

# Alveston Village Despatch

April 2020



Dear Villagers,

We are fortunate to live in such a supportive community and in the two weeks since the start of lockdown we have really seen the village come together. Neighbours have been helping with shopping and collecting prescriptions, villagers have been helping with Spar deliveries and the volunteers network has been active. In addition to Spar and Barry the Butcher we have even had a plant delivery. There are two WhatsApp groups (one for the village in general and the other for the volunteer network). A special thanks to Jane Dodge who has been coordinating and facilitating the village response as well as answering individual questions. If you have any questions, would like to join the WhatsApp groups or village email list, or need further information about deliveries please contact [info@alvestonvillage.co.uk](mailto:info@alvestonvillage.co.uk)

Alternatively we have three volunteers from the network who are acting as a focal point for requests:

**Jane Dodge 01789 261033 Judith Benney 01789 414675 Roger Read 01789 298817**

The impressive village turnout for the clapping on Thursday nights can be heard from houses on the edge of the village! It is going to be a difficult time for people on the front line, they are doing a wonderful job and we are all very grateful to them.

Please be careful and stay safe. Best wishes, Mark Haselden, AVA Chair



**Tiddington P.O. & Stores are continuing with their delivery service**

Please email [spar.tiddington@outlook.com](mailto:spar.tiddington@outlook.com) or phone 01789 292362 between 09:30 - 17:00 Monday to Thursday for deliveries the following day. No deliveries at the weekend.



**Purveyors of Fine Quality Meat  
Call to order 01789 267006**



**COVID-19 Symptom Tracker App reaches 1.5m users in the UK**

Many villagers are already using the app which lets anyone healthy or with symptoms share valuable information with researchers and health services. Developed by Kings College London and other institutions it takes just one minute to self report. Users' data is held securely and in accordance with GDPR.

If you'd like to participate please go to <https://covid.joinzoe.com>

Order on Monday and Tuesday (up to 10:00) for delivery on Wednesday  
Order on Wednesday and Thursday (up to 10:00) for delivery on Friday.

The two price lists were circulated on the village email listing last week. If you would like a printed copy please contact Joy on 01789 295597 and one will be posted through your letterbox.

**H Stratford Hospital Stratford Hospital's Minor Injuries Unit**

On 6th April the MIU will be temporarily closing and staff will be redeployed. The South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust is urging people to only visit Warwick Hospital to access MIU services after assessing all other available options, such as NHS 111 Online, pharmacies and GP services.

## J.B. Priestley's Postscripts

Many of you will know that the famous writer J.B. Priestley lived in Kissing Tree House in Alveston from 1959 until his death in 1984. He would wander around the village in his wide brimmed hat, smoking a pipe without being especially friendly with the locals!



The coronavirus outbreak has been referred to as the biggest challenge for the world since World War Two. It brings to mind the role Priestley played in national communications during the war. In May 1940 Britain was in a desperate situation. The German attack on France had begun on 10th May and on 13th May the new PM, Winston Churchill, told his cabinet and the House of Commons that he had nothing to offer but "blood, toil, tears and sweat". Priestley, who was already well known as a novelist, playwright and journalist, responded by raising morale through the BBC Postscripts radio broadcasts. These were normally on Sundays after the 9pm news. The power of radio made him a household name and listeners loved his references to ducks as "film stars" and the pie shop as a place of "pilgrimage".

There is a view that Churchill had Priestley taken "off air" for being more popular than him and using the Postscripts to discuss building a better world when the war ended. However the decision appears to have been Priestley's. He was tired and felt the war had moved onto a different phase with less imminent threat of invasion. He finished in October 1940 but had another series in 1941.

Even though the Postscripts were produced for radio they make wonderful reading if you can get hold of a copy. More information is available from the J.B. Priestley Society.

## Alone Together

A few weeks ago we'd never heard of Social Distancing much less knew how to practise it. Maybe the term we should be using is Physical Distancing: in this period of isolation many of us need social closeness more than anything.

Our vilified digital devices have become a lifeline. Checking in and hearing from family and friends is spirit lifting. Maybe we don't have to wait until Christmas to connect with our old friends!

If you have a computer but don't know the first thing about video conferencing (such as Skype, Zoom, FaceTime) maybe you'd like to extend your abilities?

It may be possible that someone in the village could help talk you through getting going. You would need to tell us what computer you are using: Windows version or Apple Mac and if you have a broadband connection.

Please contact one of the volunteers if you'd like to be "trained". We'd also like to hear from anyone with IT skills who may be able to help.

### AVA COMMITTEE

Mark Haselden - 415300  
(Chair)

Jane Dodge  
(Secretary) - 261033

Judith Benney  
(Treasurer) - 414675

Steve Currie - 266266  
Jill Focardi - 204131  
Chris Fox - 204646  
Tim Hayter - 266916  
Richard Hyde - 298897  
Kevin Martin - 296118  
Roger Read - 298817  
Tony Scott - 292121  
David Tucker - 207960

### How Does Your Garden Grow?

There was a tremendous response to the RHS seeds offer in the last newsletter. Also spring bedding plants and compost, supplied by "Where Next?", were delivered to villagers last week. Thanks very much to Louise Gemmill and Roger Read for organising this.

Our gardens are going to look amazing and we should have some good crops of tomatoes, chilli peppers, lettuce etc later in the year.

Do let us know how you're getting on - successes and failures! We'd love to feature your efforts in the newsletter.



### Newsletters and Deliveries

The Alveston Despatch is available on the village website  
[www.alvestonvillage.co.uk](http://www.alvestonvillage.co.uk)

Please be assured that we are taking every care in the production and distribution of the newsletter. Jane uses a fresh paper pack and printing and sorting is done with a lot of hand washing and gloves!

We are limiting distributors at this time and they will wear gloves. We love to hear from you at [joyhawker@btinternet.com](mailto:joyhawker@btinternet.com)

### Some Good News! SDC's Garden Waste Scheme

The introduction of the new charging scheme has been deferred until March 2021.