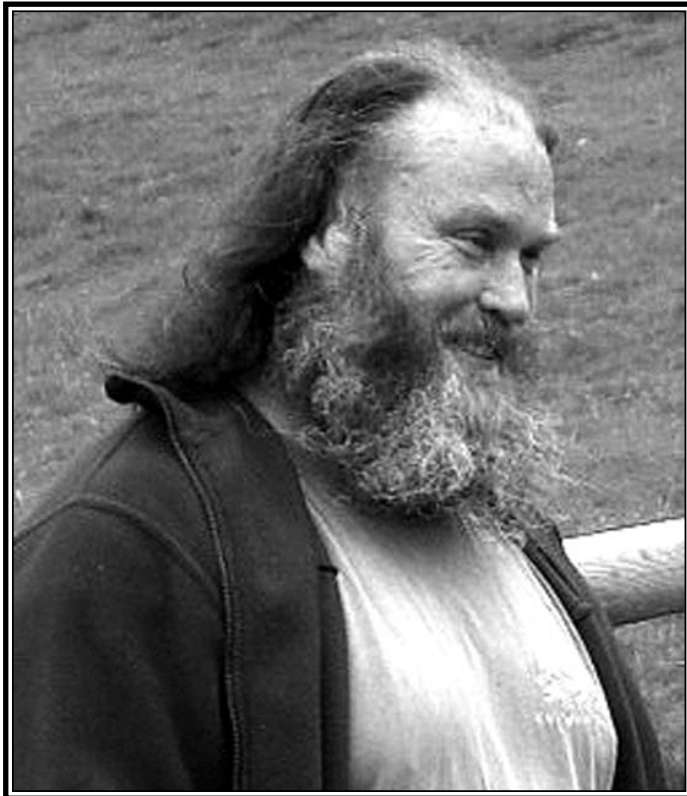




Alvechurch Village Society

www.alvechurch-village-society.org.uk



Paul Newby 1962 - 2008
Parish Paths Warden 2003 - 2008

Programme 2008/9



Alvechurch Village Society

AVS was formed nearly 40 years ago to retain the beauty and character of the Alvechurch area for residents and visitors alike, and ensure it remains a true gateway to the countryside. The Society is an independent voice in a community where all tiers of Local Government are becoming increasingly party-political.

What does the Village Society do ?

- Working with the Parish Council, we campaign on key community issues like traffic calming, keeping our Post Office, affordable housing, litter and protecting the Green Belt
- We maintain 27 miles of footpaths around the parish and lead guided, family-friendly walks. The Society revived the tradition of Beating the Parish Boundaries in May 2008.
- We organise litter-picks and lobby our local Councils to improve the cleanliness of the village.
- On the social side, there are evening talks with local speakers, plus a Christmas party and a Summer outing.
- We produce an annual report, free to AVS members, and walks leaflets (at nominal cost). Copies of both are available in the Library, the Parish Office and the Post Office.
- AVS activities are advertised on village notice boards and on our web site, which has photos of the Alvechurch area, information on local books and walks, details of how to join AVS and much more. Visit us at and see for yourself at:-
www.alvechurch-village-society.org.uk

Join the AVS and support your local community

Do you care about the quality of life in the Alvechurch area? That quality of life is often praised, yet is also under threat: from new building, from changing Council policies and occasionally from a lack of care by some of our own residents. That's where we hope you can help! We'd like more local people to join AVS, to appreciate our local environment and to influence how the village develops in future.

If you're proud to live in Alvechurch, Hopwood or Rowney Green, you're the sort of person we need. Our financial support comes from members' subscriptions, which are just £10 a year, a small price to pay. If you're already one of our members, we appreciate your support, but please encourage your friends and neighbours to join AVS too.

EVENING MEETINGS

These are normally held in Alvechurch Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month and are open to members and non-members alike. Speakers typically focus on issues of local interest. The Chairman opens each session with a review of AVS activities; followed by a summary of what's happening in the Alvechurch area. There is often feedback from PACT and other community meetings and AVS members can make their views known on village issues. After the speaker's talk, refreshments are usually available.

VILLAGE WALKS

Our guided walks are intended to be family-friendly and manageable by all ages. They typically cover 4-5 miles, lasting around 2 hours, with a cut-off point where possible for those preferring a shorter walk. Many begin in Tanyard Lane Car Park in Alvechurch and follow waymarked paths in the Parish. For variety, some are based in neighbouring parishes but, apart from the Boxing Day and July evening walks, they all begin at 2.30pm.

AVS always welcomes suggestions for new walks, and new volunteers offering to lead a walk, If you would like to help, please contact our walks organiser on 0121 447 7356.

FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE

We have 2 volunteer groups who from May to October maintain and improve our 27 miles of Parish Footpaths. One group works for two hours on Wednesday mornings (usually bi-weekly), cutting back on overgrowth and undergrowth. The other works for 2 hours on a Saturday morning (again, usually bi-weekly), erecting stiles, signposts, steps and ditch crossings.

We are always looking for volunteers to augment our working parties. If you are interested, please contact Andy Humphries on 0121 445 5955 or e-mail us at:- avsoc@tiscali.co.uk.

A.V.S. COMMITTEE

We always welcome new volunteers onto our Committee and / or suggestions for future AVS activities. If you'd like to support your local community, please contact AVS Chairman, Andy Humphries (0121 445 5955) or our Secretary, Noelin Hawkins (0121 445 3558). Our email address is avsoc@tiscali.co.uk. Enquiries about Society membership or annual subscriptions should be made to the AVSTreasurer, Kate Brennan (0121 447 7569).

**AVS subscriptions of £10 (individual members) and £12.50 (organisations) are due in January each year, payable to:-
Alvechurch Village Society, 31 Withybed Lane, Alvechurch B48 7PD**

AVS Walks Programme 2008-2009

Walks are held on the first Sunday of the month, unless this conflicts with a Bank Holiday. They normally start at 2.30pm from the Tanyard Lane Car Park in Alvechurch. For walks starting outside the village, contact the leaders if you have no transport and need a lift.

Weather conditions occasionally mean a walk has to be cancelled; check with the leaders if necessary.

- 7th September:** Leaders: Mike & Hannah Genders (0121 447 7086)
Meet: Rowney Green Peace Hall
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: Eastwards from Rowney Green
- 5th October:** Leaders: Jane & Charlie Simmonds (0121 445 3447)
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: Autumn colours
- 2nd November:** Leader: Tony Armond (0121 445 5071)
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: Along the canal to Barnt Green
- 7th December:** Leaders: John & Jill Alexander (0121 445 1312)
Meet: Victoria PH Car Park, Barnt Green
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: A short winter stroll
- 26th December:** Leader: Eileen McHugh (0121 445 6080)
Meet: Lickey Hills Visitor Centre
Time: 10.30am
Walk: The traditional Boxing Day freshener – a figure of 8 route to cater for all tastes....

**Alvechurch Village Society celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2009.
A number of special events will be held: watch out for more details.**

AVS Walks Programme 2008-2009 (continued)

- 4th January:** Leaders: Roger & Jill Coates (0121 453 8394)
Meet: The Beacon Car Park, Monument Lane, Lickey
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: To the Waseley Visitor Centre and back
- 1st February:** Leaders: Martin & Pat Phipps (0121 445 2213)
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: The Alvechurch Village Trail
- 1st March:** Leader: Sue Phillips (0121 445 3620)
Meet: Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: A stroll round Hanbury
- 5th April:** Leaders: Anne & Andy Humphries (0121 445 5955)
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: Seechem and Newbourne Hill
- 3rd May:** Leaders: Shirley & David Wheatley (01562 710368)
Meet: The Sun PH Car Park, 95 Bromsgrove Road, Romsley (20 min drive from Alvechurch)
Time: 2.30pm
- 7th June:** Leaders: Isla & John Davies (0121 445 3901)
Meet: Westmead Hotel Car Park, Redditch Road, Hopwood
Time: 2.30pm
Walk: A scenic ramble north of Alvechurch
- 8th July:** Leader: Vera Hill (0121 445 4346)
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park
Time: 7pm
Walk: An evening stroll ending at The Weighbridge for a social drink!

**Alvechurch Village Society celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2009.
A number of special events will be held: watch out for more details.**

AVS Talks Programme 2008-2009

Talks start at 7.45pm and are normally held in Alvechurch Village Hall.

- 24th Sept. Speaker:** Karen Jordan
(Headteacher, Alvechurch C of E Middle School)
"Life in a new School"
Venue: The new school complex, Birmingham Road
- 22nd Oct. Speaker:** A representative from the Magistrates Court
"Magistrates in the Community"
- 26th Nov. Speaker:** Mrs Margaret Cooper
"Worcestershire Churchyards – "Here lieth the body"
- 17th Dec.** "CHRISTMAS REVELS" with Magic Bob
Doors open at 7.30pm

2009

- 28th Jan. Speaker:** Alan Guest
"The Office of High Sheriff"
- 25th Feb. Speaker:** David Taylor
"The Event Mobility Charitable Trust"
- 25th March.** AVS Annual General Meeting followed by wine, nibbles and entertainment.
Doors open at 7.30pm.
- 22nd April. Speaker:** Richard Churchley
"Boundaries, hedges and walls"
- 27th May. Speaker:** Chris Galey
"Consort to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham"
- June** AVS summer outing – Provisionally a joint visit to Bletchley Park with members of the Alvechurch Historical Society. Date to be finalised.

**Alvechurch Village Society celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2009.
A number of special events will be held: watch out for more details.**