



West Alvington Parish News

Brought to you by West Alvington Parish Council

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In July 2020, West Alvington Parish Council reformed and over the last few months your new Parish Councillors have been working together to help make the Parish a better place. To ensure that everyone is aware of all the council news we've recently voted to issue a Parish Newsletter – and here's the first one!

With years of hard work by many individuals, including the West Alvington Traffic Group & the Parish Council, we have finally been authorised to erect two VAS (Vehicle Activated Signage) signs for the village. These have now been purchased by the Parish Council and, once in position, we hope to see an significant reduction in speeding vehicles. We'd also like to thank DCC Councillor Rufus Gilbert for giving £1,000 from his Locality Allowance towards the signs.

Some of you may have also noticed that the Smart Pulsa School Crossing Lights on the main road through the village are now fully operational again. Hopefully these will help to improve road safety for both parents and pupils.

Plans are afoot to replace the current Village Hall with a brand new one! We hope to keep you all updated with its progress.

All the footpaths in the parish have recently been walked and assessed for any works required, a full report has been submitted to Devon County Council and we now await some funding that will help us to ensure the footpaths remain well cared for throughout the next year.

The bench at Easton Hill will shortly be repaired and once again it'll be an ideal place to sit for a while and take in the stunning views.

In February and March, a team of eager volunteers worked together in Lower Town, Wood Lane and the Village Car Park to sort out the brambles and overgrowth. We were really pleased to see this work helped reveal snowdrops and daffodils from bygone days. If any parishioner would like join our working parties in helping maintain areas West Alvington then please email your contact details to westalvingtonpc@gmail.com

The Parish Council have also installed two new larger grit bins for your use. One has been sited at Town Park Car Park and the second has been put at the Village Hall. We've also relocated a small bin opposite the Ring O'Bells to enable grit to be spread on the path as it gets particularly slippery there.

Once the weather dries up (it will happen) we'll be sorting out the potholes at Longfields, we know they're a big concern and can confirm they'll be fixed as soon as we can.

The Church Graveyard will also be having a makeover, South Hams District Council have cleared the site and prepared wildflower meadow areas as well as reducing the hedge height and the planting of new hedging to fill in the gaps. They'll be working on a regular contract to cut the pathways and cemetery plot area so that it remains well maintained and is a pleasure to visit.

We couldn't do the work on Lower Town and the Graveyard without also including a spruce up of the main road. This will now be weeded twice annually which will make the area look much improved.

There are still other areas in the parish that require attention and to ensure we're managing everything, we have recently awarded a maintenance contract to Nick Mathias to ensure our verges, hedgerows and grassed areas are kept in check all year round.

On a serious note, we're incredibly pleased to confirm that the defibrillator at the Village Hall is accessible 24/7 (you may have noted the new signs telling you where it is). We check that it's working and report back to the ambulance service every month so that they can direct you to use it in the event of an emergency. Once the lockdown is relaxed, we'll be arranging training sessions to ensure that you know how to use it – but trust us when we say that it's incredibly easy to operate, the unit tells you exactly what to do and it won't shock anyone who doesn't need it.

Our website has recently been revamped and now contains a lot more information including up to date news from District and County Councils as well as useful documents and information that relates directly to this parish, it's well worth a look: <http://www.westalvingtonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

In January, the council had to agree on the annual precept; this is the amount of money they receive each year from the Council Tax Payments you make. On this occasion the Council concluded that they needed to raise the precept to £16,888 which means that the average household will now pay £63.48 per year (i.e.: £1.22 per week). Full details of how we spend this money are contained in the minutes which are available each month from the parish website.

One of our more recent payments has been for the replacement of the fencing at the school. We appreciate that the school is the future of our village and want to work closely with them wherever possible. Katie from the school has provided an update which can be found at the bottom of this page.

We currently have a Councillor Vacancy and would welcome all expressions of interest. If you'd like to find out more, please email us and we'll tell you all about it. You can give as much time as you like, and we'd ensure that your contribution to our discussions will be valued. Get in touch and become a part of this great team.

Finally, we'd love to hear from you, we want to know what you want to see in the Parish and what we can do to make it a better place. Get in touch with us via the website or come to one of our meetings and speak in Open Forum. We meet on the first Thursday of each month (except August and December when there are no meetings), details of when/where are included in the agenda which is published on our website the Friday before the meeting.

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!

IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL US AT westalvingtonpc@gmail.com

West Alvington Church of England Academy

During the national lockdown West Alvington Academy has been open to the children of Key Workers supporting our families who are doing vital work for the community. Our children in school and those learning from home have been working hard to spread Hope symbolised by a giant rainbow created by the children in our school window. Our children learning from home have been accessing their learning online through Google Classroom, they very much enjoy seeing their

friends and teachers online for virtual story-times, live lessons and assemblies.

Our Nursery has been open throughout the lockdown and the children have been busy with a wide range new crafts, they particularly enjoyed bread making. Messy fun!

We are all very much looking forward to the future when we can safely open to all our children.