

Community News And Events
Stay Informed, Stay Involved

The Altonian

Spring / Summer 2026

Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HD
alton.gov.uk - 01420 83986 - info@alton.gov.uk



ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL

The parish of Alton comprises the town of Alton and the separate village of Holybourne in Hampshire. The parish is warm, welcoming and vibrant with community spirit at its heart. Situated at the source of the River Wey and enjoying a rural backdrop at the gateway to the South Downs National Park, the area is known by many as "Jane Austen Country" with close ties to the charming neighbouring parish of Chawton, home to Jane Austen's House and Chawton House.



ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL

SPONSORED BY:

care
yourway
Our family caring for yours

SPRING GARDEN FAYRE SATURDAY 16TH MAY

featuring

**ALFI SEEDLING SWAP,
LOCALLY GROWN CHARITY PLANT SALE, CRAFT STALLS,
MAYPOLE DANCING AND YO-CHI WORKSHOPS,
PLANT A SUNFLOWER, LIVE MUSIC AND MORE**

**10 AM TO 3 PM
PUBLIC GARDENS, ALTON**

Staying In The Know



SCAN ME

The printed Altonian is published 2-3 times a year and delivered to approximately 16,000 homes and businesses in the GU34 1,2,3,4 and 5 areas.

We'd love to know your copy arrived safely! Simply **scan the QR code**, email **community@alton.gov.uk**, or call **01420 83986** to let us know.

We also offer a weekly digital edition of the Altonian. To receive regular updates on community events, local information and Town Council news, please submit your details via the QR code or email **community@alton.gov.uk**. Thank you.

Message from the Town Mayor



Many times I have witnessed the passion that runs through Alton life during my time as Mayor and as a Councillor. It is inspiring to be part of a community that expresses this passion so openly and channels such positive energy into everything it does.

Over the past year, I have had the great pleasure of meeting some remarkable people – individuals who have devoted their lives to causes close to their hearts, those who joined because a friend encouraged them and those who found support in a group and chose to give something back. I often see the familiar faces who give so much of their time to our community, always with a smile, even during challenging moments.

As I continue in my role as Town Councillor and your Town Mayor, I remain focused on how our town can continue to thrive and function well into the future. Alton will continue to evolve and the decisions that shape this change will at times be challenging for us all. We want to keep hearing your passion for our town, and we will continue to respect and honour every resident's voice.

I will continue to serve Alton for as long as I am needed, and together with my fellow Councillors, I will strive to help make Alton the very best it can be. I want to express my gratitude to every volunteer, community leader, and resident who makes Alton such a special place. Your dedication and enthusiasm are the heart of our town and together we will continue to build a vibrant, inclusive and prosperous community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. I look forward to what we will achieve together in the coming year.

Councillor Annette Eyre - Town Mayor of Alton



COMMUNITY BIG LUNCH

with music from

Alton Concert Band

Bring along your picnics and enjoy an afternoon of live music and fun!

PUBLIC GARDENS, ALTON

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

1 PM TO 3 PM

ALTON.GOV.UK - 01420 33986 - EVENTS@ALTON.GOV.UK

HEADLINE SPONSOR:

Alton Place
Care Home



Project Updates

Alton Town Council is currently in the middle of several projects. Here is an update on some of the things we are working on.



Jubilee Playing Fields

There have been delays to the project to refurbish the two pavilions at Jubilee Playing Fields, not least of which is funding. We are now nearly ready with the plans, which have been developed by working closely with the two relevant National Governing Bodies; the Football Association (FA) and the English Cricket Board (ECB).

The number of changing rooms in the Charles Read will be reduced from eight small ones to two large ones having the showers and toilets contained within them, which is essential for modern facilities and current safeguarding regulations. There will also be improved facilities for women and girls and disabled toilets at both pavilions, which are sadly lacking on the site at the moment.

Part of the project will also see an improvement in CCTV on the site and provision of an outdoor facility to allow water bottles to be refilled.

The fence by the car park at Jubilee is also in much need of replacement and we are hoping to be able to do this in the coming months.

Cycling in the Town

We have been supporting Cycle Alton with a project to install new cycle hoops throughout the High Street and on our public open spaces, which has been made possible by a climate change grant from East Hampshire District Council.

Tree Planting

Over the last few years the Town Council has planted more than 100 trees and over 800 metres of hedging across the town, with the latest fifteen disease-resistant Elms being planted in January with the help of students from Eggar's School.



FREE 10 DAY LOAN

ELECTRIC BIKE

For more information and to book
please scan the QR code or go to:



alton.gov.uk/community-resource-hub
or email finance@alton.gov.uk



ORBEA COMFORT 32



FOLDING CARRERA CROSSCITY



Anstey Park

There are several things underway for the park. This has become a real sporting hub in the past few years and users are keen to see that embraced. Projects are underway to:

- Provide a new 3G pitch, following the public consultation undertaken last year. We are working closely with the Football Foundation to deliver this for both rugby and football use.
- Increase the size of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in order to provide a full-size basketball court alongside the two netball courts and tennis court. This would also mean the open space could be used better for other sports such as roller skating, dodgeball, football or touch rugby.
- Improving the children's play area. There will be public consultation coming. Look out for details on site and on social media.
- Relocation of the skate park / provision of a new mini facility – the old skatepark will need to be removed in order to extend the MUGA so there will be public consultation on whether a new one is needed and if so, the plan will be to install something between the pump track and the play area. As there is a large facility at Jubilee Playing Fields it is likely this will be a junior, 'beginner' area.

Street Furniture

Several benches are being replaced in the next few months and we are taking care to move over any memorial plaques to the new furniture. Please do let us know if you see a bench in particular need of some TLC and we will see if it is one of ours and make sure it is attended to.



Miss Bell's Fountain

Miss Bell's historic drinking water fountain in the Public Gardens has not been working for the last three years due to a significant water leak and we are now looking at getting this working again.

Yoga

**FREE
1 Hour
YOGA CLASSES
THIS SUMMER**

Public Gardens, Alton

Starting
Sunday 3rd May
and every Sunday until
Sunday 30th August

No need to book
Suitable for everyone

**Registration:
9.15am**

**Class Starts:
9.30am**

For more details visit
alton.gov.uk - 01420 83986-
events@alton.gov.uk

These sessions have been organised and financed
by Alton Town Council and a grant from EHDC's
Get Up & Go initiative.





Alton Town Council

Presents this summer

Music In The Park

Alton Public Gardens – Various Sundays from May 2026





2:00pm to 4:00 pm



10 MAY	COVE BRASS	19 JULY	THE STRINGALONGS
24 MAY	BASINGSTOKE SILVER BAND	26 JULY	CACTUS BRASS
14 JUNE	ALDER VALLEY BRASS	9 AUGUST	TADLEY CONCERT BAND
21 JUNE	SOUTH BERKS CONCERT BAND	16 AUGUST	SAXAPHONY
		23 AUGUST	BLUE SKY BIG BAND



for more information
alton.gov.uk – events@alton.gov.uk
01420 83986

Alton Place

Care Home

Alton In Bloom 2026

Alton in Bloom is back for 2026. Alton Town Council is inviting residents and businesses to help brighten the town with creative planting.

This year's competition includes the return of categories such as Best Garden, Container, Commercial, Community Garden, and the fun challenge of growing the Tallest Sunflower.

New for 2026...Best New Build, Children's Garden and special gold star awards from the Climate Change Committee.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, it's a great chance to get involved, show off your green fingers and help make Alton look its best.

For full details and how to enter, please visit alton.gov.uk/alton-in-bloom, email info@alton.gov.uk or visit the Alton Town Council stall at the Spring Garden Fayre on Saturday 16 May 10am - 3pm.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Receive the latest updates straight to your inbox



KING'S POND: THE NEXT STEPS

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON KING'S POND

SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL
COMMUNITY@ALTON.GOV.UK

How we are funded

Alton Town Council does not receive government funding. Most of its income comes from its part of council tax. Alton's council tax will increase in April by inflation only: a Band D property will pay £2.34 a week. The council's finances are reported regularly at public council meetings.

The independent auditor recently reported that the *"systems and internal procedures at Alton Town Council are a model of good practice"*.

Free Children's Entertainment



SCAN ME

FUN FRIDAYS

Free Children's Entertainment

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Alton Public Gardens - 01420 83986 - events@alton.gov.uk



24th July
Magic Wanda



31st July
Scotty's Circus Skills



7th August
Mini Explorers



14th August
Yo-Chi



21st August
Zumba Kids®



28th August
Professor Potty

WET WEATHER RELOCATION

In the event of wet weather Fun Fridays will be in the Assembly Rooms, High Street, Alton, GU34 1BA

Alton Town Council

01420 83986

alton.gov.uk

Town Hall, Market Square, Alton,
GU34 1HD

East Hampshire District Council

01730 266551

easthants.gov.uk

PO Box 310, Petersfield,
GU32 9HN

Hampshire County Council

0300 555 1375

hants.gov.uk

The Castle, Winchester,
SO23 8UJ

Allotments

Alton's Open Spaces

Bus Shelters (Town Centre)

CCTV Town Centre
and Open Spaces

Christmas Lights

Play Areas

ATC owned noticeboards

Pump Track

Skate Parks

Sports Pitches
Anstey Park and Jubilee

The Cairn - War Memorial

Town Centre Planters

Business Rates and Council Tax

Car Parks

Cemeteries

Elections and
Electoral Register

Environmental Health

Grass Verges

Housing

Licensing and Planning

Protection of Trees

Public Toilets

Refuse Collection

Street Cleaning

Concessionary Travel and Disabled Parking (Blue Badges)

Education

Highways

Libraries

Museums

Public Transport

Registration of Births, Deaths
and Marriages

Rights of Way (Footpaths)

Social Service

Street Lighting

Trading Standards

Youth Services



ALTON ARTS FESTIVAL

Tickets now on sale for Alton Arts Festival 2026

Alton Arts Festival has released the full 2026 programme and all tickets are now on sale via www.altonartsfestival.com. The 10-day festival returns on 3rd – 12th July, bringing music, comedy, theatre and visual arts to venues across Holybourne, Alton and Chawton. In addition to the ticketed events, there's also plenty available for free – and even better, Alton's children will once again benefit from free arts experiences in schools.

AAF 2026: what to expect

From classical music to comedy, and from new voices to established artists, AAF 2026 will bring unique performances to Alton's favourite spaces, with events in Holybourne Theatre, Alton Assembly Rooms, Goldfinch Books, Jane Austen's House, and many more venues across town. Highlights include a town ceilidh, comedy from Marcel Lucont and Olaf Falafel, music from Katherine Priddy, Jordan Mackampa, and Naima Bock, as well as special performances from Alton's own Richard Walters and Louisa Hunter-Bradley. For those who fancy trying something new, there are hands-on workshops in art, literature and theatre this year so you can try your hand at book-binding, make a subversive tea towel, learn physical theatre skills, or finally write that picture book.

Low-cost and free tickets

All festival events are priced as low as possible (whilst ensuring artists are fairly paid!), with ticket prices starting from just £5. In addition, this year's programme features a number of free events including a panto in the park (sponsored by Alton Town Council), art workshops in the community

centre, the Makers Fayre on 4th July, and the festival's huge closing celebration: Party in the Park (12th July).

Meanwhile, all local schools will receive free arts workshops from professional practitioners via the Festival's Schools Programme. Schools have chosen from an abundance of art, dance, music, theatre and literature workshops, giving students the opportunity to try new things and learn skills they can be proud of.

Celebrate and decorate

Would you like to do your bit to make Alton more colourful during the festival? Then join the Alton Bunting Bee. We're asking Altonians to create pennants using the template enclosed and drop them off to our collection boxes in the Library and the Community Centre. Volunteers will then sew them together into oh-sew-beautiful garlands to decorate the town. Any questions, email info@altonartsfestival.com

By the community, for the community Alton Arts Festival is a not-for-profit community interest company founded and led by volunteers who believe this town is special and deserves to be celebrated. In 2024, AAF sold more than 2000 tickets and delivered more than 3000 arts experiences in local schools. This year, the festival hopes to do even more!

Dates for your diary:

Friday 3rd July – Festival begins
Saturday 4th July – Panto in the Park, Makers Fayre, Town Ceilidh
Sunday 5th July – Olaf Falafel comedy for kids, art and literary workshops
Monday 6th – Friday 10th – talks, workshops, live music, and more
Saturday 11th July – A Room of One's Own, Is Opera Boring?
Sunday 12th July – Party in the Park

Bunting Pattern

20 cm

NB. The shaded area will be covered by tape

**Thank you for joining the
Alton Arts Festival Bunting Bee!**

*Cut 2 for each
pennant*

**Please follow these
guidelines to make
your pennant.**

25cm

- Use the pattern or dimensions provided to make one or more double-sided pennants
- To fit with the theme of sustainable art, we'd like you to use clean, repurposed fabric. This could be from bedding, furnishings, or clothing (very lightweight or stretch fabrics not suitable)
- Sew the pieces with wrong sides together, leaving a raw edge – don't turn through. You can hand or machine stitch (straight stitch, zig-zag or overlocked)
- Feel free to customise your pennant with an eye-catching design using appliqué, embellishments etc
- When complete, take your pennant to one of the collection points where a team of volunteers will be sewing them all together to make a garland.
- Have fun spotting your pennant when the bunting adorns the streets of Alton in July!

ALTON WALKING FESTIVAL

Including surrounding villages

1ST - 31ST MAY 2026

**Connecting people
Connecting places...**

One of the biggest
and longest
Walking Festivals
in the UK

Breathtaking walks
through the
Hampshire
Countryside

NEW FOR 2026
Family Walks
Accessible Walks

All walks must be booked in advance:
walkalton.org.uk - 01420 83986 - events@alton.gov.uk

Organised by:



Headline Sponsor:



Bronze Sponsor:



Supported By:



WEY VALLEY
Community Rail Partnership



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