

YEW to YOU



**Avon Dassett
Community
Benefit Society
Newsletter
Issue 2
November 2023**

Welcome from Clive South, Chairman - Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society

As we move towards the end of 2023, we want to thank you all for your continued interest in and support of The Yew Tree, keeping it as a vital hub for the community. With that said, we thought we would take this opportunity to bring updates and news to existing and prospective Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society Limited shareholders.

Earlier this year we advised that our planning application to build an extension to the single-storey side, to create disabled access and a new disabled toilet and baby changing area had been approved. We are currently in the process of obtaining quotes for the work, which we hope will start in the Spring of next year (funds permitting). The first phase of the works will be sorting out the drainage along the garden side of the pub.

Further upgrades and developments are being progressed, to make it easier to access the pub, including alterations to the steps at the front of the pub and the introduction of a handrail. - both are scheduled for 27 November 2023. We are also looking to update some of the older windows in the property and to repoint the building where necessary and to secure the wall next to The Shack. Longer term we will be looking at options to make better use of the outbuildings.

With the maintenance work and enhancement to the building we need to look at new fundraising initiatives alongside the sale of shares and we look forward to your continued support. A reminder that shares can be purchased at any time of the year, but with the festive period almost upon us, they could be a lasting and welcomed Christmas gift. The share application form can be found on our website.

Interest on Shares

The Management Committee is very pleased to be able to approve the payment of interest to members on the shareholding register as at 30 November 2023. The interest will be at the rate of 2% and will be paid to members during the first 10 days of December subject to the criteria in the Interest Payment Policy.

An Update from Jack, our tenant landlord

Despite the mixed weather over the summer, the Yew Tree and The Shack both continued to grow in popularity, and we have enjoyed yet another successful season. We were particularly lucky with the weather for the annual Soap Box Derby, which drew crowds into the village, and through our involvement, were able to donate £800 to the Children's Wish List Charity. Pictured, Jack (left) handing over a cheque to the charity Chairman, Craig Collins.



Christmas Activities at The Yew Tree

On 28 November, we launch our Christmas Menu, this can be found at <https://theyewtreepub.co.uk/christmas-2023> and for bookings of eight people or more, we are offering a 10% discount if you book before the end of November!

Christmas Market – 4 December 5pm-8:00pm

This year our Christmas market is getting bigger and better. We'll be featuring stalls from loads of wonderful local suppliers, Christmas Carols will be sung, there will be a BBQ, face painting, a tombola plus a visit from someone very special - this is one not to be missed.

Bumper Christmas Quiz – Sunday 10 December from 7:30pm

Our annual, great big Christmas Quiz features a **THREE-TIMES PRIZE POT!** As well as Play Your Cards Right, a music round, spot prizes, nibbles and more. This is one of our most popular events and there will be no room for those who do not book – so get booked in now to avoid disappointment.

Quiz Nights

Our last quiz in October saw the greatest number of teams/players that we have ever had! Thank you again for your support, while it is fantastic to see everyone enjoying the competitive atmosphere, we strongly recommend booking to guarantee a table. Our next general quiz takes place on 26 November from 7:30pm.

In addition to our general quiz, once-a-month local Kev Dancer hits up the decks and brings you a Music Quiz featuring tunes from the past three decades. Be prepared to have your knowledge tested, it is not easy, but it is loads of fun. The December Music Quiz take place on **5th December at 7:30pm.**

Other Events

There are loads more events happening throughout late November/December including an open mic night, live acoustic music on Sunday 10 December and a Champagne Breakfast on Christmas Eve! Pop onto our [website](http://www.avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk) for more information.

Walking Group an update from Avis Forbes

It surprised me when I realised that it is now over five years since I agreed to lead the group. I try to find a new circular route of around four miles for each walk and, although we are lucky to have lots of footpaths around Avon Dassett, we occasionally travel a few miles to find new walks. It's pleasing that we now have a well-established pool of walkers who meet on the third Thursday of each month for the walk followed by lunch at the Yew Tree, where we are joined by others who simply enjoy the company.

I have lost count of those who have joined our walks but it's well over 60 different people from far and wide, not just the village. A new group was also created from members of the Walking Group: the Strollers. As the name suggests, this group is for those who want a less challenging walk, but still appreciate the camaraderie and lunch at the Yew Tree, of course.

We are planning our Christmas Walk for Thursday 21 December followed by Christmas lunch. Once again, we are planning to invite others from the community to join us and hope to beat last year's turnout of 26 people.

Both the Walking Group and the Strollers welcome new members and anyone interested in joining should contact Avis Forbes (07525 651351) or Anna Prosser (07468 602078).

Footpaths Group

A group of volunteers organised by the Walking Group and with help from Fenny Compton Footpaths Group has completed urgent repairs to several footpaths in Avon Dassett.

Hardcore was laid under the gates into and out of the Playground, sleepers replaced on the footpath to Warmington and three stiles on the footpath on the hillside above the Farnborough Road have been repaired. Work took place over a number of weekends, with the last stile, pictured, being replaced on 7 November.



Many thanks to all who volunteered, providing labour, tools and materials free of charge. We are now considering setting up our own footpaths group, to emulate the success Fenny Compton has had in maintaining the quality of their public footpaths.

Supporting the Air Ambulance

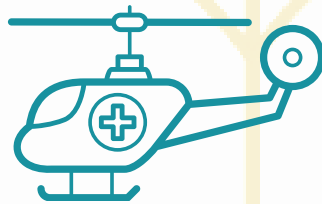
Visitors to the Yew Tree may have noticed a bright green addition of a clothing bank in the car park. We have agreed to its placement, by the Air Ambulance Service, who raise funds through the collection of clothing/textiles all year round to support a service that is so vital, especially to our rural communities. The Air Ambulance, has written to us as follows...

The Air Ambulance Service are delighted that The Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society Ltd., are hosting one of our Clothing Banks at the Yew Tree Pub.

“We maximise the profits raised from our Clothing Banks through our 56 shops including five superstores and our eBay store, where they use these textiles to help stock and support our life-saving service. On average it takes just 15 full banks to equate to one life-saving mission and this can be achieved fairly quickly in a community.

“By hosting one of our Clothing Banks in your village you are working towards sustainability and helping to divert textiles from landfill”.

Liz Kelly
Business Support Manager



Warm Hub

Once again, the Benefit Society is working with Warwickshire Rural Community Council to support the Warm Hub initiative. From the beginning of 2024, please join us on Fridays from 12pm where a warm welcome will await together with free hot drinks.



**Plunkett
Foundation**


Avon Dassett
Community
Benefit Society