

ALVESTON VILLAGE DESPATCH

A few words from Tim...

Whenever I write about spring or summer coming, I seem to encourage rain... so I'm staying quiet this time.

The AGM was well attended and the initiative to convert to a CIO was unanimously approved – Kevin Martin and especially Jane Dodge have done a superb job in making this happen.

As agreed at the AGM, we're having another bash at the Pimlico/Boundary Lane pothole saga, something has been done to improve the situation somewhat on

Boundary Lane and a meeting with County Highways has been arranged (again) with Kate Rolfe in support.

The Memorial Field is looking even better with the laid hedge filling out and the new trees planted are growing full bore. More details on the Memorial Field overleaf from Peter Gunnell.

The Appeal has gone well and I'm delighted to say that we have met our £10,000 target... thanks so much to those who contributed.

The Malt House is getting a total lighting and electrics facelift. We have agreed

this major project and LED up/down/ everywhere flexible lighters will be installed within one week during the summer holiday period. Major cost savings are expected (70%).

We were let down on our speeding assessment initiative but will try in a few months when the Warwick Road re-opens. More details from Renny Wodynska overleaf.

I regret to write that the lovely John Bedford, Alvestons' longest living inhabitant, has sadly passed away. ►

Tim Hayter



If you have not done so already NOW is the time to put a note in your diary about the ALVESTON FÊTE and DOG SHOW on Sunday August 25th starting at 1.00pm.

There will be children's entertainments, barbecue, fire engine (not for the barbie),

Pimms tent, tea tent with magnificent cakes, one being made especially by a cake maker for the monarchy, bottle tombola, books, craft, valuations by Bigwoods... and many other fantastic stalls.

The dog show – mid-afternoon, will be followed by the 'athletics' – mostly for children, but there will be opportunities for the whole family, culminating in the world famous tug of war championship... *Alveston versus The Rest of the World!*

There's still time to volunteer to help, opportunities include an hour in the tea tent. Help will also be needed on the day to set everything up and then clear away at the end.

Please email: geoff@thebenneys.co.uk or call **01789 414675**. ►

THE FERRY INN

OPENING TIMES:-

MONDAY & TUESDAY – CLOSED

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY:

BAR: 12.00 – CLOSE

FOOD: 12.00 – 3.00pm

FRIDAY: BAR: 12.00 – CLOSE

FOOD: 12.00 – 7.30PM

SATURDAY: BAR: 12.00 – CLOSE

FOOD: 12.00 – 6.00PM

SUNDAY: BAR: 12.00 – CLOSE

FOOD: 12.00 – 4.00PM

Our new telephone number- 01789 650185

Ferry Opening Times...

Join us for a Pint or Pimms and a Ploughman's on our patio... we just need the sun to come out!

We have some slots at The Malt House available.

If you know anyone who would like to run a regular class, e.g., exercise class, please contact:

info@alvestonvillage.co.uk



If you have a nose for a Melbec or a penchant for Merlot, come and join us for a wine tasting evening this October. More information will follow soon.



River Avon Water testing in Alveston

Our small network of volunteers is delighted to have been joined by Val Blessington. As part of the wider SafeAvon project, and as active and concerned citizen scientists, we are monitoring the water quality and health of the Avon on a weekly basis.

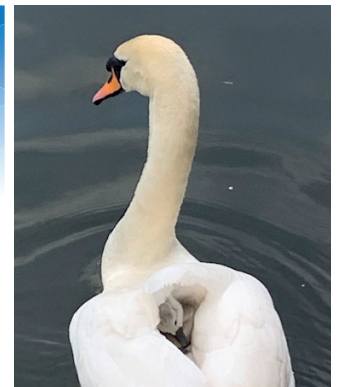
We've been doing so for 29 weeks so far, gathering data to form a baseline of evidence. Results continue to show consistently high or very high levels of phosphates and nitrates are polluting the river. We had intended to meet up with other water testers on 10th May but sadly the venue, the Crowne Plaza, was closed due to a fire earlier in the month. The meeting has been rescheduled for later this summer.

We hope to have a stall about the project at the start of Big Green Week to spread public awareness about it:

<https://safeavon.org.uk/> ►



Val Blessington and Renny Wodynska with latest water samples.



Welcome to the newest village resident.

The resident swans did a heroic job keeping their nest above water, alas just the one cygnet survived this year – but what a cutie. ►

Your native pollinators need you – beware the Asian Hornet!

The Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is spreading rapidly into Europe as our climate changes. It is a highly effective predator of insects, including honeybees and other beneficial native pollinating species, and could decimate them in a short time frame.

What can we do?

1. Know how to spot an Asian hornet and how it differs from other species.
2. Be vigilant: the Asian hornet activity peaks in August and September.
3. Report any suspected sightings immediately with a photo (if safe to do so.)

Ideally, report via the dedicated Asian Hornet Watch App (free on both Android and iPhone) or alternatively fill in the online form: https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.hp?species=asian_hornet

Any reported sightings will be handled by the government's National Bee Unit in DEFRA and British Bee-keepers Association teams locally. **Lets keep Alveston Asian Hornet free!** ►



Asian Hornet

A HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE PREDATOR WHICH POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS IN THE UK.

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport

SEE IT! SNAP IT! APP IT!



St James Alveston Summer Concert

Saturday 29 June

5.00pm at St James Church

Music Director – Matthew Smallwood

Organist/Pianist – Charles Matthews

St James Church Choir and St James Youth Choir

The choirs will present an eclectic repertoire of sacred and secular music with works from Thomas Tallis to George Gershwin and featuring The Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott.

Organ solos will be performed by renowned local organist Charles Matthews, providing a wonderful opportunity to hear the newly refurbished organ at its very best. There will be a bar and refreshments available and an opportunity to wander round the churchyard wild-flower meadow. Ticket Price – £12. Under 16's are free.

Contact: julialucas@btinternet.com Tel: 07788289661
or r.lane85@btinternet.com Tel: 07970 482906

and...

Let's not forget the Annual Summer Mow of the St James Churchyard wild flower meadow, Saturday August 3rd 9.00am onwards.

Volunteers needed to help rake and carry the cut grass. Refreshments provided and there will be our usual barbecue lunch to finish.

If you feel able to offer a little time to help look after the churchyard on a regular basis, please come along to 'Strictly Half an Hour' from 5.15pm to 5.45pm any Monday. Contact: sarahcoton@btinternet.com

Update from AVA on speeding

The AVA have been trying to follow up on villagers' concerns about the speeding along the Wellesbourne Road. This has included meeting with a representative from Warwickshire Police as well as liaising with officers of the County Council.

The police representative encouraged villagers to submit any footage of poor driving/speeding captured on dash cams to Operation Snap as it is always followed up, either with a letter or prosecution depending on the seriousness of the incident. Go to: www.warwickshire.police.uk and search **Operation Snap**.

We have learned that the National Police Chief Council (NPCC) has set a tolerance level for speeding of 15% which is adhered to by all 42 Police Forces in England and Wales, including Warwickshire Police.

Nevertheless the AVA has paid the council to put in speeding strips along two points on the Wellesbourne Road by Alveston, for a two week period, if data shows that less than 85% of all vehicles travel at or below the 50mph speed limit we can then follow this up with the Road Policing Unit (RPU) and Camera Enforcement Unit (CEU) for enforcement measures to be considered.

The speeding strips will be implemented in October and we will update you thereafter. ►



Memorial Field Update

The grass in the Memorial Field has been cut and, as in previous years, we have retained the head lands of the field to encourage an insect bank and the regeneration of flowers and grasses.

The idea of 'No Mow May' was introduced about five years ago and, as the name suggests, mowing stops in early May, which allows the wild plants already in a grass to bloom ready for the pollinators.

The grass mix we use in the Memorial Field is a specific park land grass mixture with short growing grasses. Unlike a meadow mix, which would have a more diverse mixture of grass species and wild flowers, we have retained the head land

to encourage insects and wild flowers and also introduced wild flower mixtures along the hedge line.

The river at Swiffen Bank has been flooded on a number of occasions throughout the spring resulting in little maintenance work being undertaken, but as the bank starts to dry out, we can now start on a number of projects. The top path from Ferry Lane to Wellesbourne Road will also be cleared in the coming weeks.

If you would like to join us in helping to maintain the village assets, please contact: petergunnell@outlook.com or call 07831 096366. ►

Attention all dog owners!

The last working party in attendance at the Memorial Field had the displeasure of having to clear a large amount of dog poo!

This is unacceptable and anti social behaviour – please pick up after your dog(s) and use the bins provided.

AVA COMMITTEE

Tim Hayter – Chair
01789 266 916

Jane Dodge – Secretary
07710 602 036

Peter Deaner – Treasurer
07866 688046

Martin Andrews
07827 282 922

Mark Haselden
01789 415 300

Judith Benney
01789 414 675

Kevin Martin
01789 296 118

Tony Scott
01789 293 121

David Tucker
01789 207 960

Renny Wodynska
01789 509 622

Dave Woolcock
07733 313 324

Dominic Yarnold
07901 550 066

Oliver Spicer
07725 844910