

ALVESTON VILLAGE DESPATCH

“ A few words from Martin...”

First of all, as the new chair of the FAVA I extend a massive thank you to the outgoing chair Tim Hayter. Over the last 2 years under Tim's leadership the Village assets and interests have been well cared for and I aspire to do the same over the next couple of years – he set a high standard!

Despite Alveston being a small village I am sure there are many people I have not met, so a little about me: married to my lovely wife Jill with two grown up children, Georgia and Harry, we moved to River Reach in Alveston in

2020 after staying at River Reach when it was a holiday rental – it was love at first sight!

There are few more beautiful places in England to be during this amazing Spring weather than Alveston and we are very fortunate to live in such a great community with lovely, well cared for open spaces. It is only with the effort and attention of many people that the village retains its character and cohesion. With this in mind a big thank you goes to Tony Scott who arranged the Quiz night on May 16th which enabled a £150 donation to Phil

Vickers's fund raising efforts on his 100km trek to purchase equipment for residents of Alveston Leys Care Home – good luck on the walk Phil. The next Quiz is on Friday 14th November, so what better to do than exercise your grey matter and help raise some money for a good cause. There are many people who help take care of the village and I want to call out a couple who have updates in this newsletter: Peter Gunnell for organizing the working parties and Renny Wodynska for her commitment to road safety and river testing. ► **Martin Andrews**



Village Connections...

Remember how Alveston villagers came together to help each other out during Covid? As life has become ever busier since the end of the pandemic some of that feeling of community has fallen away and wouldn't it be great to get it back.

We all have times in life when things just aren't going to plan and we end up in a fix – e.g., needing a lift/something from the shops/a prescription collected/the bins taking out and it isn't always easy to find someone to ask.

With this in mind Village Connections is being set up as a sub-group of our village WhatsApp group to informally and quickly connect those who have time and are happy to be asked with those who find themselves in a pickle in need of some ad hoc help.

Not on WhatsApp?

Don't worry, Helen Greaves has offered to informally coordinate things so if you would prefer to chat, you can contact her on: **01789 621269**

FÊTE (A) ATTRACTION
SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST

This is the penultimate newsletter before the Alveston Village Fête. The festivities will start from 13.00hrs on Sunday August 31st with the Dog Show, the Olympix and all the fun of the Fête to enjoy.

The road around the Green will be

closed from 08.30hrs for setting up, so please remember to remove any parked vehicles before then. Volunteers to help with the setup will be very welcome at that time.

The committee is looking for sponsors to guarantee the success of the afternoon with collected funds going towards the cost of Rosettes, the cost of the band and much more. All donations made towards the total costs would be most gratefully received.

To reiterate the Fête will be

Keep on trekking, Phil...



On June 21st, Activity Co-ordinator Phil Vickers will be lacing up his boots and taking a non-stop 100km (62miles) trek in the Cotswolds.

He hopes to raise £500 to contribute towards a specialist piece of sensory equipment called a magic table for the residents at Alveston Leys.

If you are able to scan the QR code to donate or would like to leave a message of support, it really would mean a great deal.

Let's bring the magic home! ►

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/phil-vickers-4?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL



Alveston Calling...

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to the Phone Box Library

There are some fantastic books in there, particularly historical novels including CJ Sansom's brilliant 'Shardlake stories'.

We are two or three shelves short, particularly children's books of which there are none! So please go and have a sort-out and donate the books you'd like to share. We all love a good read.

Val, Meg, Marilyn ►

supporting 'Home Start South Warwickshire', a charity which helps local families with children under five.

If you can't attend in person on the day, just reach out to any of the committee members to make a donation towards this very worthy charity.

As you know the Fête is a great day out for all the village, so start saving your cash now for the big day!

Any queries or suggestions: Please email: geoff@thebenneys.co.uk or call 01789 414675 ►



Memorial Field & Swiffen Bank Update

Memorial Field

The blue bells emerged in the Spring, our very own beautiful blue bell display. In mid May a work party undertook maintenance work in the field with thanks to the Youth Hostel who provided refreshments.

Unfortunately the fence between the Youth Hostel and the Memorial Field was damaged but with help from the Fettle the fence has now been repaired. The grass in the field will be cut in the near future and planning is in hand for a work party in the near future.

Swiffen Bank

Last month work was undertaken to replace the broken spars in the fence running along the top foot path.

The Willow wall has established along the river bank and it will be interesting to see how the wall holds in the winter when the water level rises. Thanks must go to Howard Blessington who has undertaken maintenance work on the river bank.

If you would like to volunteer to help maintain the village assets, please contact **Peter Gunnell – 07831 096366 ►**



Latest news: River Avon Water Testing

Thanks to funding from the AVA, 5 villagers have been testing the water at two points on the River Avon in Alveston for over 18 months now as part of the SafeAvon project

Apart from a very few weeks the nitrate level has consistently been very high, with phosphate levels being high to very high. In recent weeks with the lack of rain electro-conductivity has also been high. All these indicate poor water quality. I arranged for our MP to go out with local volunteers in April and she has mentioned the work of all the citizen scientists involved with SafeAvon again in the House of Commons.

We have been able to get a year's funding to undertake E-coli testing at Swiffen Bank for the next year, as well as testing for various bacteria – we'll update you on results next time.

We are now attending the local Warwickshire Catchment Partnership which is a multi stakeholder partnership of interested parties including the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. This is a great opportunity to hopefully have some strategic influence. **Renny Wodynska ►** (<https://safeavon.org.uk/>)

Wellesbourne Road

The AVA has managed to get agreement from the police/ Road Safety Unit to have a mobile speed van located on the Wellesbourne Road once a month. This should commence fairly shortly.

We paid for speeding strips which Warwickshire County Council laid down for us for 2 weeks in March. The data proved 20,000 drivers were driving over 50mph with excess speeds recorded up to 90mph.

However the calculations used by the council and the police consider different figures – the mean average speed, known as the 85th percentile speed which is different to a percentage measurement indicates there is good compliance with the speed limit and we won't get any further measures implemented.

The AVA will therefore take further action which is to flag this up with our MP who has been supportive of other local villages trying to reduce speeding. **Renny Wodynska ►**

St James' Events 2025



Churchyard Wildlife Day
Wildflower Meadow Survey and Family Bug Hunting!

St James Church, Alveston
Saturday June 7th
10.00am – 3.00pm

Churchyard mini-beast hunt!
Moths and Small mammals*
Wildflower meadow survey

With
Teas in the Churchyard
Tea, coffee and cakes on sale all day

And
Bring & Buy Plant Stall
Come along and help our ecologists find and count the plants and animals that live in our churchyard! Bring a plant and/or buy a plant! And enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake too!

*Moth and small mammal traps will start earlier – keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates
<https://www.carltonfordstudies.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature>

Friends of St James' Sparkling Wine Tasting Evening

Friday 20th June 2025 at 19:30hrs
Tiddington Community Centre

From Asti to Champagne
Try 6 sparkling wines
Enjoy a sharing table

Learn about the different production techniques
Champagne and sparkling wines to buy by the glass
£20 per head

Contact: julialucas@btinternet.com

St James Churchyard

Annual Wildflower Meadow Mow
Saturday July 26th

Volunteers needed to help rake the cut grass, weed graves and tidy the churchyard (Bring a rake and/or weeding tools if you have them)

Starts 9.00am

Followed by
BBQ 1.00pm (or thereafter)

Everyone welcome!
Do come even if only for a short time – every little helps – and stay or come back for the BBQ

plus

Last Friday of the month – coffee and a chat in church from 09:30 – 11:00hrs, do pop in and say hello!



AVA COMMITTEE

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Jane Dodge – **Secretary** 07710 602036
Peter Deaner – **Treasurer** 07866 688046

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