



THE ALTONIAN

Winter 2019

Issue 56

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

Mayor's Christmas Message



What does Christmas mean to you? Is it about the birth of Jesus Christ, a visit from Father Christmas, receiving gifts, giving to others, eating and drinking, parties, or just soaking up a magical atmosphere? Maybe it is all of these? Whatever you are seeking this Christmas, Alton is the place to be!

Coming up on the 30th November and 1st December we have the annual Yuletide Festival, when the Christmas lights will be turned on across the town centre, including the new feature on the Assembly Rooms Lawn. Congratulations to our **Children's Competition winner Willow McKeown**, age 5 whose design will be lit up this Christmas in the High Street

Father Christmas would not want to miss out on his visit to Alton and will be found in his grotto based in the town centre on Saturday during the Santa Run and then in the Community Centre on Sunday. The myriad of stalls in the High Street and the Assembly Rooms will have plenty of entertainment and goods to offer. Our shops, restaurants and pubs will keep the

festive spirit alive throughout the month. Our churches will be offering a range of activities including carol services.

As Mayor of Alton I am enjoying meeting many people in the town who work tirelessly to help others. The greatest form of giving is to give time to others. The many people who work, mostly through voluntary organisations, to bring Christmas to their neighbours all year round are the **soul of our town. Let's think of them as we** settle down to enjoy our Christmas celebrations.

I wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Councillor Graham Titterington
Mayor of Alton

Leaders New Year Message

The first few months as Leader have been very busy. In the 40 years I have lived in Alton, I have seen many changes, and the increase in housing development is one that challenges many of us. Government dictates the housing figures and we are obliged to have some of them. The Council does listen to your views and we do fight for the best outcomes for the town; the Neighbourhood Plan bears witness to that. The uncertainty surrounding the new local plan is causing a great deal of concern to us all.

We recently declared a Climate Emergency for Alton and are working with a number of groups to develop a strategy to address this. We owe it to future Altonians to ensure they **have a planet fit to live on. Our recent 'Refill'** campaign was a small step forward and the Council is in the process of carrying out an audit of its own carbon footprint, have you done yours?

All councillors benefit from being actively involved in the community and I encourage all

to engage with Altonians at every opportunity. It is important that we listen to your views, be it at the networking café before our meetings, **out in the town, at residents' meetings or at** local events. Many of my in depth discussions happen while I am at the supermarket.

As a result of community engagement last year, the new youth hub, Kings Arms (Alton), now has a home following the purchase of the old tannery (formerly Bartlett and Butchers). While the internal work is being completed, Kings Arms are running their sessions at the Community Centre and later this year there will be a new skate park at Jubilee Playing Fields.

In 2020 we look forward to working with EHDC on its Place making scheme; to find ways to enhance our High Street and the **town's economy. We are also in negotiations** for Alton to become a Gateway town for the South Downs National Park.

Plans are already in place for many events next year including a Civil War re-enactment and Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE day. As a Walkers are Welcome town, we will be promoting walking and cycling as part of our health and well-being initiative, especially during our annual Walking Festival in May.

Watch out for the 2020 Events Guide and please get in touch if you feel you would like to volunteer to help at any of our events they could not happen without your support.

May I wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

God's blessings on you all.

Councillor Pam Jones
Alton Town Council Leader



www.alton.gov.uk



01420 83986



[altontowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/altontowncouncil)



[altontowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/altontowncouncil)



[@alton_council](https://twitter.com/alton_council)

Alton Men's Shed



It has been another busy year for **local charity Alton Men's Shed**, where we have undertaken a variety of practical projects for the local community.

Recently we have completed works for the Allen Gallery gardens, repaired bus shelters and notice boards, cleared overgrown gardens, made some accessories for a local church, restored garden furniture and made a set of special dominoes for a school in Africa.

This is just a small sample of our work and there is clearly no shortage of practical work for our members!

Our work is not just confined to our shed as we have recently opened up a hobbies room for residents at The Lawn, a residential care home in Holybourne. We have also enjoyed social events with trips out to places of interest and recently some of us have learned new skills on an emergency first aid course.

We are constantly striving to expand on the limited space of **our current shed in Queen's Road** and as a registered charity we are now exploring opportunities to secure more workshop and meeting space. So **please don't just think of retired men sitting in a shed**, we welcome men and women of all ages from the local community to join us! If you would like to find out more or help us in our activities please email: altonmensshed@gmail.com or phone 01420 89559 or 83870.

Age Concern is recruiting

Age Concern Hampshire is recruiting volunteer Village Agents and Information Home Visitors in rural areas of Hampshire.

Getting advice and support if you **don't live near a town centre** is not always easy. Many people need a bit of a helping hand to find the right services that will help them stay living safely and independently in their own home and to get connected to their local community.

If you enjoy meeting people, want to get involved in your local area **and see people's lives improve** because of your help, one of **Age Concern Hampshire's volunteer** roles could be right for you.

Village Agents

Village Agents are volunteers who provide information to local people of all ages on topics such as finding help in the home or garden, transport, groups and clubs in the area, preventing falls, finding care providers in the home, day centre or residential care, meals on wheels, personal alarms etc.

Often, just giving information is not enough and Village Agents can also provide the extra help that a person may need to follow up on the information provided, e.g. they may make a phone call

on behalf of someone, fill in a form with them, arrange transport or take them to a local group for the first time.

Village Agents make themselves known in their local area by attending events and groups so that people get to know who they are and that they can be approached with queries. They also get to know key people in local agencies including the parish or town council, GP surgery and other voluntary organisations working in the area. The role is very flexible and usually takes a few hours a week. There are around 50 Village Agents across Hampshire. Training and support is provided.

Information Home Visitors

The Information Service at Age Concern Hampshire (Freephone 0800 328 7154) often receive queries by phone from people who actually find it quite difficult to manage on the phone. We have a team of volunteer Information Home Visitors who can visit those people at home to provide information face to face on local services and social groups or to help people fill in forms.

These volunteers decide what size area they would like to cover – usually several villages – and the Information Team at Age



Concern Hampshire contacts them when a home visit is needed locally.

Mileage expenses can be reimbursed. The bigger the area covered, the busier the role is likely to be but on average a Home Visitor may be asked to provide one or two visits per month.

What kind of person are we looking for?

Village Agents and Information Home Visitors need to be good listeners and able to communicate clearly and effectively with a range of people and organisations such as older people, carers, relatives and professionals.

Both roles will involve some travel so use of a car is essential. It is helpful if the volunteer is confident to use email, the internet and Microsoft Word. They need to be aged over 18 years and willing to undertake training.



For more information contact the Village Agent Co-ordinator

Telephone: 01962 892443 or email: Villageagent@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Alton Overall Winner
<i>Martin and Rosemary West</i> | Best Individual Container
<i>Vilai Baker</i> | Best Pre-School Children's Garden
<i>Happy Talk Nursery</i> |
| Holybourne Overall Winner
<i>Robert Lambert</i> | Best Planted Unusual Container
<i>Martin and Rosemary West</i> | Best School Children's Garden
<i>Alton Infant School</i> |
| Tidy Alton Trophy
<i>The National Citizen Service</i> | Best Neighbourhood Area
<i>Barton End</i> | Best Individual Scarecrow
<i>Poppy and Stanley Thompson-Webb</i> |
| Outstanding Contribution to In Bloom
<i>Martin and Rosemary West</i> | Best Community Group
<i>Alton Community Hospital</i> | Best Group Scarecrow
<i>Alton Infant School</i> |
| Unsung Hero of In Bloom
<i>Norma Duke</i> | Best Commercial Building
<i>Alton Grange B&B</i> | Tallest Sunflower Children and Overall
<i>Charlotte and Jessica Goulton</i> |
| The Alton Community Cup
<i>Alton Women's Institute</i> | Best Residential / Retirement Building
<i>Cloverdale</i> | Best Allotment New Tenant
<i>Trudie Cole</i> |
| Best Small Front Garden
<i>Ernie and Mary Oakley</i> | Best Shop Window
<i>Mainly Framing</i> | Best Kept Allotment
<i>Kenneth Smith</i> |
| Best Large Front Garden
<i>Martin and Rosemary West</i> | Best Instagram Photo
<i>Mary Hurst</i> | |



The Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery is run by Hampshire Cultural Trust and have been at the heart of the town for many years. For those who haven't visited before, the Curtis Museum is home to one of the finest local history collections in Hampshire, exploring 100 million years of the region's past. It is one of the most striking buildings on Alton's High Street, situated next to the Assembly Rooms. The Allen Gallery on Church Street is the setting for one of the south's most outstanding collections of ceramics. It also has a beautiful walled garden which provides a quiet oasis for visitors to enjoy. We also have a regularly changing exhibition programme, where we host exhibitions including work by local artists.

Both the Museum and the Gallery are free to visit, and they are run by a small staff team and an incredible group of volunteers. Our front-of-house volunteers are the welcoming face that you see when you visit us. They also provide invaluable support with running our events and activities, as well as helping visitors with their local history queries or serving hot drinks and cakes from the cafe. Without their dedication, we would not be able to open our doors to the public.

Are you looking for something new? Perhaps you have an interest in local history or need some experience to boost your CV. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our wonderful team. As well as front of house support, we are also looking for help working with our collections, in particular our large and varied ceramics.

If anyone is interested in getting involved, or would just like to find out more, please contact us by:

Calling us on 01420 82802, or email: alton.museums@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk



Pictured above: Alton Climate Demonstration 20th September 2019

Alton Town Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

Whilst local authorities do not have a statutory duty to reduce emissions in line with the Climate Change Act, during 2019 and with cross party support, Alton Town Council made the impact of climate change and how to address it, a key priority for the Council.

This started with a climate change workshop in July 2019 involving councillors and contributors from Energy Alton and Alton Climate Action & Network. The formation of a Task and Progress Group took place shortly thereafter to consider scoping a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Last month the Council resolved to join over 50% of all local authorities in the country in declaring a climate emergency, starting with a green audit of its own estate to work out the most cost **effective way of reducing the Council's carbon footprint**. Overleaf is a list prepared by Alton Climate Action and Network of ten suggestions for residents and businesses as to how we can all reduce our carbon footprint.

ONLY CALL 999 IF...

- There is a danger to life
-
- A crime is happening now (or has just happened)
-
- You have immediate concerns for safety
-
- There is a dangerous incident on the motorway
-
- You see something suspicious that needs immediate attention

NOT AN EMERGENCY?

Help us to keep our 999 lines free for your emergencies

.....

For information and advice:
www.hampshire.police.uk

.....

Call **101** for any crimes that aren't currently in progress or haven't just happened



Ten suggestions to reduce your carbon emissions



IN THE HOME

- 1 Save energy* - turn the heating temperature down, wear more clothes, use the tumble drier less
- 2 Switch to a green electricity tariff
- 3 Use energy-efficient lighting and appliances



ON THE TABLE

- 4 Reduce food waste
- 5 Buy local, seasonal produce (e.g. at Alton food market)
- 6 Eat less meat



OUT & ABOUT

- 7 Walk, cycle, use public transport if possible
- 8 Car-share, drive a low-emission vehicle
- 9 Reduce or stop flying



SHOPPING

- 10 Consider second-hand first, buy less, swap, try Alton's Repair Café

*See www.energyalton.org.uk

Christmas Event Guide

2019

13th - 28th November Alton Lions Club House to House Collection	Various times throughout the day.	Alton Lions Club will be visiting properties in Alton, undertaking their annual charitable Christmas collection.
Saturday 23rd November Alton Townswomen's Guild Christmas Bazaar	Alton Assembly Rooms, Alton, GU34 1BA 10:00am - 2:00pm	Support your local Townswomen's Guild by coming along to this year's Christmas Bazaar. Stalls to include Christmas, craft and homemade goods plus much more.
30th November - 24th December Christmas at Birdworld	Birdworld, Holt Pound, Farnham, GU10 4LD 10:00am - 4:30pm	Meet Santa's reindeer and friendly farm animals before you enter a magical world full of animated characters in winter wonderland settings. Booking required www.birdworld.co.uk
5th November - 10th December Festive Craft Workshops	Gilbert White's House, Selborne, GU34 3JH 10:30am - 12:30pm	Festive Craft Workshops every Tuesday in the run up to Christmas. Booking required. www.gilbertwhitehouse.org.uk
30th Nov - 1st Dec Free Family Ice Skating	Market Square, Alton Sat 30th Nov, 11am-6pm Sun 1st Dec, 10am-4pm	Free ice skating on the synthetic ice rink in the Market Square over Yuletide Weekend, <i>please be aware there may be long queues at peak times.</i>
Saturday 30th November Home-Start Hampshire Santa Run	Alton Town Centre Midday - 4:00pm	With live entertainment in the High Street from midday, Santa's Grotto, festive stalls and fancy dress races for all ages and abilities—to enter visit www.home-starthampshire.org.uk
Saturday 30th November Alton's Christmas Lights Switch-On	Alton Assembly Rooms, High Street, GU34 1BA 4:30pm	Join Santa and the Town Mayor to officially switch-on Alton's Christmas lights including the surprise new lighting feature on the Assembly Rooms Lawn and the winning design from the children's Christmas light competition.
Sunday 1st December Alton Yuletide Festival	Alton Town Centre 10:00am - 4:00pm	Hundreds of stalls line the High Street and Assembly Rooms with live street entertainment from choirs and local bands plus family fun fair rides.
Sunday 1st December ACA Christmas Cracker	Alton Community Centre 10:00am - 4:00pm	Over 45 stalls, Santa's Grotto(10.30am-3.00pm), children's storytime, face painting, children's activities, mulled wine & Christmas cheer. Free Admission.
Saturday 7th December Cardiac Rehab Christmas Concert	Alton Maltings, GU34 1DT 7:00pm for 7:30pm start	"The Sidewinder Big Band" performing a selection of Big Band music and festive favourites - all guaranteed to get your toes tapping! Tickets £15, includes a mince pie and mulled wine.
Monday 23rd December Carols Around the Tree	Market Square, Alton 7:00pm - 7:45pm	Come and sing carols around the Christmas tree in the Market Square with the Alton Concert Band.

For more details of events in and around Alton please visit www.altonevents.co.uk

FREE ICE SKATING ALL WEEKEND IN THE MARKET SQUARE

ALTON'S

Yuletide Weekend

FREE Parking in Alton's EHDC Pay and Display Car Parks

Saturday 30th November **Sunday 1st December**

Kick start your Christmas with **HOME START Hampshire**

Santa Saturday

Saturday 30th November

Alton High Street & Market Square

Part of the Yuletide Weekend

