

## **ALBRIGHTON & DISTRICT** **CIVIC SOCIETY**

(Albrighton, Boningale, Donington-with-Boscobel & Tong)

Main Aim: To improve the appearance of our villages and the quality of life.

### **Public Meeting & AGM**

We were very pleased that the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC) hosted our meeting at their new, purpose-built Airbase and Charity Headquarters in Cosford.

It was a ticket only event which was a "sellout" – although the tickets were free. We are grateful to Charlene at the Emporium and Emma & James at the Village Hardware who kindly offered to hand out the tickets for us. The 80+ attendees filled the state-of-the-art auditorium.

At the meeting the results of the election of the new committee were announced: -

Chairman – Dave Slatcher, Secretary – Rod Smith

Committee Members – Mike Bolton, Peter Illes, Dave Williams and Peter Woodman.

We are pleased that Mike Pitchford will carry on as Treasurer until a replacement is appointed.

Front Garden & Flower Competition – the Society runs this competition to encourage well-kept frontages to make a good impression of our villages to both visitors and residents alike. John Bulmer presented the certificates and prizes. Best Front Garden - Dipika Price, Runner Up Mrs Harris, Best Window Box and Best Hanging Basket – Valerie Jones, Certificate of Special Merit – Jeanne & Ray Fellows.



Just before the meeting started, we saw the landing of a helicopter on one of their two helipads after it returned from an emergency call-out. The ground lighting is operated by the helicopter itself as it approaches and switches off after landing so minimising night light pollution. Emma Gray, Chief Operating Officer made a presentation describing, in detail, their operating method and explained, to the surprise of many, that all their funding comes from donations and not by the government. Each helicopter call-out costs about £3,000 and they aim to get to the patient within 10 minutes of receipt of a call for help. A call-out by one of their three Emergency Care Cars costs about £300.



The audience was then divided into four groups, and each was taken by operations staff on a guided tour of the whole airbase including the helipads, hanger and medical training rooms. They provided a detailed explanation of each stage of the operation from receipt of call to take off. We were able to examine several very life-like full sized mannequins used for clinician training. We were given a special look at the exciting on-site simulation suite, which provides a realistic training environment – complete with sights, sounds and

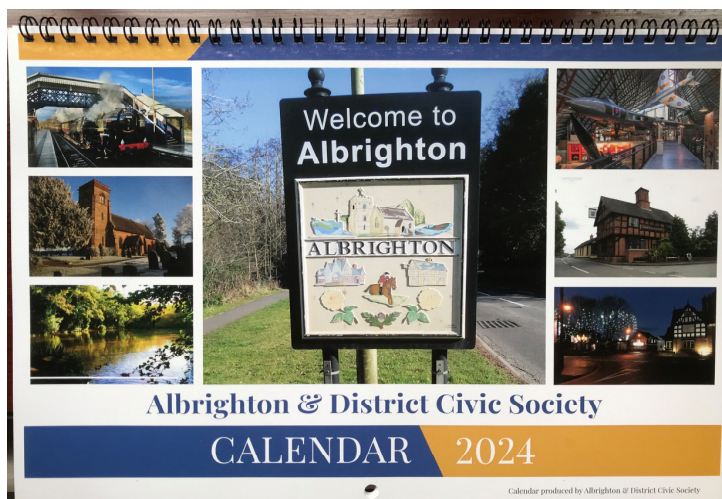
even smells – which are used by the Charity’s clinicians to hone their advanced skills in lifelike situations. The room is able to have different scenes projected on all the walls by multiple projectors. One scene shown to us was a busy rail station and with its very noisy background made communication between team members difficult – exactly as it would be at a real accident at a station. Many other backgrounds could be added and even the temperature could be changed to simulate a very hot day to a below zero winters day.

The new chairman thanked Emma Gray and her team for providing an extremely interesting evening and in particular Zoe Maxfield who had made the arrangements and worked with us to set the agenda. Emma said that they really did now feel that they were part of our Albrighton and district community and were very pleased to have been welcomed by us.

**AVAILABLE NOW**

## **Our Civic Society 2024 CALENDAR**

Many people told us that our 2023 Calendar was excellent and asked us to make another one for next year.



We have had photographers out around our four villages and we have included some outstanding photographs. There are also excellent contributions from Albrighton Cricket Club, Albrighton Bowling Club, Midland Air Ambulance, RAF Cosford Museum, Shropshire Star and many others. We listened to residents’ comments about this year’s calendar and so this improved 2024 calendar has twice the amount of space to write notes.

The calendar is on sale at £5, which includes an envelope.

**It makes a really great Christmas gift to send to family  
and friends here and abroad.**

**The Calendar is available from: -**

**Emporium Card Shop, Station Road  
Village Hardware Shop, High Street  
N Albrighton Library  
St Mary’s Church Centre**

We are very grateful to Charlene (Emporium), James and Emma (Hardware Shop), the Library and St Mary’s Church Centre for offering to sell these on our behalf with the whole price coming to the Society. So, after we have covered the design and printing costs there will be a small contribution to the Society’s funds.

For more information please see [www AlbrightonAndDistrictCivicSociety.co.uk](http://www.AlbrightonAndDistrictCivicSociety.co.uk) or contact:  
Dave Slatcher – Chairman (T: 375428) or Rod Smith - Secretary (T: 372765)