



West Alvington Parish News

Brought to you by West Alvington Parish Council

March 2023 – Number 4

Welcome to the March 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 or if you'd prefer to receive this by email please contact westalvingtonpc@gmail.com and we'll add you to our distribution list.

Kingsbridge, West Alvington and Churchstow Neighbourhood plan – The Kingsbridge, West Alvington and Churchstow Neighbourhood Plan was officially 'made' on 15th December 2022

This is a formal document that sets out planning policies which will last until 2034 and be used as a blueprint for planners and councils to decide local planning applications and/or to encourage certain sorts of local development. The object is to ensure the community gets the type of development structure that it wants. Until now SHDC has produced its own local plan for the whole South Hams. Now that our neighbourhood plan is in place it will be used to supplement the SHDC plan. We cannot however override the Joint Local Plan. Full details of the plan can be found here: <http://kingsbridge.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

Village Events – An event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Sunday 7th May from noon – 4pm at the playing field. If the weather isn't kind we'll move the party into the village hall. Bring your own food/drink /fizz, cutlery & blanket/table/ chairs. There will be cream teas & cakes available on the day. Why not get into the spirit of the event and wear red, white & blue...

If you're feeling crafty we'd love you to join in with making some homemade bunting for the event. There is a "Bunting Drop Box" outside Horsemans Close on the main road for donations of bunting or material that we can share with anyone who'd like to join in. We're aiming to have 500 meters of home-made bunting for the occasion!

As with the Platinum Jubilee, the Parish Council have approved the giving of a small gift to each child at primary

school. Working in conjunction with surrounding parishes we have just placed an order for enough sports bags to give one to each primary school child in the catchment area. These will be distributed to the children by the Councillors at an event nearer the time. Once again we give our sincere thanks to Cllr Rufus Gilbert from Devon County Council and to Councillors Judy Pearce and Mark Long from South Hams District Council who have funded the full cost of these bags from their localities allowances.

Village Hall –

A new committee is being established, we invite you to join us and be a part of the coming transformation.

If you'd like to join the committee or help us by hosting a fundraiser or other similar event we'd love to hear from you.

Don't forget, this spacious public meeting and function hall is available for hire with kitchen, toilets (inc. disabled facilities), a shower and heating. For more information, please contact us at westalvingtonpc@gmail.com

Play Equipment Project – The new play and adult gym equipment is now well established, but we haven't finished yet. We're aiming to put a second phase of equipment in and we are working with the school to ensure we get items that suit all ages and abilities.

We're also looking to spruce up the area around the outside of the hall to help make access to the hall and school much more inviting.

Garden Waste Services – There's still time to sign up for the new subscription garden service offered by South Hams District Council. The service started on 6 March 2023, and ensures your garden waste will be collected every fortnight.

A single subscription costs £49.00 for the year, and you can buy one or two subscriptions depending on what most closely suits your needs. Full details of how to sign up can be found on their website.

Report it – Like it or not, most of us have experienced problems with potholes, full bins, damaged signs, overgrown vegetation, and other more unusual issues such as finding a stray dog or noticing building works taking place that may not have been approved.

It used to be the case that you would have to phone through the issues, thankfully these days it takes just one minute to submit a report online, sometimes even less than that as some higher incident objects (i.e., bins) have QR codes on them.

Please use the below links to submit reports on all the things in the parish that need some attention. You can do it as you notice the problems or if you are busy wait until a rainy day and submit a few reports at one time!

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/report> for issues with abandoned vehicles, missed bins, full dog or litter bins, recycling banks, public toilets, litter, fly tipping, lost & stray dogs, dog fouling, dead animals, car park problems, planning enforcement, nuisance, flooding, and other queries not already covered.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/> for issues with potholes, parking, vegetation, public rights of way, hazardous trees, debris, obstruction, defective signs or markings, trip hazards, traffic lights, manhole covers, grit bins, bridges, fences, ice, streetlights, flooding and blocked drains.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Photo ID will be required for the May 4th Elections for anyone intending on voting at a polling station. No ID is required for postal votes. If a parishioner does not have the required ID they can either apply for a postal vote or to SHDC for a Voter Authority Certificate.

More details can be found at <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/voter-ID>

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR:

As you know we have elections coming up in May this year. This is an opportunity for anyone with an interest in being a Councillor to put themselves forward.

Here in West Alvington the council are responsible for:

- Burial Ground
- Climate & Biodiversity sub committee
- Playground and equipment
- Adult Gym
- Grass Cutting Public Right of Way
- A defibrillator
- Two vehicle activated signs.
- And more.....

We have a Neighbourhood Development Plan in place, and we are a statutory consultee for all planning applications that are submitted within the parish boundaries. We have various grass contractors and people who work in different areas of the parish, some volunteer teams and some paid operatives.

The Council have ten meetings per year and meet on the first Thursday of each month (excluding August when we're on the beach and December when we're searching for Santa). The meetings are limited to two hours maximum.

At our meetings we discuss all sorts of topics, the SHDC and DCC Councillors give updates, we have an open session for members of the public to share any concerns/observations and we talk about any recent planning applications.

We've got some exciting projects in the pipeline including additional works to the village hall, an upgrade to the play area, reinstatement of a disused path, reorganization of the car park at Town Park and we continue to work on the burial ground area to make it beautiful.

We fully appreciate that everyone has their own life to lead, so Councillors can be involved as little or as much as they like. For example, someone will check the defibrillator each month - just a quick check to ensure they're still operative. Councillors check footpaths (never a chore, especially with a four-legged friend). We have Councillors who act as a school liaison and police liaison as well as others who focus on traffic management and social media updates. If you join us we'll find something suited to you and your interests.

So, if we haven't managed to put you off, get in touch and we'll sort out the next steps, alternately see <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/candidate-information> for details. Just be aware there is a time limit as submissions need to be made to Follaton House between 24th March and 4th April.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support and assistance. We love to see you at our meetings and your feedback has been very important to us, please keep it coming.

We meet at the village hall 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.

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

Our next newsletter will be issued in approximately three months. In the meantime, if you have any comments or concerns please contact us at westalvingtonpc@gmail.com or call 07704 941150.