

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

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

Telephone 01420-83986, Fax 01420-542490

Email: info@alton.gov.uk Website: www.alton.gov.uk

Full details of all of your Town, District and County Councillors (including their email and/or fax addresses) can be found on the Alton Town Council website, along with a full range of essential local phone numbers and useful points of contact

Alton's new MP is Damian Hinds, who can be contacted via Alton Conservative Office, 14a Butts Road Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1ND (01420 84122) or by email to: damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk

It's payback time for offenders

Last year more than 280,000 hours work on community projects was carried out across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight by offenders who had been ordered, by the courts, to give something back to the local area for the crime they had committed.

Offenders on Community Payback, managed by Hampshire Probation Trust, are required to carry out a variety of manual tasks, which range from environmental work such as cutting back undergrowth, strimming, ditch clearing and waste removal, to the redecoration of local schools, youth clubs and community halls. For smaller charities in need of regular voluntary support, offenders are sent on an individual placement to work for the organisation in many different ways.

Offenders who have been sentenced to carry out Community Payback can be ordered to work between 40 and 300 hours, which is a compulsory requirement they must comply with, or face the unwelcome prospect of enforcement action. It has been known under many titles through the years, including Community Service, Community Punishment and Unpaid Work. The objectives of Community Payback are to both make offenders understand the impact of their crimes, and to pay something back to the community through hard work and loss of their personal time.

During their time on Community Payback, offenders involved in groups are supervised and taught new practical skills while being encouraged to develop a stronger work ethic, which in turn helps reduce the risk of them reoffending. Locally, at the request of the Town Council, many of Alton's footpaths have benefited from Payback work, including the paths linking Paper Mill Lane to Lower Turk Street, and Ashdell Road to Stillions. More paths are set to be tidied this coming summer.

HPT actively encourages the public to nominate any projects in the local area which would benefit from the support of offenders on Community Payback. If you know of such a project, get in touch with them either via their website at www.hampshire-probation.gov.uk or by calling 02392 728400.

Fancy a drop of the green stuff?

Are you worried by the prospect of climate change? Are you confused by talk about insulation, micro-generation and feed-in-tariffs? Fear not - you're not alone!

The Greening Alton and Holybourne Campaign is organising a new regular event under the banner of Green Drinks, which gives residents the monthly chance to have a pint and talk 'green' at the Railway Arms, from 8.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Every month people who are going green (or considering their options) and want to talk about it can meet up at this informal session. "Come along and you'll be made welcome," pledged the Campaign's spokesperson. "It promises to be a great way of catching up with people you know and also for making new contacts. If everyone who comes invites someone else along there's always a different crowd, making Green Drinks an organic, self-organising network."

Your next chance to find out what it's all about is Tuesday, June 8th at 8.30pm.

Missions possible: Alton projects update

The Town Council has many projects in hand at any one time, and here is a brief status report on some of them:-

Interpretation Panels - Five installed, three more to come.

Litter Bins at Kings Pond - All replaced.

Trees at Kings Pond - Due to be thinned this summer to allow more light under the canopy.

Finnimore Pavilion Replacement - Decision from Sport England on Lottery Grant expected this month.

Public Gardens Railings - Those fronting Westbrooke Road to be repainted this summer.

Assembly Rooms Roof - Main Hall roof currently being repaired; roof of Upper Room being totally replaced.

Assembly Rooms Staircase - Restoration finished (see front page!)

New Allotment Site - Tenders awaited; work planned for later this year.

Public Gardens Play Area Refurbishment - Design/s to go to public consultation this summer.

Bus Shelters - New shelters installed at Drayman's Way in response to requests; those at Anstey Road and Butts Road replaced.

Saturday Market - Residents' Survey completed; traders still to be surveyed.

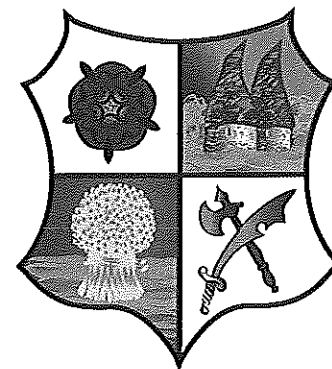
When Alton Local Food Initiative volunteers started digging over the soil at a Westbrooke Road plot, a Lenten Street resident offered them the use of the vegetable patch and the greenhouse in her own beautiful garden - making this the first ALFI garden share. "It's such a generous offer" said Penney Hames. "We have a lot of members wanting to grow their own and I'm sure that there are also a lot of people with big gardens who wouldn't mind sharing. We're hoping that this is just the start of things to come." If you think you might like to offer your garden or you would like to help out on an ALFI space give Lesley a call on 01420 83416.

Whose hedge is it anyway?

Hedges, fences and boundaries in general can give rise to many a dispute between neighbours. But what about where fences and structures are right next to the highway, whether it is a road or footpath? There is a common misconception that fences and hedges next to the highway must be the responsibility of the highway authority. However, this generally turns out not to be true.

As a general rule of thumb, ask yourself: is the fence, hedge, embankment or retaining wall there for the benefit of the highway and its users, or for the adjoining landowner? If the answer is that the structure is there to retain the highway, then it is the responsibility of the highway authority, which in our case is Hampshire County Council. If, on the other hand, the structure is there to maintain adjoining land or to give privacy to adjoining landowners, then the onus is on that landowner. There is a duty on all landowners to ensure that their fences or hedges do not cause difficulties for highway users, so if you have let your hedge get overgrown recently or if your fence is leaning over onto the pavement, then now's the time to get them sorted!

For further details on matters relating to highways and the responsibility of landowners with property next to highways, contact Hampshire Highways East on 01730 266441.



THE ALTONIAN

ISSUE NUMBER 31 - SUMMER 2010

The Official Newsletter of Alton Town Council -

published quarterly to keep you informed

Blooming hard work is worth it

Alton is going all out to retain its Silver Gilt award in the South & South East in Bloom competition this summer, with the Public Gardens up for the same in the Parks Category.

This summer, along with all of the favourite displays which will be in place, the judges will also be shown some of the latest developments and projects that have been undertaken to make Alton look smarter and more environmentally friendly. New highlights on the way include the Community Vegetable Garden at the corner of Lenten Street and Westbrooke Road, herb pots in the High Street (both thanks to ALFI, the Alton Local Food Initiative), and additional interpretation panels in the Market Square and Crown Hill. Improvements to a piece of land at Butts Bridge, plans for the old Gas Board site in Butts Road, new litter bins around King's Pond and repainted railings in the Public Gardens fronting Westbrooke Road should all impress the judges.

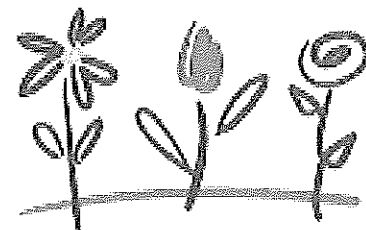
As they tour the town on the big day in mid-July, they will also be meeting some of the volunteers and groups responsible for many of these new initiatives, including the Alton Society, whose members were busy this spring planting trees in an attempt to make the town physically greener. Although the judges always visit Flood Meadows anyway, this year it has been entered into the Conservation Area section of the Parks Awards, with Jubilee Playing Fields now competing in the Best Recreation Ground category. The inspection route will include the Spitalfield / Wooteys Allotments site, which last year won the award for best allotments in the region.

Alton Horticultural Society is again organising its Scarecrow Competition and Pumpkin-growing contest, which go from strength to strength in encouraging younger Altonians' green fingers.

Although the Town Council coordinates the In Bloom campaign, as usual it really is a community effort, with groups such as the Alton Society, Alton Allotment Association and ALFI all pitching in to do their bit, along with the many sponsors of roundabouts and hanging baskets. Supporting the regional entry is the local Alton in Bloom Competition, which is where, hopefully, you come in! All you have to do is make your home or business look spick, span and bright with flowers or plants, and then complete and return the form on page 2. It really is that easy!

Trophies and certificates (Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze) will be awarded in all categories and presented at Alton's version of the Oscars, in the Assembly Rooms on Friday 17th September. In the meantime you can view the impressive array of civic silver involved, which will be on show in the window of 10 Market Street shortly.

For further information, including sponsorship opportunities, you're encouraged to make contact with Greg Burt at the Town Hall, on 01420 83986.



Alton | In | Bloom

THANK YOU!

Alton Town Council is very grateful to all those 200+ residents who responded to our survey about a possible Saturday Market, making it one of the best returns yet of an Altonian questionnaire. The Council is now discussing the wording for a survey of High Street businesses with the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and once replies to this are in, the Council will be in a position to make an informed and considered decision.

Shelter at last!



The long wait for shelter from the elements for shoppers catching buses in Drayman's Way is over, with pressure from townspeople and the Town Council eventually winning the day, as seen above.



A Victorian staircase which dominates the hallway at Alton Assembly Rooms has been restored to its former splendour. The historic feature was boarded-in as part of a modernisation scheme in 1970, when many of the building's unique features were hidden away, with 'slimline' being the fashion of the day. Funding was provided by building owners Alton Town Council with the help of an Historic Buildings Grant of £500 from East Hampshire District Council and a donation from a private individual. This follows on from the refurbishment of the main hall in 2007, in which the ornate ceiling and window arches saw the light of day for the first time in nearly 40 years. "It's wonderful to see the staircase restored to its former glory," announced Assembly Rooms Manager, Jason Passingham. "We've received many complimentary remarks about it and, when funds permit, we hope to replace the lighting and redecorate as well, completing the new look for this pivotal area."

It's Time to Bloom - your entry form is overleaf

Reed all about it...



When contractors for the Town Council planted up the edge of King's Pond with reeds, sedges and rushes to establish a marginal vegetation belt for stabilisation of the bank, the original chicken wire and wooden protection was no deterrent for hungry residents. Swans, geese and ducks soon pushed their beaks through the wire to eat off any new growth. Some very substantial caging has now been successfully installed, and the plants are leafing again now that spring is under way. Marginal vegetation at the pond comes under heavy pressure with the considerable population of waterfowl there.

PUBLIC GARDENS ENTERTAINMENTS

JUNE

Friday 4th	Poppy Wild's Magical Machine*	2-3pm (in Assembly Rooms if wet)
Saturday 12th	Good Old Days	10am-6pm
Saturday 19th	Eggar's School	3-4.30pm
Sunday 20th	Basingstoke Silver Band	2-4pm
Saturday 26th	King's Pond Shantymen	11am-noon & 2-3pm

JULY

Saturday 3rd	Minden Rose	11am-12noon
Sunday 4th	Music from Amery Hill	2.30-5.30pm & 6.30-8
Saturday 10th	Last Night of the Proms (Gates open at 6pm)	7.30-9.30pm
Sunday 11th	Butserquest	11am-7.30pm
Saturday 17th	Strictly Showtime	6-9pm
Saturday 25th	Bagshot Concert Band	2-4pm
Friday 30th	Big Foot the Clown*	2-3 pm

AUGUST

Friday 6th	Wobbly Wizard*	2-3pm
Friday 13th	Teddy Bears' Picnic* (and Best Teddy competition)	2-3pm
Sunday 15th	Cactus Brass	3-5pm
Friday 20th	Pinky the Clown*	2-3pm
Friday 27th	Jester Giggles*	2-3pm
Monday 30th	Live On The Lawn	2pm-Dusk

SEPTEMBER

Friday 3rd	Stevo the Magician*	2-3pm
Saturday 25th	Liss Band	2-4pm

* = Children's Activity - in Assembly Rooms if wet

For more information, call Alton Town Council on 01420 83986 or visit www.alton.gov.uk

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL ISSUES

"I'm sorry but it's not our responsibility." How often have you heard these words and suffered feelings of frustration after being given yet another telephone number to call about your problem? Those days could now be gone as, to assist you in finding the right place at the right time, here's a handy cut-out-and-keep guide to exactly who does what here in Alton.

Alton Town Council

Allotments
Assembly Rooms (82203)
Bus Shelters
CCTV
Christmas Lights
Closed Churchyards
Dog Waste Bins (in parks)
Floral Displays
Grit Bins
Markets
Noticeboards
Parks & Gardens
Play Areas
Public Benches
Skate Parks
Sports Pitches/Pavilions
War Memorials

Main Telephone Number
01420 - 83986

East Hampshire District Council

Car Parks
Cemeteries
Collection of Council Tax / Non-Domestic Rates
Dog Waste Bins (other areas)
Community Recycling Sites
Electoral Register / Elections
Environmental Health
Grass verges / Other Grassed Areas
Housing
Kerbside Recycling Collection
Licensing
Listed Building / Conservation Areas
Planning
Protection of Trees
Public Toilets
Refuse Collection
Sports Centres
Street Cleansing
Street Naming / Nameplates
Tourist Information Centres
Travel Tokens

Main Telephone Number
01730 - 266551

Hampshire County Council

Education
Gritting of Roads
Household Waste Recycling Site
(Public Amenity / 'Tip')
Libraries
Museums
Pavements
Planning (Strategic)
Public Transport
Registration of Births, Marriages & Deaths
Roads
Social Services
Street Lighting
Trading Standards
Youth Service

Main Telephone Number
0845 603 5638

ALTON IN BLOOM 2010- OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Best Small Front Garden | 10. Best Commercial or Office Frontage |
| 2. Best Larger Front Garden | 11. Best Licensed Premises |
| 3. Best Domestic Patio, Window Box or Tub | 12. Best Shop Window |
| 4. Best Residential Premises | 13. Best Scarecrow: for children 11 years or under [schools, groups, or individuals] - the scarecrow should be made of natural materials, and plastic faces are not allowed. No entry form is required, just take your scarecrow to the Assembly Rooms Garden on Saturday, June 26th. Entries will be accepted from 10am and the judging will take place at 12 noon. |
| 5. Best Neighbourhood, Street or Locality | |
| 6. Best Public Building | |
| 7. Best Schoolchildren's Garden | |
| 8. Best Planted Unusual Container | |
| 9. Best Retail Frontage | |

Please be sure to circle your category

Name/organisation

Address

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Please return this form to:

Alton In Bloom

Town Hall, Market Square

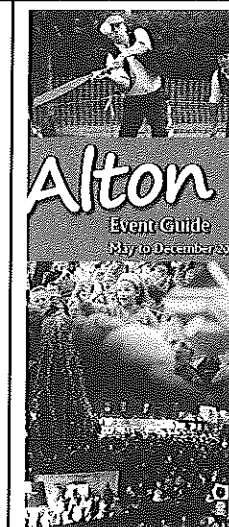
Alton GU34 1HD

by 12 noon on Thursday, July 1st 2010.

We wish you the best of blooming luck!

2010 Town Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Venue
June 3rd	Crafty Kids	1-3pm	Assembly Rooms
10th-12th	'The Best Of Times'	T.B.C.	Assembly Rooms
12th	Farmers' Market & Craft Market		High St/Market Sq
13th	Victorian Cricket Match		The Butts
19th-26th	Jane Austen Regency Week		
24th	'Aurelian Legacy'	7.30pm	Assembly Rooms
26th	Food & Produce Market	8am-4pm	High St
26th	Alton Horticultural Summer Show	12.30-4pm	Assembly Rooms
27th	Alton Dist Companion Dog Show	10am-5pm	Anstey Park
July 4th	Alton Show		Froyle
10th	Food Festival		High Street
10th	Farmers' Market & Craft Market		High St/Market Sq
17th	Running Day		Alton Station
18th	Bus Rally and Running Day		Anstey Park
23rd-25th	Jay Miller's Circus		The Butts
24th	Food & Produce Market	8am-4pm	High St
24th	It's A Knockout	pm, TBC	Anstey Park
Aug. 7th	Farmers' Market & Craft Market		High St/Market Sq
21st	Food & Produce Market	8am-4pm	High St
Sep. 11th	Farmers' Market & Craft Market		High St/Market Sq
25th	Health Fair	10am-3pm	Assembly Rooms
25th	Food & Produce Market	8am-4pm	High St
25th	Alton Herald Classic Car Show		Town Centre
26-Oct 2	Word Fest		Community Centre
1st-3rd	Charter Fair (Funfair)		The Butts
3rd	10K Downland Challenge	10.30am	Anstey Park
9th	Farmers' Market & Craft Market		High St/Market Sq
23rd	Food & Produce Market	8am-4pm	High St



Eventful Leaflet

A new leaflet cementing Alton's reputation as a town where something is always happening has just been launched by the Town Council. Cllr Atul Patel said of the leaflet, for which funding was generated by the regular Tuesday Market: "We have a lot of good events in Alton, many of which are organised by hard-working-voluntary organisations, and this guide will hopefully spread the news far and wide". The leaflet is available now from the Information Office in Cross & Pillory Lane, the Town Hall, and other public buildings. * Don't forget to visit the dedicated Alton Events Website www.altonevents.co.uk for details of many other events and occasions.

Could you act as a Town Guide?

Do you have a passion for Alton and a desire for some regular, healthy exercise? The Alton Town Guides Group, whose members take visitors around the town to show them all of the best and most interesting areas, is looking for more residents to help lead the walking parties. You won't need a degree in local history to apply, as full training will be given on all you'll need to know about the town - which you can then impart to inquisitive visitors. For further details of the role and training, contact the Community Centre 01420 85057.