



# West Alvington Parish News

Brought to you by West Alvington Parish Council

**November 2021 – Number 2**

**Welcome** to the November edition of West Alvington Parish News, in which we hope to keep you informed of local news and events. It is delivered to your door by volunteers. Please get in touch if you have any information or events that you would like to include in the next edition.

A downloadable version is also available at: [www.westalvingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.westalvingtonparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Village Events** - The parish used to have regular events including the Parish Fun Day, Best Kept Garden, Carol Singing, Beating of the Bounds and the Time Out Club. We are already exploring a Parish Fun Day event or similar for 2022 and we are hopeful that the Time Out Club will restart again in spring 2022. Additionally, we are looking to help organise carol singing in December. If you would like to help organise or support such an event within the Parish then please do get in touch with our Parish Clerk, Kathy Harrod [westalvingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:westalvingtonpc@gmail.com)

**All Saints' Church** – The stonework of the windows to our 15th Century church is currently undergoing major repairs. Restoration will cost in excess of £30,000. If you would like to make a donation towards these essentials works to one of the district's most iconic and historic buildings, please visit their website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8989/> and hit the donate button.

**Church Services** – 2nd Sunday in month 09:30am Matins (except November) and 3rd Sunday in month 09:30am Holy Communion. (Places for all services must currently be booked in advance) Call Keith Steer on 01548 561509 or email Keith at [keithsteer50@btinternet.com](mailto:keithsteer50@btinternet.com).

**West Alvington Woods** – Several trees were sprayed with graffiti in the summer. This is obviously terrible news, particularly because of the uniqueness of some of the trees. Our sincere thanks go to our Ward Cllr Mark Long who recently spent some hours cleaning the trees.

**WW2 Memorial** - Many parishioners will know that in West Alvington Woods there are nine trees bearing inscriptions, carved by US soldiers, who camped there in the days and weeks leading up to D-Day.

These trees are a large part of the fabric of our village and have been recognised as historically important. One tree is possibly the only one of its kind in the world. Many of the soldiers who were training here, fought and gave their lives for the freedoms we now enjoy. For this reason, it was decided that, on behalf of our Parish, a Memorial would be a fitting tribute to their memory. The Memorial will be placed in the church as soon as it reopens. At present, it can be viewed at the Ring O' Bells pub.

This memorial was made possible with kind help of Cllr Mark Long, Terry Reeves, Martyn Norsworthy, Mayne Gallery, Keith Steer, Ryan & Hazel at Ring O' Bells and Chantelle Summerfield BA, MA, Mphil. Thank you all.

**Village Hall** - This spacious public meeting and function hall is available for hire with kitchen, toilets (inc. disabled facilities), a shower and space heating. The Village Hall is owned and managed by a Village Hall Committee. For information about current events and to make an enquiry, please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/West-Alvington-Village-Hall-306534826424200>

**West Alvington Horticultural Society** - the Christmas fundraiser will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> November at the Village Hall in November. Doors open at 11:15am and lunch will be served at 12 noon. £7.50 per head.

**Play Equipment Project** – Parish Council and Primary School representatives have met with and received interest from several companies, regarding the tender for additional play equipment. Once all the reports with plans and pricing structures are received, they will be compiled into a document for review by the Council and School prior to full discussion at the next meeting.

**Speed Signs** - The Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), which we co-funded by Parishioner's Council Tax and Cllr Rufus Gilbert, have been busy recording traffic movements in both directions. From mid-August until end of October (77 days), just over a **quarter of a million vehicles** passed through the village! Around 15,000 were recorded driving over 30mph, 670 over 41mph, 36 vehicles were travelling around 70mph and another two around 75mph! Your council will continue to investigate ways to make our roads safer.

**Bus Services** – Back in June the two services between Totnes and Kingsbridge (164) and Kingsbridge and Salcombe (606) were combined into one through service with an improved frequency, providing connections with Great Western trains to and from London, together with a range of connections with Cross Country services. Buses run approximately hourly from early morning into the evening Monday to Saturday, with a Sunday & Bank Holiday service of three through buses a day.

The timetable can be found on the Tally Ho web site [www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk](http://www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk)

**Garden Waste** – We were all very disappointed to hear that green waste / brown bin collections have been suspended until spring 2022. So here are some other ways to get rid of your garden waste:

Compost your garden waste - here are some [www.recycledevon.org/in-the-garden/how-to-compost](http://www.recycledevon.org/in-the-garden/how-to-compost) tips. Please don't put garden waste in the grey waste bin.

Use the recycle centres - All three recycling centres located in the South Hams are operated by Devon County Council and take garden waste. Full details, including opening hours, can be found at: [www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/centre](http://www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/centre)

Use a licensed waste collector who will responsibly take away your garden, or household, waste items. Please check first with the Environment Agency to see if they are registered:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

**Scam Emails** - Sling Your Hook Campaign. We have recently become aware of an influx in email scams. Neighbourhood Watch have recently launched their Sling Your Hook Campaign which helps prevent you from becoming a victim of scams. Find out more here: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectfromfraud>

**Potholes** - Members of the public are requested to report all Highways through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

**Easton Hill Bench** – The old bench has been dismantled, repaired and is now back in place. Enjoy the view!

**Parking** - We continue to receive reports of poor parking in the village, this is often obstructive and can prevent emergency vehicles and the refuse lorry from accessing some areas. There have also been incidents of verbal abuse towards residents, primary school staff and a visitor. Devon Highways have said that the only option available would be to add double yellows to the pinch points. Ultimately this would lead to fewer spaces, and unless additional parking can be made available it is not an option we want to consider - yet.

**Housing Crisis** - South Hams District Council have declared a housing crisis in the South Hams due to the lack of affordable rental accommodation, which is due in part to the number of properties being used as Air BnB and Holiday Homes. If people are letting houses that would normally be on long lets SHDC want to ensure that they are compliant for short term lets - this will include having the relevant planning in place, they have made proper arrangements to dispose of their waste and that they are paying council tax for a separate dwelling if they are letting it.

If anyone thinks they are going to be made homeless please contact SHDC at the earliest opportunity.

**Newsletter Sponsors / Advertising** – Would you like to sponsor or advertise in this newsletter? We aim to print 4 editions per year and your donation will help us cover our printing and distribution costs. Sponsorship costs £40 per edition and we'll include your name / advert at the top of the front page.

**Parish Council Vacancy** – Would you like to contribute to our community? Do you want to help look after, and improve, many of the facilities in our parish? We currently have one vacancy on the Parish Council. If you'd like to find out more, please email us and we'll tell you all about it.

Email: [westalvingtonnpc@gmail.com](mailto:westalvingtonnpc@gmail.com)

**Finally, we'd love to hear your opinions** - We'd like to know what you want to see in your Parish and what we can do to help make it a better place. Get in touch with us via the website or come to one of our meetings and speak in the Open Forum. We meet on the first Thursday of each month (except August and December when there are no meetings). Details of when and where are included in the agenda, which is published on our website the Friday before the meeting. Our next meeting will be at All Saints Church, West Alvington on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm.

<http://www.westalvingtonparishcouncil.co.uk>