

# ALVESTON VILLAGE DESPATCH

## A few words from Tim...

**A**fter a very damp beginning to 2024, I hope everyone has had a good start to the New Year.

Christmas festivities got off to a flying start with Carols at The Ferry which was well attended and our St James' Choir sang their hearts out... thanks to Ros and Chris (Dobson), Jill (Focardi) and the organising team, a really buzzing atmosphere it was.

Then the Camels at The Lodge were a real hit too. Thanks to Amy Thompson

yet again and well done for raising the fantastic sum of £520 for MSF.

I hope you all agree that Colin Smart has done an amazing job in laying the hedge along Alveston Lane. This has given it the structure to develop in time into a lovely rural hedge. Special thanks to David Tucker who made all this happen, and has started an appeal to help fund all this fantastic work (see attached).

Finally, there seems to be some progress in improving road safety along

Wellesbourne Road and we continue to pressurise all relevant officials.

Frustratingly, improving the road edges/potholes along Pimlico/Boundary Lane seems an intractable problem.

Pete Gunnell always does a sterling job in whipping up support for working parties and making things happen all over the village, and the more that join in the merrier, so please volunteer.

The days are lengthening, spring is just around the corner. ► **Tim Hayter**



## From tiny acorns...

This Oak Tree was purchased with the money that was raised at the Coronation Street Party last year and has been planted to commemorate the Coronation of The King.

It has a fantastic pedigree as it has been 'bred' from the Pineside Oak on the Brampton Bryan estate in Shropshire. The tree was estimated to have been planted in 1566 and now has a girth approaching 22 feet. The acorn from which our specimen has been propagated was collected and planted on 23rd September 2015. It has plenty of space to grow and provide shade and pleasure to Alvestonians in the second half of Century! ►

## ALVESTON VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 19th April

7pm for 7.30pm prompt start at The Malt House.

Hosted by our very own Quiz Master... Tony Scott

**Teams:** 4 people, £15 per head to include fish and chips.

**Cash bar**

To book please contact Jane Dodge:

jane@janedodge.co.uk  
or call: 07710 602036



**THE FERRY INN HAS A NEW LANDLINE NUMBER:**  
**01789 650185**

**WINTER OPENING HOURS ARE:**  
**MONDAY & TUESDAY:**  
**CLOSED**  
**WEDNESDAY:**  
**3PM – 10PM**  
**THURSDAY TO SATURDAY:**  
**12 NOON – 10PM**  
**SUNDAY:**  
**12 NOON – 6PM**



**Following on from the success of the Coronation street party and the Jubilee party in The Malt House, the organising team would like to do more to bring the village together!**

If you've been to event and thought 'why don't we do something like that in Alveston', or would even like a previous event repeated, then please do let us know and we can see what we can do. Please contact **Kathryn Deaner** on **07976 641 310** or email **kathryndeaner@me.com** ►

**The phone box will become 'The Alveston Puzzle Box' from 1st May.**

Start sorting out any puzzles and/or games you would like to swap.

Hold on to them till the end of April when donations can be made at the phone box.

As with the books, any leftovers at the end of the season will be donated to a local charity shop. ►

## St James churchyard spring working party and grass cutting... **volunteers needed**

**We need volunteers to help rake dead grass and leaves, weed graves and prepare the wild flower areas for summer 2024.**

**When: Saturday March 16th from 9.00am**

There will be plenty of coffee, tea and cake to sustain us, plus we will finish off with soup and bacon rolls for lunch!

**Also, do you have an hour or so a week, or every couple of weeks, to spare?**

We're also putting together a team of volunteers who would each spend a short time on a regular basis mowing parts of the north and east sides of the churchyard during the spring and summer months. If you would like to help with the grass cutting and/or spring clean at St James, please contact **sarahcoton@btinternet.com** ►





We have the first shoots popping up that were planted by our volunteers... here comes Spring at last!

## Spring has sprung!

**Spring is on its way, the snowdrops are in bud and the daffodils we panted are starting to grow – in sheltered areas, they are even in bud! I would urge everyone to take a look at the areas we planted and look forward to the spring colour which is on its way.**

### Memorial Field

Thank you to those who joined the work party before Christmas, we managed to tidy up the field and remove the plastic guards and bamboo sticks used to support the young hedge plants whilst they got established.

The next few tasks to be undertaken in the Memorial Field will be to clear the area where the bonfire occurred and make ready for reseeded and to level off the ground by the new gate, putting down some rubber matting to reduce erosion.

If you would like to join us, please contact: [petergunnell@outlook.com](mailto:petergunnell@outlook.com) or call me on: 07831 096 366. ►

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Memorial Field and Swiffen Bank will be closed for 24 hours on Monday 5th February 2024 in order to manage the Rights of Access. Thank you for your patience.

## What is the AVA?

**A committee member was recently asked this question and as we have some new villagers, here's a reminder of what and who we are.**

Everyone who lives in Alveston over the age of 18 and on the electoral role is a member of the AVA.

Just to complicate matters there are actually two AVAs: Alveston Village Association is a Charity which was formed in 1946 and owns and manages the Malt House, Swiffen Bank, The Memorial Field, and the Telephone Box. We are in the process of updating the charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and you will hear more about this soon.

Alveston Villagers' Association was set up in 2003 and operates as a Residents Association. This Association deals with everything else in the village from footpaths, planting bulbs, organising litter picks to reviewing all Planning Applications that will affect the village. It is also the main point of contact for our local Councillor, Kate Rolfe, Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council. However, its most important function is to up-hold the guidelines in our Village

## River water testing in Alveston

**The water testing team have continued to test the water at Swiffen Bank and, courtesy of David Tucker, about 200 metres from the weir each week since commencement of the project in October 2023. 11 tests have taken place so far at each site regardless of water level of which we are quite proud!**

Our most common reading for nitrates is 5 which indicates very high pollution. Phosphate levels also indicate high levels of pollution; the reading we took by the weir 2 days after the flooding was the highest we've registered so far at 1.92, deemed exceedingly high!

Such high levels are said to be caused by septic systems; fertiliser run off and/or improperly treated waste water.

Across the board, 99% of readings along our beautiful river indicate high or very high levels of nitrates and phosphates.

We're carrying on with our weekly testing and looking forward to meet with other volunteer testers taking part in the SafeAvon project later this year to discuss the best way of making an impact with our findings, i.e., where and how to focus our efforts in a coordinated way using our evidence e.g., council, Environment Agency; also, how to continue to disseminate out information about this project more widely to the community.

Watch out for our next update. ►

**If you want to help, please do contact Renny Wodynska on 07747 200 487 or email: [rennyw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rennyw@tiscali.co.uk)**



Steve Currie assess the aftermath caused by the flood waters of storm Henk.

Design Statement (VDS) which was drawn up and adopted by Stratford District Council as supplementary planning guidance for the village in 2001. It was updated in 2010 and again in 2015. The majority of the village is also in the Conservation Area, which gives us added protection.

You can have a look at all these documents on our website: [www.alvestonvillage.co.uk](http://www.alvestonvillage.co.uk).

Both Associations have the same committee, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and meet approximately 6 times per annum.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or any committee member, whose contact details are in every newsletter, if you have any questions. ► Jane Dodge, Secretary

**Save the date for the AVA AGM – 7pm on Monday 15th April. Further details to follow.**

### Information from your Stratford District Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs)

The police encourage all residents to report any policing issues directly to them, as a direct report from a resident is logged onto our database and builds evidence for resources to be applied to issues. Go online for more information: [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk) and input your postcode to get specific information about Stratford Town.



### AVA COMMITTEE

Tim Hayter – **Chair**  
01789 266 916

Jane Dodge – **Secretary**  
07710 602 036

Judith Benney – **Treasurer**  
01789 414 675

Martin Andrews  
07827 282 922

Mark Haselden  
01789 415 300

Richard Hyde  
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Tony Scott  
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