



**ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

AUTUMN / WINTER 2021

THE ALTONIAN

Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Alton, Hampshire,
GU34 1HD www.alton.gov.uk 01420 83986

Message from the Mayor

Christmas is fast approaching and being Mayor during a pandemic has been a little different, with many events cancelled or adapted for the new normal. However, preparations are already in hand behind the scenes for the Town's seasonal events which will go ahead in a similar way to last year. I look forward to catching up with you and having the pleasure of being out and about with you at one or more of the Christmas events. Alton is such a special place to live and it's you, the people, that live and work here, that give it such a strong sense of community.



Our 'Shop Local' campaign last year was very popular and thanks must go to Luke and Elliot for their wonderful videos; look out for more of them on social media soon. Please continue to support our local retailers and businesses again this year and make it a bumper Christmas on the High Street.

A special thank you must also go to all those in the NHS... they will be working throughout the festive season....let's do what we can to ensure they are not overwhelmed with more Covid cases.

Alton has always been a caring community and

quickly provides support for those in need both at home and abroad. The true meaning of Christmas is never far from my mind; a baby born amid a time of war and conflict and whose parents became homeless refugees. Let us all continue to do what we can this Christmas for homeless and dispossessed people. May I take this opportunity to send you God's blessings and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Councillor Pam Jones - Town Mayor of Alton

facebook.com/altontowncouncil
alton.gov.uk
altontowncouncil

MARMOT FAMILY CHRISTMAS

★ Friday 19th November 2021 ★
 5:00pm - 7:00pm
 Alton High Street and Market Square
 JOIN US FOR A FUN FAMILY EVENING

CHRISTMAS LAND TRAIN
 CRAFTS
 ENTERTAINMENT
 FUN FAIR
 AND MUCH MORE

Meet Father Christmas

Bring along your list of Christmas wishes and post them directly to the North Pole.

Sponsored by:

Funded by:

Councillor Lewis Jones

I have been very humbled to have been elected Councillor for Wooteys, a ward I know well and I look forward to working hard for the residents of that ward in the years to come. Some of those residents will know me for my long standing membership of Alton Cricket and Rugby Clubs, where I have the honour of being President of the Cricket Club and the responsibility of being the licensee of the rugby club, so I am frequently at both. Others may know me from the live music events I host at the Rugby Club and assist with at the Assembly rooms. My wife and I have lived in Alton since the 1980s and both my children are born and bred Altonians. I look forward to meeting many of you.



Flood Meadows

Thank you very much to Glen Skelton (Wetland Projects Manager) from Surrey Wildlife Trust and all the volunteers who recently helped at Flood Meadows with the 'Gravel Recharge' project as part of Rivers Week.



In conversation with ... Pam Bradford

Current Town Mayor Pam Jones recently met up with Pam Bradford, who recently retired as a councillor to ask her about her time as the longest serving councillor in Alton.

Pam was persuaded to become a councillor back in 1968 and served on the Alton Urban Council until its demise in 1974. She then continued as a Town Councillor on the new Alton Town Council until her resignation this year; a total of more than 50 years' service to the town. During this time she was honoured to be Alton's first lady Mayor and served as Mayor three times. She has recounted some of her most memorable occasions.



In 1998 she visited Montecchio Maggiore in Italy to sign the twinning agreement and she continues to retain a real affection for all the friends made since that time.

She was Mayor at the time of the Millennium and remembers taking the salute with the Mayor of Montecchio, Giuseppe Ceccato, in Alton High Street as the Cavaliers and Roundheads marched through the town for the Battle of Alton re-enactment. She tirelessly pressed for the replacement of Finnimore Pavilion in Anstey Park.

She has always taken a particular interest in our young people being involved with the Youth Council and the installation of the skatepark at Anstey Park.

In 2003 she became a District Councillor and was honoured to be Chair in 2007. Pam said it was a very busy year and included the memorable visit to the Queen's garden party.



Pam always said she would not make promises but she would always do her very best for Alton, which over the years had always been very good to her.

Away from Council work she has been an active member of Chawton Park Surgery's Patient Participation Group, Alton Town Twinning Association, Alton MS Group and Alton Rotary and she brought together local charities in Alton Charities Together (ACT)

The Mayor concluded "Alton has a lot to be grateful to Pam for!"

Sponsored by:

**STYLES & ASSOCIATES
ACCOUNTANCY**

Christmas Markets Market Square

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
MARKET SQUARE, ALTON
SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER

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

Funded by:

HM Government European Union
European Regional Development Fund ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Leader's message

As we emerge from the Covid lockdown we are turning our thoughts to the future. Not everything will be as it was in 2019, even if we wanted it to be. Alongside the people and things we have lost, we can be sure that new opportunities are arising.



At Alton Town Council we are putting a lot of effort into planning for the future. We have updated our Neighbourhood Plan so that it can continue to protect us against undesirable development. We are working with East Hants District Council as it develops its next Local Plan that will govern future building in the area, and we will continue to carefully scrutinise any new plans that affect Alton.

At the heart of all our plans is the Climate Crisis: what we can do to minimise it and to protect against its consequences. As a small organisation our powers over global phenomena are limited! But if the world is to survive this crisis everyone has to play their part. To this end, we are surveying all our buildings to see how we can cut their carbon footprint. The Council will also set an example and provide facilities to help people to do their bit, for example by supporting recycling. We will also work to provide more opportunities for Active Travel, to cut carbon emissions from local transport.

We are delighted to have acquired the land near the start of the River Wey, gifted to us by Redrow, to provide another pleasant area for rest and recreation. This further enhances our reputation as an attractive walking town and brings more business to town centre cafes and pubs.

With my best wishes for Christmas and 2022.

Graham Titterington
Leader, Alton Town Council

Neighbourhood Plan update

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to engage with the Alton Neighbourhood Plan modification process. We are very pleased that following submission to an independent examiner, the revised plan was given the green light in September and is due to be placed before East Hampshire District Council for approval this month. The examiner commented:

"The review of the Plan is underpinned by a Modification Statement Proposal. It is a first-class document. The wider approach which has been taken by ATC would be a very useful and effective model for others to use in the review of their made neighbourhood plans."

The Town Council would like to commend the Steering Group who undertook this piece of work on behalf of the Council and in particular would like to recognise the efforts of both Mike Heelis (MBE) and David Allan (MBE) in delivering this modified plan in such a timely manner.

Active Alton Directory

Alton has an enormous number of different sports, activities and exercise facilities and the Directory brings them all together. The Directory is available in two forms.

A take-away booklet which is available at the Library, the Community Centre, the Sports Centre, Doctors' Surgeries, the Hospital Outpatient Department, Sports Shops, Schools and anywhere else we can think of where people congregate. This lists all the sports and exercises and includes their contact details. There is also a list of all the venues like the Sports Centre, village halls etc which host physical activities of one sort or another.

An online version which can be found at: <https://altonevents.co.uk/active-alton/>. This version has all of the above also includes other details of the organisations' activities.

Regular physical activity is extremely important for long-term wellbeing, both physical and mental. This fact has been put into stark relief by the pandemic - the physically unfit have experienced a far higher rate of severe illness and death. The Department of Health has made a recommendation that we should all take 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise weekly. Unfortunately less than 20% of the population meets this modest target. One possible contribution to this state of affairs may be a lack of exercise and sporting facilities - or a lack of knowledge of what is available.

As far as Alton is concerned the facilities are very extensive. This directory aims to overcome any lack of knowledge of what is out there to help you to be more physically active.

It does not matter what exercise or physical activity you choose - just find something you will enjoy and do it. If you don't enjoy it you will soon give it up. The Active Alton Directory tells you what is available and gives you the necessary contact details. Most clubs and groups are very happy for newcomers to try out what they offer - and with over 70 sporting and activity groups there is something for everyone.

The list goes from Archery to Zumba and includes badminton, bowling, cycling, dancing, gymnastics, golf, running, tennis, rambling, trampolining and yoga, to mention just a few. So if you use the internet, do log in to <https://altonevents.co.uk/active-alton> and find out what you want to do. If you do not have access to the internet, pick up an Active Alton Directory from the Library or any other of the places mentioned above. It is free and just might save your life!

PLEASE NOTE: Details were correct at the time of printing. Please visit www.altonevents.co.uk for up to events in Alton.

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	DETAILS
FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2021	MARMOT FAMILY CHRISTMAS	HIGH STREET AND MARKET SQUARE 5:00PM - 7:00PM	FOR MORE DETAILS SEE POSTER OR VISIT www.alton.gov.uk
FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS AT THE CURTIS	THE CURTIS MUSEUM 5:00PM - 7:00PM	CHRISTMAS TRAIL AROUND THE MUSEUM £1 PER TRAIL www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum
SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS MARKET IN MARKET SQUARE	MARKET SQUARE 10:00AM - 2:00PM	OFFERING A VARIETY OF ART & CRAFT, LOCAL PRODUCE AND CHARITY STALLS WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM ALTON MORRIS. www.alton.gov.uk
FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2021 - SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY 2022	WATERCRESS LINE STEAM ILLUMINATIONS	VARIOUS TIMES	FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT: www.watercressline.co.uk/steam-illuminations
SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS STALLS IN MARKET SQUARE	MARKET SQUARE 10:00AM - 2:00PM	OFFERING A VARIETY OF ART & CRAFT, LOCAL PRODUCE AND CHARITY STALLS WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM ALTON ROCK CHOIR. www.alton.gov.uk
NOVEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022	CHRISTMAS AT GILBERT WHITE'S HOUSE	VARIOUS TIMES	FOR FULL DETAILS ON VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT GILBERT WHITE'S HOUSE. www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk
NOVEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022	CHRISTMAS AT CHAWTON HOUSE	CHAWTON HOUSE VARIOUS TIMES	FOR FULL DETAILS ON VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT CHAWTON HOUSE VISIT www.chawtonhouse.org
WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP	ALLEN GALLERY 1:00PM - 4:00PM	CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP WITH SACHIKO MASON. £15 PER PERSON www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery
THROUGHOUT DECEMBER 2021	PARISH OF THE RESURRECTION LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR	ALTON AND HOLYBOURNE	A LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR ALL AROUND ALTON AND HOLYBOURNE. www.potr-alton.co.uk OR 07865 292401
SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS MARKET IN MARKET SQUARE	MARKET SQUARE 10:00AM - 2:00PM	OFFERING A VARIETY OF ART & CRAFT, LOCAL PRODUCE AND CHARITY STALLS WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM LUMINOSA YOUNG & RISING VOICES. www.alton.gov.uk
SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2021 - SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY 2022	GO WILD ! IN ALTON WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION	ALLEN GALLERY 10:00AM - 4:00PM	FREE ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION OF THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION WINNERS AND HIGHLY COMMENDED ENTRIES FOR THE GO WILD! IN ALTON CALENDAR 2022. www.alton.gov.uk

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS MARKET IN MARKET SQUARE	MARKET SQUARE 10:00AM - 2:00PM	OFFERING A VARIETY OF ART & CRAFT, LOCAL PRODUCE AND CHARITY STALLS WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM ENCORE CHOIR www.alton.gov.uk
SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2021 - SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2021	SLEEPING BEAUTY (CHRISTMAS PANTO)	ASSEMBLY ROOMS VARIOUS TIMES	AN EXCITING TALE OF ENCHANTED SPINNING WHEELS, MAGICAL FAIRIES, HANDSOME PRINCES AND DARING DRAGONS. BOOK ONLINE AT: www.pumpkinpantos.co.uk/events
SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2021 - SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL	ST LAWRENCE CHURCH	FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT www.potr-alton.co.uk OR 07865 292401
SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2021	CHRISTINGLE	ST LAWRENCE CHURCH 4:00PM	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT ST LAWRENCE CHURCH www.potr-alton.co.uk or 07865 292401
SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2021	CHRISTMAS FAIR	COMMUNITY CENTRE 10:00AM - 2:00PM	ACA INDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET. 01420 85057
WEDNESDAY 22RD DECEMBER 2021	CAROL SINGING AT THE WHITE HART	WHITE HART PUB HOLYBOURNE	FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT www.potr-alton.co.uk OR 07865 292401
THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2021	CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE	MARKET SQUARE 7:00PM	TRADITIONAL CAROL SINGING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE.
SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY 2021 - SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2022	ALADDIN	HOLYBOURNE THEATRE VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES	TICKETS FROM £9.00 FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT www.holybournetheatre.co.uk



Go Wild! In Alton

11 December 2021 – 9 January 2022

An exhibition of photographs showcasing the diversity of Alton's wildlife, taken by members of the local community. Images from the exhibition are included in the 2022 Alton charity calendar.



ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Location: Allen Gallery, Church Street, Alton, GU34 2BW
T 01420 82802 www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery



The Allen Gallery is operated and funded by Hampshire Cultural Trust
We are a registered charity (no. 1150583) and company (no. 38984225) in England and Wales.

FREE admission

Pumpkin Pantos Presents

Alton's Brand New Professional Pantomime

BEN KENNEDY
as NURSE NELLIE

JOSH DIXON
as SILLY BILLY

Sleeping Beauty
The Panto of Your Dreams

11th & 12th December 2021
Alton Assembly Rooms
www.pumpkinpantos.co.uk/events