



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

I want to start with a big **THANK YOU** for continuing to support The Benefit Society through your regular visits to The Yew Tree. This has given us the ability to make some significant investments over the winter months to improve and enhance the pub. Mike Blakeman covers these improvements in more detail in this newsletter (page 2). My thanks go to Mike and the local tradespeople who undertook the work.

The approaching months see key events that will bring lots of visitors into the village and thereby visitors to The Yew Tree. The Soapbox Derby in June, Open Gardens in July and The Dassett Country Show at the beginning of August are times when we can showcase the whole village, and hopefully attract those visitors to return and become regular patrons of The Yew Tree. This year The Yew Tree will host "Soap-Fest" alongside the Soapbox Derby, and I am sure you need no reminding that the patio at the front of the pub is a great viewpoint to watch the cars just after the finish line.

Certainly the work that Jack and team do in publicising The Yew Tree clearly pays off, with the pub frequently full of people from outside the immediate vicinity. This gives us the confidence to keep trying to improve the facilities at The Yew Tree.

Here's hoping for a good summer giving us all lots of opportunity to enjoy the outside garden at The Yew Tree.

Committee Members pay tribute to Peter

As many of you will be aware, our former committee member, Peter Biddlestone, has sadly passed away. Peter served on ADCBS Management Committee between April 2021 until October 2023, when his health required him to change his focus.

Peter brought extensive management and analytical skills from his career to benefit the continued growth of The Society, for which we are very thankful.

Our thoughts are with his wife Diana, their children and grandchildren at this time.

New to Yew!

Regular visitors to the Yew Tree will have noted the rapid progress made on the small extension to the side of the building.

The building works are now complete and have been well received by visitors to the Yew Tree. The much-needed extension provides a unisex disabled toilet which complies with the Building Regulations Approved Document as well as a folding baby change table.

The works also included some new drainage to accommodate the new toilet and to replace the sub-standard drainage to the existing toilets. The work has been undertaken by local tradespeople and is to an excellent standard.

The disabled toilet was the first in a series of improvements that the Management Committee is considering for the Yew Tree, these being as follows:

- **Refurbishment of the existing toilets.**
- **Electric Vehicle charging points in the car park.**
- **Relaying the paving across the frontage.**
- **Replacement of some of the existing windows.**
- **Repointing of the stonework to the frontage.**
- **Provision of a new kitchen prep room and storage areas in the outbuildings.**



Before



After

These projects will enhance the assets of the Community Benefit Society in the long term and improve the customer experience.

The various projects will require funding over several years and provide an opportunity for villagers to acquire a shareholding or additional shares.

An application for additional shares can be found at:

<https://avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk/shares>

Soapbox Derby Update

The annual Soapbox Derby returns on 22 June 2024. As always, it promises a brilliant day of thrilling racing, showcasing the village at its best and raising money for the Children's Christmas Wish List charity.

The Soapbox Derby is becoming renowned as one of the fastest tracks in the country and with the addition of the wicked 'S' bend by the church, it is not for the faint-hearted. The brave drivers, who include juniors from the age of seven upwards, tackle the hill in a variety of whacky and wonderful karts, using only gravity to propel them. Top speeds reached exceed 50 mph.



This quirky and unique event attracts spectators from all over the region. The event is free to park at and free to attend but donations for the Children's Christmas Wish List are very welcome. The charity provides treats and events for terminally ill and sick children across the region and they have supported the Soapbox Derby for many years.

As always, the Soapbox Derby race team are grateful to Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society and the Yew Tree for their outstanding help and support for this amazing event.

Ahead of the Soapbox Derby, there is a classic car meet and auto jumble on Thursday 20 June starting at 5.30pm in the fete field



An update from Jack, our tenant landlord

Running alongside the Soapbox Derby this year will be our first-ever SoapFest!

From 12pm through to 7pm, the Yew Tree will host live music with a line up that features ...

- 12pm Dan Hughes
- 2pm Twisted Sisters
- 4pm Mad Thingz

There will be three different food outlets provided by Happy Wolf Pubs, ice cream by Frellies, four bars, and hopefully loads of sunshine.

We have decided to raise as much money as possible for a charity close to our hearts - Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity there'll be plenty of chances to donate and lots of incentive to do so, more information on it's way!



The Shack is Back

You've been asking us when... and now we're delighted to confirm that The Shack will officially reopen for the Summer 2024 season on Sunday 2 June at 10am (weather permitting).



All the favourites make a return:

- Homemade Frellies ice cream
- Smoothies
- Milkshakes
- Hot and cold drinks
- Sweet and savoury snacks
- Paninis

All can be taken away or enjoyed in the delightful garden of the Yew Tree

The Shack will then be open on weekends:

Saturdays 9am - 4pm

Sundays 9am - 3pm

Opening times may vary due to the good old British weather, please contact us before travelling if the weather looks undesirable.

Walking Group an update from Avis Forbes

The Yew Tree Walking Group continues to be popular and well-attended, attracting walkers from other surrounding villages. Please note, that dogs are welcome.

We meet at the Yew Tree every third Thursday of the month at 10.50 for an 11 am start and then do a circular walk of between 4 1/2 to 5 miles. Staying for a drink and lunch at The Yew Tree is optional.

This year we have joined forces with Fenny Compton footpaths group; we aim to keep our public footpaths open and clear, repairing stiles, bridges and inserting kissing gates where needed.

A work party meets every fourth Sunday morning between 9am and 12noon. If you would like to get involved please contact Avis Forbes on 07525 651351



First Aid Training an update from Liz Hirst

After undertaking a number of social events that village residents have enjoyed, it became clear we needed first aiders, who could help out at these events if required.

Although we do have a number of medically trained staff in the village, our insurance does not allow us to rely on them.

Having successfully applied for a grant, ADCBS agreed to top-up the balance allowing everyone who wanted to attend the course to do so.

On 26 January, nine members of the village, including staff from The Yew Tree attended training. Subsequently two further members have also taken the course.

It is pleasing to report that all attendees passed the three hour 'Basic Life Support Level 2 at First Panda' and everyone really enjoyed the day. All course participants would like to thank the committee. It really is a benefit for the village.