Lake as one of their outings later in the year.

Guild members were delighted to raise almost £200 for the Alsager Partnership Dementia Friendly Community with their Christmas present Tombola stall at the Alsager Christmas Light's switch on. The proceeds, together with a small donation, were presented to Kath Reader at the Guild's December meeting. Kath assured members the money would be put to very good use and would make a real difference to local people living with dementia. Thank you to everyone who had a go at the tombola - we hope you liked your mystery present!

Guild Members let their hair down at the Christmas party when they were entertained by local Elvis impersonator Tommy Lee King. Tommy serenaded Members with a host of the King's greatest hits and Members revealed hidden talents and some very sultry voices when offered the microphone. The evening quickly warmed up as the ladies took to the dance floor and re-lived their youth. Singing and dancing was followed by a delicious supper provided by the Members. Townswomen continued their Christmas celebrations later in the month with dinner at the Potters Club in Stoke on Trent.



Guild Members were entertained by an Elvis impersonator

The New Year will see Guild members embarking on another entertaining programme of speakers and informal outings. Join us on the second Thursday of every month at 19:30 at the United Reformed Church in Alsager or call Denise Lennox on 07767 672114 for more information.

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Alsager Community Theatre



Alsager Community Theatre is looking forward to a busy few weeks, with auditions for its summer production in February and a play at Alsager Civic in March.

Are you an experienced amateur actor on the look out for a new challenge? Or have you never acted before but find the idea appealing? Alsager Community Theatre is looking for new talent to take part in its annual outdoor summer production, which takes place in the beautiful courtyard of Little Moreton Hall in July (or in a marquee there if the weather is unhelpful!).



This year's production is a new adaptation of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*, and open auditions are taking place in early February.

Most people are familiar with Jane Austen's delightful and witty story of Mr and Mrs Bennett's five daughters and their adventures in the marriage market; a tale of love, sex and money. There are lots of fabulous roles for all ages, many of them very humorous, and of course the cast includes two of the most famous characters in English Literature, those sparring and reluctant lovers Miss Elizabeth Bennett and Mr Fitzwilliam Darcy.

Director Eileen Venables will be holding auditions at Alsager Library on Wednesday 6th February and Monday 11th February at 7.45pm, and everyone is welcome to attend. Rehearsals will begin in April and will generally be on Mondays and Wednesdays in Alsager Library. For more information, or if you are interested but cannot make those audition dates, please contact Eileen on 07970 875736.



Then in March, ACT will be bringing to the stage the outrageous and rarely performed comedy *Can't Pay?, Won't Pay!* written by Dario Fo, translated by Lino Pertile and adapted by Bill Colvill and Robert Walker.

Written in the crisis-hit atmosphere of 1970s Italy, this hilarious and critically acclaimed farce centres on direct action by housewives against inflationary supermarket prices and struggles with their Communist trade unionist husbands who face unemployment and worse!

Can't Pay?, Won't Pay! is performed at 7.45pm from Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th March at Alsager Civic. Tickets are £10 (£8 for under 21s): from the Box Office on 01260 276165 or from Alsager Library or Alsager Civic.

You can visit the group's website to find out more about ACT: www.alsagercommunitytheatre.org.uk

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Alsager School

Alsager School's class of 2018 celebrated their exceptional GCSE and BTEC successes at Christ Church, Alsager in December.



Alongside students receiving their GCSE certificates, a variety of special awards were presented to students who had shown exemplary determination and endeavour throughout their journey at Alsager. Students who demonstrated great dexterity within their subjects, made the most progress, and achieved remarkable successes were particularly commended for their achievements.

The class of 2018 was an outstanding year group, making nominations for these awards a difficult decision for members of staff. This year group in particular faced a number of challenges with the new and far more challenging GCSE qualifications; these new methods of assessment and the increased level of difficulty cannot be compared to previous years. The students, however, responded fantastically with 91% of students achieving a GCSE 'pass' in English and 82% in Maths. There were a huge number of students achieving the very top grades in these tougher GCSEs which are graded 1-9. In Physics, for example, 38% of all grades were 9 or 8. These are amazing achievements.

The guest speaker for the event was Michael Potts who spoke about his inspiring journey to success in the medical profession and the way in which the education he received at Alsager School built a platform from which he could pursue his dreams. His words were very inspiring and showed the students that through hard-work, anything is possible.

Andrea O'Neill, Head of School: "These events are very special. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all of the hard work of an exceptional year group and lovely that so many parents and carers were also able to attend."

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Pre-paid funerals – Super-smart later life planning



An increasing number of people are asking me about pre-paid funeral plans, so I thought I would cover a few basics in this edition of Money Corner.



Making decisions about a funeral arrangement and dealing with the costs can compound stress at an already difficult time.

Most of us don't feel comfortable haggling about the costs, maybe because we feel that we are in some way cheapening the relationship. Whatever the reason, the first price quoted is usually accepted with no questions – your mind is too busy coping with loss to think about a deal.

Average costs are £4,300, so significant numbers of people are taking a very responsible course of action by taking out a funeral plan to arrange things how THEY want, to settle costs before they die and to make sure that their loved ones are not left with a sizeable bill.

What is a funeral plan?

Many providers will let you choose a cremation or burial for which the initial costs are generally similar, but watch the small print for additional costs like a burial plot or headstone which can cost thousands of pounds extra. Payment can be made as a one-off lump sum up front or by a series of regular payments. As a general rule, you are buying:

- * A coffin
- * A hearse
- * Care of the body
- * Transport of the body to the funeral home
- * A minister to conduct the ceremony
- * Visiting the body in a chapel of rest

They might also include a non-guaranteed allowance for other costs so if actual prices are higher at the time of the funeral the family or estate meet any shortfall. However, some items that are not normally included:

- * Burial fees, including cost of burial plot and digging a grave
- * Flowers
- * Catering for a wake
- * Embalming of the body

Is a funeral plan worth it?

One major advantage of paying for your funeral now is that prices are inflation-protected. If you have the money to pay up front, you want to take a realistic and responsible view of the inevitable and you prefer to take pressure off your family when the time comes (financially and emotionally) then a funeral plan is a good option for you.

Tell your loved ones you have a funeral plan!

This sounds obvious, but we have experienced cases where a funeral has been arranged and paid for by family members who have no idea that a funeral plan is in place.

Beware of scams

One word of warning - this is an unregulated sector, and as popularity soars more stories are emerging of frauds, over-priced plans and even ponzi-schemes (where newly-invested money is used to pay for current claimants before the whole scheme collapses and disappears).

There are other aspects to consider which we don't have space for in this column. We are more than happy to offer readers a FREE consultation to help you create your financial plan and get you to where you want to go.

Call us today on 01270 882086.

Prize Crossword Competition

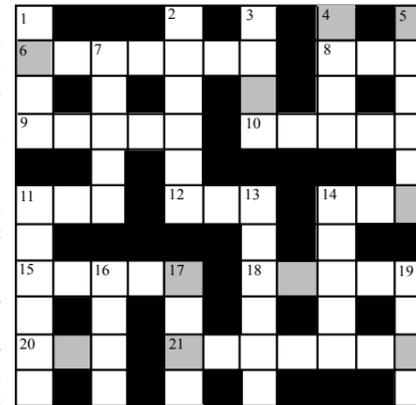
Across

6. FLU RULE leads to regret (7)
8. Consume TEA (3)
9. I'D BET it's sanitary ware (5)
10. RAT WE irrigate with (5)
11. The RAF is quite a distance (3)
12. Endlessly massage BURN (3)
14. Dally with plaything? (3)
15. I'D RAP very fast (5)
18. There's plenty of MAPLE (5)
20. ARE good for hearing (3)
21. LET RACE for sticky sweet (7)

Down

1. Dreary BARD returns (4)
2. BET RUT was churned (6)
3. WOLF runs smoothly (4)
4. HATE high temperature (4)
5. MY SORT are tempestuous (6)
7. DEER I duck (5)
11. Counterfeit was made by blacksmith (6)
13. Can BEAR TO wear straw hat (6)
14. Subject is the PIT CO. (5)
16. Scrutinise ROPE (4)
17. Eat palm fruit on specific day (4)
19. Being level isn't odd (4)

Many thanks to all who entered our last Crossword Competition. The correct answer was 'FATHER CHRISTMAS'. First correct reply to be picked from the bag was from Mrs Rogers of Alsager who wins a £10 gift voucher which she has chosen to spend at Brammer's - congratulations! This issue we are again offering a £10 voucher to be spent in a shop or business advertising in Alsager in Focus (please state on your reply). The first correct answer drawn on March 4th 2019 is the winner. Just complete the crossword and re-arrange the letters found in the shaded squares to make a new word or words, send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and telephone number to:- **Good News, 128 High Street, Harsehead, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 4JX.**



Answers to last crossword: Across: 6. Natural 8. Oil 9. White 10. Mince 11. Top 12. Elf 14. Pie 15. North 18. Ruins 20. Eve 21. Present Down: 1. Snow 2. Freeze 3. Plum 4. Coin 5. Sleeve 7. Triop 11. Tinsel 13. Forged 14. Prime 16. Reel 17. Hope 19. Sate



Barthomley W.I.



Well, Christmas celebrations over, it was back to normal in January.

We reflected on our delicious Christmas meal at The Academy Restaurant in The South Cheshire College, Crewe, where we were treated like V.I.P.s.

At this event it has become our custom to have a collection for a local charity in lieu of sending each other Christmas cards. This year we were able to hand a cheque over to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). Lucy Goodwin, the organiser, is dedicated to raising money in order to fund a screening programme for 200 local people. We wish her every success.

After this we took a world wide trip to many exotic locations led by Hazel Griffiths, our speaker for the evening. Hazel is a cruise speaker and of course has visited many beautiful and interesting countries including: Lisbon, Rome, Venice, St Petersburg, Oslo, Ephesus and Santorini, her slides were wonderful. She left the world of banking, took a cruise and fell in love! Driven by her love of ships (a self-confessed ship anorak) coupled with her love of history she spends around 100 hours researching her topic before visiting a new country – so it's not all plain sailing! We really enjoyed her talk, and yes, we did ask the question, "What is your favourite Country?" She was hesitant but finally said that it would be Greenland, she described it as, "...the most magical place on earth".

Next month we have a necklace workshop led by Ginny Roberts – one of our most creative members – sounds like a busy evening to me.

We meet on Tuesday 5th February at 7pm in Barthomley Village Hall. Please think of giving us a try – it would be a good evening to throw yourself in!



Barthomley WI handed over a cheque to Lucy Goodwin who has organised a second Alsager cardiac screening event in memory of her fiancée Tom Lovatt

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Alsager Lions

Thanks to the good people of Alsager and surrounding areas we managed to sell over 300 cups of warming mulled wine at the Christmas Lights Switch On event and unfortunately sold out of all stocks by about 6.30pm.



Alsager Lions Club Members at the Alsager Lights Switch On

for the day and especially the generosity of their customers.



Picture shows Olivia Neagus, Will Jones and Esmee Doig with their awards, unfortunately Ben Adams was absent

winners received a £50 voucher donated by the Alsager Lions Club and the outstanding student received the Lesley Rimmer Memorial Trophy. Alsager Lions would like to thank Mrs Andrea O'Neil, Head of School for her help in setting up this award.

Next year we'll have to make sure we have enough of the warming drink to last a wee bit longer. Alsager Lions would like to say a big thank you to both Phil and Michael of DEH for the loan of the generator.

Alsager Lions had a fabulous bucket collection at Tesco Store in Kidsgrove, just prior to Christmas and for that we'd like to thank Richard Evans and the store staff

At the Alsager School GCSE Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 12th December at Christ Church a new award, 'The Resilient Award' was presented to a student, from each house who had achieved good results, despite encountering some problems throughout the year. Each of the four winners received a £50 voucher donated by the Alsager Lions Club and the outstanding student received the Lesley Rimmer Memorial Trophy.



Will Jones receiving the Lesley Rimmer Trophy

World Day of Prayer

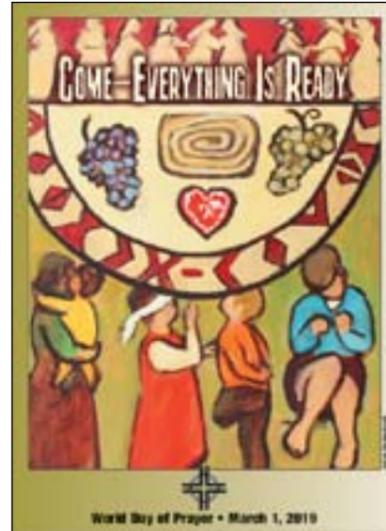
(A women led, global, ecumenical movement)

Everyone - men, women and children of all ages are invited to join this annual World Day of Prayer, Wesley Place, Alsager, Friday 1st March 7.30pm organised by our local Alsager churches.

This year, women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe have prepared this service. They are encouraging us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. This Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayers in native languages travel throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the America's before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

Do join us at Wesley Place, Alsager on Friday 1st March at 7.30pm to be part of this unique global event



Experience the best of Led Zeppelin in Alsager

The Zeppelin Experience are hitting Alsager Civic this April and it is an event not to be missed. North West based, the band have played together for many years, performing to thousands of delighted Led Zeppelin fans across the UK.

"It's about entertaining the audience," said vocalist John Angus, "we put on a show, dressing to reflect the 70's era and our sound speaks for itself. Each member of The Zeppelin Experience are passionate about performance and we just love playing and sharing the songs to many people who never got the chance to see Led Zep."

John added "The Zeppelin Experience chose the Civic because it gives the chance for fans of all ages to see the band more local to us, as we play at major venues and festivals across the UK."

Alsager is easily accessible to Crewe and Nantwich plus of course Stoke-On-Trent and Congleton are a short drive. We are looking forward to the gig which we have staged for all to enjoy."

The event which takes place on Saturday 13th April features a brilliant local support band too. Rushed, based in the potteries area are wowing fans across the UK and are a very authentic sounding tribute.



Tickets for the show are available from Alsager Civic priced at £12.50 and you can also buy online, securely at www.ticketsource.co.uk where a booking fee applies.

For more information you can visit The Zeppelin Experience on facebook or contact the Civic on 01270 879711

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Cheshire East Council to consult on increasing parking charges

Cheshire East Council is to consult on proposals to increase parking charges across the borough from March 2019.

The proposals aim to ensure that the income generated from car parks makes the best use of the council-owned assets, and therefore benefits the taxpayers of Cheshire East. They include:

- Increasing the parking price on most Cheshire East Council-owned car parks by 10 pence across each tariff;
- Increasing the charges at car parks by railway stations, which recognises the higher premium charged in the private sector whilst remaining highly competitive and encouraging more sustainable methods of travel to train stations;
- Re-introducing parking fees on three car parks (Thomas Street in Crewe, Hibel Road in Macclesfield and Park Street in Congleton);
- Increasing the cost of resident parking permits;
- Introducing an administration fee for the replacement of parking permits; and
- Introducing some car parks into the car park order meaning parking restrictions can be enforced where needed.

Frank Jordan, executive director of place and acting deputy chief executive said: "It is our responsibility to ensure our car parks are safe, secure and well maintained – and that there is a good turnaround of spaces for visitors and shoppers."



"The money that comes from car parks helps us to do this and ensures that our car parks fund themselves, rather than us having to use money intended for vital frontline services elsewhere."

"For Cheshire East Council, this is not a profit-making scheme. The revenue generated will help to ensure a quality of service that people expect when they come to one of our car parks."

"We strive to make parking as user friendly and supportive to our towns as possible. These proposals do not impact existing car park incentives such as, free after 3pm, leisure centre refunds or the town and parish council four free days allowance."

"While we would prefer to leave things as they are, we continue to be forced to make a range of tough and, at times, unpopular decisions. This is a sign of the pressure local authorities, like ours, face with reductions in funding from central government and increased demand for essential frontline services."

"We have been forced to make millions of pounds of savings year on year, while protecting essential and much-needed frontline services, including those to the most vulnerable in our communities."

The proposal to increase parking charges was included in the council's full budget report 2018/19 and agreed, subject to statutory consultation, at a meeting of full council on 22 February 2018.

Further details about the proposals, and information on how to make a representation, can be found in the statutory notices sections in local papers, displayed in affected car parks and on the council's website at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parkingcharges.

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