



THE ALTONIAN

**Autumn/Winter
2023**

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

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



Did You Receive The Altonian?

The printed Altonian is produced 2 - 3 times a year and is delivered to around 15,000 residential addresses in the GU34 1,2,3,4 and 5 areas. So that we know you have received it, we would appreciate it if you could scan the QR code. Once scanned, you can (if you want to) enter a prize draw and be in with a chance of winning tickets to a local pantomime, with thanks to Pumpkin Pantos and Holybourne Theatre. Dates subject to availability.

As well as the printed Altonian we also produce a weekly digital Altonian. The weekly Altonian includes news from the Town Council, details about community events and information. To sign up please email support@alton.gov.uk and we will add you to the distribution list, or scan the QR code and tick the box to say you would like to receive it.



SCAN ME

Message From The Mayor



September was not quite over when I was asked to help choose a new Christmas tree for the Market Square. The Town Hall team already know how much I value trees so they were quick to reassure me that the one we chose is artificial.

I also value the human spirit and I hope yours is recovering from the ravages of Covid. It is becoming increasingly clear that this has been a particularly hard experience for young people and we must work to make sure this Christmas is a special one for them.

This year has already proved remarkable for anniversaries. I have sung for my supper at both Alton Lions and Probus clubs on the occasions of their 25th celebrations. The Italians from Montecchio Maggiore were here in October to mark 25 years of twinning with Alton. When I visited RAF Odiham, in September, I had to remind a few people that it was once the hub of probably the greatest fly-past this country has ever mounted, 70 years ago, to mark the Queen's coronation.

Among the many first birthdays there was that for the newly-opened training centre for Dogs for Autism, opened by my hero, Chris Packham.

When I stood for appointment as Town Mayor I was asked what my vision for the town might be. I replied that I was expecting this would be a tough year for most of us, possibly the toughest yet. My task, and that of the Council, indeed of all of us, was to work together and support each other. After all, it could be worse, at least we live in Alton!

Cllr Ben Hamlin - Town Mayor

Alton Tree Warden

In late 2019 I heard that a new Tree Warden was being sought, for when longterm Tree Warden, Jim Dickinson stepped down. I didn't have Jim's extensive tree knowledge, but I knew as much as the average gardener and wanted to learn more - so I volunteered.

If you live in a Conservation Area, or have trees with a Tree Preservation Order, you'll probably need to apply for permission, to have work done on the tree(s). When an application reaches me, I go and see the tree(s) and report to Alton Town Council's Planning & Transport Committee.

In 22 months as Volunteer Tree Warden for Alton Town Council and The Alton Society, I've commented on 87 tree applications, responded to queries about tree issues and led my first tree walk. I've visited parts of town I didn't know and met many people who want to preserve their trees.

An aerial view of Alton shows the extent to which trees have been retained in the urban landscape. However, we view the trees that we live alongside, near home or workplace, they play an intrinsic part in our lives/environment, softening the lines of buildings, a connection with Alton's history.

E-Bike Hire

After a successful one year trial of hiring out the use of an e-bike to local residents, hiring dates have now been extended into 2024. For full details and available dates please go to bookwhen.com/ebikeloan or contact Wendy on 01420 83986 or email finance@alton.gov.uk.

Fiona Lapraik - Alton Tree Warden



Interim Town Clerk



Pat Harris - Interim Town Clerk

Following the announcement in August that the current Town Clerk, Leah Coney, is leaving the Council in November, the Council is very pleased to announce that stepping into the role as Interim Town Clerk is Pat Harris, who is currently the Council's Finance and Administration

Manager and has been with Alton Town Council for the last 14 years.

Pat is a well-known face to many local residents and community groups and will provide a knowledgeable and safe pair of hands at the helm for the foreseeable future whilst the Council works towards securing a longer-term replacement for the Town Clerk going forward.

Attention Allotment Plottolders



Allotment renewals went out in October and payment needs to be made by 31st December. Failure to pay your annual rent by this date, will result in tenancies being terminated and plots offered to the next person on the waiting list.

If your contact details have recently changed, email address and contact number, please let us know by calling the Town Hall on 01420 83986.

Bin Collections - EHDC

Refuse, recycling and glass collections will change over the Christmas and New Year period. These are marked in orange on your calendar.

Collections due on Monday 25 December will be collected two days earlier on Saturday 23 December. Collections due from Tuesday 26 December to Friday 5 January 2024 will be a day later than normal (including Saturdays). Normal collections will resume on Monday 8 January 2024. There are no other changes to collections for bank holidays.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from: Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024 with normal collections resuming on Monday 8 January. We will take

real Christmas trees on the first collection of the new year. For more details about EHDC bin collection go to:

easthants.gov.uk/bin-collections

Alton Lions Club At Christmas

From Monday, 13 November, Alton Lions will be out and about, posting Christmas cards through letter boxes of those living and working in Alton and the surrounding villages, wishing everyone a happy and peaceful festive season and inviting donations towards the Lions annual Christmas appeal. Any money raised will go towards providing vouchers and gifts for families, individuals and elderly folk in our community who may be struggling and in need of a bit of Christmas cheer.

www.altonlions.org.uk or find us on Facebook

At the Christmas Craft Market on Saturday, 9 December, we will run a special chocolate Tombola and sell Christmas cakes.

They are also supporting this year's Christmas Sleigh which will start its rounds from 2 -16 December. Volunteer help is needed for this fun activity - visit:

fundraising@altonsanta.org.uk

Alton Events

There are many events taking place in Alton throughout the year, not just at Christmas, therefore keep an eye on Alton's dedicated events page altonevents.co.uk for details on what is happening in and around Alton, including the Active Alton Guide altonevents.co.uk/active-alton/.

WHERE	WEBSITE
ALTON EVENTS	For a full list of what's on, go to altonevents.co.uk
THE ALLEN GALLEY AND CURTIS MUSEUM	For a full list of what's on, go to hampshireculture.org.uk
GILBERT WHITE'S HOUSE	For a full list of what's on, go to gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk
JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE	For a full list of what's on, go to janeaustens.house
MID HANTS RAILWAY - WATERCRESS LINE	For a full list of what's on, go to watercressline.co.uk
CHAWTON HOUSE	For a full list of what's on, go to chawtonhouse.org
ALTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS	For a full list of what's on, go to altonassemblyrooms.com
THE MALTINGS	For a full list of what's on, go to maltings.life
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE	For a full list of what's on, go to altoncomcen.org.uk
PARISH OF THE RESURRECTION	For a full list of what's on, go to potr-alton.co.uk

Local Council Responsibilities and Contact Information

Alton Town Council
01420 83986
alton.gov.uk

East Hampshire District Council
01730 266551
easthants.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council
0300 555 1375
hants.gov.uk

Town Centre Allotments	Residential Bins	Education
Alton Assembly Rooms	Car Parks	Gritting of Roads
Alton's Open Spaces	Cemeteries	Libraries
Bus Shelters (Town Centre)	Council Tax and Business Rates	Museums
CCTV	Elections / Electoral Register	Pavements
Town Centre and Open Spaces		
Christmas Lights	Environmental Health	Public Transport
Play Areas	Grass Verges	Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Public Noticeboards (ATC Owned)	Housing	Rights of Way (Footpaths)
Pump Track	Licensing and Planning	Roads and On Street Parking
Skate Parks	Protection of Trees	Social Services
Sports Pitches	Public Toilets	Street Lighting
Jubilee and Anstey Park		
The Cairn - War Memorial	Refuse Collection	Trading Standards
Town Centre planters	Street Cleaning	Youth Services

Carols Around The Tree



All Welcome

Market Square

Saturday 23rd December from 7 - 7.45pm

with music by the
Alton Concert Band

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

Pumpkin Panto's presents

JOSH DIXON as POLLY POTTS
BEN KENNEDY as GASTON
SOPHIE COLLINS as BELLE
JOE EDMUNDS as THE BEAST
DAVID LOUCH as PIERRE
NAOMI HILL as THE ENCHANTRESS

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

9 - 10 DEC 2023 | ASSEMBLY ROOMS, ALTON
16 - 17 DEC 2023 | FOREST COMMUNITY CENTRE, BORDON

pumpkinpantos.co.uk/events

Holybourne Theatre presents...

ROBIN HOOD

Script by Chris Bennion
Directed by Anne-Marie Baggott

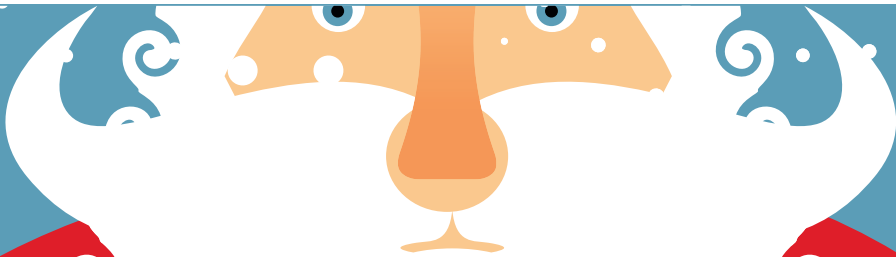
2pm Matinee
Jan 27, 28
Feb 3, 4 and 10

6:30pm Evening
Jan 27
Feb 3 and 10

Buy Online at holybournetheatre.co.uk/boxoffice

HOLYBOURNE
THEATRE

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
MOLDIWART PANTOMIME SCRIPTS
www.moldiwarts.co.uk



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

**ALTON'S CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS SWITCH-ON
AND MARKET**
(ASSEMBLY ROOMS AND HIGH STREET)

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS...
MASTERCHEF 2023 WINNER - CHARIYA KHATTIYOT
PUMPKIN PANTOS
FATHER CHRISTMAS
ICE QUEEN

STALLS
LIVE MUSIC
THE SEARLE FAMILY FUN FAIR

www.alton.gov.uk - events@alton.gov.uk
01420 83986

Supported by:

