

Cheshire East Council launches 'Warm PlaCEs' scheme

Cheshire East Council has officially launched a 'Warm PlaCEs' scheme to help with the cost-of-living crisis.

'Warm PlaCEs' are spaces where people can go, free of charge, to spend time to keep warm if they are struggling to heat or keep their homes warm. As a result of increasing energy prices there is concern that many households may be unable to heat their homes sufficiently this winter.

The council has invited voluntary, community and social enterprise groups to join the 'Warm PlaCEs' programme. Organisations can apply for a grant of £250 or £1000 to help set up or improve an existing warm space for their community this winter. Businesses can also register their interest in supporting the 'Warm PlaCEs' scheme.

Councillor Sam Corcoran, leader of Cheshire East Council, said: *"The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is having significant impacts nationally and the council anticipates seeing increasing financial pressure on residents, businesses, and community organisations across Cheshire East."*

"In the participating connected community centres residents can meet, keep warm, enjoy light social activities, and find out about ways in which people can help each other, alongside a warm meal and/or a hot drink. Useful information and advice on reducing household bills, saving energy, and tackling debt will also be available. Residents who are simply looking for somewhere warm and comfortable to sit are also welcome in the 'Warm PlaCEs' across Cheshire East."

It is recognised that many families struggling to pay their fuel bills, may also be experiencing food poverty and social isolation, and so the intention of this scheme is to provide free, public places where people can go to get warm, save money on their heating costs, avoid social isolation, receive vital support and advice while staying as well as possible, wherever you live and whatever your circumstances.

Working with partners, the council will also be providing a range of free winter wellbeing items to those who may need extra support. This includes warm clothing, hand warmers, duvets, hot water bottles and energy saving products. The council will continue to provide essential food and fuel vouchers through Emergency Assistance, the Household Support Scheme and Home Improvement Grants.

To find out more about the support and advice the council has put in place for residents and to see locations of and services available at 'Warm PlaCEs', please go to www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/costofliving. To see the location and opening hours for all libraries across Cheshire East, go to the council's website at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/libraries/nearest_library/libraries-and-opening-hours.aspx



Warm PlaCEs are spaces where people can go free of charge to spend time to keep warm

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Alsager Music Festival are very excited to announce the upcoming release of a charity cover version of Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

Due for digital-only release on 2nd December 2022, Alsager's interpretation of Sir Bob Geldof and Midge Ure's classic festive hit from 1984 will be looking to raise money for Dougie Mac.

Remaining largely sympathetic to the style of the original, this latest version of one of the most popular Christmas songs of all time features an eclectic mix of talented vocalists from Alsager Music Festival 2022, with ages ranging from 12 to... well, we couldn't possibly say! It has been recorded and produced by Mike Lawton, of Soundbites Creative in Crewe, and promises to breathe new life into this iconic song.

Lead writer and composer David Holland said that he "hopes it captures the vibe, feel, and passion of the original, but with enough subtle alterations to make it feel fresh and modern, whilst also connecting better with Dougie Mac".

He went on to add that: "We hope people will listen to it, add it to festive playlists on their favourite streaming services, and sing along when they hear it. Every time it's played it nudges us closer towards being able to give a brilliant Christmas present to a very worthy cause".

Are you interested in finding out whether the AMF team have done justice to Sir Bob Geldof and Co's masterpiece? Do you want the opportunity to be featured on AMF's own version of Christmas Carpool Karaoke?! Head to www.alsagermusicfestival.co.uk/amfxmas for further information on where you can listen to the song, and how you can join in the festive fun.

#amfxmas



Civic Cinema

Who doesn't love getting cosy with a hot chocolate, wearing their fave Christmas jumper, and watching a festive film?!

On Sunday 18th December we're ticking all these boxes at our special Civic Cinema showing of 'Arthur Christmas', with extra surprises too!

Doors open at 2pm, film starts at 3pm. Family tickets £35, individual tickets £10. Tickets are available from the civic Box office Monday – Thursday 9.30am-3pm.

Kids will receive a fully loaded hot chocolate and a surprise!

For more information, call Alsager Civic on 01270 879711 or email enquiries@alsagercivic.org.uk



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Alsager Santa Tour 2022

The dark nights are approaching and that can only mean that Santa is on his way to Alsager.

With the town expanding and the FIFA World Cup being played in Qatar, Santa has made a few changes to his visits this year. Please check his timetable closely.

Over Christmas 2020, during the Covid lockdown for safety reasons we decided not to knock any doors. The change was remarkable and we noticed how much enjoyment Alsager residents got from coming out and catching up with neighbours whilst waiting for Santa to come by. After a very long meeting Santa's elves decided to operate in the same way again this year. If you can't get out of the house, but do wish to donate please give us a shout and we will come to your door.

Santa's tracking device will be online via our Alsager Round Table Facebook page.

We understand that 2022 and the winter to come will be extremely challenging for many in our community. If you are unable to donate, please do still come out and give us a wave. Its always great to see everyone young and old!

Alsager Round Table would like to thank Alsager 41 Club, Ladies Circle, Rotary and Scouts for all their amazing support as we enter the busiest period of our year. Santa's reindeer would also like to pass on their personal thanks to Domvilles Farm for providing a little extra pulling power around town.

Our elders in Alsager 41 Club tell legendary stories of many 'eventful' Santa runs that have gone before and we hope that 2022 will be another memorable year.

**ALSAGER AND CHURCH LAWTON
SANTA FLOAT TOUR 2022**

Track Santa's tour live by following the link on our facebook page – Alsager Round Table

Sunday 4th – Lawton Hall, Lawton Rd, Lawton Green, Richard Woodcock Way, Myrtle Wood Road, Edwards Way, Shady Grove, Wilbrahams Way, Radway Estate.	Monday 12th – Barn Field Way, Crewe Rd (Spar – The Lodge), Goss Place, Poppyfields, .
Monday 5th – The Fairway, Eaton Road, Russel Ave, Bladon Crescent, Leicester Ave	Tuesday 13th – Fields Rd, Sandbach Rd South, Linley Rd, Linley Grove, Barret Rd.
Tuesday 6th – Birch Ave, Talkie Rd, Audley Rd, Poplar Drive, Clowes Ave	Wed 14th, Pikemere Rd, College Rd, Heathend Rd, Harpur Crescent.
Wednesday 7th – Dairylands Rd, Church Lawton, Old Knutsford Rd.	Sunday 18th – Cranberry Lane, Bude Close, Coronation Ave, Close Lane, Frank Wilkinson Way, John Cliff Way, Nursery Rd, Gowry Close.
Thursday 8th – Sandbach Rd North, Ashdale Close, Rydal Way, Cherry Lane, Lawton Heath End	Mon 19th – Church Rd, Arrowsmith Drive, Chancery Lane, Beechwood Dr Charles Tryon Court.
Sunday 11th – Selbourne Close, Hassal Rd, Heathwood Drive, Charles Bennion Rd, Dunlocksfold Rd, Derwent Close, Collick Close, Englesna Way, Roundtable Close.	Tues 20th – Hall Drive, Samuel Jones Way, Reginald Settle Road, Station Rd, Cedar Ave, Cross Street

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Gold Award for Alsager in Bloom

Alsager in Bloom has received a gold award in the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom North West contest in the large town category.



Chair of Alsager in Bloom, Cllr June Buckley, said she was delighted the group had won the coveted award. She said, *"It reflects just the amazing work done by this community group and others in the town."*

She continued, *"The judges were impressed with all the work being done in Alsager and the fact we're moving away from just gardening."*

"This year at Alsager In Bloom we very much followed the guidance of the North West In Bloom team."

"We focused on environment and sustainability."

Therefore areas of scrubland can be just as important as a manicured garden the importance of water in gardens is vital, even if it's only a small bowl filled with pebbles and topped up with water in a heatwave is invaluable for helping to keep bees and other insects alive, although they're not terribly glamorous, they are vitally important.

"We wish to continue this work along with our fabulous hanging baskets in the town, and the town council are now supervising this. Plus the work of other groups with a sustainability group. Friends of Milton Park, Rotary Club, and also the Gardens Association plus many of others have helped us to achieve what we have."

"Finally, for the first time, since the pandemic struck in 2020, I would like to re-engage with all our schools, primary schools and high school, to encourage them into joining us doing this fabulous work."



Alsager Friends of The Christie

Alsager Friends of The Christie Hospital will be holding further coffee and cake mornings this autumn. The next will be held in Alsager Civic Centre on Wednesday December 14.

The event will be from 9.30am to 12.30pm with refreshments available throughout the morning, as well as several craft stalls to browse. Entrance is £2.50 which includes all refreshments. The December event will include mince pies and music.

For the Alsager Christmas Lights Big Switch On on Sunday 27 November, we are hosting a Christmas Fayre in The Civic Centre from 3pm to 7pm. There will be over 40 craft stalls in the hall, as well as the opportunity for children to visit Father Christmas in his grotto. There will also be face painting for children so bring along all the family and have an afternoon out where you can buy some Christmas gifts and the kids can have some fun seeing Santa and watching the fireworks.

All proceeds from these events will go towards the new Christie Centre at Macclesfield which is providing more local access to care for patients in East Cheshire.



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ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL TOPICS

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



One thing has remained constant through the upheavals and difficulties of recent years and that is the community spirit that makes Alsager such a great place to live. We saw it during the worst days of lockdown when so many volunteered to help friends and neighbours. We saw it as the high street began to recover, with people returning to the library, Alsager Civic and the shops, bars, restaurants and businesses. We saw it at the terrific Music Festival and many other events. It continues through all the tremendous support Alsager people are giving to Ukrainian and other guests from around the world.

Times may be hard, but our small town continues to punch above its weight as a key service centre. We outperform some larger towns in our area in relation to our size. As Chair of Alsager Town Council, I often hear comments from across the Borough and the County more widely about our reputation as a friendly and caring community.

This last year we have seen Alsager's Community Support Centre receive a well-deserved Queen's Award, one of the last Her late Majesty signed. We saw a sizeable crowd gather outside the Civic for the Proclamation of the Ascension of King Charles III. It was a privilege to read the Royal Proclamation on that historic occasion.

We live in times when budgets are tight and when essential services are squeezed and constrained. Nevertheless, we are seeing various improvements such as the refurbishment of Hassall Road Play Area and the impending provision of inclusive play equipment at Milton Park and the Fair View Play Area.

This coming year we will see Alsager extend its 'political' boundaries to the M6 to the west and across the Twyford's estate to the east. We will see elections for the Town and Cheshire East Councils. We will see some councillors moving on and others elected. There will be more changes, more challenges. It is people not politics that makes communities. Alsager Town Council will continue to do what it can to assist that process.

On behalf of the Council, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Councillor Philip Williams, Chair Alsager Town Council



Alsager Town Council remains committed to providing support and assistance to clubs, community groups and voluntary organisations within Alsager by way of the Community Grant Scheme.

Who can apply?

Clubs, community groups and voluntary organisations who serve the residents of Alsager.

How to apply?

Visit our website www.alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk and download the grant application form and the Policy and Terms of Reference document or, alternatively call the Town Council offices on 01270 876440.

When to apply?

The Town Council's Grants Panel will meet twice during the year, in January and October, all applications must be submitted to the Town Council by 30 December or 30 September respectively in order to be considered for funding.

When will we know if we have been successful?

If the Grants Panel recommend the grant application for approval this will be considered by either the Town Council's Finance Committee or the Full Council at its next available meeting. And if successful, payment will be made after that meeting.

Budget setting 2023-24



As with every business, organisation and individual, budget setting for the forthcoming year will be a difficult task for the Town Council. The Town Council is responsible for 4 allotment sites, the public toilets, Alsager Civic and is also sole trustee of Alsager Institute. Increased utility costs, cost of living and potential loss of revenue may result in some tough decisions to be made by Councillors.

Each committee has considered its income and expenditure requirements with the collated draft budget being taken to the Finance Committee on 13 December 2022 for consideration. Following the meeting, the draft budget for the year 2023-24 will be updated to incorporate any changes recommended by the Finance Committee and will be received at the Town Council meeting on 10 January 2023 for approval, and the precept requirement submitted to Cheshire East Council.

The Town Council welcomes scrutiny by members of the public with public participation at each Council meeting to give an opportunity for residents to make a statement or ask questions. The draft budget will be posted on the Town Council website in early December at www.alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk. A version will be available at the Town Council offices for inspection.

HOW TO CONTACT ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL	
Call in:	The Town Council offices are open Monday and Tuesday mornings 10am to midday
Phone:	01270 876440
Email:	clerk@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk admin@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk
Write to:	Alsager Town Council, 3 Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AE.
Website:	www.alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk
HOW TO CONTACT ALSAGER CIVIC	
Phone:	01270 879711
Email:	enquiries@alsagercivic.org.uk
Write to:	Alsager Civic Centre, Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AE.

Meeting Dates 2022/2023		
DECEMBER 2022		
Planning, Environment & Community Committee	Tuesday 6 December	Alsager Civic 7.00pm
Finance, Policy & Governance	Tuesday 13 December	Alsager Civic 7.00pm
JANUARY 2023		
Planning, Environment & Community Committee	Tuesday 3 January	Alsager Civic 7.00pm
Town Council	Tuesday 10 January	Alsager Civic 7.00pm
Alsager Civic & Services Committee	Tuesday 17 January	Alsager Civic 7.00pm
Planning, Environment & Community Committee	Tuesday 24 January	Alsager Civic 7.00pm
Grants Panel	Tuesday 31 January	TC Offices 7.00pm



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Pride and Rainbows in Alsager

It was rainbow colours and rainbows all round on Saturday as Pride in Alsager held a flashmob parade and afternoon event for the second year running to celebrate Pride for the LGBTIQ+ community of Alsager. A warm sunny afternoon was topped by a double rainbow over the town.



The colourful parade lead by a "Love is Love" banner started from Crewe Road outside Spar shop and made its way through the town centre to Pride themed music. Many local businesses had decorated their shop fronts in Pride colours to show support for the event and Pride in Alsager held a competition for the best dressed window. Committee members judged all decorated shop fronts on the afternoon before the event to agree a favourite display and two runners up. The committee voted "Vets 4 Pets Veterinary Surgery" the winner with "Greetings Cards from me ...to you ..." and "Bathroom Showroom" joint runners up. Prizes were presented to each winning business in appreciation of their support. Photographs of all entries were posted on the Pride in Alsager Facebook page to recognise the support given by so many local businesses.



Hundreds of people joined in an afternoon of Pride celebrations held at Alsager Cricket Club where a variety of stalls offered food, gifts and information about charities supporting the LGBTIQ+ community. Pride in Alsager had its own stall with "Name the Bear", a Tombola and Pride in Alsager T-shirts for sale.

Phil Williams Chair of Alsager Town Council welcomed everyone to the event and thanked the organising committee for their hard work in putting everything together. Phil said "Alsager can be proud of being a diverse and inclusive community on all sorts of fronts."

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Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year...



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Festival raised a glass for charity

Alsager Beer & Gin Festival has been hailed a huge success after raising thousands of pounds for local charities and junior sports teams.



Organiser Jason Lockett presenting a donation to Alsager Tennis Club chairman Dave Parkinson

The popular event, held at Alsager Cricket Club in July, raised more than £4,000 – an increase on last year's £3,200 total.

Of the funds raised, £250 has been donated to the junior sections of the cricket club, Alsager Tennis Club, Alsager FC and Triton Hockey Club. The remainder has been split between Alsager Community Centre foodbank and the Alsager Ukraine Charity.

Organiser Jason Lockett, of Alsager, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the huge success of the beer and gin festival.

"We hoped after two years of disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, we could put on a fantastic weekend for the people of Alsager – and the festival did not disappoint."

"I'd like to thank everyone involved for their outstanding efforts in putting on the festival and making it a real highlight on the town's event calendar."

"And, of course, I want to thank everyone who came along for their magnificent support at a true community event."

Plans are already in the works for next year's beer & gin festival, which is set to be held around June 30.

Alsager Community Support

A Lost Property Service for Alsager

Did you know that Alsager Community Support (ACS) is the official home of the Lost and Found service for Alsager, Church Lawton, Rode Heath and Scholar Green?

If you lose something on the street, in the library, the Civic, or in one of the supermarkets or shops, it will probably find its way to us (although it is always worth checking with them if we don't have it). We can put a call out on social media to try and locate it for you.

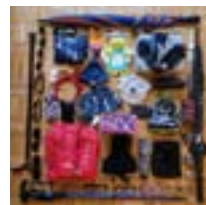
If you find something when you are out and about, please drop it in to us, and we will spread the word on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

ACS can be found in the portacabin next to the Community Church in ASDA car-park. We are open Monday to Friday 09.30 to 12.30. We have a post box where you can leave small items, or you can take them to the library, if we are not open.

If you have lost something, please look on our website www.alsagercommunitysupport.org.uk, where we display items in categories, to make it easier to find what you are looking for (glasses, jewellery, clothing etc). We occasionally have valuables handed in, which we don't put on the website, so if you have lost a necklace, watch etc. please do get in touch to see if we have it. We also have some very old found property, such as a set of wedding rings, that we would love to reunite with their owners, so please do check that section out as well.

You can call us on 01270 876605, email us on info@alsagercommunitysupport.org.uk, or pop in to see if we have what you are looking for. Like our Facebook and Instagram pages to receive weekly updates with our latest finds or send us a quick message.

ACS is here for everyone, so if you have a question, or are looking for information, why not pop in. We also offer a uniform re-cycling scheme, a jigsaw puzzle library, a Christmas jumper swap for children, plus shopping and befriending support. If you are finding the current economic climate a challenge, please come and have a chat with one of our award-winning volunteers and discover how we can help you.





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Alsager Library December 2022

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Monday 9-5.00 Tuesday 9-7.00 Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9-5.00 Saturday 9-1.00



Wishing Everybody a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The library will be closed on Saturday 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 31st December as well as January 2nd



The **Customer Service Desk** is open by appointment for Blue Badge, and Bus Pass applications. Please call the library to book an appointment in advance to arrange this.

Do you need help with your laptop, tablet, or just general computer use? Our **IT buddy scheme** can help, these are free sessions on a one-to-one basis with a volunteer. Please contact the library for more information or to book an appointment.



The **Colouring and Chat Circle** runs every Monday- 2pm-4pm Come along for a relaxing and enjoyable time. This is a social event for adults and refreshments will be available for a small donation.

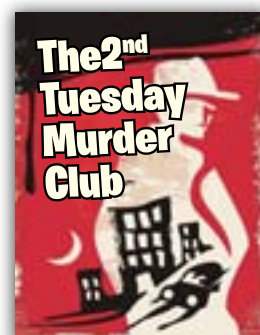
We have two **conversation classes** - one in **Italian** on Mondays 2.00-3.00 and one in **French** on Tuesdays 2.30-3.30. Both are free with no need to book.



All abilities are welcome to attend these enjoyable social groups.



Our Thriller Book Group is now called **The 2nd Tuesday Murder Club** and will be held on Tuesday December 13th and Tuesday January 10th at 2.30pm. This is a very informal event using a theme chosen by a member of staff. Come along for a chat, and to swop ideas and authors. Refreshments will be available, and cash donations are appreciated.



Our popular **Coffee Morning** runs every Wednesday 10.00-12.00. Refreshments are available and any cash donations are welcome. Please come along to this very enjoyable social



event. Alsager Chess Club will be at the Coffee Morning, so why not pop in to have a game or find out more.

Wednesday December 14th is our **Christmas Coffee Morning**, and we are lucky enough to be having a visit from the local WI choir who will be from 11.00 to provide seasonal entertainment.



This will be a very enjoyable and Christmassy morning so please come along to join us. Christmas jumpers are optional. Free event although all donations are welcome.



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Alsager Library December 2022

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Monday 9–5.00 Tuesday 9–7.00 Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9–5.00 Saturday 9–1.00



Stories Out Loud runs on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. 21st December and 18th January -2.30-3.30

This is story reading for adults. Relax with a cup of tea or coffee whilst listening to stories selected by and read by members of our staff. Free event and no need to book.

Games Club runs on the last Thursday of each month - 29th December and 26th January - 2.30-3.30 Come along to enjoy a Beetle Drive, free event -refreshments will be available.



LEGO club -This very popular group is held every Monday 3.30-4.30. It is a free drop-in session although children will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We have various festive children's events taking place in December. Please also keep an eye on our Facebook and Webpages for any changes.



Saturday 3rd December 11am **Christmas Family Rhyme Time** and stories. Drop in, no need to book.

Monday 12th December 11am **Christmas Rhyme Time** £1.50 per ticket. Rhymes with a visit from a special guest and a present. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Friday 16th December 11 am **Christmas Little Bookworms**. Drop in, no need to book.

Friday 16th December 2 pm **Christmas Baby Rhyme Time**. Drop in, no need to book.

Monday 19th December 11 am Christmas Party **Rhyme Time**. Dress in your favourite Christmas jumpers or festive outfit for our last rhyme time of the year. Drop in, no need to book.

Following Christmas our preschool activities run on the following days. Free events and no need to book.

Rhyme time Mondays 11am

Little Bookworms Fridays 11 am

Baby Rhymetime Fridays 2pm. Suitable for Under 1s



We are also running a Saturday Storytime on the 1st Saturday of each month at 11am. Come along to share some of our favourite rhymes and stories. No booking required.

Please feel free to contact the library for more information 01270 375325 or email: Alsager.Library@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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One World Festival success

The organisers of Alsager's One World Festival would like to thank everyone who was involved in making it such a success.



On Saturday 1st October, Alsager Civic Centre once again played host to this Year's One World Festival. We welcomed people from countries such as Thailand, Ukraine, Sweden, Ireland, Peru, Sicily, Greece and

India who educated us about customs and traditions in their countries and shared delicious national foods.

St Gabriel's and Excalibur primary schools brought their choirs and Highfields brought their African Drummers who were all fantastic. Members of Alsager sixth form set up a stall enabling the public to try different fairly traded chocolates and decide which was their favourite.

Prizes were given out for our Peace Poetry Competition and we had stalls from Fairtrade, Hope Uganda and Tools with a Mission who all support work overseas.

Representatives from Mors Bags enabled over 30 people to make their own reusable shopping bags out of recycled material and members of Christ Church and Girlguiding Alsager provided crafts for young and old to enjoy. We collected bras for smallsforall and knitted and crocheted squares for knit-a-square.

Alsager Ladies Circle and Alsager Tangent provided free Tea, Coffee or squash to everyone who joined us at the festival and a fabulous morning was had by all. If you would like to be involved in next year's One World Festival, either as a National Stall Holder or in any other capacity, please contact Katy on 07803611048. All are welcome.

Alsager Tennis Club

MEMBERS at Alsager Tennis Club are celebrating after the club was named as a finalist in the Cheshire Club of the Year competition.

The club, off Sandbach Road North, had entered the overall LTA Club of the Year competition and was highly commended for the progress it has made in the past 12 months. And in recognition of the achievement, Jayne Huxley Grantham, from the executive committee of Cheshire LTA, will present the club with an award on November 26.



Alsager Tennis Club was named as a finalist in the Cheshire Club of the Year competition

A delighted club chairman Dave Parkinson said: "It's excellent and shows the progress we've made at the club. We've been moving forward all the time - it's perfect really as it gets more people playing tennis, more people playing in matches and standards are improving all the time."

"The committee has worked very hard to try and encourage new members, but a lot of existing members have put in a lot of work as well. This includes Chisa and Phil Stow who have been organising Saturday social sessions, which have been attracting a large number of people. These sessions have become very popular and regular all four courts are in use every Saturday afternoon, which is very good."

"Next year the committee are planning to hold an open day at the start of the season to try and attract new members to the club as well - all signs the club is going in the right direction."

"We're making progress every year. Our facilities are some of the best in the south of the county, there's special groups for new members and there's coaching available from our coach Christian Hancock. So there's every opportunity for beginners and experienced players to enjoy playing tennis at Alsager."

One of the new initiatives at the club has been the introduction of a Pay and Play Scheme, which allows non-members to book a court. Court Four is available for members of the public to book daily between 1pm and 3pm for £15 per hour.

To book a court and for more information on the requirements for Pay and Play, please visit the club's website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/alsagerlawntennisclub/> Booking/

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Fri	9am - 5pm
Sat	9am - 2pm
Sun	Closed

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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EVENTS ON THIS DECEMBER

XMAS RODEO REINDEER

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER

U3A ORCHESTRA CONCERT

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER

FRANTIC FRIDAY PUNK DAY

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER

6PM - TICKETS £15

XMAS KARAOKE

FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER

8PM

NORTHERN SOUL

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER

ENRICO

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER - 8:30PM

CHARLOTTE MAE

NEW YEARS EVE

SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER - 8:30PM

For further information re. Christmas opening times and events
in January, please see our social media or contact us

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



Alsager & District

What a first couple of months we have had! Membership is up to over 900 with 55 groups back up and running. The Committee could not have asked for a more encouraging start.

The Lawton Suite has been a hive of activity on Monday mornings with people joining the U3A, posing questions about group activities and booking places on trips & holidays.

Day trips and holidays have had excellent reviews. The Austria holiday was a particular success story. The day trip to Yarnsdale & Skipton was very much appreciated and all participants enjoyed trips to Blackpool Illuminations and a visit to a Vineyard for a wine-tasting tour and meal.

Our Annual General Meeting was on Monday 24th October. This was our 25th AGM and it demonstrates the work and joy that this charity has given to the local community.

BUT.....!!!

On a more serious note, we invited nominations for Committee and unfortunately it is only current members of Committee who put their names forward for re-election. We cannot function effectively without a full Committee of 12. Would you please consider putting your name forward to join Committee so that our U3A continues to go from strength to strength. Alan Bell, our Chairperson will be available on a Monday morning at Civic or on the phone at 01270 878013 to chat to any new potential Committee Member.

REMEMBER THAT WITHOUT A COMMITTEE THERE IS NO U3A.

Our activities are mostly well attended with some having waiting lists. However there are vacancies on some. Information regarding times of classes can be found on our website. <https://www.alsageru3a.org.uk>

Our Open day will be on the 28th November 2022 at 10.00- 12.00 am in Alsager Civic. Groups will display their activity and recruit new members. We would like to highlight to all prescribing medical professionals the health value our organisation provides.



Alsager Lions

It has been another busy month of helping good causes at Alsager Lions. We have been delighted to help the following local organisations:

Alsager Community Support - £200 to help with transport cost of a patient who needs dialysis each week.

Alsager Cricket Club - £200 towards a "Robotic Bowler" which will be primarily used by the Junior Teams.

Cedars Medical Centre through Alsager Partnership - £50 for the Cedars Hygiene Poverty Project.

By the time you read this judging will have taken place for the ROAR educational programme that Excalibur Primary School have been taking part in. The results will be announced in the next issue of Alsager in Focus.

The run up to Christmas is traditionally a busy time for Alsager Lions. As well as our Mulled Wine Stall at the Alsager Christmas Lights Switch on, once again a Lions Themed Tree will be on display at the Wesley Place Christmas Tree Festival. 100% of proceeds collected by Alsager Lions go to help good causes in the local area.

We have our Christmas Meal on 3rd December which looks to be well attended with other local Lions Clubs this year after 2 years of disruption due to Covid.

On Wednesday 7th December Lion Geoff Rimmer will be presenting the Lesley Rimmer Award in memory of his late daughter. The award is made to four pupils of Alsager High School who have overcome their own challenges to achieve success in their studies. Each pupil receives a £50 voucher with the Lesley Rimmer Memorial Shield presented to the pupil who achieved the greatest success in the opinion of staff.

Alsager Lions wish all readers of Alsager in Focus a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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December at The Civic

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18th December

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Alsager Civic
the heart of our community

2023

Happy New Year

New Year's Eve Family Party

Family Ticket £60
admits 2 adults & 2 children

Adult Tickets £20

Children's Tickets £15

Tickets include Buffet Platters and Picnic Box for children.
Doors open at 7pm event finishes at midnight.

Purchase tickets here or call 01270 879711

Website: www.alsagercivic.org.uk Email: enquiries@alsagercivic.org.uk



Alsager Townswomens Guild

Townswomen are nothing if not versatile and so it proved to be in September as Guild Member Kath Reader stepped in at very short notice to address the Guild and presented a Dementia Friends Information Session.

We all know what a cruel and difficult disease dementia is but Kath's informal, interactive session proved to be a great opportunity to learn and understand how dementia affects people in different ways. Kath challenged our knowledge and understanding of the illness and its affect upon people. She set us a simple task – write down what you have to do to make a cup of tea. One Guild member came up with 22! Kath identified some of the simple things we can all do to help those living with Dementia and I am sure we all went away with a greater understanding of the challenges it presents.



Tillie the Guidedog

Hazel Wilson, a speaker and fundraiser for Guide Dogs, addressed the Guild in October accompanied by her guide dog, Tillie and her sighted guide, Vicky. Hazel lost her sight just as she was about to embark on a new career as a paramedic. She told of the challenges she faced and the support Tillie, her dog, provided. Tilly, who stole the show, is retired now and is Hazel's pet. Hazel has been on the waiting list for a new Guide dog for three years as the pandemic brought the training of Guide to a halt. Whilst Hazel waits for her new dog, Vicky played a vital role as her sighted guide and

they are now firm friends.

Guild members are now gearing up for the festive season. There's a tree to be decorated for the Wesley Place Tree Festival, gifts to be wrapped for our Tombola at the Christmas Lights Switch on, Christmas wreath-making as well as party night and Christmas lunch at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Alsager Townswomen's Guild meets in the United Reformed Church, Brookhouse Road, Alsager on the second Thursday of every month except August. Meetings start at 19.30. We would love to meet you so come and try one of our meetings. Email Maureen or Lynda at alsagertg@gmail.com for more details.



Girlguiding Alsager

There was magic in the air in early October when the Guide Hall in Cedar Avenue mysteriously transformed into Hogwarts School for Witches and Wizards and 6th Alsager Brownies became very adept at casting spells and brewing potions.

It all started early one Saturday morning when the girls assembled for the Sorting Ceremony to find out which House they were in before being whisked off for flying lessons at FlipOut in Chester. The girls proved to have limitless energy and endless talent as they bounced, jumped, flipped and somersaulted round the trampoline park.



Witches took over the Guide Hall

On their return to Alsager, the young witches received their wands and start the complicated process of learning the difference between a charm, a jinx and a curse. Soon they were flicking and swishing their wands with gusto. Holly was confirmed as the ace spell-caster following a competition not dissimilar to the game known by muggles as rock, paper, scissors.

Each House then created its own magical creature and the witches took turns to gaze into a crystal ball with Madame Crystal who spookily knew all about their hopes and dreams. After supper the witches tackled the knotty problem of preparing the dormitory without using magic demonstrating excellent teamwork before they settled down for film night. The Professors should perhaps have served up a sleeping potion to some of the young witches before they settled down for the night, but it passed ... peacefully for some, not so much for others!

Herbology and Potions class followed breakfast. Sleeping clouds were made from Lavandula and Oryza seeds and fairy duvets made to induce a restful night's slumber. Then slithering slime was concocted by combining goblin dust with Adam's ale and just a splash of troll blood. Totting up the House points revealed that House Champions, and winners of the House Cup, were Gryffindor much to the delight of witches Iyla, Ella, Holly, Alexandra and Evelyn. Everyone agreed it had been a wizard weekend.

Girlguiding offers girls fun, friendship and the chance to learn new skills and develop their self-confidence. Register your daughter to join at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> or email Teresa Longhurst at girlguidingalsager@gmail.com for details about volunteering.

COME AND HEAR THE GOOD NEWS THIS CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH ALSAGER

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11am Sunday 11th Dec

CAROLS and CAKE
10:30am Thursday 15th Dec in the hall

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
5pm and 7pm Sunday 18th Dec
with mince pies and mulled wine

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Barthomley WI

Our meeting in November is essentially the AGM and usually we don't have a guest speaker.

However, earlier in the year, due to Covid, a meeting and speaker had to be cancelled. Fortunately, we were able to re-invite Pip Mossop, the coordinator of the 'Macclesfield Angels' to tell us more about this unique initiative.



The Macclesfield Angels are a group of volunteers from the local churches who work alongside Macclesfield Town Centre Management, the Police and Medical Services to help bring a more safe and secure atmosphere to the town. They can be found in the streets of the town between 10.30pm and 3.00am on Saturday nights, offering care, practical support and simple first aid, referring those in need to the emergency services. Pip said that they are also there to lend a listening ear to those whose evening has not turned out so well, offering a chat and a warm drink at the United Reform Church. We thought that the work they do is amazing and would be welcomed in many cities across the country.

At our next meeting in December we will be offering our members a seasonal challenge. Instead of a Christmas party, we are having a workshop, taught by a talented resident of Barthomley. She will be leading members through the process of making a "Tree of Life" Wreath. We are all looking forward to it - even though we may all be covered in glue and leaves! Let's hope there is time for a mince pie!



Alsager Camera Club

Alsager Camera Club is a friendly Photographic Club to entertain, educate and aspire people interested to seeing great images and improve their own photographs.



We are now back to weekly meetings, face to face at Alsager Golf Club Linley each Thursday at 7.30pm. We also offer a Zoom option for anyone still uncomfortable with being in a group.

Full Details are available on our website <http://alsagercameraclub.co.uk/>

Below is a list of Speakers and activities for the rest of 2022.

November:

Wed 23rd Five Towns Mono Competition - by Mid Cheshire - Ray Hill TBC

Thurs 24th Speaker James Russell - Introduction to flash photography - at Crewe

December:

Thurs 1st Speaker - Brian Anderson Wild Places 2022

Thurs 8th Photo Poker - Rob Hockey

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Wreath for illustration actual wreaths may differ

Alsager Animals in Need



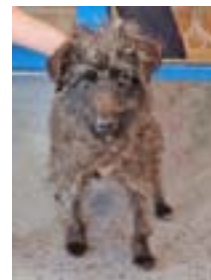
With our 35th Christmas fast approaching - yes indeed we celebrated 35 years in November since our inception in 1987. We have come a long way since that day, and now, with storage secured, we will continue our work, coffee mornings as usual every month.

As the economic crisis takes a grip on households, sadly we are now being asked to take in pets as owners struggle to find vets fees and food bills.

The kitten situation has not eased, as people have not been getting their pets neutered. But as you all know we will always do our utmost to help.

Dog News

Many of you will have heard about the little dog Bramble who was found one morning recently, dumped - yes, I am sorry to say it - at the entrance to the Salt Line. This little chocolate brown bitch had to have a harness cut off, at the vets, as it had been insitu for many months. The underarms were deeply cut into, and the stench of rotting flesh was dreadful. How this little dog must have suffered. Treatment began immediately, and an operation of £5,000 could not be ruled out initially. However with superb care at the kennels, and treatment at Vets & Pets, the prospect of an operation is receding, and she continues to improve. No chip, No owner, No care.



Bramble the dog found by salt line

Bramble is a delightful dog, with a very sweet nature, it always amazes me, that even after dreadful treatment meted out by a human, they still have love for others. Poor J.J. went out to a home where sadly his diet and medication were not adhered to, so we took him back, and it's "back to the drawing board" with poor J.J who has been with us for 18 months. We will not give up on J.J.

Did I say that kittens were receding? When we were asked to take in a sweet little skinny cat, heavily pregnant because the owner could not cope, we took in grey and white Willow-Be, three days after admission, she produced a beautiful litter of 8 kittens, 5 white and 3 grey, mum is coping well, but please remember that kittens are not Christmas presents.



Lovely by name lovely by nature taken in due to cost of living crisis

Again, an economic crisis in a household meant that Lovely, a 2 year old black and white female, a 12 month old grey and white female Pebbles, and 12 weeks old Peanut came in, not neutered, not vaccinated. This is just a snippet of the animals in our care, for adoption, or in sanctuary. If this Christmas you can afford just 1 box of food, or biscuits, donations - anything!! we will be eternally grateful.

Happy Christmas everyone, next Coffee Morning 10th December.

Hilary and the team.

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Alsager in Focus

December 2022

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19





Alsager School

An Achieving School - A Caring Community

Alsager School was delighted to host its annual Awards & Pastoral Celebration Evening recently.



The evening provided an opportunity to celebrate academic and personal achievements of students for the year 2021-22.

College Awards were given to recognise their SPIRIT values (Self-Regulation, Participation, Inspired, Resilience, Integrity and Tolerance); key qualities that Alsager School encourages in all its students.

Academic and Subject Awards were also awarded to pupils from years 7 to 9; these winners had been

nominated out of 700 plus students.

Headteacher, Andrea O'Neill, congratulated all the winners, encouraging them to be proud of their achievements. She said:

"Evenings such as this as a real highlight of the school year. It is always a pleasure and a privilege to celebrate our students' achievements with their families."

I would like to congratulate all our award winners."



ALSAGER ARTS ASSOCIATION

Henry Caine recently held a Pastel workshop (subject animals) and Chris Clowes is at present organising a Silk Painting event.



Members working in the Guide Hall

Meantime all members are working on decorations for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in Wesley Place Methodist Church in December.

We are also preparing for our Annual Exhibition during the Snowdrop Walk, Rode Hall, Rode Heath next year. This Exhibition will be open between Thursday 7th February and Thursday 2nd March inclusive. Rode Hall and the Exhibition will be closed every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Further information may be obtained from our Facebook page.

Audley Male Voice Choir

Men wanted to learn to sing with Audley Male Voice Choir and our NEW Musical Director Robert Owen.

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Singing Together on the Alsager Memory Café Train

Members of the Alsager Memory Café enjoyed a free train trip to Derby for lunch out on Friday 21st October.



On the train the group of eleven enjoyed live music from the 50s and 60s from acoustic duo, Craig and Caroline, followed by lunch at The Waterfall in Derby.

This special event was hosted by East Midlands Railway (EMR) and North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership (NSCRP) as part of their ongoing dementia friendly work at Alsager Station. Working with Alsager Partnership they have provided community dementia friendly awareness training and changed the station signage to make it clearer and easier to follow.

Kath Reader, dementia friendly lead from Alsager Partnership, said *"The Memory Café meets at Alsager Library on the last Friday of every month from 1030 to 1230. We like to go on excursions and it was very exciting to go on the train as many of our members had not done so for a long time. Singing along to the music was great fun – it was a marvellous experience and everyone loved it."*

Community Rail Officer, Claire Sandys said *"We are keen to ensure that the railway is inclusive for all and hope that those living with dementia, and their carers, will feel more confident in using the train in the future as a result of this project. It was great to see other passengers also enjoying the music and singing along!"*

Memory Café on a Train was funded by East Midlands Railway

Prize Crossword Competition

Across

6. LUNA RAT is not man made (7)
8. TOIL to extract black gold (3)
9. Dream of this colour at Xmas? (5)
- 10 & 14. MICE PINE for this festive treat (5,3)
11. OPT for highest position (3)
12. One of Santa's helpers (3)
14. See 10 (3)
15. Santa's in pole position! (5)
18. RUN IS spoiled (5)
20. First woman's night before? (3)
21. Here for gift (7)

Down

1. OWNS frozen rain (4)
2. Solidify ice cold liquid (6)
3. LUMP of pudding for Xmas (4)
4. ICON uses legal tender? (4)
5. ELVES don't quite cover arm (6)
7. PORT I find ancient crustacean (5)
11. ENLIST garland for Xmas tree decoration (6)
13. RED FOG is faked (6)
14. EMPIRE falls short at peak (5)
16. Spool sounds genuine (4)
17. Faith and Charity lose optimism? (4)
19. Find TEAS satisfactory (4)

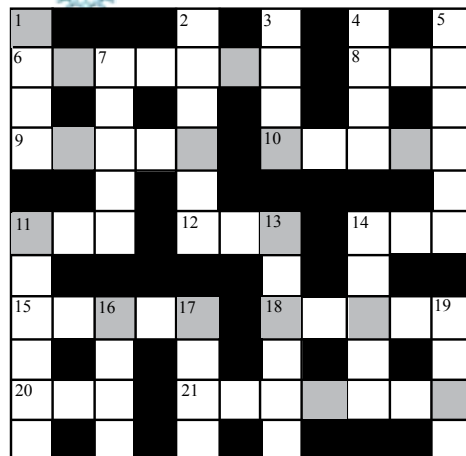


Many thanks to all who entered our last Crossword Competition. The correct answer was 'HALLOWEEN'. First correct reply to be picked from the bag was Mrs Waller of Alsager who wins a £10 gift voucher which she has chosen to spend at Barnes Window Blinds - congratulations!

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 January 8th 2023 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, Harriseahead, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 4JX.**

Answers to last crossword: Across: 6. Invalid 8. Apt 9. Eerie 10. Lodge 11. Hoe 12. Tic 14. Dam 15. Comic 18. Pores 20. Eon 21. Present **Down:** 1. Pine 2. Slyest 3. Idol 4. Wand 5. Stream 7. Verse 11. Hacker 13. Copper 14. Dirge 16. Mine 17. Cape 19. Sate



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01782 622545

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