

ALTON

Autumn Walking Festival
16th – 22nd October 2023



www.alton.gov.uk

FRI 27 OCT 2023
10AM-4PM
HSDC ALTON COLLEGE

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Welcome to this year's Autumn Walking Festival in Alton Hampshire

Alton is a vibrant town which truly has community spirit at its heart. Situated at the source of the River Wey and enjoying a stunning rural backdrop at the gateway of the South Downs National Park, Alton is known by many as 'Jane Austen Country' with its close ties to its charming neighbouring parish of Chawton. There is plenty to see and do in and around Alton and the town serves as a convenient base to explore the local area. The town is easily accessible by public transport, has direct road links from Winchester, Basingstoke and Guildford and is located just off the A31 with ample parking throughout the town.

Alton Walking Festival takes place every May and has just celebrated its 11th year and this year we will be holding our 4th Autumn walking festival from **16th - 22nd**

October. Both events are ideal for enthusiastic walkers, relaxed wanderers, and curious explorers of all ages. The festival is the ideal opportunity for the local community and visitors from further afield to meet likeminded people, explore the Town and its surrounding villages and discover the superb Hampshire countryside with its abundance of wildlife and rich cultural heritage.

The festival hosts a wide variety of walks led by knowledgeable volunteer walk leaders, offering an extensive programme of routes to suit all abilities. Whether you're looking for a shorter stroll, a day long hike or themed walks including Foraging, ghost walks and Town Walks, there is definitely a walk for you.

Alton Town Council would like to say thank you to all the committed local volunteer groups and walking who have put together a programme to promote, share and develop walks around Alton.

All walks must be booked in advance by booking online at www.walkalton.org.uk emailing community@alton.gov.uk or call 01420 83986.

 /AltonTownCouncil

 www.facebook.com/altontowncouncil

 @alton_council

Please Note:

- Full details on all the walks are available at www.walkalton.org.uk and must be booked in advance.
- Apart from the Ghost Walks, walks are free to attend but you **MUST** book in advance ghost-walks.com/events
- All travel costs (buses, trains and parking) are at the expense of the walker.
- Please make sure you have the appropriate clothing (it may be muddy in places) and footwear. Please make sure you have enough water.
- Many of the walks are in the countryside/woodland, so rest stops for toilets may not be possible.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before the start of your walk.

Walk Key

The walks have been graded to help you to choose walks that you can enjoy based on your knowledge of your own fitness and agility levels. Please take into consideration any current injuries you have, as some walks may include stiles and/or uneven ground. Walk leaders have given the grade of their routes taking into account, the length of the walk, the terrain and any obstacles that will be encountered and the intended pace that will allow the walk to be completed in the time stated.

SLOW AND STEADY Walking experience isn't necessary for these, as distances are relatively short and paths and gradients generally easy. These walks will be taken at a relaxed pace, often stopping briefly at places of interest, and may be suitable for family groups. Walking up to 2mph.

MODERATE These walks follow well defined paths and tracks, though they may be steep in places. They should be suitable for most people of average fitness. Walking up to 3 mph.

FAST These walks are generally demanding. There may be some steep climbs and/or sustained ascent and descent. These walks are more suitable for those with a good level of fitness and stamina. Walking at more than 3 mph.

Organised By:



Monday 16th October

Walk 1 – Medstead and The Vineyards

This is a varied walk with some tracks, lanes and field edges and not many stiles. There is one long gentle climb, well worth the effort, to give lovely, far-reaching views. You will pass the Hattingley vineyard, where grape harvesting may just be finishing, before returning to the start point. Dogs welcome but MUST be kept on leads.

Walk grade: **Moderate**

Walk leader: Marilla Ferguson

Walk suitability: All welcome

Approx distance/duration:
4 miles / 2 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Lay-by in Roe Downs Road near Village Hall, Medstead

What3words link:

computer.began.gradually

Grid reference: SU658369

Walk 2 – Alton Town

Guides: Civil War Walk

A guided walk and talk tour around Alton visiting places of interest which are historic sites in Alton connected with the English Civil War. Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: **Slow and Steady**

Walk leader: Town Guides

Walk suitability: All welcome

Approx distance/duration:
2 miles / 1.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

11.00am Curtis Museum

What3words link:

differ.cherish.regaining

Grid reference: SU718394

Walk 3 – Froyle and Saintbury Hill

Circular walk through Lower and Upper Froyle and Saintbury Hill.

Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: **Moderate**

Walk leader: Clare Allen

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

5 miles / 1.5 – 2 hours

Start time and meeting point:

1.30pm Outside the Hen and Chicken Pub

What3words link:

pulps.fees.blogs

Grid reference: SU756422

Tuesday 17th October

Walk 4 – Autumn Reflections

A gentle stroll around Chawton House parkland with moments of reflection, poetry and meditation. Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: **Slow and Steady**

Walk leader: George Longland and

Sally Thomas

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

2 miles / 2.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Chawton House

What3words link:

takeover.blush.ferrets

Grid reference: SU787381

Walk 5 – Beacon Hill and Kilmeston Circuit

A lovely downland circuit, starting at Beacon Hill, taking the South Downs Way and passing Lomer deserted medieval village and then heading north on the Wayfarers Walk to Kilmeston, returning via Riversdown and Wheely Down Farm. Dogs welcome but MUST be kept on leads.

Walk grade: **Moderate**

Walk leader: Ian Fleming

Walk suitability: All welcome

Approx distance/duration: 7.5 miles / 3 – 3.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Beacon Hill car park

What3words link:

polygraph.easels.memo

Grid reference: SU598227

Walk 6 – Four Marks and Medstead to Upper Wield

Starting and finishing in Four Marks with good views of the Watercress Line and Medstead Station this 10 mile circular walk passes through woods and open fields. Dogs welcome but MUST be kept on leads.

Walk grade: **Moderate**

Walk leader: Louise Fletcher

Walk suitability: All welcome

Approx distance/duration: 10 miles / 4 hours 30 minutes

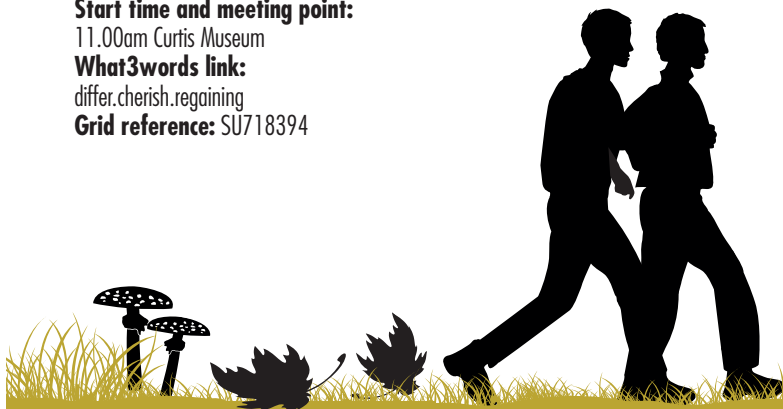
Start time and meeting point:

10.15am Four Marks

What3words link:

fruits.improves.goodnight

Grid reference: SU 671 352



Book online: www.alton.gov.uk

Walk 7 – East Worldham & Binswood early evening Circuit

This 3 mile walk provides wonderful views as we walk to Hartley Mauditt church and then return via West Worldham. Dogs welcome but **MUST** be kept on leads.

Walk grade: Moderate

Walk leader: Paul Ebbutt

Walk suitability: All welcome

Approx distance/duration:

3.5 miles / 1.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

4.00pm Three Horseshoes pub,
East Worldham

What3words link:

amber.them.lads

Grid reference: SU747380

Wednesday 18th October

Walk 8 – Autumn Hedgerow Foraging

A short and slow meander discovering the wild food of our autumn hedgerows
Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: Slow and Steady

Walk leader: Helen McAra from Wild
Seasons Foraging

Walk suitability: All welcome; Not
pushchair/wheelchair friendly

Approx distance/duration:

1 mile / 1.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Kingsley Common

What3words link:

takeover.blush.ferrets

Walk 9 – Practical Map Reading Session

Not confident to go out walking on your own or to venture off the paths you know? Well, join this practical map reading session and we'll have you galivanting across the countryside on your own adventures in no time!
Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: Moderate

Walk leader: Malinka van der Gaauw

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

7 miles / 4 – 5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

9.30am Buriton Pond Car Park

What3words link:

hatch.pipes.conducted

Grid reference: SU739200

Walk 10 – Lower Froyle and Long Sutton

A lovely circular walk through Hampshire countryside of woodland, chalk farmland and sunken lanes with fabulous views.
Dogs welcome but **MUST** be kept on leads.

Walk grade: Moderate

Walk leader: Paul Herbert

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16s

Approx distance/duration:

6 miles / 3 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Lower Froyle Village Hall

What3words link:

pastels.foggy.remarks

Grid reference: SU760441

Walk 11 – A Walk around the Remote Village of Upham

A walk around the remote village of Upham through quiet countryside with good views. The route is graded moderate and is pleasantly undulating with plenty of up and down but nothing too taxing. Dogs welcome but **MUST** be kept on leads.

Walk grade: Moderate

Walk leader: Michael Shroll

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

6 miles / 3 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Upham recreation ground

What3words link:

stumble/unframed/flow

Grid reference: SU 539 208

Thursday 19th October

Walk 12 – Holt Pound Tree Walk

This walk is approximately 4 miles, parts of it over rough ground, starting and ending at the Rowledge Recreation car park off School Road. You will stop and admire magnificent examples of ten species of tree and have the opportunity to identify many more. On the way you will pass the River Wey and a quiet part of Alice Holt Forest. Dogs welcome but **MUST** be kept on leads.

Walk grade: Slow and Steady

Walk leader: Ben Hamlin

Walk suitability: All welcome.

Children must be able to walk longer distances.

Approx distance/duration:

4 miles / 2.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Rowledge Recreation Ground
car park

What3words link:

projects.revisits.froth

Grid reference: SU 82125 43348



Walk 13 – Over the Hills from Selborne

A linear walk, catch the 38 bus from Alton, starting at the car park behind the Selborne Arms. The walk will climb the zig-zag and cross Selborne Common, passing through Newton Valence churchyard before heading north past Goldridge Plantation and then down into Upper Farringdon, across the fields from the Rose and Crown, follow water meadows to cross the Selborne road and pass Truncheants. The final part of the walk crosses the A31 Alton Bypass and climbs Windmill Hill, then descends to finish at Alton Butts. Dogs welcome but MUST be kept on leads.

Walk grade: **Moderate**

Walk leader: Ian Fleming

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

7 miles / 3 – 3.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.30am Car park behind Selborne Arms

What3words link:

honestly.pioneered.fairness

Grid reference: SU743335

Walk 14 – Alton After Dark – Ghost Walk

Ever wondered what lies beneath the tourist trails of Alton. What is the source of the myths and legends that surround the town. Join the tour around the Town Centre as we reveal some of the murkier stories of Alton, from smuggling gangs, suspicious deaths, grisly murder and some ghost stories to chill the bones. The tour ends in one of the most haunted pubs in Alton with a special tale to be told inside. You need to book this walk with Dark Encounters ghost-walks.com/events

Walk grade: **Slow and Steady**

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

1.5 miles – 2 miles / 1 – 1.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

7.30pm St Lawrence Church

What3words link:

reprints.discouraged.waving

Grid reference: SU717395

Friday 20th October

Walk 15 – Remnants of Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway

The first half of the walk goes through Bedlam Plantation to Farleigh Wallop and the village of Cliddesden. After drinks break at St Leonard's church, we follow the route of the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway to the site of Cliddesden station and the former railway cottages. At Swallick we take the Permissive Bridleway along the track bed of the Dismantled Railway for just under a mile. Just before a bridge we leave the railway and follow the Three Castles Path (Alley Lane) through a wooded valley and return to Ellisfield. Dogs welcome but MUST be kept on leads.

Walk grade: **Moderate**

Walk leader: Duncan Reid

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

8 miles / 3.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Ellisfield Memorial Hall £1 per car for use of car park.

What3words link:

seabirds.boater.bliss

Grid reference: SU639458

Walk 16 – Alton Brewery Stroll

A walk around the sites of Alton's breweries — all of which have now gone. Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: **Slow and Steady**

Walk leader: Jane Hurst

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

1.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

11.00am The Curtis Museum

What3words link:

differ.cherish.regaining

Grid reference: SU718394

Walk 17 – Weston Corbett and Upton Grey

A pleasant walk through the Hampshire Countryside around the attractive villages of Weston Corbett and Upton Grey. Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: **Moderate**

Walk leader: Don Hammond

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16s

Approx distance/duration:

5.5 – 6 miles / 3 hours

Start time and meeting point:

1.00pm On-street parking near the St Mary's Church, Upton Grey, post code (approx) RG25 2RD

What3words link:

breakfast.others.soaks

Grid reference: SU 69737 48414



Book online: www.alton.gov.uk

Saturday 21st October

Walk 18 – North West Alton Loop

Start in Raven Square Car Park (GU34 2LL), take the footpath North through Row Wood and North along Pickaxe Lane. Cross the New Odiham Road and on to Westers Lane (track). SW along Westers Lane through Closedown Wood to Avenue Nursery. On via Lasham Corner to Shalden, heading back to Alton, crossing the New Odiham Road to Greenfields Estate and turn E to the N of the estate across Old Odiham Road, along Gilbert White Way to the start. Dogs welcome but **MUST** be kept on leads.

Walk grade: Moderate

Walk leader: Bob Dalton

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's

Approx distance/duration:

10 miles / 4.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

9.30am Raven Square Car Park

What3words link:

searched.renovated.impact

Grid reference: SU 71921 40744

Walk 19 – Alton Town

Guides: Town Walk

A guided walk and talk tour around the town and stopping at key historic landmarks in Alton such as St Lawrence Church and the Friends Meeting House. Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: Slow and Steady

Walk leader: Alton Town Guides

Walk suitability: All welcome

Approx distance/duration:

2 miles / 1.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

11.00am Curtis Museum

What3words link:

differ.cherish.regaining

Grid reference: SU718394

Walk 20 – Alton Pubs and Breweries

Starting at the Butts this is a 3 mile walk through the town looking at the sites of existing and former pubs in Alton plus the former brewery sites in the Turk Street area. Also taking in Kings Pond and paths along the River Wey then returning through the centre of town to the Market Square and St Lawrence Church before finishing at the Eight Bells pub. Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: Slow and Steady

Walk leader: Paul Ebbutt

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 18s

Approx distance/duration:

3 miles / 2.5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

2.00pm The Butts, Alton by the Lions bench

What3words link:

weeknight.spades.inkjet

Grid reference: SU712386

Sunday 22nd October

Walk 21 – Six Hills of Alton – Full Circuit

Enjoy taking in the magnificent views of Alton from the six surrounding hills around the town. Dogs allowed but **MUST** be kept on leads.

Walk grade: Fast

Walk leader: Paul Ebbutt

Walk suitability: All welcome.

Children must be able to walk longer distances.

Meeting instructions: Please arrive

15 minutes before the start time,

Approx distance/duration:

11 miles / 5 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.00am Market Square, Alton

What3words link:

skid.happening.prosper

Grid reference: SU716393

Walk 22 – Exploring Trees and Your Creativity with The Soul Shed

Local creativity and well-being Project 'The Soul Shed' will take you on a guided amble through local treescape, exploring the presence and character of trees through our senses and different ways of knowing... to include some gentle breath and movement activities. Wear clothes you can move freely in! Sorry NO dogs allowed.

Walk grade: Slow and Steady

Walk leader: Samantha Taroni

Walk suitability: Ideal for over 16's.

Approx distance/duration:

2.5 miles / 2 hours

Start time and meeting point:

10.30am Gravel Hill Road

What3words link:

requested.comply.panning

Grid reference: SU802433

Walk 23 – Family Ghost Walk

Ever wondered what lies beneath the tourist trails of Alton. What is the source of the myths and legends that surround the town. Join the tour around the Town Centre as we reveal some of the murkier stories of Alton, from smuggling gangs, suspicious deaths, grisly murder and some ghost stories to chill the bones.

The tour ends in one of the most haunted pubs in Alton with a special tale to be told inside. You need to book this walk with Dark Encounters

ghost-walks.com/events

Walk grade: Slow and Steady

Walk leader: Dark Encounters

Walk suitability: Ideal for families

Approx distance/duration: 1.5 miles – 2

miles / 1 – 1.5 hours

Start time and meeting point: 5.00pm St

Lawrence Church

What3words link:

reprints.discouraged.waving

Grid reference: SU717395





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