



ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL

THE ALTONIAN WEEKLY

WEEK 43
23rd November 2023

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

ALTON'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON AND MARKET

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
3:00PM - 7:00PM

5:00PM AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS FOR SWITCH-ON

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS...

MASTERCHEF 2023 WINNER - CHARIYA KHATTIYOT

PUMPKIN PANTOS

FATHER CHRISTMAS

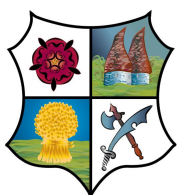
ICE QUEEN

THE SEARLE FAMILY FUN FAIR

STALLS AND LIVE MUSIC

HIGH STREET AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Sponsored and supported by:



ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL

P.J. GRACE & Sons

ROD GASKIN LTD



ALTON
COLLEGE



HOLYBOURNE
THEATRE

Christmas Lights Switch-On and Market

This year Alton's Christmas Lights will be Switched-On by Alton's very own Masterchef 2023 winner Chariya Khattiyot at the Assembly Rooms on Friday 24th November at 5:00pm. Chariya will be joined by the cast from this year's Christmas Pantomime from Pumpkin Pantos, Beauty and the Beast.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a lively Switch-On with music and festivities to keep the whole family entertained, including Father Christmas, sponsored by HSDC Alton College and an enchanting Ice Queen. From 3:00pm – 7:00pm younger children will be able to visit Father Christmas for free, post their Christmas wish list in a magical letter box which the elves will sort at the North Pole.

Visitors will be spoilt with a vast selection of food and drink stalls. For those who are shopping or browsing, there will be plenty of commercial and charity stalls to visit along the High Street and inside The Assembly Rooms.

There will also be Live performances from:

Outside The Assembly Rooms:

3:30pm-4:30pm	Tilly Lukeman
4:30pm-5:00pm	Pumpkin Pantos
5:00pm-5:45pm	Alton Rock Choir
6:00pm-6:45pm	King's Pond Shanty Men

Inside The Assembly Rooms

5:00pm-5:30pm	Luminosa Choir
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High Street outside The Swan:

5:00pm-5:30pm	Alton Concert Band
6:00pm-7:00pm	Cactus Brass

Alton Town Council would like to thank this year's Christmas sponsors Rod Gaskins Ltd, PJ Grace & Sons, HSDC Alton College and Bronze sponsor Alton School whose generosity has contributed towards funding the Christmas Lights Switch-On event, as well as the Christmas Lights themselves.

Stalls along the High Street

Kidney Care UK, Bearded-Man Toys, Crank it up, Energy Alton, Dogs for Autism, Rose Scrunchies, Everyone Active, NICU Portsmouth, Gilbert White's House and Gardens, St Lawrence Primary School PTA, Bert's Treats, Abigail Marsh Jewellery, ABC A Bit Crafty, Sweetie Treats 176, CT Craft, Sam's Creations, Party Cakes, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Smithy Cheese, Everyone Wants 1, Bluebird Care, Mitchell & Wilson, Oates and Flour, Dorothy MacKenzie, Lottys Laces, Hogs Back Jams & Chutneys, M&M Supplies, D & M's Posh Nosh, Unique Creations and Gifts, Smithy Slush and Seasonal Goods, Alton Lions Club, Costco Wholesale, H. Simpson Garden Maintenance, Simon Davison, Alton Rotary, Victorian Cricket, Ellen Gumble, Crafty Days Glass, HSDC Alton College, The Cocktail Consultancy, Arias Crafts and Howden Insurance.

Catering

Peppones Street Food, GE Horsebox, Acorns Coffee and Cake, Phat Freddie German Street Food and Two Ten Bakery

In the Assembly Rooms

Usborne Books, A Sign of Magic Makes, Tropic with Alex, League of Friends of Alton Hospitals, The Toy Man and Teddy Lady, Dr Quartz, Slimming World, Dementia Friendly Alton, St Michael's Hospice, Labrador and more, Turtle Tarot Emporium, Borovere Care Home, Crackpot Mosaics, Alton Quaker meeting, McCarthy Stone and Rose Ironworks.

**FREE PARKING
FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER**

**AFTER 3PM IN ALTON'S EHDC PAY AND
DISPLAY CAR PARKS ON**



Craft Swap



Photo: Jackie Epps and Sue Dell from St Lawrence Eco Church, with Geoff Goodall of Dementia Friendly Alton

The Eco Church, a St Lawrence Church initiative, craft swap continues to go from strength to strength; with the most recent one, held on Saturday 4th November, among one of the most successful held so far. A large queue had assembled before we had even opened the doors and the parish centre was heaving with people, especially at the start, with everyone eager to get that special item. Craft donations continued to arrive thick and fast throughout the afternoon and our volunteers struggled to put many of them out on display, so they remained in the hallway for everyone to rummage through! Nevertheless, the afternoon passed swiftly and efficiently, and all the left-over items have found homes. In particular, the manager of The Tricycle charity shop was delighted with the high-quality items we were able to donate to them. Our chosen charity for monetary donations this time was Dementia Friendly Alton, and we were able to present them with a cheque for the magnificent sum of £310.24, which even topped the amount received from us by Alton Women's Refuge after the last event. Thanks as always to everyone involved for their hard work in helping to create such a fun and worthwhile event. **Jackie Epps for Eco Church**

Reindeer Run 2023

We are excited to share that [St Michael's Hospice \(North Hampshire\)](#) have organised a Reindeer Run at Jubilee Playing Fields on Sunday 17th December. If you are interested in signing up to run, walk, dash, dance and prance use the code 'BlackFriday20' before the 30th November to save 20% on your place: <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/AltonReindeerRun>



Reindeer Run!

Sunday 3 December, Festival Place, Basingstoke, 9am
Sunday 17 December, Jubilee Playing Field, Alton, 9am

Join us for a festive family-friendly 3k fun run in Basingstoke and Alton to raise funds for your local Hospice!

Find out more and sign up today:
stmichaels hospice.org.uk/reindeer-run



Registered Charity Number: 1002856

Kindly supported by

**festival
PLACE**
BASINGSTOKE

Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window

If you would like to enter your business or nominate a business, please email up to two landscape high-resolution digital photographs of the shop window, including the business details, by Sunday 3rd December 2023 to support@alton.gov.uk. The people's choice online vote will start on Monday 4th December and will close on Sunday 17th December.

BIN UPDATE



Over the Christmas and New Year period 2023-24, bin collections will change around the bank holidays.

If your collection would have been due on Monday 25 December (Christmas Day) it will be collected two days earlier on the Saturday (23 December). All other collections will be a day later.

December 2023 - Usual day **New day**

Mon 25 Dec

Sat 23 Dec

Tue 26 Dec

Wed 27 Dec

Wed 27 Dec

Thu 28 Dec

Thu 28 Dec

Fri 29 Dec

Fri 29 Dec

Sat 30 Dec

January 2024 - Usual day **New day**

Mon 1 Jan

Tue 2 Jan

Tue 2 Jan

Wed 3 Jan

Wed 3 Jan

Thu 4 Jan

Thu 4 Jan

Fri 5 Jan

Fri 5 Jan

Sat 6 Jan

Our garden waste service will be suspended from 25 December and restart on Monday 8 January 2024. If you have a real Christmas tree, we'll collect it then. Trees over 6ft tall should be cut into smaller pieces that can be lifted by one person. If you don't have your October 2023 to September 2024 bin calendar, visit our ['find your bin calendar'](#) page.



Helping Amphibians and Reptiles in our Gardens – a talk by **JAMIE NEAVES**

Jamie is a local reptile surveyor, who has worked as a herpetologist and in several conservation roles, including for Natural England.



ALL WELCOME – share your own experiences

**MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER,
7.30 – 9.00 pm**

**ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE,
Amery Street, GU34 1HN**



An Alton Climate Action Network event
www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk
Email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



Alton Repair
Bin it? No way!
Café

FREE!
Donations appreciated

NEXT SESSION

Saturday 9 Dec

10.30 – 12.30

Alton Community Centre

**Our volunteers offer free help with repairs to
Clothes & textiles + Electronics
Mechanical + Small Electrical
Furniture + Bikes + Jewellery**

One item each please.

Part of the global **Repair Café** movement





U3A Winter Sale!

If you are finding these dull, damp winter days are getting you down, then why not find new interests and friends with Altonu3a?

Reduced membership subscription rates of between £12 - £35 are available for January - May 2024, and you are welcome to take a "taster" before joining (group size permitting).

There are now more than 55 different groups and activities, ranging from backgammon to bird-watching and crafts to current affairs, most of which can welcome new members mid-year; plus monthly coffee mornings at the Allen Gallery and monthly talks with tea at the Alton Community Centre, which are both open to all.

As we start to plan the 2024-25 programme, ideas for new groups are always welcome please. Do pick up a current 2023-24 "Blue Book" programme from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Community Centre; visit our website at altonu3a.co.uk; or contact the Membership Secretary Colin Aiken for more details altonu3amembers@gmail.com

WITH ALTON U3A YOU WILL "LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE!"

Alton Organ Society

The brilliant St Lawrence Church Christmas Tree Festival returns on Saturday 9th December (10am to 4pm) and Sunday 10th December (12pm to 4pm) and includes more than 40 beautifully decorated trees.

Look out for the Alton Organ Society tree. Not only will there be a gorgeously decorated tree but the opportunity to learn more about the Society and the chance to buy our CD, an ideal Christmas present, "Celebration", recorded by world renowned organist David Hill, especially to mark the 55th Season of recitals, played on the St Lawrence organ. CD's can be purchased at the Festival or at Resurrection Furniture in the High Street.

Alton Events

There are a lot of events happening in Alton leading up to Christmas. Make sure you keep an eye on the Altonian and also

www.altonevents.co.uk

A festive poster for 'Christmas In Alton 2023' with a blue background and white snowflakes. It lists several events: Friday 24th November (Christmas Lights Switch-On), Saturday 25th November (Ethical Vegan Christmas Market), Sunday 3rd December (Alton Community Centre Christmas Cracker), Saturday 9th December (Hampshire Farmers Market and Alton Lions Craft Market), and Saturday 23rd December (Carols Around The Tree). It also includes a 'Nominate Your Favourite Shop Window' section with voting details and a call to follow Alton Town Council on social media. At the bottom, there are illustrations of three shop windows and a Christmas tree.

Christmas In Alton 2023

Visit altonevents.co.uk for more details

Friday 24th November Christmas Lights Switch-On	Saturday 25th November Ethical Vegan Christmas Market
Sunday 3rd December Alton Community Centre Christmas Cracker	Saturday 9th December Hampshire Farmers Market and Alton Lions Craft Market

Saturday
23rd December
Carols Around The Tree

Nominate Your Favourite Shop Window

Nominations by Sunday 3rd December
Voting opens Monday 4th December
Voting closes Sunday 17th December

Follow Alton Town Council on Facebook, Instagram and website for more details

A red poster for the 'Alton Community Centre Christmas Cracker' event. It features large, stylized Christmas ornaments and a star. The text is white and yellow, providing details about the event, including stalls, gifts, free admission, mulled wine, a gift activity, a dementia-friendly area, a hamper raffle, Santa's Grotto, and children's movies.

ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Sunday 3rd December

10am - 2pm

STALLS GALORE - LARGEST INDOOR MARKET IN ALTON

FIND ALL YOUR GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS, OR A TREAT FOR YOURSELF!

FREE ADMISSION, FREE MULLED WINE

FREE MAKE A FESTIVE GIFT ACTIVITY WITH DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ALTON

HAMPER RAFFLE, SANTA'S GROTTO & CHILDRENS MOVIES & ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS CHEER, and much more !

For more information ring
01420 85057

A poster for the 'Alton Vegan Market' with a green and orange background. It features illustrations of tomatoes and leaves. The text is white and purple, providing details about the event, including the date, time, and location. It also includes social media icons and logos for ethical vegan events and Alton Town Council.

alton vegan market

come and visit us on
saturday 27 may
saturday 25 november

10.00 - 15.00
high street

www.ethicalveganevents.com

ethical vegan events

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

A red poster for the 'Carols Around The Tree' event. It features a large, stylized Christmas tree made of snowflakes and stars. The text is white and yellow, providing details about the event, including the date, time, and location. It also includes a logo for the Alton Concert Band.

Carols Around The Tree

All Welcome

Market Square

Saturday 23rd December from 7 - 7.45pm

with music by the
Alton Concert Band



*Come and join us for
Alton Churches*

POP - UP CAROLS 2023

On a green space near you

Thursday 7 th	11.00am	Treloar School and College
Monday 11 th	6.30pm	Lingfield Close, Racecourse Estate
Tuesday 12 th	6.30pm	Charrington Close, Rivermead Gardens
Tuesday 12 th	7.00pm	Queen Elizabeth Place, Town Centre
Tuesday 12 th	7.30pm	The Butts Green
Tuesday 12 th	8.30pm	Connaught Way, Treloar Heights
Wednesday 13 th	6.30pm	Vyne Close, Greenfields Estate
Thursday 14 th	6.30pm	Greenfields Avenue, Opp Brandon Close
Friday 15 th	5.30pm	Beech Village Hall
Saturday 16 th	5.00pm	Lipscombe Rise, Wooteys Estate
Saturday 16 th	6.00pm	Barleyfields, Nr Holybourne
Monday 18 th	6.30pm	Hop Fields Estate
Tuesday 19 th	7.00pm	Holland Drive, Four Marks
Tuesday 19 th	7.00pm	Wentworth Gardens, Greenfields Estate
Tuesday 19 th	7.00pm	The White Heart, Holybourne
Wednesday 20 th	7.30pm	Northanger Close, Greenfields Estate

'For unto us a Son is born'
Isaiah 9:6

More location details can be found on the Alton Church website

<https://harvestchurch.uk/pop-carols>

