



THE ALTONIAN WEEKLY

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

WEEK 33 2nd September 2021

Happy to Talk Benches

What are Happy to Talk Benches? As well as offering a bright and colourful element to the town where the community can enjoy using these colourful seats at the Assembly Room Lawns, Market Square and the Public Gardens. The benches will also provide an outside meeting point for key workers to support their customers out in the fresh air. When arranging to meet at these locations they will encourage exercise and will help our more vulnerable residents to venture outside again, after the long run of lockdowns. One of the benches can be found in the sensory garden area of the Public Gardens which is a focal point for the Alton Dementia Group.

Alton Happy to Talk Benches is a partnership project led by Abri and involved several local groups. There were volunteers to help paint these benches from Abri, Alton Town Council, A31 Social Prescribers and the National Citizen Service, a voluntary personal and social development programme for 16-17 year olds all helped to paint the benches during the summer. Cllr Suzie Burns provided funding for the paint and D.I.Y. equipment.

Anyone can use the benches but local groups will be using the benches at certain times. Each bench has a sign with a QR code, if you scan this with your mobile phone you will be taken to the community resource hub. If you follow the link to the Happy to Talk Benches you can find out when the benches have been regularly booked.

All Things Local

Saturday 4th September
10.00am - 2.00pm, Public Gardens, Alton



The last in the series of themed summer markets organised by Alton Town Council for 2021.

With a variety of stalls celebrating and showcasing 'All Things Local'

10.00am onwards - Dementia Friendly Alton's 'Forget-me-not' walk

1.30pm - Official opening by Damian Hinds of the new Dementia Friendly sensory garden and rainbow benches

1.45pm - Alton in Bloom award presentation



For events in Alton visit www.altonevents.co.uk



THIS IS A HAPPY TO TALK BENCH

For more information please scan the QR code.



Sensory Garden

Dementia-friendly Alton are very pleased to be officially re-opening the Sensory Garden in the Public Gardens on Saturday 4th September at 1.30pm in the presence of MP and Dementia Champion Damian Hinds, Mayor of Alton Pam Jones, and other Local Councillors.

The Sensory Garden has been carefully renovated over the Summer with the help of the NCS students (National Citizen Service), who have spent many hours working hard to provide a garden which is safe and accessible for Dementia patients to enjoy and a place for familiar activities such as weeding, digging and pruning. As Alton has eased from the lockdown, this exciting, collaborative initiative with Alton Town Council has seen the raised beds renovated and replanted with plants and flowers which stimulate our sense of touch, sound, smell, taste and sight.

A welcome addition, situated close to the Sensory Garden in the Public Gardens, are brightly coloured 'Happy to Talk' benches which have been installed to encourage people to stop for a chat and encourage conversations between people of all ages and communities to help tackle loneliness.

From Sunday 5th September Dementia-friendly Alton will be hosting a social and horticultural meeting at the 'Happy to Talk' benches every Sunday from 2.30pm - 4.30pm. Gazebos will be on hand to ensure wet weather won't stop proceedings. Please pop along and join them for some weeding and pruning whilst having a chat.



Getting Rid of Fossil Fuel Boilers:

Everything you need to know about heat pumps!

Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.30 pm
At Alton Community Centre GU34 1HN
(also on Zoom)

SPEAKER: RICHARD CROUCHER
(engineer, scientist and heat pump owner) with Richard Care and other owners of heat pumps
The different types. How they work. Cost modelling. Installation.



PLUS: UPDATES FROM
Chris Lang from the Powering Up team on the Alton Energy Co-Op
John Hubbard on Energy Alton's Clean Heat Alton Project

To register please email energyalton@gmail.com stating whether you wish to attend at the Community Centre or on Zoom



Alton Classic Car Show

Saturday 18th September 2021
in Alton Town Centre
10am - 4pm



www.AltonClassicCarShow.co.uk

Event Headline Sponsor



GO WILD! ALTON CALENDAR



Photographic competition to find images depicting the beautiful wildlife living in and around Alton

Following the success of last year's Alton – In Harmony with nature outdoor walking trail of images taken by Altonians, reproduced for the Mayor's charity calendars, the search is now on to find the next crop of budding photographers to submit images for a new exhibition later this year. The images will also be used to create a calendar for 2022 and set of notelet cards to raise funds for local charity Hart Wildlife as they commemorate and celebrate their 25th anniversary.

So, whether you capture an image of a fluffy duckling, an extravagant swan or vibrant kingfisher or maybe an elusive owl or shy deer, we would love to see your pictures which will be used to raise awareness of the hard work and dedication of Hart Wildlife rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing local animals and birds. For more information and how to enter please go to alton.gov.uk

The closing date for entries will be **30th September**.

We are particularly keen to receive entries from young photographers and welcome images which have been taken at any time of year not just during the spring and summer months.

Christmas in the Market Square

Alton Town Council will be hosting a series of Christmas Markets in Market Square this year. If you are interested in a pitch, pitches will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, please contact community@alton.gov.uk and events@alton.gov.uk for more information. They will take place from 10am -2pm on:

Saturday 20th November
Saturday 27th November
Saturday 4th December
Saturday 11th December