

Alveston Village Despatch

October - November 2020



Dear Villagers,

After some welcome relaxation during the summer, Covid is back in the news and social distancing will continue to affect village activities and the use of village facilities as the weather gets colder.

As you may be aware, a new booking system has been introduced for the Malt House which has been available for limited use since the start of September. However, regulations are constantly changing so please refer to the booking website hallbookingonline.com/alveston for details if you would like to use the Malt House.

In line with Charity Commission guidance, the AVA Committee has decided to postpone the AGM until it is safe to hold it in the Malt House. In the meantime, if there are any matters which you would have raised at an AGM, please contact Jane Dodge.

One matter which has already been raised is dog poo on the Memorial Field. This is unpleasant for all users and a particular concern if small children are around. Could dog walkers please ensure that they always clear up after their dogs – I appreciate the vast majority already do.

Since March Tony Scott has run an excellent weekly quiz on Zoom. This has now become monthly but will return to weekly if some form of lockdown is reintroduced.

Best wishes,

Mark Haselden, AVA Chair

the
ferry
at Alveston

The Ferry up-date

The Ferry re-opened on Tuesday 29th September.

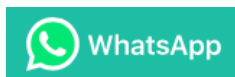
We would like to thank you for the kind comments and your patience waiting for us to be open again

We look forward to seeing you soon. Martin

The Ferry

01789 269883

www.theferryalveston.co.uk



WhatsApp

There are two groups being used extensively by villagers. We have Alveston Chat for general news, comments, sharing amusing stories which are generally lighthearted and the topics are varied.

Then there's Keep 'm Peeled - this group is for sharing important news immediately such as suspicious or criminal activity, dangerous occurrences, loss of utilities etc.

Once someone has posted the information villagers are able to reply with a relevant comment but the objective is to keep this forum factual and reasonably formal. If the messages do get out-of-hand an Admin notice will be posted to remind villagers of the purpose of the group.

If anyone would like to join either group please send a WhatsApp message to Jane Dodge on 07710 602036 with your name and where you live in the village.

Quiz Night: now monthly

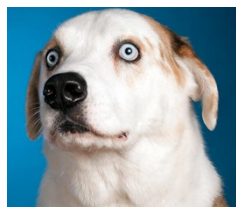
A great success of lockdown has been our online village quiz. Our Quiz-tastic Quizmaster, Tony Scott, now hosts these monthly, starting at 19:30. The next one is Monday 12th October.

If you'd like to join you would be most welcome - even if only from time-to-time.

For more details please contact info@alvestonvillage.co.uk



Attention Dog Owners!



Alas, there has been a marked increase in dog poo fouling the village paths and the Memorial Field.

Please pick up after your dog!

We know responsible dog owners are just as fed up with this as villagers without dogs!

The time may come when access to the Memorial Field is restricted and that will be a sad day.

Also be sure to keep your dog on a lead around other dogs and farm animals. There was a unfortunate incident of a dog attacking a free range hen recently which was most distressing.

Hiron's Murder 1820

Our favourite historian, Brian Johnson, makes a welcome return to the Alveston Despatch to mark this rather gruesome anniversary!

If you are driving along the Wellesbourne Road you will cross Littleham Bridge. It seems insignificant today but 200 years ago this was the scene of a murderous attack. On Saturday, 4 November 1820, in Warwick it was both market day and election day.

The Hiron family was well established in Alveston, initially living in the village itself and later in Alveston Hill Farm. William Hiron lived in London but visited Alveston frequently to see his mother. That Saturday he had travelled on horseback to Warwick where he cast his vote and spent a full day there. In the dark and foggy evening at about eight o'clock he was riding towards Littleham bridge when he was dragged from his horse by a gang of four robbers. They beat him about the head violently, thinking that he was Mr. Parker, a bailiff for Mrs Bradley of Crofts anticipating that he would be carrying money.

The gang had prepared for the robbery. They had blackened their faces and on the previous day had commissioned a Stratford blacksmith to make them a long pole with a metal hook designed for dragging Parker off his horse. The four were well-known muggers of their day and had already attacked two people earlier the same week. Suspicion fell upon them immediately and they quickly confessed though blaming each other for the crime.

Hiron was found the following day, still alive though with serious wounds. He was able to give particulars of the attack and told the police about some distinctive banknotes that had been taken. These were found in the villains' houses. The four were kept in prison at Warwick until their trial on 12 April 1821. They all pleaded not guilty but the jury, after half-a-minute's consultation, found all four guilty. The judge ordered them to be hanged the following Saturday. He stipulated that they should be "hanged from the neck until dead; and that after you are dead, your bodies be cut down, dissected and anatomised". Their bodies were sent to four separate hospitals. A plaque in the old church recalls the sad event.



ALVESTON BROADBAND CHALLENGE



Thank you again to everybody who took part in our Broadband Speed Test Survey. The results highlighted a significant variation across the village, with the properties closest to the cabinet by the War Memorial getting the fastest speeds, and those at the other end of the village experiencing the poorest performance.

We presented the results to Connecting Solihull & Warwickshire (CSW) who in turn raised the issue with Openreach. The good news is that Alveston is now included in the next phase of Openreach's Rural Fibre First programme which will connect fibre directly to individual properties. Openreach has not provided a detailed timetable for the programme but has suggested that the work is likely to take two years to complete.

Alveston Broadband Group

AVA COMMITTEE

Mark Haselden - 415300
(Chair)

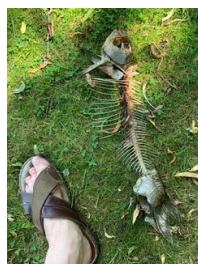
Jane Dodge
(Secretary) - 261033

Judith Benney
(Treasurer) - 414675

Steve Currie - 266266
Jill Focardi - 204131
Tim Hayter - 266916
Richard Hyde - 298897
Kevin Martin - 296118
Roger Read - 298817
Tony Scott - 293121
David Tucker - 207960

Tales from The Riverbank! "Neither fish nor flesh..."

Thanks to Alison and Mark at Sundial House for this amazing picture. Here's their story:



"We first noticed the remains of this rather large fish! You can get an idea of its size by comparison to Mark's size 11 flip flop! The fish, a carp or chubb, looks to be 4lb to 6lb in weight so caught by something pretty powerful. We armed our camera trap and waited, catching many photos of our cats, rabbits and birds. Eventually



the culprit showed himself: a large male otter! Apparently their territory extends up to 40 km so he doesn't necessarily live in Alveston. However we have evidence of at least 3 fish stripped to the bone so he's not just passing through!"

(Extra marks if you know which Shakespeare play the quote is from!)