

ALFORD CRAFT MARKET SHOP & CENTRE CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP



The Alford Craft Market Shop Front, West Street, Alford

The Alford Craft Market Shop opened its doors on the 15th of March, 2015. The Shop celebrated its 10th Anniversary by giving every customer a 10% discount on everything in the shop, a gesture of appreciation for all those

who have supported it over the years. Thank you! The Shop has played a central role in supporting Lincolnshire craftsmanship, offering a platform for Lincolnshire creatives and enriching the community with a wide

variety of unique, quality handmade items for sale from 36 Lincolnshire makers. The Shop is open from 10am to 4pm every day except Sundays.

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Scan QR Codes to Watch the Interviews



Michel & Heather Ducos



Heather & Michel run Alford Pottery as well as being the founders of the Alford Craft Market

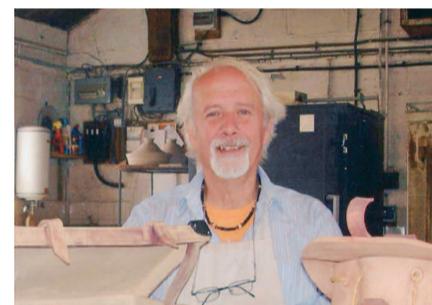
The Founders

Alford Craft Market was founded by Heather and Michel Ducos, passionate advocates for traditional crafts and community engagement. Their vision was to create a space where artisans could showcase and sell handmade work while preserving traditional skills.

Heather, an artist and craft enthusiast, saw the need for a dedicated platform to support local makers. Michel, with his expertise in organization and logistics, helped bring the vision to life. Together, they established Alford Craft Market in 1974, setting up an event that quickly became a regional attraction.

local artisans. They believed in the value of handmade goods and wanted to create opportunities for craftspeople to display their work. The goal was not just to establish a market but to cultivate a thriving artistic community.

Over the years the market grew, offering workshops, exhibitions, and a dedicated centre to nurture creativity. Thanks to their dedication, Alford Craft Market continues to be a beacon for handmade artistry and traditional craftsmanship.



Why They Started It

The couple were inspired by their love for arts and crafts and a desire to support

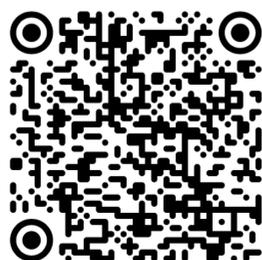
Karen - Member of Alford Craft Market



Karen is an active member of the Alford Craft Market and has been an avid shop customer for 10 years. As a young Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School student, Karen also remembers the Alford Craft Market, celebrating its 50 years in 2024, including helping out on the stalls as a Girl Guide. Karen is passionate about promoting

the quality of products found within the shop.

Scan the QR code to watch the video!



Angie

Committee Member

As a committee member, Angie advocates for quality products that have been crafted and not simply assembled, are not copies of copyrighted items, and ensures the items in the Alford Craft Market Shop are varied for customers to enjoy. Angie hopes to inspire a younger generation



of crafters and shoppers who appreciate handmade quality.

Scan the QR code to watch the video!



LOTTERY FUNDING FOR CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS AT THE ALFORD CRAFT MARKET CENTRE

How lottery funding helped bring the Alford Craft Market Centre to Life!

The Alford Craft Market Centre thrives today thanks to vital National Lottery and grant funding. These contributions helped create a space for artisans, workshops, and the community.



Clearing Out for Renovations

Key Renovations

A National Lottery grant on June 15, 2015, funded kitchen and parlour

renovations and courtyard roof removal. The first class in the new space took place on October 24, 2015.

People's Project Win

In April 2016, the centre won £50,000 in the Yorkshire TV region's People's Project.

The funds helped open The Bakehouse on October 29, 2016, and provided The shed workshop space, glass and pottery equipment, furniture and

the Bakehouse renovations.

Lasting Impact

Thanks to this funding, the Craft Centre has grown into a creative hub offering workshops and classes in a wide variety of crafts.



Above: BBC Lincolnshire take part in our Taster Day. Left: The Bakehouse Sign is erected



The ACM Centre gives the community a space to share their crafts and try something new!



CLASSES BROCHURE

Lots more classes on our website www.alfordcraftmarket.co.uk
 Learn from our Lincolnshire Arts and Crafts tutors
 Bring out your creativity and have fun in a friendly environment
 Access to the Craft Centre is via the side gate on West Street

To book any of our classes please visit us at the Alford Craft Market Shop West Street, Alford, LN13 9DG
 or book online at www.alfordcraftmarket.co.uk
 phone payments 01507 463341 / 07920409253 (daytime only)



Alford Craft Market is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes Lincolnshire Art & Crafts via its events, shop and art & craft classes
 email: alfordcraftmarket@gmail.com

In the case of a cancelled class full payment will be refunded.
 If you need to cancel you will be refunded as long as you give us 7 days notice of the cancellation. Booking is essential for most classes as there are limited spaces.

Pottery **Painting** **Mosaics**
Hand Spinning
Crochet **Fused Glass**
Printing **Rug Making**
Sculpting *Embroidery*
Leather Working
Jewellery Making
Needle Felting **Soap Making**
Bead Making *Wreath Making*
PowerTex Workshops **Etching** **Botanical Casting**
Stained Glass **Willow Weaving** *Copper Foiling*
Paper Crafting **Macrame** *Community Projects*
Zentangle **Peg Loom Weaving**
Marbling

Canal Art

Silversmithing

Sewing

Quilling

Watercolour Art

Bookbinding



Like something you see?
Get in touch to see when the next classes are!

Alford Craft Market: 50th Anniversary

The Alford Craft Market Celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2024

In 2024, we celebrated 50 years of Alford Craft Market with a special exhibition of memorabilia, including a bespoke video featuring vintage footage, interviews with the public, and conversations with approved craftsmen and women. Running from March to October 2024, the exhibition highlighted the rich history of the market. We hope to redisplay it at the new Seaview Colonnade in Sutton on Sea once it opens. The main 50th birthday celebration took place over the three-day bank holiday weekend,



1974 - 2024

beginning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by our founder, Michel Ducos. Earlier in the Summer there was a Scarecrow Festival at Alford Manor House featuring our own scarecrow, Goldie, proudly taking part in the display.

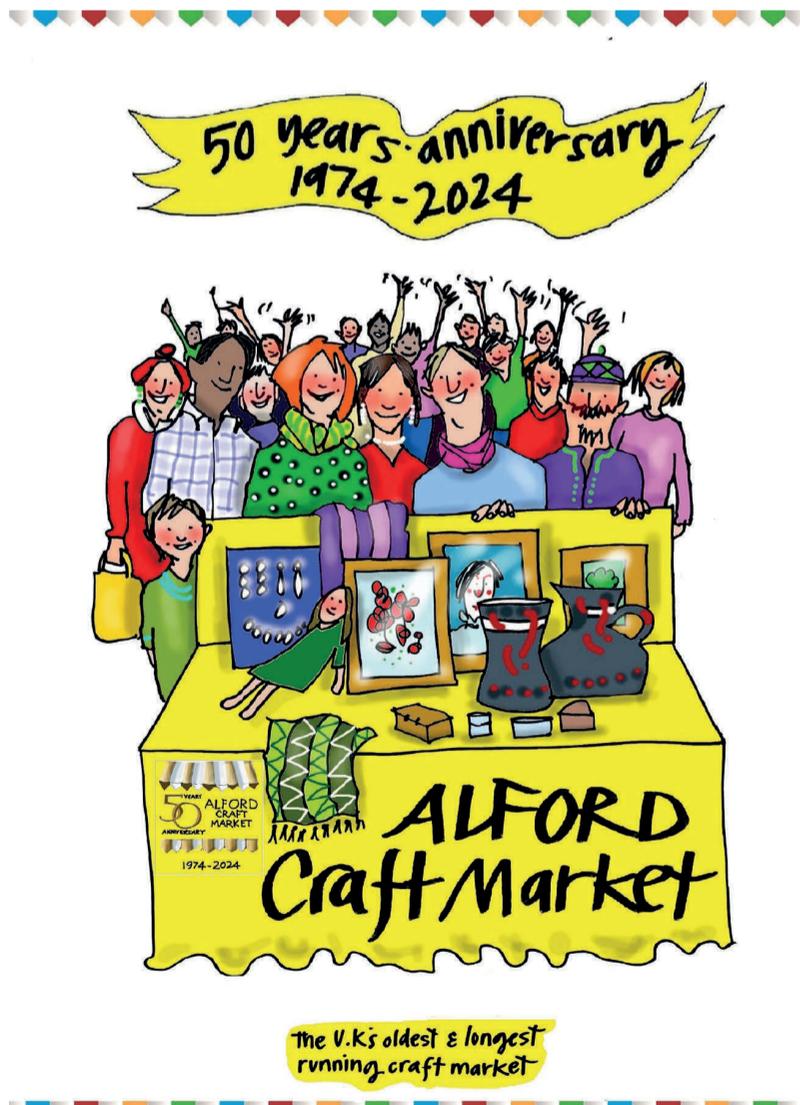
Community Banner Project for the 50th Birthday Celebrations

As part of the 50th-anniversary celebrations, artist and community arts practitioner Nicki Jarvis led a banner project involving local participants. During the Easter Craft Market, community members and visitors collaborated to craft and co-design 20 banners, recording their memories of the craft market as a foundation for further creative work.

in summer workshop sessions at the Alford Craft Market Centre, where community members contributed final touches.

The completed banners were displayed around the Manor House perimeter fencing during the August Bank Holiday Craft Market, creating a striking visual tribute to the market's rich history and community spirit.

At the Spring Bank Holiday Craft Market, visitors decorated the banners with bold colours reminiscent of the vibrant mid-1970s. Using masking and sticking techniques, they created dynamic patterns on the fabric, bringing energy and nostalgia to the designs. Additional details were refined



Commissioned Posters

In 2024, we commissioned cartoonist and artist Twink Addison to design our 50th-anniversary event posters. Twink, whose artwork has appeared in renowned publications such as The Oldie and Private Eye, brought a distinctive and engaging style to the celebration posters, capturing

the essence of creativity and heritage at the market.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to announce that artist Karin Christensen will be designing our event posters. With her unique artistic vision, we anticipate another stunning series of posters that will continue to reflect the spirit of Alford Craft Market and its vibrant community of artists and makers.

Over 50 Quality Craft Stores & Live Entertainment

From Morris Dancing, to Punch & Judy, Live Music and Street Performers, our August Bank Holiday Weekend Craft Market is full of live entertainment, to keep the whole family amused!



Morris Dancers at the August Bank Holiday Weekend Craft Market

Entertainment has always been a highlight of the Alford Craft Market, bringing joy, energy, and tradition to the event. Visitors can enjoy a variety of live performances that make the market a truly immersive experience.

Punch and Judy Shows delight audiences of all ages with their classic puppetry and timeless humor. These performances add a nostalgic charm, appealing to both children and adults alike.

The Earthbound Misfits are a staple at the market, wandering the grounds on stilts, juggling, and acting in character. Their street

performances create a lively atmosphere, engaging visitors with their theatrical antics.

Live music is a key feature, with talented musicians like Banjo Bob providing a dynamic soundtrack to the event. From folk and acoustic sets to lively, foot-tapping performances, music enhances the vibrant community spirit.

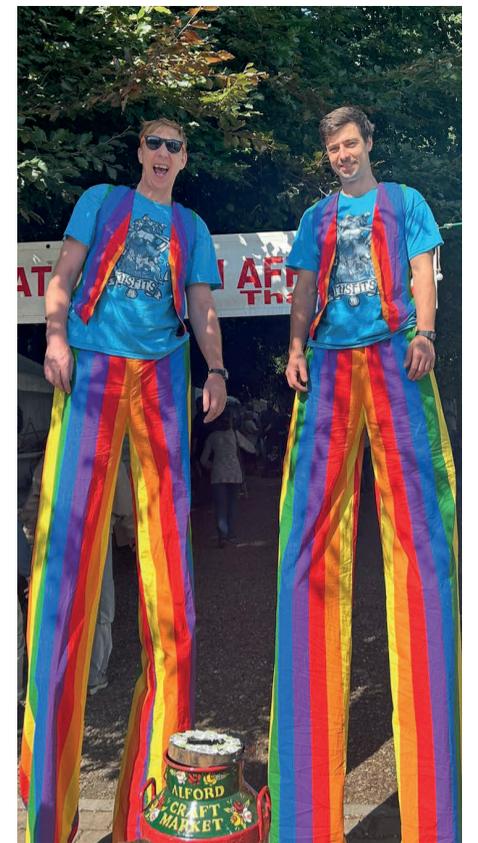
Storytellers captivate audiences with their engaging tales, bringing myths, legends, and folklore to life. Their performances add an element of wonder and imagination to the market.

A significant part of the

market's tradition is the Morris dancing parade. Michel Ducos, the founder of Alford Craft Market, was a passionate Morris dancer, and this heritage continues today with Morris dancers taking part in the festivities. Their rhythmic steps, colorful attire, and traditional music embody the essence of English folk culture.

With its diverse array of entertainment, the Alford Craft Market is more than just a place to shop—it is a celebration of creativity, performance, and heritage.

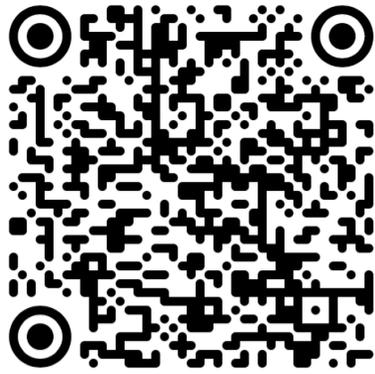
Earthbound Misfits



Punch & Judy: Entertainment for all ages



Banjo Bob ...



Knitting Nannas

The Knitting Nannas are local Alford legends. You'll find their work adorning lampposts, postboxes, parking bollards, shop windows, and even representing well-known people from the town! To learn more about the group and how they started, scan the QR code to watch the video!



Kate - Silver and goldsmith



Kate has been silver and gold smithing for over 40 years, and her designs can be seen in the Alford Craft Market Shop. Many will also recognise Kate for her many workshops unlocking the artistry of silversmithing. Scan the QR code to watch an exclusive video of Kate talking about her craft along with celebrating the Alford Craft Market Shop's 10 year anniversary.



Sam - Potter

Sam has been a full-time potter for just under two years. Sam focuses more on ceramics and working with her hands over using a wheel. Sam works mostly on ceramics that follow themes of nature and started with animals, such as foxes and badgers, which then progressed into items based on mushrooms

and other plants. Each product can take up to 2-3 months to finish due to the process that Sam uses!

Scan the QR code to watch the video!



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar & The Young Journalist Academy



The Story Tellers programme recruited The Young Journalist Academy to work with Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Alford. Young people developed journalism skills and interviewed crafters and committee members inside the Alford Craft Centre. Use the QR code here to watch the videos.



Will Beekeeper



Will Hamilton is a beeper based in Louth, Lincolnshire, and he is known for his active involvement in the local beekeeping community. His excellent honey can be found in the Alford Craft Market Shop.

Additionally, he is associated with the Lincolnshire Beekeepers' Association and collaborates with other local beekeepers to represent The Beekeepers of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

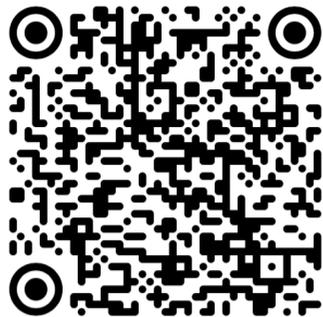
Matt & Sam Fudge & Chocolatiers

Sam and Matt are two chocolatiers who specialise in fudge. They make around 11 flavours, which are often seasonally flavoured at different times of the year. All their fudge is gluten-free and sealed fresh within the packaging. In this video, Sam explains in detail the entire process, which is fascinating; scan the QR code to watch the full video!



Jane is a crafter who specialises in making teddy bears and bags. Jane has been sewing since she was 10 years old and started making bears after making one and falling in love with it. Jane makes all of her own designs and often makes the bears out of German mohair! Scan the QR code to watch the video!

Jane Sewing/Crafter



Bev & John Glass & Wood Crafters



Bev and John are a husband and wife crafting team. Bev specialises in glasswork, whilst John is a woodworker. Bev makes items such as light catchers and lampshades with stained glass, and her glasswork often follows the Tiffany method, which has the stained glass wrapped in copper to join it together. John started woodworking when he started making wooden boxes as a hobby and has since evolved into other projects, though he still enjoys making boxes the most. The pair have been at the craft market since around May 2024.



Scan the QR code to watch the video!

Angela Crochet Crafter

Angela doesn't just enjoy crocheting. She loves it! A relative newcomer to the Alford Craft Market Shop, Angela's designs include crocheted blankets, hot water bottle covers, and much more. Angela's grandma was also a keen crocheter and taught a young seven-year-old Angela the artistry of the craft.



Scan the QR code to watch the video!



Dilys Bead & Jewellery Crafter



Dilys is a bead crafter, jewellery maker, and an avid steampunk fan, with many of her designs popular with the steampunk community. People can often see Dilys in the Alford Craft Market Shop along with her designs to buy.



Scan the QR code to watch the video!

Alford Craft Market August Bank Holiday FAIR

Daytime & evenings

29th 30th 31st August



Alford is on
the A1104
off A16

1987

Ample
Free
Parking

Manor House Grounds, West St.

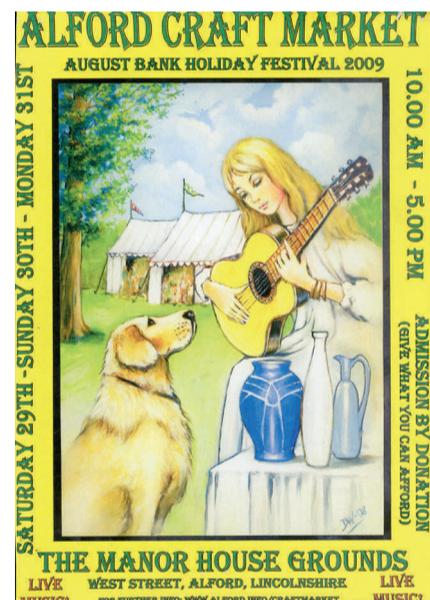
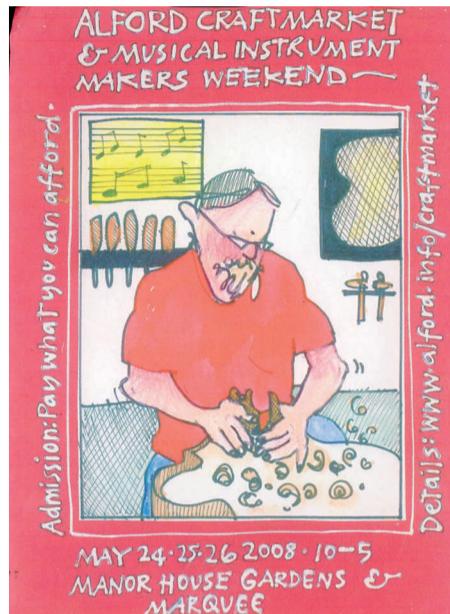
Alford Craft Market Over the Years

Poster Archives

Over the years, the Alford Craft Market has embraced a wide range of artistic styles in its promotional materials. Posters for the market

have featured everything from intricate hand-drawn illustrations and vibrant paintings to modern digital designs. These artistic creations not only promote the event but also reflect the diverse artistic community that the market supports.

Local and visiting artists have contributed their unique styles to these posters, helping to capture the essence of each market. Some designs celebrate traditional crafts with rustic charm, while others showcase bold contemporary artwork that draws in a wider audience. Each poster serves as both an advertisement and a piece of art in its own right.



For the most recent images and updates, the Alford Craft Market's official Facebook page regularly posts photos from events and workshops, providing a visual insight into the market's dynamic atmosphere.



SIZZLING THROUGH THE YEARS

The Alford Craft Market Burger stall and the long standing partnership with Alford Man-or House Volunteers at their burger stall, and afternoon tea on the front lawn.



1978

1991

Alford Craft Market Events



- **A 3 day Easter Craft Market at Alford Corn Exchange – Free Admission – Tea Shop**
- **2 Christmas Craft Market Weekends at Alford Corn Exchange – Free Admission – Tea Shop**
- **A 3 day Spring Bank Holiday Weekend Craft Market at Alford Corn Exchange – Free Admission – Tea Shop**
- **A 3 day August Bank Holiday Weekend Craft Market with live music, street theatre, have a go sessions at Alford Manor House – Give what you can afford**

The Alford Craft Market Shop is open 10am to 4pm every day except Sundays all through the year.

The Alford Craft Market Centre is open all year for classes and workshops.

For all events and the shop new sellers must be approved by the Committee to ensure a high standard of work.

Contact information:

Website for up-to-date news and class bookings: www.alfordcraftmarket.co.uk

Email: alfordcraftmarket@gmail.com

Phone: 07920409253 (daytime only)

 <https://www.facebook.com/AlfordCraftMarket>

 <https://www.instagram.com/alfordcraftmarket>



The Story Tellers is a project funded by Arts Council England that shines a light on the rich heritage of South and East Lincolnshire through creative and cultural activity. We are proud to support The Young Journalist Academy in putting this newspaper together to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Alford Craft Centre.

The Story Tellers programme will:

- Share our incredible local heritage with pride
- Tell the stories of everyday lives and unsung histories
- Make space for young people's voices
- Start conversations that matter with our communities
- Work closely with local artists, makers, and storytellers

At the heart of the project are three cultural hubs: The Guildhall in Boston, Ayscoughfee Hall and Gardens in South Holland, and the soon-to-be-built Seaview Colonnade in Sutton on Sea. Each place will host a programme of arts and culture inspired by the heritage and stories unique to their area.

The project is shaped by a shared Cultural Framework developed for Boston, East Lindsey, and South Holland.

Story Tellers is something special – it's the first time a National Portfolio Organisation has been run by local councils working together across three districts, and it's already showing what can happen when collaboration leads the way.



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Newspaper Designed By Mischa Chang in Collaboration with The Young Journalist Academy & Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Alford.