



THE ALTONIAN WEEKLY

WEEK 47
20th December 2023

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

Carols Around The Tree

Don't forget to come along to the Market Square on Saturday 23rd December from 7pm.

Service sheets will be at the service or you can download a copy through the Alton Town Council website:

<https://www.alton.gov.uk/5759-2/>

Message From The Town Council

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's weekly Altonians. If you would like us to include anything in next year's, please email community@alton.gov.uk.

The next Altonian will be available on Thursday 4th January 2023.

The Town Hall's opening hours over Christmas are:

Friday 22nd December: 9:00AM - 12:30PM

Monday 25th December: CLOSED

Tuesday 26th December: CLOSED

Wednesday 27th December: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Thursday 28th December: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Friday 29th December: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Monday 1st January: CLOSED

In the event of an emergency over the Christmas period, please contact your ward Councillor, details of which can be found on our website <https://www.alton.gov.uk/your-councillors/>. We will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2023.

From all of us at the Altonian and Alton Town Council, we hope you have peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Carols Around The Tree

All Welcome

Market Square

Saturday 23rd December from 7 - 7.45pm

with music by the
Alton Concert Band

Best Christmas Window 2023

Congratulations to this year's winners for 'Best Dressed Christmas Window 2023'. *



1st Prize – Headcase Barbers



2nd Prize – Oxfam Alton



3rd Prize – Mainly Framing

Thank you to everyone who entered and voted.

*This year's entries were voted by the public.

Shaping the Future of Alton

News from the Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group...



The town we live in is a key part of our lives and, like many others, is facing some key challenges: lack of affordable housing, small retailers under pressure from online shopping and sustainable transport objectives. As Alton residents, we want to have some say in how these challenges are addressed and this is done via a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan not only represents our views but is a key document that can significantly influence planning decisions taken by East Hampshire District Council, as well as attract more local government funding in the form of Community Infrastructure Levies (CILs), which can be spent on upgrading the town's facilities and environment.

We're making good progress on the creation of Alton's latest Neighbourhood plan and an informative press release has just been issued, explaining the background, next steps and key timings for 2024 - <https://www.alton.gov.uk/the-future-of-alton/>

Further information about the Alton Neighbourhood Plan can be found at Alton Town Council website: <https://www.alton.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

News From EHDC

**WE'RE
ALL
EARS**



**EAST
HAMPSHIRE**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

East Hampshire District Council is all ears – and wants to hear what you think about us and the services we provide by completing a [short residents' survey](#).

By completing the online survey, you have the opportunity to give us your views and ideas and shape what we do in the future.

We want your thoughts on a whole host of important topics and we will use this information to develop our long-term strategy – which guides where we will channel our resources over the next four years.

We want to know what you think about the services we provide, like bin collections, planning and financial support – as well as things like how you access our services and what you think about your local area.

We hope to hear from as many residents as possible and if you take part then you can enter a prize draw to win £150 cash.

The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and can be done quickly online – there are 23 very short questions which will help us plan our services.

The survey will run for six weeks from now until Wednesday 17 January 2024 – but don't delay, have your say today.

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/b0adffc3-67b5-4b44-8dfb-3500266f58d0>

For up to date news from East Hampshire District Council please go to:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news>



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.

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 Town Centre and Open Spaces	Elections / Electoral Register	Pavements
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 Jubilee and Anstey Park	Public Toilets	Street Lighting
The Cairn - War Memorial	Refuse Collection	Trading Standards
Town Centre planters	Street Cleaning	Youth Services

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

Ukrainian Refugees



Ukrainian refugees continued to come to Alton Maltings this year for English lessons with volunteer teachers. Pictured is a Christmas celebration held on Friday 15th December, to mark the end of another successful term.

After some fun table-top games with a Christmas theme, everyone got together to exchange presents, enjoy the lovely spread provided by the tea-and-coffee-rota ladies and to sing English and Ukrainian Christmas songs. It was a bitter-sweet occasion, with smiles and tears, hugs and laughter. The group is looking forward to meeting again on Fridays in the New Year.

Hampshire Forest Partnership



WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 7 – 8 PM

AVLAN and ACAN are delighted that Liz will talk on Zoom about the work of the Hampshire Forest Partnership, set up by Hampshire County Council so that communities can get involved in caring for our woodlands and planting more trees.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshireforestpartnership>

This is your chance to find out about how we can all plant more trees and have all your questions answered.

PLEASE REGISTER HERE FOR THIS EVENT:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkdeCupj8tEtTCjYS1twyz74eszthmZhks>

King's Pond Update



In January this year, Alton Town Council resolved to conduct financial and technical assessments of possible works to the pond, including dredging and weir removal. It was also resolved that the results of these studies, and any draft management plans, would be put back for public consultation.

The Council has reached an important stage in the research and investigation to gather the information needed for these assessments. Surveys and Silt Analysis have been completed.

No works will be carried out until the results of investigations and feasibility studies and any project or management plans have been put back for public consultation.

The full press release can be found here:

<https://www.alton.gov.uk/update-on-kings-pond-alton/>

The feasibility studies and surveys can be found here:

<https://www.alton.gov.uk/kings-pond-update/>

We're investing between £700 million and £900 million in hospital services in Hampshire.

We'd like to know what you think about our plans to build a new hospital, invest in Winchester hospital, and our proposals for where services are provided from in the future.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve your hospital facilities and services for decades to come.



Have your say and help shape tomorrow's hospitals

To find out more visit
www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk
or scan the QR code



You can also email
hiowicb-hsi.mohhs@nhs.net
call 0300 561 0905
or write to us at Freepost HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER

Our public consultation is open
until midnight on 17 March 2024.
We'd love to hear your views

Option 1

New specialist acute hospital on the **current Basingstoke hospital site** and refurbishment at Winchester hospital

Option 2 (preferred option)

New specialist acute hospital near **Junction 7 of the M3** and refurbishment at Winchester hospital

Option 3

New specialist acute hospital near **Junction 7 of the M3** and refurbishment at Winchester hospital

Services at Winchester hospital in all options:

- 24/7 urgent treatment centre and same day emergency care
- Step-up and step-down inpatient beds for general medicine and care of the elderly
 - Dedicated planned surgery centre
 - Freestanding midwife-led birthing unit
 - Outpatients, diagnostics and therapies

Services at the new specialist acute hospital in all options:

- Emergency department (ED) with trauma unit, children's ED, 24/7 urgent treatment centre and same day emergency care
- Specialist inpatient care e.g. stroke and heart attack and inpatient beds, including for general medicine and care of the elderly
 - Complex planned and emergency surgery
 - Obstetrician-led birthing unit and alongside midwife-led unit
 - Conditions for a level 2 neonatal care unit
 - Cancer treatment centre
 - Outpatients, diagnostics and therapies

Services at the current Basingstoke hospital site:

- Outpatients, diagnostics and therapies
- Day-case surgery

Services at the current Basingstoke hospital site:

- Outpatients, diagnostics and therapies
- Day-case surgery
- Nurse-led step-down reablement and rehabilitation beds