

ALVESTON VILLAGE DESPATCH

A few words from Tim...

It's hard to believe that Christmas and the New Year are round the corner... where did 2024 go?

Our Malt House Open Day was a success with a decent turnout from the village to welcome MP Manuela Perteghella and Kate Rolfe. We used the event to present the £2,000 cheque to the Warwickshire Air Ambulance which Sheppy did in fine style. The publicity in the Herald was great and, encouragingly, bookings at the Malt

House are showing an upturn.

Many thanks to Pete and all volunteers that work on the Memorial Field also to Kathryn for organising the wine tasting event and to Emma, Mikki and Si for organising the Halloween shindig – all for good causes.

We continue to press WCC for action on the road drains, Pimlico Lane potholes, wooden posts installed on the greens and general village maintenance but the going is so slow.

On a very positive note, it's great that

our pub will shortly be opening again and I'm sure we all wish David Dharna the best. More news from The Ferry below.

Thanks to those who go the extra mile organising village clean ups, phone box decorations, river testing, chasing road improvements, giving away fruit, veg and even conkers... the list is exhaustive and it all really contributes to making our village a great place to live.

Happy Christmas to everyone and I hope that 2025 is a great year for us all.

Tim Hayter ►

Fundraising up-date...

Over the last couple of months there have been some great events raising cash for Charity.

The MacMillan Coffee Morning in September raised £500. The Cheese and Wine Event in October raised £150 and the team agreed to donate the money to the Warwickshire Air Ambulance, together with £150 from the Quiz Night held on the 29th November as we found out that it costs £2,300 to send just one helicopter up on a rescue mission.

The Coffee Morning at the Nursing Home raised £130 for the Church and the Halloween event also held at the YHA raised £365. There were lots of donations of food for the Food Bank too.

Huge Thanks to everyone who supported these Village Events. ►

A very warm Alveston welcome to David...

David Dharna, our new landlord of The Ferry, recently gave an up-date to advise that the kitchen replacement, which he has been waiting for, is starting on the 9th December.

This will take approximately 3-4 days and the bar and cellar will be sorted out during the first week in December. He's really hoping that he will be able to open the door to The Ferry very soon and he is looking forward

to welcoming the village for the festive season. ►



Don't forget...

Giles Shenton Productions will be presenting 'Into The Breach' showing at the Malt House on Saturday 1st February 2025.

Described by the Stratford Herald as: "A delight, a lovely and very humorous play that fully merited the standing ovation." ►

Tickets available, £15
info@alvestonvillage.co.uk

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Festive dates for your diaries...
Come along and join in the Christmas spirit with festivities at The Ferry, St. James' Church and Alveston Leys.

To support the re-opening of The Ferry and for a change from hosting the visit from the camels, Amy has kindly arranged to put some money behind the bar and has booked a cool pop carols choir to come and sing on December 23rd. Check on the Alveston WhatsApp group for details closer to the date.

St. James' Church Alveston
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS Services

Sunday 1st Dec 10.30am Holy Communion Sunday 8th Dec 10.30am Holy Communion Sunday 15th Dec 10.30am Morning Prayer Sunday 22nd Dec 10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Lessons & Carols	Christmas Eve 4.00pm Nativity & Christingle 11.30pm Midnight Mass	Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day Sunday 29th Dec 10.30am Christmastide Holy Communion
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River Avon water testing

By the time you read this 5 villagers will have completed the first full year of weekly testing at the two test sites in the village, with results consistently showing high or very high levels of nitrates and phosphates.

The latest information and test results can be found on the SafeAvon website here: safeavon.org.uk/

70 citizen scientists are now involved with the SafeAvon project and 26 attended an initial gathering in October.

The next day a very productive meeting was held with Manuela Perteghella, our new MP, attended by Geoff Sallis who set up the SafeAvon Project, Janet Palmer from Stratford Climate Action, Mary Manandhar and Renny Wodynska. Manuela mentioned the importance of citizen science in her maiden speech.

A set of actions was agreed including, for the SafeAvon Project, to write to key MPs regarding amendments for the forthcoming Water Bill and support for the Private Member's Climate and Nature Bill. Manuela will be using her position as an MP to influence colleagues. ►

If you want to help please contact Renny Wodynska on 07747 200 487 or email: rennyw@tiscali.co.uk

Working parties up-date

In early October a number of villagers undertook additional bulb planting in certain parts of the village infilling outside the pub and other areas.

In the Memorial Field work was undertaken to tidy up before winter and plant over 2000 English Blue Bell bulbs in the old bund area under the hazel trees, we can only wait to see how the plants establish, but it should be quite a picture.

In November a party of dog owners helped clear the Memorial Field of dog poo. **Pete Gunnell** ►



Why are there new signs on Swiffen Bank and the Memorial Field?

The AVA committee members are Charity Trustees responsible for assets that, under the terms of the Charity, are for the benefit of the village.

The assets include the Memorial Field, Swiffen Bank and the Malt House. The Trustees have legal obligations regarding these assets and so need to ensure that there are rules in place for their use and that the rules are communicated to users.

As part of an ongoing process of managing the Charity's liability, the Trustees recently reviewed the rules and it was agreed that signs should be made more prominent to ensure users are aware of them. There have also been some relatively minor changes to the rules themselves and we thought it would be useful to summarise and explain the changes. They apply to the Memorial Field and Swiffen Bank.

Memorial Field

The Charity Objects state that The Memorial is for Alveston inhabitants so, for legal and compliance reasons, the signs reflect this. However, this is not a change to the existing policy; the signs on the roundels have always stated 'Residents of Alveston and their guests.'

The Trustees are increasingly concerned about the ability to discharge their responsibilities if the field were to be seen to be open to the general public. We are not a local council and have no statutory powers so it is important that we make it clear from prominent signage that the field is private property. We have also used the opportunity to update the signs and website to include recent developments such as the inappropriate or unsafe use of motorised or powered vehicles (following two incidents) and these signs will be in place by the New Year.

Swiffen Bank

Swiffen Bank is an area of concern for the Trustees given the risks of entering the water, especially at high river levels and in very cold conditions. There have been instances of unauthorised swimming, launching of water-craft and canoeing after dark which all present real dangers to participants. It has therefore been decided to make the signage more prominent and include a clear sign stating: 'no swimming, launching of water-craft including kayaks, canoes and paddle boards.'

NB. Both assets will be closed to everyone, including Alveston residents, on the first Monday in February every year to protect the legal status as private property.

We hope this helps explain the reasons for the changes but if you have any questions, please just ask a committee member. ►

Save the date...

The 2024 Fête feels as though it has only just finished even though winter is now upon us. Anomalously, as the village is well known for it's lastminute.com hash tag, the team has already decided on a date for next year.

Having searched through all the long range weather forecasts, and Tarot cards, Sunday 31st August has been chosen as the most appropriate. This is the weekend **AFTER** the Bank Holiday, for obvious reasons. A date for your brand new 2025 diary. **Geoff Benney** ►



AVA COMMITTEE

Tim Hayter – **Chair**
01789 266916

Jane Dodge – **Secretary**
07710 602036

Peter Deaner – **Treasurer**
07866 688046

Martin Andrews
07827 282922

Mark Haselden
01789 415300

Judith Benney
01789 414675

Kevin Martin
01789 296118

Tony Scott
01789 293121

David Tucker
01789 207960

Renny Wodynska
01789 509622

Dave Woolcock
07733 313324

Dominic Yarnold
07901 550066

Oliver Spicer
07725 844910