

Alveston Village Despatch

June 2020



Dear Villagers,

As the lockdown starts to ease a bit for outdoor activities and people are allowed to meet in gardens, we have been sent a number of photos of beautiful gardens in the village and vegetables grown over the last few weeks from seeds and plants distributed by villagers at the start of lockdown. From next week Stratford pavements will be widened to allow non-essential shops to start opening in a socially distanced way and, in a few weeks' time, some restaurants to open with outside tables. Let's hope for more good weather!

For those who have received shielding letters or continue to self-isolate because they are in a vulnerable group it may still be a while before they can venture out. Although the Spar has cut deliveries to once a week, the Alveston Volunteers are still available to collect shopping or prescriptions. Also, pharmacies are now delivering to people on the shielding list, GPs arranging blood tests at home and it is getting slightly easier to book slots for online shopping.

Along with nearly 4 million other people, a number of villagers are taking part in a study by Kings College, London University, which is tracking the spread of Covid-19. It involves downloading an App and reporting how you feel each day <https://covid.joinzoe.com>

Thank you to everyone working on Swiffen Bank and the bus shelter. Thank you too to the group who are working to improve broadband in the village.

Stay safe and best wishes, Mark Haselden, AVA Chair

Alveston Broadband Challenge



A huge thank you to everyone who responded to the village broadband survey.

We had responses from over half the village which is fantastic and has allowed us to see the large variation in download speeds across Alveston. About a quarter of properties get "superfast" speeds, but the majority are slower than we were promised when fibre was installed to the cabinet by the war memorial, and several properties still have very slow speeds.

Generally properties to the west of the village are getting significantly faster speeds than those to the east because they are closer to the cabinet. A number of people have reported their speeds improving after contacting their provider and asking them to look into potential problems.

We have shared the results with Connecting Solihull & Warwickshire, the organisation responsible for upgrading the region to Superfast broadband by 2021. We have asked them to prioritise Alveston in the next round of investment – Fingers Crossed!

If you are interested in the detailed results, including broadband speeds in your street and average speeds for each provider, then please email info@alvestonvillage.co.uk Watch this space for regular updates.

Hemmingford House



The YHA is currently housing a group of fruit pickers until the end of August. They are key workers and live and work together so do not have to socially distance. But we still do so we should stop using the grounds. The gate to the Memorial Field is locked at present.

If you have any concerns about the YHA please contact Stephen Dodgson, the hostel manager, on 01789 297093 or 07904 029401.

The Memorial Field

You may spot some personal fitness classes taking place on the field. These are being led by Claire Gerrens from the village. She has permission from the AVA. Say hello as you pass by!



"Geoff – it's here!!"

Thanks to Colin Hartwell and Geoff Benney for cleaning, prepping and weather proofing the bus shelter on Kissing Tree Lane. Colin tells me that it's about 12 years since it was refreshed. Apparently it's around 40 years old and was purchased by the village so that we didn't have an ugly, standard one.

They may have some time to wait for a bus!

Walk This way!

Well done to Mike and Yvonne Botterill who eventually completed their 21 mile hike along The Shakespeare Way at the end of May.

They are fundraising for The Shakespeare Hospice.

If you'd like to donate please hop over to justgiving.com and search for mikebotterill



Swiffen Bank

Pete Gunnell quickly pulled together a working party to clear the fallen trees and branches on Swiffen Bank that were dislodged during last weekend's winds.

Thanks to everyone who helped out.

Do you know....the history of the Alveston Village Association?

The establishment of the AVA can be traced to VE Day, 8th May 1945. The village wanted to celebrate with a tea party for the children.

The committee that was set up in May to organise the party then went on to provide swings and other amenities for the children. Mr & Mrs Docker donated the land in the allotments which is now part of Avonfields Close. £130 was raised to develop the site and the playground opened on August Bank Holiday 1945. The original committee consisted of Mr & Mrs Pitcher (Chairman and Secretary), Mr Hunt (Treasurer), Mr & Mrs Hicks and Mrs Holmes.

The Reverend ER Wallace chaired a public meeting at the Malt House in August 1945 to consider how to move to a more permanent and formal way of working.

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

Agenda items included: formally accepting the gift of the piece of land; considering offers of additional land for a bowling green and the Malt House as a village hall and electing a Committee of Management.

The first committee meeting of the AVA was held in September 1945. An Entertainments and a Building Committee were set up. The Malt House was in business as a village hall albeit with no toilet, no kitchen, no running water and a cold stone floor!

With thanks to Brian Johnson who researched and collated the information. We'll cover the later years in a future edition.

Alveston in Bloom

We ran out of space to include your plant and garden pictures. Please continue to send them along to joyhawker@btinternet.com. We'll feature them in a future edition.