

Alveston Village Despatch

February/March 2026

www.alvestonvillage.co.uk

Dear Villagers

With the days becoming just that bit longer, snowdrops starting to come into their own along Alveston Lane and daffodils emerging on the greens, I'm sure like me, you are looking forward to Spring. It's a great time of renewal and we are in the process of refreshing the Alveston Village Design Statement as it has not been reviewed since 2015. The main purpose of the Design Statement is to guide development in a way that preserves the appearance of the various individual pockets of Alveston, which all have their own unique character. Oli Spicer has taken the lead to revise the Village Design Statement along with members of the AVA and we will share the draft at an open forum session, incorporate suggestions with a view of finalising it in April.

As you know a new bench will be located near the Post Box on the village green in memory of Trevor; the new bench is expected shortly - details to follow.

Best wishes, Martin Andrews, AVA Chair



Alveston Fete

Now everyone has got themselves sorted for the New Year with smart Calendars and Diaries, it might be a good time to remind all of the date of the 2026 Alveston Fete...

Sunday 6th September.

Be warned, the last time we held a Fete in September it was the hottest day of the year. I think that I can promise that will not repeat itself !!!!

The charity that will be supported this year follows on from the International success of the England Ladies football team; it will be Stratford Town Women and Girls FC. They have 15 teams at the club ranging from under 8's to open age. This makes them one of the biggest female clubs in Warwickshire and deserve our support. Geoff Benney

Photo Competition

Get your creative hats on, Alveston!

The Alveston Photo Competition is launching soon, inviting residents to capture the moments, places and details that make our village special. With a range of categories to enter, the competition will culminate in an autumn exhibition at the Malt House, showcasing the very best entries.

Selected photographs will also form the Alveston Village Calendar 2027 – a lasting celebration of village life, created by the community, for the community.

More details coming soon... so start snapping!

Memorial Field & Swiffen Bank



In December two village working parties met to plant whips and hedging plants in front of the YHA fence ... if you're wondering what happened to all that cardboard Roger was asking for check out the photo! Look out for details of further working parties on the Memorial Field and Swiffen Bank on Alveston Chat – the village WhatsApp group. If you'd like to join the group to for the latest on village activities and events please send a WhatsApp to 07710 602036.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Warm up those dulcet tones! 🎵

Alveston Karaoke is coming to The Ferry on Saturday 7th February, from 3–7pm.

Whether you're a shower singer or a secret superstar, grab the mic, cheer on your neighbours, and enjoy a great afternoon of music, laughs and community spirit.

See you there!

Jack's Ashes 🏏

We're excited to be hosting Jack's Ashes on Friday 13 February in The Malt House — a funny and moving one-man show by Tim Marriott (The Brittas Empire). A great night out whether you love cricket or not! (see leaflet attached for more info on how to book)



AVA Quiz Nights hosted by the quiztacular Tony Scott on Friday 15th May and Friday 20th November in the Malt House.

80 YEARS OF THE AVA

The Charity was formed in 1946 and a day of celebrations is being organised which will take place on Sunday 7th June. More details to follow in the next newsletter so watch this space.....



Steve Currie, Kathryn Deaner, Mary Manandhar, Val Blessington and Renny Wodynska have continued their weekly water quality testing at two points on the River Avon in Alveston as part of the SafeAvon project (<https://safeavon.org.uk/>). Thanks to the commitment of SafeAvon volunteers, we have been able to get involved in the development of the Warwickshire Avon Catchment Plan for 2025 – 30 and are on the Avon CaBA (Catchment Based Approach) citizen science and data steering group. Meetings are to be held in February and we will report more about these in a future newsletter.

In addition **The Gathering: for water and Nature**, a varied programme of events, is taking place locally between March 6-15, 2026. The developing programme will be updated here: <https://www.riverhope.org.uk/the-gathering/>

Brought to you by River Hope, Rubbish Friends, Stratford Town Trust and other partners, there will be something for everyone – science, governance, policy, films, creativity and discussions. Please share widely and come along!

Renny Wodynska and Mary Manandhar

What a Load of Rubbish!

Many thanks to Aimee Spicer who organised a very successful litter pick on Saturday 24th January around the village and also to the willing group of volunteers who joined her.

The haul was impressive and also that Biffa collected it all on the same day!!

THANK YOU



What's on In the Malt House

TWINKLE YOUR TOES

Relaxing weekly ballet sessions with our fantastic teacher, Rachael.

Wednesdays 6.45 -7.45pm

We have a lot of fun, great exercise and we don't take ourselves too seriously. Pop along and watch us in action on Wednesday 11th February at our taster session to see if it might be for you!

Contact : Lesley Read or Renny Wodynska via village WhatsApp for more info.

Classes cost £7 per session paid monthly or £10 paid weekly.

No special ballet wear – just tee shirts, joggers and socks.

SMALL MAT BOWLS

Every Friday morning from 10.30-12.30.

Just call in and chat to Dan Callaghan who lives in the village and see if this sociable class is for you – with the added bonus of doing a bit of exercise too!



During the month of March, I'm taking part in The Great Tommy Sleep Out. I'll be sleeping outside for one night to fundraise for Royal British Veterans Enterprise and raise awareness for homeless ex-servicemen and women. I'd love your support in helping me make a difference. Please visit my fundraising page for more information and to donate to this very worthy cause:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1955070701778382/>

Let's stand up for those who stood up for us. Many thanks.

Colin Hartwell

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GATES TO THE MEMORIAL FIELD AND SWIFFEN BANK WILL BE CLOSED FOR 24 HOURS ON MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

(This is necessary in order to manage the Rights of Access. Thank you for your patience)

AVA TRUSTEES/COMMITTEE

Martin Andrews – 07827 282922

(Chair)

Jane Dodge – 07710 602036

(Secretary)

Peter Deaner – 07866 688046

(Treasurer)

Dave Woolcock - 07733 313324

David Tucker - 07778 881155

Dom Yarnold - 07901 550066

Judith Benney - 01789 414675

Kevin Martin - 07968 141734

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