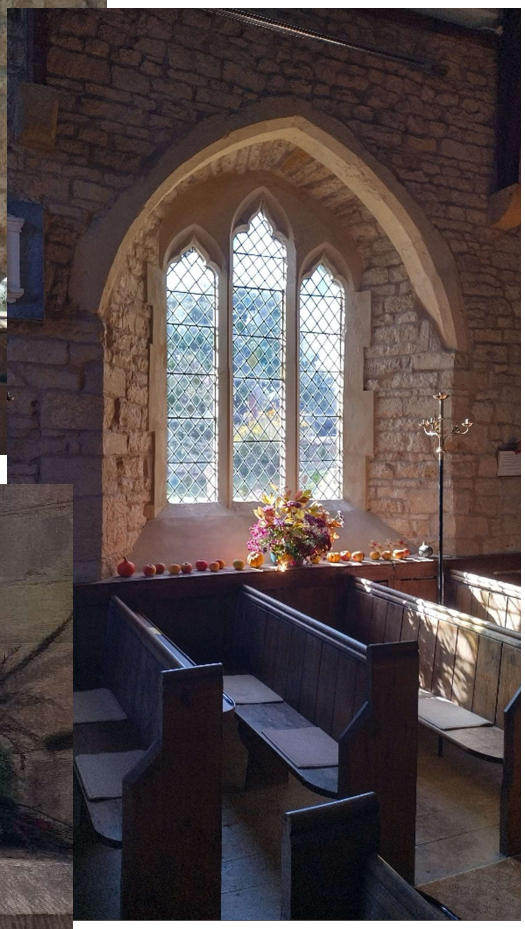
Village Voices

The newsletter of Alderminster and Halford

November 2026











We love to include your seasonal or topical photographs
please send them to *Stephen.scott6@btinternet.com*

Images of Halford and Alderminster Church
Harvest dressings

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Alderminster News

Dear reader: A massive thank you to all who responded last month to this year's Brown Envelope Appeal. If you are one of those who have just not yet got round to it it's not too late to make a much-appreciated donation. If you would like to contribute, please pass your donation to either the person who delivers your newsletter or to John Melville at 9 Campden Lawns. This can be by cash or cheque (to Village Voices Production Team) or bank transfer to Lloyds, account no. 02376696 sort code 30-98-26. Many thanks Ed.

CHURCH NEWS

A full list of Services is printed separately in Village Voices. Everyone is welcome to any of the Services in our beautiful iconic Village Church, and coffee and biscuits are usually served afterwards, so why not come along?

The Remembrance Service will be at 10.45am on **Sunday 8th November**, it will be a mixture of poems, music and reflections to remember those who have died and been affected by conflicts. Our regular collection will be donated to the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmens' Families Association (SSAFA).

In December along with regular Services there will be the following:

21st December - Carol Service at 6.30pm
24th December - Christingle/ Crib service at 3.00pm
24th December - Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

More details will be given in the next Village Voices and shown on the Church notice boards. All are welcome.

Remember that the Churchyard and path are used by many villagers, but all this needs constant work to keep it safe and in good condition. Please note that although the path down to and along the riverbank is now open, anyone who uses it does so at their own risk, especially when there has been bad weather or flooding.

Foodbank

If you wish to donate items to the Shipston Foodbank, please bring them in a bag to the church porch between 10.30 and 11.30 every Saturday; hopefully Jane will be there to meet you, otherwise please leave any items in a carrier bag in the porch.

Fundraising

The PCC are constantly looking for ideas to raise funds that are also interesting for the whole community to join in with, in the past these have included wine tasting, quizzes and concerts. If you have an idea or even wish to put on an event, please get in touch.

Church Tower

The stonemasons continue to work on the tower, working from the top level downwards. The PCC would like to offer their apologies for any inconvenience this may cause but also make a request for care and vigilance for anyone using the Churchyard as it will effectively be a building site.

Church Clock

The clock face and hands have already been safely removed for repair, redecoration and re-gilding. As mentioned last month, the planned repairs to the clock mechanism will take place once the Tower project is complete.

Bell Ringing

Whilst there is work being done on the tower, the opportunity for bell ringing may be restricted, but if you would like to learn more about bell ringing, contact Rebecca Lockwood (rebeccalockwood3@gmail.com)

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 9th November** in Alderminster Village Hall at 7.30pm; all are welcome.

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council; if you think that it is something that you may be interested in please contact The Parish Clerk at alderminsterpc@gmail.com for more information.

ALDERMINSTER VILLAGE HALL

The Village needs the Village Hall but the Hall needs you and your support!

The Village Hall and its facilities are available for hire at very reasonable rates. Jane Jones has all the information on 01789 450672. The Hall has daytime space for classes; if you know of anyone who wants to run an exercise class or other activity please put them in touch with Jane.

Village Breakfast: Treat yourself to a freshly cooked breakfast and support the Hall by coming along on **Saturday 7th November** between 8.30 and 10.00am. All meals include hot drinks, orange juice and toast; payment is by cash or card. Meals are not fixed and cater for all types of appetite, and we are happy to provide takeaway sandwiches. Help is always appreciated to clear away, and you get to play with the dishwasher!

The winners of the October **50 Club** draw were:-

1st	no. 53	Stephen Scott	£100
2nd	no. 56	Cath Armstrong	£50

Any queries or for purchase of numbers call Neville Palmer (01789 555930 or 07810 145420).

Renewal of annual subscriptions for 2027 are now due and new members are invited at just £20pa entitling inclusion in 10 regular draws each year of £35 and special draws of £150 and £75 at year end and half year respectively. Payments can be by bank transfer (Alderminster Village Hall 50 Club, sort code 30-98-26,

account number 00793389), cash or cheque at the breakfast or direct to Neville Palmer (01789 555930 or 07810 145420).

There will be a Christmas Fair taking place on **Saturday 28th November** 10.30am-12.30pm with seasonal refreshments, raffle, tombola and stalls to get you in the mood for the 25th. If you have items to sell and would like a table for the morning, the cost is £10.00. (Contact Gill on 07790 435870).

Indoor Curling will be in the hall on **4th and 18th November** (2.30-4pm) and Warm Space on 9th and 23rd (2-4pm); these events are both free and include refreshments.

Village Hall Committee Meeting on 14th October we had a visit from Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, a charity responsible for helping villages improve the lives of their residents, so we may gain some more activities in the village coming via them when they know what we need, so look out for the chance to take part.

Alderminster Cinema: Our screening on **Saturday 21st November** is "My Mother's Wedding"(15) a comedy drama starring Scarlett Johansson and Sienna Miller. Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm after refreshments. Cash payments only; you are welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks, seating is cafe style.

WINTER WARMERS LUNCH

Come and join us for a soup and pudding, cost £5, at Alderminster Village Hall on **2nd, 16th and 30th November 12.30-2pm** (last orders 1.30pm). We look forward to welcoming you for food, friendship and good conversation.

LE BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU EST ARRIVÉ

Come and enjoy a fun relaxed evening trying
the new releases for 2026
and comparing against a previous year
all accompanied by charcuterie, cheeses and baguettes

Friday 20th November 2026

Alderminster Village Hall

7.30pm

Cost £20 per person

Booking required – please contact Zoe
zoescott@btinternet.com

ALDERMINSTER GARDENING CLUB

October's meeting was well attended with a new speaker. **November 10th** sees the return of the popular Lucy Hartley, her subject "*Gardening with Wildlife in mind*". The members' competition is: 'a house plant'. The menus are out for our Christmas meal which is on **8th December** at the White Hart, Newbold, 6 for 6.30pm; two courses for £30 and three courses for £35. We are taking a £10 deposit with a deadline for orders by **1st December**; you can sign up at the November meeting or ring Gill for details on 01789 621053 or 07790 435870. The Club will have a stall at the Christmas Fair selling bulbs, produce and sloe gin.

Gill's Green Tips: Take a look at your lawn and reseed any bald patches, watering the seeds until they sprout. Roses can be pruned now but not any spring flowering shrubs. If you buy any spring bulbs choose short or dwarf ones as they cope with the wind better and will naturalise in grass and come up every year, these are better than the tall ones with big flowers. Try planting bulbs in containers; you can use anything as long as it is deeper than 4 inches.

MEGA

Monday Evening Group Alderminster

On **Monday November 23rd** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, MEGA will once again be welcoming The Ukes of Ale with their ukeleles to get us in the mood for the forthcoming Christmas Season. We will have the opportunity to join in singing along to the music and there will be a buffet of seasonal nibbles. The meeting is open to all with a £5 charge for visitors. For more information contact Pauline on 07810442651 or Rita on 01789748084.

ALDERMINSTER HISTORY GROUP



Every year Armistice Day, now more often known as Remembrance Day is commemorated on 11th November to mark the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War 1 and Germany. It was signed at Compiegne in France at 5.45am to cease the hostilities and took effect at 11am, the eleventh hour of the eleventh month of 1918. The armistice had to be extended several times as it initially only lasted for 36 days. A formal peace agreement was reached when the "Treaty of Versailles" was signed on 28th June 1919. The first official Armistice Day events in the UK took

place in the grounds of Buckingham Palace on the morning of 11th November 1919 when a two-minute silence was held as a mark of respect to those who died. Let us remember those brave men from Alderminster who gave their lives in World War 1 and whose names are shown on the war memorial in the Church.

The History Group are interested in collecting any information, stories or pictures you may have about Wartime in Alderminster and the surrounding area. Perhaps your ancestors were involved? We would love to hear from you. Please contact us at: info@alderminsterhistorygroup.org.uk or ring me: Debbie Fisher 01789 450114.

Next event: **Tuesday 24th November** "*From Galtieri and Beyond*" by Patrick Fitzgerald. He is a wonderful returning speaker who will be telling us about his experiences as a pilot during the Falklands War.

Alderminster Village Hall 7.30pm Entrance £5 (include refreshments) Raffle.



AMBLERS

After many days of lovely weather it unfortunately rained heavily on the morning of the October amble so the four ready but not too willing amblers (seven regular amblers were on holiday!) decided to postpone the walk at Compton Verney and stay warm and dry at home.

Our next amble is planned for **Wednesday 4th November**, when we'll meet at 10am at Alderminster Village Hall. If you are interested in the amblers and want to go on the mailing list please contact Alison on 01789 450703 or alisonkbenton@outlook.com

Astronomical Society News

The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night; in November Club Night will be on **3rd November** and on the third **Tuesday 17th November** the speaker will be Dr Thomas Wilson from Warwick University with a talk called "*What are alien worlds made of?*". Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

(*I am sorry I could not fit this month's Astronomical Observations in – There is not enough Space! Ed.*)

Club Nights offer more information on what to look out for each month. If it is clear we do some observing just outside the Village Hall, so please join us. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member then the fee is just £20 a year and it's free if you are in full-time education. For more details go to the website http://www.astro.org.uk or contact the Chair, John Waller, john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

Happy Observing!

MORE ABOUT ALDERMINSTER?

Visit: www.alderminster-pc.gov.uk

Village Voices is available on the Parish Council website www.alderminster-pc.gov.uk/village-voices

The deadline for the December 2026 edition of Village Voices is **Thursday 19th November 2026**.

Halford News

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome, through the letterbox at Mistletoe Cottage or by email to **jmarthur53@gmail.com** **Deadline for December issue - 19th November**.

Saint Mary's Church Halford

Church Windows

The first stage in our project to restore, repair and clean all the windows in the church has been completed and the first repaired and cleaned window is back in the church. The second window has been taken out as part of the project.

The church will remain open as usual, but there may be minor changes to services during that time.

Monday 2nd November – All Souls Day

November brings several important occasions that we mark in Church. The first (and on the **1st**) is All Saints Day. This is, of course, more widely observed on the Eve of the big day as Hallowe'en = All Hallows Evening. This allows us to remember and to celebrate those great people, who, by their lives and sometimes by their deaths, have proclaimed the Christiani gospel and demonstrated particular love for God and other people – the Saints.

On the **2nd November** the Church celebrates All Souls. This is a valuable opportunity to remember those whom we have known personally and who remain in our memories. That is what the All Souls service is for. This year it will be at Halford Church at 7:00 pm on **Monday 2nd November**. There will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one or loved ones and if you would like someone's name to be read out at the service please email me, *rev.david.jessett@gmail.com*, before the **2nd November**.

Revd David Jessett

Sunday 8th November 2026 - Remembrance Day Service

The Service will take place at 10:45am in the Churchyard.

Coffee and biscuits will be served in the Church after the Service.

Jigsaw Club

Jigsaw Club will meet on **Wednesday, 25th November** at 2:30pm in the church. We would love to see you there.

Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday, 29th November

Our annual Christmas Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall at 10:30am.

Wine tasting – Friday 25th September

Many thanks to everyone who supported the wine tasting at the Village Hall in September. It was a hugely enjoyable evening, raising £576. Special thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success, especially Amanda Rowley, Defining Wine.



Harvest Festival.

On **Sunday 11th October** many Halford villagers enjoyed a splendid Ploughman's Lunch in the Village Hall, prepared by a hardworking team, supported by friends and neighbours. Our grateful thanks are due to everybody who participated behind the scenes. Before the lunch there was a Harvest Festival Service in St Mary's Church where a large display of produce destined for the Shipston Food Bank had been donated by members of the Village. A very sincere thank you to all involved.

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 20th December - Christmas Celebrations

The Annual Carol Service will be in the church at 6:00pm.

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day Service will be at 9:30am.

Parish Council News

Halford Parish Council

The October meeting takes place after the deadline for Village Voices so nothing to report.

Minutes and agenda for the meeting on **21st October** can be found on the PC website https://halfordparishcouncil.co.uk/agendas-minutes/

The January meeting will be held on **6th January 2027** at the Halford Bridge Inn.

Graham Sara 07970 010398 ***glsara@yahoo.com***

Halford Village Hall

Village Hall Lottery

The October draw took place prior to the village coffee morning on 21st October and the winners were:

Alyson Benchley
Neil and Katy Liddell
Peter Richardson

Thanks to everyone who has supported the lottery this year.

Halford Village Hall Lottery 2027

I will shortly start collecting for next years village lottery, if you want to keep the same numbers for next year then please let me know before the end of November, after that numbers will be allocated on a first come basis. My contact details are **glsara@yahoo.com** or village WhatsApp (07970 010398) are best. It's £20 for the year with 3 prizes every month. The lottery is a major source of funds for the Village Hall so your support is much appreciated. Preferred payment via bank transfer (but cash is also ok - I will also be knocking on doors in a few weeks!)

(Bank details are Halford Village Hall Sort Code 30-98-26 Account Number 01620038 Please include name and preferred numbers on the reference)

Graham Sara 07970 010398 ***glsara@yahoo.com***

Monday 2nd, 16th & 30th November: **Table Tennis** at 7:30pm all welcome. Contact Gerald at **geraldnewell@gmail.com** to confirm dates and for more information on joining this Monday group. There's always room for more!

Tuesday evenings: **Yoga** at 7:30pm with Deborah - Please contact Deborah on 01789 740321 or at **lazycatyoga@btinternet.com** for information on dates etc.

Thursday 5th November: Evening with Film - will show **"The Ballad of Wallis Island".** An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favourite musicians to perform at his home.



Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start and a donation of £5 would be appreciated to cover costs.

Wednesday 18th November: **Coffee Morning** 10:30am to 12pm all welcome.

Saturday 21st November: Halford Village Annual Quiz – 7pm. Please register your team of 4 by **14th November**. A light supper will be served and a bar will available. Come along for an evening of fun. Contact Sharon Alexander at **alexandersharon21@gmail.com** to book a table.



Community Lunch

Thursday, 12th and 26th November, a Community Lunch of soup and pudding to which all are welcome.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 3rd December: **Evening with Film – "I Swear"**

If you are interested in booking the Village Hall, all the hiring information including costs can be found on www.halfordvillage.uk/village-hall. For booking enquiries, please contact Muriel Parr on 01789 740857 or **murielparr@gmail.com**

Halford Community Events

Community Soup & Sweet Lunch

Thursday, 12th and 26th November – Come and join us for our first Soup & Sweet Community Lunch in the Village Hall. As Autumn turns to Winter and the days grow colder this is an opportunity to meet with friends and neighbours over a warming lunch together, cost £5 each.

We hope to see many villagers there as possible.

Local Noticeboard

CARERS4CARERS

Carers4Carers – Is a local support group for family carers. We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month (except December when it's the second Friday) from 10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall, loved ones are welcome too – they can join our Companionship Group during the meeting.

On **Friday 27th November** we get creative with some early festive crafting! No experience needed and all ideas and materials are provided! or just come along for a coffee and a chat!

For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, send an email to kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or explore our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

BREAST SCREENING

Ladies who are over 70 are entitled to a mammogram every three years but will not be called automatically. Contact the Breast Screening Service on 02476 967200 who will be able to tell you when you had your last scan and give you an appointment if you are now due for one.

CLOTHES BANK

The clothes bank situated on Alderminster's village hall car park, courtesy of the British Heart Foundation accepts CD's, toys and games as well as good condition clothes, so why not declutter your home whilst supporting a good cause. NB:- The clothes bank is only emptied once a fortnight; please do not leave bags of items in the car park when the clothes bank is full.

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday 22nd November 2026, 2.30pm

An Afternoon of Action, Romance and Russian Fire

At The Arts House Rother Street CV37 6LU

Festive Overture - Shostakovich

Violin Concerto - Tchaikovsky

Music from the movies

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Violin soloist – Fenella Humphreys

Leader – Phil Houghton

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Further details and forthcoming concerts

www.stratfordsymphony.org.uk

WARWICKSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

On **Thursdays 5th November** and **3rd December 2026** Warwickshire Mobile Library will visit Old Road, Alderminster from 10.15 to 10.35am and The White Hart Inn, Newbold on Stour from 10.45 to 11.15am.

WINTER WARMERS LUNCH

Come and join us for a soup and pudding, cost £5, at Alderminster Village Hall on **2nd, 16th and 30th November** 12.30-2pm (last orders 1.30pm). We look forward to welcoming you for food, friendship and good conversation.

LE BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU EST ARRIVÉ

Come and enjoy a fun relaxed evening trying the new releases for 2026 and comparing against a previous year all accompanied by charcuterie, cheeses and baguettes

Friday 20th November 2026 - Alderminster Village Hall - 7.30pm - cost £20 per person

Booking required – please contact Zoe zoescott@btinternet.com

Alderminster History Group

Next event: **Tuesday 24th November** "From Galtieri and Beyond" by Patrick Fitzgerald. He is a wonderful returning speaker who will be telling us about his experiences as a pilot during the Falklands War. Alderminster Village Hall - 7.30pm - Entrance £5 (include refreshments). Raffle.

ACTIVITIES FROM STOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

Pickleball in Ettington

A new weekly pickleball session has started at **Ettington Community Centre, every Friday 10:30am–12:30pm**. Beginners and experienced players are both welcome. Sessions are free for the first few months to see if the game takes off as it has done in Brailes and Shipston.

Tea & Tech Support in Brailes

A safe space for the IT terrified! If you find your phone frustrating, local volunteers are on hand to help navigate your way through apps, alerts and other issues. Find us on **Wednesdays 10am–12noon at the Pavilion, next to Brailes Village Hall**, Castle Hill Lane, Upper Brailes OX15 5AS,

Shipston Library *also offers a free one to one 30 minute appointment on Mondays 10am–12noon*.

Community Hub

SHWP's Community Hub is open at the **Ellen Badger Hospital every Monday and Thursday from 10am to 12noon**, offering a comfortable place to stop for refreshments, chat to others and learn what local support is available.

Shipston Repair Café

Shipston's Repair Café came back in September and has been busy ever since. The next session is on Saturday 14th November, 10am to 2pm. The last repairs are booked in at 1pm. Come along to have items repaired and enjoy a cuppa and the fun and friendly atmosphere.

Stour Toy Library welcomes more families

Families and grandparents keep coming to the Toy Library at the Ellen Badger Hospital to borrow toys for children under four. Children get new things to play with, and households save money and space. **Open Tuesdays 9:30am–11am and Thursdays 11am–12noon**. Anyone can drop in without joining, and a year's borrowing membership costs £5.

Singing Down Memory Lane

Join us on the last Friday of each month, 11am–12noon, for an hour of songs, memories and company. Everyone is welcome, and you don't need any singing experience.

Bereavement Café

The Bereavement Café is meeting again at the Ellen Badger on the first Tuesday of every month, 11am–1pm. It's a welcoming peer-support space where you can talk about losing a loved one and share your experiences with others.

Stourdene Benefice Service Rota

November	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 1st All Saints Day	9.30am	Halford	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Newbold	Morning Worship
	10.00am	Alderminster	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Pillertons	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Ettington	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Butlers	Evensong
Monday 2nd	7.00pm	Halford	All Souls
Sunday 8th 3rd before Advent. Remembrance Sunday	10.00 am	Ettington *	Remembrance Service
	10.45 am	Newbold *	Remembrance Service
	10.45 am	Alderminster	Remembrance Service
	10.45 am	Pillertons	Remembrance Service
	10.45 am	Halford	Remembrance Service
	3.00 pm	Butlers *	Remembrance Service
Sunday 15th 2nd Sunday before Advent	9.30am	Alderminster	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship
	10.00am	Ettington	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Pillertons	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Butlers	Communion + Baptism
	11.00am	Newbold	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd Christ the King	9.30 am	Butlers	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship
	10.00am	Ettington	Café Church
	10.00am	Alderminster	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Pillertons	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th Advent Sunday (Year B)	10.30 am	Butlers	Benefice Communion

* In Church, then at War Memorial

* Starts on the green

* Around the War Memorial









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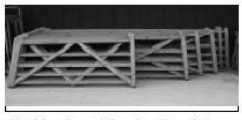
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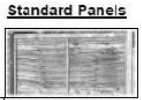
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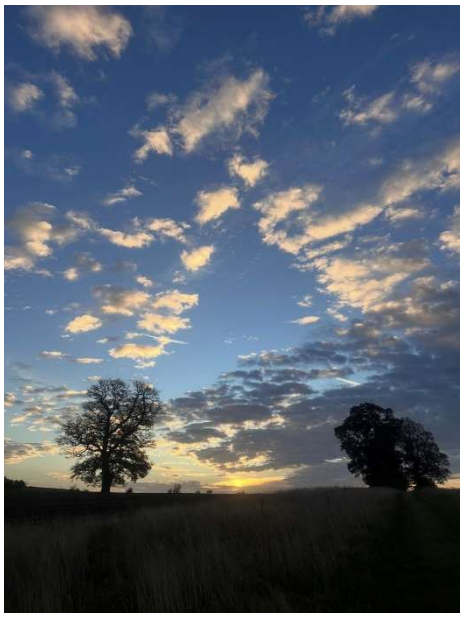
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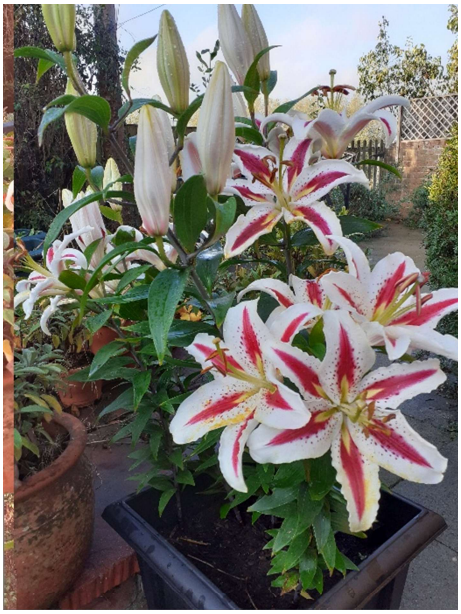


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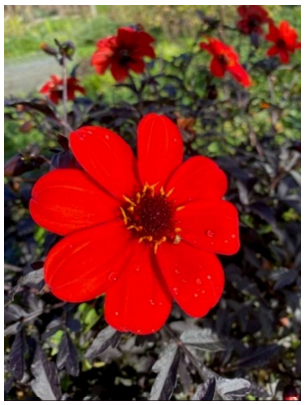
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