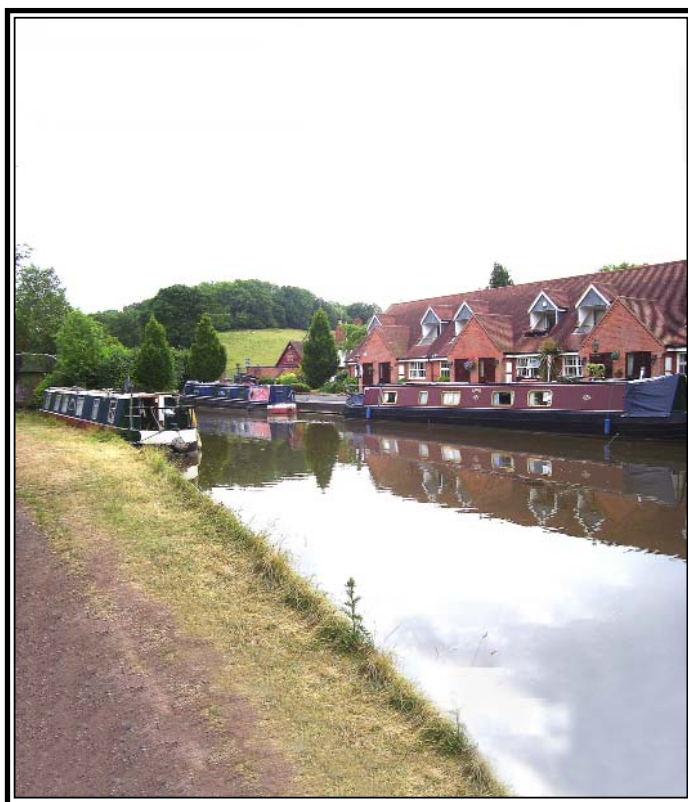




Alvechurch Village Society

www.alvechurch-village-society.org.uk



Withybed basin.

Programme 2011/12



Alvechurch Village Society

AVS was formed over 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 at a small charge of £1 for members and £2 for non-members, this includes refreshments. 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 the village groups and AVS members can make their views known on village issues after the speaker's talk.

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 445 0116.

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:-
barry.lynock@gmail.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, Adrian Smith (0121 445 0481) or any of the Committee. Our email address is:-

avsoc@tiscali.co.uk.

Adult membership is £10 p.a. Young adult (age 14-20) is £5. Membership runs from January to January and subscriptions and enquiries should be made to the AVS Treasurer, **Keith Williams (0121 447 7937)**

AVS Walks Programme 2011-2012

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.

- 4th September:** Leaders: Ray and Norma Yarnell (0121 445 5739)
Meet: Tanyard Lane car park.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: A canal walk to Bittell Reservoir and back.
- 2nd October:** Leader: Adrian and Linda Smith (07941 508881)
Meet: Coach and Horses pub, Weatheroak.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: The Chairman's walk, with "links" to Whythall and back .
- 6th November:** Leaders: Andy and Anne Humphries (0121 445 5955).
Meet: Tanyard Lane car park.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Southbound to Rowney Green and back.
- 4th December:** Leaders: Barry Lynock Footpath Warden (0121 445 3917).
Meet: Hopwood House car park.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Over West Hills and back.
- 26th December:** Leaders: Ray and Norma Yarnell (0121 445 5739).
Meet: Lickey Hills Visitor Centre.
Time: 10.30am. (N.B. Morning start)
Walk: Traditional walk around the Lickey Hills.

We rely on your financial support to maintain our walks and talks programmes and other AVS events. Please check that you have paid your £10 or £5 (young concessionary) subscription this year and change your standing order if necessary.
Our membership runs from January to January

AVS Walks Programme 2011-2012 (continued)

- 8th January:** Leader: Charlie Simmonds (0121 445 3447).
Meet: Tanyard Lane car park..
Time: 2.30pm. **(N.B. This is the second Sunday)**
Walk: A New Year stroll around Alvechurch.
- 5th February:** Leaders: Martin & Pat Phipps (0121 445 2213).
Meet: Tanyard Lane Car Park.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: A village trail, a walk around - Alvechurch Conservation Area.
- 4th March:** Leader: Julian Beck (0121 707 6867).
Meet: Tanyard Lane car park.
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Withybed Green, Coopers Hill, Barnt Green and back via the Worcestershire and Birmingham canal
- 1st April:** Leader: Tony Armond (0121 445 5071).
Meet: Coach and Horses pub, Weatheroak.
(Please park at the far end).
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: North Worcestershire Path towards Wythall & back.
- 13th May:** Leader: Mary Green (0121 445 5957).
Meet: Monument Lane Car Park, Lickey (off the B4096).
Time: 2.30pm. **(N.B. This is the second Sunday.)**
Walk: Beaconwood and fields, viewing spring wildlife and bluebells.
- 10th June:** Leader: Sue Phillips (0121 445 3620).
Meet: Waseley Hills Visitor Centre (Small parking fee payable)
Time: 2.30pm.
Walk: Part of Illey Way through Romsley.
- 11th July:** Leader: Sarah Courbet & Barney (07789 988628).
Meet: Hopwood House Inn (Car Park)..
Time: 7pm.
Walk: An evening stroll ending at the Hopwood House Inn for the traditional end of walking social drink!

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