



# THE ALTONIAN

Spring 2019

Issue 54

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM ALTON TOWN COUNCIL  
DELIVERED TO ALTON AND ITS SURROUNDING VILLAGES

Alton Town Council, Market Square, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HD

## Thursday 2nd May Local Elections

Please exercise your democratic right and vote for the local people you wish to represent your interests for the next four years.

Please look out for your Polling Card coming through your door.



## ALTON TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2019 / 2020

WHAT THIS WILL COST LOCAL TAXPAYERS (average Band D Household) £96.11 per year

In 2019/20 the Council is investing £20,000 in youth services and £35,000 in local community grants



An increase of **£4.45 per year or 8.8p per week** compared to 2018/19

Where does the money come from? Total Annual Budget **£1,070,917**

**£671,015 (62.7%)** of the budget comes from domestic ratepayers precept.

The council receives no business rates nor government support grants.

**£273,903 (25.5%)** of the budget comes from fees, leases, hall hirings, markets, sponsorship, sports pitches and allotments.

**£ 126,000 (11.8%)** comes from local housing developers for open spaces and environmental improvements.

Where possible the council aims to provide community events and facilities at zero net cost with the exception of play areas and open spaces which do not generate income as they are free for public use.

**Did you know...**

**35% (£382,146)** of the Council's annual expenditure is spent on our open spaces.



[www.alton.gov.uk](http://www.alton.gov.uk)



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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE... Councillor Derek Gardner

As my second term as your Mayor draws to a close, it gives me a chance to reflect on all the events I have attended; all the people I have met and all of the good causes that have benefited from the generosity and support of so many of you. To each and everyone of you, I thank you for everything that you are doing and no doubt, will continue to do.

It is also with some sadness that I announce that I will not be standing for a third term as a Town Councillor; having worked hard over the last eight years to help the people of Alton and in particular those in my Wooteys Ward. I would take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow Councillors for their support, the Town Hall Officers for their continued guidance as well as the Grounds Team who look after the town's open spaces for us all to enjoy. Last but not least, my



Mayoress Cathy Gardner and Mayor Derek Gardner

wonderful wife, Cathy, for her time and support in standing by my side as Mayoress.

Over the years as a Councillor I have met so many Altonians who give their time to support the various charities and local organisations across the town, so many wonderful individuals that give so much and never expect any reward in return, other than raising funds for their chosen

group. Altonians should be so proud of their town and the community spirit engendered which evidences itself week in and week out without compromise. We are so lucky and so blessed so I say to you all; please continue to treasure all the things that we do well in the town and support the free events that are put on for you all to enjoy, by not only the Town Council, but also all of the groups that hold charity fundraising events.

I have had the most wonderful time as a Councillor and your Town Mayor. It will remain as one of the most memorable periods in my life.

May our town continue to prosper in the future and in closing may I say from the bottom of my heart "thank you – it's been an absolute pleasure" and best wishes to you all.

**Councillor Derek Gardner**

**Town Mayor of Alton**

## Alton Lions Club (CIO)

### Supporting our local community for nearly 50 years

We are the local branch of Lions Clubs International – the world's largest community service organisation.

Here, in Alton we organise or support events such as the monthly craft market, charity quizzes, the annual "Party in the Park" event, a classic car show, golf tournaments, two annual road races, Easter eggs in pubs and street collections; to raise the funds that enabled us to feed back over £32,000 into community service activities.

These activities include the Christmas Gift project, donations to schools and other local community charitable organisations, provision of public defibrillators, Message in a Bottle, Paulton's Park Outing for disadvantaged children, diabetes awareness and Contact the Elderly Tea Parties. To find out more about us please visit [www.altonlions.org.uk](http://www.altonlions.org.uk).

We welcome newcomers to our Club. Why not come and have a chat with us at our stall in the monthly Craft Market or contact us on 0845 833 2701.



Alton Town Council's Walking Festival is now in its sixth year. All walks must be booked in advance. For further details please visit [www.alton.gov.uk](http://www.alton.gov.uk).

Book online at [www.altonwalkingfestival19.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.altonwalkingfestival19.eventbrite.co.uk), email [community@alton.gov.uk](mailto:community@alton.gov.uk) or call the Town Council on 01420 83986.

# Grow Your Own

Do you want to:-

- **Grow fresh tasty organic vegetables and beautiful flowers?**
- **Meet people with the same interests?**
- **An opportunity to encourage, observe and enjoy wildlife?**
- **Get the family out in the fresh air?**

**Nothing beats the satisfaction of growing something from seed, to put food on your table being able to say...**

**“I grew that”**

**We all know the health benefits of eating home grown fruit and vegetables and it's great for people of all ages to get involved.**

**To join the waiting list for an allotment in Alton contact Alton Town Council or your local parish council.**

# ALTON

## EVENTS GUIDE

### May 2019

**3rd-6th:** Walls Family Fun Fair, The Butts

**11th:** Hampshire Farmers' and Lion's Craft Market, High Street and Cross & Pillory Lane, 10am–2pm

**16th-19th:** “Iolanthe” AODS Assembly Rooms

**18th:** Grand Plant Sale, Allen Gallery Church Street, 11am–3pm

**18th:** Alton Town Guided Walk Curtis Museum, meet at 11am

**25th:** Town Park Festival Public Gardens, 10am–6pm

**25th:** “Life Without Sherlock” Assembly Rooms

**25th-26th:** Chawton Village Open Gardens Weekend

**26th-27th:** Nature Festival Gilbert White's House, Selborne

### June 2019

**8th:** Hampshire Farmers' and Lion's Craft Market, High Street and Cross & Pillory Lane, 10am–2pm

**8th:** Lions Party in the Park Public Gardens, 10am–4pm

**8th-9th:** Flyball Dog Show Diggers, Anstey Park, from 8.30am

**15th:** Teddy Bear Festival Assembly Rooms, 10am–4pm

**15th-16th:** Unusual Plants Fair Gilbert White's House, Selborne

**15th-16th:** War on the Line Mid Hants Railway, Watercress Line, Alton

**22nd:** Alton Town Guided Walk Curtis Museum

**22nd-30th:** Regency Week

**23rd:** Alton Victorian Cricket The Butts, 10am

**29th:** Alton Horticultural Society Scarecrow Competition Assembly Rooms, 10am–12pm

## Resurrection Furniture



**Buy good quality, attractive furniture locally. Support a charity.**

We have a large stock of high quality, used furniture and deliver items within the local area for a small donation. Our friendly staff and volunteers can help you to find the perfect piece of furniture for your home.

We are a charity, run by Trustees and staffed by volunteers. We are called Resurrection Furniture because we bring old furniture to life and are also part of the Parish of the Resurrection in Alton, that's the four churches of St Lawrence, All Saints, Church of the Holy Rood at Holybourne and St Peter's at Beech. Every bit of profit that we make in the shop goes towards:-

- supporting our youth work in Alton, to help meet the social, educational or spiritual needs of young people;
- improving the way our buildings serve the community;
- offering relief from financial hardship, support and companionship and assisting those struggling with life's difficulties.

We accept furniture in good condition, depending on what will sell and what stock we have. If you have an item and want to check if we can accept it, do call in with a picture or e-mail one so we can assess, then if appropriate we can arrange collection.

### Why not consider joining our team?

Please contact our Manager if you could offer a couple of hours a week volunteering as a:-

- shop assistant;
- furniture mover; or
- have other skills to offer

For more information about Resurrection Furniture please visit

[www.resurrectionfurniture.co.uk](http://www.resurrectionfurniture.co.uk)

Sue Hubbard  
Volunteer



[www.alton.gov.uk](http://www.alton.gov.uk)



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# ALTON IN BLOOM 2019 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM



Alton in Bloom is the annual local competition run by Alton Town Council in recognition of the residents, businesses and volunteers in our community that contribute to making Alton beautiful for both residents and visitors alike.

<b>CATEGORY</b> <b>ALL entries will be judged by photographs.</b> <b>Please provide a maximum of <u>TWO</u> digital photographs per category.</b>	<b>Your Entry</b>	<b>Do you require photographs to be taken?</b>	
		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>1. Best Small Garden or Patio</b> (residential garden under 5 metres)			
<b>2. Best Large Garden or Patio</b> (residential garden over 5 metres)			
<b>3. Best Individual Planted Container</b> (domestic hanging basket, trough, window box, pot or tub must be a <u>single</u> container)			
<b>4. Best Unusual Individual Planted Container</b> (Do you have an old tyre, welly boot, toilet or any discarded household item that can be used to create a stunning but unusual container)			
<b>5. Best Community Group Garden</b> (entry must be maintained by volunteers and can be a garden, flower/veg bed, planted area or container)			
<b>6. Best Schoolchildren's Garden - (1) Pre-school (2) School</b> (must be mainly planted and maintained by the children)			
<b>7. Best Neighbourhood Area</b> (either a communal garden or the front gardens in an entire neighbourhood, road or a selection of properties within)			
<b>8. Best Residential/Retirement Home Garden</b> (entry must be maintained by the residents and can include a communal garden, a selection of individual entries within the home or an individual entry from one of the residents)			
<b>9. Best Commercial Building</b> (eg pub, restaurant or local attraction. The entry must be visible/open to the public and may be anything from an entire garden to a hanging basket)			
<b>10. Best Shop Window Display</b> (does not need to include real plants)			
<b>11. NEW Instagram Best Photograph</b> - post a picture in Instagram of your garden and tag us			
<b>12. Alton Horticultural Society - Tallest Sunflower Competition</b> Please note separate <i>deadline Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August</i> . A judge from Alton Horticultural Society who will contact you to arrange an appointment to measure your entry.			
<b>13. Alton Horticultural Society - Children's Scarecrow Competition</b> Please note the scarecrows will be judged on <b><i>Saturday 29th June</i></b> at the Alton Horticultural Society's Scarecrow Competition at the Assembly Rooms between 10am and 12pm.		N/A	N/A

**Please complete and return this entry form by Friday 28th June**  
**email [community@alton.gov.uk](mailto:community@alton.gov.uk) or return to**  
**Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Alton, GU34 1HD**

**Your Name/Organisation/Company** .....

**Address** .....

**Telephone Number** .....

**Email** .....

Judging will be conducted by an independent panel and winners will be announced at the Alton in Bloom Awards Evening on ***Friday 14th September*** at 6:00pm in the Alton Assembly Rooms. Please note this competition is open to entries in Alton and Holybourne only.