



Alvechurch Village Society

www.alvechurch-village-society.org.uk



**Alvechurch Village Hall
1929 - 2009**

Programme 2009/10



Alvechurch Village Society

AVS was formed 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. Have a look 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 Barry Lynock on 0121 445 3917 or email:-
b.lynock02@btinternet.com

A.V.S. COMMITTEE

We always welcome new volunteers onto our Committee and / or suggestions for future AVS activities. If you would like to support your local community and improve the environment in Alvechurch, Hopwood or Rowney Green, please contact AVS Chairman, Andy Humphries (0121 445 5955) or any of the Committee. Our email address is:-

avsoc@tiscali.co.uk.

Enquiries about Society membership or annual subscriptions should be made to the AVS Treasurer, Kate Brennan (0121 447 7569).

AVS Walks Programme 2009-2010

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.

- 6th September:** Leader: Sue Phillips (0121 445 3620).
Meet: Waseley Hills Visitor Centre.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Walking the Illey Way.
Never heard of this route ? Google it and see where it goes.
- 4th October:** Leaders: Jane & Charlie Simmonds (0121 445 3447).
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: More Autumn colours.
- 1st November:** Leader: Julian Beck (0121 707 6867).
Meet: Car Park 100m above The Oak Tree roundabout in Rednal.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: A walk around Cofton Hackett.
- 6th December:** Leaders: John & Jill Alexander (0121 445 1312).
Meet: Needle Mill Lane car park, Redditch (off Sainsburys roundabout).
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Along the River Arrow to Arrow Valley Lake.
- 26th December:** Leaders: Ray & Norma Yarnell (0121 445 5739).
Meet: Lickey Hills Visitor Centre.
Time: 10.30am.
Walk: The traditional Boxing Day freshener – a figure of 8 route to cater for all tastes.

We rely on your financial support to maintain our walks and talks programmes and other AVS events – please check that you have paid your subscription this year and change your standing order if necessary to our current £10 per year amount.

AVS Walks Programme 2009-2010 (continued)

- 3rd January:** Leader: Barry Lynock (0121 445 3917).
Meet: The Peacock PH, Icknield Street.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: A winter walk on the edge of Wythall.
- 7th February:** Leaders: Martin & Pat Phipps (0121 445 2213).
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Alvechurch in Winter.
- 7th March:** Leaders: Mike & Hannah Genders (0121 447 7086).
Meet: Peace Hall, Rowney Green.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: A ramble round Rowney Green.
- 4th April:** Leader: Mary Green (0121 445 5957).
Meet: The Crown Inn, Withybed Green.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: A wildlife walk – looking at local plant life.
- 9th May:** Leader: David Noakes (0121 445 4903).
Meet: Lickey Hills Visitor Centre.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Bluebells on the Lickeys.
- 6th June:** Leader: Eileen McHugh (0121 445 6080).
Meet: The Crown Inn, Withybed Green.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Family walk around Alvechurch. Discover where Muntjac deer, kingfishers and badgers live in our village. Ends in the Meadows. Please bring a picnic tea. Some field walking so strong footwear needed.
- Wednesday**
14th July: Leader: Tony Armond (0121 445 5071).
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park.
Time: 7pm.
Walk: An evening stroll ending at The Crown Inn, Withybed Green for a social drink!

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AVS Talks Programme 2009-2010

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

AVS evening talks (and walks) may change slightly due to the availability of speakers and leaders. Changes will be advertised whenever possible on our web site and in notice boards.

23rd Sept. Speaker: Pat Hadley
Chair of League of Friends, Alexandra Hospital

**Tuesday
13th Oct. Speaker:** PACT meeting - including presentation by Melvyn Clarke
of West Mercia Police
"SMARTWATER - A very smart idea"

25th Nov. Speaker: Conservation Officer - Bromsgrove District Council
"Conservation work in a Planning Authority"

16th Dec. "CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION" - More details nearer
the time

2010

27th Jan. Speaker: Jo Malin, BBC presenter, Radio WM.

24th Feb. Speaker: Hannah Genders
"Growing vegetables and flowers in raised beds".

24th March. AVS Annual General Meeting followed by wine, nibbles
and entertainment.
Doors open at 7.30pm.

April. Date to be announced.
Tour of BBC television studios at The Mailbox, Birmingham

19th May. Speaker: Speaker from British Waterways
"Local canals and how to enjoy them".

June AVS summer outing. Date to be finalised.

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