

ALVESTON VILLAGE DESPATCH

“ A few words from Tim...”

With Christmas a fading memory, I hope everyone has had a happy and healthy start to the New Year. February can be a grim time weather-wise, but on the other hand, it's so nice to see the first signs of spring.

The new chairs for the Malt House will be coming soon and hopefully in time for the forthcoming comedy; 'Into the Breach'.

It's great to have the pub back in action. We all wish David Dharna the very best.

You may have noticed that a replacement Coronation Oak has been planted nearby the original and we plan to relocate the old one if it perks up.

Concerning our transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), I'm delighted to report that we have finally made big progress and the Trustees can confirm that the titles of all registered assets have been formally transferred. This tidies and simplifies a number of issues for the Village. Thanks to Jane and Kevin for driving this through.

We are facing increasing challenges from both individuals and organisations to get access to private stretches of water which can be a ploy to open up the river for navigation. The latest is the British Canoe Association which could result in motorised boats. We are doing what we can to deter this by objecting and making the signs clear etc.

South Warwickshire Local Plan; this is now potentially of huge significance for Alveston. More information from Jane Dodge in the 'Planning Update' below.

Tim Hayter ►

Planning Update...

Another round of consultation is underway for The South Warwickshire Local Plan which sets out how many houses will be built, the infrastructure needed to support them and where development will take place between now and 2050.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The deadline for consultation responses is 7th March and a meeting has been organised by the AVA and TVRA on Monday 24th February at 7.30pm at Tiddington Community Centre so that villagers can find out more about the Plan and how it will impact our villages and how best we

can influence the outcome. The plan consultation document sets out a number of options for new settlements and substantial urban expansion including up to 5,500 new dwellings in South East Stratford which could affect Alveston and would have implications for housing and congestion in the surrounding area.

Village Planning Up-date

The nature of housing in the village itself means that properties often stay in the same ownership for several decades and when they do change hands the new owners undertake major refurbishment projects. This is to be expected and if you are

considering any refurbishment the AVA would be pleased to meet early in the process to discuss compliance with the Village Design Statement, potential impact on the character of the village and possible ways to mitigate disruption during the build (guidance is being drafted to encourage developers to act reasonably during construction).

Please contact Jane Dodge if you are considering a planning application or have any planning related questions. ►

The next AVA AGM will be on Monday 7th April.

in brief...

Josie Brough will be setting a date soon for a Village Litter pick but is waiting to see what the weather forecast is like before deciding on a date. Josie will let us all know on Alveston Chat but in the meantime if you do see any litter please don't hesitate to pick it up! ►

Fun at The Ferry... "My thanks to everyone helping me through the first month. Apologies for any hiccups. Our Fun Quiz starts on the first Wednesday of February. Start time 7.30pm, prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Minimum of 4 per team with a cost of £1 for each player. **David Dharna** ►

This superb still has been snapped from 'Alveston From The Sky' video - credit to @rcsuperlite. You can view the full video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7ZPL0IjyRE> or follow the link via the Alveston Village website: <https://alvestonvillage.co.uk>



Memorial Field & Swiffen Bank

Spring has come early to Alveston the snow drops are in flower and the daffodils are in bud.

We have dropped some wood chipping in the Memorial Field alongside the Wellesbourne Road to be used as a form of weed control when we plant the 200 hedge row plants in March to thicken the hedge. Other jobs to be undertaken in the early spring are to prepare some wild flower seed beds and other general maintenance.

A number of villagers have requested that the AVA create a Community Orchard for the benefit of Villagers. The Memorial Field was specifically established and designed as parkland and the AVA felt the request should be considered though concerns were expressed by the committee. If villagers would be prepared to contribute to the maintenance work for this project please let me know: petergunnell@outlook.com or call **07831 096366**.

The river has been in flood in the last month so little work has been carried out apart from the re-hanging of the old gate. A detailed review has been undertaken and proposals made as to how the village maintain and manage this valuable asset for the future. **Peter Gunnell ►**

PLEASE NOTE: The Memorial Field and Swiffen Bank will be closed for 24 hours on Monday 3rd February 2025 in order to manage the Rights of Access. Thank you for your patience.

WHAT'S ON? ...ST JAMES' CHURCH

Sip and chat...

Drop in for a coffee, tea or hot chocolate and a biscuits or two on Friday 28th February and 28th March, from 9:30am – 11:30am.

Lunch Club...

Join us for lunch on Wednesday 12th March 12:00pm – 2.00pm – Frugal lunch with proceeds going to **Foodbank**.

Quiz Night...

Quiz master Gareth Millard invites you on Friday 14th March to The Malt House for all the usual fun with fish and chips and a cash bar. Quiz starts at 7.30pm. ►

Alveston loves a quiz... Tony Scott will be organising two quiz nights this year the first will be on 16th May and the second on 14th November. ►

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

Update: Wellesbourne Road...

Our local councillor Kate Rolfe has confirmed that road works are scheduled to be completed before April 2025 on the Wellesbourne Road, including resurfacing at the Pimlico Lane crossroads in a high visibility finish to improve safety at the junction.

We attended a meeting of traffic safety campaigners in Claverdon held with local councillors and MP Manuela Perteghella. This was useful in terms of a new police contact, as well as confirmation that it is worth going ahead with the speeding strips later this year. (You may remember the council had to abandon the speeding strips the AVA commissioned last year due to the number of heavy goods vehicles which damaged them whilst the Warwick Road was closed). We will keep you updated. **Renny Wodynska ►**



A very wrapped up Steve Currie by River Avon after heavy rain in early January

Latest news from the River Avon water testing

Readers will recall we met with Manuela Perteghella in early October. As promised she has been highlighting the issue of river health in several ways, including mentioning the work of local citizen scientists and the Safe Avon project at a debate in the House of Commons on 16th December.

The Water Bill has been voted through to its Committee Stage, when it will be scrutinised further and Manuela hopes to submit amendments to strengthen the Bill further. We have invited her to join volunteers testing the water and to our delight she has responded positively. In the meantime we continue to test weekly both at Swiffen Bank and Alveston Weir, a latest summary of results can be found on the SafeAvon website here: safeavon.org.uk

I'm coordinating another meeting of citizen scientist water testers in Stratford at the end of January – it's great to see so much commitment and time being given to this issue by so many people nationally, regionally and locally. **Renny Wodynska ►**