



Autumn/Winter 2020

THE ALTONIAN

Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HD
W: www.alton.gov.uk T: 01420 83986 E: info@alton.gov.uk

Alton Open-Air Yuletide Markets



Alton's
Open-Air Yuletide Markets

10:00AM - 4:00PM
MARKET SQUARE

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER
(LOCAL CHARITIES AND NON PROFIT ORGANISATIONS ONLY)

SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER

For more information please email events@alton.gov.uk or call 01420 83986



We have had to cancel the annual Yuletide Festival and Christmas Lights switch on this year, but we have re-imagined Christmas and are organising a series of small Yuletide Markets taking place in the Market Square every Saturday from the 28th November for 4 weeks. The Christmas lights and tree will be illuminated throughout the Christmas period.

There will be a different selection of stalls each week offering locally produced food and drink, a variety of art, craft and gifts.

Alongside the commercial stalls there will be local charity and community groups.

On Saturday 12th December the Market will be dedicated to local charity and community stalls, as it will coincide with the popular Hampshire Farmers Market and Lions Craft Market.

We ask that you follow the current government social distancing guidelines at all times to stay safe. Thank you.

Christmas Fun - MarmArt Trail

The MarmArt trail aims to draw visitors to Alton to shop but also to interact, enjoy, learn and play for free. The trail consists of 10 large vinyl window sticker characters placed in shop windows around Alton Town Centre. The trail works by scanning any of the characters QR Codes on a mobile device and then watch the characters come to life on your screens.

Younger children will delight in spotting the cute and colourful characters in shop windows and older children (and grown-ups) can engage by learning more about them. After spotting all 10 characters (1 will be hidden in a secret location), users are rewarded with a free e-book about the characters' adventures. For more details please visit our website. www.marmarttrail.com



Message From The Town Mayor

Looking back over the past year I am amazed and impressed by the way in which Altonians have risen to the challenges they have faced and



have rallied round to help each other. New charitable groups have sprung up, while others have extended their services to their neighbours. At Christmas I would like to thank all of you for what you have done. As Mayor I would particularly like to thank the officers and staff of Alton Town Council for cheerfully taking on a multitude of extra tasks related to steering our community through the difficulties we have faced.

Alton Town Council decided to retain and enhance its Christmas lights to help us to remember our sense of Christmas Joy. Although we had to cancel big gatherings because of social distancing requirements, including the switch on of the Christmas Lights and the Yuletide Festival, we have ensured that there will be lights and that there will be a series of festive stalls in the Market Square on Saturdays leading up to Christmas. Marmite the Marmot will be back to bring cheer to the season and ensure that Alton remains "on the map".

This year, whilst fund raising for my Mayoral Charities has been restricted, I was really pleased to choose the final selection in the town photographic competition. This year we asked our photographers to contribute photos of Alton's natural life for a calendar. We had a brilliant response! The calendar is being sold in aid of my Mayoral charities, The Kings Arms and Bushy Leaze. It is on sale in many town centre shops - so please get one and enjoy the pictures.

I and all my colleagues at Alton Town Council wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Please let us know what you think of our Christmas arrangements and how they can be improved.

With my best wishes

Councillor Graham Titterington, Town Mayor

Alton Town Centre

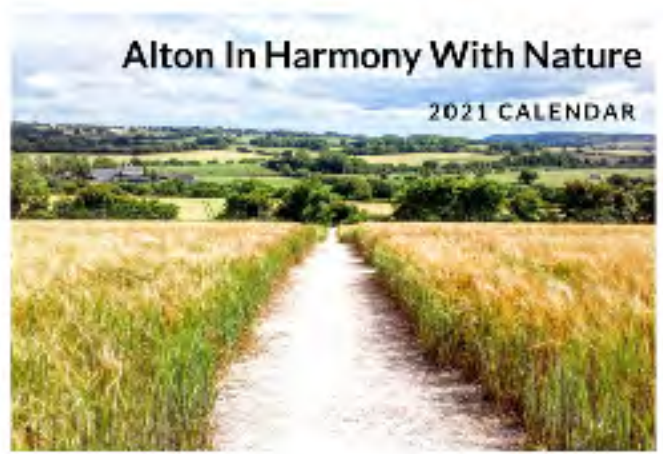
Whilst the national picture for 2020 shows an accelerated decline of High Streets resulting from lockdown, Altonians have helped the town buck this trend and have been incredibly supportive by shopping local over the recent months. With people understandably nervous of larger shopping and retail centres and an increased number of people walking and cycling into town, helped by the installation of new cycle racks and bike repair stations, footfall has been pretty consistent for many businesses.



The introduction of additional safe seating areas over the summer also proved popular, enabling people to have somewhere to meet, enjoy a takeaway coffee or something to eat in a socially distanced environment and spend longer in the town centre. These have now had waterproof parasols added for the wetter winter months.



The town has largely (with one exception) escaped the dramatic loss of chain shops, but it is the independents who have risen to the challenge, providing safe and welcoming environments for their shoppers and we have even seen new small businesses open. Many supported the Alton In Harmony with Nature photography trail and assisted in offering the Mayor's Charity calendar for sale and a number are taking part in this years MarmART trail and Festive Window competition. So, whilst Christmas has been re-imagined for 2020 there will still be plenty to see, do and shop . Don't forget to look out for our social media spotlight campaign shining a light on local independent retailers to remind everyone to support Alton town centre and keep shopping local this Christmas.



The Alton In Harmony With Nature 2021 Calendar is still available to buy. For more details on where you can buy the calendar please visit www.alton.gov.uk or call 01420 83968.

Message From The Leader



What a difference a year makes; many are wishing 2020 was just a bad dream. Restrictions have taken their toll on the council, but I am just so impressed by the way our staff and my fellow Town Councillors have risen to the challenges in the face of constant changes to government guidance.

Our last public meeting was our Annual Electors meeting on 18th March and I am proud to report that all the meetings in the diary since lockdown have taken place, albeit virtually. The public have also been able to attend all of them. We have also produced a weekly Altonian to keep people updated.

The lockdown has also meant we have been focussing on matters closer to home like the prosperity and vitality of the Town Centre. Regular meetings and consultations have been on-going with EHDC and others about the future of our High Street at the heart of the town.

Planning matters still occupy many meetings and in view of the proposed Government changes to planning we are currently looking to keep ahead of the game by reviewing our Neighbourhood Plan. The development of the former Coors brewery site is the next major planning application to be determined by EHDC.

Our Open Spaces have proved life savers to many as somewhere to walk in the fresh air away from the confines of home. We have recently set up a 'Friends of Kings Pond' working party who will meet monthly to carry out specific tasks at the pond. If you would like to help, please contact the Town Hall.

Concern for our young people will always be a priority. We continue to liaise with our local schools and the College and Alton's 'Kings Arms' facility is almost complete. We opened the new skate park at Jubilee but have put the 'Grand Opening' on hold until next year.

Christmas will be a low key affair, as far as the usual events are concerned, but I like to think, that where we lack events, the gaps will be filled by the Altonian generosity of spirit ensuring those alone and isolated are not forgotten.

May I wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. God's blessings on you all.

Councillor Pam Jones

Community Resource Hub

We have recently added a new community resource hub to our website. The hub has been set up in response to the Covid -19 pandemic and as community connector we have centralised information, links and activities that have been of benefit to so many people in the community during these difficult times.



Community Resource Hub

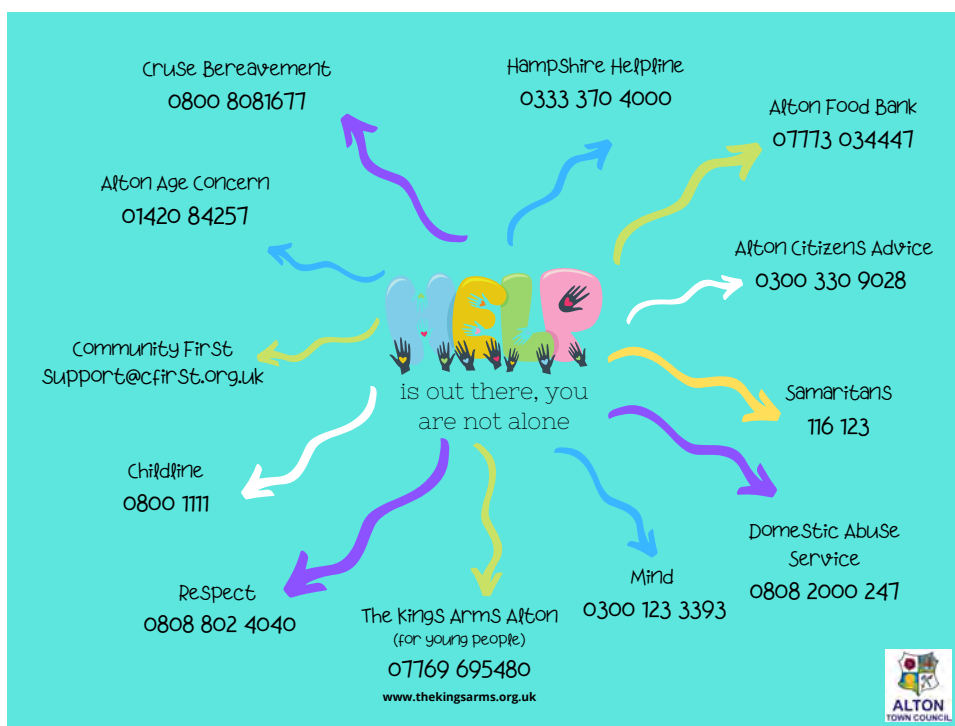


Alton & District Community Resilience Fund



The Alton & District Community Resilience Fund Panel has already supported 15 households since the launch of the fund back in July. The Panel has approved a variety of goods and services for local people, ranging from the supply and installation of carpets and cookers, to the supply of fridge freezers, beds and mattresses, assistance with house moves and the loan of a bicycle. With over £20,000 in donations made to the fund we are extremely grateful to all of the local organisations, businesses and individuals who have so generously helped launch and sustain the fund.

The fund remains open for applications for residents of Alton and the surrounding parishes. Further details and the application form can be found at www.alton.gov.uk.



Getting Active In Alton

Active Alton Working Group are delighted to announce the launch of the Active Alton webpage, kindly hosted by the Alton Town Council website. This is the first stage in providing a comprehensive listing of all the recreational activities and opportunities in and around Alton.



The original plan was to circulate to every household in the GU34 area and to launch the webpage simultaneously with a hard copy Directory for general distribution. All this should have happened in April - but we all know why that could not happen. However, after the long Covid-induced lockdown we are all itching to get moving again. Clubs, organisations and sports grounds have re-opened and now is the time to take full advantage of the enormous number of opportunities for increasing your physical activity.

If you are interested in increasing your exercising, please visit <https://altonevents.co.uk/active-alton/> from today and see the wide range of opportunities on offer - everything from Archery to Zumba with lots in between.

Within the next few months we plan to inform all local residents through The Altonian and publish and print the full Directory which will be made available in public spaces such as the Library and doctors' surgeries.

The Steering Group is extremely grateful to the Alton Society and District Councillors Suzie Burns, Richard Platt, Diana Tennyson and Ingrid Thomas for their generous funding of this project. Thank you also to Alton Town Council and Roger and Paul Joel at Bureau14 with the website build.

If you are an organisation that registered with us earlier in the year please look at your page on the website and check your details - <https://altonevents.co.uk/active-alton/>

If you would like to register your organisation or update your club's details go to <https://altonevents.co.uk/active-alton-group-registration/>

Alton Events

Events are still taking place in Alton and the best place to find out what is going on is www.altonevents.co.uk If events are cancelled they will be clearly marked in the event calendar once the organiser has notified Alton events.

We will not be printing a 2021 Events Guide this year so please keep an eye on the events website, The Altonian Online and social media for up to date news.

If you would like to keep up to date with our weekly news please email community@alton.gov.uk and we will add you to our distribution list or visit our website and fill in our 'keep up to date' form.

Keep up to date with news that matters to you. Enter your email address here and we will deliver updates directly to your inbox



ALTON LIONS CLUB (CIO)
PRESENTS



THE FRIDAY NIGHT FUN QUIZ
WITH QUIZMASTER DEAN PHILLIPS



On WEY VALLEY RADIO 101.1FM
& Facebook @weyvalleyradioalton
Friday 27th November 8pm Start

Open to All
FREE to ENTER
bring your own food and drink
No need to book / teams 1 - 100
just tune or link in



No prizes - no winners just for fun
if you enjoy it tell your friends and
please donate to www.altonlions.org.uk
Just click the **DONATE** button on the home page.

**All funds raised will go to support COVID-19
community needs**



Alton In Bloom 2020

Thank you to everyone who entered Alton In Bloom 2020. We were very impressed with all the entries, but we can only have one winner in each category but everyone receives a certificate.

Details of Alton In Bloom 2021 will be available Spring 2021.

Alton In Bloom 2020 category winners:

Mr and Mrs Oakley

Small Garden or Patio Winner

Pauline Fell

Large Garden or Patio Winner

Mr and Mrs Oakley

Best Individual Container

Colin Scott

Best Unusual Container

Elisabeth Schofield

Best School Children's Garden

Cloverdale

Best Residential Area

Miyako Kamamoto

Tallest Sunflower - Young at Heart
11ft 3in / 3m 45cm

Poppy Eggleton

Tallest Sunflower - Child
7ft 2in / 2m 20cm

Tina Rhodes

Best Bug Hotel

Joshua and Jacob Chalk

Best Scarecrow

Barton End

Best Neighbourhood Area

Lynne Harrison - Wooteys

Best Kept Allotment

