



THE ALTONIAN

Summer 2019

Issue 55

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

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

Introducing your Alton Town Council



Back row - Martin Whapshott (Senior Groundsperson), Natalie Beckell (Community & Events Officer), Samantha Brown (Councillor Support/Admin Officer), Pat Harris (Finance & Admin Manager), Cllr Amanda Durley, Cllr Gideon Cristofoli, Cllr Richard Platt, Cllr Christopher Lawrence, Cllr Paul Crossley, Cllr Matthew Bayliss, Cllr Graham Hill, Rev Philip Simpkins, Alexandra Bond (Grounds Administrator), Emily-Jane Messenger (Community & Events Officer), Jordan Gascoigne (Groundsperson), Saffron Dimmock (Skilled Groundsperson)

Front row - Cllr Ginny Boxall, Cllr Suzie Burns, Cllr Graham Titterington, Cllr Pam Jones, Cllr Sharon Cullen, Cllr Pam Bradford, Leah Coney (Town Clerk)



New Town Crier Dave Parsons

With a new Council taking office at the Town Hall, the Annual Meeting on the 15th May saw Cllr Graham Titterington being unanimously elected by his fellow councillors as the Town Mayor for 2019/20 alongside his Deputy Mayor Councillor Christopher Lawrence. The evening also saw the Council bid a fond farewell to Alton's First Town Crier.

New Town Crier Dave Parsons has lived in Alton with his family for over 20 years and as a former Regimental Sergeant Major, serving in the Army for 25 years, he certainly has the voice for the role of Town Crier.

Town Clerk Leah Coney said: "When we met Dave for the first time we were all struck by his professional but approachable attitude. The role is an ambassadorial one for the town and Dave's good humour shone through immediately."

Dave said he is really looking forward to taking on the role and carrying on the Town Crier tradition and being part of Alton's history.

Dave has already been booked for a number of community events over the summer so please look out for him around the town, if you don't see him you will definitely hear him.

If you wish to book the Town Crier please email Samantha at info@alton.gov.uk.

Stan Whitcher, who has retired from the role after over 15 years' service. He attended the meeting in full regalia and was presented with a lovely print of the High Street by new Mayor Cllr Graham Titterington.



Dave Parsons and Stan Whitcher

Councillors and attendees in the Public Gallery were then introduced to Stan's successor, Altonian Dave Parsons, who was resplendent in his new regalia. Dave then presented Stan with the bell that Stan had used over the last 15 years which had been mounted on a plinth.

Alton Community Fayre
Saturday 22nd June
11am - 3pm, Public Gardens

END OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN ALTON
Attention to local community groups, organisations and societies.
Please email info@alton.gov.uk if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions.

Community & Charity Stalls	Live Demonstrations from:
Sports Clubs & Local Organisations	11.00am: Alton Zumba
Games and Tombola's	12.30pm: Jansons Dance Studio
Homeside Bake and Preserve Sale	1.30pm: Strictly Showtime

Refreshments purchasable from:
EVENT HALL, TOWN HALL, HOP-UP CAFE, ICE CREAM VAN



www.alton.gov.uk



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Joint Message from the Mayor Cllr Graham Titterington and Leader of the Town Council Cllr Pam Jones

We are both honoured to have been elected to lead Alton Town Council for the coming year. We are entering an exciting and challenging period as initiatives taken in the last year start to bear fruit.

The newly elected council comprises five new faces, six returning councillors, and two former councillors returning after a break, so we have a good combination of experience and fresh ideas. We now have a strong female voice through our six lady councillors, breaking traditional stereotypes.

Recently the council has introduced new procedures to enable members of the public to participate more fully in debates in council committees; shared expertise has helped us to make better decisions. We prioritised our partnerships with organisations and working with youth services, in particular the Kings Arms, we are now helping to establish a youth hub in the town.

The Alton Eastbrooke and Wooteys Residents Association, in conjunction with Community First, has launched a community bus service to alleviate the hardship and isolation felt by many, following the loss of most of the Stagecoach services in the estates. This initiative is fully consistent with the objectives of the Alton Neighbourhood Plan and we will be trying to consolidate and extend this initiative wherever it can be practically and viably achieved.

Alton is a proactive community with a strong charitable tradition. The role of the council is to help and encourage all initiatives aimed at improving the lives of our residents.

Alton is blessed with a rich history and beautiful surroundings and has just regained its "Walkers are Welcome" status. This will help to put Alton on the map and encourage more visitors to come to the town, benefitting local businesses.

A group has been working hard to establish the "Six Hills Walk" to add to the range of flagship walks passing through the town and we have recently completed a successful "Alton Walking Festival" programme, which was included in a feature on ITV Meridian News, The Breeze and Wey Valley Radio. All these initiatives add to our tourist appeal alongside that of Jane Austen, Gilbert White and the Watercress Line.



Of course, we do face challenges. We are sometimes at odds with East Hants District Council, particularly over planning issues and car park charges. The Town Council will continue to strongly express its views on such issues, to preserve the best and most important parts of our urban environment and to nurture our town centre.

Our direction going forward is to follow the strategy formulated in the Alton Neighbourhood Plan, which was based on a vast amount of work done by a group of dedicated volunteers and overwhelmingly accepted in a town-wide referendum. The status of the plan will be at risk when the new East Hants Local Plan is adopted and we will determine what needs to be done to refresh it and maintain its relevance in steering the development of Alton.

Planning debates often appear as a battle to keep new housing out of the town, but this is definitely not the case. However, we do want to ensure we get the right kind of housing, in the right place, and in a way that will not adversely affect existing residents. These considerations often seem to conflict and the planning deliberations are aimed at finding the best compromise and improving aspects of developments wherever this is possible.

We welcome all new residents to Alton, and believe that everyone should have the opportunity to set up in their own homes, whether they live in the new housing estates or in more established neighbourhoods

We look forward to meeting and working with all Altonians ... keep in touch.

Cllr Graham Titterington, Town Mayor of Alton
Cllr Pam Jones, Leader - Alton Town Council



ALTON BIG DIG
14 – 28 July 2019
Alton Public Gardens
10.00am – 4.00pm daily




WERE THERE ROMANS IN THE GARDENS ?

- An archaeological investigation in the Public Gardens.
- All welcome, no charge.
- Digging, talks, displays and children's activities.

Managed by
Liss Archaeology
 (East Hampshire community archaeology)
 in collaboration with
 Alton Town Council and the Curtis Museum



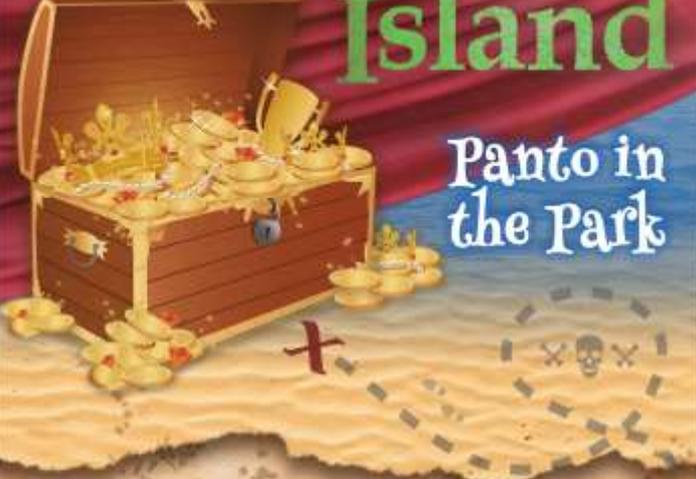


For more info:
www.altonbigdig.uk



Treasure Island

Panto in the Park



Sunday 14th July at 1pm
Alton Public Gardens, GU34 1EN
FREE EVENT

Flood Meadows and King's Pond works

Back in March, the Amery Hill Residents Association (AHRA) announced that they were successful in being awarded £25,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government towards improvements to the public open space at Flood Meadows in Alton, owned and managed by Alton Town Council. As we approach the summer much of this work will be carried out so you may see increased activity in the meadows. Some works are dependent upon the water level in the river lowering sufficiently.

Works will be carried out by a combination of volunteers, the Alton Society, Alton Town Council and external contractors to include:

1) Upgrading of Lenten Street bridge to include the repair and renovation of the retaining wall and riverbank to present a safe, attractive and natural feature. This stretch of the riverbank, following guidance from the Environment Agency, will be clad with attractive reinstated green walls. The project also replaces unsightly tubular metal railings with modern, safeguard rails and the fabrication and installation of a welcoming archway, designed by a local artist.

2) The creation of a Dipping Pond will include the installation of an accessible boardwalk leading to a platform made of recycled plastic. The platform has been designed to provide a safe setting for children to take part in educational pond dipping sessions.

3) The formation of an inviting path alongside the northern bank of the River Wey to a new seating area overlooking a newly-created wild flower meadow.

There will also be resurfacing works carried out along the main path alongside the railway line at King's Pond as well as selected paths in Flood Meadows, repairing the current tarmac paths with more aesthetically pleasing self-binding gravel tracks.



Your Local Councillors

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 Cllr Pam Bradford (Lib Dem)
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East Worldham
County Councillor
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