

Village Voices

The newsletter of Halford and Alderminster
October 2026



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

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Halford News

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

Three Cheers for St. Mary's Windows – but Help Urgently Needed!

When complimentary comments are made about St. Mary's church they sometimes refer not only to its main architectural features but also to the welcoming lightness of its interior. It's a church that thanks to the extent of its windows manages on most days to keep gloominess at bay without resorting to electricity! In themselves most of the thirteen windows have historical interest. Some panes retain elements of eighteenth-century glass; one has medieval fragments, survivals perhaps of the two occasions in English history when many church windows were deliberately destroyed - the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation and the Civil War a hundred years later.

All St. Mary's windows bar one are of plain glass, a factor which aids the lightness of the interior. The exception is the main one in the chancel which is particularly fine, each of its three vertical sections depicting in vivid colours key moments in Christ's life. It was commissioned, in 1904, from a leading stained-glass designer, to commemorate William and Mary Wyse of Halford Manor.

In the light of concerns about the deteriorating condition of St. Mary's windows, its PCC commissioned a report from a specialist glazing firm. Its detailed appraisal recently completed has identified precisely what restorations are required in each of the thirteen windows involved. In about half the cases, windows will need to be temporarily removed for treatment in a workshop. The cost of completing the whole work is currently estimated at £18,968, plus VAT. Clearly, the restoration work will have to be phased over a time frame which will be determined by the speed at which the necessary funding can be raised. Progress on the latter has already started, most recently with two events in the church, a recital in May and a tea party in August.

Much more needs to be done to raise the monies required to ensure Halford's church can continue to be fully functional in the future. Hopefully, the preservation of the historic building is a cause that will attract well-wishers within the wider village community. Donations are sought now. Please contact Mark Arthur (telephone 01789 258010 or jmarthur53@gmail.com) for further information if you are able to help. Thank you.

Roger Pringle

Saint Mary's Church Halford

Church Windows

Those of you who have walked through the churchyard recently will have noticed that one of the windows in the chancel has been removed and boarded up. This is the

first stage in our project to restore, repair and clean all the windows in the church. The church will remain open as usual, but there may be minor changes to services during that time.

Sunday, 11th October – we will be holding our annual Harvest Service at 11am. The service will be followed by a Harvest Ploughman's Lunch at 12:30pm in the Village Hall, to which all are welcome. To help with catering, please email jmarthur53@gmail.com or suearthur53@googlemail.com if you are planning to join us.

Jigsaw Club

Jigsaw Club will meet on **Wednesday, 28th October** at 2:30pm in the church. We would love to see you there.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 8th November 2026 - Remembrance Day Service

The Service will take place at 10.50am in the Churchyard.

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

Parish Council News

Halford Parish Council

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September are available on the Parish Council website <https://halfordparishcouncil.co.uk/>
2. The work on the Memorial Garden on the corner of Idlicote Road and The Close was approved (turf has now been laid)
3. Warwickshire CC have confirmed that they will not support a speed camera on the Fosse Way but the PC continues to monitor the traffic situation.
4. Work on site clearance on the development on Idlicote Road is expected to start by the end of September followed by the erection of approximately seven of the properties from around March 2027. There will be some initial disruption near the site entrance, but the developers will endeavour to keep this to a minimum. A meeting with the developers on site will be arranged towards the end of the year.
5. Next PC meeting **21st October** 6:30pm in Halford Bridge. All welcome

Graham Sara 07970 010398 glsara@yahoo.com

Village Hall Lottery

The September draw took place during the village coffee morning on 16th September and the winners were:

1. Anne-Lise and Tom Axup
2. Duncan Hopkins
3. Stella Reed

Thanks to everyone who has supported the lottery this year.

Graham Sara 07970 010398 glsara@yahoo.com

Halford Village Hall

Monday 12th & 26th October: 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 1st October: Evening with Film - will show "Tuner". A talented piano tuner who suffers from hyperacusis discovers an unexpected aptitude for cracking safes, turning his life upside down.



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

Bring your own drinks and snacks.

Wednesday 21st October: Coffee Morning 10:30am to 12pm all welcome.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 5th November: Evening with Film – "The Ballad of Wallis Island"

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 be available. Come along for an evening of fun. Contact Sharon Alexander at alexandersharon21@gmail.com to book a table.



Halford Village Hall Annual Quiz

A chance to Win the
"Team of the Year Trophy"

Saturday 21st November 7.00 pm
£6.00 per person includes light supper

Bar available on the night

Teams of 4 - book a table by 14th November

Pay cash, card or online

Ref; Quiz & your name

sort code 30-98-26 account number 01620038

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

Community Lunch

Coming on **Thursday, 12th and 26th November**, a Community Lunch of soup and pudding to which all are welcome. More details to follow in November's Village Voices.

Stourdene Benefice Service Rota

October	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 4th 18th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Halford	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Alderminster	Harvest Service
	10.30am	Pillertons	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Ettington	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Newbold	Harvest Evensong *
	6.00pm	Butlers	Evensong
Sunday 11th 19th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Butlers	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Ettington	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Halford	Harvest Service
	11.00am	Alderminster	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Pillertons	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th Luke Apostle and Evangelist	9.30am	Alderminster	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship
	9.30am	Butlers	Family Service
	10.00am	Ettington	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Pillertons **	Café Church/Songs of Praise
	11.00am	Newbold	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th Last Sunday after Trinity/Bible Sunday	9.30am	Butlers	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship
	10.00am	Ettington	Café Church
	10.00am	Alderminster	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Pillertons	Holy Communion

* Followed by Harvest Supper

** Pillerton Priors Hall

Alderminster News

Dear reader: This month you will find attached an envelope for your use should you wish to make a donation towards this year's cost of producing Village Voices. The production and distribution of over 4,900 copies annually are delivered free of charge to your door entirely by volunteers, the cost of which is around £3,000 per year. We gratefully rely on our advertisers (please use them if they have what you need), grants from Alderminster and Halford Parish Councils, and reader donations. Please support us and use the envelope for your donation which can be passed to either the person who delivers your copy or John Melville at 9 Campden Lawns, Alderminster. Alternatively, you can donate by BACS, our details are "Village Voices Production Team" Sort Code: 30-98-26 Account number: 02376696. *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 Harvest Festival Service: will be at 11.00am on **Sunday 4th October**, so please join us to give thanks for the food we eat and to share with people in need. Any offerings you wish to bring along will be added to our regular collection and donated to Shipston Foodbank (see below). 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.

Church cleaning: Many thanks to everyone who helps with our regular Church cleaning, but special thanks to those who helped with the annual deep clean in August. We get people from all over world visiting our Church, who often comment how well it is kept.

Thanks also to Alison for helping to mastermind the work and for providing a delicious lunch for the hungry team on the Wednesday.

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 have commenced 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. A special thank you goes to Ed Dixon and everyone at Bamboo Creations for providing the excellent banner that can be seen on the scaffolding.

Church Clock: The clock face and hands have already been safely removed for repair, redecoration and regilding. 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, please contact Rebecca Lockwood (rebeccalockwood3@gmail.com)

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 9th November** in Alderminster Village Hall commencing 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 day time 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.

The village breakfast was very popular in September, with half our total customers arriving between 8.30 and 9am; to avoid waiting please come along nearer to 9.30am. Diners are welcomed back on **Saturday 3rd October** between 8.30 and 10am, both cash and card payments are accepted, all meals include orange juice, hot drinks and toast and marmalade, we can vary contents to suit preferences and provide takeaway sandwiches. The "50 club" draw usually takes place during the morning.

The winners of the September 50 Club draw were:-

1st	no. 33	Margaret Woodward	£20
2nd	no. 37	Ann Jenkins	£10
3rd	no. 30	Janine Bluteau	£5

Any queries or for purchase of numbers call Neville Palmer (01789 555930 or 078101 45420).

Many thanks to all our members for their support. **Saturday 3rd October** marks the end of the current competition year with the BIG draw of £100 and £50 taking place at the Village Hall Breakfast. Renewal of annual subscriptions for 2027 are also due at this time 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. 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 078101 45420).

Warm Space: will be held on Monday 12th and 26th October, between 2-4 pm, and Indoor Curling on Weds 7th and 21st between 2.30 and 4pm. Everyone is welcome at these free events which are funded by the Village Hall.

Alderminster Cinema: Our screening on **Saturday 17th October** is "The Devil wears Prada 2" (12), starring Meryl Streep and Stanley Tucci. Doors open 7pm when refreshments are served before the film which starts at 7.30. Payment is by cash only; you are welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks, seating is cafe style

At our Village Hall committee meeting on **14th October**, at 4 pm, there will be a presentation from Claudine Pearson who is the Community contact for the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership. They can help villages start activities of their own and tell us what is on in the Shipston area; she is looking for feedback on what people would find useful in their village, so please come along.

WINTER WARMERS LUNCH

We are returning in November for more soup and pudding lunches at a cost of £5 at Alderminster Village Hall! Book the dates in your diary now for **2nd, 16th and 30th November** 12.30-2pm. We look forward to seeing you for food, friendship and good conversation.

ALDERMINSTER GARDENING CLUB

Our regular monthly meeting is on **Tuesday 13th October** in the Hall starting at 7.30 pm, a new speaker, Emma Bowers, her subject, Folklore of Herbs and their use in dyes. The Members' competition is produce from the garden. Visitors are welcome at £3pp which includes refreshments. Our **December** meeting will be an evening Christmas meal on **Tuesday 8th** at the White Hart in Newbold; menus and booking details for this will be available at the October meeting. Our programme for 2027 has been booked and a printed programme will be out before December.

Gill's Green Tips: Take a look at your garden and cut down any dead looking perennials and shrubs to give

them a chance to regrow next spring. Visit Batsford Arboreteum, with their excellent cafe, good shop with extensive range of spring bulbs and of course the splendid trees. If you buy any tulip bulbs, don't plant them until November; the dwarf ones are really lovely in pots and they flower at different times of the year. Try growing dwarf irises and unusual bulbs, but don't buy any dry snowdrops because they are better planted as leafy bulbs in the spring when they've finished flowering. For instant colour now, buy violas to plant in containers. Looking for a small tree to give shade in the garden, choose amelanchier or rowan, they don't get too big.

MEGA

Monday Evening Group Alderminster

Our next MEGA meeting will be on **Monday 26th October** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when Andrew Lound will deliver a talk on the Titanic. This promises to be an interesting evening and the meeting is open to all with a £5 charge for visitors to include a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

For more information contact Pauline on 07810 442651 or Rita on 01789 748084

AMBLERS

As the Amblers all enjoyed August's walk so much and most of the September group of amblers missed it, we decided to do a repeat, so on a slightly dull, but thankfully not too wet September morning six amblers set off from Clifford Chambers and walked over fields, through woods and along lanes, stopping for coffee just outside Preston-on Stour before completing the circle back to Clifford Chambers. Spectacular views were enjoyed along the way.

Our next amble is planned for Wednesday **7th October**, 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

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

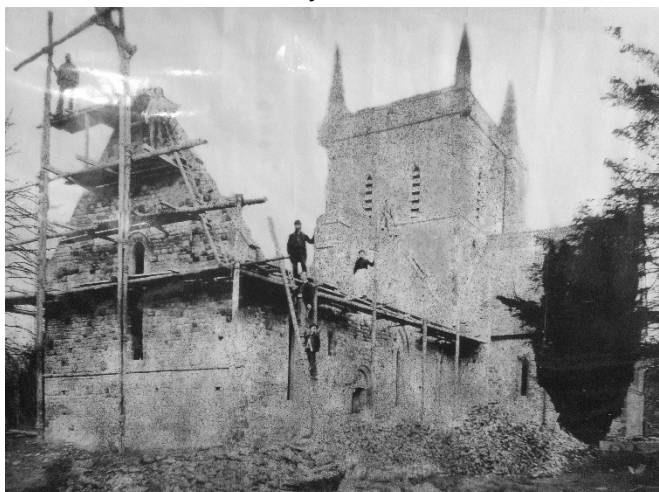
Cost £20 per person

Booking required – please contact Zoe
zoescott@btinternet.com

Alderminster History Group

THE RESTORATION OF ALDERMINSTER CHURCH

Research by Robert Howe



In 1876 the Lord Chancellor sold the advowson of Alderminster to J A Willams of Augustus Road Edgbaston who appointed his son Rev. John Alfred Williams to be the next vicar of Alderminster.

Rev. Thompson resigned in 1881 and Rev. Williams resigned at Yardley moved into Alderminster Rectory and fundraising commenced to complete the work on the church.

Mr West	500.0.00
Mr Shirley	100.0.00
Lady Mordaunt	250.0.00
Mr Tompson.	50.0.00
Bp. Of Worcester 2nd promise.	25.0.00
Societies	175.0.00

1100.0.00

leaving more to be raised.

In June 1884 work recommenced. The above photograph appears to show Mr. Collins and his workmen probably in 1884 working on the nave. He is leaning on the chimney of the new heating apparatus. Collins was the builder employed to retore at Whitchurch in 1891.

in the 1873 faculty rebuilding included rebuilding the east and south walls of the chancel, the east wall of the south transept, the south wall of the nave, a new porch, re-roof the church and improve the drainage. Internally remove the western gallery, replace the font and pulpit and re-seat the church with up to 279 sittings. From an account of the old church the looked very different internally. When work was being carried out on the chancel the original stone altar was discovered which is now in the north transept. Stone altars had been outlawed in the time of Edward VI.

On 16th April 1885 the church was reopened by the Bishop of Worcester with the Archdeacon in attendance. A public luncheon was held in the schoolroom.

Responding to a toast the Archdeacon said 'he did not take a despairing view of church matters. He believed that generally throughout the country the agricultural population were beginning to feel that the parson was his best friend. Although for a time he might listen to the voice of the agitator, he believed before long he would come round to a better frame of mind, and would feel that by the severance of the connection between Church and State he would lose his best and truest friend – the friend who had educated his children before the passing of any law on the subject, and the friend who had stood by him through illness and distress.'

Next Event: Tuesday 24th November "From Galtieri and Beyond", A talk by Patrick Fitzgerald is personal account of his involvement, in 1982, during the build-up, execution and extreme efforts of the British Forces in the Falklands.

The talk will be in the Alderminster Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £5 (includes refreshments). There will also be a raffle.

Astronomical Society News

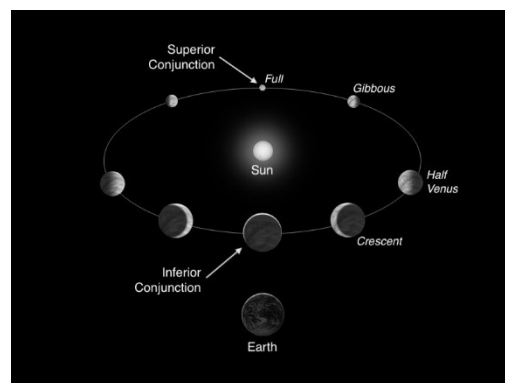
The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night; in October Club Night will be on **6th October** and on the third **Tuesday 20th October** the speaker will be Chris Woodhouse who has written several books on astrophotography with a talk called 'Overcoming Light Pollution in Astrophotography'. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Each month one of our members, Adrian Wakeham, writes an article on aspects of astronomical observation.

Venus and Saturn and a Meteor Shower

As the nights lengthen, an old favourite returns to our skies and the 'star' of the summer takes a bow.

All summer long, the 'star' of the show has been Venus, in the west. Outshining all other night sky objects (except the Moon). Even Jupiter was put in the shade, in their close encounter in June. Now having reached eastern elongation (furthest from the Sun from our point of view on Earth) last month, it is rapidly descending, but this time in the morning. It will be lost in the glare of the



Sun from around the 14th October until it reaches inferior conjunction on the 24th October. What has happened is that Venus has overtaken us and gone between us and the Sun. It is not directly in front of the Sun (that would be a transit)

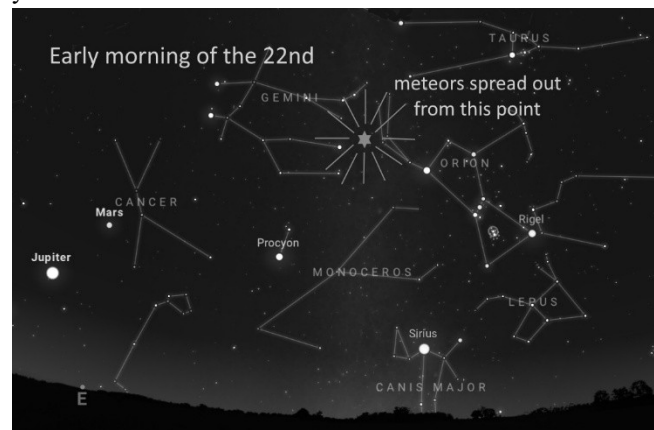
instead it is just below the Sun, but too close to observe without special equipment.

So, I must strongly warn, do not try to observe Venus until the Sun is fully set as serious and permanent damage can be done to your eyesight!!! When the Sun has set, then with binoculars and/or good eyesight, the crescent of Venus (like the crescent of the Moon) can be seen. It is on the right early in the month, and will be on the left when it re-emerges later in the month. Venus, at this time, will be at its biggest and brightest even though it may be a little faded by the twilight. It's always a lovely sight.

Saturn has been getting brighter since the late summer and is to be found in Pisces, as a yellowy-brownish star. On the 4th October it reaches opposition, this means that on one side of Earth you have the Sun, and on the opposite side is Saturn. It is as close as Saturn gets to us at a mere 1,262 million km, and is at its brightest and the rings are very reflective too. With binoculars it will look misshaped and flattened, but with a telescope those iconic rings appear. Everyone's reaction, when they see the rings for the first time is usually 'WOW!' There is a chance you'll be able to see Titan, the largest of over 250 moons that orbit Saturn. Titan is larger than the planet Mercury and it appears as a small star close to Saturn. To confirm it is Titan you are looking at, you would need to look another night or two to see if it has moved in relation to Saturn and the background stars.

The other main attraction of October, for astronomers is the Orionid meteor shower. These reach a peak overnight on the 21st to 22nd October, and the meteors emanate from near the constellation of Orion, which will rise in the east during the evening, before moving to the southern horizon during the night. The meteors will be at their best after midnight. Don't expect a firework display, but it may be around 15 meteors an hour.

The shower is created when the Earth crosses the debris trail left by the most famous comet, Halley's Comet, during its 76 year orbit of the Sun.



The best way to observe a meteor shower is on a sun lounger, looking overhead or to one side of the constellation Orion. But remember to have enough layers of clothing to keep you warm, as it gets cold on the October nights.

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 November 2026 edition of Village Voices is **Monday 19th October 2026.**



Work has begun on the Alderminster Tower – When will it end!

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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 23rd October** our speakers will be from Talking Therapies, a free local NHS service to help people with symptoms of depression, anxiety, worry and low mood. Please join us to find out about this important service and how to access their help.

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 (new website under construction).

WARWICKSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

On **Thursdays 8th October** and **5th November 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.

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

There is a new clothes bank situated on Alderminster's village hall car park, courtesy of the British Heart Foundation. As well as good condition clothes it also accepts CD's, toys and games, so why not declutter your home whilst supporting a good cause. Please do

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Stronger Communities, Healthier Lives

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership Unveils a Packed Autumn Programme

From a fast-growing racket sport to family sessions and friendly community cafés, residents in and around Shipston-on-Stour have plenty of opportunities to get active, connect with others and access local support this autumn.

not leave bags of items in the car park when the clothes bank is full, as it is only emptied once a fortnight.

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

Pirates of the Caribbean, The Godfather, Titanic,

James Bond, Gladiator

Conductor - Dan Watson

Violin soloist – Fenella Humphreys

Leader – Phil Houghton

Tickets £15 (£5 under16) from:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GMHZ>

Further details and forthcoming concerts

www.stratfordsymphony.org.uk

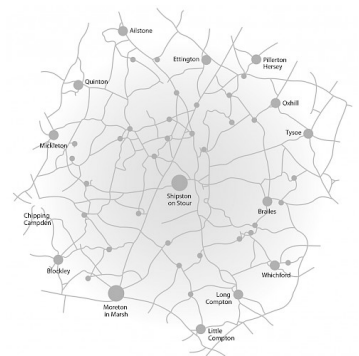
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Alderminster History Group

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The talk will be in the Alderminster Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £5 (includes refreshments). There will also be a raffle.



Please take a look at the "news" pages of our website for details of the many groups and activities available in our local area for children, carers, families and seniors:

<https://www.shwp.org.uk/news/>



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Halford Editor

Mark Arthur

jmarthur53@gmail.com

Distribution

Gill Hudspeth

01789 621053

gillieh46@yahoo.co.uk

Alderminster Editor

John Melville

01789 450524

John07sm@gmail.com

Advertising

Debbie Fisher

01789 450114

standeb@btinternet.com

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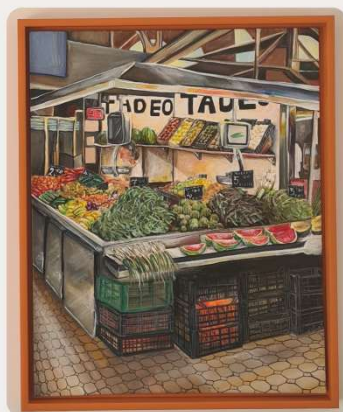
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